

## Topsham Trail Riders March 2024 Meeting



Date: Tuesday, March 26th, 2024

Location: Topsham Public Library, Topsham, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Williams

Tim Moody

Jessica Emmert

Board of Directors Present:

Michael Little

Charlie Parkinson

Don Curtis

Evan Curtis

Sam Bulmer

Board of Directors Absent:

Matt Nixon

James Belanger

Dan Parlin

Brad Hoskins

Randy Bickford

Noah Herrick

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:28 pm

Member Introductions were completed. Approximately 22 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

### **Secretary's Report**

Jessica Emmert emailed a copy of the February minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested for any edits to be made to the minutes that were sent out. Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the Secretary's report.

- Motion Accepted by Kyle McComiskey
- Was passed with no opposition

## **President's Remarks**

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

### **ATV Maine**

#### **Maine ATV/UTV Expo**

A reminder that Maine ATV/UTV Expo is quickly approaching. It is being held at the Cross Insurance Arena in Bangor from Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. They are still acquiring additional vendors at this time and if they need any help from clubs to volunteer at different times doing different tasks during the weekend I am hopeful that we will receive that request soon enough.

#### **Annual ATV Maine Banquet**

A reminder that the 2024 ATV Maine banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, Maine. If you are interested in going, please know that you will need to complete a registration form along with remitting a form of payment. The registration deadline for the ATV Maine Banquet is April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Maine ATV Coalition**

Since our meeting in February, we received an email from Douglas Dickinson, President/Co-Founder of Maine ATV Coalition and I wanted to share with you a couple of pieces from his email that I feel all club enthusiasts can benefit from:

#### **Club Membership Dues for MAC:**

A reminder that this year Maine ATV Coalition has removed the \$150 membership fee for clubs to join MAC. They simply ask that you officially register with them.

#### **Online Membership Portal:**

MAC has officially launched their online membership portal in which MAC member clubs can be added to this online membership portal. MAC allows the freedom of the club to designate the cost they wish to charge for a single membership. There is a small \$2.00 processing fee by MAC to facilitate the portal. The processing fee is collected from the individual at time of check out. They are also offering folks an opportunity to remit a donation to a club as well. There is ZERO dollars to the club for us to be included on the portal.

To compare, the CMPS trail fund operates a membership portal in a similar fashion but the cost of a membership was decided by the trail fund rather than allowing the club to decide. The CMPS trail fund is collecting \$40 from each person and breaking that down equals \$25 for a club, \$10 allocated to the CMPS trail fund, and \$5 processing fee.

To reach possible new members Topsham Trail Riders is participating in both the MAC membership portal and the CMPS trail fund.

MAC is heavily focused on enhancing their insurance program, working on establishing a relationship with Irving, a HUGE raffle, GPS Trailmasters and New England Trails GPS, and so much more.

If anyone is interested in participating in the next Maine ATV Coalition zoom meeting, please let me know and I will send the link over to you.

UPDATE: During our April 29<sup>th</sup> meeting Maine ATV Coalition is scheduled to be present during our April meeting. They are in hopes of having their contact from GPS Trailmasters joining them as well during our meeting.

### **West Side Park and Ride**

The access trail leaving the west side park and ride still remains closed at this time. However, it is with much excitement that I share with you that the access trail from the west side will be able to reopen when trails are cleared to open in late May / Early June! I would like to thank all of the folks who participated in many meetings for the past year to help make this happen which include Charlie, Devin, Matt, Mike, Tim, Brian B, and Brett. I commend all of the folks who joined us during the March 16<sup>th</sup> work party to help prepare the access trail from the park and ride! The landowner was beyond impressed with the amount of work that was completed in a short bit of time. Thank you all for making that happen!

### **Board Position**

Since our last meeting we had a board member resign from their position so having said that this evening we will be accepting nominations for the position. To keep things fair and impartial we will be processing nominations similar via these slips of paper. If any member attending the meeting has a name they would like to see possibly added as a possible board member please write their name down and return it to the back table. I have asked Sam and Emilia to review the names and when they are complete, we will officially ask the nominees if they wish to accept the nomination.

UPDATE: There were six individuals who were nominated for the open board position. The following two individuals accepted the nomination: Rick Emmert and Stephanie Burnham.

### **Meeting Day & Location Update**

Hard to believe that this meeting (March) is our last scheduled Tuesday meeting at the Topsham Public Library. The board was approached as to whether they wished to continue meeting on Tuesday or revert back to our Monday meeting times. I would like to share with everyone that we will be returning to meeting on Monday's from April to October. Not only is our meeting day changing but also our location. We will be returning to the exhibition hall at the Topsham Fairgrounds. So mark your calendars the next TTR meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Exhibition Hall at the Topsham Fairgrounds.

### **Treasurer Report**

Tim Moody reported that as of 03/25/2024, we had \$510.00 in the cash box and a balance of \$939.55 in the checking account and \$10,976.36 the savings account. Tim also provided an update of the apparel account which now has a balance of \$1,308.06. He also shared that the food events account currently has a balance of \$2,089.60. The account pertaining to Events/Raffles has a balance of \$1,045.23.

- Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the treasurer's report as provided on the agenda
- Motion accepted by Don Curtis
- Was Passed with No Opposition
- Tim Moody abstained from the vote

## **Trail Master**

Charlie provided the following update:

All trails are still officially closed for mud season.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties:

- **Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 am**
  - **Track Removal from Club Machine**
    - Charlie could use 2-3 individuals to help him with removing the tracks on the club machine. If you are able to help please contact either Jenny Little or Charlie directly.
- **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am (Ready to work at 9)**
  - **East Side Work Party**
    - At this time the work party will be on our East side. The work party will include but not limited to riding the trails, cutting any fallen trees, working the road crossings, cutting Cici's tree, getting tractors to work the trail near Middlesex Rd.
    - The Facebook event and website event will be updated with additional details as the date gets closer.
- **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 am (Ready to work at 9)**
  - **West Side Work Party**
    - At this time the work party will be on our West side. The work party will include but not limited to riding the trails for inspection, cutting any fallen trees, and building bridges.
    - Jenny did mention looking into the Polaris Bridge area to determine if any slight enhancements could be made.
    - The Facebook event and website event will be updated with additional details as the date gets closer.

## **Enhancing TTR Work Parties**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Earlier this month I held a meeting with Charlie and Sam about how we could enhance our trail work parties. One item that we agreed upon during this meeting is that it would be helpful if we could provide a list of tasks/projects that are on the agenda for that work party and get that information out to the members ahead of time. So, our goal is to prepare a list of projects at least a week prior to the work party and update them on the Facebook page, website, and if needed remit an email. This will allow Charlie and others to prepare in advance of these work parties. I would strongly encourage you as a member to check the Facebook event and website for updated information. We will try to do our best so please check back in.

Another item that we discussed is to equip Sam with a trail binder similar to the one Charlie has to allow Sam the ability of getting folks to sign their names on the state trail worksheet. We will do our best to take that binder out before the work party begins for members to sign but again members are strongly encouraged to speak up and ask the trailmaster for the trail worksheet.

And the final item we brought up in our meeting is to work on assigning jobs a little more clearly to those in attendance during the trail work parties. It is important that if you are assigned a task/responsibility and complete it and would like to do more please seek out the trailmaster and ask them for guidance. I can imagine they might still be wrapped up in their own project during the work party and completely unaware that you have finished yours. I am certain if Charlie were asked, he would be happy to point you in the direction of the next task that could be worked on.

To all members -- It is important that we communicate and work with each other especially when out in the woods. We are a team and we are here to help each other out. If you have a suggestion of how to build a bridge or how to improve a trail please do not be afraid to speak up. I know the trailmasters and I are all ears and would love to hear it. I ask that you bear with us and I am always happy to discuss this further with anyone.

### **Municipal Grant**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Our preparations for the 2024 Municipal Grant application are nearly complete. At this time, we have all of the pieces needed to file for a municipal grant. Charlie and I are double checking everything before we submit it to the Town of Topsham.

### **Committee Section:**

#### **BBQ Committee**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

There is nothing new to report from this committee at this time.

### **Apparel Committee**

Jenny provided the following update:

After our meeting in February, I connected with the volunteer to provide him the feedback that the club offered about the logos that were drafted. For those folks who were not able to join us last month we presented a draft of logos to arrive in logo format that can easily be digitized.

UPDATE: Prior to the meeting only one logo enhancement had been remitted to Jenny but it was circulated to those in attendance and it would seem we are heading in the right direction.

### **Maine Sportsman Show Committee**

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

Date of the show: Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – 1 pm to 8 pm  
Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 9 am to 7 pm  
Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – 9 am to 4 pm

Basic information about the show:

- The booth will be in the same location as it was last year. MOMS Topsham is once again taken care of the cost for our booth
- Dates of the show: Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – 1 pm to 8 pm  
Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – 9 am to 7 pm  
Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – 9 am to 4 pm

Material for the table:

- Rick Emmert has created a slideshow that will highlight 25 years of TTR!
  - Can't wait to see it!
- Promotional Material for the table to include ride schedules, membership forms, and information sheet.

Needs for the show from Members:

Raffle

- The committee will once again be seeking donations to help create a raffle. An email has been sent out a few times and I would like to thank the members who have signed up to donate an item or multiple items.
- Prior to the meeting we still had a couple of items that we are still looking for:
  - UTV Rear View Mirror and UTV storage bag
- We will begin to sell tickets for the raffle during the sportsman show and we will continue to sell tickets until our House in the Woods event on June 8<sup>th</sup> where we will then draw the winner for the raffle.
  - Proceeds from the raffle will benefit trails maintained by Topsham Trailriders.

## Volunteers

- After the January and February meetings I heard from a few folks who wanted to help during the show and asked to be added onto the volunteer sheet. The sheet that is being circulated tonight has been updated to the best of my ability so please check it out and there is a slot or two that still needs to be filled and if you are interested in helping please write your name in.
- If the slots are taken, please do not let that discourage you from attending the Sportsman Show that weekend. We would love to see you!

## Giveaway Item

Final Gaiter Update:

Since our February meeting I have been facilitating ordering both the gaiters and keychains for the sportsman show. I had arrived at the very end of the process where I was provided with the final invoices for each and needed to remit payment. It is at this moment that I stopped the entire process because the invoice for 170 gaiters would cost us around \$797.00 and the cost for 150 keychains would be around \$238.00. Adding those two figures up is a total of \$1,035.00. To spend \$1,035.00 on two items did not sit well with me so I reached out and chatted with Tim Moody and a couple of board members and we've opted to NOT proceed with ordering these two items. We all agreed that we should be using that money to purchase shirts for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Tim has moved the \$330 dollars back to the clothing account from the operating account which had been moved in February.

Have no fear we've come up with a suitable solution for a TTR giveaway item for the Sportsman show! 😊

In an effort to reduce our current TTR promotional stock we will give away the stock of TTR stickers that we have. And to anyone who becomes a member at the Sportsman Show will receive a free t-shirt from our current stock. Otherwise, t-shirts will be available for purchase at \$5.00 a piece.

## Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

The riding season will soon be upon us even with the snow we received Saturday and the rain forecasted for this week but first we need to do some much needed work on our trails. I was blown away by the trail work party held on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a very productive one and had a great turnout. I am hopeful that all of our future work parties will be as successful as our first one was.

And remember as of March 26<sup>th</sup>, only 67 days remain to our first out of town ride provided the conditions allow for it. The ride is Ken Snowdon's Memorial Ride which is scheduled for Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> when we ride from Pittsfield to Greenville.

There is not too much to report other than if you have not received a copy of the ride schedule for 2024 please see me after the meeting. Remember to make your reservations for any of the out- of-town overnight rides early to ensure you will be able to join us.

As a reminder, our 2024 ATV events and trail work parties have been posted on our Facebook page so please check them out. As always if you would like to help during any of these events please contact me, Michael Little, Ride Coordinator, for Topsham Trailriders at 207-522-3780.

### **Update from the Membership Chair**

Jenny Little provided the following update about our current membership totals for TTR on behalf of Dan Parlin.

As of March 25th, 2024, TTR has the following for club memberships:

Total Number of Memberships: 129

Business Sponsors: 10

Of the 129 Number of Memberships;

They can be broken down to:

108 Regular Members

70 ATV Maine Members

26 MSA Members

10 Honorary Members

8 Associate Members

TTR is always looking to grow and expand and with your help we would love to see 200 members this year! Please spread the word of all the good things TTR is doing and would like to do! If every current club member took one membership to a friend we could easily double our 129 members!

A reminder that annual club membership dues are due by the end of April. Please consider renewing either during our social night, during the sportsman show, by mailing it in or during our next meeting (April 29<sup>th</sup>)

### **Safety Course**

On behalf of the following Safety Course committee, Tim Moody provided the following update:

Tim will connect with Ron and also chat with MOMS Topsham about their coming Safety Course.

Please take note that the State does offer online safety courses now as well as in person training options. Please feel free to navigate to the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife website and search for an ATV Safety Course.



<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/atv-safety.html>

## **Old Business:**

### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TTR**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

There is nothing new to report from the committee at this time.

### **ATV Show Shine & Swap 4 Vets**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

During the February meeting a couple of members offered to set a booth during the ATV Show Shine & Swap 4 vets. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It is being held in the Auburn Mall Parking Lot from 10 am to 4:30 pm. Jenny created a calendar reminder to connect with Sam about this. At that time, they will discuss what we need to provide Sam with for the event.

### **Landowner Appreciation**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

During our last meeting we briefly discussed what to do for our landowner appreciation for this upcoming season. In the past we've prepared meals and invited our landowners to join us. Despite our best efforts a lot of our landowners were not able to join us. After some discussion in February, we arrived at an agreement of sending our landowners a TTR gaiter similar to the ones we were purchasing for the sportsman show. I do still believe TTR can send a promotional item to our landowners but it will be more than likely be something geared to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary rather than a gaiter

There is nothing more to report about this at this time. We will revisit this in the near future.

## **New Business:**

### **Membership Drive at MOMS**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

I will follow up with Peter Gordon at MOMS early next week to inquire if he had any objections to another TTR membership drive being held there. Hopefully this time around we will have slightly warmer temperatures. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th at MOMS Topsham (located at 70 Topsham Fair Mall Road). We would be there from 9 am to 12:30ish pm. I will inquire if there would be any objections to maybe grilling again.

UPDATE: Once we receive an approval from Peter we will make the formal decision

about what to cook. If money is needed to purchase food for the drive Jenny will reach out to the Board for approval.

We hope to see many of you there!

### **Memorial Day Parade**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

I have been checking for details pertaining to the 2024 Memorial Day Parade. I believe it is safe to assume that one will be planned and I'm sure details will be coming out in the very near future. Who here would be interested in participating in the parade this year?

UPDATE: Approximately, 20 members expressed an interest in participating in the parade. I will reach out to the parade committee to register us once more details are released.

### **Social Night**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10th at 6 pm. It is being held at one of our business sponsors Pat's Pizza in Brunswick. The restaurant appreciates receiving a headcount as to how many folks will be coming. Please let Jenny know if you will be coming by either updating your status to going within the Facebook event or by contacting her personally.

### **House in the Woods**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

I've been chatting with Rebeka LaRose, member of the Marketing team at Binnie Media in Westbrook off and on now. She recently contacted me on behalf of 99.9 The WOLF which for those who don't know is a prominent radio station in the area. She and I had chatted about our upcoming House in the Woods event scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> in Oxford.

She and I chatted earlier today. She reached out to share with me her plans for the upcoming fundraiser they are in the process of planning for. The radio station will be doing a three week fundraising event for Veterans and they would like to kick off their events by promoting our House in the Woods ride. They would promote both Topsham Trailriders and Oxford Trail Ryders on air and in radio ads since this is a joint event by both clubs. Our event would function as originally planned meaning we would still charge \$10 a person to join in and all proceeds (registration / 50/50) will be donated to House in the Woods. I have given her permission to pursue this and I hope I didn't overstep but I said the same for Oxford.

I hope everyone is just as excited as I am about this! Having 99.9 The Wolf promoting this event is such a HUGE benefit! To help with registration we may need to create a google doc for

folks to complete prior to the event. I should be receiving another phone call from Rebeka in the very near future.

### **Open Member Comment**

#### **Riverside Trailriders ATV/Snowmobile Club Social Night**

(March 27<sup>th</sup>), Riverside Trailriders will be gathering for their monthly social at Frank's in Lisbon Falls at 6 pm. They asked if I could mention it during our meeting and get back to them with a possible headcount. I know that Mike will be attending. Is there anyone else interested in joining him?

UPDATE: A total of 4 members expressed an interest in attending the Riverside Social. Jenny communicated that to the club.

#### **We-ATV 207 Clothing Order**

For the past couple of years Topsham Trailriders has co-hosted out-of-town events with We-Atv 207. Folks who have ridden with us for the past couple of seasons have often asked how they can purchase We-ATV 207 riding gear! I wanted to remind everyone that We-ATV 207 currently has a digital clothing store open for the next 10 days. If you are interested in placing an order it is important to do so before **Wednesday, April 3rd.**

Below is the link you will need to use to access the store:

<https://www.customink.com/g/jkd0-00cu-w3yr>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me

A motion was made by Tim Williams to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. The motion was accepted by Kyle McComiskey.

Upcoming TTR Events:

April 10<sup>th</sup> - TTR April Social Night – Pat's Pizza of Brunswick – 6pm

April 13<sup>th</sup>- TTR Trail Work Party (Weather Permitting) – East Side Trail –  
8:45am

April 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> - TTR Heads to the Maine Sportsman Show- Augusta Civic  
Center, 26 Community Dr, Augusta, ME

April 27th - Topsham Trailriders Membership Drive *Tentative*- Moms Topsham-  
9am-12:30pm

April 29<sup>th</sup> – Regular Monthly Meeting- **Topsham Fairgrounds** at the Topsham  
Fair at 6:30pm Submitted

Jessica Emmert

March minutes were approved with no edits requested during the April 29th, 2024  
meeting. JLL