

# SHAUN GUNTHER WINS FIRST NATIONAL OFF-ROAD RACE (QUADS).

The 2003 national quad off-road champion, Shaun Gunther, on his Duncan Racing Race Nation Honda TRX450, started the 2007 season on a high note by winning the opening race, the Red Cherry 400 in the Port Elizabeth area.

Gunther made a welcome come-back to the national off-road scene after not participating for two years. He crossed the winning line almost 10 minutes ahead of the second placed Vincent Loubser. Gunther also claimed the Pro 450 Class victory for quads with engine sizes not bigger than 450cc. Juan Coetzee finished third overall. The Red Cherry 400 started on Friday, 16 March, with a 96 kilometres time-trial that determined the starting order and times for the main race on Saturday. Gunther was the 11th quad on the starting grid after he lost precious time at a bottleneck in the mountains where numerous competitors got stuck. The 350km route on Saturday was extremely technical and after four hours and halfway through the race, the

weather changed and it started to rain in the Hankey and Elands River areas. This turned certain sections of the route into a treacherous mud bath and forced the organisers to stop the biggest part of the field from starting the last 45km loop.

Gunther was, however, one of only six competitors to complete the full distance and after taking the lead at the halfway mark, he kept his cool – and the lead – until he received the chequered flag. The 29-year old quad rider, who has been competing in regional endurance races in the Western Cape, said afterwards that the Red Cherry 400 “was like one of these events, but just longer”. As a regional quad endurance champion, Gunther is a keen endurance racer and prefers the more technical and difficult events. These events also suits his nimble 450cc powered Honda TRX450. Demonstrating supreme power delivery on the fast sections and quick handling through the technical obstacles – the Honda once again proved its race-winning abilities.

Says Shaun: “I could not have wished for a better result to open the 2007 season. I was quite cautious as I have not been participating in national off-road events for two years, but it is great to be back with a result like this. The conditions suited me and my Race National Honda perfectly. The more difficult the route became as a result of the rain, the more I enjoyed the race. It helped that I did not make mistakes and did not experience any problems – owing to the Honda’s superb reliability. Some of the frontrunners got lost on certain sections of the route, but I found my way all the time. As for this type of terrain, I was very pleased with the Elka suspension of the TRX450 as it made my life in the rough sections much easier. To win a difficult race like the Red Cherry 400 as well as the competitive Pro 450 Class is a great way to start the season. I am looking forward to the rest of the year.”

The second round of the National Off-road Championship for Quads will take place on 20 and 21 April in the Polokwane area in the Limpopo Province.



Shaun Gunther on his way to winning the Red Cherry 400.

The juniors get off to a hot start at Cactus Alley.

# VREDENBUG MX ENDURO



# WESTERN CAPE.

Shaun Gunther tackles the forest section.

## VREDENBUG MX ENDURO - WESTERN CAPE.

Story and photos by Daniel Darrah:

Captain Bill, Flying Ducks, The Rock and My Ossewa Brand Stof...

A hot Friday saw this wandering rambler out of Cape Town on time just a few hours late and expecting the 42 degree West Coast of last year. Maybe that's why I was late getting going! My lack-of-enduro withdrawal symptoms had just about normalized and my xmas kilos are a thing of the past ... so roll on your enduro races! I need to smell the dust in my lungs, dig the grit from my eyes and dodge some flying mud! Not to mention how I missed all those kooie se kak pakke! [www.gophoto.co.za](http://www.gophoto.co.za) was on the move again...



"The Rock" posed a problem to most, but obviously not to this guy.

The trip to Velddrif was quite uneventful save probably for the donations of much needed funds to the local traffic force. This weekend would be based at none other than the famous Captain Bill Dernier and his wife Anna's B&B, Sandvelder in Velddrif. Some of you will recall Bill from his marine career in the government services. The Sandvelder is excellently and very comfortably laid out and they have just got their 3 star grading (luckily I got the previous rates). Accommodation is well kitted out rooms with spotless and roomy en-suite and private

Vredenburg delivered loads of airtime in the whoop section.



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