



# Peterborough Sailability

## PERFORMANCE TRAINING MODULE

### PTM 08: Tow Vehicle ~ Operator Training



#### Requirement

There is a requirement to teach new and existing Helpers who may or may not have any prior knowledge of how the Tow Vehicle driver should operate safely and in a satisfactory manner.

#### Aim

The aim of this procedure is to provide information and guidance to new and existing Helpers in the in the preparation, operation and storage of the Tow Vehicle.

#### Objectives

The objective of this procedure is to set out a series of performance parameters which can be used to give the necessary guidance to a Helper so that they can achieve the following:

- a) To be able to prepare the tow vehicle satisfactorily prior to use and prior to storage.
- b) To be able to operate the tow vehicle in maneuvering the Challenger Trimaran trailers and Deben Lugger boat to the slipway, launch the boats (fully-crewed in the case of the Challenger Trimaran) and to apply the same techniques to the recovery procedures..

#### Method

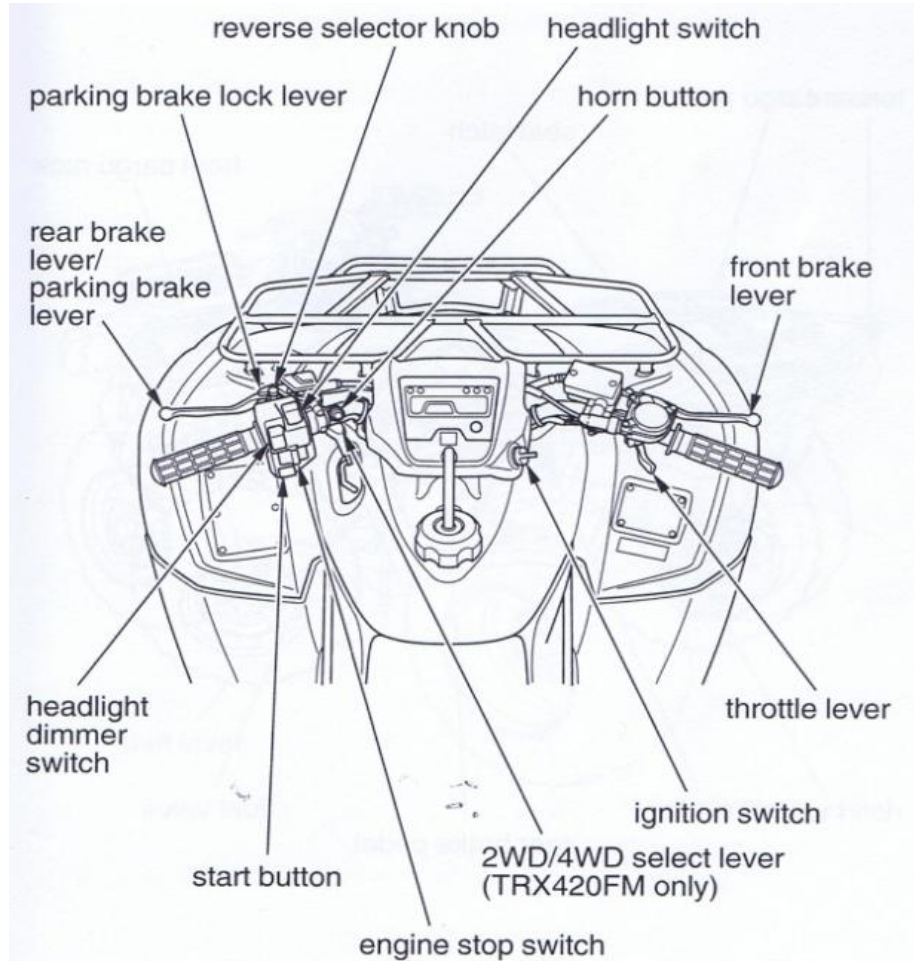
The method of the achieving the stated aim should be by either:

- a) Completion of a dedicated 'one to one' teaching work session or a series of these sessions, with a qualified Peterborough Sailability Senior or Assistant Instructor.
- Or
- b) Completion of 'on-the job-training'. In this case the Helper will be placed in the charge of an experienced tow vehicle operator over a series of work sessions.
- Or
- c) Completion of a combination of a) and b) above.

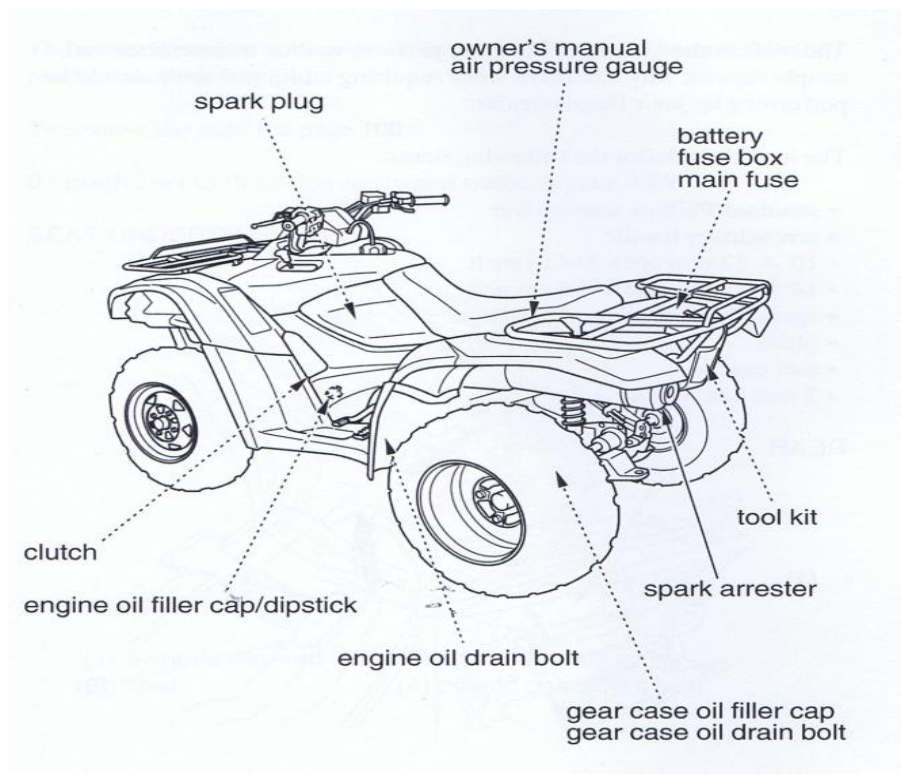
#### Rules and Recommendations

- a) Only able bodied persons over the age 18 with either a current full Automobile or Motorcycle license will be entitled to drive.
- b) Helpers should not drive whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Since the bike could be operating in a confined area that can be congested with people, speed should be kept to a minimum (rarely need to use any gear other than first or reverse – and **never** when towing).
- c) Whenever possible use the tow vehicle in 2 wheel drive (this makes the steering "lighter" and hence easier to steer). Always keep both hands on the handle bars and both feet on the pedals. Personal floatation device should be worn at all times.

## Tow Vehicle ~ HONDA TRX 420 Quad Bike



**Fig 1 ~ Main Controls**



**Fig 2 ~ Component Location**

## Vehicle Operation

***Safety Note.*** *Helpers being taught to use the Quad Bike need to be extremely vigilant as they are working in an area with a high density of people both able and disabled.*

Before operating the Quad Bike ensure that the layout of the Quad Bike controls, as shown in detail in the Honda Owner's manual relevant pages (see Figures 1 and 2 above) and as listed below, are known:

- Handle bar layout – Page 11
  - Right hand side Quad Bike controls – Page 12
  - Left hand side Quad Bike controls – page 13
  - “Dashboard” displays –page 14
  - Fuel gauge is located on top of fuel tank- page 23
  - Fuel Valve is located on the right side- page 24
  - Ignition switch – page 25
  - 2 wheel/4 wheel drive select lever- page 26
  - Starting and stopping the engine – pages 60-64
  - Changing gear pages 65 – 66
  - Reversing pages 67 – 68
  - Braking pages 69 – 70
- At this point the Helper should spend time driving the Quad Bike and becoming familiar with the controls.

***Safety Note:*** *The throttle control is extremely sensitive – power should be applied gradually and smoothly to avoid the Quad Bike jerking. This should be carried out in an area devoid of clients and should last for a minimum of 1 hour.*

***A dedicated practice area should have a course marked with cones so that the trainee can practice maneuvering both in forward and reverse gears, also in 2 and 4 wheel drive.***

## Recovery of Challenger Trimaran

- Drive the Quad Bike in first gear carefully down the ramp and into the shallows (be aware of shore crew also in the water). When in the correct position for attaching the Trimaran's painter select Neutral on the gear lever immediately.

***Safety Note:*** *Ensure the Quad Bike is in neutral whilst the painter is attached to the Quad Bike and prior to pulling the boat up the slipway. Failure to do this could result in the bike inadvertently lurching forward and causing injury to members of the Shore Crew.*

- Upon the launching trolley being connected to the towline and with the agreement of the Shore Crew engage 4wd and reverse gear.
- Gently apply throttle to take up the slack on the tow line and slowly reverse up the slipway (be vigilant looking both in the direction that you are travelling and checking that the shore crew are clear of trolley) until you reach the disembarkation area.
- Upon disconnection of towline store safely on the front rack, engage 2wd and return to the slipway ready for the next client

## Towing

- When connecting a trailer to the tow vehicle, ensure that the hitch locks onto the tow ball. (pull up and down on the draw bar).
- When maneuvering stay in either 1<sup>st</sup> or reverse. Quad Bike is light weight relative to trailers
- When driving forwards be aware that wheelbase of Quad Bike is significantly less than trailers so a gap the Quad Bike will pass through might not accept a trailer.
- When reversing if you turn the rear of the Quad Bike to the right then the rear of the trailer will turn to the left.

***Safety Note: Always ensure a Banksman is used when reversing the Quad Bike in the operational Launch/Recovery area. Failure to do so could result in injury to personnel walking in this area.***

- Avoid jack knifing the trailer as draw bar will foul rear wheels causing damage to the tyres.
- Ensure the parking brake is not left on for long periods

## Maintenance Checks

### Daily

- Check sufficient fuel for the day. ***Refer to SOP 01 Petrol Storage & Safety***
- Check the tyres are inflated to the correct pressure. The MC2 Tyre pressure should be set to 3.5psi only.
- Oil level. Page 109 owner's manual.
- Coolant level. Page 119 owner manual.
- Any defects/damage must be reported and entered into the defects book. Repairs must only be carried by at qualified dealership.
- Ensure the parking brake is not left on for long periods as this could result in the brake seizing in position.

For full details regarding maintenance /servicing see Owner's Manual page 85.

## Notes;

It is recommended that the owner's handbook be stored in a waterproof bag and placed in the document pocket located under the seat of the Quad Bike.