

Mike Dougherty-Now More than ever for CNYMRA

Now that this motocross season is over I wanted to take a little time to look back at this year and actually the last few years of CNYMRA.

Three years ago when Motomasters and Frozen Ocean bolted for USMX I thought maybe District 3 was in for some trouble. At the same time Jim Simmons and Thunder Ridge were at a crossroads. Jim was having medical issues and could no longer maintain the track. Mike Dougherty knowing we could not lose another venue jumped in. He worked countless hours to clean things up and get the track ready for race day. He also brought Echo Valley in to our district so we had a full complement of tracks.

Fast forward a year and Thunder Ridge became Jacks and was transformed into a great facility for our district. High Voltage also became a member of CNYMRA with some help from Mike and is now a premier track in our district hosting the New York State Championships. We needed one more track and Mike brought in Utica-Rome. I would love to know the hours Mike and other CNYMRA members spent at Utica-Rome so they could host their first race. Without the leaders of CNYMRA Utica-Rome would never have gotten off the ground nor would they have been able to actually run a race.

What happened at season's end I still cannot figure out. Both Jacks and Utica-Rome left CNYMRA for USMX. I do not know why Jacks left but I would like to voice my opinion on Utica-Rome. I previously mentioned the work that Mike and CNYMRA members put into that facility. Utica-Rome stabbed every member of CNYMRA in the back and I wish them the worst on all of their race days.

Once again I was wondering about the future of our district. Mike never even flinched and never looked back. He added Broome-Tioga, and then Moto Missions. As usual he was there helping Moto Missions prepare for their first race with CNYMRA.

When it comes to racing at Royal Mountain, Mike actually works harder than I do on race day. He is the first person in the lodge in the morning; wondering why the pump has not yet been turned on so he can start watering. He is my referee (the worst job in the world) and helps with race orders and more. Throughout the day he is constantly watering the track and supervising track maintenance during breaks. Maybe the hardest part of Mike's job is that all complaints go to him and one knows you cannot make everyone happy.

Let me summarize why we are so lucky to have Mike and Kelly leading our district. They are at every race doing everything they can to help. Kelly jumps in with AMA sign-ups, district sign-ups and scoring when needed. There must be numerous weekends when taking the RV to a campground and relaxing would seem to be a lot more fun; but instead they are at the races.

His job as president is almost year round. When the racing season is over its time to plan for the banquet. Countless hours are spent securing awards for the riders. After the banquet it's necessary to get the guidebook ready for the upcoming season. This includes working with the printers and securing advertisers.

Memberships are next for Mike and Kelly, with hundreds of cards and guidebooks being sent out for new and returning members. Mike did all of this for years and still maintained a full time job with UPS. He did all this for the love of the sport and to make sure that CNYMRA remains successful.

I have been promoting races at Royal Mountain for 37 years. I have seen tracks and CNY boards come and go. The board of CNY is vitally important to our district. This currently is the best board I have ever worked with, and along with Mike Dougherty I feel the future of CNYMRA is brighter than ever.

Jim Blaise

Royal Mountain Ski Area