

Bunn October 27, 2019

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From Rick Schill:

It was a grey and misty morning heading out to the last CVOTC trials for the 2019 season; perfect day for a proper Observed Trials. Destination: Whale Rock Trials venue in Bunn, NC, the brainchild of CVOTC Hall of Famer, Jim Ellis. A newly constructed covered seating area, named the “Ryan Young Pavilion”, was decorated for All Hallows Eve by Leslie Matheson and John Quell and provided a wonderful display of trophies as well as adequate protection from the mist. Trials Master Dave Webster, the Energizer Bunny of Trials Masters, challenged us with his 3rd effort for the year. The newly expanded parking/camping area was full.

The day progressed from a misty morning to light showers to partially sunny conditions that woke up the pesky little flying insects. Kind of like Scotland; if you don’t like the weather, wait 15-minutes, it’ll change. Laying out sections in the dry and then reacting to a forecast of wet conditions, possibly severe, will certainly keep a Trials Master on their toes. Dave did a great job adjusting the section difficulty so as to avoid impossibly slippery, barkless, hanging pine logs. Well-drained soil conditions were good and impassable axle-deep mud never developed even in the new Sandy Creek area.

Forty-one riders were greeted by three loops of nine sections that covered the breadth of the Whale Rock Trials area. Sections featured: wet logs, some hanging well off the ground, some at strange off-camber angles that were anything but “head-on” approach, some were slippery as a “greased pig” and others had decent grip and you could not tell by looking at them; pine needle encrusted off-camber turns; loose sandy soil; strategically placed white quartz rocks, both loose and mortared together to create a stone wall. Clearly the Trials Master’s many minions were hard at work creating these new features. Surprisingly, the banks of the creek sections held up well providing just enough traction.

Riders were wet either from the light rainfall or perspiration, maybe a combination of both however there was just enough Fall in the air to keep riders going at a pretty fast pace with most completing the day well before the 4 o’clock cut-off time.

Results for the day were pretty much what a Trials Master is looking for with many scores in the 20s and 30s. Advanced rider, Joe Palrang and Sportsman rider, Mark Redbond were clearly in their special zones posting only five and seven penalty points for the day, respectively. Both besting their class by many multiples. Other class scores were sometimes just a penalty point away from each other; the mental aspect of the sport can really make a big difference in final placing. We had a record twelve Intermediate riders; it was great to see so many new members in the group and I am certain they benefited from the advice of their class’s several experienced veterans. Overheard was the tale of more than one Vintage rider that was pushing their way back to the Pavilion; comes with the territory and keeps you coming back!

Dave Scarbro and Eugene Tomachinski joined us from the New England Trials Association. They were in town for other reasons and then joined us for our last competition for 2019. They were not traveling together; this was a pleasant coincidence. I believe CVOTC once again gave our trials brethren a good idea of how we contribute to the sport of Observed Trials: we challenge ourselves, support our riding buddies, have fun and finish the day no worse for the wear, mostly.

Whale Rock Trials Results:

EXPERT

Maddie Hoover 20

ADVANCED

Joe Palrang 5

Steve Billman 22

Chris Buzelli 26

Josh Hendricks 36

Eugene Tomachinski 37

SPORTSMAN

Mike Mazak 30

Jim Ellis 31

John Hendricks 32

Joe Walter 43

Berndie Lunsford 66

VINTAGE SPORTSMAN

Rick Schill 22

Gary Heyer 38

INTERMEDIATE

Mark Redbond 7

Rusty Lacy 21

Samantha Fisher 22

Dave Scarbro 25

Kevin Hobbs 31

Jim Carey 36

Frank Wolfe 42

Dave Snapp 44

Ellis Daw 59

Leslie Matheson 71

John Franklin 73

Mason Lopez DNF

VINTAGE INTERMEDIATE

Scott Porter 44

NOVICE

Will Salter 9
Benjy Gold 17
Rob Clifford 20
Pat Tremblay 55
Nick Barr DNF

EXHIBITION

Dallas Stephenson
Randal Mitchiner
John Quell
Ryan Smith
William (Eddie) Bennett
Bill Boulch
Kevin Bobal
Gary Hoover
Jim Merrill
Mike Fisher