

FALL 2019

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GOVERNOR SCOTT VISITS VASA TRAILS

VASA was extremely honored to have Governor Phil Scott and his team join us on the trails in Bennington County on September 24, 2019. The Governor was viewing and got to experience first hand on or our trail projects that we are especially proud of: the State Coach Trail Improvement Project. This project took place in Woodford, Vermont and consisted of a three-way partnership between VASA, The Green Mountain National Forest, and the Green Mountain Club to relocate sections of trail and perform maintenance to improve and correct erosion and drainage issues, making the entire trail safer and more accessible for multiple user groups. It provided improvements for both motorized and non-motorized users. This project was funded by a grant from the Vermont

Recreational Trails Program and as you may have read in the last issue, nationally awarded and recognized with a Coalition for Recreational Trails Award. VASA's lead volunteer for the project, Mike Smith, was also awarded with the Green Mountain National Forest's Citizen Stewardship and Partnership award for his dedication to the project. Despite it being an extremely rainy day, Governor Scott and his team joined us in Bennington to ride this amazing new trail. He was met by volunteers from the Bennington Trail Cruisers, and the Jack Pines Pirates ATV Clubs as well as VASA staff. After his ride, the Governor stated how impressed he was with the trail and the work that VASA and its clubs accomplish. He went on to say the outdoor recreation sets Vermont apart,

and that he is working to leverage these assets to bring more working families, visitors and jobs to the state.



Above, Governor Phil Scott and VASA Lobbyist Frank Stanley return from their ride



Pictured Above and to the left, Governor Phil Scott and his team with volunteers from the Bennington Trail Cruisers, Jack Pines Pirates ATV Club and VASA staff.

Pictured left: Governor Phil Scott with Executive Director Danny Hale.



A Message From the Vice President

The summer of 2019

As many of you know my wife Deb and I lost our home to a fire last January. Deb and I made it out ok however we did lose 95% of what owned. I tell you this to thank you VASA, VASA members, and clubs that sent us so many generous donations. Thank you for your help and support.

On a good note, as of this writing our new modular home arrives sometime tomorrow. We are now feeling like we're moving forward.

So now as we move forward. How about the annual meeting! The members of the Northwest Vermont Wheelers really killed it. Wicked good job being the host of the 21st VASA annual meeting. Awesome place to have a meeting, good food, a whole lot of awards, and very organized trail ride. You folks did a real nice job. Thank you.

Mount Washington night ride started out looking like it was going to be a wash out, man how it rained! The rain slowed to a light drizzle as we started to line up for the ride. A light mist rode with us off and on to within 2 or 3 hundred yards from the top when a heavy fog took us to the top. Many of you traveled down a bit to search for better places to get pics of the sunset. Some of us stayed on top and waited for the wind gusts to open an ever so small window in the fog to get a great photo from the top. Yes, it was worth it again.

Good news- Mark your calendars July 25th 2020; we are having another night ride up Mount Washington. See you there!

A year ago our VASA President Adam Lane and I talked about attending as many club meetings as we could. We both have had a very busy year. However, recently I have been able to get out and visit club meetings in Reading, West Rutland, and Stockbridge, VT. As I have seen for years in the SVTR club it's the same small core of 8 or 10 ole faithful's who make all the meetings and do all of the work. You are all awe-

some. If it wasn't for your hard work we would be nowhere. Thank you for what you do. I'm sorry I don't know how to get you more and newer help.

While attending club meetings I've been asked do we (VASA) really need a large VASA office and staff, and so much equipment? Both are very good questions. Honestly several years ago I asked these very same questions and thought let's just hire local contractors and get it done, and yeah let's cut the office staff and work in a 12X12 garage.

Whoa! Wait a minute, twelve or thirteen years ago the VASA office was in the old Montpelier office. We out grew that, and the next four meeting places after that. Not only has our VASA place of office grown, but now more towns are opening town roads to ATV's. Mike Smith from the Bennington Trail Cruisers has worked with the National Forest to open an ATV trail on National Forest Lands, with more clubs joining VASA, more trails, more roads, some short sections of state highway, we need to show the State that we are like a well-oiled machine.

We have equipment, we're organized, we chase down grants for maintenance, we buy materials for building and improving our trails. With this equipment we can operate more efficiently and to the standards of the State agencies, then if we hired it out to private contractors. Don't get me wrong in some cases we may and will have to hire out the work to be done as needed. As for gathering the funds, pushing the paperwork, balancing the books to the satisfaction of our BOD members and the members of VASA and answering phone, YES we need the VASA office and all who work inside. All of this comes by having enough people working their jobs with the equipment they need. We have come a long way, and we still have a long way to go.

Deb and I received an invitation to attend the 1st annual Fun Run by the Green Mountain ATV Club. I'm guess-

ing 40+ people showed up.

Deb and I rode from the Sunset Motor Inn in Morrisville where we stayed to the trail head. We formed into a group of 7 machines and headed. It took five stops to complete the loop and return for lunch, prizes, and a nice 50/50 raffle. When it was over, we rode back to the Inn. We were surprised to see we rode 83.5 miles. Our group leader Ellen taught us a new to us phrase "send it!" It has stuck and amused us since. I highly recommend you join them next year for Fun Run 2, it's a good time.

So, before I "send it", I want to say "It's a small world" Deb and I needed to take a get out of the Motel get away to York Beach Maine where we stayed at a motel. One evening stopped at our favorite restaurant the, Lobster Cove. While pulling in, a VT registered truck pulled in behind us. "Howdy Neighbor!" as we greeted each other as we walk inside, and go our separate ways. We finished our meal and were about to leave when this neighbor says he's from St. Johnsbury, and I say Brattleboro. Small talk continues to the topic of snowmobiles, and then moves on to ATV's. Yes sir, that's a topic I know a little bit about. He said he rode ATV's so I asked him if he was a VASA member and he said he was. I said, "I'm Lloyd Church. Vice President of VASA." We chatted some more and he said he expected he would read my article in the next VASA newsletter.

So Vince from ST. Johnsbury, hello again!

I hope you all have had a great 2019

I also hope you have a great 2020

" Please Ride Safe "

Lloyd Church
V.P. VASA

SEND IT !!!



North West Vermont Wheelers



How fast the riding season goes! Hope everyone had a good season and you were able to take advantage of the many riding opportunities this year. It is always nice to meet new members and share riding experiences. This was quite a busy season for us here in the northwest part of the state. One of the fun things we did was to connect our trails with GMATV. Several of their members attended our annual meeting in September and joined our Bingo Run & BBQ. A drawing was also held for door prizes with members winning water bottles, squeegees, ratchet straps, folding camp seats, tire plug kits, packs of zip ties, tie down straps, and LED work lights.

Then several members from our own club joined GMATV at their First Annual Run & BBQ. It was fun riding new trails and we are happy to have connected with them. At our annual meeting, Jeff Curtis was re-elected as President for a 2 year term along with Summer Ladd as secretary also for a 2 year term. Matt Cote was elected as Vice President for a 1 year term as Tim Joyal asked to be removed from that position to allow him more time to concentrate on trails. Tim is still Trail Coordinator and remains on the executive board. The winners of our fund raising raffle were Todd Bohan \$500; Donna Paquin \$250; Dave Ladd \$125. A lot of our meetings were held at the Peaked Hill Trailhead on weekends with a ride afterwards. This seems to bring more people out to our monthly meetings as more members are able to attend. Our off road trails closed September 29 and our road trails will close October 31. Our last meeting of the year will be on October 12 at Peaked Hill with a foliage ride after and a BBQ at the Curtis Home. Revisions to our new

member welcome packet are being worked on and hopefully we will have a new "local" map of our club's trails to include in the packet. The executive board has been discussing some changes to next year's meetings and details will be announced at the October meeting. Thank you notes & gifts are being sent to our Point of Sales to thank them for all the hard work they do for us. As most of you remember, we started off the year with no money in our treasury but are ending the year with a healthy balance. A big thanks to all the members who have helped and supported NWVW this year! Happy trails to all until we meet out on a VASA Trail! - Summer Ladd, Secretary



A Note from the President, Adam Lane

Hello VASA!
THANK YOU for another outstanding riding season! For the past several years, we have seen growth in our membership, added miles of trails, several new clubs, and you have all worked hard to build positive relationships in communities throughout the state.

As an organization we increased funding which effectively doubled our law enforcement budget, added a couple of much needed pieces of equipment, and a brand new trails coordinator. These 3 pieces are essen-

tial to our growth and more importantly our relationships with existing and potentially new landowners. It's no secret we all struggle with volunteers, most clubs are lucky to get 5% of their members to show up and help. I see this trend with a lot of organizations, as I get to spend time with a couple local snowmobile clubs this time of year. My big ask for the 2020 season would be to please attend a club meeting, even if it's just 1. I am assured by our club representatives that the website is up to date with the times/days of your clubs

meetings so check out www.vtvasa.org

. Lastly, a huge thank you to all the folks that worked very hard making our trail great this year, I appreciate all you do to make the riding great. I wish you all a happy off season, I hope to you soon!

Adam Lane

President@vtvasa.org
802-498-5690

Lost Nation ATV Club

Hello from Lost Nation ATV Club. We have had some changes this year, this biggest coming most recently on October 20th, when we had a special meeting to elect new officers. The board for the 2020 season will be:
Jacob Partlow - Vice President
Becky Adams - Secretary
LT Rutter - Treasurer
Tim Partlow - Member at Large
Adam Lane (yours truly) - President
I am extremely excited to be a part of the LNAC family again, this club has some of the best trail riding in the state, a wonderful group of landowners, and a great core of people who have a lot of passion for ATVing. We have exciting things planned for next year, a couple of big projects to undertake, and a lot of potential to grow

as a club. I would like to thank outgoing President Andy Cruickshank for his years of service to the club, and for stepping in this year to keep the club afloat. We will resume our regular meetings in March, and our annual landowners dinner will be bigger and better than ever. If you'd like to help out in any way, please reach out to us at lostnationatv@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page. Have a great off season!

Adam Lane
Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association
President@vtvasa.org
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Awards! Who and what deserves an award this year?

Did you ride a section of trail this year that was particularly great for some reason? Maybe it was signed really well, maybe it was extremely well maintained or maybe it has something special about it, like a picnic area or scenic overlook?

Did you attend a club meeting or event that you thought was really well organized?

Have you noticed someone in particular who is always going above and beyond? Maybe they cleaned up trash at a trail head, maybe they attended a town meeting for the club, or maybe someone who always has a shovel and pair of clippers on their machine so they can stop and do a

little trail work whenever it needs to be done?

We want to hear about it! We want to recognize those who have put in extra effort. We want to award the best trail, club, volunteer, and more! What and who do you think we should award at the 2020 Annual Meeting?

If you have noticed anyone or anything over the 2019 season that you think deserves an award, tell us! Tell us who or what should be awarded and why!

Email any and all nominations to dluce@vtvasa.org



WELCOME NEW STAFF!

Just a quick announcement that we have hired a new Trails Coordinator and a new Trails Tech! Please give a warm VASA welcome to Ethan Hill and Kyle McFarlane. You'll be seeing Ethan at meetings and both of them out on the trails. We are very proud to announce that we have multiple work crews now and cannot wait for the 2020 season. We're going to be able to accomplish more than we ever have before. Please always be aware of staff and volunteers working on the trails! If you come across a work crew, don't be afraid to stop, introduce yourself and thank them for keeping our trails maintained.

Borderline Ridge Riders



The Border Line Ridge Riders Club enjoyed a very active season, and

we want to thank all our supporting landowners, businesses, town officials and our great membership for another successful year advancing the sport of ATV riding within Orleans County. We were able to reach several more businesses this season with more opportunities on the horizon. Our trails officially closed on October 1st following maintenance upgrades on our 200+ miles of trails, which were completed by VASA, local contractor Todd Scelza, and our dedicated members. As of this writing, we ended the season with 807 members compared to 681 in 2018. Lowell, Westfield, and Troy opened many key roads to further connect our trail system, which also included sections of State highway. We are hopeful the City of Newport approves our request for ATV/UTV travel next season on designated streets for a one year trial period, which we are certain will increase business activity for restaurants, stores, etc., and also serve as a connector to outlying trails and towns. If successful, Newport will set the trend for other Vermont cities.

The BLRR recently hosted its annual Land Owners Appreciation dinner at Paul's Sugar House in Derby. Great food and camaraderie was enjoyed by all. Lucky winners enjoyed prizes, gift certificates, and cash prizes of \$2000 and \$3000. Rudy Percy was recognized as a life long honorary member of the BLRR for his 15+ years of dedicated service, and Leigh "Peanut" Curtis was presented the Dedication Award for going above and beyond in his efforts to improve ATV riding in Orleans County, which was followed with dancing and frivolity. We look forward to another great season in 2020.



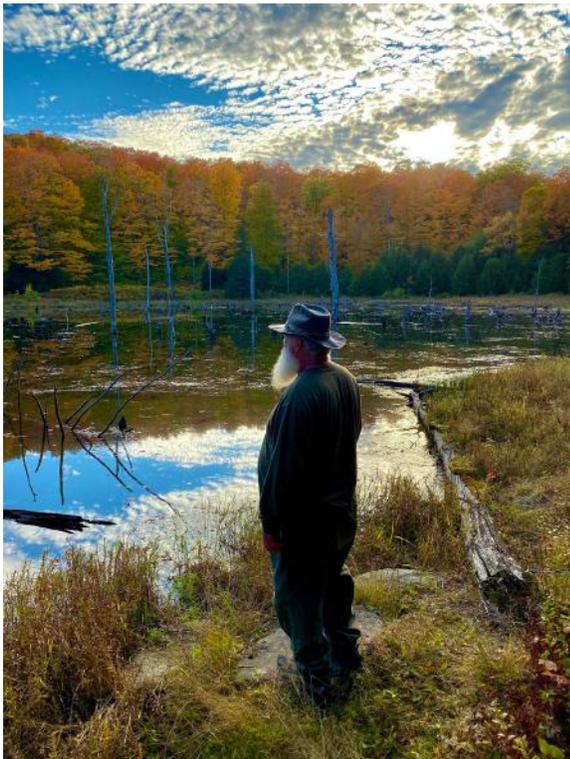
Southern Vermont Trail Riders

Hello VASA members,

As the riding season is drawing closer to the end for this year, it's time to look back at what we accomplished this year. Early this season, we established a loop trail at our new location and started working on making it passable. We got two of our kiosks installed and got the initial loop marked with arrows and other signage then began to prepare for Dave Gilderdale and the VASA equipment to come and fix some of our more difficult areas.

Dave Gilderdale is working on our trails now. In the last week he has made major improvements to some of our worst section of trail. Many boulders have been removed from the trail, large holes filled, tight spots widened, side hill crossings leveled, wet spots properly drained and filled. What was once a barely passable route is rapidly becoming a beautiful section of trail.

SVTR Trail boss, Bruce LaBounty, has been hard at work scouting the property for new trail opportunities and has found a number of old roadways, interesting natural formations, ponds, miles upon miles of old stone walls and remnants of old foundations from the original town of Jamaica. We hope to be opening up a number of these newly found trails within the next year to expand our trail system, make these features accessible and help bring the history of this beautiful area to life.



Some pictures taken during our late season cookout and ride!

Tri County ATV Club

Thank you to our members, volunteers, local businesses, the Town of Island Pond, the Town of Morgan, and most importantly, our landowners, for a great season!! Our trails closed October 1st, but we are already starting work for next year. Our landowner appreciation picnic in September was a great time and thanks to all the helped and participated.

The year 2020 will be exciting for us as we plan to add a lot of more trails that we've been working on for a couple years. Keep your ears and eyes open for announcements in the Spring.

Our meetings are held on the **THIRD Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM at the Welcome Center.** You can ride to our meeting and support the local businesses on your way. Check out our Facebook page and website for updates. Join our email list for timely updates (we won't SPAM you).

We hope to see you in Island Pond!!

**Tri-County ATV Club
Island Pond**

www.IslandPondATV.com

www.facebook.com/IslandPondATV



Tri Village Wheelers

Hi Everyone,

Happy October to all !! It was a wonderful season for riding. Hope everyone stayed safe and happy. Just a little to warm for some, but all and all it was pretty great.

We worked together with our local snowmobile club, The Topsham Ridge Runners to completely re-deck a common bridge and we had great results. We think that we should all learn to work together to try and smooth relation between ATV's and Snowmobiles. Several years ago the snowmobile club was rebuilding a bridge in Marsh Hollow, on the Rt. 302 trail and anyone who has ever been involved in a project like this, knows how difficult these projects can be. The planking is heavy and cumbersome, getting all the supplies and tools to the site is a tough job. Well to make a long story short, some ATV riders came along and shouted some not so nice remarks at the TRR volunteers because they felt inconvenienced having to take the long way around. When asked if they wanted to help, so the job would get completed more quickly, the verbal assault and laughter began again as they road away. Now maybe they were VASA members and maybe they weren't, but it left a very bad taste with the TRR volunteers. So last season we the TVW desperately needed a trail to and from the Thompson Hill Camp Ground and we almost gave up, when we were given permission by some landowners to use their fields for a trail. One slight problem was that we would be crossing a snowmobile bridge and we didn't think they were going to be totally thrilled sharing with us. It needed some work, so Tri Village Wheelers volunteers decided to get together and get the repairs done. This year 10 volunteers from TRR and 9 volunteers from TVW got together to do a complete re-decked this bridge, put up new railings and removed all the old material. We now have a beautiful bridge to keep everyone safe and sound. They worked shoulder to shoulder and within 4-5 hours the bridge was complete and a better understanding of what each club represented was forged. They even had lunch up at camp with the TRR volunteers. Awesome job guys!!

Our trails are closed and all the signs are taken down and put away till next year. Here's hoping for a an even better season next year. Thank You for all you do, Danny, David, Dani and Emily. You never seem to stop working to improve our trails and organization. Have a good winter and we will all hope for a good spring.



Big Thanks to Green Mountain Construction

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to Green Mountain Construction. Recently, VASA received a grant from the state of Vermont to build new kiosks for our trailheads throughout the state. We were scrambling to finish them before the ground froze and also still get all of our trail work done. Green Mountain Construction heard of our worries and came to our aid and donated their crew to help finish the job. Thanks guys! These kiosks will look great all over the state! If you need carpentry in Lamoille County, give them a call at 802-730-3292



Northeast Kingdom Wheelers



Northeast Kingdom Wheelers had a great summer riding season this year, we were able to rebuild a bridge that badly needed attention and were able to catch up on repairing some storm damage in a few sections of trail. We had a few great club rides and had a great time venturing into other club's trail systems. We would love to hear feedback from our club members on our trail systems and things they would like to see improved upon. We hope everyone benefited from our new trail intersection numbering and will continue to use and improve upon that system. NEKW Trails will close Nov. 1st and will reopen May 1st weather permitting. We hope everyone has a wonder winter and we look forward to the 2020 riding season.



NOHVCC News

Executive Director Danny Hale attended the annual NOHVCC (National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council) conference in October. This conference is a wealth of knowledge for anyone involved in motorized recreation. We attend every year and leave with new knowledge and helpful contacts from all over the country. We are proud of our eastern neighbors in New Hampshire, as their very own Terry Lambert was presented with the "Partner of the Year" award from NOHVCC. This award highlights Terry's initiative and dedication to motorized recreation in New Hampshire. Terry is no stranger to VASA as we try to work together whenever possible, and she also is a graduate of our 2019 Great Trails Workshop that we hosted earlier this summer. Congratulations Terry! Thank you to NOHVCC for hosting yet another great conference that benefits motorized recreation throughout the country!



Green Mountain ATV Riders



GMATV hosted a great event in September; our first ever, FUN RUN! We had participants from all over the state join us, even VASA Vice President Lloyd Church all the way from southern Vermont.. Great people, great ride, lots of food and cool prizes! We are excited that the event was such a success, we hope you will join us next year. Stay updated on all things GMATV by finding us on facebook. Just search Green Mountain



ATV Riders on facebook and join our group! See you on the trails in 2020! Thanks for an absolutely wonderful season!

SAVE THE DATE!

2020 Annual Meeting: Saturday June 27, 2020

and

2020 Mt. Washington Ride: Saturday July 25, 2020

**Buy your 2020 Membership and Trail Access Decal
online at www.vtvasa.org starting April 1, 2020**



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