

MIDWEST TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER #58, Jan 2, 2006

www.ridemtra.com

ridemtra@hotmail.com 314-434-5095 (Event Hot-Line)

Happy New Year!

The 2006 MTRA Show Me 200 entry form is enclosed with this newsletter. If you want to ride the event, you need to fill in the application and send it back to the MTRA ASAP as the event normally fills up in 3 days! We did have to raise the event fees to cover the increased price of gas and cost of food. (It has been several years since we raised the entry fee.)

The 2006 MTRA Membership Application is enclosed in this Newsletter. Please check your name/address on this newsletter to see if your membership is current or if you need to renew your MTRA membership. Your MTRA membership number is on the first line of the address after your name, and the last year that your membership has been paid is in front of your name, i.e. 4 John Doe 2456. (Last year paid = 2004, & member # = 2456) So if there is a 4 or 5 in front of your name, your membership has expired. We hope you continue to support our cause and renew your membership.

We (all Motorized Trail Users) did get some good news from the Washington Office of the Forest Service recently. The following information regarding that issue was copied from the Blue Ribbon Coalition web site:

The Blue Ribbon Coalition is supportive of the new Forest Service's final "Off-road-vehicle Management Rule" announced today in Washington D.C. by USFS Chief Dale Bosworth. The Rule will restrict off road motor vehicles to designated routes and areas agency wide.

A key component of this new rule is that the agency can still designate "open" areas where appropriate. "Some areas are appropriate for an 'open' designation and we are glad that provision is still in the Rule," says Collins. "Some forests have ignored off-highway-vehicle management in the past and that is where we have the most problems," says Collins. "This rule says that OHVs are an important, growing use of our public lands and should be managed to provide quality recreation opportunities while protecting the resources."

OHV recreationists now need to work with their local Forest Service office to ensure that all the routes they use are included in a complete and accurate trail inventory. "Keeping your favorite trails a secret is a sure fire recipe for disaster," according to Collins. "If they aren't included in the inventory they are certain to not be designated and I caution OHVers to not think the authorities can't catch them. That is a sure fire recipe for making the entire OHV community look bad."

User created routes were recognized in the final rule as being eligible for inclusion in the inventory and considered for designation as part of the final road and trail system. "We kept reminding the Chief throughout this process that 'user created routes' needed to be considered. We're delighted to see them included in the final Rule," said Collins.

This national Rule has the potential to help recreationists in areas where the local Forest manager has a negative attitude toward OHV recreation. Some land managers have misinterpreted the Chief's intent to mean, 'close down the trails until it can be proven they don't impact anything - or anyone - in any way.' Those land managers just need to be reminded by local users that this Rule stresses responsibly 'managing' OHV recreation, not eliminating it.

The MTRA is attempting to contact the Mark Twain Forest Supervisor and see how we can help with the trail inventory and how this ruling will impact the new Forest Plan. Stay Tuned!

VTRA Update: Apparently someone wanted the BBQ Grill at the VTRA (the one at the shelter) more than we did. Yes someone pulled it, its post, and about 100+ lbs of concrete out of the ground recently. We have filed a police report and are making plans to buy a new grill with a different mounting system. We are also considering other options (some electronic) for protecting the VTRA area. **Also NO Pit / Parking Lot Racing!** Over the past couple of years we have spent considerable money on lime, fertilizer, and grass seed in the parking lot. Granted you can't really tell it, but we need to give the seed a chance to take hold. As we understand the need to have somewhere close (within sight) to the parking lot for our young riders to ride, we have created a couple of small grass tracks around the parking lot for our younger riders to play on.

Upcoming events:

Jan 21 MTRA Post Xmas Membership Meeting. We will be having a general membership meeting at Crusoe's at 5591 Oakville Ct. Take 270 (255) to Telegraph South (for approx. 2 miles) to Crusoe's on the Right. We will provide the Pizza @ 6:00 PM & have a short meeting starting @ 7:00 PM. We will be signing up volunteers to work the various MTRA events as well as gate keepers for the VTRA property for 2006.

2006 MTRA Schedule of Events:

February 17/18 St. Louis Supercross. The fast guys are coming back to the St. Louis Edwards Jones Dome. We will need 15 volunteers for Friday afternoon and 30 from 11am to 11pm on Saturday. If you are interested in working the event this year, give us a call on 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. Note for the last couple of years, the St. Louis News Media did not attend the Thursday Press event nor did they cover the event. So as we did a couple of years ago, we are asking everyone in St. Louis to politely call the major St. Louis television stations the week of the event and ask them to cover the event. So mark your calendar and please call one or more of the following numbers.

Fox 2: 314-647-2222, KSDK 5: 314-421-5055, KMOX TV 4: 314-444-6333, KDNL 30: 314-436-3030. You may have to ask for the Sports Department.

March 18-19 VTRA Ride Weekend

April 15-16 VTRA Ride Weekend

May 6-7 Show Me 200 Trail Work (Starting at VTRA)

May 20-21 VTRA Ride Weekend Show Me 200 Pre Ride (Workers Only)

June 3-4 17th Annual Show Me 200 National Dual Sport

June 17-18 VTRA Ride Weekend

June 18th Woods Poker Run at VTRA

July 15-16 VTRA Ride Weekend

August 5-6 Washington Town and Country Fair, ATV and MC Races

August 19-20 VTRA Ride Weekend

September 16-17 VTRA Ride Weekend

October 8 Old Miners Day Poker Run

October 21-22 VTRA Ride Weekend

November 4-5 Halloween Trail Ride

Past Events:

August 6/7 Washington Town and Country Fair. Thanks to everyone that helped with the Washington Races. This is a very important event for us and requires a lot of workers to pull it off. Thanks to Alan Gibson for taking the MTRA lead on this event. He did a great job pulling everything together for this event.

September 18th Missouri Hare Scrambles. Despite 4 hours of heavy rain immediately prior to the start of the event, we hosted the event on September 18th. Thanks to all the MTRA volunteers and Nasty Creek members for setting up and working the event. Thanks to Denny Arnett for taking the MTRA lead on the event.

Oct 2 Viburnum Woods Poker Run. Once again we hosted a Woods Poker Run for the Old Miners Day Committee of Viburnum on Oct 2. This is a very rare opportunity for MTRA to work with the City of Viburnum, several landowners, and The Doe Run Company, and show that a motorized off-road event can be held in a responsible manner. While the vast majority of the participants did just that, we did have a couple of riders that did not. We did have a problem with a rider not staying on the course, and a couple of riders not acting responsible on the road back into town. If we want to continue to have this opportunity in the future, we will have to deal with this next year. If you were one of those that cannot follow the rules, PLEASE STAY HOME IN 2006.

MIDWEST TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT)

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL, OLD MTRA NO. _____ NEW _____

TYPE: INDIVIDUAL(\$10) _____ FAMILY(\$15) _____
DEALER / CLUB / BUSINESS (\$20) _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

FIRST NAMES OF FAMILY MEMBERS (DEPENDANTS)

HOME

ADDRESS: _____
NUMBER STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

HOME PHONE () _____ - _____

TYPE OF RIDER: MOTORCYCLE: ____, ATV: ____,
BOTH: ____

AMA MEMBER? YES ___ NO ___ IF SO,
NO. _____

OCCUPATION _____ AGE: _____

ARE YOU IN ANYWAY DISABLED? YES ___ NO ____,

IF YES , PLEASE EXPLAIN: _____

I AM INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE:

_____ POTOSI DISTRICT, _____ SALEM DISTRICT

____ "ADOPT-A-TRAIL", ____ CONSTR. PROJECTS

____ "STRIKE FORCE" (LETTER WRITERS)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE
MTRA LAND FUND?

\$ _____

ANY OTHER SERVICES THAT YOU CAN PROVIDE?

YOU MUST SIGN THE ADJACENT SIDE OF THIS
APPLICATION

2002

I/WE THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL OF MY/OUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MIDWEST TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC. (MTRA). I/WE AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS AS STATED THE ASSOCIATION'S ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS. I/WE SHALL AND HEREBY DO , FOR MYSELF, MY HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND FOREVER HOLD HARMLESS, THE MTRA OFFICERS, PAST AND PRESENT, THE AMA, U. S. FOREST SERVICE, FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OR LIABILITIES DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY AS A RESULT OF ALL INJURIES (INCLUDING DEATH) AND/OR ACCIDENTS TO OR CAUSED BY MYSELF WHILE ENGAGED IN ANY FORM OF MOTORCYCLING (INCLUDING ALL TYPES OF ATVS) RIDING ANY MOTOR VEHICLE, OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY MYSELF IN CONNECTION WITH THE MIDWEST TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC., AND FREE SAID ORGANIZATION FROM ANY RESPONSIBILITY THEREWITH. I/WE ALSO AGREE TO HOLD BLAMELESS THE OWNERS OF ANY PROPERTIES THAT I/WE MAY CROSS DURING ANY MTRA ACTIVITY FOR ANY LOSSES OR INJURY (INCLUDING DEATH). I ALSO CERIFY THAT I AM 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. IF UNDER 18, I MUST HAVE PARENTIAL CONSENT.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT DATE

SIGNATURE OF FAMILY MEMBER DATE

SIGNATURE OF FAMILY MEMBER DATE

SIGNATURE OF FAMILY MEMBER DATE

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN DATE

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND RETURN TO:

M T R A
P.O. BOX 1203
MARYLAND HTS MO 63043

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.
2002