

4 December 2013

### **MVTR December Meeting**

With Tom having much to report upon in regards to riding and NH politics later in the evening, he coerced Glenn to run the meeting and thus provide us with some measure of 'variety'. In opening Glenn mentioned a few recent events, 1<sup>st</sup>, up and coming off-road star Kurt Caselli was killed in an accident while racing the Baha 1000. Initial reports had alluded to the possibility that he may have fallen victim of foul play as booby traps are not unheard of in the region, however official word from KTM has stated that it was a collision with an animal that caused the crash. 2<sup>nd</sup>, perhaps less up and coming but still a (local) star, Sea Coast Trail Rider, Mike Smith was recently out on a trail ride and suffered symptoms of a heart attack. Fortunately, the group he was riding with (including JD one of our own heart attack 'aware' was quick to recognize the condition and to get him treatment. His prognosis at present is very good.

Moving on to MVTR business, the Board of Directors met this evening just prior to the business meeting to discuss Dues and Costs. There has not been an MVTR dues increase in some 10 to 15 years. Numerous costs have increased, NHOVA will be going up in cost but at the same time it is looking as though they may finally be able to get liability insurance which we as an individual club have not been able to do. Grant-in-Aid and RTP have both been cut back meaning less funding available (at least initially) for projects and more \$\$ that we need to make up the difference. The BOD recommended an increase to \$30 annually for all memberships. It was noted that **IF** the Club Incentive provision, currently being considered for State OHRV registration is passed it would by and large zero out the dues cost for members.

The measure was brought up to the membership and passed by a majority of those present.

Tom brought us up to date on the current state of the world of NHOHVA. The provision to add a 'Club Incentive' closely mirroring the current snowmobile registration system is being considered. The basic plan is that if a member of a 'recognized' club goes to get an OHRV registration the fee would remain the same as now (more or less). If the person seeking an OHRV registration is not a member of a recognized club they would be given the option to join a (recognized) club or if they chose not to join there would be a \$30 additional fee that would go to fund Grant-In-Aid. The reasoning behind this is that the 'recognized' clubs would be those who are maintaining portions of the trail system. Encouraging other riders to join these clubs would provide increased funding and manpower to those efforts. Those who chose not to join would be contributing fees that directly fund trail maintenance. On other fronts, representation for off-road recreation is already increasing in Concord although there are a couple of clubs who are not fully on board with the whole NHOHVA plan. 'Ride The Wilds', our MVTR sign kiosk program is going well. The program looks as though it will be completed in just a few more weeks (which will Tuck his garage back!), pretty much a year ahead of schedule. By all appearances the effort is much appreciated by the North Country clubs.

Glenn then introduced Jeff to report on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual John Ruffo Memorial Challenge as held on the Landry Ranch the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Jeff told us that it was 10° at 07:30 that Saturday but 38 riders (including 5 new members) and 37 spectators were soon in attendance. In total donations of \$1120 were collected and after expenses that meant that \$588 was donated to an appreciative Shepherds Pantry. There were as many as 8 crock pots running at one time. No injuries beyond the 'normal' bumps, bruises and dinged pride were reported. Duane once again garnered the honor of riding the fastest lap with Zach reported to be not far off the pace. Word has it that some 'Deacon' kid will have Duane looking over his shoulder before long!

Glenn made mention of some of the MVTR riders who had distinguished themselves in the NETRA results for 2013. In no particular order: Shawn finished 16<sup>th</sup> overall in Hare Scrambles while trying to balance work and riding. Andy was 3<sup>rd</sup> in B Senior. Hunter moved from C to B and still got up to 12<sup>th</sup>. Zach moved to B

250. Tom took 1<sup>st</sup> in Masters with Tuck garnering 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jeremy also moved to B. JD got 1<sup>st</sup> in C Super Senior for Enduros. And while not a NETRA event, Payton qualified 7<sup>th</sup> and finished 9<sup>th</sup> at Arenacross in NY.

Andy gave us an update on NETRA. After a 2 ½ year struggle, NETRA has regained a positive cash flow and does not have to borrow from its members to meet expenses. In Competition events the larger turnout events have been subsidizing those with lower participation. Starting in 2014 Netra fees will be based upon participant numbers rather than being 'per event'. This of course means that costs for some events will rise and others will be reduced, it will mean that 2 day events more cost effective. Recognizing the need to encourage future riders, stand-alone youth events will still be subsidized in part. The fee for HS scoring will be a flat rate \$1,350 rather than varying due to travel costs. The Enduro series may be expanding back into NY after a reappraisal of the rules regarding insurance and sanctioning bodies. There have not been a large number of rules changes proposed. One rule that will be reviewed is how to realistically honor rider classifications from other series who do not have similar promotional systems. It seems that each event has had entrants who have successfully become 'the big fish in their particular pond' and who now feel that they belong on a NETRA front line. Some have indeed been good enough but many have had no idea how far over their head they were as they proved to be a rolling chicane to the NETRA regulars who now had to work their way past another obstacle. It should be an interesting question to answer.

In recent events: Dave said the King Phillip ride was very good. The Toys for Tots ride was a 'girls only' ride for MVTR as the boys went hunting. JD declined to mention just where he was riding when he broke his thumb.

Upcoming: the Ice Box will be on New Year's Day or when the ice is ready. Notification will be by email to all riders on the Winter Riding List. This year's charity has yet to be decided upon. As always crock pots are encouraged.

The next MVTR meeting will be held on 8 January 2014 rather than New Year's Day!

See JD if you are interested in riding in AZ in March.

Brian is looking for kiosk workers on the next two Wednesdays. Show up at Tuck's @ 18:00 or so. This should complete the project.

John announced that there would be a Guinness Record attempt for participation in the Ranglely CFF Snowmobile ride on 8 & 9 February 2014

Glenn reports that the riding jerseys are in progress (maybe even close!).

Art said that the new and improved MVTR.org should be up and running in late Dec. or early Jan.

Bruce