

Topsham TrailRiders August Meeting



Date: Monday, August 28, 2023

Location: Exhibition Hall on the Topsham Fairgrounds, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little
Tim Moody
Dee Blanchette
Charlie Parkinson

Board of Directors Present: Richard Arsenault
Ron Dumont
Randy Bickford
Mike Little
Dan Parlin

Board of Directors absent: Matt Nixon
Rocky League
Devin Favreau
Tara Crossman

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:33 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 PM

Approximately 28 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

Secretary Report:

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

- Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the Secretary's report.
- Motion Accepted by Don Curtis
- Was passed with no opposition.

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

West Side Park and Ride

As a reminder, TTR has a trail system that is broken up and we labeled each side of our trail system with the name east side and 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. We were notified the second half of 2022 that the land near our west side was being sold and storage units were going to be built there.

The construction began in late June and has been progressing quite nicely. During the week of August 21st, TTR noticed that the slabs were being poured for the storage units. Jenny reached out to the landowner to let him we noticed how well things were going and he replied asking for a follow up conversation about reestablishing our trail during the week of August 28th. Hopefully we will have more details in the very near future.

Municipal Grant Update

As a reminder, Topsham Trailriders applied for a municipal grant this year for the first time. We've submitted our first reimbursement to the Town of Topsham late last week and it totaled a little over \$11,000. We are not certain as to how long it will take for the money to be returned to us but the process has officially kicked off.

In other news, Bursey Enterprises will begin their work on the West Side this week. Their work should take care of the remaining balance of our grant. The work being completed is located on trails 1C and 1D so if you head out riding, please be cautious. I would like to thank Trailmaster Charlie for really stepping up to help set-up this project for Bursey!

Note: Charlie remembered that since the work is being completed on CMP property we need to inform them. Jenny and Charlie reached first thing on Tuesday, 8/29/2023 to reach out to CMP and got this taken care of.

Multi-Use Trail Update

The Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council has made their recommendation and it is the following:

Here is the resolution endorsed by the majority of the Council:

Be it moved that:

The Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council recommends the conversion of 33.5 miles of existing state-owned railroad track to an Interim Trail.

This trail may be surfaced with stone dust or paved and be primarily for non-motorized use. During DOT's trail planning process, the RUAC further recommends that the Commissioner work with the Merrymeeting Trail Board of Supervisors and individual towns to identify

potential trail segments where limited motorized use may be permitted, such as where there is space for dual trails.

It is further recommended that any trail developed should not interfere with the current lease with the City of Augusta Parking District.

It is extremely unfortunate to see this recommendation.

Trail Closure Date

A reminder that Topsham Trailriders will close their trails the weekend after Thanksgiving provided that conditions allow for riding until then. We do reserve the right to close them earlier if it is necessary.

Winter Meeting Location

A reminder that during the past two years Topsham Trailriders has had to relocate their winter meetings beginning in November and continuing until March because of the Exhibition Hall is used as a storage unit during the winter months. During the July meeting, 2023-2024 winter meeting location options were presented and the club voted to proceed with the Topsham Public Library. Selecting this option meant we also approved moving our meeting dates from the last Monday of the month to the last Tuesday of the month since the library is not open late on Monday's.

I finalized the application with the Topsham Public Library for each of the days we would be using their community room. Once the application was submitted I was informed that there would be a small fee of \$20.00 for each meeting. Given the fees that we would have been charged at the other meeting locations the small fee being assessed by the library seemed very reasonable.

Members inquired if the library closed early because of inclement weather would we be able to reschedule to another date such as the Tuesday of the following week. I made a note of the members inquiry and will reach out to Cindy at the Topsham Public Library.

NOTE: On August 29th, I reached out to the library and they shared that they are not opposed to TTR rescheduling their meeting. They advised that the Community Room is currently booked for the Tuesday following our meetings but she doesn't think they would mind relocating to the library's staff room.

Newsletter Enhancement

I would like to thank Dan Parlin for the extensive amount of time and energy he puts into the newsletter! Outstanding job month after month.

To add additional content to the newsletter we are considering the addition of a small box onto the newsletter that would speak to: Tip of the Month from member feedback that we've received. We would appreciate if everyone in attendance completes the Tip of the Month form here. Each of us in this group have different perceptions on ATVs and Snowmobiles and so

what better way to share in our wealth of knowledge. If members would like to email their tip please remit them to topshamtrailriders@gmail.com.

I am still looking into the possibility of adding an option to our website to allow a member the option of requesting electronic formatted newsletter.

Treasurer Report:

Tim Moody reported that as of 08/25/2023, we had \$530.00 in the cash box and a balance of \$2,479.97 in the checking account and \$3,316.20 the savings account. Tim also provided an update of the apparel account which now has a balance \$1,151.69. He also shared that the food events account currently has a balance of \$1,441.65. The account pertaining to Events/Raffles has a balance of \$359.07.

- Motion was made by Dale Rowe to approve the treasurer's report as provided on the agenda.
- Motion accepted by Dan Parlin
- Was passed with no opposition.

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

Charlie provided the following update:

Trail Conditions:

All of the ATV trails are currently open.

West Side:

A reminder that the park and ride access trail is still currently closed. However, the trails on the West Side are open so if you can find a legal place to park you can ride the trails but cannot access the Nouria Gas station.

Charlie has not been on the trails but from riders who have they have shared that the trails on the west side are wet and very fragile. If you do venture out on the west side please ride with a buddy and use 4x4 drive to prevent excessive damage.

East Side:

The east side trails are still open however currently looks a little like a swimming pool but Charlie is optimistic that they should dry off nicely.

- Upcoming Trail Work Parties:
 - **Sunday, September 9th - Mat Hill Project / Brush Cutting**
 - Reminder that this is a CRITICAL work party.
 - Many hands are needed to lighten the load for this project.
 - We will be completing the installation of the mats on the East side during this work party. We will have a tractor, trailers and shovels to get the mats done.

- If many folks show up we will send some folks out to do some brush cutting on the East side. Please bring brush cutters and chain saws.
- **Saturday, September 23rd – Preparing for the BBQ Ride**
 - In the event we are not able to get all of the brush cutting done on the 10th of September this work party has been established.
 - The purpose of this work party is to ensure that the trails are prepared for the upcoming ride scheduled for the 30th.

Charlie shared that recently Jenny, Mike, and he had met with a landowner located off of Cathance Rd. near the Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, & Topsham town lines. The landowner is interested in opening up a portion of land to snowmobile use provided that TTR is able to create a few bridges to preserve her land. The landowner has generously offered to pay for the material for the bridges as well. This expansion stands to add approximately another 1 mile of snowmobile trail. Mike and Charlie will connect to create a couple of work parties to create these bridges. Stay tuned!

Jenny also continues to ask for Charlie and trail crew to look at the calendar for September and October to tentatively schedule a couple of snowmobile trail work / bridge making parties.

Committee Reports:

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). Cost of tickets will go up at the door on the day of the event to \$30 per person / \$60.00 per family.

The ride and meal is scheduled to occur on our East side similar to last year.

The event will once again be held in the pulling ring on the Topsham Fairgrounds. A reminder that in the past club members have generously donated the majority of the food needed for this event which minimized the cost of the event. An email has been remitted on a couple of occasions to all club members seeking food donations for the event. Thank you to everyone who has signed up! All of the donations that we can receive helps to keep the cost for this event down. Additional emails will be remitted to members to continue seeking donations for the event.

The tickets are in and can be purchased tonight or during any of our events! We can accept cash, check, or credit card!! The link has been created and added to the BBQ event so please

feel free to navigate there to purchase your tickets. And we would appreciate it if you shared this post and all TTR posts! We will be remitting an email out to all of the folks who purchased tickets electronically last year to let them know we will be holding this event once again and invite them to join us again this year.

Earlier this year a sign-up sheet was circulated asking for assistance, with the BBQ. The list included the following names:

Devin F., Tim M., Linda & Dan P., Stephanie B., Tim W., Billy R., Donnie B., John B., Brad & Andrea H., Dale R., Bob S., Rocky L., Ron D., Jon D., Mike L., Dee B.

I hope that those folks are still able to assist in some capacity as we will need help setting up for BBQ the night before, trail work to prep the East Side perhaps Saturday, September 16th, and of course help is needed the day of the event. A circulation sheet is being selected to fill in the needs for that day and I would love to see some of the slots filled in. When the Secretary's report is emailed out to the members, we will also ask for assistance for our September event at that time to help whatever was not filled in.

I will also check with Leon to confirm that we are able to set-up the night before for the event.

Apparel Committee

Jenny provided the following update:

There is nothing new to report this month.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

The busy season continues again this month!

In an effort to save time I'm going to try something different this month rather than sharing with you all of the details about each ride or event I'm going to quickly list what is going on for the month and welcome any questions at the end.

This month we are spending a weekend in Machais from 9/1 to 9/4. I will say that I have not yet decided where we will be riding each day so for those folks who are interested in coming for a day trip please check the event for more details.

September 9th – Road Side clean up

September 10th – East Side work party – **Mission Critical work party** – mat installation

September 17th – Central Maine Powersports Scavenger Hunt in Waterford

September 23rd – Another trail work party – MAYBE the west side park and ride area again MAYBE

September 24th – Lakes Region Annual Apple Orchard Ride – House in the Woods Benefit Ride

September 30th – TTR’s BBQ and Ride

If you have any questions these events, please do not hesitate in reaching out to either myself or the club. We do our best to post updates on either the Facebook event or the website event so I would recommend to continue to check one or the other.

Club Membership Update

Dan Parlin provided the following update about the TTR memberships. As of August 26, 2023, TTR has the following for club memberships:

Total Number of Memberships: 118

Safety Course

On behalf of the following Safety Course committee, Ron Dumont provided the following update:

Ron did not have anything more to offer about the safety course at this time.

Old Business

Topsham Fair – Week

Jenny reported that the Topsham Fair clean up week over all was a smashing success. The electronic sign-up sheet seeking volunteers was a huge success! And most importantly the Fair is very pleased with how things went.

Another huge thank you to all of the volunteers who volunteered their time during this week. We know it was late hours but it is because of your generosity we can continue to use some of the Fairs facilities for our events.

Randy Bickford thanked Charlie for all that he did for TTR to help facilitate the fair.

Elections

As a reminder our annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 30th which during this meeting we will hold the annual elections for club officers and board positions. All of the positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer as well as the 5 Board Positions) are elected annually. Nominations for all of the positions listed above will be accepted during September’s meeting while the voting will occur in October.

It always in a clubs best interest to avoid volunteer burnout or to prevent a club from becoming stagnant to see new folks join the board so If anyone has any interest, please either let myself or any member of the board.

To ensure that elections are fair and impartial an elections committee was created. The two members who are on the committee is Noah Herrick and Dale Rowe.

ATVing Santa

Last year, Mr. & Mrs. Claus reached out to Topsham Trailriders for their assistance to help spread Christmas cheer in downtown Bath as well as the local Senior homes. All who participated brought their wheelers which were decorated in holiday gear and some members even dressed up as reindeer and elves. This year Main Street Bath is looking at doing the same type of event perhaps with a few small changes and Topsham Trailriders will once again be spreading Christmas cheer. The event is scheduled for Saturday, December 16th beginning around 10 am.

We are limited to only 10 machines and we currently have 3 of those spots spoken for. Please navigate to the Facebook event to update your status as going to be included in the total. Those folks who have marked as interested are not being added to the total. You are welcome to reach out to Jenny personally to notify her that would like to join them during the event if you do not have a social media post.

25th Anniversary of TTR

2024 is the 25th Anniversary of TTR. Big plans for next year especially our July 20th, 2024 ride!

Jenny is need of a club member to help find a food truck for our July 20th, 2024 night ride.

Noah Herrick has a personal connection with a food truck vendor named, Pinky D's. The next time he runs into them he is going to inquire how we might be able to reserve them.

New Business

ATV Maine

Karyn Varney, Secretary of Kingfield Quad Runners and also the Western Maine Regional Vice President for ATV Maine. Karyn heard that we had a member from the Maine ATV Coalition attended a recent meeting and reached out and inquired with Jenny if ATV Maine could join us during our meeting. I replied immediately – absolutely! Karyn attended our meeting to share with us what ATV Maine has been recently doing.

Since Karyn was in attendance, members were invited to ask her questions or offer feedback.

Tim Moody inquired if ATV Maine was still pursuing a bill to increase registration costs for folks who did not belong to a club. Karyn did share that early in the legislative season that was a bill but unfortunately this year it was killed in session.

Road Side Clean Up

Jenny Little reminded everyone in attendance that Topsham Trailriders has scheduled a road side clean up on Saturday, September 9th beginning at 9 am. The meeting location to kick off this event will be the dirt parking lot located near the Nouria Gas station on Rt. 196.

This event will be advertised on social media.

Friends and Neighbors Winch Challenge

Jenny Little shared with everyone that Topsham Trailriders recently received a letter in the mail from Friends and Neighbors ATV club challenging us with a winch line challenge. We are asked to round up a team of four to six people. Each team is being asked to pay an entry fee of \$100. All money collected from the entry fees and sales of the 50/50 tickets will be put in the "Mud Hole" to be winched out by the winning teams. The event is scheduled on Sunday, January 21st beginning at 5:30 pm and continues until 8 pm at Sparetime Recreation in Hallowell.

The top three winning teams will earn money for their organization's charity – 1st place team – 50% - 2nd place team receives 30% and finally the 3rd place team gets 20% of the entry fees.

Jessie Chartier offered to set a team of 4 up on behalf of TTR for this event.

- A motion was made by Randy Bickford that Topsham Trailriders would pay the \$100 entry fee if Jessie is able to round up 4 members.
- Motion was accepted Michael Little
- Motion was passed.

Trunk or Treat – Town of Topsham

Jenny Little shared that for the past couple of years Topsham Trailriders have participated in the Trunk or Treat Halloween event facilitated by the Parks and Recreation department from the Town of Topsham. We are assuming that we will soon be receiving information about this event from the Town of Topsham.

Tim Moody has offered to co-chair this event once again for Topsham Trailriders. This year Tim asked Dee Blanchette if she would assist him with this event and she has accepted. Tim Moody will connect with Parks & Recreation Department at the Town of Topsham for additional information.

Social Night

The next social night for the club is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th at 6 pm. The social will be at the 104 Main Public House. The restaurants appreciate 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.

Open Member Comment:

Christmas Party

- TTR is Currently working on scheduling the TTR Christmas Social at Fairground Café on Wednesday, December 13th.

We-Atv 207

Jenny Little shared the following :

For those folks who do not know what We-Atv 207 is let me do my best to explain it. We-Atv 207 is a husband-and-wife team that ride all over the state of Maine and create a ride schedule inviting all to join them which include day trips as well as overnight trips. Last year, Topsham Trailriders partnered with We-ATV 207 at no cost to co-host the out-of-town rides. We-Atv 207 is in the early stage of planning the 2024 season and during the next meeting they may present a ride suggestion form to gather feedback from folks.

Motion to Adjourn was received at 7:59 pm by Michael Little and was accepted by Richard Arsenault. Was passed with no opposition.

Upcoming TTR Events

September 1st to the 4th — Out of Town Overnight Trip to Machias
September 9th — Road Side Clean Up - Meet at the West Side Park and Ride 9 am
September 10th — A **VERY** important East Side trail work party—9 am end of Lovers Lane
September 13th – TTR’s Social Night at the 104 Main Street Public House 6 pm
September 17th – TTR heads to Central Maine Powersports Scavenger Hunt In Waterford
September 23rd - Another In-town Trail Work Party— East Side Trail Work Party
September 24th Out of Town Day trip to - Lakes Region annual Apple Orchard Ride.
September 25th — TTR Monthly Meeting at 6:30 pm with the Board meeting at 6 pm. A reminder that the meeting is being held at the Topsham Fair Exhibition Hall.
September 30th — TTR 2nd Annual BBQ & Ride Fundraiser— 10 am ride and 12 pm BBQ—Buy your tickets soon!

Respectfully Submitted

Dee Blanchette

08/29/2023

August Meeting Minutes were voted and approved as is during the September 25, 2023 meeting. JLL