



January 2021

To our Metallak ATV members,

Happy New Year! Year 2020 is in our rearview mirrors, thankfully. I certainly hope everyone came through relatively unscathed. Year 2021 has to be better! I wanted to get my annual letter out early to recap for everyone.

As many of you know, covid precautions and restrictions prevented us from conducting our Annual and Membership meetings last year. Thankfully, all Board of Directors and officers agreed to serve until we are able to conduct an Annual Meeting with election.

First and foremost, I want to thank our members for their continuing generosity. That donate button on the NHOHVA website sure got a lot of use this year. We couldn't be more grateful as we were unable to hold any of our yearly events. Before social distancing became the way of life, two of our members made and donated items for a raffle. Again, members came through and two lucky people now own a beautifully designed "moose track" picnic table and a warm bear lap quilt. Thank you Steve and Barb Berry (table) and Barbara Smith (quilt). At the end of the season, a member sponsored a benefit ride in conjunction with the Metallak ATV Club, raising \$7,238 for the Ready Set Connect Autism Center at Crotched Mountain. As we always say...our members are the BEST.

Our new directional signs are up. Most remarks have been encouraging, even though there has not been total consistency in the placement. Trail junctions still seem to be a problem area, mostly where shared with the snowmobile trails.

Much to our dismay (and all riders), we were unable to complete the new South Hill Trail for riding in 2020. The good news is it will be open for 2021; the needed bridge is in, along with the 10,580 feet of fencing in place. In fact, the second phase which we had not planned on finishing for another year will also be available before the new season is over. This is thanks to the volunteer help of our members, local contractors and the NH Bureau of Trails. The views should be tremendous.

Other disheartening news for the 2020 season was the closing of Corridor C from the Blue Mountain Variety store south. Not a Metallak ATV trail but it

does connect to Cree Notch, therefore, riders were no longer able to go from Colebrook to North Stratford. Work is still ongoing to get the railbed open for ATV use which would help with this situation. The Balsams trail was also closed for the 2020 season, however, we are hopeful it will be back open for this summer.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our Facebook administrator who does a fantastic job keeping everyone informed of activities and problems. As I'm sure many of you are aware, we were going to lose a portion of the Sims Stream Trail due to disrespect by a few. The FB admin got the ball rolling on a "relief station" campaign and, within a short couple of weeks, sponsors stepped forward which it looks like will allow us to place four portable toilets this year in strategic spots on the trails. Again, our sincere thank you to all those who have donated to this cause which will help with the necessary maintenance.

Covid restrictions meant much of the work slated for this year could not be completed until the trails were closed in October. Even though there was a Stay at Home order in place, the amount of riders and the use of our trails was phenomenal. The Sugar Hill trail took quite a beating; jack hammer work has been completed, but more is needed. Five bridges were replaced on the Kelsey Notch trail with the aid of the State of NH.

Looking forward to this upcoming season, we know we have major maintenance to be completed on all of our trails due to the extensive use last year. Whether we will be able to get it done in the short spring weather sometimes offered us before the usual opening date will remain to be seen. Along with everyone, I hope the issuance of the vaccine will allow things to return to some normalcy by the time our trails open and we will be able to, once again, enjoy our yearly events. All I can say is "stay tuned" to our Facebook page and emails for updates.

Stay safe and Happy Trails,

Craig Washburn, President