

Observer

The newsletter of the New England Trials Association

February 2006

NETA Awards Banquet—2006

The NETA Awards Banquet took place at Newick's in Maine on January 14. It was a great way to reflect on the achievements of 2005 and to look forward to another season of competition in 2006. In the last few years- NETA has tried to place an emphasis on younger riders, and that work is starting to pay off.

Photos, clockwise from the top: The Pee Wee class of 2005 with organizer Jack Heminway; Novice class winner Caroline Altman; Expert class runner-up Tim Thorp with his son Robbie, winner of the Pee Wee class; Wayne Galvin won the Advanced class and received the biggest round of applause of the evening.



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NEW ENGLAND
TRIALS ASSOCIATION



NETA 2005 Final

Countdown

Annual Meeting Report

By Jareth Johnson

We put the 'icing on the cake' at the 33rd New England Trials Association Annual Meeting, Banquet and Awards Ceremony at Newick's Seafood Restaurant in Dover, N.H.

The business meeting started a few minutes after one O'clock Saturday afternoon, January 14, 2006. I started things off by banging my quickly fashioned Blue Point twelve inch adjustable wrench gavel on the table. "I'm going to be quiet, for a change (*the crowd laughs*). Let's hear from our esteemed Newsletter Editor, Mike Green", were my opening comments.

Mike commented that advertising helps to cover the printing costs, reminding the dealers that they can advertise in The NETA Observer. Advertising rates for a full season are: Business card \$50, Half-page \$200, Full-page \$500. And for one issue; Business Card \$20, Half-page \$50, Full-page \$100. A full season is 4 to 5 issues. Contact Mike at: mike.green@newenglandtrials.org.

John "Keeper of the Scores" Beaupre has done a great job with the scores, introducing a computerized system to expedite the tallying of the scores and get them out to the Webmaster and Newsletter Editor much quicker.

Treasurer's report by Leo O'Shea was promptly presented with printed handouts,

as usual. Balance as of the end of the banquet is about \$3000.

Webmaster, Dan 'The Man' Williams, reports that all is well with the website. I suggested that we give Dan some money to help cover the cost of the Website. It was motioned to give Dan \$200 and it passed. (One 'Nay' from Dan.)

'Aunt' Judy Ouellette, our very ambitious and hard working secretary, reports that she will have all the new membership cards at the first event to save some bucks on postage, same as last year, thanks. She'll send the first Newsletter with membership forms to the entire database of about 400 past and present members.

Here are the highlights of the AMA/NATC report from Bill Matheson. "Adopt the AMA/NATC rules." Can't get much simpler than that!

Leo O'Shea gave us a report on the AMA Risk Management workshop that he attended. Make sure everyone signs everything where they are supposed to and hopefully, nobody will get sued. Send in all the appropriate paperwork to AMA and you get to keep putting on events. And do not call for stuff from AMA; Fax, e-mail or snail-mail. They're busy enough answering more important calls. Like; "Where's my membership card!?"

In new, old news, it was reported that the Meriden Motorcycle Club was distinguished as being one of a small group of clubs across the nation to hold an AMA Charter Club for 75 years. This milestone was

applauded by those in attendance. Yippee Yow Ky Yay Mistah-bikers!

John Beaupre presented a new awards program that I thought was a very good idea, but was received with mixed feelings to say the least. It consisted of engraved medallions on a ribbon that the NETA would purchase in advance and then sell to the clubs. The idea was it would save the clubs money, be simple and convenient, and give back some revenue for advertising and annual awards. The awards would be followed by a wooden plaque at the season's end which you could then display all your medallions for the year. Discussion was heard from all over the room concerning actual prices and profit and how many clubs would have to go along with it to make it work. "What about the one event type riders who want a trophy and don't care about year end awards?" After much lively debate, with no compromise in sight, I suggested that we table it until next year.

RULE CHANGES.

This topic is always the most interactive, like playing a video game, but without the volume control or an off switch. (EEEEK!)

I suggested that loop cards must be turned in after the card (not necessarily the loop) is completed, considering that if you don't start at section one; you'll complete the loop before the card. This is to avoid getting handfuls of loop cards at the end of the event making

extra work for scorekeepers and delays in posting of the scores.

Tim Thorp asked for a less ambiguous pit racing rule. Our rule does not define what pit racing actually is. (Since I go full throttle in 6th gear through the woods, then slow in the pits to me could mean half throttle in 3rd or full throttle in 2nd, or any speed while balancing on the front tire?) It was agreed to adopt the NATC rule: "Posted speed limit signs, 5 MPH IN LOW GEAR, in the pit area and other areas as required".

Leo O'Shea pointed out that the deadline for adding new events by April first is not allowing us add events and keep a full schedule, especially when events get canceled. Bill Matheson said we should eliminate the rule and any new events to be scheduled must notify the NETA at least 60 days in advance. And so it shall be.

Another hot topic was the Kids Classes. Trialsmasters in general don't seem to be too enthusiastic about accommodating additional classes that require more workers and special sections for only one or two riders. Still, others pointed out that the yoots, I mean youths of today will be the World Champions of tomorrow, and without them the sport withers and dies like a plant does in my house (I can't even keep a cactus alive!). The verbal exchange was exhausting and I thought I might put a hole in the table with my make-shift gavel, but we did eventually reach a com-

promise. The kid's classes will be like they are at the nationals. Pee Wee is changed to class #4 and Kids 8/9 and 10/12 will become class #3 (harder than Pee Wee). John Beaupre made a motion to start the Peewees an hour earlier so the parents could watch and still ride as well.

Mike Merrihew made a motion that the Junior Class be limited to 3 loops, and make the Junior Class a required class with year end points and awards.

Leo O'Shea asked to adopt a few NATC rules. Basically, if it's in the NATC supplemental rules and not ours, add it!

Leo suggested that we create an NETA Hall of Fame. We would nominate three members for the initial induction and one NETA member each year thereafter. Some disgusting discussion was discussed, but soon it was digested and suggested that the NETA Board of Directors be empowered to create said hall of fame and nominate as they see fit.

Leo asked for permission to add the NETA to the charter of the newly formed United States Motorcycle Trials Association. The permission was granted, and it was done. So sayeth the membership.

Justin Krause suggested that we add a Senior 45 class. Let the mayhem begin! The senior classes almost always promote animated and agitated arguments. Endless waves of hulla-balloo about the size of the Senior B class ensued. This has become the biggest class

in NETA with the top riders often getting no points. At some events they make the sections more difficult which beats up the Novice riders. After the tide ebbed, it was agreed, by some, that we should keep the Novice sections nice and easy and if the Senior B's didn't like it, they could move up a class. No changes were made, other than the temperature of the room.

While on the topic of section difficulty, it was suggested that we should have a "Sporting Steward" to keep the events consistent and safe. Now isn't that sporting? Not many thought that this idea would fly. Who would be the poor sod who had to try and make the sections easier or harder? And what Trialsmaster would want his sections scrutinized? "The President has done this in the past"; it was pointed out, "and should continue to do so". I suggested that the President be empowered to appoint someone to check the sections if he couldn't do it himself. "Well, if someone says the sections are safe", it was remarked, "and then someone gets hurt in that section, is the Steward now liable for saying it was safe?"

It's getting late, the crowd's getting restless, and I ready to pass the torch, can we all just get along? The final consensus was to just let the riders complain to the Trialsmasters if the section(s) are too difficult and need to be changed. And with that, nothing was changed, except the time, which has run out!

ELECTIONS

Now comes the case of the elections of the Board of Directors before the honorable membership of the NETA. Done in the usual, professional and traditional manner of voting by loudest audience response, and lack of competition.

President: Leo O'Shea

Vice-President/Scorekeeper:
John Beaupre

Treasurer: Pete McGuirk

Secretary: Judy Ouellette

Webmaster: Dan Williams

Newsletter: Mike Green

Publicity/Promotion: Jareth Johnson

NOTE: This commentary may or may not be accurate. NETA does not necessarily agree or disagree with anything that is written, implied, not written or just thought of, either now, later, tomorrow or in the hereafter. Read this at your own risk.

By: Jareth "Rex" Johnson; outgoing NETA President. You can contact Jareth at Jareth.Johnson@NewEnglandTrials.org Veni, Vidi, Vici. Ride on! Play with gravity.

New England Youth Team

NETA, clubs, and individuals raise money all year long to help offset expenses for parents who take their children to the Youth Nationals. Call Dave Allen at 508 285 6074 for details. Dave says that he has room in his trailer to transport bikes down to Tennessee. He recommends that you make camping reservations early because the sites fill up fast.

All New England kids are invited to participate at the Youth Nationals in Tennessee in July. This includes kids who don't yet have competitive riding skills and want to ride the easy line (a line that is easier than the line their age class should ride). They would not be eligible for points.



The kids have over a week of fun at the TTC. They do a fantastic job teaching the basics and some of last year's NETA Beginners will be riding the NETA Novice sections thanks to the skills they learned. Ask anybody who attended last year... it is a blast for everybody! More information is available from:

www.trialstrainingcenter.com

Dates:

July 1-3

AMA/NATC Youth Trials National Championships. TTC, Sequatchie, TN

The family camp is usually the week before the Youth National.

NETA's new President, Leo O'Shea hands Dave Allen a check for \$600 from the NETA Rider's Fund. The money goes towards getting local NETA riders to the Youth Nationals.

Trap Rock Trials

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Butch Ives



ADULT FORM

NEW ENGLAND TRIALS ASSOCIATION 2006 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/LETTER OF INTENT

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: [] Annual Renewal \$30.00 N.E.T.A. Rider's # _____
(select one) [] New Member \$10.00 New Rider's # _____
[] One-Day Pass \$ 5.00 One-Day Pass # _____
[] Newsletter Only \$ 5.00

NAME (Print): _____ DOB: ____/____/____
mm/ dd / yy

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

AMA#: _____ AMA EXPIRATION DATE: _____
(current AMA membership is mandatory for competition)

LOCAL CLUB AFFILIATION: _____ If you have no local club affiliation, would you like
information regarding membership in a local club in your area? _____ yes _____ no

RIDER CLASS: All riders must select a RIDER CLASS. Riders may change class at any point during the season. However, all previously accrued YEAR-END POINTS will be lost at that time. Only year-end points accumulated from that time on will be tallied. See Scorekeeper or Membership Chair for "Letter of Intent to Change Rider's Class" form.

[] Expert [] Advanced [] Intermediate [] Senior Advanced [] Senior A
[] Senior B [] Novice [] Women [] Vintage [] Beginner

Note: To be awarded year end points all members must work at least one NETA sanctioned event. If you must change your workdate/location, please contact that event's Trialsmaster. Information below will be forwarded to appropriate event Trialsmaster:

EVENT WORK DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____ HOST CLUB: _____

Signature indicates that you have read, understand and agree to the waiver of liability below.

I understand motorcycle riding is inherently dangerous and hereby agree to conform to, and comply with, the rules governing competition and agree to hold blameless the New England Trials Association, its officers, the contest committee, the director of contests, and/or owners of the premises for any loss or injury to myself or property, and to assume all responsibility for any loss or injury to myself and/or property in which I may become involved by reason of my participation in events sanctioned and non-sanctioned by the New England Trials Association. I assume full responsibility for, and the risk of, loss, damage, or injury (including death) of whatsoever kind, nature or description that may arise to my person and property notwithstanding any negligence of the New England Trials Association, its officers, members, employees and agents, event officials, promoters, sponsors, motorcycle owners, riders, mechanics and pit crew, and owners and lessees of premises used in connection with the event, and each of their respective employees and agents.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____, 2006

Complete this form and send with check to: N.E.T.A.
c/o Auntie Judy
25A Berwick Road
Berwick ME 03901

For Membership Information
call: Auntie Judy @ (207) 698-3753
e-mail: free-lance@comcast.net
web: www.newenglandtrials.org

Membership Chair Use Only:

DATE: ____/____/2006 CASH/CHECK#: _____ AMOUNT: \$_____.00 MEMBER CARD MAILED: ____/____/2006

MINOR FORM

NEW ENGLAND TRIALS ASSOCIATION 2006 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/LETTER OF INTENT

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: [] Annual Renewal \$30.00 N.E.T.A. Rider's # _____
(select one) [] New Member \$10.00 New Rider's # _____
[] One-Day Pass \$ 5.00 One-Day Pass # _____
[] Newsletter Only \$ 5.00

NAME (Print): _____ DOB: ____/____/____
mm / dd / yy

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: ____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

AMA#: _____ AMA EXPIRATION DATE: _____
(current AMA membership is mandatory for competition)

LOCAL CLUB AFFILIATION: _____ If you have no local club affiliation, would you like
information regarding membership in a local club in your area? ____ yes ____ no

RIDER CLASS: All riders must select a RIDER CLASS. Riders may change class at any point during the season. However, all previously accrued YEAR-END POINTS will be lost at that time. Only year-end points accumulated from that time on will be tallied. See Scorekeeper or Membership Chair for "Letter of Intent to Change Rider's Class" form.

[] Expert [] Advanced [] Intermediate [] Novice [] Women
[] Vintage [] Beginner [] Junior [] Youth

Note: To be awarded year end points all members must work at least one NETA sanctioned event. If you must change your workdate/location, please contact that event's Trialsmaster. Information below will be forwarded to event Trialsmasters:

WORK EVENT DATE: _____ LOCATION: _____ HOSTING CLUB: _____

Signature indicates that you swear you are parent and/or legal guardian of the above named minor and that you have read, understand and agree to the waiver of liability below.

I understand motorcycle riding is inherently dangerous and hereby agree to conform to, and comply with, the rules governing competition and agree to hold blameless New England Trials Association, its officers, the contest committee, the director of contests, and/or owners of the premises for any loss or injury to my child (legal ward), myself or property, and to assume all responsibility for any loss or injury to my child (legal ward) myself or property in which I or my child (legal ward) may become involved by reason of my child's (legal ward's) participation in this contest. I assume full responsibility for, and the risk of, loss, damage, or injury (including death) of whatsoever kind, nature or description that may arise to my child (legal ward), my person and property notwithstanding any negligence of the New England Trials Association, its officers, members, employees and agents, event officials, promoters, sponsors, motorcycle owners, riders, mechanics and pit crew, and owners and lessees of premises used in connection with the event, and each of their respective employees and agents.

PARENT'S NAME (Print): _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____, 2006

RIDER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____, 2006

Complete this form and send with check to: N.E.T.A.
c/o Auntie Judy
25A Berwick Road
Berwick ME 03901

For Membership Information
call: Auntie Judy @ (207) 698-3753
e-mail: free-lance@comcast.net
web: www.newenglandtrials.org

Membership Chair Use Only:

DATE: ____/____/2006 CASH/CHECK#: _____ AMOUNT: \$____.00 MEMBER CARD MAILED: ____/____/2006

2006 NETA Schedule (NETA events are in bold)

Date	Club	Location and Trialsmaster
April 30	Meriden Motorcycle Club	Meriden, CT. Robert Cavaleri , (203) 876-1941
May 7	Rhode Island Trials Club	Smith Berry Farm, North Kingston ,RI. Bill Jessop, (401) 792-3812
May 19-21	Youth, AMA National, and FIM World Round	Trials Training Center, Sequatchie, TN
June 11	Rock And Roll Trials Club	TBA Jareth Johnson, (603) 767-8502 jareth.johnson@newenglandtrials.org
July 1-3	Youth Nationals	Trials Training Center, Sequatchie, TN
July 28	AHRMA Vintage Trial Mid-Ohio	Lexington, OH
August 6	Meriden Motorcycle Club	Meriden, CT Steve Nichols, (203) 245-1304
August 13	King Philip Trail Riders	Foxboro, MA Abe Lefebvre; (401)726-9854
August 26-27	Rhode Island Trials Club	NATC/AMA National Event: Smith Berry Farm, North Kingston, RI
September 2-3	Green Mountain Plonkers	Highgate, VT Rick Fecteau (802)872-5897
September 17	Rhode Island Trials Club	Exeter, RI Dave Allen, (508)285-6074
October 7-8	Capital Area Trial Riders	Northville, NY Peter Lacagnina, (518)393-3521
October 22	Meriden Motorcycle Club	Meriden, CT George Eddy, (203)237-2377

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NATC Hall of Fame

RITC President Bill Mathewson was elected into the NATC Hall of Fame at the annual meeting in December. Bill was one of the founding members when the NATC was formed in 1974 and has been the Clerk of the Course for four World Rounds in Rhode Island. He is the NATC rep. for New England and is the FIM Technical Inspector at US World Rounds. New England is fortunate to have somebody with Bill's experience in our midst. (Photo courtesy RITC web page)



Speaking of the RITC, the club is hard at work preparing for the NATC National at Smith Berry Farm in North Kingston August 26-27. Club volunteers have made use of the unusually mild winter to prepare the loop and determine where the sections will be located. They are now hard at work raking leaves and debris from the sections. NETA members will be asked to provide checkers for the event, and you can expect to hear more from Leo O'Shea in an upcoming newsletter.



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Advertising in the NETA newsletter

We would like cover part of the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter with money raised from advertising. We would really like to encourage season-long business card sized ads. The following are the advertising rates: A season of business card ads is \$50. (4-5 issues) A season of half-page ads is \$200. A season of full-page ads is \$500. A one-off business card ad is \$20. A one-off half page is \$50. A one-off full page is \$100. Support the dealers that support NETA.

NETA Classifieds (free to members)

2002 Beta 270 with 03 updated airbox and plastic. New sprockets and chain, 05 updated pegs, new Dunlop front tire, in excellent condition. Asking \$2600.00 Max Parkes @ 663-8107 or Email - JPICKLES24@Aol.com

1986 Honda TLR200. In good condition and used only for occasional trail riding since purchased in 1992. Ready for a few upgrades to contest NETA Vintage Class. Asking \$800. Call Drew Ewald after 7 pm at 860-228-0393, or e-mail at alan.ewald@pw.utc.com



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NEW ENGLAND
TRIALS ASSOCIATION



A note from the (new) Prez:

After five years off I am happy to have been elected president again. This is a great honor; I thank you.

The organization has come a long way forward in the past several years, and I want to thank Dan and Jareth for the great job they each did during their tenure as president. They both are dedicated to the growth of the New England Trials Association.

The NETA as a result of every member's efforts is the premier trials riding organization in the North East if not the country. I will do my best to continue to grow the organization and to follow the traditions of the NETA.

Last year the Youth classes were introduced. I think this has had a positive effect on New England trials and will become more important as time goes on. At the banquet the Youth rules were revised to reflect some of the things we learned last year. One of my goals for this year is for the Youth classes to grow and to develop into self-sustaining classes. To make these classes support themselves we need to continue to develop the program and involve more of the parents.

The Rhode Island Trials Club will be hosting a weekend of Nationals this year. If you can help out I am sure that the RITC will be happy for any help they can get with this event.

When I was looking back to see when I was last President I found newsletters where I was talking about the level of difficulty in the Novice sections. That is a topic you will hear from me again, maybe more often than you want; but I think it is very important to keep the Novice difficulty level at a level where new riders are encouraged to ride our events.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or just want to talk about trials. My phone number is 508-832-5217, email is leo@newenglandtrials.org or leoshea@charter.net

Leo

NETA Newsletter

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