

Bunn October 25, 2020

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Written by Michael Friesen

From Trialsmaster Dave Webster:

I thought it would be fun to get two other viewpoints on the Whale Rock Trials event on October 25th.

The first is from Abigail Buzzelli. This was her First ever Trials event! The second is from Joe Palrang, a veteran rider who has ridden many events.

Like many CVOTC riders, Sunday I woke up excited to ride. For me, it meant my first event on my own trials bike. Upon arrival, coming to a CVOTC event always feels like a family reunion. It calls together friends you see frequently, more distant riding acquaintances known through the club, and well welcomed new riders and spectators, but it always includes a warm and upbeat atmosphere. Friendly is an understatement.

The rain upped the ante on David's creative layout of some favorite trials spots around Whale Rock and took us to a few less ridden areas as well. As the day went on and the mud developed, riders had to dig deep to earn cleans, but the atmosphere was positive as we witnessed so many riders rise to the challenge.

Riding with the novice class held lots of unexpected joys. To start, we had a bigger class than usual, and our peer scoring group included riders from intermediate all the way up to expert. This was inspiring and encouraging as the novice riders were able to see what they have to look forward to. Next, we had a completely clean scorecard from the youngest rider at the event, Matt (9 years old.)

The whole day felt like a fun challenge to battle the mud, and David's aquatic awards (adorable blue whales on rocks with googley eyes) were a perfect fit. The day was full of positive encouraging moments, inside jokes, muddy gear, and new friends. Only in trials do you see this many smiles on a rainy day.

- Abigail Buzzelli

Rain kept Whale Rock and the rest of the sections slippery the whole day this year, but it didn't seem to drown the enthusiasm, or smiles. As usual, it was fun to see all the CVOTC family who turned out to weather the weather. Gary Hoover was a welcome and surprise addition to the-uncharacteristically-small Advanced group, consisting only of regulars Steve Billman and myself. Hey, I got second place! It's probably good that Gary rode Exhibition. I also finished last! I'm not a fisherman, but I know how to flounder, and I put those skills on prominent display for the entire day, cresting with the diabolical Section 8 which I found nearly impassable all three loops. Cleans were hard to come by in the muddy conditions, but it's a tribute to trialsmaster David Webster's seasoned skills--on the bike, and on the gate cards--that the sections were still rideable and fun. This year David and his wife, Donna, put in even more work

to make forty (!) extra-special blue whale trophies and participant mementos, complete with googly eyes. Thanks, David, Donna, Jim Ellis, and the many folks who helped with this event! I missed my absent (regular and irregular) Advanced group buddies, but I got to hang out in the woods and learn from two excellent riders. I give this year's Whale Rock Trials two flippers up!

- Joe Palrang

I still have 6 little whales that could use a home....let me know if you did not get one or would like another.

Results: 28 riders

NOVICE

Matt Simpson 0
Abigail Buzzelli 4
Will Salter 5
Christian Alva 7
Jason Quell 31

INTERMEDIATE

Kevin Hobbs 27
Rusty Lacy 28
Ellis Daw 42
Michael Friesen 49
Frank Wolff 50
Kenny Gwyn 53
Bryce Lunsford 54
Leslie Matheson 64
Benjy Gold 69
Jim Carey 70

VINTAGE INTERMEDIATE

Scott Porter 55
Mark Weppler DNF

SPORTSMAN

Jon Quell 35
Cody Johnston 37
John Hendricks sr. 39

VINTAGE SPORTSMAN

Rick Schill 46
Jim Ellis 57

ADVANCED

Steve Billman 36
Joe Palrang 38

EXHIBITION

Josh Hendricks
Chris Buzzelli
Garry Hoover
Mark Redbond