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## ***Milestone Raceway and CALVMX/AHRMA SW "Create Classic Racing Magic"***

By Steve Caro

Photography by Kathryn Caro

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There is a special feeling with the beginning of a new sporting season. Be it the first pitch, the opening face-off or the first kickoff, a new season means a fresh start for everyone involved. For those whose chosen sport is vintage motocross, it's the start of the first moto and the sound of classic machines in their natural environment. The minute the first set of clutches drop and the knobbies dig in, means the winter hiatus is over and it's time to RACE!



The 2012 CALVMX/AHRMA/JT RACING vintage motocross season roared into action at a venue not previously visited by the vintage racing community. Milestone Raceway, located in Riverside County, played host to this year's opening round and it was a great way to start the new season. An entry list of over 140 competitors ranging in age from the youngest juniors to the well-seasoned vets kept the track in constant use throughout the day.

Located in the heart of an industrial park area, the Milestone facility provided an extremely vintage friendly course which spared the original vintage (pre-1975) machines from the wheel and frame breaking obstacles of modern tracks, yet provided ample challenge for the post-vintage racers in attendance. Composed of numerous banked turns and well-designed table top jumps, its loamy soil composition provided ample lines and plenty of traction. Many of the racers who competed "back in the day" remarked the course reminded them of layouts seen at venues such as the long gone Ascot Park and South Bay Speedway 117 of the mid 1970's.

With a career dating back to essentially the beginning of vintage motocross racing, Ron Renzulli has logged thousands of laps on innumerable tracks. Renzulli kicked off his 2012 season in fine style by

taking the overall win in the hotly contested Vintage Sportsman 250 Intermediate division, along with a very respectable third overall in the heavily subscribed Plus 50 Vintage Intermediate class.

In the Sportsman class, the first moto saw CZ mounted Renzulli mastering the truly old-school, front-wheel-in-the-trench, green flag start, to lead the pack out of turn one. A three rider battle for second, involving Dave Peabody (Suz), Craig Walker (CZ) and Mark Reeder (CZ) commenced. Peabody clung to second until midway through lap three in spite of the pressure he was getting from Scott Piddington (Oss) and the Maico of Norm Himaka.

Nearing the end of lap three, Reeder passed into second with Piddington taking over third place. Meanwhile, Renzulli had built up a nine second lead on the field and went on to take the moto win uncontested. Reeder crossed the line in second, with Piddington, fully recovered from his unfortunate crash at the season finale at Glen Helen, in third.

The second moto saw Renzulli timing the green flag perfectly leading to him powering away from the pack as they exited the first turn. In close formation behind him were Reeder and Kirk Chapman (CZ). Renzulli stretched his lead to 10 seconds by lap three. Behind him, Reeder and Chapman battled back-and-forth for second. Chapman executed a perfect pass on lap five to take over second, with Reeder firmly in third. At the checkers, Renzulli's 1-1 scores garnered him the overall. Reeder (2-3) took second overall, and Norm Himaka, with consistent 5-4 scores in third.

The racing was no less exciting in the post-vintage classes. In GP-1-250 Intermediate division, Brian Tracy combined 2-1 scores to take the overall on his classic *IT Yamaha*, complete with headlight and fender pack. Longtime member Steve Gallegos (Hus) garnered second overall, with John Farmer (Hon) in third.

It was a battle of the Maico's in GP-1 500 Expert as Brad Morrison and Ronald Ratigan put their powerful German machines through their paces in both motos. Morrison took the overall with Ratigan in the runner-up spot.

New for 2012 is the XR-75/80 Honda class. Open to both stock and modified versions of the iconic machine this is a class guaranteed to put a smile on any rider's face. Smiling big at this event was Art Leva who captured the XR Stock Intermediate class in its inaugural running.

If the opening round is any kind of indicator, it appears 2012 bodes well for the vintage racing community. With eleven more rounds on tap, there is plenty of racing ahead. Members and non-members alike are encouraged to participate in as many rounds as possible. Everyone is reminded to recruit new participants to this fun filled sport which has a class for any machine and rider no matter what their age or experience.

Round two will be held at Glen Helen Raceway on February 19, 2012. Racing will take place on the R.E.M track.

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