

MVTR June Meeting

The June meeting was called to order by President Tom. With the 'final' 2015 Classic Committee meeting just having been completed and with the event itself close at hand, the **2015 New England Classic Charity Trail Ride** became the first subject for the evening.

Lisa of Northern New England Cystic Fibrosis Foundation was on hand to thank MVTR for their efforts in shepherding this 35th annual ride in support of CF. She stated that now, through continued research and the development of medicines more than half of all CF patients are more than 18 years old, some have even reached their 50's. Not so long ago that would have seemed an impossible goal. We were introduced to two young ladies, Julia and Hannah who are sisters. Hannah is a CF patient and we learned that Julia had recently made a trip to Washington, DC as an advocate for CF research and met with our Senators Ayotte and Shaheen while there. Leann (their mom) gave us a 'run through' as to what this spring was like for Hannah. A cold that most of us might have shrugged off required two weeks to overcome, one of them as a hospital inpatient. Everyone has complained about allergies this (drought controlled) spring but for Hannah it meant lots of antibiotics and IVs to survive, rather overwhelming compared to what for most of us is a mere inconvenience.

While getting to where half of CF patients reach the age of 18 was once a formidable goal, we now see many patients complete college and have families of their own. The goal has been raised; we need to make CF stand for **Cure Found!**

Glenn accepted an award plaque on behalf of the **Merrimack Valley Trail Riders** for their efforts to keep the Classic a premier riding and fund raising event for the cause.

The many (I won't try to list them all) members of the **Classic Committee** were recognized for their work in planning and making this 35th edition of the Classic.

The recognition award to **Freedom Cycle** was accepted by **Rupert** in appreciation for not only all their efforts in the Classic but also for the year-round support that they provide to the CF Foundation.

Bob and his **sons** accepted the appreciation award for the **DeRoche Family** whose **Abbey Run Construction** and friends have not only supported the Classic for years but who have also incorporated and provided the lunch stop (in their yard!) for the Southern Loop of the Trail Ride.

Jay made the presentation of the 2015 **Outstanding Volunteer Award** to **Maurine** for her continued and seemingly tireless efforts to make and keep **The Kid's Classic** the success that it has become.

Chip made the presentation of the 2015 **Ironman Award** to an unsuspecting and absent **Tim** in recognition of continued, above and beyond support of the Classic and MVTR.

Tom made the presentation of the 2015 **Hawk Award** in memory of Tom McAlpine (we also got a little insight into where the nickname “Hawk” originated) for continued service above and beyond to **Don (Boo)**.

With awards and thank you's finished we were updated by the Committee members as to how things were shaping up and where help was still needed.

Glenn reported on logistics: Riders are needed for arrowing, Pre and Sweep riding on both loops, chase vehicle crews are needed, 'criers' to herd riders to the rider's meetings on both days as well as help with the raffle, parking and the information booth (gazebo).

Jay reported that he had accompanied **Lisa** to a meeting at the speedway to try and see where and how we might head off some of the 'drama' which occurred last year. They learned that the **NHMS** does really want to host the Classic and has been working to make things run more smoothly. To that end they have made a new access and gate to allow passage for the riders to the bath house without need for travelling through the camper display area (yes, it will be back!). They have also designated and provided for a bike wash area near their maintenance facility to prevent the area around the bath house from becoming a mud pit. There are new maps which should guide our participants in and out of our compound during the times when registration (and our 'private' entrance gate) are closed. We do not have or need access to the rest of the facility where numerous other events are being held concurrently.

Glenn reported that there were still some **Banquet** tickets available.

Chip said that he is short of help for this weekend's (6 & 7 June) arrowing of the **Southern** Loop and that more sweep riders would be welcome as well as a chase truck crew.

Jared said that he has made some changes on the **Northern Loop** and that it would be beneficial for sweep riders to help with arrowing (6 & 7 June) so as to be familiar with the new sections. **JD** asked for help in arrowing some of the second half of the loop on Sunday (7 June) starting from the Alton Circle.

Jay & Matt reported having 38 participants registered for the **Kid's Classic**. They have a good number of volunteers signed up to help including past participants of the event.

Dave said that this year's **Big Bike Rally** will run on Saturday. They are heading north this year with 170 miles of back and scenic roads and a lunch stop in Rumney. Route sheets and a GPS track are ready for distribution.

Having largely exhausted the Classic topic, **Tom** commented on the status of trails in **Hop-Ev**. General use trails got preference over single track so far this year per request of the Bureau of Trails and the Corps of Engineers. There have been a lot of work parties and volunteer hours expended there but if anyone can volunteer some time to help clear and prune the single track trails it would be much appreciated. Any amount of time, an hour or so before or after a ride would help.

Among recent **NETRA** events there have been three Hare Scrambles. **Andy** commented that with a substantial arrowing improvement, it was the first time he was aware of that no one got lost at **CATRA**, the **Nutmeg** was pretty hard going and that **Tuxedo Ridge** was all shale and rock. Some of the ladies rode the **Robert Leighton Enduro** where **Tammy** finished and **Lynne** holed out.

With our **Rocky Mountain Weekend** off the schedule for this year, the **Berkshire Trail Riders** have requested to move their event to the open date. Please make note of the change if you wish to ride their event so that you don't miss it.

A number of **MVTR** riders took part north of the border in the **Roaming Rally**. They left on Thursday and spent the night before the start somewhere 'not very close to' Ottawa. Each day (which starts somewhere around 04:30) the teams are given GPS coordinates (routes?) to what will be that night's campground. You have the option of carrying all of your camping gear with you on the bikes or sending most of it along ahead. Each team must however carry with them a certain minimum amount of gear in order to deal with the possibility of not making it to the night's campground. On **Day 1**, despite a 04:45 start they did not quite finish a route that included more than a mile of standing water up to 3 feet deep. On **Day 2** they finished well after dark. After two days and 550 miles of trails in torrential rain it was decided to skip **Day 3**. The trails were described as **NICE**, not blown out and beat up like most everything is here at home. The people were genuinely happy to see them and made them feel welcome. Riders used DRZ's, 990s and much in between. The ride was highly recommended!

(Editor's note; In lieu of the evening's conversation and remembrance to John, the following from the John Harriman Memorial H/S will be added;

John "Herm" Harriman NETRA #4395

We're all here for the same reason John 'Herm' Harriman twisted the throttle over the years; challenged the terrain, his competitors and himself and all the while having fun. Winning mattered, points mattered, but these last couple of years, sharing the day with Ellen (his wife) and Aiden (their son) mattered more.

As fierce a competitor as John was between the green flag and checkered, he was equally a gentleman and friend to everyone, I mean everyone! With a smile and his good humor he was at home talking or helping the kids from the junior nine o'clock line; bench racing with his buddies from the 11:00 o'clock race, even 'pumping five' on the line with us ol' guys; John's post-race critique and recommendations for the afternoon expert racers were always accepted. How could they refuse, when you get advice with a smile.

Jess, John's daughter, relates to "Windows in Heaven". John would be pleased and proud to see his family living below with hearts of pride, hearts full of love for him and for each other. I think too, he would be proud of his race family in how they are sharing their time and love to support s family.

John was meticulous in how he kept his bikes. Nothing was left to chance; every detail was checked and made right for race day. I think Ellen and the Harriman family would agree; John's looking down through that Window in Heaven and with that same smile and soft spoken voice, possibly a bit more stern, saying; "Take the time to check out your body parts and make sure everything is right, don't leave it to chance!"

We would typically ask for a moment of silence in memory of John "Herm" Harriman, but that wasn't his style. So when the green flag waves start your bikes and rev'm with John's smile and zest for life in your minds.

When the checkered flag waves, shut'm down, get ready for your net challenge and have fun.