

1 April 2009

April MVTR Meeting Summary

The April meeting began at about 19:30 following the conclusion of the Rocky Mountain Weekend (RMW) Committee meeting. As an April Fool's joke (?), the unusually large crowd had pretty well eliminated any traces of the pizza before most of the RMW committee got to it. Pres. Tom distributed a list of MVTR Representatives and their contact information, having just attempted a mass email to club members, Art noted that there was some information, which needed updating. Hopefully we will get the needed updates in place and get the list onto our website. Tom also mentioned that he was working on getting a newsletter finished and out this week (many of us received it on Thursday). If you have not received one then your contact information is most likely incorrect in the club database, contact Art with corrections. Another reason for not getting one might be not having renewed (i.e. paid dues) membership for several years. Those members whose membership has recently expired should have still received the newsletter and there should be a red notation on the address label noting when you were past due (although my 1/09 notation does not coincide with my 2/10 card). We really would like to have an up to date roster with contact information (this would NOT be posted in public), the question is how to get the information, those who come to meetings mostly have up to date info but that leaves a large number of members whom we cannot readily contact to keep them apprised of club happenings.

Rides

Rick, Art, Kevin, Jim and Illya were among the MVTR members who attended this year's Sandy Lane Enduro. Awesome and tight were included of the descriptions of the event, which drew 592 riders (at 5 per line, that's at least 119 lines). Some 40-50 New England riders took part.

The Greenbrier Enduro will take place this weekend (OK, now its last weekend). No word on MVTR riders who might attend.

Among MVTR riders, Zack took second place in his race at the PSTR Short Course HS on 3/29/09. The 7-14 year old riders rode on a 10-mile loop described as rough, rocks, roots and water.

Legislative

Asked about the current status of our lobbyist, Jim B responded that he is currently hired on a per issue basis. There is concern that this is not sufficient and we should still have him on a full time basis.

The NETRA Board of Directors has assembled a compendium of information about the recent federal Child Protection Law which has effectively banned the sale of bikes and ATVs (along with parts for same) intended for use by children 12 and under. A letter has been drafted to all New England State Representatives asking them to work to overturn this action.

Classic

The Northern and Southern Loop Trial Bosses are about ready to hit the trails and assess damage left by the ice storm, last year's tornado and another long New England winter. No doubt there will be announcements for clean-up work parties in the not too distant future. The next Classic Committee meeting will be next Tuesday (pretty much right now as I compose this). Among changes to this year's Classic are, the moving of the BBR to Saturday, the inclusion of a lunch stop on Sundays Southern Loop and a routed bailout right after Sundays lunch that will get riders with a long journey home back to the start by 1400 with very little pavement along the way. Entries are already coming in for the Kids Classic, this is limited to riders 12 (will be sometime this year) thru 16 and the number of openings is strictly limited by available bus and trailer space so apply early to avoid disappointment. Once again NETRA has waived their membership requirement (yes, you still should be a member), AMA membership is required for the event.

Rocky Mountain Weekend

The RMW Committee met this evening (more members welcome!) and things are shaping up. The (relatively) firm schedule calls for an Introduction to Enduros school and Sat. sign-up to take place on Friday evening. Saturday should see a 0800 start for the Adult/Jr. Enduro on a closed course with a Known Control format with Special Tests. The Mini and Big Wheel Enduro should get underway at 1300 and the PeeWee Scramble is planned for a 1400 start on a separate 6-8 mile loop. Sunday sign-up will be available on Saturday evening, hours TBD. Sunday it is planned that the Minis will start at 0830, the Novices at 1100 and the Experts at 1400.

A very big change this year will be inclusion of The Granite State Challenge! Those ambitious, strong, tough, brave, (dumb?) enough to compete in both the Enduro and the Hare Scramble will have their scores from the two events combined to determine the AA, A, B and C winners for the weekend.

Other Stuff

As a result of Brian's, well'earned retirement as Administrator of our HopEv maintenance, Jim M. has volunteered to take on the role. There will be (was) a meeting at 1930 in Tucks Garagemahal on Thursday for those interested in helping MVTR continue its stewardship of the trail system. The general plan is to try and spread the load by having a crew of Trail Bosses to oversee individual trails and determine their needs allowing Jim to concentrate on the overall planning and office/paper work which must be completed for anything else to happen. Field Work will of course still require the efforts of our many MVTR (and other) Friends of Hop-Ev volunteers.

Although winter is (very) slowly releasing New Hampshire from its icy grasp, many MVTR members are still thinking snowmobile. Tom has promised to have an account of the Border to Border Easter Seals ride ready for the next newsletter. Peter told us about his exploits in riding the Magalloway Bowl and Saturday April 4th will see the First Annual Pats Peak Hill Climb.

JD told us about the joys of riding AZ during (all of) the month of March, including incurring a whole hour of rain one night. He was visited by a number of other New Englanders while there and is definitely planning a return trip next year. Start planning soon if you want to join him.

Several local riders including Bob L. and Peter A. will be heading down to the Hatfield-McCoy riding area for the first week in May.

Information is up on the club website about the UNH, fundraiser, golf tournament to be held on May 8th.

There will be (sorry, was) a 2-3 hour work party on Sunday in Windham.

Freedom Cycle will be (again sorry, did) having an Open House on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This will include the Can-Am Spyder demo fleet (they are really cool to ride, different but fun). In two weeks the ATV demo fleet will be visiting.

It is officially State of New Hampshire Mud Season; as such the trails at Hop-Ev are closed and will remain so until the official end on May 23rd.