



VASA Newsletter

JUNE 2016

Legislative Report 2016

Steve McLeod
Public Policy and Outreach

In this Issue:

- Legislative Report
- Green Up Day 2016
- Updates from the Local Clubs
- Summer Events
- A Note from the President
- Other User Group Updates

As reported in the spring edition of the VASA Newsletter, the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) lost our second bid for state lands connector trails in a heartbreaking 5-3 loss in the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules in January. One changed vote would have created a 4-4 tie. The tie would have authorized ATV state lands connector trails, as approved by the Agency of Natural Resources, from this point forward.

The loss brings to a close Democratic Governor Peter Shumlin's state lands ATV record, because he is not running for another term. Right after taking office, Governor Douglas's Rule authorizing state lands connector trails, but later in his six years as Governor, Shumlin agreed to work with VASA on a modified Rule authorizing state lands ATV connector trail access. The Governor's Fish & Wildlife Department, headed by Commissioner Louis Porter and Chief Counsel Catherine Gjessing, did a great job of formulating the Rule and all of the sound reasons for it. However, Democrats in the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules voted it down with the help of Chittenden County Republican Senator Diane Snelling, who is not running for re-election.

The four people who joined Senator Snelling in voting down the ATV State Lands Rule are Chittenden County Democratic Senator Ginny Lyons, Orange County Democratic Senator Mark McDonald, Randolph Democratic

Representative Patsy French, and Grand Isle Democratic Representative Robert Krebs, who is not running for re-election. Rutland County Republican Senator Peg Flory, Royalton Democratic Representative Sarah Buxton, and Essex Junction Republican Representative Sarah Buxton were the three votes in support of the ATV state lands Rule.

Other Issues

Another issue that threatened for weeks to prevent new trails or trail re-locations in forested areas was called the "forest fragmentation bill." The purpose of the forest fragmentation bill is to minimize real estate development in forested areas. The bill came out around February 10 and immediately came under intense scrutiny in the House Fish & Wildlife Committee for a period of several weeks. Early drafts of the bill would not only institute procedures to ban real estate development in forested areas; these drafts would also ban new trails, trail re-routes, forestry infrastructure, and maple infrastructure. VASA teamed up with a coalition of groups from these sectors, and pointed out the unintended consequences to the Committee.

The Committee recognized the error, but then began offering up language that didn't solve the problem. Finally, Committee Vice-Chairman, Democratic Representative Jim McCullough of Williston, who operates a trail network on his family farm, worked with VASA and VAST to come up with suitable trail language that exempts trails from the forest fragmentation

prohibitions that will eventually result from the bill. We were able to fix this bill, but not without a lot of anxiety along the way.

When the "forest fragmentation" issue got to the Senate Natural Resources Committee, the trail language we had worked out with the House Fish & Wildlife Committee was again questioned. However, the Senate left the language alone after hearing from a representative of the House Fish & Wildlife Committee and me.

House Bill 510 is a bill that originally would allow towns to ban through traffic on town roads. VASA had concerns about this bill, because ATVs sometimes use town roads to connect trails. VASA worked with the House Transportation Committee and the bill sponsor to fix this bill by using weight limits instead, but eventually it died because the Senate Transportation Committee didn't like the idea at all.

As reported last month, **Senate Bill 225, the Miscellaneous Motor Vehicle Bill**, is another must-pass bill that Danny, Frank and I review closely every year for potential ATV problems. This bill contained a lot of complex language this year, but we went through it in detail, with help from Department of Motor Vehicles Operations Director, Mike Smith, and found no adverse impacts.

Continued on page two



Continued from cover...

Senate Bill 224, dealing with the comparative rights of recreational and farm equipment dealers and manufacturers, passed late in the Legislative Session.. Danny and I looked into this bill early in the Legislature, and decided it consisted of a disagreement between dealers and manufacturers. Since VASA has relationships with both dealers and manufacturers, we left it to them to work out.

The Motor Vehicle Fee Bill, another must-pass bill, slightly raised over 100 motor vehicle fees that have not been raised in some time including some VASA fees such as lien fees and fees for various title documents. VASA did get an ATV Registration Fee increase deleted from the bill earlier in the Legislative Session, because the Legislature just raised the ATV Registration Fee last year. VASA does not object to the other ATV fee increases in the bill. Democratic House Ways & Means Committee Chairperson Janet Ancel courteously invited Danny and I to testify on these increases during House consideration of the bill.

House Bill 552, Expanded Threatened and Endangered Species Protections, that passed in the final week of the Legislative Session does not appear to be a problem for trail groups.

House Bill 517, Water Classifications, has passed and is not a problem. These are the types of general bills that Frank Stanley and I have to follow closely, because of possible impacts to trail construction and maintenance.

You might wonder why VASA is active in State House issues. As VASA's Public Policy & Outreach advocates, an important part of what Frank Stanley and I do is provide a daily Legislative presence on ATV issues every day of the Legislative Session. The daily presence lets the 180 Legislators, the Governor and his administration, and the lobbyists from organizations that may not always be friendly to VASA's interests know that VASA is there to be reckoned with whatever might come up. The majority of legislators who are open to working constructively with VASA also know they have us as a resource any time they may encounter an ATV issue. Because we're in the State House, it's easy for them to talk to us, even if for just a few moments, to share information of mutual concern. We have built relationships with most legislators. Legislators' familiarity with Frank and I adds extra trust to these conversations.

Frank and I also provide a VASA public policy presence in other

public policy arenas as needed. Our presence, and especially the wide variety of outreach efforts undertaken by the VASA Office, have helped VASA steadily gain greater public respect as the years have gone by. VASA's dedicated office staff works long hours managing the many facets of Vermont's ATV trail creation, trail stewardship, club development, and numerous other aspects of ATV management. Those of us who have been with VASA for a long time see the increased respect in our travels on a fairly regular basis.

Finally, much of the improved respect starts with all of you, the local club leaders, club activists, and those who ride responsibly who are winning over community support as you continually create more and more good will in your local areas. Without you and the good example you set in your communities, there would be no VASA.

Those of you who may not be living up to VASA's Code of Ethics should remember that the VASA trail you are riding can be one illegal loud muffler or illegal off trail rider from being shut down by the landowner.

From the Desk of the President, Craig Vance...

Welcome all to summer! Most importantly, welcome all to the 2016 riding season! Its been a very long winter for those of us who love motorized recreation in Vermont. It was a less than ideal winter, with little to no snow, then an early wet spring. Thankfully, the last half of spring was much drier and the trails were able to harden. By now, all of the VASA trail systems should be open and ready for riding. I'm going to ask that riders be considerate when riding this season as we do not want to disturb anyone or be the cause of complaints. Always check to make sure the trails are open before you ride. Do not alter your exhaust on your machines in any way and please, above all else, respect the landowners who allow us to ride on their property. Be mindful of the town ordinances in

which you are riding. Carry out what you carry in, and always be careful when riding. I hope to run into some of you this year on the trails and encourage you to get your friends and fellow riders to join a club.

Always Remember the VASA code of Ethics.

- Stay on marked trails
- Abide by VASA Rules and Vermont State ATV Laws
- All ATVs must have valid registration and trail access decal
- Trails will open and close per the landowner
- Reckless or negligent operation is not permitted
- Practice "carry-in, carry-out"
- Do not drive, or pursue wildlife

- ATVs may only use roads designated as "open"
- Learn all controls and safety devices before you ride your ATV
- Take an ATV safety course
- Follow Manufacturers Safety Recommendations
- Always wear protective clothing when you ride
- Always wear a helmet and eye protection
- Never let young or inexperienced riders operate ATVs without proper supervision
- Never use alcohol or drugs when you ride
- Remember that these trails are a privilege so respect them or lose them!

Bennington Trail Cruisers

Happy 2016 to everyone! I hope everyone had a great 2015. Hard to believe, riding season is upon us already again. I am so excited to get out into the fresh air and enjoy the trails with all our members (Old & New).

We have had an eventful year so far. We had our first yearly meeting and had a super turnout.

As you will notice on the 2016 VASA maps there are no trail systems listed for Bennington, County.

This is due to the fact we are working with the National Forest to try and get some connector trails.

We had new elections for Officers for 2016. Mike Smith was voted in as our new President. Mike had been a busy little beaver, he had been going to all the local and near by town meeting to work on more trails also. We seem to be making some headway with the National Forrest, Town Boards and Local People within the towns. The people in the town now understand that it will bring in more business to the local community and that is good for everyone/economy.

The other officers stayed the same:

William Bakaitis: Vice President

Anne Gerity: Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin Tatro: Trail Master

Although 2015 was a stellar year for memberships, I hope to double our memberships this year, as well as have more rides this year also.

Hopefully by next year's riding season, we will have all the ordinances in place with all the towns

(With-in the Bennington County) and with the help of the National Forest. Plus our new President, Mike Smith who is working very hard on this. So fingers crossed, we will have more trail

systems and will be on the 2017 VASA map next year.

We do still ride on the (2) trail systems that are located in Bennington, VT, but since they are Town Roads we don't have any liability to maintain them.

I am in the process of working on a schedule of rides that our club will be doing. We try to do at least (2) rides per month. I would love to see more rides than that since I love the fresh air, and all the beauty Vermont has to offer.

We also love to travel to other trail systems within the VASA network, so please send me your ride schedules or any benefit rides/ect you may have going on, and we would love to attend. You can send me your schedules to our email address which if: Benningtontrailcruisers@yahoo.com

Now that the snow is gone, we plan on packing up the ATV's/UTV's and getting out on the trails as much as possible.

We are always looking for new members, so if you are looking to join we meet the 3rd Wednesday of every OTHER month at the VFW on North Street in Bennington, Vt @ 7 pm. Our next meeting will be May 17, 2016

Not only do we discuss things our club is up to (doing or has done), I always bring up safety. I guess it's just in my blood being an EMT.

We look forward to seeing other clubs on rides.

Don't forget to send me your ride schedule of rides/events so our club can attend. Again our club email is: benningtontrailcruisers@yahoo.com

We also have a facebook page. Just look for benningtontrailcruisers and like the page. It will have our Moose logo on it.

Hope to see you on the trails. Enjoy the warm weather and always wear your helmet. -Anne Gerity, Bennington Trail Cruisers

Central VT Quad Runners

Greetings from Central Vermont Quad Runners:

Our annual election of officers was held in March. Our club president is Ken Carter, phone 802-234-5493, vice president is Chuck Lyman, secretary: Pam Lyman, treasurer: Dave Lewis, trail coordinator: Paul Morse, Jr. and VASA representative is Dan Richter. Our trail clean-up day was on May 7 and our trails opened on May 14. Our monthly meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Gaysville Church on Rt. 107 in Stockbridge at 7:00 p.m. Our summer events are as follows: Club rides are May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25 and October 30. All Club rides meet at the upper trailhead on Stony Brook Rd.in Stockbridge at 9:00 a.m. On June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 8 we will have trail work days. These days are important to keep our trails maintained. All volunteers are welcome to help us and we will meet at the trailhead at 9:00 a.m On July 16 we will have our Night ride, with the rain

date of the 23rd. The time of the night ride will be posted on our Facebook page, where other updates can also be found.

We have a picnic area for our member's use on Waterbar Hill and a picnic table available at Mike Hoffman's at the top of Davis Hill. Please take out what you bring in, so everyone can enjoy these areas. This summer we will be selling CVQR t-shirts on the club rides and at our club meetings. Sizes available are small through XXL for \$12.00 each. We also will be holding 50/50 raffles on our club rides, which always encourage some friendly competition among riders. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Half of the proceeds go to our club and the other half to the lucky winner.

We hope to see many new members using our trails this year and are looking forward to a safe and fun 2016 riding season!



The Caledonia All Terrain Travelers have had a great start to the 2016 season. After one of the strangest winters on record, we were ready to get out and ride. We had a great turnout for our first meeting which was held in late April. We have come together and put a solid plan in order for 2016. We will be focusing on expanding our trails and having our trails properly patrolled and laws enforced so we can keep everyone safe and the landowners happy. We have big plans and hope that you will join us. We need all the help we can get. We meet monthly at Buffalo Mountain Power Sports in Hardwick on the last Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm. Pictured here

are a few of the members that showed up to help us out on Green Up Day 2016. We picked up countless bags of trash and put up signs throughout the trails. It was a great day and we would like to send a big thank you to everyone who showed up!

Borderline Ridge Riders

A new season is upon us. Everyone is anxiously awaiting the opening of our trails on May 14, 2016. We know that some of you have been out riding. We ask that you respect our opening date. We do not want to be in a position where landowners close their trails due to destruction of property. Cory Spaulding, the clubs Trail Director and his team have been very busy preparing the trails. On May 7, 2016 Green Up day, several BLRR members traveled the trails cleaning debris. Thank You to all who participated. We were told by Cory that the trails are looking great. Check us out on BLRR Facebook. On a sadder note. We lost a very valuable BLRR member on May 5, 2016. Raymond Geoffrey, 70 passed away at his home. He and his brother Andre were two of the original members who organized BLRR. He was a member of the VASA State Board of Directors for many years. He will be truly missed. Our next meeting will be Sunday May 22, 2016 9:00 am at Wayne's Snack bar. On the agenda we will be looking to elect a President, Vice President and Secretary. Show your support and let's get a team together. Law enforcement will be out in full force this year. Please register your machine and get a VASA membership. Its lots cheaper than getting a ticket. Check out our website (Borderlineridgeriders.com) for a listing of our point of sales. Upcoming events: June 25 Scavenger Hunt, July 16 Andrew Geoffrey Memorial Ride, July 31 Mt. Washington Ride, September 10 Poker Run and October 1st Wind Tower. See you all on the Trails. Respects our landowners. They are the heart of our organization.

Northeast Kingdom Wheelers

**RIDE
SAFE.
RIDE
SMART.**

Our trail system is open and ready to ride! We have had a very challenging winter in Danville with a few residents trying to create a storm over our trails and the class 3 and 4 roads we use. The biggest change this year is that we will only have one trail/road to use from Danville to Barnet and the same with Danville to Sheffield and Wheelock. Please only use the town roads which are signed for our use. We had a good turnout for Green Up Day and reduced the roads we clean up in Danville from 30 miles to the 9 that we will be using for our trail system and devoted some people to help in Sheffield and Wheelock. Thank you to everyone who turned out! This year, our memberships are available at the Wheelock Store, Marty's 1st Stop, All Around Power Equipment and Dad's 4s Tool & Supply. Until next time, please ride safe!

Lost Nation ATV Club

Hello VASA! Greetings from Lost Nation. We have been very busy ramping up for another awesome riding season. So far we have accomplished a great landowners dinner, we numbered every existing intersection on the system, installed a new kiosk at our trailhead, rebuilt a connector trail, and have begun working on the new southern connector trail into Braintree. The early spring and dry conditions have worked in our favor.

We have also added several new points of sale in western Vermont including AC Motorsports, BC Motorsports, Cyclewise, and Champlain Valley Equipment, all located in the Middlebury area. Thank you to these businesses and please support the businesses that are supporting you.

We are now preparing for our annual Fire up for Summer event on June 25. The poker run will start at 9 and LT's world famous chicken will be ready at 1p. The poker run will be even bigger this year, and we promise a fun filled day in Lost Nations stomping ground.

A big thank you to the following: Greg Parker- your help with another successful Show, Shine and Brag was outstanding! Tyler Sabin: the kiosk looks fantastic! Tim Partlow: for donating the plexiglass. Andy Cruickshank: your backhoe saved a lot of backs during installation. Nik Sargent, Robbie Cruickshank: all the hard work on the trails! Cheryl Sabin, Allison Porter, Missy Rutter, Brenda Cruickshank: your hard work made our land owners din-

ner awesome. Thank you to all the supporting members that help by joining our club and coming to our events.

As most of you know I was elected Vice President of VASA in January. Because of this new title I was appointed chairman of the Membership Committee. My goal in my position is to grow our membership to over 3000. Pretty lofty goal, and I need your help to get there. Please, bring your friends to your club events, tell them about what we have to offer, how much we are growing. Almost every club has and will add trails this year. Yes, we (always) have an uphill battle with the state, and the only way to win is to grow. So far in the membership committee, we are working on a new vasa flyer (handout) and poster. We are looking at different advertising opportunities throughout the state, we realize the need to get more information out there in front of people. I've spent more time with our (LNAC) dealers, and every one of them is positive, upbeat about selling our memberships, and ahead of last years sales to date. As we have the new flyers available, we plan on spending time visiting our outlets and building the relationship throughout the state. A big thank you to Dani Cady and Roland Bedard for your help on this undertaking. If you have ideas, comments, advice, etc, PLEASE reach out to me, thank you for the support in our sport, see you on the trails!

Adam Lane
802-498-5690

Westshire ATV Club

Greetings from Westshire! Well, our trails are finally open and we are ready to go. We participated in Green Up Vermont on Saturday May 7. We have two groups - one that covers West Fairlee and one that covers Vershire. We had a total of 8 machines, and 13 volunteers. We had a couple of people join us who are not members of WATV- an officer from the Upper Valley Fish & Game Club and a high school senior from Chelsea. A HUGE THANKS to everyone that came out and helped. We are lucky to have people who not only participate in their own communities, but in other towns as well. We would also like to thank West Fairlee and Vershire for the privilege of being able to ride. We had our first executive meeting in April where our officers met and discussed the upcoming year. We'll have had our first

meeting of the season before the newsletter comes out. It is scheduled for Wednesday May 11. Our monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 630pm, and we'll have dinner there. If you are interested in joining us for a meeting or learning more about the Club, contact us through Face Book. We have discussed the upcoming riding season, and though we don't have any definite plans or events scheduled at this time, our goal is to make our Club better known throughout our area, in hopes of increasing the number of our active members. We are interested in joining some other Clubs for some rides on their trails. It's always enjoyable to meet new people, and see some different scenery. Feel free to contact us if you'd like to join us for a ride in Westshire! Safe Riding! Westshire ATV Club

**REMEMBER, TRAIL WORK AND
MAINTENANCE WILL BE HAPPENING ALL SUMMER ALL
OVER OUR TRAIL SYSTEMS.
EXERCISE CAUTION AND WATCH FOR
EQUIPMENT ON THE TRAIL.**

Please respect our crews and their efforts. Thank you!



Southern VT Trail Riders

VASA Members and Friends,

The SVTR has a couple of changes to announce this year. SVTR member Paul Knudsen rode and GPS'ed all our trails so that we could provide a more accurate map for the VASA trail map and the riders enjoying our trails. Paul put a lot of time into this project and has done a very nice job of it. Thank you Paul !

Long time member Ray Leeman stepped down as SVTR's club Secretary. Ray has been not only serving as an officer but also as a trail boss. Ray has many hours logged working on and off the SVTR trails and working at the many SVTR events. Ray will continue to do memberships and remain a trail boss for the SVTR. Thank you Ray for all your hard work, time, dedication and friendship !

We welcome aboard Melissa LaBounty as our new club Secretary. Thank you Melissa for taking on the job !

Bill Ortlieb and Kendall Cobb remain Vice President and Treas-

urer for the SVTR. Thank you also for all of your dedication and hard work.

Every year the SVTR makes arrangements to raffle off a piece of equipment such as chain saws and the like, as a fundraiser. This year we are planning to raffle a Telescoping Pole Pruner and a \$250.00 Gift Certificate to Brown Enterprises. Tickets will soon be available to be sold for \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The SVTR has had great success every year with this type of raffle.

The SVTR closes for the months of January and February and restarts it's meetings in March. Our meetings are the third Thursday of the month starting at 7pm. at the New Brook Fire Station in Newfane VT.

Always remember " Ride Safe".

Lloyd Church

Southern Vermont Trail Riders Inc.

Northwest Vermont Wheelers



We hope everyone is having a great spring! The NWVW is now about 8 months old so we are still pretty busy on getting the club off the ground. We are always looking for assistance. If you would like to help feel free to email us at atv4wheelin@gmail.com.

We had a great turnout for the St. Albans Maple Festival Parade. There were 7 machines running in it and 2 on a trailer. Thank you all who participated in it.

The website is now up and running! Its northwestvermontwheelers.com. I kept it informative yet simple. It is both computer and mobile friendly. Let me know what you think. You can also find us on Facebook by searching North West Vermont Wheelers.

We now have a trail head. All of our trails opened on May 14th. If you have purchased a VASA membership and do not have a North West Vermont Wheelers map please email me. 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!

Now that riding season is here just remember one thing. Please ride safe!



Want More Places To Ride? Vote For ATV Friendly Candidates This Fall

The VASA Newsletter story in this issue on the 2016 Legislature reminds you that, for the second time, four Democratic Legislators and one Republican prevented the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) from getting our first state lands ATV connector trail earlier this year.

The final vote on authorizing ATV connector trails on state land was a heart breaking 5-3 loss in the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. One vote the other way would have created a tie and would have allowed the trail to go forward.

That's why it is very important for all VASA members who reside in Vermont, their friends, and their families to vote for a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Legislators that support ATV connector trails on state land in this year's elections.

How do you find out which candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Legislature support ATVing on state land? One way is to ask them. If you get an indirect answer, politely ask: "Yes or no. Do you support ATVs on state land?" The more you get to know your local politicians, the more you will know about where they stand.

Another way is to ask your club leaders. Club leaders who serve on the VASA Board of Directors are likely to know which candidates support state lands ATV connector trails. If they don't know, they can contact myself or the VASA office. Club leaders: it is very helpful to your club members if you remind them to vote, when and where at each club meeting between now and the elections.

Besides voting, you can do one more thing to let election candidates from the Governor's race on down through the legislative races know that you are paying attention. Pick Up VASA's famous "I Ride ATVs And I Vote" Bumper Stickers at the VASA Office.

Every Vermont voter resides in a Legislative District that includes one or two members of the House of Representatives. Plus, there are likely to be candidates opposing them. Your job is to pick the candidate who supports ATV connector trails on state land. Every Vermont voter is also represented by anywhere from 1-6 Senators representing you in the Vermont Senate whose dis-

tricts are more or less divided by counties. Find out who your town's candidates for Senate are. VASA Office can help you or your Town Clerk can help you.

The Governor's race and the Lieutenant Governor's race are the two most important election races in the state! Know the candidates for the top offices as well as you possibly can.

The Primary Election on Tuesday, August 9 will narrow the field of candidates down to one Republican and one Democrat who will face off in the Final Election, known as the General Election, on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Voting hours on Election Days start between 5 and 10 A.M., depending on the town, and run until 7 P.M. Everyone who is inside the door of the polling place by 7 P.M gets to vote even if there's a line inside. Voting generally takes place in a town public building such as the Town Hall, Fire Station, or a local school. Your Town Clerk can tell you where voting will be. You can vote on an earlier day if you choose simply by stopping by the Town Clerk's Office or you can get an Absentee Ballot to bring home to disabled relatives.

The candidates in the Republican Primary for Governor are Lt. Governor and former Senator Phil Scott and Challenger Bruce Lisman. The Republican winner in the August 9 Primary goes on to face the Democratic winner on August 9 in the General Election on November 8. The Democratic Candidates are former Senator Matt Dunne, Former Senator Peter Galbraith, and Former Representative Sue Minter.

Feel free to contact me, Steve McLeod, with any questions at sbmcvt@aol.com or 802-324-0016 or call the VASA Office.



We Need You!

Every single VASA club throughout the state is in need of volunteers. It is absolutely impossible to ever have enough volunteers. Volunteers just like you are the heart and soul of this organization. People think that all we ever need is folks who have to be physically capable of hardcore trail work. While this is always appreciated, there is so much more to operating a volunteer association or club than just trail work. If you have the time, even an hour a month— you could help improve VASA and the trail systems.

We often hear people complaining about VASA... the negativity never ends. “There’s not enough trails.” “The trails aren’t good enough” “These trails need work” “My local club isn’t getting back to me.” Those are just a few of the nicer complaints we receive. To anyone who wants more trails, better trails, more events— its on you! Make it happen! Attend one of your local club meetings and ask how you can help. From physical on the trail tasks to administrative at your computer tasks— there is something that you can do to help.

The next time you see or experience something that you don’t like about VASA, we urge you to ask yourself this question: “What have I done to help this situation?” Simply complaining and being rude to the people who ARE trying to do something to improve these issues is incredibly counterproductive.

If you want change or improvement, join a club. Attend meetings. Get involved. This is a volunteer organization. If you chose not to volunteer— guess what, VASA doesn’t owe you anything. If you want more, put your money where your mouth is. Stop complaining, and start fixing. We’ve heard every excuse in the book. “*Oh I can’t help because...*” If you have ever completed that sentence when talking to a VASA staff, board member, volunteer, or club member— Just remember— complaining without presenting a solution is just whining. Truth hurts, but here it is. You are either helping our sport or you are hurting it. Doing nothing at all is sometimes just as harmful as actual acts of destruction. So do you want change? Do you want more trails? Because if you do, please join us. You’ll make friends, have fun and improve your sport. With that being said, we’ve got a few areas that we could really use some

extra help in! VASA is currently looking for a variety of volunteers for each club. A few of the specific positions we need are as follows:

Trail Documentation Specialist:

Sounds fancy right? Throw fancy right out the window and try FUN! When we say “trail documentation specialist” we are looking for one or two people from every local club to ride the trails with something along the lines of a “Go Pro” video recorder and a camera. Yep! That’s right! We want you to ride the trails and take sweet pictures and videos.

We want you to meet our construction crews and document the work we do. We want you to send us your official “trail documentation specialist” photos and videos so we can use them to grow our organization through increased information flow. We will be presenting this documentation of construction, maintenance, trail rides and fun in general on a local, state and national level. We will use the pictures on everything from our new website and facebook page to posters, brochures, and other promotional materials.

Global Positioning System Technician

You know with a volunteer title like that, you’ve got to be important! Global Positioning System Technician translates to ride the trails with your GPS and upload the data to VASA. This is one of the most fun volunteer positions we have to offer. We are looking for a team of two people from each club who could make this happen. Your work will result in an improved trail map! Now THAT is important!

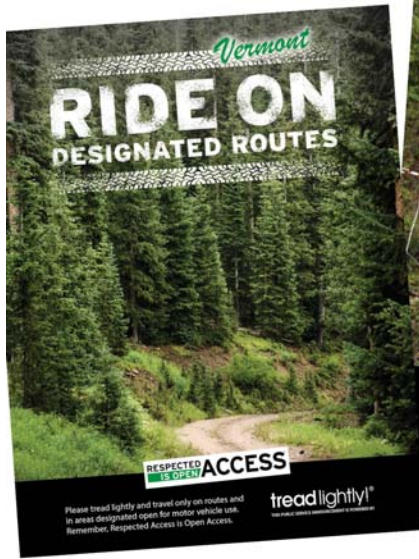
If you are interested in either of these volunteer positions, get in touch with your local club or contact Executive Director Danny Hale at director@vtvasa.org. We have a wide variety of other positions available and we would absolutely love to talk to you about the many ways you can improve ATVing in Vermont.

A huge thank you to the do-ers, the fixers, the active members who show up- Without you, we really would be nothing. To the complainers— when you are ready to put your money where your mouth is, we will be ready to work and show you a great time that results in more trails!



**VOLUNTEERS
WANTED**

**If you’ve got something to contribute
and want to make
ATVing in Vermont better,
Contact the VASA office today.
Find us on facebook, or email
office@vtvasa.org or call
802-477-5075**



treadlightly!®

www.treadlightly.org



Travel
responsibly

Respect
the rights of others

Educate
yourself

Avoid
sensitive areas

Do
your part



Vermont Off Highway Vehicle
Recreation Association

Sharing Our Resources Responsibly
14 Don Camp Road Barre, VT 05641



Tips for Riding Off Highway

- Travel only on routes designated open for OHVs.
- Travel only on routes designated open for ATVs.
- Travel only on routes designated open for Dirt Bikes.
- Share the trail.
- Ask first before accessing private property.
- Share Our Resources Responsibly.

What is VORA?

VORA is the Vermont Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Association. Our purpose is to work cooperatively to create and sustain environmentally compatible land use opportunities for Off Highway Recreational Vehicles, and to promote responsible recreation for all generations. VORA was formed in 2008 by representatives from motorized associations in Vermont including VASA (Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association), The CCC of Vermont (Cycle Conservation Club of VT), and the VJA (Vermont Jeep Association). The groups came together with the assistance of NOHVCC- the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Counsel to form a unified group and create a strong voice to attain legal, and safe riding opportunities for Vermont families.

What does VORA do?

VORA is a volunteer organization that works diligently on issues such as:

Access to State Lands.
Ancient Roads.

Assisting towns with allowing motorized recreation access.
Landowner relations.
Government Relations.



Providing information to interested parties via our website and print materials.

Promoting responsible recreation.

Promoting environmentally friendly recreation.

Joining is easy and you can really help motorized recreation in Vermont.

Memberships are good for one calendar year from January 1 through December 31. Membership in VORA allows you to vote and run for any position within the organization, access to VORA functions and information, as well as updates on the status and success of our goals. VORA encourages you to get the most out of your membership by attending meetings and functions.

THE MORE VOICES, THE MORE CHOICES!

Find us on facebook, or call 802-477-5075 for more information on VORA.

Club	Contact	Phone Number	Web
Bennington Trail Cruisers	Mike Smith	518-279-3385	https://www.facebook.com/benningtontrailcruisers/?fref=ts
Caledonia All Terrain Travelers	Doug Runne	802-472-5522	https://www.facebook.com/CaledoniaAllTerrainTravelers/?fref=ts
Northeast Kingdom Wheelers	Craig Vance	802-684-2283	https://www.facebook.com/northeast.kingdomwheelers
Barnet Trail Blazers	Steve Mosher	802-633-2266	https://www.facebook.com/BarnetTrailblazers/?fref=ts
Top of the World	Steve Bean	508-410-9704	https://www.facebook.com/Top-of-the-World-ATV-Club-305325292150/?fref=ts
Northwest VT Wheelers	Justin Rocque	802-752-0583	https://www.facebook.com/groups/996868783698489/permalink/1093417394043627/
Green Mountain ATV Riders	Gary Nolan	802-888-7948	https://www.facebook.com/WestshireATVClub?fref=ts
Westshire ATV Club	Doug Stone	802-785-2140	https://www.facebook.com/Topsham-Trailrider-ATV-club-1443141619230546/?fref=ts
Topsham Trail Riders	Bill Phelps	802-595-7889	https://www.facebook.com/groups/210857632285162/
Borderline Ridge Riders	Reynold Sicotte	802-334-7843	http://www.wrasc.org/
West Rutland ATV Sportsman's Club	Deb Elliot	802-770-4523	https://www.facebook.com/Central-Vermont-ATV-Club-1442381832720530/?fref=ts
Central VT ATV Club	Roland Bedard	802-461-6671	https://www.facebook.com/LostNationAtv/?fref=ts
Lost Nation ATV Club	Andy Cruick-shank	802-839-0677	https://www.facebook.com/Southern-Vermont-Trail-Riders-138728189515301/?fref=ts
Southern VT ATV Riders	Lloyd Church	802-874-4073	https://www.facebook.com/CVQR.ATV.CLUB/?fref=ts
Central VT Quad Runners	Dan Richter	413-339-4293	https://www.facebook.com/ReadingAllTerrainSportsmenClub/?fref=ts
Reading All Terrain Sportsmen	Dennis Allen	802-484-9751	

VASA Executive Board

President: Craig Vance (NEKW)
Vice President: Adam Lane (LNAC)
Treasurer: Gary Nolan (GMATV)
Secretary: Doug Wheeler (SVTR)
Member at Large: Justin Rocque (NWVW)

STAFF:

Executive Director:
Danny Hale
director@vtvasa.org

Operations Director:
Dani Cady
dcady@vtvasa.org

Office Manager
Emily Hale
office@vtvasa.org

Trails Assistant
Jesse Bassett

Lobbyist/Consultants
Steve McLeod
sbmct@aol.com
Frank Stanley
frankstanley@wildblue.net

VASA OFFICE:
14 Don Camp Drive
Barre, VT 05641
802-477-5075

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Find us on facebook and go “like” us right now! It’s the best way to stay informed on all things ATV in Vermont. Just type in VT ATV Sportsman’s Association into the search bar on facebook and give us a like! In addition, we have listed the web info for our local clubs on the previous page. Most of the clubs have facebook pages, so go ahead and give them a “like” as well. We share information about not only ATVing in Vermont, but our neighbor states as well, all of the local club info, and even snowmobile and other forms of recreation updates and events.



Annual Mt. Washington Ride: July 31. This ride will be hosted by the Lost Nation ATV Club and is always a great time! Its an experience you shouldn't miss. You must be a valid VASA member to participate. Operator tickets are \$30 and passenger tickets are \$10. You will need a valid photo driver's license to drive your machine on this ride. Tickets are sold at the base of the mountain the day of the event from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.



Want \$10 off your membership? Talk to your local club about earning a Trail Work Voucher! Trail work days not only improve the trails, but they are always a blast! Our clubs know how to combine work and play to be the most effective and have the best time doing it!

Do you like to take pictures? We need high resolution pictures of people safely operating their ATVs. If you submit a picture and we use it for one of our publications, you will get credit and a special bonus gift for allowing us to use your pictures! Your photo could be on the cover of the 2017 map, posters, websites, brochures and much more!

2016 Wind Tower Ride is scheduled for Saturday, October 1. This will be a charity poker ride. More details to be announced!

Head up and eyes forward! We plan on having heavy equipment for trail maintenance out on the trails all summer long! You never know where you could find us working, so please be aware and be cautious of our equipment, and respectful of our work! Stop and say hi to our crews and ask how you can help!



While you are out riding this year, help us out! If you see a tree down that you can move, please move it! If there is something too big, let VASA or your local club know! If there are bushes that need to be trimmed back a little, please do it! Even ten minutes here and there can help greatly and improve the safety of our trails!



VASA
14 Don Camp Drive
Barre, VT 05641

(802) 477-5075
office@vtvasa.org

Thank You!

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to the landowners and towns that allow VASA trail access. We'd also like to thank the volunteers who build and maintain the trails and clubs. We would have nothing if it wasn't for these wonderful people. We urge you to thank landowners, towns and volunteers by respecting our trail system and riding responsibly.