

SMDR & LPC

GUIDELINE

HANDBOOK

for the 2007 riding season

Dear Existing or Prospective Member,

This club was started over 19 years ago and continues today, with the spirit, dedication and cooperation among all our riders to allow each individual the ability to enjoy the sport they have come to love. With this in mind, certain guidelines, rules and regulations have been established over the years and laid out in this Handbook for your's and other rider's safety. Hopefully, these guidelines will allow us to continue offering safe family orientated riding for many more years to come. Please read this handbook and become familiar with our club's, rules, regulations and standard operating procedures.

The following pages are filled with answers to the most frequently asked questions. We have attempted to make this Handbook as complete and informative as possible. Inevitably there will be questions that we haven't answered. If for any reason you need clarification on the information given in this document or have additional questions, please don't hesitate to call our Ride Line (301) 782-7633 or ask a Board member at one of our rides, meetings or contact us on our website (SMDR.ORG) which has all the board members e-mail addresses.

With your help, we can all continue to safely enjoy the sport and maintain the family atmosphere that has been cultivated over the years.

*Rick Lukasik
President*

History – Southern Maryland Dirt Riders (SMDR) was established by several families back in 1988. They recognized a lack of legal areas where family members could enjoy off-road riding. As off-road popularity increased and word of the club had spread we have grown beyond anyone's expectation. Since our inception, we have become a Maryland corporation, Southern Maryland Dirt Riders Club Incorporated, recognized by the federal government as a non-profit organization. We have an elected Board of Directors who oversees all aspects of the club's operation. Today our club boasts membership of over 250 families (± 400 actual riders). We have also established a Leased Property Chapter (LPC) that adds an additional 100 families. The LPC chapter utilizes our exclusively leased land as well as some privately owned tracks for both motocross and trail rides. SMDR's mission statement says it best:

Southern Maryland Dirt Riders, a non-profit recreational riding club, dedicated to all segments of the off-road riding sport. Our goals are to promote and expand safe/responsible/enjoyable riding opportunities for our members; to create camaraderie amongst our membership; and to project a positive image of our sport.

SMDR offers a wide variety of off-road riding for all ages and skill levels. As it is increasingly harder to find good places to ride, SMDR offers family fun, outings and more importantly, legal areas to ride. Our membership includes youngsters on 50cc bikes with training wheels to those who have raced competitively for 20+ years and every type of rider in between. We pride ourselves on being a family oriented club. No rider, no matter what age or skill level, is insignificant. **We are a non-competition club.** We aim to foster camaraderie and good sportsmanship as primary goals, while enjoying the sport. SMDR is not an instructional club, although our experienced riders may offer advice.

As mentioned above, there are two entities to our club. First is the main SMDR portion. This is the primary part of the club which is limited to 250 families and includes our elected officials. This limit was established for safety reasons in limiting the numbers of riders per event. We ride at Budds Creek, MD as our home track, the Leased Property Chapter (LPC) land, located in White Plains, MD, and away rides. Our away rides, also known as trail riding events, take place at numerous locations anywhere from Allegheny National Forest in New York to Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina, with several in-between. These are a 40-minute to an 8-hour drive (depending on which ride and where you live).

The second portion of the club is known as the Leased Property Chapter (LPC). The LPC members ride at exclusively leased land located in White Plains, MD. For those who are members of the LPC they can only ride at the LPC property and some away rides. LPC was started to accept the overflow of family's who could not make it into the main portion of the club. Once in the LPC you are automatically on the waiting list to move up into the main SMDR portion of the club. The LPC property includes a primary motor cross track, a starter track for beginners and approximately 5 miles of wood trails. The club averages three one day rides per month switching between Saturday and Sunday, Nov - Nov.

becoming a Member - Membership into SMDR/LPC is very simple. Attend the first come first serve Sign up Day in April, fill out an application, pay your yearly membership fee, \$75 for the primary member and \$5 per family member for 2007 season. You will then be a probationary member (LPC Member) and will be allowed to ride at all LPC events. As openings are created in SMDR (which sometimes takes up to two (2) years) you are offered the chance to move up to the full SMDR status. You will then be invited to come to one of our club rides and work as a flagger for that event (8:00 to 4:00) to **do your "Initiation work day"**, a one time task. We ask for this workday to show the club membership

that you are serious about the club, and it gives you an opportunity to see what the club and its membership are all about. Once you have completed your Initiation work day, you are asked to please try to make our next monthly club meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the SMECO building (just North of Atlantic Cycle on the South bound side of 301 in White Plains, MD). Once your SMDR application is filled out and signed on both sides, you have paid your dues, the difference between LPC (\$65) and SMDR (\$75), and have done your initiation workday you are a SMDR member with full privileges.

Membership – SMDR requires an adult as the primary member, and all others in the same family who ride will come under the primary member's membership. A family member is defined as blood relative or related by marriage living under the same roof. Children living with another parent because of circumstances such as divorce are considered family members as long as the primary member has legal custody of the minor(s) during the time of the club event. A member's child may be listed as a family member under the primary membership provided they are less than 18 years of age and still living with the parents. At the time they turn 18 years of age they will require their own membership. They will be granted immediate membership and are not required to perform an initiation workday provided the dues are paid and in good standing with the club. A child may remain on the primary membership until the age of 21 provided they still live with the parents and are still in school (if away at college the family membership will still apply). Siblings living with each other (not with parents) need to have individual memberships.

Monthly Meetings – SMDR currently holds its monthly club meeting at the SMECO building in White Plains, MD. The SMECO building is just south of Waldorf on highway 301 and DeMarr Road. The meetings are held from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. All important club business is conducted at these meetings and you are urged to attend as many as possible. Additionally, these meetings are good for networking with other riders about upcoming events, bike maintenance and repair, as well as swapping tall tales.

Communications – SMDR has set up numerous ways to get information to its membership. A monthly newsletter is published and we encourage all members to submit articles. The monthly newsletter can be mailed to you automatically or down loaded from our website (SMDR.ORG). We also have a *dedicated telephone recording at 301.782.7633*, where all the most up-to-date club information may be obtained. This is referred to as the Ride Line. SMDR maintains its own website at www.SMDR.org which hosts a lot of good riding related material as well as pertinent club information. All the club officers e-mail address is listed on the website for any questions or comments. The RideLine will have the most up to date information and should be called before you leave for any club event, even if the weather is good. Hey, you never know what may happen.

Dues – Yearly dues for primary SMDR members are \$75.00 per year for the primary adult (for 2007) and \$5.00 per riding family member. Dues for LPC members are \$65.00 per year for the primary adult (for 2007) and \$5.00 per riding family member. A SMDR/LPC family member can be added at any time for \$5.00. *All SMDR dues are owed and to be paid on January 1st of each year.* If an existing member does not pay his/her dues within the grace period, the Board of Directors can only assume that they, by the failure to pay, sent a message to the club that they no longer wish to be members and a new member may fill their slot. *If a member is dropped from the SMDR roster he/she must petition the board or Directors for reinstatement of membership.*

Finances – So where do your dues go? All the money goes to the general running of the club. This includes insurance for our club rides, corporation insurance, newsletter and postage, legal, rental equipment, our annual picnic, etc.... Some of the money is put into a savings account for possible future emergency club needs. All your club officers and chairpersons are unpaid volunteers. Once a member, you are welcome to attend a meeting and make arrangements to get a full accounting of all of the club expenditures.

Club Video Tape Library – SMDR has approximately 100 Motorcycle related videotapes that are available for viewing at no cost to club members. They include classics like “On Any Sunday”, extreme jumping videos like “Crusty Demons of Dirt”, and some instructional videos like “Shock Rebuild” and “Riding Techniques by Gary Bailey”. Parents, be advised that not all tapes are appropriate for young children. The tapes are brought to the monthly meetings and can be signed out from the tape librarian. Tapes should be returned at the next months meeting. They are considered overdue if not returned within three (3) months. A replacement fee of \$25.00 is assessed for lost or damaged tapes. Worst of all, you are considered “Ineligible” and cannot ride at any club events until the tape has been returned or the replacement fee is paid.

Club T-shirts – All SMDR memberships are eligible to receive one (1) club T-shirt per year. The tee shirts can be obtained at the monthly club meetings. Additional T-shirts can be purchased at cost. Check with a Board member for current prices. T-shirts are to be worn at all club workdays excluding the Initiation workday.

Riding Events – SMDR sponsors basically two types of rides, “motocross/trail rides” (including ATVs) and “away rides”.

Motocross – The motocross events are held at Budds Creek, various tracks, and the LPC leased land. These rides have a certain protocol for members who wish to ride there. You must be a current member in good standing (see terms in back of booklet), and you must stop and sign-in on all required paperwork. ***By signing the required paperwork you are also acknowledging you know and will abide by all the club rules.*** At the sign-in booth all members and anyone the member brings in, guest(s), must sign a waiver release form, no exceptions. Upon sign-in the attendant will check you against the SMDR/LPC club roster. If all requirements are met you will be allowed into the facility. Visitors who just want to watch are always welcome but they too must sign a Waiver for everyone’s protection. ***No riding guests are allowed*** at motocross events unless they have been pre-qualified under the club guest policy which can only granted by the current club president. An “annual” workday is required if you participate at any motocross event; no matter if you attend 1 ride or 10 rides, you still owe a workday.

Away Rides – Away rides are SMDR sponsored rides where club members assemble at distant riding locations. These locations are generally very large in size, such as state parks that allow motorcycles. SMDR generally sets up the time and meeting location for the members. From there it is up to the attending members to determine the day(s) events and all conditions to ensure member safety. Away rides are mostly trail type riding in nature. Because away rides are held on mostly public land, a workday is not required for attending, and members are welcome to bring guests. The newsletter or the rideline will have the latest information on where and when to meet for these rides, or will give the name and number of the member who is coordinating the event.

Board of Directors & By-laws – SMDR is a Maryland non-profit registered corporation that is governed by a set of by-laws. The by-laws are a basic set of rules that cannot be changed without at least a majority vote by the membership present at an official and announced SMDR meeting. The by-laws cover the requirements, duties, and election of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors consists of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, records director and Work Day Coordinator. They are voted into office by a majority vote of members present at the November SMDR meeting. It also covers some rules for basic corporate business, membership conduct, dues, amendment ratification, and finances. A complete copy of the club by-laws can be obtained from any club Board of Directors.

Club Policies – SMDR has many policies that cover a wide range of areas mostly for safety and dedicated by insurance companies. Policies are set forth by the Board of Directors and are not necessarily voted on by the membership. Do not confuse SMDR policies with SMDR by-law rules. Both policy and by-laws carry equal weight if questioned. A policy may not be established that would conflict with the set by-laws.

Workday Policy – The SMDR portion of the club has two different and distinct types of workdays, initiation and annual. This is by far the most confusing subject to our new members. The paragraphs below outline the two types of workdays, please pay careful attention to this section, a thorough knowledge of the subject is in your best interest.

Initiation Workday – The initiation workday is not meant to be a type of hazing for new recruits. A little background – The first five or so years of SMDR’s existence, membership could be gained by showing up at the track, paying \$50, and filling out some forms. Membership swelled to over 450 riders and when it came time for some of the “walk-in” members to do their annual workday, they were nowhere to be found, and were never seen again. This made accurate planning and management impossible. Therefore, the Board of Directors and club membership instituted the initiation workday policy and put a limit of 250 primary memberships. Since that time the membership has held steady between 200 – 250 memberships. This has made management much easier and the membership has grown to be much more like a big family with dedicated members that wish to see the club prosper.

Therefore every new membership is required to perform an initiation workday, no exceptions. The initiation workday is a onetime event in which the new member puts in **a half a day of labor (4 hours)** exclusively for SMDR. Your labor could be anything from flagging a jump at a club ride, working the front gate or any other needed labor. The initiation workday falls between 9:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm with normal short breaks throughout the day. **You must do an initiation workday before you and/or your family members may ride at club events at the Budds Creek MX Park.** You may do your initiation workday by contacting the workday coordinator, on the website, or a board member will assign you a date and position. Your labor prior to joining SMDR shows the current membership that you are serious about joining SMDR. It is separate from and should not be confused with the annual workday.

Annual Workday – The annual workday is something each and every member over the age of 12 must participate in if they ride at the LPC land or Budds Creek, etc. SMDR has the exclusive use of its own land and membership is able to use privately owned tracks because we (SMDR) provide manpower to the track owners in exchange for the riding privileges. Simply put, the track owner uses labor from within our club in exchange for riding dates at their facilities exclusively for SMDR. We currently supply workers for four event days at Budds Creek. It is imperative for the continued success of SMDR that each member does his or her part. There are numerous jobs during each of these workdays. Assignments are given out the day of each event. The arrival and departure time depend on the event and you should find out what they are via club communications sources. **Please note departure times are flexible. You may only depart when the event is over and you are no longer needed. So please plan accordingly.**

How to sign up for an annual workday – First sign-up for annual workdays starts at the March SMDR monthly meeting (after the riding and workday schedule is set by the Board of Directors). At the March meeting, a lottery is held for the opportunity to select your desired workday. The lottery continues until the last person at the meeting has made their selection. If you are not present at the meeting, you may call the Ride Line, or e-mail your workday request to the Work Day Coordinator whose E-mail address is posted on the Web site (www.SMDR.org). Do not consider your request complete until you get confirmation back from the W.D.C. as some workday rosters may be full.

SMDR Leased Land Work Policy: If you are a member of the LPC, your one Annual workday will be coordinated by the LPC Chairperson. One day each month, March – Nov, there is a workday and you select one to sign-up for. The ride schedule identifies the designated workday for each month. The workday coordinator's e-mail (LPC chairperson) is posted on the website. You are also required to work one gate day per year. This requires you to sign-in and verify riders are members. This is also coordinated by the chairperson.

Failure to perform your workday - There are severe consequences for not doing your annual workday. If you; fail to sign-up for a workday, fail to show up for a selected workday, or fail to complete your workday, you may not ride until you complete the next available workday. Please note that the next available workday may not be until next season 6 to 8 months away. Club members performing their required annual workday is what keeps this club in existence. Club members must do their required workday. There are may be a valid reason for missing your annual workday, and the Board of Directors understands unforeseeable emergencies. However regardless of your personal reason, club policy is clear. If you fail to perform your workday you will not be allowed to join our club rides until you work the next **SCHEDULED** workday. The best way to avoid this situation if you believe you will be unable to make it on your scheduled workday is to find a replacement and switch with another club member in advance and advise the workday manager. If you are unable to find a replacement you must call the workday manager. Please do your best to give as much advance notice as possible. Calling the night before the event puts unnecessary stress on all involved. Each club member must and will be treated fairly; there will be no exceptions.

Ride Rules – First and foremost, the number one rule for all SMDR rides is to be safe and have fun. Aside from that main rule, you should know that riding dirt bikes and ATV's is inherently dangerous. Therefore, we have established a set of rules and policies that are meant to create order and safety at club functions. Most of these rules have some basis in history, meaning something happened that caused us to enact the rule or policy. Safety should be your number one concern. Each and every member must do whatever it takes to make safety paramount. The greatest potential for mishaps is at our motocross club rides, so it should be no surprise to you that there are more rules and boundaries at these facilities and you should expect strict adherence to them. Please become very familiar with these rules, as non compliance has consequences that are described at the end of this chapter. The following rules apply to Budds Creek, SMDR leased land and various tracks.

Budds Creek MX Park Club Ride Rules

Purpose: To ensure the quality, management and safety of Club sponsored track rides at Budds Creek, other MX Tracks and SMDR leased land. Additionally, to provide all members with a quality riding opportunity and to protect our leasehold rights by honoring the "Rules of Use" for the property set forth by our Landlord. The Rules and Policy adopted June 14, 1995 by the SMDR Board of Directors are as follows:

Eligibility

- 1) Members must be in "good standing"
 - Dues paid current
 - Club tapes/property returned by due date
 - Past workday requirements fulfilled

Responsibilities

- 1) Members are responsible for knowing/following the rules and making certain their guest and spectators also comply.

NOTE: The term Guest refers to anyone the member brings to the track, members are not allowed riding guests, unless pre-approved by the president as per the policy on Guest Riders.

- 2) Riders must have on safety gear at all times while operating/riding a motorcycle or ATV. Members will be required to push their machines (engine off) any time safety gear is not worn. Specifically, you are required to have on at least the following:

-Helmet	-Eye Protection	-Boots
-Gloves	-Long Sleeve Shirt	-Full Length Pants

- 3) Only motorcycles, minicycles, and common ATVs are permitted for use at Club rides. (No dune buggies, Odysseys, 6-wheelers, go-carts or lawn mower engine powered equipment.)
- 4) All members, guests, visitors and spectators are required to sign a liability release before they will be granted entry to the property.
- 5) All minors are required to have a parent or guardian present at all times while attending the ride (no drop-offs of minors, no exceptions!)
- 6) Beer, alcohol or drugs are NOT allowed. (Including spectators)
- 7) A 5-MPH speed limit is to be observed in the parking area/pits at all times.
- 8) No riding is allowed in the grass infield, the MX track infield, the BMX, or the supercross track.
- 9) **Beginner** and slower riders have the right-of-way when in front of you. It is the faster rider's responsibility to watch out for the slower rider and go around them with caution. Periodic beginner sessions on the MX track will be scheduled - conditions permitting.
- 10) **Jumping:** There will be no jumping of blind jumps unless an approved flagman is at the station. Flagman approval must be obtained from the Board member in charge before flagging/jumping may start. A faster rider will never jump over a slower rider, regardless of whether or not a flagman is present.

11) **Entering the track:** If you are off the track for any reason you must yield the right-of-way to riders on the track. This includes those who cut the track and re-enter at another part or anyone who chooses to only ride a portion of the full track.

SMDR must maintain strict adherence to the above listed rules. We have members of all skill levels from beginner to registered professionals, and all these riders are on the track at the same time. It is up to the more experienced or over-taking rider to ensure he/she passes the slower rider safely. A faster rider will never jump over a slower rider, regardless of whether or not a flagman is present. When out there riding, don't take the chance, if you think it is questionable, back off and chose the safer alternative. At least that way you and your fellow members will be able to ride the rest of the day.

SMDR is not a "racing club" although we have many racers as members. We do not allow races at our club rides but there may be friendly competition between club members. This friendly competition must and will be in accordance with the club ride rules. There will be no tolerance for breaking of club rules under any circumstances.

Rule Violations

Any member or their guests found breaking the rules would be treated as follows:

1st time: **Member and/or guest(s) could be sent home for the day.** A violation notice will be placed in the member's permanent Club record. Appeals can only be made in person to the full Board of Directors.

2nd time: **Member will be immediately expelled from the Club without refund!** Appeals can only be made in person to the full Board of Directors. If the appeal is approved, the member will be required to flag five (5) Club rides before reinstatement.

This is our Club! We must be self-disciplined and self-policing to protect our own riding privileges. An excuse of "I saw him doing it and thought it was OK" does not cut it. Your help and cooperation are expected and appreciated!

Violations – It is the responsibility of each and every member to know the rules and make sure their children know them as well. These rules are published in enough places that there is no excuse not to know them. Thus, when a member violates a rule or policy at a club event, they may be sent home when the violation is first observed.

BUDDS CREEK RIDING SCHEDULE

In order to accommodate the wide range of rider experience we have established three rotating time slots during the day. They are divided into the following: Beginner; this allows younger and those who just enjoy riding slower a chance to ride without faster riders on the track. Parents are allowed to ride with their younger children as long as they ride at the same speed. No obstacle jumping is allowed during the Beginner session. The second session is for the 125cc size bikes and bigger. It allows the faster more experience riders a chance to ride without worrying about slower riders on the track. No beginners are allowed on the track during this session. Riders are allowed to jump any obstacle as long as there is a safety flagman present. Third is open riding to all riders. The rules above apply to right away with slower riders.

Start	Stop	Session
09:00 --	10:30	Open
10:30 --	11:00	Beginner
11:00 --	11:30	125cc and Bigger
11:30 --	12:30	Open
12:30 --	1:00	Beginner
1:00 --	1:30	125cc and Bigger
1:30 --	2:30	Open
2:30 --	3:00	Beginner
3:00 --	4:00	Open

The Flagman Rules

The flagman at many tracks is usually a volunteer, yet his job is vitally important to the conduct of any motorcycle ride or race. This job is only for people with a high sense of responsibility and cool heads. A short 5-10 minute school on flagging by the Chief Flagman or the Referee could prevent a serious mishap. It may be wise to stress the importance of their job by briefing them on the following:

1. Position yourself on the inside of a curve, never on the outside.
Keep your flag concealed by your leg or body. Never point with it. Don't let it flutter, and never roll it up.
2. Stay in place. The riders expect you to be in the same place lap after lap. They often slow down, accelerate or change gears at your flag station.
3. Keep your head moving. Watch traffic coming and going. Never fix your attention on one point for more than a second or two at a time.
4. When an obstruction occurs near your station, run immediately against traffic, working your flag to warn oncoming riders so they have time to slow down or take avoiding action.

5. Do not watch the results of a crash. Your duty is to prevent oncoming riders from crashing into that obstruction. Leave rescue efforts to others. Your job is to prevent further accidents or injury.
6. If the track is only partially blocked, work your flag with one hand and make either a "Come here" or "Go away" motion with your free hand. Riders will interpret "Come here" to mean they can pass on your side and "Go away" to pass on the far side. Be sure that you understand these signals before you use them. Ask the Chief Flagman or the Referee.
7. Make all signals simple, clear and easy to understand by the riders. Avoid all complicated or confusing signals.
8. Never leave your post during a race or ride until the Chief Flagman relieves you.
9. Protect yourself at all times. Flagman almost never get hurt, but if a motorcycle should go out of control and run **you** down, your only escape is to jump into the air at impact, hoping to get only a mild **bump instead** of being mowed down.

FINALLY: Remember that if you leave your post or permit your attention to wander, riders may be seriously injured or killed because of it!

Miscellaneous

Sponsors – SMDR has numerous sponsors that help the club in different ways. Please check the “sponsors” page of our website for the latest SMDR sponsors. Members of our preferred dealer program could benefit SMDR in many ways, such as long time sponsor Kevin’s Cycle Racing. Kevin’s does not offer SMDR members discounts because their prices are already low, but they do donate significantly in motorcycle related prizes for our annual picnic. Another example is Atlantic Cycle in Waldorf that offers SMDR membership a discount on all parts and accessories. We ask all our membership to please give our sponsors a first look when shopping for your motorcycle related needs.

Rider Injury – If a rider becomes injured and you are the first person on the scene, you maintain a stance that will keep all other riders from hitting the downed rider. You will then need to get the attention of others to help in anyway you can. It is important that you do not move that person until qualified people arrive. If the person is bleeding profusely then you will want to apply first aid to stop the bleeding. If the person is not breathing then, if qualified, you need to administer CPR. When in doubt, call an ambulance immediately.

Community Outreach – No matter how far from the truth it is, most people view dirt bike riders as arrogant undesirable people. Therefore, SMDR participates in community-related projects, such as Christmas in April, designed to aid the less fortunate in our area. These activities improve SMDR’s community relations as well as give something back to the community. SMDR also holds an annual toy drive where toys are collected at a ride or Christmas party and are given to a local charity. We ask that all our members plan and make time to help out with these activities. Simply put, SMDR and the community can always use a little extra help. Please offer to lend a hand, it will be greatly appreciated.

Bike Maintenance – Good bike maintenance will not only keep your bike running properly, it can mean the difference on how well you enjoy the riding event. It can also be a major factor in avoiding a serious crash. Many of SMDR’s members have worked on motorcycles for many years and are usually very happy to help out with any problems you may be having, all you need to do is ask. Many of the items on your bike should be cleaned or replaced at certain intervals, please consult and follow your owner’s manual for the most accurate information.