

Along with the many adjustments we've made this year – the mailing of the traditional Fall newsletter has been changed up to be online only. The main reason for this is that we generally time the newsletter to announce the TMA prices, Early Bird dates, and include a form to fill out and mail back in for processing. With VAST Board of Directors moving the TMA Purchase to an online process and using Social Media, VAST Magazine, VAST Blast, Email and direct mailing to all members, we figured a big part of our newsletter's intent was being met. Many folks have already taken advantage of the Early Bird pricing (in effect through Dec 15th) using the online process found at <https://vtvast.org/online-tma-purchase-eb.html> All the information you need can be found on the VAST site – note that you will need to have your state DMV/ORV snowmobile registration info ready to enter and a digital image of your registration ready to upload. If you have your VAST Member ID that was mailed, it will save time by bringing up all your information that is on file, saving you having to key it in.

VAST is following the Governor and CDC guidelines closely and updates can be found on the <https://vtvast.org/> home page. With the existing conditions in place we feel that if people follow the guidelines that snowmobiling can be a great way to be out n about safely during the winter months.

We also use the newsletter forum to announce meeting dates, upcoming events and what's been going on in the off season by club volunteers. As you can imagine there have been a few changes there too, and I'll speak to them here.

With restrictions and logistics around hosting a safety course following COVID guidelines, we opted to take a year off from offering our in-person course. As cases rose, VSP whom oversees the certification process withdrew in-person course offerings in the lines of safety.

<https://vtvast.org/online-safety-course.html> is the link where students can study and then take the necessary certification. If you were born after July 1, 1983, you need to have certification before operating a snowmobile on the VAST trail network. We hope to be back December 2021 with our yearly class.

On November 13th, we hosted a tailored version of our 38th annual club raffle. As we couldn't host our dinner and night out – we lowered the ticket cost, tweaked the payouts and proceeded with selling all 100 tickets. Using FB Live platform, we pulled all hundred balls to reveal the top 3 winners. Congrats to Mark Reaves as the grand prize winner, and runners up Norbie & Marie Laprade, and Dan Cheney. Lee Bell also took home a \$125 Visa gift card for going out 50th (1/2 way point) provided by Bobby Bartlett of State Farm – we appreciate him stepping up and encourage you to have him give you a quote for your vehicles and life insurance needs. Video of the recording can be found on our FB page.

Mark has had a pretty good year I'd say – in addition to winning our raffle, he also was awarded the Director of the Year award at the VAST Annual Meeting. Mark has been affiliated with our club for almost 20 years,

serving as an officer, teaching the safety course, serving on many VAST committees, where he currently resides as the Washington County Director sharing information to/from the 12 volunteer clubs in our county. Mark also donated \$500 of his raffle winnings back to the club – many thanks for that and congrats on your award!

On November 15th we had a planned building dedication ceremony in memory of long time club director Gary Klinefelter. Gary was instrumental over the years in the planning process and helped to secure a land lease agreement with Rock of Ages. It was a great honor to memorialize the day with a granite plaque unveiling for the immediate family even though we couldn't gather with all the friends, family and volunteers that helped in the construction of the building itself. Huge thanks to long time Thunder Chickens Mike & Sharon Pelkey of Memorial Sandblast for donating the granite plaque and sandblasting services.





Next meetings: At this time club meetings are on hold until COVID19 conditions allow for gatherings. Club business is being conducted via email amongst the club officers and directors.

Club Officers/Directors 2020-2021 Season

- President David Rouleau
- Vice President..... Jim Dwinell
- Secretary..... Janelle Anderson
- Treasurer..... Steve Arquin
- Trail Master Jon Joslin
- Membership Coordinator.... Donna M. Rouleau

- 2yr Directors – Doug Anderson, Steve Malnati,
George Hunt
- 1yr Directors - Nate Hunt, Al Rosa, Henry
LaPerle

What’s been going on in the off season? Volunteer crews kept busy firming up the infrastructure of our trail system. We put in for 3

construction grants to fix foundation blocks and redeck bridges needing repair. We also were able to firm up blocks on a 4th bridge while we were out there. Small work crews set out in October to set up the trails for the season – we sure missed the comraderies of getting together and tackling the trails, but putting safety first warranted the smaller crews and getting it done via a divide and concur approach.

Work continues to re-establish an East-West corridor beyond Berlin Corners onward to Riverton, Northfield Falls and Northfield. At this point we have permission from all the necessary landowners and are awaiting a public hearing with the Town of Belin, Conservation Committee whom oversee a section of Town Forest near Irish Hill. We are hopeful to possibly run a groomer through the trail this year and maybe have a “soft” opening of it while we continue to work all the channels to get it blessed as a trail and onto a grooming contract with VAST. Josh Walker and Jim Dwinell have put many many hours into trying to bring this to reality.

We'd like to put a big thanks out to Jeff Laquerre for helping shave off some labor cost on our Polaris Big Boss 6x6. It was in need of a once over and he helped get it ready for duty for our trail set up needs.

It's with deep hearts we pass along information of the passing of one of our club co-founders. Don Denko passed away earlier this month. Along with creating the club in 1972 and being involved in the early decades, he also served as President of VAST. We have many fond memories, me personally coming to know him after his riding years as we carried on the tradition of the club Christmas Party and Yankee Swap where he and Eleanor were in attendance. Our thoughts are with the family in this difficult time.

What's on tap during the season?

We'll miss our traditional hosting at the Cole's Pond Cook Shack with the announcement from George & Colleen that the operation of this trailside gem has come to an end. It was a pleasure being able to co-host along side of them to greet and serve their customers. The great VT hospitality and George's peanut butter fudge will surely be missed. With VAST's

eyes on COVID we are expecting riders will reintroduce some days gone by habits of trailside cook outs and picnics as they enjoy a day on the trails. Remember to carry in carry out, leaving no trace while you enjoy your lunch break on the trails.

Feb - 2021 – 22st Annual Travis Mercy Skate Park Fundraiser – Hosted by the Barre Town Thunder Chickens and the Mercy Family. We aren't going to be able to host our usual Chicken Dinner and Silent Auction but we haven't given up on a COVID friendly poker run and trail side BBQ. We also have our creative thinking hats on to come up with an alternate way to raise money for the park ~ stay tuned !

Within the Town of Barre Forest, we'll once again share the acreage with a logging operation. Logging is slated to be in several sections, of which only 1 will conflict with our corridor between Upper Graniteville and Websterville. We'll have logging on trail signs posted in the area and we ask that you be extra courteous as this operation is **allowing** us to keep the section of trail "open" while they work. The Town Forest itself is always busy with other recreationalist so we ask that you keep speeds down in this shared use area as well for the safety of all and to represent our sport in a positive way.

