

Treadmarks

The Grateful Treads - Jay/Westfield/Montgomery Mountain Bike Association

Season Kick-Off

As we begin to see the lines on the mountains get thinner and thinner, the trails in woods are getting wider and wider, and the group formerly know as MMBA, The Grateful Treads, is ready to lead our local mountain biking troops into a new season. Armed with a new name, new events, and a continued commitment to working with landowners to develop environmentally responsible and sustainable biking routes throughout our region, the Treadheads can't wait to start the season. This year, we look forward to continuing to work with our VMBA partners to secure grant funding to develop our local trails, as well as to access newly developed trails on public land. In addition, we have leads on new trail possibilities on both sides of the mountain, more possibilities for new events (see sidebar), and great partnerships with local businesses and

Spring Mountain Bike Fest June 13th & 14th

Based on the carnage from last season (ask Don & Glenn), you just can't miss this spring's primo event. Last fall's mountain bike festival produced a new name for a section of the Oberland Trail, the Organ Grinder (don't ask), and shuttle rides with the new First Trax-mobile to the top of the race course for a complete Team Leisure end to the weekend. This year, we're looking for bigger numbers to take advantage of the great riding in our local area. Join TGT by June 13 and be entered into the raffle for a Jay Peak Ski Season Pass.

landowners to promote responsible use of our natural resources. Our focus this year will be to improve existing trails, build new trails, and provide outreach to members and potential members to continue grow our club to provide more biking terrain in our area. So, here's to a new season, and stay tuned for trailwork days, club activities, and group rides starting soon.

Changing of the Gears April 11th

Feeling the pinch around the middle of too many lift rides and not enough hikes? Sign up for the first annual Changing of the Gears event to measure just how far you've fallen since the last ride of the year. In true Adrenaline fashion, we'll start a group ride in Montgomery Center, ride up route 242 to the Stateside parking lot, refuel, and then hit the mountain for well-deserved lift access runs. For the purists, feel free to lug your skis on your bike and throw on the skins to bring in the new season in style. Tailgate BBQ to follow. \$5 per person and kids are free. Pre-register by April 8 with mary@firsttrax.net.



Tom Murphy airs it out.
Photo courtesy: Lenny Christopher
www.lennychristopher.com

Important Dates:

- 📅 **April 11:**
*Changing of the Gears.
FirstTrax
Montgomery.
10:00am.*
- 📅 **April 18:**
*Grateful Treads
Poker
Fundraiser.
10:00 am at
Westfield
Community
Center.*
- 📅 **April 25 & 26:**
*Trailwork
Days. Details
TBA*
- 📅 **June 13 & 14 -**
*Grateful
Treads Spring
Mountain Bike
Festival.
Details TBA.*

Individual Highlights:

Season Kick-Off - 1

Spring Mtn Bike Fest - 1

Changing of the Gears - 1

Updates - 2

Tread Lightly® - 2

Updates



Callie Young tests the new bridgework on the Xmas Tree trail

Tread Lightly®

VMBA thanks GTMBA for our generous support of the VMBA Executive Director position. The Grateful Treads donated \$1000 for the position in recognition of its value. The ED, Patrick Kell, has written many grant applications and secured several for VMBA chapters. Most recently he has submitted a \$20,000 grant application on our behalf for a new bridge and trail development on the Jay Xmas tree land. Our fingers our crossed!

Denny Lyster has been recognized for his help in forming new chapters statewide. Nice work, Denny!

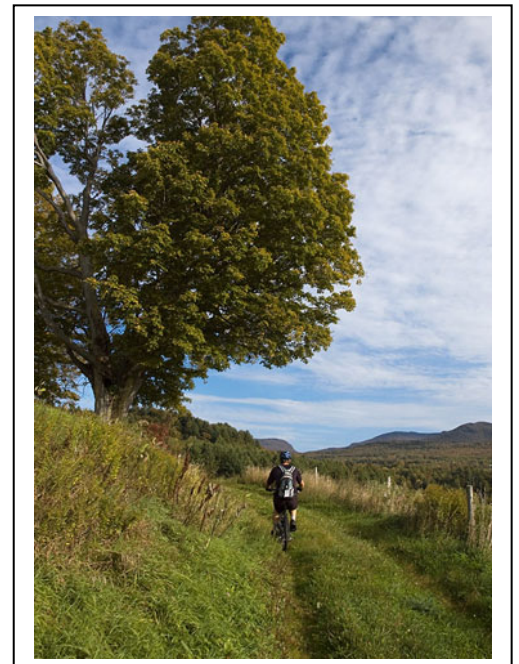
VMBA has been working diligently with the Department of Forests and Parks to open access to state land for mountain biking. Our support of these efforts helps us and others ride more trails in more areas

*Purrier Farm Trail. Photo courtesy Lenny Christopher.
www.lennychristopher.com*

statewide.

Get ready to shuffle up and deal at the Grateful Treads poker fundraiser on April 18th at the Westfield Community Center. \$50 buy-in, and 30% of the proceeds will go to our local chapter, and 70% to winners of the tourney.

This year, we will be trying to build more club awareness through a new name, new events, a new logo, and new merchandise. By supporting our club in any of these venues, or simply by joining, you help maintain our local and state level access to mountain biking terrain.



Tread Lightly® ...

GTMBA treads lightly by...

- ✓ Riding only on approved trails (i.e. landowner permission)
- ✓ Staying off wet trails
- ✓ Parking in approved lots (not just closest to the trail...c'mon people, we're bikers for God's sake!)
- ✓ Maintaining trails using accepted practices (i.e. no slab bridges to fill in those annoying little brooks)
- ✓ Building trail improvements only with landowner permission.
- ✓ Self-policing on the trails
- ✓ Picking up litter
- ✓ Being community role models