

Bunn January 5, 2020

Written by David Webster

2020 Whale Rock Fun Trial- Sunday, January 5th

The Carolina-Virginia Observed Trials club held its annual Fun Trial last Sunday.

2 inches of rain fell two days earlier which made the logs and leaves sloppy and slippery, but that did not stop the 32 riders who attended the event. Eight sections tested the riders and with 3 short loops everyone was finished by 2:30pm allowing for food, laughter and bench racing.

Special thanks to 77 year old Jim Ellis who owns the property. Every year Mr. Ellis allows several events on his land. He is always willing to help the sport of Trials. Jim rode this event with his good buddy Jerry Young who is in his 80's and who won the prize for "Farthest Traveled Rider"...Jerry drove all the way from Pennsylvania to see and ride with Jim. It was great fun watching these two old timers trying to outride each other and amazing to see what they were doing on a motorcycle.

This was a GATE TRIAL. Unlike a regular Trials event where the idea is to have the lowest score, in a Gate Trial, the goal is to capture as many points as you can. Riders get to choose the line they want to ride. The harder the gate, the more point value. In this event, if you ride the hardest line successfully you earned the maximum points in each section of FIFTEEN. Put your foot down and lose those points you have earned! Three loops of eight sections with a maximum of fifteen points per section adds up to a possible 360 points. No one was able to clean the day, but that did not stop several riders from trying the hardest lines every time!

Many new faces attended the event, some on a Trials bike for the first time. Youngster Jason Quell rode an Oset electric bike in his first event...his Dad Jon guiding him and the bike through each section so Jason would not fall. Ellis Daw's son-in-law Cody Johnston rode his first ever event....Luckily for him Jon Quell was around to figure out why his Honda would not start. Other new faces: Dave Corbett, Brian Veazey and Jeff Shearin. Jeff rode his KTM non Trials dirt bike and had many wild and woolly rides. Hopefully he will be back with a modern Trials machine.

Overall winner of the day: Maddie Hoover....322 out of a possible 360 points. Well done Maddie! In second place was Maddie's father Garry Hoover with 292 points. This was a truly great ride and good to see Garry riding so well. Garry was #1 expert in the CVOTC for many years until he started grooming his daughter to become the National Champion she is. Section four was the most difficult....a tight turn...over a small log then only 5 feet til a big log cut length wise. Many got trapped there. If you cleaned that the ending had a large stump that required moving the back end to get set up...even the best riders failed at least once trying to get set up.

Again this year was "Log Ride". A telephone pole laid on the ground approximately 40 feet long that the riders had to ride the length of. Good balance and throttle control and you could earn the maximum 15 points. Fall off early and your points were drastically reduced. The average score on the log was six!

Easiest section of the day was seven. A series of dirt banks and logs. Most riders did not ride the hardest line, a hard right turn in greasy dirt over a double log then a quick left turn over another log...but smart riders took the line that got them six or seven points out of the possible fifteen. This day is about fun and being outside with other riders enjoying the day. The awards are Dollar store gag prizes that are given at the end of the event. This year every rider left with some sort of an award, even if was just a pencil!

Facts and Observations:

It was good to see Mark Barnette riding! Mark has put on events for the CVOTC for many years. He does not ride very often and still got 6th place. Our newest expert Chris Buzzelli who has only been riding a year with us entered as an expert and finished just ahead of Mark....5th place. Sportsman Jon Hendricks beat his Advanced rider son Josh and Young Sportsman Conner Yueckel placed ahead of Advanced rider Make Mazak. Sportsman Berndie Lunsford got the lowest score of the day...46 and a prize for doing so. Just goes to show that in a Gate Trial, you can try for big points and end up with a bunch of goose eggs.

Dallas Stevenson was again the master chef bringing his portable grill and cooking hot dogs and red hots for all who were hungry. He did not even ride...just came early and set up his grill and condiments so everyone could eat. Dallas has always supported our club and we appreciate all he does! Leslie Matheson, Chris Buzzelli, Keven Bobal and Joe Palrang also brought goodies. There were donuts and bananas and chips and cookies and water bottles....plenty of food for all the riders and spectators who came to watch.

The organizer created teams this year, but forgot to write down the scores...SORRY and we will try to get it right next year! Also, the organizer missed some scores at the rider awards. We apologize for that gaff as well.

Below are all the CORRECT scores in order.
Thank you for attending and let's do it again next year.
If anyone has photos please post them.

1. Maddie Hoover 322
2. Garry Hoover 292
3. Jeff Hensley 280
4. Joe Palrang 252
5. Chris Buzzelli 245
6. Mark Barnette 239
7. Steve Billman 221
8. Kevin Bobal 199
9. Jon Hendricks 198
10. Josh Hendricks 186
11. Rick Schill 163
12. Alan Hensley 162
13. Jim Ellis 138
14. Gary Heyer 131
15. David Corbett 126

16. Conner Yueckel 121
17. Ellis Daw 110
18. Mark Redbond 104
19. Rusty Lacy 97
20. Cody Johnston 87
21. Jeff Shearin 84
22. Scott Porter 83
23. Leslie Matheson 69
24. Brian Veasey 69
25. Berndie Lunsford 46

Exhibition riders

Kevin Hobbs

Jon Quell

Jason Quell

Jerry Young

Brian Smith

Benjy Gold

David Webster