

MVTR Monthly General Meeting Notes (Approved)

Meeting Date: 2 April 2014, at Freedom Cycle

From: John Mesick

President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with 60+ members present.

Classic

Glen Harvey put out sign up sheets for volunteers; duties including parking direction, sweep riders, rousers for the Rider's Meetings, etc.

AMA Sanctioning

The AMA has approached the NETRA board about reestablishing a sanctioning relationship including insurance coverage. Andy Anthony explained the pros and cons: Pro - AMA assistance in opening up north country trail system to bikes; Cons - an additional AMA membership fee required for riders on top of the existing NETRA and Club fees. Andy sought the opinion of the MVTR membership to report back to the NETRA board.

Of the 60+ MVTR members in attendance:

- 17 were already AMA members.
- All but 8 were NETRA members
- Five were for the AMA sanctioning

Current Riding Conditions

Both Bear Brook State Park and the Hopkinton-Everett Riding Area are now closed. Hop-Ev will reopen 23 May.

Motorcycle Helmets

Tom briefly discussed a recent snowmobile fatality in Maine. The rider at slow to moderate speed suffered a head impact with a tree. The plastic composite helmet shattered and a shard through the brain was the cause of death. The NEDB website had considerable discussion of the event, including the technical requirements of DOT standards (no temperature requirements), and Schnell standards (minimum cold temperature tests) Next month Freedom Cycle will make a detailed presentation at the MVTR meeting on helmets and what the different standard ratings mean. In the mean time Tom advised that painting helmets and drying them with a heat lamp causes degradation the safety performance of the helmet material.

NH Off Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA)

Tom reported on the 29 April NHOHVA Annual Meeting that he will attend. Several topics for discussion at that meeting will include: NH Senate Bill 240 is on hold until the next legislative year. This is the bill that requires club/NHOHVA membership to receive a discount on OHRV registration that would offset a proposed registration fee increase. Both Fish and Game and the Bureau of Trails are now moving towards support of the Bill; but want to see if the Association continues to coalesce and gain organizational strength.

NHOHVA now comprises 16 clubs with two more expected to join. Of the 16, MVTR and Seacoast Trail Riders are the only trail bike clubs. Both Bureau of Trails and Fish and Game hold MVTR up as an example to the other clubs as a model of organization and activity.

NHOHVA is investigating obtain insurance coverage for the member clubs that would include trail maintenance equipment, liability, and bonding both the Treasurer and treasury.

NHOHVA is planning to obtain a paid lobbyist in the State House.

OHRV Registrations

This is the time of year when people obtain new, or new to them, trail bikes and run into problems getting them registered for a street license plate at their town hall.

- The owner should always refer to the vehicle as a dual sport or on/off road motorcycle. To many agents in town halls the term "trail bike" raises a red flag.
- A Certificate of Origin, plus the State of NH Motorcycle Inspection and Conformity Report form (available at MVTR.org) will allow the Town Agent to issue an Application for Title (the blue paper). If the Town Agent is unfamiliar with these first two documents they can verify them by call the Dept. of Motor Vehicles in Concord.
- A trail bike that has received conversion and street registration also requires a current OHRV registration and inspection sticker for legal use on the street.
- President Tom and Ron Sousa debated the interpretation of the RSA law concerning street registered trail bikes: Tom believes the intent of the law was to limit their use to connecting trails via public roads. Ron believes that in reality the law as written allows them to be used at any time for any purpose. Ron will follow up on this at the next meeting. Ron said he would love proving Tom wrong.
- Many or most Law Enforcement Officers are also unsure of the restrictions for street registered trail bikes. The most important factor in dealing with them is your attitude: Respectful = generally good outcome; jerk = ticket or worse.
- It is clear that trail bikes are prohibited from limited access highways such as Rtes. 93 and 89.

Short term three week temporary OHRV stickers for out-of-staters will be available should Bill XYZ pass.

Maine & Vermont OHRV Reciprocity

NHOHVA is in discussion with the organizations in other states concerning promoting legislation that would grant reciprocity for OHRVs.

Recent Events

Ray Lajoie, Tucker, Art Pepin, and Glenn Harvey went to Daytona; attending J-Day and GNCC races. Ray said the GNCC race was huge, more competitors and spectators than the AMA superbike race. Art also attended the Sandy Lane Enduro in NJ. Art said that land closures severely limited the event.

Press Interviews

President Tom and others briefly went to another room for interviews with Paula Tracy from WMUR channel 9. Pete Jacobs displayed his winter tracked bike and answered questions.

Tom closed the meeting at 8:22 PM