Oregon's statewide off-road sanctioning organization

# ing '00 Oregon Motorcycle Riders Association, Inc. Volume 6.2

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PO Box 6975, Portland, Oregon 97228

This issue has some information from Blue Ribbon Coalition regarding the proposed land closures from Clinton/Gore and the nature nazis. Take heed.

C,ya on the trails! (if there are any left)

Tom Niemela

# Time to get politically active!

## Editor Notes

This issue of the newsletter is focused mostly towards the current threat of the environmental extremists making a concentrated effort at quite literally closing/ending our sport as we know it today. Most all of us are of the mindset that we would much rather go riding than get involved politically. After all, this sport is how we relieve stress, get exercise, get adrenaline, get out to nature, instill our sense of adventure, family bonding, social bonding, etc... For many, like me, it's a religion. What other sport can you enjoy the splendor of nature, fly through the air, go to new places, gaze in awe at Ma Nature's scenic splendor and wildlife, create and conquer challenges, practice the art of Zen and motorcycle maintenance and go to places most people don't go to or in fact, have never been to?

In case you've been living in a cave or just don't care about what's happening, the Clinton/Gore administration and their extremist special interest groups are imposing their pointed agenda on the American public – whether we want it or not. Part of this reasoning is Clinton wants to be known for more than his unethical adventures with Monica and cigars. He's trying to go out with a bang (pun intended) and be the next Teddy Roosevelt. [FYI, Roosevelt was an outdoor enthusiast that did many wonderful designations for national parks] If Clinton was unethical in the White House, would you trust him to be ethical on issues outside the White House? Of course not. With executive order and the swipe of a pen, he is designating millions of acres as wilderness where only special interest groups like the Sierra Club will have access.

That's only the tip of the iceberg. If Gore gets elected as president, it will be a fatal blow to our sport. We can expect that the only riding that will be available will be on MX tracks or postage-stamp sized plots of land that will be over used and over crowded by OHVers wanting to recreate outdoors. Then the Green Advocate Groups (GAGs) will step in, see the over use and mayhem of too many people in such a small area, that they will even close that small area of riding opportunity. I'm not necessarily saying that Bush is the man, but he's the lesser of the two evils.

Don't get me wrong, I'm all for wilderness, hiking and non-motorized areas to get away from it all. In fact, I can assure you that "I" am an environmentalist! I just choose a different mode of transportation than the GAGs. I can safely say that most all OHVers are environmentalists too. We love the great outdoors! I don't know about you, but I'm not going to let the Nature Nazis treat my favorite sport as the Jews were treated in WWII, which in effect is exactly what they're doing. I still want my family, friends, and younger generations to enjoy what I've enjoyed and received so much education and inspiration from, for so many years!

This is quite literally a call to arms to get off your duff and get involved in the political process. What can I do, you ask? Get to know your local and regional politicians and landowners. Call up your local city council and let them know what these extremists are trying to do about closing public access to public lands. Call up the chamber of commerce groups in the areas that you ride and let them know how much money is spent by OHVers. Do you know the names and visit often to the public landowners such as BLM and USFS? Visit with them and tell them your concerns. Let them know your recreation needs and that you can help. Contact your senators. Ron Wyden is a longshot and probably never will accept our sport, but it doesn't hurt to let him know that we ride and we vote and we are large numbers. Gordon Smith should be much more sympathetic to our concerns. Contact your state and regional representatives and government too. Get the word out. Don't support the organizations that are assisting to close us out such as REI, etc. For example, REI donates to the Wilderness Society and Sierra Club, so every time you shop there, you're helping to close off riding. Get involved with OHV organizations like the OMRA!

You can either sacrifice a few days of riding now, or sacrifice it forever. What will YOU do? -Tom Niemela

## Guest Column A WIZARD WITH GALL AND TENACITY

by Clark L. Collins, BlueRibbon Coalition Executive Director A recent article in AUDUBON magazine shows just how frantic the Wilderness advocacy groups have become. As the off-highway-vehicle (OHV) community have become more effective in opposing their antirecreation-access agenda, Wilderness activists have increased their attacks on us. The article, "Motorizing Public Land" by Ted Williams shows just how selfish they are.

The March/April 2000 article starts out with the author talking about his using an outboard motor boat to access his favorite fishing spots, but then turns into a vicious attack on all other forms of motorized access. It

is so typical of the mind-set of many Wilderness advocates who jet all around the country promoting their "lock-the-public-out" agenda while they attack anyone who uses a motorized vehicle for recreation pursuits. Williams attacks snowmobiles in Yellowstone, ATVs anywhere,

the OHV user community in general, and the BlueRibbon Coalition specifically. He says, "Carrying the orv industry's gas–and venting it–is the BlueRibbon Coalition, one of the original signatories to the Wise Use Agenda. But in addition to spewing rhetoric and fumes, the BlueRibbon Coalition gets things done. In 1999 it prevailed on Congress to fund the lapsed National Recreational Trails program, thereby providing the states with \$270 million over six years, at least a third of which will be used to build and improve ORV trails on public land. And it manipulates hunters and fishers with remarkable success."

Throughout this piece Williams whines about the OHV community's effectiveness in keeping public lands open for our enjoyment. His ranting really gets bazaar when he attacks me personally saying, "But not all sportsmen are so easily seduced, and when you strip away the mirrors, gongs, water, and dry ice, Clark Collins becomes a little man in a Wizard of Oz suit." Now come on Ted, just what is that supposed to mean?

In 1992 Ted Williams wrote an article for Harrowsmith Country Life magazine that was intended to be his expose of the Wise Use Movement. He showed his bias against OHV recreation and his concern about our growing effectiveness even then. This seven-page article was almost totally about us and our then recent accomplishment of passage of the National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRTFA). That act has since evolved into the \$270 million Recreational Trails Program that Williams complains about in his Audubon piece.

In this earlier piece, Williams quoted several Wilderness advocates who were stunned by our 1991 NRTFA victory. "Remarkable,' is how Dave Alberswerth of the National Wildlife Federation describes the BlueRibbon Coalition's victory. 'They pulled the wool over a lot of people's eyes about what the impacts of this thing were going to be. We tried to unmask them, but they got about what they wanted.

"Gall and tenacity compensate Collins for his modest budget. For instance he showed up one day in the Washington D.C. office of the Wilderness Society with a video on ORVs. 'He gave us a long spiel on how you shouldn't designate wilderness because handicapped people need to ride these things,' recalls Mike Francis. 'We were incredulous. I said 'You expect me to sign onto something that you're going to use to open wilderness areas to motorized recreation?' The guys got balls. "Well, I'm going to take all this attention as a complement! That, and the increased support we are receiving from our grass roots members, tells me that we must really be on the right track. From having "Gall and tenacity" in 1992 to wearing "a Wizard of Oz suit" in 2000 I can hardly wait to read Ted Williams' coverage of our next victory over the anti-recreation-access groups.

(The March/April Audubon magazine article can be viewed online at www.audubon.org and more information about the BlueRibbon Coalition can be found at <u>www.sharetrails.org</u>)

#### NEWS RELEASE April 5, 2000 FORMER FOREST SERVICE CHIEF SAYS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OPPOSED TO SEQUOIA PRESERVE

POCATELLO, ID – According to 1994 testimony given by Jack Ward Thomas, then Forest Service Chief, the Department of Agriculture, under the Clinton Administration, was opposed to additional set-asides of giant redwoods in the Sequoia National Forest.

Thomas stated the administration's opposition to the Sequoia Preservation Act in March of 1994. The chief said that the Sequoia Mediation Settlement Agreement of 1990 and the Presidential Proclamation of 1992 had given the giant trees enough protection while balancing other uses.

The chief also said an additional layer of preservation would prohibit treatments designed to perpetuate the groves such as fuel reductions, seedbed preparation and vegetation removal. Roads that currently exist within the Giant Sequoia groves are critical to maintaining essential fire suppression access during forest treatments.

According to Don Amador, the western regional representative for the Blue Ribbon Coalition, "How ironic as the president issues decrees from the White House that the testimony of his former agency chief contradicts the current direction Clinton is taking with regards to 'protecting' redwood groves near Fresno, California."

"I think it would do Clinton well to heed the advice of his former appointee and listen to the growing number of elected officials, user groups, county governments, and resource professionals who say he is headed down the wrong path," Amador concludes.

The Blue Ribbon Coalition is a national non-profit 501 (3) recreation group that champions responsible multiple-use of public lands. It represents over 800 businesses and organizations with 600,000 members.

\*A copy of the Thomas testimony is avail. By FAX upon request

(The OMRA does not endorse the following, but Norm makes some good points that I think should be shared among friends. -Tom)

#### It's Not Easy Being Green, Victims within the Ranks By Norm Lenhart, Senior Editor - Off-Road.com Fear of the Dark

OK Folks, Straight talk only in this room. Last month Off-Road.com published an article about taking a rented Chevy Blazer to the dunes of Glamis and judging by the reaction of a vocal minority, you'd think we'd just beat a baby Harp seal to death on national television - and liked it. Now what does a rented blazer in an open OHV area have to do with environmentalism? Strangely enough, I'm wondering the same thing. You see, the vast majority of hate mail we received over the article all centered around a basic concept -"What will the greenies think?"

Oh sure, there were variations like "They'll use it against us" and other like matter, but the root of the problem is obvious. There are still off-roaders deathly afraid of the enviro-nazis!

My God people, grow a spine! Let's break this down for the few who still don't get it.

1. Eco-swine will hate us no matter what we do.

2. Eco-swine will use everything we do as justification for stripping us of our rights.

3. Eco-swine will continue defecating on our Constitution in their promotion of Marxi/Giaen philosophy.

4. Eco-swine will never accept OHV use

5. Eco-swine will always look for ways to eliminate it

6. A herd of Eco-swine (over 60 groups strong) just banded together to do that very thing.

And still there are people who think that if we "improve our image", if we kiss the green backside long, deep and lovingly, perhaps even slipping it the tongue now and then, that the skies will open, a chorus of angels will begin singing "Hallaluelia", blinding light will spew forth, and suddenly our best friends will all be eating tofu on a stick.

Yessiree Hoss, there really are off-roaders left that are (brace yourself) that friggin' stupid. Or perhaps cowardly? And as for you Little Joe; A little over 200 years ago, there was a war fought by men and women fed up to the teeth with having their basic rights used as "scented bathroom tissue" by the tyrants of the day. They realized certain truths like "There is no compromising with the self appointed "elite", "My land is my own, and no one has the right to take it from me", and most importantly, "If you refuse to fight for your freedom, it will surely be taken from you". They banded together in rag tag, poorly armed, poorly supplied groups, and went on to change the course of history.

What many people fail to realize is that we live in circumstances today; very similar to those that precipitated the American Revolution. Rather than the British Empire, we have entered the next century beholden to elements within our own government, who routinely and without remorse, pass legislation that abolishes in a very real way, the rights aranted to us in the document that is the founding pillar our country. Our president has taken the path of governing by "Executive Order," thus bypassing the Constitutional protection of our Congress. An assortment of nongovernmental organizations and agencies like the EPA, BLM, USFS and others have closely mimicked the actions of the Redcoats in deciding what, where, when, how, and why the ands of "King William the Worst" are to be distributed, and ultimately used by the serfs - I.E. - us. I'm proud to say that to my knowledge, none of my readers were among the 'offended" by the rent-a-duner article. It's truly a joy knowing that you guys n' gals have your priorities in order.

I guess I'm going to finish off this month's column by venting. This is a lot cheaper than therapy; What in the high hell is wrong with people? I mean, come on. Off-Roaders are supposed to be the "last of the pioneers," the cowboys in the black hats, and a 4-wheeled counterpart to Brando's crew of "Wild Ones."

There's a reason for those "Bad Boy" stickers on the back window! Besides, chicks dig it.

Imagine my surprise! I just found out is that there's a small and vocal portion of this sport who thinks pioneering is a bad thing, Black hats are a form of repressed racism, and wildness should be addressed with a suitable dosage of Prozac!

And how do I "feeeeel" about that? Oh please. I actually had one complainant tell me, get this, "We have to promote the impression that OHV use is not in any way environmentally damaging" Thud.... (Note editor picking himself off the floor in stunned amazement and wonder)

What moron thinks that OHV use is a zero impact endeavor? If it were even possible to use an OHV with "Zero Impact", why in the name of all things green would we have needed a "Tread Lightly" program? Even hiking is understood by the greenies to cause some impact. Now, all of a sudden, we have to blatantly lie to people and tell them we are as environmentally friendly to the firmest of terra as a bird in flight? Oh, being "liars" will really spiff up the ol' image...... Hey you, get off of my cloud.

A couple months back, I pointed out that in 2000, the proverbial gloves were coming off. Now, I'm going to clarify that. For years uncounted, elements within this sport have wasted a blatantly stupid amount of time, effort, and resource in the attempt to pacify the un-pacifiable, correct an image they feel is the root of all evil, and make the sport of offroading "more palatable" to the masses.

Unfortunately, many of us have taken that path. Before my "awakening," I too thought these things were possible. Well, they aren't. Now we're going to do something about it. We are done playing games with semi-governmental non-profit orgs. We're going to have a look and see just where all that money, time, and resource went, and what it accomplished. We're going to show the manufacturers that there is a market out there that doesn't give a damn how their product scores on a "Tread Lightly" commercial rating chart, or whether or not it caused a Sierra Club "Action Alert" to be spammed to their drooling minions.

We don't need some self-appointed "expert" to tell us what we should buy. You build the products we want, we'll buy them. Simple. Let's cut out the middleman. Isn't it strange that the best selling vehicle the world over is a truck, despite millions of Eco-friendly dollars telling us that they are evil gas hogs that are destroying the planet? On the day that someone in the automotive ad world figures out that "The American People" aren't going to buy a Yugo instead of an Excursion, no matter how often the Sierra Club tells us to, the battle will be won. On the day that the politico du' jour realizes that there are far more voters concerned with food, shelter and clothing, than in the latest invented ecopocalypse that will surely never come to pass, that victory will be set in stone.

But, perhaps, most importantly, on the day that the average American remembers how to think for himself, and not rely on someone else - i.e., the collective "Media" to think and make decisions for him / her, that victory will endure forevermore. We're offering an unfiltered news / entertainment outlet that deals in fact and reality vs. the easily bought / easily led propaganda mills that masquerade as print and television media.

We are 1.5 million readers strong and growing - many times the size of the largest eco-group - with all the voting and buying power needed to take the fickle green whims of the eco-elite off the radar screens and advertising agendas of both politicos and corporate America. Our votes are larger in number - our buying power is far greater. It's a simple equation that adds up to victorious election campaigns, and a fatter bottom line.

1.5 million votes? Think we can greatly influence the outcome of an election? 1.5 million targeted and prequalified buyers? Think that will help or hinder your fiscal outlook?

And what of those few but vocal readers who want the status quo unchanged? Must we not bend over backwards to satisfy them? No, we ain't gonna' do that Binky. We're going to help this sport grow, not compromise our way into obscurity, and we don't intend to help anyone who will. Can people disagree? Certainly. Do we have all the answers? Certainly not. The bottom line is this. We've tried it "thier way". It didn't work. Now it's time to stop reenacting Viet Nam and win this little green war.

And nobody ever said war was pretty.

# THE CONVERSATION WENT SOMETHING LIKE

**THIS:** (a little humor from the web)

"Hey you still got that motorsickle fer sale?", asked the voice on the other end of the phone, in an apprehensive 'I don't know what the hell I'm talking about' voice. "yes I still have it", I replied. "What kinda sickle is that?", he stated. "It's a Kawasaki", I said. At this point I thought, "Great, I get one call about this bike this week and the idiot doesn't know that the ad for the '98KX250-good condition' means it's a Kawasaki". "Can you ride it on the road?" was the next question. Well at this point I knew I had someone that didn't know KX from KZ and it didn't matter what my replies were from that point on. "Yeah I ride it on the road. 'specially in

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Colorado on my yearly trip out there", I said, giving up all hopes of being able to keep a straight face and keep up being honest. Then guilt hit me. "No it's a Moto, uh, I mean Motorcross bike", I said, knowing he'd be much more likely to understand that terminology. "You can't legally ride it on the roads".

Just when I thought things couldn't get much worse he asked the question of all questions. The question that makes every hard-core rider get a cold chill all the way down the spine. "How's the power band in that thing, I'm not buyin' something all ragged out, you know". Losing all sense of self pride I found myself answering, "The power band is fine as the engine pulls from way down low and makes excellent power from there on". I figured I answered the question without stating the device actually existed and yet made him think it did an it was in good shape.

"How's the wheel bearings", he said. WHEEL BEARINGS? who %#%^ asks about wheel bearings? Then I thought. Well I DID have all those problems with that '96 XR400. went thru 7 sets of rear wheel bearings in 1.5 years, if the old memory serves me right. "The wheel bearings are just fine. I check them all the time and it's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of wheel bearings on both the front and rear, which is pretty good for 2 years". "You race that thing". "Yes I ride Hare scrambles and an occasional Enduro and a rare Moto(r)cross". "What do you want for it", he asked. Finally. Now were gettin' somewhere here!! "I want \$3500 for it I replied", trying to leave a little room for negotiations. "You take \$3200 for it", he retorted almost immediately. "Well I'd think about it if you were really interested, but that would be less than I thought I'd consider". "Why you sellin' that sickle". "I bought a new one", I replied making it sound like I got another Kawasaki. "You get you one of them YELLOW BIKES?", he stated. Long pause on my line. "All right a#%&\*le who the hell am I talkin' to", I said. "Well I'm right outside in your driveway", the voice said. I looked out to the driveway to see who it was - No other than my most recent EX-FRIEND, Gary.

Friends! You can't live with 'em and you can't shoot 'em. But you CAN roost them all you want!!!!!!

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- The ETRA Club of Eugene officially challenges other clubs to donate at least \$500 towards the OMRA legislative fun!
- Avoid the Tillamook Forest/Trask Area on the weekend of April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> due to a rally car race being held there. In fact, go watch cars do their best at ISDE format racing.
- Millican Valley status: At this moment, the judge said that the Millican Valley closure judgement stands, so we are reorganizing our litigation plan. Stay tuned.
- All clubs need to submit organized and legible event results promptly to points director Dave Cook. Please also include worker points and DNF's.



# The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Dog "Y2K9" 2-Day AMA National Dualsport Ride, July 8~9, 2000 sponsored by Beaverton

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Come ride the Northwest's biggest and best dualsport ride! This is not a race, but an on/off road, scenic, historical motorcycle ride through the beautiful Mt. Hood National Forest. Each day's "main" course is easily traversable by larger dualsport bikes, however there are plenty of advanced trail "options" to keep even AA enduro riders entertained. Rest assured that your mother didn't lay out this course! Location is at Zig-Zag,

#### Oregon <u>\$200 cash prize</u> to one random entry! Free t-shirts go to the first 50 pre-entries, so hurry!

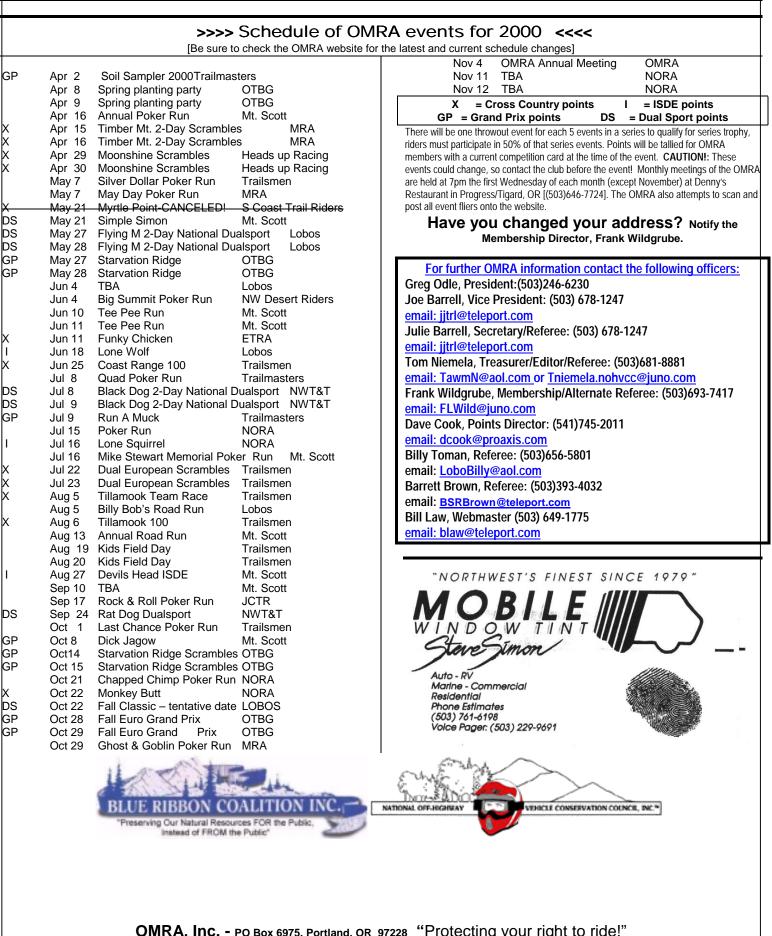
Enduro style rollchart holder highly recommended. Bikes with loud exhausts will not be allowed to ride



this event. 92db or less will continue to keep this great riding area open. Course is approximately 150 miles each day. Course will be roll chart style and is accurate to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a mile – accurate! Pavement kept to a minimum. Your bike must be able to go at least 80 miles on a tank of gas. Plenty of trophies and prizes for most everyone! To receive a flier for this event, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Black Dog, 1101 SE 53<sup>rd</sup> Court, Hillsboro, OR, 97123. For more information call: (503) 681-8881 or email: <u>TawmN@aol.com</u> There are plenty of camping facilities and local amenities. All dogs must be on a leash – even black ones. © Or check out the Northwest Tour & Trail website:

http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/NonProfitBlvd/tawm/nwtnt.htm

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\*Non-Competition Event (dual-sport, poker runs, etc.) \$5.00 (per day) \*Competition Racing Points Event \$70.00 (per day) Separate Legislative Fund (for fighting land closures, etc.): \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500

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