

NETA Observer

March
2003

The newsletter of the New England Trials Association



Meriden April 6, 2003

Yes or No?

It's hard to believe that winter is behind us, but the 2003 NETA season kicks off on April 6 with Mark Lazarski's event at the Meriden Motorcycle Club property on Stantack Road.

That's the theory at least. Mark reports that there is still a lot of snow on the ground, and the event might have to be postponed. Much depends on the weather between now and April 6.

You should check that the event is being held before you leave home. You can check the NETA web site at www.newenglandtrials.org or you can call Dan Williams at (781) 938 9298.

Remember all that training and practicing you were going to do over the winter? Yeah, right. Now you know why Geoff Aaron moved to California.

The following event is the Rhody Rovers event at Chepachet on May 4.

President
Dan Williams
dan.williams@newenglandtrials.org

Vice President/Scorekeeper
Paul Royce (802) 868 5423
paul.royce@newenglandtrials.org

Secretary
Sonya Royce
sonya.royce@newenglandtrials.org

Publicity/Treasurer
Leo O'Shea
leo.oshea@newenglandtrials.org

Newsletter
Mike Green (860) 774 5614
mike.green@newenglandtrials.org

NETA web site <http://www.newenglandtrials.org>



Spring Fun Events

The folks in Rhode Island are putting on a couple of Fun Events to boost the spring trials schedule. Bill Jessop is putting on an event at Smith's Berry Farm, 320 Shermantown Road, North Kingston on Sunday April 27. The money raised at Smith's Berry Farm will go toward maintaining and expanding the riding area. Some adjacent landowners are motorcycle friendly, and Bill hopes to include some new trails and sections in the event. Sign-up starts at 8:00 am, and the event starts at 11:00 am. Entry fee is a \$20 donation. Bill promises an easy loop for beginners. For more information, you can reach Bill at (401) 792 3812.

The second event is being put on by Dave Allen and the Rhode Island Trials Club at their headquarters on Escoheag Hill Road, Exeter on Sunday May 18. The money raised at the event will go toward the New England Trials Youth Team that is competing in the Youth Nationals in Tennessee in July. The event starts at 11 am. Entry fee is a \$20 donation. Dave promises something for everybody and challenges you to "Ride the rocks that Dougie and Fujinami conquered." For more information you can call Dave at (508) 285 6074 or email him at trialsriders@hotmail.com.

Directions to both events are available on the NETA web site at www.newenglandtrials.org.

NETA REMINDERS

- 1) Bring a fire extinguisher with you to each event.
- 2) Your number plate can be any color, but the plate must now include either an "A" or a "B" to indicate the line being attempted. The "A" or the "B" should be at least two inches tall and easily visible to the checker. The number plate must still show the rider's name, state, class, and NETA number in letters that are at least ½" tall.
- 3) Wear a helmet at all times when you are riding.
- 4) Leo O'Shea is still looking for checkers for the National. You can reach Leo at 508-832-5217 or email him at leoshea@newenglandtrials.org or leoshea@charter.net
- 5) You should have received a NETA membership form for the 2003 season. Return the form to Sonya Rovce or bring it to the first event.



**We don't need to
steekin' fire
extinguishers!**

2003 NETA Event Schedule

April 6	Stantack Road,	Meriden, CT	Meriden Motorcycle Club
May 4	815 Putnam Pike	Chepachet, RI	Rhody Rovers
July 13	Stantack Road	Meriden, CT	Meriden Motorcycle Club
July 19, 20	Old Sanford Rd	Berwick, ME	Rock & Roll Trials Club
August 17		Foxboro, MA	King Philip Trail Riders
August 24	Durgin Rd	Ossipee NH	Seacoast Trials Club
August 30, 31	TBA		Green Mountain Plonkers
September 7	Stantack Road	Meriden, CT	Meriden Motorcycle Club
September 14	Blood Mountain	Dedham, ME	Maine Trials Association
September 21	Shermantown Road	North Kingston,	Rhode Island Trials Club
October 26	Stantack Road	Meriden, CT	Meriden Motorcycle Club

Classified Ads (free to NETA members)

2000 Beta Mini Trial Excellent condition, runs great, well cared for, used once in 2002, hardly at all in 2001, Rental bars. Excellent beginners bike for 5 - 10 year old. \$950.00 or best offer. Call Rick Fecteau (802) 872-5897

2000 GAS GAS TXT200 Nice shape, well maintained, runs great. New chain and sprockets, good tires. Good bike for Youth or Novice rider. Smoooooth. \$2600 or best offer. Call Dave Allen 508-285-6074

2002 GAS GAS TXT200 Pro Nice shape, well maintained, runs great. You have to ride this bike to believe it. Light, nimble, smooth down low, but blip the throttle and she will jump up a 5 foot rock. This is a totally different bike than the previous year's 200. \$3500 or best offer. Call Dave Allen 508-285-6074

Featured rider – Dick Bouchard

This month's featured rider is Senior B veteran Dick Bouchard. Dick had ridden off road for many years, and he turned to the sport of trials back in 1974. Even back in '74 Dick was riding in NETA's Senior class, and he's been a regular competitor for almost 30 years.

Dick started riding with a Yamaha TY250, and he went through a couple of Yamahas and a Fantic before he became a Scorpa fan for seven years. Today he rides a 2001 Sherco. "The older bikes were like tanks compared to the modern stuff," remembers Dick. "The sections don't seem to have changed much, but it's hard to say because the bikes are so much better. The sport was really getting big when I started. Yamaha and Honda came out with trials bikes, and a lot of people tried trials. We often had 150 riders at an event in the late '70s. Then Yamaha and Honda quit, and it tailed off a bit."

Dick lives in East Providence with Shirley, his wife of 48 years. Dick used to work in Pawtucket as a supervisor in the maintenance department of a plastic and rubber plant, but he retired in 1995. Most people Dick's age head south for the winter, but Dick heads north for his house in Vermont and its miles of snowmobile trails.

Dick's smooth, no-nonsense riding is a joy to watch, and he's an inspiration to riders 30 years younger who are just starting out in the sport. What's the secret of a 30-year trials career?

"You have to be patient," says Dick. "Practice and dedication are the key. Set yourself reasonable goals."



Below: Dick doing his Marlon Brando impersonation on a late model Indian in a picture dated June 1959.



Left and above: Dick on his 1976 Yamaha TY250. Note the period ice hockey helmet and jeans.



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233 Pratt Road
Dayville, CT 06241