



DIRT WRITER

Newsletter of the California Enduro Rider Association

Chris Burton - Editor

CERA Banquet

By Chris Burton

The annual CERA Banquet was held Saturday night, August 2nd at Club Moto in Livermore. A catered buffet provided great food, and Wayne Buckman had a tent set up with table cloth-covered tables adorned with flowers. Invitations were extended to all members past and present, and over 50 people showed up, making for a strong turnout. The dinner concluded with our usual awards. David Robinson was awarded the Rider of the Year for his strong performance in the B class at last year's enduros. Terry Packer collected the Sportsman of the Year honors for his stellar financial work as Club Treasurer. Tom Guidice was presented a trophy for his successful coordination of this year's Fools Gold Enduro. Congratulations, guys!

Following dinner, everyone adjourned to the motocross track, some as riders, some as spectators. After some practice laps, Russ Drake, Dave Baumann, and Tom Guidice lined everyone up for the qualifying lap. This lap would be used to assign partners for the Tag-Team race. The club looked impressive on the start line, if just a bit out of place with our headlights and handguards. Dave Baumann explained in detail how he would count down to the start. He was so convincing that several club members exploded off the line and completed half a lap before they realized the race had not really started. Once everybody started in earnest, I used an outside line to secure third place coming out of the first turn. As we turned up the dark hill, I could see my bulky silhouette against the hill, with several angry, bouncing headlights right on my rear fender. Reality quickly asserted itself, and I was passed by several riders in subsequent turns. I finished mid-pack, only to discover that this lap did not count. After a two-lap qualifier, teams were assigned. I would be teamed with Jeff Higgins, and I figured

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slower bracket guys (like me) would take the first lap. I managed to maintain fourth place throughout the lap, and got to Jeff before any of the 'top seeds' got off the line. As I prepared for Lap 3, I noticed a commotion on the track. Apparently Pete Methot, Chris' brother, had gotten out of shape over a jump and crashed heavily. My partner Jeff was right behind him, and could not avoid landing on the hapless Methot. The Tag Team Race was immediately black-flagged, and it was determined that we should move directly to the Class Races. Pete Methot was driven to the hospital and diagnosed with a dislocated shoulder.

The A and B class races were relatively uneventful. Steve Shoemaker put on an impressive riding display to win the A moto, followed by Greg Houle, Rick Guidice, and Terry Packer. Jeff Higgins ran away with the B title, with Wayne Buckman, Tony Godrich, and Kent Bell in pursuit. The only close race was for third place in the C moto behind Mike Dunham and Scott McCormick. Brian Carey used a daring last-lap pass to secure third ahead of yours truly. I will remember that at each of this fall's enduros Mr. Carey!

All in all, it was an eventful and enjoyable evening for everyone (except maybe Pete). It was a change of pace from previous banquets, and provided the club a chance to ride together on unfamiliar terrain. I for one have even more respect for our motocross cousins.

