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**LIFE MEMBERS:**

Steve Fox  
 Oscar Love III  
 Harry Wagner

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



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

HAPPY TRAILS!

NOV 2008

**NMOHVA Builds Awareness of Motorized  
 Recreation at State Trails Conference**

New Mexico State Parks hosted the *New Mexico State Trails Conference* in Albuquerque on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The State Trails Conference was the first in many years and State Parks hopes that it will be the first of many annual conferences. Mark Werkmeister, NMOHVA President and member of the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board, was asked to participate in the conference program by arranging and hosting a session focused on motorized recreation.

The Off-Highway Vehicle Program session included an update by Mona Medina, New Mexico Tourism Department, on the New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Safety Board and its activities since it was formed by the OHV law passed in 2005. The 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation was made by Jim Cooper, Planning Consultant for Pan Pacific Services.

*(continued inside)*

**NMOHVA Welcomes  
 New Life Member**

Oscar Love has joined NMOHVA as a **LIFE MEMBER**. Oscar has been riding motorcycles since he was seven or eight years old. He got his early start as a result of his father's friendship with Bob Johnson (Bobby J's Yamaha). Oscar's long time friendship with Stan Johnson led to 30+ years of riding in the dirt all across the Southwest. Oscar and Stan have been riding snowmobiles together for almost as long and they have been all over the Rocky Mountain states on their sleds. Oscar is also an avid Jeoper and boater and enjoys those activities as time permits.

NMOHVA welcomes Oscar to our family and appreciates his very generous support #

**NMOHVA Hosts First  
 Meet & Greet**



Socorro Valley 100 attendees swarm the free food during the "Meet and Greet"

NMOHVA hosted a free "Meet & Greet" Bar-B-Que on the Saturday evening before the Socorro Valley 100. Members of NMOHVA's Board of Directors were manning the grills and serving up free hamburgers and hot dogs to all attendees! *(continued on inside)*

## Economic Impact of USFS Management

NMOHVA members are residents of the towns, cities, and counties of the state; and we are deeply concerned with the economic impact the Forest Service's planning decisions will have on communities already hit hard by the recent economic downturn. Some states such as Arizona, Utah, and Tennessee have studied and recognized the economic opportunity presented by OHV use and tourism and have sought to expand that opportunity. NMOHVA seeks to help New Mexico realize similar benefits.

In 2002, the State of Arizona funded a study of random resident households conducted by Arizona State University via telephone surveys and mail questionnaires that found the total economic impact of in-state participation in OHV recreation (not including out-of-state visitors) was *more than \$4*

*billion*. The study also found that, "an economic benefit is generated when OHV recreationists spend money in local communities close to areas they recreate in for items such as gasoline, food, lodging and souvenirs. These direct purchases provide indirect benefits by helping to pay for many people's salaries and wages, and contributing to local and state tax revenues."

In Utah in 1990, the Fishlake National Forest worked with four counties to create the Paiute ATV Trail System: 871 miles of trail loops and networks linking 16 communities, even extending to other trail networks for more than 1500 miles of trail for OHV recreation. The Forest Service collaborated with the Utah Office of Tourism, local communities, and businesses to

count the number of trail users, survey visitors during three ATV 'Jamboree' events, and estimate the economic impact from the trail system. The Fishlake National Forest published a document in which they stated that they "calculate the trail brought \$7,085,100 into the local economy in 2003, and \$8,492,880 in 2006." They also stated, "[o]ur local economic development folks tell us that an outside dollar rolls over four and a half times before it leaves the area. Using this 4½ multiplier the Paiute booted the local economy of central Utah by more than 38 million dollars in 2006."

It is NMOHVA's position that, given the tremendous resource that careful management of New Mexico's public lands provides, eliminating OHV tourism opportunities by reducing OHV recreation opportunity is doing a terrible disservice to the people of New Mexico. #

## Access Defense Fund "Balances the Scales"

NMOHVA established its Access Defense Fund early this year. Ever wonder why we need one? The purpose behind the Fund is to give NMOHVA the realistic ability to sue if the need arises.

With the Forest Service's Travel Management Rule going into implementation and many of the BLM's offices revising their Resource Management Plans, our existing roads and trails are being threatened across the state as never before. NMOHVA is committed to working with the managing agencies to preserve and protect our existing riding and to promote new opportunities wherever we can.

We are naïve if we think that all of the decisions are going to be as fair as we want them. As we pointed out in the January 2008 newsletter, we must have the ability to sue if the BLM or Forest Service makes a faulty decision or fails to adequately follow the prescribed processes. There are many organizations pushing both the BLM and the Forest Service to completely kick us off of the roads and trails we have used for decades. These 'closurist' organizations are often well funded. They have a long history of suing the Forest Service and BLM and intimidating them with the threat of lawsuits.

NMOHVA's Access Defense Fund has the sole purpose of changing all that. Litigation is ALWAYS the last resort but having the ability to challenge decisions in court helps balance the scales and ensure that we get a fair shake as the Forest Service and BLM make their decisions.

The Access Defense Fund is funded completely through voluntary contributions. The Fund is kept separately from NMOHVA's other funds. The Fund will be used to support legal actions undertaken by NMOHVA and other organizations. Since NMOHVA is a 501c3 organization contributions ARE tax deductible. Contributions may be sent to: NMOHVA Access Defense Fund, 13170-B Central Ave. SE PMB #322 Albuquerque, NM 87123 #



## Update on USFS Travel Management Planning

Carson National Forest  
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel\\_mgmt/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel_mgmt/index.shtml)

From the Carson NF website:

The Carson National Forest is committed to designating roads, trails, and areas open to motorized traffic by October 2009.

This timeline includes the following steps:

**2008:** Scoping, Pubic Comments on Proposed Action, Analysis of Comments & Alternative Development.

**2009:** NEPA Document Preparation, Notice and Comment Period (30 Days), Decision Document and Implementation.

Cibola National Forest  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/index.shtml>

Sandia Ranger District - The Decision Notice was issued in July 2008.

Mt. Taylor Ranger District – The Proposed Action was released in early October which started the official NEPA process. The Scoping Comment period ended on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The next step will be the release of the Scoping Report and the Draft Environmental Assessment. The rest of the Cibola National Forest Schedule is unchanged as follows:

- Mountainair Ranger District 2008-2009
- Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands 2009-2010
- Magdalena Ranger District 2009-2010

The Gila is expected to start the scoping process in Spring of 09. There is a wealth of info on there web page including maps that

show public input from the first round of input. The Gila plans on moving forward with a forest wide approach rather than district by district.

Lincoln National Forest  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln/projects/TMR/public.shtml>

The proposed action is due to be released any day.

Santa Fe National Forest  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgmt/index.html>

The comment period for scoping closed on 9/2/08 and we are now waiting for the SFNF to develop alternatives and publish a draft environmental impact statement. On released, there will be a 45 day comment period, stay tuned#

Mark Toney  
Recreation Resources Director  
Silver City, NM

## NMOHVA Builds Awareness of Motorized Recreation (cont'd from front page)

Jim talked about the requirements for successful recreation planning in an 'urban interface' environment. Jim's presentation is the result of his many years of experience in planning and executing motorized recreation trail systems for the Forest Service and BLM. Jim was the focus of much interest and many questions by Forest Service and BLM attendees of the session. Conference attendees could choose from a variety of sessions including a discussion on liability issues for trail systems, trails funding under current NM law, long distance trail creation in NM, and trail design and standards.

NMOHVA was well-represented by four members from its Board of Directors. While this year's conference was more oriented toward pedestrian and urban trails than motorized recreation, we look forward to future opportunities to participate in the conference. It is an excellent opportunity to educate land management professionals on providing better quality motorized recreation and building partnerships with both state and federal officials.#

## NMOHVA Hosts First Meet & Greet (cont'd from front page)

Why a free Bar-B-Que hosted by NMOHVA? "We just wanted the opportunity for us to meet our membership and give our members a chance to meet us in an informal setting," said NMOHVA President Mark Werkmeister. Judging by the satisfied looks after dinner, NMOHVA's first "Meet & Greet" Bar-B-Que was a big success!#

