

## **Mees Wins the Battle and Hill Wins the War At South Lake Tahoe, Nevada AMA National Championship Snow Bike Finals**

Round 7 AMA National Championship Snow Bike Series, March 24, 2018 – South Lake Tahoe, NV

Snow bike racing has been growing in stature and prestige and jaws dropped when billion dollar lodging, food and gaming player, the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino stepped up to sponsor the last round of the 2018 AMA National Snow Bike Series. Incredibly warm weather and the subsequent lack of snow, curtailed the race in February, but Mother Nature helped out with several feet of snow in March which led to the race's reinstatement.

Coming into the final round, it was a virtual tie in points for the pro men. Josh Hill appeared to have things under control until round 6 in West Yellowstone, where he finished poorly. This allowed Keaton Ward and defending champion Jimmy Jarrett, (who both finished very high at round 6) to gain valuable points, making it anyone's game at the finale at Lake Tahoe.

Two days of hard rain threatened the race again at the last minute, but the Hard Rock staff had spent countless hours stockpiling snow and preparing for just such a nightmare scenario and last minute cooling preserved enough snow for the race to proceed with a fun, twisty 40-second track. The raceway sat right outside the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino since it was constructed in their parking lot. They also brought in a bar and a band; it was definitely a really cool set-up.

In practice, Josh Hill, frankly, did not impress much; he looked squirrely and out of control, whereas Ward and Jarrett looked smooth and fast. But apparently Hill was playing possum because when the flag dropped on the men's pro final, he zoomed right to the front. Actually, Jarrett got the holeshot, but quickly faded back behind Hill and Darrin Mees, who owned the day. Mees quickly moved to the front and was never headed, winning it all. But Mees missed too many events earlier in the season and was not in contention for the championship. Hill drifted into second and stayed there, doing what he needed to do to become the Pro Men's AMA National Snow Bike Champion. Steadily improving Mark Wilson took third, with disappointed Keaton Ward fourth and Jarrett fifth.

Round 7 of the AMA National Snow Bike Series was supported by: The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Lake Tahoe, Arctiva, Parts Unlimited, Camso, VP Race Fuel, Fox Suspension, Carson Motorsports, Reno Cycles & Gear, Auburn Extreme Powersports, Red Bull, Blitz Motorsports, Timbersled, Full Throttle Motorsports, and Excel Fabrication, Epsco and Fokus Graphics who create the custom event trophies.

### **AMA National Snow Bike Series Round 7 results, South Lake Tahoe, NV**

<b>Pro Men:</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOMETOWN</b>	<b>RIDING</b>
1	Darrin Mees #9	Redmond, Oregon	HON, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Huber Motorsports, Timbersled, M9 Suspension	
2	Josh Hill #75	Murrieta, California	YAM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Blitz Motorsports, Timbersled, Monster Energy, Pro Circuit	
3	Mark Wilson #772	Littleton, Colorado	HON, Timbersled

	Sponsors:	Sun Enterprises	
4	Keaton Ward #195	Bozeman, Montana	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	HCTN, Von Zipper, Timbersled, Fly, 6D, Hinson, VP Fuels, Acerbis, Fastway, PRZ, 505, NIHILO	
5	Jimmy Jarrett #1	Meridian, Idaho	KTM, Timbersled
	Sponsors:	Timbersled, KTM, Superior Construction, Modern Machinery, Red Bull, JJR, Trailjesters	
6	Tommy Thompson #89	Graham, Washington	HON, MotoTrax
	Sponsors:	MotoTrax, Fly, Alliance Steel Racing, JMC Motorsports, Hinson, Raze, Fire 1, Factory Connection	
7	Zach Butterworth #171	Tulsa, Oklahoma	YAM, Yeti
8	Shane Homme #711	Mountain Home, Idaho	KAW, Timbersled

<b>Senior Men 40+</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOMETOWN</b>	<b>RIDING</b>
1 (1-1)	Mike Maisel #74	Oakdale, California	HON, Yeti
2 (2-2)	Scott Melville #282	Grass Valley, California	HON, Timbersled
3 (3-3)	Chad Borino #71	Reno, Nevada	YAM, Timbersled
4 (4-4)	Jeff Barbarick #92	Applegate, California	YAM, Yeti

<b>Open Development</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>HOMETOWN</b>	<b>RIDING</b>
1 (3-1)	James Maisel #3	Oakdale, California	HON, Yeti
2 (4-2)	Tom Brace #21	Tollgate Canyon, Utah	YAM, Snow Tech MX
3 (2-4)	Hayden Barentine #92	Colfax, California	HON, Timbersled
4 (1-5)	Cameron Barbarick #11	Applegate, California	KAW Timbersled
5 (5-3)	Jake Carroll #272	Spokane, WA	HUS, Mototrax