1st ANNUAL

POWDER PUFF NATIONALS

JULY 6 & 7 1974
TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIRST POWDER PUFF NATIONALS
JULY 6 & 7 INDIAN DUNES

Welcome to the Powder
Puff Nationals
Acknowledgements
Power to the Puffs
The Riders
Trophy Boys?
Schedule of Events
power to the puffs

BY DENISE BEARDSHEAR

Look out! Women have invaded the sports scene, from tennis to golf to motorcycles. Motorcycles? Amidst raised eyebrows in disbelief, a special breed of ladies have proven themselves competitive yet still feminine. They race motorcycles; dirt bikes. And even with the helmet, leathers, and mud, you can still make out the curves! If you don’t believe me just take a look ... you’ll have plenty of racy curves to look at during the First Powder Puff Nationals. But more important, look at the overall picture. The inner girl racing her heart out — concentrating on perfect style and form through the corners and over the bumps and jumps.

She’s a lot more important and deserves a lot more credit than she’s received. The Nationals are a long overdue reward for all the hard work and determination that the Powder Puffs have devoted to becoming full fledged racers. And that they are,

Most of the girls have one goal — no, make that two: to be the best ... and have a good time doing it! Here at the Nationals, the girls have an opportunity to do just that. From the super fast experts to the beginners, minis to grannies, each class will have its own stars. While the big star, well she’ll probably be seeing stars! She’s the lucky girl, and also the fastest, who accumulates the most points during the two-day event and will be crowned the Grand National Champion. Class titles will go to the top experts in the 125, 250 and open classes (3 for motocross and 2 for the Gran Prix).

Yes, women have come a long way since the first puffs putted about. It used to be that the guys came out to watch them for a good laugh; now they find many of the girls are tough competition, and look who’s laughing.

Looking back, the first real Powder Puff turnout was at the Hopetown Gran Prix in 1968. Only about 20 girls rode in the race, but it was an important beginning. Since then, a hand full of girls have made enough commotion to arouse the interest of other females. I refer to people like Jan Ditson, one of the pioneers of the desert. And Lynn Wilson, who now owns and operates a motorcycle accessories business. Lynn and Mary McGee formed the first female team to ride and finish the Baja 500.

From the New England coast came Kerry Kried, the first woman to earn an AMA professional license. Others include the Flying Angel, Debby Lawler, who dazzles crowds by jumping her motorcycle over cars. While speedway fans had doubts about a cute blond handling a vicious 500cc speedway bike, Teresa Martin proved them wrong.

Janene Pennington Turton has dominated the motocross scene for over two years and most puffs feel she’s about the best.
During the past two years, the whole powder puff idea caught fire and all of a sudden, there are hundreds of female racers from all over the United States. And it doesn’t stop here. There are women racers exhibiting equal skill and enthusiasm from Canada to New Zealand to Greece.

Back in September of 1972, a group of Southern California racers, female that is, were invited to Canada as part of the Can Am series. Unofficially, this was the introduction of powder puff racing to Canada.

Surprisingly, 1974 is the first year that an official point system (number one plate and all that) has been set up for the powder puff class. District 37 of the AMA agreed to let the girls set up the class themselves, for a trial period of one year. Dee Granger, now Powder Puff Steward, was instrumental in this effort. Not even halfway through the season, the enthusiasm generated by the girls, as well as the spectators and other riders, convinced the board to continue the system permanently.

During the 1974 season, the puffs ride for points — in pursuit of the number one plate to be awarded in ‘75. There are two point systems, one for motocross and one for desert. Gran Prizes may be counted either way. So actually there are two No. 1 Powder Puff plates, since two different forms of racing are involved.

Southern California boasts numerous excellent tracks and lots of hot shoes to pickup riding tips from. Not too long ago, Russ Darnell held a two-day motocross school for females only. The girls gained valuable knowledge on using berms, squaring corners, and most important, picking lines. In December of ‘72, Joel Robert held a similar motocross school for the girls, by invitation only.

Riding is a constant learning experience. Striving to improve, experimenting with different styles and even setting up the bike different ways (as in adding all the trick stuff) determine a racer’s success or failure. But one step at a time . . . before racing came riding . . . and before that? A craving for adventure? A little touch of insanity? Lust for speed? Or a secret desire to revert to playing in the dirt?

Whichever, it’s harder for a girl to get into riding simply because of her upbringing. Paul Boudreau recently ran an article on women racers in Motocross Action Magazine. He summed up the situation “by the time most women figure out dirt riding is a gas and want to get in on the fun, they’ve been conditioned against it . . . while dad was turning the family lawnmower into a fuel burning dragster . . . mom taught little Sally how to apply Ultra Lash”. On the other hand, thanks to all those moms . . . we racers have prettier eyes peeking through the goggles as a result of it!

Prospective puffs might take a tip from Cherry Stockton, who has been running first in Dist. 37 motocross points for most of the season. She feels that a girl should “have the desire to race, to compete, to really go out and do something tremendously difficult.” Cherry advised, “Usually it’s better to have someone else, a guy, a friend, a brother, or a father, to support you in the beginning. Most guys are only too happy to help a girl who is willing to put in the effort to listen and learn”.

Many of the girls do their own mechanics exclusively while others share the task with their counterparts. More and more, the girls are sponsored so a shop sets up their bike for them. On the norm, the bikes require special attention for every race, which is to be expected from any racing machine.

That brings us to the biggest disappointment of a race day . . . the broken bike. It will happen at the Nationals like all other races, and like always, the bike will be fixed and hopefully run right the next race. It’s just part of racing.

Just like when all does go well: a good start, choice lines, throttle rolled back, feeling a surge of power throwing yo rooster tail of dirt at the girl behind you . . . and the thrill of seeing the finisher change from the white flag to the checkered, right when you come across the line! And after it’s over, getting ready to do it again the next moto. And then?

Well, there’s a rumor that Indian Dunes installed a bath tub complete with bubble bath dispenser, especially for us puffs! But we’ll never tell.
MINICYCLE

1 Jan Kline
7 Carol Jordan
12 Barbara Speilman
30 Lis Fancher
38 Candy Hawthorne
129 Liz Hamilton
148 Lisa Christensen
227 Sue Fish
683 Sue Weicberg
379 Amy Bush
1J Judith Donahue
420 Kim Burns

1974 NATIONAL POWDER PUFF CHAMPIONSHIP
MOTO-CROSS

Super mini-puff Renee Payen was California’s 1973-74 Mini Cycle Champion... and she won it against the guys! Now 17-year old Renee will be a 125 contender in the Powder Puff Nationals.

100cc CLASS

19 Dolly Hays
115 Lorrie Watson
30 Lynda Ledlow
68W Florence Hiser
30 Kelly Wiseman
227 Sue Fish
77 Laurie Sharkey
379 Amy Bush
1J Judith Donahue
— Annabella Wood

Slidin’ Sue Fish races against the guys in night racing at Irwindale. She also instigated a powder puff class in CMC.
Denise Beardshear keeps power on during night race.

From Washington, Debby Saenz, 15 year old mini cyclist is number one of her Tumwater racing association. She also races in Canada.
125cc AMATEUR

24  Vicki Hendrix
101 Diane Connolly
16  Johanna Stenersen
99y Carol Smith
33  Barbara Wright
24  Sue Hall
14  Karen Traw
121m Cherry Stockton
77  Laurie Sharkey
102 Marcia Holley

Going fast runs in the Payen family. Sisters Nancy (right) and Lori are top contenders in the Nationals. Nancy is presently No. 1 motocross girl in Dist. 37 with Lori close behind.

Peggy Abott of Florida looks more like a teenager than the mother of four. Peggy dominates the Enduro scene in her neck of the woods and should be a strong contender at the Nationals.

125cc EXPERT

00 Renee Payne
  1 Jan Kline
  1p Pam Niles
  2p Julie Ford
  6 Joy Wood
  7 Annie Davis
  8 Terri Bender
 11 Valerie Stefan
 15 Sue Brennan
 47 Marion Kem
 74b Janene Turton
 668 Sandy Gonzales
 115 Lorie Watson
 2f Nancy Payne
250cc CLASS

BEGINNER
34y Paulette Brown
69 Terri Imming
504 Julie Ciardella
1022 Wendy Stanners

NOVICE
16k Leslie Murdock
128 Barbara Tieskoetter
143 Denise deVines Beardshear

AMATEUR
24 Sue Hall
48 Connie Jean Smith

Cherry Stockton does a little maintenance on her bike. During the '74 season, Cherry held on to number one in Dist. 37 motocross but broke down at Viewfinders and moved down to second.

Photo courtesy of Motocross Action Magazine

Kansas' Karen Hartman does pretty well against the guys on the motocross course. She also has a bachelors degree in biology and an associates degree in medical technology.

250cc EXPERT
00 Renee Payen
1 Jan Kline
1p Pam Niles
7 Annie Davis
47 Marion Kem
334 Kimmy Jo Slayton
335n Sherry Ciardella
115 Lorie Watson
2f Nancy Payne
GRANNY
61 Mrs. Suzi Hallmark
15 Norene Hendrix

OPEN

NOVICE
19 Dolly Hays
129m Cheryl Ann Acres

SENIOR
15 Sue Brennan
115 Lorie Watson
2f Nancy Payne

The young girls could take a lesson from these two grannies. Suzi Hallmark and Norene Hendrix will compete in the "over 35" class at the Nationals.

Juana Madrid checks out the situation behind her while powering through the corner.

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TUESDAY – SATURDAY 10:00 to 7:00
TROPHY BOYS?

SONNIE NUTTER

The girls are known to go “nuts” over Nutter at the Speedway races and now the puffs will have an opportunity to test out his appeal. He’ll be one of the trophy boys at the First Powder Puff Nationals. Sonnie was the 1968 California State Champion and has been one of the top riders every year since.

KENNY ZARHT

Our other trophy boy is one of Southern California’s best racers. He is 17-year old Kenny Zarht. Ken just about wins every class he enters, from the local motocross to the big gran prixs like Hopetown. Due to an injured shoulder, he was unable to ride in the Superbowl of Motocross.
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<td>Annie Davis</td>
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<td>Barbara Tieskoetter</td>
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<td>Dona Davenport</td>
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<td>Elaine Eich</td>
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<td>GRANNY</td>
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<td>86</td>
<td>Carmen Vitale</td>
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<td>Joann Brown</td>
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<td>Mrs. Louis Ledlow</td>
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Kathy Anglin, long time desert racer, shows that experience pays... she's number one girl in Dist. 37 desert points. Self-sponsored, she rides a stock DKW!
Sue Hall throws a rooster tail of dirt behind her. She's a top contender in the 125 amateur class.

Photo courtesy of Ernie Hernandez

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<tr>
<td>EXPERT – 125cc</td>
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<td>00 Renee Payen</td>
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<td>80y Hermalene Wick</td>
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<td>344c Dawn Grant</td>
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<td>189 Squeaky Sawyer</td>
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<td>389c Deborah Weaver</td>
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<td>KH Kim Herbert</td>
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<td>BEGINNER – 125cc</td>
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<td>6  Stacy Bell</td>
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<td>72 Debbie Lutz</td>
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<td>15 Kellie Caspary</td>
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<td>138 Kim Martin</td>
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New Zealand boasts powder puffs too! Here Ann Slater (right) and Anne Macleod dice it out on the motocross course. They often drive 200 miles for a race.
POWDER PUFF PRINCESS

Racing's Littlest Angel, Linda Stephenson, 5, will be on the line in full racing gear to ride a Parade Lap on her Mini-Indian motorcycle. She'll be accompanied by four male Pee Wee Expert racers. Then Linda and her Escort will release 400 white racing pigeons signaling the start of racing.

The youngest powder puff does so well against the boys that she's about to be bootlegged up to Pee Wee Expert. In the California State Championship Pee Wee Novice class, she took second and was the only girl in the class.

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RACE SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 6

SIGN UP & TECH INSPECTION.................7-10 a.m.
PRACTICE ON MOTOCROSS COURSE..........10-11:30 a.m.
RIDERS MEETING............................11:30 a.m.
OPENING CEREMONIES......................12 noon

MOTOCROSS

Minicycle -- One Class
100 cc. -- One Class
125 cc. -- Beginner
125 cc. -- Novice
125 cc. -- Amateur
125 cc. -- Expert
250 cc. -- Beg., Nov., Ama.*
250 cc. -- Expert
Open Class & "Grannies"*

Sunday, July 7

MOTOCROSS FINALS..........................morning

GRAN PRIX EVENT #1.........................afternoon

Minicycle -- One Class
100 cc. -- One Class
250 cc. -- All Classes*

GRAN PRIX EVENT #2

125 cc. -- All Classes*

TROPHY PRESENTATION
(Contingencies will also be awarded at this time)

*Scored separately.
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(2) The subscription agent selling the most subscriptions (naturally, a two-year subscription will count as two subscriptions and a three-year subscription as three) will win the GRAND AWARD...a full racing outfit. This will include the newly designed 100cc Alpaca Stein minicycle; Full Bore boots; a pair of Bates custom leather moto-cross pants; Shoei helmet; and from Speed Center, USA chest protector, goggles, Joffa mouth protector, two pair motocross socks, and motocross gloves.

In addition, there will be attractive awards for other leading subscription agents. We are still lining these up but they will include leathers, boots, helmets, chest protectors, T-shirts or motocross jerseys and, possibly, another mini-cycle.

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81cc High Comp. Kits for:
XR75 $29.95
High Comp. kits for:
SL100 & SL125 $29.95

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Special Light Aluminum Exhaust Flange for XR-75 $9.95

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