

4 March 2009

March MVTR Meeting

The March meeting of the MVTR got underway at 19:15 with a discussion of some of the legislative events recently passed or up for consideration.

First on the list was the Federal Law, which took effect on 12 February 2009 banning the sale of ANY product intended for use by those 12 y.o.a. or under, which contains more than 600 ppm of lead. While we might want to think that this was a backdoor effort to prevent children from being involved in off-road riding, it appears more likely that we were included in the broad sweeping protection movement that followed last year's discovery that large quantities of lead existed in many of the toys being imported from China. As lead is routinely utilized in the manufacturing of many parts included in dirt bikes, atvs and sleds the manufacturers of those products are now in the position of either certifying them as safe or figuring out how to modify them so as to not include parts which exceed the 600 ppm limit (which in and of itself appears to be an arbitrary number not actually linked to a known danger level). In the meantime, most (all?) of the products have been removed from showrooms and may not be offered for sale. Currently our representatives to NETRA and the AMA respectively are contacting them to see both what they are doing in response to this law and what we should be doing at the club level. There is a national movement to have riders appear at their respective state capitals on 13 March 2009 in protest of this (unintended?) consequence of the law, as of meeting time we did not have specific details as to when and where the NH group would be meeting. There are also some on-line petitions available attempting to get the off-road industry exempted from the law (there seem to be few if any instances of children crewing on their dirt bikes and ingesting the available lead).

Another item for consideration was the hearing scheduled to have taken place on the 2nd to consider allowing OHRV use on some roads in the north country. This would be a move toward making the region around riding areas (like the new Berlin park) more rider friendly to improve the quality of the experience and help promote tourism for the area. It has been done in many other parts of the country with success. Unfortunately, the storm on Monday prevented any MVTR members from participating in the hearing and we do not know if it may have been in fact postponed or if not, how it transpired.

There has been a movement to increase the price of OHRV registrations. The snowmobile clubs have requested this to increase the money available for trail maintenance, grooming and enforcement, they will in fact be seeing a 30% increase. For the rest of us there will be a \$1 increase in the cost of registration, which will be added to the agent fee.

Events

There should be information appearing on our website about a fundraiser golf tournament to be held on 8 May 2009. This would be to benefit UNH (brought forward by Luciens daughter)

Tom gave us a recap of the MVTR team journey to again win the longest ride-in at the annual Easter Seals Ride. They rode 401 miles, much of it in sub zero temperatures. Details can be found on NEDB and should also appear in our next newsletter.

The CLASSIC

This year's 29th edition of the New England Charity Classic Trail Ride will take place on 6 & 7 June 2009. Much of the event will follow the proven recipe of past events, this will be once again an AMA sanctioned and insured event (consequently AMA membership is still required, NETRA is again forgoing their membership requirement in order to maximize the funds raised for Cystic Fibrosis (Thank You). Suzuki is once again our Outstanding Corporate Partner and will be providing a DRZ 400S as the Grand Prize in the drawing as well as much other support. This year's registration packets have already been mailed to those who participated last year, first time riders will need to get registration packets by contacting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at:

1-800-757-0203

or

<http://newengland.cff.org/trailride>

MVTR members whose offspring have not previously participated in the Kids Classic can also get registration packets for them through the above location. If you would like more specific information to determine if the ride would be appropriate for your child, contact the Trail Boss directly at: <mailto:JLEES@GSINET.NET>

As always, space in the Kids Classic is solidly limited by the capacity to transport riders and their bikes to the daily riding areas so get your registration in early!

Rocky Mountain Weekend

The Rocky Mountain Weekend will be held on 25 & 26 July 2009. The ambitious schedule calls for a mini enduro @ 0800 on Saturday with the Jr. and adult enduro beginning @ 1000 on a closed course (bike registration not required). Sunday will be Hare Scramble day. Planning is underway to figure out how to combine scores from both days to determine who will be the winners of the Granite State Challenge. Members of the RMW committee (and those who wish to be included) will be meeting @ 1800 prior to the 1 April (yes, Aprils Fools Day, almost seems appropriate for those attempting to hold an enduro and a HS on the same weekend doesnt it?) 2009 MVTR Meeting.

Hop-Ev

Our long overworked Trail Administer Brian Harjula has announced his resignation from the position in order that he might devote more time to his family. This leaves a huge void, which we need to fill with either an individual or more likely a committee (it is more work than should be expected of one volunteer). Several have expressed an interest in being part of the solution, those wishing to be included should be at (or make it known in advance) the April meeting.

Other Stuff

There will be a Hill Climb on 4 April 2009 at Pats Peak Ski Area (sorry, NO bikes, snow mobiles only).

Bear Brook has been providing some GOOD riding (perhaps not so good this weekend).

29 March will be the first Hare Scramble of the season and the Sandy Lane in NJ will kick off the enduro season. Winter has to end sometime!