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Diamond Don's 18th Annual Vintage International Motocross

Diamond Don's 18th Annual AHRMA Vintage National Motocross will take place September 10-13, 2020 at Diamond Don RV Park & Event Center located one mile from Jefferson, Texas. Over 500 race entries are expected for this event.

The weekend will be full of national motocross legends, including several inductees to the Motorcycle Hall of Fame. Racers are coming from all over the country. Here is your chance to visit with and race against some of your idols: Barry Higgins, Steve Wise, Brad Lackey, Trampas Parker, Trey Jorski, Guy Cooper and event legend Gary Semics. Semics was the first Supercross Champion for the 500cc class; runner-up finish in the AMA 500 National Series in 1976 and a third-place in 1979. He won lots of Nationals stateside and took seventh-place in the 1982 500cc World Championship Grand Prix Series. Gary has provided more than 30 years of training through his Gary Semics MX School and provides his expertise to the best and brightest on the track today.

Diamond Don Rainey, event promoter, started racing in 1968. By 1973, Rainey was competing in AMA national events and raced in the first night race at the Houston Astrodome. He retired in his 30's, but re-started the second round of his racing career in 1996. He pulled his old motorcycles out of the garage and restored them. He races his motorcycles at vintage events around the country. Today, he still builds his own bikes and races in the AHRMA 70+ class on his 1974 Honda Elsinore or a Brad Lackey look-alike 400cc CZ.

Come early and participate in the Golf Skills Challenge on Thursday, September 10. Proceeds will benefit Jefferson Railway and Wetlands Foundation and youth activities in Jefferson. This event is lots of fun with prizes, trophies and beverages. Event takes place overlooking the Big Cypress Bayou. Then join the Meet & Greet party in the pavilion on Friday evening.

Cross country and trials are on Friday (with the Diamond-Huffman Modern Trials Support Class, sponsored by Jay Huffman, Huffman Restorations). Saturday features vintage racing, 100cc Battle on the Bayou, and XR200 Thumper Throwdown sponsored by BA Motorsports and Northwest Maico CZ. The action-packed weekend wraps up with post-vintage on Sunday and one more moto of 100cc/200cc racers.

Stay Sunday evening for the wine-down party after trophy presentation, with fantastic fireworks show and five authentic cannons firing dramatic dragon's breath – stay the night and relax before the trek home. Landry & Company will be playing as back-up band for anyone who wants to come to the stage – open mike.

The wide, flat grassy pit area offers great viewing of the racetrack that runs through the pasture and into the piney woods. Diamond Don has created a natural terrain grass track reminiscent of the early 70's with a few new sections. Vendors and concessions available at the track.

Jefferson, located just one mile from the track, is nestled deep in the Piney Woods of East Texas and seems frozen in time. It is a charming town and an elegant reminder of a bygone era. There are over a hundred buildings in the city with historical markers. Many historic homes offer bed and breakfast accommodations. Dozens of other historic buildings house museums, craft and antique shops and restaurants. Jefferson also offers boat rides, canoe rental, carriage rides and other attractions. There is a lot to do here so bring the family. For a full schedule and event information, visit www.DiamondDonEmpire.com

Bios of Legends

Gary Semics, 2020 Event Legend

Gary was racing nearly full-time at the age of 14 and at 16 he was practically unbeatable in the open expert class contests he entered in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. The Gary Semics MX School is rolling in on 30 years of training the best and brightest on the track today. Founded in Ohio shortly after his pro career ended in 1985, his name is widely regarded in the world of training and instruction. His rich history of racing enabled him to switch focus and hold in-person motocross training classes where he doesn't simply teach you how to hold on. His techniques and instruction help the rider prepare better – whether it's bike mechanics or on practice days. Gary has taught and helped refine the skills of some of the best and brightest riders before they moved on to the amateur and pro ranks.

Gary Chaplin

Chaplin raced in the 70's, "the Greatest era of Motocross". He was an MX and SX factory rider for Maico, Honda, CZ and DG Suzuki from 1971 thru 1976. Gary was 1971 Trans AM Series runner up 250 class; 1972 Inter Am Series Champion 500 class; 1973 Unadilla Inter Am Top American; 1975 Daytona SX Runner Up and 1976 Dallas SX Winner. He started racing Vintage MX in 2012 and lives in Canyon Lake, CA, with wife Anita.

Barry Higgins

The year was 1969. American motocross was young and struggling to climb out of obscurity. In October, at the Inter-Am motocross race in Pepperell, Mass., it got its big break: "ABC Wide World of Sports" showed up to film the event and exposed would-be American fans to the European stars who dominated the sport. Barry Higgins became an underdog hero to a national audience. As the top American rider, Higgins finished fifth on a 1969 Jawa CZ360, beating several European stars. Higgins has remained in the motorcycling industry and was inducted into the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 2000. He still races vintage bikes today and is the 2018 AHRMA 70+ Series Champion.

Brad Lackey

Brad ("Bad Brad") Lackey was the 1972 500cc National Champion and in 1982, he became the first and only American to win the 500cc Grand Prix Motocross World Championship. To this day, no other American has duplicated what took Lackey over 10 years to achieve. Lackey was inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame in 1999 and in 2013 he was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America. Today, Lackey continues his involvement in the sport of motocross taking part in vintage motocross racing.

Guy Cooper

Guy Cooper is a former Team Suzuki 125/250 factory rider and 1990 AMA 125 Motocross National Champion. According to Legends & Heroes Tour, "Coop" was always a fan favorite wherever he showed up. Running what could best be described as a man's bike, the KTM 540SX, Coop has always been an active racer from his early days out of the Stillwater, OK area to his days on the National Tour. After retiring, you can still see him out at select events like the nationally prestigious Enduro-Cross series and AHRMA National events.

Steve Wise

Steve Wise will go down in history as one of the most multi-talented riders in the history of motorcycle racing. Wise earned the distinction of becoming the only rider in history to win AMA motocross, AMA Supercross and AMA Superbike nationals. The Texan further proved his all-around talent by earning a podium result in the AMA Grand National Championship when he took third, in his very first Grand National Dirt Track appearance, at the Houston Astrodome TT National in 1982. In addition, Wise twice won the popular ABC Wide World of Sports Superbikers competition in the early 1980s, an event that featured the top motorcycle racers in the world from all disciplines. ABC's Superbikers was a predecessor to Supermoto, which flourished in Europe and later attained AMA national status in 2003. Wise's versatility helped him earn the prestigious AMA Pro Athlete of the Year Award in 1982.

Trampas Parker

As versatile as he was consistent, Trampas Parker made history as the first American to win two World Motocross Championships. He was an unknown American rider living in Italy when he burst onto the world motocross scene by winning the 125cc championship in 1989 with KTM. Two years later, he repeated the feat for a 250cc championship, this time with Honda. Parker was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and was raised in Bridge City, Texas. He began riding when he was given his first motorcycle at age 7. Trampas still rides vintage bikes today and you can see him racing against his son, **Ricky Parker**. Ricky is known for his great road-racing skills and leaves the field in his dust when he hits the starting gate.

Trey Jorski

Jorski is still an avid racer and enjoys riding in different off-road races in Texas. He won the 40+ Expert TCCRA Cross Country title twice. He is a former AMA national #54 and 49 in the early 70s and was 10th overall in the 500cc Supercross class in 1976. Jorski is a former Oklahoma State MX champ 1973-1982 in the 125, 250 and open pro class. He had several MX wins over the past few years in +30, +40 and +50 classes and has won several AHRMA national vintage race events in the last few years. He finished 7th overall at the Lake Elsinore GP Harvey Mushman 100 in Nov. 2011.