

IND
34355
**HOLESHOT
SECRETS**

**125 SHOOTOUT: KX, RM & YZ
YAMAHA YZ400E & SUZUKI PE175**

DIRT BIKE

SEPTEMBER 1978 • \$1.25 UK60p

CHAIN PAINS 500 U.S.G.P.



**PLUS: HOW TO
DIAL IN YOUR
SHOCKS and U.S.
WORLD TRIAL**



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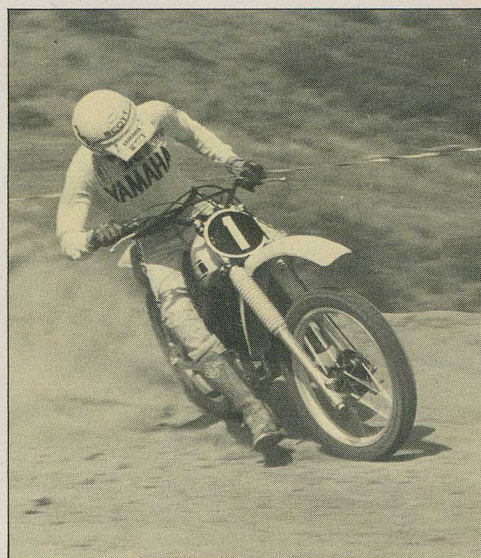
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ON THE COVER:
 Roger DeCoster and Mike Bell
 at the Carlsbad Grand Prix.
 Photo by Bill Masho


NEXT ISSUE ON SALE SEPTEMBER 19



Bernie Schreiber posted the low score on each loop as he won his third world trial in his last four rides.



Martin Lampkin came up with his first ride out of the top three finishers, but retained a healthy lead atop the points table.



U.S. World Trial

The Wagner Cup gets Schreiberized

By Len Weed

□ Bernie Schreiber added another first to his rapidly expanding collection of feet-up feats — first American to win the U.S. World Trial. But it was a third, not a first, that was even more impressive. His third world win this year. The day made him the winningest rider on the world circuit and extended his streak to three victories and a second in his last four rides. After starting off with an eighth and ninth in the ice and snow British rounds and coming up with a non-points effort in Belgium where he was hampered by mud in his engine, Bernie scored wins in France and Spain and a second in Germany. That first win in France made him, at 19, the youngest rider ever to win a world championship trial.

Oddly, the U.S. win left him in third place on the points chart. His nine-point victory over defending champion Yrjo Vesterinen did narrow the gap among the top threesome. Current points leader Martin Lampkin finished fourth, his first ride out of the top three this year, allowing the Californian to move within 20 points of the top and just eight points behind the Foot-less Finn.

The victory also extended Bultaco's world win string to seven. Both Lampkin and Vesterinen have two wins apiece.

Marland Whaley, making his first appearance since signing with Montesa after a three and a half year run with Honda, finished fifth. Marland had scored seconds in the last two U.S. world rounds. The U.S. champ was aboard a production 305cc Cota, but he picked up the 350cc prototype ridden by Ulf Karlson, who finished third, after the trial.

The trial site was Roaring Branch Motosport Park, some 30 miles outside Williamsport, the home of Little League baseball, in northeastern Pennsylvania. The 400-acre park offers trails, trials and motocross along with skiing and

Photography by Jim Ellis and Bruce Bernbaum



Lane Leavitt Bul'ing his way up Cascade Run.

U.S. World Trial

snowmobiling in season. Green, thickly wooded hills are the norm.

Splashing through the center of the property is the major attraction for traction freaks — Cascade Run, an ascending mountain stream offering a seemingly endless series of scenic, mossy waterfalls. The steps and ledges measure from miniscule two-footers to massive ten-footers. Before the day was over the riders had tackled most of them. The short loop necessary within the confines of 400 acres led the riders to and from the stream, which was utilized for more than half of the 19 world and national sections. A couple of mudholes and some cambers and climbs filled out the remaining terrain testers.

The trial, sponsored by *Cycle News*, was also the fourth round of the U.S. national championship series. The national riders tackled the same 19 sections while the National Senior and Sportsman classes bypassed the four toughest sections for the two loop contest. The four classes drew 119 starters and possibly the largest crowd ever to view an observed trial in America.

The Pennsylvania Trials Riders organized the event with some help from trials enthusiasts of AMA District Six. The 35-member PTR club put on a successful trial that also raised a sizeable chunk of money for a worthy cause.

Jerry Young, Pennsylvania's second ranked Expert and founder of the PTR, acted as event coordinator. He hooked up with the North Central Pennsylvania National Multiple Sclerosis Society to help promote the trial. MS is a disabling disease which strikes the central nervous system, usually in adults between the ages of 20 and 40. There are about a half-million afflicted Americans.

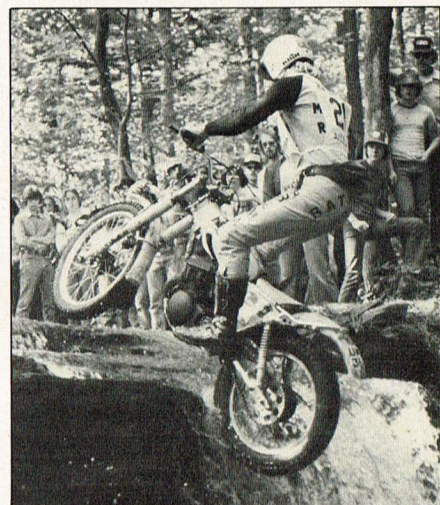
The Society, as one of its fund-raising methods, has formed the *Athletes vs. MS* program. They coordinate with the promotion of athletic events, contributing their experience as charitable fund-raisers. The trial received much media attention as a result. The tie-in with MS helped overcome the usual anti-motorcycle sentiments of an uninformed public and yielded plenty of newspaper coverage. Local television was involved for both pre-event and competition spots.

The joint efforts of the Pennsylvania trialsters and the MS people persuaded approximately three to four thousand people to purchase spectator tickets at four and five dollars to see a world championship event and support a

worthwhile charity. Most of the club's proceeds after expenses were pledged to fight MS. This should be an amount well in excess of \$5000.

The top world contenders felt the trial, yielding the lowest winning score of the year, was a bit on the easy side. Bounding up five and six-foot waterfalls with plenty of grip is relatively tame stuff for them.

Perhaps it's time for the NATC, our national organizing body, to consider tacking on four or five additional world-only sections to help sort out the top stars. Otherwise the visitors seemed quite pleased with the organization and terrain of the event. World champion Vesterinen commented that he would



Malcolm Rathmell, who won three world rounds last year, had another disappointing day on the 325 Suzuki.



Pennsylvania's top rider, Tom McKinney, took 12th in the international.

have liked to see more variety of sections. But as long as land hassles continue to plague organizing clubs across the U.S., it may not always be possible.

Just seven Europeans planed over. Canadian champion Trevor Howarth also rode. Canada did not have a world round and this caused the sponsors of several riders to pass on the solo North America round. Among the missing was Honda's Rob Shepherd, sixth on the points table. Three other top-tens who didn't come over were Belgian champion Jean Marie Lejeune (who privateered the trip the last two years), Jean Luc Colson and Jaime Subira.

Mick Andrews, now on Ossa after five



Marland Whaley's first appearance on Montesa since 1974.



Honda's lone thumper now, Bob Nickelsen, posted his third straight Senior class win. He's aboard the new 359cc prototype. Rumors from England indicate it may be in production by the end of the year.

years with Yamaha, Antonio Gorgot, a promising 18-year-old Spaniard who has already scored world points this year, Malcolm Rathmell, now on Suzuki, and Charles Coutard, now on SWM, made the trip. Coutard, winner of both the American and Canadian rounds last year, and Rathmell have been having tough times adjusting to their new mounts. Coutard had already lost the French championship he had won for the previous seven years and was out of the top ten on the points table. Rathmell, European (unofficial world) champion in 1974, had a mere seven world points after six rounds. Neither had a good day in Pennsylvania as Rathmell finished eighth and Coutard finished 11th.

The third best American performance was turned in by Curt Comer, a 20-year-old Tennessean, who finished less than a point behind Whaley and three points ahead of Lane Leavitt. Lane, no longer under contract to Bultaco, continues to ride a Sherpa and is in the midst of developing a radical new rear suspension system. Fifth best American effort was by Terry Cheney of Michigan, who edged state compatriot Bob Hopkins by less than a point.



Charles Coutard couldn't find the magic he had in Michigan and Canada last year.



World champion Yrjo Vesterinen trails Martin Lampkin by 12 points and has Barging Bernie the Bolt hot on his tail.

Don Sweet, passing out cigars for a very recent arrival, was off his usual form (third in America, 15th in the world last year) to finish as seventh American. Martin Belair placed a couple of points behind Don.

Missing from the action were Mike Griffiths, who last year scored a third in our international, and Mark Eggar, who finished two places behind him. Pennsylvania's top rider, Tom McKinney, who ranked seventh in the nation last year, finished 12th.

Debbie Evans, fresh from her First Class Award at the Scottish Six Days, made her debut in FIM world championship competition and finished 18th. Debbie is the first woman to compete in a world championship trial.

So, with five rounds remaining things could get very interesting overseas. Marland Whaley will be joining Bernie Schreiber for the three remaining trips over in July, August and September. His fifth in Pennsylvania places him just four points behind the three riders currently tied for tenth place. He'll be looking to move into the top ten and then attack a full schedule of world competition next year. And Bernie, he's just eight points behind world champion Vesterinen, who

will have to scramble to hang on to his title as Martin Lampkin seeks to bring the crown back to its accustomed spot in England. But our Sherpa-mounted American Eagle may have something to say about that, if not later this year, then certainly next year.

The Pennsylvania Trials Riders came up with a good one. Most national riders were really jazzed. A few more toughies added on for the world warriors would have curbed any "too easy" comments. Overall, a fine day — an American win on American soil and one more step taken toward making multiple sclerosis just an unpleasant memory. ■

RESULTS U.S. World Trial Roaring Branch, Pennsylvania June 11, 1978

1. Bernie Schreiber (USA)	Bul	24.2
2. Yrjo Vesterinen (Fin)	Bul	35.0
3. Ulf Karlson (Swe)	Mon	38.6
4. Martin Lampkin (GB)	Bul	39.0
5. Marland Whaley (USA)	Mon	50.0
6. Curt Comer (USA)	Mon	50.9
7. Lane Leavitt (USA)	Bul	54.0
8. Malcolm Rathmell (GB)	Suz	54.0
9. Mick Andrews (GB)	Oss	60.6
10. Antonio Gorgot (Spa)	Bul	65.7
11. Charles Coutard (Fra)	SWM	71.0
12. Tom McKinney (USA)	Mon	76.7
13. Don Sweet (USA)	Mon	78.7
14. Martin Belair (USA)	Mon	81.5
15. Morgan Kavanaugh (USA)	Mon	86.9

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