

Trail Poop

Carefully gathered by the fairly inarticulate Tim Bernard at Happy Trails Products. Only the dirt and nothin' but the dirt, well a little bit of pavement to get there.



What is a Dual Sport?

The term Dual Sport has been around for a while and then the phrase Adventure Touring or Adventure Sport has come around lately. I see three different segments or classes of riding that fit these Descriptions.

The first would be the Enduro bike that has been converted to Dual Sport or a DOT legal manufactured bike that has been lightened of its non essential accessories. This is a bike that is primarily designed for single track trail use that has minimal street legal capabilities which will allow the writer to extend his recreation capability. In this case, the writer would carry all of his needed support items in a backpack.

The primary function of this riding would be day trips and not extended trips.

The second would be a DOT legal bike that has minimal single track capabilities and perfectly at home on unmaintained two track roads with at least a 200 mile fuel range. This bike would be used for day trips and occasional overnight trips but would lack the capability to carry the gear needed to sustain the rider for several days.

The third would be a DOT legal bike that has the capability of carrying the gear to sustain the rider for an extended trip and carries at least 5 gallons of fuel. The bike could handle some two track roads but would be much better suited for maintained gravel roads.

I would tend to call the first bike an Enduro Dual Sport bike, the second a Dual Sport Bike and the third an Adventure Touring Bike.

These terms could be debated but for my purposes they make life easier for me when I am talking to people or planning a ride.

When we are trying to decide what motorcycle we need. We have to weigh out, what is best for us. This is often hard to do, and there is no perfect motorcycle. Some bikes just do things better than others.

CMA Nicaragua Mission Trip November 2006; Part 2

Sunday morning we were up early and had a breakfast prepared by Marta and another lady and then it was time to load up on our bus. Our first destination was the Sunday morning service at the NCA Academy across town.

The bus driver Wilson is a wonderful Nicaraguan man that was assigned to drive us around for the week. I really believe Wilson drove in the NASCAR Truck series by the talent he possesses. Wilson is capable of maneuvering the bus within inches of any vehicle at any speed. By the time Wilson was done with us at the end of the trip I truly expected him to pass by doing a smoky burnout holding the checkered flag out the window like the NASCAR drives do. We had two seating positions in the bus, all faced forward except the seat on the water cooler where you faced the rear. When facing forward you could see that on a left hand blind corner Wilson would be half into the oncoming lane setting up the pass when ever he was led by the Holy Spirit. I truly believe it was the Holy Spirit due to the fact that I could not see 200 yards



in front of us. That could have been because of the tears in my eyes. To predict what was happening ahead you just had to look at the antics of the Short Term Missionary Team Member riding shotgun in the front seat. When they threw their hand up in the air you had the deep concern for immediate prayer. I questioned what the term "Short Term Missionary" meant until experiencing the bus ride. It is often said that the Church as whole lacks the power of prayer. I firmly believe that Wilson brought prayer to the top of the agenda for all of those on the team. When you had the opportunity to ride on the water cooler and face backward you could see that many other Nicaraguans had been NASCAR truck drivers also. They would be setting you up for a pass, inches off of your bumper and weaving back and forth just waiting for the opportunity to arise to make a successful pass. Keep in mind that all of these vehicles lack the American Muscle Car Horsepower and the speed it at which they would overtake you would be at best as fast as you could walk. It was a toss up rather to pray forward or backward! We all prayed dearly to become "Long Term Missionary Team Members".

When we stayed in town Wilson slept in the bus at the NCA Academy. Wilson lives out of town and when he works he is away from his family. After the week with us Wilson was going home for 10 days before his next driving assignment. The bus is an Asian Motors product that saw a useful life in Korea and when it was not up to the Korean performance and safety status it was retired to Nicaragua. The engine is a small inline six cylinder naturally aspirated diesel producing a whopping 105 horsepower in its prime. The five speed standard transmission was reliable and that it is the best you can say about it. The ratio in the transmission were as wide as the Midwestern USA.

We consider Nicaragua to be a third world country but the means by which they transport people is far ahead of the US. The vehicles in Nicaragua and much of the rest of the world are designed to transport people efficiently. The term 15 passenger mini van was a new term to me. Most of the vehicles are diesel powered and geared for about 70MPH. We would do good to take notice of this and give car pooling a whole new meaning.

We arrived at the NCA Academy safely and with no need for a caffeine assist to get everybody wide a wake. There were quite a few other short term missionary teams at the Sunday service. After the service we toured the NCA School that is not quite ten years old. The school started with six Missionary Kids (MKs) and has grown to over 300 MKs and Nicaraguans. The school is English based and US accredited. We were again loaded on the bus and were taken to another school, NCA Nejapa, and the Nehemiah center. NCA Nejapa is a Spanish language based school with English taught as a second language. While NCA school tuition is around \$3400 per student for a year NCA Nejapa is considerably less. The Nehemiah center has some rooms, showers kitchen and a large covered open meeting area and the offices are under construction at this time. A very brief description on the Nehemiah Center would be that it is a community of service and learning which trains lay and pastoral leaders in an integral, biblical worldview and encourages local, national and international collaboration of a Christ centered transformational development of communities and nations. International Collaborators of the Nehemiah Center are: Christian Reformed World Missions, CR World Relief Committee, Food for the Hungry International, Missionary Ventures international, Worldwide Christian Schools, Partners Worldwide, Christian Schools International, Medical Ambassadors International and Caribbean Ministries Association. CMA has chosen to support Missionary Ventures international through the 20% of the donations collected from the CMA Run for the Son the first Saturday in May of every year. The 2006 contribution from CMA to MVI was over \$640,000.00. The main focus of the donation is to provide motorcycle transportation to third world rural Pastors. MVI uses the money very wisely and for every dollar given it is multiplied to many. You can truly see God's hand at work with this money. On my first mission trip to Nicaragua it did not take me long to figure out that the CMA RFS money donated to MVI was used for more than motorcycles. To find out more about MVI and the Nehemiah Center you can check out the following web sites.

<http://www.nehemiahcenter.net/index.htm>

<http://www.missionaryventures.org/>

After a lunch of chicken, rice and beans we returned to the Mission house to gather some needed for a couple of days on the road. Sunday afternoon we left the Missionary house with four Suzuki TS 185 motorcycles. The bikes are of a 1970 vintage era but are brand new. These bikes are a two stroke with oil injection. This is a great match for the rugged country they will be put to use in since they will require very little engine maintenance. The bikes were purchased in Nicaragua by MVI and MVI holds the title to the bikes for a period of time. The titles are never transferred to individuals, only to Organizations so there is no personal ownership of the bike.

The Pastors are chosen through a lot of prayer and how the motorcycles will be used. The Pastors must be in leadership roles through an organization to other Pastors. This creates a high degree of accountability. Three of the pastors this year are affiliated with the Centro Cristiano de Derechos Humanos

(CCHD) this translates to Christian Center for Human Rights. The Pastors preach and teach the Word of God and the CCDH provides legal assistance to those in need. CCDH realizes the biblical theme of justice and the political definition of human rights. In a nut shell you have Lawyers that have a Biblical worldview of protecting and promoting humans that have been chosen to involve the Christian Church of Nicaragua. I think years ago the United States of America had that



same concept.

The other Pastor is associated with CNPEN, a national association of pastors that seek to encourage and support the evangelical church. It became clear to me why MVI chooses to support the Nehemiah Center and the organizations like CCDH and CNPEN while I was waiting for a flight to depart from Houston to Managua. I struck up a conversation with a lady that was returning to visit her mother in Managua. Her parents had fled the country during the Sandinista Revolution and settled in California. She was a little girl at the time and now resides with her husband and children in Southern California. She asked what we were going to do in Nicaragua and when I explained we were on Short Term Missionary trip her demeanor changed and she started to get angry with me. She proceeded to tell me that too many Christians, trying to do good, had been to the country and would throw money at short remedies. Then leaving many things undone and leaving behind people who had come to rely on them. I finally got in a word that we were working through MVI and that they had been in Nicaragua for many years. At this point her attitude changed and I was told that was the only way any mission work should be done. After visiting Nicaragua twice it is evident to me that the people in Nicaragua must catch the vision of a biblical worldview and then there can be change. Money is not the only answer, it is coming along side and disciplining them where they are, like MVI does. This is the only road to changing the people. The only way the country can change is from the people within the country.

As we traveled through Nicaragua riding on the bus and taking turns riding the bikes I was in awe of the country. I expected to see dinosaurs walking around everywhere. The countryside is lush with vegetation yet it seemed so harsh toward humanity. We arrived in Matagalpa about forty five minutes after sundown in the dark. The road was terrible and seemed to be strewn with fox wholes instead of potholes. Everyone and everything has the right to the roads in Nicaragua. It was nothing to catch a glimpse of a horse or a cow on the side of the road as you passed by. Ox drawn carts became another obstacle since your closing speed was quite rapid on them. I was glad to arrive at the motel with the other three riders upright and unscathed.



Where in the World is Dick Fish

Many of you have had the opportunity to meet Dick Fish and some of you are friends of his. Dick is always a man on a mission. When I talked with Dick recently about the pro's and con's of satellite phones I asked Dick where he was going next. Dick chuckled and said "Have you heard? I have purchased some new bikes?" I said I had heard rumors but nothing firm.

Dick purchased a Harley Destroyer V Rod. This is a 150 hp to the rear wheel 9 second bike with wheelie bars. Dick will debut the bike at the AHDR in Gainesville Florida the first weekend in March



And there is more, Dick has enjoyed track riding and decided to take it a step further by purchasing Buell XBRR. Dick has partnered with Walt Sipp, a national plate rider, in the Daytona 200 which is March 10 and Sipp, #221, will be riding the XBRR Buell owned and sponsored by Dick..



Nehemiah Riders

We have a late arrival replacement for one of the bikes. One of the bikes that was going to Nicaragua was a DR650 SE that was previously owned by Sherry and I. The bike only needed a few more tweaks and it was ready to go for the trip. Last week I received word that there was a very clean 1996 XR650L at Big Twin in Boise. One of the Missionaries, Eric Loftsgard, receiving the bikes is a die hard Honda guy. Eric had raced the XR600 before and had been a service manager at a Honda Dealership. We approached Mike at Big Twin about purchasing the bike for The Nehemiah Mission and Mike took the proposal to one of the owners Henry. Henry was very excited about where the bike was going and made us a deal we could not refuse. The XR650L had just over 800 miles on it and I am happily putting some miles on it so we can get it broke in before we leave. So now we have a KLR650, DR650SE and a Honda XR650L sounds like a great magazine article for a Central American best bike shoot out.

Departure date is set for April 1st with the first night in Elko Nevada. Anyone in Elko want to meet us for Dinner?

I will have more on this trip next month.

February 24th Suspension Tech Day

We will be working on a Suzuki DL650, DR650 and a Kawasaki KLR650 suspension components and how to maintain the suspension components. This is a come and watch and learn Tech Day. If you have any questions contact Ed; 208-377-8771 or capt.ed@happy-trail.com

February 23-25 Spokane Motorcycle Show

<http://www.spokanemotorcycleshow.com/>

March 17 Happy Trails Tire Tech Daze

By popular demand Ed is going to host another world famous Tire Session. Learn the how to of tire tech for the trail side repair. If you have any questions contact Ed; 208-377-8771 or capt.ed@happy-trail.com

March 17-18 Idaho Vintage motorcycle Show

March 17-18 Jimmy Lewis off Road School.

Contact Heather Lewis; heather@jimmyslewisoffroad.com

March 21 Idaho Centennial Presentation

Lynn Brown & Marty Morache will be giving a presentation on the Idaho Centennial.

Location: Happy Trails Products

Time: 7:00 pm

RSVP: www.happy-trail.com or 208-377-8771, seating is limited so you will need to reserve your seat ASAP.

Moab April 25 - 29 Dual Sport Ride

Randy Phillips and Dave Bracht are "loosely organizing" a Boise Dual Sport Group during the annual Moab Car Show weekend. Moab is a spectacular place to ride motorcycles, hike, bike, etc.

For more information you can contact Randy Phillips randy@logicalsystems.us

Reservation information: <http://www.slickrockcampground.com/>

Moab info: <http://www.moab-utah.com/>

Car Show info: <http://www.moab-utah.com/aprilaction/>

May 5 Carl Struthers Memorial Ride / CMA Run for the Son

We will be doing a similar ride to last year. There will be several dirt road options as well as a paved road route. The ride will start at Carl's Cycle and end at a FS campground for a BBQ. This will be a great ride and the funds raised are for the CMA Run for the Son. Mark this on your calendar for a great day of riding.

July 19-22

Happy Trails Twin Peaks Ride.

This year will be a different format for the camping. We will be staying at Challis Hot Springs Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Last year we had only positive comments about the Hot Springs and we did not get to see everything we wanted to so, we decided to return and finish the ride. The date has been moved up about 10 days to be ahead of the start of fire season. This will be a great ride with some of the best vistas around Idaho. Sleeping Deer and Twin Peaks will be one the rides we do.

The cost is \$85.00 and includes 6 meals and your camping at Challis Hot Springs.

We will be able to transport a limited amount of camping gear this year for those with bikes that are not set up to carry the gear.

Marty Morache has said he will join us again this year.

Sign up <http://happy-trail.com/ProductInfo.aspx?productid=HTP%20TWINPEAKS>

Bikes for sale

1996 R1100 BMW GS 23K miles Happy Trails Panniers, Rear Rack and Top Case, Corbin Seats, Accessory outlet for GPS, Windscreen, Engine guards and wired for Autocom System \$6995.

Contact Tim; 208-866-2553 tim.bernard@happy-trail.com

2006 Black Buell Blast with Windshield, Low Seat, Bags, Tank Pad, K&N Air Filter, and Jardine Performance Exhaust System. Was \$4695 new, plus Dock, Prep, Tax, accessories, 1K mile early Dealer tune-up, and two year unlimited mileage warranty from date of purchase (08/26/06). With only 370 miles on bike and 70+ MPG it is a must see. Asking \$4500
Contact Tim; 208-866-2553 tim.bernard@happy-trail.com

5th Wheel for sale

2000 Tahoe Transporter model M-33TB 35" x 8" \$12,995.00. This 5th wheel is in good condition and set up to haul 5 bikes inside, extra storage inside, top platform. Come by and see it at Happy Trails; 4545 W Chinden Blvd.

Or contact Tim; 208-866-2553 tim.bernard@happy-trail.com

Coming next Month:

All the information you will need to know about Satellite Phones.