Early March 2009
Volume 2, Issue 1

Partial Calendar of Events
- March 10th CCC of VT monthly meeting 6:30 Bolton VT
- April 14th CCC of VT monthly meeting 6:30 Bolton VT
- April 18th CCC of VT Annual Dinner and Auction Bolton VT
- May 2nd Green Up Day
- May 3rd NETRA Hoot’s First: Turkey/Dual Sport Ride R.I.
- May 12th CCC of VT monthly meeting 6:30 Bolton VT
- May 16th CCC of VT Dirt Bike Gear Swap location TBA
- May 17th NETRA Three State Charity Dual Sport MA.
- May 23rd and 24th VMA Race #1 and #2 Rider Hill Derby VT
- May 31st CCC of VT ride
- June 6-7th New England Classic Dual Sport, Loudon NH
- June 7th VMA Race #3 Rider Hill Derby VT
- June 9th CCC of VT monthly meeting 6:30 Bolton VT
- June 14th CCC of VT ride
- June 21st VMA Race #4 Rider Hill Derby VT
- June 28th CCC of VT ride Newfane
- July 12th CCC of VT ride South Royalton
- July 12th VMA Race #5 Rider Hill Derby VT
- July 14th CCC of VT monthly meeting 6:30 Bolton VT
- July 18-19th Green Mtn. Pioneers AMA/NETRC National Championship Rounds 5 & 6 Highgate VT
- July 18-19th NETRA Thrill & Chill Dual Sport/Turkey Run R.I.
- July 19-25th Six Days of Michigan
- July 25th and 26th VMA Race #6 and #7 Rider Hill Derby VT
- August 8th Seacoast Big Bike Ride Berwick, Maine
- August 9th NETRA Noble Woods Turkey Run Berwick Maine

March 2009 Newsletter

Dedicated to creating, enhancing and preserving legal off-road and dual-sport motorcycle opportunities in Vermont

Annual Meeting/Dinner and Auction

This year our annual meeting, dinner and auction will be held at the Smilde Elementary School located on US 2 in Bolton, Vermont on Saturday April 18th from 3-9 p.m. The annual meeting will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. We will be discussing the club’s vision, priorities and planned events for the upcoming season. We will also be forming a new board of directors and holding elections for club officers. A spaghetti dinner will be served beginning at 6:00, the cost is $10.00 per person. Our sponsors have stepped up again this year and donated an impressive amount of gear for the auction. This is an excellent opportunity to get new parts, tires and riding gear for the upcoming season and to help our club out. We will also have free door prizes, displays and raffles. This is your opportunity to show support and participate in the future of our club. Please RSVP by April 10th, it really helps us to know how many to expect in advance. cccofvt@gmail.com

Also, Billy Burns has indicated that he will attend our annual dinner and share some of his experiences racing for Team USA at the 2008 ISDE in Greece last fall.

2nd Annual Dirt Bike Gear Swap

Gather up your used riding gear and parts! On May 16th we will be having our second annual dirt bike gear swap. Drop off your gear at the following locations:

Ray Atwood Cycle - Bolton VT May 4-15th
Mason Racing - Lebanon NH May 4-15th

We are working on finding a new location which will be announced next month. This is a great opportunity to pick up some new gear for the upcoming season or to clean out the stuff you no longer use. Protective equipment and gear for kids are key items. We’re also looking for volunteers to work the swap. The club receives 20% of all items sold.

National Arbor Day
May 1, 2009

We will once again be donating free balsam fir seedlings to local schools and conservation commissions. This year CCC of VT will be partnering with the Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation to help distribute seedlings and educate local schools and communities on the benefits of tree planting. If you have any recommendations or would like to help out, please contact CCC of VT or the VT Forests Parks and Recreation at vtfr.org/urban/arbor.cfm.
Bruce was hospitalized for six weeks and unable to work as a truck driver during his months of recovery. “Bruce is a strong man to survive this accident” states Dr. Bruce Leavitt, one of the on-site physicians when Bruce was admitted to Fletcher Allen Hospital. Coincidentally, Dr. Leavitt knew Bruce through the local Harley Owners Group. “His fellow motorcyclists are a giving group and they really rallied to help him get back on his feet”, commented Dr. Leavitt.

Bruce’s Moose Run Ride was held in September 2008. Sixty riders participated in the fund raising ride through the Green Mountains, past the site of the accident. “There was such a great out pouring of support that we really wanted to create something that would continue to support other riders who need help” said Tim White, co-director of the non-profit. “We want motorcyclists in Vermont to know there is support for them. There is no preference to brand or style” adds co-director Mike Mitchell.

Today Bruce is glad to be alive and rides his new, purple 2008 Ultra Classic Harley-Davidson, he proudly calls, “Her Majesty”. When asked what keeps him riding after such a traumatic experience, Bruce simply replies, “It’s just part of me...motorcycle riding is a part of me. I’m so thankful for the support of all my friends and motorcycle family.”

On January 17, 2009 there was a local fund raiser at Green Mountain Harley Davidson in Essex Junction. The shop donated a percentage of the day’s proceeds toward the Moose Foundation. Additionally the Moose Foundation will have commemorative t-shirts and pins on sale. Stop by for information or to make a donation. Information can be found at www.moosefund.org.

Hey CCCers, here’s an update from your local Vermont trials club the Green Mountain Plonkers. We’ve got a lot lined up for this year, from having the best riders in the country up in Highgate on July 18 and 19 for an AMA national event, to the first annual Vermont only trials series! This series is aimed at the people that want to get in on the fun of trials but don’t want to spend 4 hours in the car each way to compete. It’s slated to begin somewhere in the month of August so if you see anyone on a trials bike playing in the Richmond riding area, strike up a conversation to learn more and attend! As always, for more info on us and the sport you can find us at greenmountainplonkers.org or give a call to: 802-524-7777

-Greg Hewitt
It seems like only yesterday a group of motorized recreation enthusiasts sat in a meeting in Barre, Vermont discussing the possibilities of forming a united group in order to give our sport a strong and unified voice for attaining more riding opportunities. But it wasn’t only yesterday; that day was one year ago, and since then, a lot has happened. Thanks to everyone that attended the initial meetings and of course NOHVCC (the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council) for helping us make our goals a reality, VORA has been established. The initial meetings were a huge success— a name for our new association was chosen, along with a slate of officers and diligent volunteers to head up a variety of committees to cover the issues that needed to be addressed. During this past year, VORA has accomplished many of our goals. We have held monthly meetings, created an informative website, established membership applications and procedures, and increased our membership to nearly 100 members. We have begun creating contacts with local towns and cities and have offered our services to select boards with help on issues such as ancient roads, and class 3 and 4 road access. We have met with our legislators to introduce ourselves and our organization. VORA is making headway and spreading our mission. Recently, on October 25, 2008, VORA held its first annual meeting at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce meeting rooms. Our first annual meeting was very informative. We effectively reviewed our progress from the year past, and set new goals and achievements for 2009. Also accomplished at the meeting was election of some new officers and members-at-large. Positions up for election included Vice President, Secretary, and a member-at-large position for each participating motorized recreation group including ATV’s, Off Highway Motorcycles, and 4x4’s. Steve Carlin was re-elected as Vice President, and Danny Hale of VASA was elected Secretary. Members at large now include Bill Bailey representing ATV’s, Doug Weber representing Off Highway Motorcycles, and Ian Schulze representing 4x4’s. Bob Cruickshank remains treasurer, and Ray Atwood remains President. Much has happened for VORA this year, but there is a long hard path ahead of our new group. There is much work to be done, and VORA needs all the support we can get. If you supported VORA during the 2008 year, we thank you and encourage you to renew your membership for 2009. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well! Remember, anyone can join, even if you don’t own an off highway recreational vehicle. Volunteers are also needed, so please make the most out of your membership and attend our meetings to see what you can do to help. The more voices we have, the more choices we have. Thank you to everyone who helped VORA become a success during this first year. We have high hopes, and many goals for 2009; check out the VORA website at www.vtora.org for upcoming meetings.

Well here we are again ready to start another year of great racing in Derby. We are in the process of trying to get our permits from the town and we don’t get the reception we did last year. Like many off road organizations we find it harder every year to get the permits needed to run our events. You would think that in today’s economy people would welcome 400 plus people coming into their town to spend money.

This year we will have ten races on seven weekends. Three weekends will have two day races with overnight camping if needed. If you don’t want to compete we welcome spectators and I think you will find it quite eventful to watch. We have riders from five years of age to over fifty both male and female. Our riders come from all over New England and Canada and are extremely talented. For more information please visit our Web site at www.vermontmotocross.com.

We would like to thank the CCC of VT members for having us in your News Letter. What a great way to keep in touch. We wish you all a great riding season. Dave Yergeau

VMA
VISION

It's been well over forty years since I first started riding dirt bikes (not including the Briggs & Stratton era), and I cannot remember ever seeing so much enthusiasm and support for our sport as we are seeing today. To be perfectly honest, there are a number of things that I cannot remember all that clearly but for the purposes of this discussion let's just go with the increased enthusiasm theme. At the club level, our membership continues to grow and more members are actively participating and volunteering to help out. Right now, we have at least a dozen different topics that are on our monthly agenda ranging from legislative issues to the riding schedule, new events, gear swap, trail maintenance, etc. Each of these topics has a value for us individually, for the club, and for our sport. And yet, it is so easy to get caught up in the detail of each topic that we need to keep reminding ourselves why we're doing this. We're riders and we want more areas to ride legally, period. That's why people continue to join our club, participate in our rides, and support us with their membership. So, how and where do we find new areas to ride?

Having participated in a number of meetings with state and federal land managers, the possibility of allowing OHM's to ride on public lands is still very distant. We do need to continue with those discussions; however, we must also recognize that the process is going to take many years to work, if it's going to work at all. Our public lands are under assault from many different special interest groups and I cannot think of one that is even slightly sympathetic to allowing, or even tolerating, motorized recreation. They are well funded, well organized and politically connected. We need to continue working through the processes with these land managers but the reality is that we won't be riding on new public land anytime soon.

Our dual sport rides (on existing Class IV public rights-of-way) have worked out great and Wayne really needs to be thanked for all the effort he has put into making these rides such a success. This year he's planning two 2-day rides and three 1-day rides. In addition, Bruce is planning our club's first Adventure ride for big bikes in September. Our Class IV road system needs to be preserved and protected. VORA has taken on the task of assisting towns with identifying Class IV and ancient roads and we should all support them in their efforts (see page 3, and please join and/or renew).

As far as private land goes right now we have the Richmond track. This 1.2 mile woods track is a great place for kids, families and many others to ride because it is so convenient. The long term use of the property may be questionable though, and that is all that we have on private property...1.2 miles! We do however have leads on at least three different parcels that may be amenable to having us develop some new riding opportunities. Over the next few months we will be contacting and meeting with the landowners to see if it is feasible to establish some additional opportunities. This is the area where we should be focusing our efforts. Wouldn't it be great to have at least two, or preferably three new riding areas established this year? If we are to continue to be a family based organization, we need to have more legal places for kids and families to ride. We also need to be able to demonstrate that we are a responsible user group and promote positive land stewardship...and that means developing a club-based maintenance program. We should be concentrating on building a list of what I'd like to term "good deeds." Donating tree seedlings to local schools and conservation committees and volunteering for Green Up Day last year was a great start, but we need to expand that effort by offering to help manage and maintain trails on private and public properties. The ability to point to some positive successes we've had with property owners will help us immensely when we continue talks with state and federal land managers as well as other land owners. Good deeds rather than rhetoric is what is going to open up more areas for us to ride. Building a positive image for ourselves, especially with the non-motorized community is something that we're going to be able to change in one season, but it is a vision that we should all be working towards together.

-Doug Weber
Trail Rider is off road riding and racing only, no MX. Trail Rider has always had the very best coverage of the ISDE and now Trail Rider is THE magazine for Endurocross. Trail Rider also boasts the very finest writers in the industry. Joining Paul Clipper are legends Ed Herfeld, and Rick Sierrania aka Super Hunky, Charlie Williams, Jerry Bernardo and a cast of dozens make Trail Rider the funniest magazine on the bathroom floor.

If you like riding, racing or adventure riding, Trail Rider is the magazine for you. Along with humor, TR has bike test and gear reviews its better than you'd expect. Based in New Hampshire, TRAIL RIDER MAGAZINE is run by Paul Clipper, a graduate of the Hi-Torque/Dirt Bike group, TR is unabashedly written for the Eastern fun/play/trail/erduro/hare scramble rider. If you ride in trees, rocks and mud, you'll find a home here www.trailrider.com.

Membership Application

I wish to support the CCC of VT in the development of program and trail activities by becoming a member. Enclosed is my check for $______

Name:

Address:

City:

State:______ Zip:

Email:

Phone:

Member number:__________________

Please check one:

( ) New Member

( ) Renewal

$25.00 Annual Dues. Right to vote, hold any office, sponsor a Family Membership and access CCC of VT rides and functions.

( ) Family Membership

One $40.00 annual due includes one Active Membership, Spouse and all immediate family members under the age of 18 residing at the same address. Family members are non-voting and may participate in all rides and activities. Please list names and ages of each family member.

1. Name:__________________ Age:______

2. Name:__________________ Age:______

3. Name:__________________ Age:______

4. Name:__________________ Age:______

Please make check payable to:

Cycle Conservation Club of Vermont
3566 Roosevelt Highway
Bolton, Vermont 05679