

Corduroy Enduro

By Ron Jackson

The third annual Corduroy Enduro was held on Sept. 24th & 25th in near perfect weather in the beautiful Haliburton Highlands. The '55 edition of the event was by far the most successful to date with a record 28 riders competing, well supported by a further 60 checkers and spectators. All enjoyed the hospitality of Gold Rock Lodge, which was filled to capacity with enthusiastic motorcyclists.

A steady rain on Friday night resulted in the late arrival of many people, and these together with many others who perpetuated "goings on" until the small hours of the morning, found that the 5 a.m. rising took a little getting used to. However, with breakfast ready on schedule things went smoothly and the first pair of riders left promptly at 7.15 a.m.

The route consisting of gravel roads, lumber trails, etc., ran generally through Coboconk, Gooderham, South of Bancroft to MacArthurs Mills (mileage 118.7) where a lunch stop of one hour was allowed. By this time the original entry of 28 had been reduced to 18.

After lunch the route ran North and went through the most beautiful scenery in Ontario with the trees a sunburst of Autumn colours. The riders passed to the north of Bancroft and then on through the Highland Grove, Wilberforce, to Tory Hill. An interesting jaunt down an abandoned section of the historic Monck road brought them back to Gooderham. The final section of the run from Gooderham to Gold Rock Lodge via Coboconk was open territory with no secret checks, a welcome change no doubt; after trying to anticipate the location of fifteen strategically placed checks.

Apparently the required 24 m.p.h. schedule proved to be about right since few of the finishers were more than an hour late at the finish, and many came in on time. The total mileage for the day was 251.6 miles.

The Corduroy Banquet — Turkey with all the trimmings was served at the Lodge promptly at 7 p.m. and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The dinner was followed by bull sessions, maintenance, movies and a genuine Finnish steam bath. Provisional results for the first day were posted, and in order to enable several keen riders who did not finish on Satur-



Bill Sharpless

—Photo by Ron Jackson

day to compete on Sunday, a special "Best Second Day" award was offered.

Groans were widespread when it was announced that the same route and schedule were to be used on Sunday, and of the original entry only 12 diehards faced the starter at 7.20 a.m. Sunday morning. Several of the riders seemed to be in better form on Sunday and showed greatly improved scores from the previous day, others were apparently fooled by some of the relocated checks and suffered heavy loss of marks for arriving early. Also on Sunday, there was an epidemic of riders missing check points or approaching them from the wrong direction which resulted in disqualification. Whether this was caused by the disappearance of route markers or an increased tendency to play "follow the leader" is not known, but it was disappointing to the officials as well as the riders themselves.

However everyone returned to Gold Rock Lodge in good time on Sunday night and enjoyed another excellent meal before packing up to leave for home.

When the results were finally tabulated, Bill Sharpless emerged as the winner of the premier award, with Roy Orgar taking both the "Best other Class" and the "Best Second Day" awards.

Both deserve great credit for their fine scores and careful route-finding.

The BEMC, organizers of the event wish to thank the many motorcyclists who helped to make this event a success. The response to the request for checkers was terrific and indicates that this never need be a problem in the future.

Our special thanks go to Les North and his wife and capable staff at the Lodge for a job well done in bunking and feeding such a large gang.

We feel the enthusiasm of all those present, and those who participated in this year's Corduroy run will guarantee the success of this event in the future. It is the hope of the organizers that the Corduroy Enduro will become an event of national significance, and fill an important gap in the present CMA calendar.

AWARDS

Premier Award, Bill Sharpless 650 Ariel score 829.

Best Opposite Class, Roy Orgar 500 Matchless score 815.

Best Second Day, Roy Orgar.

Team Award B.E.M.C., B. Sharpless, A. Clark, D. Haddow.

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