

4 February 2009

MVTR FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting began at 19:19 with the arrival of pizza and a report on the changes to event insurance. With NETRA now able to get its own insurance there is hope that the same company will consider underwriting policies for NETRA Clubs to cover their equipment. It has been difficult (impossible?) to find a company willing to cover the ATVs and trailers and the individuals towing/operating them to perform trail maintenance and support at events. We have been depending to a large extent on the not universal custom of a trailer being included automatically under the policy of the tow vehicle. We have been more than willing to purchase the insurance but unable to find it, this would provide great peace of mind to the Club Officers (i.e., those likely to be named first should an accident/incident occur) and many volunteers who use the equipment through the course of the year.

NETRA ANNUAL MEETING

John reported on the recent attempt to pass another piece of noise legislation. He reminded us that although AMA membership is no longer mandatory to enter NETRA Events (it is still required to enter our Classic which remains not only an AMA event but is the largest club level charity fundraiser) riders should consider that the AMA is the best support of our sport at the national level and worthy of continued support.

Tom reported that there would be an increase in the NETRA efforts to support the recreational rider. This year there will be a raffle of a KLR 650 with tickets available to those who participate in the Turkey and Big Bike rides. They are looking at a more thorough tech inspection at recreational rides and the awards program.

SEACOAST SNOW SCRAMBLE

The Seacoast Trail Riders worked right up to the Saturday night of their event to groom/prepare the trails. Unfortunately the overnight arrival of 8-9 of fresh snow changed them from Great to something less. Many reported that there didn't seem to be any combination of helmet/goggles that worked for long (and just about everything was tried)

SNOW RUN

According to Rick a new Trail Boss changed things around somewhat, still the same terrain and trails but different at the same time. The trails became somewhat soft and rutted which resulted in lots of paddling by the 90 or so riders who participated.

NEW YEARS(?) RIDE

Mark brought a cooler and ladle in for lost and found apparently all that was left behind from the mountain of crock pots and other food sources that accompany his and Boos annual get together on the ice. About 40 bikes and 100 people showed up on the always-short notice (depends on how the ice is) informal get-together. The participants donated \$700, which will be matched by MVTR and forwarded to the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Oh yeah, that cooler did contain an adult beverage and some diet soda, the soda is still available.

OTHER RIDE(ING?) REPORTS

Bear Brook has been providing some good riding for those willing to put on studded tires and brave the cold.

Clough (Hop-Ev) is reported to be hard work.

A reminder to our snowmobiling members, the Mt. Major Snowmobile Club supports and maintains the trails around Rocky Mountain (think Classic and Rocky Mt. Weekend) if you are looking for a club to join please consider theirs.

Bob advised us that there would not be a RIDE email issued unless predicted conditions rate at least a 5. I do not have his email address at

hand (Art can no doubt provide it); make sure that you are on his NOTIFY list to be included in the winter rides.

There is talk and consideration of Seacoast Trail Riders and MVTR putting on a Winter Scramble Series. The reasoning being that (a) it is a way to ride during the winter and (b) the most common reason given for not entering the Snow Scramble is that it is too expensive to buy a set of studded tires in order to ride just one event. Seeing how much work has been involved in their event and the fickleness of New England weather, it will take some new blood not already entwined in our existing events to step forward and take on this challenge.

There will be a ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEEKEND Committee meeting on 4 March 2009 prior to the regularly scheduled MVTR meeting. I am not sure how prior this would be, 1800?

This is year two so no one should be surprised that all COMPETITORS need to make sure that they are listed on the NETRA database in order to get series points. You must have a current NETRA membership AND a current NETRA Affiliate (i.e. MVTR) Club membership to compete for end of season awards. Check your status on the NETRA website, if your data needs correction contact Art to get the information updated.

JD reported that he would be riding in the Phoenix, AZ area in March. Riders who will be in the area (or want to be?) and want to hook up for some off-road adventure should contact him.

The MVTR Snowmobile contingent is on the loose again. The plan (what plan?) is to get underway at 0600 from Townsend, MA on the morning of 5 February, heading northerly to the Canadian Border then back through Pittsburg and Dixville to claim the honor of Longest Ride In at the Easter Seals Weekend. A more in-depth report can be found on NEDB in the MVTR forum. Those who survive, will no doubt be joined by other MVTR members who wish to participate on the 21st in the annual Cystic Fibrosis Ride (i.e. Austin's Ride).

Those who enjoy the MVTR sponsored trail system in Hop-EV should be prepared to help out this spring. There is reportedly much tree damage from the December ice storm. The state usually does the initial prep of the trails prior to opening but their resources are limited, we will probably be asked to step up and help get the trails safe and ready for the (hopefully) May opening.