

Law Tigers founder Warren Levenbaum with brother Buddy [right]



photos above, below, right courtesy of LawTigers



Bringing Left-Turn Mayhem Back to Phoenix

May 14, 2016 ... To be perfectly honest, I know absolutely nothing about this sport, except that it is one hell of a lot of fun to watch! So, we'll leave the actual race reporting to someone who knows what they're talking about. See the AMA report below.

This year brings the 15th Anniversary of Law Tigers and the 70th birthday of Law Tigers founder Warren Levenbaum. Congratulations on both milestones, Warren!

Law Tigers celebrated their 15th Anniversary in a big way!! They ushered in the revival of Pro Flat Track Racing in Arizona ... a sport which has been gone from the state for 30 years.

Turf Paradise in Phoenix was the venue for the racing. It is such a beautiful setting. There are viewing areas indoors and out... You can watch the races outdoors OR on indoor TV monitors that provide live close-up viewing like only the trackside cameras can provide. You could hear & feel a bit of the rumble even from the upper observation deck as the bikes took off from the starting line. But there's nothing like the sights and sounds of being trackside rather

than watching on TV. You lose the sense of speed when you watch on the monitors. Trackside, you see the bikes fly by in the blink of an eye.

Grand Marshal of the event was Buddy Stubbs. He was a racer before becoming the first Harley-Davidson dealer in Phoenix. This year he is celebrating 50 years as the premier HD dealer in the Valley of the Sun AND his 77th birthday. As part of the opening ceremonies, Buddy took a run around the 1-mile oval on a 1972 Harley-Davidson XR-750. It is one of his many vintage motorcycles on display in his museum located within the Phoenix dealership.

We did pick up some race-related tidbits along the way ☺

All riders are new to this track... As this was the first-time here for the racers, there was no so-called 'home field' advantage to anyone. They were all on equal footing in that regard.

This being a mile track, the riders can get up more speed as compared to on some of the shorter courses. Speeds were projected to exceed 130mph at times.

It was a great looking turnout! In discussing the races afterward with Ari Levenbaum, Law Tigers Vice President of Marketing and Operations, He commented that spectator turnout, "... exceeded

our expectations, with an expected turnout of over 8,000 people." What an *outstanding* response to this event! He also confirmed that flat track is returning to Phoenix, for *at least* the next 5 years. "The promoters have a 5-year contract with the track and we expect to continue the race for many years to come."

Ari shared these closing remarks, "We were honored to bring AMA Pro Flat Track racing back to Phoenix. The new AMA management team has many great ideas to improve and grow the sport and is planning on expanding the series both in the US and internationally. We are witnessing the rebirth of a sport with a storied history steeped in tradition that goes back over 100 years. What's coming will be good for the motorcycle industry and fans of motorcycle racing, and we want to be a part of it!"

There was a *lot* of enthusiasm from spectators. There's no doubt that it is a popular decision for flat track racing to return to Phoenix. It was a really fun day! We're glad we could be there.

Betsy & Bruce

Add'l photos from LawTigers

photo above [bottom right], Law Tigers were honored by the Green Knights MC in appreciation for their support of GKMC charity work.



Bryan Smith Turns Up the Heat at the Law Tigers Arizona Mile

Sammy Halbert maintains GNC1 points lead over Jared Mees; Dalton Gauthier gives BMW a breakout victory in GNC2

PHOENIX, Ariz. (May 14, 2016) - Bryan Smith turned up the heat in the Valley of the Sun on Saturday by winning AMA Pro Flat Track's inaugural Law Tigers Arizona Mile in stunning fashion. The "Mile Specialist" lived up to his nickname, topping defending Harley-Davidson GNC1 presented by Vance & Hines champion No. 1 Jared Mees by 12.646 seconds in front of a standing room only crowd at Turf Paradise.

With temperatures soaring above 100 degrees, Smith, mounted on his No. 42 Crosley/Howerton Motorsports Kawasaki Ninja 650, showed that heat wasn't a factor for him. The Michigan native set a blistering pace all day, winning his heat race by a remarkable 10.942 seconds to start from pole position in the main, and then leading every lap of the main in flawless succession.

"It was pretty interesting, it might've looked easy but it was an absolute handful out there," Smith said. "As soon as you thought you had everything together you'd catch a rut, your front-end would tuck and you'd about crash. No matter how easy it looked it was work every lap. My hat's off to the entire team. This is the best bike I've ever had and we stepped our game up this year in every department."

Like Smith, defending series champ Mees showed speed early to take the win in his heat race by 7.457 seconds. However, the Harley-Davidson-mounted rider was unable to keep Smith's pace in the night's main event.

"The biggest thing was that I was charging so hard so early in the beginning to get to him, that I was missing lines and missing my points," said Mees. "Finally it was just like I needed to settle in and maintain where I was and bring home second. We have Sacramento and Springfield coming up and I feel pretty confident that we will be able to give him a run."

After bolting to the front at the start of the race, No. 65 Cory Texter settled into a rhythm behind Smith and Mees to earn the first GNC1 podium finish of his career.

"I had no clue," said Texter. "I was just rolling around and picking off guys. I thought I got fourth or fifth so I was pretty excited when I came around and they were pointing at me; I had to look behind and make sure they were pointing at me. To say it is a dream come true is an understatement."

No. 17 Henry Wiles finished fourth after a long battle with series points leader No. 69 Sammy Halbert, who finished an eventual fifth. Halbert heads to next weekend's Sacramento Mile with 73 points, followed by Mees with 68 points and third-place No. 5 Jake Johnson with 63 points.

In the GNC2 class, BMW-mounted Dalton Gauthier surged from the second-to-last starting position to take home the first professional flat track victory for BMW in the 62-year history of the sport. The win propelled him to a 19-point lead in the GNC2 point standings.

"I knew I needed a good start and I just wanted to finish in the top ten," said Gauthier. "I needed to get out of the draft and I did that. The bike was working awesome and that's what I wanted going into Sacramento."

Kawasaki-mounted No. 99A Kyle McGrane maintained a consistent position throughout the 12-lap Main to

take second place and No. 94B Ryan Wells finished third.

Next weekend, the series heads to California for the Sacramento Mile at the Cal Expo Fairgrounds. For tickets and information, please visit <http://www.sactomile.com>.

How to Watch: FansChoice.tv is the official home for live streaming coverage of AMA Pro Flat Track events. The site also provides coverage of IMSA's development and single-make series, and NASCAR's touring and weekly series. Catch all the action at <http://www.FansChoice.tv>.

About AMA Pro Flat Track: AMA Pro Flat Track is the world's premier dirt track motorcycle racing series and one of the longest-running championships in the history of motorsports. Sanctioned by AMA Pro Racing in Daytona Beach, Fla., the series is highly regarded as the most competitive form of dirt track motorcycle racing on the globe. For more information on AMA Pro Flat Track, please visit www.amaproracing.com/ft/, follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook or live stream the on-track action on FansChoice.tv.

About AMA Pro Racing: AMA Pro Racing is the premier professional motorcycle racing organization in North America, operating a full schedule of events and championships for a variety of motorcycle disciplines. Learn more about AMA Pro Racing at www.amaproracing.com.

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