

Newsletters

NEWSLETTER #52 Dec 30, 2003

MTRA Web Site Is Now On-Line!

email us at: ridemtra@hotmail.com

Happy New Year!

ATTENTION EVERYONE! The Forest Service is proposing a plan to study OHV impact in 3 new OHV areas in the Mark Twain National Forest. Information regarding these study areas and plan can be found at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/project.htm>

While we are encouraged (and supportive) that the USFS has recognized that additional OHV trails are needed, we are disappointed with several details of their plan. The following summarizes our concerns: -We don't think they have included any single-track m/c trails in the Palmer area. If this is really a "study", shouldn't they also look (document) at the impact of motorcycles on single-track trails? -We don't understand why the Cherokee Pass and Blackwell Ridge study areas are for ATVs only (No Motorcycles). -We are concerned that the study is doomed for failure.

People have been using OHVs in the Mark Twain National forest for many years. While providing 3 more very small areas might provide a little more access for some OHV users, we don't think it will be enough for the needs of all area users, hunters and recreational trail riders. Our fear is that the USFS can say that they tried, it did not work, and then shut down everything. We really believe the real problem is that the last Forest Plan changed from an "open unless marked closed" to a "closed unless open" road/trail policy. They really need to go back to the "open unless closed" policy to solve this problem.

Please review the documents and send your comments to the Forest Service at: comments-eastern-mark-twain-potosi@fs.fed.us. Comments need to be submitted by Feb. 20, 2004. We will also have a form letter on our web page for your use if you want to submit a letter.

Attention all MTRA Members, Your help is needed in 2004! 2004 will be a very busy year for the MTRA as we are planning to open the VTRA and have now scheduled our annual events. Please volunteer to work the event of your choice!

2004 MTRA MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE NOW! Yes, if you don't see 4 or 5 in front of your name on your newsletter's address, you need to send in your membership application and dues. This also applies to all our supporting dealers/businesses/clubs. Don't forget to highlight any changes you might have on the application. And, don't forget to sign up for the MTRA "Strike Force" Letter Writers (only once or twice a year). We are also looking for Strike Force members' email addresses to "populate" our Strike Force distribution list. So send us an email to ridemtra@hotmail.com and we will add you to our electronic Strike Force list.

VTRA Property/Grant Status: Finally, we will be opening the VTRA riding area in 2004! While the survey and perimeter fence are still in work, we are planning the Grand Opening on March 20 and 21. To cover our [insurance](#) expenses, we will be charging \$5 per truck per day, and \$10 per truck per weekend to ride the VTRA trails. All riders must be current MTRA members.

Primitive camping will be available. Restrooms will not be available. For 2004, the VTRA facility will be open the 3rd weekend of every month from March thru October. To help with rider signup and collection of fees, we are looking for some MTRA members that would like to be weekend "Gate Keepers" for the 8 "Ride Weekends". "Gate Keepers" will not have to pay the entry fee. If you are interested in helping, please call the MTRA Hot Line 314-434-9056 or email us at ridemtra@hotmail.com or go to our web site at www.ridemtra.com and leave your name and number and tell us what weekend you would like to work.

We are also planning several construction projects at the VTRA site in 2004. They will be held on the "Ride Weekends". Other Ride Weekends will be on April 17/18, May 15/16, June 19/20, July 17/18, August 21/22, Sept 18/19 and Oct 16/17. But, the VTRA property is NOT yet open for riding!

Upcoming Events

Jan 31st, MEMBERSHIP MEETING/PARTY. Our annual "After Christmas Party" will take place on Saturday January 31, 6:00 PM, at Classic Motorcycles [LLC](#), 5625 Gravois (about 8 miles toward downtown from Hwy 270 or 5 block south of the Bevo Mill). This is the location of Dave Mungenast's vintage motorcycle shop. We are sure that you will enjoy the collection of bikes! Please don't touch the bikes! We will be discussing the Supercross and upcoming MTRA events & election of the CY 2004 MTRA Board Members. Pizza @ 7:00 PM, & a short meeting starting @ 8:00 PM. Bring your own adult beverages and lawn chairs. We will be signing up volunteers to work the various 2004 MTRA events. Sorry, NO Alcohol at this year's party!

March 12/13 SUPERCROSS RETURNS TO THE DOME! The Supercross guys are coming back to the St. Louis Edward Jones Dome on March 12/13. We will need 15 volunteers for Friday afternoon and 30 for Saturday. If you are interested in working the event this year, give us a call at the MTRA Hot Line @ 314-434-5095 or email us at ridemtra@hotmail.com. Past volunteers and MTRA members will be given first chance

to work this event. We always need a few new workers every year.

EARTH DAY EVENT, APRIL 24, 2004. We will have our annual Earth Day event at Sutton's Bluff Campground on Saturday April 24. We start our volunteer efforts at 9:00 AM and will provide a late lunch and attendance prizes around 4 PM. Free camping for all volunteers, campfire Saturday night, and trail riding on Sunday.

2004 SHOW ME 200, JUNE 5 & 6. The 2004 entry form is enclosed. If you would like to ride the event, fill in the entry form and return it ASAP. Please note that we have had to increase the entry fees to cover our expenses. We still think it is the best dual sport deal anywhere! We will fill entries by the post-mark date from a US Post Office! Only Entries with a post-marked envelope will be accepted! Hotel rooms will be assigned on a first-come basis; everyone else will sleep in the gym. We also need a few volunteers to work as "Chase" truck drivers. If you want to volunteer call the MTRA @ 314-434-5095. Only current MTRA members will be allowed to ride!

August 7/8th ATV/Motorcycle Motocross Race at the Washington Town and Country Fair. In 2004, we will again be promoting/conducting both the ATV and the Motorcycle race. While the MTRA Search and Rescue Team will take the lead with the ATV race, we will need workers for both events. This is a very high profile event and we need significant help to work both days. If you are available and can wave a flag, or help with signup, staging, or scoring, please call the MTRA Hot Line 314-434-9056 or email us at ridemtra@hotmail.com or go to our web site at www.ridemtra.com and leave your name and number.

Other 2004 events:

Oct 2/3 -- Viburnum's Old Miners Day [Poker](#) Run

Nov 6/7 -- Halloween Trail Ride @ VTRA

2003 MTRA SUPPORTING DEALERS/BUSINESSES

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