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Prospectors M/C 2014 California GP

www.prospectorsmc.org

PROSPECTOR POOP

The never ending journal of the Prospectors Motorcycle Club

December 2014 / January 2015

GRAND PRIX: Our 29th Annual California Grand Prix was... Epic. It has been very dry in the Quail Canyon area this year and the night before the race we got… Rain. Then on Saturday night we got bit more rain and that was exactly what we needed. The first race on Saturday morning was somewhat muddy in places as expected but after that it was pure loam, traction, and no dust for most of the weekend. The motocross track started to get a little dusty mid-day Sunday so we watered it, problem solved. It was a rider's delight just a bit cool both days plus windy on Sunday for the course workers (that's us). Thank you to everyone who came out and helped, and for lack of a better word our race was… Bitchin'. Be sure to read the enclosed GP wrap-up letter from President Steve,

Total entry was 755 riders, down 94 from last year. Why? We think this was a reflection of how many riders remembered our wet (very wet) race in 2008 and they feared a re-enactment of Captain Nemo's Underwater Adventure. As it turned out we got just the right amount of rain this year as opposed to 10 times too much as in 2008.

There are always challenges that require creative solutions and we usually handle that very well. One example this year was a field repair of a large flat tire on a tractor, which requires creating an explosion inside the tire to get the bead to pop onto the rim. You have to get the flammable mixture just right, Evert had it under control, tire fixed. Thank you!

But not all is sunshine and roses in the land of Quail. Wildman was hit by an out of control motorcycle and injured. It was an accident, sometimes bad stuff happens when there is racing, and here is Wildman's story:

Here is what happened.

It was the first race of the weekend, the Unclassified, and I was standing alongside the take-off ramp to the table top jump following the tower jump. A 1st wave rider goes down in the muddy 1st right-hand corner following the table top. Tom Marshall and Steve Hopkins are on either side of the back side of the table top before the corner. Tom says "Wildman!", I move forward and wave the caution flag. At this time I am 'sheltered' behind the sage brush near the swinging exit gate. The 2nd wave comes and there is carnage between the tower and the table top because that mud puddle is now rutted. I am waving the flag to slow them down when KTM M100 does an unexpected 90 degree left on the face of the table top take off ramp and hits me directly on the outside of my left knee. I was facing the tower and adjacent to the course - I was NOT standing on the course. When the rider hit me I was scooped-up by the front fender then both legs got run over and I think the right foot peg got me. The small scrapes on my left hand are defensive wounds and the rider ended-up stopped head-on at the closed green exit gate about 20 feet beyond the point of impact.

I jumped up and said "Dude, I expect that out of 80cc riders, but you are my age!" Tom said "Man, I wish I had a picture of that." I laughed, then decided it hurt, then went to my truck and it really hurt. Then went to the medical crew to confirm that I really was hurt. Got home and went to Urgent Care, doctor gave me crutches, a brace, and medication. Will see the Ortho doc Monday and I suspect it is an ACL - just had one in 2010 and it feels the same, there is zero lateral control. No plant, cut, turn, or pivot for awhile and I will keep you posted.

It was my 21st year of caution flagging our Prospectors GP. I am still dumb founded that I was just standing there doing what I was supposed to do, thinking with a fresh clear head, and then I was asking myself "What the heck just happened?"

Larry Wildman Rhodes

OUCH! Be sure to recover from your injury, Wildman, and be back up to speed by March because we will need your caution flagging services again! (More on that later in the newsletter.)

UPDATE: Wildman sent us an email on November 10 that says "ACL, miniscus ruptured. Surgery January 7. MCL torn but will heal by itself." Double ouch.

CLUB MEETINGS: Our next meeting will be Tuesday evening, February 3 - there is NO meeting in January. Kurt's Clubhouse is located at 4100 Stevely Avenue, Lakewood CA 90713. Next club newsletter will be mailed January 27 and will include the official District 37 competition events schedule for 2015. For a peek at the 2015 District 37 Sports Calendar, go to

www.District37ama.org

NYFM: New Years Field Meet! December 31st this time around is on a Wednesday and New Years Day is on a Thursday. Location, of course, is the garden spot of the universe, also know as Prospector Camp. Bring food, firewood, dry Christmas trees, old lawn chairs, a bike with a headlight, and help us bring in the New Year in ground-shaking Prospector style as only we can.

Moon! A moon that is about ¾ full will rise by 10:00 pm which is a bit late in the evening in terms of illuminating our traditional night trail ride but will add to the stellar factor when bringing in the New Year at midnight.

Prospector Camp is a mile or so off of Hwy 395 on the east side at

N 35° 32.185' W 117° 39.673'

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HARE SCRAMBLES: Are you ready for this? Are you sitting down? Yep, you guessed it, yet another amazing event will get started in 2015 and that will be the…

Prospectors M/C Hare Scrambles at Quail Canyon, March 15, 2015

And what an event it will be! This will be a points-paying District 37 event that is also a round of the AMA Western Hare Scrambles Series. The AMA series is a top-notch regional series as there is also an Eastern series much like 250 SX and these Hare Scrambles races are just short of being a 'National'.

This event will pay D37 Desert points and as it stands now will also pay D37 Enduro points. To justify the Enduro points we could use that tight, steep, and difficult uphill that VCMC used in 2013 but that would probably end-up being a bottle neck and take all the fun out of it for the riders. Our February newsletter will have a work points chart that is a list of our club members who have a current 2015 Desert or Enduro competition card.

Over / Under! Our Quail Canyon course modification will be completed by then, giving us more options for this 'closed course competition' race track. The course will be longer than our GP course, will go outside the canyon using parts of Hungry Valley, and State Parks is working with us to help set the stage for a successful event. Stay tuned…

GP REPORT: Viewfinders Grand Prix, Ridgecrest, October 4 and 5.

Race 2, Saturday:

Steve Bebeck	**7th Masters Expert**
Jamie Trulove	**5th Woman Expert**
Hana Hintz	**4th Woman Novice**
Butch Nelson	**14th Masters Expert**

(plus 2 Prospector DNF's)

Race 4, Saturday:

Ron Kupke	**9th Magnum Open Expert**

Race 7, Saturday (West Coast Grand Prix Series):

Hayden Hintz	**2nd WCGP 200 Novice**
Max Hintz	**6th WCGP 200 Novice**

Race 10, Sunday:

Hayden Hintz	**4th Super Mini Advanced**
Max Hintz	**2nd Super Mini Novice**

Race 14, Sunday:

Hayden Hintz	**3rd 200 Novice**
Max Hintz	**5th 200 Novice**

(plus 1 Prospector DNF)

PHOTO TRIVIA: Where am I? Name the town - there are two possible answers and you only need one of them. Also name the intersecting highway that crosses Hwy 58. Bonus points: which direction is the photographer facing?

Happy Holidays,

Tom Marshall
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