

## Susquehannock Trail Club News – 09-29-2022

By Bill Boyd

First of all, please do not confuse the Susquehannock Trail Club (STC) with the Susquehannock Trail Performance Rally (STPR) - both operating in the "PA WILDS", "God's Country", home to the 265,000-acre Susquehannock State Forest and next door the Tioga State Forest. One is an 84-mile path through the woods, enjoyed by a smattering of hikers and backpackers throughout most of the year. Very limited noise and pollution issues. The other features carbon-belching race cars running the roads for around 367 miles (including transit and competitive miles) But then, we are still a great and free country, and we all have our choices.

We did finally get at least a brief start on our 7th trail shelter, this one located at Bolich Run, around Mile-17.8. We managed to negotiate Camp Lane with any mishaps, then a stretch of an old haul road, to the site in a small meadow. With our load of stones and lumber, we laid up the four corners and then built the base. That was all the materials we had at the time, and it was just as well, as when we were driving the last nail the rainstorm hit, quickly. Hurriedly putting all the gear back into the trucks, we headed back out - by then it was pouring and Camp Lane was more like a streambed than a road (I use the term "road" rather loosely). We joked that if our budget allowed us we would invest in a military half-track vehicle. So now we are awaiting the next reasonably dry spell to go back and finish this project.

We have a site for shelter #8 approved for next year, and the access is looking like a piece-of-cake compared to this one. With the series of shelters along the STS, it should be possible for backpackers to overnight without carrying a tent. I'm sure some will still carry them - tents nowadays weigh just a few pounds and some prefer the experience. Also, when facing inclement weather, the shelters will be a welcome sight.

The next trail club meeting will be on Oct. 8, at Lyman Run State Park. Again, it will be a noon picnic-style dinner and then the meeting around 1:00 PM. This will possibly be our last meeting until further notice, as the Covid threat is still around, and we opted not to have indoor meetings.