

# Bollinger, Pearson, Schuhler Stomp Fox Valley Off Road's Hare Scramble.

5-6-2012 Story by trackman photos by Jen Wamhoff and Don McDonald.

Cody Bollinger simply road an excellent race and later on this story will describe his domination. The day starts out peaceful, dry, and the rain is to hold off til 5pm. With the addition of a new finish line log (34") with little to no dirt ramp made it a real technical part of the course. All the hills in, off cambers, and some real challenging trail was to be a great race day..... 5pm came early.



They Super mini's, 85cc and 65cc were lined up and ready. The 65 beginner class rolled off the line on time this day, they found a nice trail ready for some serious racing. Jay Pelka holedhot and had Blake Phelps hot on his heels, with an inside move Blake passed Jay and the race was on! Phelps won, and a mere 4 seconds later Pelka came across the line. Zach Green on his Fox Valley Cycles Honda third and Micah Allman and Conner Mabus filled the top 5.

Mason Schuhler (301), Blake Ryan, and Matt McDonald had a good battle early, all attempting and conquering the new finish line log. Mason gradually pulled away with the win in the 85cc class, Matt won the super mini class. Blake pushed hard for a 2nd in 85cc and Doug Propper Jr. took third. Jacob McCarrens rode hard for a distant 4th. 65cc class was won by RCR's Garrett Ward, Eli Otterbach, and Autumn Torres completing the podium spots.

Is it 5pm yet? Gratefully the 50cc, 65cc and all youth classes are done early in the morning at these races. Some where around 10:15am a clap of thunder was heard in the distance. In race stories one normally states "it was nice, or wet" etc. Today the story is how much of an affect the weather had on the event and how he riders stayed, endured, and conquered.

Next up, 50+A, B class all the C classes Women, Thumper, Vintage. That often heard adage, "8500.00 dollar race bike, I am not getting it muddy." Well that isn't heard in Hare Scramble racing. The old guys are lined up and those big drops start to pop. You know the ones, the ones that if hit by about three you are completely soaked. Riders meeting consisted of "who hasn't been here before"? The reply was "LETS GO!". The flag is unfurled and off they went. Line after line. We get to the Women's



Line and it's hardly visible as those big drops of rain have become a river and downpour. About a half of lap was dry and then it became greasy, snotty clay and dirt/mud combination. The hills we ok for about the first 10 riders, the other 67 riders well.....it became a parking lot. Bench pressing a motorcycle isn't fun, in this type of racing it is about conquering the course as much as beating the guy next to them. 77 riders left the line 62 at least made a lap in what can be described as nasty miserable wet muddy mess!

qualified riders were led around by the mud master Joe Pearson(650). He led lap after lap not hesitating on the hills, nor slowing down. Wally Mika one of the most dominate riders of our time, 59 year young couldn't match Joe's speed. Right in the mix, a vintage rider. Yes, the bike must have "one drum brake" took third overall in this morning race. The course was changed during the race so the majority of the riders could get in their laps. Two hills and about 1/2 to 3/4 mile was taken out. The race was called at the hour mark, some very tired and wore out riders exited the course. Big smiles, and things to talk about for days to come.

Other huge notes. RCR's own Nick Blacklaw (640) took 7th overall in the morning race, yes you read that correctly. Air cooled 140cc play bike, beat to the checkers 55 other machines this day. Of course he won his class. Nick also rode the afternoon race in the B class! 2.5 hours or determination right there.

Mud is always called the great equalizer. Well today's little jaunt in the woods sure makes that statement ring loud and clear.

Last but certainly not least. Cody Bollinger (27). Today he simply dominated. The morning big bike riders endured pouring rain, super slick hills, and Cody started the afternoon race with no rain but all the presents a hour race has to offer prior to his. Ruts axle deep, not one spot on the course dry, or at even times hard to follow. Hills all chewed up, roots exposed, the word nasty comes into play again. It was clear today this young man has done his home work and was going for "extra credit" today. Cody dominated so much that he only didn't lap Alec Perry, and Ryan Moss. Alec is another hot shot coming up in the ranks and Ryan is an older almost 40 experienced and groomed AA rider. Travis Ward was the last rider to be lapped by Cody only to "un-lap" himself at the finish line. Lapping practically the entire group, all of which are either AA, A, or B riders, that's some real statement making racing. 45 riders started this afternoon big bike race, 1.5 hours later 37 rode enough to get a finish. Iron man award goes this day to Matt Dissell, with a shoulder that keeps popping out he endured the race event stopping a few times to "pop it back in". Determination second to none right there.



At the end of the day there were some tired and muddy riders sitting back and discussing the course. The "Big" finish line log seen only a few attempt it. The conditions made that skeptical at best.

Other notable happenings of the day, the race kids. After a full hour or so of racing on the early morning dry course, they sure weren't going to let all the old people have all the fun. Mud fights, mud pies, muddy shoes and huge grins made this race day for them some real fun! This photo below are local kids who all race on time or another decided to sit still long enough for Jen to get a good shot. What does racing off road mean to these guys??? Fun.



Don't forget the next Hare Scramble event is June 24th, and it won't rain til 5pm! As Ryan Moss stated this is "promoter speak".