

White Plate Flat Trackers

Since 1980

RALLY TIME 2010

Greetings, it is the time of year we are thinking about Rally, and it's going to be a BIG event celebrating the 70th. So much has changed and yet stays the same. We still find the same

friendly bikers, enthusiasts, racers and race fans at the Sturgis Rally. Progress can be noticed in the obvious futuristic style choppers, and various products making biking popular, comfortable, and cool. As racers you remember back in the day, dusty, rough surface tracks, and a meager water truck, and possibly a tractor with a blade to solve the problem. Times have definitely changed. May 1st, the Inaugural race was run at Prescott Valley, AZ. in front of a standing room only crowd. About two weeks prior to the race, the AMA officials and promoters were faced with a deep, dusty, sandy treacherous track. Thanks to ingenuity, hard work, and chemical technology the surface was transformed for a great racing event. They first removed about 8 to 10 inches of loose sand, then applied a chemical we know as "Elmers Glue" lots of water, and groomed it until race day. *Scottie Deubler* (ace announcer) who you met in the last newsletter gave me the "low down" on how history was made. Six different brands would make the Grand National Main Event. First time ever a Kawasaki Twin ridden by Bryan Smith made the main. If you remember back in the early 70's Mark Brelsford made a main event in California but he was on a three cylinder machine. Also making the first main event in Flat Track history was a BMW. Legendary builder/fabricator Ron Wood built a BMW 800 and up and coming rider Matt Weidman out of Westerlo, N.Y. would put it in the main event. Also in the main event were 12 Harley's, 2 Suzuki's, 1 Aprilia and 1 Ducati.

The race day started out with 2 free practice sessions then 2 rounds of timed qualifying practice. The fastest time would go to Slamin Sammy Halbert. He was the man to beat. Halbert won the first heat race and Joe Kopp finished second. Heat race two would see Jake Johnson take the win over Henry Wiles. Heat three went to the defending twins champion Jared Mees. The top two from each heat went to a six rider four lap dash for cash. Sammy Halbert got out front in a hurry and took the win easily.

The main event was by far the best race of the day. Joe Kopp got the hole shot and stretched out a decent lead. The rest of the pack was dealing with a little dust and changing track conditions every lap. The race for second through sixth was really tight. Sammy Halbert emerged through the dust and tracked down Kopp. A lap later Halbert took the lead and started to check out. Kopp was fading. It looked as though the high line he was riding in turns 1 and 2 had gone away. Then with two laps to go Kopp looked like he found another gear. Scottie was standing in the inside of the front straight and could hear the crowd over the motorcycles. As they took the white flag Halbert had about 6 bike length's on Kopp. Out of turn two Kopp closed the gap. He followed Halbert through 3 and 4 and then slingshot past Sammy as they crossed the finish line. On the podium Joe told Scottie he couldn't believe how fast he caught Sammy on the back stretch. Kopp's win on board a Ducati Hypermotard 1098 was the first time in AMA Flat Track History. Although Halbert felt the race was his Kopp would celebrate the win with HD rider Kenny Coolbeth rounding out the podium. *Scottie*, thanks for sharing your calling the race with our WPFT'rs. The only thing better would be if we could all come hear you announce live round 3 of the singles series at the TT, and round 2 of the twins series on the Historic Springfield Mile Memorial Weekend.



WPFT meeting and breakfast will be **8AM Thursday August 12, 2010**, Boulder Canyon Convention Center. (Exit 30) right next to the Holiday Express. We will be electing a new director and a couple of board members. Jack got word that possibly Bill Tuman will join us, as well as all the regulars. He also learned that Joe Leonard is doing well since his heart attack. Al Burke, Bobby Hill are also doing OK.

We welcome new members Don Pillsworth, Jack Forrester, and Doug Johnston. Jack will update the panels on the monument prior to rally, if any one has additions or corrections we should know about.

If you know someone who would like to join and support the WPFT Assn, a downloadable entry form is available on the web site www.wpfta.com. Thank you to Ken James for all his work on the site. Another site www.racerreunion.org showcases WPFT Bill Lloyd and his musical talents and a fun section called "Where Are They Now". Pretty cool Bill.

Facebook has a page for Old Pro flattrack Racers. Just search when you are signed on. It's fun to keep in touch.

Helen Miller passed the Treasurer's duties on to myself last month. I hope I can be as efficient as she has been over the years. Thank you Helen for all your service to the Association.

Jack is also replenishing the supply of WPFT TShirts and they will be available for sale at the meeting, or contact him to purchase them.

Again a BIG Thank You to George Holter for 'Let's Make Another Lap' he puts these memories on paper twice a year at his own expense. Thanks for sharing.

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