

TWO RUNS TOO

The ECEA's most popular fun run and a kinder, gentler Michaux

Beehive Enduro

Round 12, Mauricetown, NJ 8/29

It's two weeks away and I already know Rich Lafferty is going to win Beehive. I know because I consulted my magic eight ball. Actually, it's my kids' magic eight ball. One of the rug rats left it in my fortress of solitude. I can also accurately predict this because Rich is the fastest thing on two wheels (having the results helps, too).

So having the grand champion identified as a foregone conclusion, I can concentrate on what's important, MY race. It starts weeks before the event with emails and phone calls with who's going to ride on who's row, sending in notes with our entries trying to engineer being on the minute behind our favorite slow buddy, calling each other with "What number did you get?" and finally excited cell phone calls "I've got our camping spot staked out! When are you getting here?" Beehive is always a blast.

So anyway, it's getting close to race day and since I've read everything else I've got stashed in the fortress of solitude, flipping through the December '93 issue of Trail Rider, I happened to notice a detailed article on how to ride bermed turns in the Trail Riding tips column. Reading it, I got one of those "oooOoooh" epiphanies. You know, the kind you get after you realize something you should have known years ago? Right then and there I made myself a promise to focus on this technique of riding the front wheel on the top of the berm and gassing through the turns, letting the back wheel naturally ride the slot. With the new legs on the KDX, it just might work, so I forced myself to trust the front end and practiced this all day at Beehive.

It worked great! I was shaving minutes off my scores, and coming out of the first few sections on time, staying with the fast guys on my row. I was so thrilled with myself I totally forgot I was at an enduro and burned a timekeeping check in the third section! Dagnabbit rabbit, I couldn't possibly have been going that fast.

The club actually did a great job with check placement, giving us a couple of warm-up sections in the morning with no check-ins and no check-outs until well after the 15 mile mark, deviously

lulling us into a false sense of security. No check-ins made us so comfortable riding out to the roads after blazing down these FINE trails, that we figured there wouldn't be a check-out in the third section either, since there wasn't one going in. I didn't think there'd be one. Neither did the fast club members on my row, Jim Redilla or Steve Castro, and I broke my number one rule "Do your own timekeeping" and followed them right into check three on the throttle without ever even glancing down at my equipment.

Lovely, just lovely. Actually she was lovely too. The prettiest check girl in South



Above: Mike Bradway keeps trying to chip away at Rich Lafferty's points lead, and they traded wins again this month. Left: Just in case you forgot who the competition is in South Jersey. Below: A fine crowd of Beehive Bee-liers.



Photos by Chuck Marler

Jersey, who was also the prettiest sign-up girl, and the prettiest girl at the start, and the prettiest girl at the finish line, CDR's hardworking "L.T.", bless her pea-picking heart, marked my card and said to me after she looked up at my grin, "You know you just burned a check, don't you?" I was shocked. "I did?" (insert sheepish look here) To tell the truth, I was having so much fun, I didn't even care. Oh well, that was great trail. It really was. Oh man, mile after mile of beautiful wide open single track, with short dirt road connectors and the obligatory blacktop, and it was like that all day.

CDR has been putting on this event for a long time, and many riders come out to ride only this one enduro all year. It's for good reason too. Beehive is a great enduro, and everyone has fun. All the riders were very impressed with