

MVTR GENERAL MEETING NOTES - 4 March 2015
Freedom Cycle - Concord

Presiding President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm with approximately 30 members present.

Hopkinton-Everett Riding Area

MVTR Trail Administrators Bruce Starer and Sarah Dynia introduced 4 guests: Shawn Violett, Bureau of Trails (BoT) District Supervisor; Dennis, Josh, and Jack from the Blurred Vision ATV club. These guests met with Bruce and Sarah prior to the general meeting to plan work projects at the riding area for 2015.

Projects include, but are not limited to:

- The replacement of all informational signs and arrows.
- Conformance to a new sign standard, which includes replacing "W" signs with "Wrong Way, Do Not Enter" signs.
- All bridges on the four ATV trails will have their decks replaced (less the "Long Bridge" on Stark Pond), with BoT supplied materials.
- The information kiosk in the parking lot will be repainted and the roof re-shingled.
- Improved barriers to prevent ATV access to the single track River Loop, BT, and the Stark Pond sand pit.
- The creation of a new single-track, trail bike only loop off of the Stark Pond trail!

The Blurred Vision club will provide volunteer labor under the direction of Bruce. They have provided great service at the riding area for the past few years, and the MVTR members who encounter them should extend a heartfelt thank you. However, being an out-of-state club, they cannot apply for Grant-in-Aid funding, and must work under the direction of MVTR.

Bruce has also reached out to the Weare Winter Wanderers snowmobile club; who will also provide volunteer labor on Hop-Ev projects that coincide with the trails they maintain in the winter.

The River Loop and BT single track, trail bike only trails will remain the exclusive domain of MVTR.

Shawn shed considerable light on Hop-Ev background issues that are not readily apparent.

- The riding area is leased by the State from the Army Corp of Engineers (ACE). A new lease was recently signed for another 7-8 years. There is no guaranty that the lease will be renewed when it expires.

- Twice a year Shawn chaperones ACE inspectors on all the trails. Each year he creates a written report to ACE.
- The biggest concern ACE has is environmental impact and wetlands preservation.
- The primary mission for ACE with the riding area is to store flood water. Initially ACE would not allow outside fill material (gravel, stone, etc.) to be brought into the riding area because it would reduce water storage capacity. However a study by BoT demonstrated that each ATV that leaves the area removes 5 gallons of mud attached the underside, each trail bike removes 1 gallon of mud; and all vehicles are automatically counted at the parking lot entrance; and the amount of material leaving the riding area far exceeds the fill material brought in.
- It is expected that the dam will hold back much water this spring, producing a major flooding of the area. The riding area may not open to the public until June. Shawn will allow maintenance access to us as early as he can. He is expecting the maintenance/repair projects listed above to be completed before the area opens to the public - which is an extremely aggressive schedule.
- BoT is planning in 2-3 years to replace the "Long Bridge" on Stark Pond with a suspension bridge.
- The BoT enforcement budget was significantly increased this year, expect 2-3 times the previous presence.

Given all of the above, there will be numerous work parties in June, May, and hopefully April. Bruce and Sarah cannot supervise every work party, and nor should they be permitted to burn-out from the load. MVTR members must step up and volunteer not only to do the work but also to supervise work parties.

Bear Brook/Winter Riding

President Tom and several others have had very good experiences purchasing studded tires from Mike Costas in Rhode Island. Mike is very reasonably priced, quality conscious, and pleasure to do business with. He will knowledgably make just about any stud/tire combination you ask for. He will also help you determine the setup you need for what you want to do.

This afternoon's snow conditions at Bear Brook were surprisingly dry considering the warm temperatures and melting snow elsewhere. Even with the deep freeze predicted in the next two days the conditions may remain as very deep dry powder, very bad for trail bikes.

Steve Semuskie bought a fat tire bicycle for winter trail riding at night. He describes it as a real workout.

The Classic

John O'Conner and the Classic Committee are planning to have phone bank at Freedom Cycle sometime in April. For one evening volunteers will telephone prior attendees of the Classic to encourage them to come back.

NHOHVA and other Politics

- On 20 May NHOHVA will sponsor a breakfast for the state legislature as part of their lobbying effort. ATVs and trail bikes, and adventure bikes will be on display. Tom would appreciate assistance from MVTR members with the bike displays.
- NHOHVA has asked Tom to chair a sub-committee of 4-5 people to develop plans to promote trail bikes and adventure bikes in the State, the North Country in particular.
- NHOHVA is proceeding with the financial impact study, gathering data in April-July, with the report to be completed in August. The study is being facilitated by the NH Automobile Dealers Association, of which ATV and motorcycle shops are part of. They are also pursuing study funding from manufacturers such as Bombardier and Polaris.

Miscellaneous

No new members were present.

Mike Ruffio, John's son, will be visiting the area in August. Steve Semuskie will host him for a ride on River Loop to see the memorial to his father.

Dave Rauseo is interested in putting together a MVTR team of up to five riders for a 24 hour enduro near Rochester, NY, 22-23 August.

Walt Reid has expressed an interest in putting on a MVTR night ride event in Washington.

There was no 50:50 raffle.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.