



2005

	2005													State
Round	1	2	3	4	6	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	19	
Finish	7	2	4	6	6	3	7	7	3	6	5	2	7	

2005/2006 Harescramble Race Journal Senior B

By Dirtbauer

The 2005 Hare Scramble season opened up with Stoney Lonesome MC near Columbus Indiana. I had about a mid pack start and then moved up some but never really felt like I was riding very well but I finished in 7th out of 20 bikes in the Senior B class after racing for an hour and half.

The 2nd race of the season was in Plymouth Indiana on a cold March day with a chance of flurries warming up to a balmy 38 degrees. I use to race the Enduros hosted by the Plymouth Blackhawks Club back in the eighties when they ran you across the river making it real interesting. I have always enjoyed the trail with a bit of sand mixed in. This race I had a real good start and went in the woods in 3rd place in my class and could see the leader. We rode a few miles like this before I eventually moved into 2nd. I now had my sites on first place rider Ken Smith and we were catching up to the class that started in front of us so I was afraid I might lose ground on the leader but I was picking good lines getting around the slower riders. I was able to get on Ken's rear wheel in the tight woods but he was on a 450 and would smoke me in the open stuff. Finally after he made a mistake and went down I was to take the lead but was short lived as I fell in some deep sand giving up the lead. After a few laps on the 6 mile course there was one section getting real deep in mud by a wooden bridge. The first four laps or so I would not cross the bridge and cut to the left of it because bikes were getting hung up on the other side of the bridge. So I had

determined the last lap I would cross the bridge because it was getting real deep next to the bridge. Well when I got there on the last lap I was dead set on crossing it; when I looked up at last minute and noticed they had ribboned it off but I was almost on the bridge at this point and had to back my bike up as I was getting roosted by the bikes in the deep mud. Then I noticed the leader was somehow behind me and he was one of many bikes roosting the shit out of me with their 450cc bikes! Well I finally got going and rode like a wild man and passed the 3rd place rider right before the finish line for a 2nd place finish in the old man class!

Round 3 was back close to home at Stoney Lonesome near Columbus Indiana where I had a decent start and finished 4th one spot behind my friend Andy Koontz which I rode with on the last lap but never got by.

Round 4 was at Ligonier Indiana. This place has some open trail and is fairly fast. I had a about a 10th place start out of 25 bikes. You start in the sand I felt like I was getting off the line terrible but rode to a 6th place finish. At the State race here in August I think I will line up on the far left where there is not as much sand and should get a much better start.

Round five was on May 15th same weekend as the Indy 500 Quals. so I would have to miss this one.

Round six would at Lynnville In. a track that hosts a National HS in October. These trails consist of a lot of hills from coal mining. Some of the trail is good but I have really never liked it much. Since I missed the last race I would go ahead and race. The start was short then a hard right hander then up into the woods. Wasn't real excited about how the start was laid out and of course got a terrible start about mid pack or so. Rode fairly well and finished in sixth place and was exhausted at the end.

Round seven and eight were at Stoney Lonesome racing on late Saturday afternoon and Sunday at Noon. This created a bit of schedule conflict with the Speedway Bikes racing that Saturday night in Indy which I was to shoot for. I never really wanted to race 2 days in a row at Stoney anyways but; so do I race Saturday at Stoney and then drive to Indy and I hope they have a late start and then not race the HS Sunday? Well I decided to go to Speedway Race Saturday night and only Race Sunday morning. I can't remember much about this race but I finished 3rd. Maybe this was the race that I missed a check or got lost and was in the lead which I knew was wrong but ended up in 3rd. Or was that last year??

Round 9 was Matthews In. It had been raining a lot prior to the race and was forecasting for rain that Sunday. Muddobers Club always puts on a good Enduro, Trail Ride or Hare Scramble. They have been hosting Enduros for the last 40 years. It rained off and on that morning but nothing real heavy. The start was going to be interesting because of the sloppy field. There were a lot of bikes on my row and I got a bad start and was not real aggressive with the muddy conditions. There was a lot of switch backs in the grass tracks before you go into the woods. The problem was that the trail they had going up into the woods at the start was only wide enough for one bike and it was slippery as snot and off camber. Well there was one squid that couldn't get up it; or get out of the way. At this point there were bikes everywhere waiting to get in the woods with no way of getting around the squids and toads. It seemed like I sat there for 3 or 4 minutes. By that time the 10 or so bikes ahead of me in my class were long gone. What a crazy way to have a Hare Scramble start. Maybe If I would have been up front I would have felt different. So I rode decent with no big crashes finishing in 7th about 6 minutes behind the leader. Luckily the club noticed a few sections by the creek that were getting real deep so they re-routed some trail for the last 2 laps so I didn't get stuck either.

Round 12 was back at Plymouth where I finished in 7th. Round 13 was a National Hare Scramble in Michigan. Being a long way to travel and hotter than hell in July I decided I stay out of the Pros way and stay home for this one!

Round 14 was at Worthington Indiana hosted by The Hoosier Trail Riders. I had to shoot the Speedway bikes the night before in Indy; then drive down from Indy that Sunday morning. So I was tired before I ever started my bike. The start was down a bit of a hill then right into the woods with some tight trail. I lined up to the far left next to Ken Smith, who at this point had a big lead overall in our Class. We were getting ready for the shotgun start. They give you 30 second warning then anytime after the 5 seconds the gun could go off. Right after the 5 second warning Ken starts his bike and then naturally then kills it. Then the gun goes off and I come off the line great as Ken was still sitting on the line fumbling around with his starter button. I was in the top five getting close to where you go in the woods and I kept it hammered and actually had the holeshot! I had been close to getting the holeshot at other Hare Scrambles but had never gone in the woods in the lead. I figured I would be getting pressure from the second place dude (which happened to be Mooch MC Pres. Bruce Love) but was able to complete the first 6 miles in the lead with no major get offs. Then right after I went thru the scoring barrels I see a big puff of antifreeze came up from engine. I couldn't figure this out since I had not hit anything or even gone off the trail. So I have to stop and see if a radiator hose has come off or what the hell is going on. I start to pull off the trail when I notice we are close to the vehicles so I bushwack thru the brush and out to the parking area so I can address the problem and get to my toolbox if needed. I get off the bike and notice nothing wrong and then I see the overflow hose had fallen off my radiator and it hit the exhaust pipe. The antifreeze in the overflow hose that fell on my hot pipe caused the smoke. So my bike is perfectly fine but I have given up the lead. Make it back on the trail where I came off and continue to charge and finish in 5th place.

Round 15 was the Race I had been waiting for all year. I was determined to get a good start and get my first win at the State Championship Race. I got my KTM Thumper 300 down to the starting line early so I could out of the deep sand and over where there was some dirt for better traction at the start. The start is not real long and you climb a small hill with a sharp turn on to a fairly wide trail. Much better than the single track at start of the Muddobbers race. The gun went off and I got the good start out of 24 bikes I was in about 5th or 6<sup>th</sup>. I stayed that way for a mile or so then the trail opened up to large field with real deep silty loamy dirt and a big hole. That sucked in a few bikes and I passed a few guys. Since we start with the Super Senior class I wasn't sure what position I was in. Continued to ride good and then passed a friend in the SS class. Still didn't really have a clue where I was in class and hadn't noticed anyone familiar but continued riding strong. Finally started hearing a 125 behind me knowing it could possibly be one of the guys in my class who rides 125. So I kept hammering keeping him behind me. I had completed about four laps and hadn't heard the 125 behind me but I was starting to get tired. As I approached a fairly steep; but small hill a slower rider goes down in front of me causing me to loose momentum and not make the hill. So here comes the 125 I had been hearing; and sure enough it was the dude in my class that gets by me as I am trying to get up the hill around the lapper. I went charging back to catch Gary Steed on his clapped out 125 that he rides really well but can be entertaining to follow sometimes. I did not want to be entertained at the State Championship. For this race I was there to win but figured we were possibly racing for second and third. So being exhausted from the hill episode and other excuses I never did get back by him. I was still proud to be running towards the front of the Old Guys class at a track I never really did so great at. Well we were actually racing for the lead. So I finished 2nd.

2005 to be continued if I can remember back that far. This year I have not been racing much but taking a lot of pictures and plan on doing a few races if it ever gets below 85 degrees. In September I will be doing a Dual Sport ride at

Land between the Lakes aboard my street legal DRZ 400 with a bunch of friends for a 2 day trail ride on some beautiful hiking trails and enjoy some camping at Energy Lake Campgrounds. We have been doing this trail ride since 1988. Only missing a few when they lost a lot of trail to the tree huggers.

I purchased a new 2005 Honda CRF 250X in January of 2006 and really have not rode it much. I did manage to make it out to a few Hare Scrambles this year.



Saddleback Bedford KY

#### 2006 Journal

<b>Round</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Finish</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>

The first Hare Scramble of the year was up in Northern Indiana and I love to race there but decided I would not race as much this year and there would be plenty more chances to race. So instead I took my Dual Sport along for a camping trip at Lake Monroe.

I decided I would race a new track at Ft. Wayne. Loaded up my bike and headed for Indy to spend the night and was excited to race my new bike. That night I was on their website and called to get some details on the race when I got the answering machine explaining the race was on but the woods section would not be included. So it sounded like they had a motocross track and some grass track. Not exactly what I would call a Hare Scramble; especially since I am a woods rider and not a moto dude. So I decided to save my money and sit this one out.

The first race I entered was at Lynnville Indiana. The forecast was to be about 80 degrees with a chance of rain Saturday night. This is not my favorite place to ride but was anxious to ride the new Honda. The day before I noticed while practicing my starts that if the engine got very warm it was hard to start and wouldn't idle. So messed with the idle and stayed up late throwing darts and putting down a few brews. Great for before a race! Was still setting the idle right before the race and had the engine a bit hot so naturally the Honda didn't start so I had to choke it to start and headed into the woods in last place. But there were only a dozen or so in my class which usually has two dozen in it. They had a 10 mile loop laid out; and after the second lap I was up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. At this point I was ready for a break but the scorers made the mistake of

telling me my great position so I couldn't pull over and still had some water left in my camelback so I headed out for the final 10 mile lap. Towards the end of the final lap I was exhausted and getting out of the way of some of the faster riders in other classes but ended up letting my friend Andy Koontz by; that is in my class. Oh shit I just gave up third place to my buddy. So gassed it back up and rode his rear fender for awhile hoping I could pressure him into a mistake. As we approached a rutted out hill he chose a line to the far left around the rut that I had gone up both times on the two prior laps. This is where I should have made my move but I didn't and followed him and sure enough he didn't make it up the hill and I couldn't get around him. Now we only had a little bit of trail before the finish and he finished third and I came home with a 4<sup>th</sup> place plaque. Really enjoyed riding the last part of the race chasing Andy. Because most of the last lap I was by myself and didn't feel like I was racing. Well actually I don't feel like I am ever racing anymore just there to ride and follow arrows. Once the Honda started it handled great and was fun passing the bikes at the first part of the trail. Was sore as hell the next day but made it to work on time Monday!

The next race was close to home at Stoney Lonesome in Columbus In. Once again the Honda did not fire at the start but this time there were 26 bikes in my class. But once it fired I was passing bikes before we got into the tight trail and I made sure I got around as many as possible quick. They had about a 5 mile loop and I came around after one lap in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Was riding really good but was never going to catch the leaders. After the second lap I had moved back to 6<sup>th</sup> place and that is where I finished with no big crashes. So I came home with a miniature plaque and made it to work on time Monday morning!

With the forecast of 85 degrees for the weekend of August 13<sup>th</sup>. I decided I would race at the Saddleback HS in Bedford Kentucky. The race was scheduled to begin at Noon but didn't start until 1:00 but it really wasn't too hot. Just hate waiting around with your gear on. About this time I wished I was doing an Enduro because the nice thing about Enduros is if you have minute 12 you will be guaranteed you will leave 12 minutes after key time which is usually 10:00AM but this was a Hare Scramble so we had to sit around in the heat and wait for the delay.

So I headed to the starting line at about 12:50 because so far on my Honda I have had absolutely terrible starts so I really didn't care where I started. I had to start to the far right and the start funneled you to the left. So a great start was real important. My bike actually started this time but did not get a very good start. As we approached a ravine (I had noticed earlier in the day as I checked out the starting area) sure enough I guy got crossed up in it and was heading my way so I had to brake hard and avoid him and the rut and then continued on trying to pass bikes to make up for my once again shitty start. Now we head in to another turn in the field with a few trees and bushes and come across a bunch of low hanging limbs with bikes going every which way and almost stopping. Not sure why a club would have those conditions for a start but now I finally make it to the woods and feel like I am way behind; but excited to ride some good trail with some big Kentucky hills. The first downhill was a bit slippery but managed to get down it no problem. Got to the first uphill climb and there were about 4 or 5 bikes on the hill but I managed to get around them and up the hill and made the next few hill climbs getting by a few more bikes. The trail was more slippery than I thought it would be. I had aired my tires up mostly for the rocky conditions and my traction was terrible in the slimy spots; but better then getting a flat. The next hill wasn't that long but muddy and more bikes to encounter. This time I only made it about 85% of the way. But was able to get the bike upright and started; thanks to the electric start but zapped some energy out of me. My next get off would be on an off camber slow section that was greasy as ever with 2 bikes in my way. I slowed down which was a mistake and sure enough my rear tire slid out and I went over and fell down a

ravine. No problem just had to get back up the ravine and pick up my 225lb Honda as some of the guys in my class that I had passed on the hills pass me back. Not sure if they saw me fall the 10 feet into the ravine. I completed two 8 mile laps and was in 15<sup>th</sup> place out of about 28. Not real good so I decided to take a break and decide if I wanted to continue. So since I am not a factory rider I had to pull off the trail and cut across the course to get to my truck unlike the factory guys who have their pit crew right next to the trail. After some cold Gatorade and a dousing of water I headed out for one more lap. I had never quit a race but it sure was tempting to load up and head for home early. My next lap went real well with better traction and less bikes on the hills. The white flag came out so I decided to do another lap even though I was in 18th position in the Senior B class. Was riding fairly well but was getting passed by a lot of bikes. I was making all the hillclimbs until the very last one. Not sure where these guys come from but I didn't make it due to about 4 bikes on the hill and I guess I didn't pick the best line around them and ended up wrestling my bike one more time. Rode into the finish line completing 4 laps and 32 miles in a disappointing 19<sup>th</sup> position. Not a good finish but some cool trail. Finished 130 out of 211. Not bad considering 85% of them were younger than me and I had to take an intermission break for Gatorade and quick shower after 2 laps! Was way sore Monday morning and called in sick.

Since the next Hare Scramble was close to home I decided to race again the following weekend after the Kentucky race. I would be shooting the Speedway bikes until late Saturday night then make my way home and ready to race by Noon. Found out the race starts at 1:00 not Noon; so really didn't have to get up so early to leave Indy Sunday morning. But this way I would have an excuse why I got so tired. So I rolled into the Midway Moto track in Mitchell Indiana; just a few miles from my house with plenty of time. Was a really nice morning. The HTR gang had laid out a 6 mile course with some new trail and a few small grass track sections crossing the motocross track. Well the Honda left me dead last again going into the woods and was real hard to pass because the trail was so tight; but I managed way around a few riders. As we rode down into a ravine that was 2 trails and the one was clogged with bikes so I naturally chose the other and got around a few more bikes. The trail was choppy and I felt like I was getting beat to death and my head was jarring around so much it was hard to focus on the trail. After lap 1 I felt like I was riding a bit better and actually had my fastest lap on lap 2 of 5. Finally caught up to someone I recognized in my class (Andy Koontz). So I followed him for one complete lap. But by lap 4 I no longer could hang with him. Finished 7<sup>th</sup> out of 13. I have now got a new plug in the Honda and rejettted the carb and cut out the top of the air box. Honda appears to be starting better and runs a little stronger. Not sure when I will be racing next. The Muddobbers are holding a National Enduro this year which would be a nice run but also have the Speedway bikes to shoot that Saturday night. Off to LBL Dual Sport Ride for a 2 day 200 mile Trail ride consisting of trail and scenic roads between Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.



### **Energy Lake LBL 2006**

The LBL this year was great fun but less trail and lots of dust. Saturday we rode 114 miles mostly gravel roads and some of the North South hiking trail on the Southern end taking us into Tennessee. The weather was fantastic with temperatures in the low eighties. Saturday night looked like we might get some rain as it clouded up and some thunder came rolling in but it ended up raining south of us where we rode today! Sunday's route sheet showed a lot more trail but less overall mileage. We started out with some more dusty gravel roads then hit some nice single track trail along the lake. We were having a great time with more trails to ride today. We stopped for gas and lunch at the usual Barbecue restaurant and overheard that the rest of the ride would be all road back to the campground. That would be a 20 mile ride up the trace that runs down the middle of LBL. So we gassed up and headed back looking for some scenic gravel roads or something other than the asphalt. We decided to ride a short section of trail that we had ridden earlier in the day. As we got back to the campground I was just short of 200 miles for the weekend and plenty of time to relax as we would spend the night and head back home Monday morning. We may be looking for Dual Sports next year with more trail. LBL has been a tradition since 1988 and a great time of the year to ride but they seem to be losing a lot of trail.

The last Hare Scramble of the season was to be at Plymouth Indiana and the forecast was to be sunny and 50 degrees. We had been getting a lot of rain the week prior to the race but with all the sand in Plymouth and not near as much rain as the rest of the State; conditions were absolutely perfect. I decided to start the Honda in neutral at the dead engine start. It actually started and I had a mid pack start for the open field that went forever before you entered the woods. I went in the woods in about 8<sup>th</sup> place. Not far into the woods the bike in front of me stalls I am afraid to blast around him and get hung up but decide to there is just enough room and get around him but had waited awhile and now the bikes in front of me are getting out of site and I am already getting winded. Could be a long race if I am already tired. Eventually start relaxing and riding decent and catch up to someone I recognize in my class that usually rides up front so I felt a little better about my riding since I had not rode or raced in a long time. After keeping them in site we start catching the slower riders in the class that started in front of us. I was getting held up by a bunch of bikes but could not get around them due to the tight trail. After getting hit from behind braking into a tight section; I start looking for a way around these guys so I don't have to deal with the knucklehead behind me. I

finally pick a great line and cut the trail and able to pass a few riders. But still had about three more bikes to get around. We now are completing the first lap and heading into the scoring barrels and I am looking to see where the Senior B barrel is and hoping I get scored and get by the bikes holding me up. As we go by the computer scoring section the one dude in front of me does not want to tell them his # or slow down; so the scorer grabs him and makes him stop as I yell my # and wait then get by him and grab some throttle to show off to the fans near the scoring area; you always want to look like you are fast in this part of the track! Rode strong the rest of the race and finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 13. My pit crew insisted I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> and the computer scoring they were doing could have been incorrect but I had a great time riding. So I missed out on a trophy and was able to hit the road and catch part of the Colts game at Damon's in Kokomo. Looking forward to racing next year except the Speedway Bikes will be racing a full schedule next year but I feel my racing days are getting limited.