

## 2023/24 OFFICERS

President	Vinal Applebee
Vice Pres	Mike Cribbin
Secretary	Allison Applebee
Treasurer	Melissa Dow Doane
Trail Master	Randy Brown
Trail Master	Dave Soucier



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We are a 501(c)4 nonprofit corporation.

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## IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### REGARDING THE OPENING OF OUR TRAIL SYSTEM 2024 - FACTS & INFORMATION

#### To all ATV and SxS riders:

Greetings, good people! Because there are a lot of rumors and misinformation floating around regarding the seasonal opening of our trails, I felt it of great importance to share the following information in hopes that we will all learn many facts and realize that we, as the beneficiaries of many land owners' generosity, need to understand in order to continue to enjoy our privilege to ride on someone else's land. Please accept this letter as an opportunity to learn. Please then share this knowledge with others.

**First**, let me dispel the most prevalent and rapidly spreading rumor out there — and that is “*once the 'gates' are open, the trails are open.*” This is ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE!

Fact: the land owners open their gates to allow themselves and their hired forest managers, early access to their lands so they can assess their land conditions and water crossings from possible winter/spring damage, as well as the opportunity to review timber health and maturity in order formulate a harvesting plan for the season. They DO NOT open their gates to signify “it's time to ride!”.

After considering many factors, when the land owner determines that is safe and convenient for them to open their lands up for others to enjoy recreational opportunities such as hiking and trail riding, they let us know. In the case of AFM-managed land, that information comes to us from the State of Maine, thus perhaps answering another often asked question - “How can the state tell US when we can and can't ride?”.

**Secondly**: As club officers, directors and responsible riders, we must do what we can to provide safe riding conditions for ourselves, club members and visitors alike. That is why our trail masters and volunteers conduct pre-season trail inspections and then perform necessary springtime maintenance and/or mark hazards with warning devices. We DO receive special permission from the owners allowing us to ride on their land to perform such tasks. These efforts are **NOT** a blanket sign that the trails are “open for business”.

Speaking of safety, no one wants to receive a letter from the family of an injured or deceased rider with a lawsuit claiming that we opened the trails without owner's permission, or 'too early', or before being properly inspected and deemed safe to ride (that is to the best of our knowledge).

**In summary**: riding on someone else's land is a privilege afforded to us by the generosity of a number of land owners. As such, we must ride by their decisions and follow the directions they give, which includes WHEN the trails are open. Rocky Mountain does not make this decision, nor does the state!

Yes, we are all anxious to ride this season, considering the wicked nice weather so far and the crappy season last year, BUT as of this writing, I know of no clubs that have officially opened their trails, including our neighbors: Airline ATV Riders, Penobscot Off Road Riders, Burlington Back Country Riders, Penobscot Ridge Riders. It will likely be another few weeks. We will certainly post the good news when able.

Sincerely, Vinal Applebee, Club President

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83 MILES OF TRAILS AND ACCESS ROADS IN MILFORD, GREENFIELD, SUMMIT, LOWELL, GRAND FALLS AND T39MD  
CONNECTING WITH THE BURLINGTON, LINCOLN AND AIRLINE TRAIL SYSTEMS

OUR CLUBHOUSE AND PARK & RIDE IS LOCATED AT 143 CROSS RD, GREENFIELD, ME