

Bunn Fun (Gate) Trial, January 6, 2019

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2019 Fun at Bunn Gate Trial - Sunday, January 6th

The Carolina Virginia Observed Trial club held its annual Fun Trial on a nice sunny day this past weekend. Twenty-eight riders came out to test their skill on eight sections. The sections at this event site are always about challenging the rider with tricky turns, off camber climbs, pine straw and leaves, and slippery logs. Two days prior, about an inch of rain fell on the event site, making it a little more difficult for riders to find the traction needed to earn them a high score. This was a GATE TRIAL. Unlike a regular Trials event where the idea is to have the lowest score, in a Gate Trial, the goal is to have as many points as you can. Riders get to choose the line they want. The harder the gate, the more point value. In this event, if you ride the hardest line successfully you earned the maximum points in each section of FIFTEEN. Put your foot down and lose those points you have earned! Three loops of eight sections with a maximum of fifteen points per section adds up to a possible 360 points. No one was able to clean the day, but that did not stop several riders from trying the hardest lines every time!

This day is about fun and being outside with other riders enjoying the day. The awards are Dollar Tree gag prizes that are given at the end of the event. Hopefully every rider left with some sort of an award and if not see me and I will get you your participant pencil.

Several spectators showed up to witness the clubs riding ability. "Farthest Traveled Spectator" was David Andrews from Boone, N.C. He followed the teams around for two loops taking pictures and asking questions... I believe we have another convert to our sport!

The "Farthest Traveled Rider" award goes to Mike Dalmaso, who lives in Georgia. Mike drove to Sanford on Saturday, then came up and rode our event. We made sure he went home with a fabulous trophy so he will come back next year. Enjoy your pencil with eraser Mike!

Along with individual rider scores, the event has a team concept combining an Expert rider with riders of the other classes... Advanced, Sportsman, Intermediate and Novice. Doing this allows interaction, coaching and builds camaraderie and lets all riders watch and learn.

The winning team this year was the Jedi-force riders with a combined total of 991 points. Jeff Hensley, Alan Hensley, Joe Walters, Rick Schill and Rusty Lacy. For their great riding they each received a bottle of either reindeer poop or elf snot. Other Team Scores: Plonkers...983. Mario Brothers...823. Screw Loose Racing...779.

Once again the famous "Log Ride" was used as section one. A telephone pole laid on the ground approximately 30 feet long that the riders had to stay on. Good balance and throttle control and you could earn the maximum points. Fall off early and your points were drastically reduced. The average score on the log was six. Even Expert riders failed this obstacle. Only TWO riders rode all the way down the log all 3 loops: Alan Hensley and Dan Fahey.

Several vintage bikes were ridden Sunday. Not easy to compete with these bikes, the sections are designed to be harder now than when these bikes were built. But some of these riders are loyal to their vintage steeds, with some amazing rides and overall results. I saw a few Bultaco's, a Honda and a cherry Ossa owned and ridden by Rick Schill.

Overall winner of the day: Jeff Hensley...304 points out of a possible 360. Nice Job Jeff!

Best rider of the day was a tie between Greg Hales, who took 2nd place on a Yamaha TY 350 that was over 25 years old, and Dan Fahey, 3rd place, who has not been riding for months, and was trying to decide if he was going to continue with the sport. We're so glad you are still with us!

The Garner family showed up Sunday. Justin and his two daughters Charlotte and Savannah. Justin played minder as the two darling little girls rode kids sections on their Oset electric bikes. Charlotte just edged out her sister for 1st place, but her sister Savannah had the best looking shirt of the day!

Section number Six "Tinker Toys" was by far the hardest section to get through of the day. Many a rider stalled, dabbled or crashed. A tough turn just to get ONE point stopped many. A difficult log crossing onto an off camber wet dirt bank and then more logs was a disaster for most who tempted it. 'Best Crash Of The Day' was on this section, when The Real Jim Carey went over a large log at the end of the section with his vintage Bultaco, then had the bike on top of him when he crashed. Several riders had to pull the bike off him. The fall ended the day for Jim, but bruised and sore he was last seen eating a hot dog and smiling at the awards ceremony.

'Easiest Section Of The Day' had to be number five "Jim's Pine Straw Sales" a series of short uphill and quick downhill with turns, all while riding on slippery pine straw. Most got the maximum points at least once, but it still caused many a rider to slip and slide and fail.

Some very big Thank You's are required! Jim Ellis, owner of this event site and 76 year old participant. Leslie Matheson, who helped with sign-up and brought more sugary goodies than we could eat! Mike Dalmaso who let Leslie ride his Beta 125 around the parking area! Dallas Stevenson who was head chef and cooked red hots and hot dogs and created a party for us after the event. Jon Quell, who was 2nd chef and brought two kinds of his famous homemade chili. All my Bunn Homies who brought so many snacks and chips and pasta salads to completely cover a picnic table.

And THANK YOU for coming...let's do it again next year!

Riders

Jeff Hensley 304

Greg Hales 242

Dan Fahey 224

Garry Hoover 219

Joe Palrang 217
Alan Hensley 214
Kevin Bobal 171
Josh Hendricks 162
Rick Schill 161
Joe Walters 161
Mike Dalmaso 153
Rusty Lacy 151
David Lawson 143
Jeremy Williamson 137
John Hendricks 136
Jim Ellis 131
Scott Porter 127
John French 123
Jim Carey 97
Frank Wolff 88

Kids

Charlotte Garner 1st
Savannah Garner 2nd

Exhibition

J D Gilliam
Dave Snapp
Justin Bova
Justin Garner
Jon Quell
David Webster