

On Thursday September 29th, twelve FOSM volunteers returned to the Challenge Trail extension, now building new trail west of (and hiking in from) the north end of the old Crest Road. The FOSM crew was accompanied by Lindsay Frensz and Jeff Cervantes from the SRD trail crew. While one or two volunteers did some finish-work on flat sections built during the last Challenge Trail work day, the rest of the crew tackled trail construction on steeper, rocky terrain, through a large patch of mature scrub oak that had been high-stumped earlier by the SRD. Stump removal and rock-breaking were the activities of the day. It was unseasonably warm on the mountain; the shade was a relief.

The volunteers were Michael Arndt, Joe Beman, David Bernstein, Jenny Blackmore, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche, Larry Larrichio, Mike Madden, Tony Pachelli, Steve Roholt and Roland Stumpf.

Photos by Jenny Blackmore.



What lies ahead...



Larry and Mike ain't skeered



Roland and his new hat find a root. Larry pauses to watch.



Joe benches in new tread



Steve attends to details left from an earlier session



Mike plays with rocks. Larry and Roland keep digging.

Luis, Tony and David focus on a stumpy section



One of these will need to go...



Tony started working on this stump last time. Now he's back for more.



Needs more digging. Luis takes a turn.



At the photographer's request, the lads gamely pose with their game. David remains focused.

Some stumps can be low-stumped or chopped; most need to be dug out.



Saw
(Bruce)



Axe
(Byron)



The Push method
(Byron and Bruce)



The Pull method
(Roland)



Michael spends much of his day breaking, digging out and moving huge rocks on what will hereafter be dubbed “Michael’s Corner”