

Riders rev up cancer-cure fundraiser

It has been a whirlwind week in the world of two wheels. The inaugural MX Ride for the Cure Sunday was a huge success raising close to \$19,000.



MARISSA & JASMIN
BAECKER DOOBAY
www.MotorcyGalz.com

Dirt bike riders of every age began descending upon the Kelowna Dirt Bike Club's MX track at Bear Creek by 6:30 a.m., ready for a day of fun in the dirt.

Twenty teams set up adjoining tents and began lining up the bikes. It was just like a camping trip except that there were more than 400 people that you shared something in common with and could chat with on the way back to your tent.

Tent city consisted of every make and model from every major manufacturer. Riders as young as six years old came out with their families and rode as many laps as they could to support breast cancer research.

A two-hour time slot in the morning and another in the afternoon were alternated at 10-minute intervals between small bike (up to 250cc) and big bike (250cc and over) with beginner and advanced classes. Smaller children had the youth track all to themselves.

An overcast sky provided the perfect awning for riders and a little rain came down over the break to control the dust. Several volunteers from the Kelowna Dirt Bike Club kept the event organized.

The track was flanked with several track marshals and St. John Ambulance was on hand for any mishaps.

Chris Pearson, from Kawasaki Motors Canada, was the mastermind behind the event, but during his morning address to riders, he was quick to congratulate another dozen or more people for helping get the event off the ground.

This first ever event was quite smooth, which should help make next year's event even better.

With graduation celebrations beginning this week, two Valley high schools were treated to a motocross freestyle show in support of the SmartRisk for Youth program.

SmartRisk is a national charitable organization that is making its way into high schools with a clear message to make the right decisions.

SmartRisk teaches kids to manage risk in a safe manner as they get older and face more challenges.

Accidents are the leading killer of



MARISSA BAECKER/Special to The Daily Courier

A track marshal starts a group of riders during the MX Ride for the Cure Sunday at the Bear Creek MX Track.

Canadian youth and more often than not, they could have been prevented.

The Kawasaki Freestyle Motocross Team came to show off their daredevil stunts, but with the SmartRisk message. The five key components of the SmartRisk message are: buckle up; look first; wear the gear; get trained; drive sober.

Vernon's Reagan Sieg spoke to the crowd of teens and reiterated that if he had made the wrong

choices in his graduation year, he would not be doing what he loves to do, but safely, and making a living.

"I've been to Europe 37 times in the last 10 years, lived with Mike Metzger and worked with Travis Pastrana," said the Canadian Kawasaki MX Freestyle rider.

"Making one stupid decision in my grad year could have ruined that. Grade 12 is a big year, your parents ease up on you, all the parties ... you need to realize that stuff

you do now affects the rest of your life."

While taking risk is what makes life exciting, managing the risk with proper awareness is what keeps you alive. For more information, go to smarrisk.ca.

Kreater Motorcycles has opened its new location.

Kreater boasts a 10,000-square-foot facility, Harley-Davidson technicians for service, custom bikes for sale, mechanics for every make and model, a full parts counter, several clothing lines, and accessories all over the place.

But the best part is Kreater will host the annual Ride-n-Rock on May 29. Tickets are available at the Kreater.

There is a ride through the Valley to collect the best poker hand for prizes. Riders will return to Kreater and be treated to a barbeque dinner, beverage garden, and live entertainment from local musicians The YoungUns with Juanita and then headliner Streetheart will take the stage to rock the night away.

The Okanagan Trail Riders Association hosts Over the Hump Wednesday nights at the eight kilometre mark of Bear Creek road in the lower staging area. May 26, June 2, 9 and 16 are the only dates left before the summer months.

Bring your dirt bikes up, register and enjoy some outdoor time with the family while meeting new friends.

The event begins at 4:15-4:45 with beginner riding and maintenance tips. Riding starts at 5 p.m. on the trails until 6:30 p.m. when you return to the staging area for campfire food and non-alcoholic beverages.

You must be a member to ride the trails, but you can buy your membership on site. Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

www.okanagantrailriders.com
Marissa Baecker and Jasmin Doobay appear every Friday in *Wheels as MotorcyGalz*. You can also read their daily updates at www.motorcygalz.com and hear them on *Power 104.7* and *Q-103.1*. Email contact@motorcygalz.com.

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MARISSA BAECKER/Special to The Daily Courier

Vernon's Reagan Sieg demonstrates a wheelie. Sieg, and his fellow members of the Kawasaki Freestyle Motocross Team, helped deliver the SmartRisk message to Okanagan high schools. The five key components of the SmartRisk message are: buckle up; look first; wear the gear; get trained; drive sober.

Call Jacobsen Pontiac Buick at 250-860-7700, or visit us at 2727 Highway 97 North, Kelowna.