

# **Trick Or Treat at the MSXC Copperhead Run**

**By: Sandy Carter**

**Photos: Sandy Carter**

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**Salem, KY**

The name Salem brings up thoughts of witchcraft, spooky goblins and Halloween Trick's or Treat's. The Western part of Kentucky, a paradise for off road riding, was the home of the 4th round of the 2010-2011 *MSXC Pirelli, Maxxis, and Answer, MSR Mid South Cross Country*. Salem, KY has long been the site of The Copperhead Run Off-road area and over the years improvements brought about have been impressive. Steve Ezell, *ProAction KTM of Crofton, KY* and crew did not disappoint and the nine mile course gave something challenging for everyone. The heavy rains and accompanying storms the past week partially settled the dusty conditions, making the trails the perfect dirt surface with a few rocks & roots thrown in to make it interesting.

There were 370 riders at the Copperhead and as the flag dropped, lead motorcycle rider, Shane O'Banion, got the hole shot. After a sharp right turn into the woods, Shane was followed by Dustin Gibson, Tanner Byerly, Damon Prince all chasing # 837 that was Shane O'. But later the gremlins had plans for Shane O'.

There was a haunting on this Halloween that the "AA" riders were unaware of. The group of 6 that was Heavy "A" may have been eating their dust but beginning from dead last in this group, Zac Nash on his #45 *Performance Supercycle KTM* of Cookeville, TN literally flew for the rest of the race and won not only his class but for the first time was the winner Overall. Zac said that he had a horrible start at dead last. That was an understatement.



He advanced quickly through the pack and was able to pull a good lead in Heavy A at the end of the first lap. He then began trading positions back and forth with 2010 Mid South #1 Dustin Gibson. The cloud of dust that they began in ran into trail that was a nice mix of tight and technical and smooth flowing woods. The KTM was running flawlessly providing Zac a good ride. Confident, Zac went for the Overall and was rewarded with the win. Zac is truly thankful for his family's support; Performance Supercycles, MooseRacing, FMF, Motorex, IMS, Twin Air, Boysen and EVS for their help and support. On this day, the trail was the treat for Zac. He has traveled a long way from his first MSXC (also known as Mid South Winter Series) Youth race 10 years ago on a 60cc. It sure felt great for

Zac!



There were plenty of tricks for riders and one unfortunately for Shane O' and other riders that took a wrong direction and cut minutes by inadvertently getting off course. Several were penalized losing a lap. This penalty knocked Shane from the top twenty five. It was a Halloween trick for sure and one not well received!

The Middle Tennessee area has provided many competitors to the International Six Days Enduro. This year, Jeremy Ketchum qualified for his 4<sup>th</sup> ISDE. New Zealand in 2006 was his last experience. This year he is ISDE Team USA's club rider #759 in Morelia, Mexico for the 85<sup>th</sup> running of the

ISDE November 1-6.



The ISDE is not a race in the hare scramble way of thinking. This is an endurance race like no other. Each rider starts on a particular start minute. Timing is a factor in scoring. This is a course that averages 150+ miles in length each day with all kinds of terrain. There are stops or checks along the way for maintenance & much needed food and water. Arriving too soon through a check or going late through a check point will have lost points. All maintenance is the responsibility of the rider alone. Only fuel or oil changes can be done by another person and water & food can be handed to the rider. People at a check can not touch the bike or the course marshal will deduct points from the riders score. This goes on for six days, 8 hours or so a day, with the final day being a motocross. These are some of the best riders in the world. Jeremy is one of those riders.

Jeffery Ketchum, another great rider from this area and Jeremy's brother is Jeremy's pit crew. Jeffery can hand Jeremy tools, tires and whatever mechanical parts he needs but Jeffery can only fuel the tank or change the oil. He never touches the bike. Jeffery has the very difficult job chasing

Jeremy check to check, carrying extra tools, lubes and spare parts. This year the elevation is high, 6,000 feet in a mountainous terrain rising from approximately 2,500 feet in the town. Jetting will be a serious issue here!



Ketchum is one of the founding names in the Mid South Cross Country Series formerly known as the Mid South Winter Series. Jeremy and Jeffery's parents, Jerry and Trish, were instrumental in founding of the Youth Mid South Series. Many youth riders have begun their careers on minis, becoming professional riders and holding respectable careers in the motorcycle industry. Jeremy is the area representative for KTM North America. Let's just say Jeremy, Jeffery and the whole Ketchum family "bleed orange". Trish said, "We are so proud of both our boys and what they have accomplished." Jerry and Trish also graciously offered comments concerning Mid South Cross Country series, a series where they have been one of the founding elements, the youth series.

"The Mid South Series has been an important part of our lives for many years. First and foremost are the wonderful folks that we have met and the friendships that we have developed. Both of our boys have been involved and we have had the pleasure of watching the series grow. Racing is much like your day to day life. You have to prepare yourself mentally and physically for the obstacles that lie ahead. There are times of joy and times of great disappointment. We believe the Mid South Series and racing in general is a great way to involve yourself with your children and meet great people"

Racing motorcycles isn't always about the winners, it's about the riders.

The ISDE is one of the greatest motorcycle shows on earth, the Olympics of Motorcycling. Live scoring is at [www.isde-live.info](http://www.isde-live.info) . Information is at [www.isde2010.com](http://www.isde2010.com)

For information on MSXC go to [www.msxc racing.com](http://www.msxc racing.com)

## **RESULTS**

Overall: 1. Zach Nash (KTM) 2. Dustin Gibson (KTM) 3. Darin Downs (KTM) 4. Damon Prince (KTM) 5. Brandon Ferguson (KTM)

Heavy A: 1. Zach Nash (KTM) 2. Brandon Ferguson (KTM) 3. Beau Nicewinter (Yam) 4. Boc Gourley(KTM) 5. Dexter Colvin

Light A : 1. Jase Martin(Hus) 2. Ryan Morphew(KTM) 3. John Hix(KTM)

Vet A : 1. Jeff Cowan (Yam) 2. Brandon Wofford(KTM) 3. Scott Kirchoff(Yam) 4. Mark Jones(KTM) 5. Jeff Green(Yam)

Senior A : 1. Gregg Elrod(Hus) 2. Timmy Ppoole (KTM) 3. Codie Crane(Kaw) 4. Jeff Griffin (KTM) 5. Tommy Pierce (Hon)

Super Senior A: 1. Eric Gill(KTM) 2. Mark Wood (Hon) 3. Kent Stanley(Hon) 4. Charles Cunningham(KTM) 5. Mark Guy(Yam)

250 B: 1. James Dicus(KTM) 2. Blake Diesser (Yam) 3. Chris Mayfield(KTM) 4. Blake Rickettes(Yam)

Light B: 1. Taylor Downs (Yam) 2. Tanner McCoy(KTM) 3. Jake Froman(KTM) 4. Tyler Schumate(Yam) 5. Wes Thompson( Kaw)

4 Stroke B: 1. Dallas Braxton (Yam) 2. Nick Bryant (KTM) 3. Matt Calhoon (Kaw) 4. Drexell Payne (Hon) 5. Blake Redferrin (Yam)

Open B: 1. Austin Toon (KTM) 2. Justin Riley(Yam) 3. Brandon Rinsch (KTM) 4. Justin Fortner(Suz) 5. Cody Rinsch(KTM)

Vet B: 1. Kevin McClain(KTM) 2. Brian Peck(KTM) 3. Greg Childers(KTM) 4. Shane Garner (Suz) 5. James Cochran(KTM)

Senior B: 1. Kelly McDonalad (KTM) 2. Scott Crick(Kaw) 3. Greg Rumery(Yam) 4. Dennis Holden (KTM) 5. Glenn Ferguson (Yam)

Super Senior B: 1. Chris Sumner (Hon) 2. Greg Tucker (KTM) 3. Dillon Pirtle (Yam) 4. Rick Peeler(KTM) 5. John Sommer (KTM)

Masters: 1. Robert Ellis (KTM) 2. Steven Lambruno(KTM) 3. Jim Sorrels (KTM) 4. Alan Staples (Yam) 5. Ron Nelson(Kaw)

Super Senior B; 1. Chris Summer (Hon) 2. Greg Tucker (KTM) 3. Dillon Pirtle (Yam) 4. Rick Peeler (KTM) 5. John Sommer (KTM)

Golden Masters: 1. Marvin Popp(KTM) 2. Tom Carter (KTM) 3. Don Rye (Hon) 4. Robert Berg Sr. (KTM)

250 C: 1. Lee Sumner (KTM) 2. Daniel Burke (KTM) 3. Shane Free (Yam) 4. Ronald Bordner(KTM) 5. Dew Gowan(Yam)

200 C: 1. Dalton Cross (KTM) 2. Jesse Sorrells (Hon) 3. Gabe Garrett (KTM) 4. Patrick Tiesler (Yam) 5. Reggie Wulff (Yam)

300 4-Stroke C: 1. Logan Ppoole (KTM) 2. Bronson Childs (Kaw) 3. Ryan Watson(KTM) 4. Jeffery Barnett (Kaw) 5. Breyer Modlin(Kaw)

Open 4-Stroke C: 1. Cody Dial(KTM) 2. Jason Hoskins (Yam) 3. Justin Miller (KTM) 4. Sam Weisman(Yam) 5. Brian Strickland (KTM)

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

Senior C: 1. John Duke (Kaw) 2. Brian Haynes (KTM) 3. Robert Gourley (Suz) 4. Junior Griffith (Hon) 5. Larry Smith (Kaw)

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

Junior MC: 1. Thomas Young (Hon)

Beginner MC: 1. Duane Lane (Hon) 2. Robert Berg (Yam) 3. Sean Willis (Hon) 4. Justin Graves (Hon) 5. Justin Graves (Hon)