

Topsham Trailriders November 2024 Meeting



Date: Monday, November 25th, 2024

Location: Topsham Public Safety Building

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Williams

Tim Moody

Jessica Emmert

Board of Directors Present: Michael Little

Charlie Parkinson

Cindy Sheain

John Bursley

Sam Bulmer

Rick Emmert

Stephanie Burnham

Board of Directors Absent: Matt Nixon

James Belanger

Brad Hoskins

Dan Parlin

Anika Emmert

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:33 pm

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:50 pm

Approximately 21 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

Secretary's Report

Jessica Emmert emailed a copy of the October minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested 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:

Winter Meeting Location

Beginning this month, our monthly meetings will now be located in the public safety conference room located in the Town of Topsham's public safety building. I have confirmed that our meeting dates for January through March are scheduled but location will be confirmed a little closer to each of the meetings. Stay tuned for updates.

Trail Closure Date

The trails are technically scheduled to close on Sunday, December 1st. Are there any objections from the board or the general membership if we were to move our trail closure date to Sunday, December 15th. We do reserve the right to close them earlier if it is necessary. Continue to check both our website and Facebook for updates.

NOTE: The trail closure date has been extended to Sunday, December 15th provided that trail conditions allow it.

Newsletter Enhancements

Member Tip of the Month

A little over a year ago we added a new section to our newsletter. It is called Member Tip of the Month. We need additional content for this section for the upcoming year. In your packet this evening you've been provided with Member Tip of the Month. Please take a moment to complete the form and I will be happy to collect these at the conclusion of the meeting.

Delivery of the Newsletter

The club is always looking for ways to minimize our operational costs. One of the items we discussed at length is our monthly newsletter that each of you receive monthly. The Board has made the decision to submit the newsletter to you in an electronic format ONLY. Beginning next month, you should no longer receive a paper copy of the newsletter. We understand that some of you may not agree with this decision, but I hope you can recognize it was a difficult decision for us. Also, don't forget that our monthly newsletter is always posted on our website (www.topshamtrailriders.com).

Board Appointed Positions

Last month Topsham Trailriders held their annual elections where we voted in both the Executive Board along with the Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of both the Executive Board and Board of Directors during our November meeting to appoint critical club positions which include the Trail Master, Assistant Trail Master(s), Membership Chair, Ride Coordinator, Landowner Relations, and Student Representative. I am happy to announce that during the Board meeting we held earlier this month, the following individuals were selected into the following positions:

Trail Master – Tim Williams

Assistant Trail Master(s) – Sam Bulmer – West Side

Brad Hoskins – East Side

Isaac Ruehl – East Side

James Belanger – Winter

Membership Chair – Rick Emmert

Ride Coordinator – Michael Little

Landowner Relations – Matt Nixon

Student Representative – Anika Emmert

NOTE: During the Board meeting prior to the meeting a motion was made by Tim Williams to appoint Anika Emmert as our Student Representative. The motion was accepted by Cindy Sheain. All board members voted in favor.

I'm sure everyone joins me when I say – THANK YOU! Thank you for stepping into these roles to help Topsham Trailriders do great things! Your help and assistance is greatly appreciated by many including myself.

Member Recognition

A club cannot survive without its members and its landowners. This evening I'd like to acknowledge two individuals who have been involved with TTR for an extended period of time. Their dedication and commitment to helping Topsham Trailriders over the years whether it was helping at events, to facilitating safety courses, to trail work, to preparing our club grants, to participating in parades or joining us at many social nights. Topsham Trailriders would like to thank both Randy Bickford and Charlie Parkinson for their years of service to the club. Please accept a plaque as a token of our appreciation.

Club Tent Lighting

I would like to thank Tim Moody for coordinating the installation of the lighting at the club tent. We can now access the tent safely when it is dark out. Thank you for doing that Tim.

Treasurer Report

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Tim provided a printed treasurer report which will be attached to the minutes when they are sent out.

Motion was made by Kyle McComiskey to approve the treasurer's report as provided on the agenda

Motion accepted by Tim Williams

Was Passed with No Opposition

Tim Moody abstained from the vote

Trail Master Update

Charlie Parkinson provided the following update:

East Side

Trails are open on the east side. I imagine given the amount of rain we've received over the weekend that the trails are wet. A reminder that there is still logging occurring on a small section of the east side so please exercise caution when riding.

West Side

Trails are open on the west side. Again, I'm certain that the west side trails are still very saturated but given that it has been so dry they may dry up a little quicker.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties

Sunday, December 1st at 8 am

- We will be working on the West Side of the trail system during this work party. It was mentioned during the meeting that there is a berm that needs to be addressed before snowmobile season. Please plan on meeting at the West side Park and Ride.
- Additional details will be added to the Facebook event and website too.

Club Machine Repair

During the board meeting we talked about scheduling an appointment at MOMS Topsham for the side by side to allow them to complete some repairs.

Motion was made by Tim Moody to allocate up to \$1,000 for the service appointment at MOMS

Motion Accepted by Tim Williams

Was passed with no opposition

Groomer Certification

During the winter months we use our club machine to groom when the conditions allow for it. And since our club machine was purchased using a capital equipment grant only folks who have been certified by the state are able to run the machine when it is being used as a groomer. At this time the club is working on getting a few others certified.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

The 2025 schedule has been updated to include the We-Atv 207 out of town rides. A copy of the schedule has been included in your bundle of paperwork tonight. If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

NOTE: There is a strong possibility if trail conditions allow for it that TTR might host another ride on Sunday, December 15th. Stay tuned for details.

Update from the Membership Chair

Dan Parlin provided the following update about our current membership totals for TTR:

As of November 24, 2024, TTR has the following for club memberships:

Total Number of Memberships: 118

Business Sponsors: 11

Of the 118 Number of Memberships;

They can be broken down to:

100 Regular Members

67 ATV Maine Members

26 MSA Members

10 Honorary Members

8 Associate Members

Committee Section:

BBQ Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

There is nothing to report on from this committee currently. Stay tuned for Spring 2025.

Apparel Committee

Jenny Little provided the following update:

There is not much to report from the apparel committee currently. The 25th anniversary gear has been removed from our store and we will soon be adding the dual TTR and We-ATV 207 shirt.

GotVinyl has also updated the flag within our store. It will now use the same logo on both the front and back of the flag along with printing horizontally.

We would also like to invite everyone to send along any suggestions they would like the apparel committee to consider adding to the store.

And finally, don't forget that the holidays are coming and If you haven't visited the store recently here is the link: <https://www.gotvinyl207.com/topsham-trailriders!>

Maine Sportsman Show Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

The show is scheduled for Friday, March 28th and will continue until on Sunday, March 30th at the Augusta Civic Center

TTR has a corner booth reserved and paid for by MOMS Topsham! A huge thank you for their generosity.

During the October meeting, Cindy S., Jess E., Randy B., Stephanie B., Mike L., Rick E., and Jenny L have stepped up to be part of the committee. A meeting will be scheduled in late December early January so there is still time to join the committee if you'd like.

Our first meeting will include discussion on:

- Money needed (ie materials, and raffle items)
- Volunteers needed during the show
- Free TTR item for the booth
- Slide Show – A year in review
- Raffle

Ride for a Cure

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Date for our Ride for a Cure ride is: October 18th, 2025.

I will soon reach out to the folks who expressed an interest in participating in the planning of this event. I've chatted with Brandy Marchetti and we are aiming to schedule our meeting during the third week of the month and the first one will kick off in January. If you are interested in helping or joining this committee, please let me know.

Clubhouse Committee

Jessica Emmert provided the following update:

We have had a few meetings for the clubhouse and are making great progress in our planning stage. At our last meeting we invited club member John Doody to talk about ideas for planning for obtaining possible grants. This gave the committee lots to think about and our next meeting in January will be an extended meeting to focus on what information is needed to apply for grants and what the proposed timeline would be for this project.

Our clynk donation project to raise money for the clubhouse has been wildly popular and we have been able to raise a good amount of money so far just from club member donations.

UPDATE: Recently we have been able to collect bottles at a few club members' work locations as well. Please reach out to Jess or Jenny if you have a work location that you have permission to collect bottles at.

A reminder that we have plenty of clynk bags available. These bags already have stickers placed on them but please only take them if you will actively fill them and return them back to your nearest clynk location.

Old Business:

ATVing Santa

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The holidays have arrived folks! Topsham Trailriders will be helping Mr. & Mrs. Claus help spread Christmas cheer in downtown Bath as well as the local Senior homes. A reminder will be sent out to the folks who signed up to join us on Saturday, December 14th.

CPR Class for members of TTR

Stephanie Burnham provided the following update:

Research is still being completed.

American Legion Post 202 February Softball Tournament

Jenny Little provided the following update:

I would just like to ensure that we keep Saturday, February 15th free on the schedule to ensure we are able to man the table during this event.

In addition to our table, would anyone be interested in creating a team to play during the tournament?

NOTE: Before we explore establishing a team for the upcoming softball tournament we would like to know if there are at least 9 or more committed individuals who would be willing to participate that weekend. Please reach out to us if you are interested.

Topsham Fair

I know I said during our last meeting that the Topsham Fair's annual meeting was scheduled in November. That was incorrect. They will be hosting their annual meeting on Monday, December 2nd at the American Legion Post 202 located on Foreside Road in Topsham. A few members of the club are members of the Topsham Fair so we will be attending this meeting.

New Business:

Club By-law Revisions

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Oftentimes when an organization is being started a set of by-laws are also created. The by-laws essentially is an operators manual for an organization. It is in my personal opinion that an organization whether it is an ATV club or an elementary school PTA should review their by-laws every couple of years and make necessary revisions to them if any are needed. We are fortunate that we updated our by-laws in early 2022 so when the board and I reviewed them they did not require too many enhancements. In your bundle of paperwork, you have a copy of TTR's by-laws. The material typed in red are the proposed enhancements I am proposing that the club takes under advisement. In short, I am looking to add a couple of additional bullets to the trailmaster's role along with creating a new position called grant coordinator, and a couple of other minor enhancements.

Please take them home to read in their entirety. If any punctuation needs to be corrected or words are misspelled please let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise, during our next meeting in January we will discuss them briefly before we conduct our official vote during our February meeting.

Topsham Fair Skijoring

Jenny Little provided the following update:

January 18th – Skijoring Track Prep Work Party

There is a sign-up sheet circulating. We are looking for folks who would be willing to help prep the track for the SkiJoring event. Folks should plan on meeting near or around the Exhibition Hall located on the Topsham Fairgrounds at 9 am.

January 25th – Skijoring Event

We are looking for folks who would be willing to help during the event itself. On the sheet circulating please write your name down and if you are able to bring a machine.

At this time, all volunteers who will be helping during this event should plan on arriving between 9:00-9:15 on January 25th. You will be parking in the infield closer to the finish line. Please do not be alarmed if you are asked to sign a waiver at the gate. A word of caution to those folks who are bringing their machine please exercise caution when approaching the finish line area as there will be horses around. And finally, the event does not begin until 10 am and should be done around 1:00-1:30 pm

I will email volunteers when the event gets a little closer.

Christmas Party / Social Night

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at 6 pm. This is the 17th year we will be hosting our Christmas party at Fairground Cafe in Topsham. 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. I am sure if I wish to arrive earlier than 6 pm there would be no objection by Sarah.

Also, during this social night we will be doing a classic Yankee swap. The cap for the swap is \$20.00. If you would like to join in the swap, please bring a wrapped gift no more than \$20.00.

Similar to previous years I would like to ask for a motion to purchase four (4) \$50.00 Visa or Mastercard gift cards. Two of the cards will be for the two waitresses along with the two cooks. This is a small token of appreciation we can do for hosting our Christmas party.

Motion was made by Heather Benson to allow the club to spend up to \$200.00 to purchase four \$50.00 Visa / Mastercard Gift Cards for the TTR December Social Night.

Motion Accepted by Kyle McComiskey

Was Passed with No Opposition

Bonfire Ride

If the trail conditions allow it TTR is going to try and host a BonFire ATV ride on Saturday, February 1st. We will not be able to confirm this event until probably a week before the event is scheduled to occur. Please continue to check our Facebook page and website too. I will also remit an email to members providing you with an update on this event too.

There is however something that Mike would like to bring up to us this evening about that event.

NOTE: Mike might explore the option of adding time trials to this event. Folks mentioned perhaps limiting the number of entries for the time trials to 10 and to possibly charge them a fee to participate.

Open Member Comment

TTR received a thank you letter from MidCoast Hunger Prevention in Brunswick thanking us for our recent donations and for our continued support.

It was mentioned that there is a Christmas Parade in Gardiner on Saturday, December 7th. There are 15 slots available to join John Hibbard and Darcey Emery. They will be meeting at the Hannaford Parking Lot in Gardiner at 4 pm for anyone who is interested in joining them.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at _7:50__pm was made by Mike Little
Motion was accepted by Kyle McComiskey
Was passed with no opposition

Upcoming events

January 8th, 2025 - 6pm - January Social Night- Brickyard Hollow in Brunswick
January 25th, 2025 - 8:30am - TTR Helps During the Topsham Fair SkiJoring Event
January 27th, 2025 - 6:30pm - Regular TTR Membership Meeting- Topsham Public Safety Building

Submitted
Jessica Emmert
12/13/2024

The November minutes were approved with no edits received during the January 27, 2025 meeting. JLL