

7 October 2009

## MVTR October Meeting

The October meeting began after the 2010 Classic Committee adjourned and the pizza arrived, approximately 19:15. Before moving to Rides and Events there was a discussion on tires and pressures. Tom described himself as someone who never thought which particular brand/model of tire used made very much difference, recent experience changed that dramatically. For a recent race he had available some tires he had not previously tried, they were NOT described or specifically intended for New England riding (i.e. ruts, rocks and roots) but he figured a tire is a tire and these are brand new, have to work right? After stopping several times on his first lap because the handling was scary he made it back to the pits where tire pressure was lowered to a point much below normal and the event was eventually finished. We now have another tire snob, funny how one bad experience can bring about a whole new outlook. Before leaving the realm of tires several positive reviews of the new Scorpion MH Hard were heard for front tire use.

## Rides and Events

Tuck, Dave, JD, Mark and Pete were among the MVTR riders who made their way to ride the GNCC in Unadilla. Pete managed a second place finish and Mark edged out a couple of 20somethings to bring home a plaque, word is that they were camped nearby and may have over celebrated the night before, no word/evidence as to whether or not Mark encouraged said celebration as part of his race strategy.

In enduros, the Gypsy Moth and Black and Blue remain on the upcoming schedule. Rumor has it that Sea Coast Trail Riders will be holding a National Enduro next year, many details to be worked out but it looks like a GO!

The Hare Scramble season has wound down. An unofficial club consensus is that there were just too many events and most were losing enthusiasm toward the end. Tuck asked that anyone considering submission of Rules Changes get them written down and forward them to our Competition Committee members as soon as possible so that they can be reviewed and questions asked if needed.

As competition wanes for the season, there is time for some recreational riding. To that end Steve, Mike, Jim, Mark and Tuck were among the MVTR riders who participated in the Buckfield International 2 Day Ride. The format is along the lines of a shortened Colorado 500. 50 riders in 3 5 groups (based more or less on ability/speed) rode about 100 miles of trail on Saturday from Buckfield, ME to Sunday River in Bethel where they enjoyed dinner and bench racing. Sunday saw a rain shortened 50 60 mile ride back to the start.

Ray and Tuck paired up for Jays Ride, an invitational 75-mile trail ride which is followed up with a barbeque and live band. This year saw about 35 riders enjoy the day.

## Hop Ev

An MVTR work crew was recently out in Hop-Ev, several worked on clearing some blow downs while the rest hauled gravel out on to Hanglider to stabilize some erosion control grid. Once the grid was taken care of it was decided to make use of the remaining gravel by filling around several washed out culverts in the area.

Jim has several other projects to get done in Hop-Ev, he has some time for mid-week work but needs some MVTR members to step up and coordinate a few weekend work parties. Contact him if you are available.

# The 2010 New England Classic Charity Trail Ride

The first Committee meeting has just concluded. In 09 there was a competition event, the Laurel City HS scheduled for the same weekend as the Classic. The conflict caused a reduction not only in money raised for the charity but also club members available to help with the event, most likely it caused a reduction in both for the BTR as well. Tom went to last weeks BTR meeting to request that they consider not rescheduling for the same weekend next year. The letter he presented is reprinted here.

(This is an outline and summary of a verbal presentation offered to the Berkshire Trail riders by Tom Levesque at BTRs October meeting)

Good evening I am Tom Levesque, President of MVTR and Committee member for the Classic. NEDB SQUERACING

Ive asked Jason (Jason Meyers, President BTR) to allow me to speak to you with respect to the conflict between our events and how the Laurel City event impacted the New England Classic Charity Trail Ride. Thank you Jason for giving us this opportunity.

Conflict of Events: (Conflict of 2009)

The Laurel City Youth and Adult Hare Scramble Vs The New England Classic Charity Trail Ride.

What is the Classic?

A Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Event Consisting of:

A two-day Youth ride

A two day adult trail ride

A one-day big bike ride

And a Saturday night banquet

Why to not sanction the Laurel City against the Classic:

1st the financial impact

2008 donations \$138,000

2009 donations \$117,000

At the bottom of the letter Lisa (Lisa had drafted a letter to BTR that was passed out to those in attendance) can show a loss of \$11,000 directly attributed to riders who participated in the Laurel City event. I know of another 14 16 competitors accounting for \$2,000 - \$5,000 in pledges. So, around \$15,000 was lost (2009 compared to the previous year).

I understand that the Laurel City event benefits the local volunteer Fire Department. Our Rocky Mountain Weekend donates to the Alton Fire Department and MVTR donates to the Dunbarton Rescue, which assists when a call comes from the Clough Riding Area, which MVTR maintains, St. Judes Hospital, The Cancer Society and Easter Seals. So, we all share the need to give back to the community but the Classic is on a different level.

Beyond the financial implications of the Classic competing with Laurel City: This year there were:

19 Hare Scrambles  
17 Junior Enduros  
15 PeeWees  
= 51 Competitive events

The Classic offers kids 10 16 two days of recreational riding. No pressure, just ride and have fun. There is no other venue, which offers this relaxed environment.

Even competitors enjoy the two days of riding with friends and family with no check points or laps to count. Weve heard from no less than 5 father/son (or daughter) duos that would have liked to be at the event together.

The Classic isnt an MVTR event; its a New England Trail Riders event. The Sea

**Coast Trail Riders run the Kids Classic. Pilgrim Sands holds events specifically intended for raising money for Cystic Fibrosis and the Classic. Many New England riders look forward to the annual event.**

**2010 will be the 30th Anniversary of the Classic.**

**In speaking for CFF, MVTR and many New England trail riders, I would ask you to explore event dates other than June 4th and 5th.**

**Following the presentation was a question and answer session:**

**How many riders do you think you lost because of the conflict?**

**(The difference in rider numbers from 08 to 09 was 30-60, economy had some effect but the general consensus was lost ridership as a result of Laurel City).**

**Would you give up the Rocky Mtn Weekend date?**

**(Tom took the political low road in responding he was not the trail boss and that decision would be theirs. Editor's note; to do over again, he probably would simply had responded, No. As the discussion continued in that vane however, he agreed with BTR on the importance of varied events for a Club to bring in and keep club members, and conceded because of that, MVTR would not give up its Rocky Weekend.)**

**There were several other question or comments but were aimed at NETRA, the schedule and riding in general.**

**Among the items to come from the committee meeting are: The dates for next year's 30th Anniversary Classic are June 5th and 6th 2010. The event schedule will be carried over from 2009 in so far as, Northern Loop on Saturday, Southern Loop on Sunday, both running in the same direction as 09. There will be one substantial change for 2010, due to the fact that KTM is now the sponsor of the AMA Dual Sport Series while Suzuki remains the Classic title sponsor, the Classic will not be a part of the AMA Dual Sport Series. With NETRA now being able to provide insurance for New England events we no longer have to require AMA membership for those participating in the Classic. (Ed. note Most of us still recommend and support maintaining AMA membership)**

**Several items still up for discussion are: How to better publicize the Kids Classic, this had not ever been an issue in the past, available space being filled pretty much every year just by word of mouth. In 09 however there were many youth riders chasing points elsewhere and the event ran at about 50% capacity. Talks, work and negotiation are underway to bring a well-known keynote speaker to highlight the 30th Anniversary Banquet.**

## **The Rest**

**There will be an Adventure Bike Ride on Monday (Columbus Day), meeting for breakfast at the pancake house and leaving from Jims around 0900. Yes, that has already passed, from the reports and pictures that I have seen it was a great time, one to surely join in on should it be repeated next year. Thanks Skip.**

**The Bettencourt Collection will be going up for auction in November to allay medical expenses. Fans of Classic bikes should be sure to look into this further, not much had been posted at the time, [Wood](#) is handling the auction.**

**The new MX track at New England Dragway is up and running! Several club members have plans to check it out.**