

BATTALION CLASSIFIED

Two-wheeled excitement scrambles over hill, dale

By STEVE UECKERT
Special to the Batt

Action, noise and people having a good time; all of these and more are the elements of motocross racing.

A sport enthusiastically received by motorcycle racing crowds in both Europe and America, motocross has finally established itself in the Brazos Valley.

The Texas Motocross Park, located eight miles south of College Station across Highway 6 from the Texas World Speedway, is the site of local competition.

The Texas Motocross Park, open since July, 1973, was conceived and built by track manager Leon Chandler.

"I bought a bike and didn't have a place to run it," said Chandler.

Looking for a tract of land on which to set up a motocross facility, Chandler asked a real estate agent to show him some land, "that couldn't support anything other than mesquite and scrub brush and was really the most undesirable land for any usual development."

Chandler's next obstacle was the financial backing for the track. Henry Menefee, Jim Pringle and Joe Fisher, a local motorcycle shop operator, came to Chandler's help and work was initiated on the track construction last March.

Construction of the dirt track was accomplished through the use of a tractor and other heavy machinery. The track was three months in the making, said Chandler.

A short tight-cornered course, the track is intended to show the best riders, no matter what size motorcycle they choose to run, said Chandler.

The big-engined biker used to shy away from the Texas Motocross Park because it lacked the long straightways that allowed their bikes to really shine. "Occasionally, small, less powerful motorcycles would outrun the big, powerful machines on the intricate course," said Fisher, a moto-

cross competitor himself.

But Fisher attributed this to driver skill because the track acted as an equalizing factor for the bikes.

"In motocross racing a competitive combination consists of 20 per cent adequate motorcycle and 80 per cent rider talent" said Fisher. "Motocross is a youth oriented class of racing where the physical requirements are natural ability to start with acquired experience and raw courage" added Fisher.

"Locally we have a lot of talent that could really be developed if the shops would work with the riders," said Fisher. "However, competition off the track between shops and their respective brands hurts the sport" said Fisher.

Chandler and Fisher are enthusiastic about future prospects of motocross racing in the area.

The crowds are consistently good for the every-third-Sunday events. Spectator facilities are more than adequate at the track and the on-lookers are allowed to choose their own vantage points around the track to see the aspects of motocross that most appeal to each.

Riders in all classes compete for money for the professionals and trophies for the amateurs. Rider's ages range from ten-year-olds competing on minibikes to men with many years of professional experience riding unlimited class motorcycles.

"In two or three years we hope to be running some of the events on the nationals trail," said Chandler.

"Presently we hope to develop enough talent in a 50 mile radius to solely support the track. Then we wouldn't feel any effect from the gas crisis," said Fisher.



MUD FLIES HIGH as a young motocross racer blasts through a low spot of the Texas Motocross Park. (Photo by Steve Ueckert)

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Applications for the Spring Awards Program may be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 303, YMCA Building, until March 31, 1974. All applications must be filed with the Student Financial Aid Office by not later than 5:00 p.m. April 1, 1974. Late applications will not be accepted. 35417

Texas A&M University, February 13, 1974
Office of the Dean of Admissions and Records

To be eligible to purchase the Texas A&M University ring, an undergraduate student must have at least one academic year in residence and credit for ninety-five (95) semester hours. The book starting at the preliminary grade report period on March 4, 1974 may be used in satisfying this ninety-five hour requirement. Students qualifying under this regulation may now leave their names with the Ring Clerk, Room Seven, Richard Coke Building. She, in turn, will check all records to determine ring eligibility. Orders for these rings will be taken by the Ring Clerk starting March 15, 1974, and continuing through May 3, 1974. The rings will be returned to the Registrar's Office for delivery on or before June 14, 1974. The Ring Clerk is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week.
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Campus Briefs

Junior weekend

Tickets for junior weekend will go on sale as Ags return from the holidays March 18.

Junior weekend is March 22 and 23 and consists of a "Butt Bash" on Friday and a formal on Saturday.

Nominations for junior sweetheart, to be announced at the formal, will be accepted through March 18. Qualification are only that the sweetheart be female and a member of the class of '75.

Boxes for the nominations are in the library, the academic building and the Memorial Student Center.

"Butt Bash" will consist of Cokes, beer and chips in an informal setting at Indian Lake from 9 to 12 p.m. on Friday. Admission to the event, which will feature a recorded music system for entertainment, will be \$3.

"Highway" will be performing at the Saturday formal in the MSC Ballroom from 8 to 12 p.m. OPA and APO will provide refreshments. Tickets for this event will be \$5.

Tickets for both evening events can be purchased for \$7. Tickets may be purchased from dorm representatives, class officers or the MSC box office.

License plates

As Spring Break ends, license plates go on sale at the Memorial Student Center.

The 1974 tags will be sold at a MSC booth through arrangement with the Brazos County tax assessor-collector. The new plates must be on cars before April 1.

Plates will be sold at the MSC from Monday, March 18, to Friday, March 29. The booth, located on the MSC first level near the post office, will be open from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Fly for Seals

The Easter Seal Appeal will get off the ground for sure Saturday when Davis Airlines sponsors a "fly for Easter Seals" event.

Airplane rides over Bryan and College Station will be offered for 2 cents per pound up to a maximum of \$3.50 per person. Three airplanes will be available at Easterwood Field for the event.

bulletin board

TONIGHT
SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE SYMPOSIUM in Rooms 225-226 of MSC at 3 p.m.

OCEANOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT SEMINAR will present Lela M. Jeffrey on "Tides in the Gulf of Mexico on Surface Waters and Beaches" at 3:30 p.m. in Room 112 of the Oceanography and Meteorology Building.

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT presents P. S. Farage of the University of Edinburgh, England, in a colloquium presentation of "Spin Change Effects" at 3 p.m. in Room 146 of the Physics Building.

TUESDAY
SOIL & CROP STUDENT WIVES CLUB will meet at Bob's Green Thumb Nursery at 7:30 p.m. for a program on "Terrariums and House Plants" by Mrs. Bob Maddox.

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