

**AUGUST 2023**

 Find us on  
**Facebook**



# NETA Observer

The newsletter of the **New England Trials Association**

What a month July was! The NATC Nationals came to Rhode Island and created quite the stir! Over 120 competitors came from all over the United States. For those of you who rode and spectated, I hope you enjoyed the event! I know I did!

Below you'll find my story about competing in my first National Trials event. Hope you enjoy it and I look forward to seeing everyone in Rhode Island again in September for the Next NETA event!

NETA Board of Directors:  
President – David Scarbro  
VP/Scorekeeper – Kayla Lovejoy  
Treasurer – Bill Bonneau  
Secretary – Christian Hayes  
Membership Chair - Lee Bourque  
Sporting Steward - Gary Bourque  
Rule Committee Chair – Dave Allen

Respectfully,  
Kayla (NETA VP/Scorekeeper)



## The Road to Nationals

As soon as I heard a NATC National Trials event would be held in Rhode Island, I knew I wanted to compete in it. The nationals had last been held in Rhode Island in 2017, so I might not get this opportunity again for a while. Right away I started watching Youtube videos on past events. I needed to figure out a few things, like what to expect and what line I would be riding.

I asked everyone I knew about their experience riding at the Nationals. Most people said the clubman class was the easiest they offered, and even that would be more challenging than any class I'd competed in before. Most people said it would be comparable to NETA's Intermediate class.

I attended the RITC Practice Day back in April and got to learn a lot from our trainer, Mike Bryant. This year I moved up a class in NETA, and began competing in the Sportsman A class. I knew that the nationals would be a challenge if the clubman line was like an intermediate line.

I would need as much practice as I could get, so the riding began. Friday evenings and Sundays were dedicated to riding trials, but I squeezed in as much riding time as I could with my busy schedule. Some days I just tried to get 20 minutes of riding in.

On the phone one day with Coach, he asked about my plans to compete at the Nationals. His advice was to have one goal, get the finisher pin. He said once I handed in my final loop card, I would be given a small finisher pin, as long as I finished on time. He said not to be afraid to have a five punched for a section if I thought it was too much of a challenge or there was a long line that would prevent me from finishing on time.

Friday before the event Beau and I packed up the van and made our three and a half hour drive down to Rhode Island. We set up camp and got everything ready for Saturday.



Then we walked around a bit and met many new people! I went over and introduced myself to Abigail Buzelli. I had so many questions like how we know when we start, where we start, how we get our loop cards, etc. She was happy to answer my questions and give advice!

Saturday morning I started my bike and Beau found the perfect rock to do a little practicing on. Beau coached me as I went over it multiple times, the focus was to get over the rock smoothly with a double blip. As it approached my starting time I headed to the timekeeping area. At 9:27 I was handed my loop card and at 9:28 I was allowed to head out to my first section.

Unlike NETA events, at the nationals you get your first loop card one minute before your start time. Each rider has a specific start time. Everyone's time is posted the day before on a large board by tech inspection. Those riding the clubman line get earlier start times and the more advanced riders go later. Every minute another rider takes off for section one.

Once I got to the first section I parked my bike and walked the green line. I looked carefully for all the gates, because unlike a NETA event, there is nothing outside the section that tells you how many gates you have to go through. After walking the section I got on my bike and went for it! I made a minor mistake and got a one. I felt like I was off to a good start! I made my way to section two and was surprised to see a large rock face. The steepness made it a challenge to walk! I watched a few riders do the clubman line and it gave me the confidence that the rock would have plenty of traction. I ended up getting a three in the section, but that was fine with me, I was still figuring things out.

Section three had a difficult turn at the bottom. I pushed the ribbon and managed to make the turn without dabbing. I gave the bike some gas to get up the hill and hit a small rock that messed me up. I ended up dropping the bike and got a five. Things didn't get much better from there. I got another five in section four. After getting through the toughest part of the section, I fell off the bike once again, while going down a steep rock face. Sections five through nine proved to be a challenge and I struggled through with a three in each of them. Section ten I got a five in. It proved to be one of the toughest sections for me on Saturday. Section four and ten I managed to get a five in all three loops.

About half way through my second loop I was completely exhausted. I was starting to question what I'd gotten myself into. This was tougher than any bike related event I'd ever done. To be honest, I'd probably have preferred to be at a sprint enduro instead of riding my trials bike, at least the sprint enduro would have been over, I still had several hours to go! I kept at it and made it to the end of the event. Towards the end of my final loop, unless I knew I could get a three without expending too much energy, I just asked the checker to punch my card a five so I could get done and get out of the heat. It wasn't the best decision from a competitive standpoint, but I wasn't sure how much more I could handle. I ended up in last place with a score of 123, but I got my finisher pin and that was what really mattered to me.

Sunday the fun began! I enjoyed Sunday a bit more. There wasn't anything that really scared me and the weather was much more suitable. I'd gotten plenty of rest and was feeling pretty good. The first two sections proved to again be some of the easier sections. I did struggle a lot on Sunday, but the sections seemed slightly easier.

Section two was my favorite section of the day. I managed to clean it twice. Section ten surprisingly proved to be quite the challenge. I managed to tear down the last gate marker in section ten every loop! Simple mistakes like that accounted for several fives on Sunday. I stalled my bike twice going down a small hill that got me a couple of fives. Once my bike shifted into neutral and I fell off, that was another five. In one section I didn't pay close enough attention when walking it and went through the wrong gate, that got me another five.

Despite the mishaps, it was a fantastic day! I got to meet great people, saw some incredible rides, and had fun riding my own bike. I even managed to win 3rd place!

There were supposed to be five riders in the Clubwoman class on Sunday. One rider had had enough on Saturday and didn't start, so that left only four riders who competed. Abigail Buzzelli won on Sunday with a score of 42. Kylie Glueck finished second with a score of 76. I finished 3rd with 116 points.



There were many familiar faces at the nationals! Many NETA members came out to spectate. I saw many NETA members helping with the event. Sam Singer congratulated me for competing at the nationals, I was one of only two NETA Sportsman line riders who attempted it. That really stuck with me throughout the weekend and gave me a sense of pride.

Of the competitors there, there were several NETA members. Shane Merihew rode the Clubman line on Saturday. Bob Potetzsch rode the Clubman line both days. The Senior Clubman line had the most NETA riders with Wayne Galvin, Billy Blythe, and Bob Foringer

competing on Saturday. The same three as well as Jason Tibideau competed on Sunday. Wayne Galvin earned second place both days. He missed first place by two points on Sunday with a very respectable score of 24. Beau Allen rode the Sportsman class both days, he finished fourth on Sunday, missing a podium finish by only three points! Joe Belliveau and Dennis Derocher both competed in the SR-50 class on Sunday, Joe secured third place. Gabe Kliza rode the Junior Sportsman class. Titus Kliza and Alex Silverblade both rode the Expert Sportsman class. Titus finished 3rd in his class on Saturday. Gary Borgue won the SR Expert Sportsman class on Saturday. Garrison Hayes braved the Expert class on Saturday and even managed to clean a few sections!

Getting to compete at a National event was an amazing experience and I look forward to my next opportunity. I learned a lot and I know I need a lot of practice to really be competitive in the Clubwoman class. Some of the biggest challenges for me were the really rocky sections. I'm going to have to find a lot of rocky river beds and hills to practice on! I don't think I'll be traveling all over the states to compete in the series, but I do look forward to trying another one someday. For now I have not one, but two finisher pins as a reminder of my amazing weekend.

I had several people tell me they wished they had known they could compete. It's hard to know what to expect at a National event. Many people I spoke to said it would be extremely tough and more challenging than anything I've done, and it was! Many people who have ridden a national before said it would be similar to NETA's Intermediate class. After having ridden it I can attest to that. I wouldn't recommend this to anyone below Sportsman A. If you compete in NETA's Sportsman A class and don't mind a struggle, go for it! You'll learn a lot and really push yourself as a rider. If you currently compete in the Intermediate class, you can totally ride the Clubman line! NATC Nationals offers five different lines. The clubman line (green gates) is the lowest level class. The Sportsman line (white gates) is similar to NETA's Advanced class, possibly a little tougher. The Expert Sportsman line (blue gates) is similar to NETA's Expert and Champ classes. The Expert lines (red gates) are even more challenging than NETA's Champ class! The Pro class is the toughest of them all! To get into the Pro class riders must meet specific requirements. The NATC website states that to ride the Pro class a rider needs to have a, "Previous year of Expert or Junior Expert in AMA/NATC National MotoTrials Competition with at least an overall finish of the upper quartile of total competitors in class."

Rules for riding the NATC Nationals are a little different than those of NETA's Here are a few differences I noticed:

- You need to have your last name on the back of your jersey and it has to meet [NATC requirements](#) for placement and dimensions.
- You need to have a good quality number plate that meets [NATC specifications](#).
- Everyone gets their own start time and riders go at one minute intervals.
- Everyone gets seven hours to complete the event and a half hour grace period.

- You get your first loop card one minute before your start time and the second and third one after you hand in the previous loop card.
- There are 12 sections and you do three loops.
- You have 90 seconds to complete a section once your front axel crosses the start.
- Your finish time is written on your last loop card at section 12 so there is no need to rush back and turn it in.

If you're interested in competing at a national event in the future, check out the [NATC Website](#). There is a lot of great information including past results, rules, and even a hall of fame that features articles on RITC's very own [Carl Swanson](#) and [Hub Brennan!](#) If you'd like to see video of the event, several riders and spectators have posted videos on Youtube, check out some of the links below.

Kayla Lovejoy's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rvu7bv1ixsQ>

Jim Fielding's Video:

[youtube.com/watch?v=1d-lS8fP\\_sc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1d-lS8fP_sc)

Trials Progression's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zhEAedsecY>

Grumpy Grampa's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7K2ekmKis4>



### Visit the JACKSCYCLES shop

Sales and Service for all major makes of Trials bikes! The shop has new and used bike available.

*We accept trade-in's or assist you with private sales via our free classifieds, low cost shipping, and bike crating services for all brands.*



**Contact:** Stu Preston

**Phone:** 207-337-1274

**Email:** prestonstu72@aol.com

**Address:** 72 Mountain Rd.

South Berwick, Me. 03908

**For more info, Check our website:** [www.JACKSCYCLES.com](http://www.JACKSCYCLES.com)



***45+ YEARS- STILL DOING WHAT WE LOVE!***

***\*RIDING COURSE\****

***\*LESSONS\****

***\*TECH ADVICE & REPAIR\****

***\*TONS OF TRIALS STUFF\****

***THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***

