



Trail Tales

Mountain Valley Trail Riders
P.O. Box 752
Washington, PA 15301

Volume 32 Number 7

July 2017

Upcoming Events

Aug. 11-13 Barkcamp State Park, OH
Host: Patty Walker (724) 926-9380

Aug. 25-27 Salt Fork State Park, OH
Host: Tammy Schweitzer (412) 303-3761 & Jeanie Taylor (724) 255-2764

Oct. 6-8 Mingo Creek County Park Campout Weekend

Reminders

The next club meeting will be **July 19th at 7:30** on the first floor of the Courthouse Square Building. Remember, meetings count as 1 point towards Participation Points for next year's membership.

If you have a change of mailing or e-mail address or are not receiving your newsletter, please make sure to notify Meaghan Hettinger at (724) 514-7781 or meaghan.hettinger@gmail.com. Keeping your current address updated with the club will ensure you continue to receive your newsletter and other club notifications.

Pictures are always needed for the club scrapbook. Please send a physical copy of the picture to Caitlin Woods Taylor at 2289 Beallsville Rd., Marianna, PA 15345. You can also e-mail them to meaghan.hettinger@gmail.com.



Check out MVTR on Facebook! Just search Mountain Valley Trail Riders.

Members in attendance at the June meeting were Tammy Schweitzer, Jeanie Taylor, Kellie DiBattista, Lauren Hettinger, Elaine Clemens Mowl, Marge McCormick, Vince Peteya, Michelle Frye, Bob Kane, Roger Shumaker, Diane Hughes, Meaghan Hettinger, Patty Walker, Howard Anderson, Chuck Dye, Marci Kirchner, and Dave Kirchner.

Former club members Tony and Louise Williams recently collected 481 feed labels to donate to MVTR! At .25¢ per label that is 120.25. Thank you so much Tony and Louise!

New Members

Welcome to new Club Member Chuck Dye of Burgettstown, PA. We look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday wishes for the month of July go out to Howard Anderson, Robert Brown, Ryan Hettinger, Diana Hughes, Marjorie McCormick, and Melanie Pelegrinelli! We hope everyone has a wonderful day!

Big Changes for MVTR?

There was a discussion at the recent Director's Meeting about making significant changes to the way the club operates. As most non-profit clubs do, we run entirely on volunteers. These volunteers are the life blood of our club. Our core volunteer base has become quite weary. They can no longer go at the pace demanded by the current activity level of the club. The level of volunteer burnout is significant.

It was suggested at the Director's Meeting and subsequent monthly meeting that the club may cut activities and commitments such as the Judged Trail Ride/Trail Challenge, Fun Show and parades. The ideas of reducing Director numbers and charging a flat fee for membership were also discussed. Director positions may be reduced to either 7 or 5 seats depending on membership input.

Another option for future activities would be to increase the number of Member's Only events the club hosts. The response was overwhelmingly positive for the recent Member's Only Fun Show.

These issues will be discussed again at the July meeting before any decisions are made. Please plan to attend the meeting if you have any questions or thoughts.

JTR Format Changes

There was much discussion at the May meeting on what changes were going to be made to the 2017 JTR being held on October 8th.

The first change to made was to the name. This event will now be known as the MVTR Trail Challenge. It was felt that this name better reflects the new format of clustered obstacles.

Pre-registration and payment will be a requirement for this Trail Challenge. Registration will be limited to 72 spots. Once they have been filled we will no longer be accepting registrations. **A spot is not reserved until payment is made.** Payment can be made via Paypal on our website or by check sent to our mailbox. In the event that MVTR must cancel this event, \$20 will be refunded with \$5 being held by MVTR for administrative costs. Refunds will only be issued if the event is cancelled by MVTR. We cannot refund for any other reason.

Ride times will be assigned once payment is made. Riders will be sent out in groups of four every 10 minutes. The first riders will leave at 9:00 and the last riders will be sent out at 12:00. If you miss your ride time you may be assigned an empty time spot if one is available. However, it is possible we will not be able to give you a new ride time. **Please be on time for your assigned ride out time slot!**

Camping will be available in Area 10 on Friday night for MVTR members and to the general public on Saturday. Camping is free for members and \$10 per registration for non-members.

Officers and Committee Chairpersons

President *until 2018*

Tammy Schweitzer
(412) 303-3761
Mvtr.email@gmail.com

Treasurer *until 2019*

Diana Hughes
(412) 580-7658

Directors

until Barbara Gregg
2018 Roger Shumaker
Suzanne Weimer
Meaghan Hettinger
Dennis Prpich

Vice President *until 2018*

Jeanie Taylor
(724) 255-2764

Quarter Master *until 2019*

Suzanne Weimer &
Barbara Gregg
(724) 263-8054

until Kellie DiBattista
2019 Patricia Walker
Jeanie Taylor
Elaine Clemens Mowl

Rec. Secretary *until 2018*

Patricia Walker
(724) 926-9380

Parade Captain *until 2019*

Jeanie Taylor
(724) 255-2764

Corres. Sec. *until 2019*

Meaghan Hettinger
(724) 514-7781

Pony Rides Barb Gregg (724)350-7055	Adopt-A-Highway Kellie DiBattista (412)337-2031
Points Meaghan Hettinger (724)514-7781	Trail TailsMeaghan Hettinger (724)514-7781
Scrapbook Caitlin Taylor (724)350-7059	Trail Scheduler Tammy Schweitzer(412)303-3761
Banquet Elaine Clemens Mowl (724)255-7932	Horse Show

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