April 10, 2026

To our Valued ATV Members,

I have often believed the success of the Metallak ATV Club is the fact we have had consistent leadership since we began. Changes do happen, though, as they did in 2025; thankfully with little disruption due to interested and dedicated volunteers. First, Lloyd Howe, one of the founding members and an active director since 2013, decided it was time to retire. In honor of his time and effort given the Club (affectionately known as the "Chaos Coordinator") and the fact his property is part of the well ridden Sugar Hill Trail, the Board decided to dedicate the trail to Lloyd. Chris Noyes won the appointment as his replacement. Second was the resignation of Mike Ouellet, our Trail Administrator for the past eight years. The Trail Administrator is an integral part of the Club, overseeing and implementing the GIA Grant. We were very fortunate to have a past Director interested and appointed Jon Collins at our Annual Membership meeting.

Season opening was dicey (and wet). We had to close some trails at the start of the season to evaluate the damage due to high water and or extreme muddy conditions. We know this was frustrating to everyone who had waited all winter to ride the trails again, but it soon became evident that it was necessary. Damage done by early riding caused more work for the club than the anticipated annual maintenance. We hope we do not have to consider such a move again, but will if necessary.

Most of the work completed this year consisted of maintenance of the whole system in bits and pieces to include a lot of brush work, repairing and resetting bridges and placing gravel in the places most needed. We were happy to finally be able to complete work and reopen the Dixville Peaks trail once the rain stopped. **Riders should be aware Dixville Peaks is definitely for experienced riders!**

When you join the Metallak ATV Club (or any in the state), your membership helps provide the matching funds required for grants that keep our trail system maintained, safe and open. Your donations when you join allows us to do the extra work the grants do not cover. In addition, we always forever grateful to have members who consistently volunteer to help with these extra projects. Thank you.

This coming year may have some disruption as the Town of Colebrook works on burying utilities on Main Street. Bridge repair on the Harvey Swell Road is also on the agenda. We will try to alleviate any major disruption if it occurs. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates.

Last, but not least, have you signed the picnic table on Sugar Hill yet? It is so intriguing and rewarding to see all the places the riders of our trails live. We are grateful to each and every one and wish you safe riding in 2026.

Happy trails,

Craig Washburn, President