

July 2023

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# NETA Observer

The newsletter of the New England Trials Association

Sunday June 11th trials riders headed to Springfield Motorcycle Club in Brimfield, Massachusetts. So far this year Brimfield has had the highest attendance of any NETA event. Seventy-seven riders showed up to compete. SMC has been hosting a trials event since 2007, thanks to Leo O'shea and all the others who have helped. The weather was great, sunny and in the 70's. Leo O'Shea and Jason Thibodeau worked hard to put together sections that challenged everyone. The Sportsman A sections were really tight and had some great obstacles. Jason said he likes to set up "mouse traps" where if a rider doesn't use all their space they can get trapped.

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Wayne Galvin seemed to have no issues with the Intermediate sections, scoring a perfect 0 for the day! Gary Borque won the Champ class! Darren Lane showed everyone in the Expert class how it's done, winning first. Shane Merrihew and Robbie Thorp were great competition for each other. They both scored a 39 and had 15 cleans! The final tie breaker for the day was who scored the most "ones". Shane and Robbie weren't the only tie. Dan Allen and Garrison Hayes both scored a 37 for the day. Dan scored one more clean than Garrison which secured Dan second place in the Champ class. The Expert class also had a tie. Alex Silverblade and Maddox Dorman both scored a 49. Alex scored more cleans and

that secured him second place in the expert class.

On June 25th riders headed to Berwick Maine for the Rock and Roll Trials Club event! Despite the prediction for rain, the weather ended up being great! Jarteth had eight sportsman sections and nine expert sections. The loop was nice and short which seemed to help everyone finish the event in plenty of time!

Rock and Roll Trials Club is where I spend most Sundays riding, so I knew I needed to help out with the event. All workers got a complimentary t-shirt and lunch. Lunches were hand made by Andy Teets. They included a sandwich, chips, beef jerky, and even homemade Penuche!

Beau and I spent the day checking section eight. The section was perfect for spectators and featured a challenging Champ line. Throughout the day we had several spectators come out and watch. It was a great event!

There's a little time before the next NETA event, but if you're looking to compete some more before then, there are some other options. July is shaping up to be a busy month! July 16th there is a trials event at Miller Ranch Trials in Corning, New York. The Miller Brothers Aaron and Andy put on gate trials events. Unlike NETA events, the higher the score, the better. A rider chooses to ride through gates of varying difficulty. Each gate is assigned a point value depending on difficulty. The higher the difficulty, the higher the value. The rider decides which gates to attempt and rides the section. If the rider is successful they accrue points. If at any time in the section the rider dabs, they receive a zero for that section. If you're looking for a different type of trials event, give it a try!

July 29th and 30th RITC will be hosting round 4 of the Nationals! The weekend before, on Saturday July 22nd Meriden Motorcycle Club will be hosting their 3rd annual Harpy Butterfield Memorial Extreme Fun Enduro.

The Extreme Fun Enduro will have something for Advanced (A), Intermediate (B), and Novice (C) riders. The loop will be approximately 2 miles long and have 5 C sections, 5 B sections, and 5 A sections. Riders get 1 point for each section completed without going outside the tape, breaking the tape, or getting assistance. At the end of the loop they report their score and proceed to do more loops. Riders get 3 hours to do as many loops as possible and the rider with the highest score wins their class. This event isn't only for enduro riders! There are trials classes too! The classes are: Enduro A (EA), Enduro B (EB), Enduro C (EC), Trials A (TA), Trials B (TB) and Trials C (TC). Whether you love trials or dirt biking, this is going to be a great event! For more information head over to the NETA facebook page and search for the event.

For this month's newsletter I wanted to feature female riders! I've been busy emailing all the awesome ladies of NETA and a few other inspirational female riders. I hope you all enjoy reading about the ladies in trials and I look forward to seeing you all at the Nationals in Rhode Island!

Respectfully,  
Kayla Lovejoy (VP/Scorekeeper)

## Women In Trials

This season there have been many trials riders at events. However, there have not been many female riders. So far not a single lady has competed in the Women's class. Which leads me to a question I get asked often, why do so few women ride dirt bikes? And how do we get more women into the sport?

I can't give a definitive answer as to why so few women ride. Many women ride motorcycles, fewer ride dirt bikes, and even fewer seem to ride trials bikes. It seems as though the skill set required for each may be a limiting factor. Motorcycles only require a basic rider course to obtain a license and the bikes require minimal technical skill to ride. Dirt bikes are slightly more challenging, the bikes often require more maintenance and a higher skill set to ride. Trials bikes have an even steeper learning curve. Not only does a rider need to be able to go over varied terrain, but good throttle and clutch control are extremely important.

From what I've seen over the years of riding is that most women who ride some sort of off-road motorcycle began at a young age and/or had someone in their family that got them into the sport. Seeing all the young girls in the Youth classes at events is so promising. I hope that in the future they will be competing in the women's class and possibly even work their way into higher level classes.

Another thing that may inhibit women from riding is a fear of getting hurt. Women are often less likely to take risks. It takes a certain type of woman to get into dirt bikes and an even rarer type to get into trials. It takes someone who is a bit more adventurous, someone who loves nature and seeing all it has to offer, and someone who isn't afraid to get a little dirty! Dirt bike women are bold and strong, they don't back down from a challenge. When they fall down they get right back up. They don't let fear hold them back. They tend to be go-getters who enjoy having several hobbies. Dirt bike women are unique and the world needs more of them. So that brings me to the final question; How do we get more women into trials?

The biggest thing women need is encouragement. Supportive parents and significant others are the best people to get women into trials. Most of the female riders I know got into trials because they have a significant other or parent who rides. If you know a woman who is interested in riding and feel comfortable teaching her to ride, that is the best way to get someone into the sport.

There are currently some great female trials riders who compete nationally and locally. I've reached out to many ladies and asked them to answer some questions. Below you can read more about the wonderful women in trials.

First up is Abigail Buzzelli. She's a member of the Southeastern Trials Riders Association. She's an inspiration to female trials riders, beginning only a few years ago, she's advanced quickly! She's also trying to get people out to ride with her 10 X 12 Challenge! You may have read about her in an issue of On The Pegs Magazine.

If you'd like to work with Abigail in person she will be helping Ray Peters with a Ladies Motoskills Clinic in August. The clinic is two days and only \$200! There will even be bike rentals. If you're interested you can read more at [WomenTrials.com](http://WomenTrials.com).



**How long have you been riding trials?** I've been riding trials since September 2020. I learned basic motorcycle controls on a friend's bike earlier that year, but September is when I really started riding and I got my first trials bike!

**What class do you ride and what got you into trials?** Currently I ride the Advanced-Sportsman class with the Southeastern Trials Riders Association (STRA.) I originally wanted to ride street bikes, then I was exposed to trials through my husband, Chris. I started doing some trials photography. Our friend, Jim Ellis from North Carolina suggested I try it. My first few rides were on Jim's CRF125, and thanks to Chris' patience, I'm still riding now.

**Are there any trials events that really had an impact on you and stand out better than the others?** My favorite event is the Youth & Women's Open Eastern Round (now put on by NextGen Mototrials) at the Trials Training Center in Sequatchie Tennessee. It's a three-day competition held on the 4th of July weekend every year. It's always motivating to see the kids out there and to see so many of my female riding friends who all come together for the event. After the ride every day, we all head down to the creek and swim, so I just feel like a kid at

summer camp, it's very special. The volunteers really care at that event, and seeing so many kids have a great time just brings me a lot of joy.

**Was there a technique that you really struggled to learn?** A solid basic wheelie. It was my focus for more than a year to really solidify pulling the front wheel up with my lower body and proper technique rather than yanking with my arms and giving it gas.

**Do you have a favorite bike (doesn't have to be a trials bike)?** My favorite is my Beta EVO 200 Factory trials bike. The 200's make excellent power, handle well, and inspire confidence.

**What other hobbies do you enjoy?** I'm a ballroom dance instructor, and I love all types of dance. I also knit.



**Could you tell riders about the 10X12 challenge?** When I was preparing for nationals for the first time (the end of 2021 and early 2022) I decided that I wanted to up my game, so I started tracking the days I was riding. In the end, I rode 125 days. I had so much fun and saw so much improvement in my riding from being consistent that I decided to share it to see if others would like to join. The rules are simple: if you ride on 10 days in a month and each ride is at least 15 minutes long, you've completed that month's challenge. For completing the month, I'll mail you stickers and On The Pegs Magazine will publish your name in the list of finishers. It's really taken off, and now there are about 50 riders participating. While I do a lot of sharing on Instagram, you don't have to be on social media to join the challenge though we'd love to see your progress. You can let me know about your progress using the form on [10X12Challenge.com](https://10X12Challenge.com).

## Ladies of NETA



### **Crystal Marie**

**Class:** Women's

**Years riding Trials:** 1.5

**Trials bike:** 2022 Sherco 125 Factory

**Crystal Says:** I come from a road track background and while riding up at Club Motorsports one of the members asked if I wanted to try his trials bike. Dirt was new to me two years ago and when I hopped on this bike to give it a try I was immediately enamored with how much fun it was! This started the hunt for a trials bike of my own to help improve my enduro/woods skills. Little did I know that I would come to love the sport just as much as woods riding even though I initially planned it as a training tool.

Now I'm immersed in three types of riding: Road Track, Enduro and Trials and I have to say the skillsets learned in this humbling sport are so prevalent in everything! Since I started riding trials, we have pulled a bunch more people into the sport because of how fun it can be! I also love the mental challenge that it provides, in some regards more mental than physical, and working on a mindset to overcome obstacles is not only key for trials but key for life too!



### **Deb Kicinski**

**Class:** Senior C

**Years riding Trials:** 5

**Trials bike:** Beta 80 Senior, and a Vintage 1974 Honda TL125

**Deb Says:** After spectating trials events for a few years, I got the urge to learn to ride a bike and eventually try competing in events. With the support and encouragement of many wonderful trials' friends, I am continually working to develop the skills of a novice rider.

I'm comfortable with downhills since my experience as a downhill skier for 40 years is relatable in my brain. But uphill, that's another story. It's taken me a long time to overcome the physics of gravity to understand how much throttle is needed to power up and over the obstacles.

I love riding and there is nothing better than forgetting everything else in life except dealing with the rocks, mud, logs, and hills in the woods. It's yoga on a bike for me. The workout is killer, strengthening every muscle, especially my core. And, there's no better way to build strength, stamina and endurance for me. Look for me in the woods, grinning from ear to ear.

## Karie Mason

**Class:** Women's

**Years riding Trials:** 17

**Trials bike:** Beta 200

**Karie says:** I started riding trials soon after I met my husband Jim. He bought his first trials bike, (a gas gas 321) about 3 months after we started dating. He was going to use it to run the dogs in the woods, then after a short time found out about competitions and a local club to ride with. That same summer we went to the 2004 National trials held in Vermont. After seeing the event and meeting all of the awesome spectators, we were hooked.



Jim taught me how to ride a dirtbike for the first time on his 300. Thank goodness I was fast with the clutch! I started competing about a year after Jim did. We started attending competitions in 2005 and I learned a lot by helping out with checking and score keeping at

many events. My first bike was a Scorpa 250 but that didn't last long. Jim surprised me with a yellow Gas Gas 200 for a wedding gift in 2007 that was previously owned by the infamous Caroline Allen. I loved that bike and after many years of use I needed a fresh bike. So, I found and bought a Beta 200 a few years ago. That took some adjusting, especially the left sided kickstart.

I have had some inconsistent years but for the most part I have kept riding as part of my life. My 17 year journey has been slow but in the end I have become a more confident and improved rider. I currently ride womens class since it only requires 3 loops. Being involved in the trials family has been an integral part of our lives together and we have met some life long friends because of it. I can't forget to mention all of the amazing women riders I have met and rode with over the years. There's not many of us but we keep persevering.

I enjoy my spring to fall season with trials. But my winter is jam packed with downhill skiing as my first passion. It can be difficult to be mentally ready for trials in the spring when I am still skiing on the mountain in mid April. Other activities that I enjoy myself and with the family are kayaking, camping, and any snow sports. I also try to keep yoga in my life to keep me strong and agile.

I hope that I can continue to enjoy meeting many more riders and improve my skills riding moto trials in the future.



### Kayla Lovejoy

**Class:** Sportsman A

**Years riding Trials:** 2

**Trials bike:** 2011 Beta Evo 125

**Kayla says:** I grew up riding snowmobiles and four wheelers. I was six when I got my first snowmobile! But I had never dared riding a dirt bike. No one in my family owned one so it was never really a consideration. I did some ATVing, but it just wasn't really my thing. I was a horse girl and horseback riding was my greatest passion.

My introduction to dirt bikes was from Beau Allen when I was 18. In the sand pit behind my house he let me ride his dad's old 1985 Honda XR350. It wasn't long after riding the 1985 XR that I got my own Honda XR200. Over the years I rode it occasionally, but didn't really get



into riding regularly until some time around 2018. With more riding came bike upgrades. The first was a Honda XR250. At first the larger size and additional power worried me, but it didn't take long to adjust. Next came a Yamaha YZ125X. I wanted something lighter and easier to start, and after trying Beau's YZ250X, I knew I needed one too! Then in the summer of 2021 I got my first trials bike! Since then I've really fallen in love with the sport of trials.

I've never been extremely fast on a dirt bike, but I've gained a lot of technical riding skills. I may not be as fast as the guys we ride with, but I can hold my own on steep hill climbs and rocky terrain. Trials has really helped me develop my technical riding skills even more and I love not feeling rushed to keep up with the group. The trials community has been so welcoming and everyone always has great riding advice to give. Overall I've found the trials community to have some of the best people!

## Sally Bernstein

**Class:** Women's C

**Years riding Trials:** 5

**Trials bike:** Sherco 250

**Sally says:** Gary and I are really big into outdoor sports. We bicycle (road, mountain and snow bikes), ski, hike, fish and kayak. He has ridden motorcycles for years. The bigger bikes



are a little much for me, so we decided to get a trials bike. We bought a used Montessa and started riding it in the yard, and the first days were pretty bad, we could barely make a turn but it was really fun. That's when we joined NETA and did the trials school. We really enjoy the community of people and love making new friends and seeing everyone at the events. Now we were hooked.

Last June I broke my leg at Brimfield so I have been off the bike for a year. I am just starting to ride again in the yard and hope to be back next year. Gary has moved up to B so now I look forward to riding with some of the other women. Although I won't be riding with Kayla anytime soon, I am sticking with the C class.

## The Future of NETA



### Kylin Dorman

**Class:** Youth A

**Years Riding:** 4

**Bike of Choice:** OSET 20.0R

**About Kylin:** Kylin Dorman is 7 years old and has been riding Trials since she was 3. Her first bike was an OSET 12.5R that was handed down from her brother. She was introduced to Trials by her father and brothers, Maddox and Bronson.

Kylin only rode 2 NETA events before traveling to Tennessee to compete in the 2019 AMA/NATC Eastern Youth National and Women's Open Mototrials Championship at the Trials Training Center. At 3 years old, Kylin was the youngest rider the Trials Training Center had ever seen at the Youth National Mototrials Championship Series.

She upgraded to an OSET 16.0R in 2020, but unfortunately all events were canceled due to covid. That's when her parents decided to host their own youth events in their backyard. They hosted 2 events that year. It was such a success that they decided to organize an OSET Cup Youth Championship Series the next 2 years. Kylin's riding skills greatly improved and she formed some great friendships.

Over the next two years, she continued riding NETA events in addition to her parent's Youth Championship Series. She also traveled to Tennessee again to compete in the Youth Nationals. In 2022, Kylin took 1st place all three days and overall! She also won a special award for having the best attitude and received a JoJo Siwa backpack signed by the pros and zero line riders.

Kylin currently rides the Youth A line on an OSET 20.0R. She hopes to move up to the Sportsman C line next year. Her favorite thing about Trials is practicing with her brother, Bronson, seeing her "motorcycle friends" and riding over logs.



## Robbie-Ann Marcil

**Class:** Youth A

**Years Riding:** 4

**Trials Bike:** 20" Mecatecno

**Robbie-Ann Says:** I live in Bristol CT. I am 8 years old, and I have been riding motorcycles since I was 4. My dad is the person who got me and my brother, Drew into trials as he is a big fan of motorcycles and putting together pieces of motorcycles. He thought that it would be really cool if his kids rode motorcycles and so he

trained us and he helped us learn how to ride and we love it. We made a track to ride out back in the woods with my dad, my cousin and his friends and I enjoy riding with the big bikes. They coached me on building my skills and I ride some of the same obstacles that they do. I'm now on my third trials bike. I had a 12.5" and a 16" OSET and now I ride a 20" Mecatecno.

One day on Facebook my dad saw the Backyard Mototrials kids' event in New York, and so I and my brother Drew joined it. Earlier this year, my dad said there is a NETA event, so he enrolled my brother in and I in the Youth A class. Everyone at the events are nice and fun to be around and fun to ride with.

What I like about riding is to me it's like a challenge to figure out how to go thru the sections. It makes me apply the skills I learned to be able to ride well.

I am also a woods rider, sponsored by Smiths Cycles in Bristol and ride a Honda XR80. I also enjoy street and dirt riding with my dad on his 300 and 990. Apart from motorcycles, I like swimming, gymnastics, art and camping. I love the outdoors!

For this year so far, I have won 2 NETA events and I look forward to joining more for the rest of the year. I would like to continue riding as a grown up and enjoy the fun in riding!