

Spring 2006 Midwest Newsletter

Hello all! This is not a "formal" newsletter, I realize, but it is the best I can offer right now and it is better than what we have had in recent times. I first want to say thanks to those who have been in attendance at the conventions, they are not as much of a party as they have been in the past, but we do still need to be there to get work done. To those who haven't been around, we miss you there. It would be great to get the attendance up. For those who aren't aware, you do not have to be a delegate to attend... the more the merrier (just RSVP!!) Keep that in mind for the Fall Convention! Like I said this isn't going to be anything fancy, I am just going to give you my notes from the meetings that took place at the spring convention. If there is anyone interested in putting together a newsletter for the Midwest, please come to the Fall Convention and present your ideas!!! Thanks and have a great summer!!! Amanda Hall – President

As normal we had our Insurance and Safety meetings on Saturday:

Insurance

- There were no claims this past year.
- No change in the policy this year (cost or the policy itself)
- The policy renewal is \$2,837.65
- Questions raised - Luana asked how club events worked that included non-members in attendance. Guests are allowed - IF there is no charge involved. If there is no \$\$ exchanges and event policy is not required. If there is ANY charge on the event you would need to get an event policy. A Waiver still needs to be signed (you do not need to note that they are a guest).
- The insurance agents contact information: Merwyn Larson - (763) 535-0055

Safety

- At the Fall convention there were demonstrations (at least there were supposed to be, but Howie drew pictures instead.)
- Howie wants more interaction from clubs to enforce safety on and off of the trails.
- Howie would like a list from each club compiled with safety tips and recommendations from veteran trail riders for newer trailriders.
- Also, ask questions, if there is something you want tips on, ASK.
- Email Howie with lists or questions: howiebilt@hotmail.com or howiebilt@yahoo.com.

Following our normal meetings we had a guest speaker:

Speaker - Bill Morrissey, Wisconsin Head of DNR Parks and Recreation, Saturday, April 8, 2006- Bill spearheaded the ORV park concept.

New to the department – working towards various new things. Wants to work together with us to get things going. Worked for the MN DNR for 30 years. Some experience in the Army stationed

in Germany – drove a jeep, really only his 4 wheel drive experience. Worked in forestry in MN. Trails are a separate division in MN. They are all together in WI. Looking at a situation where – surveys have went out for the SCORE plan – they have a good response on those surveys, showing significant numbers – having issues with providing off road recreation. Want to do more. Getting requests from organizations and counties to see what they are going to do to provide more motorized recreation. Obviously there are some issues and not all are in agreement about accommodating the motorized recreation, but the majority seems to be in favor of helping. Want input from us to know what needs to be done and what has been done. Put together a paper: willing to explain concept, but cannot hand out. Should be completed in about a month or so. Will be distributed then. Talks about goals, Benefits, drawbacks, financial issues (good and bad), examples from other states. Want our help in locating various parks throughout the US to see the various types of parks and how they were handled/set up. Looking at how the park will be sustained, need caretakers, staff, volunteers – need to be able to run the park. Need trail patrols and make sure it is financed well. Do not want to take funds from other programs, need to look for new funding sources. Most say not to focus on funding problems – need to get the paper out and work out the funding later. State does give \$\$ for land acquisition, looking into if that will be useful. Need Legislation. Partnerships – financial and expertise. Need the money and us... need help in managing the land, want our input as to how it should be run and built. Make sure you look over the paper when it comes out- definitely want input once it is released. 1st notice went out this week, waiting to here from the board as to whether they will hear it. Then a 2nd notice will be filed. A 3rd will be filed (end of May). Letters and testimonies will be need for board hearing. There will be negative testimonies, want a lot of beneficial testimony. Testimony is VERY important to the board. Study will be done in May or June. Not sure of the dates yet.

Asked if they will lose access to the rest of their trails that they are already using and working on once these trails open. –there are no plans to close off national park trails or remove funding from any other programs in order to make these trails.

FULL DELEGATES MEETING NOTES

From April 9, 2006

Guests: There were 2 guest clubs in attendance, applying for membership. The first, Central Mud Racing Association from Onalaska, WI, was voted in as members. The second, Lone Riders form Hager City, WI was also voted in. There was also a third application submitted by Howie for 4X4 Syndicate out of Iowa, they were not in attendance, but were approved as members. Welcome to all of our new members!

Roll Call: Roll call was taken verbally by Randy.

Secretary's report: Minutes were accepted as distributed. (If a copy of these minutes is needed

please contact Amanda Hall.)

Treasurer's report: Financial reports were distributed. Kert went through the report, accepted as distributed.

State Reports: **Minnesota** – Joe gave the report. Discussion of Insurance. Virginia project has slowed up – pushed back till the fall of '07. Appleton is back on track – EAW should be done in the next 6-8 months. Discussion about United dues as MN Association is requiring all members to join United and pay their dues through the MN Assoc.

Wisconsin – Report distributed. Pipeline restoration project – there will be 2 clean up weekends 1st one in June. We discussed the guest speaker. Camp Jeep is August 10-12. Spring Fling is May 6-7 in Lakewood, WI, hosted by the TC Bushwackers. Asking for a \$75 pledge.

Iowa – working on changing their status to non-profit charitable entity. Still having trouble with the DNR and trying to get land use. They have hired a lobbyist. The Associations treasurer, Julie Moore was taking money from their account and she bounced the checkbook on numerous occasions. Howie also made mention of Howiepalooza.

N. Dakota – no report

S. Dakota – no report

Illinois – no report

Nebraska – no report

Safety: discussed Saturday's meeting. Howiepalooza was also mentioned.

Membership: 24 paid clubs + 6 paid at the convention (including the 3 new clubs). We still have 14 unpaid clubs. Suggested that Randy call those clubs that have yet to renew their dues. Also, a BIG thanks to Randy and Cheryl Hays and the work that they have put into the membership position... they have done a great job!!!!

Newsletter: There is no official newsletter, still no volunteers to put one together. We do really need this.

Promotions: Howie has the MW banner if anyone needs it for an event let him know and he will get that to you. Chris offered to get the promo items (stickers, patches, etc.) from Dan Bergin and mail them to Howie. Kert gave Howie and inventory list of what we do have. If anyone wants any promo items please contact Howie. Howiepalooza was also mentioned.

Awards – no awards.

Insurance: discussed Saturday's meeting. Motion was made and seconded to renew the policy, it was approved.

Tread Lightly: Howie has some stickers and bandanas if you want any. Also, if your club (or individuals) wants any TL products contact Howie as he can order it at a discount.

United Report: Luana distributed a report. There is a meeting coming up in Oakridge TN. Dues structure has changed: If an organization is not represented 100% (meaning all of the members of an organization are not United members) than that organization has to play a flat fee of \$1000 + each member of that organization (that wants to be a United member) has to pay \$15. If the organization IS represented 100% then the flat fee is waived and each member only pays \$10. Because not every member of the MW is a member of United we would have to pay the flat fee and \$15 per member. A motion was mad to not pay the United dues this year and was seconded. A vote was put on the floor and all agreed not to join the United.

Blue Ribbon Coalition: if your club is having an event, write an article and submit it to the magazine. They really want to broaden what the magazine covers and show that they are covering the entire US.

Lake States Resource Alliance: there was a banquet in Wausau on April 22nd.

Convention Bids: The Fall 2006 Convention will be held in LaCrosse, WI hosted by the River City 4-Wheelers details still withstanding – should be the weekend of October 21, 22, 23. There are no bids for the Spring 2007 convention – please consider hosting a convention and bring bids to the Fall convention!!!

Castana 2006: Flyers were distributed – if a club needs flyers let Amanda or Butch know. Butch is looking for volunteers to come and help with the event. Want clubs to bring door prizes, already have some donations from the local Napa dealer. We want to get attendance up!!! Motion was made to give \$500 for Butch to purchase door prizes – it was seconded and approved. It would be great to see everyone there!!!

Web site: We have a new webmaster (well 2 of them to be exact) Dawn and Terry Krueger have offered to take over webmaster duties, Thanks to them!! Also, we have a new Host – Brian Swearingen is now hosting the site. The money to pay for the re-up of the site was approved and paid. I know that the site has been down for a while – I don't know when it will be back up, but it is being worked on!

Howiepalooza 2006: This will not get to anyone in time for this years festivities, so start planning

for next years Howiepalooza!!! If you don't know what it is, just ask Howie!!!

Secretary's position: Erin Knowles has offered to cover the position for the remainder of the term (till fall convention). Erin is from one of our new clubs (the Lone Riders). The secretary's position is up at the fall convention – if interested please think about running. Also up in the fall are the President's and 2nd Vice President's positions.