

OCC Team Challenges Mauna Kea in 200 Mile Enduro Race

By Al Serafin

The Mauna Kea 200 poster tells it all: "Quality Riders Only Need Apply, Sea Level to 12,000 feet and More Lava Than Anyone Should Have to Ride."

After two days of rain, this year's 200-mile, two-day, timekeeping, enduro got off the blocks to a scrambling start for the OCC team. Jimbo Beaumont had one very unwilling motorcycle and Team Captain Walter Guild had a flat tire on the starting line.

The first day took its toll on 20 riders of the 75 that started the race. Father and son team Beaumont were among the day's casualties. A broken radiator and fuel problems in the toughest section caused John and Jimbo to exceed the one hour grace period allowed per section.

Our other team riders, Brant Ackerman, Mike Sheehan and Walter were working their way through bowling ball size rocks, mini-lakes and more rain in tree planners section.

This is where Walter had a surprise meeting with a downed tree that put a little road rash on his right arm. Thanks to our traveling MASH unit and pit crew chief Tiare Ma-Moto Finney, Walter was cleaned up, bandaged up and after lunch took off on a fast trip around Mauna Kea.

Second day started at Pohakuloa

Military Reservation and after a morning of lava roads, went into miles of water crossings. The number one killer lake was appropriately named, "The Koi Pond" by our host, the Rock Island Riders.

This is where the OCC pit crew really got to see our team in action and watch a bunch of other riders turn their motorcycles into very unwilling submarines.

At the end of the second day and the finish of the race, both riders and bikes looked as if they had been dragged across the 200 mile course.

The overall winner was City Councilman John DeSoto, his sixth 200 win. Second was Steve Zoll of the Big Island and third went to David Amarin,

Kauai's hot rider.

A very special award was presented to John Beaumont as the most seasoned rider in this year's race.

Also picking up some wood was Walter who placed third in the open class. Brant finished sixth in the 250 cc class, Mike was sixth in the 200 cc class and the OCC team came in fourth overall.

A very special thanks to an outstanding support and pit crew. 🙏

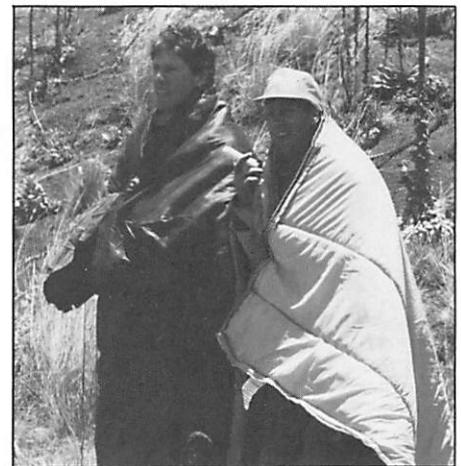


Photos by Tiare Finney

The OCC gang at the Mauna Kea 200 included, front, Stephanie Ackerman, Marc Kennedy, Tiare Finney and Al Serafin. Second row, Connie Serafin, Brant Ackerman, Mike Sheehan, Brenton Block. Third row, Mary Smolenski, Walter Guild, John Beaumont, Jimbo Beaumont and Pam Hamamoto.



Guild, Sheehan and Ackerman ride through the lava fields. At left, Mike Sheehan goes through "The Koi Pond."



Walter Guild and Brant Ackerman wear sleeping bags to keep warm at the top of Mauna Kea.