

MVTR GENERAL MEETING NOTES - 4 November 2015
Freedom Cycle - Concord

Presiding President Tom Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm with approximately 35-40 members present.

Hopkinton-Everett Riding Area

Two weeks ago Vice President Glenn Harvey presided over a meeting with Trail Administrators Bruce and Sarah focusing on proposed financial budgets for 2016-2018. Also discussed were 2015 HopEverett projects to be finished and future 2016 projects.

The old worn-out Grizzly 4-wheeler will be disposed of in 2016. Hopefully it can be sold for a few dollars. In 2017 it will be replaced with another 6-wheeler. One of the Bureau of Trails requirements for funding of new equipment is that it be manufactured in America. (Bombardier or Artic Cat?) Should no American made equipment be available for a given need, with additional paperwork, there is a path to purchase foreign equipment.

This year the Bureau of Trails loaned MVTR a trailer designed to haul lumber down narrow trails. Mark Stock will be asked to study the piece of equipment and quote a cost of duplicating it for MVTR.

The 6-wheeler is going to Rick Claxton for service at the end of this season.

At some point in the future one of the enclosed equipment trailers will need replacing.

The dead tree that anchors one of the supporting cables of the River Loop (Hopkinton Everett) suspension bridge has failed as predicted. Repair is needed immediately or in early 2016.

In 2016 the Choate Brook bridge will be rebuilt by a team effort of MVTR and the Weare Winter Wanderers snow mobile club and the Bureau of Trails. This bridge, located on the dirt road between the parking lot and the 4-corners intersection, has solid abutments and supporting beams; but the wooden decking is rotten and unable to support a snow groomer or a first responder vehicle.

Noble Woods Turkey Run was by all accounts a success: Fun flowing trails, perfect weather, and peak fall foliage. 145 riders attended, producing about \$5k of income to the Seacoast Trail Riders.

When MVTR put on the Rocky Mountain Hare Scramble only about \$1.8K was net. A hare scramble requires more trail infrastructure, porti-potties, and charges for scoring equipment and staff, insurance, trophies and NETRA sanctioning.

Could MVTR put on a second turkey run and raise some money? Sure, with some caveats: The trails used shouldn't infringe on those used by any other event. A rally permit from the Fish and Game will likely require some of the proceeds to go to charity. A key factor is someone to step forward as Trail Boss, scout out the trails, and talk to land owners and local Police Chiefs. With the initial legwork completed by the trail boss, MVTR volunteers will surely step forward to complete the route sheet arrowing and final weekend's tasks.

Rocky Mountain Hare Scramble

A property in Maine that MVTR was looking into didn't pan out. Possibly the Bolton property in Weare could be available - it has adequate parking and 5-8 miles of existing trail. John O'Conner will inquire of the Fillmore property in Loudon - it has a 1000 acres, a small portion of which is used by the Classic.

The Senator Bell Farm in Chester will be hosting a snowmobile cross-country event in February. Could MVTR host a winter scramble there the following weekend? Netra will not let MVTR host two hare scrambles in one season without a petition to the Competition Committee seeking a second event. Decisions must be made before the Netra sanctioning meeting in December.

NHOHVA

The Association is working towards the Club Assistance program of OHRV registration. Similar to the present system for snowmobile registration, where there will be a discount to club members. Non-club members will pay a higher fee with the difference going directly to Grant in Aid. A bill is being formulated to go before the NH legislature. MVTR has asked Netra to kick in some money to pay for our lobbyist to help the passage of the bill.

John Ruffo Challenge

Jeff will be hosting at the Landry Ranch in Windham on Saturday 28 November. The course is 7.82 miles. The entry cost is \$30 plus one non-perishable food item. The benefiting charity is the Shepard's Food Pantry in Windham.

Hawk Ride.

Boo reported that it never rained. There were 45 pre-registered and an additional 55 signups that day. The first lap of the day was crowded, but then the riders quickly spread apart.

OHRV permit troubles in Massachusetts

A few years ago the Massachusetts legislature passed a law that required quads and trailbikes ridden on private property to have Massachusetts' OHRV stickers - including competitive events with out-of-state riders. Massachusetts' DES, the agency responsible for the enforcement, reached an informal understanding that they would not enforce this requirement at NETRA events.

Two weeks ago a new DES officer showed up at a Peewee event looking for OHRV stickers. The DES commissioner could not tell the officer not to enforce the law - but did resolve the situation by re-assigning the officer to another location.

Now Massachusetts DES is re-evaluating their blind-eye policy to Off Road events

Captain John Wimsatt of the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails two years ago and will again evaluate the guide lines for the granting of event permits. Both Massachusetts and New Hampshire desire more revenue through the sale of OHRV stickers.

Jericho State Park

Tom Levesque, Andy Anthony, Mike and Kate Soupkup, Hunter and Payton Preve others the bridges that were started on the single track. Tom suggested that this piece of trail be signed as "extreme" or "black diamond". Bob Fitzhenry ribboned a new section of trail for clearing.

Vintage Racing

Steve Semuskie reported that the Netra vintage series is gaining in popularity, now with about 45 competitors each race. The courses tend to be less intense, and the competition more fun and friendly. Steve said it can also be relatively inexpensive racing - he has less than \$1000 invested in his 125cc bike and parts for the season. Parts for Pentons, Suzukis, and Yamahas are available - Hondas not so much.

There was no 50:50 raffle or new members.

Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.