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VASA Newsletter

FALL 2016

Changes to VASA bylaws...

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This is your official notice that the VT ATV Sportsman's Association Board of Directors have made changes to our bylaws. These changes were voted on and approved unanimously by our Board of Directors at our September 2016 monthly meeting. If you have questions about any of these changes, please feel free to contact the office to discuss with the Staff.

We have made three separate changes:

1.) Change in membership dates:

Previously, our membership ran from January 1 through December 31. Now, VASA membership will be valid from April 1 through March 31. The reason for the change is so our membership year can be more congruent with our trail season. NOTE— this change has absolutely no effect on trail opening or closing dates. All trail opening and closing dates will remain at the discretion of landowners and municipalities and will be determined through the local club and advertised through VASA and the clubs.

2.) Changing the date of the annual meeting.

Previously, our bylaws read that our annual meeting needs to take place on a Saturday in January. For those of you who attend the annual meeting, you may have noticed that attendance at this meeting has been dwindling for years. After much debate at the board of directors level as well as on the events committee, we have decided to change the date from a Saturday in January to a Saturday in June. We are in high hopes that we can use the meeting to not only come together and discuss the year's business with the membership, but also explore different trail systems by incorporating some sort of ride into the meeting. We hope that the change will inspire participation and creativity from the clubs and membership in general.

3.) VASA Plates.

This was quite a hot topic at multiple board of directors meetings, but we believe we have come up with a solution. We are discontinuing the use of white plates on the front of your vehicle to display your Trail

Access Decal (TAD). We have multiple reasons for making this change. The first is that the plates have now become a false sense of membership for law enforcement officers and landowners. Too many people possess the white plates without a valid TAD and because of this, the plates cannot be used as a viable option for determining valid membership any longer. The second reason is cost. The plates themselves come at a high cost for VASA. We are moving toward implementing online membership sales in the future and on top of the cost of the plates themselves, once online sales are implemented, an increased mailing fee would also occur due to the weight of the plates. The third reason is that we would like to be more in line with how other states display their trail decals. We have deleted all verbiage from the bylaws that states that a TAD must be displayed on a white plastic plate on the front of the vehicle, and replaced it with "...shall display a trail access decal on the front and rear of the vehicle." (Continued)

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What does this mean for you as a member? Well, we hope that it will make your ATVing experience easier and more enjoyable. We understand that many of our members are unaware of VASA's daily operations and there-

fore may not understand some of these changes. We invite anyone with questions or concerns to email us at office@vtvasa.org, message us on our facebook page, or call the office at 802-477-5075. Our staff is more than happy to discuss any of these changes with

anyone who needs more clarification.



From the Desk of the President, Craig Vance

Hello VASA members! I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all of you for a great riding season. The year has gone by so fast, I can't believe the season is nearly over. Snow will be flying before you know it. I hope you all will be able to enjoy some time on the VAST trails this year as well. Its been a great season for us and I certainly hope the upcoming snowmobile season is equally as great! Despite having a wonderful riding season, I've noticed a trend that has me very concerned. In all of VASA's clubs throughout the state, its clear to me that we are extremely short on volunteers. There is not a single VASA club that has enough volunteers right now and that is quite frankly a very scary fact. Without volunteers, our clubs cannot function. Without clubs, our trails don't exist. Without trails, we have no legal riding opportunities. I understand that so many of us are busy— we have families, jobs, hobbies, obligations and responsibilities around every cor-

ner. I believe that some folks hear the word "volunteer" and they get scared. They think- "Oh I don't have time, and I can't commit..." While these may be true statements, I want to explain that volunteering for your local club does not have to be an overwhelming responsibility. Many people do not understand that even one hour per month can make a significant impact on a local club. It also doesn't have to be trail work. There are so many jobs that exist within the clubs that are not manual labor but keep our clubs functioning. For example, answering and responding to the club's email correspondences, or updating a facebook page, or even just giving a landowner a call to check in, say hello, and thank you. If you have ever said to yourself, "I'd really like to help, but..." Please consider truly evaluating the reason why you think you can't help, and then talk to someone in your local club. Tell them your limitations, and just ask if there is a way that you can help

that is convenient for you. I'm willing to bet that you will discover that you can help, and you don't have to put yourself out to do it. The more volunteers we have, the more we can accomplish and the stronger we will be as an entire organization. If you would like more information about how you can help your local club, please contact the VASA office by email at office@vtvasa.org or give the staff a call at 802-477-5075. Talk to VASA and your local club. See what you can do. If you still can't help, make sure that you respect the work of the local clubs and ride respectfully. If you see a volunteer or a landowner, tell them thank you! Riding intelligently, respectfully and safely is some of the most effective work you can do to help us further ATVing in Vermont. Thank you again for an amazing 2016 season. Can't wait to meet you all out on the trails in 2017.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND LANDOWNERS

Westshire ATV Club

Greetings from Westshire! I find it hard to believe that we are in September already! Our club has had a good season!

Our club held its annual election of Officers in July and all Officers remain in place from last year. In August, we had our Annual Moonlight ride, and this year we actually saw the moon, with no clouds or rain. We had 18 participants and 9 ma-

chines. It was a good turnout and a beautiful evening. A BIG THANK YOU to the landowner who allowed us such magnificent views.

We have also had several work days. Our big project was the completion of a second trail head in Vershire, just off of Rte 113 at Ward's garage. The parking area is finished and has been added to the 2016 VASA map. Our September

meeting was Potluck/ BBQ had a "fun ride" scheduled for Sunday September 18.

While everyone is feeling the need for some rain, it has been a great summer for riding. It's always shady and cool in the woods. Just be mindful of the high fire risk, and always practice carry in/ carry out. Safe Riding!

Top of the World ATV Club

The shorter bridge at Brown's pit is scheduled to be replaced this month. Some trails are to be closed on October 1st in conjunction with start of bow season and the rest will close on December 15th when snow machine clubs take

over their trails or sooner as the weather dictates. President Chad Sterling has been invited by the Concord Historical Society on September 24th regarding transportation and how ATV's have evolved over the years. We are continuing

trail and sign maintenance each month before our monthly meeting. We want to thank all land owners for allowing the club to use their land. We look forward to seeing all of you next year!

Remember to find VT ATV Sportsman's Association on facebook! Like us for updates and more! Also find links to many of the local club's facebook pages as well! Be in the loop! Like us on facebook!

Tri County ATV Club

Welcome to the new Tri County ATV Club. As the new president, I am finding out how challenging running a club can be. Luckily I have great help. Bill Bailey, Ernie Pappas and Pete Wallbridge have kept the club alive for all these years...Many thanks to them. There is still a lot to be done, but we are moving forward. We have 26 miles of trails and are working on opening Island Pond for future connections. We

have a dream list and we are working on it. One being connecting to local towns and possibly New Hampshire. We have had a lot of positive feedback so far. As a local businessman, watching trailer after trailer heading to NH on weekends, makes me realize how important a trail system is and I am not alone in thinking this way. We have had great support from the Brighton Selectboard. We need

more volunteers to help in talking to landowners about ATV trails. We are looking forward to a great 2017 riding season, as we will be working on all winter to open more trails.

Reno Gervais
President
Tri County ATV Club

Tri Village Wheelers

Hi Everyone, Guess the first thing we should do is introduce ourselves. We are a brand new club and are very proud to be a part of a great organization like VASA. We had a rough start, but with all the wonderful help and great patience from the VASA staff they were able to guided us through all of the ins and outs, to become The Tri-Village Wheelers. Our club's home base is in Topsham, Vermont. Topsham has some of the nicest trails, two great stores, The Waits River Country Store and Gramps Store; many ride there for gas, great subs, salads, pizza and beverages. Oh did we mention the awesome Thompson Hill Campground that provides camping, swimming, riding wheelers. They also sell hot dogs, burgers, hand cut fries and yummy ice cream.

We have elected our officers and updated our By –laws, which really need some change. We hope they are changes for the better and are working to get copies to our members, so we can vote on the changes at our next meeting. Officers are as follows, President: Wayne Bernier, Vice-president: Bob Connell, Treasurer: Bunnie Caruso, Secretary: Heather Payne, Trail Master: Alan Partington with the help of our Jr. Trail Master: Jake Walker.

We will be meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00am, at the Grange Hall in West Topsham. The best news is that the Hart's have given us permission to continue using their property on Harts Road for our trail-head. Hopefully we will be having a Pot Luck in October as our season will be closing and sadly our last meeting for this year.

We are still in need of ideas for a logo, please send us your logo designs through e-mail or drop them off to Heather, at the store. We can all work together and come up with something great.

One last thought or maybe it is a request, we are going to need help taking down signs and cleaning up the trails for the next season. If you can help, please contact us on FB or if you don't have access to FB, so please, call Bunnie 802-439-6012, e-mail trivillagewheelers@gmail.com or Heather at the Waits River Country Store 439-9510. Thanks to all of you who have helped and supported us, while building our new club in Topsham and hopefully we will continue to grow and provide some of the best ever riding.

Reading All Terrain Sportsmen

Hi All,

The riding season is in full swing and we have had great weather.

I would like to thank everyone who joined up with us as the RATS club is over 100 members strong again. Our memberships are no longer available at Kelly's Chrysler in Springfield, VT, However they can be found at Robbins Sled Shop in Windsor and the Reading Greenhouse in Reading.

The club entered the Reading Old Home days parade, This year the theme was cartoons and we went as the movie Cars-, Complete with Lighting McQueen, Tow- Mater and Hudson Hornet. We took the Judge's Choice prize (Blue ribbon and \$\$).

Can't thank Carole Canfield, Jerry Hill, Dan Hadwin and Randy Gray (who helped out on his wedding day), For all the hard work that went into these floats.

We now have 2 more trails open to riding after a day of pick axe action and hand shoveling, Provos Hill and the full length of Pine Hill, both in Plymouth: Provos Hill goes from Plymouth 5 corners to the old Hammond camp, Pine hill runs from Lynds Hill Road to Scout Camp Road. They will not be signed until next year, but if you know the area, they are now open. Provos Hill and the lower portion of Pine Hill are both considered "Black Diamond " trails.

Our club has recently purchased a Case 580 Backhoe to do ditching, water bars and culverts. It will need to be fully serviced (all filters and oils changed) before it will be pressed into action. I am looking forward to the amount of manual work this machine will reduce for us. If treated well, I fully expect the backhoe will last for quite some time.

Our trails are open til Dec. 15th , so get out and ride while the weather is still great! -Dennis Allen

Northwest Vermont Wheelers

We hope everyone had a great summer! It sure went by fast, but we all had fun. NWWW is now a year old! Thank you for your support. Without all of you this wouldn't be possible. We had two club poker runs, we rode the Central Vermont Quad Runner trails along with the Top Of The World trails this year. Those were all fun rides and we plan on riding more next year. Our trail system is closing for the season on October 1st. So please stay out of the trail head after that date.

Speaking of trail heads we lost ours in late August. We didn't want to end the first year early and on a sour note so 8 days later we managed to find a new trail head. Please respect the landowners wishes and don't spin on the property. We can be found at northwestvermontwheelers.com and on Facebook.

Our monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of every month at 6pm at the 14th Star Tap Room and Brewery in the downtown St. Albans shopping center. It was once the old bowling alley. Hope to see you all there! -Justin Rocque, President atv4wheelin@gmail.com



Central Vermont Quad Runners

Greetings from Central Vermont Quad Runners: We have enjoyed another great season of riding. The weather was good, with little rain. This of course added to the dust on the trails but we still enjoyed a great season. All of our trails will be closed on Saturday, October 8th for a large wedding in the vicinity of our trails. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and the trails will reopen on October 9th. We have had one trail closed this season due to logging and it may be open before the end of the season. We are in the process of opening two new trails, one in Barnard and the other in Stockbridge. They should be opening shortly, if not, then in the spring. Our lower trailhead on Stony Brook Rd. is open again, but the upper one is still open for overflow parking. We have Quad Runner t-shirts available for sale, sizes small through XXL. for \$12. and \$13. If interested, call Kin at [413-339-4293](tel:413-339-4293) and she will get them to you. We hold a 50/50 raffle during our club rides which had been a huge success. Our last club ride is on Sunday, October 30 and our trails close on October 31. Please visit our Facebook page for updates and information.

Southern Vermont Trail Riders

Hello to all our VASA members and friends who read these articles. Not knowing what other clubs have submitted in their articles I'll start by saying thank you Adam Lane of the Lost Nation ATV Club for not only selling tickets for the Mt. Washington ride again, but he also brought some fantastic weather with him. It was another great day on the mountain. I would also like to say thank you to all of our Landowners who allow us to enjoy the trails they have on their property. Thank you all so much. Not only a welcome aboard to the new up and coming ATV clubs, but also a welcome back goes out to the clubs who refuse to let go and keep on fighting. Good luck with your commitment to survive, and thank you for helping to keep VASA moving forward. Vote, vote, vote, vote, vote, YES!!! Your vote does count. Get out there in November and vote. Don't sit back and let your buddy, neighbor, or friend vote for you. Don't assume your candidate of choice has it in the bag so you don't need to vote. That just allows the candidate not of your choice to walk right in for a victory. Pick your candidate wisely and VOTE! Phil Scott and Randy Brock. That's who's going to help us start the process of getting access to State lands. (I guess you now know whom I'm voting for.) VASA members, you can help your trail workers out simply by not riding in the same tracks as the rider or riders ahead of you. Not riding in the same tracks helps keep brush growth down and helps cut back erosion both in the trails and over water bars. Simple little things like that can make a big difference on all trails. I hope you all have had a safe 2016 riding season this year. Please always keep a good clear head and ride with respect to others and our landowners' properties. -Lloyd Church SVTR.

Central Vermont ATV Club



Greetings from CVATV. Sadly it is that time of year once again and our trails are now officially closed for the year. With that said, it has been a great enjoyable riding season. Our memberships have been steadily growing throughout the year, thank you to everyone who has joined.

I have been seeing more and more atv's out on the trails

with VASA registrations. It is very important to get the word out about VASA. Your membership fees contribute greatly to our trail maintenance/expansion efforts. We were able to open a new trail into Washington Village recently which allows our riders a second store option on our trail system. This trail is also part of another expansion we hope to open in the future. Recently we had a very well attended poker run, BBQ, and Bonfire event. It was a lot of fun riding with some new faces, showing some folks around our trail system, and did I mention a lot of great food at the end of the day. As always, we encourage everyone to get involved. We hold our regular monthly meetings the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Washington Fire Dept. beginning with a potluck at 6:00pm. If you have thoughts or ideas to improve the club we would love to hear them.



Lost Nation ATV Club

> Hello VASA, greetings from Lost Nation! First and foremost, thank you all for another outstanding year of riding, LNAC experienced growth in membership for another year, and the best part is all the new faces to ATVing. Thank you to all the members that invited new folks to our events, from our "Fire Up for Summer" event in June, to the Mt Washington ride in July. The best part is at the end of the day when we hear "wow, I never knew Vermont had such great trails". All we ever ask is that you bring a friend next time. Show them what we have to offer.

> The good stuff: our crack trail team (affectionately nicknamed the mountain goats) are hard at work adding in more trails. Most recently they have been to the Braintree select board asking for roads that will add 10+ miles to the lower section of our system, and more importantly open up almost endless possibilities in the coming years. So, if you meet the Goats (Nik Sargent & Robbie Cruickshank) thank them, please.

> We also owe a huge thank you to the VASA team this year. Starting in May, they started working on a trail that wasn't suitable for a skidder and they turned it into an incredibly beautiful connector trail that added 10+ miles to the system. Thank you Danny, Jesse, and Pete for your hard work this year from all of us here at LNAC. Looking forward to 2017, we are already thinking about our poker run event next June and we have offered to host the Mt Washington ride next year. We have some exciting ideas for both these events to improve and most importantly make them more fun.

I'm sure you're hearing a LOT about the election right now, and this is the year YOU can make a difference. Please remember that the outgoing governor won reelection by a margin LESS than the entirety of VASA members, and it was the 4 elected representatives that caused us be delayed on the State land rules. If you live in one of their districts, please remember that fact in November, and remind all your ATV friends of this as well. Lastly, if you would like to receive emails from us (we try to send them monthly) please email us at Lostnationatv@gmail.com. Even if your belong to another club, we would love to share with you and if you're reading this and you write emails for another club, please add us to your mailing list as well.



Did you attend the Caledonia County Fair this year? We did! We had a large display showcasing our VASA Trail Maintenance Program (VTMP). We wanted to educate landowners, trail users, and everyone in general about how much our program has grown, our accomplishments and just how much work goes into making even a short

ATV trail, let alone maintaining over 800 miles of trail throughout the state. We got to speak to lots of people and were able to make some great new friends. Thank you to everyone who stopped to say hi and

Economic Impact Study

Earlier this year, VASA teamed up with the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council to participate in an Economic Impact Study regarding trail systems that are officially part of the Vermont Trail System. This study will show how much of a financial effect that recreational trails have on our state. Other types of trails that are being included in the study are mountain biking, skiing, hiking, and so many others. If you are on our mailing list or “like” us on facebook, you may have seen a link to a survey regarding this study. We would like to send a huge thank you out to everyone who took the time to participate in the survey. The numbers you provided are currently being analyzed by professional data analysts who will develop the study for the Trails and Greenways Council. We received around 300 surveys from ATV users and we are very excited to see what the numbers reveal! Economic Impact Studies provide great education for lawmakers who may not realize exactly how much revenue can be generated from recreational trails. Further updates to come!



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VASA Newsletter

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Club Updates - Summer Happenings**

What to keep an eye out for in the near future:

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2017 event schedule

2017 Annual Meeting invitation