

SIX BIG BORES TAKE THE MX TASTE TEST

34355

DIRT BIKE

USGP:
WOLSINK WINS

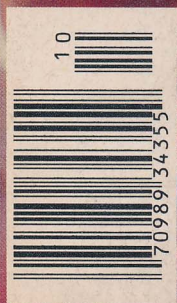
YZ175C
NEITHER FISH
NOR FOUL

WOMEN'S
NATIONALS

OCTOBER 1976

\$1.00

UK 50p



ALL DAYS OF TWO DAYS
250 NATIONAL MOTOCROSS WRAP

DIRT BIKE

VOLUME SIX NUMBER TEN OCTOBER 1976

SHOOTOUT

- 23 BIG-BORE MXers MIX IT UP**
Finding the best among the rest.

TEST

- 35 BULTACO ALPINA**
Grunt for the tight stuff.
- 57 YAMAHA YZ175C**
Looking for a home.
- 61 MONTESA 360 CAPPRA**
She's a man-eater, meat-grinder!

FEATURES

- 30 IAN ANDERSON INTERVIEW**
Despite the pictures, Ian wears a helmet when he rides, honest.

COMPETITION

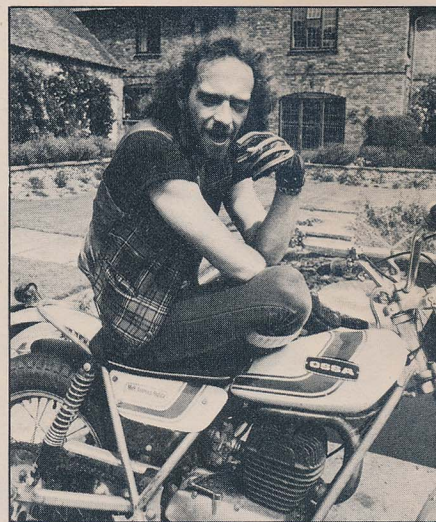
- 41 TWO DAY QUALIFIER WRAP-UP**
There's only SIX DAYS left.
- 45 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX**
Without a single dentist joke!
- 53 WOMEN'S MOTOCROSS NATIONALS**
Wham, bam, thank you, ma'am.
- 74 250CC NATIONAL MOTOCROSS WRAP-UP**
Tony D. and Suzi Q.

TECHNICAL

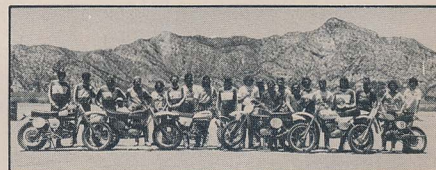
- 51 ENDURO COMPUTER EVALUATION**
Let your fingers do the riding . . .
- 71 HOW TO: TRAIL LIGHTING TIPS**
Shine little glow worm, glimmer, glimmer.

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 EDITORIAL**
The 40-pound helmet.
- 8 CHECKPOINT**
The CB Jeebies, Ten-four?
- 10 ASK THE EXPERT**
Plastic fantastic.
- 12 BITS AND PIECES**
And odds and ends.
- 14 RIDERS WRITE**
A nerd in the hand.
- 20 TRIAL FILE**
Love it or Leavitt.
- 22 HOT SET-UPS**
Casting about.
- 89 CRASH AND BURN**
Was this trip really necessary?



Why is this man smiling? p. 30



Hail, hail, the gang's all here. p. 23



Why isn't this man smiling? p. 45

ON THE COVER: Gary Jones shows the results of an afternoon of open class testing.
Photo by Bruce Woods.

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE OCTOBER 12

SIXTEEN DAY WRAP-UP



Dane Leimbach.



Ted Leimbach.



Dick Burleson.



Carl Cranke. (Chet Heyberger photo)



Tom Penton. (Rik Paul photo)



Jack Penton.

NATIONAL TWO DAYS

King Richard and
the Penton Gang

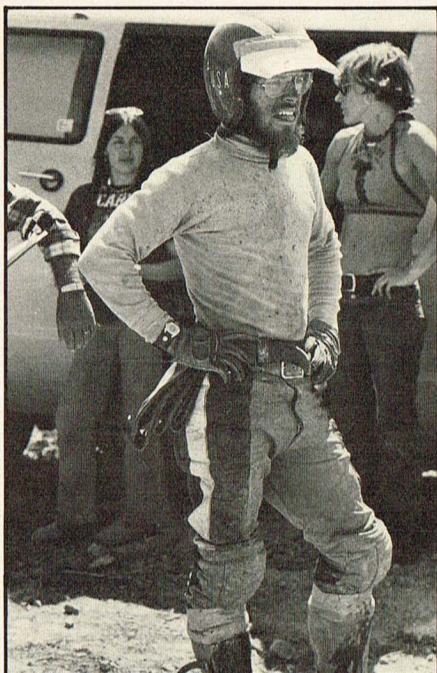
by Len Weed
photos by Brian Palormo
(mostly)

The inaugural national championship Two Day Qualifier series crowned six AMA national champions. The eight events used for qualifying riders for ISDT competition saw national enduro champion Dick Burleson top the Open class, recording three wins along the way. The other five champions were all Penton teamsters: 100-Ted Leimbach, 125-Dane Leimbach, 175-Tom Penton, 250-Jack Penton and 350-Carl Cranke. Cranke was

the most successful within any given class, taking five wins and then skipping Bad Rock to ride the Baja 500. Dane Leimbach and Tom and Jack Penton also registered perfect scores of 80 points with four class wins apiece. Three other riders came up with two class wins: Bill Uhl (Hercules), and Kevin LaVoie and Frank Gallo (Penton).

Although there is no official winner for any given Two Day, the rider with the lowest score among the six class winners is still unofficially recognized. Dick Burleson and Jack Penton won two "overalls." Other "winners" were Tom Penton, Cordis Brooks, Carl Cranke and Jim Hollander.

Of the 43 class wins in the eight events, 27 were earned by Penton riders. Husqvarna and Hercules had four each, Bultaco and Rokon three



Bob Dugan really jetted out of this special test corner in Alabama.



Jim Hollander was runner-up to Cranke in 350 class.



Kevin LaVoie won his class twice, finished behind Burleson.



Carl Cranke



Daytona, San Jose or a dirt field in Alabama, Dick Mann just keeps on gassin' it.



Former national enduro champion Ron Bohn. (Rik Paul photo)



Pure joy in the Jersey pines. Anything's better than Camden. (Rik Paul photo)

each and Yamaha and Ossa one each. The eight "overall" winners break down to: Penton — four, Husqvarna — two, Bultaco — one and Rokon — one.

The series spanned a three and a half month time period, kicking off in New Jersey February 28th and ending in Oregon on June 13th. A rider's best four performances were used in determining the national championship score. Points were awarded to the first 14 finishers in each class using a 20-16-13-11-10... 1 scoring system. Six entries were required for each class; the 100 class failed to come up with the requirement on five occasions. Requirements for a Gold Medal were liberalized this year. Gold medalists had to finish within 25 percent of the class winner's score. Fifteen percent was used last year. Silver Medalists had to achieve a score no more than 65 percent larger than the class winner. Bronze Medals went to any other riders who finished. Riders were disqualified if they were more than one hour

behind the time schedule at any check.

Three hundred was the suggested rider limit, most events drew about 250 riders. Statistics suggest it was "easier" to win a Gold Medal than a Silver or Bronze. In Texas 208 riders earned 81 Gold, 22 Silver and 36 Bronze. The breakdown for California: 246 (72-21-30) and Alabama: 244 (74-18-46). In Michigan the medals were 56-30-19.

American Two Day competition suffered its first fatality with the death of Larry Felix at the Washington event. Felix, who had been running the right way on the loop, had mistakenly turned around, suspecting that he had missed a turn. Evidently an absence of arrows caused several riders to erroneously reverse their field. Felix came around a corner at speed and crashed with Yamaha factory rider Dave Ashley.

The Michigan trial saw a lady rider, Kathi Campbell, as a member of the winning club team. Then there was the Texas trial, that almost

wasn't. In fact, it wasn't and then it was. Canceled six weeks prior to its scheduled date because of budget problems, an understanding general's backing of the Fort Hood Dirt Riders Club permitted the event to be reactivated with just three weeks for preparation.

Yamaha, who backed Chris Carter in '75, came back with a factory team this year on IT400s. Two-time Grand National Class C champion Dick Mann was aboard a Yamaha TT500. Carter finished fifth in the Open standings, teammate John Fero grabbed fourth.

1975 Ossa team rider Kevin LaVoie made the switch to Penton after Ossa announced they were pulling out for the '76 campaign. Ossa later changed their mind. LaVoie won two Open class events, placed second to Burleson for the series.

Bultaco fielded a team of Mike Hannon, Ben Bower (who switched from Husqvarna) and Charlie Bethards. Hannon won the 250 class

in California City and finished runner-up to Jack Penton for the series. Bethards tied for fifth in the 350 standings.

While Honda did not field an official team they did support several riders for some of the events. One of them, Rick Munyon, finished fifth in the 125 standings.

Fellows like Burleson and Malcolm Smith carried the colors for Husqvarna, who had dropped Two Day support in 1975.

Billy Uhl headed a new manufacturer entry by Hercules. Uhl, switching from Can-Am, wound up second 175 for the series while Mike Rosso and Mike Deyo took third and fourth in the 125 class.

Rokon team riders would have swept the top three places in the 350 class — only there was this hippie from Placerville named Cranke in the way. So Gary Edmond, Jim Hollander and Jim Simmons settled for a tie for second and fourth. And Ron Bishop added a tie for fifth too. Simmons gave Rokon a class win in New Jersey while Hollander won

overall in Michigan.

Al Eames, AMA Competition Development Manager, once again coordinated the series. He's interested in striking a happy balance between qualifying the nation's top ISDT riders without discouraging participation by good local riders and potential Six-Dayers.

Eames mentioned that his feedback from the Six Days riders was that the route timing was a little too slow, Gold Medals too easy to come by, the special tests were not developed as well as they could be and the timing continuity between checks was not consistent. Without consistent timing a rider cannot anticipate the speed needed to the next check based on the speed he rode to the previous check. Eames suggested that the best way to get this consistency from check to check is to have one rider, who doesn't have to be an ace, ride the known loop at his steady Two Day pace. Then his time should be altered with a consistent "fudge" factor to equate it to a Six Day pace.

Eames anticipates that the Gold Medal requirement will go back to 15 percent next year, but that alone won't eliminate the "cheap" Golds. Top riders feel that the special tests have not been developed enough. They should be designed first thing, rather than tacked on the loop. Not too fast, not too tight, they should have a length of about four to five miles, or longer if they aren't too demanding. Eames felt Michigan offered the best special tests — four to five miles of tight woods to test the handling capabilities of bike and rider. Two a day would be sufficient if they're laid out right.

The mileage between some of the checks this year ranged in the 25-30-mile vicinity. The Six Dayers and Eames would prefer an upper limit of about 18 miles with some checks no more than eight to ten miles apart. This helps eliminate long waits at checks for the top riders.

One thing Eames will be looking into for next year is getting the Six Days/Two Days rules included in the basic AMA rulebook. It's a new

	100cc	125cc	175cc	250cc	350cc	OPEN
February 28-29 Forked River, New Jersey (East Coast Enduro Association) Overall: Tom Penton (Pen)		Bob Evans (Pen)	Tom Penton (Pen)	Rod Bush (Pen)	Jim Simmons (Rok)	Frank Gallo (Pen)
March 13-14 Fort Hood, Texas (Fort Hood Dirt Riders) Overall: Dick Burleson (Hus) Start-208, Finish-139 81G-22S-36B	Glenn Allison (Pen)	Dane Leimbach (Pen)	Drew Smith (Her)	Jack Penton (Pen)	Carl Cranke (Pen)	Dick Burleson (Hus)
March 27-28 California City, California (Sunland Shamrocks MC) Overall: Cordis Brooks (Bul) Start-246, Finish-123 72G-21S-30B		Bill Eisele (Yam)	Bill Uhl (Her)	Mike Hannon (Bul)	Carl Cranke (Pen)	Cordis Brooks (Bul)
April 10-11 Pell City, Alabama (2-Days in Alabama Committee) Overall: Dick Burleson (Hus) Start-244 Finish-138 74G-18S-46B	Ted Leimbach (Pen)	Dane Leimbach (Pen)	Tom Penton (Pen)	Jack Penton (Pen)	Carl Cranke (Pen)	Dick Burleson (Hus)
May 15-16 Olympia, Washington (Seafair City MC) Overall: Carl Cranke (Pen)		Phil Smith (Hus)	Tom Penton (Pen)	Dan Brown (Bul)	Carl Cranke (Pen)	Kevin LaVoie (Pen)
May 22-23 Rose City, Michigan (Bent Wheels MC) Overall: Jim Hollander (Rok) 56G-30S-19B	Ted Leimbach (Pen)	Don Cichochi (Pen)	Tom Penton (Pen)	David Hulse (Ossa)	Jim Hollander (Rok)	Dick Burleson (Hus)
June 5-6 McMinnville, Oregon (Trask) (McMinnville Chamber of Commerce) Overall: Jack Penton (Pen)		Dane Leimbach (Pen)	Bill Uhl (Her)	Jack Penton (Pen)	Carl Cranke (Pen)	Kevin LaVoie (Pen)
June 12-13 Weston, Oregon (Bad Rock) (Bad Rock MC) Overall: Jack Penton (Pen)		Dane Leimbach (Pen)	Drew Smith (Her)	Jack Penton (Pen)	Gary Edmond (Rok)	Frank Gallo (Pen)

sport, still not without growing pains, but progress is being made. Interest and participation are definitely growing, and six outstanding riders receive some deserved acclaim. Enduro clubs across the nation should be encouraged to try a Two Day or a One Day with Two Day rules. Think of it — no hassles over clocks, speedometers and protested checks.

How is the Six Days team picked? By the AMA and the participating manufacturers. Ultimately the decision rests with Eames. Any rider who finishes three events is eligible. The basis of rider selection includes: success in individual events, what kind of support the rider has to get him to the Six Days, the extent of Six Day experience, and subjective staff judgment.

The 51st International Six Days trial will be held at Zeltweg, Austria, beginning September 20. For the first time in several years the Trophy Team will not be a Penton-backed entry. Penton is providing the four-man Vase team and at least two manufacturer teams. At press time the six-man Trophy team had not yet been selected, but it was certain it would not be backed by a single manufac-

turer. Notable names missing from the 35-man team (already approved) are Dave Mungenast, who had competed in the last nine events, Charlie Vincent and Ed Schmidt

1976 ISDT RIDERS

Dave Ashley (IN)	Yam
Charles Bethards (WA)	Bul
Ben Bower (CA)	Bul
Richard Burleson (TN)	Hus
Rod Bush (WV)	Pen
Chris Carter (CA)	Yam
Don Cichochi (NY)	Pen
Carl Cranke (CA)	Pen
Don Cutler (CT)	Pen
Gary Edmond (CT)	Rok
John Fero (NB)	Yam
Frank Gallo (OH)	Pen
Bill Geier (NJ)	Pen
Jeff Gerber (OH)	Pen
Mike Hannon (CA)	Bul
Jeff Hill (GA)	Pen
Jim Hollander (CT)	Rok
Dave Hulse (NY)	Oss
Lars Larsson (CA)	KTM
Ron LaMastus (IN)	Pen
Kevin LaVoie (RI)	Pen
Earl Law (RI)	Oss
Dane Leimbach (OH)	Pen
Ken Maahs (OR)	Hus
Jack Penton (OH)	Pen
Tom Penton (OH)	Pen
Mike Russo (PA)	Her
Jim Simmons (MO)	Rok
Drew Smith (NJ)	Her
Malcolm Smith (CA)	Hus
Larry Thompson (CA)	Pen
Bill Uhl (ID)	Her
Dennis Vandecar (OH)	Pen
Rick Weatherbee (SC)	Pen
Gary Younkens (OH)	Pen

(who along with Mungenast, Malcolm Smith and Dick Burleson on the Husky Vase team won the world title back in 1973).

RESULTS

100 CLASS

1. Ted Leimbach, OH	Pen	60
2. Tom Krehbiel, VA	Pen	48
3. Ken Harvey, CA	Yam	33
4. Glenn Allison, TX	Pen	20
5. James Mize, KY	Pen	11

125 CLASS

1. Dane Leimbach, OH	Pen	80
2. Dan Cichochi, NY	Pen	68
3. Mike Rosso, PA	Her	52
4. Mike Deyo, ID	Her	51
5. Rick Munyon, CA	Hon	50
5. Phil Smith, NV	Hus	50

175 CLASS

1. Tom Penton, OH	Pen	80
2. Bill Uhl, ID	Her	72
3. Drew Smith, NJ	Her	67
4. Jeff Gerber, OH	Pen	61
5. Harry Heilemann, NY	Pen	47

250 CLASS

1. Jack Penton, OH	Pen	80
2. Mike Hannon, CA	Bul	68
3. Rod Bush, WV	Pen	62
4. Rick Weatherbee, SC	Pen	49
5. Dave Hulse, NY	Oss	48

350 CLASS

1. Carl Cranke, CA	Pen	80
2. Gary Edmond, CT	Rok	65
2. Jim Hollander, CT	Rok	65
4. Jim Simmons, MO	Rok	60
5. Charles Bethards, WA	Bul	48
5. Ron Bishop, CA	Rok	48

OPEN CLASS

1. Dick Burleson, TN	Hus	76
2. Kevin LaVoie, RI	Pen	72
3. Frank Gallo, OH	Pen	53
4. John Fero, NE	Yam	46
5. Chris Carter, CA	Yam	42