

MVTR GENERAL MEETING  
1 October 2014 Freedom Cycle, Concord

President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:10pm with approximately 45 members present.

**Props**

Tom reiterated his thanks to club volunteers for all of their efforts at Hop-Ev, Rocky Weekend, Classic Trail Ride, etc. Other than Wolfman, there isn't a lot of crossover between these groups; and it isn't always obvious to each group that there are others contributing in different ways to the general benefit of MVTR.

Do not burn out! The mission of the club is to have fun trail riding!

**Classic Pre-meeting**

The crew met earlier this evening in the first planning meeting for the 2015 NE Classic Charity Ride for CF. Glenn Harvey summarized that next year will be the 35th anniversary. The dates are tentatively set for 12-14 June, and will not fall on Father's Day. A goal of \$200k has been set for fundraising.

**Rocky Pre-Meeting**

The crew met earlier this evening to debrief on this year's event. Next year will be the 20th anniversary. The property is overdue for some significant maintenance. After the next event, MVTR will rent a bobcat to repair trails.

**Bear Brook Winter Riding**

Jim Pidgeon, Bill Espinola, and John Mesick are interested using a snowmobile to pack down the "ungroomed" trails on the park's winter trails map. John contacted the snow mobile club that grooms the main trails in the park about our intentions. They have yet to comment. Chris Gamache at Bureau of Trails has told us we are free to use snow mobiles to pack any trail open to snow mobiles but that we cannot use grooming equipment. Chris also told us the back country "Lost Trail" is closed to wheeled vehicles due to private landowner objections.

**Competition**

- The Ammo Turkey Run is well received by the local population. Saturday was warm and sunny, followed by heavy cold rain late in the afternoon. Sunday was sunny but slick. 314 riders registered.
- JD Mott, Andy Anthony, and Tom are still dukeing it out in spite of their gentlemen's agreement to be gentlemen. Andy now has Tom in his crosshairs.
- The Buckfield two-day ride had its limit of 50 riders. Put on by the Pine Tree Trail Riders in Maine, it starts just northwest of Lewiston and runs up to Sunday River Ski Area with overnight accommodations and an evening meal there. Luggage is transported by the Pine Tree Riders.
- No members reported on the Tri-State adventure bike ride.

- Andy Anthony reported on the Hare Scramble at the Blandfield, MA ski area. The course was 30% woods/70% open ski trails; running the mountain top to bottom.
- Remsen NY, Hare Scramble. Added a new MX track section with 99 registered riders. Shawn reported the soil conditions as perfect. Bruce and Sarah joined the Remsen Trail Riders; Bruce has family connections to the area.
- Peter Anania, President of Seacoast Trail Riders recently broke ten ribs and punctured a lung while on a trail ride.
- J-Day recently had an Enduro Cross running over logs, piles of cordwood and rocks, etc.
- There is a J-Day event, the Red Fern, this weekend at Little Woods in Chester, NH.
- Noble Woods Turkey run is 11-12 October out of the Acton, ME Fairgrounds. Friday night camping at Boiverts, Saturday night at the fairgrounds. Saturday's ride is guided on the enduro coarse and single track; Sunday the traditional arrowed, route sheeted turkey run.
- The Hawk Ride is 26 October at the McGrath ranch in Deerfield, RSVP by 19 October. The benefiting charity is the hospice that took care of the Hawk. J.D. Mott will lead up to ten riders on a trail ride from Rochester to Deerfield.
- The MVTR Fall Challenge will be at the Landry Ranch in Windham, 29 November.

### **Hop Ev**

Trail Administrator Brain Harjula was not present. Tom Simone would like him to install rip-rap rack in the deep puddles. One place on Stark Pond trail, and two or three places each on the Sugar Hill and Hang Glider trails.

### **AMA**

- The NETRA board of directors has voted to wait on making a decision on joining AMA. The AMA will make a presentation at the NETRA annual meeting, after which there will be a vote by the attending members.
- MVTR will become an AMA chartered 'social club'. MVTR is collecting AMA membership numbers from its members. Bob Fitzhenry has been in contact with Steve Salisbury, the AMA rep in Maine. Steve, a former forester, has personal contacts in the NH Forestry Association. It is hoped Steve and the AMA can help with North Country, NH access, once we obtain our charter.

### **Legislative Issues**

Richard Parsons, the NHOHVA lobbyist, was introduced by Tom. Richard reported on the proposed Club Incentive Bill. The Bill would allow OHRV Club members a discount in registration, while non-members would pay a larger fee. The resulting difference in the fees would go directly to Grant and Aid for maintenance of trails. Richard had visited with The Timberland Owners Association, which supports the concept; because they feel it will generate more Grant in Aid funds for trail maintenance. Fish and Game is opposed to it because they are afraid of an operating revenue loss (a smaller percentage of the total).

A discussion of reciprocity with Maine isn't on the horizon. However, Maine's registration fees are already significantly lower than NH's. F & G and others are concerned reciprocity may encourage more users to register in Maine rather than NH. OHRV registrations will be transitioning to an online mechanism in 2-3 years. The snowmobile users will be first to go to the online system. How stickers are obtained, or if they will even be required is unknown at this time.

Richard recently meet with the lobbyist for the State of NH Forestry Association regarding opening up the North Country to trail bikes. The forestry association represents the landowners. Their lobbyist stated there is no obvious difference in liability to the land owners between ATV and trail bike use.

Ted Burns is willing to provide a list of names and telephone numbers of the landowners who object to trail bikes on the Ride the Wilds trail system in the Strafford, NH area. It would be the responsibility of the trail bikes (community) users to approach those landowners for permission to allow 2 wheeled OHRV users the privilege of riding "Ride the Wild" trails on that person's property.

With the increased use of OHRVs in the north county has come more rogue riders. F & G would like to be empowered to charge riders in mud bogs with wet land violations.

Chris Gamache told Tom and Harry Brown that there are currently 600 miles of trails in the North Country open to street registered dual sports and plated trail bikes. A problem with "Ride the Wilds" is that signs have yet to be installed at trail heads informing what is permitted, leading to trail bikes unknowingly riding unapproved sections.

### **MVTR Jerseys**

Ron Sousa had a range of adult and children's sizing samples. The cost is \$56 each if 50 or more jerseys are ordered. If less than 50 the cost is \$63. Your name can be added to the back of the jersey for \$10 more. They will take deposits before ordering. Ron will distribute shirts at meetings. Those who don't pick up their shirts will have to pay for shipping.

### **Freedom Cycle Yamaha Demo Day**

Dirt bikes available for demo rides 5 October. Sign up at the parts department.

Glenn Harvey won \$41 in the 50:50 raffle.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:52pm.