

MVTR GENERAL MEETING NOTES - 5 August 2015

Freedom Cycle - Concord

Presiding President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm with approximately 50 members present.

The MVTR community has experienced too many recent losses: Bob Campbell of Freedom Cycle; and John Harriman for whom there was a recent NETRA Scramble dedicated in his memory. If you have health concerns address them, do not ignore them. You leave a hole behind for your loved ones.

Corrections to last month's minutes

- Tom noted that \$1700 was raised for MVTR by the raffle at the NE Classic.
- Brian Harjula is taking the lead with single track trail administration at Jericho State Park, with President Tom acting as backup.

Tom's Recent Meeting with Chris Gamache, Bureau of Trails (BoT).

- MVTR is going to dial back its efforts at single track development at Jericho State Park. The Hop-Ev Recreation requires more MVTR effort and will be the primary focus.
- Bureau of Trails will permit almost unlimited single track development at Jericho, with the caveat that whoever develops it must maintain it.
- Grant in Aid: MVTR receives almost all of the GIA portion of trail bike OHRV registration (\$7/bike x 2,300 bikes). ATV clubs receive considerably more GIA, but their portion of GIA is \$16 per ATV registration x 24,000 ATVs.
- Governor Hassan has frozen GIA funds as part of her budget battle with the State Legislature, but MVTR will receive their funds.

Ride the Wilds

Tom displayed a large trail system map produced by BoT that had been marked up by Chris Gamache of the BoT. It depicted four large trail sections where the private landowners are prohibiting trail bikes. In total, more than a third of the trail system is closed to trail bikes, but there are not practical go-arounds. For various reasons it is unlikely the landowners (National forest products companies) will relent.

Dave Mott has been researching the trail system and recently made a scouting trip. He reports that the trail system is comprised of such mild, broad dirt roads; there is little of interest for large Adventure Bikes, let alone dual sport/trail bikes. Dave drove much of it in his Toyota car!

Given the above, Tom has decided he will no longer push NHOHVA and BoT for trail bike access to Ride the Wilds. He states that his priorities for the north country are:

First: Single track development at Jericho with local support.

Second: Adventure bike access to the primary routes of Ride the Wild.

Last: Trail bike access to side trails off of Ride the Wild.

Rogue Riders

Recent incidents of hooligan trail bike riders have caused community relations problems: Warren Old Home days, Jericho ATV Festival, and in Maine riders who violated a temporary trail closure on Wagner Paper property due to active logging got 75 miles of trail permanently closed to everybody.

The fact of the matter is that more restrictions and land development are going to cause friction - riders are not going to stop riding. It is easier to go play on power lines than to transport your bike an hour or more one way to a legal riding area, but now you might have to cut a little closer to someone's back yard. Try not to be a jerk, and if you encounter the egregious riders, try to have a friendly chat to discourage that activity.

Hopkinton-Everett Riding Area

Fish and Game has asked for assistance with noise enforcement. They would like MVTR to assist them in the performance of the SAE noise test (the State of NH recently codified the same test standard that NETRA uses). The plan is to set up trail side tests where loud sounding machines would be asked to submit to a voluntary test and given warnings if they fail. Those with an attitude will be fined.

Recent Rides

- J.D. Mott reported on the Seacoast Riders Noble Woods enduro. They had some last minute trail closure to deal with. 110 riders competed in good weather conditions.
- Andy Anthony reported the John Harriman Memorial Hare Scramble in Roxbury was challenging. It was at a ski area with many sections lateral to the hillside, and sharp off-camber turns.
- Tom Simeon reported on the J-Day sprint enduro and GP.
- Several members spectated at the FIM world trials championship round in Rhode Island. The best factory riders in the world put on a show!
- Jared attended the Jericho ATV festival.

Miscellaneous

- Tucker is putting together a work party at Rocky Mountain, date TBD.
- Chip Freddette is having a work party at Bear Brook State Park 9:00am Sunday 16 August. Meet at the mountain bike parking lot; bring rakes and tools appropriate for filling in ruts.
- MVTR needs to purchase a York rake or scrapper blade to attach to the club ATV or six wheeler. Keep your eyes open for a bargain.
- Freedom Cycle has the remaining MVTR jerseys for sale.
- No new members were present.
- Ron Sousa won the 50:50 raffle, and donated all \$62 back to the club.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 9:36 pm.