

## **MVTR GENERAL MEETING NOTES 4 April 2018**

### **FREEDOM CYCLE - CONCORD**

Presiding President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:01pm (!) with approximately 55 members present.

#### **MVTR Cancelled Meeting Policy**

- Meetings will not be cancelled for small snow storms of 3-4 inches.
- For major storms like what we experienced in February and March, we will try to get the word out via Facebook and direct e-mail as soon as the decision to cancel is made. We have members who travel long distances to attend meetings and we do not want to put them at risk.
- Meetings will not be postponed for a following date, such as the next Wednesday. This is because our gracious host, Freedom Cycle, pays staff to man the parts counter during the meeting; and it disrupts employee work schedules. Also, in the past when meetings have been rescheduled, too few people showed up.

#### **NETRA Rule Changes – Jr. Enduros**

- NETRA has appointed a “Youth Coordinator” who is implemented a rigid race day schedule for each event: Consistent key times, trophy presentation times, etc.
- Jr. Enduros will no longer be run simultaneously with Vintage classes. As a result, Vintage classes will start afterwards at 4:30 pm. The MVTR Competition Committee feels that MVTR may decide to have either a Jr. Enduro or Vintage racing at our Rock Crusher event, but not both. This is because event workers are already working long hours, and cannot work longer days.
- The MVTR Competition Committee will look at attendance of other race weekends early in the season before they make a recommendation to our club.

#### **Mark Stock**

- Steve Semuskie, representing MVTR, and Mark attended an Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Also attending were other clubs who sponsor events and Physicians involved with R&D and patient treatment. 90% of the money we and other clubs raise goes to R&D. As a result there is a new drug which for the first time could permit patients to outlive their parents.
- Mark’s Ice Box event was a complete success: Great weather, ice conditions, and good times. \$1400 was raised for the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth Hitchcock. The Seacoast Trail Riders brought five kids bikes with studded tires. The kids road the wheels off them. Some of the kids never road a motorcycle before. Mark made it a major focus of the event to promote our sport to kids.

#### **Mt. Pisgah Trail Riders**

A new club is in the process of forming out in the Keene area. They are applying with the Bureau of Trails to maintain/sponsor the state’s Mt. Pisgah OHRV riding area.

Membership is made up both ATV riders and MVTR members who live in the area.

MVTR is willing to share our experiences with them.

### **Hopkinton Everett Riding Area**

- For this year Andre Marois is continuing as Trail Captain (the chainsaw handler) and Steve Semuskie as Trail Administrator (the paper handler).
- Andre has not yet received a 2018 project list from the Bureau of Trails.
- A left over project from 2017 is the installation of Geo-mesh on trails. The state will install the mesh, and MVTR will backfill it with gravel. The mesh has been purchased but not yet delivered.
- In 2017 the state rebuilt the structure of the Long Bridge on the Stark Pond Trail, and MVTR completed the decking and hand rails. The concrete anchor blocks may still need to be reinstalled so that the bridge does not float away.
- In 2017 the state installed 260 concrete blocks on Hang Glider Hill trail.
- In 2017 signs on trails were uniformly posted: At each entrance the trail name, one-way or 2-way enter, and ATV and/or trail bike permitted, or ATV prohibited; and at trail exits wrong way – do not enter. All stop signs were replaced.
- Andy Anthony had negotiated with the Weare Winter Wanderers snowmobile club for us to store our trail maintenance enclosed equipment trailers on their property. This was in exchange for MVTR volunteers working their snowmobile hillclimb event. The hillclimb event did not happen, so Andy will contact them to discuss an alternative exchange, possibly we can help with trimming face slappers on their trails in the fall? The Bureau of Trails had previously told us that we could use Grant in Aid money to pay storage fees; Tom would like Steve Semuskie to make that application. As a backup plan maybe we could pay rent to the snowmobile club.
- MVTR plans to purchase a new enclosed equipment trailer for trail maintenance. Steve Semuskie was not available to report on the Grant-in-Aid application for this.

### **NETRA Annual Meeting**

- Andy Anthony reported that NETRA has turned around the financial difficulties they had a few years ago and that they are now healthy with about \$130K in the bank.
- Costs are up for NETRA: Insurance, lobbyists, lawyers... NETRA expects to absorb most of this and minimize what is passed on to members and competitors.
- In 2018 Klim is sponsoring Enduros and Husqvarna is sponsoring hare scrambles. Klim provided very generous support in 2017.
- NETRA is looking for a “Recreational Trail Ride Coordinator” to promote the turkey run series.
- Our President Tom received the Bren Moran Award for a lifetime of being an ambassador for our sport. Tom noted that as well as being the longest continuous competitor in NETRA (45 years), he is also the most passed and lapped competitor in the history of NETRA.

## **J-Day Annual Banquet**

Art Pepin reported that was pretty cool that it was held at Gillette Stadium. KTM and Sherco had a good exhibition. The down side was that unlike the NETRA banquet, there was no onsite lodging. You didn't have to go home, but you could not stay there when it was over.

## **MVTR Elections**

A slate of officers was but forth elections at the May meeting:

- Tom Levesque – President
- Steve Semuskie – Vice President
- Ron Sousa – Treasurer
- John Mesick – Secretary
- Art Pepin - Membership

Andre Marois and Steve Semuskie will continue their volunteer positions at the Hop-Ev riding area. As always, if anyone wants to take over a position, please step forward.

Art Pepin wants to give up maintenance of the MVTR.org website. We hope a web-savvy volunteer will step forward.

## **MVTR Financial Report**

Ron Sousa reported that we have \$4950 in the Hop-Ev account and the general account is well into the black. We are healthy, but keep in mind that we have to front the Bureau of Trails money in the spring for Hop-Ev maintenance for which we are not fully reimbursed in the fall. There are substantial upfront costs to put on the Rock Crusher event weekend.

## **MVTR Active Wear**

By a show of hands there was strong interest in jerseys, t-shirts, and sweatshirts. Tammy Preve and Ron Sousa will investigate designs and costs and report back next month.

## **Winter Riding Problem**

Recently a group of ATVs and side-by-sides badly rutted up soft snow at Bear Brook. They were the first riders out on the trails after the groomer. They made a real mess. Although we haven't heard chatter in the snowmobile community, it could cause blow back. Trail bikes have not been a problem – those of us who ride there know to stay off soft snow. Tom Levesque escalated our complaint to NHOHVA, who is putting the word out to their ATV clubs. Ride early morning on hard snow; then go get breakfast when the snow gets soft.

## **NHOHVA**

- Is opposing legislation to raise the age from 12 to 14 for unlicensed OHRV drivers on roads where they are permitted.
- Is neutral in supporting the doubling of fines for OHRV speeding, noise, and off-trail riding. The state needs the money.
- Two more Conservation Officers are being hired in the North Country. They will be dedicated exclusively to snowmobile enforcement in the winter and OHRV enforcement the rest of the year.
- A new NHOHVA website, with the online club membership purchase feature should be up and running in about ten days (now up, 10 April). From this time forward, Art Pepin will not be accepting MVTR membership applications. We ask that you wait until the website is up, and then join though it.

## **New Members**

- Chip Jorgensen from Concord is a new rider. Tom encouraged him to attend the Wednesday evening club rides at Hop-Ev when the season opens.
- Brook Roberts is from Bow.
- Pete Carelli and Garth Clarke are new to the club.

There was no 50:50 raffle.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm