

## ***STEVE LEIVAN ~ 2014 Race Report***

**Event:** Missouri Hare Scrambles - Richland MO - April 13

**Bike:** 2013 KTM 250 XC

**Result:** OVERALL WINNER

**Race Info:** With my 2014 race schedule packed quite tightly with the National Enduro and OMA Nationals - as well as the promotion of the MORE series and The Off Road Cup - vacant weekends are rare. But this one worked out and I decided to hit up the MHSC round, at a new venue.

I walked the track on Saturday, found some good lines, and soaked up the sun. I thought 60% of the track was good and "racey" and was going to cut up while the other 40% was the no-flow, tight, off camber, limited passing stuff that I do not care for. That section dictated my race strategy for Sunday.

We rode to the starting line with a light rain falling meaning the track would be slippery and a good start would be key to keeping clean vision. I started in fourth, worked my way into third pretty much immediately, and then up to second near the one mile mark. I tried to stay off of Jonathan Lems rear wheel to stay out of the roost and allow my goggles to last as long as possible. The grass track at the end of the lap offered a passing opportunity, so I swept around the outside of Lems and into the lead just before the scoring chute.

The next three laps were spent working through lapped traffic and keeping mistakes to a minimum while trying to manage the race. Some places there were simply NO passing options, so I wanted to be at the front to ensure that no one was able to time the traffic perfectly and get away from the rest of us. Things worked mostly according to plan and I was able to stay at the front of the pack with a smooth pit stop for fuel and clean X Brand goggles.

With a lap and a half to go, I had the opportunity to make a push when I got through traffic quickly - and before the "no passing possible" area. I decided to 'go" and I was able to open a 20 second gap on the rest of the pack. The last lap was smooth and solid and I crossed the checkered flag with 25 seconds to spare. It was awesome to get an overall victory again and a huge reward to feel fit and strong and like the Steve Leivan from the past. More to come.

Results: 1. LEIVAN (KTM); 2. Neill (Kaw); 3, Lems (Yam)

***THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!***

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