

2 September 2009

September Meeting

The September meeting will be the last of the year on Summer Schedule. Ever shortening days will soon not provide enough daylight to ride very late. Beginning with October, meetings will once again commence at 19:00. Tonight's meeting was called to order at 20:12 by President Tom with pizza and quite a few members in attendance (vacations must be over).

With a number of New England Rough Riders having recently returned, it seemed natural to begin with ride reports, more specifically the Colorado 500. Along with everything else in the country, attendance for the 500 was down this year and average age was correspondingly up at 46. This was Tucks 21st trip and there are still a few a few riders who have made all 34 years! Aaron said that you pretty much have to see it to fully appreciate it, riding included 750 miles and altitudes up to 13,000'. Art is now an enthusiastic convert to trials (rear) tires. He has posted pictures from the ride on mvtr.org. They described the weather as great or perfect. Cost while not insignificant at \$3,000 to 3,500 includes support vehicles and some pretty nice hotels. Tuck reminded all not to expect a break if ticketed in Aspen, not that he was but someone has to pay for those Lexus 300ES patrol cars.

In less far reaching events, quite a few MVTR riders made their way to the Noble Woods events which included an Adventure Ride, Enduro and Turkey Run. Having been previously taught a harsh lesson by Mother Nature, there was a lot of new single track in the enduro, specifically laid out on high ground. In the Turkey Run there were reportedly some riders who left early and caught the pre-runners, this may have contributed to a few arrowing issues. The Big Bike Ride had about 17 riders (double +/- last year). Both days provided perfect weather (well overdue after the year of No Summer).

About 30 NETRA riders were among the 180 participants in the Speedville Enduro, Rick, Illya, and Kevin among them. Rick reported it to be kind of slippery. Brian rode CATRA. A couple of us headed down to Somers. There has been a Hare Scramble every weekend last month. Hoosick was pretty greasy, speeds/laps were set for dry, it wasn't. 7 minis made the first lap, 4 or 5 survived all 3. Scott ended up in an ambulance (somehow I missed recording which event); a relatively cool, damp season caught him off guard on hydration when it turned out to be 90. Dwayne saw his name posted as having over all'd at Richardson's Farm, which unfortunately was changed after the first protest. JD reported that a 13-year-old rider (shorter than him) took B-Hipoint. Lastly, several riders (not ours that we are aware of) were reportedly taken out by a sweeper last weekend, just shows (IMHO) that there are more qualifications for the job than being able to ride fast. Mark told us about going out to visit family in NY and ending up racing an SR 500 (that he helped build in the 90s) in an AHRMA race at Paradise Speedway in Geneva. Coupled with the practice he's been doing at the last few Ice Box events, he may be ready to take on Rochester when Bike Week comes around.

There has been planning underway to get a National Enduro in northern New England next season. Rick did not think that there was enough room at Rocky to get a loop of more than 35 miles laid out. SeaCoast Trail Riders are seriously working toward hosting it; thus far both the State and towns are quite supportive of the idea (must be nice!).

An article of interest from the 29 August issue of the Concord Monitor was passed around. It reports that a hiker has been hiking, clearing, mapping and selling maps of trails, on land that he neither owns nor has permission to use. This has resulted in the closure to ALL of some 12,000 acres in the Ossipee area.

Clough/Hop-Ev has been closed several times recently by the Corps Of Engineers (it is their land, they are ultimately in control of all that happened there). What remains unclear at times is whether it is the trails or the roads that have been closed. The Board Of Trails website can be a day or two behind in showing the closures and sometimes it appears that the COE only wanted to close access to some of the lower roads so riders are allowed but it is understandably confusing. The BOT is reportedly trying to get the COE, themselves and F&G all on the same page to help prevent future issues.

This month's projects will include cleaning, inventorying and organizing the work trailers. A new Map Handout is being prepared. A system of marking trail name and mileage is being finalized for posting and we need to get some gravel moved out onto Hanglider Trail and applied. Notification should be going out by email and on NEDB when Jim picks the dates.

Suzuki has signed on to be the Title Sponsor for the 30th annual New England Classic Charity Trail Ride!

A busy weekend is approaching; choices will have to be made with the Rocktoberfast enduro on the 12th, Unadilla on the 13th, the Ammonusuc Ride on the 12th and 13th along with Rice-O-Rama and the Lars Anderson Euro bike events.

Improvements are continuing in the Jericho Riding Area in Berlin, connections are being made to nearby areas and camping on-site (15 sites) should be available next year. No single track (yet) it is still recommended for relatively new dirt riders or those who want to get some off-road time on their big bikes.

Work continues to clean up the winter storm damage in Windham, there should be some Wednesday riding coming up, contact [Bob](#).

Al Walters, one of the originators of the Leon Dube Ride (now the Classic) recently lost his mother.

Several members visited Dave Frasier at his new house in Lee, MA. No pictures were reportedly available of some incident that involved a Dodge being towed by a Ford.



Bruce