

# Membership Handbook



2011 Edition

Welcome to Racers under the Son Motorcycle Club. Founded by Mike Tarter in February of 1984, RUTS is a non-denominational group of Christian off-road enthusiasts. Our purpose is to be an evangelistic outreach to those who need Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We also want to bring revival to those who are saved. *Racers Under The Son* is not just another club; we love the Lord and enjoy fellowship with other Christians. God has given each of us special talents and interests, ours is dirt and bikes. With this gift of joy we have in the deserts and forests, we have the responsibility of sharing God's word with the unsaved. We take our faith seriously and we strive to be a good witness for Christ in all we do.

The guide will help get you familiar with the activities, responsibilities, traditions and goals that we have as a club. As a new member, we ask that you read it and familiarize yourself with our membership requirements and expectations. We pray that you will not only be a light in the desert to the unsaved, but that we as a club will also minister to you and your family as brothers and sisters in Christ. You are now officially a RUTSTER. Welcome to the family.

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# Membership Requirements

There are only few things that each RUTS member is required to do in order to keep their membership in good standing. Please do not confuse these with the *Club Rules*, which are more designed to assist with rider safety and camp courtesy.

1) Each member family must agree to the *RUTS Statement of Faith*. This is written on the RUTS membership application that you signed.

- 1. We are a non-denominational Christian organization, dedicated to spreading the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- 2. We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ as God the Son and His virgin birth, his crucifixion as payment for our sins, his resurrection from the dead, and his forth-coming return.**
- 3. We believe that the Bible is the infallible word of God.**
- 4. We believe that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are in need of Salvation.**
- 5. We believe that there is no way to salvation except by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ.**
- 6. We desire to know Christ and to be conformed into his image by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- 7. We believe that the only true basis of Christian fellowship is his Agape Love, which is greater than any differences we possess and without which we have no right to call ourselves Christians.**

2) Each RUTS family must send in their membership renewal and waiver each January. The membership renewal form is on the website and in the monthly newsletter in Dec and Jan. Dues are \$25 per year. Membership will not be denied to those who can not afford to pay annual dues, however your membership renewal form and waiver must still be mailed in. Only members that have renewed membership will continue to receive the RUTS monthly newsletter. You may re-join RUTS after a lapse in membership without going through the more formal interview process. If you became a member in Nov or Dec, then your membership dues will carry over to the following year.

3) All members are required to serve at the annual *RUTS Meltdown*, typically the second weekend in June. Our Dual European Scrambles event, sanctioned by the AMA and District 37, usually draws over 1000 people. Months of effort go into the planning of this event and we expect “all hands on deck”. We use this event to share Christ with our desert racing friends and to show the un-saved desert riders that Christians a lot of fun to hang out with! We go “all out” at the Meltdown with a free BBQ, live band, night time video, morning church service and huge prize give-aways. Most RUTS members come early (Thursday or Friday morning) and stay late on Sunday afternoon to clean up camp. With over 100 member families, the individual responsibilities of this event are shared very well. Mark your calendar for this one.

4) RUTS members who also race District 37 are required to work the “RUTS PITS” for at least one race per year. We have official RUTS pits at all District 37 Hare Scrambles and Hare and Hounds. Although we do participate in Enduro’s, Grand Prix’s and European Scrambles, pits are not required for those types of races. We have official PITS at approximately 15 races per season. More on this in the section for Racers.

# Club Communication

General Meetings  
Officers Meetings  
Annual Racers Meeting  
Monthly Newsletter Emailed  
Website / Message Board

**General Meetings** are held on the 1st Monday of every month. We change it to the 2nd Monday when the first Monday falls on a holiday, such as Labor Day in September. Meetings are from 7-9pm. At these meetings we decide on our monthly club rides and races, plan our annual events such as Meltdown and the Christmas Party and discuss issues pertaining to club expenditures, Racing rules, new members and much more. We end with a devotion time usually led by the President and close in prayer by 9pm. Meetings are held at Fuddruckers in Buena Park, off Orangethorpe and Beach Blvd.

The **Officers Meetings** are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month and generally rotate between the homes of the club officers. These meetings are open to all club members. Officer meetings are usually spent discussing the direction, focus and goals of RUTS as a whole. The officers are always open to new ideas and encourage members who wish to participate in leadership roles to attend these meetings. Our trail bosses (ride leaders) are asked to attend the officers meetings the month prior to their monthly ride. The location of these meetings is announced in the monthly newsletter.

Our **Annual Racers Meeting** is held in January of each year, usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. All active racers are highly encouraged to attend. At this meeting we review the racer responsibilities of our racing members, brainstorm new ideas, set the PIT crew schedule and vote on issues relating to the racing members of RUTS. Non racing members interested in racing are welcome to attend. The location is announced in December's newsletter and on the website.

The **RUTS E-mail Newsletter** is sent to all RUTS members, former and current that we have an email address for. It is sent in PDF format (Adobe Acrobat) and will arrive in your inbox a few days prior to the printed postal version. The email version is also available on the website as soon as it is emailed out.

The **Website and Message Board** is always up to date with the most current information. You can find this info at [www.ruts.org](http://www.ruts.org). It is always a good idea to check the message board for updated plans just prior to leaving for a club event. Any member can post on the message board.

# Club Rides

**Club Rides** are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month with only a few exceptions. These rides are full of fun and fellowship. Some of our rides are traditional and very well attended and some rides change every year. Club rides are organized by a TRAILBOSS. The trailboss is responsible for picking the camp location, marking the camp location with directional arrows, providing the first aid kit, directions to the nearest emergency facilities and organizing our Sat night camp fire devotional time. Club rides are for all abilities and all ages, bikes, quads, rhinos and any other off road vehicle that you can ride on or in!

You can get directions and information about the monthly club rides on the website or the newsletter. Anybody is welcome to attend our club rides. Members are encouraged to bring their extended families, neighbors and un-saved friends. Potential and prospective members are also welcome to attend our club rides.

Our club ride schedule is determined in December of each year. Dates, locations and trailbosses are discussed and selected at our general meetings in Dec and Jan. The club ride schedule is not set in stone; it frequently changes due to ride location availability, weather and trailboss availability.

Our club ride schedule usually looks something like this. As you can see all but **4** of our monthly rides are typically the same. The 4 ride locations in Jan, Feb, April and Sep are chosen by the volunteer trailboss for that month.

**Jan ride:** Fremont Peak over New Year's Weekend

**Feb Ride:** Dove Springs Treasure Hunt

**March Ride:** Cal-City Poker Run benefiting the Holts (Missionaries Georgia, former USSR)

April Ride: to be determined

**May Ride:** Cougar Buttes, Lucerne Valley – prep for Meltdown Weekend

**June Ride:** Cougar Buttes. This is always the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend. It is our annual D37 Race event.

July Ride: to be determined (previously Kennedy Meadows)

**August Ride:** Track Day or swim party

September Ride: To be determined

**October Ride:** Mike Tarter Motolympics. Soggy Dry Lake. Fun competitions for all ages

**November Ride:** Riders helping Riders.. Sat Race. Thanksgiving weekend. Anderson Dry Lake

**December Ride:** Always over New Year's weekend, always at Fremont Peak.

Anybody interested in being a ride trailboss or suggesting a new location should attend one of the monthly general meetings or contact an officer. Trailbosses are also asked to write up a ride report for the following month's newsletter.

# Racers

Just less than ½ of all RUTS members are also current or former D37 desert racers. RUTS formed when Mike Tarter, an avid 3 wheeler MX rider, put an ad in cycle news looking for other Christians to ride with. RUTS racers come in all shapes, sizes, ages and skill levels. We currently have riders competing in every D37 division and skill level. At the time of this writing (2007), RUTs had just over 40 active desert racers in the club.

Many of the D37 races coincide with our monthly Club Rides. This allows the non racing part of RUTs to come out and see what D37 racing is all about. Typically our Jan, June and November rides combine D-37 races with Club Rides.

All active RUTS racers are required to attend the Annual Jan racers meeting typically on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Jan. This meeting reviews our rules and goals and helps us get our pit schedule organized. Each racer is also required to work the pits at one D37 race event. We try to get 2 or 3 RUTS racers to work each race. The pit chairperson is responsible for scheduling all RUTS racers to one (1) pit duty. The PIT duty schedule is in the newsletter every couple of months.

RUTS racers are also requested to wear the RUTS jerseys while racing. Jersey can be purchased from the clubs Vice President. You must be a RUTS member in order to purchase a Club Jersey. Jersey are \$50.



RUTS racers meet at pits approximately 1 hour before the race for prayer. All racers **MUST** check in with the PIT captain before the race and check out **IMMEDIATELY** following their finish of the race. At races with no pits (Dual Euros, Grand Prix and Enduro's) RUTS racers are encouraged to gather at camp for prayer prior to the race and because there is no pits or pit captain, the trailboss or an officer will take the duty of keeping the racer sign in sheet.

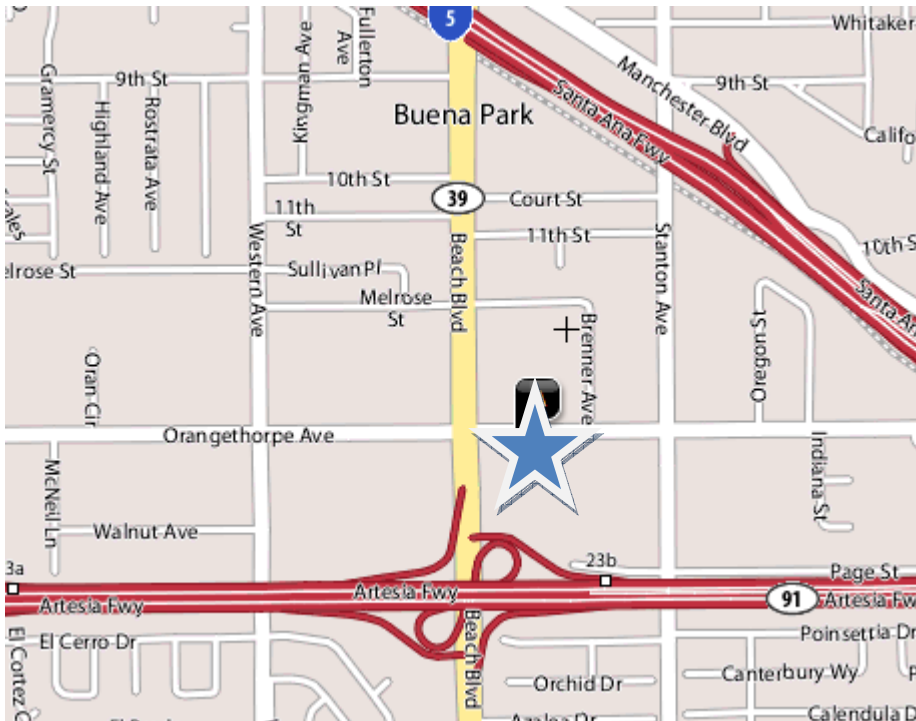
RUTS racers are representing our club when racing and as such are expected to show kindness, compassion and courtesy on and off the course, not only as representatives of our club but also of our Savior Jesus Christ. Occasionally this responsibility may call a RUTS racer to give up their race for a fallen or injured rider. This is a true act of service and is what frequently allows us as believers to use in witnessing to our desert racing friends.

RUTS pits are usually identified by flying RUTS flags and RUTS day glow arrows, identifying our Pit location.

# Meetings

RUTS meetings are held twice each month.

The first is our general meeting is held at Fuddruckers in Buena Park. Many members arrive at 6:30 for dinner and fellowship. The meeting generally lasts until 830 or 9pm. At this meeting we go over financial considerations, membership applications, D37 news and events, club apparel, we review old business, discuss new business, organize future events and rides and take care of general club business. All members and potential members are encouraged to attend.



The second meeting is an officers meeting and is normally attended by all the club officers. Club members are welcome to attend officers meeting if they have items that need to be addressed by the officers. Any business not handled at the general meetings is carried over to the officers meeting. Officers meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday night of each month and go from 7pm to about 930pm. Officers rotate their homes and the meetings are in a different place each month. Dinner is usually served by the host home. Officers meetings get very busy in the spring time when the annual Meltdown race draws near.

# Officers

Club officers hold an elected position for a 12 month term starting each January. The officers are found and selected by a nomination committee made up of 1 officer, 1 trustee and 1 active member. The 3 person nomination committee is formed each September and charged with finding members to fill the officer positions for the following year. In November the committee announces their findings and in December the club votes on the newly selected officers. Any current RUTS member can volunteer to hold an officers position. In the event that more than 1 person is nominated for the same officer's position, the membership will hold a vote at the December general meeting. RUTS officers must be active club members for at least 1 year.

In addition to the group of officers, RUTS also has 3 trustees that oversee the general business of the club. The trustees are usually long term members and are voted in for 3 year terms. The President is usually also a club Trustee. Trustees oversee the voting in of new members.

## **The officers and their duties are as follows:**

**President:** Manage all RUTS meetings and oversee general club business

**Vice President:** Perform the above duties in the absence of the President. Recently, the Vice President is also in charge of all club appeal, jerseys, flags, stickers, decals, hats, etc...

**Recording Secretary:** Takes notes and reports all topics of discussion at each meeting.

**Treasurer:** Manage all club finances, deposits, checks and club tax filings.

**D37 representative:** Attends all D37 meetings and represents RUTS at those meetings when necessary. Reports all pertinent news back to the club at general meetings.

**Competition Chairman:** Keeps track of all club points, issues year end awards

**Correspondence Secretary:** Keeps the member database up to date, manage new member application process, response to email and website inquiries.

**Webmaster:** Manages the ruts website

**Newsletter Editor:** Creates and mails the monthly newsletter to all members.

A list of current officers, their email and phone numbers can be found in the back of the newsletter each month. All officers are available to answer questions from members at any time. Just give them a call! That's what they are for.



# Club Points

Each year at the Christmas party, individual members are recognized with awards based on “Club Points”.

The points are kept and tallied by the Competitions Chairman.. Awards are given to the members with the highest amount of points in the following categories.

- Highest point adult male (over 18)
- Highest point adult female (over 18)
- Highest point youth male (12-18)
- Highest point youth female (12-18)
- Highest point child male (under 12)
- Highest point child female (under12)

Points are issued for many things including but not limited to:

- General meeting attendance (5pts)
- Attending monthly club rides (5pts)
- Racing or attending monthly club Races (5pts)
- Working the race pits (5pts)
- Trailboss-ing monthly club rides or performing Pit-Captain duties (10pts)

There are sign in sheets at each of the above activities. Make sure you sign in at each event in order to receive your club points. You won't receive club points if you don't sign in.

The sign in sheets are mailed or faxed to the CompotionChairman after each activity. If you have any questions on club points, contact the comp chairman. His / her phone number is in the monthly newsletter



# Jerseys and Apparel

RUTS Apparel is available for club members to purchase. The Vice President can be contacted for apparel sales. His / her phone number is in the monthly newsletter. You can buy RUTS stuff at meetings, rides and most RUTS events. The Vice President can also ship something to you if you want to order by phone. Here are some of the items for sale. Not listed are bike fender decals, 4"x3" RUTS stickers and prior year Meltdown T-Shirts from the RUTS race event. Call the vice president for current prices. His / her phone number is in the monthly newsletter.



Baseball Hats



4'x3' Flags



Riding Jerseys



Hooded Sweatshirt



Coffee Cups



T-Shirts

# Camp Rules

Due to the growth of RUTS over the years a few camp rules have been created to keep our kids and our camp areas safe.

- 1) Keep motorcycle quad speed under 10mph in camp
- 2) Wear your helmets at all times. Remember who is watching us (our kids)
- 3) In camp, please keep your dogs leashed. There are lots of dogs and lots of little kids.
- 4) Generator “quiet hours” are from 10pm – 7am. If you know that you will need to run your generator later or earlier than this, simply camp on the outside perimeters of camp. Freezing wives and crying babies are granted amnesty to this rule on occasion.
- 5) No drugs or alcohol at RUTS camp. It isn't that we (as a club) believe drinking is un-biblical, but rather that RUTS want to try our best to be a light in the desert to other riders, racers and campers. The perception of who we are and what we stand for can be confusing to the unbeliever when we do not follow this rule. We don't want to give off false impressions to our future brothers and sisters in Christ. We also never want to cause another brother or sister to stumble. For these reasons, RUTS chooses to abstain in camp.
- 6) Leave the camp area cleaner than you found it. Pick up all camp markers and arrows on the way out.

# Camp Suggestions

- 7) When riding far from camp, ride with a friend. Never ride in unfamiliar areas alone.
- 8) Desert riding can be full of surprises. Ride prepared. (full gas tank, tools, tow strap)
- 9) Do not ride backwards on a marked race course. (if it hadn't of happened it wouldn't be in this list)
- 10) Attend the campfire bible study on Saturday night when possible. This isn't a rule, but we sure would love to see you out there after dinner on Saturday nights. This is an important fellowship time for our club.

Remember that we as individuals and as a club represent Christ. We should always be aware that when we wear the RUTS colors and fly the RUTS flags that we are to be examples of Christ in everything we do.

1 Corinthians 11:1, St Paul says, “Follow my **example**, as I follow the **example of Christ**”

## **Club Roster**

The correspondence secretary keeps a current club roster. Each family in attendance at the Christmas party will receive a copy of the club roster. Renewing your membership will keep your name on the RUTS roster. To get a copy of the roster, contact the correspondence secretary. His / her name is in the back of the monthly newsletter. Please let the correspondence secretary know of any address, phone or email changes.