



MOTOCROSS HISTORY

THE RIDERS AND THE BIKES...



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Preserving the history of Motocross, the machines and the racers of this great sport!

For Immediate Release

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Legends & Heroes to Honor 4-Time American 250 National MX Champion, Gary Jones at Dodgers Stadium!



January 16, 2012 ~ Norco, CA: As motocross spread across the globe and became a dominant motorcycle racing discipline, Gary Jones was at the leading edge of the coming American storm. The four-time American 250 National Motocross Champion (1971 to 1974) was first exposed to motorcycles shortly after birth. "My dad, the only thing he had was motorcycles, and when I came home from the hospital, I was on it with my mom," says Jones.

Gary's father, Don Jones, a BSA/Matchless dealer, was also one of the first Yamaha dealers in Southern California in the 1960's. Young Gary was riding a BSA in local TT, scrambles, flat track and motocross events, winning his first expert class race at the age of 15.

"There was this new lightweight bike coming out and it was cool. We were making a lot of modifications to it, racing it every week" Gary recalls about the debut of the Yamaha DT-1. The Jones family was well placed to help lead, direct and develop the advancing wave of Japanese motocross innovation. The motorcycle that Jones and his father developed was to become the basis for the strap tank YZ Yamaha and successful YZ motocross race bikes.

"It only took three years after Gary and Dwayne got "blown off the track" at Corriganville on their BSA Victors for the Jones to figure out they needed better equipment and skills to compete against the Euro's." Tom White from the Early Years of Motocross Museum remembers. "By 1971 Gary, with a lot of help from his dad Don, rose to be the "Cream of the Crop" of aspiring American motocross riders, claiming the first Trans-Am Championship by an American. Some controversy still exists whether this was the first AMA 250cc National Championship, so Gary settled that by winning again in '72, '73, and '74. Oh, did I mention he won the championships on 3 different brands?" Tom White adds.



"Good to be a part of this one because as I was there when Gary started and was there for many of his wins. I also got to race with Gary and his brother a little as I was finishing my pro racing. The Jones boy's where always fast and fun to race with. Gary was and is a class act, a hard worker and a real sportsman. Glad to be a part of this presentation to a real Champion on and of the track" the Professor, Gary Bailey remarks.

"It was 40 years ago this year that Gary won for Yamaha their first 250 National AMA Championship on the legendary YZ yellow strapped tanked machine. It was an exciting time for all of us to watch him and his family as they developed the prototypes and went out every weekend to race, break and fix in those early days of product development. Gary Jones was one of the reasons why the YZ line of Yamaha race equipment was so successful in the early days of MX" Alex Moroz and Mike Owens, managing partners of the Legends & Heroes Tour concludes.

Gary Jones will be at the Legends & Heroes display at Dodgers Stadium on Saturday, January 21st from 3-4pm for a meet and greet with the fans. You don't want to miss this one!

About the Tour

The Legends & Heroes Motocross Tour is a professional historical display and time-line of Americas greatest motorsport. The tour includes the machines and the champs of Motocross. The project was conceived by a dedicated group of Motocross Enthusiasts who, over the years, have discovered the value of the rich 40+ years of Motocross legacy and its impact on the American motorsports history. "The dedication and passion of the sport has brought the Legends & Heroes Motocross Tour to the next level of sharing this legacy, the history of the machines and men, as well as the women of Motocross. The history of the Classic Iron and its' champions is a dynamic model ever changing. We see this rich history as a great learning lab for all ages" according to Alex Moroz the tours managing partner.