

GREETINGS FROM THE BACK OF THE PACK

This newsletter is being put together over the road. For those of you who've never had to "work on the road", it is tough explain the logistical difficulties of getting things done at home while traveling from town to town. Thanks to modern technology, we can write this newsletter (abbreviated as it is) from a hotel room in Dubuque, Iowa and still email it to our devoted Treasurer back in Pittsburgh to get it to the members before our next meeting. By the way, I just spent days driving all over Iowa and should pass along that none of us wants to come out here to trail ride – too flat and nothing but corn fields. However, in between working in West Virginia and coming out here, I attended the annual TRCR Fall Hatfield McCoy Trail Ride which was something quite spectacular and, had some highs and lows. The leaves and colors of the mountains and the trail conditions and good times with the members were all fantastic. The fact that the weekend included a couple of blown up trail machines which ended some members' good time paled in comparison to one Ohio woman who lost her life at Hatfield McCoy last weekend while riding her ATV with her husband. And the fact that some TRCR members came upon the accident right after it happened and helped to save the woman sort of puts what we do in perspective. It is a dangerous sport. We take our friends and sometimes our kids out into the woods and plan on having a good time but seldom think about the simple fact that accidents happen and people get hurt and on rare occasion even die doing something as seemingly innocent as tooling through the woods on our ATV or trailbike. Think of that when you venture out next time. Do what you can to make the ride safe. Wear your gear. Talk to your kids about not only how to avoid the big crash but how to leave yourself some "wiggle room" when you can. Sure, we statistically stand a better chance of becoming injured in our vehicles on the way to the riding area. But, hey, lets be careful out there.

The remainder of the weekend was good for the 20-plus members that went down. Some of us went down to try out the new Pinnacle Creek trails in Pineville. Not as

technical or challenging as the superb new single-track and other trails that cover Rockhouse, but lots of fun nonetheless. So, again, we must say, if you missed the ride and haven't been down to HM yet...nuff said.

Last meeting in October was at Cross Roads Cycle and thanks to the crew there for the Pizza. The meeting was short and poorly attended. Why? Maybe it was cause we were accepting nominations for 2005 officers. President Steve Stiller couldn't make it because he was helping his folks in Florida who just went through a series of hurricanes. So, he wasn't there to decline the nomination he received for President for 2005. Celine Nista had already announced that she was NOTrunning for VP in 2005. Mike Perry accepted the nomination. Nick Milan accepted another term of Treasurer. No one was nominated for Secretary for 2005. Well, actually, Mike Babusci was nominated but has declined. The club has no prospects for Secretary for 2005. Could this be your last newsletter? Hmmmm. It's your club, not the officers' club. You decide.

Onto other matters. Don Adams announced at the last meeting that long time member and funny guy Bob Bannon suffered a mild stroke last month. Since then, it appears that Bob has improved enough to be out on his mountain bike. Keep Bob in your thoughts.

Also, the recent flooding apparently completely wiped out Schulz Cycle last month and at this writing, we do not know if Darrell will reopen his Gas Gas business or not.

And one last thing, the annual **TOY RUN** is set for **Sunday, November 14** at his site which needs a lot of work after the big rains from September. **Steve needs your help and is having a work detail on the two Sundays prior to the event - October 31st and November 7th.** This is our biggest event of the year and we need your help. Same rules apply for the event – bring a toy for admission or \$10 per rider.

Well, enough from the road folks, see you at the next TRCR meeting **on Monday, November 1st at Northgate Cycle in Cranberry** where we will be doing elections for 2005 officers. In the meantime, we'll see you in the woods.

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