

Upah Racing

Race Report

By Adam Upah



UPAH CYCLE
REPAIR



GNCC Rd. #9: Snowshoe Snowshoe, WV June 27, 2009

Result: 13th of 18, Junior A (22+); 90th of 172 Overall



The Snowshoe GNCC was unlike any other race I have ever been too. Placed high up atop a mountain, the Snowshoe Ski Resort has a lot to offer. My father joined me for this race and as we arrived late Friday night, we weren't able to see much. However, when the sun rose Saturday morning the views from the mountain top were amazing.

After watching the morning race I knew this was going to be a brutal track. Quads after quads were being towed back to the pits. For the afternoon race though, a second ten mile loop was added to the course, so I really didn't know what to expect from that side of the mountain.

The start of this race was GP-style and right in the streets of the ski village, which was very interesting - especially for me. I had never really ridden an ATV on pavement before, and when I hit turn one - a hard 90 degree right hand - I was going just a bit too fast and was on the throttle a little too much. I checked up on the throttle a hair but by that time the back end had come around too far. When the tires finally did hook up the quad flipped and sent me flying too. I was able to get up and get back on rather quickly, but about a half mile into the course I realized that I had bent my steering stem quite badly and my custom dash plate was cutting into my IMS fuel tank. So I pulled over, grabbed a rock and was able to eventually beat the plate out of the way.



By this time I was stuck right in the middle of the B-class riders, so traffic was much heavier than usual with many more bottlenecks to deal with. This gave way to many new lines opening up but the mountain terrain also made it difficult to find lines around bottlenecks in some areas. I became hung up several times on that first lap and lost a lot of time. However, after I got a feel for and was able to calm down, the next three laps went much better. The second loop which was added for the afternoon was smoother than the first - not nearly as many tree ruts and mud holes. By the middle of lap 3 then I was feeling much better, but I was never able to make up the time I lost on that first lap. I took the checkered flag after 4 laps in 13th out of 18 riders in my class. Looking at lap times though, I think I could have easily been in the top ten had it not been for all of the mishaps on the first lap.

I'd also like to add that the bike is working awesome. The combination of the Precision Stabilizer and dual cushions on the Flexx bars (both added before this race) helped to reduce fatigue over the rough terrain. With some advice from the gentlemen at Fox Shox I've also got the suspension working much better now. The Traxx Performance sprocket and rotor guards also held up great over all of the rocks. A big thanks to these companies and to all of my other sponsors for all of your support this year!

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Luke #7

AI #452