

11-12-23: Shorty's Sports Park

After a successful weekend watching Nitrocross at Wild Horse Pass and Trackchasing at several other tracks, I managed to find one more track running that wasn't even too far off my drive from Phoenix back to LA. Shorty's Sports Park, just across the border back into California, had UTV racing scheduled so I decided to swing by.

It took a bit to figure out where the track actually was, but once I saw the sign I'd missed pointing to a dirt road I was able to follow it up a hill and into the pit area. There didn't seem to be any admission fee or anything, I just drove up and parked and wandered around. It seemed like a pretty well put together event and at least for the short time I was there it followed the published schedule reasonably closely.



The track was built into a bit of a canyon, going up and down the sides for most of its length. It seemed very narrow, with banked turns and big jumps, seemingly built for motocross more than UTV racing. There was a single pace lap and a rolling two-wide start. It was definitely narrow, but they were able to race on it and make passes.



There were around 15 UTVs in the class I watched, one of the pro ones, I never quite figured out exactly what differentiates the classes in particular. The field spread out quite a bit very quickly, but it was fun watching them fly through the air over the jumps. They really were quite big jumps, and the landing was very close to where the spectators were all standing, separated only by a chainlink fence. I made sure to stand back somewhat since it felt a little too close if one of them broke something or got really sideways on landing.



The start/finish line was up in the middle of a corner, separated from the RVs and spectators by another chainlink fence. The race was something like 15 minutes long.



It was actually a very hot day for November, but it was sunny without any clouds and very much in the desert. The races were more entertaining than I had expected, mostly due to the large jumps. There were two different UTVs that rolled during the race, and they just threw a local yellow and got a few guys to flip them back over. I stayed for the race then headed out, pleased to have counted another new track only 20 minutes or so out of the way.

