

1 May 2013

MVTR May Meeting

The first of May, spring is (sort of) in the air and it is the first MVTR meeting that I have been home for this year (still could be (easily) convinced to had the Scribe position off to some young (or old), ambitious member). With a minimum of 'small talk' (and no idea of the time, I forgot a watch) the meeting followed close on the heels of the pizza delivery and got right on point.

Fortunes wax and wane, of late MVTR's fortune has been waning and it had become time to establish some guidelines so as to remain solvent. A committee got together (officers, trail bosses, others?) and over the course of a few meetings hammered out an **MVTR Event Financial Policy** and it was presented to the membership for consideration. A minimal number of questions were asked and answered and the policy was accepted by a large majority of those present by a show of hands.

On 30 April 2013, Bob, Colin and Brian made the trek northward to Cannon Mountain to attend the State's **Trail Conference**. It sounds as though this may be a fairly active legislative session for bills, which affect trail and off-road use with a few bills also considering on road use of off road vehicles. They heard summaries of bills being proposed/considered that would allow NH F&G to recoup rescue costs from hikers by some form of 'permit' (OHRV registrations include a fee toward rescue costs) since hikers consume a majority of the rescue expenses. Bills that would allow/limit (sorry, I missed which) ATVs as tractors and one that would allow side by side OHRV 'street' registration in Coos and Grafton counties. There has been a proposal to eliminate the current \$0.18/gal (off-road) gas tax that currently helps fund NH F&G and NH BOT OHRV projects (they would not stop collecting the tax, just it actually using it to fund off-road related 'stuff'. Another proposal has been made to continue funding as currently done.

Brian gave us a run down on **RTP** and **GIA Projects**; he has 7 projects in **Hop-Ev** and 5 in **Jericho** for 2013 that have been approved for funding. New equipment purchases have not been funded. With the current economy and decreased OHRV registrations, the NH BOT has had to prioritize projects and their current focus will be on maintenance of existing trails and connecting sections to complete the Ride the Wild Loop in the North Country.

There is a '**Clean-Up Party**' planned for **Hop-Ev** on 18 May. The plan is to form two groups, one will do roadside trash pick-up throughout the park while the other will work to clear the single track trails. While BOT does not 'normally' prepare the single-track trails for park opening on 23 May, they WILL be preparing the section of the BT trail that was harvested over the winter.

Through the efforts of MVTR volunteers, **Jericho** currently has one single-track trail open, two more are 'in progress' and one remains to be cut. Good work guys!

In recent events, Tom reported on the latest **J-Day** where 515 riders participated. In addition to good courses they have on-line pre-registration making race day 'easy' (well, at least as far as the paperwork is concerned, there IS still riding the event, not always an easy thing as John H. demonstrated by crashing several times before finally earning a trip to the hospital). Several club members (but I failed to get names, sorry) rode the Bill Halstead Memorial TR. Tuxedo Ridge will be on next weekend's schedule for some.

It being the (almost) last club meeting before **The New England Classic Charity Trail Ride**, Trail Bosses and Team Leaders were all present to provide updates and request resources (predominantly warm bodies).

Chip reminded all that the **Southern Loop** would be tackled on **Saturday** this year. They have ridden a first pass on everything outside of Bear Brook SP. A new section of trail will be cut next weekend on private property adjacent to the lunch stop in Deerfield. He has Pre-riders and Sweep riders (strictly a guess on

MY part but I bet another rider or two for one of the other might be able to be added).

JD has made a first pass on the **Northern Loop** (to be ridden on **Sunday** this year) and found it in pretty good shape. He will be building one small bridge soon. **Dave R** is investigating some land at the MX Park for possible inclusion in the ride. As of meeting night there was still a need for more Sunday Sweep riders.

Dave M and company have been out exploring routes for the **Big Bike Rally** (still on Saturday this year). So far they have come up with 100 or so miles on each side of lunch, subject to some 'editing'. He mentioned not having sweep riders yet (have to haul the DR out of the camper and change it back to 'summer' wheels and tires, then I can volunteer).

Jay told us that he is doing well in recruiting volunteer help for **The Kid's Classic**, which runs on both Saturday and Sunday. What he did not have (yet) was a lot of kids pre-registered. He reminded us that the Kid's Classic is the only ride of the weekend that **requires Pre-Registration**. Insurance requires that all entrants be registered by **24 May 2013!** Don't procrastinate and get left out.

Tuck offered reminders that the deadline was fast approaching for **The Banquet** and the **Kid's Classic**. Both of those lists will **close** on **24 May 2013!** He also brought up the **Pre-Registration List**. Simply put, if you are not on the list, you will not be able to enter NHIS except when registration is open. This is not new but all too often someone gets delayed and does not make it to the track while registration is open (usually happens on Friday evening), track security can NOT admit anyone who is not on the pre-registration list and it being a busy weekend, alternative lodging or camping is hard to find. You can register on-line this year, you can also phone the Northern New England Cystic Fibrosis Office (but don't wait until Friday because they will ALL be at the track) at 1-800-757-0203. Don't be that guy with nowhere to stay on Friday night!

New this year is that we **WILL NOT BE ENTERING THROUGH THE MAIN GATE**. When you turn in off Rte. 106 you will be immediately heading SOUTH toward the former medical building (OUTSIDE the fence). Registration and Sign-

In will take place in that building and we will then enter the NHMS grounds by way of the road just south of that building which brings us right to 'our' area.

John is still looking for help with **Parking**, particularly with the new entrance format. He also needs volunteers to man the bullhorns to get everyone to the riders meetings each morning (bullhorn and (maybe) golf cart provided).

Jeff requested some volunteers for a clean-up day in Windham on 5 May. It hasn't quite dried enough to ride there but ... soon.