

STEVE LEIVAN ~ 2014 Race Report

Event: Round 9 Missouri Hare Scrambles - Bolivar, MO - September 7

Bike: KTM 250 XC

Result: 3rd Overall

From my calculations, it had been since sometime in March since I had spent a Saturday at home. I had 27 projects that I hoped to complete over the "off" weekend, but by 4:00 Saturday afternoon Dad and I were discussing the plans for Sunday and we decided to go to the hare scrambles about 65 miles from home. I began thrashing to get my practice bike race ready and by dark the van was loaded and semi-ready.

While the conditions and temperature were good - no dust and no mud - I wasn't at all pumped with the terrain. It was mostly slippery flat rock with limited traction and not many passing opportunities. Not my kind of track at all.

I got a good start and rode the opening grass track pretty well to enter the woods in second. Once in the trees though, I wasn't comfortable pushing the limit and settled into my "happy pace". I battled throughout the race with Andrew Smith and he seemed more at home in the slick stuff so I felt like I was holding him up. But the times when he was in front of me, I was able to match his pace, so maybe our speeds were similar....

The lap I was planning to pit, I made a bit of a push but I paid for it when I lost the front end and crashed. Smith got back around and I had to really ride hard to catch back up. We reeled in Jase Martin (the leader) but that was mostly during the pit stop.

With two laps to go, I was in third and 45 seconds behind Martin who was leading. I got around Smith in the pits and cut 20 seconds out of Martins' lead on lap six and thought I might be able to make something happen. But I pushed past my comfort zone and finally, nearly crashed and had to back off to collect myself and Smith got back around (without much fight from me).

I was better in the last mile and was able to reel in Smith again but he beat me by a second and Martin held on to beat me by 12 seconds. In the end it was close and parts of the "racing" were fun, but I'm pretty much over racing in the rocks for a while.

That is probably my last MHSC round of the year and the upside is that in four races, I finished on the box four times. So I know where I stand against the local competition.....still.

Up next is the Indiana NEPG on September 14 with very few rocks and hopefully some Velcro dirt!

Thanks for ALL of the Support! It means a TON!

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