

Nitro in the Blues Hillclimb a Hit

By Ron Dillon

The first hillclimb in Oregon in 30 years, the Excel Fabrication Nitro in the Blues, fired up at a brand new hill on the Jim Whitney Ranch just outside Pendleton, Oregon on July 22-24. The event was round four of the 2016 Malcolm Smith, Pole Position Raceway NAHA Series, and produced an array of interesting results throughout the weekend, partly because a bunch of riders are getting better and long-time hillclimb families, the Smith's, Cardwell's, Whitlock's and Waddell's were absent due to prior commitments and injuries. The event was also tied into the 10,000 person Pendleton Bike Week, so a lot of Harley bikers were on hand to enjoy watching their first-ever hillclimb.

Besides Excel Fabrication, a welding and machine shop out of Twin Falls, Idaho, other partners were: Tarantula Tequila, Hodgen Distributing, Bud Light, Off-Road Vixens and Pepsi. Four different, extremely steep, 400-foot hills were used over the weekend. Friday's semi-pro classes ran on their own hill and only a few bikes made it over, many of the others looping out in huge fashion. This was tough, old-school hillclimbing, but the hill had been watered for several days and it held its moisture extremely well, the legendary Kerry Peterson referring to the dirt as "Chocolate Cake." The riders LOVED it; some said that it was the best dirt that they had ever climbed on.

Saturday brought out pro qualifying, but with rider entries being fairly low, the decision was made to allow everyone to transfer to the mains and the Open Pros got to do a rare, 3-run format, which pleased the crowd to no end on Sunday. California's Logan Mead had a terrific weekend, winning the 700 and 450 mains as well as the X-Climb, finally putting an end to the winning streak of Washington's Jake Anstett in the 450 mains. Joe Shipman also rode very strongly, winning the Open pro main and becoming the only rider all weekend to stop Mead.

The organizers again wish to extend a hearty "helmets off" to the sponsors, donators and partners that made things happen at the Whitney Ranch and a big thank you is also in order to the ranch owner, Jim Whitney and his wife Peggy, and the small army of staff and volunteers who helped, including: Ken and Trevor Thornton, Jim Nejedly, Al Mason, Nate Fertello, Rick Mead, Dean Wilson, Pat Beard and many, many others. The event could also not have happened without the support of the Umatilla County Commissioners and law enforcement and medical staff. Nitro in the Blues is definitely returning next year. It will be a stand-alone event, rather than part of Pendleton Bike Week, so it will be on a different date, probably earlier in July or possibly even late June. The landowner is wonderful to work with, the community is supportive and the location is very central for riders throughout the Northwest and West in general.

The next hillclimb hosted by this group will be the legendary Big Nasty, the fifth and final round of the 2016 NAHA Hillclimb Series on the Tom Pence Ranch near Payette, Idaho on September 16-18, and this Big Nasty will feature not only great hillclimbing, but 3 stages and 30 bands as it joins forces with a large outdoor music festival known as Rock the Mountain. For more information visit : www.bignastyhillclimb.com or call Ron Dillon at (208) 573-4255.

(Riders below in Red received cash)

701-Up Open Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1 st Run	2 nd Run	3 rd Run	Best	City, State	Bike
1	Joe	Shipman	16.162	15.672		15.672	Cottonwood, CA	SUZ
2	Logan	Mead	19.766	15.812	15.775	15.775	Concord, CA	KTM
3	Ryan	Kendall	20.367	16.632	329.05	16.632	Rock Springs, WY	YAM
4	Casey	Curtin	18.696	17.675	18.749	17.675	Valley Springs, CA	KTM
5	David	Kendall	18.632	340	20.2	18.632	Rock Springs, WY	YAM
6	Ryan	Gallegos	316.08	351.02	19.628	19.628	Casper, WY	HON
7	Logan	Moffitt	258.03	286.07	19.898	19.898	Brigham City, UT	HON
8	Todd	Teyler	308.11	229.11	21.727	21.272	Billings, MT	HON
9	Brad	Cowan	22.578	299.1	362.08	22.578	Billings, MT	HON
10	Connor	Nejedly	23.228	23.499	311.06	23.228	Walnut Creek, CA	KTM
11	Jeff	Snipes	293	282.06	361.01	361.01	Rathdrum, ID	HON
12	Brodie	Bell	335	358.04	267.02	358.04	Twin Falls, ID	KTM
13	Shawn	Widdicombe	332.09	356.08	347.05	356.08	Billings, MT	KTM
14	Scott	Morey	295.11	353.1	346.05	356.08	Pleasanton, CA	HON
15	Jeff	Reinmuth	338	356.06	340.11	356.06	Prosser, WA	HON
16	Tommy	Garrison	289.01	354.06	321.05	354.06	Des Moines, WA	SUZ
17	Sammy	Hummel	296.05	305.03	329.06	329.06	San Ramon, CA	YAM
18	Erik	Schaffer	307.05	313.05	278.11	313.05	Haywad, CA	HD
19	Trevor	Fisher	249.11	251.09	302.04	302.04	Marysville, WA	SUZ
20	Kael	Widdicombe	277.06	235.02	239	277.06	Billings, MT	KTM
21	Austin	Teyler	208.01	258.08		258.08	Billings, MT	HON
22	Kenneth	Thornton	NA	NA	NA	NA	Boise, ID	KAW

451-700cc Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City, State	Bike
1	Logan	Mead	17.744		17.744	Concord, CA	KTM
2	Austin	Teyler	17.82	231.0	17.82	Billings, MT	HON
3	Connor	Nejedly	436.02	18.732	18.732	Walnut Creek, CA	KTM
4	Joe	Shipman	18.752	18.886	18.752	Cottonwood, CA	HON
5	Casey	Curtin	19.104	270.2	19.104	Valley Springs, CA	KTM
6	Brad	Cowan	19.57	329.04	19.57	Billings, MT	HON
7	Jake	Anstett	310.07	20.26	20.26	Port Angeles, WA	HON
8	Greg	Atkinson	291.04	20.527	20.527	Willard, UT	HON
9	Sammy	Hummel	21.276	421.07	21.276	San Ramon, CA	HON
10	Ryan	Gallegos	23.315	302.09	23.315	Casper, WY	HON
11	Logan	Moffitt	23.485	314.02	23.485	Brigham City, UT	HON
12	Alden	Miller	24.441	24.16	24.16	Nampa, ID	HON
13	David	Kendall	309	26.654	26.654	Rock Springs, WY	KAW
14	Calvin	Petersen	333.02	426.07	426.07	Hermiston, OR	HON
15	Jeff	Snipes	253.06	417.04	417.04	Rathdrum, ID	HON
16	Jason	Cowan	414.06	287.05	414.06	Billings, MT	HON
17	Brodie	Bell	271.03	322.11	322.11	Twin Falls, ID	KTM
18	Phillip	Allen	283	316.02	316.02	Ripon, CA	HON

19	Ryan	Kendall	314.1	277.02	314.1	Rock Springs, WY	KAW
20	Scott	Morey	275.05	298.11	298.11	Pleasanton, CA	HON
21	Kael	Widdicombe	296.09	289.03	296.09	Billings, MT	KTM
22	Chad	Moffitt	294.09	NA	294.09	Brigham City, UT	HON
23	Kenneth	Thornton	294.04	272.04	294.04	Boise, ID	KAW
24	Shawn	Widdicombe	290.04	263.06	290.04	Billings, MT	KTM
25	Andrew	Cumpian	232.11	266	266	Stockton, CA	HON
26	Tommy	Garrison	240.03	232.06	240.03	Des Moines, WA	SUZ

0-450cc Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City, State	Bike
1	Logan	Mead	15.256	NA	15.256	Concord, CA	KTM
2	Jake	Anstett	15.837	15.437	15.437	Port Angeles, WA	KTM
3	Casey	Curtin	16.283	423	16.283	Valley Springs, CA	KTM
4	Joe	Shipman	18095	16.533	16.533	Cottonwood, CA	HUS
5	Austin	Taylor	98	16.602	16.602	Billings, MT	HON
6	Ryan	Kendall	18.877	333.04	18.877	Rock Springs, WY	SUZ
7	Connor	Nejedly	328.08	18.968	18.968	Walnut Creek, CA	KTM
8	Alden	Miller	19.317	23.663	19.317	Nampa, ID	YAM
9	Sammy	Hummel	330.1	21.05	21.05	San Ramon, CA	KTM
10	Logan	Moffitt	21.484	27.176	21.484	Brigham City, UT	HON
11	Brad	Cowan	23.03	335.03	23.03	Billings, MT	HON
12	Ryan	Gallegos	315.06	23.464	23.464	Casper, WY	HON
13	David	Kendall	330.06	26.332	26.332	Rock Springs, WY	SUZ
14	Phillip	Allen	340.01	238.04	340.01	Ripon, CA	HON
15	Jason	Cowan	338.11	327.11	338.11	Billings, MT	HON
16	Brodie	Bell	333.08	322.07	333.08	Twin Falls, ID	KTM
17	Calvin	Petersen	287.09	333.04	333.04	Hermiston, OR	HON
18	Jeff	Reinmuth	309.02	328.02	328.02	Prosser, WA	HON
19	Jason	Weddle	327.06	273.06	15.256	Grandview, WA	YAM
20	Jeremy	Doherty	327.04	98	327.04	Boise, ID	YAM
21	Kael	Widdicombe	301.1	327.02	327.02	Billings, MT	KTM
22	Brett	Reinhardt	300.06	326.04	326.04	Kent, WA	YAM
23	Jeff	Snipes	326.04	279.03	326.04	Rathdrum, ID	HON
24	Matt	Rhinehart	315.11	278.09	315.11	Auburn, WA	YAM
25	Shawn	Widdicombe	320	290.1	320	Billings, MT	KTM
26	Kelly	Petersen	286	287.04	287.04	Hermiston, OR	HON
27	Scott	Morey	231.04	284.04	284.04	Pleasanton, CA	HON
28	Kenneth	Thornton	281.08	273.09	281.08	Boise, ID	HUS
29	Andrew	Cumpian	266.09	NA	266.09	Stockton, CA	HON

X-Climb

Finish	First Name	Last Name	City, State	Bike
1	Logan	Mead	Concord, CA	KTM
2	Jake	Anstett	Port Angeles, WA	KTM
3	Joe	Shipman	Cottonwood, CA	HUS

250 Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City, State	Bike
1	Jaden	Schnepf	342.09	21.568	21.568	Ontario, OR	YAM
2	Joe	Shipman	22.653	21.946	21.946	Cottonwood, CA	YAM
3	Connor	Nejenly	22.096	23.827	22.096	Walnut Creek, CA	YAM
4	Mike	Huber	26.848	24.595	24.595	Mt. Vernon, WA	YAM
5	Alden	Miller	27.137	25.325	25.325	Nampa, ID	YAM
6	Byron	Cowan	372.05	128.02	372.05	Billings, MT	KTM
7	Jeffery	Schnepf	351.08	227.13	351.08	Ontario, OR	YAM
8	Matt	Rhinehart	328.03	300.11	328.03	Auburn, WA	SUZ
9	Skyler	Wylie	314.02	325.07	325.07	Cave Junction, OR	YAM
10	Brett	Reinhardt	323.10	323.01	323.10	Auburn, WA	YAM
11	Jason	Cowan	320.11	310.06	320.11	Billings, MT	KTM
12	Phillip	Allen	320.10	310.01	320.10	Ripon, CA	HON
13	Jeremy	Doherty	318.01	310.04	318.01	Boise, ID	YAM
14	Travis	Perry	261.06	312	312	E. Wenatchee, WA	YAM
15	Rick	Stephens	262.05	311.10	311.10	Haines, OR	HON
16	Jake	Bork	308.02	301.03	308.02	Baker City, OR	HON
17	Moe, Wylie	Coyote	306.11	306.09	306.11	Cave Junction, OR	YAM
18	Brent	Kinberg	303.03	251.03	303.03	Cave Junction, OR	HON
19	Jordan	Cook	213.11	276.02	276.02	Nampa, ID	YAM
20	Nathan	Schnepf	337.09	252.10	252.10	Ontario, OR	YAM

450 Stock

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City, State	Bike
1	Dan	Stanley	360.05	350.07	360.05	Moses Lake, WA	HON
2	Phillip	Allan	247.02	325.04	325.04	Ripon, CA	HON
3	Logan	Mead	301.04	311.02	311.02	Concord, CA	KTM
4	Joe	Shipman	300.09	310.11	310.11	Cottonwood, CA	YAM
5	Jeremy	Doherty	267.04	304.08	304.08	Boise, ID	YAM
6	Sam	Hummel	259.03	301	301	San Ramon, CA	HON
7	Greg	Atkinson	254.04	299.08	299.08	Willard, UT	SUZ
8	Jason	Cowan	265.04	295.07	295.07	Billings, MT	KAW
9	Connor	Nejedly	278.03	294.05	294.05	Walnut Creek, CA	KTM
10	Jason	Weddle	237.02	293.06	293.06	Grandview, WA	KAW
11	Jeremy	Combs	254.11	292.10	292.10	Baker City, OR	YAM
12	Austin	Thompson	242.01	291.07	291.07	Hermiston, OR	HON

13	Brent	Kinberg	250.10	286.04	286.04	Cave Junction, OR	HON
14	Jake	Bork	263.05	285.04	285.04	Baker City, OR	HON
15	Scott	Morey	242	282.01	282.01	Pleasanton, CA	KTM
16	Ben	Miller	230.05	280.01	280.01	LaGrande, OR	HON
17	Jeff	Snipes	226.10	275.11	275.11	Rathdrum, ID	SUZ
18	Rick	Stephens	250	275.01	275.01	Haines, OR	HON
19	Alden	Miller	256.07	270.05	270.05	Nampa, ID	HON
20	Kenneth	Thornton	243.02	267.00	267.00	Boise, ID	HUSA
21	Jaden	Schnepp	204.02	264.06	264.06	Ontario, OR	KAW
22	Kyle	Peterson	249.07	256.08	256.08	Hermiston, OR	HON
23	Nathan	Schnepp	254.11	209.09	254.11	Ontario, OR	KAW
24	Wylie	Coyote	228.09	246.09	246.09	Cave Junction, OR	YAM

Pro Women

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City, State	Bike
1	Amanda	Gallegos	207.04	208.02	208.02	Rock Springs, WY	HON
2	Mollee	Weddle	178.07	192.08	192.08	Grandview, WA	HON
3	Megan	Runyon	156.11	132.03	156.11	Richland, WA	HON

80-90cc Mini Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City, State	Bike
1	Byron	Cowan	156	174.1	174.1	Billings, MT	HON
2	Caleb	Shaw	148.03	140.11	148.03	New Plymouth, ID	KAW
3	Jacob	Shaw	145.01	146.1	146.1	New Plymouth, ID	KAW
4	Jaden	Schnepp	134.09	142.02	142.02	Ontario, OR	YAM
5	Liquid J.	Bushong	107.1	141.1	141.1	Payette, ID	KAW
6	Mollee	Weddle	139.03	134	139.03	Grandview, WA	HON
7	Jeffery	Schnepp	133.01	139.02	139.02	Ontario, OR	YAM
8	Case	Reinmuth	138.07	136.08	138.07	Prosser, WA	KAW
9	Joseph	Snipes	135	103.08	135	Rathdrum, ID	HON
10	Hunter	Campbell	133.09	132.02	133.09	Nampa, ID	KAW
11	Skyler	Wiley	128	126.1	128	Cave Junction, OR	HON
12	Zaiden	Tobin	125.09	126.03	126.03	Prosser, WA	KAW

0-79cc Mini Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City, State	Bike
1	Jacob	Shaw	135	129.09	135	New Plymouth, ID	KAW
2	Caleb	Shaw	132.06	128.08	132.06	New Plymouth, ID	KAW
3	Liquid J.	Bushong	129.1	127.05	129.1	Payette, ID	KAW
4	Kaeson	Shipman	106	118.1	118.1	Cottonwood, CA	KTM
5	Kael	Widdicombe	106.02	112.08	112.08	Billings, MT	KTM
6	Kendall	Reinmuth	95.06	97	97	Prosser, WA	KAW

Super Senior 60+ Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City	State	Bike
1	Lefty	Freuh	343.02	25.682	25.682	LODI	CA	KTM

Senior 50+ Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City	State	Bike
1	Scott	Morey	22.557	20.143	20.143	Pleasanton	CA	KTM
2	Mike	Huber	25.613	22.025	22.025	Mt. Vernon	WA	YAM
3	Rick	Snipes	299.04	29.868	29.868	Athol	ID	HON
4	Lefty	Freuh	31.278	324.08	31.278	Lodi	CA	KTM
5	Ken	Thornton	415.09	328.05	415.09	Boise	ID	KAW
6	Erik	Schaffer	225.02	366.09	366.09	Hayward	CA	HD
7	JD	Smith	355.01	308.03	355.01	E. Wenatchee	WA	HON
8	Kelly	Petersen	298	348.02	348.02	Hermiston	OR	KAW
9	Andy	Gallegos	309.06	303.04	309.06	Casper	WY	HON

701-Up Old Timer Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City	State	Bike
1	Todd	Teyler	19.594	92.06	19.594	Billings	MT	HON
2	Dan	Stanley	22.009	19.743	19.743	Moses Lake	WA	HON
3	Chad	Moffitt	20.909	392	20.909	Brigham City	UT	SUZ
4	Jason	Cowan	21.089	327.09	21.089	Selma	OR	HON
5	Scott	Morey	21.859	22.624	21.859	Pleasanton	CA	SUZ
6	Matt	Rhinehardt	23.324	21.872	21.872	Kent	WA	KAW
7	Jeff	Reinmuth	25.499	23.184	23.184	Prosser	WA	SUZ
8	Jason	Weddle	24.734	23.705	23.705	Grandview	WA	HON
9	Moe	Wylie	309.06	28.233	28.233	Cave Junction	OR	HON
10	Kelly	Petersen	326.10	407.10	407.10	Hermiston	OR	KAW
11	Erik	Schaffer	379.05	322.04	379.05	Hayward	CA	HD
12	Ken	Thornton	326.11	343.05	343.05	Boise	ID	KAW
13	Brent	Kinberg	66	340.10	340.10	Cave Junction	OR	HON

451-700 Old Timer Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City	State	Bike
1	Dan	Stanley	22.258	19.632	19.632	Moses Lake	WA	HON
2	Chad	Moffitt	21.527	20.35	20.35	Brigham City	UT	HON
3	Jason	Cowan	21.382	22.084	21.382	Selma	OR	KAW
4	Wylie	Coyote	27.456	22.648	22.648	Cave Junction	OR	YAM
5	Kelly	Petersen	372.07	22.812	22.812	Hermiston	OR	HON
6	Mike	Huber	25.326	307.11	25.326	Cave Junction	OR	HON
7	Andy	Gallegos	308.02	32.028	32.028	Casper	WY	HON

8	Todd	Teyler	417.11	304.08	417.11	Billings	MT	HON
9	Brent	Kinberg	384.06	313.11	384.06	Cave Junction	OR	HON
10	Matt	Rhinehart	352.11	359.05	359.05	Auburn	WA	HON
11	Lefty	Freuh	228.11	331.05	331.05	Lodi	CA	KTM
12	Ken	Thornton	327.05	275.07	327.05	Boise	ID	KAW
13	Scott	Morey	322.06	312.02	322.06	Pleasanton	CA	HON
14	JD	Smith	286.01	238.09	286.01	E. Wenatchee	WA	HON
15	Jeff	Bilster	219.05	274.11	274.11	NA	NA	YAM

0-450 Old Timer Pro

Finish	First Name	Last Name	1st Run	2nd Run	Best Run	City	State	Bike
1	Dan	Stanley	19.884	18.92	18.92	Moses Lake	WA	HON
2	Kelly	Petersen	19.227	293.02	19.227	Hermiston	OR	HON
3	Jason	Cowan	24.37	22.236	22.236	Selma	OR	KAW
4	Brent	Kinberg	22.563	278.01	22.563	Cave Junction	OR	HON
5	Rick	Snipes	23.631	292.06	23.631	Athol	ID	SUZ
6	Jason	Weddle	25.573	313.07	25.573	Grandview	WA	KAW
7	Brett	Reinhardt	26.263	361.02	26.263	Auburn	WA	YAM
8	Mike	Huber	26.784	72.06	26.784	Cave Junction	WA	YAM
9	Lefty	Freuh	27.794	312.08	27.794	Lodi		YAM
10	Matt	Rhinehart	330.01	331.04	331.04	Kent	WA	SUZ
11	Wylie	Coyote	323.03	310.03	323.03	Cave Junction	OR	YAM
12	Andy	Gallegos	311	314.03	314.03	Casper	WY	HON
13	Ken	Thornton	307.04	312.10	312.1	Boise		HUS
14	Jason	Reinmuth	218.03	312.06	312.06	Prosser		HON
15	Chad	Moffitt	311.11	287.05	311.11	Brigham City	UT	YAM
16	Scott	Morey	308.02	127.06	308.02	Pleasanton	CA	KTM
17	Troy	McKay	227.03	215.11	227.03	NA	NA	KTM