

October MVTR Summary

The October meeting got underway with a review of recent events.

Recent Events

Hunter, Tami, Payton, Jeremy and Tom were among the representatives to ride two wheelers in the NH Day Parade at the Big E in Springfield, MA on 27 September. They joined the four wheelers in the promotion of New Hampshire's "Ride the Wilds" system of 1,000+ miles of interconnected ATV trails in Coos County. The inclusion of men, women and children riding on two wheels and four was a crowd pleaser from all accounts.

Tuck was asked to comment on the Buckfield Two Day ride but deferred to Mark to give a report. It was described as a 'Mini' version of the Colorado 500 ride running from Buckfield, ME (west of Lewiston-Auburn) to Bethel, ME and back. The ride is 'supported', the rider's luggage arrives to meet them at Sunday River in time to get cleaned up for the Saturday evening banquet. Breakfast begins at 07:00 on Sunday morning (for those whose 'celebration' did not run too late into the night). The riders are divided into ability groups who ride 'corner to corner' (you wait at each corner until the rider behind you is in sight so they know where you went), apparently 8 members of MVTR were in the 'fast' group and had a great time. The ride is limited to 50 riders and always held the last week of September, joining Pine Tree Trail Riders is required.

Jim reported on the first annual Mount Vernon Posse Ride, which was recently held. The idea started out as a preparatory event to an upcoming pig roast but was successful enough to bear repeating on it's own. They rode a two-mile loop using the 'Windham' format for scoring. Dwayne (not surprisingly) set the fast lap and much good food was enjoyed.

With daylight waning, the Wednesday Night rides at Hop-Ev are on hold until spring.

There was a lot of MVTR participation at the Ammonoosuc River Run. Glenn described it as two days of excellent terrain. According to Art it was MUDDY but awesome if you were among those who made 'first tracks'. Jim reported great traction in VT on Saturday but very wet in NH on Sunday. Ron noted that there were lots of 'bailouts' listed on the run sheet and that there were notably fewer tracks ahead as the day wore on so riders were using them.

Andy was among our participants at this year's Hard Knox Hare Scramble in Chester, MA. He reported that 'they' had really changed it up from last year. There was an 'Extreme Section' that included quite a variety of obstacles including logs, hanging tires, wagon wheels, cordwood and loose tires. There was a 'Go-Around' for the 'Extreme Section' that was notably longer and included a big 'step-up' ledge (providing the need to choose between 'speed' and 'safety'). With heavy rain on Saturday night the traction just kept getting better with each lap. Jeremy took a first in "C" earning the final points needed to move up into "B". Shawn ended up with a DNF due to issues with a fuel line and loss of fuel. There seems to be a rise in fuel related issues, Tom noted several contamination problems in planes recently.

The Highlander Games Jr. Enduro ran on a two-day, ISDE format on 28 & 29 September 2013 in Stafford, CT. I don't have any participant reports to convey for the event.

Upcoming Events

The Noble Woods Turkey Run is coming up on 13 October 2013 in ME. JD and the Sea Coast Trail Riders have come up with an improved route over last year's event with lots of two-track trail running about 90-miles up through Parsonfield.

As noted last month the 10th Annual Hawk Ride, in memory of Tom McAlpine will be held in Deerfield, NH on 27 October at McGrath's Motorcycle Ranch. It will include unlimited laps on a closed, 6-mile course and an optional catered lunch.

I guess it sort of fits in 'Upcoming Events'. Sea Coast Trail Riders have decided that they will NOT be holding a Winter Scramble in 2014. While a popular event, it is a lot of work with limited help available and the crew that has been doing this is effectively 'burnt out'.

Trails, Use and Maintenance

Brian reported that NH DRED (Department of Resources and Development) is reviewing a proposal to change their Administrative Rules. This change would provide for NO Special Use permits for events, which expected more than 50 participants or was for charity use or was considered 'not the intended use' of the property. Perhaps just my individual point of view but this appears to specifically target the use of State Parks (or other 'State' land) for Charity Rides such as The Classic or the ATV Toys For Tots ride. Hearings are scheduled for 10/1 at DRED and 10/10 at the Hampton Half Shell.

There was a presentation by MVTR (Tom & Brian?) on Trail Use and Maintenance at the Stack (?) Meeting. The prepared power-point program ended up not being able to be presented (system issue with the supplied equipment) but the information could still be 'transmitted'.

The 'New and Improved' MVTR tri-fold is getting close to finished. Pre-production samples were available for review.

NHOHRV News, There was a meeting on 18 September to 'chart the course' for the organization's future, the choice seemed to be to either stay involved or get left behind. NH F&G and DRED would like a 'single voice' to represent the OHRV community. Bob, Brian, Andy and Tom attended to see that we (two-wheel riders) remain represented in this representative organization. The majority of active clubs are in the North Country, which is not surprising as this is where the preponderance of trails exists.

Bob noted that it is the landowners across whose lands the trails pass, not the State Bureau of Trails or other organization(s) who decide which riders will be permitted on the "Ride The Wilds" trail system. Many of those landowners are large lumber and paper companies whose viewpoint is that motorcycles may be

too fast and too small to be visible to their logging truck drivers in time to prevent accidents, this appears to be a common reason for their choice to preclude bikes from their portions of the trail system. It is reported that the AMA will be looking into meeting with some of the Foresters who make recommendations as to what could/should be allowed on these tracts.

Other Stuff

Chris noted that there is now an OHRV 'simulator' which responds to body mechanics to allow non-riders to get a feel for ATV riding. Hopefully it will see some good exposure around the state.

NH F&G is working on building an online OHRV training program. They would like to include more content about the existence of clubs and the benefits of joining them. If you have ideas, video or pictures that would help in this regard, please get in touch with Bob, Tom or Glenn (not me, I don't know where they need to go).