

Race Report

2017 King of the Hammers

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OVERVIEW

As you may know, 2017 marks my second King of the Hammers in the UTV Class. My first year of racing KOH in 2016, I fell just short of the finish line by about 15 miles (after a very avoidable, yet un-experienced mechanical mishap). At that point I knew it was doable, and that I had what it took, but I needed more seat time, experience, and knowledge of the vehicle to make it happen.

This year, I did just that; I put in countless miles of seat time in the rocks and the desert, countless hours into improvements to the car, and an abundant amount of research and development into dialing the RZR in.

Qualifying was offered for the first time as an option for UTV's this year, and after seeing the brutal qualifying courses in years past, my co-driver (Matt Lasher) and I decided to opt out for the sake of saving the car. In hindsight, we probably would have run qualifying, considering the loop was mostly short course and scattered rocks.

RACE DAY

None the less, we ended up drawing a starting position of 50th, 7 spots behind the last qualifier. This put us off the line at about 8:21AM in a field of 75 cars.

As always, the first lap is mayhem, and to add to the mayhem this year, the first 10 miles of the course were literally "make it or break it", just rough, tattered, rutted course. Our goal was to drive fast and smooth, and we did just that. No flats, no breaks, just passes. At the end of lap 1, all we had to do was refuel, and prepare ourselves for the brutal rock trails that lap 2 held for us.

After 20 more miles of desert, we were coming into Aftershock, the first rock trail of lap 2. This is where the fun began; Cars were littered everywhere, winches, stacking rocks, you name it. Matt and I just drove smooth and worked our way through, passing several cars along the way. Aftershock, Mt. Fisher, Sledgehammer, Chocolate Thunder, Upper Big Johnson, Resolution, and down Backdoor. We just drove our race, didn't have to winch, didn't get a single flat, or go through a single belt. We crossed the finish line at about 1:00PM.



After starting 50th, we passed 37 cars to finish a physical and overall 13th place. I'm happy with the finish marking my second King of the Hammers; I can't wait to continue to develop my skills as a driver, and my relationships with all of the companies that support me.

THIS YEAR

It is important to me to have a unique relationship with my partners and their companies, whether it be product development, media content & social media, or anything else that I can do to give back to those who support me.



I couldn't do any of this without the support of GenRight Off Road, SXS Performance, my Family, my co-driver Matt Lasher, the entire GenRight Crew, and the rest of my Sponsors. Thank each and every one of you. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store.

