

MONGO RACING FINISHES 2015 BITD Vegas to Reno

Longest Off-Road Race in the United States

The Vegas to Reno race is an Endurance race with 544 grueling miles of desert, mountain roads, and trails between Beatty and Dayton, Nevada. As the longest off-road race in the United States, it can take its toll on any level of racer in any class. Parts on the truck can wear out and/or become destroyed. Racers can fatigue after many hours of excruciating heat and exhaustion. And this year Mother Nature added her hand at making the course even rougher, leaving no end of stranded and broken vehicles along the 2015 Vegas to Reno course. It became an extraordinary feat just to finish this year. Yet after battling terrain and other trucks stuck on the course, Randy Merritt and Mongo Racing unofficially raced to a 4th place finish in Class 7200 of the 2015 Vegas to Reno race.

The Vegas to Reno off-road race encompasses several different classes that race the same harsh desert. Because of the unknowns this year, the Mongo Racing team paired drivers Josh Quintero and Randy Merritt up for challenging everything the Nevada desert had to throw at them. The Mongo Racing KC HiLiTES General Tire Ford truck left the starting line with Quintero behind the wheel. Leaving first in class, Quintero maintained the physical lead for the first 160 miles. The first four trucks in the 7200 class were within seconds of each other. And then, bad luck struck: Quintero got two flat tires from striking a large rock on the track. Luckily he was able to limp it into the pit in Goldfield, Nevada. While Mongo Racing's crew changed both tires and fueled the KC HiLiTES General Tire Ford Class 7200 truck, Quintero fell to 2nd place. He battled to keep 2nd until he was forced to stop for another flat tire near race mile 276. After changing the tire on the track, Quintero drove to race mile 280 where Randy Merritt took over the driving duties of the KC HiLiTES General Tire Ford Class 7200 truck, at this point chasing the 4th place truck.

Merritt was making time on the top four when the truck got caught up in a silt bed that was already packed with stuck race vehicles. With nowhere to go, Merritt had no choice but to slow down and join the stuck crowd. This stop proved to be the day's Achilles heel. While the top four trucks in the 7200 class were able to get past and keep going, the silt bed unfortunately cost the Mongo Racing truck valuable time and put it 40 minutes behind the leader. The race was not yet over. Once out of the silt bed, Merritt continued to push as hard as he could toward the race's finish. But the bad luck had not yet ended, as Merritt had one more flat and also had to change an alternator belt. After some quick fixes, the KC HiLiTES General Tire Ford Class 7200 truck was back on track and racing its way to an unofficial 4th place finish in Dayton, Nevada.

Prior to the race, the KC Hilites General Tire Ford Class 7200 was on display at the Aliante Hotel and Casino during the Vegas to Reno Contingency in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The next race for Mongo Racing is the Best In The Desert Blue Water Desert Challenge in Parker AZ, October 8-10, 2015.

The Mongo Racing Class 7200 Unlimited Ford number 7281 is sponsored by KC HiLiTES, General Tires, CURRIE Enterprises, ADS Racing Shocks, TNC Machine, Trail Ready Bead Lock Wheels, Kincaid Racing Engines, JAMAR Brakes, The Converter Shop, FK Rodends, Lucas Oils, K&N Filters, Monster Seal and All Coat.

For more info on Randy Merritt and Mongo Racing visit www.mongoracing.com