

FLORIDA TRIALS ASSOCIATION NEWS

2006/2007 SEASON ISSUE – # 1

August 2, 2006 -- NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Lisa Teubert

Message from the New President

Because I am new at this I will need all the help from all the club members I can get to make this a good year. My email and phone number is on this so everyone feel free to contact me at any time. Any and all suggestions will be considered and discussed at the events. Thanks in advance for all your help. Robert Vennel

Officer's Corner (Jean Florin)

Bob Vennel, Barry Florin, Doc Jenkins and Jean Florin were the only ones in attendance at the meeting held in Winter Haven on July 29, 2006, but a lot was accomplished for the following season, which will be beginning soon (see schedule below). For those of you who did not make it to the last Fun event of the year in Ormond Beach, we had a great time until the rains came, but the trials was fun and the food was delicious. We are sad to say that Dudley Cullum has resigned as Club Director for Cahills, but we are also happy to announce that Jeff Meyers has agreed to take on the challenge. Another change is that Bill Nutting will no longer be our Newsletter Editor, but Lisa (Bob Vennel's other half) has agreed to take on this task. Doc Jenkins will helping me with the secretarial responsibilities, and Chuck Walker, our Vice President, will be taking care of the supplies, along with Marc Waller, and Chuck will also be helping with sign-up at all of the events to help relieve some of my workload. Although Bruce Ward has done a tremendous job with the FTA website,

Kathy Priest has volunteered to help with this laborious task, so as you can see, there are some new changes to look forward to in this coming season.

Schedule of Events

Following is the tentative schedule for the next season. Please notify Bob Vennel if there is a major conflict ASAP as we need to submit our sanctions requests to AMA:

- *Round 1 – September 17, 2006 – Ormond Beach – Central Florida
- *Round 2 – October 15, 2006 – Crooms – FUBAR
- *Round 3 – November 12, 2006 – Promise Ranch – West Coast
- *Round 4 – December 3, 2006 – Promise Ranch – Cahills
- *Round 5 – January 7, 2007 – Hard Rock – FUBAR
- *Round 6 – February 4, 2007 – Hard Rock – Central Florida
- **Fun in the Sun Two-Day – February 26-27, 2007 – Hard Rock – All Clubs
- *Round 7 – April 8, 2007 – Promise Ranch – Cahills
- *Round 8 – May 13, 2007 – Crooms – West Coast
- **Fun Trials/Awards Banquet – June 3, 2007 – Crooms or Ormond Beach – All Clubs

FTA Points of Interest

Bob Vennel is working on flyers that will be sent out about 2 weeks before each event via email or snail mail, for those who aren't with the fast-pace times. The flyers will also be posted on the FTA website, but we would like to task all

FTA members who have access to a printer, to print out a handful and drop them off at your local motorcycle shops so we can try to increase the interest and our membership in trials in Florida. For the Fun-in-the-Sun, we are going to look into the cost of advertising this event in the AMA Magazine and Trials Competition, and we will also check with Dan Brown to see about the possibility of USMTA making an announcement on their website. If anyone else has any other ideas, please speak up. This is everyone's club and we need your help.

We discussed the possibility of having a National instead of the FIS two-day, but we did not feel there is enough interest or help for us to try and accomplish this monstrous task, so we are going to try to hold one more two-day to see what the outcome brings this next season. If we don't have the participation, in both riders and help, we may decide to drop this major event until we are ready to hold a National competition. Yes – we realize this is a lot of work, but a National would bring in the money if the FIS doesn't work out to our benefit. In the past, this event is what brought in most of the income for the FTA, but the past couple of years, people just aren't willing to spend the gas money that it costs to travel to Florida, whereas if they were going for points with NATC, it would be worthwhile to them and that would make a difference.

Business cards will be printed up for each of the Officers and Club Directors to hand out to spectators and to have available at the sign-up table at each event. We are going to try to have the schedule printed on the back as well.

Until our membership picks up, we regret that the FTA will not be able to subsidize our National riders. This is because all events have to be sanctioned and insured by AMA regardless of where we hold our events so unfortunately, our funds are not like they used to be.

FTA Membership will remain the same at \$20 for a single membership and \$30 for a family membership. If you have access to email, this saves the FTA from having to pay postage and makes it much easier on the person who is doing the newsletters and flyers.

AMA new or renewal membership fee is \$39.00. For your convenience, you can now renew on-line with AMA at <http://www.amadirectlink.com/joinama/index.asp>.

It was voted upon at our last meeting that the cost per event would increase from \$15 to \$20. This is still less than other clubs charge out of state, in any motorcycle discipline, and will help our finances.

Beginners will continue to ride with all other riders, so Club Directors need to make sure they include them in the set up and that the loop will accommodate their skill level. There will be 8-10 sections per event so if you feel the loop is above their riding ability; they do not have to ride every section. It is more important to us that they are able to get around safely to each of their sections.

Work credits – to qualify for year end, you will need to help set up the day before, or the weekend before your club's event (2 events). If you have a viable excuse and are not able to work your club's event, but can help with the set up of another club, please arrange this with your Club Director. Every club will need

to provide sign-up people who can take the money, issue score cards, log riders on the Finish Report before the event starts, help check scores at the end of the event, and then log the scores and placements on the report at the end. Also, all riders are required to add their own scorecards before they are turned in, which should be as soon as possible after the event.

We will no longer sport the red and blue ribbons as our customary boundary markers during the events. We will save money by just going with white, and yellow when necessary to split a line, plus this is consistent with what FIM and NATC are now using.

The Officers and Club Directors will be reviewing the rulebook to make sure we are in sync with the way things should be. If anyone has something they would like to discuss with Bob, please do not hesitate to contact him.

Newsletters – We would greatly appreciate it if you would please notify Bob if you have a change in your email address as well as your home address and phone numbers. We encourage all members to provide articles to “their” newsletter.

The choice voted on for trophies this year was plaques, so we are trying to locate a source that will provide quality but with a good price. We are also looking for a volunteer who will take responsibility for ensuring the awards are ordered and arrive before each event. If you are interested or you know of anyone, please let Bob know.

Job descriptions - are in the process of being completed for each of the Officer positions. Club Directors are asked to

provide information to Jean Florin so this position can be posted on our website as well. Please list your responsibilities with a short paragraph and email them to Jean at cota66@cfl.rr.com. As an incentive to get new people involved and into these positions, the FTA will be paying Officers \$100 and Club Directors \$50 at the end of each season as long as funds are available.

Chris's Journeys

Chris earned the right to be called the “Master of Champions” on the new ABC reality show that was aired 6/29/06. Of course he made us very proud and did a wonderful job of representing himself and the sport. His name has been added to their wall of champions. I have tried to watch other episodes of the show and without my son making an appearance; I sometimes wonder how long the show will last, but am glad he was able to make an appearance and steal the show!

The last two National rounds will be held in North Kingston, Rhode Island on 26-27 August 2006. Chris will definitely be trying to move up a place or 2 in the rankings, so if you remember, you can say some prayers for him.

Trials des Nations – Chris will once again be joining the team that will be heading to France where the competition is scheduled for October 2, 2006. Because the team won the gold medal in the International Class last year, they will be required to ride the World Class lines this year. This will be a tough challenge, but one they are all looking forward to. The team consists of Chris, Geoff Aaron, Keith Wineland and Code Webb. Prayers are welcome here too!

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