

Observer

The newsletter of the New England Trials Association

NETA 2006 Season Standings (top five)

Expert: 1. Daniel Allen 160; 2. Albert Parente 122; 3. Keith Dumaine 116; 4. Charlie Ives 68; 5. Steven Decubellis 64.

Advanced: 1. William Altman 150; 2. Ryder Schnaithman 146; 3. Mike Leonard 140; 4. Ryan Bottesi 128; 5. Wayne Galvin 116.

Intermediate: 1. Caroline Altman 138; 2. Caroline Allen 134; 3. Donald McCabe 122; 4. Abram Lefebvre 116; 5. Mike Caracoglia 94.

Novice: 1. Shawn Phelps 152; 2. Doug Claar 146; 3. Spencer Carey 126; 4. Thomas Hall 120; 5. Bill Jessop Jr. 62.

Senior Advanced: 1. Vern Merrihew 160; 2. Joe Antonelli 130; 3. David Aldo 126; 4. John Beaupre 110; 5. Dave Allen 106.

Senior A: 1. Jason Thibodeau 160; 2. Joe Murray 150; 3. Steve Tougias 100; 4. Butch Ives 88; 5. Carl Swanson 74.

Senior B: 1. Steven Christensen 154; 2. George Truesdale 140; 3. Bill McCormick 140; 4. John Cheresko 132; 5. Pete McGuirk 128.

Vintage: 1. Alan Ewald 60.

Junior: 1. Peter Blake Jr. 58; 2. Tyler Merrihew 36; 3. David Samuelman 20; 4. Robbie Thorp 20; 5. Kyle Blake 16.

Beginner: 1. Robert Thorp 154; 2. Lily Altman 100; 3. Jeremy Claar 70; 4. Mckayla Hall 64; 5. Peter Lacagnina Jr. 36.

Youth 3: 1. Austin Gray 158; 2. Matt Fraser 18 3. Lohan Semeghini 18.

Youth 4: 1. Lindsay Nichols 94; 2. Matt Decosta 58; 3. Max Beaupre 34; 4. Tyler Davdolfo 28; 5. Dominic Parente 20.

New Venue for 2007 Season

NETA is proud to announce that we will be bringing back a new/old venue for 2007. The Springfield Motorcycle Club has agreed to host a trials event on their property for next season. Their last NETA event was held in the mid 80's after many years of hosting trials events. The SMC owns over 100 acres in Brimfield, MA with access to adjoining properties as well (no land use issues). Located 10 miles west of the I90/I84 interchange in Sturbridge, MA, SMC is centrally located for all New England/New York riders. NETA and the SMC are excited to start a new relationship with hopes for a long term association. SMC currently hosts Jr Enduros and Hare Scrambles on their property and are eager to add trials to their competition schedule.

SMC is open to new members and has invited any NETA member to join. Membership provides access to the property for trials/trail riding and is very kid friendly. They have a great trail network and even a Motocross track. There is plenty of parking and a clubhouse. They even have podium for the awards presentations. Anyone interested in joining can contact John Beaupré NETA VP/Scorekeeper to learn more about the club.

December 2006

President

Leo O'Shea (508) 832 5217

leo@newenglandtrials.org

Vice President/Scorekeeper

John Beaupre (508) 869 0583

john.beaupre@newenglandtrials.org

Treasurer

Pete McGuirk (401) 934 2633

Pete.mcguirk@newenglandtrials.org

Secretary

Judy Ouellette (207) 698 3753

judy.ouellette@newenglandtrials.org

Newsletter

Mike Green (860) 774 5614

mike.green@newenglandtrials.org

NETA web site

Dan Williams

dan.williams@newenglandtrials.org

www.newenglandtrials.org

Publicity

Jareth Johnson (207) 604-2323

jareth@newenglandtrials.org

NEW ENGLAND
TRIALS ASSOCIATION



WWW.NEWENGLANDTRIALS.ORG

UNDERGROUND MACHINE LLC



THE 2007'S ARE HERE AND SELLING FAST



RETAIL PRICING:	REV 80	\$4295
REV 3 125	\$6195***REV 3 200	\$6295
REV 3 250	\$6395***REV 3 270	\$6495

*****ALL TRADES CONSIDERED*****

****MANY USED BETA'S IN STOCK, GO TO WWW.VTBETA.COM FOR INFO****

RIDER SUPPORT AT ALL NEW ENGLAND TRIALS EVENTS

UNDERGROUND MACHINE LLC STOCKS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

**ONOFF HELMETS, BOOTS, AND CLOTHING
MICHELIN AND DUNLOP TIRES, ELF AND MOTOREX LUBRICANTS
RYAN YOUNG PRODUCTS DEALER**

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

**1427 NORTHWEST HILL RD. POWNAL, VT 05261
PHONE: 413-441-6847 EMAIL: BETATRIALS@ADELPHIA.NET**

NETA Hall of Fame by Leo O'Shea

At the January annual meeting and awards banquet in Auburn, MA the New England Trials Association will inaugurate a Hall of Fame to honor those who have made a major contribution to Observed Trials in New England. With the establishment of a Hall of Fame the NETA will have a way to recognize and honor individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to trials in our region.

Hall of Fame nominees may be any one or any group who has had a positive impact on trials in New England. The nominees may members or past members, clubs or past clubs, and or others who have been influential in the success of Observed Trials in New England. Please assist the board with you suggestions. I have been in New England less than 25 years and do not know all of the history of New England Trials. All nominees will be considered.

Please send me nominations for membership in the NETA Hall of Fame by January 1, 2007.

Send to Leo O'Shea, 11 Oakland Drive, Auburn, MA 01501 or call 508-832-5217 or email leoshea@charter.net



Trials Promotion to Arnold Mills Pack 1, Den 2 by Tim Thorp

At our home on Thursday afternoon, October 6th Robbie and I gave an Observed Trials overview and demonstration to Robbie's Cub Scouts Den. The Den included twelve 9 and 10 year old boys. During the 1.5 hour session, we explained Observed Trials using a diagram of a loop with sections. We also discussed rules, safety, awards, riding locations, clubs, websites and dealers. Ryan Young, US Sherco and Scorpa importer, donated pamphlets and stickers. We used Torrin's Xispa 25, Robbie's Gas Gas Boy 50 and my Gas Gas 280 Pro to explain the parts of a motorcycle. Afterward, each Cub sat on our bikes and tested their skill at balancing. Then Robbie and I put on a show with Rollups, Splatters, Hopping, Drop-offs, and Nose Wheelies. We also prepared a few sections and I scored Robbie's attempts. As you might expect from young boys they had many questions

like, "Can I jump my bike over a tank full of hungry sharks?" "Can I ride my bike while playing an Xbox?" And, "Can Robbie and I ride beside each other and jump onto each other's bikes while moving?" Before the event was over we were asked to repeat the show for an upcoming "Pack Meeting" with 75 boys from the various Dens in Cumberland, RI, and we were asked to consider giving a show next summer at the regional outing attended by several hundred youngsters. Cub Scouts and other similar organizations might be a great way to expose the sport. Kind Regards, Tim, Lisa, Robbie and Torrin



Berry Farm Youth National by Tim Thorp

Lillie Altman (left), Robbie Thorp (center), Lindsay Nichols (right) and Max Beaupre (not shown) all had a great time competing in the 2-day Youth National held on August 25-26th at Smith's Berry Farm. The sections had a little bit of everything—up hills, off camber turns, rocks and logs. In the "3 Line", Robbie came in first and Lilly second, both days. In the "4 Line", Lindsay came in first Saturday, and Max came in first Sunday and Lindsay second. Winners received laminated "individualized photo trophies." Robbie is proud of his trophy and shows it to family visitors and has taken it to school. Many thanks to Bob O'Neil who prepared the land and to Bill Markem and Jack Heminway for designing the sections and chaperoning the kids both days.

NETA Awards Meeting and Banquet

The 34th New England Trials Association annual meeting and awards banquet will be held January 20, 2007.

The event location is the Auburn Elks Lodge, 754 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA. There is easy access from the Mass Pike and RT 290/395. The club is located on Route 12 near the junction of Route 12 and 20.

The meeting will start at 1:00 PM and will end promptly at 5 PM if not earlier. Dinner will be served at 6 PM and will consist of a buffet dinner with roasted chicken and assorted Italian dishes.

Dealers who want to display bikes or accessories are welcome and encouraged to do so. Any one wanting space to display should contact Leo O'Shea by January 1 so that I can make sure that everyone will get a chance to display their products.

Reservations will be required; I need to let the club know how many people will be attending 3 weeks in advance to allow them to plan on having the proper amount of food.

The cost will be \$25.00 per person with the exception of children under 12 who will pay \$12.50 each.

Please send the form below with your payment for the banquet to Pete McGuirk by January 1st to give us time to compile the numbers and get the information to the club. Send it now and you will not forget during the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

Send to Pete McGuirk, 2424 Hartford Avenue, Johnston RI 02919

○

Name _____

Names of Guests _____

Number of adults _____ @\$25.00

Number of children under 12 _____ @\$12.50

Total Amount _____,



Directions to NETA Awards Meeting and Banquet

There are several hotels in Auburn within a couple of miles of the Elks lodge. The Hampton Inn is next door and has a pool.

Travel Directions

Auburn Elks Lodge
754 Southbridge Street
Auburn, MA 01501
508-832-9303

<http://www.elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2118>

From points east & west, via Mass Pike Interstate 90, take exit 10 onto Route 12 South. Travel 7/10 of a mile, pass through one set of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

From points east, via Interstate 290 West, exit 8 in Auburn.

Or

From points north, via interstate 190 South onto Interstate 290 West, exit 8 in Auburn.

Then

From Interstate 290 take exit 8 in Auburn onto Route 12 South. Travel 9/10 of a mile, pass through one set of traffic lights, pass by Waterman Road and Warren Road on the right. Take a right into the Lodge before Jiffy Lube.

The entrance to the Elks parking is on the right; there is a sign board just before the entrance to the parking lot.

From the south take 395 North to 290 exit 7 Route 12 South or 146 North to the Route 20 West exit. Proceed on Rt 20 West a few miles, just after a Toyota dealership on the left

Turn right on to Appleton Road follow Appleton Road to the end and turn right on Rt. 12, Southbridge Street. The Elks Lodge will be on the left before you pass Dunkin Donuts,

Bikes for sale (Free classifieds for NETA members)

2006 Scorpa 4-Tricks: Lightly Used Demo Bike. Normally \$2995. On Sale Now for \$1995. Only One Remaining, Don't Delay! Moto Connection 802-524-7777. Visa/MC accepted.

1975 Montesa Cota 172: Rare model in excellent condition. Great vintage twin shock bike. Has new IRC tires, new chain and renthal sprockets, Sammy Miller footpegs, new fenders, points and condenser. Tank is in very nice condition. Ready to ride. Also many spares including frame, tank, motor, wheels, new piston, clutch and much more. \$1500 for the whole lot or \$1250 for the bike only. Call John at 508-869-0583 or email at Beaupre@umc2.com.

2004 Beta Rev80: Excellent condition, needs nothing. \$2400. Dave Samuelman 203 881 1485.

2004 Beta Rev3 200: Very good condition, new in '05, little used. \$3500. John Dimeo Home: 401 232 5299 Cel: 401 265 6559.

Round 9, New England Trials Association 2006 Regional Championship
Northville, New York
Capitol Area Trail Riders Association
October 7, 2006

Expert: 1. Daniel Allen 66; 2. Louise Forsley 92; 3. Albert Parente 102.

Advanced: 1. Ryder Schnaithman 36; 2. Mike Leonard 38; 3. Wayne Galvin 51; 4. Ryan Bottesi 59; 5. Michael Merrihew 61; 6. David Aldo Jr. 77; 7. John Altman 86; 8. Louis Gagliano 91.

Intermediate: 1. Wallace Sheffer 10; 2. Donald McCabe 46; 3. Caroline Allen 48; 4. Caroline Altman 61; 5. Dave Allen 62.

Novice: 1. Shawn Phelps 32; 2. Spencer Carey 40; 3. Thomas Hall 56.

Senior Advanced: 1. Vern Merrihew 32; 2. Mike Samuelman 45; 3. Dave Samuelman 49; 4. David Aldo 55; 5. John Beaupre 71.

Senior A: 1. Jason Thibodeau 0; 2. Carl Swanson 16; 3. Joe Murray 20; 4. Steve Tougias 33; 5. Mike Scioscchetti 42; 6. John Hoffman 51; 7. Alan Gasbarro 52.5; 8. William Bonneau 87; 9. Mike Green 96; 10. Ray Costantino 106.

Senior B: 1. George Truesdale 5; 2. Pete McGuirk 12; 3. Steven Christensen 13; 4. Bill McCormick 14; 5. John Cheresko 17; 6. Ron Delgado 29; 7. Alan Carey 30; 8. Richard Bouchard 36; 10. Tom Butland 37; 11. Dennis Ouellette 40; 12. Vern Merrihew Jr. 42; 13. Peter Blake Sr. 59.

Junior: 1. Peter Blake Jr. 45; 2. Tyler Merrihew 49; 3. Kyle Blake 96.

Beginner: 1. McKayla Hall 0; 2. Peter Lacagnina Jr. 5.

Round 10, New England Trials Association 2006 Regional Championship
Northville, New York
Capitol Area Trail Riders Association
October 8, 2006

Expert: 1. Daniel Allen 33.

Advanced: 1. Mike Leonard 13; 2. Ryan Bottesi 18; 3. Wayne Galvin 20; 4. Michael Merrihew 23; 5. William Altman 24; 6. David Aldo Jr. 26; 7. Paul Nolan 33; 8. John Altman 43; 9. Louis Gagliano 83.

Intermediate: 1. Caroline Allen 69; 2. Donald McCabe 69.5; 3. Dave Allen 75; 4. James Mason 104.5.

Novice: 1. Shawn Phelps 28; 2. Spencer Carey 34; 3. Thomas Hall 60; 4. Ethan Cobb 72.

Senior Advanced: 1. Vern Merrihew 20; 2. Joe Antonelli 31; 3. John Beaupre 45; 4. David Aldo 49.

Senior A: 1. Jason Sharer 10; 2. Jason Thibodeau 14; 3. Joe Murray 29; 4. John Hoffman 31; 5. Carl Swanson 36; 6. James Reilly 36; 7. Mike Scioscchetti 40; 8. Steve Tougias 51; 9. Robert Sharer 53; 10. Mike Quick 64; 11. William Bonneau 69; 13. Dan Geshell 85.

Senior B: 1. Rick Fecteau 6; 2. Bill McCormick 7; 3. George Truesdale 9; 4. John Cobb 22; 5. Pete McGuirk 28; 6. Richard Bouchard 37; 7. Tom Butland 39; 8. Ron Delgado 46; 9. Vern Merrihew Jr. 48; 10. Alan Boisvert 50.5; 11. Justin Krause 54; 12. Dennis Ouellette 57; 13. Alan Carey 68; 14. Kevin Hansen 70.

Junior: 1. Robbie Thorp 42; 2. Tyler Merrihew 51.

Beginner: 1. Lily Altman 0; 2. Peter Lacagnina Jr. 1; 3. McKayla Hall 5.

NATC 2007 Trials National Schedule

Rounds 1 and 2. May 26, 27 Cotopaxi Colorado
Rounds 3 and 4 June 9, 10 TTC, Tennessee
Rounds 5 and 6 June 16, 17 Enon, Ohio
Youth National July 6, 7, 8 TTC Tennessee.
July 7 Indoor Championship Chattanooga TN
Rounds 7 and 8 August 4 + 5 Donner, California
Rounds 9 and 10 August 11, 12 Sipapu Ski Area New Mexico



Splitting Events and More by Charles Gray

Well 2006 was another great trials season for our Youth 3/4 and Beginner classes with over 20 kids participating. The concept of including Youth events was introduced in 2005 by Jack Heminway and it has proven to be very successful as demonstrated by the amount of participation and the sense of accomplishment seen on the kid's faces at both the Youth and Beginner events this year. Although the Youth classes are open to kids and adults, the riders are typically always kids, or at least kids at heart.

As with anything, there's always a learning curve, and our Youth and Beginner trials program is no exception. With the Youth program being in place now for two years, and having had first hand experience with my son in the Youth class this past year, it is evident to me that a fundamental change needs to be made to ensure continued success of our Youth and Beginner programs and the sport as a whole.

SPLITTING

Problem: Our current system has the Youth and Beginner classes starting at 10:00am and 11:00am respectively. With both classes lasting at least 1½ hrs it is impossible for parents to assist their kids and ride themselves. This results in: 1) parents not riding so they can be with their child (Tim Thorp is doing this); 2) children riding without their parent present when needed (and as required); or 3) the parent and child not riding the event altogether.

Proposal: Revise the NETA rule & relations as follows:

- a) **Split Events** – Have the Youth 3/4 and Beginner classes run from 9:00am till 11:00am and the other classes (i.e. Junior, Novice, Intermediate, Senior, Advanced & Expert) run from 12:00pm till 4:00pm with a ½ hour grace period. The 9:00am and 12:00pm start times will be strictly adhered to barring any unforeseen circumstance that may dictate otherwise.

This change will enable parents present to watch and assist their kids through their entire event and still be able to ride afterwards. The result will be greater parent and child participation (especially at distant events), a safer and healthier environment for the child, less congestion, and more revenue to the clubs. Also, adhering to the stated start time will motivate riders and parents to be ready in time, particularly in the Youth 3/4 and Beginner classes.

- b) **Split Registration Times** – Have registration for the Youth 3/4 and Beginner classes run 8:30am to 9:00am and registration for other all other classes run from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The earlier registration would be restricted to Youth and Beginner class riders and their parents.

This change will expedite the registration process and allow riders more time to prepare for their event and/or their child's event.

While on this subject there are two other separate but closely related issues that I believe need to be addressed and presented to the NETA community for consideration and incorporation. They are standardization and informational awareness.

STANDARDIZATION

Problem: There is currently a lack of standardization and uniformity with regard to section layout/difficulty, checking, class registration/nomenclature, and scoring amongst the Youth classes. Over the past year I witnessed a significant amount of variability in these areas from one event to another which has caused confusion amongst the parents and their children. I believe the following changes could make next years events go a lot smoother for everyone involved.

Proposal: Revise the NETA rules as required to reflect the following changes:

- a) Eliminate the use of the "Pee Wee Class" and kids' designation and replace it universally with the "Youth Class" designation.

Expand on the section specifications for the Youth class so there's less interpretation and more consistency in section layout and difficulty from event to event. Actual language is being developed and will be proposed at the annual meeting.

- c) Apply the normal adult rules for checking Youth and Beginner sections to ensure consistency and prepare kids early on for the more advanced classes. This will alleviate the variability that currently exists amongst checkers with respect to daps, crossing ribbons, missed splits, etc. for Youth riders.
- d) Provide formal guidance on class registration for the Youth Class to eliminate the confusion that currently exists with regard to scoring based on what class kids are signed up for and what they actually ride. Two means of handling this include:

- OPTION A - Mimic the adult rules which would require the kids decide in advance what class/line (3 or 4) they will ride. Riding a different line would be handled as is for the adult classes. This option is easiest to employ but also the most restrictive.
 - OPTION B – A more versatile approach would be to not have the Youth decide in advance but rather have the checker note the lines taken on each loop card. Structure the scoring so that the youngster must ride just the 3 line to have his/her points counted in the Youth 3 category at the end of the event. Kids that choose to ride the easier 4 line (or a combination of the 3 & 4 lines) will be placed and scored in the Youth 4 category. Final scoring at the end of the day will be broken down into Youth 4, Youth 3 and Beginner category. Kids (especially the older ones) catch on quick and the more skilled riders will be inclined to take the harder 3 line, and risk getting more daps, if they know they won't be grouped with kids taking the easier lines.
- e) Provide formal guidance on how kids get scored in the final NETA standing. There appears to be little, if any, guidance in this area and this has resulted in kid's names appearing in multiple classes in the final NETA standings. Two different ways of handling this include:
- OPTION A – Mimic the adult class rules which would require kids choosing which class (Youth 3, Youth 4, or Beginner) they are going to ride for the season and apply points under the same guidelines used for adults.
 - OPTION B – Permit kids to ride a combination of Youth 3, Youth 4, and Beginner events over the course of the season with the understanding that they will accumulate points only the respective categories in the final NETA standing.
- f) Have all kids riding the Youth class receive a medallion or comparable award at the end of each event, and verbal recognition be given to the top 3 riders for Youth 3 & 4.

INFORMATIONAL AWARENESS

Problem: There is presently no single document (that I'm aware of) that new comers can refer to regarding how to prepare for and participate in a NETA trials event. This has and continues to result in a stressful situation for the new comer, especially when children are involved, as well as the club personnel that are overwhelmed with managing all the veteran riders. I'm speaking from experience as I went through this painful process when I starting competing with my son this year, as did some of my friends.

Proposal: Recommend providing all new comers and alike with a "GETTING STARTED BROCHURE" that provides clear step-by-step procedure for participating in NETA event. The subject brochure might include such information as:

- a) Recommended arrival time to set up, register, ride the loop & check out sections, etc.
- b) Registration time, start time, end time, grace/penalty period, awards
- c) Registration requirements (AMA memberships, NETA, Fees, liability forms, etc.)
- d) Key points of contact at an event
- e) Food, drink, parking, lodging/camping
- f) Bike maintenance (names of dealers that typically attend)
- g) Web links to NETA and other relevant websites
- h) Other????

These are the some of the improvements that I would like to propose at the annual NETA meeting and any support you can offer in this regard would be greatly appreciated. Please email any comments and/or concerns you have to grayce@npt.nuwc.navy.mil

Proposed Changes to NETA Rules by Tim Thorp

Below are four proposals for NETA's consideration at the Annual Meeting in January.

NOVICE B LINE TOO DIFFICULT

Problem: For years there have been concerns and complaints that the Novice B line is too hard, and in turn this discourages new riders from returning and increases the likelihood of injury. Coincidentally, this topic is an issue at many clubs across the country.

Having polled other NETA members and clubs I found that this issue has been minimized at some clubs by:

Implementing a simple and effective "difficulty" test that is administered by the hosting club, and;

By agreeing that it is more important to set section difficulty for the lower half of the riders in the Novice class since the upper half can always move up to a harder class.

The results in other clubs have been fewer complaints and improved consistency of difficulty on average for the Novice Class.

Proposal: NETA assesses and implements a version of the following "difficulty" test rule. Each Novice B section must be tested by a designated Advanced or Expert caliber rider. For the Novice B section to be deemed acceptable, the designated tester must clean the section twice consecutively while riding the section (with one of the following options):

Standing with one hand on the bars and not stopping. Or...Sitting with both hands on the bars and not stopping. Or...Or some other variation of the above.

In my opinion a "difficulty" test will improve the likelihood that Novice B sections contain mostly graceful turns, rolling hills, logs up to the 8 inch range, fairly direct approaches to streams and mud holes and so on.

As a side note, I tried to ride many Novice B sections standing, one-handed and not stopping, at a recent NETA event and got 3s or 5s at most of the sections. My guess is that I could have done better sitting with both hands on the bars. Perhaps we should consider the "sitting with both hands" test (option b.).

UNCERTAIN YOUTH AND BEGINNER SECTIONS

Problem. It is clear that all classes will be offered at NETA events EXCEPT for the Beginner and Youth classes. The rules say that the Beginner Class is optional and the Youth classes "should" be held. Ever since I can remember there have been Beginner Classes and I believe there have been Youth classes over the last two years since they were introduced. The problem with the Youth and Beginner Classes NOT being required is that it is unclear and difficult to determine if they will be offered. It could be a huge waste of time and money to drive to a far away event only to find out there isn't going to be a Youth or Beginner

line.

Proposal:

Make Youth and Beginner Lines required. We have been providing them anyway.

Or...

If NETA doesn't want to make the lines required, then make it mandatory that the hosting club decide at the Annual Meeting whether or not to offer Youth and Beginner lines and make it mandatory that the NETA Schedule clearly state which events won't be offering Youth or Beginner lines.

UNCLEAR BEGINNER REQUIREMENTS

Problem: As far as I can remember, we have awarded trophies at the Annual Banquet to the Beginner Class because we could afford to do it. Championship trophies for Beginners are NOT required. Additionally, it is unclear whether or not Beginners are required to Work an Event, like other classes.

Proposal:

Change the Beginner Class to be one in which the rider can elect to compete for Championship points and potentially receive a championship trophy, just like the Novice through Expert Classes. Change the rules so that Beginners competing for championship points are required to work an event. Note however, that if the rider is a minor, they still need to be supervised by a parent or legal guardian—This is noted elsewhere in the NETA rules.

UNNECESSARY RISK IN YOUTH AND BEGINNER CLASSES

Problem: Having taken Robbie through the Youth and Beginner lines for two years and having chaperoned others in these lines, I have observed two problems that significantly increase risk of injury to the child, emotional discomfort to the youngster, and increased liability risks to NETA. NETA rules specifically require a parent or legal guardian be present at the event when their minors are competing. Although the minor's parent or guardian is at the event...often they are NOT with the child at the section when he/she is competing. From my perspective, this has resulted in the chaperone "covering" for parents who are riding and the chaperone being put in a position to play a parenting role, at times, to a child who is very stressed whether due to the section, crash or something else. Additionally, there is unnecessary risk to the children and liability to NETA because, at times their skill is unsuitable for the class they entered; or their bike is way too big for the child to handle safely; or the bike is improperly setup for the child. For example, I held my breath many times over the last two years while I watched child in panic mode and accelerating out of control toward a tree or boulder primarily because they couldn't handle the bike. Several kids were on 80s in which they couldn't reach the clutch or front brake levers without taking their hand off the grip! One kid couldn't reach the levers so I checked the rear brake...and it didn't work! In other cases, the bars were so wide for the child's

arms that the throttle twisted open when making left-hand turns.

Proposal: Much like we have Checkers who are empowered to score riders, I propose that each Youth and Beginner Event has a named chaperone that the hosting club is confident can do the job and who is solely empowered to:

Ask any child to perform a few simple riding tests, like turning, clutching and braking, reaching the ground in various situations without tipping over, and turning left without accelerating, to confirm that the class entered is suitable for the Youth or Beginner rider. If the chaperone assesses that the child is not ready to compete, or is not sufficiently skilled for the class entered, the chaperone can disallow the child from competing or move the child to a lower class.

Inspect the child on his/her bike to confirm that the child can reach the clutch, front brake, rear brake pedal, and to confirm the kill switch is working. If the chaperone assesses that the child and bike do not meet these requirements, the chaperone can disallow the child from competing unless the bike is changed to meet these requirements.

Prevent any child from riding any section throughout the event if the parent or legal guardian is NOT present at the section when the child is competing.

Kind Regards,

Tim Thorp

2006 Trials School Recap and 2007 Plans by Tim Thorp

In 2006 Lisa and I coordinated 4 trials schools.

- One Ryan Young School for 7 Senior A, Advanced and Expert riders. This was the best school I ever attended. I attribute this to the instructor, Exeter location, riders limited to a similar skill range, and a limited number of participants (7).
- Two Trials Fundamental schools that I taught at my home. Both were full with 10 riders apiece. The schools introduced a broad range of techniques, and included demonstrations and practice.
- First Jack Heminway Youth School with 9 youngsters. This school was intended to get kids excited about trials, teach them some fundamentals and increase their confidence.

For 2007 we are willing to coordinate the following schools.

Ryan Young 5-day Trials Boot Camp.

Limited to 8-9 Senior A, Intermediate, Advanced and Expert riders.

Held at Exeter or Smith's Berry Farm, if approved by the RITC.

Tuesday through Saturday, 9 to 5 pm.

Content will include the material in Ryan's introductory and advanced DVDs, plus a lot more on turning, cambers, hills, strategies and positive attitude.

Cost will be around \$550-ish per student for 5 days. Prepayment required. Refunds allowed with a substitute acceptable to me.

Class will be offered to NETA members first then outside of NETA. Students must hold a valid AMA card.

Trials Fundamentals Schools.

Limited to 8-10 Novice A/B, Senior A/A or Intermediate riders.

Held at my home in Cumberland, RI.

2-day weekend format, 9 to 5-ish.

Content will include the vast majority of modern trials techniques, i.e., explanation, demonstration and practice. There will be special emphasis on those techniques needed to excel in these Classes.

Cost will be around 100-ish per student for the weekend. Prepayment required. Refunds allowed with a substitute acceptable to me.

Second Jack Heminway Youth and Beginner School.

Fun theme. Basic skills training. Practice sections. Trophies.


Early spring.

10-15 riders Youth and Beginner riders.

Location at Charles Gray's home in North Stonington, CT.

Cost to cover expenses, estimated at \$40/rider.

If you are interested in any of these schools, please let me know by email at NETA160@hotmail.com.



Donnie & Rascal's
Cycle
 Restoration
 Services

PO Box 930
 107 Southbridge Rd
 Chardon Crv, MA 01508
 MA (508) 248-9919

Engine, Chassis, Wheels
 Fabrication & Welding
 Paint & Polish Parts
 New & Used Parts

Customer Satisfaction
Guaranteed

Underground Machine LLC
 New and Used Bikes
 Ryan Young Products dealer
 Michelin & Dunlop Tires
 Elf & Motorex Lubricants



Coming Soon:
 Acerbis Trials Clothing

1427 Northwest Hill Road
 Pownal, VT 05261
 Ph. 413-441-6847
 Fax 802-949-2010
 betatrials@adelphia.net
 www.vtbeta.com

Trials & Enduro
 Sales
 Parts
 Service

Ryan Bottesi

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.

Trap Rock Trials
 BETA : Sales & Service
 email : trtbeta@msn.com
 cell : 860-810-0911
 Butch Ives

News Item from Jack's Cycle:
 Jacks Cycles and Ryan Young Products are proud to announce that New England's #1 Gas Gas dealer has now added Sherco and Scorpa bikes for 2007. With great pricing, quality service and the largest selection of Trial bikes, Jacks Cycles now gives NETA riders the most comprehensive Trials selection in New England. Jack will be at all the NETA races in 2007 with parts for Gas Gas and Sherco.
 Ask Jack or any of his previous bike customers about his demonstrated commitment to "Customer Satisfaction."

Jack Heminway
 84 Rowe Dr
 Fremont, NH 03044

603 895 3785
jack@jackscycles.com
www.jackscycles.com



Correction:

A photo caption in the last NETA newsletter mistakenly named Carl Swanson as the Clerk of the Course for the RITC National last August. Although Carl was responsible for most of the section design, Dennis Fontaine was Clerk of the Course for the event. Dennis owns and operates Smith's Berry Farm in North Kingston where the National was held and has always been a great supporter of trials. Here's Dennis hard at work preparing the pit area a few days before the event.

Round 11, New England Trials Association 2006 Regional Championship
Meriden, Connecticut
Meriden Motorcycle Club
October 22, 2006

Expert: 1. Daniel Allen 59; 2. Paul Belanger 67; 3. Jean Fortin 92; 4. Bill Blythe 109.5.

Advanced: 1. William Altman 38; 2. Ryan Bottesi 43; 3. Mike Leonard 45; 4. Wayne Galvin 50; 5. Ryder Schnaithman 53; 6. Michael Merrihew 69; 7. Randy McCann 77; 8. Louis Gagliano 78; 9. John Altman 80; 10. Robert Cavaleri 89; 11. Jeffrey Salois 94.5.

Intermediate: 1. Daniel Sutherland 41; 2. Mike Caracoglia 48; 3. Wallace Sheffer 48; 4. Abram Lefebvre 54; 5. Scott Greer 56; 6. Carlos Semeghini 63; 7. Caroline Altman 64; 8. Donald McCabe 69; 9. Charles Gray 87; 10. Scott Armstrong 87; 11. Caroline Allen 88.

Novice: 1. Thomas Hall 46; 2. Doug Claar 48; 3. Jeff Gott 48; 4. Ethan Cobb 56; 5. Erik Carlson 63; 6. Dan Richard 118; 7. Bill Jessop Jr. 138.

Senior Advanced: 1. Vern Merrihew 40; 2. Joe Antonelli 63; 3. Dave Allen 99; 4. David Aldo 157.

Senior A: 1. Jason Thibodeau 22; 2. Joe Murray 29; 3. Steve Poisman 38; 4. Butch Ives 49; 5. Peter Lacagnina 51; 6. Mike Scioscchetti 57; 7. John Hoffman 57; 8. Bob Doyle 61; 9. Kerry Coon 66; 10. William Bonneau 74; 11. Alan Gasbarro 74; 12. Mike Green 90; 13. Mike Felano 112

Senior B: 1. Rick Fecteau 6; 2. George Truesdale 11; 3. Bill McCormick 13; 4. John Rodis 18; 5. Steven Christensen 19; 6. Pete McGuirk 26; 7. John Cobb 30; 8. Mark Lundgren 31; 9. Richard Bouchard 43; 10. Vern Merrihew Jr. 46; 11. Justin Krause 47; 12. Ron Fraser 52; 13. Peter Blake Sr. 52; 14. Dennis Ouellette 56; 15. Leo F. O'Shea 65; 16. Kevin Hansen 72; 17. Brian Plouffe 84; 18. Sam Singer 104,

Junior: 1. Peter Blake Jr. 63.

Beginner: 1. Jeremy Claar 7; 2. Max Brown 11.

Youth 3: 1. Austin Gray 2; 2. Lohan Semeghini 32.

Youth 4: 1. Lindsay Nichols 2; 2. Matt Fraser 5; 3. Cody Striby 15; 4. Greg Peet 18; 5. Doug Peet 69.



RPM TRIALS, LLC
Gas Gas Parts, Accessories & Service
Ryan Young Products
Randy McCann @ 860.267.6705
Email: rpmtrials@hotmail.com

SHERCO • GAS GAS • SCORPA

Bikes • Parts • Service



GAS GAS

NEW! 2007

One piece muffler/silencer • New header pipe for improved power • New swingarm • Frame & Styling • 2 lbs. Lighter

The two best selling bikes in New England, the US and the World.

NEW! 2007

SHERCO USA

Chassis • Ollé shock with adjustable damping • Billet triple clamps • 0.5 liter Larger fuel tank • Tapered handlebars • 3 lbs. Lighter



Scorpa; Proven 4 stroke technology.

Complete Product Lines :



Boots, Helmets, Accessories, Gas Gas & HEBO Clothing.

View at www.Hebo.com



Gaerne Boots, NZI Helmets, Sherco & Xc-Ting Clothing

View at www.rypusa.com

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS to NETA members on everything Jack's Cycles sells!
Jack's Cycles welcomes TRADE-INS on clean, well kept bikes of any brand.
Jack's Cycles is a FULL SERVICE DEALER committed to Customer Satisfaction.

NEW ENGLAND
TRIAL ASSOCIATION



NEW ENGLAND TRIAL ASSOCIATION

NETA Newsletter

25A Berwick Road

Berwick, ME 03901-2701