

Rain falls on Enduro season opener and makes for Perfect Trails

April 15, 2012

Sand Booger Family Enduro and Sand Goblin Enduro
Presented by: Grand Kankakee Trail Riders
Roselawn, IN

By Ryan Moss

Photos by [IndyMoto](#)

The Midwest Enduro season was kicked off by the Grand Kankakee Trail Riders (GKTR) in Roselawn, IN for the 10th year. Hard to believe that the GKTR has already been putting on enduros for 10 years already. It was cool to see the club relaxed (as much as an enduro club can be anyway) both before and after the race and just enjoying their 10 year anniversary event. And they had every right to be enjoying it as it was one the best enduro (both days) that they had put on.

Sand Booger Family Enduro

I always get excited about the Sand Booger because I get to ride it with my son and father. For me there's nothing like 3 generations of family out enjoying themselves together. The best part is we weren't the only family out there. Each year it seems more grandpas, dads, moms, sons, daughters, and maybe even some grandmas come out and enjoy this event together.



Rex Valek Took the win in the 4-6 class at the Sand Booger.

This year's Sand Booger looked like it might be a wet one with rain coming down in the morning. But the rain was needed and it stopped before the start. During the second loop a little more rain came down but it wasn't heavy enough to mess things up, it was just keeping the dust down. The trail this year was a 9 mile loop that riders would ride 3 times (the younger classes would only do a couple loops). The first loop was run at a 12mph average so it allowed the faster riders to practice time keeping skills and the new riders to ride at a comfortable pace. The next 2 loops the speed average was bumped up to 18mph and made every turn that right hand a little harder than the first loop. Both the first and second loop was split into 2 sections with a small break in the middle while the 3 loop was one 9 mile section. The mix of speed averages and sections per loop made for a great enduro setup for new riders and up and coming kids to learn the enduro world.

After the event all you could see is smiles everyone's faces. One of the best parts for me is hearing the stories from both young and old about how they railed through this section, zeroed this check, clipped that tree, or in my sons case "I burnt that check by 4 minutes". Another great thing is seeing all the kids go up and collect their trophies and once again the kids were getting handed a trophy by none other than Mr. ISDE, Jeff Fredette. Pretty hard to not have fun when you have good trail and your family has smiles ear to ear afterwards.

Sand Goblin Enduro

With the rain that came for the Sand Booger some riders thought the Sand Goblin was going to be wet one. But the area had been so dry that the rain is exactly what the trail needed. I know I'm not the only one that thought the trail was about as perfect as it could get.

Over the past 10 years the GKTR have been putting together an enduros that are both fun and challenging. This year the club once again found the right mix of tight, open, flowing and technical trails that covered 70+ miles of the Roselawn, IN area. It seems every year the test sections get longer and this year was no exception with 6 test sections and most were over 10 miles long. To me the layout the GKTR used this year could have been a National Enduro, it was that good.



First year AA Rider Jesse Warner on the gas

The first test section of the day was a mix of tight and technical and had most riders realizing that sitting on the couch all winter was a bad idea. The second test of the day was one that almost everyone agreed was the most fun of the day. Nothing like 3rd, 4th gear woods that just flow and put a smile on your face as you feel like a pro dodging trees at speed. The third test was probably the most technical of the day with a section of handlebar tight trees and logs to hop over just as you got into the section. Then it opened up a bit, then back to tight and technical. Again most riders were wishing they had eaten their Wheaties both in the morning and at the gas stop before riding this section. The fourth section was the shortest of the day but a fun one that flowed and even had a tricky little spectator section for the landowner and friends. The final section of the day was the same as the Sand Goblin with a couple miles added. Since the trail was already broke in it made for a great last section.

Overall A (and 2nd Overall) for the day went to motocross convert Anthony Krivi on his Niehaus Cycles, JM Racing Suspension YZ250. This was only his 2nd year attending the Sand Goblin and this is only his second year racing enduros. Anthony had this to say about the Sand Goblin: "The dirt was awesome, it bermed up really nice. The even had some great flow and fast sections, which I liked a lot. My favorite section was section 2. I had a good ride going all day. I just kept pushing and trying to ride a smooth fast race, with minimal mistakes, just flowing through the trees. I lost my front brakes in section 4, but my Dad was able to get them back before the last section. I was super stoked with my

results, with it being only my second year racing enduros. I can't thank my Dad and family enough for all the support and help they give me. I also want to thank Matt Borgic from JM Racing suspension, my bike was working awesome all day. And I'd like to thank Niehaus Cycle Sales and my enduro mentors Bryan Kahalar, Brian Niehaus, and John Roth”



Cody Mastin back on the gas

The Grand Champion for the day was reigning District 14 enduro champ Aaron Wagner. Aaron proved why he was the District 14 champion last year by besting everyone by 4 minutes at the end of the day. Aaron put his Gas Gas 300R at the top of almost all the test sections and had this to say about the Sand Goblin: “I was looking forward to the day because I knew it was going to be tight woods trail where I could really put the low end power of my new 300 to the test. The club laid out a great course which consisted of mostly sandy tight single-track with a lot of logs and branches to deal with which is my preferred type of terrain and each section went well for the most part. I ripped a radiator shroud off in the first section and at the gas stop had to use some zip ties to support the radiator. In the second section I had a minor crash and when I got to the out check I was one second into the minute so I figured that crash cost me a point. Overall it was a good fun day the temperature was perfect even though it was pretty windy in the field sections and I was happy that the rain held off. I'd like to thank my current sponsors, GasGas Offroad U.S., Afterhourcycles.com, Plus One Performance, Dirt Tricks, O'Neal, and Works Enduro Rider”.

The club would like to thank all the riders for attending both days and making the 10th anniversary Sand Booger / Sand Goblin a fun one. A big thank you to all the sponsors of the event; Moose Racing, Team Kawasaki, DP Brakes, Wiseco, FRP, Wheels for Tots, Kersting Cycle, Imperial Waste and Recycling, Fun Mart Cycle, and Stineback.com. But the biggest thank you goes out to the landowners, without them none of us would have been able to enjoy one or both events!

[*Sand Booger Results*](#) [*Sand Goblin Results*](#)