

May MVTR Meeting

Our May meeting began with words about our continued cooperation with other OHRV clubs. Jack Wheeler of New Durham ATV has stated that out of 16 other OHRV clubs in NH only MVTR has come forward and helped with their trails, they do appreciate it. We are also working hand in hand with the Androscogin ATV Club on the development of trails at the Jericho ATV Park in Berlin.

The 31st Annual New England Classic Charity Trail Ride will be coming up soon on 11 & 12 June 2011.

Mark spoke on the needed help for Classic 31. 1st was a request that riders solicit friends, neighbors, co-workers at all for pledges rather than just paying the entry fee and calling it good. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has an exceptional ratio in its usage of funds, 90% of each dollar raised goes to actively supporting the cause, searching for a cure for CF! They are very careful to keep their administrative budget under control (not always the case with charities) and get as much done as possible with every dollar. Through the 30 years to date of Classic Trail Rides, \$1,798,000 has been raised for the CFF. Banquet Pre-Registration is due by 27 May 2011. Pre-Registration is ongoing for the Youth Ride (i.e. the "Kid's Classic"). Jeff will need sweepers for the BBR. One or more persons will be needed to get the Event Awareness Signs up and collected each day. Lucien is recruiting Pre and Sweep riders, Tuck has a sign-up sheet. Course Marshals (3 on Saturday) will be needed for traffic control in a couple of areas.

JD – Northern Loop ~ New this year is the implementation of an "Ambassador Program", at least two riders per day are requested to coach/lead small groups of riders who might not feel confident enough to tackle the Classic on their own. Preferably there would be a "slow" group and a "fast" group, which would be set up right after the Rider's Meeting. The Loop was pre-ridden on Sunday with only two trees having been found blocking the route. Arrowing will be taking place on Sunday(s); he would like to have sweep riders also doing some of that to increase their familiarity with the route. The snow is almost gone; there will need to be a few changes made in the hero section at Bergeron's.

Jeff – The Big Bike Rally ~ they are going to try and pre-ride the main route on Friday, still too much snow for the hero sections.

Chip – Southern Loop ~ The trail outside of the state parks has already been ridden and cleared twice.

Jay – Kid's Classic ~ There are still openings available. He is looking for more volunteers on both days to help out with both riding and parking lot duties (lunch).

John – The Classic Committee will be meeting next Wednesday at Freedom Cycle.

Massachusetts Legislation, a bill is in the works which would set a minimum age for riders, this would be for riding anywhere not just in competition. Also included is a requirement for everyone to have to get an OHRV sticker and in the process pay a sales tax on his or her OHRV unless they can show that it has already been paid, even to ride on their own land. Public Hearings are scheduled for 11 May in Boston and 12 May in Worcester. The committee tasked with coming up with these rules did so without any public input.

New Hampshire Legislation – It appears that the legislature is still “on our side”, at least there does not seem to be any “anti off-road” legislation pending. The Dupont Group is keeping watch for any changes to that status. There is a move underway to make the Wheeled OHRV sticker process more like that of snowmobiles where the cost of the sticker would be increased for those not in a registered club.

NETRA – There are several budgetary issues playing out. Over the last couple of years they have not received grants (\$20,000), which had been “always there” but the operating budget hasn’t changed to take this into account. The new insurance program has been working out well however the payment plan requires that 1/3 of the cost be submitted in January when there has not yet been any event income and there is little or no cash reserve left to cover it. Individuals have been “stepping up” to cover it on the short term. The new scoring system is costing \$200 more per event than the clubs are paying to cover it with NETRA covering the shortfall.

Rupert – Freedom Cycle is launching a new web site very soon. It will feature a full microfiche for parts diagrams and allow for an e-mail check on parts availability. On-line parts ordering is already up and running, it is being used by a number of dealers who get their parts from Freedom Cycle.

Hop-Ev – RTP and Grant-In-Aid requests have both been submitted for 2011. The RTP grant did not get funded (a request is in to learn why), leaving less \$\$ to perform trail repairs. 2011 Projects will be based on what funding is available. A written request has been submitted to allow access to clear trails before the opening on 23 May. It is expected that a walking (non-vehicle) work party will be permitted. Updated Trail Maps are still in the works; most everything has been mapped on GPS. A separate source of funding for the new handout maps is being checked on. Mile Markers are still on the list for improving the ability to locate injured riders or sections needing repair. Work Parties will begin in earnest after the Classic is held.