

Big Fun at Northern Idaho's Biggest Snow Bike Race

Round 1, 2020 NASBA 509 National Championship Snow Bike Series, January 12 – Clarkia, ID

Words & photos by Ron Dillon

Round one of the 2020 NASBA (North American Snow Bike Association) 509 National Championship Snow Bike Series featured wild weather and X Games drama, all rolled into one. The weather actually wasn't *that* bad; rather it was the weather forecast that scared people off, keeping racer entries and spectators down from the usual big numbers that attend this race.

On top of the weather drama though, it was a bad day for X Games racers. Australian expatriate, living in Canada to train, racer Mat Cox, worked hard to garner a spot for the upcoming X Games, and was excited to use the Clarkia National as a final tune-up for the Games happening later this month. Cox looked scary fast, pulling a holeshot and gradually building up a comfortable lead, but at the first moto mid-point, he cased a double, ejecting over the bars. Injuries are actually quite rare in snow bike racing; the medics can usually spend the day playing cards, and Cox's crash should have been uneventful, but his Yamaha chased him, and then landed on him, causing a dislocated hip. In agony, he had to be carted from the track, his ability to race at X in less than two weeks in question. Series title partner, 509, gave him the Hard Luck Award, an awesome new 509 helmet, to try to remove some of the sting, but this was clearly a major set-back for the talented Aussie. Conversely, another X Games qualifier, Idaho's Justin Thomas, also ended his day in the first moto, blowing up a clutch, and possibly more on his Kawasaki. Clearly, it was just NOT a good day to be an X Games racer.



Australian pro racer, Matt Cox, leading the pro men's class, just before his endo and ensuing dislocated hip.

While this drama was taking place, Andrew Watson and Jake Hedlund were waging their usual war up front, riding smooth and fast and taking a little over 3 minutes to circulate the long, fast, wild Clarkia course, the longest and hilliest on the circuit. Things were even changed up a bit this year, with riders going UP the legendary, 200-foot Devil's Drop, instead of down it. It made for a big, long climb, with a few timid riders barely making the top every lap. Watson claimed moto one, with Hedlund second, but the roles were reversed in moto two, giving Hedlund the overall, with Watson second and Austin Barber third.



Jake Hedlund went 2-1 to top the pro men's class, and take the National series points lead in the men's pro class, over arch-rival, Andrew Watson. Devil's Drop is tall, and STEEP, going up or down!



Jamey Parks looked fast, smooth and happy, as she rocketed around to take the top women's spot, and two very young lads, River Rogers, and Landen Andres, diced it out in the 350 class, neither of them being tall enough to touch the ground, but having fun all the same. The 350 class has proven over the last two seasons to be a perfect platform for younger and smaller riders to develop the skills needed to race with the bigger guys down the road.



Winning woman, Jamey Parks breaking the fun barrier as usual, and tiny Landen Andres couldn't touch the ground, but he rode great!

Jeremy Deming laid down his usual deadly speed to take the win in the Senior, 40+ class, and the Open Trophy class as well. It could be debated, whether he has greater skill as a racer, or as a graphics builder, as when he isn't on the track, he is busy creating some of the prettiest graphics ever made for bikes, sleds, trailers and more. And he also grabbed a nice share of cash from 509 for winning in their awesome gear, as did several other racers, all taking part in the second year of the \$10,000 509 Racer Cash Contingency Program that rewards racers with cash who win in 509 gear. The program must be working because the majority of snow bike racers are now competing in 509 apparel.



Jeremy Deming won two classes, proving once again that life just begins at 40, and the beautiful 509 trailer just keeps getting cooler, every year.



Round 2 of the 2020 NASBA 509 National Championship Snow Bike Series will be held at Riverfront Park in McCall, Idaho on January 25. This will be year 11 for the event, making it the world's oldest snow bike race, and it is held right in town during the 30,000 person McCall Winter Carnival, which is why it has drawn up to 1,200 spectators and 70 entries in the past. Partners for the Clarkia race were: 509, ATV Tracks, JMC Racing, Powersports Unlimited, St. Maries Saw and Cycle, Outlaw Motorsports, Roto Rooter, Mac's Cycle, Gage Broz Motorsports, Helsor Construction, Fly Racing, Rogers Toyota, SXS, Project Filter, Yamaha, Peet Dryer, Jerm Designs, H&H Express, and Seehorn Xtreme Skidplates. Special thanks to: Mike Morey, Tina Lininger, Angi Woehler, Andrew Pace, Dawn Bristlin, Donna Ospreski, Kenneth Kienbaum, Riley Kienbaum, Kaden Kienbaum, Naureen Sago, Ray Amos, Robin Murphy, Willy Woehler, and Jason Marchioro. The Clarkia Blizzard Bowl round was promoted and organized by Eric Christiansen, owner of EC Enterprises, Lewiston, Idaho, and Greg Ragsdale, owner of Stix & Stones Off-Road, Spokane Valley, Washington, and was round 1 of the North American Snow Bike Association National Snow Bike Series.

Results, Round 1, 2020 NASBA 509 National Snow Bike Series, Clarkia, Idaho

Pro Men:	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1 (2-1)	Jake Hedlund #59	Rathdrum, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	FXR, C&M Suspension, Burly Racing	
2 (1-2)	Andrew Watson #44	Post Falls, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Jerm Designs, SXS Slide Plates, Lawie Bros.	
3 (3-3)	Austin Barber #721	Rathdrum, Idaho	HON, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Mash Motorsport, Lone Mountain Metalworks	
4 (4-4)	Jon Seehorn #96	Fairfield, Washington	SUZ, Timbersled
5 (5-5)	Jarrod Hamburg #93	Potlatch, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
6 (6-DNS)	Justin Thomas #112	Idaho Falls, Idaho	KAW, Timbersled
7 (DNF-DNS)	Mat Cox #35	Golden, BC, Canada	YAM, Timbersled
Senior +40	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Jeremy Deming #76	Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	St. Maries Saw and Cycle, Rekluse, Timbersled, Bell, SXS, FMF, 509, Vonzipper, Volcom, Jerm Designs	
2 (2-2)	Josh Buell #957	St. Maries, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
3 (3-3)	Ryan Rogers #285	Clarkston, Washington	KAW, Timbersled
4 (5-5)	Paul Watson #44	Post Falls, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
5 (DNS-4)	Jake Hamburg #93	St. Maries, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
6 (4-DNS)	Rick Fromm #14	Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
Open Trophy	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Jeremy Deming #76	Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Timbersled, St. Maries Saw & Cycle, Jerm Designs, Bell, 509, SXS, Rekluse, Fasthouse, FMF, Defiant Coffee, Volcom, Fast Co./Flex, Artcolab	
2 (2-2)	Cory Kelley #27	Lewiston, Idaho	HON, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Mac's Cycle, Rogers Toyota	
3 (3-3)	Justin Walker #169	Lewiston, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
4 (5-4)	River Rogers #285	Clarkston, Washington	HUS, Timbersled
5 (4-5)	John Radle #88	Lewiston, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
6 (DNS-6)	Damien Tucker #75	Hayden, Idaho	YAM, MotoTrax
7 (DNF-DNF)	Landen Andres #347	Potlatch, Idaho	HON, Yeti
350 Trophy	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1 (1-1)	River Rogers #285	Clarkston, Washington	HUS, Timbersled
2 (2-2)	Landen Andres #347	Potlatch, Idaho	HON, Yeti
Trophy Women:	NAME	HOMETOWN	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Jamey Parks #14	Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled



Cory Kelley, #27, took second in the Open class, while River Rogers, #285, won the 350 class and took fourth in the open.