

Kelowna DIRT BIKE CLUB



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ALF KLASSEN MEMORIAL POKER RUN - APRIL XX

The KDBC is very pleased to be hosting the Alf Klassen Memorial Poker Run on April 28.

Those familiar with Alf Klassen will remember the many events which Alf was a major part of putting on. From poker runs - to enduros - to cross country races - to helping with building of the KDBC Motocross Park - Alf was tirelessly dedicated to creating riding opportunities for riders of all ages in Kelowna. Alf was especially fond of setting up small wheel courses - which brought many novice riders into the sport.

On April XX the KDBC will hold the first of what we hope will be a very annual event to honor our old friend and fellow KDBC member.

The event is open to riders of all ages and abilities with a course for novice and young riders as well as a more advanced track. Cost is \$20.

Proceeds from the event will go to support trail protection and development in the Okanagan - something Alf felt passionately about. (page XX)

Motocross Racing Comes To Kelowna - Regional CMRC Race Scheduled



Mark Sunday June XX on your calendar and get the word out!!!! "Motocross racing is Coming to Town".

After what seems like an eternity to establish a mx park in Kelowna - the KDBC will be hosting it's very first Regional CMRC motocross race.

Regional races are open to riders of all ages and abilities. With over 15 different classes to enter (see page XX for classes).

The regional events don't usually bring many of the pro's or best riders - but they are a great opportunity for less accomplished mx'ers. For one, there are less riders (a provincial race will draw 300 riders). The KDBC is hoping for a turn-out of at least 125 riders (which will give us a breakeven financially).

Riders are required to have a CMRC racing license however (\$60) which can make for an expensive race day if you only plan to ride the one event (entry fee \$30).

Riders who come will have the opportunity to practice the Saturday day before for an added \$25.

The club is hoping to run an additional regional race in September - with a plan to hold 4 races next year. (see mx pg X)

FAMILY FUN DAY AT KDBC MOTOCROSS PARK - APRIL 6TH - ALL WELCOME

April 6th will be a momentous day for the KDBC. After 8 long years working to establish a motocross park for Kelowna, the KDBC will finally hold it's first event on it's Bear Creek Motocross Track.

The Family Fun Day will be open to riders of all ages/abilities and is designed to introduce the new track to the community. The day will also be used as a fund raiser to help fund operational costs for 2004. The KDBC is looking for strong support from the riding community for this event.

Attendees to the event will get a

chance to do practice riding, learn about race and practice schedules and membership. All the local dealers will be on hand to show their wares for 2004. Dealers will also be offering demo rides.

A swap meet area will be set up for those interested in buying or selling used bikes or equipment.

Overall the club hopes to raise approx \$3000 to help fund this years practice schedule. Come support this event.

For more on this event (see page XX)

KDBC RESPONDS TO ATTACK ON CLUB AND MX TRACK

December 1, 2003

Heather & Bruce Larratt

Dear Heather and Bruce:

Re: Fire Safety at the Motocross Track

I am writing in response to your email of November 24, 2003 (dated November 23, 2003).

We were disappointed with your email alleging that our members were using the motocross track after the "Backcountry Advisory" and your conclusion that you are now going to withdraw "your tolerance" of our race events.

We have made many efforts to develop a collaborative approach with you, including our mutually signed agreement dated April 8, 2002 (copy herewith enclosed). You acknowledged in our meeting of June 2003 that we had met all of our requirements in the agreement, including severely restricting our use of the track to one evening per week and one weekend day per week, including this being only from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have also severely restricted our riding season, finishing the third week in September when this year, for example, we had better riding conditions in October and could have continued to ride well into October 2003. We have had an extensive education program, including Signage to help riders ride more responsibly in the Bear Creek area. For the future we have further plans in place to better educate riders.

We believe it is extremely unlikely that anyone was using the track after the Backcountry Advisory of August 20, 2003 (which, according to my information, was not issued until 6:00 p.m. of that date). Your assertion that we knowingly were using the track after the Advisory is seen as an attempt to paint us as being irresponsible and seems to be part of a campaign to have the track closed down. It is possible that someone broke into the track as the back fence had been broken into previously. We were amazed that you did not call us or other authorities such as the Ministry of Forests, or the Police, or the Fire Department if you felt that the track was being used after the Backcountry Advisory. To make these allegations three months after the event does not strike me to be collaborative, nor helpful. It should also be noted that we did have thousands of gallons of water at the track on or about August 20, 2003.

We are left with the impression in the end you will never be "happy with the track". We have made many concessions to your interests and yet you still campaign against the track. We are left with the impression that you would use any reason available in your attempt to have the track closed down. We are sorry that you have withdrawn your "tolerance for racing at the track" and we, therefore, surmise that you have withdrawn from any agreements that we have.

With respect to your concerns about the sound coming from the track, we would like it noted that we did a sound test from your balcony in June 2003 and we were not able to pick up any noise from the track on our digital sound meter. We did, however, pick up noise from planes flying overhead, a boat on the lake, and from cars going down the road in front of your house. You do live in a rural area high above the lake in the forest. We do not mean to suggest that there would not be some sound from the motocross track to a few, and limited number of residences located in the backcountry forest opposite the track, particularly during race events. This would be on a very limited basis, i.e., up to four races per year as per our agreement of April 2002.

With respect to increased fire hazard at the track during race events, the track will be fully supervised and there will be water at the track. We will not have "a bunch of fires at the track" during any races and it should be noted that motocross racing is a family sport which requires considerable energy, good fitness and is not a "party type atmosphere".

We would like to continue to work cooperatively with you. We can certainly appreciate how the summer fires would cause you to worry as you live in a hazardous backcountry forested area. The Kelowna Dirt Bike Club has many thousands of dollars and many thousands of hours of volunteer time invested in providing a safe, supervised area for the family sport of motorcross. The Provincial Government, the City of Kelowna, the Regional District of the Central Okanagan and many citizens including Service Clubs, have supported this track. We certainly do not intend to use the track in the future during "any Backcountry Advisories" and we will make further efforts to ensure that this does not happen. If you have any concerns about this in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me immediately.

Ron Irnie, President, Kelowna Dirt Bike Club

Copy to: Bill Voss, R.D.C.O. / Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection / Riverside Forest Products / Westbank Fire Chief
Rick Thorpe, MLA

KDBC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The following are answers to frequently posed questions regarding the Kelowna Dirt Bike Club.

1. How old is the KDBC?

The Kelowna Dirt Bike Club is one of the most established dirt bike clubs in B.C. with organized event history in the Okanagan going back well over 30 years.

2. Who belongs to the KDBC

Membership comprises all types of off-road riders, recreational and serious. We also have a number of non-riding enthusiast members.

Our Riding membership includes motocrossers, enduro riders, cross country riders, dual sport riders, trials riders, and some just plain old trail riders (like me).

Anyone interested in the protection and promotion of riding in the Okanagan is welcome to become a member.

3. How much does membership cost?

The basic club membership fee is \$10.

3. Why do people join the KDBC

Membership in the past was mostly due to people who wanted to partake in events which the club hosted - for example the club used to host an enduro series as well as poker runs.

It was necessary, for insurance reasons, that all riders be members. Members Also received discounts from local dealerships.

Today, the KDBC doesn't host as many events as it would like - mainly because of spending increasing amounts of time defending riding territory and interests.

Many people who join the KDBC today recognize they are supporting the protection of their sport and traditional riding territories.

4. How much pressure is there to close down riding area really?

It is would be startling to most riders. The pressure to close riding areas comes from many directions and encompasses vast regions of

the province not just locally.

Many areas in the Fraser Valley have now been closed to off road riding for example. People in Vancouver are finding themselves having to hold events in Hope, Lyton and further.

5. Can you give a local example

Sure, there is a effort by a very small but dedicated group to try to close riding off below the Bear Lake Main "Upper Pitts".

They have been lobbying to have boundaries changed to move riders up approx 9 km's. While we don't see this effort being successful they are now working to move the established riding boundary above the clubs new mx track.

If they succeed - they will likely try to thwart the club at renewing it's land lease with BC Lands in 7 years.

This is just one example affecting one area.

We are actually involved in another process that will affect riding and riders across B.C. (see page XX)

This one has more far reaching ramifications.

6. Who does all this work

Almost all of the real dedicated work defending territory has been done by Ron Irmie and Terry Burke, two of the clubs most seasoned executives. Both have a tremendous amount of experience dealing with land use issues.

7. Seems a lot of work for 2 guys

It is. It's become too much, really.

8. Why aren't more people involved.

Good question. There is nothing sexy about the type of work the club has found itself doing in recent years. People don't want to attend meetings where they are likely to get handed work.

As I have heard more than one individual say, "Why work when you can ride."

9. What's the answer then?

We need to get more members and larger club executive. This year

several executive positions remained vacant after the elections. This meant that existing execs had to take on additional responsibilities. This just leads to burn-out. Some key executive positions remain vacant at present.

10. What if no one comes forward

Eventually, there won't be any one to defend land use issues and we will see riding areas closed down.

11. How much do the executive of the club get paid?

Nothing. Everything the club accomplishes is done through 100% volunteer effort. Many execs have supported the KDBC with money from their own pockets.

12. I've heard criticism of the KDBC. That you don't hold enough events and don't really accomplish anything?

We hear it too and it's disheartening. The sad truth about clubs and associations that the bull work is always done by a small group of volunteers.

The criticism typically comes from people who don't know better.

If we had more people willing to help put on events we would have more.

But so much of our time has been spent on securing and building the mx truck, land use issues, that there just isn't much left over to lay on courses and hold events.

As for not accomplishing much - people who disparage the club do a dis-service to off roading.

12. How can I better support this club?

First, buy a membership - their cheap and 100% of the money goes toward promoting and protecting this sport.

Second, consider becoming a more active member.

Are you able to fill a single role on the executive? Would you be willing to help put on an event or help organize trail repairs? Do you know anything about GPSing - maybe you could help us map some of our

extensive trail network. ...

Three, if you can't or won't support the club actively - don't complain about the things the club doesn't get accomplished.

13. Who are the current executive.

Ron Irmie : President / Land Use Issues / LRMP Representative /MX Committee

Frank Braeuer : VP / Secretary / Publicity / Off-Road Coordinator / MX Committee / Newsletters / Club Website

Terry Burke : Treasurer / Land Use Issues / LRMP Representative / Grasslands Coalition Representative

Chad Sinclair : MX Track Committee Chair

Bruce Saarinen: Past President / Executive at large / Alf Klassen Poker Run Organizer

Tom Woods: Past President / Exec At Large / Annual Tom Woods Poker Run /

Wayne Bond / Club Equipment & Inventory / Trophies /

Bernie Bloomfield / Ogoopogo Cross Country Coordinator

Cindy Pelletier / Memberships /

(All of the above have been actively involved in putting on courses and events in the Okanagan for many years as well as fulfilling the above roles.)

2004 Ogoopogo Cross Country Event - Brand New Course—Guaranteed Good Ride



The above logo is from last years finisher's t-shirt. Artist Pete Chickloski says that this year's t-shirt will look even better. The only way to get your shirt this year - is to enter and finish the May Long Weekend Event

Sunday May 23, approximately 200 riders from all over B.C., Washington State, Alberta and Oregon will meet high above Peachland,

B.C to challenge the 8 annual KDBC / VMS 2004 Ogoopogo Cross Country Race.

The Ogoopogo event which is part of an 18 race Off Road Series is one of the series most popular events.

NEW COURSE

One the main attractions of the Okanagan has always been the riding terrain. This years course will be set in Peachland - an area known for it's beauty, awesome riding terrain and heh, heh - did I mention the sections we've got for the Experts this year.

The courses are designed by Mike Fetterer and Rich Taylor - two guys with a long history of putting together great courses for past enduros and corss countries.

LOCAL RIDERS WELCOME

One of the sad realities of our annual Ogoopogo Race is that we don't see as many of the local riders as we would like getting out. Don't be intimidated - Okanagan riders have done exceptional in past events - and there are classes for almost every rider level (course is not designed for small wheel bikes)

COURSE LENGTH

During the past two years we have used cut off times to ensure riders are not out longer than they should be for their "riding class". This means riding time for a riders averaging 3 hours and B riders averaging 2 hours.

Benefits of having the cut-off times include - earlier finish, easier tabulating of results, earlier awards ceremony and the opportunity for out of towners to get on the road at a decent time.

T-SHIRTS FOR FIRST 180 RIDERS

Valley Motosport is sponsoring t-shirt for the first 180 finishers.

ENTRY FEE

Cost to enter is \$40. A PNWMA licnese is require (\$10) as well as a KDBC membership (\$5)

Money made from this event helps protect and promote riding in the Okanagan. Please come out support this event.

Reckless Riding Hurting Our Sport - Causing Area Closure

How do you convince riders that irresponsible use of public land leads to trail closures and areas being made off limits—this is the question which increasingly plagues the KDBC.

Faced with worsening signs from ignorant and reckless riding—it is clear something needs to be done, and fast or riding areas will be lost—forever!

But whose responsibility is it to educate and control people who seemingly don't know or don't care.

KDBC members try to educate when problems are seen but the fact is that we can't be everywhere.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Stay off main logging roads unless your bike has a valid license plate.

This is a constant complaint of logging trucks and forest companies. Extremely close calls have resulted in the above filing complaints with police.

Avoid wetlands - damage in these areas can be permanent and serve as a very visual example of why motorbikes should not be allowed near marshy areas.

Avoid hill climbs next to logging roads. This contributes to extensive rutting and silting of water tables.

Support project stealth— Make sure your bike isn't any louder than it needs to be. Excessive noise is detrimental to our sport.

If you see others riding recklessly let them know they are risking our access.

Not everyone likes motorbikes. We suffer an image problem as noisy, reckless and irresponsible people . Please do your part to show this impression is unfounded.

Respect others right to use the lands. Protect your right to ride.

