

VERMONT ATV

SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION INC

SPRING 2017

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YOU ARE OFFICIALLY INVITED!

Please make your plans to attend VASA's 19th ANNUAL MEETING. The Annual Meeting is a wonderful opportunity for members to come together, meet other members, club officers, board of directors and VASA staff. Celebrate VASA's accomplishments over the last year and find out what is in store for the coming season. The meeting will be held on Saturday June 10, 2017 in Hardwick,

Vermont. We are trying something very different this year in order to encourage members to attend. This year, our annual meeting will allow you to explore the CATT trail system and enjoy a ride. The meeting will begin at 10 am followed by lunch. Prior to or after the meeting, all are encouraged to take a ride and enjoy. There will be multiple parking areas located on the trail for

folks with tow vehicles, you will need to follow signs from the CATT trailhead located at the intersection of Route 14 and 15 at I Wright Farm Road. Those attending only the meeting can park near our tent at trailhead in Hardwick. We can't wait to see you and enjoy a ride with you. Please contact the VASA office if you have any questions! 802-477-5075 office@vtvasa.org

This is your official notice and invitation to VASA's 19th Annual Meeting and Ride!

WHEN: June 10, 2017
10:00 am meeting followed by lunch
and a ride!

WHERE: Hardwick, Vermont at the CATT trailhead.

All current members get ONE vote in the election of officers.

Legislative Update 2017

The first year of Vermont's 73rd Legislative Session is coming to a close. It was a relatively slow start compared to past recent sessions. New leadership, a new Governor, Lt. Governor and a record number of new Representatives caused the committees to take more time to orient members. As time went on, bills have been flowing and we are now getting a better idea of how this year will turn out. One of those new legislators is VASA Director and Treasurer, Gary Nolan of Morris-town. Rep. Nolan serves on the House Transportation Committee, a very important committee for ATV uses and trail policies. We are very fortunate to have him there and he has already made a difference on our behalf.

Governor Phil Scott made it clear he was opposed to any new taxes or fees. His administration did not propose a fee bill or miscellaneous tax bill as is the annual custom. His "line in the sand" worked. The House passed the budget, a small tax housekeeping bill and a transportation budget without raising any taxes or fees. The Senate did attempt to raise a small \$2.00 per room, flat Rooms surcharge, but the day after the vote in the Finance Committee, the measure disappeared. The Senate is soon presenting their response to the House passed budget, capitol budget and taxes and do not appear to be very far apart. The session is expected to close in early May.

There were a number of bills that came onto the watch list mostly housed in the transportation and government operations committees. There were also a few bills of interest dealing with

agriculture and forestry that impact landowners.

H.287 -Ways used for vehicular travel; property; torts; duty of care. Introduced by Rep. Hubert of Milton whose grandson was seriously injured by a cable that appeared across a road that he regularly traveled. The bill requires a landowner to hang flagging or reflectors from a cable, rope, chain, pipe or other temporary barrier across a way in which the landowner knows or should know is used for vehicle traffic by the public. Vehicles are defined to include ATV, snowmobile, bicycle or watercraft. The bill is in the House Committee on Transportation. Landowner groups and recreational interests oppose this bill as it appears to lower landowner protection from liability for persons on private property. Representative Gary Nolan, also a Director of VASA, paid particular attention to this bill as landowner and recreation groups expressed serious concerns about the unintended consequences of landowners choosing to post their land to exclude all lawful uses of the public. Ed Larson testified on behalf of VASA and the Vermont Traditions Coalition. In response to strong testimony from several groups, Committee Chair, Pat Brennan presented a new draft that directs the Agency of Transportation along with the Commissioner of FPR and F&W to develop a paper, (brochure) to distribute to landowners describing the dangers of cables, chains and wire across a trail that is not easily visible to travelers on vehicles. A big win for maintaining current landowner liability protections. Chairman Pat Brennan deserves a great amount of praise and credit for the work he did to find a solution based on education rather than regulation. Representative Hubert also needs to be recognized and acknowledged that his intent was to find a way to prevent

what happened to his grandson, to not happen to someone else.

Hubert continued to amend his bill to address landowner concerns as he also wanted to avoid a reaction by landowners to exclude public access. In the end, Hubert supports the new education approach as a good step forward. This language was added to S.127 a miscellaneous transportation bill.

H.231 - Authorizing municipalities to prohibit through traffic by heavy vehicles. Housed in the Committee on Government Operations, the bill gives municipalities the authority to prohibit large and heavy trucks and trailers from using a class 3 or 4 town road to shortcut through an area. The exception is for local stops. Of concern is if there is a need to use this road to access a trail or build a trail, transporting equipment using heavy or large trucks and trailers also needs this exemption. In response to my concern, the sponsor of the bill does not object to adding language to assure that is an allowed use of the road. There was no testimony so this bill is not moving forward this year, but the lead sponsor Representative Peter Fagan of Rutland is hoping to make this a priority bill next year.

Another bill popped up late in the game that created some concern is H.39. This bill reduced the one acre impervious surface trigger for a storm water permit to go down to one-half acre. The bill moved late and is stalled in the House Ways and Means Committee, at least for this year. It is not certain that this will impact trails, because there are exemptions in place, but we will be paying careful attention to this measure if and

Legislative Update 2017

when it is taken up again.

A Miscellaneous Transportation bill, S.127 passed the Senate and is working its way through the House. The bill has several technical and housekeeping changes to a number of DMV laws. Of interest to VASA, Section 17 deals with the transfer of registration to a surviving spouse of vessels, snowmobiles and ATVs. It allows the registration to be transferred upon request to a surviving spouse without any fees. It also creates a default in that if there is no specific request in a will or trust, these vehicles will automatically transfer to a surviving spouse.

An important bill regulating certain large forested parcels may still be in play. H.233 creates different triggers for development in these parcels and require an Act250 permit. These parcels are classified as a highest priority interior forest block or a highest priority connectivity block. The committee is reviewing a new proposed amendment that removes the new triggers and requires a review under the permit to minimize or mitigate fragmentation in mapped "forest blocks". According to maps created by ANR, these parcels can be widespread across the state and it is almost impossible to know if your land is classified as such until you decide to subdivide or develop. The Vermont Forest Products Association has taken a strong position opposed to this measure. It has missed the crossover deadline, but Chair, David Deen, of the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife continues to work on the bill.

Management Plans for State Lands

This past fall **The Victory Management Unit (VMU)** has completed its plan update. VMU is approximately 24,000 acres across three parcels: **Victory Basin WMA, Victory State Forest, and Darling State Park**. Ed Larson attended both hearings to assure there remains good connector to trail language as requested by VASA. The Agency of Natural Resources started the scoping process of updating the management plan for the **Aitken State Forest**. Purchased in 1912, the 918-acre state forest is in the town of Mendon. This State Forest connects to the newly created **Jim Jeffords State Forest** which connects to the **Coolidge State Forest** so there is now a very large 25,000-acre block of forested public land in Rutland County. A draft plan is expected in late 2017 or early 2018. Ed Larson attended this open house along with **David Noel from The West Rutland ATV Sportsman's Club**. We offered to partner with the planning team and expressed the desire to include connector language.

The long-range management plan for the **Castleton Management Unit** including both **Blueberry Hill WMA and Bird Mountain WMA** is under revision. Natural resource inventories and assessments that serve as the basis for planning are underway. An initial public scoping meeting will be held prior to the development of the draft plan once inventories are complete. This unit is just under 1300 acres in size.

Willoughby State Forest is reviewing comments and making decisions on a proposal to enhance parking and use in the south end of the lake. We are also expecting a notice to begin the scoping process for the long-range management plan on this 15,000-acre

state forest. [This forest contains an excellent network of primitive roads that would serve as excellent connectors to any private trails on adjacent lands.](#)

Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Conte Refuge)

Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan is complete and is now seeking appropriated federal funds to implement their acquisition plans. In Vermont, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking to create four additional Conti Refuges along the western side of Vermont. According to the plan, if all lands in this plan were purchased, would increase the size of the refuge by more than 60,000 acres. As you are aware ATV use is prohibited and if lands are purchased with an existing trail, they would move to extinguish those trails. Frank Stanley, Danny Hale and Ed Larson are working with the Vermont Forest Products Association, New Hampshire Timberland Owners and the New Hampshire ATV Club to build a coalition to protect our interests.

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Reminders!

**Annual Meeting
2017:
6/10/2017**

**Mt.
Washington
Ride:
7/29/2017**

**New Trail
Access
Decals for
2017!**

Borderline Ridge Riders

A new season is upon us. Our trails opened on May 13, 2017 and will be closing Oct 1st 2017.

We know that some of you have been out riding prior to the opening date; We ask that you respect our trail opening and close dates. 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 of volunteers will be out preparing the trails. Law enforcement will be out in full force again this year. Please register your machine and get a VASA membership. It's a lot cheaper than getting a ticket. We have new decals for your machines this year. It's a two part decal. One part is for the front and the second is for the back.

Please remove your WHITE PLATE. It is no longer valid. Check out the VASA website (VTVASA.org). Click on Clubs, BLRR for a listing of our point of sales and other points of interest. A VEST course was held at NC hospital. Twenty of our local students participated and passed. Great Job! Upcoming events: June 10th VASA annual meeting, June 24th Poker Run, July 29 Mt. Washington Ride – see Newsletter for more detail and September 9 Poker Run and Year end raffle. We've had a change of address. New address is: BLRR P.O. Box 1218, Newport, Vt. 05855. Our monthly meeting is the third Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Carriage House Restaurant in Orleans, Vt. Please attend.

We need your support and ideas. See you all on the Trails. Respects our landowners. They are the heart of our organization.

Special thanks to North Country Hospital and Beth Barnes for hosting our 2017 VEST safety course! We couldn't have done it without your help!

Find us on facebook:

Search:

**Borderline Ridge
Riders BLRR** to find us!

See you on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Carriage House in Orleans for our monthly meetings! Don't miss it!

Caledonia All Terrain Travelers



We are extremely excited to be the first VASA club to host an annual meeting that takes place on the trails instead of a stuffy meeting room. After all, we are ATVers and we want to be on the trails! We hope to see everyone at the meet-

ing so they can experience our trails and get more involved with VASA. We have a very supportive ATV dealership in Hardwick and we hope that when you are in town you will stop by and check out what they have to offer. They have a

great sales department and their service department is awesome too. They are very friendly, we even hold our monthly club meetings there. Check out Buffalo Mountain Power Sports in Hardwick while you are in town for the annual meeting.

Central Vermont Quad Runners

On March 29th we held our election of officers for the coming year. Our president is Ken Carter, [802-234-5493](tel:802-234-5493), Vice president is Chuck Lyman, [802-234-5640](tel:802-234-5640), Secretary is Pam Lyman, [802-234-5640](tel:802-234-5640), and our Treasurer is Dave Lewis, [802-763-8182](tel:802-763-8182). Our VASA representative is Dan Richter, [413-339-4293](tel:413-339-4293), and our trail coordinator is Paul Morse, Jr. [802-234-9146](tel:802-234-9146).

The Quad Runners would like to thank the towns of Bethel, Barnard, Bridgewater, Stockbridge, and Killington for

the use of their roads that connect to our trails. We would also like to thank the landowners of those towns for letting us use their land for our trails.

Our monthly meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Gaysville church, unless otherwise posted. Our trails open on May 15th, and we are allowed on the trails between 9 am and 9 pm. We will be having scheduled workdays which will be posted on our Facebook page. Our club rides are on the last

Sunday of the month, and we meet at the trailhead on Stony Brook Rd. at 9 am. Please check our Facebook page for changes because of inclement weather.

We still have club t-shirts for sale for \$12.00. Sizes we have left are Small through Extra large. We are also looking into having sweatshirts available this summer. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt, you can call Kim at [413-339-4293](tel:413-339-4293). They will also be available at our monthly meetings and on our club rides. Also, on our

monthly club rides we will be holding a 50/50 raffle, which is always a hit.

We are looking forward to a great riding season, and always welcome new members to our club.



Lost Nation ATV Club

Greetings from Lost Nation ATV club. It's shaping up to be another fantastic year in the hills of Roxbury, Northfield, and Braintree. We held our landowners dinner April 8th and had an awesome turnout. Over 50 people enjoyed a great meal and we gave away 22 donated prizes to our members and landowners. Looking forward we anticipate trails opening May 20th, of course weather dependent. We are very proud to once again host the Mt Washington VASA ride at the end of

July. This year LNAC will be having our meetings on the 3rd Sunday of each month 3pm at the Partlow Farm (899 Cruickshank rd). We will also incorporate trail cleanup/ride days on the same day beginning at 11 am. The plan is to have a cookout at the meetings as an extra award to members that attend trail days. We are excited to grow our record membership from 2016, and thank all of the new members that joined last season. We are really appreciative for the re-

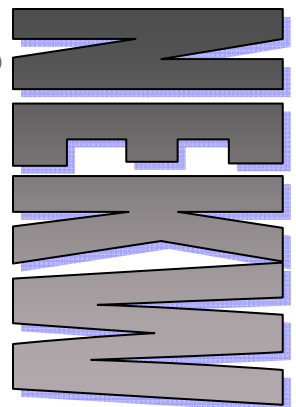
spect that the majority of you showed. Our landowners have expressed their pleasure in our conduct on the trails and I ask you to please help maintain this relationship with them. This especially holds true when visiting other clubs, a wave and a smile goes a long way, and believe me, I've made some pretty good friends by stopping to shoot the breeze throughout the VASA trail system as well as other states. Lastly, as your VASA had one of our best years in 2016. Still a ways to go to hit the 3000 member mark, and we have to hit that this year. I encourage you to talk about the successes we've had as an organization, for every mile that we may have lost, I can name 3 that we've gained, and we are going to grow again this year. If you're reading this, you play a part and I (we) thank you! Lastly, invite a new friend out with you. Show them what we are about, please bring them to the annual meeting in June we're going to have some fun! Thank you for the support in our sport, see you on the trails!

Northeast Kingdom Wheelers

As a lot of you have heard, we have shut down the corridor trail going through Danville this summer. After a long fight with the local select board we have decided it is in the best interest of everyone to shut down and move on. NEKW will be concentrating our efforts in Wheel-

lock and Sheffield this year. We are excited about all of the work the VASA trail maintenance program did over the winter on the Scott Property. Their efforts will continue to complete a large trail project. We will be working on both signage and building trails to

Glover this year to connect with our neighboring clubs to the north. If you would like to help, remember that NEKW meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Masonic Lodge in Danville. We would be happy to have you attend!



www.vtvasa.org

Northwest VT Wheelers

Hello ATV enthusiasts, You can now purchase your 2017 Trail Access Decal (TAD). Our points of sales are fully stocked. They are: Roadside Motorsports, Williston, VT; Land Air, Essex Junction, VT; Champlain Valley Equipment, St. Albans, VT; Bonneau's Machine Shop, Enosburg, VT; and we also sell at all NWVV monthly meetings and events.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at atv4wheelin@gmail.com We have created a calendar

of events for 2017. It can be found on Facebook and at northwestvermontwheelers.com. Take a look at it and we hope to see you at them!

With riding season upon us I would like to take a moment and talk about safety. Please remember when teaching kids and young adults to ride that they learn by what they see, not what they hear. Accidents are not planned, that's why they are accidents. Promote safe driving speeds, caution when near homes and

crossroads, and always, always, always wear helmets. Helmets don't work if they are not latched or don't fit properly. It does not matter how long or short the ride is, or how fast or slow. Alcohol and drugs don't mix with operating our machines so please don't ride impaired. Our monthly meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at the 14th Star Brewery and Taproom in the downtown St. Albans shopping center at 6:00 PM.

Ride safe! -Justin Rocque

West Rutland ATV Sportsman's Club

The West Rutland Sportsman's Club has been hard at work getting events planned and access to additional trails. The hard work has paid off and we are happy to announce we have already added nearly 10 miles of trails to our Ira/West Rutland trails. The included photo is of the view from the additional trail. We have also brought

this trail back over to Poulney, VT and are looking to continue the trail system even further. We are working very hard to secure more places to ride and hopefully will continue to have good news about new riding opportunities. We are also very excited about events this year. Last year we had a pilot event called our Geocached Poker Run, it was successful,

fun and offered great prizes. We are expanding on that event to include even more sponsors and prizes! Best of all the event is completely FREE. So we hope you'll join us for your shot at some great prizes and guaranteed fun, also GPS is not required for this event. We are also planning an overnight camping event this year. This will be a free event as well and is a great opportunity for those that come from far away to come check out WRASC's trails without having to spend money on a hotel, or make a long trip home after a day of riding. Our Ira / West Rutland trails offer camping all season. We have two locations for camping, on our Ira/West Rutland trailhead and on Ted's Mountain. Maps are available at the trailhead kiosk. Make sure to follow our Facebook page for more events (www.facebook.com/WRASC) and subscribe to our email newsletter (newsletter@wrasc.org).



Tri-Village Wheelers

Hi Everyone,
Just wanted to say we are a brand new club, as well as being new to VASA and that we are ready and raring to go. We are making plans for our great little club, learning the ropes with the great patients and guidance from Dani, Emily and Dan. Being new we know, we are going to make mistakes, but with time, our hopes are, The Tri Town Wheelers will grow to be as great a club, as all the clubs that make up VASA. You can follow us for meeting

dates, trail up dates and other items of interest, on our face book page or contact us by email trivillagewheelers@gmail.com. As all our members know we have some pretty awesome trails. In fact, we think there is something for everyone. Our monthly meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month, at 10:00 am in the Grange Hall in West Topsham. Our club held a contest for a new logo design. We asked Tony Daniels at the River Bend

Technical School to have his students submit a design and we received six incredible designs. Our members voted and chose our awesome logo. So much thanks goes to Tony and his talented group of students and congratulations to Gabrielle Harris for submitting her winning design. Now it is time to work on our trails and get ready to ride. Thanks for listening and please be safe out there.

Find VASA on Facebook!

Mt. Washington 2017

We are trying something very different for our annual ride up Mt. Washington. For the first time, we are having a Saturday evening sunset ride and we couldn't be more excited! If you have never done

this ride before, we highly encourage you to try it this year! Seeing the sunset from the top will be a very special experience. Tickets must be purchased in advance with a credit card through the VASA

office. Please call 802-477-5075 during business hours to order your tickets. Have your VASA number, credit card number and email address ready. Price list and more details at www.vtvasa.org

SUNSET RIDE!

Saturday, July 29, 2017

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Call VASA for details!

VASA's First Winter Ride!

We held our first ever winter event on the coldest weekend of the year! We hosted a private event on a trial basis that included winter adventure riding in the Sheffield area. The ride was an amazing success and we couldn't be happier! We

learned a lot about what it takes to have winter trails and hope to host another adventure ride next winter in addition to having some trails open year round! Stay tuned for more details.



Member's Corner

Submitted by Derrick B. -From the CVQR trail system. "I believe they have one of the best trail systems in the state."





VASA
14 Don Camp Drive
Barre, VT 05641

From the desk of the President...

It looks like spring finally arrived! I believe this year will be a very good year for VASA and its members. We continue to grow as an organization with our year round trail maintenance program to our continued growth and pairing with the state. We will work very hard this coming year to continue to move VASA forward and grow VASA along with its membership. I ask everyone to please be respectful and caring as we move forward to our landowners communities and members and try to spread the word to others about VASA. If we join together, I know we can help bring more riders into compliance. I hope to see you on the trails or at one of our events this summer. Please also remember that VASA has changed the format of the 2017 Trail Access Decals! We are no longer using the white plate, instead we are instructed to place one decal in the front and one decal in the rear of our machines. We hope this change will help law enforcement more accurately identify members and non-members! Thank you all for your cooperation!

Craig Vance, President



DECAL PLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

The decal and surface it will be applied on should be clean, dry and warm at time of application. Trail Access Decals must be placed on

the front and rear of your vehicle. Failure to properly display a valid Trail Access Decal may result in a violation.

ATV DECAL PLACEMENT

Proper Decal Placement



Proper Decal Placement

UTV DECAL PLACEMENT

Proper Decal Placement



Proper Decal Placement