

2023 - YEAR IN REVIEW

(AKA: I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER)



ADMINISTRATION/GENERAL

As most of you know, there was an **emergency meeting** of Rocky Mountain Trail Riders called on April 8, 2023. Many surrounding ATV club representatives came, and the public was invited. The meeting was well attended by some of our club members, local ATV enthusiasts and many folks from nearby.

Former Club Officers gave a brief summary of the then present status of the club. They explained that they were resigning after many years (15+) of service. As such, **the RMTR club was in jeopardy of closing**. Representatives from the state of said that without an organized club, state funding for trail maintenance would cease for our 83 miles of trails. Some neighboring clubs, Airline ATV Riders in particular, expressed some interest in taking responsibility for the RMTR trail system, if no other solution could be found.

After the update report, **a call for volunteers** to serve as new club officers was initiated. Enough interested local ATV'ers offered to serve and they were voted in by those in attendance, thus avoiding a shutdown. Our new officers are Randy Brown as Trail Master and Dave Soucier as assistant Trail Master; Melissa Dow Doane as Treasurer/Secretary, Mike Cribbin as Vice President and Vinal Applebee as President. A month subsequent, Allison Applebee took the position of Secretary and membership coordinator.

Next the Officers **updated the club By-Laws** slightly and established membership fees, as well as made decisions to the direction they wanted to take the club in 2023 and set some goals.

After the annual seasonal itch from all, and after the state mandated delayed start, and after initial trail inspections were conducted, **our trails were opened to the public to ride on May 20, 2023**.

Our pre-season trail inspections noted at least two **significant culvert washouts** and many downed trees. Those were taken care of. We are so thankful to AFM for taking care of the culverts and washouts.



Continued rain brought even more washouts.



RMTR club **voted to join ATV Maine** to obtain the recent state-required general liability insurance. At the cost of \$10 per club membership, included in the Membership fees, ATV Maine provides individual members with AD&D insurance, as well as lobbying at the State House for ATV related bills and initiatives.

The year 2023 brought the restart of regular monthly club meetings – from April to October. Member **attendance was incredible** but as expected, it tapered off as the season progressed. Thank you to those who attended one or more meetings.

We asked the Milford Select Board for their approval of a **speed limit increase from 15mph to 25mph** on County Road only. They voted to approve our request from Pine Street outbound. All the remainder of the local roads in Milford remain posted at 15mph, except Call Road from Pine Street out is also 25mph.

EVENTS IN 2023



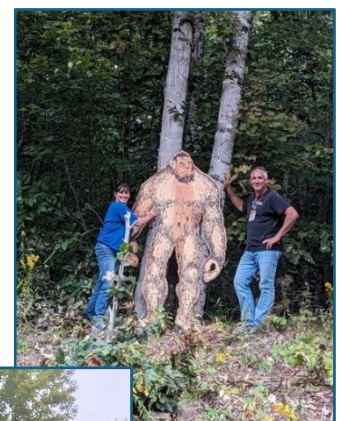
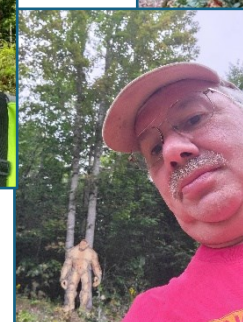
We had a successful **OPEN HOUSE** on June 3. We provided various food items and snacks for visitors and members alike. Offered tickets for several raffle items, provided by our officers and local businesses.



At a couple of our meetings, we held a **BBQ cookout** prior to the formal meeting time. We are thankful to those who donated food items and their time to pull this off. Special thanks to **JOE's Chuck Wagon** for supplying a large tray of their special Cowboy Beans. That was a delicious hit with the crowd!

Our intent was to have a number of club ride events, but with very rainy weather seemingly every weekend, our organized group rides were minimal in 2023. However, we did pull off **two awesome full moon rides!** For 2024 we are planning on **many ride events**. Stay tuned!

After two postponements, we held a **"Scavenger Hunt for Bigfoot"** ride event. Considering the poor weather, even the day of the event, we had decent participation. **Various door prizes were given** out to those who successfully completed the 10-station hunt, and who found Bigfoot. **We offered a meal of beans, hotdogs, coleslaw and desserts for the weary riders.**



We partnered with **Maine Military Supply** for sponsoring a very successful gun raffle fund raiser and will likely do another this year.

Old Town Riverfest '23 peaked our interest to participate, thus we reserved space and **set up a club booth**. We gained much public exposure, showed a ride video montage, had a raffle for a nice lottery scratch ticket frame, handed out lots of trail maps, answered many questions, took in some new membership applications and displayed our business sponsors poster. Very successful time.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRAIL RIDERS
WILL BE AT OLD TOWN RIVERFEST '23
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 11-4 (PARADE AT 10)

AMONG MANY OTHER THINGS HAPPENING AT OUR BOOTH, WE WILL BE RAFFLING OFF THIS AWESOME SCRATCH TICKET FRAME COMPLETE WITH A NEW \$50 BILL
A TOTAL VALUE OF \$150

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE ONLY \$5

HOPE YOU STOP BY OUR BOOTH!



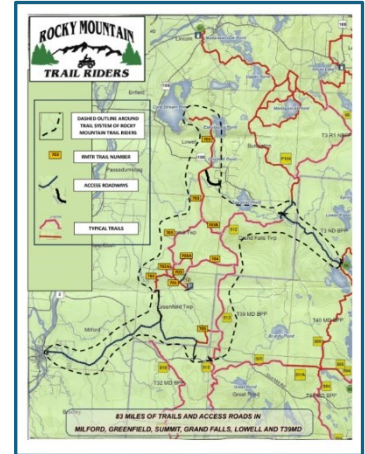
We had fun joining in the annual **Old Town Elk's Festival of Lights Parade** held on November 25! We had four member-owned machines participate and were joined by two other ATVs for a cold, but fun, 3.5-mile ride through Old Town. All the parade watchers along the route enjoyed our festive display of lights!



RMTR TRAIL SYSTEM

As required by the state, **we established and confirmed land ownership** along our trail system. Permission was requested and granted by these generous landowners. Without them, we would not ride very far.

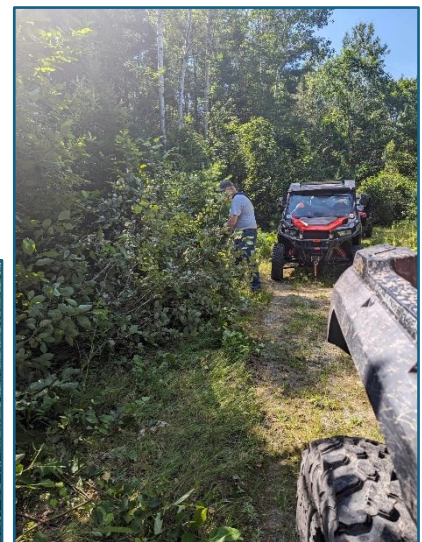
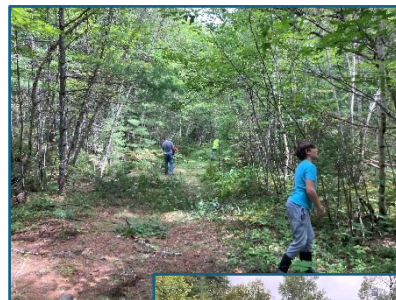
In 2023, **we created a detailed color map** showing our trail system of 83 +/- miles total. We established a trail numbering scheme for ease of navigating and finding your location.



Our trail masters built and installed a number of wicked-**awesome wayfinding kiosks** at critical trail intersections that provide directions – arrows and descriptions. These are much like many snowmobile clubs have on their trails.



All season long but particularly in the springtime, **our trails needed various degrees of maintenance**. We looked to our club membership and others to volunteer and assist in several tree and brush clearing work session outings. Total **volunteer time accumulated to about 335 hours!!** Thank you all who helped! That **valuable time** was used to offset our 10% share requirement of the state reimbursement grant.



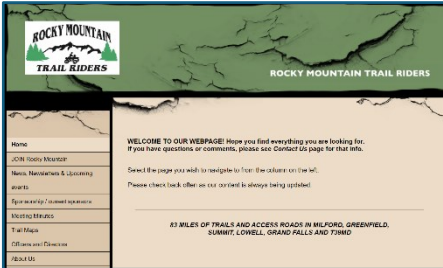
We are **responsible for grading our gravel access roads**, found mostly on land managed by AFM, but also we are financially responsible for various road grading in Penobscot County (16.2 miles) and Hancock Counties (6.7miles). We hired the Maddens to do the grading and install some culverts on non-AFM land.



We also hired **were the Maddens and Dave's Dirt Farmin'** to conduct some professional brush hogging in much needed areas along our trails. A lot of this work had been delayed for years.



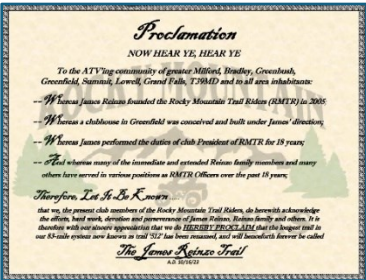
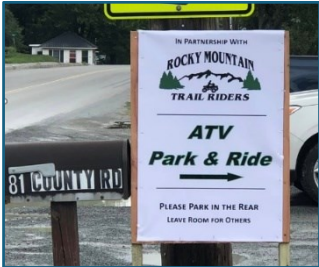
SOME OF OUR 2023 INITIATIVES



In 2023, we established a simple working **webpage** for information sharing and a great place to find membership information and forms, announcements of upcoming events, newsletters, meeting minutes, trail maps and sponsorship opportunities. Our webpage can be seen at **www.RMTRmaine.org**

We also **created the ability to get memberships online** and crafted **QR codes** for this and for donations.

In the need of other **Park & Ride locations**, we contacted **Alexander's Mechanical Solutions** and **County Road Market & Deli**, who both agreed to open their parking lots as official RMTR Park & Ride locations! Thanks! (Alexander's is open weekends only)



For their many years of service with RMTR and for the founding forces of our club, on October 20, **we formally recognized the extended and immediate family of James Reinzo and others with a Proclamation** and a naming of Trail 512 now known as the James Reinzo Trail.

At the end of 2023, we engaged **Wights Sporting Goods** in Hampden to establish a successful **online storefront** that ran for 2-weeks offering RMTR branded clothing, apparel, various swag and accessories.



2023 FINANCES

Our year started with a positive bank account amount, albeit very minimal. With our collections from memberships, numerous business and individual sponsorships, various fundraisers, raffle donations, Riverfest and a generous grant from the Town of Milford, **we were able to sustain our operating costs.**

Knowing early on that we had significant trail maintenance items that needed to be taken care of and a lot of funds were needed to accomplish that end, we applied for a **State Reimbursement Municipal Grant**. To do so, we partnered with the **Penobscot County Commissioners** who graciously agreed to work with us as the responsible funding mechanism.

Operating expenses for the year was about \$41,000, which included cost of items such as insurances, property taxes, electricity, postage and mailings, event costs, lumber, clubhouse building maintenance, etc. The bulk of the our total expenses was that being our **trail maintenance line items, around \$35,000!**

LOOKING FORWARD TO A LOT MORE IN 2024

We are so **looking forward to 2024** and the many ATV trail riding adventures it holds.

See our February 2024 Newsletter and Calendar for more information.