

7 April 2010

April MVTR Meeting

The April Meeting of the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders began shortly after 19:00 hours. Word of our budget tightening had apparently not reached all of the membership and as a result the standard pizza order did not get reduced. This will be remedied and henceforth the pizza should be considered to be a snack rather than dinner.

EVENTS

Observations from the recent PSTR Hare Scramble: Tucks crash (sand in the throttle he says) was recorded for all posterity, word is that the video has gone viral. Many of the past seasons issues with scoring have not improved. While some of the riders are not helping by insuring that they have proper numbers and only one (the correct one at that) transponder, there still seem to be systemic problems, which need to be addressed/solved. One issue was certainly the lack of sufficient transponders to handle the number of new riders coming out to race.

The CLASSIC

The 30th annual New England Classic Charity Trail Ride is fast approaching, hard to believe that it is less than two months away. A phone bank was held on 17 March 2010 (St. Patrick's Day no less) to remind past entrants that it was time to get out and solicit sponsors. MVTR members are reminded to get requests in early for banquet tickets. Another get signed up early item should be the Kids Classic, with no other events being held on the same weekend it should once again be an early sell-out!

HOP-EV

Another dedicated group gave up traditional St. Patrick's Day festivities to attend the Hop-Ev Planning meeting at Tucks on 17 March 2010. A list of Trail Watchers was compiled from the group of regular riders. In this way each trail will be monitored and problems or ideas for improvement can be addressed. Jim and Matt will be overseeing the work parties; I will be attempting to coordinate the

collection of GPS tracks so as to construct a new map of the trail system. In a related but not exclusively Hop-Ev item, Tuck was given the green light to go ahead and pick out an appropriate chain saw for us.

ROCKY

While plans are progressing toward Rocky Mountain Weekend, the ground out there is still far too wet to tolerate wheeled traffic. Once things firm up there will no doubt be some work parties in Alton to get the Northern Loop Hero section cleared for the Classic.

The REST

It has been posed as to whether there was interest in establishing another winter/snow Hare Scramble. This could take one of several forms, either an addition to the regular series which might help justify the expense that many make in purchasing studded tires for just one event each year, or it could be part of a less formal Northern New England series (no points involved and probably much less whining from the southern contingent about how long a drive it is to ME, NH and VT).

Sean, Tuck and Andy have been certified as Sound Techs. NETRA is emphatic that sound testing should be carried out consistently at events this year.

The May MVTR Meeting will mark the beginning of summer schedule; that means that riding (at some undefined level of organization) will begin at or near 17:00 hours and the meeting will commence at 20:00 hours. A sound test WILL be available!