

Forest Mapping Cont'd

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people who know the Mountainair ranger district of the Cibola.

We are lacking volunteers in the Carson National Forest (who out there knows the Taos-Questa trails?) and the Lincoln, (trails in and around Ruidoso-Cloudcroft.) Even though the Lincoln National Forest has New Mexico's only designated OHV trails, they have told Region 3 headquarters that they will be 're-examining' these trails under the Travel Management Rule.

At our annual meeting some members said that forest rangers were still refusing to accept Garmin and Magellan GPS data. They are under instruction to work with us and accept maps, data, GPS etc. from the public. Also, they are not allowed to withhold information. Everything in the Forest Service is public information except for personnel records. If anyone in the Forest Service refuses to cooperate with you, refuses to let you see their maps, or says they can't take your GPS tracks, let the NMOHVA board know immediately, email president@nmohva.org or info@nmohva.org.



NMOHVA
13170-B Central Ave. SE
PMB No. 322
Albuquerque, NM 87123



COHVCO 6th ANNUAL OHV MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

SET FOR JULY 6-9

COHVCO, the Colorado state OHV association runs its own workshop for land managers; tons of programs offered. NOHVCC spearheaded this annual series which has since become a shining example for all other state OHV associations. Go to www.nohvcc.org or www.cohvco.org for all the info!

SUPPORT NMOHVA's BUSINESS MEMBERS

Buy all your gear and equipment from these industry supporters. Make sure to thank them and tell them NMOHVA sent you!

**Bobby J's Yamaha
Champion Motorsports
Copper Country KTM
Fast Eddy's Inc.
R & S Motorsports
Rocky Mountain Supply
SW Off Road Enterprises**

GOT STORIES??

We are looking for submissions for our newsletter! Send us your OHV pics, stories, news, comments or upcoming events to Editor, Michelle Cassella at info@nmohva.org.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.nmohva.org**



<http://www.nmohva.org>

June 2006

Volume 3, Issue 2

This Month's Features

- *New Online Forum*
- *Forest Service (USFS) Trail Mapping*
- *Fun with NM Trials*
- *Annual Election and Meeting Notes*
- *TAOS BLM RMP Plan comments needed*
- *NOHVCC Conference comes to New Mexico*

The Inside Line—The Newsletter of the New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance

Desert Racing the SORE OMG 100

By Michelle Cassella

For 30 years, the members of the Southwest Off Road Enterprises (SORE) have been offering a premier Hare Scrambles event to riders from all over, and this year their annual Oh My God 100 didn't let any of their desert racing fans down. Held in Cuba, SORE put on a two day event, with a pre-ride and kids race on Saturday and the main event on Sunday morning. I love these type of events that which gives you time to be able to ride, watch the young ones and spend some time bench racing with family and friends. Unfortunately, we

didn't get there in time on Sat. for the pre-ride, but was able to sign in and have our transponders registered by the wonderful volunteers of Denco who track all the points and keep all the racers straight. We sure enjoyed the kids race and balmy evening that followed Saturday night. The race, which kicked off at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday had all elements that make for a great time, awesome scenery, deep sandwashes to blaze down, rocky sections to negotiate and fire roads to relax and shake off the hand tingles! Finishers came in with big grins



Start line of OMG 100
Photo by Scott Knight

of a desert racing tradition re-lived—finisher pins! This was the 4th of 7 races in the New Mexico Desert Racing Club (NMDRC.com). Many many thanks to all the hardworking volunteers of SORE. We will for sure see you all next year!

Socorro BLM Officer Awarded for OHV Support

Joanne Spivack (NMOHVA President) and Mark Werkmeister (NMOHVA Secretary and President of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers) recently presented an award to BLM Socorro Office Outdoor Recreation Planner, Mike Bilbo. Mike was presented the engraved Nambe platter from NMOHVA and the New Mexico 4-Wheelers at a recent BLM staff meeting. The award was



Our President, Joanne between Mike Bilbo (left) and Mark Werkmeister (right)

given in appreciation of Mike's long standing commitment to OHV recreation and his support in helping establish the Gordy's Hill OHV Area near Socorro. In addition to his tireless work in the Gordy's Hill effort, Mike played a key role in the establishment of the Haystack Mountain and Mescalero Sands North Dunes OHV Areas in previous BLM positions within the state. Thanks Mike!

CONGRATULATIONS to Dave and Alan Donaldson on their Baja 500 Finish !!

Dave Donaldson owns Copper Country KTM in Silver City, and is a strong supporter of NMOHVA. He and his brother Alan are also 'wicked fast' desert racers. They finished 4th in the Baja 500, in the very competitive Sportman's Open class. KTM of America supplied two new KTM 525's for them to race. Stop in at Copper Country KTM when you're in Silver City.

OHV Alert—TAOS BLM Area Needs Your Comments

The Taos BLM has posted a federal register notice that they are starting their planning process. This means the ball is in our court to stand up for our Alcalde riding area north of Espanola, and our Buckman riding area west of Santa Fe. Near the bottom of this BLM notice is the following :

13. The RMP Revision will recognize valid existing rights related to the use of public lands

Our first job is to write and attend the scoping meetings, to state our valid existing rights to our riding areas. Despite all the talk about science and analysis in the BLM's notice, this is a highly political

process. The folks that turn out the most supporters are more likely to get what they want! I hope we can get a good turn out for the meetings. Whether or not you can make it to a meeting, your brief handwritten letter is a valuable tool at this stage. All you have to do is say in your own words that you use those areas for your dirtbike, ATV, 4WD recreation. Tell them those activities are important to you and your family and you want the areas to stay open for OHV use.

You can submit your comments by email, fax or written mail: ADDRESSES: You may submit com-

ments by any of the following methods:
Web site: http://www.nm.blm.gov/taos/taos_rmpr/taos_rmpr.htm
Fax: (505) 758-1620.
Mail: Attn: RMPR Comments, BLM-Taos, 226 Cruz Alta Rd., Taos, NM 87571.

ESPANOLA Meeting
Tuesday June 27
6:30-8:30 pm
Espanola City Council Chambers
405 North Paseo de Oñate, Espanola

SANTA FE Meeting
Thursday June 29
6:30-8:30 pm
Genoveva Chavez Community Center
3221 Rodeo Rd, Santa Fe

NMOHVA Annual Meeting Minutes & Elections

NMOHVA is pleased to announce the results of the annual elections that took place at the Annual Meeting on April 1, 2006.

NMOHVA welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors. Michelle Cassella was elected to the position of Vice-President. Michelle is a desert racer who comes to us from California where she was very active in public land access issues (Michelle has also since been appointed our new Membership Chairman). Chris Johnson was elected to the position of At-Large Board Member. Chris is an accomplished trials rider with the New Mexico Trials Association.

Joanne Spivack (President), Mark Werkmeister (Secretary), Hurley Wilvert (Treasurer), and Phillip Fuerschbach (At-Large) were all re-elected to a 2nd term.

NMOHVA would like to thank outgoing Vice-President Jimmy Allison and At-Large Board Member Terry Torrance for their contribution and support the past year.

Other highlights from the Annual Meeting were presentations by Mark Toney (President of GRATA), an update on new (favorable) rules to the Recreation Trails Program grants, and extensive discussion on how best to promote/support the trails inventory work on National Forests within New Mexico.

New Mexico To Host NOHVCC Conference in 2008

The National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) has chosen Albuquerque to be the site of their annual conference in 2008. Our New Mexico NOHVCC representative is John Barksdale (Forest Service, retired), and we're sure John had something to do with us getting the conference! The 2008 conference will bring all the national leaders of the OHV world to New Mexico. We'll be in the spotlight. This will be a tremendous opportunity to bring our federal land managers together with the top people, and for everyone to network with the leaders of many OHV organizations. Part of the NOHVCC conference is two days of riding. NMOHVA will be working on selecting areas, routes, organizing our guides, food, the loaner machines (dirtbikes and ATVs) from manufacturers etc. Go to www.nohvcc.org, and see how much terrific work is happening, and sign up for their 'e-newsletter'.

Sipapu Trials Challenges for Mud and Fudge

By Chris Johnson

Over the weekend of Saturday, June 3rd and Sunday June 4th, the New Mexico Trials Association held its annual two-day motorcycle observed trials event at Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort.

One of the club's most anticipated events each year, the Sipapu two-day trial offers the chance to beat the heat of the desert and cool down next to a picturesque mountain stream. This year's Sipapu event was a model of cooperation between the NMTA, the owners and operators of Sipapu, and the US Forest Service, of particular importance this year with dry tinder fire conditions in much of New Mexico's forests.

More than a week before the event, trials-masters (club members responsible for setting the sections for the weekend) identified the safest areas for sections for the local Forest Service rangers. All parties reached consensus on the requirements for the event to happen. NMTA, USFS, and Sipapu agreed that each section would have a fire extinguisher and shovel on hand, each trials motorcycle would have an approved spark arrester, and if the worst happened and a fire broke out, all riders would cease competition until the fire was put out.

Fortunately, the event was trouble-free. Riders got tested, and no trees got burned. Saturday's sections were up on the mountain, on the Forest Service land. Seems like each section was at such an acute angle, the observers needed one leg shorter than the other. Sunday's sections used lower USFS land and the private land of the resort, including sections adjacent to the Rio Pueblo, and a section set in the Playpen, an area of artificial obstacles like arranged wire spools, rocks, and logs, in the parking lot of the Sipapu lodge.

One of the reasons Sipapu is anticipated every year is the prizes given at the awards ceremony at the end of the weekend. Every competitor's punched scorecard is put in a box. A few lucky ones are pulled out and the owners get coupons for free fudge, a highly recommended specialty of the lodge.

Many thanks go to the US Forest Service, the Bolander family, and the staff of Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort. I can hardly wait 'til next year, because I had to buy my fudge this year.

Forest Service Mapping will Preserve NM Trails

By Joanne Spivack

Harv Forsgren heads up Region 3 of the National Forest Service (all of NM and AZ). At a meeting in Albuquerque on June 14, he told NMOHVA president Joanne Spivack that Region 3 had just completed guidelines on the Travel Management Rule. These guidelines are intended to give direction to forest supervisors and rangers on designating OHV trail systems. We should have these in a week or so and will post them on the NMOHVA website. Riders familiar with the trails in each

National Forest area are urgently needed. NMOHVA will help network with you, and provide policy info and guidance on how to work with the forest service staff. But we can't do it for you, only you know where the trails are. Without your 'local knowledge' we'll be leaving it to the forest rangers to come up with their own idea of what our trail systems should be. Each forest and ranger district is making their own trail decisions. All trails not designated as open to OHV will become illegal when new trail



Photo by Bob Clancy

maps are published. We have good volunteer coverage in the Santa Fe, parts of the Cibola and all of the Gila National Forests. Dave and the Silver City group (Mark Toney, Wayne Esbaugh, Glenn Gose and friends) have over 700 miles of trails GPS mapped in the Gila National Forest. Gordy Spingler, Jay Rose, John Omalia and friends are covering the Santa Fe. NMOHVA board members Hurley Wilvert, Phil Fuerschbach are keeping track of the popular Cedar Peak are of the Cibola, but we need

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