



# Mesquite MX Action

*By Kathleen Walker*

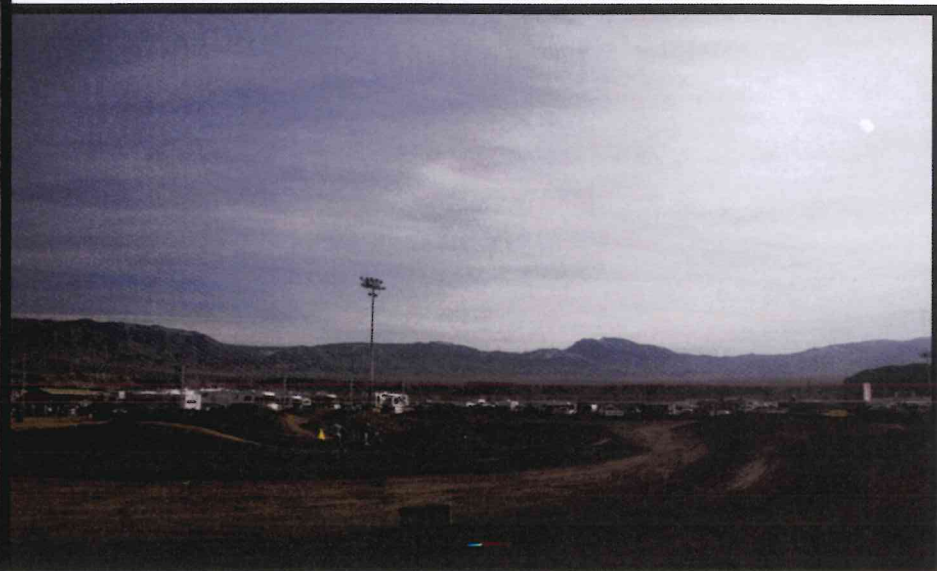
After a sedate and pleasant drive through the Palms Golf Course, careful pavement-confined spectators will find jaw-dropping action at the Mesquite MX track. A good place to watch, and vicariously suck in a thrill, is the view from the top of the hill next to the big U where the riders climb a formidable hill, balance and turn a hairpin turn at the top, and then plunge back down to launch and fly over the jumps. Don't forget to breathe. Closer to the bottom, some of the riders, who have over another decade before they can drive a stable four wheels, are catapulting over the rollercoaster dirt track. Don't worry. Those safety-wrapped five year olds really know what they're doing out there.



Spread out on 40 acres just a jump across the Arizona line next to Mesquite, the Mesquite motocross track is putting the sport's power pumping action on the MX map. Riders of all ages and experience wrangle and launch durable dirt bikes of all sizes and horsepower around the well maintained tracks of prime mix soil. They are drawn to the track's unique features and agreeable winter weather for amateur practice and a growing, year-long calendar of local and world class events.

Owned and operated by siblings Jason and Jenna Ellis from Las Vegas, Mesquite MX is an extension of their lifelong involvement in the sport of motocross racing. Ages 24 and 22, respectively, the pair acquired the existing track on leased ground from the previous operator four years ago. Supported by long time racing friends and family, it's not a bad way for young people, raised on the sport's adrenaline fun and athleticism, to earn a successful living. And they've taken on Vegas...

In April of 2010, the World Mini Grand Prix, the sport's largest amateur national of the year, is coming to Mesquite. Formerly held at the Las Vegas Speedway, the track change is a very big deal in the sport, and it will bring in 1500 to 3500 riders. The attached fans, sponsors, and manufacturers will additionally swell the number of visitors during four days of big event, world class racing.



The dirt at Mesquite MX has good properties—clay mixed with sand, it holds water efficiently and produces moist, soft track conditions for knobby tires to grip and hold the track. However, the compactable dirt mix also produces ruts and, depending on experience level, the ruts are either appreciated or not. Pros appreciate the ruts for the stabilization they provide in holding the track, particularly in turns, while beginners can be challenged by the uneven surface. There are three tracks, and the main track is distinguished by a steep hill, a feature shared by only one other MX track in the country. The main track will be redesigned, in conjunction with a sanctioned track design expert, for April's Mini Grand Prix. To meet the challenges of a world class motocross event, the track will be made more technically challenging and wider for the 40 riders in each class.

Track maintenance is important for all levels including regular practice riding, and when the riders leave for the day the work starts. The track maintenance fleet includes a front end loader, bulldozer, wheel tractor, and four water trucks operated in a regular pattern of watering, disking, watering, and leveling. The precipitous hill also has to be well groomed, and track owner Jason Ellis, brazenly runs the heavy equipment up and around the tight U as rapidly as he rides the more maneuverable bikes.

Closed in May and reopening in August of every year, the track is open every Saturday and Sunday for fun and practice. The Mesquite track is collaborating with the Sandy Valley and Boulder City tracks in a best scoring circle event and WORC (World Off Road Championship) Racing, including ATVs, is also offered.

Check the web site, [www.Mesquitemotocross.com](http://www.Mesquitemotocross.com) or phone for complete information on all track events. Track Hotline: (928) 347-4176, Phone: (702) 885-7391. ☞

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