



NMTA Newsletter



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A Fireside Chat With President Johnson

Probably the biggest news this month is the introduction of the experimental Senior Expert (SE) class. In discussion with the Board and several concerned club members, introducing this class seems appropriate and in keeping with our Board goals to Keep It Safe, Keep it Fun, Keep It Going, and Keep It Growing.

Several ...er, umm... 'Experts of a certain age' asked me to consider adding the SE class, to reduce risk for riders recovering from injuries, or who have skills beyond SX level, but have to go to work the next day, so the Board discussed how to do so with a minimum of disruption and added work for Trialsmasters.

So here's the deal: similar to how certain lines are identified at Nationals, each Upper section will have the Start gate marked either "SE=EX" (gitcher mind out of the gutter) or "SE=SX" designating either the EX line or the SX line for Senior Experts for that section. As envisioned, SEs would ride the easiest EX lines and the hardest SX lines, as determined by the Upper TM with advice from the Upper Clerk. In an eight-section trial, there will be four easy EX lines and four hard SX lines. In a nine-section trial, there will

be five hard SX lines and four easy EX lines, always defaulting toward keeping the SE class facing lesser risk than the EX class.

The SE class will be experimental this year. Recent trials have shown decent subscription in both SE and EX classes. If adding SE draws too many riders from either, or fails to attract enough riders itself, the Board may choose to do away with it next year. But for 2010 there will be an SE champion named from the best finishes at 75% of scheduled events just like the other classes. Because the class is starting late, each finish has more value toward the championship, but it will be equally fair (or unfair, as the case may be) toward all competitors who choose to ride the class.

In other news, the Board will be meeting with Danny Randall, Recreation Planner with the BLM Rio Puerco Field Office, on April 16. NMTA has a long history of effective partnership with BLM, and we intend to keep the lines of communication open so that partnership continues to be a success story.

I have finished editing the 2010 NMTA Rulebook. The Rulebook was split off from the larger NMTA Rulebook last year, and formatted to contain only the info needed by riders and observers out on the loop. The 2010 NMTA Manual will contain the balance of the information not in the Rulebook. I hope to have it finished before the April event, but don't hold your breath.

Want to earn 14 points the hard way? There are still Trialsmaster slots open, especially for Lower TMs. We need two Lower TMs for Las Vegas

the weekend of Aug 7 and 8, and for Lake Fork on the 3rd of October. Many thanks to the latest volunteers: Steve Clark, Bob Micket, Dwight Crapson, and JB Brown. Way to go! We have abundant floater TM positions open for people who have never set sections before to get their feet wet, so to speak. Check the list at sign-up and find the date/location that works best for you, and sign up!

We received a note from our insurer that there were some problems with the releases from the March event. Please make sure you fill out this paperwork properly. Better yet, get your annual releases on file with the AMA and avoid the hassles at sign-up entirely.

In keeping with NMTA historical practice, the San Ysidro gate combination has been changed with the turnover of the Board. For the new combo, call the President's cell phone at 505-401-3051.

Event Results San Ysidro - Round 2 March 7, 2010

Kudos to March Trialsmasters Lance Butler, Steve Orton and Tim Dugan for coming up with something a little different! They decided to set both lower and upper classes on the Windmill side of SanYo, something that has not been done in at least 4 (to my added memory) years. Camping and competing on the Windmill side is always fun, and yet it's rarely set for some odd reason. Plenty of NMTA newbies have never even been out there, let alone competed there. They got their "trial by fire" on March 7th.

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Did I say "fire"? I meant "water". Even though it was sunny and mild the week leading up to the event, Sunday morning greeted us with low clouds and (naturally) a fine rain started right before the morning rider's meeting. Although the rain never got really heavy, it never stopped that morning either. The lower sections were set on top of the Windmill side, very close to the campsite. No sand up there kiddies! The red/tan dirt turned to clay about 10 minutes into the trial. Slimy obstacles, greasy sections, and wheels locking up due to packed mud were the norm that morning. Upper riders were beginning to wonder what was in store for them later that day, the lower riders were eager to see the carnage that would ensue.

Didn't happen that way. The clouds broke during lunch, the sun came out and the area dried out pretty well before the upper riders went out. Several uppers had already called it quits by then, packing up and leaving. They missed a great trial! Upper sections were along the southern end of the National Trail, with a great mix of hillclimbs, rubble, and large rock obstacles. Pretty cool ride along the section trail too! Scorers that rode that morning were not afraid to heckle the uppers riding in the nice conditions (even though it did rain for about an hour during the upper competition-not much though).

One section in particular was done in a fun way. Section 8 was a climb up a rocky, rubble-strewn arroyo, with no gates at all. Everyone rode the same line. Trialsmaster Tim Dugan put out the word to the Champs that any Champ rider that dabs in that section owes the Trialsmasters a case of their favorite frosty beverage. One Champ managed to dab and was not pleased about it. I will not reveal who it is, because he is a Trialsmaster in the very near future, and I do not want to have "Porter Only" lines in his Trial! It was a charge for the rest of us that rode the section well. We could honestly claim "Yeah, I cleaned the Champ line on that one!"

A very big congratulations goes out to Steve, Lance and Tim. Great trial, fellas!

75 Participants

Beginner

1	Carrie Wood		23
2	Kristi Hopper	5-1	27
3	Hunter Keffer	2-1	27
4	Erin Ice - Johnson		27
5	Ashtyn Hertrich		73
6	Kim Grider		94
DNF Mike Kraft			

Novice

1	April Evans		30
2	Micah Hertrich		43
3	Travis Dugan		44
4	Pete Baldwin		45
5	Mike		57
6	John Cords		62
7	Grayson Hertrich		80
DNF Scott Markham			
DNF Taylor Markham			

Amateur

1	Dwight Crapson		23
2	Konrad Clark		32
3	Dale Riggs		45
4	James Huggins		47
5	William Brown		48
6	Jason Burkhart		50
7	Elijah Pryor	8-C	51
8	David Skerry	5-C	51
9	Zac Sneesby		54
10	Rodney Gibson		55
11	Gavin Hertrich	5-1	57
12	Gary Cordes	2-1	57
13	James Hughes		57
14	Rick Keffer		71
15	Larry Penick		91
DNF Garratt Rowland			
DNF Matt Walker			
DNF Chris Markham			
DNF Gene Waggoner			
DNF Josh Wiseman			

Intermediate

1	John H. Brown		21
2	David Luck		31
3	Chris Johnson		41
4	Neal Pitts		43
5	Rick Hansen		45
DNF Randy Gibson			

Sportsman

1	Kyle Goon		7
2	Clay Pryor		14

3	Michael Delaney		15
4	Steve Clark		19
5	Chris Greiner		21
6	Randall Cannady		26
7	Chris Porter		38

DNS

Bob Micket		
TM Tim Dugan	Float	
TM Stephen Orton	Upper	

Semi-Expert

1	Ron Shoemaker		6
2	Al Terreault		7
3	Paul Royce		14
4	Bob Rowland		17
5	Greg Kurtz		25
6	James Fastle		28
7	Greg Arrants		29
8	Tim Brown	10-c	31
9	Curtis Kohl	8-c	31
10	Rachel Hassler		41
11	Paul Hassler		61

Expert

1	Rob Hertrich		13
2	David Cole		23
3	Rob O'Niell		33
4	Bruce Bolander		40
5	Devin Cannady		50
6	JB Brown		71
DNSTyler Nafus			
TM Lance Butler	Lower		

Champ

1	Nathan Hassler		27
2	Trevor Clancy		56
3	Chris Hertrich		66
4	Sam Fastle		81

Maintenance Shack

Wow, it's been a while since we've done this! Figured since I'm editing this newsletter, I might as well bring back this column. Or you could look at it as "since I'm sinking this ship, I might as well add some weight"!

As I remember it, part 2 of "Purchasing a Vintage Trialer" (or something to that effect) would be the next installment but since it is spring (and I plumb forgot where I left off), let's hold off on that one for a month shall we? Besides, that will give me a chance to get some input from our smarter vintage bike guys (Bobby?

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Ron? Greg? You know who you are!). Hint, hint.

With that being said, let's just cover some good "year end" or "once a year" basic maintenance topics.

Yeah, I know we are about to enter our third competition of the year, but these can be done anytime. Besides, there are some n00bs (newbies) in the club that may have missed the first go-round, so let's do it. I'll list the maintenance item first, followed by the reasons why (for those who need it).

1) Change transmission fluid, coolant, brake/clutch fluid and front fork fluid.

Changing the transmission fluid and coolant should be obvious. The fluid that runs in the transmission also runs in the clutch assembly (even on the 4-stroke trials bikes). Trials bike clutches take a real beating, and heat up/break down the fluid in the process. Some upper class/borderline pro guys change theirs more often. Coolant breaks down after time also, and once a year seems a good schedule. Brake and clutch fluids also take a pretty good beating from the heat generated by the brake systems and from the heat of constantly slipping the clutch that happens on trialers. DOT 4/5 fluid used in brake and clutch systems are also hydroscopic, meaning that the fluid attracts and retains any moisture that it comes in contact with (even moisture right out of the air!). The moisture can build up to bubbles of water after a while, and water makes a very poor hydraulic fluid, not to mention what it does to brake calipers and master cylinders! Fork fluid gets contaminated with fork bushing wear, not to mention breaks down over time like the other fluids do. You will be amazed at the smooth action of a fork with just a fluid change if it has not been performed in a while!

2) Check spoke tightness, brake pad/shoe wear and steering stem adjustment.

Spoke tightness should be checked whenever you install new tires or once a year, whichever occurs first. Check tightness by striking the spoke with a small wrench (preferably the one you are using to tighten the spoke nipple with) in the middle of the spoke. Don't wail on it, strike it like you are ringing a small bell. If the spoke is tight, it will give off a "ping" sound whenever you hit it. If the sound is flat or if the spoke is obviously loose, snug it down until you get the "ping" sound. Get the tone close to the other tight spokes on the same wheel. Brake pad and shoe wear should be obvious. If the friction surfaces are worn away almost to the metal backing plates, it's time. Consult your owner's/competition manual if you are not sure exactly how thick the friction surface on your bike should be. Same on steering stem adjustment.

3) Lube all pivots and cables!

Brake/clutch levers, sidestand, and the rear brake pedal pivot bolts should be removed, cleaned, greased with waterproof grease, and re-installed. Footpeg and gearshift end pivots I usually hit with a spraycan lube such as Bel-Ray 6-in-1 lube. About the only cable left on trialers are throttle cables. I use a cable luber tool (available at most motorcycle shops) and good old 6-in-1 on all control cables. Now is also a good time to make sure the throttle tube moves freely on the handlebar. If you are REALLY motivated, (and have the time) disassemble, clean, and grease the swingarm and shock/shock linkage pivot bolts and bearings. You want all of these pivoting components to move freely without binding for.....you guessed it. Obvious reasons!

4) Check tightness of nuts, bolts, and fasteners.

If you can physically see it, put a wrench on it and make sure it's tight. This way you avoid the embarrassing "have you seen my missing shifter/kickstarter/front

wheel/engine?" question to your (laughing) friends on the trail!

Yeah, this month's Shack was a quickie (and mainly for the n00bs). If you have no desire to perform these tasks, see about having an expert (not me!) perform them for you. Or you could go with the Lance Butler method. Whenever the bike is in need of some attention, sell it and buy a new one!

We'll try and get back on track next month kiddies! See you in SanYo!

Team New Mexico

Team New Mexico is looking for sponsors. If you would like to be one, contact Paul Hassler at 505-265-5000.

Thank you!!

For Sale

2008 Sherco 125 - \$4500

Bike was ridden by a girl. Bike/Rider National Champ in Western Youth Nationals in B1 class. Bike is well trained. Excellent condition, runs great.

2007 Beta Rev3 250 \$4297

Excellent condition. ISO good rider.

For either or both, call Paul Hassler 505-265-5000 or 299-1199

2008 Beta Rev3 270

Very few hours, extremely clean. Well cared for. Ridden by a little old man in lower class just a few times.

Mike A Salazar, 26 Lake Shore Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112, e-mail: slzmrk @ hotmail.com Phone 505-291-8143

2009 Econo Gas-Gas 280 \$4500 obo

8 Months old
Devin Cannady. Call 505.480.4112

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NMTA Event Schedule

Jan 31 San Ysidro Thanks to:
D Cannady, J Elsen, R Hassler

Mar 7 San Ysidro Thanks to:
S Orton, L Butler, T Dugan

Apr 11 San Ysidro, NM
Upper Trevor Clancy
Lower Tim Elsen
Float Larry Penick

May 15 San Ysidro, NM
Upper Al Terreault
Lower Curtis Kohl
Float Greg Goon

May 16 San Ysidro, NM
Upper Greg Kurtz
Lower Kyle Goon
Float Brad Carey

Jun 5 Sipapu, NM
Upper Bruce Bolander
Lower Brian Behling
Float JB Brown

Jun 6 Sipapu, NM
Upper Tim Brown
Lower John H. Brown
Float April Evans

Aug 7 Las Vegas, NM
Upper David Old
Lower *Your Name Here*
Float Dwight Crapson

Aug 8 Las Vegas, NM
Upper Bob Micket
Lower *Your Name Here*
Float *Your Name Here*

Sep 4 Las Vegas, NM
Upper Chuck Sutton
Lower Bill Thompson
Float *Your Name Here*

Sep 5 Las Vegas, NM
Upper Rob Hertrich
Lower Steve Clark
Float Eric Tidmore

Oct 2 Lake Fork, NM
Upper Brandon Nafus
Lower Bobby Nafus
Float Josh Wiseman

Oct 3 Lake Fork, NM
Upper David Cole
Lower *Your Name Here*
Float *Your Name Here*

Nov 6 Roswell, NM
Upper Greg Arrants
Lower Chris Porter
Float Kristi Hopper

Nov 7 Roswell, NM
Upper Tony Herald
Lower Matt Walker
Float *Your Name Here*

Dec 5 San Ysidro, NM
Upper Sam Fastle
Lower James Fastle
Float *Your Name Here*

AMA/NATC Event Schedule

May 1,2	Tishmingo	OK
Jun 19,20	Exeter	RI
Jun 26,27	Cayuta	NY
Jul 24,25	Cotopaxi	CO
Jul 31, Aug 1	Donner Pass	CA
Youth National East		
Jul 2,3,4	TTC	TN
Youth National West		
Jul 17,18,19	Las Vegas	NM

Next NMTA Event Round #3

Sunday, April 11, 2010
San Ysidro, NM

Trialsmasters

Trevor Clancy
Tim Elsen
Larry Penick



Sign-up: 8:00 ☺ (yes, a.m.)
Bring your AMA card, Spark
Arrester & Approved Helmet
First Rider Out: 9:00 a.m.
Fees: Juniors Free, Under 18
\$15.00, All Others \$25.00

New Mexico Trials Association
5200 Pasadena Ave. Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87113