

Topsham TrailRiders April Meeting



Date: Monday, April 24, 2023,

Location: Exhibition Hall on the Topsham Fairgrounds, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Moody

Devin Favreau

Dee Blanchette

Charlie Parkinson

Board of Directors Present: Rocky League

Ron Dumont

Randy Bickford

Mike Little

Richard Arsenault

Board of Directors absent: Matt Nixon

Tara Crossman

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:30 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM

Approximately 35+ people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet. We had several new faces! 😊 looking forward to having them join our "4 wheeling family"

Secretary Report:

It was nice to be back at our old stomping grounds, in the Exhibition Hall on the Topsham Fairgrounds. We had new faces and new members, welcome. We are only a few weeks away before our 4-wheeling season begins.

Jenny Little emailed a copy of the March minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested for any edits to the minutes that were remitted.

- Motion was made by Rocky League to approve the Secretary's report.
- Motion Accepted by Tim Williams

- Was passed with no opposition.

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

Municipal Grant Update

Topsham Trailriders is still on track with applying for a municipal grant. We have been added to the May 4th Selectman meeting. There is one change that will need to be made to the application. The contractor who provided us the quote will no longer be able to fulfill the quote. We are actively speaking with other local companies who can hopefully assist Topsham Trailriders with the scope of work that we need to be done.

Maine Sportsman Show

In late March, Topsham Trailriders participated in the Maine Sportsman Show held at the Augusta Civic Center. I would like to personally thank all of the volunteers who helped during this event but also all of the folks who came to visit during the show. Before sharing the results of the show I'd like to also give a big shout out and thank you to MOMS of Topsham for sponsoring our booth! It was great exposure for TTR and with the 500 TTR packets we put together we only returned with a handful. She saved the monetary update for the committee update.

ATV Maine Banquet

On Saturday, April 15th, quite a few members attended the ATV Maine Banquet in Bangor. It is also a great time when you can get together with other fellow outdoorsmen who do the same thing we do. During the banquet we heard from Keith Herrick (ATV Maine's Hired Lobbyist), Dough Beck (Recreational Trail Program) about different club funding available, Bill Slater from Right Way Systems. For those folks who don't know with Charlie's help we were able to one of our hills setup with the Right Way product. The final presenter of the day was Stephanie Miller who is a website designer. She had a promotion to offer the clubs.

During the official ATV Meeting portion of the day they voted in changes to their by-laws, informed us of the dates for next year's ATV trade show in Bangor. The dates for the show is May 17th, May 18th, and May 19th.

Both Keith and ATV Maine informed us that they were returning to Augusta on Wednesday, April 19th to push for the LD 977 which is asking for the state to perform an updated study on the gas tax since the last time it was done was in 2002.

Misc TTR Updates

Ski Joring

During our March meeting I neglected to inform the group that we had received a thank you card from the Topsham Fair for our assistance during their Ski Joring event! (Card was circulated amongst the group)

Northern Maine ATV Trail Map (Madawaska ATV Club)

During the Sportsman Show Real Deschaine pulled me aside and handed me a copy of their most recent trail map and said take a close look at the photo on the front of the map. The photo he used was taken during one of the rides he lead TTR on when we were there last summer!

Trail Inspector

Shortly after our last meeting in March I received a call from Adam Rice. For those folks who do not know Adam Rice inspected our trails last year to ensure we were keeping them up to the BPM standards put in place by the State of Maine. I am happy and sad to report that Adam Rice is no longer working for the State completing trail inspections. He had an opportunity presented to him that he couldn't pass up.

West Side Park and Ride

As a reminder, TTR currently has a trail system that is broken up and we call them the east side and a west side. The park and ride on the east side is the dirt parking lot located in the Mt. Ararat High School and our west side park and ride is the dirt parking lot located near the Nouria Gas station. There is an empty lot located right next to the west side park and ride and on occasion TTR has received permission to use that lot. We were notified late last year that the land was being sold and storage units were going to be built there. After our March meeting Charlie and I received the call that the closing was going to be happening very soon. Charlie coordinated a work party just this past weekend and we've cleared out the remainder of that property. We have asked to have a walk through with the new landowner but we've not heard back from him.

The reason I am bringing this up is that we have a benefit ride coming up in June and I fully anticipate the event is going to draw a lot of folks. Later on in the agenda we an item about our House in the Woods event and we can discuss it then.

Treasurer Report:

Tim Moody reported that as of 04/20/2023, we had \$130.00 in the cash box and a balance of \$721.37 in the checking account and \$10,290.51 the savings account. Tim also provided an update of the apparel account which now has a balance \$875.32. He also shared that the food events account currently has a balance of \$1,701.39. To help track the funds a new account was opened pertaining to Events/Raffles which has a balance \$549.00

- Motion was made by Devin Favreau to approve the treasurer's report as provided on the agenda.
- Motion accepted by Bob Sweeney
- Was passed with no opposition.

Trail Master's Report: (Charlie Parkinson, Brad Hoskins and James Belanger)

Charlie provided the following update:

Trail Conditions:

All trails are closed at this time.

The East side looks extremely well. We do need to fix one section where there is a steep ledge rock (AKA Stephanie's hill) . The steep hill is located near the park and ride entrance on the east side almost. Folks who ride ATVs should use extreme caution while a side by side can over a little easier but still dangerous.

The West side after crossing Rt. 196 needs to still be explored. One of the upcoming trail work parties will be scheduled to work on the West side.

Misc Trail Updates:

Brad Hoskins followed up with Charlie to ask if TTR would still be able to get him material near snake hill / lovers lane on the East Side.

- Charlie shared that there was a landowner who had donated some material for us to use. He is going to follow up with that landowner to make sure it is still available for us to use and will let Brad know.

Brad Hoskins also informed me that the bridge (Sucker Brook) on the East side needs some TLC.

- Brad Hoskins will investigate the bridge further to let Charlie know if it just needs to be re-decked.

Charlie needs to purchase around \$2,500.00 in lumber for the upcoming season.

- Motion was made by Dan Parlin to allow the Trailmaster to purchase near or around \$2,500 of lumber
- Motion accepted by Bob Sweeney
- Was passed with no opposition.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties:

- **Sunday, May 7th at 9 am**
 - TTR will be traveling to Oxford to help the Oxford Trail Riders complete some necessary maintenance
 - If you would like to explore a new area and help out please meet us in Oxford at 9 am
 - A Facebook event and website event have been created with additional details
- **Saturday, May 13th at 9 am**
 - TTR will be meeting at the East Side Park and Ride to work on filling in the steep portion of trail located near the park and ride entrance
 - A Facebook event and website event have been created with additional details
- **Saturday, May 20th at 9 am**
 - TTR will be meeting at the West Side Park and Ride to ride and continue exploring the west side.
 - A Facebook event and website event have been created with additional details

Committee Reports:

We have several committees that will kick-off at different time during 2023, please considering joining 1 or 2 of them to help us out as well as show your support. It's also a good way to get to know other club members. We have the barbecue committee, apparel committee and the sportsman show committee.

BBQ Committee

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Date of the Event: Saturday, September 30th

Ride: 10 am

Meal: 12 pm

The cost of the tickets will be 20.00 per person / or \$50.00 per family (2 adults & 2 children)

Last year we held the event in the pulling ring on the Topsham Fairgrounds, however, I do need to check with the fair to confirm that. A reminder that club members donated all of the food needed for this event which minimized the cost of the event. We hope to do the same thing this year!

Last year this event was a great success and I imagine that it can be this year as well. I am happy to help on this committee but I will need help with planning this event. I am going to circulate a sign-up sheet and would love to see a few names on it.

Apparel Committee

There isn't anything to report at this time. We have a lot of apparel, please contact Jenny if you would like a sweat, shirt, t shirt or hat.

Maine Sportsman Show – BOAT LOADS OF PEOPLE

Jenny provided the following update:

We exceeded the results of last year in all aspects. During the show last year, we grossed \$1,161.00 and the expenses totaled \$585.00 therefore our net total was \$576.00. While this year we grossed \$1,677.00 and our expenses were only \$124.74 so our net total was \$1,552.26. To give the group perspective we made \$530 in memberships, \$173.00 in apparel, and \$849.26 from the raffle. The winner of the raffle was Hunter from Palermo.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

TTR is gearing up for another busy riding season. One thing I wanted to bring up tonight pertains to the out-of-town weekend ride in Madawaska. In order for the clubs up north to gain permission to ride on Irving land the clubs must purchase additional insurance. It is strongly recommended some might say required to join a club in that area. Your machine must be equipped with ATV Maine sticker and the ATV Maine stickers have changed this year. I do have a list of the clubs that you can personally join but I am planning on joining the Madawaska ATV club because Real Deschaine once again this year will be leading us around during our visit up north. If anyone would like to join that club I do have membership forms available.

On a different note, I recently attended a club meeting and the President of Moosehead ATV Riders was in attendance. We shared that TTR had their first official club ride on Saturday, June 3rd and our hopes was to make it from Pittsfield to the B-52 site. Marc informed me that there is still snow there and they have about 8 culverts that need to be placed on that trail. I will continue to follow this and will report back next meeting.

If anyone would like to receive a copy of the riding schedule please see me.

Club Membership Update

Dan Parlin provided the following update on our club memberships during the meeting:

As of 04/24/2023 we have:

129 members but 71 of those have not yet paid to renew their 2023 memberships.

- As a reminder your 2023 club dues are due before April 30th.

Dan inquired if the club would object to consider making the Membership Chair's annual club dues free considering the amount of work that is completed by this chair.

- Motion was made by Bob Sweeney to make the current and future membership chairs club dues free.
- Motion accepted by Tim Williams
- Was passed with no opposition.

During this portion of the meeting, we discussed the possibility of remitting the monthly newsletter in a single manner. This was only mentioned before any changes are made it will be discussed among the board.

Safety Course

Ron Dumont provided the following update:

The course held on Saturday, April 1st was a huge success. Randy Bickford, Tim Moody and Ron are looking at the possibility of scheduling another course in the middle of June but will need to check with the Topsham Fair to secure location before contacting the State. Stay tuned for updates.

Old Business

There was nothing to report during this portion.

New Business

House in the Woods

Jenny Little provided the following update:

As a reminder, Topsham Trailriders will be hosting a benefit ride for House in the Woods which is a veterans organization located in Lee, Maine. Our very own Bob Sweeney, has been visiting with numerous other clubs and there are others who will be hosting an event on that day to benefit House in the Woods also. The cost for the ride will be \$10.00 for each participant and all proceeds will be donated to House in the Woods.

As I shared with everyone, the property next to the West Side and Park and Ride is no longer accessible for our immediate use during events. In anticipation of drawing a large crowd during our June 17th ride a few of us have been exploring parking options since our West side park and ride will not be large enough to accommodate a large volume of trucks and trailers. Before we leave this evening, we need to nail down our options so that we can update the information on the Facebook event appropriately.

I would like to be able to host the ride on our West side but that will be contingent that we receive approval from Topsham Tractor or from the trailer park folks, or from Cantrell Seafood. I will be following up with all of those folks in them in the next week or so we can begin planning for the event.

- During the meeting the general consensus of the group was to inquire with Topsham Fair if we could hold the event on the Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 17th.
 - Jenny will check with the Fair to see if it is available for us to use.
- It was also brought up to contact the Topsham Police Department and Topsham Fire Department to inquire if they would be interested in providing us an escort at the traffic light leaving the fairgrounds.
 - Jenny will reach out to them to inquire.

There are many pieces that go into a successful event. I am circulating a sign-up with a list of areas that we are in need of for this event. They include trail preparations, working the registration table, working the apparel table, working the raffle table, preparing food at the event, creating an opening ceremony of sorts.

- If you are interested in helping out in one or many of these areas please let Jenny know and she will work you in.

In an effort to raise additional funds for House in the Woods we will put together a raffle table. If any club member would like to donate a gift card to be included in the raffle please let Jenny know. A Facebook post will be made making everyone aware of this.

Topsham Fair (August 8th to August 13th)

Clean-Up

For those folks who may not know TTR has an agreement established with the Topsham Fair that we help clean up certain areas during the Topsham Fair each August in order to be able to use these facilities for our meetings and occasionally for an event. Over the past couple of years it has been hard to get folks to help us out during this week long event. In an effort to include all club members we are going to use an electronic signup service to help facilitate the sign-up process. Check your emails soon for the opportunity to help TTR out during the Fair.

Booth

Tim Moody is going to check with the Topsham Fair about the status of our booth and will report back to the group.

Open Member Comment:

Memorial Day Parade

Sam Bulmer inquire if TTR was going to be participating.

- Jenny informed Sam that she's been checking the Facebook page and had not seen anything as of yet.

- Andrea Hoskins found the Memorial Day Parade listed on the Town of Topsham events page.
 - Jenny will follow up and register TTR so check Facebook for updates.

Motion to Adjourn was received at 8:10pm by Bob Sweeney and was accepted by Richard Arsenault. Was passed with no opposition.

Upcoming TTR Events

- May 7th **TTR Trail work** in Oxford @ 9:00 am
- May 10th @6:00 PM **TTR Social-** Buffalo Wild Wings
- May 13th **TTR Trail work Party** check Facebook for updates
- May 20th **TTR Trail work Party** check Facebook for updates
- May 29th **TTR Rides in** the Memorial Day Parade
- May 29th @ 6:30 **Monthly meeting** Topsham Fairgrounds

Respectfully Submitted
Dee Blanchette
05/01/2023

April 2023 minutes were approved during the May 29, 2023 meeting. JLITTLE