

Racing with AHSCS

Welcome to the Arkansas Hare Scramble Championship Series. The purpose of the AHSCS is to develop a system of competitive Hare Scrambles in Arkansas, where by a point accumulation process will determine awards for overall and for all classes. The season will be a calendar year. Hopefully, Mother Nature will keep the dust down while we keep the fun factor up by maintaining a simple format run on first-class tracks.

History of AHSCS...

Our series, the 'Arkansas Hare Scramble Championship Series', began holding hare scrambles in the early 90's. We have venues today that were here when we started. We occasionally venture across State lines and even co-sanction with nationally and regionally recognized events.

Because of the website, we are able to get everyone together and keep up to date information about AHSCS events. Currently we have an average attendance of about 150 riders.

We have computer scoring and a series website: www.ahscs.com

Our computer program allows us to use the results from each race to follow rider lap times and overall finish insuring that riders are in the correct class. We currently have 12 big bike class divisions, 6 ATV class divisions, 5 youth divisions and 1 women's class. The average attendance in each class is ranges 10 to 14 riders. We hold 17 races at 10 or more locations each season. Our season is from February through November.

We recognize the delicate balance between hard core race events and the need for a beginner friendly track. Our courses are challenging but offer alternate routes when necessary to ensure every entry can make it around. We want this to be a family event where everyone feels welcome and safe at all times. We try to keep our tracks and pits safe for all riders and spectators. Some tracks offer overnight camping. To keep things safe for everyone, the pit area requires very slow operation of motorcycles and vehicles. Always remember that children are playing all around the area and are sometimes hard to see.

We hope you will come give us a try and become a part of the Arkansas Hare Scramble Family.

Basic riding gear is a must when you are going past trees at race speeds. A good set of hand guards and a drink system will both be very high on the suggestion list. A gas tank that holds three gallons or more will get you through a race without stopping. If you have a smaller tank, plan a pit stop just past the one hour point of the race. Place the gas can just off of the trail where you can get to it during the race and still be out of the path of other racers. An extra set of goggles and gloves, stored with the gas can, may come in handy. On race day, show up early so you can beat the crowd and give yourself some time to relax and take it all in. Gates usually open at 7:00. Gate fees run five - eight dollars, depending on the venue, for each person between 6 years old and 60 years old. Once inside find a good parking spot then head right for the sign up location. It is usually a canopy alongside the track near the entrance. There will be a table with blank sign up sheets. Fill out a new membership sheet at your first event.

After that the following will apply...

Sign up information sheet; remember to put your series racing number on the sheet, so we can track your series points.

Temporary numbers will be given out for your first two events. Permanent numbers really help everyone involved. ALL THREE NUMBER PLATES MUST SHOW THE CORRECT NUMBER OR YOU DON'T RACE.

Entry fee is 35.00. Take your sign up sheet and your money to the scoring personnel. They can help you pick a class and answer all of your questions. They will activate a transponder and show you where to place it on your helmet and explain how it works.

Once you have finished signing up, go back and prepare everything to ride. Go to the starting area and start from there. When you exit the starting area, just follow the arrows around the track. Take it slow and learn all you can about the track. There may be hard / easy lines in certain locations. The hard lines will almost always save time if you have the ability to make it through that section. The easy lines will always get you safely around a difficult obstacle. Make sure you are back in time for the rider's meeting!

The riders meeting will explain special information that you will need to know about that particular event. Be sure to attend and pay attention to what is being announced. Riders line up for at the starting line at about shortly after the riders meeting. The order of the rows is the same as the first digit of the rider's number. All engines will be shut off and then each row will be started one minute apart. Several different types of starts are done. The rider's meeting will provide information on how the start is done. Just watch the rows ahead of you to learn what to do.

The race runs exactly two hours from the time the first row starts, not two hours per class. So, if you start five minutes after the first row, it is possible that your race could last one hour and fifty five minutes if you come in exactly at that time. This seldom happens. Most riders end up riding about two hours and ten minutes to as much as two hours forty minutes depending on track length and when you came through on you last lap.

Once all the riders are in (usually about 20 minutes after the race ends), the results are calculated. The results are posted and there is a 30 minute protest period. This allows riders to look for mistakes in the scoring or possibly a competitor that did not choose to ride the entire course. After the protest period, awards are presented to one third of each class. If you have any questions you can ask just about anyone you see. This is just one big family and everyone loves to help others.

If you find racing to be fun, maybe you should experience the fun of helping with the set up of a race. The entire organization is made up of volunteers. Every race is set up by a bunch of volunteers who get nothing more than a thank you to show for their efforts. If you want to know more about this, the rule book offers a complete explanation. While you are there it would be a good idea to read the entire rule book. It will help explain many of the topics that were only briefly mentioned here.