

# Topsham Trailriders January Meeting



Date: Monday, January 26th, 2026

Location: Virtual via GoogleMeet due to snow storm

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Ron Carey

Tim Moody

Ashleigh Rolfson

Board of Directors Present: Randy Bickford

John Bursley

Tim Williams

Mike Little

Stephanie Burnham

Marie Carey

Board of Directors Absent: Matt Nixon

David Sheain

Rick Emmert

Brad Hoskins

James Belanger

**Meeting Called to Order at: 6:31 pm**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 8:05pm**

Approximately 13 people attended the meeting.

## **Secretary's Report**

Ashleigh Rolfson emailed a copy of the December 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 Ron Carey 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:

### **West Side Reroute Update**

For the past few months, I've been keeping everyone updated on the trail leaving the West Side Park & Ride. We've been working diligently to find a solution, and earlier this season we submitted an application to CMP requesting additional access. Some of you may have already heard this during our recent Social Night, so I apologize for the repetition—but I'm thrilled to share some great news.

Our reroute from the West Side Park & Ride has been officially approved. CMP has granted us permission, and they are ready for us to begin immediate work on preparing the trail, including tree cutting and other necessary steps. My understanding is that some of our volunteers have already started initial work, but we'll wait for the Trail Master's report for the full details.

In an effort to save time this evening, I want to acknowledge that we've already started some of the preliminary groundwork tied to the municipal grant application process, as well as discussing the trail work that will be required for this reroute. If anyone is interested in helping with the planning, coordinating, or facilitating of this project, please reach out to me or to any of our Trail Masters—we would be happy to get you involved.

**And the good news doesn't stop there!**

### **Park and Ride Update**

Thanks to the efforts of our State Trail Coordinator, Brett LeBlanc, we were also able to secure an additional parking option. The lot located *across from Reform Physical Therapy*, owned by CMP, will soon be authorized for our use as a small 2–3 vehicle park-and-ride area. They are currently in the process of sending Brett the official authorization document, which means this is not yet an active park-and-ride option. The club will notify all members—and the general public—once this location is officially open for use.

That said, this new parking area will not be opened immediately. There are several steps we still need to work through to ensure everything is done properly. The first and most important hurdle—landowner permission—has been generously granted. From here, we will be working to make sure the Town is fully supportive and that all remaining requirements are addressed.

### **Reconnection of our East and West Side**

With the recent approval of our full reroute from the West Side Park & Ride—which would now allows us to enter from the 201 ramp—we are once again exploring the possibility of reconnecting our East and West side trail systems. We are in the very early stages, but the first step will be to formally approach the Town of Topsham to request permission to connect from the East Side Park & Ride (the dirt lot at the Mt Ararat entrance on the right-hand side) up to Route 1. Preliminary conversations with town officials over a year ago indicated they would consider this connection, but only on a one-year temporary basis, so timing and process are important. We have already spoken with our Landowner Coordinator and will be following the required town procedures. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work through this, and we

ask members **not** to take any actions that could jeopardize this opportunity. The best way to support this project right now is to assist our trail crew in getting the newly approved reroute established and ready for use.

### **Special Collections**

We had hoped to kick off our first special collection of the year in January—starting with a diaper collection to support local families in need. As many of you know, our club tries hard to continue helping our community even during the winter months.

However, given the weather we've experienced over the past few weeks and the impact it has had on meetings, gatherings, and general accessibility, we are postponing our diaper collection until February.

We still fully intend to move forward with this effort, and we appreciate everyone's patience as we adjust our plans to match the conditions. More details will be shared as we get closer.

### **Treasurer Report**

Tim provided a printed treasurer report which will be attached to the minutes when they are sent out which is an update since our December meeting.

Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the treasurers report as provided at the meeting

Motion accepted by Ron Carey

Was Passed with No Opposition

Tim Moody abstained from the vote

### **Trail Master**

Ron Carey provided the following update:

#### **East and West Side Update**

It's been a busy month on the TTR trail system. With actual snow accumulated on our trails, the snowmobiles have been out and so have the trail crews. Bridge sections were hauled out and dropped off on the Middlesex Rd at the trail crossing for the snow crew to bridge wet areas. This allowed our trail system to be groomed and opened after the last snowfall and the snowmobiles have been out. As of January 25th, the club has logged a total of 38.5 hours of volunteer work. This is dedicated, specifically, to bettering our trails. As an example 4 members of the club went out last Friday (1/23) to widen old trails, cut brush, remove deadfall's and fell trees. This helped to establish a snowmobile trail on our new rerouted section of west side trail. Each of these club members braved the cold and wind to open and pre-groom a new trail for snowmobiling our west side.

While the tree removals and brush clearing were permanent repairs to our trail system, the bridge work was NOT! The bridge sections that were hauled out to the trails are temporary. They are only in place for the remainder of the snowmobile season to accommodate this seasons riders. This spring/summer they will be removed and replaced with culverts and stone. This will allow us to easily and safely bridge the wet areas with a permanent solution.

We are finally grooming trails on our system and we have 13 hours of trail grooming logged.

This is in addition to our 38.5 hours of trail work. It's been a long time since we've had 13 total hours of grooming on our snowmobile trails and it's a welcome treat. While it certainly looks like we will log even more this evening, it will only help to build on what is already a nice base. With this new snowfall we are excited to once again get out on the system and support our snow crews with any help they need. The TTR snow crew has done a wonderful job of getting the club trails ready to ride. Keep up the good work!

### **Grooming Plans**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

During our last meeting, we discussed the repairs to our groomer. We are happy to report that since then, the machine has been picked up and the tracks have been installed. In fact, as soon as the tracks were on, grooming began on our West Side, and Jim was able to get out a few times before leaving town yesterday. With the snowfall we received since yesterday, continued grooming will be needed; however, please remember that Jim, DJ, and Brad are all volunteers, and we rely entirely on their generosity and availability. With Jim away, Mike Little has offered to take on some grooming runs over the next few nights this upcoming week. If anyone attending this meeting is already state-certified in groomer operation and would like to tag along with Mike Little, please don't hesitate to reach out to him or to me.

### **Upcoming Trail Work Parties:**

There are no work parties currently scheduled. If any are planned an email will be remitted to everyone.

### **On Going Trail Related Club Projects**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

#### **Club Inventory**

We are preparing to begin our formal inventory process toward early March. The TrailMasters will be working together to tag and label all club equipment and create a tracking sheet documenting what we have on hand. As new items are acquired, they will be added to the inventory immediately as a best practice. Any members who wish to assist with this project are welcome—please contact one of the TrailMasters.

#### **Landowner Project**

As properties change hands and businesses shift, it is important that we maintain current landowner information. We have already begun reconnecting with our landowners, and fortunately we have fewer than ten, with a couple of them being duplications that require our attention. A meeting has already taken place with Ron Carey, Matt Nixon, and myself to begin this process, and outreach will continue over the next several weeks. We have a deadline of completing this by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Mapping Update**

With the newly approved reroute, our club trail map will need to be updated. We already have a mapping solution available to move forward, but we are also exploring an additional platform—Trail Intel—which may offer tools for real-time trail updates, hazard alerts, and long-term map management. Trail Intel also includes optional membership features for clubs.

Regardless of the final platform decision, we have a workable mapping solution in place to support the club during this transition.

### **Reroute Planning**

A significant portion of our work this season will center around planning and establishing the newly approved reroute. This will be a major project, and more detailed planning and task assignments will follow as we move forward.

### **Committee Section:**

#### **Apparel Committee**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The Apparel Committee continues to receive helpful feedback from members, and I want to thank those who have reached out. Recently, I heard comments about the limited color options for the crew shirts, and I will be working on expanding those choices. The collaboration shirt between We ATV 207 and Topsham Trailriders is also currently available in only one color, and members have requested additional options—including long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, and a couple of different sweatshirt styles. This feedback is important as we work to keep our digital store fresh and appealing. I also want to acknowledge an earlier request regarding a performance-style shirt—I haven't forgotten, and that will be explored as well. And don't forget, our digital store is still active—the link is included below. I know I'll be refreshing my own closet, and I'll keep everyone posted as new items and updates are added.

Here is the link: <https://www.gotvinyl207.com/topsham-trailriders>.

### **Maine Sportsman Show Committee**

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

Date of the show: Friday, March 27th – 1 pm to 8 pm  
Saturday, March 28th – 9 am to 7 pm  
Sunday, March 29th – 9 am to 4 pm

On Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sportsman Show committee met to discuss this year's upcoming event. We covered items included setup, money needed, raffle, volunteer needs, and a giveaway item.

#### **Show Set-Up**

- Club paperwork needed for the table include ride schedules, membership forms, and information sheet.
- Slide Show
  - Jenny Little is going to work on creating another knock out slide show.

#### **Money**

Last year this event did not cost the club any money. The cost of the booth was generously covered by MOMS Topsham and we did not purchase a giveaway item. We are optimistic that again this year the club should not experience any expenses. However, in the event we would

need to spend any money on items for the show we would like to seek the club's permission this evening. We are seeking approval to spend up to \$500.00.

A motion was made by Tim Williams to allow the Sportsman Show committee to spend up to \$500.00.

Motion was accepted by Randy Bickford

Was passed with no opposition.

#### Giveaway Item

If you recall, last year we tried something a little different—rather than offering a giveaway item at the Sportsman Show, we provided a \$5 membership discount for anyone who completed both their paperwork and payment during the event. It was well-received, and we will be revisiting whether we want to offer a similar incentive again this year. It was well-received, and we will be revisiting whether we want to offer a similar incentive again this year.

A motion was made by Ron Carey to offer the discount of \$5.00 off the regular club membership fee during the Sportsman Show ONLY. The form and payment must be completed at the Sportsman Show.

Motion was accepted by Heather Benson

Was passed with no opposition.

#### Needs for the show from Members:

##### Raffle

- The committee will once again be seeking donations to help create a raffle. An email has already been sent out which included a signup sheet for the raffle.
  - After any expenses are recouped the proceeds from the raffle will be donated to our trail maintenance.
- In the past, the club has approved spending money to help create this raffle but this year we are hopeful that we can create the raffle entirely by donations. Should anything change we will reach out to the board.

##### Volunteers

- If you are interested in volunteering at any point during the Sportsman Show—Friday, Saturday, or Sunday—and did not have a chance to mention it this evening, please reach out to me (Jenny) by email or message. We will be officially circulating a sign-up sheet in February, and it will be mission-critical that we fill every slot; it's a great opportunity to kick off the ATV season and represent TTR proudly.

#### Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

There is not much to report to members at this time other than if you have not received a copy of the TTR/We-ATV 207 ride schedule for 2026 it will be included with this month's minutes when they are sent out.

Otherwise, mark your calendars:

54 days remain till March 21<sup>st</sup> TTR's first possible trail work party

131 days remain till June 6<sup>th</sup> TTR/We-ATV 207's first out of town ride which is the Ken Snowdon 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**

Rick Emmert could not attend the meeting so therefore he remitted his report to Jenny Little so that an update could be provided.

We're holding steady at the same number we've been reporting for the past couple of months. However, with the launch of the ride schedule and the combined momentum with We ATV 207, I'm optimistic that this number will start to increase.

<b>TTR Active Member Counts</b>		
<i>Membership Type</i>	Total Memberships	Total Members
Associate	11	19
Honorary	15	26
Not Active	1	0
Regular	72	165
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>210</b>

Topsham Trailriders is still actively and urgently seeking a Membership Chair. Ideally, we would love to have someone in place within the next couple of months. This role is a major part of the club's operations. While Rick has agreed to assist remotely from North Carolina, it would be ideal to have someone local who can take the lead. I'm willing to learn the process as well so we can share the workload. The position requires someone organized, efficient, and timely, who can follow our current system using Google Drive.

As a reminder, the board has discussed this need extensively and agrees that filling this position is a top priority for the club's continued success. Most of the membership process will be handled electronically, and physical packets will only be mailed to members who pay for ATV Maine or MSA. Everything else will remain digital.

## **Ride for a Cure**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The Ride for a Cure committee met recently, and the group agreed that we are beginning this year's planning cycle from a much stronger starting point than in past years. Many major logistical pieces are already in place, including the event location, date, and time. We are also fortunate to once again have support from our partner clubs: China Four Seasons will assist with food and day-of festivities, and Central Maine ATV will coordinate parking. Having these key components secured early takes a significant amount of pressure off the committee as we move forward.

The most significant update from the meeting is that the committee, with approval from the Ride for a Cure board, confirmed that this year's fundraising efforts will collectively support the Dean Snell Cancer Foundation. This Topsham-area organization works closely with the New England Cancer Center in Topsham and has provided an impressive \$1.5 million in assistance over the past 16 years. Their support includes gas and food cards, fuel assistance, copay help, and other essential aid that allows patients to continue their treatment without interruption. Both the committee and the board are fully supportive of this partnership, and our event documentation will be updated accordingly.

Additionally, the Dean Snell Cancer Foundation hosts several events throughout the year. One of their signature events is scheduled for May 1st—a lively celebration often referred to as their Mexican Festival. The event includes a live band, a silent and live auction, and a fun, community-focused atmosphere. It will be held at the Brunswick Golf Course, and I plan to attend or stop in to learn more about their work and show our support.

This year's Ride for a Cure will take place on October 17th, with the ride once again departing from the pulling ring on the east side. The committee is feeling optimistic, energized, and enthusiastic about the direction of this year's event as planning continues.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17th at 7 pm. All are welcome to join in.

Is there anything else the committee would like to mention this evening?

## **Clubhouse Committee**

Marie Carey provided the following update:

At our last Clubhouse Committee meeting on Jan 4th, we discussed and determined that we should put the clubhouse committee on a pause for now.

With the current goals of the Topsham Trailriders club, it would stretch everyone just a little too thin. And until some of the goals are met, we are not in the position to begin the process to obtain grants, purchase and/or building a clubhouse at this time.

These are the 2026 Goals:

West side re-route  
East & West side Connection  
501c3 completion and submission  
Assets inventory  
Sportsman's Show in March  
Addiction Recovery Ride in June  
Ride for a Cure in October

We plan on touching base again towards the end of June / early July for an update / check-in to see where everything stands. The Clubhouse Committee would then reconvene in January of 2027 with a fresh perspective as we should be in a better position in 2027 with some of these goals checked off the list.

### **Addiction Recovery Benefit Ride**

Marie Carey provided the following update:

The Addiction Recovery Ride will be on June 20th, 2026. We are looking at a start time of around 9:30am.

On Thursday, Jan 22nd, Jenny, Ron , and I (Marie) had a logistics meeting with Tania from Oxford Trail Ryders.

Lou from Mechanic Falls was unable to attend, but he did correspond through email before the meeting.

It was mentioned that the ride should began in Mechanic Falls where registration would take place and then ride to Oxford where food and vendors could be set up, as Mechanic Falls is unable to have food & vendors without town permits. We are currently looking for food trucks. A "wanted" Ad has been posted on Maine Food Trucks group on Facebook. If Food Trucks are not available, we will need to look at other options for food. We also need to find out from Lou if we will be allowed to do a Silent Auction at the Mechanic Falls Park & Ride. If not, that will also take place in Oxford.

Colleen Bursley has started on designing the tee-shirts. She is doing an amazing job on the design. So far, we have looked at the Operation Hope symbol on one sleeve, a Rising Phoenix on the other sleeve, a Tree of Life with the Recovery Colors on the Front of the shirt, a quote: "The Path to Recovery begins with me" on the back of the shirt with the Club names that are involved listed. So far, we have picked out 2 shirt colors: purple and gray.

Sponsorship packets for each club have been completed.

Tracking sheets have been completed and emailed to the clubs that are involved.

So far, the clubs that are assisting us with this benefit ride are:

Topsham Trailriders  
Oxford Trail Ryders  
Bog Hooters  
Skowhegan Stump Jumpers  
China Four Seasons  
Central Maine ATV  
Over The Hill ATV Riders  
Also, Brandy from Ride for Cure has offered her assistance.

Our next collaboration meeting with all involved is Thursday, Feb 19th. 2026 and We hope to be able to work out more details.

If anyone would like to help with this event, please let me know. All are welcome to join us.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Ski Joring**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The Topsham Ski Joring event is officially scheduled for **Saturday, February 7th**. Preparations will depend on snow conditions, with track work tentatively planned for either **January 24th or January 31st**. This event relies heavily on natural snow, so major action may not occur until the week prior. Last year, we assisted with clearing the parking lot and moving snow during the week, and it was truly an all-hands-on-deck effort. As of now, we're looking for volunteers who are ready to actively help—not just advise—by participating in tasks like packing down the track, shoveling, and raking. The club machine and drag will be available, and on event day, our primary responsibilities will include packing down the track and hauling skiers back between sessions. We'll need at least a 5-6 machines and drivers to make this happen.

#### **January 31<sup>st</sup> – Major Skijoring Track Prep Work Party**

There is a sign-up sheet circulating. We are still looking for folks who would be willing to help prep the track for the SkiJoring event. Skijoring preparations will officially begin this Saturday, January 31. This year, Topsham Trailriders will have extra help from NextGen Landscapes, who will be bringing in a snowcat groomer to handle much of the heavy work we usually do by hand. Even though the snowcat can't arrive until February 3, we can still start packing down parts of the track and clearing the gate entrances on Saturday. We plan to meet at 9:00 AM at the grandstand or possibly the infield, with the exact location still to be confirmed. After the snowcat arrives on February 3rd, NextGen is planning to take care of a large part of the track prep, and it's my understanding that Kody and his team will be working throughout the day. If you're able to support them at any point once they begin, please let me know so I can pass your name along.

UPDATE: During the meeting Vice President Ron Carey mentioned that we may want to post a notice **asking any snowmobile members who are interested in helping** to pack down the track. Members with snowmobiles or tracked machines would be especially helpful for this effort.

### **February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> – Touch Up 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 5 pm.

### **February 7<sup>th</sup> – Skijoring Event**

We are looking for an additional couple folks who would be willing to help during the event itself. There was a sheet circulated during the December meeting. If you are interested in helping please let me know.

At this time, all volunteers who will be helping during this event should plan on arriving between 8-8:15 on February 7<sup>th</sup> unless you will be assisting with prepping the track than you should arrive closer to 8 am. 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 2:00 – 2:30 pm

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

### **February 1<sup>st</sup> Bon Fire Event**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

You may have already heard, or you may have seen it on Facebook, but this is the official reminder that our bonfire ride scheduled for this Sunday has been cancelled. We do not have a rescheduled date at this time. If you're still hoping to get your machine out this month, Central Maine ATV Club will be hosting their own bonfire ride later in February, currently planned for the 21st. Let's hope winter turns around soon!

### **China Four Seasons Needs our Help**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Both Central Maine ATV and China Four Seasons truly embodied the mantra "clubs helping clubs" during our Ride for a Cure event—Central Maine assisted with parking, and China Four Seasons handled the food. Again this evening, I want to focus on China Four Seasons because they need our help in February.

China Four Seasons, like us, is a four-season club, and they host a huge annual event during Presidents Day weekend: their Ice Fishing Derby, which has grown year after year. This February, they're adding snowmobile drags on Saturday, February 14th, and they need volunteers for tasks such as kitchen help, registration, and time trials—likely early morning to early afternoon. Then on Sunday, February 15th, they'll need help all day for the Derby itself, which includes selling tickets, running 50/50 raffles, serving food, and assisting with various activities across multiple locations.

I still have slots available for both days and would like to fill them up so either enter your name in the chat during the meeting or reach out to me. Let's show them the same support and love they showed us in October!

### **New Business:**

#### **Social Night**

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th at 6 pm. We will be dining at Brickyard Hollow restaurant located at 149 Maine St in Brunswick. 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**

During the open member comment portion of the meeting, Charlie Parkinson asked whether Trail 2B would be opened. Members were reminded that the landowner has requested an in-person meeting before any action can be taken, and Jenny noted that she will speak with the Winter Trail Master regarding next steps. Charlie also raised several equipment-related questions, including whether the winch cable on the club machine needs replacement and whether the club could acquire a 5-inch drop hitch and a 2-inch ball to assist with grooming operations. As previously discussed, the winch will be upgraded with synthetic rope, and Mike Little has been tasked with researching suitable options and moving forward with ordering the replacement. Regarding the hitch and ball setup, Ron Carey will research options and forward the information to Jenny.

Tim Doyle was also in attendance and reported that he has been out on Trail #5 and that conditions are looking good. He has already met with a couple of landowners along that route to ensure they are informed about his grooming activities and understand the approach he will be taking throughout the season.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm was made by Michael Little

Motion was accepted by Ron Carey

Was passed with no opposition

### **Upcoming TTR Events 🕶️**

February 1 st – Bon Fire Ride – West Side – **CANCELLED**

February 4 th – **SkiJoring Prep Track (?)** – 5 pm – Topsham Fairgrounds

February 5 th – **SkiJoring Prep Track (?)** – 5 pm – Topsham Fairgrounds

February 6 th – **SkiJoring Prep Track (?)** – 5 pm – Topsham Fairgrounds

February 7 th – **SkiJoring Event**– 7:30 am – Topsham Fairgrounds

February 11 th – **TTR Social Night** – 6 pm Brickyard Hollow – 149 Maine St Brunswick ME

February 14 th – **Assisting China Four Seasons (Snowmobile Drags)** – TIME TBD – China’s Clubhouse

February 15 th – **Assisting China Four Seasons (Ice Fishing Derby)** – TIME TBD – China’s Clubhouse

February 23 rd at 6:30 pm— **Monthly Club Meeting** – Don Russell Board Room in the Municipal Building— 100 Main St. — Topsham ❄️ **Winter Location** ❄️

Submitted,  
Ashleigh Rolfson  
2.1.2026

During our February 23rd meeting a edit was requested to add Board of Director, Marie Carey as being present during the January meeting.

With the requested amendment the January meeting minutes were approved during the February 23rd meeting. JLL 02.23.2026