

## Crossroads--Salisbury

Okay, from the perspective of a 46 yr old that rarely races the open category Masters 35+ race, this race was fast. Faster than any race I've done this year. Rodney, Mark, Dave Petree, Blair, Matt and myself were there for de Oro.

At least 50 racers lined up for this L shaped course that had a flat sprint finish. The first corner went from a 4 lane rd, to a 2 lane road and the 2nd corner started downhill onto an even narrower and bumpy road, putting a premium on handling, braking and energy management, then downhill to a turn going steeply back uphill, for another right, left and right to the line. Many of us thought a break would win and one did, with at least 5 riders. The field included Baxter, Cubric, Darren Fuller, Mac Cannon, riders from Texas and many other states that came in for these 4 races.

The pace started out from the 1st lap fast enough for the group to be single file, especially for a prime that was called out a couple of laps later. Barney Baxter picked that one up. Then a small group got away that included Matt Mason. At that point we didn't have anyone on the front to slow down through the curves. The pace was still high. That group got pulled back in a couple of laps. After that I think the 5 man group got away after another prime and slowly started adding seconds to the gap. We didn't have a man in it, and bridging seemed almost impossible with the speed of the peleton.

As that break was getting away at about mid-race, a crash at the first corner caught several of us behind, splitting the main group. The main group had dwindled down to about 28 riders at this point, with unfortunately a few lapped riders rejoining the group for some reason. Those of us behind the crash chased for about 3 laps to catch the rest of the main group and we continued the race at a continued high pace.

In the waning 4 laps the pace did seem to ease a bit, but let me qualify that it only eased up just enough for those of us way over our maximum training heart rates to come down a few ticks, but not enough to really recover for a wild sprint. At the beginning of the last lap, I pulled off some not realizing that Dave Petree had to close the gap to stay intact. He jumped around to stay with the field. Mark was in the mix for a top ten but I don't think he made that. I think the rest of us finished with the field, or a little ways back.

On to Statesville tonight to see if there is much left in our legs. Three races to go.

G Moore