

Fur Flew at Northern Montana's ONLY Snow Bike Race

Rounds 4 & 5, 2020 NASBA 509 National Championship Snow Bike Series, Feb 22-23 – Whitefish, MT

Words and Photos by Ron Dillon

The last two rounds of the 2020 NASBA 509 National Championship Snow Bike Series featured a first: two days of racing at the same track. This happened because the original plan of racing the first day at Polson, MT had to be scrapped due to lack of snow. There wasn't a lot of snow at Whitefish either, since continued warm temperatures and rain had beaten 30 inches down to about 18, in the days leading up to the event. But the weekend was saved by skillful track building by Scott Barge and Darrin Mees, combined with a nimble, tracked skid steer, donated by The Cat Rental Store, which delivered a surprisingly good, 40-second track by race day.

Saturday's race track was run in a clockwise direction, and once again, Oregon fast guy, Darrin Mees, fresh back from an impressive sixth at the X Games, was the one to beat. Mees won both motos handily; simply riding at a higher level than everyone else. Idaho rider, Jake Hedlund, pushed as hard as he could in both motos, going 2-2, and continuing to improve. Whereas Mees is at the top of his game, the younger Hedlund is still learning and improving and appears to be on track to be at the "Mees level" in another season or two.



Saturday pro men's start, R to L, Austin Barber#721, Darrin Mees #9, Andrew Watson #44, Tommy Thompson #89, Noah Borgman #628, Shane Homme #27 and Canyon Ashley #19

As usual, arguably, the best racing of the day happened in the Senior, 40+ class, which featured nine guys, all north of 40, intent on winning. Lewiston Idaho's Ryan Rogers did the deed with 1-1 scores, riding like a guy half that age. The equally popular Open Trophy class was topped by another Lewiston, Idaho racer, Cory Kelley, who also took both motos. And, 509 continued to display and sell gear out of their beautiful event trailer and offer their \$10,000 series contingency program, which rewards racers with cash who podium while wearing 509 gear. Everyone finished the day, uninjured and fired up for the second day of racing.

Sunday's race track was reversed and ran in a counter-clockwise direction, which slowed lap times a bit, and definitely shook things up. Again, Darrin Mees, won the first moto and looked

like he would take the second as well. But a suspension mounting bolt vibrated out, forcing Mees to the sidelines, and handing the win to Jake Hedlund who rode fast and calm to take the overall with 2-2 scores, and also secure the Pro Men's National Series title for 2020.

Once again, the most nail-biting drama centered on the Senior, 40+ class. Defending National Champion for the class, Idaho's Jeremy Deming was riding hurt, injured from an earlier season crash, and he was deadlocked in points with the very fast Ryan Rogers. And Deming's third place finish in the class on Saturday, meant that he HAD to beat Rogers on Sunday. This is where championships are won and lost, at any age, and when it mattered most, Deming rose to the occasion, going 1-1 on Sunday. But Rogers kept him honest, and almost pulled off a last lap, last corner pass, which would have given Rogers the National class title. But Deming gritted his teeth and hung on by about two feet to take the win and the title. Sunday was Nathan Kingston's day to win the popular Open Trophy class, doing so with 1-1 moto wins, and he added to that by also winning the 350 class over River Rogers, who won the class on Saturday.



Partners for the Whitefish, National Snow Bike Series Rounds four and five were: 509, Kalispell Toyota, Penco, Bergeson RV, Pepsi, JMC, The Cat Rental Store, Hampton Inn and Suites, and Action Rentals. Special thanks to Brock Bolin, Action Rentals, Scott & Shawnee Barge, Flathead County Sheriff's Department, West Valley Fire & Rescue, Hell Roaring Saloon, and Joe and Kathleen Krass, and their entire family.

National 509 Snow Bike 2020 class Champions:

- 1. Pro Men – Jake Hedlund**
- 2. Pro Women – Jamey Parks**
- 3. Open Trophy – Cory Kelley**
- 4. 40+ Senior – Jeremy Deming**
- 5. 350 – River Rogers**
- 6. Trophy Women – Cristina James**

Round 4, Saturday – Whitefish, Montana

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)	Jake Hedlund #59	Rathdrum, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	FXR, Lone Mountain Metalworks, C & M Suspension	
3 (4-4)	Andrew Watson #44	Post Falls, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Jerm Designs, Reflex, SXS, Big 4	
4 (3-6)	Tommy Thompson #89	Graham, Washington	HON, Yeti
	Sponsors:	Alliance Steel, 509, Yeti, M9, Defiant Suspension, JMC Motorsports, Fusion Graphics, Hinson, Mobius	
5 (7-3)	Canyon Ashley #19	Boise, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Ashley Heating & Air, Carl's Cycle	
6 (5-5)	Noah Borgman #628	Spokane, Washington	HUS, Mototrax
	Sponsors:	Mototrax, JMC, EVS, PST	
7 (6-7)	Austin Barber #721	Rathdrum, Idaho	HON, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	FXR, Ryno Power, Lone Mountain Metalworks, C & M Suspension	
8 (8-8)	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	
9 (DNS-DNS)	Riley Anderson #1	Kalispell, Montana	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Penco, Siderius, Construction	
Senior +40	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Ryan Rogers #19	Lewiston, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Rogers Motors	
2 (3-2)	Larry Keatts #1	Richland, Washington	KTM, Yeti
3 (2-3)	Jeremy Deming #76	Coeur d' Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Bell, Rekluse, SKS, S, Maries Saw & Cycle, FMF, Defiant Coffee, Flex	
4 (4-4)	John Boyles #714	Vancouver, Washington	KTM, Timbersled
Open Trophy	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Corey Kelley #27	Lewiston, Idaho	HON, Timbersled
2 (3-3)	River Rogers #285	Lewiston, Idaho	HUS, Yeti
	Sponsors:	Rogers Motors, Gateway Materials	
3 (5-2)	Nathan Kingston #16	Caldwell, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Performance Drywall	
4 (2-5)	John Radle #88	Lewiston, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
5 (4-4)	Jeremy Deming #76	Coeur d' Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Bell, Rekluse, SKS, S, Maries Saw & Cycle, FMF, Defiant Coffee, Flex	
6 (7-6)	Ward White #810	Kamas, Utah	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Jerm Designs, SX Slideplates	
7 (6-7)	Mark Symmons #19	Puyallup, Washington	KTM, Mototrax
	Sponsors:	Alliance Steel	
8 (8-8)	John Boyles #714	Vancouver, Washington	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	HMK	
350 Trophy	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (2-1)	River Rogers #285	Lewiston, Idaho	HUS, Yeti
	Sponsors:	Rogers Motors, Gateway Materials	

2 (1-2)	Nathan Kingston #16	Caldwell, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Performance Drywall	
Pro Women	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Jamey Parks #14	Coeur d' Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Flirt With Dirt, CCI Sports, Napier Cosmetics, Motoseat, SXS, EVO Idaho	
2 (2-2)	Heather Matthews #2	Polebridge, Montana	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Northern Lights Saloon	
Trophy Women	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Christina James #181	Eureka, Montana	SUZ, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	EVS, Girls Who Ride, Extreme Realities, Pretty Powersports	

Round 5, Sunday – Whitefish, Montana

Pro Men:	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (2-2)	Jake Hedlund #59	Rathdrum, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	FXR, Lone Mountain Metalworks, C & M Suspension	
2 (4-1)	Canyon Ashley #19	Boise, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Ashley Heating & Air, Carl's Cycle	
3 (3-3)	Tommy Thompson #89	Graham, Washington	HON, Yeti
	Sponsors:	Alliance Steel, 509, Yeti, M9, Defiant Suspension, JMC Motorsports, Fusion Graphics, Hinson, Mobius	
4 (1-6)	Darrin Mees #9	Redmond, Oregon	HON, Yeti
	Sponsors:	Yeti, Alliance Steel, Fly Racing, Rooted Hemp	
5 (5-4)	Andrew Watson #44	Post Falls, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Jerm Designs, Reflex, SXS, Big 4	
6 (6-5)	Austin Barber #721	Rathdrum, Idaho	HON, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	FXR, Ryno Power, Lone Mountain Metalworks, C & M Suspension	
Senior +40	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Jeremy Deming #76	Coeur d' Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Bell, Rekluse, SKS, S, Maries Saw & Cycle, FMF, Defiant Coffee, Flex	
2 (2-2)	Ryan Rogers #19	Lewiston, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Rogers Motors	
3 (3-3)	Larry Keatts #1	Richland, Washington	KTM, Yeti
4 (4-4)	John Boyles #714	Vancouver, Washington	KTM, Timbersled
Open Trophy	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Nathan Kingston #16	Caldwell, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Performance Drywall	
2 (2-3)	Corey Kelley #27	Lewiston, Idaho	HON, Timbersled
3 (4-2)	River Rogers #285	Lewiston, Idaho	HUS, Yeti
	Sponsors:	Rogers Motors, Gateway Materials	
4 (3-4)	John Radle #88	Lewiston, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
5 (5-5)	John Boyles #714	Vancouver, Washington	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	HMK	
6 (6-6)	Carson Pryon #19	Frenchtown, Montana	HON, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Mission Valley Super Oval, Undem Contracting	

7 (7-7)	Nick Kynett #405	Lakeside, Montana	HON, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Mission Valley Super Oval, Undem Contracting	
8 (DNS-DNS)	Jeremy Deming #76	Coeur d' Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Bell, Rekluse, SKS, S, Maries Saw & Cycle, FMF, Defiant Coffee, Flex	
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	
Pro Women	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Jamey Parks #14	Coeur d' Alene, Idaho	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	509, Flirt With Dirt, CCI Sports, Napier Cosmetics, Motoseat, SXS, EVO Idaho	
2 (2-2)	Kristi Colacurcio #4	Coeur d' Alene, Idaho	KTM, Mototrax
3 (DNS-DNS)	Heather Matthews #2	Polebridge, Montana	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Northern Lights Saloon	
Trophy Women	NAME	HOMETOWN & SPONSORS	RIDING
1 (1-1)	Christina James #181	Eureka, Montana	SUZ, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	EVS, Girls Who Ride, Extreme Realities, Pretty Powersports	