

Spring 2010

Volume 4, Issue 1

# Treadmarks

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

## Riding 2010

With all of the odd weather, the start of the season has been a bit disjointed. This year, we'll be looking to continue to rehab and upgrade existing trails, scope out new areas to ride, and work with landowners, towns and businesses to increase our riding options. Our efforts in our local chapter mirror those in chapters around the state and in VMBA. With more coordination of efforts, political wrangling, and plain old hard work, riding options throughout the state continue to grow. In particular, Patrick Kell's efforts have resulted in unprecedented access to state and federal land to ride existing and build new trails. All of this progress can be directly attributed to role all of the

riders in the state play as ambassadors of the sport and stewards of the land. When we practice good public relations by asking permission before we build, using sustainable trail design techniques, and working in our communities, we help create opportunities for more riding possibilities in our area and statewide. Keep up the great work, and see you on the trails!

We're always looking for everyone's voice to be heard, so if you have ideas, questions, concerns, or just want to stay involved, all of the meetings are open to everyone (byob!). Email Mary ([mary@firsttrax.net](mailto:mary@firsttrax.net)) to get on the agenda.



Spring Mountain Bike Fest Group Ride Day 2 on the Backus Farm

### Heads of the Treads:

President: Chris Young

Secretary: Mary Ellis

Treasurer: Sue Wilson

VMBA Rep: Denny Lyster

Web Master: Lenny Christopher

Chris Young will also be representing our club as Vice-Chair for VMBA.

### Regular Calendar:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month  
- Club Meeting at Don & Mary's. 5:30 ride, 7:00 meeting.

## Spring Mountain Bike Fest

**Spring Mountain Bike Fest** - Our signature event of the year will take place on June 19 & 20 this year. Tops on the bill are riding, camaraderie, and beer (not necessarily in that order).

We'll do Montgomery rides on day 1, 10:00am and 2:00pm, followed by a 6:00 bbq. On day 2, we'll hit the Jay side with the ride starting at 11:00. Make sure you eat a big breakfast cuz Denny generally leads that one. \$10 will get you a great bbq with burgers, dogs, and

Tosca's famous cold salads. Mat and Chris will also be kicking in for some great appetizers, so make sure you get there before they are gone.

In addition, this year we will provide a kids ride as an option for Saturday morning. We're still scoping out routes, but it will be on the Montgomery side and doable for the mini-hammerheads as long as they can ride without training wheels (at least 21" wheels would be nice as well).

### Individual Highlights:

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# Treads Goals

**Mission:** The Grateful Treads is a mountain bike and trails advocacy group based in Montgomery, Jay and Westfield, Vermont. 60 members strong, and growing, TGT develop new trails, maintain existing trails, and work with local officials and landowners to promote sustainable trail networks.

## Focus Areas:

1. **Trails:** Develop and maintain a cohesive network of multi-use trails in the Jay/Montgomery/Westfield area.
2. **Advocacy:** Work with businesses, landowners, and local and state officials to promote responsible use of natural resources and healthy lifestyles for residents and visitors

## Goals:

1. Create a trail system that links Jay, Montgomery and Westfield.
2. Upgrade existing trails to align with sustainable trail-building practices and IMBA standards.
3. Create new trail systems for all abilities to align with sustainable IMBA standards.
4. Increase visibility in area communities to promote membership and advocate for trail usage
5. Build partnerships with landowners and local and state officials to secure access to terrain

## 2010 Events & Updates

**Changing of the Gears** - Our kick-off event this year was a great success. In our second year, 17 folks made the ride up 242, with special props going to Brian Lyster for daring to ride a road bike for a mtn bike event. It takes a special kind of person to shun conventional wisdom and embrace such radical change, but we applaud Brian's courage to push the envelope and find the easiest way up the mountain.

In our second year entering Jay Peak's Tailgate Party, Chris Young's pecan crusted pork tenderloin skewers with pineapple and maple ginger glaze on grilled tortillas with apple slaw won for appetizers. In addition, we had Sue Wilson's marinated-stuffed pork tenderloin, Wayne's bacon-wrapped venison bites, Chris Kelly's Magic Hat ribs, and many more. Great showing by the home team!

More importantly, special thanks to Sue Wilson for taking the lead on getting our area set-up and organizing the event. We'd be eating off dirty cafeteria trays were it not for Sue's planning. Also, special thanks to Lisa Kelly for bringing the Magic Hat to the event. Nothing says spring skiing like a keg of Vinyl and a few growlers of Blind Faith.

**Club Swag** - We are in our second year with a new logo and shirts and jerseys. Check out the selection at Firsttrax. Mat Long is doing great



The better side of the Treads at the Changing of the Gears

work for the club in researching new ways to use our logo on stickers, socks, jerseys, etc. Thanks, Mat, for promoting the club!

**Trailwork Days** - We've set Sunday mornings as trailwork days for the season. Obviously, don't let anyone stop you if the spirit strikes at any other time, but if you have a particularly nasty section, an inspiration, or just a need for more hands on deck, email Mary and we'll send out a notice to rally the troops. It would also be helpful if everyone could keep the club posted on your trail plans so that we can better coordinate and avoid duplicating efforts. Thanks for all you do to maintain our trails!