



By Rich Thurman
Photos by Rich
Courtesy of Debs camera!



The Dynamic Duo interview: Mark Jones and Scott Kirchoff



I have been racing the MSXC series now for 6 full seasons and these two guys have always given me much to laugh about and look forward to.

They are at every race and compete in the Vet A class. Their history of riding and racing together goes further back than I have known them and I thought they would be a great interview.

So I gave them both a series of questions and they e-mailed me back their answers. Here they are with a little of my pushing to stir it up!

Scott Kirchoff Age: 38

Hometown: Vincennes, IN

Family: Wife: Lori (15 years), Cole and Zach.

Business: Kirchoff and Rode Insurance, Selling Insurance since 1993.

Bike/ Weapon of Choice: Always a 2-stroke man, but this year I went with a YZF 250.

How many years racing the MSXC Series? I Started racing this series on a regular basis back in 1999 I believe. Ran a few races Mid-South races before that but that is about when I started running the series.



Do your kids race? Yes, Cole is running Junior B this year with high expectations and Zach is running mini B hoping for some good battles.

What class do you race in? I ride Vet A.

You and Mark Jones have raced together and against each for a few seasons now. What is that like? Mark and I have been best friends since high school, I got him hooked on riding after college and we have been banging bars ever since. Although when he started the only bars we banged was when I was lapping him. Now we are running lap times, wherever we go, within a few seconds of each other. Maybe I shouldn't have taught him so good.

Does Mark cheat? No, but there was this one time.....ha ha

Does his height give him an advantage over you? Definitely, I am a midget.

Any good short story on Mark? The first race I took him too he was so slow that when he went through the checkpoint the person writing his number down said "man Jones your smoking" meaning he wasn't going too fast. Mark took him literally, pulled off and thought his bike was on fire.

Who wins the most? Toss up, we go through spurts. He gets a little faster than I have to dig a little deeper. I would say we are as close as any two riders can be.

What lies ahead for you and your young warriors? I would like to continue running in the top 5 at mid-south, topping the top 25 occasionally. I would like to see Cole in the top 3 this year. He has 2 more years to run the junior B class so we are still learning at this point. Cole also is sitting in the top 5 in his class in the GNCC's this year so we hope to continue that streak. That says a lot for the competition at MSWS. Cole likes to be on a bike no matter what he's doing, everyday after school they ride pit bikes around still the sun goes down. Zach is in his last year in the mini B class so we are hoping for some top finishes. He has become a very good cross country runner at school and says its because he rides in the woods.

Mark Jones Age:38

Hometown: Lawrenceville,IL

Family: Libby(wife) Trent and Ben

**Business: Petroleum Geologist,
Partner in oil field related
business.**

**Bike/ Weapon of Choice: 2010
YZ450F**

**How many years racing the MSXC
Series? 10 years**

**Do your kids race? Both my Boys
race, this year Trent is going to be
in
Junior B and Ben in Mini A.**



What class do you race in? Vet A

You and Scott Kirchoff have raced together and against each for a few seasons now. What is that like? I did not Start Riding until 1996 When Scott started riding again, he had raced 4 wheelers as a teenager and was very good at. So when we started riding dirt bikes he was way better than me. For years the only way I could beat him was if he broke. I slowly catch up to speed and he would get faster again, but the last 3 years or so we have been the about the same speed. He is better than me if it is really tight and I'm better than him if it is really muddy. The races for me are not as fun if he isn't there to race against. We race on the weekends and talk about it all week

Does Scott cheat? He has never cheated. What fun would that be if you won knowing you cheated. Heck on one race he had pit crew and I didn't and he waited on me to fill up my own gas!

Does his height give him an advantage over you? I think it does, because when he is sitting down he is standing up also.

Who wins the most? Over the length of are racing career he has won more, the last couple of years it is about a tie.

What lies ahead for you and your young warriors? We are looking forward to another season of Mid south racing we have made a lot of friends over the years and it is good to see them all again. I finished 20th overall last year and would like to improve on that, but I'm getting older and there is a lot of you fast kids coming up. I just want my boy's to go out and try their best and have a good time. If they do that they will a great season.

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