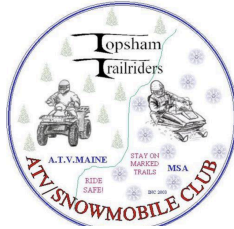


Topsham Trailriders January Meeting



Date: Monday, January 27th, 2025

Location: Don Russell Board Room - Town of Topsham Municipal Office Building - 100 Main St.

Executive Board Present: Jenny Little

Tim Williams

Tim Moody

Jessica Emmert

Board of Directors Present: Michael Little

John Bursley

Sam Bulmer

Rick Emmert

Stephanie Burnham

Cindy Sheain

Board of Directors Absent: Matt Nixon

James Belanger

Isaac Ruehl

Brad Hoskins

Anika Emmert

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:31 pm

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:49 pm

Approximately 19 people attended the meeting and signed the attendance sheet.

Secretary's Report

Jessica Emmert emailed a copy of the November minutes to all club members. No one in attendance requested any edits to be made to the minutes that were sent out.

Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the Secretary's report

Motion Accepted by Kyle McComiskey

Was passed with no opposition

President's Remarks

During the meeting Jenny Little provided updates on the following:

Winter Meeting Location

I have been able to confirm the remainder of our Winter meetings are scheduled to occur in the Don Russell Meeting room located in the Municipal Building for the Town of Topsham (100 Maine Street Topsham ME). I've been advised that the doors will be unlocked at 5:45 pm.

Also, it was determined this weekend that when we return to the Exhibition Hall in April, we might be coordinating a friendly chili and chowder contest. Mark your calendars, April 28th.

ATV Maine

In the event you have not heard, ATV Maine held their annual elections during their December 14th meeting that was held at the East Branch Sno Rivers & ATV Club. The results of the election were as follows:

Executive Board of Directors:

President – Dick Howlett, Star City ATV Club in Presque Isle
Vice President – Lewis Conrad, Island Falls Free-Wheelers ATV Club in Island Falls
Secretary – Jeff Barnard Jr, Caribou Viking Riders ATV Club in Caribou
Treasurer – Karyn Varney, Kingfield Quad Runners in Kingfield
Northern Region VP – Dick Howlett
Central Region VP – VACANT
Eastern Region VP – Daryl Friedman, Airline ATV Riders in Eddington
Western Region VP – Karyn Varney
Southern Region VP – VACANT

Appointments:

Northern District Rep – Real Deschaine, Madawaska Valley ATVenture Club in Madawaska
Northern District Rep – Lewis Conrad
Safety Officer – Real Deschaine
Internal Reconciler – Kendra Deschaine, Madawaska Valley ATVenture Club in Madawaska
Business Service Manager – Jeff Barnard Jr
Web/Facebook Administrator – Jeff Barnard Jr

Congratulations to those elected! We look forward to working with you.

In another news ATV Maine officially announced on December 30th that the Executive Board of Directors, appointed John Raymond from the Northern Timber Cruisers to the new Public Relations Liaison. His job description will be voted on during the banquet/meeting being held in April.

During that same meeting, John Raymond was appointed interim Central Region VP with an open vote being held at the April Banquet.

Annual ATV Maine Banquet

The 2025 ATV Maine banquet has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12th 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 which is a total of \$25.00. They are working on creating the form so I will need to send one along after our meeting if anyone is interested. Please contact me if you are interested in going to the banquet.

Maine ATV Coalition

I recently attended the Maine ATV Coalition meeting held via zoom on Sunday, January 12th. One item that they brought up that we need to address this event is our annual membership need to be renewed. Similar to last year Maine ATV Coalition is NOT charging clubs to join them. Do we wish to renew our membership with Maine ATV Coalition?

Motion was made by Tim Williams to renew Topsham Trailriders Maine ATV Coalition membership

Motion Accepted by Stephanie Burnham

Was passed with no opposition

Merrymeeting Trail Update

The Merrymeeting Trail would be a 25-mile regional trail that runs along the unused rail corridor from Topsham to Richmond. Beginning in October of last year the Merrymeeting Trail committee held public sessions seeking the public's input for the creation of the trail. Unfortunately, throughout this entire process it became abundantly clear that the group clearly already has an agenda/plan in mind and are moving forward with it.

My suspicions were confirmed when I received an email from the group earlier this month that I've seen pertains to the bill they have created and will soon be presented to our legislatures. The bill's language clearly reads, "Whereas, 11 of the 14 members of the Lower Rail Use Advisory Council voted to recommend the interim conversion of 33.5 miles of existing railroad track to a stone dust or paved bicycle and pedestrian trail. There will be an opportunity for the public to speak. I will notify the club once we specific details as to when that will occur.

Is TTR done advocating for a TRUE multi-use trail? The answer is ABSOLUTELY NOT! There is a handful of us that will be getting together soon to create TTR's multi use promo video!!

In the meantime, I would 1000% recommend that each TTR member prepare their testimonials for the upcoming sessions!

West Side Park and Ride

At the end, of last year I reached out to our landowner, Topsham Self-Storage to inquire how the club could go about renting a storage unit for club material. During our discussions they

informed me that they would soon be selling their business in early 2025. I can say that the sale has occurred and we are in the process of connecting with the new landowner to introduce ourselves to them. I am optimistic that the discussion should go fairly well given the work we completed to the access trail leaving our West side park and ride along with the kind words we received from the previous landowner, and the possibility we might be renting a unit from them too!

A meeting was set with the landowner this coming Thursday early afternoon!

Vacated Board Position

Topsham Trailriders is a special group made up of some amazing folks who are dedicated to helping us move forward. In addition to being TTR volunteers each of us are employees, family members, and committed to other causes and at times those other factors can pile up causing each of us to evaluate things. In early January, the Board and I received word from Jessica Emmert that she will be stepping away from her role as TTR's secretary. The board and I can't thank her enough for her support and dedication that she has given this organization. Jessica has promised to continue on in her role as the clubhouse chair which is exciting to hear!

Given the resignation of Jessica Emmert we will be holding a special election to fill that position this evening. I would like to open the floor up for nominations.

UPDATE: During the meeting, we received one nomination for the Secretary so the President filed one ballot on the behalf of the club. All members who were present voted Ashleigh Rolfson as Topsham Trailriders new Secretary! Welcome to the team Ashleigh!

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 November 2024 meeting.

Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the treasurer's report provided at the meeting

Motion accepted by Kyle McComiskey

Was Passed with No Opposition

Tim Moody abstained from the vote

Trail Master Update

Tim Williams provided the following update:

East Side

Trails on the east side are closed.

West Side

Trails on the west side are closed. We did host a work party in early December to address the burm that was mentioned during the previous meeting. Fast forward to our work party we held

on January 19th. We wanted to ride the trails to make sure they were clear for the Bon Fire ride and the trails are weathering well.

Club Inventory

Since our last meeting the club was able to acquire and sell our 1995 Polaris snowmobile, 2000 clam shell trailer, and drag. The entire package brought in \$1,600.00 for the club.

Upcoming Trail Work Parties

There is nothing scheduled at this time.

Groomer Certification

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Since our last meeting a few club members have taken the state groomer certification. Congrats to Michael Little, Stephanie Burnham, and myself. If anyone is interested in taking the test therefore enabling the opportunity to operate our grooming equipment safely and efficiently.

Club Machine Repair

I am happy to share that the repairs to the club machine have been completed. Our MOMS invoice was \$790.13 and the 2 knuckle assemblies invoice ordered from Partzilla was \$548.82. Grand total was \$1,338.95.

- The board was contacted to approve the additional money for the repairs via text on December 13th.

Committee Updates

BBQ Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

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

Apparel Committee

Jenny Little provided the following update:

There is not much to report from the apparel committee currently.

Maine Sportsman Show Committee

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

Jenny provided the following update on behalf of the committee:

Date of the show: Friday, March 28th – 1 pm to 8 pm

Saturday, March 29th – 9 am to 7 pm

Sunday, March 30th – 9 am to 4 pm

On Monday, January 6th, 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
 - Rick Emmert is going to work on creating another knock out slide show.
- TTR is working hard in the off season to streamline some of our processes and one of the items is the membership process. I am optimistic that we will be ready to launch our digital membership form during the show. Very exciting!

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 incur 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 Kyle McComiskey

Was passed with no opposition.

Giveaway Item

Every year the committee explores options as to what should the club give away during the show. If you recall last year during the show, to each membership we received during the show we generously gave them one of our blue shirts while supplies last. This seemed to have been well received!

This year the committee is proposing rather than giving away an item to each membership we receive at the show, we are seeking to offer a membership discount of \$5.00. For example, if an individual either new or renewing would pay \$30.00 rather than \$35.00 for their annual dues.

The general consensus of the group was that offering a discount to our regular membership is well worth it! For the 12+ memberships we often receive during the sportsman show weekend we would only be missing out on maybe \$60.00.

Motion was made by Tim Williams to approve the Sportsman Show committee request to offer a \$5.00 discount to all memberships we receive during the show.

Motion accepted by Kyle McComiskey

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. Here is the link for the raffle:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BA4A822A0F4C34-54360068-seeking>
 - After any expenses are recouped the proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Ride for a Cure event we are hosting in October.
- 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

- There is a sign-up sheet being circulated seeking volunteers to help man the booth during the weekend. If you were not able to attend the meeting and would like to help, please reach out to me.

Ride Coordinator Update

Mike Little provided the following update:

Normally there isn't much to share this time of the year so I'd like to chat about our Bon Fire event that we did this past weekend. We couldn't have had a better day. It started out extremely cold but warmed up quickly. We had over 25 machines with close to 50 people come and join us. It was good to see club members as well as new faces! These are folks I've chatted with online who showed and rode with. Wicked cool!

Thank you to John and Colleen for adding in the hot dog meal during this event. It really topped the ride off. Because of the food we were able to raise \$215.00 towards Ride for a Cure event.

From the 50/50 and registrations collected the club was able to raise close to \$390.00. Not bad for a negative degree day!

And finally, if you do not yet have a copy of our 2025 ride scheduled, please see me after the meeting.

On a side note, We-ATV 207 is thinking of heading to China to participate in their upcoming fishing derby. It is scheduled for Sunday, February 16th during free fishing weekend. If you would like to get more information, please let me know. Otherwise, please check the We-ATV 207 Facebook page for more information. Of course, this event is completely dependent on both ice and perhaps the weather.

UPDATE- If anyone would like to volunteer during this event, please complete the following registration form: <https://forms.gle/S8AWYo19kfFzC3VE6>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting me (Michael Little), Ride Coordinator, for Topsham Trailriders at 207-522-3780.

Update from the Membership Chair

Rick Emmert provided the following update about our current membership totals for TTR:

TTR is holding steady with 118 memberships!

Ride for a Cure

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

The committee met earlier this month and covered a lot of ground but there is only a couple of items we would like to share during our meeting this evening.

We are working hard on trying to nail down some of the logistical information such as our departure location. It is our hope to host the event on the Topsham Fairgrounds and depart from there to make our way to the West side of our trail system.

We've reached out to the Town of Topsham to discuss this possibility and as of yesterday evening I was advised that he has been pre-occupied but our Landowner Relations chair will follow up with him this week. In the meantime, we've tentatively reserved the Pulling Ring on the Topsham Fairgrounds.

Once we have the location planned, we work on solidifying our plans and share a little more with you.

Motion was made by Tim Moody for TTR to send \$100 to Ride for a Cure's trailer donation request.

Motion accepted by Tim Williams

Was Passed with No Opposition

Clubhouse Committee

Jessica Emmert provided the following update:

Earlier in January we held another meeting for the clubhouse and continue to make strides forward. In follow up to our meeting with Jon Doody we discussed and created language enhancing the responsibilities to both the President and Treasurer. We will continue to work toward creating a proposed timeline would be for this project along with our business plan.

Our Clynk donations continue to raise money for the clubhouse has been wildly popular and we have been able to raise a good amount of money so far just from club member donations. I am excited to see that these donations have added to our Clubhouse account which I am happy to see is already a little over \$2,000 and was only officially created at the end of September 2024.

A reminder that we have plenty of Clnyk bags available. These bags already have stickers placed on them but please only take them if you will actively fill them and return them back to your nearest Clnyk location. Or, if you have a balance within your personal and would like donate a portion of the money collected to the Topsham Trailriders, please contact us to acquire our account number.

Old Business:

American Legion Post 202 February Softball Tournament

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Topsham Trailriders has been invited to set a table up during this event. We should aim to have a table manned from 9 am – 12 pm on Saturday, February 15th. Is someone interested in setting this table up for the club? If so, please let me know.

UPDATE: We are still looking for someone to man the table during this event. Please contact Jenny if you would like to.

Club By-law Revisions

Jenny Little provided the following update:

During our November meeting we kicked off a detailed review to the club by-laws. It is important to note that after our meeting in November, edits to the by-laws were submitted to me. In an effort to keep all club members on the same page, I submitted via email an updated version titled DRAFT TTR Bylaws 2024 Version B. Since that version was sent to you there have been additional discussions leading to additional edits. This evening in your packet you have been provided with DRAFT TTR Bylaws 2024 Version C. The changes that we made in this version are located in both the President's and Treasurers responsibilities which are highlighted in yellow.

Prior to our meeting this evening, the board met to discuss components related to memberships. The board's recommendation is to add some additional clarity pertaining to board memberships which means you will be receiving a Version D of by-laws edits.

Other enhancements that were discussed was removing the timeframe that the former Trailmaster is excepted, to mentor the new Trailmaster. It was also suggested to the new language that speaks to the enhanced fiduciary responsibilities that were added to both the President and Treasurer to add that these two positions cannot live in the same household. Having this added language will help to prevent any conflicts of interest. And finally, language that speaks to the responsibility of determining trail opening and closing dates will be added to both the President and Trailmaster description of duties.

Please ensure when you do review the proposed by-laws you are reading the latest version which again is Version D. If any punctuation needs to be corrected or words are misspelled

please let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise, during our next meeting in February we will discuss them briefly before we conduct our official vote during our March meeting.

Topsham Fair Skijoring

Jenny Little provided the following update:

Given the lack of the snow the Skijoring event was moved from January 25th to Saturday, February 8th. We are forecasted to receive a little snow here and there so hopefully it will be enough to allow them the opportunity to host their event.

Preparing the track for Skijoring

We scheduled to help prep them prepare the track on Wednesday, February 5th, Thursday, February 6th, and Friday, February 7th. I am sure that a couple of more hands to help during these evenings would be greatly appreciated. Folks should plan on meeting near or around the Exhibition Hall located on the Topsham Fairgrounds at 5 pm.

February 8th – Skijoring Event

With the date adjustment I sent out an email seeking volunteers. We are still looking for an additional of 2-3 more volunteers with machines to help during this event. Please let me know if you are able to help.

At this time, all volunteers who will be helping during this event should plan on arriving between 9:00-9:15 on February 8th. You will be parking in the infield closer to the finish line. Please do not be alarmed if you are asked to sign a waiver at the gate. A word of caution to those folks who are bringing their machine please exercise caution when approaching the finish line area as there will be horses around. And finally, the event does not begin until 10 am and should be done around 1:00-1:30 pm

If you are interested in helping during this event, please let Jenny know.

New Business:

Social Night

Jenny Little provided the following update:

The next social night for the club would have been scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th at 6 pm. There was a scheduling conflict with the restaurant so we've opted to move the social night to Thursday, February 13th at Sea Dogs in Topsham at 6 pm. 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

Rick Emmert suggested that when we host in-town rides, during the drivers meeting we discuss how we would like to see our participants navigate the road crossings to ensure they are handled in a safe manner.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at _7:41__pm was made by Tim Williams
Motion was accepted by Heather Benson
Was passed with no opposition

Upcoming Topsham Trailriders & We-ATV 207 events

February 5th – Prep for SkiJoring Event – Topsham Fair – 5 pm

February 6th – Prep for SkiJoring Event – Topsham Fair – 5 pm

February 7th – Prep for SkiJoring Event – Topsham Fair – 5 pm

February 8th – SkiJoring Event – Topsham Fair – 8:45 am

February 13th — TTR Monthly Social Night – 6 pm Sea Dog Brewing Company – 1 Bowdoin Mill Island - Topsham

February 15th – American Legion Post 202 Softball Tournament – Post 202 American Legion 79 Foreside Road - Topsham – Time: 9 am to 12 pm

February 16th – Volunteering at the 6th Annual China Lake Fishing Derby

February 24th at 6:30 pm— Monthly Club Meeting – Don Russell Board Room in the Municipal Building— 100 Main St. — Topsham

Submitted
Jenny Little
02/02/2025

January 2025 minutes were approved with no edits on February 24, 2025. JLL