



TRCR

Three Rivers Competition Riders



"Western Pennsylvania's Premier Off-Road Club"

online @www.trcr.org



Member PA OffHighway
Vehicle Association

JUNE 2003 NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

Visit www.district5ama.org and www.mojoraceteam.com for updated Harescramble, MX, GNCC & AWRCs race schedules

JULY

- 7 TRCR Monthly Meeting, 8:00 pm @ ADAMS CYCLE
- 12 Rew Fire Co. Trail Ride, Rew, PA
- 19 (Saturday) TRCR Monthly Club Ride at Switchback Raceway, 9-5pm
- 26 Rally in Herrick Valley trail ride, Adena, OH, www.rallyinherrickvalley.com for details

AUGUST

- 4 TRCR Monthly Meeting, Site to be announced
- 17 (Sunday) TRCR Monthly Club Ride at Switchback Raceway, 9-5pm
- 23 Wing Fling Ride, Johnstown, see details inside
- 25 to Sept 1, National ATV/Dirtbike Rally Week at Hatfield McCoy Trails, www.trailsheaven.com to register
- 30 Rumble on the Ridge trail ride, Shortcreek Sportsman Club, www.rumbleontheridge.homestead.com for details

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

The June TRCR meeting was held at Futules Harmar House. The venue was a little tight and turnout was a little light. Let's just leave it at that. The highlight of the business portion of the meeting was that Dale Gordon has put together our next dirt Quest raffle with a drawing date of September 12, 2003. You know the rules, tickets are \$10, there are only 1,000 tickets printed and the drawing is based on the evening daily number for that date. Winner has his choice of one from a nice selection of off-road machines. Please see Mike Hawthorne at the next meeting to get some tickets and let's get them sold!

The update on the property at Leechburg is that we've run into some insurance issues that we are trying to resolve. It is still being worked on almost daily in an effort to put this deal together on what is truly a slice of off-roading heaven. Mike Babusci should have some more news for us at our next meeting.

Seems not only trail riding areas are closing down but racetracks too. Mark Augustine announced that this past race at Boyers will be the last as they are totally logging out the site. Also on the chopping block is the famous High Point MX National as the last race there will be next years event.

We'll be setting a date for our next Adopt-a-Highway cleanup for I-279 north at our next meeting at Adams Cycle.

As reported last month, again some of the members have been taking advantage of the US Forest Service trails at Marienville and Rocky Gap. If you haven't ridden them this year, they are in really great shape and well worth the trip. You'll be surprised how some of the new stuff is breaking in – technical but not too rutted out and, look mom, no sink holes!

Celine is again organizing her annual trek down to the Hagerstown AMA Pro Flat Track Race. If you are interested, the event takes place Saturday night, August 9th. Her plan is to meet for breakfast on the morning of the 9th and ride street bikes on as many twisties as possible down to Hagerstown in time to check into the hotel and then watch practice which starts at 6:30pm. Racing starts at 8pm. Then ride back sometime on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased at the gate for \$25. If you haven't been to one of these AMA Pro Flat Track races, they are a fun event worth checking out. Trivia question– does anyone know the TRCR members who once flat-track raced? See Celine at the next meeting for further details or contact her at home at 412-244-0242.

If you have anything to submit to the newsletter, you can send it to the secretary directly at jpflugh@adelphia.net or at our website, trcr.org. See you at the June 2nd meeting at Futules Harmar House, Old Freeport Road in Cheswick. Then, we'll see you in the woods.

JOHNSTOWN'S FIRST ANNUAL ATV WING FLING RIDE

WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 2003 (STARTING AT 8:00AM)

WHERE: GREENHOUSE PARK, located off of Route 403, between Tire Hill and Ferndale Take the Davidsville EXIT off of Route 219, and go approximately 8 miles north.

Greenhouse Park is the same location as Johnstown's Thunder In The Valley Rally.

OTHER: Camping will be allowed on site Both Friday and Saturday evenings (the ride is on Saturday). Site has bathrooms and electricity in some pavilions. Conemaugh Township Fire Department (#1) will have Chicken Wings on late Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening. Beer Sales will also be available. Ride will consist of approximately 25 miles of moderate ability, with some sections where Expert riding can be detoured, if a rider desires.

COST WILL BE: \$15.00 PER ATV. Both ATVs and Dirt Bikes permitted.

Recent Hearing on ATV Safety in Morgantown

Some members may be aware that there was a hearing in Morgantown on June 3rd that discussed ATV Safety. Mike Babusci attended the hearing on behalf of TRCR and the PaOHV. Below is an article that was published in the local PG that gives Mike an opportunity to give our side of the story. Mike is in the process of writing an article summarizing the outcome of this hearing but in the meantime, in case you didn't see the original article in the PG...

Hearing to Focus on Safety of Popular ATVs

Tuesday, June 03, 2003

By Virginia Linn, Post-Gazette Staff Writer

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Hal Stratton is the first to admit he's never been on an allterrain vehicle. But as chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Oklahoma native vows to keep an open mind at a regional hearing on Thursday in Morgantown, W.Va., to find out what to do about the doubling of ATV-related injuries in the nation over the past five years. For enthusiasts of these widely popular offroad vehicles, the meeting may seem like déjà vu. The commission held hearings in the 1980s that led to a ban on production of the easily tippable three-wheelers. It's too early to know what direction the commission will take this time on the use of the four-wheeled ATVs, but Stratton hopes to hear from all interested parties-- consumers, distributors, dealers, trauma surgeons, safety experts and public health officials.

"I think we're going to find out interesting information that we haven't known," he said in a telephone interview last week. "We're particularly interested in hearing from the users. Typically, here inside the Beltway, we don't get input from people using them."

Federal statistics fail to pinpoint any one cause that would explain the dramatic increase of injuries, said Ken Giles, commission spokesman.

Pennsylvania recorded 264 deaths related to ATV use between 1982 and 2001, behind only California, with 278. West Virginia ranked sixth with 194 deaths. Ohio had 124.

ATVs are used on farms and ranches and in industry; it's their recreational use that is booming. The Pennsylvania Off Highway Vehicle Association, which was started three years ago to push for better safety and expansion of off road recreational areas, estimates that there are between 400,000 to 500,000 ATVs in the state. Of those, 170,000 have been registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and National Resources, up from just 60,000 in 2000.

In September 2002, the Consumer Federation of America and other groups petitioned the commission for a ban on the sale of adult-size, four-wheel ATVs for use by children under 16. Nationally, a third of all victims in ATV related accidents in 2001 involved children under 16.

Under a long-standing agreement between the ATV industry and federal agency, only ATVs with engines displacing 90cc or less have been sold for use by riders under 16. Still, children are getting onto the larger vehicles.

Trauma surgeon Jeffrey Upperman reels off a litany of ATV cases he's handled at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where admissions have tripled from 19 in 1998 to 65 in 2002.

"We've seen head injuries to abdominal injuries and ages ranging from 3 to adolescence," said Upperman, who will be testifying at the hearing.

When he saw the 3-year-old, "my jaw just dropped open. He was riding on the back of it. Whoever was driving went up a steep incline and it flipped back over.

"I had a case in which a 5 or 6-year-old was riding with a younger sibling. I was told by the parents that they came home and wanted to get a little time on the ATV. I thought, 'Why not give them your car keys and let them take a spin around the block?'"

A scary ride--Danielle Melton's case in Jefferson County may be more typical.

On a Saturday afternoon a few weeks ago, the 14-year-old Brookville Area High School student was riding an adult size ATV that belonged to a friend's family. Danielle and her friend were riding together and about five miles from her friend's home, her friend hopped off. Danielle continued alone.

She hit a ditch in the middle of a field and the side wheel went up an embankment. "She was still in the seat when it rolled over her and landed on top of her. It rolled down on her chest," said her father, Rob. "Gasoline was spilling all over her neck. Thank God she was wearing a helmet."

Two hours later, Melton was riding in a medical helicopter with Danielle to Children's Hospital. Although her parents had discouraged her from riding the ATV, they hadn't forbidden it, believing the pair was riding in the friend's yard.

"She won't be riding another one," Melton said of Danielle, who broke her shoulder and can't play volleyball this year. "I think she found out that mom and dad aren't as stupid as she thought."

Training is the key--Mike Babusci of Plum, executive director of the Pennsylvania Off Highway Vehicle Association, said improving safety is one of the group's primary concerns.

"Our position is that the injuries we're seeing have a lot less to do with the safety of the product than with the training going into using these. Our approach is, 'Let's focus on the safety aspect. Let's try to get appropriate training for everyone.' "

Babusci's organization is working with the DCNR to make affordable training widely available.

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

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

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GROVE CITY MOTORSPORTS Rt. 208 1764 S. Center St. Ext., Grove City, 724-748-5004

INSTIGATOR RACING- ATV Tires, Wheels, Bumpers, skid plates & accessories, Freeport PA, Mike Fajbik 724-295-3707 www.instigatorracing.com

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TEN GRAPHIX, Signs & Vehicle Markings, Thomas E. Nebel, 1800 Sheridan St., No. Braddock, 412-824-8889, www.tengraphix.com