



**Northwest Tour & Trail**  
**www.blackdogdualsport.com**



**Welcome to the 2015 24th Annual Black Dog AMA National Dualsport & Adventure ride!**

**Pre-ride poop sheet**

*We know you will enjoy this event! Please read the following info before embarking on your ride. All info can be found on our website.*

**Last-minute update:** Be aware we WILL offer a sound test Friday night and each morning (USFS said they will be there helping), so be **SURE YOUR MUFFLER IS QUIET!** People with loud pipes are not welcome, since they ruin our sport! If you can't go more than 70-80 miles on a tank of petrol, bring a spare, small container of petrol with you and/or leave something with our checkers and they can have it at a checkpoint for you. Signup will be 6AM each day, but there's a chance we'll have signup late Friday too – depends how busy things are. Starting **May 29**, don't expect any communication back, as we're up at the Fairgrounds for the duration. Bring a small, plastic trash bag to take with you, as that will be worth points as you can pick up trash from our forests each day! **NOTE:** in a previous year, we had riders riding the course again AFTER the event, which in turn now got us closed entirely out of the Aquaduct Trail. Remember, the entire event is by permit only and is a one-shot deal. Please don't ride the event afterwards. Event t-shirts can be purchased for \$15. **No, we will not have credit-card processing capabilities at the event, so bring cash or a check.**

**Staging Area:** We are again staging at the Hood River County Fairgrounds. It's fairly easy to get to, just take the Hwy 35 exit (from Interstate 84, at Hood River, OR) and head south towards the berg of Odell. Go into the dinky town of Odell and follow the signs to the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds are huge, all grass and has plenty of room for everyone! There are some RV hookups that have water and electricity (no sewer, but there is a dump station), plus has showers in the bathrooms to wash off the funk. The only thing this place does not have is shade, so bring your awnings and EZ-Ups. It also has wireless internet and I was told signal reception will be great (last year's password was: **snowbird**). As far as where to park, just come in and find a spot outside of the event staff ribbons. You will be charged \$15/night for RV hookup, or \$10/night for tents. You must pay for your own camping. WE are forced to collect camping fees beginning this year, so we will collect the fees daily (don't try skipping out on this – we have Mafia friends!). **NO PIT RIDING!** They've beat us up on this already in the past.

**No free rides:** Nobody will be allowed to just show up and ride without paying unless they have our approval! This is considered stealing to us, since we've gone to monumental monetary and personal efforts to make this event happen. This is also a liability, since this thief has not signed insurance waivers, etc. If someone is discovered riding the course and has not paid/signed up, we will take necessary, very-extreme action. Please do not put us into this situation.

**Responsibilities:** You are responsible for your actions. Don't race around public places! People who don't understand our sport see it as noisy and dirty. They also vote. Set an example of a fun, enjoyable & acceptable family sport that doesn't interfere with anyone's space. Be courteous, smile and wave, even if they only wave with one finger. ALL riders are required to have their rider number somewhere on the front of their bike (minimum 3") like on the number plate or headlight lens. Two-up people will have two numbers on the front. If you don't install your number, we will write it with a large felt pen or black tape at the start. Your rider number should be on the website pre-entry list, as they're all posted there in the "Entries Thus Far" page. Post entries will receive their number at signup.

**Loud exhausts:** Again, noisy bikes will not be tolerated! Those of you that have been around know that a loud bike is not necessarily faster, it's just emotional horsepower. Plus, loud pipes don't save lives; they end up getting our riding areas closed! This issue is not open for debate! In fact, if your bike is loud, don't bother to show up. We are dead serious about this! We urge you to do everything possible to make your bike quieter. Contact us if you have questions or concerns about this issue. In fact, we will dock points for louder bikes at the checkpoints and add bonus points for the stealthier bikes. No bikes above 94db (per USFS request). We have had decent repair with the landowners thus far and we don't want to ruin it. All it takes is one moron with a noisy exhaust riding by a wilderness area for the eco extremists to start making more efforts to boot us out. Noise and speeding (around non-riding public) are our biggest concerns from the landowners every year and it gets more and more difficult to host an event due to this. Be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem, therefore allowing this event (and others) to continue. While on the courses, keep your bike quiet and slow around other people, houses and rural areas!

**Emergencies:** If you have any problems along the way and need to contact someone, you can call my cell phone: 503-803-7837 if it's in range. Be prepared for your adventure. Have your scooter properly adjusted, tightened, and lubed. Carry the proper tools to make repairs and a spare front tube (which can also be used for the back tire) with appropriate tire repair equipment in case of a flat tire. Be ready to fix your own repairs. Our friendly sweep crew will be armed with only items they can be trusted with: duct tape, bailing wire and a butter knife. However, though they may not be Mr. Goodwrench, their word is final: if a rider argues with them, that rider will be automatically disqualified. Bring more clothing than you would expect: better to shed a jacket than wish you had one (it snowed on everyone in 2012!). If it starts to rain, you will really like yourself by bringing raingear with you. Our motto is: If you bring it, you probably won't need it! If it's hot, drink PLENTY of water before the event and take some with you – hydrate or die.

**The Courses:** Past years have been hot dawgs, wet dawgs, good dawgs, killer dawgs, etc. This year appears that it will go down in history as another great dog. The weather guessers are saying decent weather so far. The main "easy" or "B" course could,

of course, be traversable by an aggressive 4WD (gravel, and occasional easy trail). We will also have a “C” course for adventure bikes that will basically consist of gravel, ways around the tighter B-course challenges, and sidecar-approved routes. There may also be entirely separate course options for the big, adventure bikes who want more distance. Oh yeah, and we have KILLER trail for the “A” riders, plus we’re hoping to squeeze in an “AA” section or two for you psychos! Plenty of good experiences to keep you all yapping, benchracing and lying when you get to the finish! Oh, and some of the views are nothing short of stellar! The courses consist almost entirely of US Forest Service, County and some private lands, and your cooperation is required to allow future dualsport rides. Don't litter. If you carry it in - pack it out.

**GPS NOTICE:** Though we've been burned in the past, we will again have GPS tracklogs (in GPX format only) available each morning only, for those that want them. This is good news to many of you and as geeks, we hope it works out. You must bring your own USB thumbdrive to get the file, and provide proof of registration - no proof, no file. We will not install them onto your GPS for you. That will be up to you, so bring your own laptop.

**Course Marking:** Bring a roll chart holder (enduro type) and *believe* in the roll chart. Don't forget your own roll of Scotch Tape too! The 2" wide roll charts will be your Bible. We also plan on providing maps, but our roll charts are much more exact. We have painstakingly described and included every significant turn and intersection of the course on the roll chart. We have put up confirmation markers out on the back country dirt roads and trails where road signs may not be obvious. These markers are attached (when possible) to the right side of the course slightly after an intersection, confirming the proper turn. There are no other markers. This year we are changing things up and going to ONLY wooden clothes pins that have been painted bright pink! They do NOT have ribbons attached – only clothes pins. Other markers are lurking on the course, but they are not ours! As usual, in the past few weeks, we have noticed that some of our markers have been taken down and/or moved. We will go out a few days before the event to confirm that they are still up and/or re-install them, but there is always a possibility that some unscrupulous person may have taken down or relocated them, hence, believe in the roll chart.

The course was mapped from an electronic enduro computer that displays to 1/100th of a mile. The computer has been calibrated daily (due to tire wear) to within a few feet of an exact mile (we're anal!). It doesn't get more exact than that! (Nothing but the best for you riders!) As the flyer said, there will be odometer resets about every 10-20 miles to accommodate speedometer error should your speedo happen to be off. Throughout the ride, if you are ever in doubt: stay on the main course. Follow YOUR selected course only and not another rider. If you elect to ride the easier route and end up just following someone else (who, unknown to you, is a more advanced rider and may be riding the A course), you may end up on the advanced sections and you will really not like yourself. The same goes for the advanced riders - you might be bored on the easier sections. Elevations range normally from about 500 feet to around 6,000 feet, so prepare for possible carburetor jetting, temperature and clothing changes. There may be last-minute course changes, due to land-closure issues, snow, weather or people thinking we're Hell's Angels. We'll let you know what the changes are at sign-up. You can also purchase eats at the local establishments when available. Gas stops will be about every 80 miles or so. We are hoping to have a few vendors showing up on Saturday for you to purchase dinner if you like. We will again have hot dogs and water at the finish of each day's ride.

We prefer (and the Forest Service requested) riders to go out in segments of two bikes per group. Two bikes allow one rider to help the other if there is a break down or if one rider gets stuck. More than three bikes tends to create a long accordion effect, intimidates non-motorcyclists and makes a large amount of dust on the dirt roads (if the weather is dry). If you come by yourself, we can assign you with a riding buddy of the same skill level – just bring it up at the daily rider's meeting. Let us know. If you break down, stay on the course! Our friendly sweep crew will be happy to assist you if they can find you! They will be out on the course about an hour after the last rider leaves the start (10AM). NOTE: You will be required to leave something of value (like an AMA card, Costco card, AA card ☺, etc.) before you can leave the start of the event each day. If it's not something of value (like a business card), you will NOT be allowed to leave, so do NOT act surprised when we require this at the start checkpoint of each day! This way if you bail out early halfway through the event and don't tell anyone, you will check in at the finish to pick up what you left and we will know you made it back in. If an emergency dictates that you must take a shortcut back, tell someone the route you are going first & turn in your scorecard at a checkpoint or the finish! If we spend all night looking for you (since we don't know if you came in or not) and we find out later that you came in without turning in your card, the club will ensure you get billed for Search & Rescue, personally put your name in as many junk mail, spam lists as possible and publicly flog you! We recommend riding with your high-beam light on, instead of low-beam. It's a little brighter, but at least you are seen by oncoming vehicles.

Treat the back roads the same as a highway: stay to the right around ALL blind turns. Always assume someone is coming at you on blind turns. You never know when a log truck, other riders, etc., will be coming the other way. Don't end up being a hood ornament for a Kenworth log truck. Don't lose your scorecard. Two-day riders will use the same one for both days. Don't ride on the banks of roads, at least not where non-motorcyclists can see the tracks! It's fun, but looks ugly. Enough lecturing - you're gonna love this ride! Be sure to check out the NWT&T website for last-minute info.

**Festivities:** We plan on having a short, fun, Friday-night (A & B-course options) puttsy up into the mountains and back (beginning at dusk) for some fun night riding! Cut-off time for Saturday's ride is 6pm. At this point, we will hand out a few prizes for the Saturday-only riders. Cut-off time for Sunday is 4pm. After that, we will hand out a few prizes for the Sunday-only riders and then commence to the big prizes for the 2-day riders and the big \$400 cash prize. **Final requirement:** Bring a smile and have fun – we will, so plan on it!

Ride on and see ya there! **-Tom Niemela and the notorious gang of NW Tour & Trail**