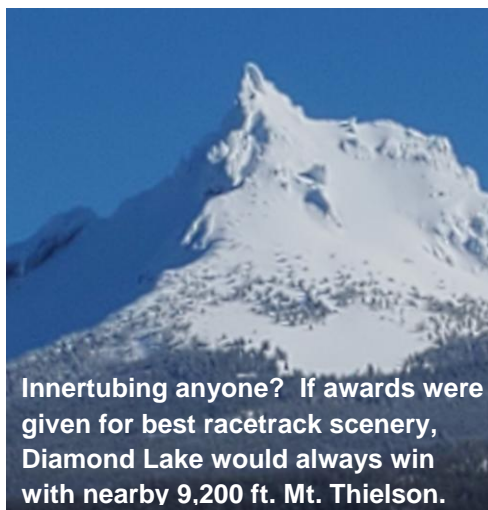


Snow Bikes, Snowmobiles, and UTV's Duel at Oregon's ONLY Snow Bike Race

Round 3, 2020 NASBA 509 National Championship Snow Bike Series, February 8 – Diamond Lake, OR

Words and Photos by Ron Dillon

Round three of the 2020 NASBA 509 National Championship Snow Bike Series featured a re-designed, and reversed direction half-mile track and the addition of UTV, (4-wheeler) and snowmobile racing for the first time in its three year history. Set in the heart of stunning Central Oregon, this is the only snow bike race held in both Oregon and in the Cascades, and 50 inches of good snow, combined with 30 degree temps and light snow, kept the track in good shape for the day. Fifty-three racers from across the West were cheered on by approximately 300 spectators, and the Diamond Lake Resort staff served up excellent brats, beverages and spirits.



Innertubing anyone? If awards were given for best racetrack scenery, Diamond Lake would always win with nearby 9,200 ft. Mt. Thielson.



Darrin Mees took both pro motos, with Tommy Thompson grabbing second, both riding blazing fast and light Honda 450/Yeti combo machines.

The revised race track yielded lap times of 33 seconds for the very fastest pros, and all brands of bikes were in attendance: Yamaha, Kawasaki, Honda, Husky, KTM and Suzuki were present, and they were bolted to just about every currently available snow bike kit: Timbersled, Moto-Trax, and Yeti. There were no major mechanical failures during the day on the rough track, proving that bikes, kits and riders are all improving rapidly, and all are capable of performing at a national-caliber level. And, 509 continued to display and sell gear out of their beautiful event trailer and \$10,000 series contingency program, which rewards racers with cash who podium while wearing 509 gear.

As usual, all eyes were on local fast guy, Darrin Mees, fresh back from an impressive sixth at the X Games. Mees won both motos handily, although another X Games racer, Tommy "Machine Gun" Thompson kept him honest, dogging him stubbornly in both races with 2-2 scores.

As is so often the case, arguably, the best racing of the day happened in the Senior, 40+ class, which featured 11 guys, all north of 40, intent on winning. Lewiston Idaho's Ryan Rogers did the deed with 1-2 scores, but a second moto crash almost took him out of contention and he had to ride like the wind to catch back up, and Washington's Larry Keatts, took second overall with 3-1 scores, with John Boyles grabbing third. The equally popular Open Trophy class was

topped by Jason Caldwell who drove all the way up from Miranda, California, easily winning both motos. There are very few snow bike racers in California, but the few that exist are usually fast, and Caldwell clearly upheld that tradition.

Snowmobiles were added to the program this year and eight of them showed up. Darrin Mees, who raced as a pro on the ISOC Snocross circuit years ago, looked fast and smooth, as he also went 1-1 in this class, but things stayed wild and unpredictable behind him, with locals Tommy Bunch and Austin Alvarez swapping places and banging bars a few times. It was all good, clean fun and very crowd-pleasing. Certainly snowmobiles will join the fray from now on.



Young, River Rogers gets faster every race. He took third in the open trophy class and second in the 350 division.



Darrin Mees also won both of the snowmobile class motos.

After all of the snow bikes and snowmobiles were done competing, the crowd lined the fence in anticipation of the first-ever UTV races held in the region, and they were not disappointed. A rowdy mixture of local and out of town 4-wheeled racers pushed onto the track, with a great turnout of seven turbo and seven non-turbo machines showing up. The ensuing racing was wild, with racers ramming, and pushing each other, as well as getting stuck in the snow at times. Rogue River's Matt Bruner carded 1-1 motos to win the turbo class, and 62 year-old Kevin Bennett, showed the kids how it is done by winning both rounds of the non-turbo class. Clearly the UTV racing part of the day was a crowd favorite and will return next year for sure. The snow kept speeds low enough to make the racing pretty safe, but racers were still going fast enough to jump and bump around and put on a great show. No injuries were reported all day.



Sixty-two year old Kevin Bennett, kicked butt to win the non-turbo class.



David Stanfield suffered three, (count them, three) flats!

Partners for the Diamond Lake, National Snow Bike Series Round Three race were: 509, JMC, Cascade Powersports, and UTV Obsessions. Special thanks to the Diamond Lake Resort, US, Forest Service and the Cascade Connection Snowmobile Club. The event will return next year, bigger and better than ever, likely expanding to a 2-day format to celebrate one of the coolest race venues ever! Rounds four and five of the 2020 NASBA National Championship Snow Bike Series will be held near Whitefish, Montana on February 22 and 23.

| Pro Men: | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | RIDING |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 (1-1) | Darrin Mees #9 | Redmond, Oregon | HON, Yeti |
| | Sponsors: | Yeti, Alliance Steel, Fly Racing, Rooted Hemp | |
| 2 (2-2) | Tommy Thompson #89 | Graham, Washington | HON, Yeti |
| | Sponsors: | Alliance Steel, 509, Yeti, M9, Defiant Suspension, JMC Motorsports, Fusion Graphics, Hinson, Mobius | |
| 3 (3-3) | Jake Hedlund #59 | Rathdrum, Idaho | YAM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | FXR, Lone Mountain Metalworks, C & M Suspension | |
| 4 (4-4) | Austin Barber #721 | Rathdrum, Idaho | HON, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | FXR, Ryno Power, Lone Mountain Metalworks, C & M Suspension | |
| 5 (5-5) | Shane Homme #27 | Mountain Home, Idaho | KAW, Yeti |
| | Sponsors: | Fly Racing, Bell Helmets, Let's Ride Powersports, Holeshoot, IREV Apparel, Terry's Truck, Pro-Taper | |
| Senior +40 | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | RIDING |
| 1 (1-2) | Ryan Rogers #19 | Lewiston, Idaho | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Rogers Motors | |
| 2 (3-1) | Larry Keatts #1 | Richland, Washington | KTM, Yeti |
| 3 (5-3) | John Boyles #714 | Vancouver, Washington | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | HMK | |
| 4 (6-4) | Robert Carroll #797 | Puyallup, Washington | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Alliance Steel, Carroll Ent., M9 | |
| 5 (4-6) | Justin Goodman #216 | Bend, Oregon | HON, Moto-Trax |
| | Sponsors: | Goodman Construction | |
| 6 (2-10) | Dameon Pool #25 | Rogue River, Oregon | KTM, Timbersled |
| 7 (8-5) | Kevin Diegel #7 | Columbia City, Oregon | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Absolute Ductless Heating & Cooling | |
| 8 (7-8) | Mark Conner #34 | Medford, Oregon | BETA, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Conner Motorsports | |
| 9 (10-7) | Tracy Gall #22 | Medford, Oregon | YAM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Build Right Construction | |
| 10 (9-9) | Jeffrey Taylor #90 | Black Diamond, Washington | YAM, Timbersled |
| | | | |
| Open Trophy | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | RIDING |
| 1 (1-1) | Jason Caldwell #7 | Miranda, California | YAM, Timbersled |
| 2 (2-2) | John Radle #88 | Lewiston, Idaho | YAM, Timbersled |
| 3 (3-4) | River Rogers #285 | Lewiston, Idaho | HUS, Yeti |
| | Sponsors: | Rogers Motors, Gateway Materials | |
| 4 (7-3) | John Boyles #714 | Vancouver, Washington | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | HMK | |
| 5 (4-6) | Corey Kelley #27 | Lewiston, Idaho | HON, Timbersled |

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|----------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| 6 (6-5) | Brandon Steele #252 | Redmond, Oregon | YAM, Moto-Trax |
| 7 (5-9) | Seth Marshall #797 | Puyallup, Washington | KTM, Moto-Trax |
| 8 (9-7) | Nathan Kingston #16 | Caldwell, Idaho | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Performance Drywall | |
| 9 (10-8) | Tristin Parent #14 | Central Point, Oregon | YAM, Timbersled |
| 10 (8-DNS) | Justin Goodman #216 | Bend, Oregon | HON, Moto-Trax |
| | Sponsors: | Goodman Construction | |
| 11 (DNS) | Tracy Gall #22 | Medford, Oregon | YAM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Build Right Construction | |
| 350 Trophy | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | RIDING |
| 1 (1-1) | Nathan Kingston #16 | Caldwell, Idaho | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Performance Drywall | |
| 2 (2-2) | River Rogers #285 | Lewiston, Idaho | HUS, Yeti |
| | Sponsors: | Rogers Motors, Gateway Materials | |
| 3 (3-3) | Jake Carroll #777 | Puyallup, Washington | KTM, Moto-Trax |
| 4 (4-4) | Kevin Diegel #7 | Columbia City, Oregon | KTM, Timbersled |
| | Sponsors: | Absolute Ductless Heating & Cooling | |
| Kids Ripper | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | RIDING |
| 1 | Maison Pool #29 | Grants Pass, Oregon | KAW, Ripper |
| Snowmobile | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | RIDING |
| 1 (1-1) | Darrin Mees #9 | Redmond, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | Yeti, Alliance Steel, Fly Racing, Rooted Hemp, M9 | |
| 2 (2-3) | Tommy Bunch #784 | Bend, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | Build Right Construction | |
| 3 (3-4) | Austin Alvarez #21 | Redmond, Oregon | Arctic Cat |
| | Sponsors: | M9 Suspension, Fly Racing | |
| 4 (4-5) | Jordan Brown #1 | Klamath Falls, Oregon | Polaris |
| 5 (5-6) | Jacob Mattos #205 | Diamond Lake, Oregon | Yamaha |
| 6 (DNS-2) | Hunter Carl #3 | Bend, Oregon | Ski-Doo |
| | Sponsors: | M9 Suspension | |
| 7 (6-8) | Mike Boyce #00 | Bend, Oregon | Arctic Cat |
| | Sponsors: | UTV's Unleashed | |
| 8 (8-7) | Cody Parker #3X | Roseburg, Oregon | Yamaha |
| Turbo UTV | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | DRIVING |
| 1 (1-1) | Matt Bruner #88 | Rogue River, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | Phantom Supply | |
| 2 (2-2) | Eric Muth #419 | Brookings, Oregon | Polaris |
| 3 (3-3) | Myles Converse #69 | Medford, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | Converse Floor & Carpet Design | |
| 4 (DNS-4) | Gary Carlson #53 | Central Point, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | Carlson Motorsports, System 3 | |
| 5 (4-DNF) | Hunter Carl #1 | Bend, Oregon | Polaris |
| 6 (5-DNF) | Ryan Rogers #285 | Lewiston, Idaho | Polaris |
| 7 (6-DNF) | Mat Ray #1 | Central Point, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | UTV Obsessions, Siskiyou Diesel | |
| Non-Turbo UTV | NAME | HOMETOWN & SPONSORS | DRIVING |
| 1 (1-1) | Kevin Bennett #419 | Prospect, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | Bennett Family Farms | |
| 2 (3-2) | Jess McElroy #28M | Eagle Point, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | McElroy Transport, Shady Cove Towing | |
| 3 (2-3) | David Lentz #00 | Brookings, Oregon | Polaris |
| 4 (4-4) | David Stanfield #1 | Talent, Oregon | Can-Am |

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| 5 (5-DNS) | Mike Lense #00X | Bend, Oregon | Can-Am |
| | Sponsors: | UTV's Unleashed | |
| 6 (DNF) | Jay Simler #3 | Medford, Oregon | Polaris |
| | Sponsors: | Jordan Trucking | |
| 7 (DNS) | Torrance George #11 | White City, Oregon | Polaris |