



The Pennsylvania Trailrider

*The Official Newsletter of the
Pennsylvania Off Highway Vehicle Association*

PAOHV Newsletter

Summer 2008

Image as Important as Fun

On June 1st while working my club's Hare Scrambles, it dawned on me how important riding clubs and their events are for the future of off road riding. Not only do clubs provide opportunities for enthusiasts to enjoy the sport they love, the club and the events they sponsor are examples of what we represent. Accordingly, it is our responsibility as club members and participants to project a positive image of our sport.

As a club, we knew that we needed to form a good first impression to ensure the future of the OxBo Hare Scrambles. The club invited the neighbors, township supervisors, the fire company, and a host of others to attend. The spectators watched and formed opinions as 350 participants did their thing at the race. Our visitors' memories may form their image of us possibly forever. Sure, many spectators were family members of riders whose images were already set. But, what about the first timers? As sponsors of the event, we knew we needed to project a positive image. The challenge was getting the participants to project their best as well.

The image of an ATV or Dirt Bike rider is that of an outlaw for many outside of the sport. To enjoy riding for years to come, we riding enthusiasts must change that image. We have all seen it, the kid doing donuts in the parking lot at a poker run, the dual sporter without an inspection sticker, or the enduro rider without a current license plate. We all need to kick our off road legitimacy up a notch.

When we see a trail closed sign and remember how great the trail is, we need to stay off it. Follow the advice of your conscience and ride only in designated areas. We need to become obsessive in our observance of rules and regulations almost to the degree of being retentive. We cannot let our guard down when we attend an event or ride in a large group no matter how much we are tempted. It only takes one of us blasting up and down a township road to paint the group as hoodlums.

When we are the center of attention, we need to sell ourselves and our sport. Many off roaders are not members of an organized club. Many are unaware of rider etiquette and what is expected of them. Which brings me to my second observation, an interesting feature of a club is the peer pressure its membership can exert. No one enjoys being looked down upon by his or her friends. Clubs can help mold courteous off roaders. So for those of you who belong to a club, keep up the good work and police your own. Go to events as a group and cast a positive image for all of us. For those who prefer not to belong to a club, remember one person can impact the image of our sport. Please go, enjoy, present yourself with respect, and ride for the future of the sport.

*-Denny Mann
Executive Director*



PaOHV Activity at Record Pace

by Denny Mann, Executive Director

The first half of 2008 has been a new beginning for PaOHV and the future of OHVs in Pennsylvania. PaOHV has jumped out of the starting gate with all of the Directors focused and energized. Below is a list of undertakings that the organization has initiated since January.

- The creation of a PaOHV Long Range Strategic Plan, which is a four-goal blueprint for the future of PaOHV. Each goal is subdivided into individual duties, which are assigned to members of PaOHV with completion dates spanning over the next three years.
- PaOHV has established a Centralized Communications Program. Don McClure from S/MARC has stepped up as the go to guy for all communications. He will handle all media, internal, and external communications. This includes full management of the web site.
- PaOHV has a new web site totally redesigned with great new graphics and up to date information and hosted by PSN.
- The board recognized the need for prompt and timely communication with the PaOHV membership. All board meeting minutes are now posted on PaOHV.org and a quarterly newsletter is distributed.
- PaOHV now has an informational power point presentation. Thanks to Assistant Director Mike Babusci, PaOHV's 2008 Membership Presentation is available. It describes the who, what, and where of PaOHV.
- PaOHV received Blue Ribbon Coalition's (BRC) Club of the Year award. PaOHV has national appeal, and now the BRC has recognized the value of this organization with their Club of the Year award.
- Bob Conner and his group of volunteers attended Motorama at the Farm Show building in February answering questions from thousands of enthusiasts. The question most asked was "Where can I ride legally?" Bob is in the process of creating a master list of legal riding areas within Pennsylvania. The list will be posted on PaOHV.org in the near future.
- PaOHV has written a letter to Governor Rendell supporting the Renova Trail Connector Proposal. Governor Rendell has not responded at press time.
- Members have expressed their concern regarding DCNR's lack of involvement with the SAAC Committee. I personally wrote a letter to Secretary DiBerardinis complaining about DCNR's level of involvement in the SAAC Committee and received a favorable response.

- So far PaOHV has attended two SAAC meetings with Jack Clark voicing OHV concerns.
- PaOHV testified before the House Committee on Tourism and Recreational Development Committee on HB1908. Fred Brown and Dick Lepley did a fantastic job delivering PaOHV's testimony. They expressed the Association's stand on why landowners need more protection against frivolous law suits.
- PaOHV is lobbying hard to defeat legislation that unfairly increases penalties for certain riding offenses. Fred Brown is carrying PaOHV's position door to door in the state capitol drumming up opposition to the bill.
- PaOHV initiated Michaux State Trail System improvements by establishing a partnership between the DCNR's Michaux District office and Penn State's Dirt & Gravel Road Department. The first phase of the improvements will rework four locations on the Log Sled Trail.
- PaOHV established the Michaux Motorized Trail Fund, a grant available for promotion and trail usage of legal motorized recreation within Michaux State Forest. This fund was the brain child of South Penn Enduro Riders, and we thank them for the seed money for this grant.

All of these accomplishments are much needed steps forward, but two strategies are paramount. Up to now PaOHV handled issues as they happened, and we have arguably wasted valuable time between crises. With the PaOHV Long Range Strategic Plan, each Director has on going duties and completion dates. This way, the organization is proactive always working towards a goal. Yet, we will be fully capable of handling problems as they occur. The old system of doing business was crisis control. PaOHV is now better prepared for any situation.

The Communication Policy is targeted at improving the method by which PaOHV manages its message and alerts its membership of pending issues. Grassroots organizations like PaOHV must contact the appropriate people in a timely manner. Information is power when protecting rights and liberties. Now the membership will receive timely newsletters, meeting minutes, and action alerts. For example, many townships across the state have adopted laws limiting OHV usage on private property. These laws often prohibit landowners with small parcels of property from riding on their own property. PaOHV has repeatedly found that a large OHV

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presence at township meetings is the best deterrent to passing this type of OHV ordinance. A key component of the Communication Program is an early warning and quick response to this type of crisis. PaOHV will email the membership an action alert so that members can attend township meetings in numbers. The policy will help PaOHV react to our members' problems in a timely manner, thus being more effective in serving our membership. But without your help as a PaOHV member, this process may fall short of its goals. Please visit www.PaOHV.org on a regular basis for current information, inform PaOHV of difficulties in your area, and send us your email address so that you will receive the action alerts.

In closing, I would like to express my joy with the direction PaOHV is heading. In January we asked riders across the state to give us input on how we could better serve them. The top concerns were the lack of current information on the PaOHV web site, the status of the state owned trail system, the cost of membership, and means of informing the public of our existence. The list provided indicates that PaOHV has listened and has taken action. We are in support of you the OHV owner.

At this time I would like to thank the key people who worked so hard to make this happen. Thank you to Power Sports Network (PSN) for their generous gift of hosting the new PaOHV web site, Dick Lepley, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) Pennsylvania representative for introducing us to PSN, Don McClure for the development of the two strategies, and the Motorcycle Industry Council and Americans for Responsible Recreational Access for their generous gift of hiring Fred Brown to represent OHV issues at the Capitol.

The battle is *not* on our side of the fence

by Greg Mumm, Executive Director, BlueRibbon Coalition

In the battles we fight, it is important to identify the enemy (or enemies) and to know their strengths and weaknesses. Knowing through whom you must march on the path to victory is one step in the process of putting together the right battle plan—as is identifying what the objectives are. Equally as important is taking an honest self assessment from time to time so you can be aware of your own strengths and weaknesses.

With regard to knowing our own strengths and weaknesses, I am very concerned lately with how the OHV community often has a real tendency get riled up and, with nowhere to immediately strike out at injustice, instead turn around and literally bring the battle against our own.

To which you say, "What? Did he really just say that?" And I respond, "Why yes I did."

I said so because it is true. I cannot tell you how many times I find myself in the position of listening to one group in our ranks attack another... and often publicly. I cannot tell you how many times I hear or read a public posting from an individual on our side of the fence taking a full-on pot-shot at an organization on the same side. I cannot tell you how many times in a public setting that I hear one recreational modality accusing another of being the problem. Finally, I cannot tell you how many times I hear of one group working on a specific issue while another group decides to work on the very same issue and the two are unwilling to collaborate. When contacting one or the other to point out how they need to get together and share resources, one or the other or both will refuse for all the wrong reasons.

Why? Why do our folks feel they need to "eat our own"?

I will leave the answer to that question for your own speculation, but I do want to point out the obvious here. The battle is not on our side of the fence and the objective is not to destroy those who are in the trenches with us, whether we agree with everything they say or not. The objective is to preserve access and unless we want to define ourselves as our own worst enemy, this has got to stop.

The BlueRibbon Coalition has spent the last twenty years trying to bridge these gaps and get everyone to pull in the yoke together. We have proven time and again how important this is and how much more successful we can be when we stick to this very basic principle. BRC will continue to hold firm to this principle for the next twenty years because we know it is the best hope we have.

I hope you will take it to heart as well. If the OHV community doesn't make every effort it can to quit dog fighting with each other and face the real enemies together, we will lose. No, we are not always going to agree and that means we will at times have to set aside our desires and follow a plan that we didn't hatch. It means that most times we will share in the fame and sometimes we will share in the shame. Either way, in the famous words from the movie Top Gun I say, "...you never, ever leave your wingman."

MOTORAMA 2008

by Bob Connor, Research Director

Motorama in Harrisburg this past February was the beginning of many events across the state where members of PAOHV provided information about rider training, OHV laws, and areas to ride legally. We will also actively recruit fellow riders to PAOHV for the purpose of representing our sport in Harrisburg.

For me personally, Motorama is the kick-off of the riding season. Some of the events featured are go-cart, RC car and motorcycle racing, car and truck shows, and all kinds of vendors relating to motorized recreation with good deals on pre-season items. It's a great weekend! If you have never attended, you should really try next year.

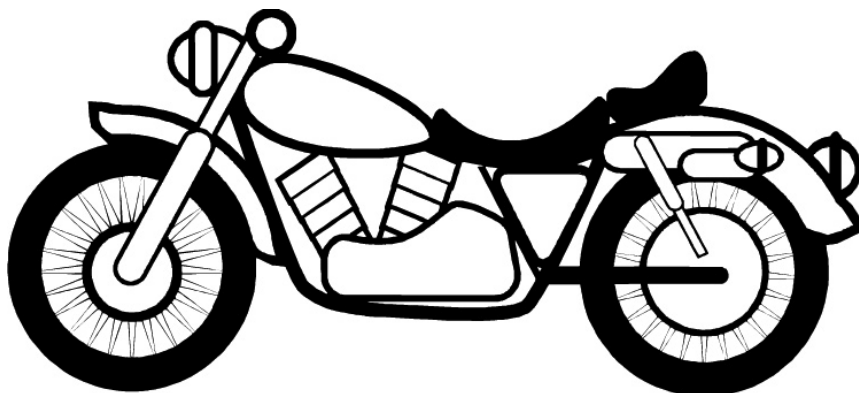
PaOHV's tent was busy both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers working the show for PAOHV were Fred

Bauerle, Jeremy Jaques, Sandy Quickel, Denny Mann and me. By far the most frequently asked question of the weekend was where the legal riding areas are in Pennsylvania. Our most popular handout was the map of DCNR ATV trails on state forest lands. These pamphlets were cleaned out by Saturday night.

Many people questioned why so many areas allowed ATVs, but not dirt bikes. I have always felt that all riding areas should be open to both type of vehicles if our state riding parks are to be successful. Furthermore, it was apparent that a good portion of Motorama's visitors were from New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. Regardless, all attendees were seeking riding opportunities that are seemingly not provided in their home states.

White's Harley Davidson Honored

The Harrisburg Patriot News reported earlier this year that PaOHV Member White's Harley Davidson was awarded Harley Davidson's Bronze Bar and



Shield Circle of Achievement Award for 2007. The dealership earned the award for sales motorcycles, related products and general customer satisfaction. White's is located in Lebanon.

So why is it so hard for dirt bikes and ATV guys to get along??

by Bob Abernethy, Public Information Director

This question has been biting at my tires for a long time.

I'm the President of Central Pennsylvania ATV Association and the Public Information and Education Director for PaOHV. I have an ATV, dirt bikes, and even a Harley! Wife thinks too many toys...but. I have wondered why we cannot all get together and take a united stand for our right to ride what we want and how we want it.

Our club has had years of successful Poker Runs that always had both dirt bikes and ATV's. Almost everyone who rode returned to check in and stated "WOW what a great time!" Some rode fast, some rode slow...but everyone RODE!

The groups that are fighting against us continue to grow and gain strength both financially and politically. OHV opposition groups in this state relish in the fact that we are a divided group and can not unite. Could you imagine how strong we could be if we all united and joined forces to control our own destiny and not let others control it? I know we have all talked the talk before, but really now is the time to come together.

ATV and dirt bike clubs need to join and support PaOHV.

If you have children, we must ensure that this form of recreation exists in the future. Times are changing, and we are falling behind even further every day. It is always nice to have others fight the fight. Now it is up to you. Those that have been fighting need your support.

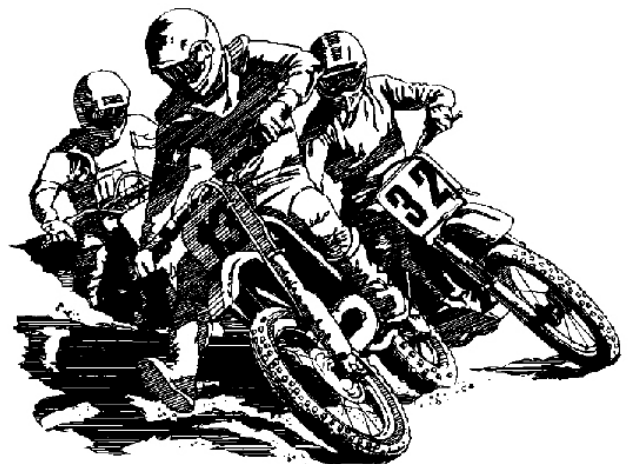
You can contribute to the cause by joining PaOHV. We do need your help! Email your thoughts to me at boba@uplink.net - Subject- PaOHV. Better yet, visit www.PaOHV.org to become a member!

Michaux State Forest to expand by 2,500 acres

A 2,500 acre parcel of land previously owned by Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company is being added to Michaux State Forest in Adams County. As part of the sale, the Conservation Fund is assuming temporary ownership of the land.

At the request of local, regional and state partners, the Fund provided critical bridge financing for the \$12.5 million purchase. The Fund will hold the property until other public and private funding can be raised to transfer the land to the Commonwealth for public stewardship. DCNR's Bureau of Forestry will manage and patrol the site during the Fund's interim ownership; however, the property must remain closed to the public until it is transferred.

Michaux State Forest serves as a buffer to the popular Appalachian Trail corridor. It also lies within the viewshed of Gettysburg National Park and abuts Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve.



www.paohv.org

PaOHV Welcomes These New and Returning 2008 Individual Members

Lee Williamson

Robert Lioi

Chris Duncan

Chuck Spencer

Sheldon Langer

Robert A. Strouse

Don Clymer

Robert A. Rush, Jr.

John A. Frank

Richard Lepley

John Buerkle

H. Silbaugh

Bob Good

Andy Mihalow

Sasha Allen

Paul Schmidt, Jr.

Jude Harper

PaOHV Welcomes These Returning 2008 Corporate Members

Dennis Blocker
Blocker Enterprises
Parryville, PA

Randy S. Zeigler
Dean's Harley Davidson, Inc.
Sellersville, PA

Robert Bornick
Sharon Cycle Sales & Service Co.
Sharon, PA

Dick Lepley
Street, Track, and Trail
Conneaut Lake, PA

Joseph White
White's Harley Davidson Sales, Inc.
Lebanon, PA

Randy Texter
Lancaster Harley Davidson, Inc.
Willow Street, PA

James McMahan
Z and M Cycle Sales, Inc.
Greensburg, PA

Nick Kibuk
Kibuk Cycle Sales, Inc.
Kittanning, PA

Allen Slezak
Fun Center Motorsports
Bensalem, PA

Robert J. Felmlee
World of Wheels, Inc.
Seneca, PA

Robert Means
DuBois Motorcycles Plus, Inc.
DuBois, PA

Cheryl K. Main
Larry's Sport Center, Inc.
Galeton, PA

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Dick Sidle
Lebanon Valley Cycles
Jonestown, PA

Michael Scott
Scott Powersports, Inc.
Coopersburg, PA

William Bentley
Bentley's Yamaha, Suzuki, Inc.
Murrysville, PA

David Moore
Lancaster Honda
Lancaster, PA

Dan Bothe
Roxy's Cycles, Inc.
Fayetteville, PA

Craig Bear & Duane Summers
Yamaha of Camp Hill
Camp Hill, PA

Mr. Brad Zepka
Zepka Harley Davidson, Inc.
Johnstown, PA

Mr. Clifford J. Murray
Cycle Max
Honey Brook, PA

Joe Askins
Off Road Express
Erie, PA

Bob Logue
Bob Logue Motor Sports
Williamsport, PA

Jim Keister
Xtreme Power Sports.
Selinsgrove, PA

Ernest Miller, Jr.
Miller's Yamaha
Lemont Furnace, PA

Glen A. Werkheiser
Keystone Outdoor Recreation
Tunkhannock, PA

Don Kissinger
Don's Kawasaki, Yamaha, Sea Doo
Hellam, PA

Kim Gallia
RPC Sales, LLC
Chadds Ford, PA

Craig Bear
B & B Sales and Service
Manheim, PA

Carl Miller
Forest Park Enterprises, Inc.
Erie, PA

Steve Seltzer
Steve Seltzer Honda
(R & S Powersports)
Altoona, PA

Sharon Aleksandrowicz
Aleks Powersports
Erie, PA

Dan Harris
Breezewood Proving Grounds, Inc.
Clearville, PA

Andrew Stutzman
Rausch Creek Trail Riders
Valley View, PA

Ed Cernic, Jr.
Cernic's
Johnstown, PA

Brenda Fitch
Majestic Kamp & Lost Trails, Inc.
Rew, PA

John C. Trumbauer
Trumbauer's Lawn and Rec, Inc.
Quakertown, PA

David E. MacDermott
M & M Repair Center
Stillwater, PA

Ann Repine
Tri-County ATV Recreation
and Rescue Association
Heilwood, PA





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