

DNA Motorsport Park
Southeast Regional Championship
Round Six
June 12, 2010

Words: Michael C. Taylor

The sixth round of the Southeast Regional VMX and PVMX Motocross Championships took place at a new venue, DNA Motorsport Park in Saluda, South Carolina. The track owner provided a well-prepared 1.1-mile vintage-friendly track. Despite the very hot temperatures forecast, and reached, twenty-four riders from three states enjoyed a friendly welcome and a well-run event.

In the first race of the day, the speedy Steve Shelton went straight to the front and quickly pulled ahead to a comfortable lead where he stayed until he took the checkered flag. Curt Elliott and Phil Wheelock went head to head, with Phil leading for the first two laps. Curt got past on lap three and with Phil pressing hard managed to hold on for the remainder of the five lap race. Rick Lovette had Sportsman 500 to himself, while John Pischki and Richard Light on a brace of Bultacos fought it out for Vintage 60+ Novice honours, Richard coming out on top by slipping past right at the checkered flag. In Premiere Open Twin Intermediate, Mark Siebert missed the start, but managed to manhandle his 326 lb Norton around, catch up with the tail-enders, and collect the points.

In the first moto of post-vintage racing, Steve Shelton again jumped into the lead closely followed by Tom Boyd and Bob Vannarson. Tom briefly took the lead on lap four, but Steve doesn't give up easily, and took it back again at the crucial moment. Bob meanwhile, nursed a very sick engine into third place, but collected maximum points in 60+ expert leaving Joe Lennert to take second place points in the class. Scott Hastey took the points in Gran Prix 500 Intermediate, while Robert Horning did the same in 50+ novice.

Race three of the vintage classes saw Wesley Miller lead from start to finish and take Sportsman 250 Expert points. Gene Brown, normally to be seen in trials, finished the race in second place taking the Intermediate points, and Ray Weiss and Allen Buchanan fought a close dual for the novice points, Alan winning the class. Johnny Lee Adams, riding a 125 Husky without a first gear, won Classic 125, while newcomer Steve Shook, riding in his first AHRMA event collected points for second place.

The second motos provided a bit of drama. Curt Elliott and Phil Wheelock fought another close battle, Curt taking the win. Richard Light again finished ahead of John Pischki, and Mark Siebert made a spectacular get off (right in front of the spectator) at 50 mph punching a hole in the petrol tank, and leaving him seeing stars in the daytime sky. Other than a few bruises, Mark was, fortunately, unhurt.

The post-vintage race saw Steve Shelton take an immediate lead, hotly pursued by Tom Boyd and Bob Vannarson. Steve got bogged down in turn four and Tom went through on the inside, while Bob went around on the outside—Steve was left trying to start a stalled engine. Then disaster struck for Tom in the form of a flat tyre that left him to hobble past the flag and earn a DNF. Bob took the lead, but at the end of lap two, Steve had worked his way back to the front where he and Bob fought a close race to the finish. After leading Sportsman 250 Novice for three laps, Allen Buchanan broke the left footrpeg that slowed his progress and allowed Ray Weiss to take first place. Allen rode gamely on to take second place in the class.

Full results and current regional standings can be found on the Southeast regional website at ahrmase.com. Mike Taylor can be reached by e-mail at vmxe40@yahoo.com or by telephone at 803-237-9163.
