

2008 Central Regional Recap

By David A. Black

The 2008 Central Regional Trials Championship series has concluded and put a exclamation mark on the end of another fantastic year of Observed Trials competition. This series which consists of events in Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, originated in the early 1980's and is a very popular venue due to the fact that it provides riders of all skill levels with the opportunity to ride, compete, and generally interact with people outside their home clubs. The emphasis of this series is placed on fun with each venue providing a Saturday evening dinner. The dinner is usually followed by everything from bonfires and videos on the back of Dale Malasek's RV to football and pogo stick competitions. Here is a personal recap of this year's series.

The Quarry Cup is hosted by the Mid America Trials Team at Trenton, Missouri and is said to be the longest running 2- day Trials event in the country with 35 consecutive years. The name of the event is fitting as the terrain is basically the remains of a rock / gravel quarry. In fact you have to drive through the active quarry to get to the event. The weather this year was perfect. So where did all that mud come from? Yep, once again the Quarry Cup proved to be a mud rider's delight. The Novice class had five people sign up to enter the series. Lane Gray and Tammy Cook each took home a first and second in regards to series points proving that someone was going to have to work for this year's Novice title. The Amateur class had another Gray / Cook battle, but this time Seth Gray would take the first place points both days leaving Ken Cook with a little work ahead of him. Sr. Amateur had Ian Griffin leave Missouri with the points lead followed closely by David Nuessen. In the afternoon classes Josh Nutsch showed that he is taking no prisoners as he left the event with first place points for both days. Sr. Expert was also won in convincing fashion by Alan Guyot. The Expert class looked like a real dogfight might ensue between Rick Land, Jake Weiland and, (myself), David Black. The Master class had Jason Carpenter take the win both days to jump out to an early lead.

Two weeks later the series went to the Red River Riding Area in North Texas. This is the home of the "Last Man Standing" enduro, and a semi-public riding area. I missed this event so I will have to report via the results and conversation I had with those that made the event. This riding park is very large, and the NTTA used some new areas for this year's event. The loop was approximately 6 miles long and very interesting at times for the riders. The weather at this event varies from "hot" to "not as hot as last year". This year was a "Not as hot as last year" event. The park is not closed to members for the trials event so sharing the loop with the four wheelers and recreational riders also provided the Trials competitors with some challenge. The Novice class once again had Tammy Cook and Lane Gray trading wins and pushing their battle on to Oklahoma. The Amateur class picked up another competitor which made for some interesting events. Ken Cook took the first place points both days while Phillip Ramirez and Seth Gray traded second and third. In the Sr. Amateur class Texan Tony Wedgeworth would enter the series and Kansan Gary Wing stepped up his game leaving this class wide open going into Oklahoma. Josh Nutsch was a no show

at Texas so Keith Lewis and Ken Brown capitalized on the opportunity and each scored some valuable points in the series. Alan Guyot took a commanding series lead in the Sr. Expert class with two more wins. None of the series Expert competitors' made it to the event. The Master class took an interesting turn with Josiah, Caleb, and David Mizell all three entering the Master class. Josiah and Caleb traded wins and David brought home third both days.

The Octobertest has become a premier event, not only because of the area, but it also is a great chance for the importers to introduce any new models that may be available. This year Gas Gas and Sherco were on hand with 09' bikes available for test rides. This event also brings in some top Pro riders with a cash paying purse for the top three places. The weather was perfect and the fall colors made this a truly scenic and memorable event. The Pro class consisted of Patrick Smage, Josiah and Caleb Mizell. These riders contested two exhibition sections Saturday evening followed by a fish fry hosted by the Disney, OK Chamber of Commerce. This event is held at a public OHV park just below the Dam at Grand Lake. The OHV park is not closed for the event so competitors once again experienced the challenge of sharing the loop with four wheelers and rock crawlers. As for the series competition we now know who is entered in the series so this is where things really start to take shape. In the Novice class Tammy Cook jumped out front with two wins with Lane Gray taking second both days. The Amateur class saw Ken Cook take a first and second while Seth Gray took a third and first. Sr. Amateur had Gary Wing and Tony Wedgeworth trade wind making this a three way battle for the lead going to Kansas. Josh Nutsch returned to the Intermediate class and resumed his quest by winning both days. The battle in this class seemed to be for second between Keith Lewis, Aaron Cox and David Pettegrew. Alan Guyot and David Alley traded first place points in the Sr. Expert class. The Expert class was basically handed to me, (David Black), when Rick Land was absent and Jake Weiland only made it to the Saturday event. The Master Class took shape with four way battle between the Mizell brothers and Jason Carpenter setting the stage for a showdown in Kansas. Patrick Smage put on a great show only dropping two points the entire weekend. He rode a 2-stroke on Saturday and 4-stroke on Sunday and was simply amazing.

The Ark Valley Trials Association hosts the final two rounds of the Central Regional's at the Flint Hills 2-Day in Douglass Kansas. It's a small abandoned rock quarry but they always manage to find a challenge for the competitors. The weather was sunshine and 80 degrees both days. This year six of the seven class titles would be decided by the last two rounds. In the Novice class Tammy Cook had to win one day. She did just that on Saturday, Lane Gray came back to win on Sunday. In the Amateur class Ken Cook squeaked out a narrow win both days for the title. Sr. Amateur had to be decided by a ride-off on Sunday. Tony Wedgeworth had to place second or higher to win the series. He tied with David Nuessen Sunday for second. The tie could not be broken using cleans, ones' ect., so we had to have them ride the intermediate line in section one to decide the series. Tony persevered and is the 2008 Sr. Amateur champion. Josh Nutsch just needed to maintain to win the Intermediate class and did so with two more wins. Alan Guyot brought in first place points two more times to

secure the Sr. Amateur title. All I had to do was finish to win the Expert class title and I did. Jake Weiland defeated me rather convincingly both days. The Master class looked to be a battle for two positions. Josiah and Caleb Mizell were fighting for the win while David Mizell and Jason Carpenter would battle for the final podium position. In the End Josiah Mizell would be crowned the 2008 Central Regional champion. Caleb Mizell was second and Jason Carpenter third.

It was another memorable and enjoyable Central Regional Series. Great weather, good food, and fantastic people graced us at every venue. Many thanks to all involved and hopefully we can pull this off again next year.

CRTC Final Standings.

Novice:

- 1.) Tammy Cook
- 2.) Lane Gray
- 3.) Greg Gann

Amateur:

- 1.) Ken Cook
- 2.) Seth Gray
- 3.) Phillip Ramirez

Sr. Amateur:

- 1.) Tony Wedgeworth
- 2.) Ian Griffin
- 3.) Gary Wing

Intermediate:

- 1.) Josh Nutsch
- 2.) Keith Lewis
- 3.) Aaron Cox

Sr. Expert:

- 1.) Alan Guyot
- 2.) David Alley
- 3.) Steve Nutsch

Expert:

- 1.) David Black
- 2.) Jake Weiland
- 3.) Dale Malasek

Master:

- 1.) Josiah Mizell
- 2.) Caleb Mizell
- 3.) Jason Carpenter
- 4.) David Mizell.