

Southern Maryland DIRT RIDERS Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 1602, Waldorf, MD 20604

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September 2000 P.O. Box 1602

Waldorf, MD. 20604

Volume 8 Issue 2000 Ride Line 301.782.7633

From The Presidents Desk

“Too Deep?”

by Michael Baker

No I'm not talking about that creek in Altoona. I KNOW that is too deep to wheelie through. Just refer to **Scott Barnes** article a few issues back and you can get the whole story on that topic. I'm talking about the future of our sport and this club.

With my term as president only a few months from it's end and I look at the state of the club, and I see many areas that I believe the club can improve, leaving plenty of work for the members and future Boards. That's not to say that this club hasn't steadily improved over the years. It has. When I first joined the club many years ago, we had 6 Budds rides about 6 "Away" rides and we fit our Annual Christmas meeting (the meeting with the largest attendance) in the 12'x12' lunch room at SMECO. But, the previous Board members set a policy of fair organized growth in motion that continues to this date. During my time

on the Board we have always looked for ways to improve the club, whether it was simply administrative improvements, public relation improvements, or most importantly, ways to improve the riding experience. But, the tasks the club is faced with are ever increasing which is a result of the growing popularity of the sport. Unfortunately, along with this increase in popularity also comes increased opposition and in turn, creates a greater need to attend to the public relations and political aspects of club operations. So how deep is too deep? Should your Board of Directors be spending more of their time combating the unscrupulous empires that threaten our sport? Should they be spending more of their time running the po-

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Ride Schedule for September and October

Sept. 10, Happy Ramblers, PA., *MX Only*

Sept. 13, SMDR Meeting, (*Melwood*)

Sept. 16, Demarr Rd., MD., *Trail and MX*

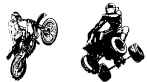
Sept. 23/24, Budds Creek, MD., *MX and Trail*

Oct. 1, Happy Ramblers, PA., *MX Only*

Oct. 7, SMDr Annual Picnic at the Melwood facility starting at 1:00 pm (*see page 5*)

Oct. 8, Budds Creek, MD., *MX and Trail*

September 13, 2000 , 2000 Club Meeting @ See Page 2, Waldorf Md. From 7:00 To 9:00



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litical gauntlet to secure lands for future riding areas? Should they be spending more time looking for ways to improve the public's perception of the sport? You may be surprised to hear that I **don't** believe they should. Your Board should just be concerned with the operations of the club functions and workdays. However, I strongly believe that these are all tasks that are imperative to the longevity of this and every other club in this country and therefore should receive the attention needed. With seemingly contradictory statements like that, you probably think I fell too deep into the Capt. Morgan bottle and can't find my way out right? Not! I simply (and you all know how simple I can be at times) think that we need to consider starting a couple of committees to handle these tasks. That means finding extra people who are willing to spend a few hours a weeks dealing with these issues. This may be something that is on the table at the next Board meeting. If you think you'd like to part of one of these potential committees, E-mail me and let me know what you can offer. We have, in the past, been reactive to issues concerning our sport, but it's past time to become Pro-active. I know how easy it is to sit around and believe others will handle it, but we ARE the others. We are the ones who joined a club rather than the Yahoos that were content to ride the local pits that are now being shut down. If we don't take a firm grip on the bars we'll be the one end-o-ing into the pond

wondering why we're all wet. I look to past Board members for help with these committees; perhaps what might be called a Senior Advisory Board. This would lend a wealth of knowledge to the committees and enable them to prevent repeat mistakes.

This is a lot deeper a subject than I usually get into, but I'm a short timer on this Board and I figured the worst that can happen is I'm impeached. Just don't stick me in a dark room with **Chip Jowett**, I've heard too many stories from **Gene Vetere** about that trip deep into South Carolina.

Ride safe and go WFO.

Important Notice SMDR's Meeting Schedule Change

Due to computer training events at the SMECO Bldg., the meeting room will be occupied until August or September and we must therefore meet at a different location.

Mrs. Jennie Vincent stuck her neck out for us and secured the use of the Melwood Library room at her office in Pinefield (North Waldorf) for the upcoming months. Meeting times and dates will remain the same. Please spread the word to any other club members you know.

1. **September 13, 2000 at Melwood Library** (Wednesday)
2. **October 7, 2000 at the picnic**
3. **Nov. 8, 2000 at SMECO**

August 9, 2000 Meeting Minutes

By Todd Fuksa

Mike Baker informed all members present that the club handbooks and workday agreement will be posted on the web site soon. If you do not have a copy you will soon be able to read at your convenience.

Mike then thanked all those of you who worked the July 23rd Points Race at Budds Creek. He explained to those who did not attend the race, all the difficulties that this crew faced and how they persevered. There were 946 rider entries. The last race started at 8:40pm.

Mike relayed some of the latest legislative news about our sport. The state of Tennessee has banned all off road riding in state forests due to the environmental impacts on the land. The *Blue Ribbon Coalition* appealed the decision, but unfortunately lost. **Mike** asked that all members be active with regard to these issues when they have the opportunity and to respond to those polls and E-mails when the club or other motorcycling associations forward them.

PATRA formed a separate group entitled *PAOHV* to work side by side with the *DNR* and environmental groups. They are trying to come up with suitable ideas to continue riding off road vehicles in National Forest areas. This obviously affects our club since we often ride at locations in the state of Pennsylvania. More infor-

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mation will be passed along on the group's headway when it is known.

Mike then discussed upcoming events. The next Budds Ride will be September 23rd and 24th. The annual SMDR summer picnic will be on October 7th at the Melwood Farm in Nanjemoy, Maryland. **Mike** urged all members to attend the picnic and get to know your fellow club members outside the track. Many great friends and business contacts can be made at this event. There are also accommodations that could be had for the night if any of our out of state members would like to stay and attend the ride at Budds the following day. You should contact **George Vincent** about the availability of rooms if you're interested in staying. Those interested in being on the Picnic committee should contact **John Bowen** as this is the only official written duty of the VP and **John** demands that he be given some power to push people around at least once this year (ha ha). It usually only takes one meeting to delegate the easy tasks so please don't hesitate to get involved.

The extra GP ride is still in the works. In fact, as of this writing, a date has been set. Oct. 14th will be the final extra ride for those members who worked the US GP last year as a SECOND workday. If you are one of those folks, please mark this down on your calendar so you can reap some benefit of your hard work.

The SMECO building should be available once again in

September for our monthly meetings. Please call the ride line and check the web site for further information.

The Demarr Road expansion of the motocross track is still in the works. We are still in need of many dump truck loads of dirt and the use of heavy equipment to build the motocross track. Please contact a board member if you are able to assist in any way.

946

by John Bowen

946!! That's a number that I'll remember for a long, long time. 946. That's what I heard was the number of entries at the July 27th Budds Creek District 7/13 points race. 946. As **Mike Baker** stated in last month's newsletter, it was the largest non-National turnout of riders ever for Budds Creek. For quite a few of you it was your first workday, and wow, what a day. I want to Thank all of you for helping make that day a success. I have to tell you, that was not a normal workday. It started early and ended late with little time to do anything in between but work. I was the day manger that day and without the help of some knowledgeable and dedicated club members, the day could've been a total disaster. **Tim** and **Dave**, Thanks for helping us keep our sanity in the tower and trying to sort out sign-up and all the classes. **Andy** and **Bill**, Thanks for your help on the starting line. That's not an easy job, I know, and you guys did an excellent job in

keeping things going and managing the chaos that's inherent to that job with a reasonable number of riders let alone 946 of them. **Mike** and **Daniel Baker**, thanks for helping out on your "day off". Jim Furlong, what can I say that I already haven't said. My personal Thanks to you and **Kevin** for helping the club that day. **Jim** got his first taste of two of the toughest jobs that day, sign-up and scoring. **Jim** is one of those members who offers his help all the time and for that I and the club Thanks You. My biggest Thanks have to go to **Todd** and **Curt Fuksa**. **Todd**, you were a tremendous help that day and did whatever was asked. I especially appreciated you helping out with the parents, kids and family members who were all to frequently in the tower with something to say. **Curt** thanks for helping out relieving the flaggers. Thanks also have to go to the guys that ran the Hare Scrambles race. Yes, there was another race going on that day. **Gene**, **Barry**, **Eric** and **Steve**, you guys did a wonderful job!

I have to say without a doubt the toughest jobs of the day were sign-up, scoring and the starting line. That's not to say any other job that our club members performed that day weren't tough, they all were. It was along hard day for all of us. Thanks to all who helped out.

We all need to remember that races like the one that day, is what maintains and solidifies our relationship with **Jon Beasley** and Budds Creek and is our "dues" so to speak that buys this club the

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privilege to ride on a National caliber track.

Based on your efforts that day, I consider our "dues" paid and then some.

SMDR Hare scramble Point Race

by Barry Howard

Last month SMDR held its 12th points race for district 7, and once again we did an excellent job. I had several racers come up to me and thank SMDR for providing an excellent event. While I showed up late (due to a problem of personnel scheduling), when I arrived, sign up was underway and the track was being prepared. Many thanks to **Kim** and **Eric Rappold** who helped in sign up, and track marshalling. **Andy Harris** who helped in sign up and helped at the punch barrels. **Gene Vetere** and **Steve Ramey** who helped prepare the track, course marshaled, sweep the course, and help extract broken bikes. **Eric Johnson** who helped coordinate the hare scramble event, plus sweep the track, and also help extract broken bikes.

This was the first year that we used a scanner instead of punching cards, and I can honestly say scanning the riders as they come thru the punch barrel is the way to go. Each rider can see exactly how long it took him or her to complete a lap, and scoring

was a snap. Maybe we will start seeing this same concept on the MX

I'll have the 'Toona Please

By John Bowen

I don't know why I've waited all these years, but I finally made the trip to Altoona. All I can say is.... WOW!!! We've had two club rides at Altoona this year and I'm very lucky to have been able to participate in both of them. The first Altoona ride on Memorial day weekend started off as a 4 hour drive from Virginia to the town of Lilly just north of Altoona. The weather was beautiful, the trip an easy one and upon arrival, I found many other club members had arrived before us, some of which were already out enjoying the good weather and wonderful trails that Altoona had to offer. After quickly setting up camp, **George Vincent** our host (a.k.a. **Mountain Man**) broke out the provisions for mountain pies. If you've never had a mountain pie, you need to get to Altoona and have one. **George** makes 'em like no one else and he always makes sure you get enough to eat. That night about 50 or so of us sat around the campfire under a star filled sky, watching the shooting stars and satellites (yes, satellites) fly by.

Around 5:30 AM on Saturday, the rains came and stayed all weekend, but being the tried and true dirt bikers we are, we all suited up and rode and rode. Well, most of us did. I must confess, I've been riding for many, many years (yes, I'm that old) and I don't believe I've ridden in a nicer place on the East coast. The trails we rode

ranged from easy to intermediate and fun was had by all. I could write for hours about all the trails, different types of terrain, the beautiful scenery and wildlife that I saw and experienced that weekend but I won't. You have to experience it yourself. The only thing better than the trails was the hospitality. **George, Jenny, Nanny** and the rest of the gang are the best hosts. They provided more food than we could eat, drinks, a great place to camp and just made everyone feel like we were family. My Thanks to everyone who made us feel right at home.

On the weekend prior to the Fourth of July we were once again invited back to Altoona and once again **Shawn** and I made the trip. Sometimes when you go to a place for the second time it's not quite as nice as you remembered but not Altoona. It was even better. The weather was absolutely wonderful and about a dozen or so of us experienced two days of the absolute best that Mother Nature had to offer. On Monday the rains came once again. I don't know if you've ever been in the middle of a wide-open field, fourth gear, with rain literally coming down in buckets, but I can tell you it's an experience. It felt like Niagara Falls running down my back, but man is that fun!

I have to say Thanks to our hosts for providing me with an opportunity to experience Altoona and Thanks to **Kevin Baker** for leading us around on the 4th of July trip. For his efforts, **Kevin** almost was rewarded

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with a BIG turkey dinner. But that's another story.

Trips like these often produce a number of stories to tell, and these two trips were no different. I'm not in the habit of telling stories, but I will say a few things. Next time you see **Gene V.** give him a buck or two so he can buy some clothes that match and buy new rain boots. He definitely gets the award for "most colorful" in rain gear. And I'll forewarn everyone now, camp as far away from Todd F. as you can. The boy can SNORE!!! Keep the cheese doodles away from **Dave S.** and play Bingo with **George V.** sometime. Two last words of advice, don't follow, or get directions from **Vance D.** unless you like driving forever. And last but not least, when you follow our club president on the trails and there's water involved, wear your scuba gear. The man picks the strangest lines through creek crossings.

For those of you who don't get out on the away club rides you should try one. And if you decide to try one, come to Altoona, you won't be disappointed.

SMDR'S ANNUAL PICNIC
Saturday Oct. 7th, 2000
To be held at the Melwood
Facility in Nanjemoy, Md.
At 1:00 PM

The day's format will BE DIFFERENT from previous years so as not to limit our track time at Budds on Oct. 8th, the picnic is being held the day before our ride. If you'd like to come to this event and spend the night there is plenty of room for campers and/or tents and there may even be a room or two open in the cabins. Check with George Vincent for accommodations at Gvinc777@aol.com.

Some highlights scheduled for this year's picnic include:

1. Tons of great food (SMDR will provide meats, drinks, condiments, settings)
2. Music by DJ-Karaoke too.
3. The popular Mountain-Man Balloon Toss (Big prize for the winner!)
4. The Ropes Course Race
5. The MX Bike Obstacle Course (show your true skill)
6. And of course, the Door PRIZE GIVEAWAY (everyone gets something!)
7. Activities and a Pinata for the kids.

the following (don't be a leach):

1. Your favorite covered dish for the common table, so Members having last names beginning A-L please bring a side, M-Z please bring dessert.

2. A popup (if you have one) to help coverâ€œme or you or whatever.

3. And some energy to help cleanup It's gonna be a great day so don't miss it!

Bring the whole family, and of course, don't forget to bring your bike!

Directions to Melwood are as follows: From Rt. 301 take Rt. 6 West for approximately 10 miles (until the road narrows significantly) the turn left on Durham Church Road. Follow Durham Church to the Stop sign (this road would be great on a road bike) and proceed straight. Melwood will be on the right about 1 mile after the stop sign. Follow the paved road around to the left toward the large field and look for your friends and fellow dirt riders. If you think you've gone to the end of the earth you're almost there. If you get lost feel free to call 1-301-246-4330 or 1-301-873-1449.

We ask each club member to bring

Classified Ads

1999 Honda CR250R - Setup for woods or motocross, WER suspension, to many extras

to list, excellent condition and very well maintained, must see, \$4000/OBO, call Mark (410)519-1449

1999 YZ400 Excellent condition, only ridden 1/2 season, many extras. \$4,500.00 OBO, Contact Carter Mackiewicz (410) 586-1269

Wanted Kick Start Lever for a 125cc 1988 Kawaski, contact Barry at (301) 843-9750