

## NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES

by: Meghan Rauba

Photography by Chris McQuillen, Kaycee Tashjian, and Nate Rauba

Round 1, Glen Helen, 1/16/11

It's a new year for new competition, new rivalries, and new champions in the American Retrocross Series to be crowned. The 2010 season was a battle to the finish and this season is shaping up to be no different. Race one on the modified REM track at Glen Helen proved that the number one spot won't be easy to obtain.



The first race was a precursor to the rest of the day's racing. Filled with intense battles and close finishes, the Pre-72/75 class proved that the 50+ boys still have what it takes to put on a thrilling race. In moto one, Bill Hagen pulled the holeshot and pulled away from Vinnie Dipadova and the rest of the pack by lap two. William Lutes managed to squeeze by Craig Parkinson on lap two and Parkinson, Lutes, and John Forsythe kept each other in sight from lap three to the end of the race. Hagen was able to pull another holeshot in moto two and pulled away leaving John Wells and Parkinson to battle it out for second and third. At the end of the first lap, Forsythe had his eye on Parkinson until he stalled and was unable to finish the race. Mark Reeder applied pressure on Wells

on lap three and was able to pull off a pass by the end of the lap. Lutes battled Lloyd Boland on the last lap all the way up until the finish but Boland was able to hold him off.

Race two started with a bang as Bret Bonham stole the holeshot and led all the way to the finish. Ed Tashjian jammed to second and was closing on Bonham when he over-jumped the finishline tabletop and shot off the track as the white flag flew. Tashjian charged on the last lap and nearly caught Bonham, who took the narrow win.



Bonham holeshot moto two and was followed closely by Tashjian. This time Tashjian pulled a pass on Bonham off the downhill jump on the first lap and by the end of the lap, Bonham was passed yet again by JC Baccus. Tashjian, Baccus and Bonham stayed close on lap two and Baccus was able to pass Tashjian by lap three. gate two in moto one had John Grudynski take the holeshot with Tom Moody and Tony Perry hot on his tracks. By lap two Moody dropped back to the fifth position while Perry, Steven Voznick, and Hal Voznick moved up to the second, third, and fourth positions. Grudynski, Perry and Voznick were able to hold their positions until the end of the race.

The modern riders in race three had a hard time keeping up with Brian "Cat-man" Catterson. In moto one Catterson pulled away from Broc Bonham, myself and Scott Kosmal. I went off the track and fell over at one point and gave up my position to Kosmal. In moto two Catterson once again pulled away from Bonham while Kosmal and I both sat at the starting gate when we both stalled. Kosmal beat me off the line and was able to hold third position. Catterson said he was conserving energy in this moto which allowed Bonham to stay close throughout the race.



Race four had some fierce battles throughout both motos. In moto one, Michael Johnstone took the holeshot with John Grudynski and John Hart hot on his tail. Hart wasted no time and quickly made a pass on Grudynski. By lap two Johnstone created a gap between himself and Hart. Stan Speck and Lloyd Boland battled with Speck making the pass and William Lutes made sure to keep Kevin Lewis in his sights. On lap three, Hart caught up to Johnstone and Boland was able to take back his position from Speck.

In moto two, Johnstone once again was able to take the holeshot but was passed by Speck before the end of the lap. On lap three, Johnstone felt the pressure from Hart while Lutes, Frank Maney, and Steve Gallegos stayed close to each other. By lap four, Hart and Johnstone were able to catch up to Speck but were unable to make a pass by the end of the moto.



The EVO riders in race five battled throughout the race. In moto one, Baccus stole the holeshot but his fellow riders didn't let him off too easy. At the end of the moto, Baccus, Bill Hagen and Rick Doughty competed in a fierce battle with Hagen pulling a pass on Baccus and winning the moto. In gate two, Tom Moody got the holeshot while Tom Chavez was able to pass Garrett Covington for the fifth position. On lap two, Steven Voznick was able to get by Hal Voznick while Chavez challenged Moody for the second spot.

Moto two for gate one was pretty calm with Baccus taking the holeshot with Hagen and Tom Barnett staying close behind and finishing in the same order. Moody took the holeshot for gate two but only kept his lead for one lap as Grudynski made a pass by the second lap. Grudynski fell during the lap giving Chavez, Moody, and Sargent a chance at the lead. Sargent made a pass on Chavez and took first and held it until the end of the moto. Chavez took second place and Voznick took third.



Modern and decade riders came out in race six and provided each other with tough competition. In moto one, Gary Dillard pulled a holeshot over the race three dominator Catterson with Broc Bonham in a close third. Dillard kept his lead until Catterson makes a pass at the end of the downhill, pushing Dillard back to second. By lap four, Catterson began to pull away from the pack while a father-son battle stirred for the third position. Bret Bonham battled his son Broc until the end of the race but was unable to make the pass on the modern KX450F with his '81 Maico.



Dillard came out with the holeshot again in moto two with Catterson in the number two position while the Bonham family battle brewed behind him for the third spot. Broc was able to pass his dad Bret and move up to the third spot. Dillard enjoyed his lead through lap two with Catterson close behind -- close enough to smell something amiss with Dillard's bike. The funny smell was Dillard's bike about to sieze, which put him out of the race at the bottom of the finishline table. Catterson took over the lead with Bret and Broc close behind. On lap three, Broc stalled and dropped behind his dad, but by lap four Broc was able to catch back up and pass both Grant Tucker and his dad Bret to move himself up to the second spot. Unfortunately, in the last turn, Broc stalled the bike again allowing Tucker, Bret and Brian Winter to pass. Once again, the "Cat-man" came out on top adding moto six to his bag of victories.



The season is off to an interesting start. Make sure to come to race two on February 13th at Glen Helen!