

This is a tribute to Jim Ellis and the 2022 Season Championship Awards he designed and created. From start to finish, this is 100% Jim and it provides a wonderful insight into the mind of Jim Ellis.

Every award was tailored to each recipient. Each major CVOTC milestone of 2022 was captured from the individual riders' perspective. At times the story reaches outside of the CVOTC schedule. Robert Langdon, the professor of religious symbology in the DaVinci Code, would have been challenged to unravel the story behind each:

- The green represents nature, where we play.
- Trialsmasters had a blue TM in place of a finishing position at their event.
- Those who rode a different class than their normal had that class printed and the finish position in orange rather than purple indicating it did not earn season points.
- The red heart illustrates the friendly, helpful, and caring atmosphere of this group.
- Trials machinery/bikes are symbolized by the tire tread.
- Notice the physical gap in the "schedule" after the fun Gate trial.

As creative as the awards are, there is a highly disciplined technical side of the story:

- There was extensive experimentation on scrap paper of different ideas, for example one page contained dozens of variations of the font ultimately chosen.
- A black and white template common to each award was created as a starting point.
- A thin lead mechanical pencil was used to lightly draw names and finishing positions.
- Several widths of black pens were used, smallest pen, a Signo Uni-ball Ultra Micro 207, had .38mm line.
- Tiny bits of color were applied with gel pens drawing attention to details like the Hall of Fame recipient, championship points earned, and our new venues.
- When satisfied, the ink was left to dry and the pencil marks erased with a white eraser which had to be rubbed clean every few seconds to reduce the chance of smudges.
- Precise scissor cutting reduced each 8.5 x 11 award to slightly under 8 x 10. A sixteenth inch clearance was left around each side to allow for variations in humidity.
- Framing required cutting a white paper and cardboard to back the artwork.
- UV resistant glass was used to protect the artwork for years to come.
- Finally, custom cardboard cartons were created to protect each award in transportation and presentation.

Recipients of the awards were quite impressed. Some of the comments posted on the CVOTC social media site:

- Ash Harrison, "This was undoubtedly the most thoughtful and amazing award I've even gotten for riding a motorcycle. Jim Ellis made 17 of these, each specific to the individual for everyone who completed the required number of

events to qualify for year end points in the CVOTC. The award has history of the club and EVERY thing that went on including the CVOTC this past year. It has my finish in each event including the number of riders at the event and the points I had. Incredible!”

- Martin Sturla, “...my trophy is amazing...really awesome... memento of 2022! ...thoughtful artwork and effort!”
- Leslie Matheson, “Wowsa!!!!!! Jim outdid even himself - and that is saying something...thank you for caring so much. Your heart is huge!!”
- Kevin Gwyn, “That’s awesome!”
- Keith Bell, “This is cool!”
- Dewey Keeton, “Beyond Folk Art! Masterpiece!!!!”
- Cheryl Grieten, “How very creative and thoughtful!!”



