

ATV Maine meeting
June 20, 2015
Flagstaff Area ATV Club, Stratton Maine

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM.

Please turn off your cell phones.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Introduction of officers: Treasurer – Appointed - Tracy Levesque
 Secretary – Appointed - Terry Sinclair
 ATV Maine VP and Northern Region VP - Real Deschaine
 Eastern Region VP and Trails VP - Ray Archer
 Central Region VP - Doug Kane
 Western Region VP - Mike Lee
 Southern Region VP - Richard Willoughby
 Immediate Past President - Ken Snowdon
 ATV Maine President – Tami Kane

Directors in attendance 12 and Alternate Directors 2

Appropriate meeting conduct reminder and comments made by Tami

Secretary's Report: Minutes from April annual meeting read.

Motion to accept Secretary's report by Real Deschaine, seconded by Richard Willoughby – MSVP

Treasurer's Report: Financial Update – Income & Expense Summary report; An explanation given as to how the report will appear in the future.

Motion made by Ed Zilinsky, seconded by Mike Lee – MSVP

Vice President's Report: 2015 Updates from Landowner Relations Specialist Rick LaFlamme.

First,

*Every Game Warden in the state now has a Landowner Relations Gear Bag in their truck and are solving a lot of issues. (Over 180 calls for service already this year, over 300 speaking engagements, i.e. schools, clubs, etc...)

Second,

* We have been using social media (Facebook and Twitter) to get several messages out. We are starting a HASH –TAG challenge on our Facebook page.

Warden Jonathan Parker and the office of Landowner Relations wants you to send us your photos of the new Landowner Relation's trash bag in use, in the field and forest or wherever.

Litter is the #1 reason private property is getting shut down in Maine for all access. So pick it up and Thank a Landowner! The use of private property is a privilege.

The most creative picture of the week will receive a free Outdoor Partner's hat (orange or camo).

Don't have the bag yet? Well you can pick one up at any Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Headquarters: in Gray, Augusta, Sidney, Greenville, Bangor and Ashland. You can also grab one at Cabela's, Kittery Trading Post, LL Bean, SWOAM, MSA, ATV Maine, Forest Products Council, North Maine Woods Checkpoints, and SAM Headquarters. The bags are free at all the above locations.

Get going, what are you doing still sitting there...

*Trash bags - About 60,000 in circulation right now. (Original idea came from SWOAM) 40,000 to go for this year...

Third,

* We have done a few stories with the Waterville Sentinel and Portland Press Herald [Maine's open land access tradition gets trashed](#)

*We did a quick story with WABI channel 5 in Bangor the other day. <http://wabi.tv/2015/05/05/game-wardens-taking-tighter-control-on-property-damage/>

*We continue to have a post on our web page about Outdoor Partners, and give updates on LOR kits, violator's caught, etc... You can help by becoming an Outdoor Partner!!!

*The first of many Landowner PSA's is about to go live on network TV.

Fourth,

* We are working on a Landowner Appreciation clean up contest Sponsored by IF&W and Kittery Trading Post for late summer/early fall. We have reached out to the Forest Service as well to partner and expand on the Landowner Appreciation Day.

Fifth,

* We have been working with the Departments I.E. safety education program through Mike Sawyer – Meeting with all Safety Coordinators statewide to give a consistent message regarding LOR and the OP programs. They average 10,000 new students a year.

Sixth,

* We just secured our first signature Landowner Relation's prints. These will be given out to Landowners state wide, which support recreation on private property. They will be distributed thru IF&W staff and various user groups.

Thank you for all your support

- Irving Woodlands, LLC Contract Discussed:

General concern items that have been experienced and expect the clubs utilizing Irving trail networks to work on this year:

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1. Trails must be well signed for the safety and direction.
 2. ATVs are to utilize club permitted and map trails only.
 3. Rules are followed.
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General Rules and Reminders for Users and Enforcers of the Trails

- 1) Permit is good for traditional ATVs only, vehicles such as mini trucks etc. are not allowed.
- 2) All machines including visitors are required to display two stickers:
 - *Sticker #1 - current club sticker (see below list of clubs to choose from)
 - *Sticker #2 - current year ATV Maine sticker.
- 3) Clubs must be registered with the state of Maine and provide proof of:
 - *Recognized as being in good standing with Corporations.
 - *Covered by State of Maine insurance policy.
 - *Brian Bronson - provides Irving Woodlands with current year status.
- 4) Clubs must be current members of ATV Maine and provide proof of:
 - *Registered for current season.
 - *Purchased Naughton Insurance Inc. policy.
 - *ATV Maine acknowledgement current year status
- 5) All trails must be well signed and Irving Woodlands does not authorize ATV use off designated trails.
- 6) Irving Woodlands encourages Maine Warden and Forest Service active participation and enforcement of ATV and permit obligation on all its Woodlands.
- 7) Irving Woodlands looks forward to working with those clubs that take responsibility for the conduct of its members and visitors.
- 8) To operate on an Irving Woodlands trail all users must demonstrate recognized club membership. Users can belong to any listed club and utilize any official trail and must be able to demonstrate ability to meet the conditions of #2 above to enforcement personnel and other club members. The following is the current list of clubs that are permitted to operate on our trails:

Irving Woodland's Recognized Clubs:

Portage Lakers	Borderline ATV Club
Van Buren ATV Club	Allagash ATV Club
Eagle Lake Trail Blazers	Frenchville ATV Riders
Aroostook Riders	St. Agatha ATV Club
Sinclair ATV Club	Grand Isle ATV Club
Aroostook Valley ATV Club	Sly Brook Trail Blazers
Island Falls Freewheelers	Northern Ridge Runners
Madawaska Valley ATV Club	Big 13
Valley ATV Riders	Caribou ATV Club
Start City ATV Club	Knowles Corner ATV Club
Masardis ATV Club	Patten ATV Club

The ATV Use Permit accompanying the Irving contract is signed by Ked Coffin and the ATV club - specific to insurance carrier. Anyone who rides on Irving land must belong to a club which has a contract with Irving.

Discussion - problem with ATVs/UTVs without proper club stickers with current year membership.

Tami was informed the Game wardens will be provided an electronic list of all clubs in their laptops.

Primary and associate membership discussed

President's Report:

There has been a lot of feedback from the clubs for the positive changes we are accomplishing, even as small as appropriate meeting conduct. Tami is hearing people are considering returning to meetings and clubs returning to ATV Maine.

- Negative influences are starting to fade
- The clubs rely on their Directors to provide accurate information from meetings, not just the Director's personal opinions from what's discussed or how we choose to handle issues.
- The clubs are appreciating the visits from ATV Maine and that we are out there
- The current team of Officers & Officials is a true representation of leadership without personal agendas – we are being perceived as trustworthy and having confidence in us.

Memberships as of today 40 clubs, 6 are on hold at this time for paperwork. There are 143 business memberships as of yesterday. More than half the clubs have renewed, not including the pending mail.

Most clubs are struggling due to lack of volunteers. Confirmed Camp-2 has disbanded in Rangeley.

Banquet refunds will not be given after April 1st. There was one refund requested the day before the banquet. E-board voted to give the refund only if we exceeded the head count or a no-show situation. Request was because of a death in the family. Invitation has been revised to state such.

Tami provided explanation as to the CEC being successfully submitted since the banquet, with the appointment of Terry Sinclair as Secretary and Tracy Levesque as Treasurer.

High Mileage - Cindy Weymouth of Airline Riders is your contact person. She has had problems because she did not get the support she was expecting. High Mileage forms revised and updated for 2015, and posted on website today, and things are moving forward.

The donation from ATV Maine was sent to Pine Tree Society in Francis Smith's name. ATV Maine received a Thank You letter from Pine Tree Society and a Thank You card from Clara, Francis' wife.

Liability insurance history was explained. In the past, ATV Maine has slowly taken a loss since we decreased the cost to the clubs. Problem is, ATV Maine has taken from one account to pay another since 2013, and we are at that point once again, the \$11,000 level. The cost is on average \$32,000 for 50 clubs. ATV Maine charges \$550 per club. This needs to be looked at again in August. ATV Maine is using the same informative procedure as last year with the clubs. Motion to increase the insurance by \$50 made by Ray Archer, seconded by Richard Howlett; 12 voted for, 1 opposed - Motion carried. Invoices to go out in July in the amount of \$600.00. Suggestion to mention coverage should be presented on Facebook for membership to read.

Facebook - Shane Brown is doing an outstanding job!

ATV Maine cell phone is now billed as ATV Maine, not a personal name, and reduced to a Business promotion fee.

Safety Trailer for 4 – H: In 2011 and 2012, the Safety Officer was responsible for the ATV Maine Youth Safety Trailer at Bryant Pond for the 4-H weeklong camp as an ATV Maine member. In 2013 and 2014, the trailer continued to go without an ATV Maine member, with the understanding Mike Sawyer was associated with the individual at Bryant Pond. Doug Kane, Safety Officer, Real, and Tami made the decision this year, the Safety Trailer can no longer be there without an ATV Maine club/member, for liability reasons.

Sportsman's Alliance of Maine: Tami met with the President and Executive Director of Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, and Bob Howe, Pine Grove Program, meeting about all working together and bringing ATV Maine into what is going on and understanding what ATV Maine is about, a more positive connection with SAM, and discussed the Pine Grove program.

The Pine Grove program is holding a ride on September 20th for veterans.

Motion made by Richard Willoughby to continue to work with Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, and seconded by Mike Lee – MSVP.

10:15 - there was a 10-minute break
11:05 - meeting called back the order

The Moose Loop here is broken. An explanation of the trail situation in Franklin County was given by Sandi Isgro, Vice President, Flagstaff Area ATV Club.

New Business:

Rules & Guidelines and By-Laws need to be looked at by the E-Board and see where we go from there for committee.

Election of Treasurer and Secretary:

Tracy Levesque for Treasurer and Terry Sinclair for secretary - Voting accomplished by paper ballots – Vote was 14 for secretary and 14 for Treasurer; ballots were counted by Mike Lee, Doug Kane, and Richard Willoughby.

Meeting broke for lunch at 12:00
Meeting called back to order at 12:42 – Thanks to the lunch crew

Letter from Last Frontier Riders explaining the collaboration accomplished with Bodfish Riders, K-I Riders and Last Frontier Riders, and a map designed and produced by IFM (Integrated Forest Management) www.ifmgt.com

Appointment of non-elected positions:

District Representatives – Northern: Richard Howlett
Southern: Vacant
Eastern: Vacant
Western: Ed Zilinski
Central: Vacant

Budget Committee – Tracy Levesque
Debbie Willoughby
Richard Howlett

A motion that Debbie Willoughby, Richard Howlett, and Tracy Levesque be appointed to the Budget Committee, and meet with the Trails Committee, by Richard Willoughby, seconded by Doug Kane – MSVP.

Safety Officer – Doug Kane

Webmaster – Shane Brown

Safety Officer Report:

The ATV Maine Youth Safety Trailer was at the Bethel Moose Lottery. Need an adult large helmet for the safety trailer. Real bought three tires for the trailer he has and gave one to the Doug as a spare. Trailer will be going next to the Airline ATV Riders. Hair nets for helmet protection and caution tape to protect people from crossing track were purchased.

Regional VP Reports:

Northern: Portage Lake, as of this summer, will have a trail to Eagle Lake. Thanks to the DOT and the Portage Lakers ATV Club. A new trail connects the east and west sides of town. Spoke to a school Assembly. Taking the Youth Safety Trailer to the Acadian Festival and the Star City ATV club event.

Eastern: A bunch of different things going on. Wish ATV Maine logo was on the trash bags because of the number of bags we've seen. Downeast Sunrise rail trail contract problem taking the trail into Ellsworth. There is preliminary work to get the rail trail through Moose Horn Game Preserve in Calais. The rail bed is owned by the State of Maine. Warden Alan Curtis from North Wood's Law, is president of the Machias ATV club. A new Downeast Sunrise Trail map will display trails going from Bangor to Calais.

Southern: The Army Base has been closed for about a year and a half, but a trail is being created to parallel the Army Base. Talking with ATV clubs about ideas/reasons to join ATV Maine.

Central: Visiting clubs, getting complaints of no volunteers to do work. Been involved in building Mud Mats, estimated \$10 per foot. An 84-foot one is in use in China showing positive results by tracking on game camera.

Western: Shared the same positive feelings regarding ATV Maine. Gave thanks to those who joined him when visiting the Oquossic ATV Club, and gave personal thanks and recognition to Ed Zilinsky for his help as District Rep.

50-50 won by Mike Lee – gave \$25 to ATV Maine and \$21 back to the hosting club.

Helmet Award: Anne Deschaine, donated by Frechette's Ski-Doo

Pot-of-Gold: Schoodic ATV club – not present – \$50 to be added back to the Pot-of-Gold.

Tami requested to meet with the E-Board.

Adjournment: Motion made by Walter Laroue, seconded by Cindy Laroue - MSVP.

Next meeting is in the Southern Region, the club location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry

Terrence D Sinclair

ATV Maine Secretary