

CORDUROY ENDURO

By Ron Jackson

Enduro specialist Norm Smith of Brecksville Ohio and a 500 c.c. Triumph proved to be a winning combination in the Canadian Championship Corduroy Enduro on September 15 and 16. The run was organized by the British Empire Motor Club over a 370 mile course in the scenic Haliburton district of Ontario. It was without question the roughest Corduroy in ten years.

Smith dropped 85 points to win by two marks over Marvin Cutler, of Dearborn, Michigan who rode a 600 Matchless. The outcome was not decided until the last check on Sunday when Cut lost the track and several precious minutes in the final section of trail leading to the finish. Always a good sport, he accepted second place and the Best Opposite Class award with the genuine enthusiasm which is a Cutler trademark.

Bill Decker of Butler, New Jersey took third overall and the Lightweight Championship on a Triumph with a score of 94 points. Sheldon Smith of Peterborough was the top Canadian rider and won the Medium Weight Championship with a score of 144 on his veteran AJS. Bert Irwin of Cornwall, Ontario won the Heavy Weight Championship on his BSA with 280 points.

The winning sidecar, and the only hack to finish, was a 600 Matchless/Watsonian outfit driven by George Davidson and Bill Ryan of Toronto. These two stalwarts rammed their chair through miles of underbush that would discourage a broad-shouldered moose, and finished with the loss of only 1049 points.

The winning team was an organization called the Wrecking Crew comprising N. Smith, Sal Scirpo, Hartford, Connecticut and John Semple, Cleveland, Ohio.

The weather throughout the weekend was ideal with plenty of warm sunshine to sustain the spectators and checkers and make the most of the early fall colour.

Saturday's route covered 208 miles of lumber trail, abandoned railway and winding gravel roads at averages of 24 and 30 mph. Although the day was not easy there were no deep water crossings or mud holes and most riders finished the day with dry feet and clean machines. Frank Graves, of Evansville Indiana, distinguished himself by covering 125

miles on his 50 c.c. Honda before the unfaithful device ran out of gas!

Thirty-two of the 45 starters completed the day's run. Top rider Saturday was Norm Smith, 28 marks followed closely by Sal Scirpo, 32 marks, Cutler, 35, Decker 46, and Roy Hartman 51. Hartman won the Hard Luck award for finishing Saturday with a first rate score despite an early morning tumble which resulted in a painful foot injury. Unfortunately the damage kept him out of Sunday's run since his boot could not be re-installed over the swollen foot.

Twenty-eight riders including two sidecars started Sunday morning. The first check was at 10.8 miles following a 9 mile hydro line section. Best score here was Smith's six minutes late. A rough trail overgrown with alders, deep water in the Dutch Line swamp, another hydro line and bush trail had to be overcome before lunch at Carnarvon.

Twenty-one solos and one sidecar reached lunch. The leaders' scores were very close; N. Smith 65, Cutler 67, Scirpo 75 and Decker 76. Leaving lunch the trail led down over the beaver dams of the old Bobcaygeon Road in a rugged 15 mph section. After three more trail sections the riders reached check #10 and the gas stop at Minden. Here Smith and Cutler were tied at 74 points; Decker was third with 86 and Scirpo fourth with 95.

A 25 mile section of comparatively easy going led to check #12 which marked the beginning of the end. Check #13 followed a rough woods section; only Decker zeroed this one. Check 14 was a sleeper located on a gravel road 5.2 miles from the finish. Cutler, Smith and Decker were each two minutes early here. The last five miles leading to check #15 at the finish provided a stirring finale. Woods, a mud hole and more woods led to a half mile home stretch across the roughest, rockiest pasture in all Haliburton. Best score here was three minutes late, posted by Norm Smith, Chris Martin, and John Semple.

Semple summed it up for several battered finishers when he was overheard mumbling that the last five miles were not really necessary. Chris Martin of Toronto turned in a Sunday score of 59

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points, fourth lowest for the day. Unfortunately he was eliminated on Saturday by mechanical difficulty and was just riding for fun. Last of the twenty-one finishers were Davidson and Ryan in the side hack — a remarkable performance!

As soon as the run was over the weary finisher trooped into the healing atmosphere of the Gold Rock Lodge steam bath to try and dissolve some of the aches and pains before they became firmly established. The weekend's activities were concluded with dinner in the Lodge dining room served under the direction of the genial proprietor, Les North who is himself a Jack Piner of 1935 vintage.

RESULTS (finishers):

Grand Champion: N. Smith, Brecksville, Ohio, Triumph, 85 points.

Best Opposite Class: M. Cutler, Dearborn, Mich., Matchless, 87 points.

LIGHTWEIGHTS:

1. W. Decker, Butler, N.J., Triumph, 94 points; 2. S. Scirpo, Hartford, Conn., HD, 106 points; 3. H. Lim, Toronto, Ont., Triumph, 152 points.

MEDIUM WEIGHTS:

1. S. Smith, Peterborough, Ont., AJS, 144 points; 2. J. Semple, Cleveland, Ohio, Matchless, 208 points; 3. J. Hunt, Toronto, Ont., Matchless, 225 points.

HEAVY WEIGHTS

1. A. Irwin, Cornwall, Ontario, BSA, 280 points; 2. K. McLaughlin, Pontiac, Mich., BSA, 208.3 miles; 3. W. Chronister, Mansfield, O., Matchless, 86.8 miles.

SIDECARS

1. G. Davidson-W. Ryan, Toronto, Matchless, 1049 points; 2. C. Mathies-W. Wilson, Campbell's, Matchless, 208.3 miles; 3. B. Robinson-D. Browne, Toronto, Matchless, 123.4 miles.

TEAMS:

1. Wreckling Crew; N. Smith, Scirpo, Semple, 399 points; 2. Nortown MC Toronto; Lim, Hunt, Puhakka, 907 points.

We hope that everyone who took part in this year's Corduroy enjoyed the weekend. Our congratulations to the winners; the trophies they received were well earned. Check number three on Sunday's route was disregarded in calculating the results. This decision on the part of the British Empire Motor Club was reviewed and endorsed by the executive of the Ontario Centre of the Canadian Motor-

cycle Association.

The British Empire Motor Club wishes to thank the following for their generosity in donating trophies for the event.

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We also wish to thank the genial proprietor of Gold Rock Lodge, Les North, his wife and their capable staff for the excellent fashion in which arrangements at the Lodge were handled. Thanks also to Bill Hastings for the PA and the films and to the patient group of checkers.

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CORDUROY ENDURO PICTORIAL



Norm Smith from Brecksville, Ohio, is the Grand Champion.

He is shown (above) at a swamp crossing.

At right (above) is Marv Cutler, Best Opposite.

(Bottom right) Sheldon Smith was best Canadian.

(Below) Davidson and Ryan, only 3-wheeler to finish.

