

3/1/2017 Merrimack Valley Trail Riders Meeting Notes

Meeting started at 7:10, approximately 45 members in attendance.

Hill worked the 50/50 Raffle, \$60 total, \$30 to the winner. Johnny O won.

Mike Duhamel from Weare Winter Wanderers didn't make it to the meeting, but requested April 1st snowmobile hill climb support at Pats Peak. Contact to volunteer is Tom Leveque via e-mail at: squeracing@aol.com

Icebox Recap provided by Boo

\$1725 was raised and donated to CF. ~50 riders, ~150 spectators. Highlights – 12 kids on oval, 7 new to ice, 5 never on a bike before! Good feedback from neighbors. About 22-23 memberships, some were renewals.

Jim Pigeon banged bars with some fast guys, got crossed up, but had fun

Art did took some awesome photos, and posted to the club website

NETRA CATRA Snowfly: Tom, Jeremy, Hunter, Peyton, Jim, Steve raced. Highlight was Peyton 1st place C200 and OA C Class. Conditions were better than expected, but challenging.

JDay Winter event, Art took pics and had a good time, decent turn out for a mid-winter event.

Tom gave low-down on NOHVA conference

Tom commented on recent conversations with VASA, that it historically has been anti-bike, but has softened their tone recently. There will be further discussions in the future, but at a different venue.

Kurt Flash gave a talk on Trailrider Magazine

History regarding how he acquired TR from Kevin Novello. He commented on his writing experience. Knew needed to make it a monthly print, currently on his 8th issue. Family helps out on editing (sister has been in the industry). Was focused on maintaining advertising, subscriptions have exploded, about 10000 readers a month (between digital and print)

For a magazine, historically always been a NE magazine, 85% in, 15% outside. Has a switch in readership inside vs outside New England (estimated 30%/70%, which is amazing).

Enjoys NETRA vintage events, many vintage projects.

CF Classic coming up, and will provide a full page ad to support.

Interested in writing contributions, if you attend an event and would like to provide a write-up, please contact Kurt.

Tom asked Kurt "what keeps you fresh"

Response: Readers like product reviews and bike tests, they like the “varied” events coverage. Examples are the “Rip to Rangeley Ride”, and commented on the “flair” regarding coverage to keep the commentary interesting. Kurt talked about Bill Patterson’s influence as a season and humorous I writer that captures the New England riding experience.

Kurt also mentioned about holding off Nov issue to see ISDE (94 year history) US win announcement, and TR was the first printed publication to get the story out!

Kurt talked about the fun that can be had on a “snow bike”, loves the performance in deep power, talked about perils of stopping the snow bike and trying to put your foot down only to find 4’ deep snow that swallows you up. Kurt recommends when stopping to stay balanced, which would keep you on top of the snow. Zack talked about dropping into a snow pocket, and took him quite a time to dig out, while Dave sat and supervised the excavation. Zack also spoke regarding some photos that he took snow bike riding, seems to enjoy all the varying terrain and sites, sounded like a blast, and spends most of the time riding in Maine since they are more accommodating for riding.

Steve asks Kurt if the book: Monkey Butt, by Rick Sieman, was inspirational into wanting to own a dirt bike magazine. He definitely is a fan of “Super Hunky”. The book is a recommended read on the early days of dirt biking.

Tom went into trail rides we put on and the need to get land owner permission. The Classic team works hard to get the necessary permission in place for the event. Andy talked about the issues NETRA has in the past regarding issues and the perils of not having the proper land owner permission. Chip discussed how challenging it is to be thorough in checking all the miles of trails, and verifying the ownership due to changing landowners, etc.

Question regarding insurance that covers the club officers and members, but does the coverage flow down to trail bosses? Club Officers to look into.

Per bylaws, Tom called a vote on the current officers to stay in position for another year, Tom Levesque as President, Steve Semuskie as Vice-President, Ron Sousa as Treasurer and John Mesick as Secretary with Art Pepin as Membership Coordinator. All in attendance voted in favor.

Tom brought up how meeting minutes are distributed. Boo suggested we e-mail (from Arts list) a link to the website after Art posts them. Tom suggests that we send the final minutes to Art to be e-mailed electronically and a link sent to the club members on his list.

Zack commented on observations regarding overuse of Hop-Ev, being one of the only local open multi-use properties in the area, and suggested a plan be generated to prevent overuse. Assume this topic will be discussed further at future meetings.