

Mark Hahn Memorial 300 As I Saw It

I have waited to post this as I had many thoughts I wanted to share.
This is how I saw it:

If you have never raced this race, you may not really understand why I feel so strongly about it.
If you were there you know better than anyone!!

This race is superior to any other race in the history of this sport for many reasons.

This is the only race of any kind in any motorsport that the family becomes a participant.

It doesn't matter how much power you have under you or how much fitness you have in you...

You win this race by how much HEART you have. And, winning isn't just coming in 1st.

Mitch Durica is the perfect example.

Mitch is a seasoned veteran Closed Course stand up racer. He rode 300 miles alone on a stand up. When he came in before his final lap his eyes were glazed and he barely knew where he was or who his wife, daughter, and I were. While they refueled him he was mumbling that he was spent, finished and couldn't go on. We got him to look us in the eye breathe deeply and as his eyes came into focus you could see that this would be the hardest lap he would ever do in his entire life. When he finished the race the look on his face was priceless. He was King Of The World. Where he finished was not important as everyone who races this race knows.

Karen Mann was the first and only woman to race this alone on a stand up just months after shoulder surgery!! 300 miles!!

The Keelings loaned skis to anyone who wanted to race but didn't have a ski of their own. 13 teams got to enter a race that they never would have been able to race if not for them. Many were first time racers!! Now! That's how you build racing. That is how we get new people involved. I have never heard of anyone offering that many free skis to people just so they would have the opportunity to have the "race experience"!! Why haven't the big outfits stepped up like this to build racing?? SkiWi Rentals is not a big outfit yet they gave more than any big factory race team!!

There is no price money at this race.

No payout.

But if you got a goodie bag with your award add up just how much the items in there add up too.

The awards are not trophies

They are not even awards.

The awards are works of art that will become family heirlooms.

When the curtain parted and the lights hit the awards the walls of the room sucked in from everyone gasping.

The room exploded with applause.

For the awards!! Applause for trophies!!

When I looked out at the audience I was reminded why this is The Crown Jewel Of Racing.

400 people who were all champions in my eyes!

Two tables of Noble Racing from the great state of Texas, sitting there all dressed in their team shirts. They looked so professional. In fact most everyone wore their "Sundy Best".

Seeing the Mayor and his wife totally enraptured by what they were seeing.

At every place setting there was Medal, free Monster drink, and a pin. Everyone got something.

Mike Follmer was thanked by nearly everyone who got the mic.

When Kay Sykes gave Mike an award for his work and dedication to this event the thunderous applause that exploded within the room was deafening. Everyone was on their feet. By the end of the day everyone realizes how much time, money, dedication, professionalism, and love Mike Follmer puts into this event.

When Mark's widow, Sandy speaks the room becomes totally silent!

Ask anyone who has ever been to this event. No one has ever seen anything like it!! Ask Chris MacClugage, Craig Warner, Bill Haig, Aaron Sanchez, Eric Burdon, Bill Chapin. They have been in this sport long enough to have seen the peaks and the valleys. They will tell you there is nothing like it. The National Tour gave Bud Eagles that were beautiful. The World Finals give you the name World Champion.

The Mark Hahn Memorial 300 gives you something so priceless, personal, and memorable that you, your pit crew, and your family will cherish it forever!!

