

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.



State of the Dual Sport

I would like to give a candid overview of an article I recently read in the December edition of the Dealer News. The article was authored by Don J. Brown of DJB Associates, Limited.

The article was focused on the overall Motorcycle / ATV industry sales for 2006 versus 2005.

I have made a crude spread sheet (see page 5) after rambling on for many paragraphs trying to explain the figures. I thought it best to keep it simple and put it in a spread sheet.

So what do all of these figures mean? Remember that I took some base figures and put my spin on them. First of all, we are very unique individuals that have chosen Dual Sport or Adventure Touring as our motorcycle experience. We see the bad boy motorcyclist of yesterday called the 1 % loosing his grip as the idol of the American Motorcyclist. Most of us, disregarding a few of my closest friends, are an asset to society. We, Dual Sporter's, are the 2% of the Power Sports industry that has experienced the healthiest growth of 18.84% motorcycling industry in 2006. I believe that this is not an accident. Take a look around at the guys you are riding with. They are intelligent, likeable and interesting. The group is made of those with like minded adventures in their heart. The conversation covers, kayaking, river rafting, canoeing, sailing, mountain climbing, hiking, bicycle touring, mountain biking, 4X4's, horses, hunting, shooting, river boats, mechanics and much more. The occupations shared by the riders are just as diversified. You had better know what you are talking about before you deem yourself the ultimate authority because you never know who you might be talking to.

In comparing the Off-road MC & ATV sales percent 2005 versus 2006 I also think it is no accident that Idaho, Utah and Montana have healthy Motorcycle and ATV sales while Nevada and California are falling off in sales. Idaho and the other healthy states have active State programs that promote responsible trail use. This takes a lot of work to keep the programs running and healthy. I congratulate those that have volunteered in the past to be part of these programs. I know the program in Idaho first hand and those at IDPR that run the programs. Another reason California Off-road sales might be lagging is the near impossibility of licensing a dirt bike anymore. California has legislated the converted Off-Road Bike to Dual Sport Bike to near extinction. (Similar legislation was being considered by one of Idaho Legislators, JoAnn Wood, but that seems to have faded away after a public comment series of meetings hosted by IDPR). This might also explain why the Dual Sport Market in California is thriving while the Off-Road is in decline.

Nevada has never had an active program to promote the health of it's off highway motorcycles and ATV's and it will spell loss of use in the end. California is so politicized in its program that it is non functional. This is all the more reason why we need to be involved with our State governments to keep our Adventure options open.

The 11 Western States are 43.5% of the Dual Sport market in the US with only 23.39% of the population. It goes unsaid that the Western US is the place to be when it comes to exploring. California leads the way with 42.57% of Western Dual Sport Sales and 18.52% of all US Dual Sport Sales. Idaho holds its own and is the leader by far when we factor in population. The Ratio of Dual Sport Sales versus Population is 4.38% for Idaho which puts Idaho in the lead for the US. Bottom line is that we live in a great place in the West and the areas to ride are plentiful. Let's keep it that way.

I am not sure what all this means or even if it is correct. I just worked the figures long enough until Idaho was #1 in something besides the Fiesta Bowl.

CMA Nicaragua Mission Trip November 2006

Part 1 of a series

November 10

Sherry and I flew from Boise to Houston Texas via Denver for this trip. There were 16 of us on this mission trip and our leader was Ray Burns, CMA Board member, and his wife Marian.

November 11

Our group grew as we gathered at the airport with many of us meeting for the first time.

The flight from Houston to Managua was a lot of fun and filled with anticipation. The majority of the people on the plane were traveling to Nicaragua for humanitarian efforts so it made the atmosphere on the plane seem more like a big team outing. We arrived in Managua, cleared customs and loaded on the bus. I make this sound rather routine but last time we stood in the wrong lines and wasted a lot of time. The second time doing something is always easier. The warm air was refreshing for the first 10 minutes. Then you remember; you are going to have that sticky feeling, that warm temperature and high humidity gives you, for the rest of the week. Mike Deibert of Missionary Ventures Nicaragua was put in charge of the group. Mike had traveled with us the previous year and is a great guy.

We were based out of a house owned by Marta and her husband Pastor Asdrubal Ibarra. The house is known as The Blue Doors Missionary House. Missionary Ventures first began ministering in Nicaragua in 1987 during the Sandinista-Contra war. Individuals and small teams from the U.S. began coming during that troubled and turbulent time to bring relief, assistance and encouragement to the persecuted church and suffering pastors. Steve Beam, president of Missionary Ventures, was the first. He made contact with Pastor Asdrubal Ibarra in the barrio Monseñor Lezcano in Managua. Pastor Asdrubal, at great risk, opened up his home to beleaguered Nicaraguan pastors and the visitors along with teams from North America.

A deep and lasting relationship formed between Steve Beam and Pastor Asdrubal that led to the formation of MV Nicaragua. Seventeen years later Pastor Asdrubal and his family are still networking with Nicaraguan and North American churches and pastors as well as hosting short term teams from North America in their home.

The house, as most houses are in Nicaragua, is like a military fortress. High concrete walls border the property with a strand of razor wire around the top. Another alternative to the razor wire is to cap the wall with broken bottles set in the concrete. The women stayed in 2 rooms on the street side of the house and the men stayed in 2 rooms on the back side of the house. The rooms shared a common wall and the upper section of the wall was screened instead of plywood. The bunk beds had a thin foam mattress, a set of sheets and a pillow. This environment of the men and women bunking separately allows everyone to get to know each other in a rapid fashion. I always put my ear plugs in just before laying my head on the pillow so I could not hear all the grumbling about my snoring. I did have a few extra pair of ear plugs I offered to rent out after the first night. If one person was up and turned on a light we were all aware of it. The toilet and shower stalls were all shared and timing was quite critical. There is no hot water in Nicaragua with the exception of an occasional device known as the Widow Maker. This is a flow through water heater that is mounted in the water pipe after it exits the wall and before the showerhead. These heaters are direct wired (no GFI circuit here) to a 220 volt connection and if you turn them on when the water is running a fatal event can happen hence the name Widow Maker. At Marta's there were no Widow Makers but the tepid water was very refreshing to shower in. It reminded me of the days I used to water ski and the water was only cold until you seemed to catch your breath.

We were also informed of the random power outages and to have a flashlight handy at all times.

More Next Month.

Nehemiah Riders

We are continuing to tear each bike apart and check everything on them in preparation for the trip. The goal is not even one blown fuse. The 89 KLR has shown a few gremlins in the wiring. The fan circuit for that year is not fused separately. This has led to some melted wires and a need for a partial rewire. The end result is a plug and ATC fuse block that we had custom made and will be offered for other bikes in the future. Another interesting item is the Doohickey (balancer cam chain adjuster) is completely different on this bike than any other that we had seen. The very unique Doohickey was in excellent condition but the spring was replaced due to the original had lost its tension. The list of modifications and updates was over a page long that we are doing to the bike. This is not going to be just another bike when we are finished with it. It will be ready for the world.

A major magazine has picked up on the Nehemiah Riders Mission and is scheduled to release the story in its April edition to coincide with our trip. Depart date is still early April and the mileage from Boise is just under 5000 miles.

There is a separate PDF attached to the newsletter that gives more information.



January 1, 2007

What do football, drama and romance have in common? Everything if it is the Fiesta Bowl. The day will be remembered as a day for one of the greatest games in Sports history. For the Boise State Football Program some say it was magic yet others say it was sheer determination. Whatever you want to call it, it is still the most spectacular game I have ever seen. Congratulations to Boise State for the win. Congratulations to Ian Johnson and his bride to be; Congratulations to Coach Peterson for winning the Bear Bryant Coach of the year award. And Congratulation to all the assistant coaches. <http://www.apollomedia.com/partybowl2.html>

January 27th Tech Day

Well it is almost here again the 6th Annual Doohickey Tech Day and Open House.

For those of you who might not know what a Doohickey is you can come in and see first hand what one is. We have 20 slots open for customers to bring their KLR 650's in and do the engine balancer cam chain lever upgrade. If you have not signed up you can go to our webpage under KLR Doohickey and sign up or call in and we will sign you up. We will be giving away another ARAI helmet this year along with Fieldsheer clothing and other items. You must be present to win any of the items and it is rumored that Darell Case will be in Arizona this year so someone else will have a chance to win the helmet. There will also be a special drawing for the club or organization with the most in attendance. If you belong to several clubs or organizations you can sign up under all of them.

We will also have Chili cook off again this year with a \$50.00 cash prize going to the winner. So contact me if you are interested in sharing your chili.

February 24th Suspension Tech Day

We will be going over the ups and downs of suspension this day. We will be tricking out a DL650 V-Strom among other things.

April 25-29 Moab

I will not make it to Moab this year so Randy Phillips is loosing organizing a group to go with him. This is the Moab car show weekend. Contact Randy Phillips at randy@logicalsystems.us

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. 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

2001 BMW R1150GS 20K Engine Guards, Tank Bag, Heated Grips, ABS, Accessory outlet, BMW Tail Trunk, Happy Trails Panniers. Sale Price \$8950.00. Contact Tim @ 208-866-2553 tim.bernard@happy-trail.com

2005 R1200GS 9270 miles \$15,995.00

This is our yellow R1200GS and is loaded with over \$\$6500.00 in accessories.

208-866-2553 tim.bernard@happy-trail.com

5th Wheel for sale

2000 Tahoe Transporter model M-33TB 35" x 8" \$12,995.00. Good condition set up to haul 5 bikes inside, extra storage inside, top platform.

tim.bernard@happy-trail.com

	Off-road MC & ATV sales % of 06 vs 05*	Sport	Touring	Standard	Crusier	Dual	% of 11 Western States Dual Sales	% of US Dual Sales	Scooter	Total	% of US Sales	Total sales 2006 % vs 2005	Population, 2005 estimate	% of US Popula-tion	Ratio of % of US Dual Sales vs % of population
Arizona	18.26%	4071	3208	312	6256	1017	6.65%	2.89%	738	15601	2.01%	7.77%	5,939,292	2.00%	1.44
California	-9.60%	29753	14514	2667	24572	6512	42.57%	18.52%	6341	84358	10.87%	2.73%	36,132,147	12.19%	1.52
Colorado	8.55%	3138	2960	401	6142	1332	8.71%	3.79%	1765	15738	2.03%	6.84%	4,665,177	1.57%	2.41
Idaho	18.75%	962	743	105	2349	743	4.86%	2.11%	480	5382	0.69%	28.03%	1,429,096	0.48%	4.38
Montana	16.05%	591	884	51	1737	406	2.65%	1.15%	232	3901	0.50%	23.26%	935,670	0.32%	3.66
Nevada	-6.47%	2101	1772	156	2720	496	3.24%	1.41%	540	7785	1.00%	1.21%	2,414,807	0.81%	1.73
New Mexico	8.27%	1586	1242	176	2836	452	2.95%	1.29%	297	6589	0.85%	15.25%	1,928,384	0.65%	1.98
Oregon	11.97%	2213	1604	421	3968	1168	7.63%	3.32%	987	10361	1.33%	15.35%	3,641,056	1.23%	2.70
Utah	22.45%	1285	1207	142	3573	697	4.56%	1.98%	1217	8121	4.43%	32.13%	2,469,585	0.83%	2.38
Washington	10.24%	6102	3507	647	7947	2248	14.69%	6.39%	2239	22690	2.92%	17.74%	6,287,759	2.12%	3.01
Wyoming	26.63%	421	609	28	1359	227	1.48%	0.65%	140	2784	0.36%	24.47%	509,294	0.17%	3.76
Total for West	11.37%	52223	32250	5106	63459	15298	100.00%	43.50%	14976	183310	23.61%	15.89%	66,352,267	22.39%	1.94
Total for US		192983	151039	15139	327213	35168			54720	776282		6.05%	296,410,404		
% of Street Sales		24.86%	19.46%	1.95%	42.15%	4.53%			7.05%	100.00%					
% of West-ern Sales vs US		27.06%	21.35%	33.73%	19.39%	43.50%			27.37%	23.61%			11 Western States % of US population		
% of West-ern 11 States Population		22.39%	22.39%	22.39%	22.39%	22.39%			22.39%	22.39%			22.39%		
Sales VS Population		4.67%	-1.04%	11.34%	-3.00%	21.11%			4.98%	1.22%					
Retail Sales by Segment Calendar		ATV	Street	Dirt	Dual	Scooter									
		757813	636374	265508	35188	54720									
Market share percentage		42.11%	38.14%	14.75%	1.96%	3.04%				100.00%					
2006 calendar Year Sales Trend		-2.54%	5.50%	-4.20%	18.84%	-6.35%									
Two Wheeled Motorcycle Sales Forecast Calendar year 2006															
		2006	2005	Plus or minus %	Share										
Harley Davidson		268,271	253,707	5.74%	27.18%										
Honda		234,606	250,410	-6.31%	23.77%										
Yamaha		164,481	157,474	4.45%	16.66%										
Suzuki		136,734	128,984	6.01%	13.85%										
Kawasaki		119,484	109,061	9.56%	12.10%										
KTM		15,445	12,603	22.55%	1.56%										
BMW		13,688	13,148	4.11%	1.39%										
Triumph		9,439	8,407	12.28%	0.96%										
Victory		7,086	5,839	21.35%	0.72%										
Ducati		6,747	6,416	5.16%	0.68%										
Buell		5,247	5,241	0.12%	0.53%										
Big Dog		4,300	4,339	-0.90%	0.44%										
Piaggio Group		1,541	1,702	-9.46%	0.16%										
Total		887,060	857,231	3.41%	100.00%										

Sources Dealer News Vol 42, no 13 Research by Don Brown of DJB Associates LLC

US Census Bureau

*Research is based on sales through October with November & December forecated