

The Redemption Trial at The Hualapai Mountain Park 04/02/2023

The day started out cool and breezy with patches of snow still on the ground in the shadows. There was runoff from the snowmelt running through a few of the sections. The north side of the big mountain was still mostly white.

Lee and Baylee Pennington set 6 Kid's sections in the shallow draw that is right by the usual pit area. Kelsey Pennington ran that part of the trial with some other parents to help.

Rich Palmer set his sections with fairly wide lines mostly on gentle hillsides. He said the Beginner lines were mostly straight in and straight back out with a few exceptions.

Section #1 was down into the water for Novice and Elite just upstream from the dike portion of the road. Beginners rode along the bank. All riders had a tight uphill turn to the exit. This was the biggest point getter for the Beginners. Cooper Croy took 6 of his 8 points there for 2nd place. Bill Montjar took 4 of his 5 total points there for the win.

Section #2 was on the hillside above #1. It was an off-camber ride that produced a lot of tire spinning. #3 was in a draw across from the scoring table. #4 was a ride in the rock garden where the water was crossing the road.

Section #5 had tight downhill Elite and Novice splits. Roland Moelder was the only rider with 2 cleans there on 17 total for the Novice 40 win. Ed Lynch had 18 points for 2nd place.

Section #8 had a tight approach to the exit corner. Baylee Pennington was the only rider on the Novice line to clean it on her way to the win with 26 dabs. Zayne Steely was 2nd on 43 total.

Kevin Lowney ran away in Elite 40 with 11 on the day and Bryon Jones did likewise in Elite on 14 points.

Steve Dickson came back to section setting for the Upper classes. His son-in-law, Ted Beck, got his first taste of Trialsmaster work also. Steve used some of the familiar areas in new, creative ways including run backwards. A couple of the lines went in the water and #5 had icy snow all around.

Bob Pennington took 50 to best his son Lee with 61 in Master Clubman.

The Clubman class had 5 riders separated by 16 points and the top 3 by 1 point each. Zachery Griswold on 52 for 3rd, Devon Fieber on 51 in 2nd and Bryan Cline used 50 dabs to get the win.

Section #4 was the hardest line for the Sportsman classes. None of them cleaned it. It could have been a double section for all the twists and turns in it. David Pyle came over from California and won on 17 points. Daniel Hare was 2nd on 25 dabs. Sportsman 40 1st place went to Michael Meschede on 35 points. Mark Franklin was 2nd on 40 total.

Fritz Croy took 56 for 1st place in Expert Sportsman.

Dan Larson brought his Vertigo from Montana to take the win in Expert class. He was the only clean rider in #4 other than the Pros and he did it twice to win on 30 points. Geoff Chain was 2nd on 41 dabs.

The Pro Class was an exhibition as Josh Roper, fresh off his first ever National Pro Class Championship event win, took only 2 points all day. He seemed to ride on one tire as effortlessly as the rest of us on two. Cole Cullins from California took 2nd on 22 dabs. Joey Stanley was 3rd with 65.