

Family Off-road Riders of Prince William County, Inc. (FORPWC)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Issued by Executive Board 12/15/04

- (1) *Who is FORPWC?*
Family Off-road Riders of Prince William County (FORPWC) is a club that was established in 2000 to provide its members with legal, safe, and supervised off-road riding facilities for family-oriented recreational riding of off-road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The club's only source of income is membership dues. We do not make a profit and we have no employees.
- (2) *Do you have your own riding area?*
Yes, we lease 108 acres of land in Nokesville, Virginia on which we have a 1.3-mile "track" (see question #7) and approximately 3 miles of looping woods trail.
- (3) *Is this a legal riding area?*
Yes, we lease the land specifically for this purpose and we have a Special Use Permit (SUP) and approved Site Plan from Prince William County to operate a recreational off-road riding facility at this location.
- (4) *How can I get directions to your riding property?*
Club members can get directions on FORPWC's private Yahoo Group at <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/FORPWC>. Prospective members who would like to visit the property before deciding to apply for membership should e-mail the club at forpwc@comcast.net.
- (5) *When is the property open for riding?*
The county allows us to be open from 10 am to 6 pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, but that does not mean that the property will be open all of these days or hours. We are only open when a club-designated Ride Supervisor volunteers to open and close the property and to supervise that day's riding. The property is locked whenever a Ride Supervisor is not present and no-one is allowed to be on the property at these times.
- (6) *What is the riding like at the property?*
Our track and trail are in the woods. The riding direction is all one-way and all of it is suitable for novice riders. All of the property is essentially flat and there are no unusual obstacles or hazards, although riders should note that all trails and the track are lined by trees for their entire length.

- (7) *Do you have a “real” motocross track?*
No, we do not have a motocross track as you would find at most commercial riding facilities (Budds Creek Motocross Park, The Landing, Tomahawk MX Park, etc.). We have a well-cleared, 12-foot wide, primarily-flat track through the woods with some small jumps (most based on culvert crossings), but we do not have a conventional motocross track. We will be looking at the feasibility of building some more significant jumps and berms to provide a little more excitement for skilled riders. A portion of the track forms a loop that is particularly suitable for beginning riders.
- (8) *Does the club have plans to expand its riding area?*
We have no plans to expand our existing riding area in the foreseeable future, which would require obtaining additional adjacent land and county permission. In the long term, the club will be looking for other land within a reasonable driving distance where we could consider establishing new riding facilities.
- (9) *What types of vehicles can be ridden at your property?*
Only off-road motorcycles (MX and trail bikes), dual-sport motorcycles, and ATVs are permitted on the track and trails. No “Jeeps,” SUVs, dune buggies, go-carts, scooters, bicycles, etc. are allowed. No passengers are allowed on any motorcycle or ATV.
- (10) *What is access to the property like?*
We have a 1/3-mile long gravel driveway on which a vehicle with low ground clearance may drag in spots. We have a 1/4-acre unpaved parking area that is covered in wood chips. Access may be difficult for an RV or a very large trailer.
- (11) *Are there any age restrictions for riding?*
There are no legal age restrictions on riding off-road motorcycles in Virginia, but state law (Virginia code §46.2-915.1, subsection A) prohibits anyone under the age of 12 from riding an ATV and limits ATV riders between the ages of 12 and 15 (inclusive) to engine displacements no larger than 90 cc. The club will adhere to this law, but otherwise requires only that parents/guardians ensure that their children do not ride motorcycles/ATVs beyond their capabilities. The ATV manufacturers provide their own recommendations for appropriate ages and engine sizes, but these guidelines do not take precedence over state law.
- (12) *Does the club host or allow racing or other competitive events?*
No, we do not sanction or allow competitive events of any sort. We will not do so because our club is intended for family-oriented recreational riding and because our county permit specifically prohibits this.
- (13) *Does the club have insurance?*
As with most legal off-road riding areas, all riding at our property is at your own risk—you waive your rights to sue the club and associated parties when you become a member and you must sign a liability waiver each time you come onto the property to ride. The club assumes that you are aware of and accept the risks of off-road riding on behalf of yourself

and your children. The club has a commercial liability insurance policy to protect third parties (non-members).

(14) *Do you require safety gear?*

Yes, we require full personal protective gear (helmet, proper eye protection, gloves, over-the-ankle boots, long pants, and long-sleeved shirt) whenever you are riding. Additional protective gear (chest protector, knee guards, elbow guards, etc.) is encouraged.

(15) *Can I visit the property to check it out before applying to become a club member?*

Yes, but don't bring your motorcycle or ATV—you will not be allowed to ride. Contact the club at <forpwc@comcast.net> to arrange for a visit.

(16) *Can I drop off my kids at the property and pick them up later?*

No! All minors must be accompanied by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). This does not mean that you have to ride along with your kids all of the time, but you must supervise them the entire time they are on the property.

(17) *Are there bathrooms at the property?*

We currently have no bathrooms at the property, but we plan to install a portable toilet in the near future.

(18) *Is camping allowed on the property?*

No. No-one is allowed to be on the property outside of our county-specified opening times (see question #5)

(19) *Is the club affiliated with any national motorcycle or ATV organizations?*

Yes, we have an official "social club" charter from the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA).

(20) *Do I have to be an AMA member to join the club?*

No.

(21) *Does the club have any special events?*

Yes, we occasionally arrange informal "away" rides at public and private riding areas in Virginia and neighboring states. The club also provides volunteer labor to help as parking attendants at the Pro National Motocross held at Budds Creek Motocross Park in Maryland on Father's Day, in return for which Budds Creek allows us to ride their world-class motocross track and trail system non-competitively for two days in the Fall.

(22) *How big is the club and do you limit membership?*

The club currently has several hundred members, but FORPWC's Special Use Permit from the county limits the club to a maximum of 60 riders on our Nokesville property. The club adopts a membership cap from time to time as circumstances warrant. Check the club's Website at <<http://forpwc.home.comcast.net>> to see whether we are accepting new members. If a membership cap is in place when you apply, you can be placed on our

waiting list at no cost, but the club will probably not be able to predict when new members will start being accepted again.

(23) *How much does membership cost?*

A Primary Member (an individual 18 or older, or a head of household) currently pays \$150/calendar-year and each Family Member (spouse, child under 18, or dependent child 18 or over attending college) currently pays \$25/calendar-year. In addition, all new Primary Members must pay a one-time initiation fee of \$50. We prorate dues on a calendar-year quarterly basis for a new member's initial year.

(24) *Are there any obligations of membership other than paying dues?*

Yes. Like most off-road riding clubs, we must maintain and repair our own riding area. Every member 12 years old or older must meet a standard club-designated work requirement (currently two workdays annually) in order to maintain their eligibility to ride. We may also impose additional special work requirements in order to qualify for special events. We also occasionally schedule special voluntary work-only days to address large or time-critical projects at our riding property.

(25) *Can I bring other members of my family or friends who are not club members to the property?*

You may bring a family member or friend who is not an FORPWC member at no charge, but they cannot ride and they also must sign a liability waiver when they come onto the property. Note that we do not have "spectator" areas from which they can watch you ride.

(26) *How is the club run?*

We have elected Officers and generally conduct business according to parliamentary procedures. We hold our regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. We do not have our own clubhouse, but currently meet at the Motorcycle Factory, Inc. (MFI) located at 3820 Prince William County Parkway, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Anyone can attend our meetings, but obviously only members can participate.

(27) *Does the club have rules?*

Yes! We have bylaws that govern the running of the club and the rights of members, and we have official rules that apply to riding and working at the property. The bylaws and rules are available to members through the club's private Yahoo Group (at <<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/FORPWC>>), but if you need to see them before you decide to apply for membership, request copies by e-mailing the club at <forpwc@comcast.net>.

(28) *How do I become a member?*

Either pick up an application form during one of our monthly meetings or download the form from the club's public website at <<http://forpwc.home.comcast.net>> and bring it to a meeting or mail it to the club (P.O. Box 2366, Manassas, VA 20108) along with a check (no cash or credit cards) for the first year's dues (prorated quarterly for your first year) for your family. If the club has a membership cap in place when you apply, you can be placed

on our waiting list (see question # 22). If you are the spouse or child of an existing Primary Member, you can become a member regardless of a membership cap being in effect.

(29) *Can I start riding as soon as I become a member?*

No—every new member must meet an initial club-designated work requirement (currently two workdays) before they can ride at the property. This initial work requirement for a new member will count towards his/her standard annual work requirement for maintaining eligibility to ride (see question #24).

(30) *How does the club communicate with members?*

The primary means of communicating with club members is at our monthly meetings and via e-mail (an e-mail alias through the club's private Yahoo Group). The address for the club's members-only Yahoo Group is <<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/FORPWC>>. New members should request membership in the FORPWC Yahoo Group upon joining the club. Once their membership is verified, a new member can enter an e-mail address in his/her Yahoo profile. If a member's e-mail address changes, the member is responsible for updating the new address in his/her profile. The club also has a public Website at <<http://forpwc.home.comcast.net>> that is accessible by anyone.

(31) *How will I know when the property will be open?*

Once you are a member and have joined the FORPWC Yahoo Group, you will receive e-mail notifications of when the property will be open through the e-mail address you provided in your Yahoo Group profile. We are looking into using the Web-based calendar on our Yahoo Group website to help with this job.

(32) *Are there any special club membership benefits?*

The Motorcycle Factory, Inc. (on Prince William Parkway in Woodbridge) and Manassas Honda Kawasaki (on Mathis Avenue in Manassas) offer a discount to FORPWC members on purchases of parts and accessories.