

Pirelli / Moose Racing / Maxxis

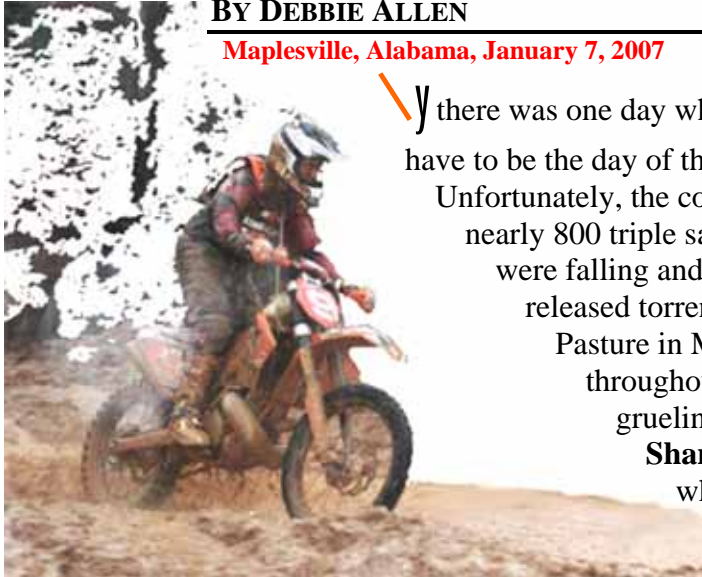
AMA / Mid-South Cross Country / SERA / SETRA

Round 7: Southeast Cross Country Shootout

Watszy Wallers in Mud

BY DEBBIE ALLEN

Maplesville, Alabama, January 7, 2007



Y there was one day when every rider had something in common, it would have to be the day of the Southeast Cross Country Shootout.

Unfortunately, the common link that tied the KTM factory riders with nearly 800 triple sanctioned SERA, SETRA, and Mid-South riders were falling and getting stuck. On the second lap, Mother Nature released torrents of rain, and she held back nothing. Reynold's Pasture in Maplesville, Alabama, literally became a flood throughout most of the thirteen mile track. Yet, however grueling the race appeared, everyone enjoyed watching **Shane Watts** [9] come out the winner and seeing those who finished, finish.

He said, "Did I win? I believe I won."

Yes, he won and luckily led with a pretty big gap. While **Robbie Jenks** was fighting to get unstuck in a deep ravine, he was rounding the first corner in sight of the checkered flag. Around the second corner, it was Watts's turn to struggle.

He had run out of gas and like clockwork, his team was there for him, making it possible for him to finish in first place. Then **Mike Lafferty** rounded the corner in second place while Jenks finished in third.

KTM / Maxxis backed Watts said, "I was second off the start and cruised along with Lafferty and Jenks. On the last lap, they pulled away, so I stopped and got some goggles, put the hammer down, and caught up to them."

From there, Jenks and Watts bobbed on a hill climb while Lafferty made it. In his upside down dilemma, Watts jumped for his bike and passed Lafferty a few miles from the finish. Then it was Lafferty's turn to bobble, giving Watts the edge which determined the finish.





“My biggest thing was to come out here and leave in one piece,” said Lafferty [Left in Picture]. “This is my first race back since I tore my ACL and its fine. So for me to come back and race and be healthy, that’s good. I had a good time, and I learned a lot with help from my mechanic, **Brandon** [Right in Picture].”

Jenks [5] followed in third place. He said, “It got a little rough out there, but the track workers did a good job at rerouting us around the rough spots. It was really fun and as always we enjoy coming

here.”

While preparation for the nationals was their main concern, they did admit to having a good time. The pressure was off and they stuck together like glue for most of the race. Then the floods came. Needless to say, things got a little chaotic and everyone went down at one point while some got stuck in the underlying muck.

Jacob Patterson had one of those throw away days. The 250 A rider was flying in the ninth place in overall for much of the race. Then he encountered a big problem. On the last lap, he ran out of gas and his AA riding Dad, **Robert**, was unable to get him some because he had to finish the race. Robert got twelfth place in overall while his son got 26th place.



My Own Race:



Bryan Henson

5th Place

SETRA / Moose / Maxxis rider, **Bryan Henson**, was the fifth rider to tame the flood. He rode the last three laps without front brakes and loved the track. He said, “I liked it. Its fun and it separates the men from the boys.”

P.A.Allen

6th Place

Mid-South / Team Kawasaki / Andrew’s Cycles supported **P. A. Allen [37]** had a good race and like everyone else, had a shaky ending because he had no front or back brakes for the last two laps. In spite, he hauled his KX 250, savoring sixth place in overall and fourth in Mid-South points.

Stephen Reed

9th Place

SERA's Suzuki mounted **Stephen Reed [2]** out maneuvered a near collision by being the cautious back of the pack rider. He held strong and finished the race as the first SERA rider. He got ninth place in overall.

Briefly...

Reynolds Pasture is home to several major events throughout the year. Up front, it hosts the annual triple sanctioned event called the Southeast Cross Country Shootout. This hare scramble literally packs them in like sardines because it is the largest event throughout the year. It combines three series into one event for the Mid-South, SERA, and SETRA's series. Since so many people attend, it is held on two days. A second major event is the twenty-four hour race. Riders from all over form teams and ride for the long stretch of twenty-four hours. Talk about endurance, it's tough for everyone and like this mud fest, only the best finish.



Results:

Season's Top Ten: 1. P.A. Allen (Kaw); 2. Robert Patterson (Kaw); 3. Jake Fiddler (Suz); 4. John Maschino (Yam); 5. Mike Sampson (KTM); 6. Chase Bishop (Yam); 7. Tristan Redferrin (KTM) 8. Dustin Gibson (KTM); 9. Jacob Patterson (Kaw); 10. Loupie Lambruno (Kaw).