



Loretta Lynn's

DEFINING MOMENTS

For one week of every summer since 1982, the eyes of the motocross world focus on Loretta Lynn Ranch in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee, when the Rocky Mountain ATV/MC AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship blasts off the starting gate here at the legend-

ary country singer's home. Thousands of stories come out of the event each time, some triumphant, others heartbreaking. As we celebrate thirty-five years here at the Ranch, we thought we'd revisit one big story from every year since the founding of what many know as the world's greatest motocross vacation.

1982

The first Loretta Lynn's race draws a lot of speculation—it's a brand new track with a brand new qualifying system, and many don't think the event will accomplish what it's meant to do: bring together all of the fastest amateur racers in the country (not just the ones east of the Mississippi River). But when Kawasaki Team Green—also born in 1982—asks its riders to attend, the race has instant credibility as a national event. The biggest winner, however, is on a Yamaha, as California's rising superstar Ron Lechien dominates the 125 A Stock and Modified classes.

1982





Team Green started out front.



Team Green podiums.



Eddie Hicks

1983

Riders can compete in more than two classes at first, but after Texas hotshoe Danny Storbeck sweeps three classes, the AMA changes the rules. That means Storbeck is the one and only rider ever to win three classes in one year!

1984

California's Eddie Hicks puts his name on all the factory teams' radars by dominating the 85cc (14-15) classes, but it's other class winners who emerge as top pros, including Eddie Warren, Tyson Vohland, Jimmy Button, Willie Surratt, Shaun Kalos, and future two-time FIM World Motocross Champion Trampas Parker.

1985

Hurricane Claudette blows through the middle of the country and leaves Eddie Warren practically underwater. As a result, the decision is made to pull the plug on the last set of motos for a rare weather-related cancellation.

1986

After years of the race being sponsored by Kawasaki, American Honda steps up big as the event title sponsor, but Team Green still gets its traditional spot right behind the starting gate—and it's still there today!

1987

The champions from this year are all you need to know: Jeremy McGrath, Jeff Emig, Mike LaRocco, Jeff Matiasovich, Tallon Vohland, Jimmy Button, Brian Swink.



1990

Yokohama Tires gets on board and gives every class winner a trip to the Tokyo Supercross in Japan—as long as they're running Yokohama tires. Among the takers is future superstar Tim Ferry.

1992

As the race enters its second decade, Florida's Tim Ferry takes the lead in all-time wins, earning his sixth and seventh career Loretta Lynn's titles.

1988

The graduation of Damon Bradshaw. Over the course of two days, he goes from winning the 125 A Stock class as a Yamaha support rider to finishing fourth in his first 125 AMA Pro Motocross National, at Millville, Minnesota's Spring Creek.



1989

It would have taken a crystal ball to see it, but all three members of one of the most dominant Team USA efforts at the Motocross des Nations compete together in the 125 A Modified class at Loretta Lynn's. Winner Steve Lamson, third-place Jeremy McGrath, and final-moto winner Jeff Emig will join together in 1996 as professionals for Team USA and annihilate the rest of the world in Jerez, Spain.



1991

Two graduates of Loretta Lynn's are reigning FIM World Champions in Europe: Trampas Parker (1989, '91) and Donny Schmit (1990, '92). Yet the AMA's 250, 500, and Supercross Champion in 1991 is someone who never raced at Loretta's: Frenchman Jean-Michel Bayle.

1993

Another new sponsor—one that has remained a part of the race ever since—is Fox Racing. And one of its youngest riders, a seven-year-old from Florida, wins for the first time in the 51cc Pee-Wee class: James Stewart.



1994

The most controversial year ever—the Year of the Cobra. Bud Maimone's super-minicycle creation was the game-changer in global mini racing, no question about it. What was a question, though, was whether there were enough of the superior little yellow bikes on the market to pass the AMA's homologation rules. Only three make it to the starting gate at the Ranch, including the one the 51cc (7-8) Class winner—Brent Maimone—is riding.



1995

Tennessee's own Kevin Walker, who had a very brief professional career, signs up for the Junior Plus 25 class and wins the first of fourteen AMA Amateur National Motocross Championships, all of them aboard Yamahas.

1996

Ricky Carmichael graduates from Loretta Lynn's with his ninth title, then goes straight to the Pro Circuit Kawasaki team, where he finishes eighth overall in his pro debut. We're really not sure what happened to that Carmichael kid after that...



Ricky Carmichael (34)

1997

By this point, thirty classes make up the AMA Amateur National Championship at Loretta Lynn's, and Nick Wey is the big A-class winner—though a weeklong shootout in the Schoolboy classes between Maryland's Travis Pastrana and California's Billy Payne is the real headliner.

1998

On the day practice was to start—August 3, 1998—Dave Coombs Sr. passes away after a tough battle with leukemia. The rest goes on as planned, and a giant wake is held that night, and pretty much every night. That's the way Big Dave would have wanted it.



MXS ARCHIVES

2000

The next game-changer is upon the sport, though few probably realize at the time that four-stroke motorcycles will proliferate and mostly push two-strokes aside within a half-dozen years. But in 2000, there are so few thumpers that they get a single class, called Four Stroke 201cc - 650cc.

2001

James Stewart's last year as an amateur sees him win his tenth and eleventh career AMA Amateur National titles, the record at the time. The following January, he would become the youngest 125 SX winner ever, at the age of 16 years, 20 days.



CLUBBY

1999

Florida teenager Jessica Patterson wins the first AMA National Championship of her Hall of Fame career, and Travis Pastrana wins the 125 A Class and then gains global fame for what he does elsewhere that summer: wins the X Games gold medal in freestyle motocross and then launches his Cernic's Racing Suzuki RM125 into San Francisco Bay!

2002



Mike Alessi

A few heated rivalries in the minicycle classes will manifest themselves throughout the sport in the coming years: Mike Alessi vs. Davi Millsaps, Ryan Villopoto vs. Mike Alessi, Jason Lawrence vs. Josh Grant, and more. These kids were all fun to watch even back then!

2004

Twenty-two years after the event was founded, the number of entrants trying to qualify for Loretta Lynn's surpasses the 20,000 mark for the first time. It's also the last year here for Mike Alessi, who ends his amateur career with his tenth and eleventh titles, matching James Stewart's record. (Also this year, Loretta Lynn herself wins a Grammy for Best Country Album for *Van Lear Rose*, produced by Jack White.)

2006

Trey Canard, Josh Hill, Austin Stroupe, Broc Tickle, Blake Wharton, Jessy Nelson, Justin Barcia, Eli Tomac, Cooper Webb, and Adam Cianciarulo all win classes, as do vet riders Jeff Emig and Doug Dubach. What else do they all have in common? They've all won AMA Supercross races!

2005

Team Green Kawasaki's Ryan Villopoto wins the prestigious AMA Horizon Award after earning the 125 A title over Jake Weimer, Martin Davalos, and Matt Boni. Within a year he will be the AMA 250 Class Motocross Champion and a winner for Team USA in the annual Motocross of Nations.

2007

Sadly, a vet rider from Colorado crashes in the middle of his second moto, smashing his chest into his crossbar and causes severe internal bleeding. Ray Lang becomes the first fatality in the history of this event.

2003

After what is to be his last minicycle race, Honda factory rider Mike Alessi has his last championship bike claimed after the race by Adam Chatfield's dad. To say it's the talk of the week would be an understatement.

2008

The last of the real boom years, as the Loretta Lynn's program draws in more than 24,000 entries, the high-water mark for any motocross race in the sport's history. Unfortunately, the U.S. economy is about to endo.



2009

Scotland-born, Canada-raised, California-living Dean Wilson sweeps the 250 A and 450 A/ Pro Sport classes and earns the AMA's Horizon Award, edging out dominant 125 Schoolboy rider Eli Tomac. Both will go on to be AMA 250 Pro Motocross Champions.



2010

The standout star of the week is New Mexico's Jason Anderson, riding for Kawasaki Team Green at the time. He would go on to become an AMA 250 Supercross Champion and the first rider to win an AMA 450SX on a Husqvarna.

2011

The AMA Amateur Nationals reach a new generation of viewers when the Loretta Lynn's motos are live-streamed for the first time on www.racertv.com. And in a nod to how much the sport had transformed, a two-stroke class is announced for the following year.

2012

Five years after retiring from professional motocross, the GOAT himself, Ricky Carmichael, returns to race the Junior 25+ class. To no one's surprise, he wins, yet he is almost upstaged by fourteen-year-old Adam Cianciarulo, who leads every inch of all six of his motos in his last races at Loretta Lynn's.



2013

With Loretta Lynn's part of the Red Bull Signature Series, the final 450 A and 450 B motos are shown live on NBC network television.

2014

RJ Hampshire earns the AMA Horizon Award by sweeping all six motos of the 250 A and Open Pro Sport classes, earning a professional ride with the GEICO Honda team.



2015

In a battle that could have happened at a Pro Motocross National in 1998, Sebastien Tortelli beats Robbie Reynard for the Vet 35+ title but loses the Junior 25+ title to career-long amateur Ricky Renner.

