

# wide open

## ATV Adventuring

By Dennis "Ketchup" Cox

□ If you are reading this, you are probably an ATV adventurer. Among the many benefits of owning a quad is the ability to get out and enjoy beautiful trails, gorgeous scenery, and to explore different parts of the country.

In this issue we take a look at a French/Canadian couple that embarked on one of the longest ATV journeys we've ever heard of. This ambitious pair took on the challenge of traveling the Great Western trail, which stretches across the middle of the USA, going from the Canadian border all the way to the Mexican border.

However, the Great Western is more a trail in theory than in practicality. While certain sections, especially in Southern Utah, are well marked and easily accessible trails, most of the rest of the Great Western is simply dirt

frontage roads or inaccessible paths that exist only on paper.

ATV adventurers Marc Joinville and France Labonte' embarked on their epic 9275-mile cross country trip with GPS coordinates, maps, and a wealth of information for their nine-month trek. Originally, they had intended to travel only from Canada to the Mexican border. Once they arrived at the border area, they extended their trek even further. They then set out on another journey aboard their pair of Polaris X2 ATVs, with their tent trailer in tow. They traveled all



the way from the U.S. southern border with Mexico, clear to the tip of the Baja peninsula at Cabo San Lucas. After enjoying the sunny climes of Cabo, they climbed back aboard their steeds and headed back to the American border. In the process, they racked up an additional 3000 miles to their 6000-mile Cross Country trip!

Having met this adventurous cou-

## BRAKES & CLUTCHES

Ask at your local dealer or check out [www.ebcbrakes.com](http://www.ebcbrakes.com)

The best brakes for every riding condition. US made SV series severe duty sintered pads last longer in wet, mud and sand. Red carbon sport grade are great for fast dry riding.

EBC rotors are tough heat treated carbon steel alloy for longer wear life.

### Tough stuff for ATVs

Tough DRC clutch sets include full set of friction plates, steel pin planished separator plates and heavy duty springs to provide a complete rebuild.

## EBC BRAKES

Stopping power at its best - period



ple and listened to the many highlights of their ATV adventuring I was envious. Imagine being able to drop everything you're doing, take nine months off from your job, and then explore the country on a quad?

Certainly a fair number of serious ATVers might be interested in doing something like this. The reality of actually doing it, though, is altogether different. After hearing all the detailed preparation, multi-day practice runs, and careful thought and planning that went into Marc and France's trip, it became clear that this couple lives and breathes off-road adventuring.

They clearly display the outdoors spirit and determination that must have existed in the first off-road explorers, the early settlers who rode in wagon trains. These hardy individuals traveled a long and hard trip aboard provision-stuffed wagon trains, braving the elements, the terrain, and hostile natives along the way. Well, thankfully, Marc and France did not have to battle the local Native Americans, except to avoid the casino parking lots located on the tribal lands they journeyed through.

Embarking on an adventure like this is certainly not for everyone. Only the most determined and well-planned-out expedition could hope to accomplish what this couple has in the course of nine months of ATV riding and exploring.

The payoff? Marc and France have, to our knowledge, set a new record for a continuous ATV journey. Racking up 9275 miles while discovering the majesty, beauty, and differing peoples of both the USA and Mexico has given them some of the most enriching experiences in their lives.

They now have numerous memories and stories of the different people they met along the way. People who reached out and helped and encouraged them in their journey. Like me, they were all a bit jealous of the fact that Marc and France were actually doing what we only wish we could, an ATV expedition of record proportions. What this teaches us all, is that every journey begins with the first step. All-terrain vehicles are a great way to experience the people, places and terrain that make this sport challenging, yet satisfying, on so many levels. The next time you are planning an extended ATV ride, remember to follow in Marc and France's lead and take the time to enjoy the view. Ride on. □

## ▶▶ FACTORY SHOCK BY ELKA SUSPENSION



THE MOST TECHNICALLY ADVANCED SHOCK ABSORBER EVER OFFERED.

				
PROFILE MANAGEMENT & SERVICE PROGRAM	TRACK SYSTEM DEVICE & ADJUSTMENT	ELITE COMPRESSION & REBOUND ADJUSTMENT	DLC COATED SHAFT & HARD-ANODIZED PARTS	DEVELOPED USING DATA ACQUISITION

SPECIAL EDITION BUILT IN LIMITED QUANTITIES.

SPORTS & RACING ATV • SPORTS UTILITY ATV • SIDE-BY-SIDE VEHICLES • SPORTS & RACING MOTORCYCLES • MINIBIKES • STEERING DAMPERS • SERVICE DEPT.

CUSTOM-BUILT, HIGH-PERFORMANCE QUALITY PRODUCTS  
BACKED BY THE VERY BEST IN CUSTOMER SERVICE.  
1-800-557-0552 • (450) 655-4855 • [www.elkasuspension.com](http://www.elkasuspension.com)



## CAN-AM OUTLANDER & RENEGADE PERFORMANCE PARTS



- High Performance, Dyno-Tuned Complete Exhaust System with or without Spark Arrestor
- Large Port Aluminum Intake Manifold w/K&N Air Filter Kit
- High Compression 13:1 Piston Assemblies
- Performance Cams
- Oversize Valves – Bronze Guides
- Fuel Management Controller

- **AVAILABLE NOW:**  
Can-Am DS850 Kits Available
- **COMING SOON:**  
Can-Am DS450 Race Parts



**RON WOOD RACING PRODUCTS**  
(949) 645-0393 • FAX (949) 645-0692  
Email: [info@rotax.net](mailto:info@rotax.net) • [www.rotax.net](http://www.rotax.net)