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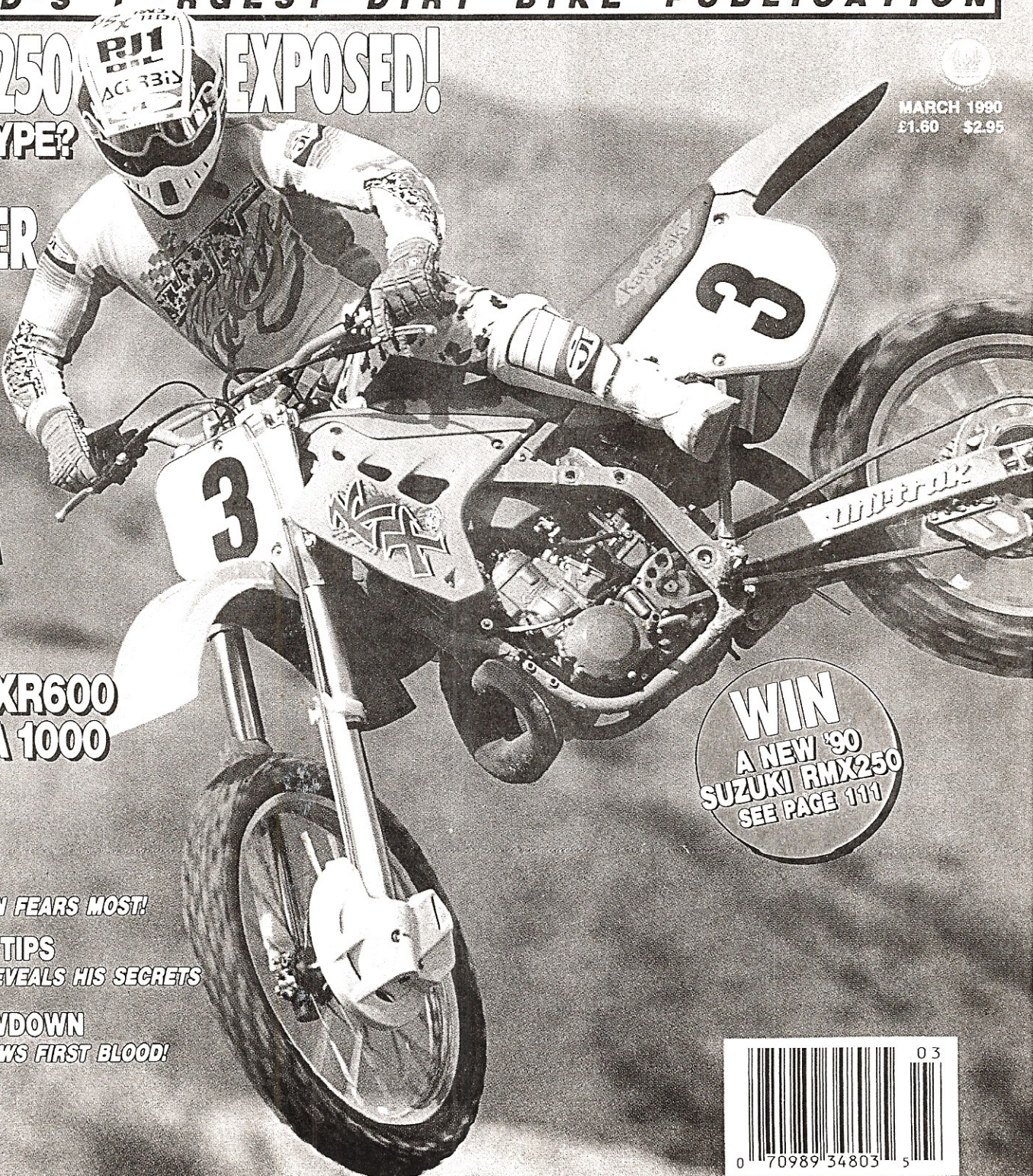
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**SUZUKI RMX250**  
**SEE PAGE 111**



# Women's Class

BY VIRGINIA DEMOSS

GIRL RACERS ■ DIRT BIKES ■ DEMOCRACY  
IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?

In the July '89 issue, *Dirt Rider* ran a letter from Sarah Looker asking to know more about women who race. Editorial Director Charlie Morey issued a challenge to women: If they'd write to him, he'd have me write about them. Well, women—nearly 50 of them—wrote to us, and letters were still trickling in as we went to press. (Cathy Ramsey of Lubbock, Texas, apologized for her late response: "By the time I get even a peek at the latest issue the new one is out. Men!")

The letters represented a lot of hard-charging, totally dedicated dirt riders who are just as devoted as their male counterparts to the sport. With the lack of races, sponsorship, suitable bikes and apparel for women, they have a lot of reasons to get discouraged—but they don't.

The good part about this assignment was talking to so many people who are full of enthusiasm; it sort of rubs off on you. The bad part was having to narrow the stories down to so few. Just remember that for each woman represented on these pages, there were five more we heard from. And for each one we heard from, there are dozens more out there racing every weekend. Helmets off to all of you!

## TEAM SUZUKI

**Name:** Tami Rice

**Age:** 28

**Residence:** Riverside, CA

**Occupation:** Advertising sales rep,  
*Pennysaver*

**Type of riding:** MX

**Bike:** 1989 Suzuki RM125

**Name:** Bonnie Warch

**Age:** 25

**Residence:** Riverside, CA

**Occupation:** Financial assistance  
officer, College Financial Services

**Type of riding:** MX

**Bike:** 1989 Suzuki RM125

Two of the hardest workers and most consistent winners in motocross today are Tami Rice and Bonnie Warch, who founded and run the Women's Motocross Association (WMXA) and make up the women's MX team sponsored by American Suzuki. Their deal with Suzuki, which includes bikes, parts and some gear, began in 1987. The women must cover their own entry, transportation and lodging fees, which can add up to \$5000 a year per person.

Tami, who has a full-time job selling classified advertising, is also president of the WMXA. Her father, John Rice, was a pioneer in motocross, and Tami has been on bikes most of her life. Like Bonnie, she sharpens her skills with weekly riding in men's novice and intermediate classes. She's currently Women's National number five (she was number four in '87) and carries the women's number three plate for the Cali-

fornia Racing Club (she was number one in '88).

Bonnie, who was the number one woman in CRC in '89, was number five in '88. She was Women's National number four in '89 and was number five in '86 and '87. Warch holds a B.A. in communications from Chapman College in Orange, California, and currently acts as public relations person for the WMXA. To support herself and her MX habit, she works in her mother's business, College Financial Services, which helps students obtain financial assistance to attend college.

The WMXA, which works closely with the CRC, has put on the Women's Nationals for the past couple of years as well as Discover Women's Motocross day at Perris Raceway, and the organization is seeking to establish women's classes at tracks all over the country and to obtain sponsorship for women's racing. For a \$25 fee members receive a newsletter, flyers announcing women's races, discounts on selected products and the knowledge that they are helping to strengthen and organize women's racing. Right now, the women are trying to develop a WMXA license that would be good at tracks nationwide.

If you're interested in joining the WMXA—or in becoming a rep in your area to help establish women's classes—contact the WMXA at 600 East Walnut Ave., Burbank, CA 91501; 818/563-1734. Organizing under a single banner is the best way to assure regular women's racing everywhere.



TAMI RICE



BONNIE WARCH