

From: New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance [prez@nmohva.org]

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To: Werkmeister, Mark R

Subject: News from NMOHVA

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NMOHVA Member Newsletter

July

2009

The HEAT is on!

Summer is heating up and so is the NMOHVA schedule. Sandwiched between rides to enjoy our beautiful state, NMOHVA members have found time to work a variety of events and activities promoting NMOHVA and responsible OHV recreation.

Mark - President

Upcoming Events for July

July 18 - Road and Trail Work Day with Jemez Ranger District

July 18 - New Mexico 4 Wheelers Club Meeting

See the [NMOHVA Calendar](#) for event details and contacts.

Do you have an event to share? Contact NMOHVA at prez@nmohva.org for a listing in the newsletter.

OHV Program Transitions to New Mexico Game & Fish

On July 1, the OHV program officially transitions from the Tourism Department to the Department of Game & Fish (DG&F). This transition was legislated in Senate Bill 379 which passed the New Mexico Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Richardson on April 1st. DG&F has resurrected the "b4uride.com" website and it has been populated with up-to-date information on the state's OHV regulations, registrations, and safety requirements.

Check out the State of New Mexico's new OHV Program Web Site at: www.b4uride.com

In a press release dated June 12th, the Department also announced an increase in enforcement "in an effort to educate the public and check for compliance with the requirements and safety provisions of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act. " The DG&F will be assisted by officers with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Police and county sheriff's departments during the statewide OHV education and compliance efforts.

NMOHVA has expressed its concern to DG&F that it is difficult for New Mexico citizens to comply with the requirement that operators under the age of 18 have safety training. The OHV Act says that minors operating a motorcycle or ATV must have completed a certified OHV course and obtain a safety permit. At this time, there is very limited availability of ATV training (especially outside major cities) and there is no off road motorcycle training available anywhere in the state. NMOHVA has offered to work with DG&F to raise awareness of the revised OHV Act. We encourage the Department to find ways to make ATV and off road motorcycle safety training more available to New Mexicans.

Jemez Trails Receive Some Sweaty Love



The Blackfeather Trail Preservation Alliance (BTPA) and the Jemez Ranger District's Phyllis Martinez and Mike Dechter put together another Jemez District Trail Maintenance Day on June 13th. The work day focused on the single-track "Motown" trail and expanded on the work accomplished last summer. The BTPA members put out a call for volunteers and riders from the Advrider web site responded in a big way. It was great to see many new faces investing sweat equity in the trail system so many users (both motorized and non-motorized) enjoy in the southern Jemez. The BTPA enjoyed some great fellowship over a grill and around the coolers afterwards and had enough fun that they immediately started planning their next work day.

The next maintenance day the Blackfeathers are supporting is July 18th in the Jemez Ranger District. They are working with District staff and other NMOHVA member clubs to do maintenance on FR266NA, which is the main route connecting FR266 to Paliza Canyon. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gordon Spingler (gspingler@cybermesa.com) for more information.



NMOHVA at Off Road Gathering 7

NMOHVA on hand for the 7th Off Road Gathering held at the Albuquerque Dragway on June 6, 2009. The growing annual event celebrates all aspects of off road activities and this year highlighted mud bog racing, sand drags, and rock crawling. Other popular activities included this year were RC Rock Crawling, stunt motorcycle demonstrations, and diesel truck drags. An estimated two thousand people passed through the gates to enjoy the myriad activities on a beautiful day.

NMOHVA set up a booth and used the opportunity to distribute information about the organization to the attending enthusiasts. Board members Jeff Boggs, Hurley Wilvert, and B.R. Fjord passed out information, answered questions, and listened to off highway vehicle user comments and concerns. They also added interested parties to NMOHVA free e-mail list. Attending the event proved to be an excellent opportunity for introducing NMOHVA and its purpose to a larger slice of the OHV public. It also gave board members a chance to hear questions, comments, and concerns directly from the public.

NMOHVA would like to thank the Albuquerque Dragway and the New Mexico Off Road League for allowing us the opportunity to set up a information booth and hosting such a great event.



NMOHVA's booth nestled in among the other vendors at Off Road Gathering 7

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