

MVTR GENERAL MEETING
3 September 2014 Freedom Cycle, Concord
Notes by John Mesick

President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 8:08pm with approximately 35 members present.

Competition

- Tom has been accompanying the Anthony and Preve kids while they have been riding junior enduros and hare scrambles, it is good to see a new generation of riders racing with them. Tom observed that the youngsters have encountered some bike maintenance issues that he will elaborate upon later in the agenda.
- JD Mott, Andy Anthony, and Tom are still dukeing it out in spite of their gentlemen's agreement to be gentlemen.
- Central Village MX was plagued with injuries, at least a dozen ambulance rides. The small local hospital contacted the event asking them to shut down as they had no more capacity for injuries.
- JD is still not convinced his recent ride change from a KDX200 to a KTM 250 was a step up; he thinks he needs to soften the power hit. There was a discussion of the "grey wire" which engages a different ignition map to soften the bottom end.
- No one is planning to attend Speedsville or Unadilla.
- The Ammo turkey run in N. Haverhill, NH is this coming weekend. Many MVTR members are planning to ride.
- The Buckfield two-day ride was just announced, and will take place 26-27 September. 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 there. Luggage is transported by the Pine Tree Riders. The following day is the return ride. The change reported for this year is that there will be more guides with smaller rider groups. See the Pine Tree Trail Riders website for details.

Bike Maintenance Issues

- Brake Fluid should be flushed at least every two years for recreational trail riders and at a minimum of once per year for competitors. Brake fluid will absorb water which will lower the boiling temperature of the fluid. Under repeated heavy braking, boiling brake fluid will vapor lock, resulting in a total loss of braking. Water can also rust steel pistons in brake calipers, resulting in piston seal damage.
- Aluminum shift levers on steel shafts should be checked frequently for tightness. The soft aluminum can flow, resulting in a loosening fit and ultimately a lost lever. Red loctite or safety wire can help.
- A brake-snake (tether cable) not only prevents junk from wedging between the lever and the engine case, but will also prevent the loss of a lever that does come off the shaft. A brake-snake can be fabricated from old control cables.
- Steel Hammerhead aftermarket levers are very good, but expensive.

- Wheel spokes that are too tight will break. Ideally spokes should be checked with a torque wrench. Newly installed spokes and new wheels should be re-torqued after the first few rides.

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. Last year these trails were either never ridden by a snowmobile or were ridden only at the end of the season. Tom Levesque will approach Chris Gamache at Bureau of Trails; and John will contact the snowmobile club that grooms the main trails. We are not looking to encroach upon their trails, but open unused trails for our use. Going above boards may give us off-season access to install a bridge on the "Lost Trail".

Jericho ATV Festival

Tom and Jared attended 1-3 August. There was a downtown block party with vendors and bands. There was also a mud run, a stunt bike show put on by Jared's friends in the stunt group "Rave", and an enduro-cross style event. Helmet use was required for events. Next year Tom would like to see bikes participate in the enduro-cross, and an adventure bike ride. If you are an Adventure Bike rider and understand topos start your research; Berlin-Success Pond-Errol-Stewartstown-Pittsburg-etc and back

Legislative Issues

Tom recently attended a NHOHVA BOD meeting with John Wimsatt and Chris Gamache of the Bureau of Trails in attendance. Ride the Wilds trail maps were presented for kiosk installation. The Bureau of Trails has a document listing the abutting landowners that they are not readily willing to give to Tom when he asked for it. Tom told them he wanted to contact the land owners directly to ascertain why they will not allow trail bikes. The landowner list is a public document subject to public view. In the past the Bureau of Trails has never asked the landowners why they won't allow trail bikes, and just dropped the subject upon hearing no. As a compromise for not giving Tom the list and delaying State OHRV use request for 2015 until April, Chris Gamache will ask landowners the nature of their trail bike objections in October.

Richard Parsons, the NHOHVA lobbyist, will meet with the State of NH Timberland Association to help open the North Country to trail bikes. The forestry association represents the large landowners.

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. Bob is also pursuing MVTR becoming an AMA chartered club again.

A concern to Tom is that John Wimsatt told him that if the north country trails are opened to trail bikes, he may not be as lenient with event permits as he has in the past. This would require attendees of non-charity events such as the Rocky Weekend to purchase NH OHRV registration; a system that recently proved unworkable in Massachusetts. Tom

will speak to NHOHVA regarding the Permit Approval process and see if the lobbyist can approach the subject with Capt. Wimsatt.

Another powerful interest in the North Country is Trout Unlimited. They along with conservation groups have a tight grip on logging practices. A concern that Trouts Unlimited has is the silting of stream crossings that result in fish mortality.

There was a meeting with NHOHVA and the Snowmobile Association to discuss areas of mutual concern or interests and begin a dialogue aimed to mend fences between the two groups. An example might be the recommendations to the state to change registrations from the end of June to the end of May. Then the 14 month registration will become effective April first for all OHRVs and rental agencies.

Prop

Leaving Hop-Everett one Wednesday evening, Tom ran across Brian and Tuck going in to check on some trail issues. He used that encounter to take the opportunity to point out the unrecognized efforts many Club members put in. As for example, Rocky Mtn . committee members clearing the Rocky hero section in preparation of the Classic; Classic committee delegates meeting with State agencies during their work hours; the list goes on. The point is, there is a lot of work by different committees' members and or club members in general, and that goes unnoticed. Members typically have a favorite goal or project they invest themselves in, with some overlap by members into other events or projects. Generally however, an individual will dedicate his efforts to one project while enjoying the ride opportunities of another. For the Club and its members, this is a good practice, as the reason for MVTR is to enjoy the sport of trail riding; don't get burnt out by the rigors of sponsoring, maintaining and building your sport but do balance those needs with getting out with friends and enjoy the ride.

It is the work of many that contributes to the benefit and success of MVTR in its wide ranging activities and projects. MVTR has been blessed with the people and their talents to have kept MVTR balance for the last 42 years.

MVTR Jerseys

Ron Sousa had only one adult size sample and a range of children's sizing samples. He will have a range of adult sizing samples at the next meeting. 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.

Bob Fitzhenry has an entertaining Rocky ride report on the MVTR website.

There was no 50:50 raffle or new members present.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm.