

# Less Sound = More Ground

*The Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) was incorporated in 1992 with the goal of educating riders and promoting safe and responsible riding. As a result the OFTR recognizes that something needs to be done about noise. All off-road motorcycles should be at or below 94 dB-A.*

*Excessive noise creates negative public opinions and as a result public riding areas, or even private race tracks, can be closed.*



## MANDATE

To source, create and maintain a trail network in Ontario for safe, family use by off road motorcyclist, as well as any other good intentioned users. To provide a strong voice supported by a substantial membership to represent trail users to ensure, to our best ability, that these trails continue to be available.

## AGENDA

- to promote safe off road trail riding as a family sport
- to organize as many Ontario Trail Riders as possible
- to host an annual Corporate trail ride for all OFTR Corporate and Committee members
- to encourage OFTR members to become involved in local chapters
- to educate the general public about the benefits of off-road riding
- to provide an OFTR internet web site and a member list service

## OFTR

P.O. BOX 83

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[www.OFTR.ca](http://www.OFTR.ca)

# Sound Advice



## THE VOICE OF OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLISTS IN ONTARIO

**Promoting Responsible Trail  
Riding In Ontario**

[www.OFTR.ca](http://www.OFTR.ca)

2006 Draft

# Sound Advice from the OFTR

## Let's Face It- Excessive Noise Annoys

Obnoxious noise is the biggest factor affecting present and future trail use. It is also one of the main reasons threatening private race-tracks. It has become a growing issue over the years as urban growth encroaches on our once rural riding areas. Riders and Non-Riders do not like to hear noisy motorcycles in the comfort of their backyard nor while out sharing and enjoying trails. Excessive noise creates negative public opinions.



## Common Misconception

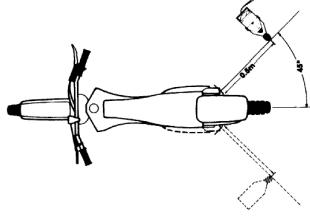
Noise doesn't equal horsepower. A loud bike is fast and powerful is a common misconception. Motocross bikes are made for closed course competition- yet many end up riding on the trails. Their exhausts are louder than trail bikes and should be changed to reduce sound levels. A quiet exhaust with a spark arrestor should be installed. Is the extra 1-2 HP you get from a loud aftermarket pipe really worth it? One thing is certain; It's not going to help at all when you can't ride the bike.

## Sound

Sound is measured in decibels (dB) the smallest audible sound (near total silence) is 0 dB. A sound 10 times more powerful is 10 dB, 100 times is 20 dB, 1,000 times is 30 dB. The difference between 94 dB and 100 dB would sound like having 4-94 dB bikes running side by side!

## Testing

How loud is it? There are many ways to test a bike for noise but only one way to do it properly- SAE J1287 standard using a sound meter and tachometer.



Tests are conducted with the rider on the bike, bike in neutral, rev at 1/2 speed, Sound meter at 20" and 45<sub>deg</sub> to the rear of the pipe set to A scale weighting and no other people or objects in the immediate test area. More information about this method can be found on the OFTR web site.

Why not talk to your club about performing sound tests at all events. Riders may not know how loud their bikes really are.



## What Can You Do?

Keep your bike quiet when near populated areas and keep the revs low. This will reduce the amount of air being forced through the exhaust. Shift up a gear- you'll keep your speed but drop the revs. Most of us ride on the weekend when the majority of people are sharing the trails. "On Any Sunday" ... try riding during the week, there are fewer people out. Keep your bike in good mechanical condition, tighten bolts, use skid plate foam (when these are loose they rattle and make excess noise). Repack your pipe once a year or more often as needed. When your packing gets old it deteriorates and becomes less effective. Keep Spark Arrestor in place- it won't sacrifice any power and it helps prevent forest fires.



Please educate others on the trails- pass on what you have learned.

With your help we can make a difference!



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