

2008 Race Journal

Spring finally arrived in Indiana except it came with record rainfalls and flooding. Between the rain, cold and me traveling I did not get a chance to ride in March at all. Luckily the first Hare Scramble was cancelled. Stoney Lonesome would have the first race of the year on April the 11th. So I got a 20 mile ride in the week before and was plenty sore for a few days.

Things were starting to dry up from the floods but we got some more rain so the first race would be real muddy. I still had my original Dunlop tires on my KTM but decided to go with new Michelins front and rear for this one. I had a good start; especially for Stoney. Their starting area sucks; you actually start amongst the trees. I was in no hurry to sit in the cold 39 degree weather so by the time I lined up with the Super Senior and Senior B line; it was about full. So I lined up to the far right. We made a quick turn to the right in some nasty; soupy; slop. A lot of guys went way wide and I was already to the right so I made quick turn and was getting around a few guys. My decent start had me; maybe in the top 1/3 or better from the 30 riders on our row. We went down behind the clubhouse and back up the rocky hill and bikes were slowing down off to the left as I stayed on the high side passing a few more old guys. Then we came to the knarly ravine of boulders with only one line up. I made my way up stalling once as a rider was hung up in front of me. I was wishing I had the button to refire and get going. I got the KTM 200 refired with just a few kicks and finally made it. I tried not to look too tired for the next check point as it was a friend from the Mooch Club and INS track in Indy so I tried to make it look like I was having the time of my life when really I was a little winded. After the check; was another ravine with bikes hung up in a deep rut. I took another line that worked well enough and I got around the stuck bikes. I came around to complete lap one after 25 minutes showing me 4th in my class. I was getting along really well in the muddy condtions but the knarly rock ravine full of massive boulders really zapped me on lap 2. So after my friends check I took a brief pause as my bike was overheating and so was I. Motored on and completed lap 2 and had moved up to third. I sure wasn't looking forward to the rocky ravine for the third time. This time as I was approaching the rock ravine I fell over and had to wrestle my bike a few times and was wooped before I even attempted it. Got a drink and made my attempt. I didn't get too far before I was hung up. I spent some time restarting, pushing, and falling over. I finally make it to the top and this time there is no faking that I am having a great time. I am as about as hot as the KTM. I take break and take my helmet off and get a drink. Finally catch my breath and take off to complete my third lap. I was sure this would be the final lap because this lap has taken me forever and now some of the bikes are lapping me and not sure if any are in my class. One thing for sure this was going to be my final lap no matter what flag they show me. With no more get offs I complete lap three and see the checkered flag and held my third place position. I needed to get home and get things ready to go out of town on vacation so I didn't stick around for the scoring and Plaques. The scoring

was correct and I got third. The next race would be real close to home but I had planned a vacation in California to check out some Speedway Bikes and the beach!



I had just got back in town from California and didn't have too much time to get my bike race ready and noticed I didn't have much of a front brake but it was time to head to Indy to spend the night before driving up to Plymouth Indiana for the next Hare Scramble. I had some of a brake as long as you really pulled hard on the lever. I lined up next to Matt Yeiter knowing I could trust him and he usually gets good starts. We left the line together after getting the green flag from Clifford Bean as we headed for the long sweeping first turn through the wide open field with a little sand. It was Matt and I first and second. As we made a few more turns and I was passed by three bikes so I went in the woods in about 5th place but as we hit the sand in the woods one rider went down and then I eventually got around few more and could see the leader of our class. We then started catching the classes in front of us and I couldn't get around them as the trail was tight. As the trail opened up I finally made some passes. The trail was nice but the fields were dusty. The trail was a bit shorter than usual and some of the trail was fast so were having some fast lap times of around 15 minutes. I could catch the leader but never get around him. After the second or third lap I got passed by Ross Alcorn in my class. But as soon as he got around me a rider crashed in front of him and he couldn't get around as I blasted around both of them. I hammered down to try and pull away. I tried to really step it up in the tight stuff as the bigger bikes make time on me in the fields. It was working as he never passed me back. I caught the leader and stayed real close but then another rider got between us and he finished about 40 seconds ahead of me as I finished 2nd in my class out of 19.

Cleaned up my front brakes and now I have a good front brake for Stoney's next race. Looks like the trail should be good as we got some rain on Friday and Friday night and the forecast for Sunday is Sunny and 60 degrees!!