

MVTR GENERAL MEETING NOTES 6 September 2017

FREEDOM CYCLE - CONCORD

It was a very dark and stormy night as presiding President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:05pm with approximately 35 members present.

Boundtree ATV Club

This Hopkinton based club has decided to ban trail bikes from their trail system, which stretches into Warner. This is a public trail system recognized by the NH Bureau of Trails. This ban is allegedly due to landowner complaints about bikes with loud exhausts, bikes going off trail into sensitive areas; and landowner threats to close the trails to ATVs. In private conversation the Boundtree club president admitted it isn't all trail bikes, rogue ATVs are a problem too. Before banning trail bikes, Boundtree asked MVTR for help with trail patrols and rider education; but no members were willing to help, or attend a Boundtree club meeting to discuss the situation. Tom Levesque got Chris Gamache, Chief of the NH Bureau of Trails involved in his discussions with Boundtree. The current situation as it stands of today:

- Tom is disappointed that MVTR members who live in the area and ride these trails did not get involved. Tom finds it hard to be motivated to do battle for those who don't seem to protest or get involved in the situation.
- Chris Gamache stated that if Boundtree banned bikes just because they don't like them, and have falsely claimed it was due to landowner demands or show an appearance of a "Private Club", Boundtree ATV club is in danger of losing Grant in Aid funds, and participation in the Club Incentive OHRV registration discount program that goes into effect next year.
- It is understood, that no Fish & Game officer will write a ticket to a trail bike rider just for using the Contoocook trail system as the Town who gave permission for use of trails on their property have not asked that no trail bikes be allowed.
- Boundtree has no legal authority to ban trail bikes from Class VI roads.

That said, if you ride these trails, be respectful of other users and don't go ripping up sensitive areas. If you know landowners in the affected areas, speak to those landowners explaining, most trail bike riders are respectful and simply wish to enjoy the outdoors and the trails.

Snowmobile Grass Drags

Bill Bolton, Weare Winter Wanderers, is looking for volunteer workers at the NH Snowmobile Association "Grass Drags" event in Epping 6 – 8 October. Workers will receive free event access and camping, plus \$10 per hour for the Weare Winter Wanderers, (or your own snowmobile club). The Bolton's own the property where our Rock Crusher event is held, and our clubs have been very supportive of each other. Please help if you can. See <http://www.nhgrassdrags.com/> for volunteer signup.

NOHVCC Conference

The National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council held their annual conference in NH two weeks ago. Attendees to the week-long conference included OHRV club members and Bureau of Trails administrators from states across the country and Canadian provinces; and the US Forest Service and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Presentations were made on trail system development, construction, and management. One of the conference days was spent at our Hop-Ev riding area to visit specific “case study” sites and squeeze in some recreational riding. Several MVTR members chaperoned attendee riders.

- Tom’s comments: In the last two years the BLM’s mission has changed to include the opening of land for OHRV/recreational use, in partnership with local clubs for maintenance. Out west, 700 miles of trail may only need permission from seven landowners; where as in NH it might be 70 landowners for 7 trail miles. Chris Gamache warmly acknowledged and praised MVTR for the development and maintenance of Hop-Ev.
- Ron Sousa’s comments: The sheer size and spectacle of the ride at Hop-Ev. Four or five loaner bikes from KTM, four or five more loaner bikes from MVTR members and Honda. Approximately 30 loaner ATVs and a dozen or so UTVs. Several large tents and a fabulous catered lunch.
- John Mesick’s comments: A rider from California pointed out how lucky we are here in NH; his riding area is on State land. Every ATV bridge they build must be certified by a registered professional Engineer. An ATV bridge 12 feet or longer requires steel I-beams and concrete abutments! The cost is astronomical. They can’t afford to build many bridges. They cannot compromise any potential wetlands. As a consequence they cannot access large areas of potential trail available to them. Also, one of the rider’s Ron and I chaperoned was a NH Bureau of Trails employee who was a genuine skilled trail bike enthusiast. Unfortunately I didn’t get his name or where in the state he worked.

Seacoast Trail Riders

The club has a new president and slate of officers that has breathed new vitality into the club.

- Their recent enduro event was very well executed, with plenty of volunteers.
- The up-coming Noble Woods turkey run will feature mostly new trail.
- On 16 September they will hold a new rider training event in Alfred, ME. The club will supply several small bikes and riding gear.
- JD Mott will host another new rider training day in October.

Hop-Ev

Ron Sousa will continue the Wednesday club rides through September. It is getting dark earlier and so they may informally start before the usual 5:00 pm. Riders may be showing up at 3:00.

NETRA

- Steve Semuskie reported that there were approximately 50 vintage bikes at the State Line event. Good weather and racing. Sunday's Hare Scramble was met with heavy rain most of the day, transforming the track into slippery 6 mile challenge.
- The Ammo turkey run is this coming weekend. It could be muddy!
- The BBB turkey run in Tolland, MA is on 17 September.
- The Massachusetts OHRV registration situation has not reached a final resolution. At this point the state will continue to monitor events until a more amicable resolution (Regulations) is made. NETRA and the AMA are working with the state to develop an event permit system to satisfy all parties.
- The Buckfield 2-Day trail ride is being put on by the Pine Tree Trail Riders in Maine the last weekend of September. It runs from Buckfield to an overnight at Sunday River Ski Area, then back the next day. They need more riders. I don't know how to contact them – the links from the Netra website and Facebook are broken.
- This weekend is the GNCC race at Unadilla, NY.

Colorado 500

Tucker and Jim and Mike Nash just returned. Tuck explored new trails on dual sports, covering some 760 miles over the week. Tucker is looking forward to next year; it will be his 30th annual trip and his 70th birthday. Talk to Tucker if you want to go the last week of August 2018.

ISDE

Art Pepin just returned from photographing the US team. Paying sponsors covered a significant portion of his trip to France. Unfortunately a US team rider dropped out the first day due to a broken wrist, effectively disqualifying the team.

New members

- Mark Plummer lives in Concord.
- Mick Durham and his wife just moved to Sandown, returning to the US from France. Originally from Minnesota, they are new to the area and looking for riding opportunities.

Hawk Ride

Boo Smith will hold the first work party this Sunday. 60 Ridge Road, Deerfield at 9:00 am. The event will be held the end of October. Look for an event flyer to be sent out by e-mail by Art Pepin.

There was no 50:50 raffle.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm