



# TRCR

*Three Rivers Competition Riders*



"Western Pennsylvania's Premier Off-Road Club"

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



Member PA Off-Highway  
Vehicle Association

## JANUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER

### EVENT CALENDAR

Visit [www.district5ama.org](http://www.district5ama.org) and [www.mojoracetteam.com](http://www.mojoracetteam.com) for updated 2006  
Harescramble, MX, GNCC & AWRCS race schedules

### FEBRUARY

6 Monthly Meeting 8pm at Northgate Cycle, Rt. 19 North, Cranberry

### MARCH

6 Monthly Meeting, 8pm at Cross Roads Cycle, Rt. 8, Gibsonia

### APRIL

2 Monthly Meeting, 8pm at West Hills Honda

7/8/9 Annual Spring Ride at Hatfield McCoy Trails

**ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2006 ARE NOW DUE.**  
Please pay at next meeting or use the enclosed form to pay by mail

#### THREE RIVERS COMPETITION RIDERS

President: *Steve Stiller* Vice President: *Michael Perry* Treasurer: *Nicholas Milan*  
Secretary: *Jeff Pflugh* Legislative Affairs/USFS Liaison: *Mike Babusci*

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

Last month's meeting was held at Northgate Cycle. Thanks to owner Joe Jabersack and sales manager Steve Stiller for the site and pizza. Prior to the regular meeting, a meeting of the Advisory Board was held. Basically, the Board just wanted to get together and clarify some direction for the year. At the top of that list was scheduling rides. At this writing, Mike and Steve are in the process of putting together club rides at several established sites. These will be events that are club sponsored but will offer an incentive for members to come out in a group setting. For example, we will schedule rides at places like Mountain View and Marienville. These are sites that you can ride any time, whether a member or not. However, we will set the event so that it corresponds with a camp out and/or put on some club sponsored refreshments and chow. We will also be scheduling events at sites where we are leasing the venue for the day or entire weekend – such as Powerline Park or Boyers. This will require a small admission fee but we will have the benefit of riding a site that is typically off-limits to the public and we'll have it all to ourselves. Keep checking the newsletter and website calendars for ride dates. Remember, anyone interested can attend TRCR Advisory Board meetings. We'll be having one every other month or so.

At the regular meeting, we finalized plans for the annual holiday party, which was held last Saturday. If you missed it, you missed good food, music, great Sam Adams beer and enough door prizes so that some people got two! We once again did the prizes Chinese style, or as some say, "last man standing". When your ticket was pulled, you picked a prize but then also had the option of taking a prize from someone else if you felt like "stealing". Things got interesting as there were several high dollar prizes including some cool bike stands, Michelin tires, O-ring chains and, the biggie, a complete riding outfit including helmet. Needless to say, those items were passed around the hall several times – especially the gear. Only the last ticket would be able to lay claim to the riding gear without fear of having it stolen. Well, I got lucky and had my number called last. Thanks Steve!

It was a fun event. Mike Stupy won the raffle for the studded tires donated at a discount by Tom Nebel at Winterstuds.com. Tim Pfund won the 50/50 raffle. Thanks go out to Northgate Cycle for donating the riding gear, Bob Tracey's World of Cycles for donating prizes including goggles and gift cards, Cross Roads Motorsports for donating hats, shirts and other gear and, Tom Clark Honda/Suzuki for donating hats, shirts and discount cards. The club bought the rest of the door prizes at a discount. Special thanks to Nicholas and Kathleen Milan for putting this whole shabang together every year.

You gotta hand it to Steve Stiller for always working towards getting places to ride. He puts on his annual Toy Run and is finalizing deals where we can help out at AWORCS events and this year's Suzuki Quad Fest so that members get to attend at a discount. Now, Steve is ready to announce he will run a riding area out of the Bruin property where we had our club picnic last summer. Steve's plan is to sell gate keys to TRCR members only at a cost of \$150 for the year, which enables you to ride any weekend and Wednesdays. TRCR will also have a few event rides there, which will be open for all members for a small admission. More details at next meeting. Cool, huh?

Membership dues are now being collected for 2006. And, after this newsletter, if you're not paid up, no more newsletters. We will then begin the task of sorting out who will get their newsletters via email (saving the club some postage). Of course, any non-member can still get the newsletter off the website and even maybe attend meetings. But, remember, you can NOT attend any TRCR events as a non-member for insurance purposes. Really, pay up. It's cheap and, well, there's stuff happening that you want to get in on. Like for example, did you know that we already have meetings scheduled at different shops through December? Some new places too, like Bentley's in Murrysville (being remodeled right now with Mike Warshol taking over the parts department) and Tom Clark Honda/Suzuki in Belle Vernon. That pretty much has us meeting at a cycle shop every direction outside the city which was always a goal to make it

easier for people to attend meetings.

Still working on that article comparing everyone's thoughts on riding 4-strokes versus 2-strokes. You can email me [jpflugh@peircelaw.com](mailto:jpflugh@peircelaw.com) with your ideas, comments, opinions etc. Or, talk to me at our next meeting – February 6 at Northgate Cycle at 8pm. In the meantime, we'll see you in the woods.

### **Smashing Pipekins**

Many of us vet members remember Pete Geither from Butler who rode with the Abby Normal crew back in the late 80s/early 90s. Pete was pretty darn fast for a middle-aged chap but apparently just got away from riding off-road a few years back. I recall once asking Pete's son, who also rode trails, why he never went on rides with his dad and their crew. He answered "Why would I do that? I could get the same degree of punishment if I just stayed home, opened the garage door 3 feet or so, and drug my bike back and forth under the door".

That retort came to mind about 3 miles into a recent ride lead by Shawn Downing and some of the truly sick individuals he rides with. For those who don't know Shawn, well, he may not be tall, but he is one tough rider who puts on one fun ride on very technical trails. Shawn's idea of single track is so tight and technical, the deer won't even use it. When he said he would be putting on an abbreviated ride on a recent Sunday due to the Steelers playoff game, I figured, what the heck, how bad could it be? Although Shawn had a reputation for riding with the likes of John Angelone, Tim McPherson and the kind of guys who rode so fast, they left a trail of broken plastic in the woods from bouncing off trees at a high rate of speed, I thought I could survive a "brief ride" with them. And, if I couldn't keep up, just follow the plastic pieces and bark-buster-bruised trees.

When Vinny and I showed up and scoped out the attendees and their mounts, I was starting to feel some relief. Heck, some of these guys weren't even wearing studded tires. Surely my fresh Trellys would give me some kind of advantage in the traction department that would make up for the fact that I was an overweight C trail rider. Another rider was riding a Gas Gas trials bike with trials tires and an auxiliary number plate gas tank on the thing. "Huh, betcha we're gonna be pushing that thing up some hills", I thought. There were some newer machines like a beautiful brand new Gas Gas EC300 all shiny and ready for its maiden voyage. But I was feeling okay knowing my KTM 200 was pretty fresh end-to-end and, if nothing else, Vinny was there to rescue me. Vinny is like McGyver out on the trail. If he can't fix it, it ain't broken.

When we went into Shawn's garage to change, I headed straight for his KTM 200. I did so because I wanted to see his pipe. You see, Shawn also has a reputation for riding with badly smashed expansion chambers. No one knows if he ever had a pipe without dents. I think when he gets a new pipe, he takes a mini-sledge to it so that he isn't worried about putting that first dent in it out on the trail. Shawn's pipes are the kind most riders hide in our garbage so the trash man will take them away, knowing there is no mechanic who would take a chance in heating it up to repair it with compressed air for fear it will blow up into a zillion little pieces of metal. Sure enough, there was a stock pipe on his 200 with serious dentage. In looking further underneath, I tried to imagine how any exhaust was flowing through the pipe and out the other end. When I questioned Shawn about it, he quipped, "oh, there's plenty of rides left on this one, I just changed it" pointing to a shelf where another exhaust, flattened worse than this one, lay awaiting repair. I questioned how that pipe could be repaired. Tim McPherson came up and grabbed it saying, "oh yeah, I can fix this one". Vinny and I just kinda gave each other that knowing nod, recognizing no sane person would even attempt to heat that pipe with a torch and blow compressed air into it. As Vinny and I resumed changing into our gear, he asked me what kind of stuff these guys rode to do that kind of damage to an

exhaust. I think at that point, he had a clue as to what kind of ride this was going to be.

A dozen of us set out. What great trails. Beautiful switchbacks with little stream crossings into rocky sections that seemed to go on and on into off-camber hillsides and log crossings. So many log crossings it made the Log Hopper series from a few years back look like interstate pavement. So many logs that every now and then, I was wondering what might be going on underneath the mighty 200. Was that my skid plate I just landed on? Or did I just crush my pipe?

On the plus side, I was keeping up with the mid pack somewhat. Or, perhaps it would be more accurate to just say I wasn't the slowest rider out there after all. There was one particular fellow without studs on a stock MX bike with stock flywheel who was just not appearing to have fun. Unless your idea of fun is clipping trees at full throttle and crashing, going over angled log crossings and doing tank swaps, ending into creek bottoms, that kind of stuff.

Then there were more log crossings. One particular downed tree was oh, probably 2 feet in diameter and a foot off the ground. Yeah, no kidding, 3 feet *at least* to clear it. This was apparently the pipe-eating tree, kinda like the kite-eating tree from the old Charlie Brown cartoons. One after one, riders wheelied onto the log, landing on it, and carried their momentum over it to get the front wheel onto the ground and hope the rear followed suit. Then, hoping that crunching sound was their skid plates and not their \$150 exhaust pipe. Good day to be on a 4-stroke. Needless to say, not everyone did it as gracefully as the leaders. After my much less than graceful scale over the timber, I just had to kinda peek down under the 200 to see what was left of the old FMF Gnarly. Still round. Somehow.

Next, McPherson leans over and tells me "wait till you see this sick log crossing ahead". Oh joy, more pipe smashing madness. Actually, this one was a little different. The tree to be crossed was so big and so high off the ground, Shawn had made a sawn off and hewn out section of log to lay up against it to act as a launching ramp to cross the tree. What fun. Supercross in the woods. Did I mention the "ramp" was off-camber? Maybe not that much of an issue for those of us with studs but...I have to admit I chose the easier path less traveled on that one. Live to ride another day, my motto.

The ride continued and the woods thickened. Some were wondering how far we were going and whether we'd be home in time to watch "the big game". Shawn joked "Game? What game? We're never going to be back by then – what's this game everyone is talking about?" We continued on, meeting up with Josh Lojak and a small contingent. Josh was on a brand new WR450F. Nice mount. Supposedly the most improved big woodsy type 4-stroke and an alternative to the KTM. We continued on. The plastic flew. The guy on the trials bike carved through the woods like David Knight (truly impressive). The hills were climbed and the creeks were crossed. Logs were jumped and pipes were dented. A flat split us up and had us heading back in different directions. Still an awesome day. Just another C ride with Shawn Downing.

If there was a TRCR lifetime achievement smashed pipe award, Shawn would get my nomination.

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

**Motorcycle Repair** – Expert dual sport conversions and general motorcycle and ATV repairs. KTMs are my specialty! Don Adams, 724-744-2377

**Wanted – fuel tank** to fit 95-97 Yamaha WR 250. Stock or aftermarket. Brian, 724-442-5369

**2001 KTM 250EXC** Revloc clutch, WER steering stabilizer, new rear tire. \$2,000 OBO. Dale, 724-337-8628

**2005 Suzuki DR650S** dual sport, 155 miles. Supertrapp exhaust, fender bag, jet kit, warranty, Kevin, 724-586-5577

**1995 Honda XR280** Brand new Al Baker's XR's Only 280 Kit w/ 3 rides on it. Includes XR's Only exhaust system, graphics and seat cover. Other goodies too. One nice running/sounding/looking mid-size thumper that is ready to ride, needs nothing. \$1,800 OBO. Jeff, 724-295-2583

**1995 KTM 250EXC** in very good condition, rear brake guard, front brake cover, new seat cover, good tires, no broken plastic. \$1,700 OBO, evenings after 6pm, Dave, 724-746-1331

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

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

**BENTLEY'S Yam-Suz-Pol-KTM** 4451 Rt 22 Murrysville, PA 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

**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](http://www.dirtyharrys.net)

**DUTCHMAN RACING**, 412-781-5551 or [www.dutchmanracing.com](http://www.dutchmanracing.com)

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

**iMX Internet Motorsport Xessories**, 146 Chestnut Street Zelenople, PA 16063, 724-452-6952

**INSTIGATOR RACING**- ATV Tires, Wheels, Bumpers, skid plates & accessories, Freeport PA, Mike Fajbik 724-295-3707 [www.instigatorracing.com](http://www.instigatorracing.com)

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

**MATTHEWS WALL ANCHOR SERVICE** piercing, waterproofing service Inc., 7250 Big Beaver Blvd., Beaver Falls, PA 1-800-284-7471 [www.wallanchor.com](http://www.wallanchor.com) Bud Norton Sr. 724-462-0082, Bud Norton Jr. 724-462-0091

**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](http://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 Rd Conneaut Lake, PA [www.stnt.com](http://www.stnt.com), 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)

**VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CENTER**, 68 Camp Horne Rd., Emsworth, 412-761-1666. Auto and cycle inspection



2006 TRCR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - DUES RENEWAL FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ AMA No.: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS CHANGE \_\_\_\_\_

*New members only – membership is \$3.00 per month for each month remaining in year*

Single Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$34.00 annual (Anyone age 18 or over)

Family Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 annual (A family includes parents w/ children under 18)

RELEASE

In signing this membership application, I acknowledge that off-road riding is a hazardous activity with inherent risks of injury and that I voluntarily assume those risks. I understand that TRCR, its officers, directors, trail leaders and members welcome my participation as a club member, but are not responsible for my safety or liable for any injury that might result from my participation in any club activity. Furthermore, I will rely upon my own judgment and ability while participating in TRCR events and assume all risks of injury or damage arising out of such participation. I will not sue or make any claim whatsoever against TRCR, its officers or the organizers of its events as a result of such participation. I agree to follow sensible trail riding principles and ride carefully to ensure my own safety as well as the safety of those with whom I share the trail. As a parent or guardian of a member under the age of 18, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the above mentioned parties from any claim or injury or damages which said minor may sustain. I hereby consent to and permit emergency medical treatment if I am injured. Above all, I hereby acknowledge that TRCR is an off-road vehicle club which is dedicated to the furtherance and preservation of the sport. I therefore agree to follow general rules of good conduct and sensible behavior at all club functions and wherever TRCR appears in public in any way.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to TRCR and bring to next meeting OR mail to  
Michael Perry, TRCR VP  
667 Baur Drive  
Wexford, PA 15090