

2nd Annual Moab UTV Rally

The 2008 Moab UTV Rally was a memorable event. Participation seemed to be double over last year. Where Yamaha was the only major OEM that supported the 07 event which says a lot for their support of the industry and the individuals that are working to expand awareness of the emerging UTV sport, but this year it was good to also see Arctic Cat, Kawasaki, Ranch Rider USA, Tomcar, and Ruesch. The beautiful landscape of Moab offers a diversity of riding challenges for participants of every skill level. Those interviewed had nothing but good to say about the event and all said they would be back in 09. The increase in participants continues to prove that the UTV segment of off-road motor sports is gaining popularity over each year.

Chris Rademacher has proven to be a true pioneer for the sport, as the first to offer a UTV only rally. Going out on a limb to finance such an event in its early stages is not for everyone. Others sit on the sidelines and wait until its safe before attempting what Chris has accomplished in a spectacular way. Those who came to ride enjoyed trails of every level, an opportunity to test their skills, meet new friends, purchase accessories from the many vendors and in the end compete in several competitions.

The races were the highlight for many as drivers put their machines up against others in full view of a packed crowd. The competitions were held in the rodeo grounds and true to form, onlookers crowded the fence line and kids climbed on top to root for their dads, friends and favorite machines. The barrel racing sponsored by Ferguson Fabrication was a lot of fun. Ferguson Fabrication put up a \$1000.00 in prize money, which made the competition very keen. In the first round with 19 participants, winners were: Jared & Ruth Livingston driving a RZR, 14 year old Chris Ruesch driving his fathers RUESCH XRL long travel and Steve Kalpinski in a Rhino.

The top three went on to the open challenge. Possibly the greatest upset of the competition was watching a 14 year old take first place in his new RUESCH XRL machine. Second place went to a Yamaha Rhino and third to a Polaris RZR, which encountered a roll over on barrel 3. Young Chris was a favorite among children on the fence as he brought it home for his fathers company. The stock long travel offered by RUESCH



Motor Company for about \$11,000 held its own and proved to many that they are here to compete.

The pole bending sponsored by Arizona Sports Center proved to be a real challenge as drivers had to balance speed, timing and judgment. The turbo charged RZR with an amazing speed of 80 mph had all the power but was challenged by the tight cornering and failed to place. First place went to Jared Livingston driving a RZR. Second place went to Martin McAllister driving a Teryx. And third place was awarded to Jason Rhine.

The Tug of War win went to Kyle Berry driving a Kawasaki Mule.

The balance beam was a real competition of finesse. Of all the entries, only one driver Jason Rhine proved total command of his machine by finding the sweet spot and winning the event.

At the end of day's events, the crowd was shocked when the winner of the barrel racing finals donated his \$250.00 winnings to his RZR rival, which sustained damage in their roll over mishap. This goes to show the camaraderie amongst the drivers despite the keen desire win.

This years Moab UTV Rally was quite the success. I'm sure if we keep our eye on Chris, we will find him involved in even more as he promotes the industry. If you did not get a chance to attend this year, you will want to plan early for next year. For more information on the event including video and attendee posts you can go to www.UTVRally.com

