



# New York Trail Riders Organization, Inc.

## *Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2006*

Attending: Mike Bellinger & Stan Miller – NNY, Joanne Wemes & Dave Depascale – CNY, Pam Burns, Gary Burns and Pat Heifferon – STNY, Mike McKernon & Jim McKernon – ENY, Dale Mackey & Julie Mackey – WNY

The meeting started with the Treasurer's Report:

2005	Start:	\$507.90
	End:	\$1040.30
2006	Start:	\$1040.30
	End:	\$1314.95

Pat will type up the full report and e-mail it to Pam who will then forward it to the attendees listed above.

Question on treasurer's report: how long of a term did we renew our domain name for? (cost was \$67). Answer: Five years.

Mike Bellinger made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Gary Burns seconded. Motion passed.

Jim McKernon made a motion to accept the bylaws. Mike Bellinger seconded. Motion passed.

Pam brought up that we still need someone to fill the secretary's position. Please let her or Joanne know if anyone is interested. Joanne will put something in the newsletter that is due to go out tomorrow.

Pam gave an update on getting a screen printer set up to do the t-shirts and hats for everyone. She e-mailed the graphics to Moak's screen printer and will call him to follow up and see if he is ready for orders. She will get prices and contact information to everyone.

Mike Bellinger asked where Land Use Stickers were good at:

- Cuba
- Vestal
- Eastern Chapter property (must call ahead to make arrangements; no cost)

Pam will post this information to the [nytroatv.org](http://nytroatv.org) website.

Mike Bellinger asked if we used any particular trail-building guidelines. Mike McKernon suggested that we use those provided by the Parks & Rec. Dept. Pam will research and forward to all chapters.

NYTRO Inc. sent a letter and sponsor form to everyone listed in the Sponsor's database last November to promote advertising in the newsletter. This was very successful, as it has already

brought in over \$700 this year. Joanne and Pam have cleaned the Sponsor's database based on these results and have reduced mailing costs by only sending free copies of the newsletter to those who have purchased advertising. They will work on cleaning up the Discount List next. We will do another mailing within the next two months to the old Sponsor's database and include a copy of the newsletter in hopes that some more advertisers will come on board.

Northern Chapter has found it's easier to compile a "black list" of places that don't offer any discounts (shorter list).

Central Chapter has placed posters, brochures and their ride schedule in their local dealers' to encourage new memberships. Western Chapter is interested in having a poster to use and Joanne will create one for them and send it to them to get some printed. She will also send them a Dealer Packet to approach their local dealers about advertising and discounts.

Discussion switched to the ASI ATV Safety Course. Joanne is a certified instructor for the ASI. Jim McKernon asked about how she became certified. It was a five-day course in Georgia. She only paid for her hotel room. They paid for the plane ride. Tough training, but good! Jim McKernon asked if it was worth it for people to take the course she teaches. Yes! Julie and Dale Mackey have taken it and even if you are an experienced rider, you will learn something. If you are not experienced, it is a VERY good idea to take this course. There are five areas it is taught in NNY. It's about 4-1/2 hours long. Mike Bellinger is collecting information on courses taught in his area and will post it on his website. If you can't take the course for free (you get a free class by purchasing a new ATV) it costs \$135. All members of your immediate family can take the class if you purchase a new ATV, but only one person qualifies for the incentive payment.

Pat Heifferon pointed out that members are welcome to write articles for the newsletter, and that they can place classified ads in it for free to sell ATVs, parts, etc.

NYSORVA Region 6: Alex Ernst, Matt G. and many legislators attended their last meeting. Discussion changed to the e-mail website set up by the ARRA. Very good, very easy website to use. Mike informed us that letters sent (but not changed) from the website are kept, they are not given the attention of letters that ask for a response! Hand-written letters and phone calls carry the most weight. Mike mentioned the frustration of how long it takes to get anything through legislation.

Mike asked if there was interest from NYTRO Inc. in an ATV Summit organized by Region 6. He will also be contacting clubs located downstate with the same question.

Yes, we are interested. Officers from Region 6 will come to meetings to introduce themselves and present information. A statewide stance needs to be worked on in the future as to whether ATVers prefer the DEC or the Dept of Parks & Rec. to run a state-mandated trail program. However, everyone has been busy supporting the Governor to get something in the current budget for trails of any kind.

If a Summit is to succeed, it needs to be well organized and have a purpose/focus. It could be held once a year, at a central location. Joanne suggested that Alex Ernst, Len and Penny of NYSORVA be involved.

Mike informed us that inaccurate ATV trail maps have been published upstate. Lewis County is collecting information from the area townships on what's legally open and what is not. They will be publishing accurate maps. Lewis County has also created a Trail Coordinator Position.

Jefferson County has created a Trail Coordinator position. They received only five applications for the original position description. They have since modified the description and have at least 25 applications. They have stopped taking applications and hope to have a decision on who will fill the position in the next four weeks or so. The Jefferson County DPW has already started building equipment for trails.

Lewis County is reviewing 33 lots with existing ATV trails and logging roads that could be easily converted into ATV trails. If these lots receive approval for opening their trails, then they can look into reopening roads between the lots to connect their trails.

Mike Bellinger is working on creating "Ride Plans" that would include an approximate three-hour ride out, a place to eat, then a ride back.

Lewis County is proposing legislation to offer tax breaks to landowners to allow recreational use of their properties.

Lewis County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a large ATV show at Flat Rock on August 26, 2006.

Jim McKernon asked Mike Bellinger how Region 6 was organized. Each county has two delegates and there are seven counties.

NYSORVA is operating with a skeleton crew. They need paid positions and people to work full time, but have no money to operate with anything but the current volunteers.

Jim McKernon brought a copy of an article that explains a NYS law that says a not-for-profit organized under 501(3)c cannot make political donations, nor can they make donations to organizations that employ lobbyists. Individual members can make donations, or we can collect members' voluntary donations and pass them along. Pam will have a lawyer she works with review the law and will report back to the board.

The NYTRO merchandise website is up and running at [www.corporatewarehouse.com](http://www.corporatewarehouse.com). Scroll down and click on Warehouse 1364. The password is nytro. NYTRO is not earning any money from this merchandise, but neither are we maintaining the website, warehousing the merchandise or fulfilling the orders.

Joanne will follow up on filing for our Tax ID number. We need this number to open bank accounts, etc. Its status was inactive when she last checked into it.

Fundraisers were discussed. Ideas:

- 50/50 Raffle
- Use NYTRO jackets as prizes or incentives to sell tickets
- Sell NYTRO jackets
- ATV raffle
  - VERY successful in the past
  - Joanne will check into acquiring a donated ATV for next year's raffle
- Sell \$5 daily number tickets (good for 30 days)
- Sell \$20 daily number tickets (good for one year)

A cash raffle was decided on, proceeds to be split:

- 25% of sales to stay with the chapter

- 25% of sales to go to NYTRO Inc.
- \$500 to be split among three winners:
  - \$250 for first place
  - \$175 for second place
  - \$75 for third place
- Winners to be drawn at next meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1000 tickets maximum to be sold
  - 200 tickets per chapter
- Each chapter will be responsible for sending ticket stubs and 75% of sales to Joanne each month.

TrailPass sent a Club Update to Pam. She will forward it to the rest of the chapters. Insurance changes are in the works. No details yet except that they may be able to purchase insurance per member instead of per mile of trail. TrailPass prices are going up for club members. As of 4/15/06 they will be \$60 each, up from \$25 each.

National Motorsports has contacted Joanne about ATV insurance. They say they are offering club insurance in NYS. Joanne doesn't have any prices or other details yet, but will follow up with Ryan and report back to the board.

Jim asked Mike how often Region 6 holds meetings. They are once a month. The next one is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Canton, NY. Contact Mike Bellinger if you are interested in attending or for more information on Region 6.

Ideas for the coming year: Try to get all chapters together for a ride or event. Jim McKernon mentioned that the Eastern Chapter has 1500 acres, 500 of which they currently have trails on. They are located near Saratoga Horse Track, Campgrounds, Hotels and a Casino! Joanne asked if they would check into the viability of us all going there, and to suggest some dates.

Meeting place: keep or change?

Jim McKernon asked how much it costs us to meet at the Holiday Inn - \$125 for the room, \$1.95 per person for the coffee/tea service. This is not a bad price! But Pam will check into the Cicero Gander Mountain and the DEC Lodge at the State Fair Grounds as they are free of charge.

Stan Miller read an article written by Tony Zappa and published by the Syracuse Post Standard supporting state ATV trails. Mike Bellinger will try to locate the article online and forward it to everyone to send to their legislators. It contains much good information and relevant facts.

Pam recapped the meeting and then the meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm.