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News & Notes is a monthly publication compiled and edited by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Government Relations Department. Designed to inform motorcyclists of 'rights'-related issues and events around the world, News and Notes welcomes your input. Suggestions and contributions can be sent to Sheila Andrews, AMA Legislative Assistant, by e-mail at [sandrews@ama-cycle.org](mailto:sandrews@ama-cycle.org).

**The AMA is proud to announce Stan Simpson** as the 2008 AMA Motorcyclist of the Year. Simpson, who is the current AMA Board of Directors Chairman, was honored with the inaugural AMA Motorcyclist of the Year distinction in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the AMA Board of Directors in Irvine, California in December.

The AMA Motorcyclist of the Year is the person who has had the most profound impact on motorcycling in a single calendar year. Under Simpson's leadership, many of the AMA's professional racing properties were sold to an organization capable of elevating the sport, the menu of member benefits was expanded, the American Motorcyclist magazine was redesigned, the Association's Government Relations Department was expanded and the AMA's fiscal house was put in order. Visit <http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/2008/StanSimpsonNominated.asp> for the complete announcement.

**AMA protests possible 100 percent tariffs** on certain European motorcycles. The AMA recently announced that it has written to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative opposing a plan that could double the cost of some on- and off-road European motorcycles imported into the United States. To read the full text of the letter the AMA submitted to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, go to <http://www.amadirectlink.com/news/2008/amatariffight.asp>.

**A recently released U.S. Forest Service** study shows that fewer Americans are using their National Forests as a venue for recreation. Forest Service officials seemed surprised by this news and uncertain as to why this is the case. The statistics are indeed troubling.

The Forest Service began conducting the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program in 2000. The statistically rigorous surveys of visitation levels use a five-year rotation schedule. The NVUM program found 204.8 million visitors annually in the period 2000-2003 and 178.6 million for 2003-2007, a decline of 13 percent. When compared to the ever-increasing U.S. population, the proportion of Americans visiting our national forests is falling even faster.

Every national forest is slated to collect visitor use information again from October 2004 through September 2009. The entire survey can be accessed at [http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/nvum\\_national\\_summary\\_fy2007.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/nvum_national_summary_fy2007.pdf).

**Johnson Valley, CA** - The Department of the Navy is in the initial stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for acquisition of lands contiguous to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, California. This EIS will consider a range of reasonable

alternatives for the proposed action sufficient to meet Marine Expeditionary Brigade training requirements.

For more information visit <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/> (click on land acquisition study). Written comments may be submitted to: 29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project, MAGTFTC, MCAGCC, Bldg. 1554, Box 788104, Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8104 or via e-mail to [SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil](mailto:SMBPLMSWEBPAO@usmc.mil). Comments must be received by Jan 31, 2009 for consideration in the Draft EIS.

**Eagle, ID** - The Eagle police department has decided to test electric scooters on a trial basis. The department recently took possession of one scooter and the mayor will be using another. They are on loan from High Desert Harley-Davidson which hopes to raise public awareness and promote the use of these vehicles. The scooters have a 35-55 mile range on a single charge and use a standard 110/220-volt power outlet.

*Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/165/story/592711.html>*

**Myrtle Beach, SC** - Although a request for an immediate injunction against the city's recently-enacted helmet and noise ordinances has failed a local couple's lawsuit will be allowed to proceed. The state's current helmet law allows anyone 21 years of age or older to choose whether to wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle, while the city law requires anyone riding within city limits to wear a helmet. In a related matter, a new city law requiring an EPA label on exhaust systems is said to be in conflict with the state law and therefore may be unconstitutional.

*Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/story/695402.html>*

**Austin, TX** - The Texas Department of Transportation has launched a new web site that provides an opportunity for motorcyclists to notify department officials of a road hazard. The web site also lists the response that the motorcyclist should expect from such a notification. To visit, go to <http://www.txdot.gov/>; click on "Safety", then "Traffic Safety Tips", then "Motorcycles".

**The Tahoe National Forest** is currently proposing the closure of over 2,400 miles of existing forest roads & trails, which are vital for recreation as well as access for management to promote forest health. These trails lead to vistas, scenic byways, secluded lakes, creeks and primitive camping. None of these trails have been proven to affect water quality, habitats, or plants.

This campaign is supported by Save The Trails, Friends of Forest Hills OHV Trails, Friends of Tahoe Forest Access, Nevada County Woods Riders, Friends of the High Lakes, The Rubicon Trail Foundation, California Off Road Vehicle Association (CORVA), the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (Cal4WD) and others. Visit their letter generator at <http://www.savethetrails.us/Default.aspx?PetitionID=22> to make your voice heard.

**Five new miles of single-track trails** have just been opened on the Buffalo Mountain Trail System, with another 15 miles slated for completion by the end of the year. These additions bring the total trail mileage of Buffalo Mountain to more than 70 miles. It also means that Buffalo Mountain now has the most single-track trail mileage in the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System. The trail system also played host to the first annual Fisher's ATV Reunion.

**Canada** - Motorcyclists across Canada are outraged to learn of Private Members Bill 117 that would amend the Ontario Highway Traffic Act to make it illegal for anyone to operate a motorcycle with a passenger who is under 14 years of age. The bill was introduced by Helena Jaczek, a Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP), who feels that there is enough risk to merit such a law, but others disagree.

The Canada Safety Council, a national, charitable organization that promotes safety in all areas of Canadian life, and sponsors more motorcycle rider training than any other Canadian organization, says that there is simply no information to warrant such a ban. Go to <http://www.motorcycling.ca/> for more information on this proposal.

**Brussels** - ACEM (Association des Constructeurs Européens de Motocycles), the motorcycle industry in Europe, recently presented its strategy to shape the future of motorcycling. On the occasion of its 5th Annual Conference, ACEM outlined an extensive set of measures ensuring that the motorcycles and scooters of tomorrow will be both cleaner and safer.

The European motorcycle and moped market has been growing constantly over the last six years, mainly pushed by an increased mobility demand in European cities. In spite of the looming economic recession, which is expected to also affect the motorcycle and scooter market, ACEM members believe the time is right to commit to new environmental objectives, to maximize the market opportunities and further promoting the motorcycle with authorities as a mobility alternative, in particular in the urban context.

**A new organization has been formed** by the major manufacturers and distributors of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) to promote their safe and responsible use. The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) received American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation on November 3, 2008 to develop a standard for the equipment, configuration and performance requirements of ROVs. In addition, ROHVA has published Safety Rules for these increasingly popular off-highway vehicles.

An ROV, sometimes broadly referred to as a “side-by-side” or “Utility Type Vehicle” (UTV), is a motorized off-highway vehicle designed to travel on four or more non-highway tires, with a steering wheel, non-straddle seating, seat belts, an occupant protective structure, and engine displacement up to 1,000cc.

For further details visit [www.rohva.org](http://www.rohva.org).

**O. L. “Leff” Moore** has been posthumously awarded the 2008 Hulet Hornbeck Award by American Trails. Mr. Moore was the “father” of the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area. He was the co-organizer and energizer of the original development effort. No one has contributed more to the realization of the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area than Mr. Moore, who passed away in the spring of 2004.

The Hatfield-McCoy Trail System is a developing 2,000-mile motorized trail system (500+ miles presently developed) in southern West Virginia that generates more than 100,000 user days a year (as of 2007) and over \$800,000 in permit fees. Through the creation of an extensive public-private partnership, the public trails are located on the vast tracts of corporate-owned land in the nine-county project area. The trails are professionally designed and managed to provide a unique experience for off-highway motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle riders. In addition, equestrians, mountain bicyclists, hikers, and other trail users have also utilized the trail system. The Hatfield-McCoy Trail System has put southern West Virginia on the map as a highly desirable tourism destination, boosting the region’s economy. The total economic impact of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System in 2005 was an increase in

output of \$7,776,116, an increase in income of \$2,789,036 and the generation of 146 new jobs.

Mr. Moore was a native West Virginian born in Putnam County. He was a graduate of Winfield High School and attended West Virginia State College. He was a well-respected advocate for the recreational vehicle industry and the safe operation of recreational vehicles, most notably ATV's, representing local, state and national interests in his role as executive director of the West Virginia Recreational Vehicle Association.

**Chris McNeil**, the statewide Trails Safety and Education Coordinator for the Wyoming State Trails Program, has been recognized as the 2008 State of the Art Technology Award winner by American Trails at their recent National Trails Symposium held in Little Rock, Arkansas.

McNeil received this award for his ATV Safety Simulator. The device hydraulically simulates angular movements of an ATV traveling uphill, downhill, transverse hills left and right, cornering, or a combination of movements, and has proven to be a popular tool with new riders. Along with riding skills, all elements of pre-riding safety (proper safety gear, weight vs. machine size, fit, hazards of riding double, etc.) are emphasized. Land use ethics training is also a big part of the materials presented. For the full press release, visit <http://www.AmericanTrails.org/>.

**The 18th annual Ride to Work Day** has been moved to June 15, 2009, the third Monday of the month. The Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) has endorsed this day, and is promoting the 'Third Monday in June' worldwide as the annual Ride to Work Day. For questions and further information, please visit <http://www.ridetowork.org>.

**The AMA invites nominations** for the prestigious AMA Road Rider of the Year award for 2008. The award embodies the spirit of AMA Road Riding through involvement in AMA clubs, leadership in road riding activities, community involvement, protecting motorcyclists' rights and supporting the Association as a whole. Nominations will be accepted through January 31, 2009. Nominees who may have been considered previously for this award are still eligible; however, they must be resubmitted each year. For more information, visit the AMA's website at [www.amadirectlink.com](http://www.amadirectlink.com) or e-mail [dhembroff@ama-cycle.org](mailto:dhembroff@ama-cycle.org).

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AMA Government Relations *News & Notes* is a monthly service compiled and edited by the AMA Government Relations Staff to keep motorcyclists informed of happenings around the world. We welcome your news & views. Please submit all material to Sheila Andrews, Legislative Assistant, 101 Constitution Ave., NW Suite 800W, Washington, DC 20001; fax (202) 742-4304 or e-mail to [sandrews@ama-cycle.org](mailto:sandrews@ama-cycle.org).