

Riders M/C Enduro
New Paris, IN
11/7/05
By Brent Floyd

Being from Indiana, there are 3 Enduro's I really look forward to each year. Not that I haven't ridden excellent Enduro's in surrounding States, these are just close to my heart. Like my friend Stokley says, "when you can sleep in your own bed and drive to the race on Sunday morning, it's just good."

New Paris is one of those 3 races. I have ridden this race almost every year since 1984, and I have to say they just keep getting better with age, like a fine wine. Jim Garber asked me after the race what they could do to make this race better? I thought about it and answered, nothing. Really, I thought it was that good. The only thing I could even remotely think of, mainly because I was tired, was maybe make it just a little shorter. And that, my friends, is one of the best situations a club can find itself in. With more woods to ride than can be ridden in one race. And I know they have more. My tongue is still hanging from their National 3 years ago.

Rain may have scared a few off, but real riders would have ridden no matter what. Really the rain stopped just after the start, and in at least half the race you could just rip. The other half, especially if the soil turned a dark black, throttle control was a must with the slick soil and even slicker roots. I pity the poor young guys that are so aggressive they don't know when to back off until their already sliding toward a big tree with no way to stop. I used to be that way too, age and injuries have a way of taming your riding style. However, the fastest guy there sure didn't seem to have any problems with any soil type. Blair Bersano just seems to really be hitting his stride. I would not call Blair's style smooth, he is aggressive and just does not make mistakes.

The course consisted of 6 timing sections and 5 of them seemed at least 20 miles long apiece. I thought we, at the Mud Dobbers, could really string some woods together, and we can. Riders M.C. takes it to the next level. The sections were actually around 11 to 12 miles apiece, but they made you concentrate the whole time you were in the section. I called this an Old School Enduro, meaning you better be able to keep time and ride tight, technical sections all day long. It means a separation in riders by the length of the sections. Look at the scores, you don't see very many ties. Usually 1st and 3rd in a class may be separated by 10 to 15 points or more. That's separation. I like this type of race. You get checked in and just start riding and riding and riding. Cross a field and back into a woods and ride some more. Speaking of fields, what happened to no-till? I farm and pride myself on being able to cross a field fast, but those chiseled fields with damp soil were a challenge. That's like riding a 10 inch rut for half a mile at 65 mph. I don't know how many other people had a difficult time with these rut fields, but one finally got me at the end of the race. Fun, fun, fun.

You know this is just one race you have to ride every year. We at the Mud Dobbers have learned many aspects of putting on a good race from Riders. M.C.. Attention to detail is a key aspect of organizing an Enduro, and they do it well.

Greenville is this Sunday, and you should be there. The last race of the year and also on my top 3 list.