

## Race Journal 2010

In January of 2010 I had my 2007 KTM XC 200 suspension re-valved and serviced along with a new top end and the power valve assembly cleaned. With some new EE graphics and a new FMF pipe I was ready for Springtime and some riding. I got in a few rides at LCRP to break in the new top end and see how the suspension works. The rear suspension works well but needed to adjust the rebound on the front forks. There would be a Hare Scramble near Madison Indiana and I had planned on hitting that one. As I loaded my trailer the night before I was keeping an eye on the weather as a storm was approaching as we had already had some significant rainfalls in the last few days. It looked like the rain would hit Madison that morning. Awoke early and checked the radar and decided to bail and not go as my bike was loaded and ready to go. Got in a few more trail rides then took a road trip to Loretta Lynn's Ranch in Tennessee for a nice trail ride on her beautiful acreage. I decided I would race in Paragon at a non district 15 race that wasn't too far from my house. We had a bunch of rain leading up to the event but I had new tires on the KTM and was ready to race. The night before we got hammered with rain but I decided I would go. As I waited to get into the parking area that morning it was evident they had a lot of rain; as 4WD trucks were getting stuck everywhere. I was already committed as it was a narrow road getting in and with the trailer I had no choice but to go ahead and enter. I made it partially in with my Tahoe (with not so great tires) and got pulled in by John Deere like everyone else. But there were some upset good ol boys that didn't like being stuck in the 4wd trucks. After getting parked I realized I would need pulled out leaving too. Right then I decided I was not unloading my bike to ride in this slop and more rain was on the way. I would take pictures and send an article in to Cycle News that I knew probably wouldn't pay me since they had a real problem paying me for all of 2009. So I stayed and got some good images of the start and a creek in the woods before deciding to hunt down that that big John Deere to pull my Tahoe and trailer the hell out of there. Spent a half hour at the car wash getting mud out of the underneath of trailer and truck. A friend stopped by there the day after the

race and he said they were still pulling trucks out of their field and it looked like the day after Woodstock!!!

Then the summer kicked in and was hot all summer but the start of summer the trails stayed nice from the wet Spring. In July I decided I would race a Hare Scramble in Greenfield Indiana. The weather was to be nice with temps to be in the Mid to Upper Eighties so not real bad for July. This was a new event as there is suddenly an increase in off-road racing in Indiana on private property with Mid America XC hosting the D15 race on a Saturday which is different than most races that usually run on Sundays. It appeared as though they had some long field sections and were to have some virgin trail. I turned 50 this year but still have to race in the +40 B class since I wasn't fifty on Jan 1st. I got a good start and was in second place heading for the first turn. We rounded the first turn and headed up a small hill still in the field and then shot into another open area as I tried to keep the 200 pinned. This was like a field race and we were hauling ass and I actually got some air in one section which I don't care to do but since I had not seen the track. Eventually I got to the woods and by then I was in fifth or sixth place. The trail was somewhat open and fairly fast but still a bit moist from the rains. I stalled my bike coming out of a ravine and few more in my class passed me. I wasn't riding that well in the woods and the trail was littered with roots so I rode cautiously. The so called 6.5 mile loop that was supposed to be mainly woods but was more like about 3 miles of fields and 2.5 miles of woods that was fairly open. Not much fun on a 200. Would have had more fun on my old 300 Thumper! Oh well it was still better than sitting at home and finished in seventh position in the Sr B class.



The summer was hot and dry with no rain from Mid August till November. I mainly rode at LCRP and did not race due to the heat and drought. It was still dusty in October but I decided to race a Hare Scramble at Plymouth Indiana where I always enjoy riding with some smooth trail and sandy sections with a nice open area to start in. The Marion County Fairgrounds had a flat track race on Saturday so I was able to stop in Indy and take in some Speedway Bikes and flat track stuff on my way up to spend the night in Kokomo. Sunday was a beautiful fall day with around 85 bikes or so ready to kick up some dust. It was unclear what starting rows were what; so after some cussin and discussin I lined with the Super Sr and Sr B class towards the back. They originally had us in front of the Open and Vet B class. As the green flag came out for row the 200 came to life and i rocketed off the line on the far right and realized it was just me and another guy out front. I had a small lead on him as we rounded the first turn with a huge cloud of dust behind us. I actually held the lead in the woods and didn't have too much pressure from anyone but I could sure hear them all chasing me. I guess that it is why they call it a hare scramble and i fel like the hare as I tried to stay out front. I

completed one lap of the six mile loop with no get offs. I felt like I was riding fairly well. On the second lap I had a few bikes pass me possibly from the Super Sr class or maybe a C rider that started behind me. I continued to ride good with only a few stalls and falls but no high speed crashes. On the third of four laps I got passed for the lead in the Sr, B class and I held on for second place in my class! The overall leader Chris Bach passed me on a flat tire for his fifth and final lap so I had the checkered flag after four laps which was just enough.

The Start of the Sr B on video by Zoe Norris.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFPOS2W1HT8&feature=related>

### **Plymouth Photos**



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[Photos by Laura Fritz](#)



Photo by Zoe Norris