

Albemarle July 22, 2018

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From Rick Schill:

This was the second Observed Trials hosted by Jeff, Alan and Brandi Hensley at the family compound in Albemarle, NC. If you were wondering how they could top their 2017 inaugural event, well now you know. Despite the challenging weather, the well planned and spectator friendly sections held up extremely well and provided the necessary challenge that trials riders appreciate. They stated targeting a class winning score in the mid to upper twenties; most classes were right about there at the end of the day with some getting into the 30s...and then there was the Advanced class. Bless their hearts they were still smiling after a very long day with scores well above other classes; interesting to note however that they were able to clean all but 2 of their nine sections at some point in the day. Section 6 was just plain mean to them. I did not include Sportsman class as an exception because Vintage A rides that line and their score was close to the Trialsmasters' range. I believe the Trialsmasters' delivered their intended level of difficulty par excellence.

Jim McKenzie and Competition Wheels and Cycles provided riders with a selection of new Beta trials bikes to drool over and also had a selection of motorcycle necessities on hand to keep our bikes running in good condition.

Nine sections and three loops through the cool shade of the deep woods was just about the right amount of riding for most classes. Section 1-4 were very spectator friendly and yielded some wonderful photos, thanks Brandi! There was a nice mix of stadium sections and natural terrain consisting of rocks, hills, logs and lots of off-camber traverses and turns rewarding riders with good technique. It is interesting to note that except for 2 sections in the Advanced class, every section was cleaned by someone at some point in the day, even after the mid-event monsoon. Think about the origins of Observed Trials in the UK and you'll realize that an event without rain is missing something.

Cleans were generally hard-earned and well appreciated by those fortunate riders; they could not hide their smiles or conceal their pleasure at that moment.

Forty-three (43) riders were present on an extensive assortment of modern and vintage trials bikes include a hardtail GRM that had folks doing a double-take; there was a history lesson to be had for anyone that asked about the bikes origins. Many more Novice riders than usual competed; hopefully they stick with it and progress their riding skills at future CVOTC events. Riders represented at least five states (NC, GA, VA, TN, SC) and included our STRA brethren.

We were fortunate to have Maddie Hoover state-side as she joined her fellow CVOTC club members and provided a glimpse of just how far she has come over the last few years on her trajectory to becoming one of the top Women riders in the world. She certainly gave the many spectators and photographers something to marvel. Yes Virginia, a top international rider can defy gravity and seemingly break the laws of physics.

Results:

Expert

Maddie Hoover 37

David Webster 63

Gary Hoover 89

Advanced

Joe Palrang 44

Steve Billman 58

Davide Lawson 92

Thomas McKenzie dnf
Gordon Bowden dnf
Kevin Bobal dnf
Ed Romney dnf

Sportsman

John French 56
Mike Dalmaso 61
Jon Hendricks 66
Josh Hendricks 67
Ian Troublefield 118
Lou Guerra dnf

Vintage A

Greg Hales 37

Vintage B

Rick Schill 21
Gary Heyer 28
Jon Quell 36
Scott Porter 44
Jim Ellis 53

Intermediate

Will Walter 26
Jeremy Williamson 38
Kevin Hobbs 44
Jim Carey 47
Mark Redbond 55
Mike Clifton dnf
Justin Bora dnf

Novice

Scott Yarboro 23
Darris Smith 28
William Boulch 47
Justin Garner 58
Sammy Romney 59
Will Salter dnf
Pam Paszke dnf

And 7 Exhibition riders