

Hinchcliffs "A" Property Ferry Glen, Qld October 2019



The last weekend of October was SOTA's second last event of the trials season, held at Hinchcliffs "A" property in Ferry Glen, Qld. This trial was dubbed the "SOTA Rides For Peter" trial to raise some funds and show our support for Peter Moore and his family, who lost everything in the fires that went through Busbys Flat in Nth'n NSW recently. Peter is a long time member of SOTA and has hosted trials at his property over the last couple of years. He puts in a huge effort to prepare his property for a trial and we wanted to show him the club is thinking of him in this difficult time. This trial was originally planned to be held at the Toonumbar Dam Property in NSW but with fires still a risk and limited access in and out, it was moved to Qld.

In a continuing trend of support, there was a good turnout on Saturday to set sections with all 10 plus 2 extras for the Div 6 riders done by lunch time. While no new areas were scoped out, there were plenty of creative new lines set. The difficulty was a mix of open flowing sections to a couple of snotty gully sections that had some people scratching their heads. Not my words, but apparently anyone who thought they were a tad difficult needs to harden up, haha. I think there might have been a couple of "it seemed a good idea at the time" moments.

Saturday was a comfortable climate for camping with perfect weather day and night, although it is starting to get hot enough during the day to up that fatigue factor just a bit. A good reminder of why our last trials of the year are traditionally held south of the border. Sunday morning we had just short of 50 riders for the event so another good turnout. During the riders briefing Les Hellyar put his auctioneers hat on to auction off a portable grill donated by Darren Cresswell from Megajoules. The winning bidder was Tim English with money raised going directly to Peter Moore along with some seriously generous donations from others. Thank you to all that supported this cause, you should all be proud. Together with a donation from the club, we hope we can help Peter in some small way to get back on his feet.

Riding kicked off around 9.30 and with the temps on Sunday a little higher, keeping hydrated was a priority. With dry conditions everywhere you go these days, it didn't take long for some tricky turns to become a little more difficult with the buildup of powdery soil. As the day went on and the temperature climbed and the trial was pulled back from 4 laps to 3 laps, maybe too late for the fast ones tho. With the heat comes fatigue and everything can just seem that much harder. Unfortunately, the day wasn't incident free with a long time member and experienced rider having a mishap resulting in a couple of broken ribs and bruising. After extracting him from the course and getting him back to parc ferme, he was able to recover enough to travel home with his wife.

Up and coming young Jake Long (Beta) had his first ride in Division Zero and set the cat amongst pigeons by finishing 2nd on 40, Jim Reed (Beta) claimed 1st on 39 and in third place Richard Kent on his Electric Motion came 3rd on 42. Another junior to watch is Matthew Herrmann who is quietly making impressions as he works way up through the Divisions, so watch these names.

The weekend was wrapped up fairly early with the 4th lap abandoned for most riders then the obligatory score reading over a free hot dog. There's a long list of people to pay thanks to with all the volunteer section setters, Denys Reed for arranging the toilet, Christine Reed, Kerryn Hellyar and Pam Barwick for scoring, Clarrie & Marg Cunliffe and Glen Somerville for observing, John Hinchcliffe for the use of his property and all those who made donations of some kind to the "SOTA Rides For Peter" day.

Brad

