



BENCH RACING

Overall: Johnny Barber

Overall A: Cody Meeks

Overall B: Rob Gorst

**Follow ACES
 on Twitter
 @ACES_races**



Johnny Barber (HSB), a first year ACES rider, said that he love how technical the layout was at the Moonshine Enduro. "The trail was great for experienced riders but probably not very fun for lesser skilled riders." He said the toughest section for him was the A section. "Only because of a bottleneck in a creek with the trail going up and around some downed trees. I was stuck there for a few minutes and thought I had blown the race. I eventually got through it and still scored a five which wasn't all that bad." Weather played a large role in the race. "With all the rain they got Saturday, the course was saturated and being back on row 30 made it kind of tough fighting the ruts and mud holes. If it wouldn't have rained, the course would have been perfect." Barber would like to thank Rich Smith from Smith's Power Sports, Husaberg USA, Aires.com, EBC brakes, ODI. "The race was the third time I've been on a bike since November so I couldn't be happier with the way the season is going. Hopefully, I can keep it up."

Cody Meeks (KTM), in his third full season of being an ACES competitor, said that he looked forward to the fact that it was going to be muddy and have lots of technical sections. "I thought the trail layout was amazing! It couldn't have been better," he commented. The hardest section, in his opinion, was the A/B section. "To overcome it, I just was always looking as far as I could see down the trail and tried to figure out my best route through the ruts and mud holes." "The weather always plays a huge part in the layout of enduros, but I thought it helped this one."

Meeks would like to thank his dad, his grandpa, Sport Cycles. Meeks added, "Thanks to Kevin Brown (AKA-KB) for getting him started in enduros and teaching me the ropes of things." Also, he would like to



thank Brian Rickard and Tyler Chadwell for being great riding partners.

photo by Phil Bartow

Overall B winner, Rob Gorst (KTM), a three-year ACES racer, said his favorite aspect of the moonshine enduro was, "The single track and the hills. He also stated that, "It was slick but rideable." He thought it was a fun layout with "some great single track. Considering the rain we had, it was still a lot of fun." The toughest section of the day, according to Gorst, was the A/B section. "It had a few areas that you had to make in one go or you would lose lots of time. There were a couple bottlenecks that required a bonzi move to get past and keep moving." He added, "The weather made it very slick and you had to keep forward momentum at all costs."

Gorst would like to thank the New Straitsville Enduro Riders who laid out the trail. "I have done it and understand how much work it is." He also wanted to thank the guys who he rides with for helping him to keep time and "learn the art of old time enduros." He said even though he hates riding in the rain, "some twisted part of me enjoys it. It takes the ride to a different level in southern Ohio, it makes it hard to get out of bed Monday morning."



(top) Nick Fisher rips down a hill at the enduro put on by the New Straitsville Enduro Riders. photo by Debbie Wilson

(middle) Todd Decker and Mark Best race through a creek bed. photo by Steve Wheeler

(bottom) Mark McGrath races down the trail at the Moonshine Enduro just before check four. photo by Steve Wheeler