

Feb 8, 07

Jim;

Update on Team/MS/David Bailey.

I've formed an off-road motorcycle team to help promote awareness for Multiple Sclerosis and David Bailey. I've been following Team/MS for years, observing how you have been able to promote MS awareness and provide needed information through your website. I'd like to help further your message by exposing your following to off-road riding. I'm motivated because I have MS, and I ride. Recently I've had the pleasure of meeting the eighties MX Champion and nineties Triathlon Champion David Bailey. He's quite the hero, he has fought and fought through numerous physical injuries. He is a tremendous inspiration to anyone, especially those who battle an illness on a daily basis. All of us off-road motorcycle enthusiasts owe a tremendous amount of thanks to David for his contribution to the industry.

I raced motocross back in the sixties. I quit riding to go to school and then work. At the age of 35 I was stricken with MS. Since then I've dealt with paralysis, vision and cognitive challenges. My biggest hurdle through all this was when I took my two sons to watch a motorcycle race and they instantly got that wide-eyed "got to have" motorcycle look. At the age of 47 I started riding again, with my two sons, and my MS.

If I use the term "racing" very loosely, I've been racing vintage MX and modern desert in District 37. This back to riding thing reminded me of one of my dreams from the sixties which was to ride the Baja 1000. Around the campfire on a recent desert trip a good friend told me how much fun it would be to ride the 1000. I realized that I don't have much energy left in this old body, so the decision was made. I've recruited by sons and a few friends to fulfill that dream. Our goal is broken down into three steps. First, we're going to complete the San Felipe 250 in March, learn as much as we can about long race logistics and racing in Mexico. Second, we're going to race the Baja 500 in June, this going to be a huge step because of the added logistics. If we survive the 500, have confidence in our Team, we'll attack the last step, the 1000.

With all this said, we hope that we can add some additional interest to your website. With race banners, trailer graphics and motorcycle graphics we intend to open as many eyes as we can to the challenges of MS and David's personal challenges

We're headed to the desert this weekend for the final shakedown on our XR650R. I'll get you some pictures and keep you posted on our progress.

Tom Madlem