



ITMA Newsletter

October 2016

2017 State Ride: First Announcement!

The 2017 State Ride will take place at the High Creek Corrals on the Fairfield Ranger District of the Sawtooth National Forest. This riding area is located about 25 miles north of Fairfield along the South Fork of the Boise River very near to the Methodist Camp. This is the same site that hosted the 2002 ITMA State Ride. Dates coming soon!

The ITMA is still working on becoming an AMA chartered club in order to provide more affordable insurance option for the state ride and other potential ITMA events. To do this we need you to send us a list of your club members who also have an AMA membership, their AMA membership numbers, the date of the expiration of their membership, and the zip code that they reside in. Please send these lists to marc@nohvcc.org or call him at 208-416-3557.



Payette NF Faces Lawsuit Over Travel Plan

The Payette National Forest has been served with notice of a lawsuit brought forward by the Wildearth Guardians. This lawsuit has been filed due to alleged violations of the Endangered Species Act and claims that the 2007 travel plan does not provide adequate protection and habitat for Bull Trout. The ITMA and IRC will be meeting with an attorney next week to discuss options and involvement moving forward. We will keep you posted as more information is available.

Mentoring At The Club Level Leads To A Trail Of OHV Benefits by Dave Halsey, NOHVCC Contributing Writer From NOHVCC Newsletter-July 2017

"Mentoring for non-profits"

An internet search with those words leads to a list of about 500,000 results.

Mentoring is a universal concept. Parents and teachers serve as mentors for children. Companies, government agencies and non-profit organizations create mentoring programs, offering guidance and support to help younger workers get a jump start on their careers.



Off-highway vehicle (OHV) clubs and organizations can look at mentoring as a way to strengthen membership, participation and partnerships, and -- borrowing the NOHVCC mission statement-- "create a positive future for OHV recreation."

"If you're not mentoring people, you should be," said Karen Umphress, NOHVCC IT and Project Manager. "It's especially important if your OHV club is going to survive long-term. The goal isn't to build an organization that revolves around its club president or board members. The goal is to build an organization that survives after they leave."

Mentoring is more than delegating. But mentoring can start with delegating. Assigning members to club projects and events -- and providing instruction along the way -- helps them learn how things work: how trails are built, how state and federal agencies work, how to properly partner with them, and much more. As members get more involved in club activities, they will be more successful as team leaders and board members.

Mentoring moves information to the next generation of leaders

Like many of today's advocates of OHV recreation, Marc Hildesheim grew up in a family of OHV riders and club leaders, attending his first meeting in elementary school. "I was raised riding motorcycles and clearing trails," he said. "My grandpa told me that I would be a club leader someday. Our family took a lot of pride in the club, and still does today."

Hildesheim started riding dirt bikes at age 4, and rode straight to a career in OHV recreation. He has held positions of Trail Ranger and Trail Specialist in Idaho, and OHV Education Coordinator and OHV Staff Manager in New Mexico. Today he is a Project Manager with NOHVCC, returning to his roots in Idaho, and is still very involved in the OHV club started by his grandfather.

His experience makes him a mentor to everyone in his club, the Brush Bunch Motorcycle Club. Said Hildesheim, "It's become my responsibility to communicate what's in Forest Service Travel Management Plans, and why we should write letters during public comment periods. Things to consider when we're entering into a challenge cost-share. What the trail standards are when we go out on a work day. Why we have to cut everything to a certain width even though dirt bikes can get through on a lot narrower trail. It's not general knowledge. It's things you learn along the way and pass on to future club leaders.

"We need to share all that institutional knowledge we've learned over the years, on how things get done and who you need to talk to, and how to work with our partners and stakeholders, to make sure that our trail work, agreements, and events continue to be successful."



Consider "reverse mentoring" to attract more, younger riders to your club

The future of OHV clubs, and the trails they build and maintain, depends on club membership: building it and getting the next generation involved. Millennials recently overtook baby boomers as the largest generation at work, and by 2020 will be more than half of the nation's workforce. They are the ones using new technology, both in powersports equipment and social media. And they can teach us senior OHV riders and club leaders a thing or two...if we give them a chance to talk and we listen to them.

In the corporate world, UnitedHealth Group, a large health care company, rolled out a reverse mentoring program. It pairs eight senior executives in its insurance division with eight millennials who were seen as "emerging leaders." The average age gap is 25 years.

OHV clubs don't need a mentoring program as structured as a large company. But they can use some of the same principals. Hildesheim believes inviting young riders to club meetings, then listening to them and considering their input and ideas, is critical to keeping OHV clubs active and growing. "We need to spark that conversation. We can do that by simply asking ourselves, 'What can we do to bridge the age gap in recruiting new members?'" Then, as younger members do get involved and create success for the club, be sure to acknowledge them. Some clubs have gone so far as creating college scholarships for students. "Recognizing their contribution or success is an important part of mentoring," said Hildesheim.

Mentoring by state and federal agencies also helps

Mentoring isn't restricted to club leaders. Hildesheim encourages public land managers to also mentor OHV riders, especially those who don't belong to a club or state association. "That's something I've been pushing with land managers: mentoring the public on why it's important to belong to a club. The trend is not to join. But people still want to volunteer. They want to do trail work. As our partners in agencies come across these folks, they have a great opportunity to explain why it's important to belong to a club. The Forest Service and State agencies work with the clubs on just the kind of projects volunteers are looking for. That also mentors the volunteer toward being part of an organized voice."

NOHVCC has plenty of OHV mentoring tools

NOHVCC has created and compiled materials to assist clubs in their mentoring efforts. The NOHVCC library includes hundreds of useful documents and presentations on all things OHV related. The most common tool requested from NOHVCC is the Club Start-Up Kit. It has helped hundreds of people successfully create OHV clubs. It also provides information and samples to help you build your organizational and collaborative skills, and make the most efficient and effective use of your time. Other tools available for you to help mentor new members on planning, building and maintaining OHV trails, include NOHVCC webinars, workshops, the new Great Trails guide, and, of course, this free monthly newsletter.

The best place to start is clicking on the topics across the top of the home page of the NOHVCC website (nohvcc.org). "This is just the beginning," said Umphress. "NOHVCC has mentoring tools available and people to answer your questions. Put them to work and they will trickle down to OHV state associations, clubs and their members."



BEST OF THE BEST: BLM OHV RIDING AREAS

NOHVCC and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) need your assistance in showcasing the best OHV riding opportunities in the country. You can help NOHVCC and the BLM by nominating your favorite BLM riding areas by filling out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J722TD2>. The riding areas you nominate will be compiled into a list to be voted on by you and other OHV enthusiasts across the country.

The riding areas receiving the most votes will be recognized at the NOHVCC annual conference, the NOHVCC newsletter, and will be featured prominently on the national BLM website on a page that will identify the best BLM riding areas in the country. We cannot complete this task without you so please help us in recognizing the fantastic riding areas you enjoy.

