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| **BLAIS RACING SERVICES RACE REPORT!** **AVE Racing Series, Race 4****Pure 200 - California City, CA****5-19-18** **By: Chris Blais, PRO Turbo 1st Place OveralI** I headed out with my toy hauler and Can-Am early on Thursday to hang out with our new paraplegic friend from Arizona, Jonmark Richardson.  I had a great time hanging out and making some new friends!  Normally I pre-run the weekend prior to the race in my Toyota 4-Runner to check out the course and mark the dangers, but for this race it was nice to actually pre-run in my race car and really figure out how fast I could go through certain sections. The race would start at Noon on Saturday which gave my co-driver, Jeremy Gray, and I plenty of time to be excited and get nervous, haha!  We would be 7th off the line with 30 second intervals.  I knew I had to set a good pace early so the other drivers out front wouldn't pull away from the pack too fast.  On Lap 1, we were able to pass a couple of drivers on the side of the trail working on their cars and one car at race speed.  At the end of the first lap we were already physically in 3rd Overall.  My newest suspension update from Tom Morris at TM1 Motorsports & UTVShocks.com was on point and worked amazing!  Tom has these Can-Am Maverick X3 RS shocks dialed now after our latest test session, and Version 8.0 of the fine tuning for my driving style and car setup.  It was making all the difference as I was able to carry so much more speed over the bumps, rocks and into the turns.https://gallery.mailchimp.com/4524dd0f37014472aff2c7887/images/710bc573-3f76-41e7-8b82-712616bfccee.jpgOn Lap 2 we were able to wick it up even more as everyone was spreading out and there was less dust in the air.  Our class leader, Bradley Howe, was just ahead of us when they had to pull off the side and change a belt.  It felt great to have our Full Floating KWI Clutching to keep our belt temp cool and reliable as we went by on a mission.  At the end of the second lap, we were physically leading but had our new friend, Jonmark in his Canam and Josh Wakeland in his Yamaha, on the charge and close behind.  I had to pit after every lap so I knew I had to put in another good lap time to keep them from passing me in the pits.  We set our fastest time on Lap 3 which gave us plenty of time to pit and get out ahead of the dust.At about 5 miles from the end of the 4th Lap, I hit a large, sharp rock with the sidewall of the front tire and noticed it was starting to go flat.  We made it into the pits with the tire just low and not flat yet.  I have to say I am extremely impressed with my Kenda Mastodon HT 30" tires.  They have been holding up amazingly, along with a good balance of performance and longevity that I really like.  Even with the low tire, our Raceline Wheel still looks perfect.  With other drivers getting 2+ flats this race, I was very fortunate.  When changing the low tire and fueling, we were passed by the Wakeland's Yamaha.  We stayed close to them on Lap 5 and just kept driving our own race.  My co-driver was getting sick from the heat and throwing up during the last two laps, so I gave him a little break and kept it smooth.  On the last lap about halfway through, we see the race leaders off the side of the trail changing a flat.  There we would take the lead and never look back.  A few miles later we would see our friend Jonmark in front of us trying to get to the finish after having some problems on the course.  When we caught him we were in his dust for a while and noticed his car was on FIRE!  We pushed to get as close to him as possible so he would pull over.  When he finally pulled over to let us pass, my co-driver and I were screaming FIRE!! as loud as we could until the co-driver started getting out of his car.  Crazy!  After that incident we were able to cruise in the finish for our first ever 1st Overall WIN this year in our Can-Am Maverick X3! https://gallery.mailchimp.com/4524dd0f37014472aff2c7887/images/4344a98b-6f53-414e-9e5e-d34873166b9d.jpgWhat an awesome experience and great race!  5 races down and 5 podium finishes so far! We are pumped for the next race the end of June, which will start at dusk and go into the night!  Thanks to all our amazing sponsors that help make this all possible for us! Having the best products and support makes all the difference. Tom Morris at UTVShocks.com, Eibach, KWI Clutching, Baja Designs, Raceline Wheels, Kenda, Rokblokz, Ultra Chiller, PWR Tune, Safecraft, Rugged Radios, CT Race Worx, RJ Fabrication, Zollinger Racing Products, Epowersteering, & Can-Am. [Race](https://BlaisRacingServices.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4524dd0f37014472aff2c7887&id=415f1d37c6&e=20635a965f) [Results](https://BlaisRacingServices.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4524dd0f37014472aff2c7887&id=d5d511efb7&e=20635a965f) |

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