



NEW YORK

DIRT BIKE'S WHERE TO RIDE GUIDE, PART 4

Spotlighting the home of loam

If you've ever had a really good dream about riding a dirt bike you'll swear you are reliving it if you ever get to experience dirt biking in New York. Riders everywhere lust for eastern loam and the phenomenal traction it offers. Dense, cool woods challenge the reflexes of the best enduroists. Streams and clear rainwater pools dot the forest floor. It's mind-ripping.

Experiencing the reality of the dream involves some work because there are only a handful of designated public riding areas in this huge state! There's no great secret to tapping into the vast forested tracts, but there are a few steps we'd recommend. First, club riding is the way to go in most states. We covered this thoroughly in our first article on "Where to Ride" (DB Feb. '89). With respect to riding in New York this is especially important due to the arrangements clubs have made over the years with local governments, state agencies and private landowners.

Jack Orlinski, AMA congressman, treasurer of AMA District 4 and President of the New York State Motorcycle Trail Riders Association (NYSTRA), gave us an example involving his club. "We've been putting on an enduro for 14 years, so we're on good terms with the various government and private land managers and owners we deal with to put on the event. We are issued permits to lay out, run and take down the course on land that is otherwise closed. We get to do a fair amount of riding just setting up and taking down our course. Being a club member can determine whether or not you can ride in some areas."

Club connections are valuable when you're interested in non-event-related riding



Great terrain is only half the story of the riding in New York. Race fans there are wild, as Yamaha YZM500-mounted Leif Persson discovers at the '87 MX des Nations at the famed Unadilla Sports Facility in New Berlin. A downpour failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the cheering throng.



Thick woods add to the challenge of cross-country competition and trail riding in New York. Fallen trees pose as much of an obstacle as the living ones in this hare scrambles at New York's Frozen Ocean Motorcycle Park.

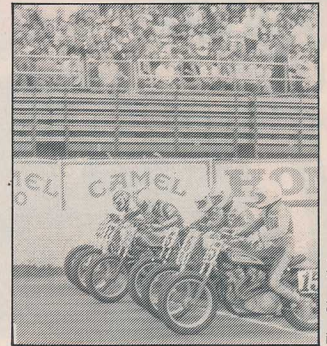
Jerry Galpin

on private land. Club members may have land holdings of their own and most have agreements with private landowners. Underdeveloped logging roads, abandoned railroad beds and idle strip mines make for incredible riding but you'll need permission to ride there. Clubs have an air of respectability, allowing them to gain such permission where even the most upstanding individual might be turned down.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

Off-road legality means different things in different states. In New York your bike must be registered (except for competition events), meet federal EPA sound output standards, have a U.S. Forest Service-approved spark arrester, have a working brake system and lighting equipment for night riding. Riders must wear helmets. To make your machine street-legal for use on New York state roads (some counties may consider state forest access dirt roads public thoroughfares and enforce vehicle street legality), it will need a license plate, a mirror, a speedometer (if the bike was built after 9/1/80), a constant-on headlight, a brake light, a white license plate light, brakes on

New York is a flattrack racing stronghold. Thousands flock to national events like the Syracuse mile. Less famous dirt tracks dot the state, keeping privateer competition thriving. ▶



The Shootists

both wheels, turn signals (if originally fitted by manufacturer) and a horn. Riders must wear a helmet and eye protection and earn a motorcycle operator's license.

NEW YORK RIDE SPOTS

Don't panic at the lack of trail riding areas. A bill has recently passed which will channel more than \$500,000 to state land management agencies to mark and build trails! It may be a year or more before the trail network begins to be set up, so have your club inquire about ways to assist planners and rangers now. □

REGION 1

- *Batavia Motopark (716) 948-9304
- *T&P Motopark (716) 372-3849

REGION 2

- *Broome-Tioga Sports Center(607) 648-4997
- *Frozen Ocean (315) 784-5466
- *Hunt Racing (716) 476-2697
- *Moto Masters Park (315) 699-7105
- *Palmyra Racing Association (315) 597-6320
- *Paradise Speedway (315) 789-7293
- State Forest Region 7 (607) 753-3095
- Stayton's MX Park (315) 784-5471

REGION 3

- *Ace MX (914) 462-0570
- Calverton Navy Co-op Area (516) 751-7030
- *Claverack MX (518) 828-6149
- *Oriskany Falls MX (315) 821-7909
- *Royal Mt. Ski Area (518) 835-6445
- *Southwoods (914) 794-4033
- *Thunder Ridge (607) 847-6520

- *Unadilla Valley Sorts Center(607) 965-8784
- *Walden Playboy MC (914) 883-7094
- West Hampton MX (516) 928-0641
- *Willard Mtn. Ski Area (518) 692-7337

* motocross track

NIAGARA FALLS

ROCHESTER

SYRACUSE

BUFFALO

ITHACA

UTICA

TROY

ALBANY

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CLUBS

- Capitol Area Trail Riders, Burnt Hills (518) 387-5999
- Crusaders MC, Albion (716) 798-0002
- District 4 Trials Committee, Cuba (716) 968-1140
- Electric City Riders MC, Schenectady (518) 374-3116
- Empire MC, Bayside (212) 569-6337
- Hornell MC, Arkport (607) 324-6591
- Long Island Sports Committee, Centereach (516) 928-0641

- New York State Motorcycle Trail Riders Assn. Endicott (607) 754-4891
- Niagara County MC, N. Tonawanda (716) 434-9513
- Ramapo MC, Nanuet (914) 469-4003
- Roamers MC, Schenectady (518) 370-5458
- SCAT, Morrisonville (518) 561-3208
- Schuyler County MC, Beaver Dams (607) 535-9321

- South Shore MC, Bayshore (516) 666-8132
- Southern Tier Enduro Riders(607) 734-8644
- Square Dea Riders MC, Port Crane (607) 729-5395
- State Line Riders, Troy (518) 663-8311
- Syracuse Area Trail Riders, Manlius (315) 682-8017
- Thunder Ridge MC, New Berlin(607) 965-8514
- Tri-State MC, Newburgh (914) 561-6880

- Wayne County MC, Newark (315) 331-3831
- Western NY Enduro Riders, West Falls (716) 652-3531
- Zoar Valley Riders MC, Collins(716) 337-2507