

6 July 2011

MVTR July Meeting

The July MVTR Meeting began shortly after 20:00 following up on the heels of the simultaneous Rocky Weekend Committee Meeting and the 31st Classic Committee Debriefing Meeting and the disappearance of 13 pizzas.

Classic 31

Tom started us off with a summary of the debrief meeting: There will be/is an effort to get more of the club members involved in the running, planning, overseeing, etc. of the Classic. Part one of the plan, is to get anyone interested on to the Committee, new blood is always welcome. Part two is to identify a number of “new” jobs then find volunteers to adopt them and “make them their own” by figuring out what help and resources they need to have and recruiting those individuals. The idea being that we reach out beyond the “Usual Suspects” and get more individuals active in the process. In the past pretty much everything has been divided among the members of the committee and then a month or two before crunch time a sign –up sheet gets passed around to find volunteers to help. It has worked remarkably well (editors opinion) but puts a lot of strain on a small number of individuals. At the same time it has given the appearance of the Classic Committee being a small closed club, which is certainly not the case. Successfully completing a task often means that you inherit it for life, the hope here is to get enough club members involved that some jobs might even be handled by different crews on different days and that volunteering might still leave you a day free to enjoy the ride rather than being a lifetime commitment. It’s OK to volunteer to do just one thing or for just one (or part of one) day. [I learned early in my MVTR membership that the more stuff you get involved with, the more people you meet, and sometimes people who once they know you and recognize you as a productive member offer invitations to ride new and different places. As you get more involved it becomes more fun] (more editorializing by me).

Lisa came bearing gifts and ‘Thank Yous’. She wanted not only to offer thanks but also to remind us that the success of each Classic is dependant on the contributions made by all of MVTR. That work is appreciated by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and also very much so by the 200 families across NH who are affected by Cystic Fibrosis. In a less than stellar economy we were still able to raise \$103,000, of which \$22,000 came directly from MVTR. This will all go toward continuing research to find treatments and ultimately make CF stand for Cure Found. Her gift of LIFE SAVERS™ was a reminder that by hosting the event, year after year the members of MVTR are truly ‘life savers’.

JD was the only (adult ride) Trail Boss ‘still standing’ by this point in the evening. He reported that unlike earlier in the week, by ride time there was NO dust. There was also no complaining to be found, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves despite being soaked and cold. All the problems surfaced early and after the first hour there were no more calls on the emergency line.

Jay described the kids as all being cold and wet but having a great time. Tired or not everyone kept on riding after the lunch break, even if only to keep warm. He wanted to thank all who had given up “their” ride in order to help chaperone the ‘Kid’s Ride’ and open an invitation to others to join in next year.

Tom added that a thank you had gone out to the store/gas station at the Alton Circle (Reset 9 on Saturday). When waves of wet, cold riders appeared they cranked up the heat in the store and gave out “expedient raingear” (trash bags) to the riders to help them continue on with the journey.

Rocky Mountain Weekend

At the end of this month, just 3 ½ weeks away at this point, we will be hosting Rocky Mountain Weekend. Those members of the Rocky Committee who are competing have been working hard to observe how the other events they attend are working out and trying to list any ideas that we should adopt to improve our event as well as identify any potential pitfalls that we need to avoid. That said there are not a great number of changes planned for this years’ event. We will be looking to try and get all the ‘Official Venues’ (Sign-up, Waivers, Tech, Med, etc.) into one area in an effort to improve communication and provide for more frequent ‘relief’ for those working the areas. Andy told us that he has been trying to recall those volunteers who handled various tasks last year and then supplement them with additional help. As always more club members are needed and welcome. The HS course will be run in reverse direction this year. There are a couple of areas where new ‘go-arounds’ are planned to avoid stoppers. The change in direction will necessitate shortening and or exposing a number of stumps in some sections and as always there are new face slappers to be trimmed back.

There is a work detail planned for 9 & 10 July, with meeting points designated as 08:30 (breakfasted and ready to depart) at the Alton Traffic Circle McDonalds or at AJ’s Gate at 09:00. A trailer full of tools will be on site but feel free to bring what cutting, clearing implements you have and are comfortable using and or loaning.

The hay fields are scheduled, (as much as weather allows) to be cut beginning on the 18th. Later that week the grass track will need to be laid out and the (almost) final arrowing done. The 30th and 31st are the event itself. Any and all time that you can offer to help is welcome, a day or a few hours, it all adds up. Please contact [Andy](#) or call him at 603-887-3296 if you can help at the event or in the days leading up to it. For a copy of the event flyer click [here](#). Feel free to print and post them as appropriate.

At present there is no plan to try and obtain a Fire Permit for the weekend, if you need warm food please plan accordingly.

Hop-Ev

Brian is planning a work party to be held on 17 July, meet in the parking lot at 09:00. There are several bridges, which require attention. If time and manpower allow some signage issues may be attended to as well.

The Rest

The weekly trail rides continue. Two weeks ago it was rather rainy but last week drew a big crowd. Rides are planned for every non-meeting Wednesday evening, meet at the Hop-Ev parking lot around 17:00.

A "Women's Ride" is in the planning stages. The concept is in place and soon a date will be announced.

A newsletter should be appearing within the next week.

Not much Competition riding appears to be taking place by club members of late. Mark stated that Laurel City might be on his schedule as a 'throw-away' although Zach didn't seem to have minded it. Art has been taking lots of pictures, which he said is 'cheaper than riding' although he does have a new bike.

Respectfully (more or less) Submitted
Bruce