



# TRCR

*Three Rivers Competition Riders*



*"Western Pennsylvania's Premier Off-Road Club"*

online @[www.trcr.org](http://www.trcr.org)



Member PA OffHighway  
Vehicle Association

## JULY 2002 NEWSLETTER

### EVENT CALENDAR

#### AUGUST

- 3 Rumble on the Ridge ATV Poker Run, [www.rumbleontheridge.homestead.com](http://www.rumbleontheridge.homestead.com) for details
- 5 Hare Scramble, Switchback Raceway
- 6 TRCR Monthly Meeting, 8:00 pm, ADAMS CYCLE**
- 11 Log Hopper 100, Boyers, Quads
- 11 Madera Poker Run, [www.paatving.com/events.asp](http://www.paatving.com/events.asp) for details
- 12 Log Hopper 100, Boyers, Bikes
- 18 TRCR Monthly Ride at Switchback Raceway, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**
- 24 SX, Switchback Raceway
- 24 Dice Run, Rew PA, [www.paatving.com/events.asp](http://www.paatving.com/events.asp) for details
- 24/25 Pleasure Valley East Coast Mini Championship, State Championship MX
- 31 Rumble on the Ridge ATV Poker Run, [www.rumbleontheridge.homestead.com](http://www.rumbleontheridge.homestead.com) for details

#### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Steel City Pro National MX
- 3 TRCR Monthly Meeting, 8:00 pm, site to be announced**
- 8 Hare Scramble, Switchback Raceway
- 15 TRCR Monthly Ride at Switchback Raceway, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**
- 22 TRCR Annual Picnic at Switchback Raceway**

### THREE RIVERS COMPETITION RIDERS

President: *Don Adams* Vice President: *Celine Nista* Treasurer: *Michael Hawthorne*  
Secretary: *Jeff Pflugh* Legislative Affairs/USFS Liaison: *Mike Babusci*

#### **GREETINGS FROM THE BACK OF THE PACK**

Our July meeting was held at Northgate Cycle. Thanks so Steve Stiller and Joe Haberszack for hosting us again. It was another light turnout on a hot summer Monday night so not a whole lot of business was discussed. Some of us have been riding the Allegheny National Forest trails at Marienville and Rocky Gap and, in spite of the dust from no rain lately, the trails are in good shape.

The monthly rides at Switchback have been going well and, again, some cooler weather would help the turnout.

Celine Nista will be doing her annual trek down to the AMA Pro Flat-Track races in

Hagerstown, MD on Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>. It involves riding your streetbike down on some nice twisty 2-lane roads with a stay overnight in a nearby hotel. Celine can reserve several rooms if necessary. The return trip will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested can call or e-mail Celine—[SafeTPrincess@aol.com](mailto:SafeTPrincess@aol.com) or 412-244-0242 or see Celine at the August meeting.

Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the secretary at [jpflugh@salsgiver.com](mailto:jpflugh@salsgiver.com) See you at the August 6th meeting at ADAMS CYCLE. Then, we'll see you in the woods.  
Thanks

**News & Notes for the Politically Motivated Motorcyclists** is a monthly service compiled and edited by the AMA Government Relations Staff to keep motorcyclists informed of happenings around the world. We welcome your news & views. Please submit all material to Terry Lee Cook, Government Relations Specialist, 13515 Yarmouth Drive, Pickerington, OH 43147; fax 614-856-1920 or e-mail to [tcook@ama-cycle.org](mailto:tcook@ama-cycle.org).

Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift signed Senate Bill 2286 into state law in hopes of reducing motorcycle fatalities in the Commonwealth. The new law will 'rollback' the traditional Motorcycle Safety & Awareness period from the month of May to the last week of March through the last week of April. This 'rollback' is a result of a joint review of accident reports from a three-year period conducted by the Registry, State Police, and members of the motorcycle community showing 26% of the fatalities involving motorcyclists occurred before the end of May. What started out as Senate Bill 1547 filed by Senators Robert Hedlund and Bruce Tarr and Brian Lees, seeking a Governor's annual proclamation for "May" as the Motorcycle Safety & Awareness period as many states recognize, was amended in midsession (to Senate Bill 2286) as a result of the 'study' of 100 fatality reports done by the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association (MMA), AMA Community Council leadership and a State Police accident reconstructionist over a 5 month period. Chapter 128 of the Acts of 2002 reads, "The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the period beginning the last week of March to the last week of April, inclusive, as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Time, to promote motorcycle safety, education and awareness, and recommending that this time be observed in an appropriate manner by various agencies, associations, groups, clubs, and businesses." The AMA's Motorcycle Awareness and You (MAY) campaign was launched in 1993 to raise awareness about the presence of motorcyclists on the road and reduce the incidents of inattentive motorists injuring and killing motorcyclists. (MMA Press Release)

British traffic consultant Ben Hamilton-Bailie told the British Institution of Civil Engineers that improving road safety by making intersections more dangerous may actually decrease accidents. The approach has

already proved successful in Holland and Denmark, and relies on the idea that drivers will be more careful if they perceive more danger. Without road signs and road markings, they are forced to slow down and make eye contact with other road users to establish who makes the next move. This has led to many new intersections in Northern Europe resembling the days before cars were commonplace, and it is said that it has reduced accidents without affecting journey times, but it does rely on vehicles traveling below 20 mph. (MCN)

AMA/ATVA Chartered Clubs' donations to charitable organizations increased by over \$1 million for 2001. A total of \$5,816,999 was donated to charitable organizations during 2001, proving once again that motorcyclists and ATVers have some of the biggest hearts around. With 486 out of 1,063 charters reporting donations, that's an impressive 46 percent participation.

The US House of Representatives is considering HR 2114, the National Monument Fairness Act, to amend the Antiquities Act HR2114 and requires the President of the United States to solicit public comment and consult with the governor and the congressional delegation of impacted states at least 60 days before the creation of any national monument. The Antiquities Act of 1906 allows the President to unilaterally set aside portions of federal land from further development by designating them as National Monuments. The act specifically allows the President to unilaterally declare the smallest area necessary to protect a species that is under an imminent threat. Since 1996 the use of the Antiquities Act to designate federal lands has increased substantially. Notoriously the act was cited to declare the Grand Staircase/Escalante Monument in Utah. This designation included 1.7 million acres of land in Utah without any local input. HR2114 is an attempt to reinforce the original intent of the Antiquities Act. Please contact your Member of Congress to support this initiative. Tell them the present use of the Antiquities Act "Locks up Land." If your member has already announced their support, thank them.

Rockford, Tennessee police department, with its history of run-ins with motorcyclists, has been disbanded, in part because of those tragic incidents. In an emergency meeting held June 5, the city commission of Rockford voted to disband the city's four-member police department immediately. The town gained the attention of the AMA, and motorcyclists nationwide, when Rockford Police Sgt. James Ray Johnson allegedly intentionally swerved into the path of an approaching motorcyclist on Old Knoxville Highway on March 10, 2001, killing the rider instantly. The motorcyclist, Philip Laton, 27, was a father of three and a corrections officer on his way to work at the Juvenile Detention Center in Knoxville when he was killed. Johnson has since been charged with vehicular homicide and is free on a \$25,000 bond pending trial. If convicted, the officer faces up to six years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. No trial date has been set. The AMA has reported extensively on the troubles in Rockford in its monthly magazine, American Motorcyclist, and website [www.AMADirectlink.com](http://www.AMADirectlink.com) Since the Laton death, the Blount County Sheriff's Department has ended its mutual-aid agreement with the Rockford Police Department. The city began a move to disband the police department because of liability concerns but pulled back, and the city almost lost its liability insurance. Meanwhile, Laton's widow, Misty, has filed a \$7 million wrongful death lawsuit against the city of Rockford, the Blount County sheriff and others. The Laton death wasn't the first run-in with motorcyclists for the Rockford Police Department. Just five weeks earlier, a motorcyclist was seriously injured following a high-speed chase involving another Rockford police officer. James B. Riddle, 19, of Maryville, Tenn., suffered near-fatal injuries in a crash after he was pursued along Old Knoxville Highway.

Taiwan's government has now made it legal to license and ride motorcycles over 150cc. Beginning July 1, 2002 the Ministry of Transport will institute the nation's first qualification test for the larger motorcycles after initially banning bigger bikes saying "we don't want to encourage people to go motorcycling." The

country has been forced to let big bikes in after joining the World Trade Organization.

Michigan House of Representatives voted in favor of HB-4823 (58 to 46 with 5 not voting) to allow riders 21 years of age and older the right to choose whether they want to wear a helmet in Michigan. Proposed amendments for mandatory personal injury protection insurance, required organ donation and the prohibition of children on motorcycles were defeated. The bill now goes to the Senate and is assigned to the Appropriations Committee.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush signed the "T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Recreation Act" into law on May 30, 2002. The act, backed by the Motorcycle Industry Council (MIC) in cooperation with the Florida Trail Riders, local dealers and the AMA, directs the Division of Forestry to develop and maintain a system of motorized recreation areas and trails. Off-highway vehicle titling fees will fund the program.

New Hampshire and Minnesota have recently modified their motorcycle handlebar height requirements. In Minnesota, the enactment of HB-1383 eliminates the handlebar height limit. Previously handlebar height could not extend above the shoulders of the operator. New Hampshire's enacted HB-1132, meanwhile, replaces the 15" higher than the seat maximum height limit with a no more than shoulder height when seated limit.

Minnesota's omnibus public safety bill (HF3203), signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura, includes an "affirmative defense" provision for motorcyclists stuck at an unchanging red light. It establishes an affirmative defense for a motorcyclist who enters or crosses an intersection against a red light if the motorcyclist establishes the following in response to the charge: (1) the motorcycle has been brought to a complete stop; (2) the signal shows red for an unreasonable time; (3) the signal is apparently malfunctioning or, if vehicle-activated, has not detected the motorcycle; and (4) no other vehicle or person is approaching on the street or is near enough to pose a hazard. The Minnesota Motorcycle Riders Association (MMRA) was instrumental in creating this new law.

The Bureau of Land Management has granted a two year extension of a Special Rule regarding the operation of motorized vehicle designations within the Texas Creek, Penrose, Grand Canyon Hills, and Sand Gulch areas of Colorado. These four areas, totaling 16,355 acres, will remain in the "limited to existing roads and trails" designation until interdisciplinary planning with all affected interests occurs to determine the appropriate designated travel routes in these areas. Interdisciplinary planning is currently underway for the Penrose area and planning will begin for the other three areas in 2003. The Special Rule was implemented to prevent a continuation of impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife, and wildlife habitat. The Royal Gorge Field Office will follow implementation of this Special Rule with amendments to the Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan. The plan amendments will be completed with full public involvement, interagency coordination and consultation as required. You may obtain additional information by mail at Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office, 3170 East Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212, (719) 269-8500.

Melbourne, Australia's motorcyclists are protesting the Victorian state government's implementation of an annual \$50 safety levy. The Victorian government's road safety strategy has identified motorcyclists as vulnerable road users, and subsequently attached the levy to motorcyclists' compulsory third party insurance premiums to raise an estimated \$3.4 million a year. The government claims the money will be placed in a special motorcycle safety fund managed by a committee consisting of the main road safety agencies and a motorcycle representative. Victoria's Transport Accident Commission (TAC) has published

statistics claiming motorcycle fatalities increased 42 percent in 2001, prompting the TAC to investigate the causes behind the increase. They are planning safety programs to include a new high-level enforcement program and even stricter licensing systems. (Australia Motorcycle News)

Five out of the 6 National Forests in Arizona are considering new rules for use of offhighway vehicles on 9.5 million acres of public lands in Arizona. Of the 5 alternatives being considered by the Forest Service, the preferred alternative for Arizona is a complete yearlong ban on all crosscountry travel. This is the proposed plan amendment, Alternative #4. Offhighway vehicles will be severely restricted to use on designated trails only. The actual trail designations may not come for several years. The 5 National Forests to be affected by this ban include: the ApacheSitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott and Tonto National Forests. Cross-country travel is defined by the Forest Service as travel off of or away from open roads or trails. The Forest Service has noted that user created trails, particularly in areas adjacent to residential development, lack engineering and environmental elements of design and they will be shut down with the issuance of this new policy. The implementation of this policy in Arizona could create a precedent for other National Forests throughout the US. This is a policy decision that has the potential to affect everyone. Throughout Arizona, comment was received by the Forest Service in response to its March 27, 2001 Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. The Draft EIS containing the 5 Alternatives and the Proposed Action Alternative is now in the final drafting stages and it is anticipated that it will be released by late July 2002. Opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS and Proposed Action Alternative #4 will occur at that time. There will be a 45 day comment period. The second part of the National Forests new OHV management strategy to be undertaken will be the local site specific planning that will occur following the final EIS. The site specific planning phase will then designate the trails open for recreational OHV use. The AMA encourages everyone to contact the local foresters. For contact information go to AMASatewatch on [www.AMADirectlink.com](http://www.AMADirectlink.com)

AMA Charter Life Member Keith M. Myers is the Democratic candidate for the seat of Mayor of the City of Jacksonville, FL in this year's election. The retired 31 year Jacksonville resident, Navy Veteran and five term union president has been riding motorcycles for 34 years. To contact Mr. Myers campaign: Campaign account of Keith M. Myers for Mayor, 5051 Appleton Avenue, Jacksonville, FL32210

Pennsylvania can now show their support for motorcycling and the AMA with special automotive license plates, the AMA reports. The distinctive plates will be produced and distributed after 300 applications are received. More than 75 people have already applied for the special plates. Working with state Rep. Teresa Forcier (R-Crawford) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the AMA has been successful in creating the special plates, which feature the AMA's logo as well as the words "American Motorcyclist Assn." "It's been a pleasure to work with the AMA and PENNDOT on this project," Forcier said. "With this new license plate, motorcyclists will be able to proudly display their love of motorcycles while driving their automobiles. "Although this has been a long time coming, I am proud to have been able to fight to get this approved," she said. "The success of our efforts shows the power of partnership to accomplish goals." The plates are available for passenger vehicles, trucks and motorhomes for a one-time extra fee of \$20, which goes to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The plates are not currently available for motorcycles, but if there is enough interest in the car plates the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation may be convinced to make them available for motorcycles and trailers as well. To get an application for these special plates, Pennsylvania AMA members should contact Sharon Titus in the AMA's Government Relations Department at (614) 856-1900, ext. 1252; or by e-mail at: [stitus@ama-cycle.org](mailto:stitus@ama-cycle.org).

**TRCR's DISCOUNT DEALERS** Please be sure to visit these dealers and accessory shops. By showing your TRCR membership card you will receive a discount. Most dealers give a 10% discount

**356 CYCLE**, Route 356 just north of Freeport, PA 724-295-9699

**ADAMS CYCLE** 4088 Hyland Road Jeannette, PA 15644 724-744-3873

**ANDREWS CYCLES** 13134 State Route 62 Salem, Ohio 44460 330-332-8534 - 800-596-6199

**AUGUSTINE KTM** 2469 Wm. Flynn Hwy, Rt. 8, Butler, 724-283-4820

**BENTLEY'S Yam-Suz-Pol-KTM** 4451 Rt 22 Murrysville, PA 15668 724-325-2344

**BENTLEY'S Yam-Suz-Kaw-Polaris** 589 W. Pike St Cannonsburg 724-746-7100

**BOB THOMAS HONDA** 12671 Rt. 30, No. Huntingdon, 724-863-0237

**BOB TRACEY'S World of Cycles** 604 Narrows Run Rd Moon Twp, 412-269-9999

**BOHN CYCLE** 2015 Saw Mill Run Blvd Pittsburgh 412-882-4330

**COTTMAN TRANSMISSION**, 1125 Maple Ave., Washington, 724-222-2229

**DARLINGTON CYCLE** Rt. 51 at Rt. 168, Darlington PA 724-847-4011

**DAVIS CYCLE**, Kaw-Suz-SeaDoo, 701 New Castle Road, Butler, PA, 724-287-3052

**DIRTY HARRY'S BICYCLES**, Main Street, Verona, PA, 412-828-2667, [www.dirtyharrys.net](http://www.dirtyharrys.net)

**GATTO CYCLE** Honda-Kawasaki-Suzuki, Tarentum, 724-224-0500

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**LEGACY FURNITURE GUILD** 623 W. Liberty St., Hubbard, OH 330-534-6161

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**PRO-ACTION SUSPENSION**, 3611 8th Ave, Beaver Falls 724-846-9055, [www.pro-action.com](http://www.pro-action.com)

**SCHULZ CYCLE & ATV**, 234 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville, Parts & access. 15% off, ATK, Husqvarna, Kasea parts/service 412-257-3188

**STORMIN NORMAN'S RACING**, Billet clutch baskets \$125-\$135, Basket wear inserts \$90 kit, includes machining (select models) call Norm at 724-722-3630

**STREET TRACK 'n TRAIL** 13723 Conneaut Lake Road Conneaut Lake, PA [www.stnt.com](http://www.stnt.com) 814-382-4821 877-STNT-YES

**TEN GRAPHIX**, Signs & Vehicle Markings, Thomas E. Nebel, 1800 Sheridan St., No. Braddock, 412-824-8889, [www.tengraphix.com](http://www.tengraphix.com)

**CLASSIFIED** - (ad will run for 3 months only, unless renewed)

**Boots:** Fox Alta Size 8, Seldom worn, exc. Cond. \$50, Joe: 724-339-7555 Work, 724-335-6793 Home

**1998 KX80** Pro Circuit platinum pipe, Carbon Tech carbon fiber reeds (low end), Factory Connection suspension, Vortexed carburetor by Pro Action, Original Owner- not ridden much, \$1,800.00 Joe, 724-339-7555 Work, 724-335-6793 Home

**WANTED Kid's Boots** Size 5/6, Craig Martinelli, 724-864-6972

**1998 KTM RXC400** Dual Sport, good shape, only 5,800 miles. Ridden some Sundays and to work on Mondays. \$3,695 obo. Chuck, 724-443-5441

**3 Rail Trailer** 4X7, rails are alum., 12" wheels, stainless fenders, expanded metal bed. \$250.00, Rich, 412-221-0926, Bridgeville area

**O'Neal Method Pant** Brand new, black/orange, size 34, \$50, Brad Wadell, 724-295-1960

**O'Neal Hardwear Pant** Brand new, blue/yellow, size 34, \$80, Brad Wadell, 724-295-1960