



Megaphone

Newsletter of the Pioneer MCC
the 75th Kaikoura issue

Chairs

Six sidechairs have entered for this year's Kaikoura, which is the biggest sidechair field we have had for a while. The six teams are: Kendall and Hamish; Rat and Rob; Jules and Neil; Scotty and Ella; John and Ravo; and the combo that could be this year's dark horses: David and Josh.

New trials commissioner

At the MNZ AGM, Jules agreed to take on the job of trials commissioner, taking over from Paul Jackson who stepped down from the role in February. Jules aims are: "to focus on a good implementation of the new rules; a nationwide scoring system available to all clubs; more support for national events; the growth of the sport through minis and juniors; and training."

Jules can be contacted at nztc@mnz.co.nz

MNZ hall of fame

At the AGM Kevin Pinfold was inducted into the MNZ Hall of Fame. KP is the first trials rider to receive this honour. His profile is available here:

https://mnz.co.nz/hall_of_fame/kevin-pinfold/

South Island Champs

In this issue Grant Anderson reports on rounds 1 & 2 of the South Island Champs. The final two rounds will be held in Christchurch on 7-8 August. We will need observers for this event. If you can help please let us know.

Kaikoura 3 day trial

Not long now until the 75th gets underway.

Some key things to remember:

- * Sign on at the Whaler on Friday evening 4 June from 6.30pm.
- * Riders briefing each day at 9.30am. Trial starts at 10am.
- * Dinner at the Lobster from 6.30pm on Sunday evening.
- * Prizegiving at the Lobster on Monday afternoon.

In this issue

- * Dave Chambers
- * A little bit of Kaikoura history
- * South Island champs – rounds 1 & 2

New club members

The club welcomes new members: **Sam Bartholomew**, **Matt Harris** and **Mark Fox**, and welcomes back **Dave Davies**. Dave has ridden in several Kaikouras and will be back again this year on his TY175.

Sam: I am a father, husband and have a talent for getting injured. I have never been a king of any castle and aim to keep it that way. Riding a motorbike is about having fun for me and learning new skills. I don't aspire to any level of competence, rather aspire to avoid hitting things by mistake. I hope to spend many hours riding slowly up and down steep objects. Regards my work, I hope my life as a recreational doctor may in some way benefit those I ride with and the wider community [*Sam is the director of Medicine our way*].
p.s. I can't be taken too seriously and I talk a lot!



Sam and George at the 2020 Coast to Coast

Matt: Apparently having a mid-life-crisis I was keen to try a new sporting challenge that required skill and balance and not necessarily all-out speed; particularly one which I could share with my son George.

I bring 6 months motorbike experience from 20 years ago and a lot of enthusiasm, whilst George is mostly looking forward to watching his dad fall off the bike lots. Going to a 'Have a go day' a few months back was the key, finally with advice from mate Dave Barber and help from Marlborough Trials Centre we found a bike (Sherco 125) and now we're ready to get going. Looking forward to seeing the courses, learning new skills and meeting new people.

Mark: It was great fun doing trials for the first time at Omihi. I'm excited that I have bought a bike so I can compete at more events and improve my skills. I have always been into motorbikes as dad use to circuit race in Europe when he was a young man (kiwi doing an o.e.) so it's in my blood. I have been riding on the road for over 25 years but it was only when I moved to Christchurch from Hawkes Bay 3 years ago that I was able to get into racing, doing a season circuit racing on a 250 Ninja. As fun as that was, I felt there was more out there and it was the Have a go day that I saw on Facebook that led me to have a go at trials and I'm hooked. I'm very grateful how warm and friendly people in the club are too which is really nice. I am the foreman at Royce Clive Engineering which I love doing. I've always enjoyed working with my hands and it allows me to build metal art in my spare time as well.

Dave Chambers

Dave has ridden in 48 consecutive Kaikouras since the 1970s – an amazing achievement, and before he was old enough to ride, Dave was going to the Kaikoura to watch his dad Bas riding. With this year being the 75th, it seemed a good time to ask Dave a few questions about his memories of the Kaikoura.

Do you remember when you first started going to the Kaikoura with your parents Bas and Ira?

Not exactly sure but it would have about mid 60's, so was involved in those days marking.

You first rode in the Kaikoura in 1973. How old were you? and what did you ride? Any memories of the first one?

I was 15 and was riding a 197 Villers in a James. I was unable to ride at an earlier age because back then you had to have a motorcycle licence before you were able to have a competition licence from the NZACU. I finished 3rd in the novice class. I destroyed the flywheel on a rock on the last day and shared dad's Bultaco to finish the day, that Villiers motor is still being used in classics trials today. On Saturday the trial started at the Waipara Bridge. We rode sections there, then loaded the trailer and had more sections at the Hurunui Bridge, then the last set of sections were at Hawkswood. On Sunday we rode at Kaikoura and on Monday sections were somewhere along the Inland Road, then finished with some more sections again at the Waipara Bridge.

In 1976 you won the road class. What bike were you on? What was it like riding with the road boys?

After the 1975 season I was riding expert class and lost the urge to ride trials, so I sold the Bultaco and brought a Yamaha RD350 and went road racing which I am still doing in the classic class. Rode in the road class in 1976 and 1977 winning both years. I really enjoyed riding with the road boys and it was a lot of fun.

1978 was your first year in the sidechairs and you continued in this class until 2017 (apart from 1991 when you rode classics). There must have been a lot of memorable moments?

Dad was one of the first to get into sidechairs so after having a play on his chair, I brought another Bultaco and started riding chairs in 1978. In 1991 for some reason the chairs were only for 2 days so the last day I rode classics. Rode the classics again in 2013 because I was going to be the only chair for the weekend so no chairs at all that year. In 2017 after riding chairs for 40 years and with the TY struggling to keep up, I decided it was time to call it quits. I have got a lot of great memories riding chairs, too



many to list. It has been a family affair with riding against my father Basil and brother Craig, fighting out for top honours [*Dave won the sidechair class 12 times – ed.*] and all the people that have come and gone over the years. It has been a class were everyone got on and there was always a helping hand when required.

In 2018 and 2019 you rode twin shocks and now you on the Sherco. How are you finding the modern bike?

Rode classics in 2018 and 2019 because that was the only bike I had that was going. Then I brought a Sherco and rode that in the 2020 Kaikoura Trial. I enjoy riding each bike for what it is so have no favourite, I remember Marty Rush doing a write up in the Megaphone about dad's 1964 Bultaco saying how they could not improve on that. How wrong he was, the handling and power of the Sherco is way above my abilities and I am getting too old to learn new tricks.

What do you enjoy about the Kaikoura that makes you want to keep coming back?

What do I enjoy about the Kaikoura Trial? It's one of those things, it is the only 3 day club trial, the great people you get to ride with, it is in the blood. How much longer? who knows, I ride because I enjoy it, will stop when I no longer get any enjoyment or am too old to ride.



Dave at one of the first trials he rode in, a club trial at Greenwoods Bridge



Dave and son in law Chris Pascoe at Rakanui in 2019

Kaikoura – the 1950s



The oldest photo we have of the Kaikoura trial is this one, taken at the Waiiau Hotel in 1951.



In 1955 the Kaikoura was front page news. The caption below the photo says “A group of contestants ready to move off from the city today in the Pioneer Motor Club’s reliability trial to Kaikoura and back.”



The riders in the Star-Sun photo are from left: Alec Ormandy, Ray Hannah, Sid Harrison, Robin Smith, Maurice Crake, Bruce ‘BJ’ Morton, Dick France and Dennis Collings.

There were 11 competitors that year and it was a wet weekend. Robin Smith won the trial, Sid Harrison was 2nd and Maurice Crake was 3rd.



BJ Morton at Mackles farm in 1974.



Geoff Anders riding a trail bike section.

1971

McDONALD BRILLIANT IN TRIAL

Peter McDonald rode his 250cc Bultaco from third place on Saturday to win the three-day Kaikoura motor-cycle trial yesterday. The Christchurch rider finished the first day with 12 points against him. This put him behind Evan Norriss and Malcolm McGibbon, who were tied for first on 10 points.

Norriss (175cc Yamaha) dropped back to sixth place after Sunday's section and McGibbon and McDonald ended the day tied for first place, on 45 points.

McDonald showed brilliant form yesterday and finished with 61 against him for the three days. McGibbon had 72 and Basil Chambers, of Christchurch (250cc Bultaco) was third with 108.

Results:

Expert—McDonald (250cc Bultaco) 61 points lost, 1; McGibbon (200cc Triumph) 72, 2; Chambers (250cc Bultaco) 108, 3; Bob Cooke (250cc Bultaco) 110, 4; Ken Hosking (250cc Bultaco) 125, 5; Norriss (175cc Yamaha) 138, 6; Robert Rush (250cc Montesa) 174, 7; Bob Harris (250cc Bultaco) 242, 8; Peter De Geus (250cc Butler) 349, 9; Stewart England (200cc Triumph) 354, 10.

1974

Three Day Trial

[By Ian Miles]

Newest find of the trials world Bruce Mitchell, from Lyttleton, enforced his local dominance with a clear-cut win in the three-day Kaikoura trial at Queen's Birthday week-end.

Nobody could match the Yamaha TY250 rider in an event noticeably less friendly than earlier ones hosted by Christchurch's Pioneer club.

Mitchell's 67 points tally at the end of three days was a decisive 36 lower than closest rival Ken Hosking (250 Ossa). Another Christchurch rider, Malcolm McGibbon (250 Ossa) was a similar distance back in third on 134.

Veteran Basil Chambers (Rangiora) held out son David for an intermediate trials class win while Christchurch's Brent Sibley's score of 97 was a mere three points lower than second man Andrew Doudney in the novice class.

Christchurch all-rounder Geoff Anders had easy pickings in the trail class to drop only 45 points, 97 less than Dave Lyon's second-place 138.

Road bike class find was Rangiora youngster Barry Boyce, whose incredible 75 on an old Yamaha 80 was five points better than Christchurch road racer Craig Brown's runner-up tally.

And it was around the road-bike boys, notably the racers of one type or another among them, that the weekend's controversy

centred.

After the road antics of last year -- including wheelies and bike-cramming contests in Kaikoura and some swift (in some cases dangerous) riding through the shingle inland road -- the now very trials-oriented Pioneer committee tightened the reins.

The 35 road bikes were conveyed by cars, although left to their own device on the private land where sections were held.

Things came to a head on Sunday night when it was disclosed the bikes would follow trials-class riders' cars back along the sealed coast road to third-day stop Waiau. The use of the older inland route dated back to the days when everyone rode their 197 Villiers and other machines on the Kaikoura -- long before anyone ever towed a bike on a trailer.

The road riders staged a mutinous protest and on assurances of good road behaviour from spokesmen and road organiser Rusty Gillard and NZMCN's Ian Miles, the committee agreed to let the boys ride the inland route after a hurried committee meeting and some diplomatic work by club captain Ken Curtin.

The ride proved an anti-climax, with heavy rain washing the road and making visibility difficult, but no incidents were reported.

Results at the end of the three days were:

Expert trials — B. Mitchell 67 points, 1, K. Hosking 103, 2, M. McGibbon 134, 3, R. Rush 149, 4, P. Swift 160, 5, A. Millar 190, 6, P. Hoskings 192, 7, R. Cooke 199, 8, E. Norriss 239, 9, B. Reid 241, 10; N. Guthrie 255, 11; P. McDonald 262, 12; J. Philp 287, 13; G. Rush 306, 14; P. Chapple 348, 15; P. Archer 354, 16; A. Oliver 413, 17; P. de Geus 472, 18.

Intermediate trials — B. Chambers 313, 1; D. Chambers 332, 2; C. Ryder 345, 3; P. Tibdall 346, 4; B. Morton 454, 5; R. Montgomery 478, 6; K. Curtin 557, 7; A. Thomas 575, 8; V. Turner 576, 9; B. Young 619, 10.

Novice trials — B. Sibley 97, 1; A. Doudney 102, 2; B. Hughey 117, 3; S. Morton 122, 4; M. Jones 128, 5; P. Renouf 152, 6; J. Thornton 158, 7; M. Gilbertson 243, 8; M. Rush 246, 9; N. Kerr 346, 10; D. Seyb 396, 11.

Trail — G. Anders 45, 1; D. Lyon 138, 2; L. Smith 142, 3; G. Walker 150, 4; G. Turnbull 158, 5; R. Odering 161, 6; R. Bathurst 164, 7; C. Royd 180, 8; A. Duff 208, 9; C. Smith 211, 10; J. Lamont 244, 11; P. Croft 249, 12.

Road — B. Boyce 75, 1; C. Brown 80, 2; S. Tull 90, 3; W. Ison 95, 4; A. Brown 107, 5; J. Phillips and T. Davenport 134, 6 equal; C. Stuart 158, 8; D. Hutchison 177, 9.

1980s



The famous champagne breakfast at Mackles. Phil Roberts riding, Justin Ryan is doing the balancing act.



This one was taken at Rakanui and Jason Roberts (Phil's brother) is riding with Justin on top.



Scotty giving a riders briefing at Mackles in the 1980s (note the mullet!)

2000s



2001 was the 25th anniversary of the sidechair class. There were 11 chairs that year.



Jules rode Brendon's TYZ in the 2016 Kaikoura. It was his first NZ trial.



2018: pre-trial in the Beta gazebo. From left: Emma, John, Rat, Rob, Laura and Daniel.

For more old Kaikoura photos see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kaikoura3d/albums>

From 2015 onwards there are Lynette's great photos on Peter B's Flickr page <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nzpeterb/albums>

And Neil Sturmfels also has great Kaikoura photos from 2013 onwards <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AglQaFgOlckDgaR3g9kQPELXDKOJ2Q>

South Island Championship – rounds 1 & 2



Rounds 1 & 2 of the 2021 South Island Trials Champs were held in Alexandra on the 17th and 18th of April under typical warm, sunny and dry conditions.

A field of 24 riders including a great showing of junior riders in the mini classes were treated to the unique Thyme scent often found around the Alexandra area, along with the many trial friendly rock formations the area serves up. This year's event was held at the property of Harry Robert's (H & J Roberts Orchards) off McIntosh Road 5 kms out of Alexandra, the same venue as in 2019. Harry is very generous allowing access and even phoned me on the Thursday before the event asking if there was anything we needed, how awesome is that! We have only really scratched the surface of this block that Harry has granted us access to, and will look to make it one of our "go to" areas for any national events. While the terrain is very rideable with normally dry conditions, the huge amount of grip our schist rock offers, along with our dry climate with very low humidity often finds the riders feeling the physical effects towards the end of each day.

In an event support capacity this year I spoke to a lot of the riders some of whom (both young and old) were talking of tired forearms and in some cases arm pump which is attributed to the large amounts of steering torque coming back through the bars as the front tyre grips onto the central Otago schist rock which makes for uniquely challenging riding.

Both days went well with perfect weather, no injuries and a lot of happy riders with smiles on their faces. I was surprised by the albeit relatively small amount of spectators that did show up, most of them I spoke to (mainly of the grey vintage) had owned and ridden trials when they were younger, and were considering a return to the sport which is really pleasing

as we are on a bit of a mission to generate more awareness of our sport down here in the Deep South given the low numbers of riders we have down here.

Big thanks goes out to all of our dedicated and passionate group of top blokes that helped mark out the sections, especially Neil Belvoir for the time he spent marking the loop and setting sections (the advantages of retirement aye Neil!)

Also big thanks goes to Nathan and the Dunstan High School first 15 rugby team for their awesome job of observing both days. There were some real characters amongst them and a couple of the boys showed some genuine interest in trials, you never know we may have them riding in next year's trial!

Grant Anderson

	Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Total		Rd. 1	Rd. 2	Total
Expert				Clubman			
Paul Mountstevens	25	22	47	Keith Ruthven	25	25	50
Tom Beedles	22	20	42	Rob McKay	22	22	44
Jason Hibbs		25	25	Dave Chambers	20	20	40
Intermediate				Peter Barnett	18	18	36
Glenn Smith	22	22	44	Gary Allpress	15	16	31
Neil Belvoir	20	20	40	Alistair Gilmour	16	15	31
Derek Scott	18	18	36	Twin shock			
Kahu Jones	16	16	32	Wayne Harper	25	25	50
Hamish Barnett	15	15	30	Alistair Gilmour	22	22	44
Simon Hopkins	14	14	28	Junior			
Jason Hibbs	25		25	Kahu Jones	25	25	50
Kevin Pinfold		25	25				
Presidents				Points lost			
Shane Brons	25	25	50	Mini A			
Alan Honeybone	22	20	42	day 1	day 2	Total	
Malcolm Reid	20	22	42	Ted Ceci	1	5	6
Peter Hosking	18	18	36	Zach Hibbs	12	0	12
Simon Jones	16	16	32	Evie Hubbard	0	17	17
Wayne Harper	15	15	30	Mini B			
Sportsman				Hine Jones	16	4	20
Ross Bristol	25	25	50	Leo Hopkins	3	24	27
Derek Pyke	22	22	44	Mini C			
				Isabel Hopkins	10	3	13

The full results are here: <https://pioneertrials.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SI-champs-2021-rds1-2.pdf>

Club trials

Teddington – 25 April (section setters Shane B, Dave B, Peter H; officials: Ross and Peter B)
After heavy rain overnight twenty-four riders took part in the club trial at Teddington Flat in fine weather. Despite the overnight rain the sections were not as slippery as we have seen in the past at this venue. Mid-afternoon another front did blow through but thankfully no rain which allowed everyone to finish the trial dry. A few regular riders missing, but great to have some new riders trying their hand at trials. The sections were great thanks to Shane, Peter and Dave and, while all could be ridden, they were able to take a few points. The days results were tight with Paul beating Jules by 1 point in Expert, Kendall taking intermediate from Shane also by 1 point, Nigel won Clubman, and Dick won Social.

Peter B

Expert

Paul Mountstevens	13
Jules Huguenin	14
Kahu Jones	51
Hamish Barnett	72
Derek Scott	dnf

Clubman A

Nigel Bunny	11
Steve Fisher	16
Peter Barnett	44
Mike Kelly	nc
Will Kelly	nc
Shane Newton	nc

Intermediate

Kendall Mcdonald	3
Shane Brons	4
Ross Bristol	15
Simon Jones	22
Alan Honeybone	24
Peter Hosking	26
Ashley Duncan	31
Dave Barber	75
Derek Pike	92

Clubman B

Dick Gardner	10
Sam Bartholomew	43
Colin Newton	nc

Omihi - 9 May (section setters: Simon, Peter B; officials: Alan and Glenn)

The club trial for May was held in warm weather at Omihi in North Canterbury. Four laps of ten sections were set for senior riders with six separate sections for minis. A great turn out with 33 riders riding sections that most described at the end of the day as physical. Expert class results were spread over a large range but the other grades, Intermediate, Clubman A and B, had close results with not much separating the top riders in each grade. It was great to see a couple of our younger riders, Richard and Evie tackling the Clubman B sections and riding them well. Great job.

Peter B

Expert		Clubman A	
Paul Mountstevens	29	Christine Thompson	11
Glenn Smith	58	Danny Spencer	15
Tom Beedles	69	Nigel Bunny	25
Rhys Bayliss	87	Peter Barnett	26
Kahu Jones	95	Steve Fisher	30
Hamish Barnett	nc	Peter Dunn	33
		Chris Pascoe	43
		Dave Chambers	nc
Intermediate		Clubman B	
Shane Brons	11	Dick Gardner	1
Derek Scott	12	Richard Spencer	5
Ross Bristol	14	Shane Hubbard	27
Alan Honeybone	20	Mark Fox	32
John Regan	21	Evie Hubbard	82
Ashley Duncan	63		
Simon Jones	69		
Ian Springer	77		
Dave Barber	91	Mini	
Peter Hosking	dnf	Hine Jones	nc

Bikes, parts, clothing, etc.



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**Photos of Pioneer and
Canterbury classic trials**

www.flickr.com/photos/nzpeterb



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Next events:

5-7 June	Kaikoura 3 day trial	Kaikoura
20 June	Club trial	Graylees Road
11 July	Have a go day	Waimak Trials Park
25 July	Club trial	Western Valley

For more information see the 'upcoming events' section on the Pioneer website.

Acknowledgements

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The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Pioneer Motorcycle Club Inc.

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