



# If You (Re)Build It, They Will Come (Back) The Restoration Of Zoar Moto Park

## Part Four: The Weekend

By Ed Abdo

It started with a dream with my old friend Mike Bender (R.I.P.) years ago. What I did not realize was how many others had the same dream. I was about to find out just how many!

After 40 years of being shut down, it took 6 months. That is 175 days. 4200 hours to prepare the track and property for one weekend of riding. Seems crazy when you look at it that way, but it was worth every one of the 15,120,000 seconds of time it took to make it all happen.

The end result it was as perfect as anyone could ever wish for. Over 1200 bikes were checked in with 452 riders signing up to ride those bikes. Some riders brought over ten bikes to ride! The weekend went by in what seemed to be a heartbeat and when looked at it as a big picture, it was just that.

I had no idea how many would come to this event and to be frank, I was not prepared for the numbers that came to ride and spectate. People came from 23 states and 4 different coun-

tries back to see Zoar Moto Park once again. But folks volunteered – some literally on the fly - to help make it all happen. These people took the time to help make the event happen either on the track, during the weekend or both. I will likely miss a few that came in to help and I apologize as some jumped up and helped in areas I did not even know about. I am forever grateful to every one of them.

Greg, Brett and Brenda Ballachino, Ken Lillis, John and Kate Watson, Buzz Noel, Dave Whitney, Bert Heinrich, Terry Armstrong, Doug Andrews, John and Joe Baronich, Sharon and Steve Reinhart, Reynold Wierzba, Jerome, Joe and Kathy Krzemien, Troy LivEcche, Jim Wilcox, Al Schwabel, Justin Bradley, Derek Opferbech, Dave Wilson, Dave, Ron and John Wendel, Mike and Brenda Krezmien, Amber and Tyler Strub, Tom “Yak” Threadgil, Mark Ferguson, Tamas Feher, Nick Abdo, Josh Bylbie. On top of those folks, “The Professor” Gary Bailey and Don “Killer” Kudalski came



Michelle Madison before and after



Davidson, Bob Weaver Motorsports, DCW Contracting, Spring Valley Landscaping, Ashford Small Engine, Dave Wendel and Sons, Noras Ark Inc. Hamburg Honda, and Goodes Restaurant.

Of course, a huge thank you goes to Donna for allowing me to clear the land, restore the track and hold the reunion and ride.

Crazy as it seems, from the beginning, I planned this to be a one and done project for me, and my intentions from the start were not to make a dime from this but only to get any money I put into the project back. Any profit from the event went to the Morton's Corners Fire Department who are the ones that respond to emergencies throughout Zoar Valley and oversaw the EMS duties at the event. The sport of motocross helped to define my working career and I wanted to give back. The Fire Department received a check for \$37,200.09.

On Sunday evening, after the event was completed, Donna stopped by and talked with Bonnie and me. We were all amazed at

by to join in on the weekend fun.

The following businesses also helped to make the event happen.

B&G Septic, Hebelers Sales & Service, MRC Disposal, Pioneer Motorsports, Exploration Motorsports, Northeast Vintage Cycle, Gowanda Harley

how everyone respected the property. She then said “You worked so hard to make this happen, and it was such a great weekend. I saw little kids and adults all having a wonderful time together and so many happy people. You really need to do this again.” So, on September 28th and 29th, 2024 we will do it once again!

You can check for updates and additional information at [www.zoarmotopark.com](http://www.zoarmotopark.com)

I'd also like to thank Steve at Hard Tales Magazine for publishing and promoting the rebirth and resurrection of ZMP. One last thank you goes to my loving wife Bonnie. She put up with a lot during those 6 months and I am the luckiest guy on the planet to have her by my side.

Instead of using words, I will let the following pictures tell the rest of the story of how the weekend went. Hope to see you in September!

Collage Pictures provided by: Brett Ballachino, Charlie Cornwell, Craig Whetstine, Darlene Cady, John Lewis, Shannon Lacey, Lisa P, Mary Pierce, Michelle Madison, Mike Stuzman, Melissa Northrup, Patti Lacey, Paula Rosen, Sharon Rinehart, Ron Wendel, Tamas Jaques-feher, Tim Anderson, Tim Downey

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