

Dissell, Hall, Ward Stomp Fox Valley Off Road Gran Prix!

April 15th, 2012 Fox Valley Off Road.

By trackman [photos by Don McDonald](#) Click!

The first event for Fox Valley Off Road this season was a switch from the normal Hare Scrambles, changing to a GP to get the competitive juices flowing seemed to be the way to kick it off. The light winter and early nice weather had riders chomping at the bit to get out and compete. This April day didn't disappoint anyone. Over a 130 riders trusted the weather reports and park conditions and was greeted with wet and some what muddy conditions which would turn out as the day wore on to be prime if not "perfect" conditions. We complain about mother nature many times but this time she did ok.

GP racing has now started to become a who's who when it comes to the kind of riders who show up. Long motos, short day, long laps and limited classes are the order of the day. Enduro, HS, MX, SX and even HC riders were represented today. A, B, C didn't matter, you put on your helmet, snapped your boots, and went to the line.

First race of the day, 122-250 class, Daniel Janus (#27) a well known and accomplished 6 days/ Enduro type rider was competing head to head with Colton Beard (#49) a B class MX kid who is making his way up the ladder. Throw in the mix Alec Perry, Travis Ward a couple of kids who are new to the A class in HS and the rest of the 30 some rider field no you have a competitive moto!



Colton holed the first moto on his RCR Kawasaki, Daniel Janus on his Halls Cycles Husqvarna, was on his rear fender. Over 15 minutes into the moto, they are neck and neck. Neither giving an inch. A small crowd start to gather by the finish line area as they realize there is something special going on. Little did they know it was going to be like this all day long! Colton held on to the lead and won the moto, Daniel was less then a second back. 3rd place went to a charging Travis Ward (# 131) who came from behind a bunch of riders for third. Alec Perry gathered up fourth and pretty much handed Ward the 3rd as he had a mechanical issue which slowed his progress to the front.

doggin the leader lap after lap. Colton the hero in moto one, had an less then stellar start and had to play catch up. He was practically last off the line this go around. Daniel was in the hunt but a little off the pace. 20 minutes go by and Ward still leads with Perry trying desperately to get around. Colton comes from last (over 30 riders) to 5th! Daniel finishes 3rd. All this was in one class, three types of racers vying for top honors in the 250 class.

122-450 class didn't disappoint the now very interested crowd who are talking about how well the young guns are doing. Enter in Matt Dissell (90)a very accomplished off road racer and a kid who grew up at a riding park was on the gas. Having to contend with Alec Perry (124) and Travis Ward in this class also as the two kids rode their 250's in the big bore class. Ward won moto one with Dissell pushing him all the way to the checkers. Perry had a ring side seat and waited for a mistake that never came. Moto 2 saw Dissell rocket out into the lead with Perry being in the stalking mode, Ward was off pace about 15 seconds and never got into the hunt.

Spencer Burke rode hard to finish 4th, he was close the whole race just didn't get into the fray.



45 plus class seen a couple of older distinguished HS riders give a good stompin on a couple long time moto heads. Jay Hall (650) (Hall's Cycle Fame and AMA Outstanding Off Road Rider of the Year) along with Kenny Otterbach decided to show Orville Kline and Gerhard Ward that they could run the faster GP pace and keep it real. Hall came from mediocre starts to get into the lead and Ward followed in the first moto. The duo put a good gap on the pack of over 20 some "old guys". Ward stalled his Service Honda A/F 500 on lap three and Hall won going away. Otterbach finished in 3rd after a stall of his own in rock creek. Orville Kline took 6th as Jim Perry snuck in the top 5. Second moto, Hall had a similar start, Ward watched the field take off as his machine decided "not now". Otterbach and Kline battled for 2nd and Perry was

in the fray as well. In the end Hall, (now winning two GP's) redeemed his crash infested and getting hurt last fall's GP with a very solid win. Otterbach rode hard and took the second while Ward ran out of time and eeked out a 3rd. Kline and Perry rounded out the top 5.

Other notable rides and this is not all of them but the ones this writer seen. Tim Damron, after a long hiatus from mx racing, had a great ride to win the 30+ class as he had a great battle with Daniel Janus. Mason Schuhler rocked on his 85cc machine with a solid win in the 85cc class, Dylan Boyd and Matt McDonald did a great job and was on the podium. 2 Hs riders and a Mx kid in that group.

Garrett Ward, Thor Rick and Eli Otterbach podiumed the 65cc class. Thor and Garrett battled both motos. Excellent competitive action with these two "non teenagers".

Throw in thumper, 14-29, Vintage, and Women's classes and it turned out to be a fun day of racing. Gran Prix racing, is going to be a nice change to the many things one can do on a motorcycle. Fox Valley Off Road is a part of that series along with many other tracks and clubs in District 17. Nothing more enjoyable then a good smooth race day, excellent conditions, and just having a lot of fun.

