

Motorcycle Trail Riding at OCC

By John Beaumont

Action for the Club's 25 active motorcycle trail riders generally gets started with Doss Tannehill, Motorcycle Committee Chairman, making a few phone calls. The gang meets at Kenny's restaurant on Pali Highway at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast and then off to Helemano, Mililani or Kahuku for a day of riding.

A day's riding is just that. Rain or shine, we're on the trails from 4 to 6 hours and then finish off the day in the parking lot over a few beers. We generally ride over 40 to 60 miles of trails and dirt roads. Trails are very narrow (one bike wide) and go through the hills, valleys and streams. The object is to see who can get through the trail the fastest, who can climb the hill the best or who can ride through the stream or river without drowning or braking his motorcycle.

All of this practice prepares us for the three or four races held each year. These races are called "Hare & Hound" or Enduros. Hare & Hound races are individual events and usually have about 100 entrants. The riders line up in the starting area and the start is signaled by a smoke bomb. When the riders see the smoke, they start engines and take off for the smoke and the beginning of the trail. The trail is marked by colored ribbon, hung every hundred yards or so. You go as fast as the terrain will allow and as fast as you can spot the ribbons.

To prove that all trails are covered,

each trail is marked with a package of numbered checks strategically located along that trail. Each rider takes one and goes on. Usually there are 40 checks (trails) in a race, so the first rider getting to the finish line with all of the checks is the winner. A race usually takes 4 hours or more to complete.

The "Primo" events of the year are the Big Island's Mauna Kea 200, and the Kauai Hare & Hound.



The Mauna Kea 200 is a 200-plus-mile, two-day event that takes place in the volcano country of the Big Island. The first day, the riders cover the lower slopes, riding through the swamps, Lehua forests and generally miserable lava country. That night, the bikes are impounded and the rider can make repairs with only the tools or parts with which he started the day. No outside help. Riders bunk down in the Mauna Kea State Park cabins that

night.

Next day, the course takes us to the high country with part of the trail going through Kilauea crater at the 13,000-foot level, then around the outside of the crater and back to the State Park for dinner, stories and awards.

In 1979 an OCC team of Tom Connor, Steve Scott and John Beaumont won the team trophy for this event. We'll be trying again this year.

Recently, here on Oahu, two Hare & Hound races were held. One in the Helemano area covered about 65 miles in the rain and only 15 of the 75 starters finished the entire course. OCC riders were Doss and Mark Tannehill, Brant Ackerman, John Hennessey, Peter Halford, Mark Buck, Greg Gillette, Gerrit Osborne, Doug Sheehan, Hank Lass, Bob Riley and John Beaumont. Placing in the events were Osborne, 1st in the Open Class, Beaumont, 3rd Open, and Beaumont and Hennessey 1st and 4th in the over-40 age group.

The other event was held in the Kahuku hills on a dry day, the winner coming in just over 4 hours. Most of the above riders were in this event also, with Beaumont taking 4th in the Open Class.

Coming events are the Mauna Kea 200 on May 23-24 and the Kauai Hare & Hound on Labor Day weekend in September. Anyone interested in riding with the group, just contact any of the riders and we'll get you started.



OCC motorcyclists are the end of the Mauna Kea race. Standing, L to R: Doug Sheehan, Steve Scott, Peter Halford, Al Serafin, Doss Tannehill, Tom Connor, Gerrit Osborne, John Beaumont. Seated: Bob Smelker, Mark Buck, Brad Ackerman, Steve Harris



Doss Tannehill, Motorcycle Committee Chairman, was 6A at the Mauna Kea Race.

Center: Tom Connor and John Beaumont set off on a misty morning. But rain or shine, the ride goes on.