

1 July 2009

MVTR July Meeting

The July Meeting began at about 20:15, immediately following the conclusion of the Rocky Mountain Weekend committee meeting. Turnout for the pre-meeting ride was decidedly light (2?), owing perhaps to fact that it has rained on at least two of every three days since the Classic.

The New England Classic Charity Trail Ride

The 29th running of the Classic is now history. It is often said that it is better to be lucky than good, looking back at the event, those that ran it were indeed good. If one considers the state of the national economy and the weather we have seen since the event, we (all of MVTR and CFF) were both very successful and more than a little lucky! The reports on the various sections that make up the Classic follows.

The Northern Loop seemed to be improved by reversing the route from years past, which not only changed the scenery but also got more of the riders into and through lunch earlier, this allowed more of them to avoid being shortcutted(?) around the ever popular Devils Den section. There was (only?) one injury, which was serious enough to require an ambulance ride. The morning sweep riders reported that they had a pretty easy time of it.

The Big Bike Rally was ridden by (about) 24 riders. This year they were routed so as to join the Trail Ride for lunch, as a (very slow) sweep rider I cannot attest as to just how that worked out, by the time we arrived the whole setup was gone, without so much as a wrapper to indicate that they had been there! Without riding the Hero sections (well, one of them, backwards with a subsequent retrace of the non-hero around it) I showed 172 miles on my GPS by the time I returned to the Speedway. The rally had been shifted to Saturday this year in an attempt to allow riders to enjoy both it and Sundays Southern Loop whose arguably less challenging trails include some of the State Parks, which are definitely unavailable at any other time of the year (except when well covered with snow).

The Kids Classic was for the first time ever, not even close to being sold out. As of the pre-registration cut-off date (May 23rd) there were only 11 riders. Jay and Matt held registration open until literally the last minute possible and were able to up the number to 24 (53% of capacity). The kids

that did ride were happy, well fed and dead tired by the time the bus returned them to the Speedway each afternoon. Reportedly there were only a couple of bikes that remained on the trailer overnight after Saturdays ride the rest all required some maintenance!

This year's Southern Loop was designed with several bailouts allowing those with time (or aching body) constraints to sample some of the best trails in NH and still make it home in order to show up for work on Monday morning. The ride as always includes trails in some sensitive areas, where vocal minorities try each year to have us excluded. In order to attract as little unwanted attention as possible this Loop has gravitated to using the route sheet exclusively to show the turns rather than arrows and using ribbons as a confirmation that you did indeed make the correct turn. While this system is becoming popular in other parts of the country its acceptance by New England riders is coming along rather slowly. A very big plus on the Southern Loop this year was the new Lunch Stop. It would be hard to include enough nice things to say about it. Wonderful location - terrific food a cold water supply to replenish hydration packs music - smiling, helpful, volunteers making it all work, all of this as a first time effort by someone who wanted to make things better. None of this should be construed as any criticism of the Saturday lunch stop, rather just to point out what a huge change this is from Sundays traditional grab something to eat at the convenience store!

The Bozos have succeeded in making more of an impact on this year's Classic. Perhaps it is a short attention span thing, maybe if the line **SPEED LIMIT 30 MPH ON DIRT ROADS. PLEASE GO SLOW THROUGH FARMS AND POPULATED AREAS.** You don't want to be the one who screws this up for everyone else. Was moved from the bottom of the 2009 CLASSIC RIDERS NOTES to the top we would be all set but I don't know about that. We seem to be attracting a larger number of AA street riders, as has been commented on by other riders, local Law Enforcement and the general public!

There are as always a number of things which we think we can improve upon to make next year's **30th New England Classic** (June 5th and 6th, 2010) the best ever. The Classic Committee will be meeting in the near future (don't ask how I know that) to address changes to be made and look for ways to exceed all expectations. It is hoped that we can perhaps avoid having another scheduling conflict such as the one, which hurt the Kids Classic so badly this year.

The bottom line is that through the efforts of American Suzuki, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, MVTR, the Northern New England branch of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the riders and all the untold other volunteers, \$117,000 was raised to help fund Cystic Fibrosis research and move us closer to the day when CF stands for Cure Found!

Continuing with a Classic week tradition (used to be a Bike Week tradition) there were two MVTR trail rides held following the Classic. On Tuesday (the beginning of the month of rain) about a dozen riders headed out of Jim Nash's place for a dust free loop through Washington and back for a BBQ, which Jim said netted another \$345 in donations toward the Classic. On Thursday, Steve's ride out of Jolly Roger saw two groups of 8-10 riders each head out for a loop of about 85 miles.

OTHER EVENTS

Three successive Enduros have been either postponed due to weather or cancelled all together in the past month. The Anthony clan traveled down to participate in the last GNCC however the Classic review ran this evening well past their bedtime and we will have to wait until next month's meeting to get a report. Some 50-60 riders Including MVTRs JD and Peter headed to VT to ride the NECC Hare Scramble.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEEKEND

MVTRs version of Ride with the Devil, the Rocky Mountain Weekend is fast approaching on July 25th and 26th. Saturday will see the Jr. and Sr. Enduro head out on an 08:00 Key Time to be followed by the Mini, Big Wheel, Women and Girls classes at 13:00. The PeeWee 4 and 5 riders depart on their Scramble at 1400 to be followed by the PeeWee 1, 2 and 3s at 15:30. On Sunday the Mini, Big Wheel and Girl classes will take to the Scramble track at 08:30, the Novices head out at 11:00 while the Amateurs and Experts will start at 14:00. In addition to holding all of this on just one weekend there is something else new. The first ever Granite State Challenge will combine placement from each day's events to determine who are the top riders in AA, A, B, C, and Mini for a separate trophy and lots of bragging rights. Pre-Entries are due no later than 21 July 2009, for the Enduro they must go to: Rick Claxton 95 Prescott Rd. Epping, NH 03042 and for the Hare Scramble they must be submitted to Lynne Anthony 99 Candia Rd. Chester, NH 03036. There is no separate entry for The Challenge.

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Last Minute information @ NEDB.com and MVTR.org

IF there is any bright spot to the plight of these last three endures it is that the attendance at work parties to prepare for Rocky Weekend is up. There is in fact one happening right now as I type this (5 July). More help will be needed to pull off this ambitious schedule of events, every MVTR member as well as friends and family can be of great help, particularly on the weekend itself, don't be bashful!

OTHER STUFF

A newsletter should be hitting your mailbox in the next week. If it doesn't show up, I am going to say that there is a really good chance that it is YOUR fault! Lots of work has gone into bringing our contact list up to date but we need to have your up to date information to include it. You also need to pay your dues on a somewhat regular basis to be retained on the roster. So, if you do not get a newsletter in the next week or so, one of the previous conditions probably exists. Either one can be remedied by contacting [Art](#).

There is work to be done at Hop-Ev. No work parties are planned until after Rocky Mountain Weekend is concluded but once the park reopens from the current flooding work could be done on a day at a time basis. Trimming face slappers and/or improving signage can be done by one or two riders (provided you are SURE that you are on the correct trail location). Contact [Jim](#) to coordinate trail work at Hop-Ev.