

BMRA Operations Committee

Minutes of the Meeting: November 13, 2007

Meeting was held at Rick Hawkinberry's home complex in East Mountain

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Mitchell at 7:15pm

<u>Committee Members Present</u>	<u>Absent Members</u>	<u>Others Present</u>
Tom Mitchell	Chris Jester	Richard Williams
Rick Hawkinberry	Jimmy Jones	Paulene Williams
George Caraway	Dick Stuart	Lawton Watts
John Harris		David Culpepper

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

David Culpepper owner of ATVCCS talked with the committee about having an ATV race meet for his series in 2008. Culpepper described that his group would like to lease the Park for a Friday, Saturday and Sunday for ATV racing. He expected to have less than 150 racers. His series has kid races at noon on Saturday and a special 1 mile kid friendly course. Ladies race at 3pm on Saturday on the main course. Experts race at 9am Sunday and Amateurs race at 1pm Sunday. Most practice takes place from 8 to 2 on Saturday. Their main race course must be 7 to 12 miles long and a minimum of 50' wide. This series requires racers to wear helmets, not ride after dark and pass a sound test for their race vehicles. Culpepper will mark the race trail under Committee supervision and remove the trail arrows when the race was over.

The committee tentatively agreed to reserve the date of September 7, 2008, which is the weekend after Labor Day. The price agreed upon was \$3500 rental rate for the park, to be reduced by rebates for adequate clean-up and other factors. Culpepper's group will be able to use (and charge extra for) the powered RV camping spots. Tom Mitchell will work with Culpepper to draft a contract for the event. The Committee will review toward approval of the contract at the December meeting.

Rick Hawkinberry reported that the prices for the exhaust fan and louvers for the office storage room total about \$200. Committee had previously approved this purchase.

Rick needs the keypad manual for the new gate to understand how to program it. Lawton has it and will share. Rick is concerned about the quality of the keypad and its indifferent operation.

Rick has in the SWESCO parts to repair it. Total repair bill will be about \$800 and he will get final approval from TMTC.

Rick has the invoice for the backpack sprayers that were authorized for defoliant spraying. We have no control of when this will be done since we have volunteer materials and supervision, but it should either be done before frost or early in the spring.

Hawkinberry presented several choices for security cameras and digital recording devices for gate and office area. It will take about \$1000 total to install four cameras and two recording devices. John Harris made the motion and George Caraway seconded to proceed for we continue to need the electronic package to supplement our personal and manual security. Rick is to ask TMTC for the money to purchase and install.

The Committee asked that they be provided a "private" conversation website/blog separate from TMTC and the TMTC general membership.

The idea generated by Tony Eeds to have advertising banners on various off road websites was tabled until we have further information.

The Committee seconded the idea of the request for Tony Eeds to design Lawton's Welcome to Barnwell Sign.

After much discussion about highway 155 signage and the issue of newcomers having difficulty locating the park, the Committee agreed to ask Steve Thompson for TP&W to supply State Park type signage. It was felt this should be free, at least to Barnwell, and could be posted on the State Highway right of way if authorized by TP&W.

The Jeepy Hollow catch basin on the far Southwest edge of the Park is located very close to the property line and is not functioning properly. An adjacent landowner has complained about red silted run-off from the catch basin coming into his hay meadow. In addition, the catch basins location has forced the closure of one of the Jeepy Hollow trails. George Caraway requested the attention of the committee to decide if the affected trail section can be re-routed around the problem area and the trail section re-opened for general use. The committee agreed to research this question.

Tom Mitchell mentioned and The Committee agreed that the Jeep two diamond trails are slowly deteriorating into 3 or 4 diamond trails. These trails need to be restored to 2 diamond level to help appeal to our beginner level members and standard street equipped vehicles. The Park needs easy trails and specific maps for same for all disciplines of off road vehicles. George Caraway is working on the Jeep trails and needs volunteers to implement the maintenance plans.

On the fall work day George Caraway's crews pulled down some of the dead trees on the West property line, but they are only about half done there. When this is completed, the boundary fence will need attention. George's crews cut the dead trees in the old roadside park area. Rick Hawkinberry's crew picked up and hauled off the junk tires in the northwest area of the property. These old tires have been there since TMTC purchased the property. These tires were properly disposed of by volunteers, paid the state disposal fee, and surrendered them to a local retail tire shop for legal destruction. The dead pine tree near the gate still needs to be downed, hopefully before it falls on the new gate. Most of the motorcycle trails that needed it the worst were trimmed during the work day.

We accumulated 1,100 volunteer hours during the work weekend and had 132 signed-in volunteers.

There was a discussion about specific heavy equipment needs at Barnwell, such as the need for a backhoe/track hoe for catch pond maintenance. Many of the needs will never be possible to be done by any type of dozer.

Steve Thompson has proposed to TMTC President Tony Eeds to schedule a grant writing training session for TMTC/BMRA/EDRA officers and other interested members. Dates in December and January were discussed.

There was a long discussion about the Gate/Late Entry Policies and Rules. There was a motion by _____, seconded by _____, and passed by a unanimous (?) vote to establish the following policy:

The gate attendant will control entry into the park, starting when the park office is closed for the evening. On Friday nights, the gate attendant will remain on duty until 2:00 AM, Saturday morning, and on Saturday nights, will remain on duty until 12:00 midnight. After those hours, when the gate attendant goes off duty, the gate will be closed until regular operating hours the following morning. Any travelers who feel they are not able to schedule their arrival before the closure of the gate are strongly recommended to contact the office (903-797-4066), or gate attendant (903-738-0002), to make special arrangements for after hours arrival. We will attempt to accommodate those making such requests.

In the future we will operate the late entries on an honor system. The gate attendant will record the names and other pertinent information from persons admitted after regular office hours, and instructs them that it is their responsibility to come to the office the next morning and pay the required user fees. If they leave the Park without paying, we will send a form letter to them informing them that they cannot re-enter the park until they have paid in full. If they avoid paying a second time, they will be sent another letter and stronger action will be authorized. TMTC will receive reports of misbehavior by its members, and the Committee has the right to request disciplinary action by the TMTC Board.

The Chairman will provide a written summary of this policy for publication in the upcoming newsletter.

There was discussion about establishing a formal policy to govern early entry into the park, as we have many requests for Thursday entry. There was a motion by _____, Seconded by _____, and accepted on a voice vote (JOHN- WAS THERE a VOTE AGAINST THIS MOTION? IF SO PLEASE GIVE THE VOTE NUMBERS) to set the following policy:

Any individual or group wishing to gain early entry into the park, must schedule their hours to enter and conditions of use with the Property Managers, or Committee, a reasonable time in advance.

A fee of \$150 shall be paid, upon entry, to open the park at 5:00 PM, or later, the evening before the park is normally open. That fee allows the person(s) desiring early entry to set

up camping or other facilities, but does not allow “scouting” or trail riding for any reason. Normal camping fees will apply for Thursday night.

A fee of \$500 shall be paid, upon entry, to open the park for the use of all park facilities (including trail riding), before the park is normally open. Such fee shall permit the person(s) desiring early entry to set the hour of entry (8:00 AM, or later), as established by the scheduled arrangements with the Property Manager or Committee. For early entrants Thursday shall be included in weekend riding fees, but normal camping fees will apply for Thursday night.

This policy shall govern early entry requests and arrangements, unless specifically suspended by an action of the Committee.

Tom Mitchell is to proceed with purchasing the cor-plast signs we agreed to purchase the last meeting and take steps to install them. He is also to update the Park rules to reflect the new signage and conditions (pipelines and catch basins).

Committee members need to add to the proposed Barnwell user’s survey questions list by sending them to the secretary. We hope to approve the new survey at our December Meeting and have the new survey ready for use after the first of the year.

The Committee agreed to allow the Park Pavilion to be used for the first annual Marine Toys for Tots, Toy Drive and Cookout on Saturday, December 8th. This event is being hosted by a street rider group. The Park will not be closed for this event. Attendees at the event will have to sign the waiver, but will be charged no entry fees.

There was a recent article about the Mountain Park in the local newspaper, the “Gilmer Mirror.” Readers reported that the article was positive and noted that the Mountain was good for the Gilmer area economy.

The seismographic company that did contract work on our property and lots of other property in Upshur County is looking for “lost” backpack seismographic rigs. Some of them had been found on our Property, but they were deemed trash at the time. Lawton has the company’s address if any more are found.

We agreed to drain the water well and cut its power as a cold weather necessity. This will prevent damage from freezing.

It was discussed and debated, and the Committee agreed to pay people that work the gate \$10.00 per hour, whether they were Board Members or not. Anyone working could agree to forgo their pay and give the time as volunteer hours. It was agreed to ask the TMTC treasurer to pay Norma Jester and Pauline Williams for their office work the weekend that Lawton and Karen recently took as vacation.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Secretary—John T. Harris