

Topsham TrailRiders February Meeting



Date: Tuesday, February 27th, 2028

Location: Topsham Public Library, Topsham, ME 04086

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Williams

Tim Moody

Jessica Emmert

Board of Directors Present: Michael Little

Randy Bickford

Richard Arsenault

Charlie Parkinson

Don Curtis

Noah Herrick

Evan Curtis

Sam Bulmer

Board of Directors absent: Matt Nixon

James Belanger

Dan Parlin

Brad Hoskins

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:34 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 7:44 PM

Member Introductions were not completed. Approximately 19 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

Secretary Report:

Jessica Emmert emailed a copy of the January minutes to all club members. Prior to the meeting an email was received notating the social night in the minutes read as January 15th and needed to be updated to February 15th. 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 Don Curtis
- Was passed with no opposition

General Business

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

February TTR Events

Topsham Fair – Skijoring

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Charlie and all of the volunteers who helped set up the Skijoring track for the Topsham Fair. I know that this year the crew was a fight due to the lack of snow combined with warmer temperatures but as always you all made the best of it! Thank you so much! Job well done!

UPDATE: Bonnie a member of the Topsham Fair attended the meeting and presented Topsham Trailriders with a check for \$400 dollars for their assistance during the Skijoring event. Thank you to the Topsham Fair for their generous donation.

American Legion Post 202 – Winter Classic

For the past 10 years the American Legion Post 202 has facilitated a Winter Classic Softball tournament fundraiser to raise funds for Homeless Vets. This year Post 202 reached out to local organizations to help make their event even greater than the previous year and Topsham Trailriders graciously accepted their invitation. We had the opportunity to setup a table during their Veterans Expo to introduce ourselves to the community and tell them about our upcoming benefit ride for House in the Woods. We were honored to be part of this grand event and look forward to future events with Post 202. I am happy to share that they were raised a little over \$20,000.00.

News From Augusta

Gas Tax Bill (LD 977)

Follow up to the progression of LD 977

Email received from Brian Bronson on 02/15/2024



Bronson, Brian N.

Thu, Feb 15, 9:11AM (10 days ago)



to Abbot, Abbot, Acadia, Acadia, Airline, Airline, Airline, Airline, Allagash, Allagash, Aroostook, Aroostook, Aroostook, Ashland, Asst

Following up on the Gas tax bill LD 977.

The bill has been referred to the Transportation Committee and is on their work session schedule for next Tuesday the 20th at 1 PM.

The hope is to get them to agree to report out a bill to give the ATV and Snowmobile Programs additional gas tax funding to make up part of the shortfall. It is unlikely we will get it all without a new complete in-depth study which will take a couple of years and probably cost a couple hundred thousand dollars but we are hoping to gain several hundred thousand more a year at least at this time. Clubs interested in this should talk with their legislators and also reach out to committee members.

Brian

State Funding for Trail Maintenance

Email Received from Brian Bronson on 2/15/2024

Bronson, Brian N.

Feb 15, 2024, 9:57 AM (10 days ago) ☆ 😊 ↶ ⋮

to Abbot, Abbot, Acadia, Acadia, Airline, Airline, Airline, Airline, Allagash, Allagash, Aroostook, Aroostook, Aroostook, Ashland, Asf ▼

I have attached the update trail cost reports / charts with 2023 added so you all can see what we have been spending. As you can see, we are putting much more money on the ground than in the past but obviously the weather and increasing expectations as well as increased use are all making it difficult for us to get ahead of the trail maintenance curve. Given this level of expenditure we should eventually come out on the right side of trails maintenance issues. Hopefully mother nature gives us a break this coming summer. That being said we have had over 4 million dollars of trail damage reported so far from last years storms. The good news is we are hearing that we may get some additional help via FEMA and the Maine legislature. Keep up the good work of reaching out to your legislators letting them know we need help.

One thing that has become very apparent from these storms is that bridges and culverts that are sized and installed correctly survive and those that aren't don't. The other big thing is that adequate ditching is more important than surface material. In Many locations roads and trails that had large ditches survived where even roads that we had added gravel to and graded but hadn't restored the ditches got washed away. The key is providing a place for the water to go other than in the trail. Hence the cover of the BMP manual. Get the trail out of the water and the water out of the trail. Doing that will give us the most bang for the buck and longevity so plan accordingly. Proper ditching and crowning and larger culverts and or bridge openings and bridges set higher up all make a huge difference when the se big storms hit.

We are working on getting the Muni Grant applications available soon so you can start reaching out to towns and counties etc sooner and get plans in place and grant applications submitted as timely as possible so we can hopefully put as much money on the ground as possible this year.

Also don't forget to ask counties and towns about possible Tiff money and Polaris and Yamaha also have grant programs. Coming back from all the damage will take a lot of resources, but hopefully with additional help and clubs working together we can make it happen. I don't believe there has ever been a better time for ATV and snowmobile clubs to work together on projects because neither program will be able to handle the costs on their own. There is a much better chance of getting additional funds to help with repairs if all of the clubs are asking their legislators on one united front.

Respectfully

Brian Bronson
Supervisor Off Road Recreational Vehicle Program
Bureau of Parks and Lands

The charts that Brian is referring to in this email are attached to this email.

ATV Maine

Maine ATV/UTV Expo

A reminder that ATV Maine is still facilitating their first ever annual expo at Cross Insurance Arena in Bangor from Friday, May 17th to Sunday, May 19th. They are working on acquiring additional vendors at this time and I'm sure they will be seeking assistance from clubs to volunteer at different times doing different tasks during the weekend.

Annual ATV Maine Banquet

A reminder that the 2024 ATV Maine banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, May 4th 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.

Maine ATV Coalition

Since our meeting in January we received an email from Douglas Dickinson, President/Co-Founder of Maine ATV Coalition and I wanted to share with you a segment of the email:

• MAC Happenings 2

Yahoo/Inbox



• **Maine ATV Coalition**
From: maineatvcoalition@gmail.com
Bcc: info@topshamtrailriders.com



Wed, Feb 21 at 9:20 PM

Greetings ATV Club officers,

When the Maine ATV Coalition incorporated in February 2023, our goal was to find creative and insightful ways to offer assistance to all of the ATV clubs in the state of Maine that would give back to the clubs instead of using club or state funds to pay for what we do. I am very proud to announce that we have decided to take the phrase "go big or go home" to heart in our second year by offering - what we hope you will agree - are some great benefits to the hard working ATV Clubs in Maine.

We have been planning behind the scenes during what many clubs consider the off season to come up with a few things that should help the ATV community this year. Here is a sneak peak at what is about to hit the streets and a glimpse at a couple other things we are still tweaking before launching.

Free MAC Membership - not like Turbotax free, but legit free. We decided that we will overcome the loss of revenue normally sent in by the clubs by bringing in businesses and fundraising. Yep, your money's no good here anymore. Don't spend too much time thinking about it. Last year our most common question was "what do we get for the \$150 membership fee". This year it will be how can we be getting even more for nothing? For the clubs that have already paid for 2024 membership (thank you) we will be sending out a refund soon. On that note, if your club is doing great and is able to afford a little something - we are still accepting donations and promise that it will go to a great cause - Maine ATV Clubs. We are still generating a membership form that we will use this year, it will be available through email or online sign up. You will see that in your email very soon.

Insurance updates: In December 2023 the board of directors voted to remove the additional \$150 admin fee we had to charge last year for the optional general liability insurance. Our current policy is good through May of 2024. We are also looking into other options for insurance, which is surprisingly difficult to find (probably not as surprising in 2024 as it was in 2022). More to come on this topic.

Membership Portal launch: We have been building a membership portal that we hope to have launched very soon. More information is coming soon.

Volunteer Appreciation Grant: MAC has budgeted \$2,500 towards a volunteer appreciation grant. \$100 gift cards and a letter of recognition will be provided to 25 volunteers through a grant program this year. More details to follow.

MAC is planning a huge event for 2025, keep an eye out for more details! Marc and Matt are working this hard, this promises to be a really big deal.

I reached out to share with our Treasurer that MAC was refunding us our \$150.00 and I wanted to know what his recommendation would be. Do we accept the refund? Or, do we tell MAC to keep the funds as a donation? It was Tim's opinion that we accept the refund and see how we can help them fundraise additional funds.

UPDATE: During the Board meeting a motion was made by Randy Bickford to accept the return of the funds and was accepted by Noah Herrick. The Board voted and it passed.

Jenny will notify MAC of the club's decision.

West Side Park and Ride

The access trail leaving the West Side Park and Ride still remains closed at this time. If you recall we were asked by the landowner to help, get MEDEP out there to get a section of the access trail leaving the park and ride reviewed. I am excited to share with you that TTR finally connected with a member of MEDEP in December. They came out to review the access trail on Thursday, January 4th to complete their analysis and shortly afterwards we received MEDEP's formal analysis. Upon receiving the report, we remitted it to the Director of Planning & Code

General Business

Enforcement for the Town of Topsham for her review. It is my pleasure to share that MEDEP only had a couple of small requests/recommendations that they would like to see us do when recreating the access trail leaving the West Side Park and Ride and the Director of Planning & Code Enforcement did not see any issues with report provided from MEDEP.

At this time, we've remitted an email to the landowner to schedule a time to meet with him about his fence placement versus our trail placement. We are hopeful that we will be able to connect in with him in the next week or so.

Treasurer Report:

Tim Moody reported that as of 2/25/2024, we had \$510.00 in the cash box and a balance of \$1,450.67 in the checking account and \$10,815.93 the savings account. Tim also provided an update of the apparel account which now has a balance \$976.01. He also shared that the food events account currently has a balance of \$2,089.52. The account pertaining to Events/Raffles has a balance of \$645.20.

- 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 until the first groomable snow.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties:

- **Saturday, March 16th at 9 am (Ready to work at 9)**
 - **East Side Work Party**
 - As this time the work party will be on our East Side unless we are able to get things finalized with the landowner near our West Side Park and Ride.
 - The Facebook event and website event will be updated with additional details. If the location does change an email will be communicated to members and the details will change so please check back as the event gets near.
- **Saturday, March 30th 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.

Charlie is still working on completing the repairs on the club's wheeler.

Municipal Grant

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Topsham Trailriders preparations for the 2024 Municipal Grant application are underway. At this time we have received our quote from Bursey Enterprises and completed a few other components that are required.

Charlie is reviewing landowner permissions and preparing the project description which summarizes our application. Mike Little and I are preparing the map that will be used as part of the application. We both have a deadline of March 14th so therefore at our next meeting we should be nearly done with our application.

Committee Reports:

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:

For the past few months, I have been in communications with a graphic designer and I am happy to share that I have a few TTR logos available this evening for you to look at. Why have I been 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 nor are we able to determine the font used. Given the energy surrounding our 25th anniversary I thought it might be a prime opportunity for us to refresh the TTR logo.

Ultimately, I would LOVE to have the logo printed on our promotional material that we are giving away/selling during the Sportsman Show but not without getting your feedback.

UPDATE: There were 7 logos introduced and Jenny gathered feedback on each of them and will connect with the designer to get updated renderings. If you would like to see the logos please contact Jenny at topshamtrailriders@gmail.com or feel free and attend our next meeting.

I have also initiated discussion with Coastal Locker room in Bath. They are 100% on board with forming a relationship with Topsham Trailriders. Similar to their other client's we would need to pay to have our logo digitized.

Maine Sportsman Show Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

Jenny Little provided the following update on behalf of the Sportsman Show Committee:

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

Material for the table:

- Rick Emmert is working on creating a slide show 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.
 - All items that are being printed with the exception of the business membership form should have 400 of each
 - Printing is being completed by Charlie and Jenny
- Miscellaneous signage:
 - Jenny will create as needed

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 earlier this month and I would like to thank the members who have signed up for an item. If you have not signed up yet no worries there are still items we are in need of. Please check out the link and if you don't have access to the link please let me know and I am happy to get you signed up for something.
- Prior to the meeting we still had the following items that we are still looking for:
 - UTV Rearview Mirror, UTV storage bag, Battery Booster Pack, Compass, Cargo Net, Siphon Hose, Fire Extinguisher, Car Wash, Whistle, and a gaiter.
- 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 8th where we will then draw the winner for the raffle.
 - Proceeds from the raffle will benefit trails maintained by Topsham Trailriders.
- In the past, the club has approved spending money to help create this raffle but this year we are still hopeful that with the help of our generous members we can create the raffle entirely by donations.

Volunteers

- After the January meeting 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 if there is a slot and you'd like to help please write your name in.
- If the slots are all taken, please do not let that discourage you from attending the Sportsman Show that weekend. We would love to see you!

UPDATE: A few folks signed up but we do still have 1 morning slot available for Saturday, April 20th.

Giveaway Item

- During the January meeting we voted to spend up to \$550 dollars on purchasing gaiters and keychains for the booth. The keychains would be given away to folks who visit our table while the gaiters were not decided as to what we would be doing with them.
 - It was suggested to give away a certain amount of the gaiters and sell the rest of the gaiters during the show and other TTR events.

Gaiter Update:

After the January meeting the committee was processing the order for the gaiters and thought the single logo designed looked extremely plain so they had the company increase the number of logos printed on the gaiter. Because of the increase in the number of logos it almost doubled the cost of the gaiters. A discussion was had as to whether to change the item or pay the additional money.

- A motion was made by Randy Bickford to spend the extra money needed to purchase the 100 gaiters with the multiple logos.
- Motion was accepted by Michael Little
- Motion was passed.

NOTE: The preference for the color of the gaiter is royal blue with red lettering.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

There is not 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.

Otherwise, I would like to share with the group that:

18 days remain till March 16th TTR's first trail work party

97 days remain till June 1st TTR/We-ATV 207's first out of town ride which is the Ken Snowden Memorial Ride – Pittsfield to Greenville

If you are interested in helping during any of these events, please do not be shy and reach out to me. We are always looking for folks to help.

And finally, I always love hearing any suggestions that you would like us to consider please contact me (Michael Little), Ride Coordinator, for Topsham Trailriders at 207-522-3780.

Update from the Membership Chair

Dan Parlin provided the following update about our current membership totals for TTR. As of January 26th, 2024, TTR has the following for club memberships:

Total Number of Memberships: 127

Business Sponsors: 10

Of the 127 Number of Memberships;

They can be broken down to:

108 Regular Members

71 ATV Maine Members

25 MSA Members

10 Honorary Members

8 Associate Members

Safety Course

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

The instructors have not been able to connect since Ron's conversation with the State.

Please take note that the State does offer online safety courses now. Please feel free and contact Topsham Trailriders for more information.

Old Business

25th Anniversary of TTR

Jenny Little provided the following update:

2024 officially underway and this year should be a year of celebration since it is the 25th Anniversary of TTR. I'd like to really focus a lot of energy into reenergizing our apparel options along with focusing some extra energy on our July 20th night ride. I have been reaching out to food trucks and unfortunately have not received many call backs. I am still seeking folks to help spread some TTR energy! I'd like to thank the Noah, Rick, Cici, Stephanie, Kyle, Tim Williams, Jess, and Charlie who are working with me on a piece or two pertaining to our anniversary celebrations! As always if anyone would like to help, please do not hesitate in reaching out to me.

UPDATE: To the members who offered to connect in or acquire names of a food truck – Thank you! We are eagerly awaiting the information.

New Business

ATV Show Shine & Swap 4 Vets

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Topsham Trailriders received a letter in the mail from Darcey Emery in October 2023. She is busy planning the first ever Show Shine & Swap 4 Vets. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th, 2024. It is being held in the Auburn Mall Parking Lot from 10 am to 4:30 pm. There are many different ways to get involved with this event from ATV clubs to participants. We've been invited to register as a vendor in an effort to drum up some club memberships. The cost for a booth is \$50.00 which includes a 10x10 outdoor booth and 1 event t-shirt. The club is responsible to bring their own booth materials. When we discussed this during our October 2023 meeting, the club opted to table this invite until February to allow us the ability check our calendar.

During the meeting we inquired if someone would be interested in representing Topsham Trailriders and I am happy to share that Sam Bulmer stepped up and offered to be there.

- Motion was made by Jenny Little to cover the registration cost of \$50 to allow Topsham Trailriders to register for this event.
- Motion was accepted by Tim Williams.
- Motion was passed with no opposition

Landowner Appreciation

Jenny Little provided the following update:

To show our appreciation to our landowners over the past few years Topsham Trailriders has often invited our landowners to join us for meal which have ranged from bean suppers, to BBQ's and a pig roast with all the fixings! Despite our best efforts not a lot of our landowners have been able to attend for one reason or another. During our November 2023 board meeting I passed around a letter that Oxford Trail Ryders and Bog Hooters ATV Club send out to their landowners. That letter invites the landowner to visit one of their business sponsors and present the letter to the business to receive a certain percentage off their meal. It was decided in November that we would explore establishing a similar letter but our letter would contain a gift card to one of our business sponsors such as Pats Pizza.

As we wrap up our snowmobile season and head into ATV season the time has arrived to draft this letter and approach our business sponsor. I am happy to help facilitate this project meaning create a letter and help to facilitate what we decide to do for our landowners.

During the meeting Charlie shared that we have 68 landowners of which 3 are out of state.

Our discussions kicked off with talking about what value would we want to do if we opted for gift cards, where would we purchase the cards from, and what assurances do we have they will use the cards. It was mentioned that perhaps we might consider sending our landowners a TTR promotional item rather than a card and quite a few members were on board with that idea.

- Motion was made by Tim Williams to purchase additional gaiters for our landowners and to pay for the shipping of them.
- Motion was accepted by Randy Bickford.
- Motion was passed with no opposition.

The Sportsman Show committee will purchase the additional gaiters when they place their order.

Social Night

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13th at 6 pm. It is being held at one of our business sponsors 104 Main Public House 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.

Open Member Comment

A motion was made by Richard Arsenault to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm. The motion was accepted by Noah Herrick.

Upcoming TTR Events

March 13th – TTR March Social Night – 104 Main Public House, Topsham – 6pm

March 16th- TTR Trail Work Party (Weather Permitting) – East Side Trail – 8:45am

March 20th – Regular Monthly Meeting- Topsham Public Library at 6:30pm at 25 Foreside Road.

Submitted

Jessica Emmert

03/09/2024

February minutes were approved with no edits requested during the March 26, 2024 meeting.

JLL