

# SANDY SANDY

## No timekeeping necessary

### Green Bank NJ 3/20

**M**eteor Motorcycle Club has been hosting the prestigious Sandy Lane enduro for 68 years, with each year's Grand Champion inscribed on the famous Wagon Wheel trophy. For 2005, the name Mike Bradway will be entered for a well deserved win.

To give you a perspective of the caliber of rider who wins Sandy Lane, Delaware Enduro Rider M.C.'s Charlie Stapleford won it in 1977 and is still beating me, and he's 70! My personal hero, Jack Lafferty Jr, won it in 1982 and was my odds-on favorite even over Rich, but I jinxed him by betting money on him this year.

It rained on us this time around, but Sandy Lane is a great event no matter what, and the club changes things up every few years to keep things interesting. The last four years Meteor has been ignoring any and all grumblings from the timekeeping crowd, adopting a single speed average all day with an all start control format for the last few years. This is usually the topic of dinner conversation at the traditional spaghetti slob fest in the firehouse on Saturday night. The general consensus is it's a pretty fair way to do it, and it is honestly very helpful to new enduro riders. It's also pretty nice for us brain dead old guys to never be able to burn a check, too.

We bring several new enduro riders to this event every year. Some have never ridden any competitive event, and accomplish major hurdles just getting here. It can be overwhelming, so it's a treat to be able

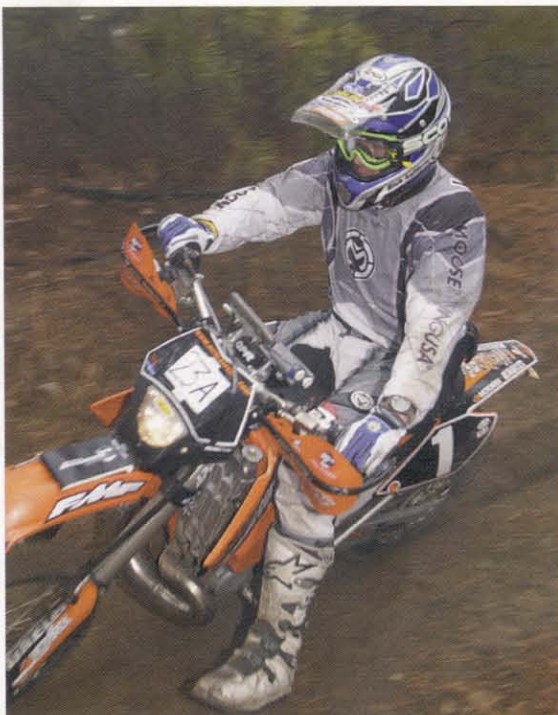
to say "just ride to finish an enduro" without having to teach them timekeeping. With the course layout Meteor uses—with well planned resets and a good mix of trail—the last few years and this one have been a tough morning and a fun afternoon. It is a good challenge for a new rider and a great introduction to enduro for the new enduro rider. After this we

get to introduce him to timekeeping tricks at Pine Hill, where Bob Agonis always has something fun in store.

Expecting timekeeping tricks and rules confused many riders at Sandy Lane this year, who read the club's interpretation of the arrival time at a start control not to mean it's a free zone. Many riders thought it was notice that a timekeeping trick prior to a start control could be expected, and waited at an incorrect mile marker prior to the check, which forced the club to throw out the section. I think it's meant to avoid clogging up the start control, so I'll ignore any mile marker and go up early and let them make me wait. I haven't been burned yet.

The woods trails in the morning were fun, with only a few mud bogs and logs. The club started across the road again this year, sending us through a warm-up three mile section into a sand pit before a check-out, reset, and off to the next start control. Rich, Jack, and Fred, our odds-on favorites, didn't drop any.

The road to the start control was enough to get a chill, so it was good to get into some thick bark-busting trees for nine miles and warm up. What followed made the race. There were three five and six mile tight, points-taking sections before the gas. The first being thrown out, the second being tight enough to call with all the top riders dropping six points. Mike Bradway edged a minute on the entire field in AA,



*Clockwise: Rich Lafferty chased, but was left a point behind #2, Mike Bradway, who set a ferocious pace and took the overall win. Fred Hoess (31A) was the third spot on the podium with a 13 point card.*

