

## **Thurmond September 8, 2019**

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Write up by Rick Schill, copied from the CVOTC FaceBook group.

Trials Master Stuart Bishop hosted what I would call a “Mama Bear” event; not too hard, not too easy (with at least one notable exception) but mostly just right with many scores in the 30s and 40s. Good traction was there for those that waited; sometimes surprisingly good on the big uphill stream banks with exposed roots. Mountain weather in the mid-80s was a welcome relief from the summer temperatures, especially for those traveling up from Coastal and Piedmont locations. Sections were a mix of new and established challenges some taking advantage of newly downed trees carefully placed so as to create maximum disruption for the twenty-eight riders. Advanced riders were split into two cohorts allowing them to move more quickly through the day. Everyone finished well before the 4PM cut-off leaving time for some practice rides on sections and a thorough cleaning of all section materials placing the wooded property back to its pristine condition.

Dave Webster, our only Expert rider for the day rode with the Advanced class. After the event, he was heard musing over his ability to collect some “cleans”; I believe he was totally satisfied and feeling pretty good! And rightly so, as he had a very good day dropping less points in Expert class than most every Advanced rider, exception being Chris Buzzelli. Rumor has it Chris is contemplating Expert class in his near future, no pressure Chris...you got this! Advanced riders’ scores were incredibly tight as four riders’ scores were within a 5-point spread.

You could say this was not Gordon Bowden’s “first rodeo” however besting the Sportsman class with no points lost for the day deserves special notice. His ride epitomizes what is great about Observed Trials and should serve as a clear message that “time in the saddle” pays off. It was also nice to see Mike Dalmaso from STRA join us and give Gordon a “run for his money”.

Several riders spent their day honing skills and challenging themselves riding in Exhibition class trying some new and more difficult lines preparing themselves for future events. We also had some of our youngest riders, Savannah and Charlotte Garner, under the patient eye of their dad Justin finding Youth lines in some of the sections. This could be our next crop of top-level riders to come out of CVOTC.

Mike Cramsey, from the Trials Inc. club was in town and joined us for the day riding with the Advanced group. I believe CVOTC gave him a good idea of how we contribute to the sport of Observed Trials: we challenge ourselves and our riding buddies, have fun and finish the day no worse for the wear.

### **Thurmond Results**

#### **EXPERT**

Dave Webster 30

#### **ADVANCED**

Chris Buzzelli 18

Steve Billman 28

Joe Palrang 30

Mike Cramsey 32

David Lawson 33

Josh Hendricks 40

Ed Romney 70

#### **SPORTSMAN**

Gordon Bowden 0 (No, this is not a typo!)

Mike Dalmaso 6  
Mike Mazak 11  
John Hendricks 15  
Berndie Lundsford 35

**VINTAGE SPORTSMAN**

Rick Schill 31  
Gary Heyer 43

**INTERMEDIATE**

Kevin Hobbs 4  
Brian Merrit 10  
Jim Carey 17  
Leslie Matheson 53

**VINTAGE INTERMEDIATE**

Michael Friesen 18  
Jim Ellis dnf

**NOVICE**

Sammy Romney 28  
Pat Tremblay 40

**EXHIBITION**

Conner Yuckel  
Gerald Mullins  
Noel Mullins  
Savannah Garner  
Charlotte Garner