

Spring 2011

Volume 5, Issue 1

Treadmarks

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

Times they are a changin'

Hard to believe that last year at this time we had already dragged ourselves up 242 from Montgomery on an 80 degree day for the Changing of the Gears. Despite the snowpack, we have a great season of riding ahead of us, and will continue to focus our efforts on two main areas: trails and advocacy. We ended on a strong note last year with help from our Canadian friends who motivated to organize a trail-work day on the Old Connector, rehabbing bridges and re-routing wet sections. Thanks go especially to Denny for organizing all of the materials, and to Eric for organizing

the labor. It was a great reminder of how much work can get done in a short amount of time when we get a bunch of folks together on a focused section of trail. Once we get the spring clean-up out of the way, one of our goals this year will be to continue to make the trails that we have even better by using sustainable and IMBA standards-based trail design techniques. For just a little more effort at the beginning, we get trails that require less effort to maintain, are more fun to ride, and last longer. See you on the trails!



Denny hard at work framing

2011 Events

Changing of the Gears - Our kick-off this year is scheduled for May 1st. The collective culinary skills of our group will be on full display as this will be a pot-luck event. Once again, we will rely on Sue Wilson's organizational talents to get everything together, so be on the lookout for emails.

Spring Mountain Bike Fest - Our signature event of the year will take place on June 11 & 12 this year. \$15 will get you a great bbq with burgers, dogs, and sides, and a portion of the profits will be set aside to support the VMBA Executive Director position (see page 2). Last year we were able to lead a great kids ride, as well as two full days of riding for adults.

Club Swag - Thanks to Mat Long and Great Big Graphics, we continue to expand our club gear. Check out the selection at Firsttrax, and let us know if you have an idea for new ways to promote the club.

Trailwork - In addition to scheduled trail days (see calendar) we appreciate all of the individual work you all do to create riding opportunities in our area. Be on the lookout for emails updating you on trailwork, landowner concerns, and trail conditions. Remember, when we practice good public relations by working with landowners, we help build a positive image for more riding throughout the state.

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.

Calendar:

May 1st: Changing of the Gears. Leave Firsttrax at 10:00. Potluck at @ 11:30. Skiing & tailgating all day.

May 8th: Trailwork Day - focus on Race Course. Meet at FirstTrax at 9:30.

May 16th: Next TGT meeting - 6:00pm at Don & Mary's

May 22nd: Trailwork Day - focus on Race Course. Meet at FirstTrax at 9:30.

June 11th & 12th: Spring Mountain Bike Fest. Details coming soon.

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.

Treads Goals

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

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) to get on the agenda.

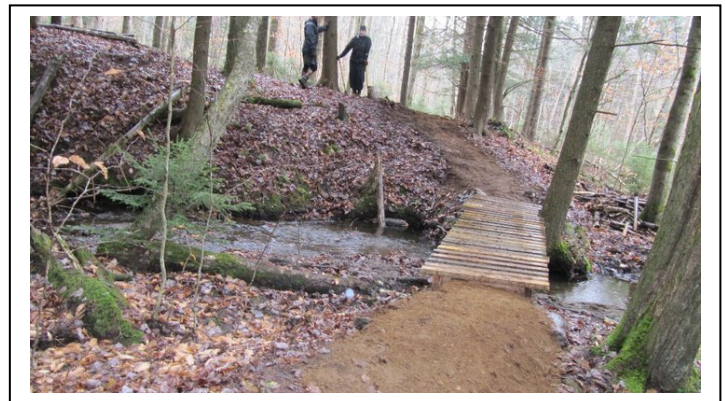
VMBA Updates

Our efforts in our local chapter mirror those in chapters around the state and in VMBA. 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 the role all of the riders in the state play as ambassadors of the sport and stewards of the land. In addition, there are many clubs throughout the state who are more than willing to show you around, let you in on their secrets, and generally be good mountain biking neighbors. Check out the VMBA website for contact information and try to get out to the other parts of the state for some excellent riding.

In addition to advocacy, here are some projects that Patrick is working on on our behalf:

Grants - \$10,000 for Moosalamoo work (materials, equipment rental, and a mason) and \$100,000 for new trails at Little River State Park.

Moosalamoo work will kick off this year with trail design in May, then logistics before VYCC crews start and work concurrently for 22 weeks from June through August on Chandler Ridge and Leicester Hollow. \$22,000 is confirmed from the USFS to cover PK's salary on this project.



Sweet new Dark Hollow bridge

We have \$26,000 raised so far for 2011 for the Ride Center/Adams Camp project in Stowe. Work will start there once the snow is gone, Trail work days will be coordinated with the Stowe Club

VMBA Events

The Ski Resort Conference with Gravity Logic from Whistler is scheduled for May 12-13 at Trapps. The VT Tourism Dept are sponsoring \$1,000 and helping get the word out to resort directors. Club members are welcome; let Mary (mellis@enosburg.k12.vt.us) know if any may be interested and we'll have them attend.

VT Mtn Bike Festival - Waterbury, VT. July 16th & 17th. Group rides, kids' rides, women's rides, skills clinics, action workouts. All riders and all abilities welcome. Vendors, bike demos, live music, mountain bike movies, BBQ, raffles and prizes.