

## *Mid-South Cross Country Winter Series Awards Banquet*

Wild Horse Saloon  
JULY 18th 2010  
NASHVILLE, TN.  
By Rich Thurman

Once a year the famous The Wild Horse Saloon in Nashville plays host to an event unlike any that the typical Nashville tourist would expect. The doors are open only to Off-Road Racers and their families and the stage that is usually reserved for Country, Pop or Rock music stars is reserved now for the stars that lit up each and every round of the Mid-South South Cross Country Series 30th anniversary season.



Of the nearly 500 in attendance were Series overall motorcycle Champ, **Dustin Gibson**, and newly crowned Quad overall Champion, **Ryan Lane**. Country music star, **Craig Morgan** and his family were ready for the awards and freestyle MX champ, **Kenny Bartrum**, tagged along with the Morgans to see Craig's son **Kyle**, carry home his share of the good stuff.



**Craig Morgan on left and son Kyle, Freestyle MX champ Cowboy Kenny Bartrum right.**

Speaking of the good stuff, \$34,000.00 dollars in trophies and prizes were waiting onstage to the brave souls and their families who not only withstood rain, sleet and snow-filled races of the '09/'10 MSXC Winter Series , but also stood in the long line out front in the early morning heat to get into the comfort of the Wild Horse Saloon. Series sponsors generously gave \$22,000.00 for that sacrifice! **Pirelli** and **Maxxis** Tires were on hand for great tire giveaways, **Tucker Rocky**, **Answer**, **MSR** and **ProTaper** also made it all worthwhile with their generosity. The two Grand Prizes awarded were complete Rekluse clutches from series sponsor Rekluse. All of the Sponsors said they were in for the 2010-2011 season yet to start in September.



Pro Action, KTM of KY-backed **Dustin Gibson** (pictured above on left with **Damon Prince** 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Pro Class), was all smiles while scooping up his third MSXC Overall Championship and Top Pro honors in the AA class. Gibson also received a \$1,000.00 bonus check from sponsor Steve Ezell, owner of Pro Action KTM. Gibson said, “ It was a tough series with a major change midway through the year, and I want to thank Jeremy Ketchum with KTM North America , KTM Hardparts, Barry Heath Racing, Rekluse, Motorex, and Enduro Engineering for making my 3rd Championship possible.”

**Ryan Lane**, picture right, came up big in the Pro quad class this season by winning his first Overall Championship!

Lane said, "Man, I have been trying for a long time to get this. I came in second for three years and third for a couple years, so my wife, Shelly and I really appreciate this one."

Dollar for dollar I think this is the best series regionally out there. The competition is good and I look forward already to next season.

I want to thank my sponsors: Houser racing, DC Cycle, Precision Racing, Fullbore, Clarke, Moose, HMF Wiesco, Rekluse, Pivotworks, Hotcams, Powermadd, and Jett Suspension."



**Andrew Clark; Tanner McCoy**



**Sam Thurman; Brett Gourley**



**Landon Morrison; Wesley Hardin**

The Youth classes were chalked full of top-shelf riders this season with "G-mafia" rider, **Brandon Gourley**, winning the Jr. A class; **Andrew Clark** manhandled the Jr. B; **Sam Thurman** overcame a broken arm and took home the Mini A championship; **Matthew Harris** bombed the Mini B; **Daniel Spurgeon** topped the PW 7-8 division; and **Dylan Profitt** aced the PW 4-6 class. Most of the youth racers took home trophies that were much taller than them!



Perhaps the biggest surprise of the afternoon was the generous and touching giveaway by **John Helmick** Pictured on left above, in honor and memory of his son, **Garrett Helmick**. A brand new completely built Quad was presented to **Brad Hargrove**, also pictured above on right, who raced in the 16-20 C class for the season. He received the award for his consistency and hard work ethic. This was by far one of the best moments of MSXC history and shows the level of friendship and camaraderie that racers and their families have for each other. Cathy Horton organized the event this year and did an excellent job managing all the banquet registrations and the many hours of legwork that went into a nice flow of trophies and awards to all the recipients.

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The 2009-2010 MSXC series also marked a passing of the torch from one hand to another. Scott Horton, series owner for 15 years, handed off principal ownership of the MSXC series to Robert Rodgers, another long-time series promotor and off-road enthusiast himself. Robert will take over the helm in the 2010-2011 MSXC series and is sure to carry on the reputation that the Mid-South series has held for years as the second biggest off-road series in the nation.

The new winter racing season will start on September 25th in Lafayette, Tennessee and is an exciting co-sanction with the GNCC series. The season will run through April of 2011. Events will be held in 6 different states making it the most competitive regional series it can be. More information about the upcoming series classes and schedule can be found at [msxcracing.com](http://msxcracing.com).

