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BMX the Thirty-Something Action Sport

ABA is looking ahead as it approaches 30 years of promoting Bicycle Motocross

Gilbert, Arizona – September 8, 2006— The ABA (American Bicycle Association) was founded in 1977 to organize BMX (Bicycle Motocross) racers nationwide. Just a few years earlier, this action sport was founded by kids in the dirt lots of Southern California. The kids emulated the then emerging sport of Moto-X (Motorcycle Motocross) and wanted to experience the dirt racing and dirt jumping for themselves. Stripping down their Stingray-style bicycles to the bare minimum and adding motorcycle handlebars and number plates they raced, flew through the air and did stylish jumps called cross-ups.

In 1977, the ABA saw this as much more than an after school pastime and began organizing local and national BMX races. The ABA developed a BMX racing rule book, a points system and separated the racers by age groups. Soon racers across the nation were racing for ABA local, regional and national points and trophies.

By the mid 1980's, the sport had grown worldwide, it now had specialty manufacturers of every type and had become a true industry. Fortune 500 corporations realized the potential of BMX and Sports Illustrated took notice and featured featured the ABA Grandnationals. Virtually a kid on every block in America had or wanted a BMX bike and the 20" craze was in full boom! The sport had also matured to a very competitive, professional level with heros being created.

BMX continued to grow in the 1990's and the professional riders found sponsorship from large corporations. The younger riders could now even attend BMX summer camps at numerous locations across America. The sport also found that the riders of the 1970's were now introducing a new generation of sons and daughters to BMX racing.

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Thirty-Something BMX

As ABA approaches thirty (30) years as “The Sanctioning Body of BMX”©, the sport continues to grow and spawn other BMX action sports. “We are very proud to have been involved in BMX from the beginning. It is so exciting to see a kid grow up in BMX and then bring his children to race years later!”, said Clayton John, ABA President. With BMX being included in the 2008 Olympics, BMX will take yet another leap forward, it will introduce racers worldwide to the sport born in California. “When boys and girls see BMX at the Olympics in 2008, ABA will be ready with special track programs for beginners and the chance to meet the top BMX heros at our national events.”, says John. BMX is the thirty-something action sport that is forever young!

ABA (American Bicycle Association), formed in 1977 and headquartered in Chandler, Arizona, is “The Sanctioning Body of BMX”©. The ABA organizes BMX racing for boys, girls and adults, nationwide and Canada. With 60,000 active members, 274 racing facilities and a 27 event-national race schedule; ABA is the largest promoter of action sports. For additional press information about ABA, the sport of BMX, ABA events or Professional racers, call (714) 666-1999. To find races in your area or view the national event schedule, visit www.ababmx.com..

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