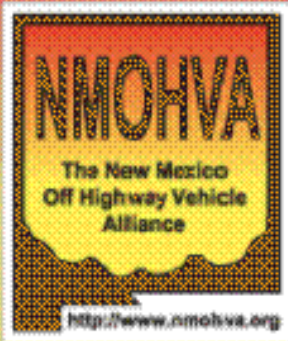


From: New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance [mark@nmohva.ccsend.com] on behalf of New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance [prez@nmohva.org]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2010 8:00 AM
To: Werkmeister, Mark R
Subject: January NMOHVA Newsletter

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New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance



NMOHVA Member Newsletter

January

2010

Upcoming Events

Jan 4 - Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Advisory Board Meeting
Jan 19 - Start of NM Legislative Session
Feb 18 - End of NM Legislative Session
Feb 24-27 - Chile Challenge
Mar 27 - NMOHVA Annual 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.

A Happy (and an Exciting) New Year to Our Members!

Wow! We have another year in the rear view mirror and a fresh and exciting year in front of all of us. The days are officially getting longer, the warmth of spring is closer than one would think, and it is time to make plans for the upcoming year.

We all tend to focus on the 'problems' and 'issues' facing our sport. Those troubles are very real and definitely demand the attention of all us but let us not forget the flip side. We live in a very beautiful state and we have tremendous opportunities to help create, preserve, and protect the roads and trails that allow us to fully enjoy New Mexico.

Your Board is getting ready for the upcoming Legislative session. This year is a 30 day session which means the legislative session will be focused on budget issues. The special session at the end of 2009 was a pretty good preview of the financial challenges that are facing the state. NMOHVA will be keeping a close eye on the proceedings as the Trail Safety Fund continues to be a potential target for 'raids' as everyone scrambles to find money.

The NMOHVA Annual Meeting is also coming up on March 27th. While

it is still almost three months away, it is not too early to pencil the date in on your calendars. What should NMOHVA be working on? The Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to provide direct input to the efforts NMOHVA will engage in during the coming year.

We anticipate that several major Travel Management Plans for New Mexico's forests will be formally considered during the coming months. As always, we will do our best to keep our membership informed as to what is happening, the best ways to influence the process, and how all of us can keep the roads and trails of New Mexico open to motorized recreation.

We hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting or meet you on the road or trail this year.

Mark
President

Get to Know - The New Mexico Trials Association

By Chris Johnson

One of New Mexico's least known OHV clubs is also one of its oldest. The New Mexico Trials Association (NMTA) is a group of people who participate in the obscure sport of motorcycle observed trials. Records show that the club has been holding American Motorcyclist Association-sanctioned events since 1975 and old-timers remember events from even further back.

Observed trials traces its roots back to Europe and the first days of motorcycling. The "reliability trials" of the early 20th Century tested a rider's ability to keep fragile machines running over primitive roads. As motorcycles' durability improved, the events moved off-road, onto terrain where walking was often difficult, and became tests of riding skills. In modern trials, an 'observer' watches the rider attempt a 'section,' and counts the number of times the rider has to 'dab,' or put a foot down to keep balance; the fewer dabs, the lower the score.

NMTA's early history coincides with the surging popularity of Spanish and Japanese off-road motorcycle brands of the late 1960's and early 1970's. Trials riding was thought to be the next 'big thing' in the US, and manufacturers imported thousands of machines. We even had a world champion, Bernie Schreiber, in 1978. For some reason, trials never caught on here like motocross did and remains far more popular in Europe.

Some New Mexican trial riders compete nationally and NMTA is one of the best-represented clubs in the North American Trials Council's national series of events. NMTA has hosted national events at Sipapu, Taos Ski Valley, and San Ysidro. However, one of the major appeals of observed trials is that riders of all skill levels can compete. NMTA's club events have skill level classes ranging from Junior (for young kids) and Beginner, through Intermediate, to Expert and Champ. NMTA's club events are truly family-friendly, often with three generations competing at various levels.



An important part of NMTA's history is its stewardship of the land where it holds events. While the club has lost some historical event sites to development and land-use restrictions, it has worked hard to cultivate healthy relationships with private landowners and the federal land agencies. By adhering to rules like the use of spark arrestors and trials-patterned tires, and by conducting service projects to help maintain riding areas, NMTA has demonstrated its commitment to responsible use. Because of this record, NMTA has enjoyed nearly forty years of access to public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the

Santa Fe and Carson National Forests.

NMTA holds monthly club events throughout the year. In the summer, NMTA escapes the heat and rides at places like Sipapu and Lake Fork Canyon in the Jemez Mountains. The schedule for the cooler months includes events at Haystack Mountain OHV Area near Roswell and at NMTA's home area near San Ysidro. NMTA welcomes new members and spectators who want to experience the fun of observed trials. The event schedule, general information, photo galleries, and rulebook are all available on the club's website at www.nmtrials.org.

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