

Words by Ron Dillon, Photo by Kenton Knutson

## Hill Wails, Jarrett Fails at Eagle River AMA National Championship Snow Bike Races

Rnds 2 & 3 AMA National Championship Snow Bike Series, Jan 19-20, 2018 - Eagle River, WI

For 55 years, one of the biggest events of the entire year in the snowmobile world has been the legendary World Championship Snowmobile Derby, held every January in Eagle River, Wisconsin. But the event had never hosted any snow bike competitions and most of the 20,000-plus spectators who attended throughout the weekend had never seen a snow bike. In an effort to get on board with the wild new sport of snow bike racing, Chuck and Amy Decker invited the AMA National Championship Snow Bike Series to bring their show to Eagle River with a rare Friday and Saturday night two-round format.

The Eagle River crew created a jumpy track that featured some excellent inside and outside berms as well as big jumps and rhythm sections with lap times in the 35 second range. Of course in addition to snow bikes, there were high speed ice oval races and snowmobile

Snocross events, and a multitude of other comings and goings that ran day and night for three days. In all, many, many hundreds of racers performed in front of many thousands of spectators, but the Snow Bike races were certainly one of the crowd favorites, aided by mild, 25F temperatures and a fired up crowd.

Since nine pro men were present on Friday and ten on Saturday, no qualifiers were needed and the racing fell back to a two round, motocross style scoring system, which racers and spectators alike seemed to enjoy. Defending AMA National Snow Bike Champion, Idaho's Jimmy Jarrett (KTM/Timbersled), who also won round one of the 2018 series, jumped right into the lead in moto one on Friday night, but he was pushed hard by Colton Davis and Keaton Ward and he crashed on lap three. Davis held the lead for a bit, but was soon overtaken by Josh Hill and Keaton Ward. Hill used the same skills that once netted him AMA Supercross wins to take the moto, followed by a fast-closing Jarrett, Davis and Ward. The second moto found Keaton Ward in control to the end, followed by Hill, Davis and Jarrett. The pro men were pushing hard and every one of them except Hill and Ward, bobbled at least once during the moto.

South Dakota's Shayna Lier simply ran away with both motos of the pro women's class. Her hard work during the summer, riding motocross is really showing and she is probably fast enough to run in the pro men's class. The Senior 40-Plus class was a gas on Friday night. Jeff Davis and Gary McNeil staged a war that lasted both of their motos, with Davis squeezing out a win at the very end in both motos. They were real crowd-pleasers for sure, and it was a shame that both were too sore and exhausted to continue their duel on Saturday night.



Saturday night brought round three and in many ways it looked like round two. Jarrett started well but bobbled away the lead, then, as he was fighting his way back to the front, his rear shock broke, pushing him way back. Hill rode smooth, fast and smart to clench the overall with a second moto win. Davis was as fast as the leaders for several laps until arm pump forced him to back off a notch. Easily winning the most improved title was Ride 365 racer and social media wizard, Oklahoma's Brett Cue (HON, Camso). Like Josh Hill, Cue had never even seen a snow bike until last month, but he began adapting immediately and was turning in some solid laps at the end of round one. He took his game to a new level at rounds two and three, grabbing fifth overall n Friday and fourth overall on Saturday. He had a big smile plastered on his face all day and will be racing snow bikes all season.

Another interesting, new snow bike brand showed up again at Eagle River. The Hoot 85 is specifically designed to turn a Yamaha YZ85 into a snow bike, and the company put three of them out on the challenging race course in the Senior 40+ class. They didn't win, but the little bike never faltered and raced around all day with their 40-year old, 200-pound pilots, making one wonder how fast they would go with a 90-pound, 10-year old on board. A critical next step in the rapidly-expanding snow bike industry will be the continuing development of smaller snow bikes for kids, and the Hoot 85, along with Timbersled's Ripper, will help to make that happen.

Round 4 of the AMA National Championship Snow Bike Series will be held as part of the legendary McCall Winter Carnival on Saturday, January 27 and will feature a big crowd (1,440 last year) and as many as 70 racers (68 last year), as well as plenty of things to see and do.

Rounds 2 and 3 of the AMA National Snow Bike Series were supported by: Arctiva, Parts Unlimited, Camso, VP Race Fuel, Fox Suspension, Blitz Motorsports, Full Throttle Motorsports, and Excel Fabrication, Epsco and Fokus Graphics who create the custom event trophies for each event.

## AMA National Snow Bike Series Round 2 results, Eagle River, Wisconsin

Pro Men:		NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1	(2-1)	Josh Hill #75	Murrieta, California	YAM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Blitz Motorsports, Timbersled,	
			Monster Energy, Pro Circuit	
2	(4-1)	Keaton Ward #195	Bozeman, Montana	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	HCTN, Von Zipper, Timbersled,	
			Fly, 6D, Hinson, VP Fuels,	
			Acerbis, Fastway, PRZ, 505,	
			NIHILO	
3	(3-3)	Colten Davis #27	Rochbert, Minnesota	YAM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Fly Racing	
4	(2-4)	Jimmy Jarrett #1	Meridian, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Timbersled, KTM, Superior	
			Construction, Modern Machinery,	
			Red Bull, JJR, Trailjesters	
5	(6-5)	Brett Cue #365	Enid, Oklahoma	HON, Camso
		Sponsors:	Honda, Camso, Ride 365MX	
6	(5-6)	Dustin Traxel #711	Lincoln, North Dakota	KAW, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Full Throttle Motorsports,	

			Timbersled	
7	(7-7)	Adam Vowels #18	Albany, Minnesota	HON, Camso
8	(9-8)	Colton Sturm #801	Nisswa, Minnesota	YAM, Camso
		Sponsors:	Camso, RideX365, Sled Junkies, ir	
			Pro, ROX, 509	
9	(8-9)	Parker Weyer #167	Lake Park, Minnesota	HUS, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Accessories Unlimited	
Pro W	omen	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1	(1-1)	Shayna Lier #1W	Stratford, South Dakota	HON, CMX
		Sponsors:	CMX, Klim, Bell, The Dirt	
			Academy, PST, Pro Moto Billet,	
			Rekluse, 605 Signs, Guts, BCIA, 4	
			Arm Strong Evolution	
			Powersports, Asterisk, Bike	
			Binders,	
2	(2-2)	Jacqueline Riess #783	Eden Prairie, MN	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	MHI, Timbersled, Accessories	
			Unlimited	
3	(3-3)	Shayla Fulfer #22	McCall, ID	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Superior Construction, Modern	
			Machinery, THOR, IREV	
4	(4-4)	Kapri Maupin #12W	Meridian, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Superior Construction, Modern	
	r Men	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
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1	(1-1)	Jeff Davis #783	Rochbert, Minnesota	YAM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Fly Racing, Timbersled,	
	(= =)		Accessories Unlimited	
2	(2-2)	Gary McNeil #45	Aberdeen, South Dakota	HON, Timbersled
	/= -:	Sponsors:	Gary's Auto Body, CMX	
3	(3-3)	Ross Nygren #6	Rogers, Minnesota	YAM Hoot
		Sponsors:	Hoot 85	
	4	Shane Voxland #9	McIntosh, Minnesota	YAM, Hoot
		Sponsors:	Hoot 85	
	5	Kris Jorgenson #1	Argyle, Minnesota	YAM, Hoot
		Sponsors:	Hoot 85	

## AMA National Snow Bike Series Round 3 results, Eagle River, Wisconsin

Pro	Men:	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1	(2-1)	Josh Hill #75	Murrieta, California	YAM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Blitz Motorsports, Timbersled,	
			Monster Energy, Pro Circuit	
2	(1-2)	Keaton Ward #195	Bozeman, Montana	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	HCTN, Von Zipper, Timbersled, Fly, 6D, Hinson, VP Fuels, Acerbis, Fastway, PRZ, 505, NIHILO	
3	(3-3)	Colten Davis #27	Rochbert, Minnesota	YAM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Fly Racing	
4	(5-4)	Brett Cue #365	Enid, Oklahoma	HON, Camso
		Sponsors:	Honda, Camso, Ride 365MX	

5	(4-5)	Jimmy Jarrett #1	Meridian, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Timbersled, KTM, Superior Construction, Modern Machinery, Red Bull, JJR, Trailjesters	
6	(6-6)	Colton Sturm #801	Nisswa, Minnesota	YAM, Camso
		Sponsors:	Camso, RideX365, Sled Junkies, ir Pro, ROX, 509	
7	(7-8)	Adam Vowels #18	Albany, Minnesota	HON, Camso
8	(10-7)	Dustin Traxel #711	Lincoln, North Dakota	KAW, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Full Throttle Motorsports, Timbersled	
9	(8-9)	Ryan Schuur (#7)	Chandler, Minnesota	YAM, Camso
		Sponsors:	Liquid Nitro, Kick Ass Beef Jerky, Interlakes Sports Center	
10	(9-10)	Parker Weyer #167	Lake Park, Minnesota	HUS, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Accessories Unlimited	
Pro	Women	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1	(1-1)	Shayna Lier #1W	Stratford, South Dakota	HON, CMX
		Sponsors:	CMX, Klim, Bell, The Dirt Academy, PST, Pro Moto Billet, Rekluse, 605 Signs, Guts, BCIA, 4 Arm Strong Evolution Powersports, Asterisk, Bike Binders,	
2	(2-2)	Jacqueline Riess #783	Eden Prairie, MN	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	MHI, Timbersled, Accessories Unlimited	
3	(3-3)	Shayla Fulfer #22	McCall, ID	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Superior Construction, Modern Machinery, THOR, IREV	
4	(4-4)	Kapri Maupin #12W	Meridian, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
		Sponsors:	Superior Construction, Modern	