



TRCR

Three Rivers Competition Riders



"Western Pennsylvania's Premier Off-Road Club"

online @ www.trcr.org



Member PA Off-Highway
Vehicle Association

MAY 2003 NEWSLETTER

EVENT CALENDAR

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

JUNE

- 2 TRCR Monthly Meeting, 8:00 pm @ Futules Harmar House, Old Freeport Road, Cheswick (same site as our annual Christmas Party)
- 21 Rally in Herrick Valley Trail Ride, Adena, OH, go to www.rallyinherrickvalley.com for details
- 22 Madera Fire Co. Poker Run, go to www.maderafirecompany.com for details
- 28 Rumble on the Ridge Trail Ride, go to www.rumbleontheridge.homestead.com for details
- 29 (Sunday) TRCR Monthly Club Ride at Switchback Raceway, 9-5pm

JULY

- 7 TRCR Monthly Meeting, 8:00 pm, Site TBA
- 19 (Saturday) TRCR Monthly Club Ride at Switchback Raceway, 9-5pm

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 May TRCR meeting was held at Northgate Cycle and we had a really nice turnout of round 75 members in attendance. Thanks to Joe and Steve for hosting us and for the Pizza! We had some new prospective members show up including Don Dixon and family, Mike Meyers and family, Robert Loher and Dave Mazadea. We reviewed several local rides including the Hatfield McCoy ride that some of us went on in April as well as what sounded like a good ride the Abby Normal riders went on up in DuBois where gas was apparently in short supply. Hmm. Bob Huerbin gave a report on the cleanup of our Adopt-a-Highway cleanup that was held on April 27th where only 9 members showed up to help but the job got done. Thanks to Bob and everyone who helped out on that detail. Let's try to help Bob out next time (we promise not to schedule a trip to WV the same weekend, Bob!).

The update on the Bognar property in Leechburg is that the family is preparing a response to our proposal so they have not forgotten about us. Insurance and other issues still have to be dealt with but it looks like we could be riding there soon. Keep your fingers crossed.

Tommy Meyers announced that he will be putting on a memorial race at Beaver Valley Raceway to benefit the son of Marty Williams, who was lost at a motocross at High Point Raceway on May 4th. We'll have more details on that event.

We discussed efforts to find more shops in other areas surrounding Pittsburgh to hold meetings. Lately, it would seem that most of the meetings have been to the north of town, with the exception of when we meet at Schulz Cycle in Bridgeville. If you know any other shops that are east and south of the city that are interested in hosting a meeting, you would do well to bring this up with an officer so that we can cover the area. Remember that we try to move the meetings around to accommodate the membership. The club voted to hold the June meeting at Futules in Cheswick which is right off the Harmarville

exit of the Turnpike. It is fairly central and has a new lounge area where we can meet. This is the same building where we hold our annual club Christmas Party.

In spite of some crappy weather, we have been getting some decent turnouts at our monthly club rides at Switchback Raceway. Larry has given us dates for rides the rest of the season and it includes some Saturdays which might actually work well for some members with families that ride. Remember that you must be a TRCR member to ride and new riders can join at the gate. The fee to ride the MX or harescramble course for the day is \$5 per rider or \$10 per family. The dates for the rest of the year are: Sunday, June 29, Saturday, July 19, Sunday, August 17, Sunday, September 7, Saturday, October 25, Sunday, November 16 and Saturday, December 6.

Several members ventured up to the Allegheny National Forest to ride the Marienville trail over the opening Memorial Day weekend and we must say the trails are in EXCELLENT SHAPE. If you haven't ridden Marienville lately, make the trip – you won't be sorry. All the new stuff put in over the past few years is breaking in quite nicely. All the switchback sections are now bermed up for some real ear-to-ear grinning, throttle pinning fun. And even with all the rain this spring, it's amazing, no huge puddles! The ranger station is now open 7 days a week to purchase trail passes - \$10 for a daily pass, \$35 for a season pass. We realize the new fee is a little hard to swallow, but hey, this is what the sport has evolved into – we must pay to keep legal trails open.

Dale Gordon has indicated that he has tickets ready for the upcoming Dirt Quest drawing and it sounds like those will be ready to distribute at the June meeting. Good reason to show up. In the meantime, if you have anything to contribute 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.

April. 24, 2003 For Immediate Release

Federal Safety Agency Sets Hearings on ATVs

PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- The federal Consumer Products Safety Commission – the agency that banned three-wheeled all-terrain vehicles in the 1980s – will hold a new series of public hearings on ATV safety beginning in June, the All-Terrain Vehicle Association reports. According to a notice published in the Federal Register today, the commission will hold a public hearing June 5 in Morgantown, W.Va. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. at West Virginia University in the Robert C. Byrd Health Science Center. The commission states that it is "concerned about the dramatic increase in ATV-related injuries and the continued increase in ATV-related deaths, and believes that holding a hearing will provide an opportunity for the interested public to share their concerns about ATVs and ATV safety." The commission will take testimony on issues ranging from the availability of safety training to whether there should be "performance standards" set for ATVs. The commission notes that there has been an increase in the number of injuries to riders using ATVs with engine sizes of 400cc and greater. The commission also will take testimony on a proposal by a coalition of groups made up of the Consumer Federation of America, the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition, the Bluewater Network and others seeking a ban on the sale of adult-sized ATVs sold for use by children under 16. The coalition originally called for a ban on all ATV use by those under the age of 16 but the CPSC said that it could not enforce such a ban. ATVA Director Doug Morris noted that under a longstanding agreement between the ATV industry and the federal agency, only the smallest ATVs -- those with engines displacing 90cc or less -- have been sold for use by riders in that age group. In addition, Morris questioned the motivation behind some of the groups involved in this attack on ATVs. He noted that the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition and the Bluewater Network have never had any involvement with, or interest in, ATV safety. Instead, their agenda has been to block access to public lands for ATV riders and others involved in motorized recreation. "Including these anti-access organizations in this coalition makes for an odd alliance at the very least," Morris said, "since the interests of two of the coalition partners are in eliminating ATVs, not making them safer." To testify before the Consumer Product Safety Commission in West Virginia, contact Rockelle Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C., 20207. Tel: (301) 504-6833. Fax: (301) 504-0127. E-mail: rhammond@cpsc.gov. You can also send written testimony until July 5 to Attn: ATV Hearing, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C., 20207.

The American Motorcyclist Association is a nonprofit organization with more than 250,000 members. Established in 1924, the Association's purpose is to pursue, protect and promote the interests of motorcyclists, while serving the needs of its members. For more information, visit the AMA website at www.AMADirectlink.com.

PAOHV QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

4/26/2003, Dave Marchese's Office: 4431 North Front Street, Harrisburg PA, 12:00 PM

Attendees:

Mike Babusci	TRCR / PAOHV
Fred Bauerle	Lehigh Valley ATV
Gloria Bauerle	Lehigh Valley ATV
Denny Mann	SPER / PAOV
Don McClure	S-Marc
Jack Clark	Lehigh Valley ATV / PAOHV
Dan Reiff	Allegheny Trail Riders
James Hovey	Allegheny Trail Riders

Dick Lepley NOHVCC
Dave Marchese SPER / PAOHV

MINUTES FROM THE 1/11/03 MEETING: No one had comments or revisions to the previous minutes. The minutes were adopted.

WEB PAGE / NEWSLETTER: The meeting opened with discussion of our web site. The website has been updated to include the tree format as we previously discussed. All material to be considered for placement on the web site is to be filtered through Jeff Pflugh at jpflugh@adelphia.net. The web site is to be updated with links to the individual clubs. Each club should visit the site and let the webmaster know if there are errors or omissions. Send all link information to Jeff via his email address. The webmaster's contact info is to be added too.

The first newsletter was published in January. The next edition is scheduled for June. Don needs all the newsletter material provided to him by mid May for inclusion in the publication. Don requested that all club members provide him their club rosters so he can update his newsletter mailing list. Currently there are four groups that receive the newsletter: board members, club members, dealers, and friends of the industry.

Our web page needs to address the issue of where people can legally ride in PA. The SAAC also requested that PAOHV develop and maintain (via grant money) a web site that lists the legal riding areas. Mike suggested that we write a proposal to the DCNR for us to develop such a web site.

MEMBERSHIP: Dave Marchese noted that invoices for 2003 dues would be mailed out this week. In 2004, the annual dues will be requested in January. Membership fees will be due in January from then forward.

SAAC MEETING: (Jack Clark reviewed the highlights of the last meeting.) There is still a big argument over the safe riding issues and particularly the riding double issue. The Secretary of the DCNR introduced himself and talked briefly about working together. Other discussions included trail planning, trail standards, grant money, and a user survey. The secretary said that he wanted the surveys to go out so the Department could work toward providing what the people wanted. The SAAC was recently audited; the official results of the audit have not been released.

Jack and Mike have a meeting scheduled with the Secretary elect of the DCNR. The Secretary previously indicated that he was looking for a champion to get trails on the ground and to ensure that grant money is being used for its intended purpose. There was a brief brainstorming session regarding what Mike and Jack should convey to the Secretary. All agreed that we need to stay positive and talk about the benefits our sport could bring to the state via increased tourism revenues, increased family activities, increased recreation, etc.

PAOHV INFORMATION CDs: Denny Mann presented the final copy of the SCORE CD. He handed out copies and asked that everyone review it and provide him comments within a week.

NOHVCC CONFERENCE: Dick Lepley gave an overview of NOHVCC. He said that it is a great resource and there isn't much about OHVs that NOHVCC is not involved with. He explained that NOHVCC has an educational focus while the Blue Ribbon Coalition has a political focus.

INSURANCE: Mike Babusci said that the PAOHV could become an insurance conduit with National Motorsport Insurance for \$350. PAOHV could thereby issue event insurance for \$195/day. All agreed that this was significantly less expensive than current insurance quotes. However, several members

expressed concerns with the liability of PAOHV and the solvency of NMI. Mike agreed to check the rating of NMI and Don McClure agreed to look into the liability that PAOHV would incur if we pursued this. We then began a discussion on general insurance for the PAOHV. Don McClure agreed to investigate Officers' and Directors' insurance and general insurance options for PAOHV.

GENERAL: Club representatives need to discuss the issue of motorcycles with club member and present the idea of them becoming a class of AVTs.

Mike said the he thought we should develop pamphlets to distribute at function and provide to dealers. All agreed it would be a good idea. Don McClure will investigate this and present options to the PAOHV at the next meeting.

The Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (the agency that outlawed 3-wheelers) has been asked by environmental groups to investigate 4-wheelers. A hearing will be held in WV. The FCPSC is not a regulatory agency; all they can do is either ban or allow activity based on its safety. The AMA and the Blue Ribbon Coalition are investigating this. Mike made a motion for PAOHV to join these organizations to provide support (provided the memberships were not greater than \$100 each). Jack Clark seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion passed.

Mike said that he has software for developing PAOHV Business cards. Board members should e-mail Mike and he will send sample cards.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be July 26, 2003 at 12:00 noon at Dave Marchese's office. Nominations for 2004 board members will be taken then. Mike said that two positions are currently vacant, and he nominated Larry Merritt for Assistant Executive Director and Greg Hammill for Administrative Director. Jack Clark seconded the nomination. A vote will be held in July. **ONLY CLUBS THAT HAVE PAID 2003 DUES BY JULY WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.**

ACTION ITEMS:

All Club representatives must provide Jeff Pflugh with their club link information.

Dick Lepley will provide dealer information to Don McClure.

All members were asked to fax Don the yellow pages from their local phone books so he could compile his own dealer/supplier list.

All club representatives must remind their clubs to pay 2003 dues.

All members must review the SCORE CD that Denny provided and give him comments within a week.

Mike Babusci will investigate the rating of National Motorsport Insurance and report back to us at the next meeting.

Don will investigate Officers and Directors' insurance and provide information at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM

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

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