

Editor's Corner

The current economic recession (some call it a depression) has affected our lives, our jobs, our businesses, our wallets, and our recreational activities. FTR has not been immune to its impact. Our membership numbers and rider entries at our events have declined, and this has led to a significant decrease in revenue. Unlike our leaders in Washington, DC who think they can solve any financial challenge with a combination of deficit spending and printing more paper money, FTR has to live within its financial means. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors looked at every source of revenue and every expenditure line item. Difficult decisions were required to bring revenue and spending into balance before we slipped into insolvency.

Many aspects of our operation are being changed. We no longer have a paid Executive Director, and we have closed the business office in DeBary. However, the Post Office Box in DeBary has not been closed, and it will remain our mailing address until a new part-time business manager is hired and an office location is established. **The FTR telephone number has been changed to 352-538-6291. All 386 area code telephone numbers have been discontinued, including the FTR Hot Line.** Information provided by the Hot Line will now appear on the first page of the FTR website. Proposals have been solicited and received from individuals interested in performing the duties of part-time business manager, magazine editor/publisher, and scorekeeper. Proposals were received for the first two positions, but none were received for scorekeeper. By the time you receive this issue we hope to have selected a new business manager and a new magazine editor/publisher. Check the FTR website for the latest developments.

One of the cost saving changes implemented is the temporary change to a combination of printed and online issues of the magazine. This magazine is a combined May/June issue. You are receiving it later than your usual June issue since we had to wait for the end of the competition series and calculation of year-end results. MX series results are not in this magazine since one more MX event remains at the time this issue went to the printer. MX year-end scores will be posted on the FTR website and mailed to all MX competitors.

Everyone needs to visit the FTR website to see the online version of the next issue of the magazine. It will contain important notices and information you need to read.

This issue of the magazine was made possible through the dedicated volunteer efforts of your interim editor, elected FTR officers, competition chairmen, and FTR members such as Tom Missimer who toiled for hours to produce the year-end standings. All of them deserve a thank-you from all FTR members.

Speaking of volunteers, the 14th hare scrambles of the year was the FTR Benefit in Bartow. It raised over \$12,000 to shore up FTR finances. It happened only because of the countless hours of heavy equipment work performed by Robert Mock, Jay James and Jason Chambers. Sunrunners members Robert Mock, Jay James and Jason and Kerri Chambers, Tim and Cheryl Myers, Ernest Burkett, Jack Terrell, Steve and Katie Rumpalik, Scott and Jenni Lamb, David Smith, David Johnson, George Tolson, Wade Anderson and John Wagstaff expended hundreds of hours laying out and marking trails. Numerous other FTR members came out on weekends to help. The Old School Dirt Riders brought their sign-up trailer and Brett Williams, Pam Allen, Gail Lukosavich, Ford Snodgrass, Ken Harris and numerous others stepped in to man it. Sally Terrell, Kerri Chambers, Diane Mock, Cheryl Myers, Jenni Lamb, Katie Rumpalik, Joe Blum and others manned the tables to collect entries, sell T-shirts and post results both days. The Off-Road Motorcycle Ministries group provided the crew for back-up scoring. A small army of FTR volunteers served as course marshals. Every FTR member needs to thank these folks. They made the event happen.

Don't forget the FTR General Membership meeting at 10AM on August 7th, followed by the FTR Awards Banquet at the Hilton at Disney World. Come out and celebrate the end of another successful competition season with your FTR friends.

On a personal note, I have been a FTR member, competitor and volunteer since 1976. I truly believe FTR is one large family composed of many members and is sustained by a core group of volunteers. In many instances those volunteers come from families with two or more generations of members. I am particularly proud of the fact that three generations of my family are part of that core group. Sally and I have been working FTR events since 1977, and our two daughters grew up racing and volunteering in FTR. By no small coincidence their husbands are FTR competitors and volunteers, and their kids are the next crop of FTR competitors. I am really proud of all of them, and I thank them for their support over the years. I extend the same "thank-you" to all FTR volunteers.

Jack Terrell – FTR Vice President & Interim Editor



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