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# FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE, KEN UMBARGER

### “Signs of Change”

Pride would best describe how I feel about the OTRA and the positive changes we have begun to forge from a furnace of adversity and conflict. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 our group was finally given Government approval to begin construction on the “Demonstration Phase” of our Bear Creek trail system. This phase is the significant start of what we trust will some day be the largest off-road riding network in the Province and a model of success for many other managed areas. The completion of Phase one will serve notice to off-road enthusiasts and other stakeholders of Bear Creek that OTRA can be trusted to perform on our promises. It marks a dramatic change in practices that is much more considerate of all user groups. I could not be prouder of the efforts and commitment of a few people that got us here and would ask you to join me in recognizing some of them.

Firstly, our consultants Dick and Joani Dufourd of Rec Connect deserve a standing ovation. There can be no doubt that Dick and Joani's leadership and well rounded expertise in every area from collaboration, conceptual planning, design, project management, etc. is invaluable. We could not succeed without them.

Personally I am always grateful for their moral support and passion for a shared vision of Bear Creek. Thanks Dick and Joani!!

Speaking of leadership and passion, no one deserves more recognition this year than Executive member Carol Boyd.

Carol picked up the ball on countless occasions from developing project work policies/ procedures/training/accounting, managing memberships and spearheading general meetings just to name a few.

When it comes to energy my comrade and Vice President Adrian Van Nieuwkerk as always comes up with something new and moral boosting. This year was no exception with Adrian's great MOVIE NIGHT adventure. Some 300 people turned out to the Grand 10 theatre and we all had a blast. You're a great friend and inspiration Adrian!

Another good friend who we owe thanks is long time member Terry Burke. Terry was our “Purchasing Agent” this year which was no small job. Our club acquired some \$150,000 dollars worth of equipment and Terry researched, negotiated, and eventually drove to San Francisco to pick it up and deliver it.

Then he organized for the licensing, insurance, storage and maintenance of these valuable tools.

This year saw a dream come true for Terry when he finally got to build trail on the new Sweco dozer. Nobody has worked harder for our sport over the decades than Terry.

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MOTOR SPORTS

**KELOWNA YAMAHA**



*Valley Moto Sport*  Kelowna, BC

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### **GREAT NEWS !!!!**

*As of Tuesday, November 18, 2008, the Okanagan Trail Riders were awarded a Tourism Grant in the amount of \$16,000!! This grant will be used to promote the trails at Bear Creek via the website, developing informational kiosks at the staging areas and generally directing riders to the newly created trail system. This grant should be an annual source of funds for promoting the trails at Bear Creek.*



# RecConnect Update November 2008

## OTRA UPDATE ON BEAR CREEK OHV TRAIL SYSTEM

OTRA met with the other stakeholders, referred to as the Advisory Committee, Oct 2nd in Vernon. This meeting was extremely important because we were asking for the A/C approval to start working on the demo area. Our COHV grant of \$50,000 expires Dec 31st and it is mainly for work to be done in our defined demonstration area and trailhead. We now have the *go ahead* to proceed. With the help of the Sweco instructor, Doug Abelin from Montana, we will be working against the weather to get as much work done as we can before the snow flies.

OTRA was congratulated for the dedication shown in the volunteer hours reported and for the effort put forth in the riding clinic. It showcased our effort for including the families in improving rider ethics and the outstanding work of the clinic instructors to teach proper riding techniques.

Our staging area is moving up Terrace Main about 1km from where it currently is. New site, new attitude and a new map, to be published before the end of the year. We are still working out the details in the actual site design.

The overall tone of the meetings with these stakeholders has taken a turn for the better. Our hope is that the communication will continue to improve and the goal will be that we help each other with the problems facing us in the largest recreation site in British Columbia.

Together **WE** Accomplish **More** - **TEAM**

*Joani Dufourd*



## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

The Okanagan Trail Riders need folks like you, that have an interest in the future of our Bear Creek Riding area, to become involved in the potential and success of our sport. So much is going on at Bear Creek and so few people are aware of the process including decision making, government plans and committees – we need your help and more importantly, we need you direction, suggestions and outlook for the future of Bear Creek.

If you have a few hours a week you can spare for volunteering in a multitude of capacities, please contact Ken Umbarger at [umby@shaw.ca](mailto:umby@shaw.ca)

Our future relies on input from our members – it's never to late to get involved.

## Okanagan Trail Riders Executive 2008

Ken Umbarger	President
Adrian Van Newkerk	Vice President
Wendy Dyck	Secretary / Newsletter
Carol Boyd	Memberships
Terry Burke	Treasurer
Lorne Scott	Social Director



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### PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE (cont'd)

KEN UMBARGER

While Terry's wife Shelley is not a rider she has non-the-less put in countless hours doing our books, accounting projections, and tracking all the line items in our COHV and Provincial grant held at RDCO. In past years, this has been a full time executive position; however, given the magnitude and volume of the financial transactions in OTRA this year Shelley's generosity of time is nothing short of monumental.

On the subject of "Promoters of the Sport" I must mentioned our very own Wendy Dyck (Secretary extraordinaire). When Wendy is not running the racing series throughout the valley, she is taking minutes and putting together amazing news letters. Thanks Wendy!

Our work crew and volunteers need to be commended. With budget dollars that needed to be spent or otherwise lost and a very short window from October 3<sup>rd</sup> to winter the crew of Ken Gassman, Terry Burke, and Ryan Scott (the son of our Executive Chef Lorne Scott) worked 6 days a week every week. Peter Barnes donated his time and saw mill to produce the signage. They were joined by volunteers Mike Billany, Tom Woods, and Peter Woolsey. Thank you all for your stellar performance!!!!

A most special thank you to the family members of those of us who donated much time this year to advance our cause. So often the time we invest in club business is at the expense of our loved ones who sometimes don't even ride a motorcycle/quad. Thanks to all of you and on a personal note a special thanks to my spouse Jane for her love and sacrifices this year and past.

Our sponsors have been amazing and I was overwhelmed with donations that made our Movie Night such a success. Special thanks to Pacific Rim Equipment Ltd, for the Yanmar Mini Excavator which was sold to us at near cost, Winn Rentals for screaming deals on rental equipment, and Telus for donating poles for Bollards and cones. Valley Moto Sport, Kelowna Yamaha, Vernon Motor Sports, Innovative Motor Sports, Penticton Honda Centre and South West Motorrad also contributed.

Okanagan  
**TRAIL RIDERS**  
Association

## PRESIDENTS RAMBLE *(the conclusion!)*

Most notably this year M&M Performance donated 2 new Honda quads which have been used by our crew daily. Thank you all for your support.

Thanks to 12 other BC off road motorcycle clubs who forfeited their share of COHV funding (\$50,000) to kick start this project. This selfless act will not be forgotten and we will do our utmost to insure this project is a shining example for us all. Thanks to the South Okanagan Dirt Bike Club (SODC) for picking up the Ogoogo X Country and supporting our events. You are all kindred spirits and we appreciate you.

Finally we must recognize the Ministry of Tourism Sport and Culture and in particular Mr. John Glaspie (and his assistant Sharon) for moving this project forward through considerable controversy. The financial support they have given to this project in 2008 was significant. I know I speak for every member of OTRA when I say thank you and assure you that we will do our all to make this project a success for all stakeholders.

Going forward we have much to do in 2009. This is the fun part. Get involved with the "Signs of Change". We need paid members. We need volunteers to run our Trail Ranger program. We need workers. We need leaders. We need the support of affiliate off-road clubs. Please come join with us and help build what will surely be a legacy for our community and Province for generations to come. You will be proud you did.

Yours in Riding,

Ken Umbarger  
**President**  
Okanagan Trail Riders Association



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## OKANAGAN TRAIL RIDERS INVITE YOU TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY



*You do not have to be a member to attend.  
Please join us for:*

- ✓ Appies and cocktails;
- ✓ A presentation of "**What's Happened at Bear Creek**";
- ✓ **and "The Future of Bear Creek"**;
- ✓ Santa will be giving gifts to the kids;
- ✓ Games and activities for the kids;
- ✓ A look at the new trail system.

**Admission is Free.**

Cash bar.  
Appetizers, coffee and drinks for the kids will be provided.

**Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Capri Hotel**

## Dirt Bike Clinic Bear Creek, Lower Pit Area – September 2008

I am pleased to advise our members that our dirt bike clinic held on September 27th was a big success and very well received by the 30 people who attended. Not only was the day highly educational and fun, it was also very cool to be able share time with many of the good people that support our sport. We were again extremely privileged to have three top notch instructors: **Mark Cahill** - 3X Canadian Trials Champion; **Ian McKill** - Canadian ISDE Trophy Team member and long time race champion **Mike Fetterer** - President of the the South Okanagan Dirt Bike Club (SODBC). Sadly, our fallen comrade, **Jamie Skinner** was not able to join his friends in the saddle this year due to a broken ankle, but Jamie still honored us with his presence, crutches and all, by bringing his dare devil daughter, McKinley out to take part in the clinic. Anyone who has met any of these four gentlemen knows that not only do they possess amazing skill and knowledge, but they are also genuinely good people and first class ambassadors to our sport. Ian, Mark and Mike lead the afternoon group on a trail ride at days end as an added bonus and made for a great finale. Thank you gentlemen!

From the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (MOTSA), we were afforded a very big honor in that Recreation Officer, **John Glaspie** and his assistant **Sharon Mandrusiak**, Land Technician Officer, came out to bless the event. As many OTRA members are aware, MOTSA is, and will continue to be a huge supporter of our project at Bear Creek and responsible for the lion's share of the funding we receive to pursue our trail building dream. Having John and Sharon attend was a big thrill. Sharon, with virtually no riding experience, blew us all away by accepting our challenge to gear up and take part in the clinic! I must say Sharon, by the time we had you properly fitted with all the gear and bike, you were looking most **"stylin."** Your instructor Mr. McKill, informed me you did very well. Well done!

As mentioned it was great day and a final round of applause is due to all the volunteers who very generously made it a success: Dick and Joannie Duford our trail consultants from Rec Connect who kindly spoke to the group about our long term vision for Bear Creek. Thanks to our OTRA executive member Wendy Dyck and also Pam Fetterer from SODBC for cheerfully working the registration table, and Lorne Scott for working his magic on the barbeque at the concession.

Thank you amigos it was fun!

Adrian van Nieuwkerk, Vice President - OTRA



**Sharon Mandrusiak of MOTSA, ready to ride!**



**The morning class, listening to instruction from Mike, Ian and Mark.**

# OKANAGAN HARE SCRAMBLES SERIES

In it's inaugural year, the Okanagan Hare Scrambles Series was a huge success with races in Salmon Arm, Vernon, Kamloops, Naramata and Peachland.

We were very impressed with the number of racers that came out to participate and also the new racers, trying the hare scramble "thing" for the first time. The new 85 cc Small Wheel class brought out some first time racers as this brand new class rides the "B" loop in the morning race. The DCT Chambers Pee Wee Races were always popular and we wish to thank David Chambers and DCT Trucking for their generous donation to the kids. The kids racing the 50 cc and the 65 cc classes were awarded for their efforts with either medals or plaques and great goodie bags – thank you David & DCT!

Something new this year was the Pro Payout. The Pro's received cheques at the Year End Wrap Up Party – the amount was based on the number of Pro entrants in each race with our first place winner Bobby Prochnau winning \$600; second place, Josh Allen receiving \$360 and third place, Kelly Graffunder taking home \$240.

The Year End Wrap Up Party was held at the East Kelowna Community Hall on November 1<sup>st</sup> with 162 people in attendance that all enjoyed a great meal, fabulous door prizes donated from our dealers throughout the Valley and MC'd by Lance Johnson. Thanks to our trophy girl, Chantelle Bykerk from Vernon Motorsports for handing out prizes put together by Brenda of Knightshots Photography. Each 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner received a great framed photo of themselves with the series name, their place and their class.

In honor of Bobby Prochnau's first place finish, we replicated his bike with cupcakes ....., this is certainly the first KTM made out of Vanilla and Chocolate cupcakes!

**Bobby Prochnau and his #1 KTM Cupcake  
Bike! 217 cupcakes!!**



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Okanagan Hare Scrambles Series

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION** **PNWMA**  
SINCE 1931

## WORK COMPLETED AND ONGOING AT BEAR CREEK

October / November 2008



Reassurance markers are installed before and after each trail junction. The yellow "Intersection Ahead" warning decal alerts riders that a junction is ahead so they can start slowing down and watch for other traffic.



This reassurance marker confirms that the rider is on Trail 26 and since it is a single-track trail, there is also a "No ATV" decal.



A map box has been installed at the Lower Pits staging area and a simple map of the Demonstration Project trails has been produced. For the first time ever, riders have a map of the trail system.



Wendy uses her boot for more leverage. Nothing like a little force to teach the quad who is boss.



Herb, "I said get your hinnie off the seat."

"But I don't have one," Carol retorted.

Several riders were challenged by having slight of build, although, not the heavy girl pulling up the rear!!



Herb Blamire talks to the group about ATV operation and safety.

**ATV Clinic sponsored by Okanagan Trail Riders** and instructed by Herb Blamire of the Canada Safety Council. 8 OTRA members were certified in the use of an ATV during this session and had fun learning! Instruction fees were paid for by the Education Fund of OTRA. The opportunities of getting involved with the OTRA are great – ask about our paid positions for running equipment in trail construction / maintenance.

## VIA EMAIL....., the **Fall Riding Tip – To Dab or Not to Dab!!**

Instead of having a rider's bio in this edition, we are introducing, a new feature..., "The Rider's Quarrel." The two people (myself being one of them and **Undisclosed Rider #2** - who is too embarrassed to reveal his true identity!!) that originated this discussion, spend a lot of time riding together. And, most of the time, we both think we are right and quite often have differences of opinion. So, for discussion purposes on the topic of "Dabbing", we consulted a professional, Mr. Mark Cahill. Below is a series of emails that look at the pro's and con's of "Dabbing."

### Email #1

Hi Mark - Myself and "**Undisclosed Rider #2**" (*he was too embarrassed to be named!*) are having a very heating discussion regarding "dabbing"

My position is this that under no circumstances should you dab - dabbing throws off your balance and getting your feet back up on your pegs sometimes is more difficult than leaving them there in the first place, plus you can break your ankle or leg. When you are as short as I am, dabbing is not an option; therefore, you learn to ride with your feet on the pegs at all times.

"**Undisclosed Rider #2's**" position is that dabbing is ok. I don't know if you've ever ridden with him - his legs tend to "flail about" like the mast of a tall ship in heavy winds and he never stands up!! But that's a whole different argument. (I know "**Undisclosed Rider #2**" ..., you are so going to kill me next time we ride!) :)

We need you to settle this please. There will be material gains in it for you (provided you give the correct answer!)

Wendy

### Email #2

Hi Wendy,

I did laugh out loud when I read your email...

Dabbing...hmmmm...

I agree that dabbing on an enduro bike is risky...VERY easy to twist your knee by getting it caught on something as you ride by at 20kmh....therefore, you should only dab to "save it" or to help keep going once you have "lost the plot" of staying on the pegs. When you dab, you should be making it count...not just touching the ground with your toes to make sure it is still there!

Conversely, you should not keep your feet on the pegs when a dab would save you from falling over or help you to keep moving forward.

On a perfect ride, you would never dab...watch David Knight or Juha Salminen ride, and you'll see they are on the pegs as much as possible, only dabbing if they are in trouble. Sitting down the whole time and paddling your way through is, in my mind at least, "giving up" on trying to be on the pegs. If you always strive to be on the pegs, you'll for sure become a better rider.

When approaching a difficult section, you have to make a decision..."put the effort in to get it right"...or not put the effort in, which usually results in having to put more effort in later, just to get through...kind of a "pay now" or "pay later" approach. It is always better to put the effort in up front.

I hope this helps!

**Mark Cahill BCLS**

**AllTerra Land Surveying & Geomatics Inc.**

#10 - 2483 Main Street  
Westbank BC V4T 2E8  
ph: 250.452.9298

### Email #3

**I DO NOT FLAIL!** As for being a sit down rider, yes I am guilty. However, when the trail gets rough, you would be surprised at how low my butt gets without touching the seat (a la Mr. Rodney Smith). Keep in mind that my suspension (particularly my rear suspension) is set up stiff for going "fast" under these conditions. Going at your speeds, Wendy doesn't use my suspension enough to work smoothly. **"Undisclosed Rider #2 Trail O'Doom"** is in your very short term future Wendy (*hmmmm....., that almost sounds like a threat! hahaha*)

About dabbing, what I said was under certain circumstances dabbing is perfectly acceptable. As in slow speed, very tight cornering where pivoting around a point is preferred. Yes, in an ideal world we would all have the skills of Mr. Cahill or Mr. Lampkin and our feet would be welded to the pegs. However in the real world in which the rest of us reside, "slight" compromises to make our lives easier is "ok".

I will back my assertions up with expert testimony. Even Mr. David Knight (multi-time World Champion) sits and dabs. You going to give him pointers too Wendy? (*If he's dabbing, why..., yes!*)

Bribery is such a tawdry endeavour....Mark, I will double whatever Ms. Smarty Pants offers. (*he sounds very bitter and mad at me ....., almost like he may never ride with me again – oh wait, the phone is ringing....., it's him -- asking if he can come for dinner on Sunday after our ride – Caa, Caa....., Crow..., I think I'll serve crow!*)

**"Undisclosed Rider #2"**

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And last but not least.....,

## **The Oregon Backcountry Discovery Route 5**

Looking for a great ride for the summer, I came across this description on the Oregon Off Highway vehicle association's website: "Route 5 of the Oregon Back Country Discovery Route is a great adventure into Oregon's incredibly diverse and beautiful less traveled roads. This allows the adventurer to experience a very little traveled part of Oregon's vast, varied and incredible back country." This was exactly was I was looking for!

Route 5 runs North South across Oregon and travels through a wide variety of terrain. The trail starts in Walla Walla, WA and ends in Lakeview, OR, just shy of the California border. Roughly 1,200 km of trail to be covered in 6 days. I had no idea what to expect but this sounded like a great adventure.

I convinced 10 guys and a lone girl to ride this incredible route. We had 1 DRZ 400, 6 KTM 950's Adventure, 1 KTM 525, 1 KTM 530 and 1 KTM 640 Adventure. The ride was a bit Orange tinted, even though this was not planned. One couple rode 2 up for about half the ride, quite a performance.

Nobody really knew what to expect and it turned out to be more of an adventure ride than a dual sport ride. The ride was very challenging at times, but every night, after a few cold ones, it seemed worth the effort. All the bikes survived the ride with minimal damage...some scratches and a few flats, but no major issues. The big bikes, loaded up with lots of gear, suffered when the trail got rough and the guys on the smaller dirt bikes complained a bit on some of the longer stretches of fire roads. I think the better bike for this ride was the 640, nimble on the



rough stuff and comfy enough on the fire roads.

We rode roughly 250km per day, following a GPS track that was amazingly accurate. As this was not a professionally created track, I was quite happy with the results. The terrain was incredibly varied from mountain tracks to open fields with some sweeping fire roads, very long rocky stretches (hated by the big bikes...), sand dunes and some interesting river crossings. We were able to visit some fire stations perched high on the mountains. The station keepers live all alone, away from everything, for extended periods of time. With similar lifestyles to lighthouse keepers they work to keep the country safer from forest fires.

We found accommodations along the way in some pretty remote places. We never used the camping gear that most of us carried along and, thankfully, cold beer was available every night. There may have been a mutiny, had we not found beer... Our nightly stopover places were Starkey, Sumpter, Seneca, Burns, Paisley and Lakeview. Most were small, out of the way places with very pleasant locals and some very interesting characters to keep us entertained.

There is lots more riding to be done in Oregon and I have a different route planned for next summer. This time it will be a loop that will run some of Route 3 and some of the newly mapped Route 2. We will have a central "headquarter" location in Seneca and will be riding from there. This time we will use smaller bikes only as we won't have to carry so much equipment. They will have to be street legal bikes. The trip will run from June 27 to July 05. Stay tuned for more info if you are interested or contact me for details.  
([jack@quantechsoftware.com](mailto:jack@quantechsoftware.com))

### Jack Pyck

