

West Rutland ATV Sportsmans Club Update for October 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7pm on Oct. 8, 2008. with 14 members present.

Secretary Report read and accepted

Treasurer Report read and accepted

Fund Raising Committee: We still have candy bars being sold at functions and meetings.

Events: Oct. 12th Group Ride on Townsend Trails

Ride took place on that Sunday and it was a wonderful sunny day. Five members took part as well as our injured presidents hung-out at the trail head. All enjoyed the trip and could not believe the up-scale picnic area they had at the top of the mountain. Fully equipped with wood, state park like grills, grilling tools, water jug to put out your fires, picnic tables, and more. The trails were all really nice riding. In the afternoon a couple of their members came and rode us around the couple of trails that we didn't ride in the morning. That is where the interesting riding came in. The trails being very wet and aggressive compared to what we had ridden earlier in the day. We had to get out the winch a few times to help Tom out with his two wheel drive. We ribbed him a bit about those two wheel drives. But all in good fun, and Tom seemed to have a pretty good time regardless as we all did. It was a great day. We thanked our afternoon guides and headed back to the trucks around 4pm.

Other events: Oct. 26th - this Sunday - End of the Season Potluck/Ride on Riverside Farm. It should be good. The trails have been checked and marked well. The warming shed is cleaned out and set up and the heater is full of gas. The electricity is ready for making coffee and keeping the crockpots hot. The threat of a shower shouldn't keep us home because we can take cover in the warm shed and canopies if one occurs. Bring warm clothes and wear your boots to keep your feet dry and warm and it should be a fun ending to our club trail riding season. Riding will begin around 10 am Potluck Lunch around Noon. Then riding afterward. If you can't make it for the morning ride come for lunch and ride in the afternoon. We hope to see you there!

Events for late Fall: Anyone interested in riding late season let us know. There are trails that open up after hunting season is over for late riding if there is no snow. Let us know if your interested in riding and where. We know of a few club trails that open back up. Do you know of others? Our own club trails are closed except for Riverside Farm which will be closed Sat. Nov. 1st. You can still ride that day. But after that all of our own trails will be closed for the season.

Public Relations: Meeting was put into the Rutland Herald to remind members of the meeting.

Wearing Apparel: An example of our new shirts was on display for all to see. They look really good. Stand out against the shirt without being shocking. Just look really great. Also a couple of examples of embroidered coats were shown. Sherry got a 3 season jacket in Royal Blue with the logo in black and red on front and Dk. Grey and red on back. All agreed that black and red stood out more and also could be done in white and red or Lt. Silver Grey and Red. Ray ordered a Carhart like barn coat made

by Dickies and the black and red stood out and looked really nice on that. All really liked the look and that the coat was well made. Orders for Coats, sweatshirts, and long sleeve shirts and new t-shirts can be taken anytime and most will be ready in a few days to a week. Just let Sherry know at Sherry12887@yahoo.com . She has a full list of prices and can order anytime.

BOD State Meeting: There is an online ATV safety course on the state police website. There is no hands on part to this course .

On the VASA website the clubs need to update their pages so the links and such are up to date. Bernie was going to look into ours and see what needed to be done.

VASA Photo Contest is still running. Get in your great ATV pictures.

VORA a club for ATV's, dirt bikes, jeeps, and off road trucks and VASA are trying to work together. In the past VASA was fighting this group but has since decided to try to work together and some of the VASA board members are trying to get onto their board to give us a say in what happens in the state. Election meeting on Oct. 25th. Anyone wanting to join to help out our cause is encouraged to and the cost is \$10 for a membership. This gives you voting rights. Will help with Federal and State land coming up for available use.

Maps are due on Oct. 13th for the New 2009 VASA Map. (Note on this. Ray has been emailing and calling Danny Hale for 2 months to get the maps we need to get our other trails on the VASA Map. However, as of today we are still yet to see them and have no idea if we will be able to get our other trails onto the map this year or not. We have GPS of all of our trails to get them done just waiting for VASA to get us the maps to do so.)

VASA Holiday Newsletter - deadline is Nov. 10th

ASI Safety Course - every new ATV purchased in VT qualifies to take it. Check VASA sight for date and times available.

New Club - Radar Ridge Runners in East Haven, VT off of Rt. 114 Lyndonville area.

Trail Updates:

Woodlawn - closed 10/1/08

Dutch Hill - closed 10/1/08

Danby Quarry - closed 10/1/08

Riverside Farm - open until 11/1/08

Old Business:

Tom's Canopy top - waiting on measurement of pitch length to order.

Trail Maps for VASA - mentioned above

Binders - Finished for all officers except for a copy of the insurance and Sherry called IRS about our non-profit status. To find out if we are still a non-profit and if the current EIN Number she found was still in use. It was and they are sending a verification to us.

New Business:

Closure dates for trails need to be emailed to VASA.

Danny Hale is for a universal closure date however most every club is against that because of available late season riding in some areas.

Taxes - we think we have to fill out a 990 form for non-profit but not sure. We have to find out what class of non-profit we are and see what is our course of action to file if we have to. Sherry will ask her accountant to see what needs to be done since he used to work for the IRS.

Concerns from the members:

It was brought up that we need to find unofficial trails that people ride on a regular basis that the

landowners seem not to care that people are riding. To see if we can make these trails part of our system. Bill mentioned several and will write down what he knows about those trails and bring them to a future meeting so the club can act on obtaining them for the trail system for all to ride. Anyone knowing of trails that are being ridden that the landowners seem not to be upset about the fact people ride them should bring this information to the club and if possible the landowners names of where the trail crosses if you have that information. Our officers then could follow-up on these and see if we can obtain more legal riding for the club and VASA.

The Velco Power line will be a big step if it is opened to us to ride. Also the N.E. Kingdom area has gained permission to ride Conti Preserve on Champlain Lumber Co. Land. Middlebury area club has a old road going through Dead Creek Wildlife Area. And the Bennington club is working on a road through the Green Mt. National Forest. These are large steps for VASA since state land before was totally off limits to us.

Lastly - Bill mentioned the riding doesn't have to make a deep footprint on land. If you ride with respect of the land in mind you can treat lightly on the land. Make adjustments to bad spots using logs or round-a-bouts. Keeping a lighter hand on the throttle. A few riders make it bad for the rest of us by ripping up everything they touch. This is why we have to work so hard to get land to ride legally. If people would remember they are riding someone else's property and respect it, the work to get legal riding would be alot easier.

50/50 drawing was pulled by Dee Dee Corey and won by Sherry Smith
Meeting Adjourn at 8:35pm