

Bunn May 20, 2018

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Transcribed from Jim Ellis:

Rust Bucket Vintage Trial

On May 20th the mostly middle aged members of the Rust Bucket Brigade gathered in Bunn, NC for another woodland ramble. Even though Prince Harry and the new Duchess of Sussex sent their regrets, the Brits were duly represented by Will Salter and John French herding their Triumph Cubs. Somehow John convinced Spencer Johnston, who had never suffered the pleasures of Trials riding, to enter on a tattered TL-125 Honda with its mongrel tank and alien forks. Spencer started cautiously, caught on rapidly, and "thoroughly enjoyed it."

Two blue tanked TL-125s wandered about under the guidance of their new masters, Joe Palrang and Alan Hensley. Boasting a "Rust Bucket Special" plate, Joe admitted acquiring his quiet machine specifically for this event. Alan rode his Grandfather's old TL-125 with its beefier shocks attached to an unusual pair of pivoting lower struts.

Scott Porter missed the grand start at Section One, the heavily root infested Fran Hillside, while returning from a BMW car meet in the mountains. He and rival Jim Carey persuaded their red Bultaco Sherpa T's to nearly identical scores. Rick Schill brought a classic Spanish bike, a beautifully restored Ossa MAR. Not keen to damage it, he has started the mechanical restoration of a TY-250 Yamaha for rougher use.

Since the Rust Bucket allows beginning or Novice riders to use a modern cycle in this relaxed competition, Gerald Mullins tackled the 'B' line with his Gas Gas Contact. Dallas Stephenson, a former cross country racer, believes he has contracted TD, the dreaded Trials Disease. One of its classic symptoms is selling all your KTMs. They were replaced by a Sherco (now for sale), a Scorpa, and a fine black TY-175 Yamaha.

Rust Bucket fan and Honda enthusiast Danny Brumley brought back "Ole Pig," one of his massive TL-250's. David Webster, definitely a 2-stroke fan, was caught smiling several times on a borrowed Honda Reflex. He may actually like them, having made the arrangement for this one month ago. Last year, using the tired logic of old age, Jim Ellis installed oak struts on his aluminum tanked Reflex. In a sudden moment of rationality the factory shocks were reattached.

Fear of rain reduced our entries. It remained dry, even a bit sunny. Thanks to your generosity nearly \$300 was taken in for the TDN Team USA! But, most importantly, the circus atmosphere of the Rust Bucket soared to new heights. Carrying your own card greatly facilitated multiple riders in the section. Jeep Slope, a large wide section, often had five riders weaving through it. Triple riding each section led to rider improvement, shortened the loop time and let spectators keep up.

Seven of the fifteen sections emerged in freshly cleared areas: Rocky Ditch, Sandstone, Cedar Legs, Twin Poplars, Dirt Pile, Ant Hills and Toad Hall. Although originally conceived as an Annual event, the Rust Bucket's informality and nearly constant action could take place more frequently. I am willing to host another in 2018, possibly in October or November. But I would like to share the designing, testing, and marking with others. It would be your Rust Bucket then. Many thanks to Frank Wolff, Dallas Stephenson, Danny Brumley, Kevin Bobal, Keith Bell, Jon Quell and David Webster for your help!

B Class ----- Anywhere within the boundaries

1. Gerald Mullins - 19 - 2017 Gas Gas Contact

2. Danny Brumley - 50 - 1976 TL-250 Honda

3. Will Salter - 57 - 1967 Triumph Cub

Spencer Johnston - no card - 197? TL-125 Honda

John French - 0 - 19?? Triumph Cub - he cleaned all but was helping Spencer, Over qualified for the B class

A Class ----- Numbered Gates

1. Joe Palrang - 13 - 1974 TL-125 Honda

2. Rick Schill - 15 - 1972 Ossa MAR

3. Jim Ellis - 21 - 1987 Honda Reflex - 32 '0', 9 '1'

4. Alan Hensley - 21 - 1974 TL-125 Honda - 32 '0', 8 '1'

5. Scott Porter - 29 - 1976 Bultaco Sherpa T

6. Jim Carey - 30 - 1977 Bultaco Sherpa T

7. Dallas Stephenson - 94 - 1976 TY-175 Yamaha

David Webster - no card - 1986 Honda Reflex