

The Big Chill!

O'Banion Brings the Heat and the Winner Overall
to Little Egypt MSXC!

Round # 6 Mid South Cross Country
Little Egypt Off Road Vehicle Park
Marion, Illinois
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The evidence of how the day was going to shape up was the many campfires scattered around the camping area at Little Egypt Off-Road Vehicle Park in Marion, Illinois. Many people wearing multiple layers of hats, gloves and cold weather jackets surrounded the blazing fires as breaths turned white in the below freezing 19 degree wind chill air. Round 6 of the Pirelli/Maxxis/Answer/MSR/ProTaper Mid South Cross Country was eagerly anticipated by all the riders but the visit from the North Wind wasn't quiet expected or welcome.

Shane O'Banion was first off the line in the "AA" class and was hard to catch as he rounded the right and left turn into the woods. In hot pursuit Dustin Gibson was second with Chad Johnson third off the line. Snow began to fall as they raced for the lead. In years past this had been a strip mine that produced the coal that intentionally produced heat. On this day the heat was from "AA" class Shane O'Banion, Dustin Gibson and Chad Johnson.

This was a close race all day and Shane O'Banion from Kentucky had made the mistake of wearing two pairs of gloves. Remember the wind chill! Arm pump is a problem and today was not an exception for Shane but it was made much worse by the additional layers. The course got slicker and slicker as course conditions changed during the day making it difficult to really go fast. Shane went down at least once per lap when he attempted to increase speed and go really fast. Slowing down he smoothed out the rocks, roots and deep ruts. One crash even defied the laws of physics in that he was going in one direction, hit a slick spot and when he came out of it, Shane was going in the other direction. This was a race course that was super slick and really cold but good course layout overall. Shane was very glad to see Chad Johnson there because in a past race the lap time was 5 seconds apart for the whole two hours of the race making for a whole lot of fun making the time, not just the rider, fly. The "AA" win went to Shane again in this series and keeping Shane in the lead overall for points. Shane thanks his sponsors Pro Action KTM, Balance Racing, FMF, FOX, Gill Roofing, Mansfield Chevrolet and his wife Heather.

Chad Johnson from Wisconsin was impressed with the course and thought it was a great one. Mistakes made by Chad didn't prevent him from having a good time! The whole race was a battle royal between him and Shane O'Banion that set the woods on fire. Lap times that were only seconds apart making the leader positions change between 1st and 2nd all day long. The learning curve in battling O'Banion over past races was evident to Chad but he is gaining the woods experience necessary. Confidence to ride hare scrambles over his endurocross contests the past season is growing stronger with each race challenge. On this day, Chad and Shane had traded the lead over several laps but in the end Chad lapsed back three seconds giving him the second place. Chad thanks his sponsors Funmart, JPC, CJR, Moose, EVS, Power Bar as well as all his other great promoters.

The "A" class riders left the line in a heated rush to the first turn. The second turn found Travis Shaffer, Brandon Ferguson and Zac Nash in a tight pack headed into the woods. Two hours later the order would be Zac Nash as "A" class 1st place, Brandon Ferguson 2nd and Travis Shaffer 3rd. The Light A class ran smoothly until the first turn when Jase Martin fell in front of Cody Miller and he almost became a casualty and saved only by Cody's brakes. It all ended well for both as Cody Miller was 1st and Jase Martin 2nd at the end of the day. The Senior A's had a senior moment of sorts when the entire row became a tangle of wheels, tires, grips and bars on the first turn. Greg Elrod broke free of this pile of riders and took the win this day. In all 288 riders ran this frozen course in frigid conditions for the next two hours toughing it out. Comments were overwhelmingly unanimous, fun course and good times! No matter the weather conditions, hot chocolate and a warm building for awards cured it all!

In early 1999, Little Egypt Off-Road Motorcycle Club applied for a grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The grant, for land acquisition, was approved, but the site that was originally picked did not meet the criteria. The search for property was on. Club president

Lance Martin contacted a local coal company, and found the Crab Orchard property, which in short, is now Little Egypt Off Road Vehicle Park. There are miles of trail scattered over 720 acres for hare scrambles, trail riding and trials. This was an excellent place to have the MSXC Round # 6 and has been since the days of a 60' revival tent for sign up to present day, a club house and second building complete with food, restrooms and campgrounds for overnight visits. Information about Little Egypt Off-road Motorcycle Club go to www.LEORMC.org.

Results:

Overall: 1. Shane O'Banion(KTM) 2. Chad Johnson (KTM) 3. Dustin Gibson (KTM) 4. Marty Michaels (Kaw) 5. Zac Nash (KTM)

"AA" Class: 1. Shane O'Banion (KTM) 2. Chad Johnson (KTM) 3. Dustin Gibson (KTM) 4. John Maschino (Yam) 5. Damon Prince (Suz)

"A" Class: 1. Zac Nash (Ktm) 2. Brandon Ferguson (Yam) 3. Travis Shaffer (Yam) 4. Kyleer Vance (Hus) 5. Beau Nicewinter (KTM)

Light "A": 1.Cody Miller (Kaw) 2. Jase Martin (Hus) 3. Jenner Turner (KTM) 4. Dillon Phelps (KTM)

Vet "A": 1. Marty Michaels (Kaw) 2. Jeff Cowan (Yam) 3. Brandon Wofford (KTM) 4. Douglas Gresham (Yam) 5. Scott Kirschoff (Yam)

Senior "A": 1. Greg Elrod (Hus) 2. Timmy Ppoole (Kaw) 3. Jeff Griffin(KTM) 4. Kenny Moore (Yam) 5. Kent Moore (Yam)

SuperSenior A: 1. Eric Gill (KTM) 2. Mark Guy (Yam) 3. Kent Stanley (KTM)

250 B: 1. James Dicus (KTM) 2. Mike Moore (Yam) 3. Blake Diesser (Yam) 4. Steven Lambrusco (KTM) 5. Blake Rickettes (Yam)

Light B: 1. Taylor Downs (Yam) 2. Jake Froman (KTM) 3. Zach Greenwell (Kaw) 4. Logan McCullough (Kaw) 5. Tyler Harris (KTM)

4 stroke B: 1. Nick Bryant (Hon) 2. Sammy Dorris (Kaw) 3. Braxton Dallas (Yam) 4. Jeremy Newland (Kaw) 5. Matt Calhoon (Kaw)

Open B: 1. Chase Peeler (KTM) 2. Justin Riley (Yam) 3. Austin Toon (KTM) 4.Branad Rinsch (KTM) 5. Caid Griffin (KTM)

Vet B: 1. Dustin Arant (KTM) 2. Kevin McClain (KTM) 3. Greg Childers (KTM) 4. Stephen Bynum (Kaw) 5. Brian Peck (KTM)

Senior B: 1. Greg Rumery (Yam) 2. Dennis Holden (KTM) 3. Todd Elrod (KTM)

Masters: 1. Robert Ellis (KTM) 2. Ron Nelson (KTM) 3. Alan Staples (Yam) 4. Jeff Henson (KTM) 5. Rickey Miller (Kaw)

Super Senior B: 1. Greg Tucker (KTM) 2. Dillon Pirtle (Yam) 3. Daniel Newcomb (Kaw) 4. Mitchell Mowery (Suz) 5. Chris Sumner (Hon)

Golden Masters: 1. Paul Michels (KTM) 2. Don Rye (Hon) 3. Tom Carter (KTM)

250 C: Daniel Burke (KTM) 2. Lee Sumner (KTM) 3. Ronald Bordner (KTM) 4. Shane Free (Yam) 5. Scott Kraus (Hus)

200 C: 1. Dalton Cross (KTM) 2. Lance Hoover (Yam) 3. Gabe Garrett (KTM) 4. Joseph Aumiller (Yam) 5. Tren McCormick (KTM)

300 4 Stroke C: 1. Logan Ppoole (KTM) 2. Bronson Childs (Kaw) 3. Ryan Watson (KTM) 4. Jeffery Watson (KTM) 5. Ben Ellis (KTM)

Open 4 Stroke C: 1. Cody Dial (KTM) 2. Landon Hogue (Hon) 3. Kyler McGrew (KTM) 4. Sam Weisman (Yam) 5. Chad Weisman (Yam)

Vet C: 1. Kevin Murphy (Suz) 2. Heath Robinson (Yam) 3. Kent McReynolds (Yam) 4. Bryan Gubba (KTM) 5. Robery Berg (Yam)

Senior C: 1. John Duke (Kaw) 2. Brian Hayes (KTM) 3. John Fowler (Suz) 4. Darrell McManaway (Kaw) 5. D.B. Allen (Kaw)

Super Senior C: 1. Bill Hester (KTM) 2. Clinton Clark (Yam) 3. Jeff Curtis (KTM) 4. Joseph Pinson (KTM) 5. Ed Howard (Yam)

Beginner MC: 1. Ethan Welborn (Hon) 2. Justin Basher (Kaw)

MSXC information,scheduling and further results are at [www. MSXC.com](http://www.MSXC.com)