The 2014 session of the Vermont Legislature ended on May 10. Going into the 2014 Legislative Session, the Vermont ATV Sportsman’s Association (VASA) had nine known issues of concern plus there are always new issues that pop up as the Legislative Session progresses. Here’s how the various issues that VASA was concerned about turned out.

**Senate Bill 100—Forest Fragmentation:** This bill’s goal was to stop the perceived problem of Vermont’s woodlands being fragmented by real estate development deep in the woods away from existing development. A significant number of legislators are concerned that Vermont’s forests are becoming smaller and smaller due to this type of real estate development. When you just quickly read this legislation, you might think that this bill deals with real estate development, not trails. However, as is often the case in government, legislation with arguably noble goals carries unexpected negative consequences when put into actual practice. Senate Bill 100 turned out to be one of those arguably noble ideas turned bad. My lobbying partner, Frank Stanley, and I followed this bill through two years and many, many different rewrites. The bill’s method of reducing forest fragmentation was to bring alleged forest fragmentation under Vermont’s chief environmental law, Act 250. The problem was the bill inadvertently not only brought real estate development under Act 250, but potentially brought trails, maple syrup infrastructure, forestry infrastructure, and benign development such as hunting camps under Act 250. All of these activities are currently exempt from Act 250 in most circumstances. VASA joined forces with the Vermont Forest Products Association, the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, and leading Senators such as Senators John Rodgers and Bobby Starr, two Democrats who represent Essex and Orleans Counties, to raise concerns about the bill. We brought a dozen witnesses before the Senate Natural Resources Committee over several weeks to try and convince them of the unintended consequences of the bill. The committee ultimately did not agree with the testimony, and brought Senate Bill 100 to the Senate Floor for final vote of the entire Senate. Senator Starr offered an amendment to replace Senate Bill 100 with an amendment that simply called for a Summer Study by the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, the state’s recognized experts on forestry issues. The three aforementioned organizations worked feverishly with the two Senators to line up votes, and we won the vote 22-5. Senators Alice Nitka of Windsor County, Norm McAllister of Franklin County, Joe Benning of Caledonia County, and Peg Flory/ Kevin Mullin of Rutland County all played key roles in the successful floor debate. All the above-mentioned Senators deserve a thank-you for their work. The House of Representatives agreed to the study. This summer, the study will take place and the Forests, Parks & Recreation Department will report back to the Legislature in January. The expertise of the department provides some sense of security that trails won’t be swept into whatever the department comes up with.

This story continued on next page.
**Class Four Roads:** Another bill with unexpected consequences was Senate Bill 168, the Miscellaneous Municipal Amendments Bill. Frank found a section in that bill that eliminated the requirement that towns bear some responsibility for maintaining culverts and bridges on Class Four seasonal roads. Since these roads are frequently used as trails, Frank successfully asked that the provision be removed.

**Water Bills:** The 2014 Legislature considered and passed many bills designed to promote cleaner Vermont waterways. We always have to watch water bills closely, because of potential impacts on trails near or crossing waterways. None of the 2014 water bills wound up impacting trails in any significant way that we could find. However, in 2015, legislation involving rivers and streams will almost certainly come up. Since trails involve stream and river crossings, we will need to follow this legislation very closely.

**Water Procedures Bill:** House Bill 394 sought to eliminate some procedural protections that are part of upgrading waterway classifications to cleaner, more restrictive classifications. VASA was part of a coalition of groups that wanted to keep the procedural protections in place. Fortunately, the House Fish & Wildlife Committee agreed with keeping the procedural protections in place and the bill died.

**House Bill 9—Statewide Zoning:** This was a bad bill that sought to pass unprecedented zoning regulations for all activity statewide including currently exempt recreation, forestry, and agriculture. The bill gained some momentum in 2013, but fortunately died a quiet death in 2014. We reserved testimony time in 2013, but never had to use it.

**Working Landscape:** For the third straight year, the Legislature passed $1 million plus in grants to forestry, agriculture, and maple businesses that keep Vermont’s rural landscape open to work the land. Since these landowners host trails of all sorts, all trail groups support continuation of these grants. I attended the Working Landscape Summit on this issue in behalf of VASA and other groups in December.

**Tax Increase On Open Landowners:** Ever since 2009, some legislators have tried to increase taxes on open landowners who participate in the Current Use Tax Program. Since some of these landowners host trails, VASA has been a member of the Current Use Tax Coalition and has worked with landowners to minimize the tax increase. This year’s proposed tax increase died in the final week of the Legislature, because various Legislative Committees all had different ideas on what should happen. This issue will probably be back next year.

**Senate Bill 119—Easements:** This complex bill sought to set up a process for amending preservation easements held by such organizations as the Vermont Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. Since many of these easements involve a ban on ATV trails or require some sort of amendment to allow new trails, we worked for two years including service on a Summer Study Committee to try and make the amendment process as simple as possible. This bill wound up failing because some of the bill’s complexities contained apparent unintended consequences.

**Noise Limits On Boats:** VASA was concerned about this proposal because it might set a precedent for unrealistic noise limits on all motorized vehicles. This bill never gathered much momentum and died.

Besides working on these specific issues, we review hundreds of other bills during each two-year Legislative Session, because, as demonstrated above, you never know what some obscure provision of each bill might contain. VASA continued our philosophy of respectfully participating in each Legislative Session on a daily basis and of working cooperatively with other groups and various legislators to seek reasonable solutions to the various problems pertinent to VASA that the Legislature tackles.
Welcome back to another riding season! Let’s make this a fun and safe year. In the past month I have heard or read about several ATV crashes. This is way too many! Driving impaired or speeding was reported to be the major cause of these accidents. I hope that VASA members are not of the same mind set as these people. Helmets are mandatory on all VASA trails and speed limits are posted for a reason. It makes it difficult to get town or land-owners support when things like this are happening. Please RIDE SMART and be safe so I don't have to read or hear about you being the next casualty. One more thing then I will stop with my lecture. Nothing gets done if we don't all pitch in. If you like good trails to ride on, help make them that way, If you have enjoyed the Mt. Washington ride or the BIG EVENT please keep in mind that these things don’t happen without a lot of time and hard work. Surely a hour or two of your time to help out isn't asking a lot. Wouldn't it be great to not have me say this in every news letter? If I had half of the board of directors tell me that they had a great volunteer turnover over the summer all I will put in this space in the next newsletter is a big thank you! Your VASA President and darn proud of it, -Bruce Durkee.

VASA Goes GREEN! Tell us what you want!

You may have noticed, that you didn’t receive your spring edition VASA newsletter, or this summer edition newsletter for that matter in your mailbox. You instead received it in your email inbox. For a long time, VASA has been contemplating the switchover to an electronic newsletter for many reasons such as reducing waste and cost. 2014 has been our year as we have implemented this change. Members seem to like getting the newsletter online, but we want to keep everyone happy. If you would still like to receive a hard copy, all you have to do is let us know. Cut out and fill in the form below and send it to us via mail, fax or email and we will put you on the “hard copy” list. You will still receive a newsletter as you always have, right in your mail box. If you did not receive an electronic newsletter, please send us an email with your correct name and email address. We will make sure you are receiving it every quarter electronically. We thank you all for your support of this change and encourage you to forward your electronic newsletters to anyone who may be interested.

Here’s our contact info:
VT ATV Sportsman’s Association
14 Don Camp Drive
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 477-5075 phone
(802) 477-5076 fax
office@vtvasa.org
Let us know how you want your newsletter! Thanks members!

Please remember to write legibly! If we can’t read it, we can’t send it! Thank you!

**VASA Newsletter**

☐ Yes, I want an electronic newsletter!
☐ I prefer a hardcopy newsletter.

Email Address: __________________________________________
Name: ___________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________
City/Town: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: _______
Mail to: VASA 14 Don Camp Drive, Barre VT 05641
Fax to: 802-477-5076
Email to: office@vtvasa.org
My name is Tyler Gregorek, I started with VASA as the new Trails Coordinator in April. I Graduated from Paul Smiths College in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Ecological Forest Management and receive a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate. After College I worked briefly with Black Bear Tree, Land and Forest, a small logging company centered in the Rutland area. We managed small timber lots through timber stand improvements, timber harvesting, forest road building and maintenance. After leaving Black Bear I went to work for Cummings and Son land clearing, a contractor for Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO). As a foreman for Cummings and Son we managed the vegetation on VELCO right-of-ways. The skills and institutional knowledge that I have acquired over the past years will provide the backbone for me to help learn, improve and build upon current VASA trail systems. I am looking forward to working with all involved in the VASA system.

I have a full and very busy schedule this summer with trail projects throughout the state. I am very excited to be a part of the team. Feel free to contact me at trails@vtvasa.org.

Everyone had a great time at the Lost Nation ATV Club’s Spring event— but who knew a love story would bloom out on the LNAC trail system?

Congratulations to President of LNAC, Andy Cruickshank who popped the question right out on the trails to his lady /ATV Riding buddy, Alison.

SHE SAID YES!

We’re pretty sure this is the first ever proposal on the VASA trail system.
Greetings from Lost Nation! We've had some very exciting times so far this year. In April, we held our first "Show, Shine, and Brag" event. We had a great turnout, and most importantly, got the word out about VASA (and even got a little TV coverage). We look forward to doing it again next year!

Our Spring Event on May 17th was a fun filled day for all. Everyone enjoyed some excellent food, a great poker run, and lots of riding. Congratulations to our big winners, Chris Pemberton ($1000), Kevin Stridsberg ($500), and Lawton Rutter ($300). A very big thank you to those that helped out, Holly and Jim Russo, LT and Missy Rutter, Dave and Bob Cruickshank, Alison Porter, Nik Sargent, Steven Tiersch, Tina Manning, and Larry Mooney. We really appreciate your hard work. Special thanks to the landowners and many sponsors that made it possible as well!

We had a little surprise just before the awards were given, our President Andy Cruickshank, got down on one knee and proposed to Alison Porter. Fortunately (for all of us) she said yes, and on behalf of the entire Nation, we wish you both the very best!

We are currently in the process of adding roughly 10 miles to our current trail system. Our team has been working with the town of Roxbury select board to add 6 new roads. So far, landowners have been incredibly receptive, and we thank them for that.

Speaking of landowners, and new trails, we ask that ALL members please pay attention to all signs and speed limits. One of our new owners has been skeptical, and we need to prove that we are ALL respectful riders. Without landowners, we have no trails.

We look forward to a fantastic riding season. Thank You again for the Support in Our Sport! See you on the trails!!!

Andy & Adam.

I need to send a big thanks to everyone who has helped us gain permission to use some of Northfield's roads. We are currently working on the last landowner to get down to south village Mobil on lovers lane in Northfield. This trail will probably run along Shaw Ridge and offer some beautiful views. Let’s keep our fingers crossed on the last landowner.

We are also still working on a trail to connect us to the Granville Lost Nation ATV Club. We are in the process of amending our road use ordinance in Roxbury to help us get into Braintree. We will probably have to visit with the Braintree select board to open up a road or two.

Once we connect to Granville, we will have access to over 10 miles of trails already open to ATV's.

We have experienced a little problem on our trail system this spring due to our spring event. We had a good rain the night before which we feel pulled some frost out of the ground which cause some rutting. We have the excavator coming in this week to fix the water bars and ruts and probably do one new trail. We will come up with a plan so we do not run into this problem in the future. Until this problem is fixed, we will have one section of trail closed. We are still working on trying to find a solution to the Horner Road Bridge that we lost last July.

For more information about the Lost Nation ATV Club, please visit us on Facebook at [http://facebook.com/LOSTNATIONATVCLUB](http://facebook.com/LOSTNATIONATVCLUB) or email us at [LostNationATV@Gmail.com](mailto:LostNationATV@Gmail.com).
West Rutland ATV Sportsman’s Club

Spring finally sprung and mother nature has been very finicky this year already. After a long wait WRASC has been out checking and cleaning our approximately 60 miles of hard real ATV trails. Our club has very little road riding and mostly all real trail riding at our 4 riding areas. Slowly over May and early June all the trails have been methodically rode and cleared to open for VASA members to use.

In April our club had its annual meeting. Each year we hold a potluck dinner for all our members to enjoy. We also hold our officer elections at this meeting. The 2014 WRASC officers did not change from the previous year. Ray Cole Jr. is our president. Mike Moyer is vice president. Sherry Smith is Secretary. And DeeDee Corey is treasurer. Chris Sabisch is our appointed trail coordinator. We all discussed our plans for rides and which charities we are going to support this year. We have monthly club rides that are open to ALL VASA members and our charities for the year are Relay for Life, The West Rutland Food Shelf, and The Vermont Achievement Center.

In May we held our first ride for the season. It was our Charity Ride. We asked anyone who came to the ride to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the West Rutland Food Shelf. We also asked for a monetary donation for The Relay For Life. The ride collected enough food to fill an car trunk. It was delivered to the West Rutland Town Hall drop off spot with notes that this was a donation from The West Rutland ATV Sportsman's Club charity ride. The ride also collected $250 for Relay for Life between money donations and a 50/50 drawing.

It was a beautiful spring day and fun was had by all that attended. It was a great way to start off the riding season.

In June a ride at our largest set of trails is planned for the Woodlawn Mountain/Danby/Pawlet area. This set of trails is one of the oldest and most well taken care of set of trails our club contracts. These trails are mainly on one large property with a smaller property attached and a short section of road that connects our new trailhead to the trails. Members of our club have rode these trails for over 30 years before WRASC & VASA even existed. We always look forward to riding here because of the great 26+ miles of riding and the great welcome we get from the trailhead land owners Shorty & Sandy Stone. They allow us to use their whole lawn as a trailhead for the day. We would like to extend a great thank you to them for allowing us to do this and also a get well soon to Shorty who has been going through surgery this spring. We hope he can soon join us riding again!

We also want to let riders know that the trailhead on the VASA map is NOT the trailhead the club uses. The riders should be parking at the end of Towslee Hill Road as it connects to VT Route 30 just south of the town of Pawlet, VT. Towslee Hill Road is on the east side of Route 30 and parking is immediately to the right on the green area along the side of the road that is mowed. There is a American flag pole in this area. Park and unload here and the trail follows up Towslee Hill Rd. (dirt road) and connects to Herrick Brook Rd. (a right turn). Follow Herrick Brook Rd for about mile and a half and then the trail then turns into private property through a metal gate. Go through the gate and please keep the gate as you find it when you go through it. If the landowner is in the property they sometimes leave it open. If they are not it is closed.

WRASC does NOT use the trailhead on the VASA map for several reasons and we discourage the use of that trailhead. We have had this new trailhead for several years but somehow it has never been added to the map even though it was submitted each year. The new trailhead actually adds about 5 miles of trail to the existing trail on the map as shown between the roads and the second smaller property owner that had been contracted. Another big of info for this property is that a HUGE moose is in this area. The work detail group saw tracks of this moose this past weekend while out working.

In July we will be having the VASA excavator doing some work on our trails. We have some drainage that needs fixing and we have a new trail that we hope to open soon. The work should be done in one week time. It will need time to set up after the work is done to prevent erosion of the work done.

Also in July we will be holding a club ride at our Dutch Hill trails in Danby. This set of trails is on a single property. It has about 15 miles of trail. These trails are rocky and mountainous. They consist of mostly logging roads and off shoot trails from these roads. Here we often see bear on this property and occasionally a mother with her cubs. Please be aware of this when riding. They have never bothered any of our riders. However, never bother a bear especially when one has cubs with her. This can be very dangerous. Often if there are riders only a glimpse of them are seen because they move off from the

...
noise of the atv’s and people.

In August WRASC will be holding the Annual Candy Hunt Ride at the Riverside Farm/Fair Haven trails. Each year the club holds a candy scavenger hunt. It is sort of like a poker run. Buckets of candy are hidden out in the woods. Each bucket has a single kind of candy in it. Riders put in money in a pool then go out and look for the candy buckets. Those that find all the candy buckets and bring back a piece from each bucket name get put in a drawing. Money prizes are pulled from those who found all the candy buckets. Some people don’t play for the money and just play for fun. It is always fun to see a bunch of grown adults out touring the trails looking for kids beach buckets and trying to find all of them. Some are easy and there is always one or two that are a bit harder to find. After the ride the candy buckets are collected and all the extra candy is brought to the club meetings for the members to snack on.

In September WRASC goes back to Woodlawn/ Pawlet trails for a great foliage ride. It is always picture perfect this time of year. There is nothing better than crisp fall air, sunshine, and the beautiful colors of fall. Again Shorty and Sandy are gracious enough to allow us to use their yard for our day camp. We hope by the time this ride comes around Shorty will be mended enough to ride with us.

And in October we have our End Of The Season Ride/Potluck Lunch at Riverside Farm/Fair Haven trails. This is our last ride of the season on the last set of trails that are open. All other WRASC trails close October 1st but Riverside Farm trails stay open until November 1st. This last ride is sometimes cool, sometimes warm, sometimes sunny, sometimes not. It is a mixed bag but one thing is always for sure is that it is usually a bit wet and muddy since it is a late fall ride. Thankfully there are many cut arounds and this allows for the driest route to be taken. This is a great time for our members and our last big get together of the season. At this ride we pull our raffle for our free membership or embroidered coat for those that attended meetings during the season and for those that helped during work details. Our club has done this for the last two years and rewards those that attend meetings and those that help doing trail work.

At all of our rides WRASC holds a $3 hot dog lunch. This consists of snap hot dog, chips, soda/water, and cookies. Each additional Hot Dog or drink is $1. We began this a few years ago and we found it was a way for us all to have a cookout each ride but keep it affordable and still have it pay for itself all season. The club purchased a new portable Coleman grill for these cookouts. At the End Of The Season Ride/Potluck Lunch at Riverside Farm the club uses up all the purchased hot dogs and other items as the clubs donation for the potluck. We have found this has been a hit with our members since we started it. For more details on WRASC rides check out our website WRASC.com or like our facebook page The West Rutland ATV Sportsman’s Club.

Lastly, WRASC would like to thank all those members who come out and work on our trails and donate time to make our club work. WRASC is 16 years old. We are the oldest club in the VASA system. We have been around longer than all the other clubs and even VASA itself. We would not have made it this long and managed to maintain and keep all the trail that our club members ride without the dedication and work that our members donate to the greater good of the rest. It is every riders job to help maintain the trails they are riding. Riders should carry saws, clippers, and other equipment when they are riding and to move/clear any obstructions in the trial. If there is something larger than the rider is able to handle themselves they should call or email a club officer so that this can be taken care of in a timely fashion for the landowner as well as the safety of the club members. An atv club is not here to provide anyone with trails to ride. An atv club is there to provide the opportunity for riders to provide themselves with trails to ride. This means all riders must do their part to keep trails open and accessible to all within the group. If we all do a little, it keeps the whole working efficiently. Thinking that someone else will do it will end in no one doing it. Those that have been doing the work will become burnt out and will feel that the rest of the riders are taking advantage of the work they do. When this happens trails are lost and contracts ended and no one rides. If you like to ride become an active rider. Volunteer your time to maintain the trails you ride. Come to a work detail or ride and meet others. This is a great way to find new riding buddies and trail work partners. The more people you know the more opportunity you get to ride and enjoy the outdoors and athletics.

Ride safe and tread lightly!
Greetings from the TTR Club.
Happy summer ATV ing .
New officers were voted in at the first meeting under new management on 2/17/2013. Bill Phelps was voted in as President, Lisa Buck was voted in as Secretary and Melodee (Bunnie Caruso) was voted in as Treasurer. Daryl Fowler is our trail master.
Our last club meeting was May 13th, 2014 at the Waits River School.
Chris Puccio of Bradford was voted in as Vice President. Welcome Chris and his wife Lisa to TTR.
We do have monthly club meetings for all to attend and will notify by Facebook and Email. TTR has been busy promoting memberships, community relationships, and fun events in 2014. These Events are pending and TBT and announced accordingly.
We have had 3 organized TTR rides thus far with a BBQ gathering after each ride. We love meeting everyone and spending time with them getting to know all. Riders young and old came from other clubs, other towns and of course locally.
The new POS locations to include local stores and businesses has been very successful, and we have many new members to TTR. We welcome them all with VASA swag and open arms.
We have been targeting new trails in our area, new signage, meeting landowners and members and promoting our club. We did have Phelps road approved for riding. Be sure you are VT registered per the town to be riding on the approved roads. We will need to update our trail map in 2015 for some changes. VASA has been onsite in our area and has done some site and trail repairs to two trails, thank you VASA.
We started the season with a booth at the Vermont 4X 4 event in Bradford on May 3rd and 4th, 2014. This was a great place to promote VASA and TTR. We sold memberships and had a lot of interest as people stopped by to talk with us.
Volunteers came for our 1st trail clean-up on May 11th, about 20 people came, it was a great day! We got trails cleaned, signs up and had a nice BBQ at the end of the day.
Thank you all!!!
We are here to enjoy our sport and inform and educate members about VASA and our clubs. Bill has met with the Town of Topsham select board and introduced himself and has been back twice to discuss Phelps Road and the board declined to open the road to the Thompson Campground. This is Swamp road/Powers road to Currier Hill.
So everyone is clear please find VASA info on riding rules.
Here are some tips to remember to help you have a fun, safe and legal ride.
1.) In order to ride VASA trails, you must be registered in the State of Vermont OR one of Vermont’s reciprocating states. The only states that practice reciprocity with Vermont are New York and Pennsylvania. If you don’t have a registration with one of those two states you will need to register with the State of Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.
2.) In order to ride VASA trails you must be a valid member of VASA and a local club. Registration will need to be verified at the time of joining. Joining any local club allows you to you.
3.) Helmets are required on all VASA trails. Helmets are required at all VASA events.
4.) All riders under the age of 18 require a state approved safety certificate and adult supervision.
We encourage any and all to contact us with interest in joining the TTR has a Facebook page, find us there or on the VASA website.
Email contact is Billjr65@hotmail.com – 802-595-7889 or 802-738-8205 or Lisa Buck at Lac1117@aol.com.
We plan to have an officer meeting in June to discuss a TTR showing at the town 4th of July parade; TTR rides including a possible fundraiser poker run, year-end pig roast/ Halloween costume ride and smaller rides for all to be a part of. TTR will be involved in the annual Mt Washington ride and the Big Event.
We especially want to entertain a BBQ at the end of the season for landowner appreciation, without them we don’t have the rides we enjoy so much. We have been in contact with many of them for possible new trails and opportunities to drive to local stores.
Happy Riding!!

Bill Phelp – President
Chris Puccio – Vice president
Lisa Buck – Secretary
Bunny Caruso – Treasurer
Daryl Fowler – Trail Master
Hey everyone I hope you are all having a great riding season. Our second annual scavenger hunt is in the books. I hope everyone had a great time. BLRR loves putting this event on, and seeing our members having fun makes it all worth while. Congratulations to our winners! 1st place went to team MEI. 2nd place went to team Deadeye and 3rd place went to team Minckler. Way to go guys! Here is just a quick run down of our events still to come this season.

7/19/14 Andre Geoffrey Memorial ride.

7/27/14 The VASA Mt Washington ride, hosted by BLRR.
8/9/14 VASA Big Event.
9/13/14 BLRR’s Poker run and raffle.
I hope we see you. We have been very busy on the trails getting them ready for a busy season.

I want to thank all of our member for helping with the clean up, and a special thanks to Rudy, Emerson, Reynolds, Jim, Mark, Steve, Eric, Glen, for helping while the excavator was here. Everyone’s help is very appreciated. Our new BLRR apparel has come in, the new stuff looks great. You will be able to purchase or order things at our events, or contact myself or our Erin to order. As always I want to thank our members, land owners, and my team of officers. We couldn't do any of this without all of you. And don't forget to support our local businesses. BLRR wants to wish you all a safe, fun riding season. And remember to ride respectfully.

President, Chris Donovan

Caledonia All Terrain Travelers

CATT riders are in high gear this year trying to expand trails. We have a great group of people helping out with this major project. We are still in need of new people coming to the meeting and helping out on working on the trails. Also got new people in office this year is Bj King as vice, Sarah Daye secretary, Doug Runne treasurer. We still meet at 6 pm on the last Thursday of every month at Buffalo Mountain Power Sports. –Shawn Ainsworth, President.

CATT trails are a proud recipient of Recreational Trail Grant funds for a project on Wright Farm Road. VASA is extremely excited to start work on this project.

Green Mountain ATV Riders

Sunny with a chance of rain.......that is something I do not want to hear this summer! The sun is shining and all I can think about is riding! If we all think positive, we may just get in some riding this season! I know our club is ready for some sunshine, weekend rides and snacks of course!

We also have some work ahead of us, we continue to strategize on how we can obtain landowner signatures on permission slips. It unfortunately seems we come up empty handed and it has certainly been frustrating trying to establish trails for our club. I think we are heading in the right direction to start the season, we have some new members who are very enthusiastic about pushing onward in our attempt to obtain landowner permission slips. This seems to have given us all a new outlook on getting trails on the map and making it our mission this season!

We also have work to do, lots of it on our existing trail and clean up to do. We are arranging work weekends so this should be a task well mastered by our club members! I think we all know, you have to work so you can enjoy what you love! For us, that would be riding!! Hope to see you on the trails!!! Have a great summer!!! :)

President, Chris Donovan
Greetings from Westshire!
Hope this finds everyone out there enjoying the summer weather we have all waited so long for!
The month of May found our club members participating in Green Up Day on May 3rd. We had a great turn out of 14 participants, and between all of us we picked up an incredible amount of road side trash. Some of us found that this trash is not always right beside the road for easy pick up, and we had to work hard to get it out of the ditches, and off the roadsides. The club provided lunch for all participants, and the weather turned out to be quite nice. We considered it to be a very successful day. Recently we posted our signs on our trails in West Fairlee, and during the month of June, we had a trail work day and a fun ride. As our summer schedules fill up with obligatory commitments, the calendar is too full and the weekends too short, remember to make time for the things you enjoy most. While all of the clubs need active members and participants, we all understand that summer in New England is just too short and sometime is just not possible to fit everything in. That is ok, however remember that when you join a club whether it be your local ATV club, a fish and game club, a book club or any other group, the members of these clubs are counting on you for your participation and input. I am finding that various clubs in the area may have an impressive list of current members, but the actual members that attend the meetings, provide the refreshments and organize the activities are minute by comparison. Please put forth the effort to be an ACTIVE member, not just a name of a sheet of paper. We are all busy at this time of year and your club will be appreciative of any time you can give them.
- Ellen Stone, Secretary.

Westshire ATV Club

Bennington Trail Cruisers

Hello Members
Wow, it’s already Spring. Flowers are blooming, birds are chirping and MUD is flying. I don’t know about you but I excited the trails are open and riding is in full swing. We have been very busy doing trail work, putting up new signage and working with VT National Forrest on possible access roads for more trails. We have also attended several meetings/fieldtrips with their group(s), which has been very informative for both parties. Our group does ride on our local trails but we also love to travel. I think we have rode on every trail system on the map, maybe not me, since I haven’t been with the group that long, but guarantee, I will have those boys out in every inch of mud I can find.

Last year a bunch in our group even traveled to Hatfield and McCoy’s in West Virginia. From the pictures I have seen, if you have never been there, it is beautiful and you should at least try to go. I have already talked our group into another trip since I wasn’t able to attend due to our daughter’s graduation. That’s 1 trip I’m really looking forward to. I also missed the Mt. Washington Ride that our group went on, but I will be attending that this year also.

This season we have rode on our trail systems a few times and recently went to WRASC (W. Rutland) for their Benefit Ride for Relay for Life. We had a great time. Thanks for the invite. Lunch was great. We are always looking for new members. Our club (weather permitting) goes on 2 trail rides per month and try to do a clean up ride if needed. Not all of our rides are on our own trails as I mentioned above, we love going and exploring other trail systems, so feel free to add me to you email list and send me out all your events/rides that you want to send my way and I will gather up my group and head your way! As you can tell, I love playing in the mud. I hope to meet everyone at the Big VASA Event on 08/09/2014 and/or MT Washington ride on 07/27/14 Anyone interested in joining, we meet at the VFW in Bennington VT located on 137 North Street the 3rd Wednesday of every month @ 7 PM., or feel free to contact me with any questions. Anne Bakaitis 518-892-4719 (cell) midaschick69@yahoo.com (email)

Check out our facebook: facebook.com/btc.atvriders
**VASA Club Contacts**

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**Champlain Valley Explorers**  
- Jason Larocque (802) 247-4216

Bennington County:  
**Bennington Trail Cruisers**  
- Doug Wheeler (802) 464-2419

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- Shawn Ainsworth (802) 224-6413

**North East Kingdom Wheelers**  
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Rutland County:  
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Washington County:  
**Central VT ATV Club**  
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Windham County:  
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Windsor County:  
**Central VT Quad Runners**  
- Paul Morse (802) 234-9648

**Reading All Terrain Sportsman**  
- Dennis Allen (802) 484-9751

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