

Scooterists stay smooth for rally

BY JOE CISAR

For The Patriot-News

Force of gravity, a sense of balance and a two-handed grip kept dozens of motor scooterists in their seats on two rides yesterday afternoon.

The Meltdown 2007 rally by the Three Mile Island Scooter Club included one hilly ride around New Buffalo State Park in Perry County and an easier jaunt to Boiling Springs, Cumberland County.

Bud Featherlin of Carlisle was one of the road guards for the Perry County ride.

"I've always had a soft spot in my heart for scooters," he said, "because a scooter was the very first motorized vehicle I ever got to ride on."



MICHAEL FERNANDEZ, The Patriot-News

About 50 scooter riders attended the Meltdown 2007 scooter rally in Camp Hill.

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Originally from Colchester, Mo., the retired truck driver was at yesterday's rally with his grandson and friends.

They joined dozens of other scooter aficionados for this weekend of rides, camping, food, entertainment and games — including Scooter Paintball Jousting.

Their motorized two-wheelers might be smaller and less powerful than motorcycles, but they have "class and style," said Svend Sheppard of Mechanicsburg, co-founder, with Roland Henry, of the TMI Scooter Club.

They started the club in 2003, Sheppard said, "to expand the scooter horizon" beyond their focus on vintage machines.

"There are all different types of scooters here today and that is what Three Mile Island Scooter Club is all about," Sheppard said.

Sheppard began using a motor scooter regularly for transportation when he was stationed with the Army in Frankfurt, Germany, more than 10 years ago.

Now, Henry said, "it has become hard to ride anywhere without being stopped by curious people who are interested in finding out

more about scooters."

Ali and Cory Detar of Harrisburg said they contacted the club to see if a 1965 Vespa scooter that Ali's father bought was usable after 40 years.

"We pulled it out of the garage about a month and half ago," Cory Detar said yesterday. It had almost 4,300 miles on it before the rally.

And it managed another 50 miles yesterday, Cory Detar said after the Cumberland County ride, "except for one steep hill where we had to get out and push."

The couple was so impressed with the machine's performance they have plans to buy another — newer — motor scooter soon, they said.

