

Jimbo Beaumont wins 2nd Annual Opaepala Hare & Hound Motorcycle Race

by John Beaumont

The Opaepala event is the brainchild of Steve Scott and is hosted by Steve and Jackie Scott.

A Hare & Hound race is one in which a trail is cut and laid out through the mountain forests. The trail is marked with ribbons periodically to indicate the direction, and at strategic intervals, checks are posted. Checks are numbered cards attached to trees along the trail. The object is to follow the trail via the ribbons and take a check from each of the check points to prove you passed that way. The first rider to finish with all the checks is the winner.

This year's course was approximately 50 miles long and took the fastest rider almost four hours to complete. The trails were generally narrow and winding and took us up steep dirt hills, down more steep hills, over and under fallen trees, across 8 to 10 streams, some with up to 3 feet of water and some with just large boulders.

Eighteen selected riders started the course and thirteen finished. The finish line was at the top of a hill overlooking a beautiful valley. The last trail came down this valley through the forest. Some time during the week preceding the race, a large tree fell across this last trail completely blocking the course but did leave a space about 3 feet high under the tree trunk to drag the motorcycle through. The best part of the day, for the observers (wives and girlfriends) was to listen to the expressions of delight from the tired riders as they physically dragged their motorcycles through the mud under this log and then climbed the hill to the finish.