

# Topsham Trailriders April Meeting



Date: Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Location: Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little  
Tim Williams  
Tim Moody  
Jessica Emmert

Board of Directors Present: Michael Little  
Randy Bickford  
Charlie Parkinson  
Noah Herrick  
Sam Bulmer  
Dan Parlin

Board of Directors Absent: Matt Nixon  
James Belanger  
Don Curtis  
Brad Hoskins

**Meeting Called to Order at: 6:30 pm**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 7:52 pm**

Member Introductions were completed. Approximately 37 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

## **Secretary's Report**

Jessica Emmert emailed a copy of the March minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested for any additional 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:

**Maine Summer Adventure Race**

Earlier this year the Town of Topsham connected both myself and Charlie with Cliff White, Co-Director of the Maine Adventure Race. For those who may not know what exactly the Maine Adventure Race I'll do my best to explain it. It is either a 3-hour, 8-hour or 24-hour race made of self-supported teams of two to four who travel nonstop via mountain bike, foot, and sea kayak, navigating by map and compass. This year the races will be starting at Brunswick Landing and eventually will be crossing into Topsham in the late-night hours of Saturday, July 13th before ending in Pownal on Sunday morning. They reached out to us because they will be using the vast majority of our trails and wanted to seek the clubs approval. Charlie and I will be communicating this event to our landowners in early June via a mailed letter.

**News from Augusta**

An email we received from John Raymond, ATV Maine President on April 24<sup>th</sup>:

So, its OFFICIAL the Gas Tax bill LD2276 was signed by the Governor. Thanks to all our clubs that supported ATV Maine so we could afford our lobbyist Keith Herrick of Dirigo Public Affairs for doing a bang-up job and getting it done. It was a long 18 months but with many trips to Augusta and never giving up on it we were successful. Now ALL ATV clubs and riders in the state of Maine will benefit from this new influx of funds for the trails that is greatly needed.

Also, the Governor signed the Maine Trails Bond so it will head to the November ballot for a vote that I think will pass. It will have support from all trail users and was a collaboration of all trail users.

John Raymond  
President  
ATV Maine



• **ATV Maine**

From: info@atvmaine.org

To: Ashley Langlin-Hebert, Barry Wolverton, Bill Malone, Blaine King, Bob Marquis and 61 more...



Wed, Apr 24 at 1:54

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We also have a copy of the new trail permit (2024) from Irving lands and thanks to Ked Coffin of Irving for clearing up any misinformation that was out there, now we can look forward to the 2024 season! Thanks to everyone who supports ATV Maine because without your memberships we wouldn't be celebrating this good news! Keep checking back we will have some more g news to come in the very near future!

John Raymond  
President  
ATV Maine

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### Recreational Bill – LD 1156

An email we received from John Raymond, ATV Maine President on April 24<sup>th</sup>:

.....

Also, the Governor signed the Maine Trails Bond (LD 1156) so it will head to the November ballot for a vote that I think will pass. It will have support from all trail users and was a collaboration of all trail users.

John Raymond  
President  
ATV Maine

### **ATV Maine**

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

A reminder that Maine ATV/UTV Expo is just a couple of short weeks. 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>.

### **Maine ATV Coalition**

Since our meeting in March, we continue to receive multiple emails from Maine ATV Coalition communicating with us what they have are doing and what they have planned in the future. This evening Doug Dickinson and his wife Melanie are here to provide us

with an update about MAC a little later on during the meeting.

### **Municipal Grant**

I am happy to share with the group that TTR recently attended the Town of Topsham Selectman meeting to seek approval to apply for another municipal application. I am excited to share that they have approved the application and it is being sent to the Bureau Parks & Recreation for official processing. This type of funding allows us to do a larger-scale-projects to our trails because it can mean we receive more funding. This year Charlie will be teaching both Sam and I how the reimbursement process is done. It is important that we learn this process too.

### **Election for Vacant Board Position**

Last month I announced that we had a board position become vacant. Nominations were held and this evening we will be conducting the election for this board position. Behind your agenda you have a ballot sheet with two names. Please mark off next to the name you are voting for. Our official ballot counters will review them and we will announce the new board member later one.

**UPDATE:** The results from the election for the vacant board position has been filled by Rick Emmert.

### **Treasurer Report**

Tim Moody reported that as of 04/26/2024, we had \$510.00 in the cash box and a balance of \$5,404.17 in the checking account and \$5,494.99 the savings account. Tim also provided an update of the apparel account which now has a balance \$1,371.10. He also shared that the food events account currently has a balance of \$2,089.69. The account pertaining to Events/Raffles has a balance of \$1,575.28.

Motion was made by Dan Parlin 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**

Charlie provided the following update:

All trails are still officially closed for mud season.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties:

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 am**

### **West Side Work Party**

The work party will be on our West side. The work party will include building bridges, installing bumper rails on a couple of bridges, and cutting brush back. To set up for this work party to include building the forms and moving lumber there will be a pre-work party to cut wood & move additional wood to appropriate locations on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Please meet at Dan P.'s house which is located at 41 Middlesex Road., Topsham ME.

The Facebook event and website event have been updated with these additional details.

### **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 am (Ready to work at 9)**

#### **Oxford Trail Work Party – Meet at the Number 6 Park and Ride**

Topsham Trailriders will be heading to Oxford for an upcoming trail work party to prepare the trails for the House in the Woods event on June 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting at the park and ride located on the Number Six road in Oxford by 9 am. Please bring your machine, chain saw, and brush cutters.

The Facebook event and website event will be updated with additional details.

### **Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 am (Ready to work at 9)**

#### **West Side Work Party**

As 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 brush back and clearing any fallen trees, and building bridges.

The Facebook event and website event will be updated with additional details as the date gets closer.

### **Recent TTR Work Parties**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the folks who have recently attended our work parties. Your presence and help is very much appreciated and it does not go unnoticed!

A reminder that we are still working on enhancing our trail work parties. Our goal is to prepare a general list of projects for the upcoming meeting and divide them accordingly for each upcoming work parties. It is evident by the recent attendance to our trail work parties our task list certainly needs to grow to accommodate the large volume of people. This is not a bad problem to have and again I thank you for this challenge. It is one Charlie, and assistant Trailmasters and I appreciate having. Specific details prior to the work party will be added to both the Facebook event, the website, and if needed an

email will be sent out remit. We would strongly encourage you as a member to check the Facebook event and website for updated information. We will try to do our best but please check back in.

We are still working on assigning jobs a little more clearly to those in attendance during the trail work parties. However, 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(s) 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 a trailmaster is asked, they would be happy to point you in the direction of the next task that could be worked on.

A reminder 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 better a trail please do not be afraid to speak up and share it with the trailmasters. I know the trailmasters welcome the feedback and would be happy to talk it out. If anyone has personal feedback that they would like to talk to me privately please do not hesitate in contacting me.

## **Committee Updates:**

### **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:

Great news the feedback that we received from the original rounds of TTR logos from February were sent to the individual I've been working with. He was able to adjust some of his designs as well as create a draft of new logos. I need your help to clearly help with this task. In your packets this evening you have a copy of the logos please circle the top three logos that you like. If you have any suggestions, please clearly write it next to the logo. At the end of the meeting please provide them back to me. They will be shared directly with the designer.

For those who were not here in previous meetings...Why are we looking into a TTR logo well to be very honest the formats of the logo are not easily recreated into a workable format for marketing companies. Given the energy surrounding our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary I thought it was a prime opportunity for us to introduce a new look to TTR.

### **Maine Sportsman Show Committee**

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

During the show last year, we grossed \$1,677.00 and our expenses were \$124.74 so our net total for the weekend \$1,552.26. To give the group perspective we made \$530 in memberships, \$173.00 in apparel, and \$849.26 from the raffle.

This year, we did not have any expenses and our net total for the weekend was \$1,368.00. A breakdown of the net total is \$795 in memberships with a total of 21 members, \$43 in club gear and \$530 from the raffle. We are still selling tickets for the raffle up until June 8<sup>th</sup> so you have not missed your opportunity to purchase your tickets.

Overall, despite the lower attendance to the show the committee still feels this was a huge success. Folks are now looking for us when they come to the show. I hope the club will support returning in 2025. Save the dates from March 28<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ride Coordinator Update**

Mike Little provided the following update:

TTR is gearing up for another busy riding season. One thing I do want to bring up tonight pertains to the out-of-town weekend ride in Madawaska scheduled in late July. Although I do not technically believe it is required, I would strongly recommend you consider joining a club in that area. I am happy to get a list of the clubs that you can join but I have personally joined the Madawaska ATV club because our tour guide 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, only 34 days remain till Ken Snowdon's Memorial ride from Pittsfield to Greenville. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

And as always if anyone would like to receive a copy of the riding schedule, please see me.

NOTES: During the meeting folks in attendance asked for clarification about joining a club in Northern Maine. Members also inquired about receiving a detail list of the 23 clubs who work with Irving Woodland. Jenny was able to retrieve the list of clubs and it is attached to the email.

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

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

As of April 29th, 2024, TTR has the following for club memberships:

Total Number of Memberships: 145

Business Sponsors: 10

Of the 145 Number of Memberships;

They can be broken down to:

124 Regular Members

80 ATV Maine Members

27 MSA Members

10 Honorary Members

9 Associate Members

A reminder that annual club membership dues are due by the end of April. Please consider renewing either during our events, social nights, mailing it in, or during our meetings. Please be kind and when you complete your membership forms, please either type them out or print as to make them legible.

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 everyone current club member took one membership to a friend, we would easily double our current 145 members!

Rick is beginning to learn the responsibilities that accompany the membership chair and he is doing a great job!

NOTE: During the meeting Jenny Little asked Anika E. if she would be willing to help Dan Parlin with putting together the monthly newsletter. Anika the true TTR team player that she is happy to help with this task. A HUGE shout out to her for stepping up this evening. Many hands make light work!

### **Safety Course**

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

There is an in-person course scheduled to occur at MOMS Topsham on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Darcey Emery is facilitating that class. If anyone is interested in that class they should navigate to the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/atv-safety.html>) and specifically look for the June 24<sup>th</sup> safety course to sign up.

Ron Dumont shared that he is still waiting to hear back from the state about setting up



a course.

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

### **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 but there soon will be.

#### **House in the Woods Benefit Ride**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

I chatted with Rebeka LaRose, member of the Marketing team at Binnie Media (aka 99.9 The WOLF) late last week. She and I had discussed the upcoming House in the Woods event. The radio station will be doing a three-week fundraising event for Veterans in June and they will be kicking off their event by promoting our House in the Woods ride scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. A reminder that the ride is being held in Oxford.

She and I chatted on Friday and she reached out to share with me their plans for the upcoming fundraiser and what they need from us. They will promote both Topsham Trailriders and Oxford Trail Ryders on air and in radio ads since this is a joint event by both clubs. They will be encouraging / asking folks to navigate to the Topsham Trailriders website to register for the event. Our event will function as originally planned meaning we would still include a charge \$10 a person to join in and all proceeds (registration / 50/50) will be donated to House in the Woods. The time for this event has been changed. We will be departing from the park and ride located on the Number Six Road in Oxford. If you are attending, please remember to pack yourself a bagged lunch.

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 I will create a google doc for folks to complete prior to the event and will send the link and a flyer to Rebeka this coming week.

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

Jenny Little provided the following update:

A reminder that TTR will have 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. Everyone should come on out and support this great event!

### **Landowner Appreciation**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

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

### **Membership Drive at MOMS**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Over the weekend, we held a membership drive at MOMS Topsham. While spending the morning there we were able to generate a total of 7 memberships. We welcomed 3 new members and processed 4 renewal applications. MOMS generously paid for the hot dogs and hamburgers that we grilled up but similar to last year the chili was everyone's favorite! Thank you to Dale for creating another batch of your delicious chili!

When we totaled things up at the end of the day, we generated a total of \$404.00 dollars for the club. When we break that down it is \$295.00 in memberships, \$15.00 of club apparel and \$94.00 towards the raffle.

Thank you to all who came out to visit with us!

**NOTES:** Eric Murphy suggested that the club should reach out to MOMS Topsham to inquire if they might be willing to accept memberships to include collecting money. The MOMS dealership near his home in New Hampshire collects membership forms and accepts money as well. Jenny offered to chat with Peter at MOMS Topsham to inquire if this is even possible. If they are not necessarily interested in accepting cash perhaps the club would consider purchasing a tablet and connecting it to an electronic form of payment.

### **Memorial Day Parade**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Topsham Trailriders has been registered for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade. I do not have specifics about where we will be parking and departing from as of yet. During our meeting last month, we had a handful of folks express an interest in participating in the event. I have a sign-up sheet up to collect the names and email addresses of those folks. Please sign your name so I can communicate to you when we have more details to share.

## **New Business:**

### **Maine ATV Coalition**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Allow me to introduce the man who wears many hats and whom I've gotten to know a little more over this past year! Doug Dickinson is the Trailmaster for the Central Maine ATV Club, the Secretary for the snowmobile club in Fairfield, and the current President of the Maine ATV Coalition. Doug....

NOTES: Doug provided some insight about what the Maine ATV Coalition which included that MAC is not charging any fees to be part of them, they are able to offer clubs insurance, club membership portal, working on corporate sponsors, the addition of the park and ride addresses, working on a volunteer appreciation program and so much more.

### **GPS Trailmasters**

Eric Murphy, Director of Operations, for GPS Trailmasters attended our meeting and shared the following with us:

GPS Trailmasters has partnered up with Maine ATV Coalition is working on connecting with clubs all around the state to work with them with creating a map for each individual clubs who do not currently have one, and they have facilitated close to \$10,000 worth of sponsorships with clubs. Eric is actively working with Charlie with updating TTR maps on his software. And because we support TTR he left us with discount cards to use on your next purchase at GPSTrailmasters.

### **Moxie Days Parade**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

This was added to the agenda to inform the members of the date of the parade. It is currently scheduled for Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be partnering up this year with the Riverside Trailriders to ride our machines in the parade. We will be gathering names of folks who will be joining us for the event beginning at our next meeting in May. If you are not able to attend the meeting please email [topshamtrailriders@gmail.com](mailto:topshamtrailriders@gmail.com)

### **Social Night**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th at 6 pm. It is being held at El Rodeo in Brunswick. The restaurant needs a headcount as to how many folks will be coming. They are able to sit 20-25 of us together but anything more than that will they will seat us at individual tables. 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.

### **Open Member Comment**

It was brought to the club's attention that some folks were experiencing issues when trying to access the Topsham Trailriders Facebook page. Gary Woestman made a motion to have this looked into and the motion was accepted by Dan Parlin. Jenny Little acknowledged Gary's concern and agreed to look into the matter further. Upon further investigation, maintenance was required to include privacy, visibility and security settings to ensure that all members of the public are now able to access our page. This matter is considered resolved.

A motion was made by Pauline McKinney to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. The motion was accepted by Tim Williams.

### **Upcoming TTR Events**

May 8<sup>th</sup> - TTR May Social Night – El Rodeo, Brunswick – 6pm

May 11<sup>th</sup> - TTR Trail Work Party (Weather Permitting) – West Side Trail – 8:45am

May 18<sup>th</sup> - TTR Trail Work Party (Weather Permitting) – Oxford, ME – 8:45am

May 25<sup>th</sup> - TTR Trail Work Party Tentative (Weather Permitting) – Location TBD– 8:45am

May 27<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Parade– Please be sure to sign up if interested – 7:00 am

May 27<sup>th</sup> – Regular Monthly Meeting- Topsham Fairgrounds at 6:30pm

Submitted

Jessica Emmert

05/05/2024

The April 2024 minutes were approved with no edits during the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. JLL