

MVTR GENERAL MEETING
5 November 2014 Freedom Cycle, Concord

President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:10pm with approximately 30 members present.

Today was Tom's first day with hearing aids, and was marveling at all the sounds he had been missing. Who knew a piss in the middle of the night was so loud?

Recent Rides

- The Mont Vernon Posse challenge on a rainy day had 3.2 miles of wet, slimy single track attended by 15-20 riders. Burgers, dogs, etc took the chill off.
- Jay McGrath's Hawk Ride in Deerfield had 55 pre-registered for food and a total of 80 riders. Trail Boss Don Smith ran work parties over several weekends to get the course in excellent preparation. In recognition of his efforts he received a hearty ovation at the meeting.
- The Seacoast Riders Family Day was postponed due to inclement weather.
- Noble Woods Turkey Run occurred on two beautiful blue sky days with peak foliage color. Saturday utilized the tougher enduro trails and Sunday was an easy fun ride with no hero sections.
- Peter Anania won two championships in hare scramble and enduro Master Classes in spite of recently breaking ribs.

The State of Affairs in Enduro

Rick Claxton led a discussion on the decline in the number of Enduro competitors. Pilgrim Sands had 50, Cheese Grater had 60, Berkshire had 73, and Noble Woods had 80. The clubs put a lot of work into their events and some loose money at it.

J-Day, Hare Scrambles, and Turkey Runs may be siphoning some riders away. The recent Sprint Enduros seem very popular. In these events there are several short (~10 minute each) tests for Woods, Grass Track, and Extreme sections that must be completed. Rick is suggesting that Netra needs resets during their enduros to give competitors who are riding with friends a chance to converse.

2015 Events

- The MVTR general membership voted to host the NE Classic Charity Ride and the Rocky Mountain Weekend.
- The Seacoast Trail Riders **may** not be putting on a winter scramble or enduro.

Hopkinton-Everett Riding Area

- Brian Harjula has resigned as Trail Administrator after many years of service. Brian deftly negotiated the politics of obtaining funding through the State and Federal Recreational Trails Program and Grant in Aid. Many bridges were built, tools and equipment purchased, downed trees cleared, and trail improvements made. MVTR owes Brian a debt of gratitude that cannot be fully paid.

- Glenn Harvey will be chairing a committee which will meet soon to identify action items requiring immediate attention and to search for a replacement Trail Administrator.
- The Blurred Vision ATV club has volunteered over the last two years to help Brian **and the BOT** with maintenance projects on the ATV trails. While their assistance is appreciated, MVTR does not want to cede ownership of the single track trails.
- State employees have become more involved in maintenance of the ATV trails **leaving the single track to MVTR.**
- Tom will have a discussion with Chris Gamache at the BoT regarding roles of all the players and his expectations for MVTR.

Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs)

- Presently UTV widths of up to 50" are permitted south of the notches, and up to 65" north of the notches. Soon 65" width may be permitted south. **(Trails at Hop Ev will never exceed 50" per the Army Corp of Engineers.)**
- UTVs may now receive farm license plates for road use when the registrant can prove they are for legitimate farm use.
- The gentry in Hillsboro are envious of the road privileges of ATVs and UTVs in Coös County as part of the Ride the Wilds - Jericho Park economic development plan. They want the state to grant them the privilege of driving UTVs on local roads. Tom asks that MVTR members local to Hillsboro gather intelligence. Should NHOHVA assist Hillsboro in their efforts?

Legislative Affairs

- John Wimsatt at BoT has indicated that he will always grant an event permit for the Classic. An event permit for the Rocky may no longer be required due to it being a closed course on private property. **(still in question as the Sate did require a permit in 2014, the subject will be addressed by the NHOHVA lobbyist)**
- Richard Parsons, our NHOHVA lobbyist, is continuing dialog with Wagner Forrest Products regarding **opening their lands of the Ride the Wilds** to trail bikes.
- The proposed club incentive program is working its way through the legislative process.
- The bill to change OHRV registration date to 1 May **will be considered for drafting as a bill in the** 2015 session and could go into effect in 2016.
- The North Country is aware of the kiosks MVTR built. They have been installed in Jericho Park, but some remain to be installed on Ride the Wilds.
- Harry Brown has been aggressive getting F & G to prosecute off-trail riding in the Ride the Wilds system. Recently there was a high profile case with a BAE executive stuck on a snowmobile trail. Political toes were stepped on.
- This year ATV registrations increased by 909, and trail bikes by 84.

Miscellaneous

- Jeff Noyle's Fall Challenge will be at the Landry Ranch in Windham on 29 November. Running from 9:00 to 2:30, it is open to Seacoast and MVTR members paying a donation to the benefiting charity.
- MVTR jerseys will be available at the next meeting.
- _____ won \$____ in the 50:50 raffle.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.