

Hello Readers & Armchair adventurers! Motocross Sunday!

Originally I had planned to go dirt-biking in the morning, Motocross in the afternoon. But the wind is *howling* (more on this later) and I didn't see the fun in navigating a sandstorm.

Motocross is racing dirt-bikes on a closed-course. I raced in 1970 and all I can say is wow the technology has really improved. Here are the bikes lined up at the start...



Note the gate that prevents “jumping the start” and they’re off! (Note that I video’d this, can’t figure out how to embed it).



And my favorite part... "sailing through the sky, in-formation"...



The track workers made efforts to keep the dust down...



Even while the race was in progress...



The track has the reputation “best spectator track in America”...



probably because of the shade. But you can only see 33% of the track from any point (1:30 lap-times, but the riders are in-view just 30 seconds). In fact 1/3rd of the track is “over the hill” and spectators aren’t allowed there (!).

What I liked was the **quiet**. The bikes are now 4-strokes, with race-approved mufflers, a “booming sound” but not overly noisy. Pretty neato really...

This guy won...



...not that I have any idea whatsoever who-he-is.

Yesterday I was hosted by the KTM factory (of Austria) for my demo-ride. They were out-in-force, with sadly nothing whatsoever to show for their efforts except a fabulous tent...



In fact later on I met one of their sponsored riders (and his mom, most of these guys are under-18) at the Mammoth summit. They were consoling each other as the kid had crashed at the **start**. Tomorrow they will head back to Dallas.

The track is *huge* with awesome “vertical”. The riders are doing a lot of climbing/descending. I cannot imagine how fast the racers can accelerate going downhill...



I would liked to have rooted for Kawasaki (“Green!”) but I didn’t see their riders do anything...



I did see a new KDX-300 though... Wow!



This is the hi-tech successor to my KDX-200 (for another \$1200!).

Heading home (well before race-day was over) I decided to stop at Mammoth, "just to see". Well the "crowd" was near-zero...

One bike!



Having a season-pass, I just hopped-on. The Summer Season Pass required 10 days of use to “amortize the cost”.

Interestingly the ski-pass takes just **8** days to amortize the cost!

Here I am riding up with the guy in the above pic (bikes and people travel in separate gondola’s)...



The summit at 11,000' was cold and windy!



That's right, 45-55mph winds!

Right now it is still howling here at my apartment. This will be Bummerville if on Monday it's still blowing.

A great shot of me at the summit!



Note that in winter, my head is just below the Roadrunner sign!

Many improvements at the summit complex...

#1 was the addition of an observation area complete with viewers and data-cards... This was really terrific...



Here's a close-up of the viewers and the cards. Terrific for locating key geographic points...



You just look through the tube, and there is a ^ inside, and there is the target!

There is also a well-stocked snack-bar (and booze-bar) and very comfortable surroundings. I was actually thinking of toasting myself, but I was the Duty Driver (of my motorcycle).

Here I am!



Outside were very menacing trail-markers...



Now really... Do I want to go cycling tomorrow, down a run named ***Kamikaze?*** Hmm...

Oops, forgot... Here's lunch... \$6



Powerade and a chocolate-chip-macadamia cookie! Yum!

I couldn't resist taking an artsy-craftsy pic looking down the gondola line...



Heading down...

...I stopped to watch kids playing on the zip-line. **\$10 the first ride, \$5 each-additional!**



And... Speaking of prices.... Since this is mountain-bicycle season... What does this cost?

Not cheap!



That's it for today! Monday is dirt-bike (Mono Lake) then mountain-bicycle in the afternoon. Bye from Mammoth!

