
Motorcycle

By Steve Quinn

In the 1985 "Mauna Kea 200," the Outrigger team of enduro motorcycle racers consisting of Brant Ackerman, Walter Guild and Kala Judd, walked off with all the trophies. Outrigger's first team took the first place overall team trophy. Kala Judd, the newcomer to the team, and to the Mauna Kea 200, but a long time rider, finished third overall as an individual. Brant Ackerman and Walter Guild also trophied individually in their respective classes. When all was said and done, the massive amount of koa on display on the trophy table had been relocated to Outrigger's banquet table.

Accompanying the winning team was Outrigger's second team of John Beaumont, Steve Quinn and Kevin Olds.

Tiare Finney was team director, coach, team trainer and nurse, equipment manager, transportation coordinator, photographer and cheerleader, along with her assistant, Chrissie Benham.

This year, the race started on the lava cinder cones outside Kapoho, ran along the lava flow coastline, then back into the Hilo swamp and forest during the morning of the first day. The course then wound across barren volcano ranchland in the afternoon, ending at the Pohakuloa ranger station, about a hundred miles of trails from the start. The riders, support group, and race sponsors all spent Saturday night at the Pohakuloa ranger station. Breakfast was served early the next morning in the pavilion and the race started from the ranger station on the second day of the 200 mile course.

Sunday morning, the riders started in the brisk, cool, clear weather outside the ranger cabins and proceeded up the slopes of Mauna Kea, circling the volcano between the 10 and approximately 12,000 foot level in a clockwise direction, before riding down the face again towards the saddle, then makai of the Saddle Road in a loop winding back up mauka to the finishing line at the ranger station.

The awards banquet followed at the ranger station that evening.

With all the planning and logistics that go into this race, the biggest

difficulty the team faced was upon its return to Honolulu, namely how to get all of the trophies on the plane and back to Honolulu with us.

The team trophy is indeed an impressive work of koa with some appropriately ethnic gold plastic motorcycle riders variously staged on columns of koa. Grumblings at the Hilo airport were heard when we were waiting for our plane for departure that these guys from Oahu were taking all the koa off the island.

As chairman of the Motorcycle

Committee, on behalf of the committee and the riders, we thank the Board and the Club for their support and encourage all of you like Ryan Foster, who, unfortunately, is moving to the mainland where he will learn a different style of riding in the desert, to come to talk to any of us and find out what it is like. The way I describe it is instead of waiting for the big waves to go surfing, you can load up and go every Saturday and the size of the wave you ride is directly proportional to the amount of throttle applied.

