

O'Banion and Gibson in a battle to the finish at MSXC 7 Creeks !

Round # 9 Mid South Cross Country (MSXC)

Seven Creeks Ranch

Cadiz, Kentucky

February 20, 2011

The day at Seven Creeks Ranch was the perfect site for Round #9 of the 2011 Pirelli Answer/Maxxis/ProTaper Mid South Cross Country series. 318 riders ran the 9 ½ mile tight woods trail that was perfection for racing. Promoter Chris Sumner had worked hard to make sure this was the best of the best MSXC race so far. He accomplished this goal exceeding all expectations. The race date had to be delayed a week for harsh winter weather had buried the course in a foot of snow the week before and this next week proved it was worth the wait.

At this point in the series six points separate Dustin Gibson (KTM) of Van Leer TN and Shane O'Banion (KTM) of Mt. Sterling, KY are in a battle for Overall first this season. A lot can happen in the remaining four races this 2011 season and these two riders will not take second place lightly. Dustin, 2010 Overall winner is defending his title and Shane O'Banion has come on strong this season and is currently first place for the 2011 season.

On this day luck was with Shane. He was the AA winner and winner overall but it was a hard fought battle the last couple of laps when Dustin Gibson consistently gained the ground necessary to pass on the final lap. The trees on 7 Creek Ranch have a little less bark after that last lap as Dustin and Shane dueling for first did a bob & weave all along the last miles of the trail. Shane was missing a bark buster and had a flat tire as he and Dustin were scanned through the Score Machine tent. Three one-hundredths of a second was the blip in time that gave the win to O'Banion and second to Dustin Gibson. All the AA riders did six laps and Shane was cruising the 57 miles with a comfortable lead for most of the two hours when he felt Dustin closing in on his considerable lead. He rolled back on the throttle and opened his KTM up but Dustin got around Shane on the last lap and they traded the lead spot back & forth several times. Shane slipped around Dustin and narrowly lead by a tire tread into the tent. Shane was left with the win by the skin of his teeth, but just barely. Dustin Gibson fought as hard for this race as he could and it was just a matter of luck of the draw coupled with Dustin's considerable skill as a rider that gave him the 2nd place this day.

Dustin Gibson has been part of the MSXC family for many years and is well known in racing circles around the Mid South. Dustin and his wife Amber have a new addition to this family. Baby Girl Gibson came into the world Tuesday after the race and all are doing well. Welcome to the world, baby girl Racie. In a couple of years something in the Pee-Wee kids race in the morning is going to change!

The Light A class was another close race at the course on 7 Creeks. Eight riders were at the start but Zach Nash of Vincennes, IN pulled off the lead early giving him the win.

The Golden Master's are a class that collectively average over 40 years of riding. This group of riders has been riding longer than most of the A & B classes have been alive.

Paul Michaels, a Golden Master from Petersboro, KY has been riding most of his 58 years and this year had dominated the Golden Masters class. Paul said that "The course was perfect! The day was a great 72 degrees after several weeks of hard freezing weather and it was my first time back since December". Paul rode his own race and finished first, maintaining his lead in Golden Master's 55 Plus class. As people have said it is the real last chance qualifier in racing.

Vet B rider PJ Shortt, a long time MSXC rider, has hit the trails hard this season after being missing in action for a couple of years. At 7 Creeks he earned a respectable 5th with a 2011 class standing of 10. PJ commented about 7 Creeks and racing this season. "Yeah, I felt good Sunday, the dirt and the weather were perfect! Because of family responsibilities I have only been racing on and off (enough to keep my powder dry) for the last five or six years. My schedule has changed a bit and I obtained a new sponsor this season so I decided to hit every race possible in the MSXC. The B class boys don't let up! If you're a little off your game it's really tough to trophy. So it was nice to finish up in the top of my class Sunday. I overheard many people complaining about the creek section after the race but I felt that it truly separated the men from the boys. I wouldn't have changed it. Thanks to Mid South Motoplex and Milam Builders for making my race effort possible."

The season is fast coming to a close with only four races left! The courses left to run are proof that the best is yet to come!

RESULTS Seven Creek's Ranch

--AA--1. Shane O'Banion (KTM) 2. Dustin Gibson (KTM) 3. Tyson Ezell (KTM) 4. Damon Prince (Suz)

--Heavy A--1. Zac Nash (KTM) 2. Loupie Lambruno(KTM) 3. Ryan Lenth(KTM) 4. Dexter Colvin (Yam) 5. Beau Nicewinter(KTM)

LightA-- 1. Dillon Phelps (KTM)2. Jordon Johns 3. Jase Martin (Hus)4. John Hix (KTM)5. Austin Shroyer (KTM)

Vet A:1. Dillon Phelps (KTM) 2. Jordan Johns (KTM) 3. Jase Martin (Hus)4. John Hix (KTM) 5. Austin Shroyer(KTM)

Senior A: 1. Gregg Elrod(Hus) 2. Timmy Ppoole(Kaw) 3. David Dunnuck(KTM) 4. Kenny Moore(Yam) 5. Jeff Griffin (KTM)

SuperSeniorA: 1. Eric Gill (KTM) 2. Mark Guy (Yam) 3. Kent Stanley (KTM) 4. Doug Lenth (KTM)

250B: 1. Blake Ricketts (Yam) 2. James Dicuss(KTM) 3. Mike More (Yam) 4. Chris Mayfield (KTM) 5. Blake Diesser(Yam)

Light B: 1. Taylor Downs (Yam) 2. Tyler Harris (KTM) 3. Jake Froman (KTM) 4. Lee Yarboro (KTM) 5. Ezra Hickerson (Suz)

4 Stroke B: 1. Drexel Payne (Yam) 2. Nick Bryant (Hon) 3. Matt Calhoon (Kaw) 4. Braxton Dallas (Yam) 5. Richard Modlin (Kaw)

Open B: 1. Austin Toon (KTM) 2. Justin Riley (Yam) 3. Brandon Rinch (KTM) 4. Kurt Moore (KTM) 5. Caid Griffin (KTM)

Vet B: 1. Dale Duke (KTM) 2. Kevin McClain (KTM) 3. Brian Peck (KTM) 4. Dusitn Arant (KTM) 5. P.J. Short (Suz)

Senior B: 1. Gregg Rumery (Yam) 2. Todd Elrod (KTM) 3. Chance Blackwell (KTM) 4. Kelley McDonald (KTM) 5. John McMahan (kaw)

Masters: 1. Robert Kirchner (KTM) 2. Robert Ellis (KTM) 3. Jim Sorrels (KTM) 4. Gary Copeland (KTM) 5. Alan Staples (Ron Nelson (Hon)

Super Senior B: 1. Gregg Tucker (KTM) 2. Dillon Pirtle (Yam) 3. Dan Newcomb (Kaw)

Golden Masters : 1. Paul Michaels(KTM) 2. Tom Carter (KTM) 3. Robert Berg Sr. (KTM) 4. Don Rye (Hon) 5. Clyde Modlin (KTM)

250 C: 1. Shane Free (Yam) 2. Lee Sumner (KTM) 3. Jacob Oliver (Kaw) 4. Zachary Downs (KTM) 5. Daniel Arant (Hon)

200C: 1. Dalton Cross (KTM) 2. Jesse Sorrels (Hon) 3. Gabr Garrett (KTM) 4. Anthony Ferguson (Suz) 5. Reggie Wulff(Yam)

300 4 Stroke C: 1. Logan Ppool (KTM) 2. Bronson Childs (Kaw) 3. Austin Brasher (Hon) 4. Rex Nuhring (Yam) 5. Cory Daily (Yam)

Open 4 Stroke C: 1. Brad Jagers (KTM) 2. Jason Hoskins (Yam) 3. Cody Dile (KTM) 4. Jeffery Barnett (Landon Hogue (Hon) 5. Dwane Lane (Hon)

Vet C: 1. Heath Robnson (Yam) 2. Kevin Murphy (Suz) 3. Chris Webb (Yam) 4. Kent McReynolds (Yam) 5. Jody Tittle (Hon)

Senior C: 1. John Duke (Kaw) 2. Larry Smith (Kaw) 3. Junior Griffith (Kaw) 4. Brian Hayes (KTM) 5. Rich Suss (Hon)

Super Senior C: 1. Clinton Clark (Yam) 2. Thomas Higdon (Yam) 3. Jeff Curtis (KTM) 4. David Williams (KTM) 5. Kerry Wolfe (KTM)

Junior MC: 1. Thomas Young (Hon) 2. Matthew Lynn(KTM) 3. Ethan Sutter (Kaw) 4. Franklin Hughes (KTM) 5. Randy Hughes (Hon)

Beginner MC: 1. Jake Reynolds (Kaw) 2. Alex Dile (Hon) 3. Thomas Crank Jr. (Hon) 4. Michael Moreland (KTM)