



The Berkshire Trail Riders Association, Inc.
Promoting Responsible Off-Road Riding, Competition and Local Philanthropy

Off-Road Motorcycle Group Awards Thousand Dollar Grants to Granville and Tolland Massachusetts Fire Departments

OCTOBER 25, 2013 - GRANVILLE, MA — The Berkshire Trail Riders Association (BTRA) is pleased to announce that Granville Fire Department has been awarded a grant in the sum of one thousand dollars, following their request and application to the BTRA Emergency Services Grant Program. That program was formally established by BTRA with assistance from senior club member, Vince Lee of Lenox, MA.



Photo: Granville FD members accept check at the Granville Cheese Grater Enduro. From left to right: Granville Fire Department members Robert Boulanger, Deputy Chief Wes Bauver, Lieutenant Marty Boulanger and BTRA member and Trail Boss, Robert Sadowski.

For years, the club has given back to the local community by way of donations, but Lee wanted a vehicle that would streamline the process, and get help to those most in need. As a local resident suffering a terminal illness, and an active member in other charities, Lee clearly understands the dichotomy between community volunteers and under-funded programs.

“I understand the challenges associated with fund-raising, and inherently approach the subject with an eye toward a solution. The BTRA Emergency Services Grant Program was developed with this in mind — streamline the process and prospective applicants will participate. On behalf of all Berkshire Trail Rider members, we’re very proud to extend this offer to our local community.”

Scott Loomis, Chief of Fire and EMS at Granville Fire Department, was invited to participate in the new program, and saw immediate value in the application.

“The process is simple, easy to understand, and a decision is quick. I’m happy to have responded, and have requested that we allocate the funds to supplement the purchase of a new automatic external defibrillator (AED). The use of an AED at the scene of a cardiac arrest patient provides tremendous increase in the chance of survival. This grant will cover almost half of the cost of one unit, and we’re just thrilled.”

Michael Sullivan, Chief of Tolland Volunteer Fire Department was invited to participate last year, was awarded a grant, and was able to obtain a rescue sled which can be towed by an ATV or snowmobile to an accident site in the woodlands of Tolland or other towns in the area. This year, Sullivan’s grant application was awarded again, and he plans to outfit the rescue crew with communications and head protection for back-country egress.



Photo: Tolland Deputy Fire Chief Eric Munson, III holds grant check from Berkshire Trail Riders Assoc.

“We asked for assistance in obtaining helmets to protect our rescue personnel and radio equipment to allow a coordinated search for any rider whose location is not immediately evident. Often, in cases of off-road accidents, minutes count, so swiftly locating victims and getting them quickly and safely to a medical facility can be the difference between life and death.”

The Berkshire Trail Riders Association, Inc., has given generously to both local and national charity organizations alike, including local fire departments and EMT units, police departments, State Forest and DEP agencies, both private and public land owners, and The Ronald McDonald House Charities, an organization dedicated to creating, finding and

supporting programs that directly improve the health and well being of nearly 4 million children worldwide every year.

Founded in the early 70's as the Foothill Trail Riders and later incorporated in 1992, the Berkshire Trail Riders Association has been advocating responsible off-road motorcycle riding, competition, and local philanthropy in the greater New England region for nearly fifty years. The group treasures the trails they ride, actively promoting their preservation through ongoing trail maintenance, while working alongside various local, state, and federal agencies.

For more information, please visit www.mudslinger.org.

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