



NRTC NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2021





LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Theo Van Niekerk

What a year 2020 had been!! From starting the year unsuspecting and with much optimism, to full lock down mere weeks later, we know the rest. What is not so obvious is the impact that had on our club. We all but lost out on an entire year's trials events, with only the Nationals and Year-end to soothe our fevered brows. Damn, we don't want that again soon!! And save for a few guys who really took the chance to improve their riding skills, we all came out rather rusty and crusty, which is assuming our bikes even started! Thankfully we all came out of it alive, so there is a lot to be grateful for.

Looking ahead at 2021, we're going to do our best to keep riding, and we have big plans for the club. I want to highlight some of the plans in the pipeline:

- **NEW RIDING FORMAT** - it is no secret that the step-up from one class to the next is huge, and often prohibitive, and our top pro's are so good and set such a high standard that it sometimes looks like an impossible task to get to that level. For that reason we introduced the A and B lines, to give riders an opportunity to try a few sections in the higher class without having to commit to all the sections. Hopefully this will grow their confidence to progress to a higher level in time. Similarly, it gives guys moving down a class the chance to also still ride a few more challenging sections, lest they feel bored. We tried it out on the Documentation Trial, and the general feedback was positive, but we're open to improvement!
- **NEW VENUES** - we are excited to have identified a few new venues, and they are already included in the year's calendar. Big Red Barn was revived as a venue, and they were very welcoming and happy with our conduct, so we'll make us of it again. We scouted Meyer's Farm in Alberton, and it is a real gem, there is literally something for everyone - logs, rocks, river, waterfall, boulders, mud, and banks. We extend a heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Leola Meyer for welcoming us there. We also secured Tierkloof Adventure Farm for our Nationals Day 1, another lovely

venue located east of Pretoria, and we hope to develop that into a regular venue as well. We're still looking at more new venues, to keep things fresh and exciting, so watch this space!

- **TRAINING CLINICS** - developing the sport and the standard of riding in the club in general is a topic close to my heart. To that end, Devon and Gordon will assist with Training Clinics, presented as a package of three sessions, and focusing specifically on the skills required to progress to the next class, for instance Clubmen to Intermediate, and Intermediate to Experts. So if you have aspirations of progressing to a higher class, don't miss this opportunity! You'll be learning from the best, and will save yourself hours of frustration!
- **TRIALS SETTING** - we encourage every member to provide a hand in setting for upcoming events. One of the ways to improve your overall trials riding ability, is to be able to read sections, interpret flags and gates, and look at lines from different angles. One of the best ways to do this, is by setting a few sections, you'll learn something from that. We divided the venues into four regions (North - Pretoria, South - The Glen & Alberton, West - Krugersdorp and Central - Buccleuch and Red Barn), and we encourage everyone to volunteer for at least one of these venues throughout the year. The Committee member in charge of the setting at a venue will call for help.

The announcement that KTM will now sell Gas Gas is exciting news, and we hope to convince some of KTM's client base to come and try Trials to improve their enduro skills. We are planning to do a fun introduction and training day for them, with a few easy sections to try the new bikes. Hopefully the bug bites.

*I wish everyone a successful trials year
with good health and growth, and hope to
see you on the footpegs!*

RESULTS

DOCUMENTATION TRIAL HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2021

COURSE SETTERS FEEDBACK:

Our first trial of the year was held on an overcast day at The Big Red Barn in Olifantsfontein. Olifants is one of our older venues, and is a firm favorite for practice sessions for the Pretoria crew. We haven't held an event here for some time, so it was good to be back on familiar ground.

The sections were a great mix of rocks, mud and concrete pipes, with just one spot of bunching which gave the riders a bit of a breather between sections.

Overall we had an awesome turnout on the day, and the feedback we have received was that we had the recipe just right. Positive comments all around, so a big thank you to all the riders who took the time out to join us and make it a special event. We had a few new riders, and we had quite a few past riders who made the effort to join us again after a long layoff. There were some surprises in the results, but a fantastic showing from some of our younger riders who gave the old timers a hiding. Well done young men!

[VIEW RESULTS HERE](#)



A special thanks also needs to go out to our **dedicated team of observers**, who without them these events would not be possible. Thanks ladies and gents **your dedication is truly appreciated.**



BEHIND THE HELMET

Getting to know NRTC Riders

We have decided to do a feature on one of our club members in each newsletter. So we thought who better to feature in our first newsletter than our brand new club chairman Theo Van Niekerk. For those that have been a part of the club for a while, you would all probably know him fairly well. For our new members, here is an opportunity to find out a little bit more about the man in charge. (By the way, this pic was taken MANY years ago..)

RIDERS BIO

THEO VAN NIEKERK

FULL NAME

Let's stick with Theo van Niekerk

MARRIED

Yes, wife's name: Tanya

KIDS

Yes, Adrian who is 19 and Anje who is 16

HOW LONG RIDING TRIALS?

Since 2016

OTHER HOBBIES/ INTERESTS

Flying, Adventure biking, fitness

OCCUPATION

Structural Engineer

AGE (Theo, we know you are old, but how old exactly?)

51- (I'm a youngster among the group I ride in).

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Observatory, Johannesburg *(Ed: Theo's house is so big it has become a landmark in the area)*

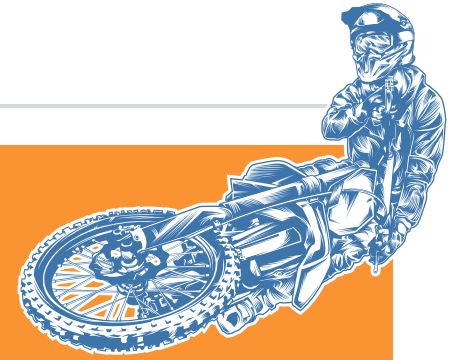


SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT THEO...

I participated in the GS Trophy competition from 2015 to 2019 at National Level 5 years consecutively (the all-time most number of participation of all contestants), representing Gauteng twice, Mpumalanga twice, and KZN once. Participation in the GS Trophy is what sparked my interest in trials, primarily as a means to improve balance and general riding ability, but very quickly the bug bit, and trials was no longer just a means to improve adventure riding, but became a passion in its own right. The first guys I met and rode with was Fanus Boshoff, Chris van Rensburg and Greg Osterloh, and my first trial was at Marco's Farm (it was a huge shock to the system!). I'm currently the chief riding instructor for iRide Adventure where we train adventure riding on big bikes, responsible for developing training curriculum, new courses and standards for our other instructors. Trials opened a world to new skills, and improving riding ability (although I sometimes wonder...) which translates directly to other riding disciplines, it was the best decision I ever made, and I love Trials for that!



Theo, is this you falling? ▶



IN OTHER NEWS

Each quarter we plan on letting the various distributors promote their bikes. We decided to let our Lifetime President Charlie Simpson tell us about his new Special edition Vertigo.

“Well here we go, it’s been a few weeks now since taking delivery of the 2021 Vertigo Jamie Busto edition (her name is Veronica). The first impression is, what a pretty bike. The colour scheme is amazing and the parts fitted to the bike are top draw. The build quality looks really good, but it is a bit difficult getting to certain components to service them. The protection kit took about 2 hours to fit, just because you have to remove so many things before you can fit the covers, but all looks neat in the end. The bike is now sort of run in, and I have spent some time tinkering with the fuel mapping. This is mind blowing technology, the way you can make an adjustment on the program on a smart phone, download the settings to the bike and the change is immediate and you can feel the difference straight off. That said, I think I now have the fuel mapping where I like it, but we will have to wait and see.

The next thing that you notice when you get on the bike is the geometry of the frame, everything seems to be so well balanced, I think this is the closest bike I have ridden to the Montessa’s geometry. The bike tracks really well and does inspire a lot of confidence in the rider. The bike steers where you want it to go without the front washing away and the grip level seems to be very good. The rear suspension is so responsive, it just does what you ask, however I am still trying to get the front set up as the suspension is taking a bit of time to bed in.

Over all I am very happy with what the bike and I just hope that the Vertigo R3 is just as good. Unfortunately the Vertigo R3 just can’t match up to the prettiness of the Jamie Busto replica.”

(Editor’s note: Charlie is not biased at all it seems)



PRACTICE



As committee members, we often get asked where the best places are to practice for trials. We all have our local spot, but below we have listed the main die hard riders that typically arrange the practice sessions in their area.

Should you wish to join any of the groups to train, please contact one of the teams below and arrange directly with them. If we have missed out any regular riding groups, please drop us a mail and let us know so we can publish this in our next issue.

SOUTH SIDE BOYS

Training at The Glen - Sunday mornings meeting at 08h30

CONTACT

Gordon on 082 838 4798 or Vince on 082 495 6094

OLIFANTS / RED BARN

Wednesday afternoons

CONTACT

Graham Harris on 084 528 0843

PRETORIA

Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays

CONTACT

Fanus on 083 448 9408



UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have had a look at our website and the list of events that have been published, you will see that the event listed for February is a social event that is held every year. Usually the crew head to Lesotho, but with Covid issues and uncertainty at the borders, we have decided to rather make use of a lodge owned by club member Phil Joubert who has set up some fantastic riding for the club on his farm and surrounding areas. Anybody wanting to join please contact Rob Lloyd for info.

CONTACT Rob Lloyd 079 522 3104

CLASSIC AND TWINSHOCK TRIALS

We are not sure how many of the newer riders know much about our Twin shock community, but let us give you an introduction. The Twin Shock club is run by club member Bruce "The Captain" Watts, who has a serious passion for the old bikes. Below are some words from "The Captain" regarding Classic Trials:

Over the past few years, Classic and Twinshock trials has gained what the economic prospectors call "Significant Traction", which is quite apt for what we do. The main reasons for this is our affiliation with the Northern Regions Trials Club, which although is primarily for the modern riders, it has offered us the opportunity of reaching a wider audience. It has attracted a number of the older riders who can no longer compete with the young guns and run the risk of long term injury jumping up and down what can only be termed as insane obstacles. It has also unearthed a few old machines that have been gathering dust at the bottom of the garden.

We also decided to diversify somewhat in offering the opportunity to younger riders to come along, with or without their bikes, and get some tuition from the more experienced riders. We set up some very easy obstacles as part of the main event and help them with riding techniques, bike maintenance and general riding confidence. It has proved to be very rewarding indeed.

We attempt to run a series of at least six events per year, with the format being seven sections to be ridden in both directions. Two routes are available, the premier route (A class) for the experienced rider and the clubman route (B class) for the riders of lesser ability, be it young riders, older riders or beginners. Whilst we primarily try and promote the Classic and Twinshock trials scene, the events are open to all riders.

CONTACT Bruce Watts (Captain) - 082 443 8800

NRTC COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2021:

CHAIRMAN: Theo Van Niekerk

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TREASURER:

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To stay up to date with what's happening, please follow the club on [Facebook](#), [WhatsApp](#) or via our website www.nrtc.co.za

