



2010 VORRA Hawthorn 225

Luck is when preparation meets opportunity.....



CONTACT: Tim Price,
timprice@koenigracing.com

www.koenigracing.com

The Hawthorn 225 marked the 3rd round of the 2010 VORRA Desert Racing Series. Koenig Racing entered the event leading Sam Berri by 1 point for the series overall. 50+ racers left the line to tackle the 55 mile loop with mild 90 degree temperatures and no breeze. Off the start the dust was thick and lingered. It was quite clear by check point 1 the day was going to be long and brutal. The silt beds began to fluff up and rise, passing was nearly impossible and no wind caused the dust to sit so thick that it would get dark for a few seconds while you idled through it trying not to contact any telephone poles or run into stranded race cars!



After pacing the lead Group T car the entire first lap looking for passing lanes to make a clean move on lap 2 a 10 car pulled out between the 2 trucks in the pits. The added dust proved to be challenging with less than 100 yards separating the 3 vehicles for nearly 35 solid miles. The luck was just beginning however, as Mike Koenig exploded 2 wheels when he cleaned out a rock at 54 MPH that was the size of a 33" tire. "My GOODYEAR tires saved this truck! Despite the wheel damage the tires are fine. Its amazing the impact we took and that they survived. I cant say so much about the wheels though," stated Koenig after the race. The rock did not move even an inch, he center punched it square with the passenger side front and rear wheels. With a leaking front tire and only 1 spare on the vehicle a quick rear tire change was made. Koenig made it another 2 miles only to have the front flat park the truck. This is where some preparation made for an opportunity! A VORRA recovery crew was staged on the hill prepared to tow stranded cars, and they loaned us a portable air compressor. After hammering the flat spot out of the wheel and swapping the air stem that was damaged in the process, Koenig popped the bead back on the wheel, aired up, and had the opportunity to join the race again. The repair took nearly an hour.



5 miles down course more damage, in the rock garden a boulder smacked the drive line and sheared the u-bolt. Mike coasted to a safe spot to swap it with the spare on the truck. Please note: the preparation that made for a better opportunity..... While down again both the leader and 2nd place in Group T made passes on Koenig. At the driver change for lap 3 Troy Robinson jumped behind the wheel with Dan Brink knowing they were a lap down but needed to finish the day to maintain the Group T points lead. Their day was no easier! At mile marker 6 radio communication transmitted "We lost the rear wheel studs. They sheared off! Send car 132 with spare wheel studs." The impact to the rear wheel on lap 2 stress cracked all the rear wheel studs. After a 45 minute repair on the side of the course and a quick stop at Pro Pits to have the damaged front tire swapped with a fresh wheel and new GOOD YEAR tire again, Troy was back moving and settled into a pace to keep the truck together and bring it home to the checkered flag.



Despite the list of damage Team Koenig Racing never let the obstacles end the afternoon. There was a lot of luck that helped along the way that the crew took full advantage of. Not every race goes flawless. Championships are actually won when you are challenged and have to overcome adversity. The team knew that a DNF was not an option. They lost a ton of ground on the overall points to Sam Berri, but still maintain the points lead in VORRA Group T.

Koenig Racing would like to thank: TOTAL CHAOS Fabrication, GOODYEAR, Off Road Warehouse, Currie Rear Ends, Doug Thorley, King Shocks, Rugged Radio, Dezert People, Streamline Forms and Graphics & Price Creative Marketing.

Photos Courtesy of: Steve Brosz

