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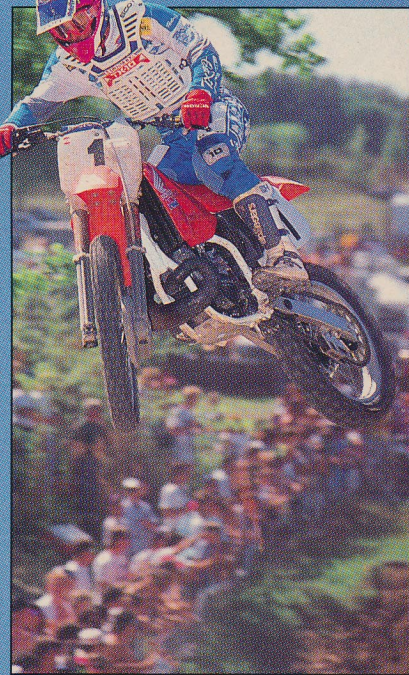
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**ON THE COVER:** Shane Trittler gets vertical on the Race Tech/AMP Research CR125 project bike for the lens of Torquin' Tim, and Jeff Stanton catches big air on his way to a two-one Florida working vacation. Race shot by Chris Hultner; cover design by DeWest and color separations by Valley Film.

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# DIRT BIKE'S FLORIDA VACATION

*Johnson, Hawkins  
& Stanton shine in  
the Florida sun*

By the Staff of Dirt Bike

There are those of us who are possessed by motorcycling. Any motorcycle sound, smell or sight snaps these guys to attention like a live high-voltage probe in the brain of a laboratory rat. Family and friends worry about them. Others just call them nuts.

Listen to the well-meaning hogwash of non-riders long enough and you'll feel a bit guilty at enjoying bikes so much. In time they'll make you feel like you've actually got a problem. Visit Daytona, Florida, during "Speed Week" and you'll see the only problem you've got is that you didn't start going years ago!

Everyone there has been called a motorcycle nut, cycle freak or weirdo by a non-rider at some point. Daytona is a rider's city for a week each year and a visit will not only make you feel normal—you'll be proud!

## TAKING IT ALL IN

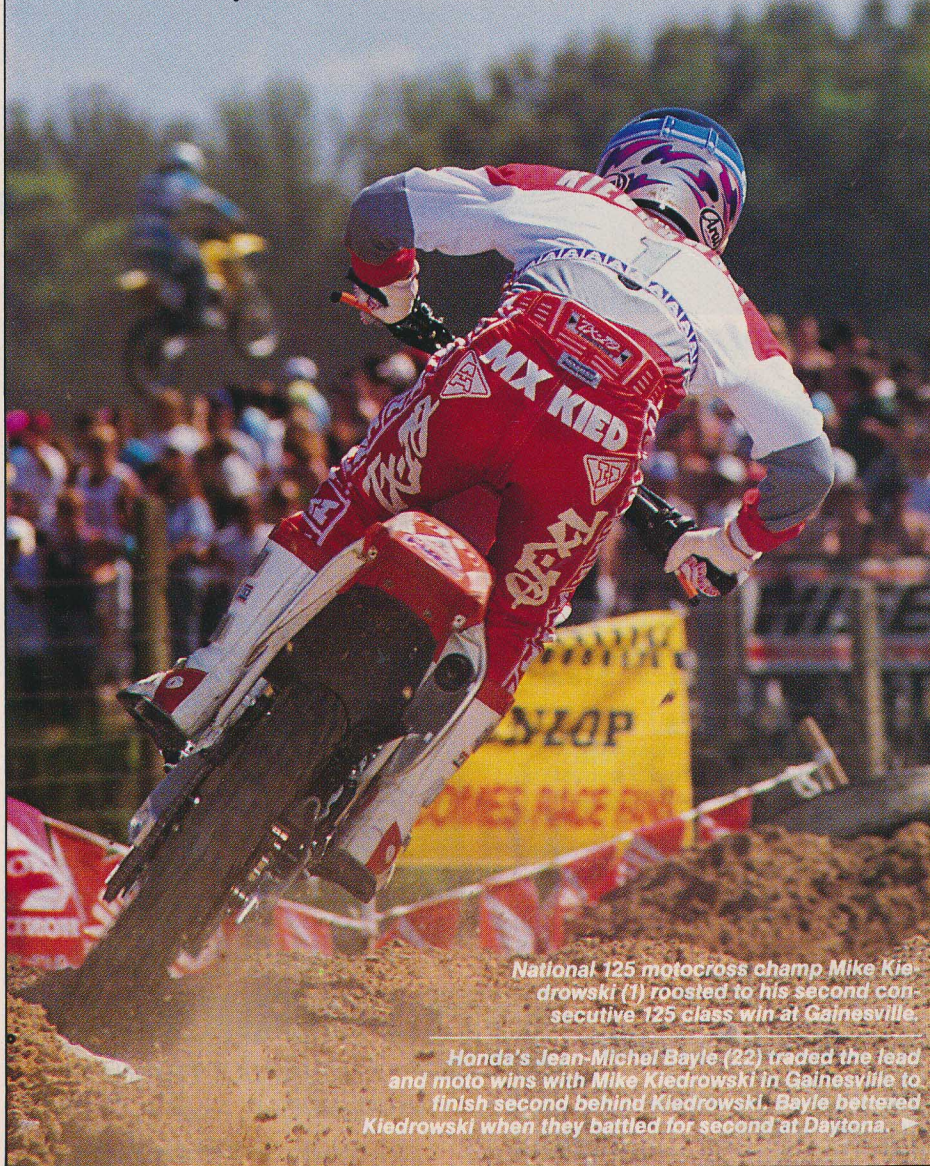
There's so much motorcycle excitement going on in and around Daytona during Speed Week that it's foolish to try to take it all in, so that's exactly what you should do. Come with us as we catch some rays and the occasional roost while watching the opening round of the 125/250 motocross Nationals, the famous Alligator enduro and the mind-bending supercross action at the Daytona Supercross. National dirt track action and road racing round out the week's com-

petition schedule but you'd be missing half of the Daytona experience even if you managed to see every race. Daytona is America's biggest motorcycle block party and you have to hit the streets to see it all. Every type of motorcycle and motorcyclist can be found, though not always in good condition.

## MOTOCROSS

No sport tests the capabilities of riders and machines like outdoor motocross. Gainesville, Florida's, Gatorback Cycle Park, with its traditionally high temperatures and humidity and the rough, power-sapping Florida sand presents motocross in its purest form. It's a fitting starting point for the national series, a place for the riders who have what it takes to show it.

Rick Johnson has been grappling with one racing frustration after another since he injured his wrist in a practice crash at Gainesville last year. His win at this year's Gainesville National was as much a surprise as his failure to win it last year, so it's possible the opening round will again set the course for Johnson's season.

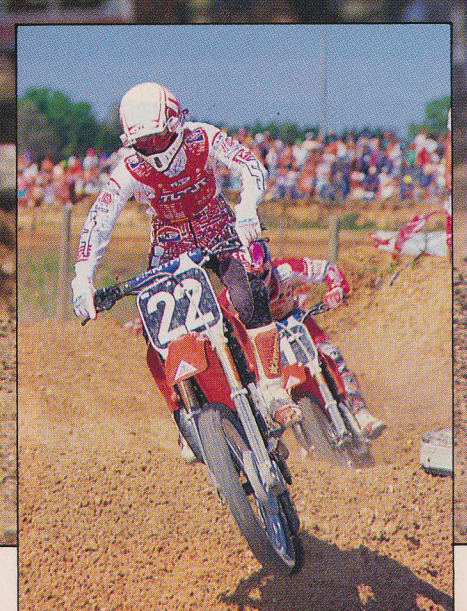


National 125 motocross champ Mike Kiedrowski (1) roosted to his second consecutive 125 class win at Gainesville.

Honda's Jean-Michel Bayle (22) traded the lead and moto wins with Mike Kiedrowski in Gainesville to finish second behind Kiedrowski. Bayle bettered Kiedrowski when they battled for second at Daytona. ▶



Team Suzuki's Ron Tichenor had a satisfying home-state stay in Florida with a third at Gainesville and a sixth at Daytona. ▶







# FLORIDA VACATION

Johnson won both motos against the most serious competition he's ever faced and the battles in both motos were grueling. Team Yamaha's Doug Dubach pulled the first-moto holeshot with privateer Kawasaki rider Dennis Hawthorne in tow. Johnson was third. Hawthorne stayed with a dicing pack of factory stars including defending national champ Jeff Stanton, Jeff Ward, Damon Bradshaw and Mike LaRocco until he crashed, pegging Jeff Ward in the process. Team Suzuki's Ron Tichenor battled to the front only to be passed by Johnson, who held onto the lead, despite repeated challenges from Stanton. Behind them, Tichenor, LaRocco, Dubach and Bradshaw battled for third. Bradshaw's late-race charge secured the third position for him.

Moto two saw Dubach holeshot again but this time Stanton grabbed the lead from him. Team Suzuki's Larry Ward made an impressive showing near the front, staying with Stanton and Bradshaw while they dived for the lead. Johnson made his way to the front and a fierce battle for the lead with Stanton ensued. The fans were on their feet as Johnson pulled ahead for the win.

Defending 125 National champion Mike Kiedrowski of Team Honda returned to Gainesville with much fonder memories of the event than teammate Johnson. It was the site of his first national win. Kiedrowski again defied the mental and physical pressures of the season opener and took the overall win. First-moto action saw Kiedrowski grab the holeshot with teammate and world 250 motocross champion Jean-Michel Bayle in close pursuit. Team Kawasaki's Jeff Matiasevich, Team Suzuki's Guy Cooper and Team Kawasaki's Jeff Emig rounded out the top five until Cooper crashed. Later in the moto Bayle and Kiedrowski dived for the lead, pulling well ahead of Matiasevich, who held third. Bayle prevailed and took the first-moto win.

Kiedrowski holeshot again in the second moto and pulled away from the pack. Cooper charged ahead to challenge the leader but crashed trying to avoid a lapper while landing from a jump. Bayle took second after hammering past Matiasevich, who held second briefly following Cooper's crash.

## ENDURO

Convincing a non-rider that being stabbed by palmetto spines, strangled or yanked from your machine by dangling vines or siphoned dry by "flying fortress"-size mosquitoes could be fun is simply not worth the effort, especially when all of this takes place aboard a dirt bike!

Rather than wasting time talking, riders have come out in droves to get in on this type of fun at the Daytona Dirt Riders Alligator

◀ **Serious supercross dicing at Daytona was proof that Jeff Stanton wants to keep his #1 plate as badly as Damon Bradshaw wants to keep winning. Pain from Bradshaw's San Diego Supercross injury made it impossible for him to stay with Stanton to the finish.**

enduro. This year, the event's 40th, was no exception. It's a Speed Week tradition, a major motorcycle industry event that draws national enduro stars, a race disconnected from the tension of any particular series and as nearly everyone who rides it says, "a lot of fun."

The expected deep mud and water and about 15 miles of trail was missing from the Alligator course this year due to land restrictions but the event started at its traditional spot, the Daytona Speedway. Traditional National-level terrain difficulty greeted the 420 Alligator competitors. The strange mix of anti-traction ground cover and the whooped-out tight woods sections were tough to cope with for the unfamiliar. For some of those who'd seen the terrain before, familiarity with it only helped to remind them how difficult it is. Miles of new trail sent the riders through palmetto fields, causing many to do some inland clam digging with their helmet visors as tires slipped on the palmetto leaves. "There were more than enough tight woods sections to wear you out just in case you had some energy left from negotiating the palmettos," said one racer, adding, "there's some deep sewage out there, considering this was supposed to be a dry event."

When the fun was over, defending National enduro champ Randy Hawkins of Team Suzuki came out away with the overall win with just seven points. Just behind Hawkins was Honda-mounted Kevin Bennett, who lost the win due to a tiebreaker check. Suzuki rider Joey Hopkins, seventh in last year's National enduro standings, rode to an impressive third ahead of woods speedsters Dave Bertram and Larry Roeseler.

Czech Jan Hrehor, one of Hawkins' ISDE pals, grabbed the top position in the 250 A class aboard a Suzuki RMX250. Open A class winner and Suzuki off-road racing director Charles Halcomb, a mutual friend of Hawkins and Hrehor, commented, "Why should we not all do well? There's nothing preventing us!" Kawasaki-mounted Robbie Neeley topped the 200 A class.

## SUPERCROSS

Daytona's Speed Week atmosphere pumps supercross excitement to a higher than normal level each year. A Gary Bailey-designed track set in the infield of the Daytona International Speedway guarantees a great afternoon of race action for competitors and spectators. Defending National Supercross champ Jeff Stanton added to Honda's string



**Enduroists get into the action during Speed Week, just like the flashy road racers, motocrossers and dirttrackers. The Alligator enduro is a great opportunity to experience the challenges of a National-level event, including competition against the nation's top enduro riders.**

of Speed Week victories by winning the overall in the 250 event, his second consecutive 250 Daytona overall. First qualifying heat action saw Stanton roost away from the pack, where he stayed unchallenged until the finish. A Johnson-Bradshaw battle raged for second until it became a three-man dice when Team Suzuki's Mike LaRocco joined in. LaRocco crashed in ruts and remounted to catch and pass Johnson. Bradshaw was out of reach in second. At the heat's finish, the hard-charging front four were nearly a half-lap ahead of the other riders.

Jean-Michel Bayle holeshot the second 250 heat, trailed by Team Suzuki's Larry Ward and Guy Cooper. Cooper and Bayle both crashed in the coming laps. Larry Ward took the lead, followed by Jeff Ward and Bayle, who remounted and charged for third. Jeff Ward, Bayle and Mike Kiedrowski eventually passed Larry Ward and carried their

*(continued on page 91)*

## RESULTS

### AMA 125/250 GAINESVILLE NATIONAL

250 Class	
1. Rick Johnson (1-1) .....	Hon
2. Jeff Stanton (2-2) .....	Hon
3. Ron Tichenor (4-3) .....	Suz
4. Mike LaRocco (6-4) .....	Suz
5. Doug Dubach (5-5) .....	Yam
125 Class	
1. Mike Kiedrowski (2-1) .....	Hon
2. Jean-Michel Bayle (1-2) .....	Hon
3. Jeff Matiasevich (3-3) .....	Kaw
4. Guy Cooper (4-4) .....	Suz
5. Erik Kehoe (7-5) .....	Hon

### AMA DAYTONA SUPERCROSS

250 Class	
1. Jeff Stanton .....	Hon
2. D. Bradshaw .....	Yam
3. Mike LaRocco .....	Suz
4. Rick Johnson .....	Hon
5. Dean Matson .....	Suz
125 (EAST)	
1. D. Stephenson .....	Suz
2. Jeromy Buehl .....	Suz
3. Mike Jones .....	Hon
4. Barry Carsten .....	Suz
5. Cliff Palmer .....	Suz

### ALLIGATOR ENDURO

Overall	
1. Randy Hawkins .....	Suz
2. Kevin Bennett .....	Hon
3. Joey Hopkins .....	Suz
4. Larry Roeseler .....	Kaw
5. Dave Bertram .....	Suz

respective positions to the finish.

Bayle and Stanton moved out front in the main and Jeff Ward and supercross points leader Jeff Matiasevich pulled in behind them as the pack thinned to grab the third and fourth spots. Kiedrowski eventually passed Matiasevich and Ward, who were forced to battle each other for fourth. Johnson moved toward the front but fell, injuring his hand in an attempt to pass Ward. Stanton, Bayle and Kiedrowski held their respective first, second and third positions until the finish.

Suzuki's Denny Stephenson won the first 125 heat, pulling well ahead of Honda-mounted Mike Jones, who holeshot the race but crashed. Jones remounted to earn second, finishing just ahead of Cliff Palmer.

A first-turn crash in the second heat left much of the pack on the ground or blocked by fallen riders. Tallon Vohland escaped to roost unchallenged to the finish.

In the main, Jones again pulled the holeshot. Stephenson trailed him. Vohland got a taste of the bad luck he missed earlier with a crash that put him out of the race. Stephenson pulled ahead of Jones, leaving him to battle Jeromy Buehl for second, who crashed but charged back to the front to secure third. Late in the race Buehl moved into second. Stephenson remained unchallenged for the win. □

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