

CATS Meeting

Date: April 8, 2025

Location: Home of Tome Vertz

Attendance: See attached list

Call to order: 5:55PM

Previous Meeting Minutes – Not able to pull up on Computer. Tabled until next meeting.

Treasurers Report – As of Feb 2025

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,808.08
Revenue:	\$ 80.00
Expenses:	\$ 53.64
New Balance:	\$ 1,834.44

Motion: to Approve Treasurer's report/ Second/Approved

Presidents Report- Mike

I'm negotiating with the US Forest Service for Seasonal Road Use Permits for rides in Mt Adams & Mt St Helens Districts. The Mt. Adams Ranger has approved the permit and the paperwork is pending. The Application has been submitted, but nothing for sure yet for the Mt. St. Helens District. I have a meeting on May 13 with Region 6 Forest Supervisor to discuss this, and more permanent OHV opportunities for the GPNF.

I reached out to WA DNR about Merrill Lake and the 10 road on South Side of Swift to get it open – they are not interested in opening the 10 road. I started a response but have it on hold for now and will revisit this matter at a later date. This won't be visited again next month's Trail Advisory Meeting (TAG Meeting), which I won't be able to attend. We may want to have a representation attend. Jorga Stark volunteered. I'll inform her and the EB of the meeting date and location, which will be in early May.

I'm planning to meet with Cowlitz County Commissioner to discuss lowering the speed limit on SR 503 Spur to 35MPR east of Cougar to open a WATV route heading east to Skamania County. I plan to discuss Speed Controls for Cougar traffic – speed bump, radar signs, etc. I also plan to discuss obtaining the county's assistance in pressuring the State to open Merrill Lake Campground and boat launch to help improve tourism for local businesses.

VP Report - Doug

Put together plans for 2 more overnight rides. Need to consider plans for day rides. I will try to provide 24 to 48 hours advance notice to the membership for any spontaneous rides we do.

Sargent At Arms - Dan

I'm working on growing new membership. We have a meeting with a group of OHV people from the Stevenson/Carson area to discuss club activities and encourage new membership. The tentative location is Backwoods Brewing Co. on Sunday, April 13 at 3PM.

NEW BUSINESS

USFS Road Use Permit (RUP) Rides – Applications with all documentation has been submitted to both District Rangers. Mt. Adams Ranger has confirmed that we can have as many rides as we want in Mt Adams District from June 1 to Aug 15. All rides will have conditions: Only certain roads, we provide 48 hour's notice in advance of each ride, we sign a "volunteer sheet identifying all participants, and we submit a "ride report" within 5 days after each ride. We can share this opportunity with Carson Area Riders provided they satisfy the conditions of the permit and each driver is a member of the CATS. There are 3 different loops to ride in the MT. Adams District.

Mike submitted a RUP application with the Mt St Helens District also. The current Ranger is leaving again. A new Ranger is scheduled to start June 1. With the change, he's not sure how this permit application is going to flow. Last year the permit was from May 1 to July 1. If we do get this permit, he asked for it to run until July 15. The Skamania Group should be able to access riding on this permit from the 43 Road near Hemlock Lake. We're waiting to hear back.

RUP Rides can be planned by any CATS Member. When any group plans a ride, they will need to designate a "Ride Leader" who will be responsible for satisfying the permit requirements and all RUP rides MUST include notifying VP Doug Morris of your plans.

Question: The RUP says only CATS members can participate. How do we prove someone is a CATS member? Each member should place a "CATS" sticker on each of their machines to designate their membership. It is unlikely the Forest Service will ever question this matter. However, as we pursue more permanent riding opportunities, we want to demonstrate compliance with permit guidelines to show our willingness be responsible partners with the USFS.

Note – Some ATV Rides (OR) require training and special equipment (helmets and safety glasses) to ride on their lands. Riders must be aware of the requirements for each riding locations.

DNR 10 Road with WA State – trying to get road open but has been tabled for now But it is legal to ride on any state DNR lands if they are not gated (requires helmets for quads & ORV stickers for all machines)

County Ordinances – We’d still like to open SR503 to WATV use by lowering speed limit to 35mph so we can ride from Cougar into the forest east of town. Mike is meeting on Friday with Cowlitz County Commissioner Steve Rader to discuss. We found out that Clark County recently adopted a WATV ordinance. It looks like it almost mirrors Cowlitz County’s ordinance. We will try to post it on our website. Mike would like to engage with Skamania County on OHV issues that would help create riding opportunities. He will discuss further on Sunday with the Skamania group.

T-Shirts Jorga looking at shirt options. Prices vary on types and vendors. She has a size chart for Men’s & Women’s and will be putting out a survey request to determine interested level for orders. The price will likely be - \$25/shirt. – White, Gray, Blue, etc., depending on feedback. There is a 10-day turnaround to make the shirts. She will also check with Rick White at Swiveler in Woodland, who would be a local vendor.

OLD BUSINESS

Phone Line It was asked if a dedicated line for the CATS was needed. Butch said that he has been asked several times for a phone number when giving out cards. Scott recommended we set up a Google Phone Number that can be shared and monitored by various EB members. Becky is looking into setting this up and what the cost is. Temporarily, we will use Dan’s home number on the website. Don’t call before 10AM or after 9 PM. Leave a message if he does not answer. He will call back.

Membership gives us the clout to push the forest service for added access for rides. There was discussion of setting up a “Subcommittee” for other geographic locations like Clark and Skamania Counties. This would give geographically organized groups with similar interests the ability to operate under one club. A Subcommittee chair-person could be established to represent the interests of the group on the Executive Board. The concept was table for further discussion and consideration.

Web Page is dynamically being worked on with plans to update the information on “Membership”, “Events”, and “Photo Gallery”.

Subcommittee -There is a meeting on Sunday, April 13, at 3 PM at Backwoods Brewing to review membership interest from Skamania County residents. Debi Van Camp will also post flyers in the area inviting anyone interested in attending. She also sent the flyer to friends they knew might be interested.

Rides - VP Doug reported that we need to update the Riding Calendar. Currently, the club has the following organized rides planned. Information on all rides can be found on the website under “Upcoming Events”.

Sumpter, OR – June 5th – 12th. There was discussion about moving the dates to the following week to allow for snow met and to fit the schedule for more people. Look to the website for specific information on this event.

Indian Heaven ride (Mt. Adams District) – July 17th – 28th. Depending on interest, we’ve set it up as an 8-day ride to allow individuals to participate on a schedule that works best for them. USFS policies allow for a 14-day maximum dispersed camping stay at any single location. We are planning to establish a camp on the 580 Spur off the 30 Road between Lone Butte and Mosquito Lake. This location provides a paved parking lot where campers can stay multiple nights and ride multiple days on multiple loops. Local Non-campers should be able to commute to the location daily, with adequate parking for staging. Please look to the website for more event information.

We’re looking into Capital Forest (near Olympia) Ride for a June date. The concern is that the Capitol Forest is a quad focused ride. The trails are too narrow for even the 50” SxS machines. There are “culvert” tunnels that are too low and bridges with approaches that are too sharp. If you’d like to ride the Capital State Forest, you can drive your SXS on the DNR roads, however that is not the desire of many SXS owners.

Florence, OR (Dunes) – Tentative Early September (5th – 8th). Although originally planned for July, it was determined that the Indian Heaven Ride would be better suited for the July date, and Florence would be less crowded in the fall after school starts. The exact date for this event is yet TBD. Monitor the website for evolving information on this ride.

For more information on rides, contact Doug Morris at: VP@cougarareatrailseekers.org.

Motion to adjourn – Becky

Second – Tom

Approved/ Meeting ends – 7:23pm