

## **Lawrenceville September 27, 2020**

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From Rick Schill, President:

This past weekend, Trialsmaster Gary Heyer reminded us of an important life lesson: If first you don't succeed, try, try, try again. CVOTC's 2020 season had a rocky start. We were ready to ride our season opener at Lawrenceville's Logs and Ledges back in March and then the COVID shutdown. All of the efforts to clear vegetation and ready sections seemed to be lost and then Gary, Mark Barnette, Bob O'Sullivan and others picked themselves up by the bootstraps and repeated their efforts to ready the venue for a September event. The double effort produced one fine event for the twenty-five (25) riders that competed and spectators, some traveling many hours to witness the day.

Weather in North Carolina is quite different from Spring to Fall. Remnants of hurricanes and tropical storms kept the soil saturated and the sections wet right up to the day of the event. Soil for the most part is well drained and traction was there for those that waited, with one notable exception, Section 5.

The competition was eight (8) sections ridden in three (3) loops. There were four (4) Expert, Advanced and Sportsman riders competing and once again the largest class was Intermediate where we had eight (8) riders. Intermediate has consistently become our largest class; it is fun watching riders develop strategies, confidence and skills and experience the "Thrill of victory".

Section difficulty seemed just about right based on class winners' scores. Expert 1<sup>st</sup> Place finish was decided on the number of cleans: The group provided excellent spectating opportunities especially on the streamside rock outcroppings of Sections 7 and 8. Rideability of most sections stayed the same or improved during the day giving riders time to figure out their lines and techniques. Wet, barkless logs started slippery and stayed that way testing riders' ability to unweight. And now back to that Section 5 exception: It started out streamside with some tight off-camber turns with moist soil and exposed roots; tricky but doable. Then onto a not-so-well-drained boggy area to get tires packed with mud before turning uphill where depending on the class you went just a little uphill, half-way uphill or all of the way uphill. Half-way up the hill over rocks and roots, quick turn to the left and then a steep traverse for Sportsman. Higher classes went all the way back up heading to a big wet log. Then the fun, descending from half-way or all of the up the hill; the moist soil was slick and the exposed roots were heading in every direction any one of which may have decided your line...or gravity might have just decided for you...there were some quick descents, sometimes sideways like a runner sliding into home plate.

Another event for which CVOTC is known is in the books: every competitor surrounded by smiles, support and camaraderie.

Thank you, Gary, Mark, Bob'O!

**Results:**

**EXPERT**

Jeff Hensley 34 (11-cleans)  
Matthew Ennis 34 (9-cleans)  
David Webster 48  
Chris Buzzelli 55

**ADVANCED**

Joe Palrang 24  
Alan Hensley 58  
Greg Hales DNF  
Mike Mazak DNF

**SPORTSMAN**

Jon Quell 26  
John Hendricks, Sr. 33  
Mark Redbond 35  
Berndie Lunsford 57

**VINTAGE SPORTSMAN**

Rick Schill 23  
Jim Ellis 47

**INTERMEDIATE**

Cody Johnston 33  
Bryce Lunsford 35  
Ellis Daw 41  
Kevin Hobbs 51  
Leslie Matheson 54  
Michael Friesen 56  
Jim Carey 70  
Ethan Adams DNF

**VINTAGE INTERMEDIATE**

Scott Porter 40

**NOVICE**

Christian Alva 33

**EXHIBITION**

Josh Hendricks