

What is a Come-along?

A **come-a-long** (comealong, come-a-long, power puller) is a hand operated **winch** with a **ratchet** used to pull objects. The drum is wrapped with **wire rope**. Come-alongs are not rated for overhead lifting, but a similar looking device called a *ratchet lever hoist* is used this way. A similar tool to a come-along is a *cable puller* which does not have a drum and ratchet but directly grips the cable allowing unlimited lengths of wire rope to be used.



The original tool of this type was developed by Abraham Maasdam of Deep Creek, **Colorado** about 1919, and later commercialized by his son, Felber Maasdam, about 1946. It has been copied by many manufacturers in recent decades. A similar heavy duty unit with a combination chain and cable became available in 1935 that was used by railroads, but lacked the success of the cable-only type units. –[From Wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

The Spooky Beavers utilize Come-alongs to move large rocks off of the trail and move medium to large foot bridges back into place that are dislodged due to flooding. Pry bars are used as fulcrums when moving bridges back into place. We have access to a motorized winch from the NPS for this purpose as well.

Check back here often as we will be describing various tools that the Spooky Beavers utilize when doing trailwork in Prince William Forest Park, VA.