

# *Enhanced Trail Signing Workshop*

## NHSA Trails Committee Project

Our intended goal is to develop an affordable and viable method of signing trail intersections throughout state while offering flexibility to each club to use the methods and materials desired by them.

# *Overview*

- Discuss viable materials and methods
- Discuss best practices for placement
- Discuss best practices for trail information
- Discuss how to assemble the appropriate team
- Discuss and further develop best practices
- Discuss ways to continually improve
- Discuss future maintenance costs

# *Long-term goal*

- Trail signage that is more weather proof
- Eliminate penmanship and related issues
- Able to ride the system without a map
- Add a more professional element
- Improving without financial harm to the clubs

# *The Present Situation*

- There are a number of clubs that have made modest to significant investments in enhanced trail signage. But – many problems still exist.



# *Potential Alternatives*

- Routed wood, potentially affordable – considerable time needed to do a good job.
- Std. Trail Information signs with labels/decals – very affordable - lettering could take time to apply
- Vinyl coated aluminum – great product, possible time commitments to apply lettering (reflective)
- UV Plastic laser etched – reasonably affordable no time impact for lettering, often needs wood support
- Colored paper with lamination, done with laser – very inexpensive but shorter term 1-2 seasons of life

# *Considerations*

- Wood stain/paint will need maintenance
- Metal signs are a very long term investment
- Trail information with vinyl lettering is much better than grease pencils/sharpie/paint markers
- UV rated plastic, laser etched will last a long time, but likely less than metal
- Laminated paper (excessive trail changes) or strictly cost.

# *Committee needed!*

- Form a committee with mixed knowledge
- Create a budget, are there possible sponsors?
- 1) Trail expert, at least local and maybe regional
- 2) Secretary, detail oriented – excellent spelling
- 3) One or two who will assist with install
- 4) Someone who does not know the trails!

# *Planning Sign Messaging*

- Leverage your committee and trail map to visualize system
- Less is more, avoid more than 2-3 destinations on each sign (as destinations fall off more can go on)
- Use C for corridor and P for primary – C5 – in NH 1-2 digits is corridor and 3 digits is primary
- Avoid junctions showing exact same destination without noting difference (view, mileage, etc.)



# *Planning Sign Messaging (cont.)*

- Spelling for destinations and points of interest!
- Abbreviations – Mt. Tom vs. Green Mtn.
- N/S/E/W – should be used on trail information and also on corridor and primary signs
- “Dead ends” that can be ridden - indicate (no outlet, access trail) vs. dead end/do not enter
- When laying out the sign messaging – location planning – the arrows will matter!

# *Placement / Implementation*

- Location, location, location!
- Ideally - wood posts or steel vs on trees
- Think about riders arriving at the junction – avoid blocking busy trails

## *Placement / Implementation (cont.)*

- Think about the groomer, the brush bar, and the drag as it travels and how placement could be impacted
- Will signs be up year around, or removed – ease of install/removal.
- If sponsored will landowners be concerned about the vendors/sponsors involved?

# *Maintenance - replacement*

- Establish a budget and plan for future signs
- Vandalism and/or natural damage
- New signs when reroutes occur, a left could become a right at an intersection.
- Use trail info/handwritten signs to address new detours, etc. (don't wait for a sign order!)

# *Wood Sign Example*



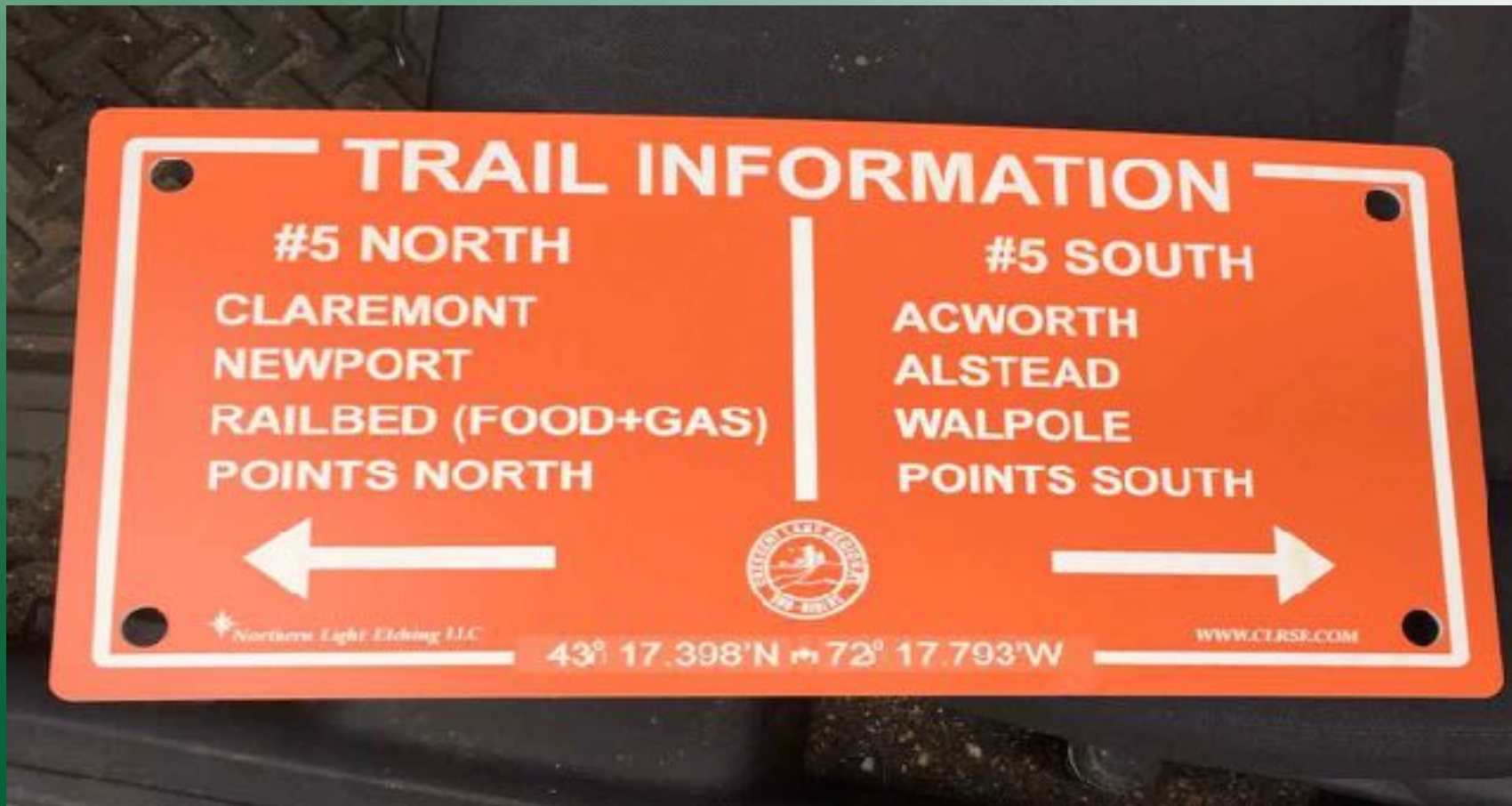
# *Metal Sign Example 1*



# *Metal Sign Example 2*



# *UV Plastic/Laser etched Sign Example*





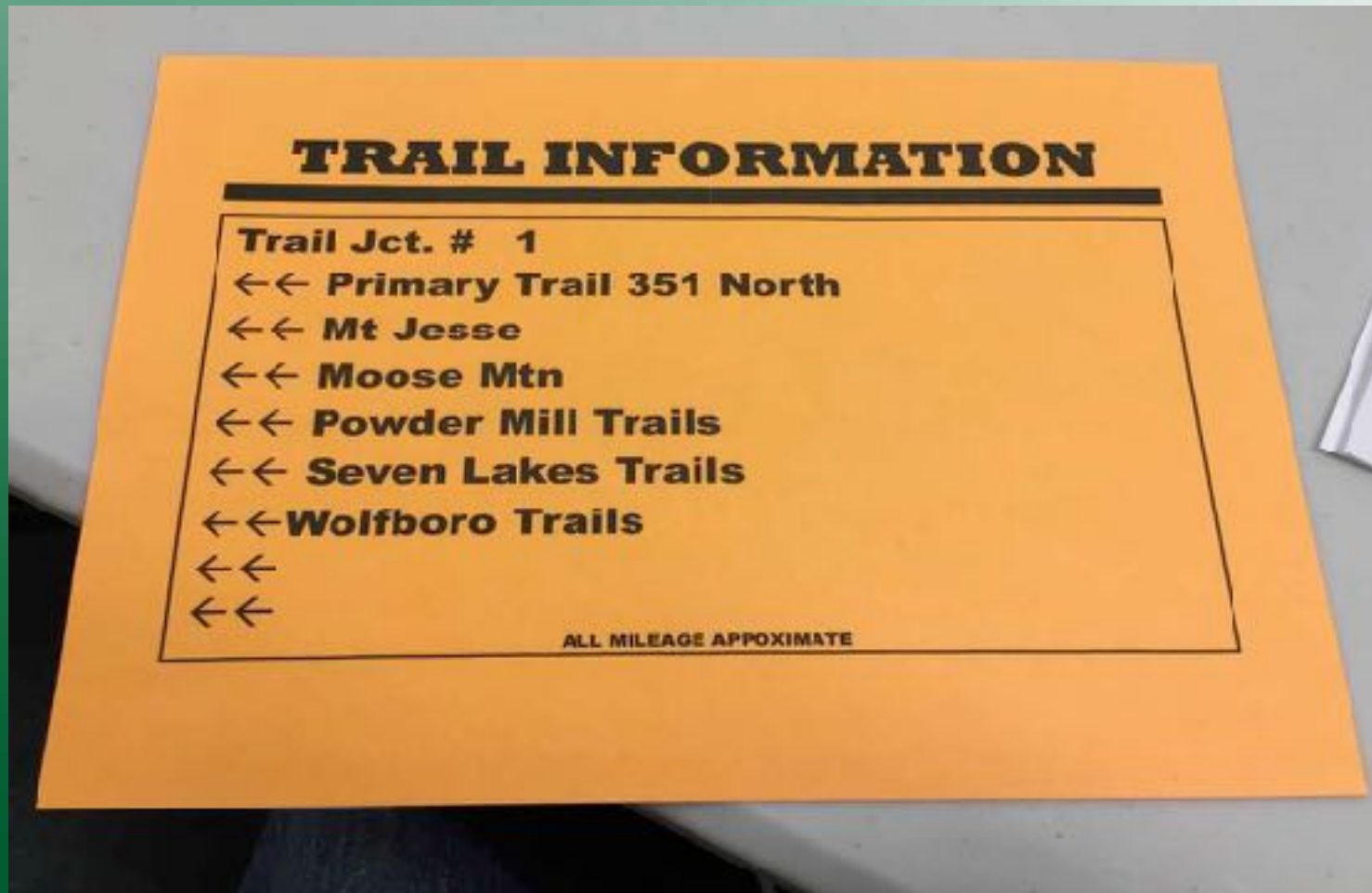
# *Std. Trail information with labels*



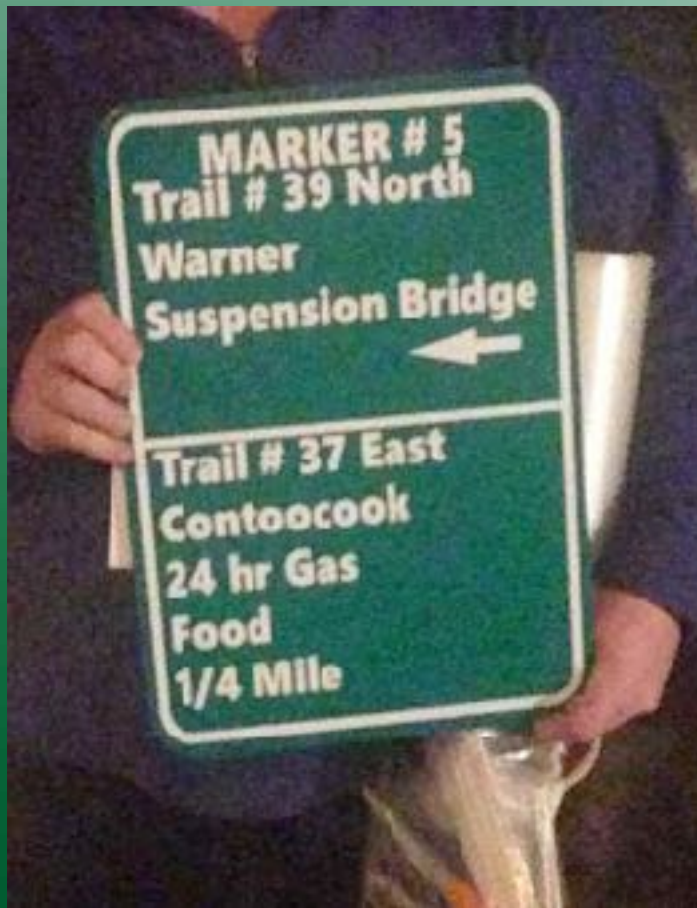
# *Plastic w/labels Sign Example*



# *Laminated Paper Sign Example*



# *Reflective Sign Example*



## *Other Considerations (extra credit)*

- Trail maps placed in key locations
- Road name, and town at road crossing
- Reflective on sign posts if lettering isn't
- Send us pictures of your project!
- Send us links and information on vendors used!

# *Conclusion*

- Riders expect but deserve good trail information
- Improvements can fit any budget!
- Less is more, make it clear and concise!
- It's ok to ask for help, and learn from others!
- Handwritten is better than blank or missing!
- We will be creating a vendor list to share