

7 August 2013

MVTR August Meeting Summary

The August MVTR meeting got underway shortly after the adjournment of the Rocky Weekend Committee wrap-up, which is to say that we were a little late in starting but had a good excuse. With Trail Boss' on hand and events fresh in mind, the weekend was an appropriate subject to start the meeting.

Rocky Mountain Weekend took place over the 27th & 28th of July. Tammy reported that the PeeWee event went very well. 39 riders participated in the PeeWee on Saturday. It was our first 'experiment' with using electronic scoring for the 'kids' (others had used it with success) and not only did the scanner/bar code system work smoothly but it also freed up as many as a half dozen more volunteers to help out in other areas, particularly out in the woods to assist the riders through some of the most challenging terrain the 'young-uns' get to ride in the course of the series.

The Jr Enduro series has been down on numbers this season but 'Team Anthony' reported that we had 34 participants including the somewhat impromptu 'vintage class', which drew 7 riders. Loosely defined as 'an old bike or an old rider, don't over think it' class, Vintage was popular with both riders and spectators.

The Hare Scramble on Sunday was well received and has gotten good reviews on the net. The weather cooperated with enough dampness to keep down the dust (yes, it was getting dusty back on Thursday) but not so much rain (most of Friday) as to make swill holes, warm enough to be comfortable and cool enough to not have 'heat emergencies'. The audio features were a hit with Taps on Saturday evening, Reveille Sunday morning and the National Anthem at the start of each race on Sunday.

Steve found his first venture into 'herding cats' otherwise known as coordinating the sweep riders to make for an eye-opening day. Being a (very) good sport (or glutton for punishment) he wants to tackle it again next year. We are going to look into resurrecting the tool packs that a few of our sweep riders carried in years past, we have had good luck with having several sweep riders wear 'first-aid' packs in recent years (they (fortunately) don't get used much but are relatively close at hand if needed).

A few of our members actually rode the Scramble. JD said it was the best in New England and Dave thought it was good fun. Having used the same (basically) course for a couple of years there are some sections showing wear and tear. The course will be ridden and 'inventoried' shortly so that a plan can be made for repairing or replacing the tired areas before they become too abused.

Participation was up by 19 from last year, giving us 210 riders on Sunday.

As one of our 'dual club citizenship' members, JD was prevailed upon to provide a review of last weekend's **Tom Noble Enduro** by Sea Coast Trail Riders. Participation was down a little with 82 riders. The design intent was that

no one would be zeroing any sections and that was achieved with the speed averages used. JD was Trail Boss for section 3 where there was some new terrain (sections 1 & 2 being still 'beat up from about 4 years ago). Apparently Andy passed Lynne without knowing it (she 'might' have missed a turn) then on the second time around both he and Dave passed by her while she was stuck in 'a ravine'.

Coming up will be the **Mudslinger Enduro**, the **Speedsville Enduro**, the **Somers Fun Fun Dual sport & Turkey Run** and the **Stateline Hare Scrambles**.

We were very fortunate to have Frank and Rick join us for the meeting. MVTR members from the '70s, both had moved to distant parts of the country some years ago but they were able to visit and reconnect with some other 'vintage' riders still active in the club. They brought along a large selection of 'original' Trail Rider Magazines, which will be reviewed for archival material (and our 'someday' museum).

Several copies of a recent Concord Monitor were made available for review. It featured a picture of Art on the front page as part of a very supportive article about MVTR's "Wednesday Night Rides" at Hop-Ev. Both the reporter and photographer made a noticeable (and appreciated) effort to include all of the participants and it appeared that they learned what a diverse group it is that all enjoy riding in the woods.

The 'Kiosk Project', MVTR's contribution to the North Country's "**Ride the Wild**" is ongoing. Materials have been purchased and delivered (to Tuck's). The design seems to have grown a bit and the sections (there will be two 'sub-assemblies' per unit) are going to be large and heavy to load and transport.

As our meeting was (more or less) coming to order, Tuck was crossing the state line into CO for the **2013 Colorado 500**. Joining him this year will be Art, Rupert, BillieJo, Jon, Dan and Jessica.

With the passing of several competitors during events this year, health (and continued life) has been on the minds of quite a few riders. To aid in our education, Maureen will be making a guest appearance at the September MVTR meeting, where she will speak about heart and related issues.