



TRCR

Three Rivers Competition Riders

"Western Pennsylvania's Premier Off-Road Club"

online @www.trcr.org



Member PA OffHighway
Vehicle Association

MARCH 2003 NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR *visit www.district5ama.org for updated schedules and racetrack profiles for AMA District 5 races*

APRIL

- 5 Motocross at Pleasure Valley and Wolfmann's
- 5/6 Loretta Lynn's/Middle Tennessee Dirt Riders Spring Ride, www.mtdr.net
- 5 Harescramble at Switchback; Motocross at Pleasure Valley (Spring Qualifier) and Wolfmann's
- 6 Houtzdale Fire Co./CPATVA Poker Run, Houtzdale, PA, www.cpatva.org
- 6 American Woods Racing Championship Series, Thunder Valley, East Rochester, OH
- 7 TRCR Monthly Meeting, 8:00 pm, Augustine KTM, Butler**
- 12 Supercross at Switchback; Motocross at Freestyle and Rolling Thunder
- 13 Motocross at Switchback, Challenger and R&D
- 13 Ramey Fire Co. Poker Run, Houtzdale, PA, www.rameyfireco.freeservers.com
- 19 Motocross at Roaring Knob and Steel City
- 20 TRCR Club Ride at Switchback, 9-5pm**
- 26/27/28 TRCR Ride at Hatfield McCoy trails**
- 26 Supercross at Switchback; Motocross at Pleasure Valley
- 27 TRCR Adopt-a-Highway cleanup, I-279 North, Camp Horn Road Exit, 8:00 am**
- 27 Harescramble at Switchback; Motocross at Camelback, Mapleshade and Pleasure Valley
- 27 Tri-County ATV Poker Run, Heilwood, PA, www.tricountyatv.com
- 27 American Woods Racing Championship Series, St.

Clarsville, OH

- 28 Madera Fire Co. Poker Run, Madera, PA, www.maderafirecompany.com

MAY

- 3 Supercross at Switchback
- 3 Motocross at High Point
- 4 Motocross at Camelback, Challenger and High Point
- 4 Ramey Fire Co. Poker Run, Houtzdale, PA, www.rameyfireco.freeservers.com
- 5 TRCR Monthly Meeting, 8:00 pm, Northgate Cycle**
- 11 Motocross at Switchback and Field of Dreams
- 17 Supercross at Switchback, Motocross at Field of Dreams and Freestyle
- 17/18 Tour De Forest trail ride, Marienville, PA, www.allegheny-online.com
- 18 Harescramble at Switchback, Motocross at Beaver Valley, Roaring Knob, Field of Dreams
- 23 Motocross at High Point
- 24 Motocross at Camelback and High Point
- 24 Rumble on the Ridge Poker Run, Adena, OH, www.rumbleontheridge.homestead.com
- 24/25 Houtzdale Fire Co./CPATVA Poker Run, Houtzdale, PA, www.cpatva.org
- 24/25 American Woods Racing Championship Series, Boyers, PA, Two Day Qualifier, Grass Track Clinic
- 25 High Point Pro National Motocross
- 26 Motocross/Harescramble at Switchback
- 31 Supercross at Switchback
- 31 Rally In Herrick Valley trail ride, Adena, OH, www.rallyinherrickvalley.com

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

First off, we apologize for the cancellation of the club ride at Switchback Raceway on Sunday, March 23rd. We learned of the schedule change on Friday but unfortunately, our webmaster was out of town and unable to post the cancellation on our website. Our next ride at Switchback is set for Sunday, April 20th. Remember that you must be a paid member to ride.

The March meeting was held at Bob Tracey's World of Cycles where there were plenty of new machines to look at and good deals at the parts counter. Our thanks go out to the good folks at Tracey's for hosting us. We had a decent turnout with over 50 members in attendance. A few brave souls gave reports of rides in the deep snow including a ride that Don Adams hosted on the very day the big snowstorm hit. Sounded more like a survival event than a trail ride. The kind you talk about for years.

But talk turned to expected nicer weather and some of the events that go with it. As you can see from the calendar, there are plenty of races, Poker Runs and trail rides coming up over the next few months and we'll try to scour the internet to keep the calendar full of events that can appeal to anyone and everyone.

Some of the membership has planned a trip down to the Hatfield McCoy trails for the weekend of April 25/26/27. At this writing, around 20 members have signed up for the trip. If you are not familiar with the Hatfield McCoy

trail system, it is only the biggest and coolest trail ride in the eastern U.S. with over 400 miles of trails and counting. There are easy trails and hard trails, big hills and big rocks and fantastic scenery. Well worth the 5 hour drive down, for sure. You can learn more about the system, hotels, trail permits etc. at their website, www.trailsheaven.com. If you are interested in the trip, our first suggestion would be to make reservations for rooms or camping because they are scarce. Most members are staying at the Super 8 hotel in Logan, WV, which is very handy most of the trailheads. You should then come to the April 7th meeting at Augustine KTM to sign up for the ride and get details on which trails we ride on which days.

The club needs your help at the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup detail at our site located on I-279 North. Please meet at the Camp Horn Road Exit at 8:00 am. The job only takes 2 or 3 hours and then there is always a trailride afterwards.

Our next meeting will be at Mark Augustine's new KTM shop on Rt. 8 north of Butler, directly across from Switchback on Monday, April 7th at 8:00 p.m.

Contributions to the newsletter can be sent directly to the secretary but please note the new email address at jpflugh@adelphia.net or to our website, www.trcr.org. See you at the April 7th meeting at Augustine KTM and then, we'll see you in the woods.

What can TRCR do for you?

We've received more than one email at our website lately from new members who have joined, come to some meetings, and then expressed legitimate wonder about how little this club does for its members. Perhaps that is a good question. I, as secretary, responded to one of these well written inquiries recently. I have kept the author of the email anonymous.

This is my second attempt to contact TRCR in an effort to help clear up my confusion with my membership. To repeat, I joined this year. My reason for joining was to meet local riders and find some local (legal) spots to ride. At least areas that are not a bother to local residents. What my

experience to date has been is monthly meetings at a bike shop nowhere near my location which almost guarantees my absence due to my work schedule. A monthly newsletter that has zero detail to events that are coming up. And last a club that has no contact person for clarification. To show my inexperience with this club I actually showed up to the meeting at Crossroads Shop without a 6 pack of beer. The meeting wasn't even informative. I do not know how large your organization is, but it is extremely disappointing thus far. This club above all should understand and appreciate the right to ride and trails to do it on. A response would be appreciated.

Sir: I am Jeff Pflugh, club secretary. First off, I want you to know that I tried to reply to your first email but it came back as undeliverable- probably my fault so I'll try this again. Second, you should know that TRCR is largely just a "social club" of offroad enthusiasts and isn't going to be all things for all people. I say that because, having been in the club for about 13 years now, and secretary for about 8 of those years off and on, I too have experienced much in the way of frustration at the things we do and, indeed, don't do. I have been involved on the political front too and know first hand that working with the other clubs in the state, the DCNR and the US Forest Service can also be frustrating and less than fulfilling. So, you have to understand that what you see is what the majority of the membership wants- just a bunch of guys that ride together in large and small groups (yes, there are a lot of cliques) and really don't want to get bogged down in a lot of business at the meetings because, quite frankly, those efforts have been done by the same people over and over and we get burned out doing it. Now, that is not to say that things aren't always happening behind the scenes and that there aren't people in the club that work hard on those issues because some of us do. Our Legislative Officer, Mike Babusci, is also the Executive Director of the Pa Off Highway Vehicle Association. That organization is the umbrella organization of all PA offhighway clubs and is the recognized organization by the state and holds 2 seats on the DCNR Board. Mike does a lot. I have been there with him through some of it and am the editor of the PaOHV newsletter. Celine Nista, our VP and Membership Chair, works hard on our picnics and parties and trying to schedule other social events (that most members just don't seem interested in doing). Don Adams, our "founding father" and current President, has been around since day one and likes to ride and bench race but does a good job of keeping the membership on track on tough issues and at meetings. Mike Hawthorne has been our Treasurer for years and keeps the books balanced. So, things do happen that you are unaware of. Why doesn't that come up at meetings that much and why aren't these issues covered in the newsletter? Well, sometimes they are and sometimes they aren't. You have only been to one meeting, it appears, so your judgment that we don't get involved may be a bit premature. Anyway, with this backdrop, let me address your concerns individually and maybe you'll see that there is more here than meets your eye.

You say you joined to meet local riders and find local "legal" places to ride. Two comments: If you had come up to any of the officers after a meeting and said, "hey, I'm new and need a riding area", we would have talked to you about it and found you a ride for Sunday. I, for one, have always been willing and able to invite new guys out on rides. As for other members, you have to understand that not everyone is able to open their local riding areas to outsiders because, well, they aren't legal and they don't want them shut down. That sort of leads me into my second point on the subject, there are damn few legal riding areas in this state. Maybe you're new to the area or to the sport but either way, I'm sure you could appreciate the danger in someone inviting you to their little piece of heaven to ride without knowing if you will be back with a group of your own. I know this first hand. I live in Freeport. About 5 miles outside of town there was a great spot next to the river that I always rode. I began taking members and their friends there years ago. Within a year, the area was shut down by the railroad b/c I learned that everyone I had taken there were then taking their friends there to ride without me knowing, and so on and so on. You may know that the only legal area around here is the US Forest Service trails at Marienville and Rocky Gap (Warren). Maybe you've been there. Our club isn't

a partnership agreement with the USFS on those trails. We do annual trail opening clearings there and other work details. In fact, Babusci is responsible for the US Forest Service obtaining over \$500,000 in grant money for trail improvements at those sites over the past couple of years alone and we'll be doing more of that every year. So, you see, we do understand and appreciate the right to ride and we're involved. Unfortunately, it's the same few people year-in, year-out who get involved. That is partially because, as I said, working in the political arena and on business matters can be very disheartening and wear you down. For example, in Marienville, we have logged hundreds and hundreds of man hours on trail improvements and have even written the grant applications that got the money that keeps those trails open and improved only now to find that even we, those who have done all the work, must pay a fee to ride there. For some of us, that's a little hard to swallow. Still, we don't want to lose that site so we trudge on.

As for the meetings being moved around, that is actually a strategy that works in favor of the membership. Our core membership is mostly the area north of Pittsburgh. But, we try to move the meetings around to accommodate everyone. In April, we'll be in Butler at Augustine KTM. In May, we'll be at Northgate Cycle. In June, we're scheduled to be either south or east of the city. As for the beer, sorry, you can bring your own but the host shops won't supply it due to liability concerns.

We try to schedule events such as the monthly seasonal rides at Switchback. We are also on tap to rent some other tracks through the summer months for events but it isn't easy working with the owner's schedules, and again, finding a member that will put it all together. We do 2 or 3 trips down to Hatfield McCoy in southern WV. See their website at trailsheaven.com if you aren't sure what that is. It isn't really a "club event", it is just a few of us announcing that we're going down and anyone who wants to go can sign up. It's a blast - easily the best trail system in the east. You should go if you haven't been there yet.

We used to actually have a spot of land that we leased near Leechburg - over 1000 acres that was a really great site. Trespassers ruined it for us. During that timeframe, the early 90's, we had around 400 members solid throughout the year. Land is an issue that bitterly divides the club. We have a stash of money, our Dirt Quest fund, that we raised from raffles of dirt bikes and quads every year. But no one can agree on how to spend the over \$20k we've raised to date. There are those that want to actually save up to buy land. Others find that unrealistic due to the expense and all the liability problems that come with it. There are those that favor using it to just rent tracks or even a long-term lease of a larger site since it is more like buying a pass to Kennywood - we pay a fee every month or year and use it on a scheduled basis without the liability problems that attach to owning land where some trespasser comes in and gets hurt. No matter what, the big issue is, what land? How much? Where? And, again, what members are going to work on the project?

So, in sum, I appreciate what you are saying but advise you to not give up. If you can't make the next meeting, give me a call and we can talk about it some more. I'm not sure if you have kids that ride like I do or not but I can turn you on to some riding areas north of the city either way. And, maybe you're someone who wants to become involved more in the club itself. For every member, it's not just what the club can do for its members, it's also what the members can do for the club. It's the member's club, not the officers. One more thing, the newsletter, I used to get submissions from people all the time - stories and the like. If that's your bag, everyone loves reading about the adventures, and misadventures, of each others trail rides.

Hope to see you in the woods sometime.

Jeff Pflugh

TRCR Secretary

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

2002 CR250 excellent condition. FMF, Wiseco, V-Force, new o-ring chain/sprock and brakes. Adult owned, never raced. \$4000 OBO 412-767-4150

2000 Yamaha TTR125L, real nice, very low hours, Acerbis bark busters, new tires, new sprock/O -ring chain, \$1,900 OBO, 724-295-2583 eves

1986 YZ 80 Good cond., new muffler, sprockets, frt. fender, rear brake pads 724 -348-7531 after 6pm

2002 Suzuki DRZ400E, used very little; purchased for my wife but the bike is too heavy. Totally stock. like

new! \$3700.00 Call Brad at (724) 295-4079.

2001 Honda CR250, Woods Ready. Very Good Condition. Well Maintained. Many Extras: Devol Radiator Guards, MSR Bark Busters, Works Connection Skid Plate, Steahly Flywheel Weight, FMF Pipe & Silencer, E-Line Carbon Fiber Pipe Protector, O-Ring Chain, 51 Tooth Rear Sprocket, Performance Tech Suspension (Woods Set-Up), Michelin S12 Tires. Price reduced to \$3,600, OBO, Tom Nebel, 412 -824-8889

2001 Honda CR250 setup for woods, O-Ring Chain, Bark Busters, Works Connection Skidplate, Stealthy Flywheel Weight, Pro-Action Suspension, Pro-Taper Bars, New Front and Rear Tires, FMF Pipe, E-Line Pipe Guard, PRICE REDUCED – MUST SELL, Call Joe Clark (724) 872-6597

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 CYCLE 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, 1129 Maple Ave., Washington, 724-222-2229

CROSS ROADS MOTORSPORTS, 5375 William Flynn Hwy, Gibsonia, PA 724 -444-6555

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

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

GEITHER'S AUTOBODY & WELDING, Inc., 201 Hansen Ave., Butler 724-283-6610

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

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

MATTHEWS WALL ANCHOR SERVICE piercing, waterproofing service Inc., 7250 Big Beaver Blvd., Beaver Falls, PA, 1-800-284-7471 www.wallanchor.com BUD NORTON Sr. 724-462-0082, BUD NORTON Jr 724-462-0091

MACE'S MOTORCYCLE SERVICE, ATK Rt. 982 So., Mt. Pleasant 724-547-5355

MILAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATES Prepare now for year end Taxes. Call Nicholas C. Milan, experienced, professional service. 412-782-3773.

NORTHGATE CYCLE – 20634 Rt 19 Cranberry Twp., 724-776-4283

PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGIES, East Pgh., 412-823-7338, 20% off parts, 10% off engine/susp

PRO-ACTION SUSPENSION, 3611 8th Ave, Beaver Falls 724-846-9055, www.pro-action.com

SCHULZ CYCLE & ATV, 234 Millers Run Rd., Bridgeville, Parts & access. 15% off, ATK, Husqvarna, Gas Gas, 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 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