



Volunteer Riders Newsletter

President – Preston Teague

Vice President – Curtie Eldridge

Secretary – Blake Arnold

Treasurer – Brian Kimmit

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Club News

- **Father's Day Ride** - On June 17th, about 20 guys bared the heat and rode our annual Father's Day ride at Royal Blue.
- **Family Fun Day** - This is starting to become an annual event too. A BIG thanks to Steve Staab and his family for opening up their property and swimming pool for a great family fun day. Yes I did say family, Wives, girlfriends, and kids were all welcome to come and ride on the tight single track, motocross track or pasture field. Then cool off in the big concrete pond. The parents love that too, because they don't have to bathe the kids when they get home. Let's not forget the burgers and dawgs either.
- **TKO** - The Tennessee Knock Out was this past Sunday. There was a great turn out from club members, about 20 was there to spectate. Cody Webb and Graham Jarvis were your top two riders, lapping all the way to 3rd place. Rounding out the 3rd place was Mario Roman. Let's not forget our own Vol Riders, Drew Kirby and Will Presson raced in the event this year too.
- **Sportsmen Group Rides** – If you prefer a more relaxed pace with more frequent breaks, then keep an eye out for rides tagged as "Sportsmen Group".
- **Vol Riders Stickers!!** – Think we still have some of the Vol Rider stickers available to bling your bike out! Stop by the meeting this week and pick up a set for your bike or truck!! They come in sets of 2 stickers each, \$10 a set.
- **Windrock/Coal Creek permits** – Everyone, please be sure to purchase your annual permit for Windrock. **Fees have increased to ~\$100.** They are starting get a bit tougher on enforcement of permits and even checking at the Brown's parking lot. Don't want the club sending out bad vibes by having a member get caught without one. See notes at end of newsletter for purchase info.

Talking Dirt from Gary Pugh:

TKO Observations

My declaration from this time last year that I would train and prepare to enter the 2017 edition of the TKO having long since faded, and not having a shop supported rider, I resigned myself to finding someone to ride down with to watch Sundays Knockouts. First call was to Preston Teague who said I would be welcome to join him along with Scott Cox and Allen Goins. We met up and hit the road and the topic of where to stop for breakfast soon came up, and it was presidentially decided that Cracker Barrel would be the place. "Cracker Barrel?, isn't that like Hooters for women?" I asked. Strangest thing, we pulled into the one in Lenoir City and not one single car in the parking lot except for two in the back that I thought could have been abandoned or someone sleeping off a little bit of too good a time Saturday night. The place looking like they were out of business, they sent me in to check and see if they were open before committing to a parking spot, of which they would have their pick. The door swung open, so I gave the signal to proceed, and upon entering, it was almost surreal, we were the only ones in the place. We had our eggs and all the fixin's and anything we couldn't finish, Scott took care of, and I was given a hard time for ordering hot tea.

Conversation while on the road covered mostly new trucks,(one of which Preston had), toy haulers, and CR500's, and before we knew it we were in a long line of cars, uh, trucks to enter the Trials Training Center. I have been to every TKO except 2013 when I got the chance to go to Indy for Moto GP the same weekend, and it has grown enormously, both in competitors and spectators, really good to see. In past years I had been able to get some pretty prime spots to set up a tent for our race bikes and get good exposure, now bikes are crowded in everywhere, standing room only.

Volunteer Riders Club are well represented with members racing and doing very well I might add, and you didn't have to look much more than 20 feet to see someone you knew from the local dirt bike community. Not going to list all of our members that competed, with about half of them advancing to the second round, but the notable ones were 16 year old Paul Teffeteller who made it into the second round, and Drew Kirby who easily advanced to the Pro round, and Will Presson who was pre-qualified from his efforts last year

The day started off with a bang with the Hot Lap in the Enduro X infield course for the 30 amateurs that had advanced and all of the Pros. They have made the course much more difficult than in past years, starting by jumping off of a large shipping container. We all have seen plenty of videos of Graham Jarvis riding and racing, so it was pretty cool to be just a few feet away from him as he raced by, larger than life. Hard Enduro used to be about just plunking along and clearing obstacles, but I think Johnny Walker changed that a few years ago when he started charging whenever he could. I have been watching Cody Webb since he was just a Trials rider and Beta handed him a 350 and told him to go race it. He was always good at the obstacles, but what I noticed this weekend was no matter where I saw him on the course, he was charging like it was a MX or GNCC.

The humbling thing about this is, we know how much vastly better Drew and Will are than us normal people, and to see them get tired and struggle along with a lot of other riders that would be like superman compared to the rest of us, makes me feel pretty insignificant. The top guys, Webb, Jarvis, Roman, Ashburn, are obviously tired and working hard getting around there and giving it their all, but watching the top amateurs that advanced is another story. They have tossed their goggles, they are dirty, jerseys are ripped, and we are close enough to peer into their helmets and see their blank faces, eyes like zombies, yet they push on. Fans along the way yell words of encouragement, give bottles of water, bananas, and they gladly devour them.

My competitive racing background makes me yearn to be out there with them, but I am realistic about my abilities, so I try to help my buddies when I can. It does make me feel good when I can point out a line to Drew and Will, and they listen to me instead of the other 20 guys yelling at them. Both of them advanced to the second Knockout, so I went over their bikes to make sure they were ready while they rested. Drew's bike had a bearing out of the rear brake lever, but he said he was ok with it. I found wobbly rear wheel bearings on Wills bike, but decided they would make one more race and what he didn't know wouldn't hurt him. After a while it was decided they should be changed and we had plenty of time, but approximately seven eager and excited mechanics jumped on it like it was a Formula 1 pit stop, and it turned out to be a comical circus, taking about three times as long as normal if one guy did it taking his time. Imagine large hammers, two foot long punches, dirty grease, fourteen hands, and many expert opinions. But it was all about the spirit and pride of our close knit group wanting to help them do as well as they could. Where our riding skill stopped surely our help and enthusiasm picked up.

I won't go into all of the race action that has been documented elsewhere, Jarvis challenged Webb more than I have seen anyone else at the TKO, actually passing him at one point only to fall and give it back. After seeing goggles being thrown off all day, one interesting observation was in the final event, Graham Jarvis did the entire race with goggles in place. Webb knows that place so well, it might be awhile before he is beaten, but the sport evolves, and most likely a new young charger will come along with new techniques and challenge him.

See you on the trails, GP

Upcoming Events/Club Rides:

- **Monthly Club Meeting** - Meeting this Thursday, August 17th at Time Warp Tea room, 7:30 pm.
- **Annual Summer Night Ride** - The summer night ride was scheduled for August the 5th, but has been rescheduled to this weekend. Date and time to be organized at the meeting this Thursday.

Permit Info

For TWRA managed land - Now known as the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. (WMA) (Royal Blue/Sundquist/Brimstone sections) This includes what we have known for years as Royal Blue, and what use to be the lower half of Brimstone. \$61 Annual Resident OHV Permit, **OR** you can get a type 01 hunting/fishing license (\$28) **and** a \$17 Type 093 WMA small game permit (for a total of \$45). You can get it at any Walmart.

Coal Creek / Windrock – Annual permits are \$100 and MUST be purchase at the Windrock General Store at the main entrance in Oliver Springs. Daily permits are \$17 and can also be purchased at the General store, at the Shell Station in Oliver Springs, or Ginger's on Hwy 116. UPDATE: I dont believe Gingers is selling permits as of now. I check there this past spring and she did not have any. I will check again and keep you updated.

New Members / Visitors

None

2017 Club Points

Stay Tuned!