

STEVE LEIVAN

2016 Race Report

Like most series this past year, it seems like TORO (Texas Offroad Racing Organization) has had their fair share of issues with the weather - mostly the large amounts of rain - but they have managed to get the races in and we are now 2/3rds of the way through the six round winter season.

Round 2 Marietta OK - 6th Pro/Overall: This track was really good I thought and the conditions were great. I got a good start behind Higgins and Wiesenfels which seemed like a good thing. But they were ready to go and things were happening pretty quick for me. I hung on to them as long as I could, but started to give way to the guys behind me. I finally settled into sixth on lap two and pretty much rode there by myself, for the remainder of the race. The last lap or so I was nursing a slipping clutch (caused by a leaking crank seal) but I managed to make it to the finish. Overall I felt like it was a decent ride, nothing spectacular but nothing horrible either.

Round 3 Callisburg TX - 7th Pro/Overall: This property is cool but unfortunately so as the weather. Practice was not much fun - very muddy and very cold - and I spent some time with jetting, trying to compensate. Race day was better but the track was pretty hacked up by the time we raced. I got a good start behind Kirkpatrick and Higgins but missed one of the alternate "blue lines" early on and lost a couple spots and then I got messed up where the course had been re-routed, when someone in front of me had blown through the ribbons. That put me further behind and I was riding alone the rest of the race. I felt like I was just going through the motions and not at all "in the zone". It was a very average day at best.

Round 4 Ft. Worth TX - 6th Pro/Overall: We were at Village Creek MX for a Sprint Enduro this time. Conditions were really good and we were back to 50 & 60 degree weather! The tests were fast and short which left no time to settle in. I was on my brand new bike (KTM 250 SX) so I was using the race to get things dialed in and get familiar with the SX version of what I've been riding for four years. I struggled in the grass track sections to find traction on the flat slick turns the first time through. I adjusted some of the hit out of the engine by tweaking on the power valve and lessened the rear air pressure (yeah - I used tubes for the first time in 25 years). It was better after that and my time improved. I felt pretty good in the moto-style test and I was able to hit all the big jumps (despite not doing them until the final 10 minutes of practice). I rode solid and consistent pretty much all day with no really big mistakes. That's the name of the game in a Sprint race.

Now we are off to the opening round of the National Enduro series in Sumter, South Carolina on February 7th. I always have liked this race and I'm looking forward to getting the regular season underway. Thank you again for all of the support!