

# Scooter enthusiasts zoom to TMI club's Meltdown



PHOTOS BY MARY KLAUS, The Patriot-News

Genevieve Oligane of Camp Hill prepares to join the Three Mile Island Scooter Club Meltdown Saturday.

The motorized vehicles, part of post-World War II pop culture, are making a comeback as fuel prices climb.

From staff reports

The Three Mile Island Scooter Club was formed in 2002 to “promote scooter riding as the best form of transportation known to modern man and beer consumption as the best preventative measure against radiation exposure.”

The informal club, which has nothing to do with nuclear power, was formed simply for fun, said Roland Henry of Camp Hill, a longtime club member. There are no officers and no rules beyond having a good time.

This weekend, members did just that at Meltdown 2011, a three-day rally sponsored by the club.

More than bicycles and less than motorcycles, mo-

torized scooters were popular in Europe after World War II. They became part of pop culture in the United States in the 1960s and have made a comeback in recent years as the price of fuel has soared.

After socializing Friday night, about 140 scooter aficionados gathered on the banks of the Conodoguinet Creek in East Pennsboro Twp. on Saturday morning, then split into three groups.

Those with larger scooters headed to Little Buffalo State Park in Perry County, while smaller scooters and mopeds went to Boiling Springs. Vintage scooters, those earlier than 1970, headed to the Round Barn near Biglerville.

After the rides, Meltdown participants reconvened at the Conodoguinet Creek for a scooter contest, live music, barbecue and old-fashioned fun at the “Vintage Vegas” rally.

“Scooters aren’t the macho insanity of motorcycles,” said



Rich McKay of Pawtucket, R.I., cultivates his image as “Ogre” in motor scooter circles. He rides a 1962 Lambretta with custom metalwork.

Rich McKay of Pawtucket, R.I., known as “Ogre” in scooting circles. “But the way I look, I scare motorcycle-ists. How I look and what my motorcycle looks like is functional art.”

With a dragon tattoo on his shaved scalp, a nose ring, tartan loin cloth and leather and chain wardrobe, McKay tries to live up to the “Ogre” image, which he said he does for fun.

McKay leaned back on his 1962 Lambretta, which included his custom metalwork and a dragon head with glowing red eyes on the front.

He peeled off his black leather vest and revealed a T-shirt declaring “The Liver is Evil. It Must Be Punished.”

Genevieve Oligane, a pharmacist who lives in Camp Hill, wore a short black “casino cigarette girl” outfit, platform shoes and poker chips

for jewelry. She rode her 50cc Honda Metropolitan II, which travels up to 40 mph.

Bill Pray of Camp Hill, a systems analyst when he’s not on his scooter, has been riding a scooter for five years.

“Scooters like this used to be sold by Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Wards,” he said of his 1964 Lambretta. “Scooters are fun and save gas.”

Ali Detar of Hampden Twp. said she’s been around scooters all of her life. Her father bought a 1966 scooter to get around Pittsburgh, then later stored it in his garage for years.

“I remember playing on it when I was a kid,” she said.

“We took lessons on driving it and got our motorcycle licenses,” said Detar, who works in marketing and communications at Gannet Fleming. “We liked it. Now we have four scooters.”