

Upah Racing

Race Report

By Adam Upah



GNCC Rd. 2: Unadilla
New Berlin, NY Sept 12, 2009
Result: 15th of 33, Junior A (22+); 90th of 175 Overall



The 2010 year started out fairly rough for me in the GNCC series. Work was keeping me very busy during the winter and into the spring, leaving me scrambling to get things in order for racing. I missed the first GNCC round in Florida, but I was able to make it to the second round in Washington, GA. The weather was awesome—much nicer than in my home state of Ohio in early March. However, bad luck struck early for me that day. Entering turn one off of the start, another rider hit me from behind and our quads became locked together, putting both of us at the back of the pack. I was unable to recover from that, mostly due to my lack of physical conditioning, and finished 22nd of 33 riders.

Two weeks later I was in Morganton, NC for round 3, where I was hoping my luck would be a little better. I had a better start than at the previous round, but the track itself was very rough and brutal. Unfortunately, the abuse stopped halfway through lap 2 when my drive chain broke, resulting in a DNF.

Due to budget and time constraints, I had to skip round 4 in South Carolina. At the end of April I returned for round 5 at Loretta Lynn's ranch in Tennessee. The weather was *water*. Mud was everywhere, well before the start of the race. However, I looked at this as more of an opportunity as mud is a great equalizer. I had a decent start and came through inside the top ten of my class after lap one, but then disaster struck and I broke another drive chain on lap 2.

I take a lot of pride in keeping my quads well maintained, so it's with a bitter taste that I admit both break-ages were due to an assembly error on my part. Prior to these 2 incidents, I had never had a DNF before. I thought I had figured out the problem after the first incident, but obviously not. After the second, I did find the problem and fixed it.

Round 6 took me to Yadkinville, NC—my favorite venue from 2009. Weather conditions were quite



2010 Race Quad—'08 TRX450R

Upah Racing

Race Report

different from last year though—hot, dry, and very dusty. This made visibility very poor throughout much of the track. I had a great start, but killed my motor in the first woods section and fell to the back of my class. I worked my way back up to 15th on lap three, which is also



Hitting the infamous creek jump in Yadkinville

when my Camelbak went dry and the weather conditions led me to become very dehydrated. The last lap was a struggle, but I finally managed to finish (17th place) and get that monkey off my back, all the while staying on the lead lap.

By mid-May I was finally back in decent physical shape after getting back in the gym, and with re-affirmed confidence in my machine from the previous race, I was excited for round seven in Somerset, PA. This would be another wet race, and with the extreme rock sections at this venue,

it would be an interesting race. I had a decent start in the middle of my class. About two miles into the race, I lost my rear brake function altogether after the rotor was severely bent from the rocks. I pitted for goggles and gloves just before the finish of lap one and came through in 12th place. On lap two I fell back to 15th, but on lap 3 I recovered back to 12th again. I pitted again for goggles and gloves and put my head down. I wanted a top 10 finish in the worst way. That last lap was my fastest of the day and I crossed the finish line in 8th place—my best career GNCC finish to date!

For round eight, Luke and Dad (Al) drove out to Ohio from Iowa, Luke to race and Dad for pit support. On the starting line, the skies let loose and it poured, resulting in a one hour delay for the race start. When the race did start, it was another muddy mess. I had a great start in the top 5 of my class, but that was blown when I went into a turn after a field section a little too fast and got tangled with a tree. On both laps one and two, I was stuck behind a bad bottle neck for 5-10 minutes each lap. Luke was also stuck in the same bottleneck on lap one. Other than that, I ran a pretty clean race and pulled off another top 10 finish. Luke, unfortunately, had a bad tangle with a fence on lap two and finished in 12th place.

Luke would again join me for round nine, the infamous Snowshoe GNCC, dubbed the toughest off-road race in the nation. I lent Luke my practice quad for this race, so he had to deal with riding a quad he was totally unfamiliar with and which lacked some of the bells and whistles of our race quads. The weather was great, but the track was brutal, with rocks, ruts, roots, and over 1000 feet of



Getting some advice from morning racer Walt Schumacher on the starting line at Snowshoe

Upah Racing

Race Report

elevation change. With the exception of getting stuck behind one bottleneck on lap one for about 6-7 minutes. I was able to move from 13th on lap one to 9th at the checkers, so I was happy about my 3rd consecutive top ten finish. Luke was able to move from 10th to 6th during the course of the 2+ hour race, and finished in an even more impressive 40th overall!

Luke will join me again for a couple of the final four GNCC races this fall. I am currently sitting in 18th place in the Junior A class, not nearly as high as I'd like to be. Throwaways will come in to play more in these final rounds though, and I'm confident in my ability to place in the top ten at each of those races. With a little more practice and training, I think that a top five finish is also well within my reach, so that is what I'll be pushing for.

As always, a big thank you goes out to all of our sponsors, to whom we attribute much of our success!!

Summary:

<u>Racer</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Class Finish</u>	<u>Overall Finish</u>
Adam	Washington, GA	22nd of 33	102nd of 223
Adam	Morganton, NC	DNF	DNF
Adam	Hurricane Mills, TN	DNF	DNF
Adam	Yadkinville, NC	17th of 22	72nd of 149
Adam	Somerset, PA	8th of 20	61st of 170
Adam	Millfield, OH	9th of 27	67th of 169
Adam	Snowshoe, WV	9th of 23	51st of 169
Luke	Millfield, OH	12th of 17	70th of 169
Luke	Snowshoe, WV	6th of 15	40th of 169



Snowshoe GNCC

