

October 2023

Find us on
Facebook

NEW ENGLAND
TRIALS ASSOCIATION



www.NewEnglandTrials.com

NETA Observer

The newsletter of the New England Trials Association

September 24th riders headed back to Rhode Island for another excellent event! Coach and Jeff Salois designed eight sportsman and eight expert sections. The morning started with a light sprinkle and at one point it began to rain pretty hard. The rain made all of the sections much more challenging and many riders began to struggle on the slippery terrain.

Beau Allen seemed to have little trouble despite the muddy conditions. He said, "Section six was my favorite. I felt really comfortable in it. It was challenging, but I managed to clean it every time."

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



In some classes, like the Champ class, the difference between first and second place was one dab. Mike Bryant took first place with a 29 and Gary Borque wasn't far off with 30 points for the day.

RITC put on another great event! There were many familiar faces and even some new riders! What better way to spend a Sunday? Shane Said, "Despite the rain and a scary crash on section 7, the event in Rhode Island was a hell of a good time. My dad and I won trophies on the same day for the first time in almost 20 years."

October is an exciting month for NETA riders. Two great events are coming up! On October 7th and 8th CATRA in Providence, New York is hosting their two day event. It's a great chance to really challenge yourself and ride two days. CATRA is a beautiful place to ride and there is camping available on site!

The following weekend on October 15th Meriden Motorcycle Club holds their final event of the year. MMC is a great place to ride, the terrain isn't really like many other places. There's a lot of rock, but it's not the same type of rock you see at RITC. The sections are usually pretty challenging too! It's a great way to end the season!

As the NETA competition season comes to a close, many riders will be thinking about new bikes! Trials riders are very diverse in their preferences when it comes to bikes. Some love TRS, some love Beta, some love Gas Gas. With so many brands to choose from it can be hard to pick the right bike. As we approach the end of the riding season, many riders are looking forward to upgrading their rides in 2024. This month I've compiled a list of different bike brands and some pros and cons to consider when looking for your next ride. Honestly, you can't really go wrong with any brand!

Respectfully,

Kayla Lovejoy (NETA VP/Scorekeeper)

Brands



2024 Beta EVO 300 SS (Base Price: \$8,699)

Beta - An Italian company that produces Enduro bikes and trials bikes. Beta was founded in 1905 and started out producing bicycles. It wasn't until the mid 1980's that they began producing trials bikes and found immediate success with Jordi Tarres winning the World Trials Championship on a Beta in 1987. Beta's two stroke trials bikes come in a variety of sizes 80, 125, 200, 250, and 300cc. For 2022 Beta reintroduced the 4-stroke Evo.

Pros: These bikes have a steep head angle that makes them turn very tight. Beta is the only trials bike brand to offer a 200cc bike, which can be perfect for beginner-intermediate level riders. Beta boasts their 2024 bikes have "tightest turning radius in the trials marketplace" (for a bike already known for tight turns) due to new hydro-formed frame. Also new on the '24's is Electronic Key which is an anti-theft and kill switch combined. The key/switch has unique coding linked to the bike.

Cons: Most Betas have the kick start lever in on the left side which is opposite of other bike brands. For some people it may take some practice to get used to kicking on the opposite side.

Website: <https://www.trialstoreusa.com/beta-trials/>



2024 Epure Race (Base Price: \$10,999)

Electric Motion - Founded in 2010 in France, they offer fully electric trials bikes. There are a few different models to choose from. The bikes have multiple maps for different performance depending on the rider's skill level. Some models have a hydraulic diaphragm clutch which allows the rider to have more control over the bike's power. The Epure bikes charge in a little over 3 hours with a standard charger and have a range of 26.5 miles on a full charge.

Pros: No gas needed. The bikes are very quiet and give off no emissions.

Cons: Slightly heavier than non-electric trials bikes.

Website: <https://www.electricmotion-usa.com/2024-models>



2024 GasGas TXT GP 300 (Base Price: \$8,299)

Gas Gas - Gas Gas came on the scenes in the mid-1980s. The Spanish company started primarily with trials bikes and some trail, enduro, and entry-level street bikes. As of 2019 GasGas has been owned by KTM.

Pros: 6 speed transmission. Gas Gas bikes are a very affordable option. Gas Gas offers some great sales on their bikes throughout the year!

Cons: The bikes are known for being challenging to kick start.

Website: <https://www.gasgas.com/en-gb/models/trial.html#modellist>



2023 MONTESA COTA 4RT 260R (Base Price \$9,299)

Montessa - Montessa was founded in 1945 in Barcelona, Spain. It wasn't until 1967 that a mass produced trials bike was offered. There were only 44 of the 250 trial produced. In 1968 they produced their first competitive bike, the Cota 247. While other bike manufacturers like Bultaco and Ossa went bankrupt in the 1980's, Montessa endured by forming a new company with Honda Motor in 1982. Today Montessa is one of the oldest motorcycle brands in the world!

Pros: Montessa produces 4-stroke bikes. 4-stroke bikes are known for their smooth power delivery.

Cons: It can take a little time to get used to the way a 4-stroke rides. They also tend to be heavier than 2-stroke bikes.

Website: <https://powersports.honda.com/motorcycle/montesatrials>



12.5 Racing (ages 3-5) (Base Price: \$1549)

Oset - Known for creating the best beginner bikes for children to learn on. They produce small sized electric bikes. Founder Ian Smith's son was bike crazy as a toddler. He saw a need in the market for bikes suitable for young children. He wanted something light weight with good suspension and something that didn't have a hot exhaust that could potentially burn a child. In 2004 Ian came up with the concept for a bike. His son was just over three when he produced the first bike and it was a hit with his son. Soon a corporation was formed, more prototypes were built, and manufactures were contacted. Today Oset is located in the UK and they export bikes to over 25 countries! They offer sever different sized trials bikes; 12.5 Racing, 16.0 Racing, 20.0 Racing, 24.0 racing and even an MX bike.

Pros: Perfect sized bike for young riders.

Website: <https://osetbikes.com/us/bikes/>



2023 Scorpa 300 SCT Racing

Scorpa - Created in 1993 by motorcycle enthusiasts Marc Teissier and Joel Domergue. In just eight weeks they designed and built the first prototype! The bike called "Type 293" had a Rotax engine and it was ridden in the World championship and French Trials Championship by Bruno Camozzi. It gained consumer interest and In November of 1993 the first mass-produced SCORPA Works 294 was produced. One hundred bikes were sold. In 1994 an improved bike the Works 295 was produced and 250 were sold. Each year more and more Scorpa bikes were being sold. In 1998 Scorpa saw some real competition success with Gram Jarvis taking 1st at the Scottish Six Days and 4th at the World Championship Trials. In 1999 a partnership between Scorpa and Yamaha was formed and Scorpa began using Yamaha motors in several of their bikes. In 2009 Sherco bought Scorpa and the bikes are now produced with Sherco motors.

Pros: The bikes have high quality components like braketeck brakes, Reiger 3-way rear shock, and Tech aluminum forks.

Cons: Importing (through Sherco USA) has been narrowed to only higher priced Factory models in recent years.

Website: <https://www.scorpa-motorcycles.com/en/bikes>



2023 Sherco 300 ST Racing (base Price \$9799.99)

Sherco - The leading motorbike manufacturer in France. Created in 1998 by two former trials riders with the goal to create trial and enduro bikes. They currently produce over 15,000 bikes annually.

Pros: New bikes are fuel injected. No more messing around with different jets and carburetor adjustments. The 5 speed transmission is reported to be about 18 ounces lighter than competitors. Sherco claims their new diaphragm clutch has a lighter pull and improved engagement accuracy.

Cons: 2023 Bikes arrived late (Sept. 1st) and thus don't have much customer ride time/feedback at this time. 2024's are yet to even be announced.

<https://www.sherco.com/en/bikes>



2024 TRS One RR (available soon)

TRS - TRS was officially established in 2013. They began by offering 250, 280, and 300cc trials bikes. Today they also offer a 125cc. Located in Barcelona, Spain; TRS has really taken off as one of the top Trials bike brands. TRS is the bike of choice for multi X-Trials Champion Adam Raga.

Pros: In 2022 TRS changed the head angle on the bikes, allowing them to turn tighter. Bikes are offered with kick start or electric start options.

<http://www.trsmotosusa.com/MODELS.html>



2024 Vertigo Works

Vertigo - New to the trials scene is Vertigo, founded in 2014, they set out to create the perfect trials bike. In 2015 the first VERTIGO COMBAT was born and it had immediate success with Dougui Lampkin winning the Scottish Six Day Trial. Vertigo was the champion bike again for three consecutive years. Vertigo is trying to lead the technological evolution in trials by creating the most modern and evolved bikes.

Pros: Vertigo bikes have a 6 speed gearbox unlike some other brands with a 5 speed gearbox. Vertigo also offers a 225cc bike that is perfect for someone wanting a little more power than a 125.

Cons: They're priced higher than some other brands and parts can be challenging to get.

<https://www.vertigomotors.com/>