

girl CLUTCH

*GirlClutch is not a club; there are no fees, no dues, no obligations.
Come out and meet other women who share your passion!*



THE CLUTCH REPORT

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Top News

Congratulations to Dena Sodano for taking 1st place at XDL Daytona's Sartso Women's Cup!!!

Off the Chain

GirlClutch & She'ZRacing
Track Day by Sofia Amadio

A convoy of three girls driving three trucks with a motorcycle strapped in each bed... That's how Oki, Rachael and I made our way to Buttonwillow. We arrived at the Super 8 more tired than we had planned so we backed in our trucks, made sure our



precious cargo was secure and proceeded to crash face first into our beds.



The morning came soon enough. Before we knew what we were doing we were finished unloading our bikes. Registration and Tech were easy enough... Tire-pressures were the joke of the morning. We met up with Shelina Moreda of SheZ-Racing, before the riders meeting. The rider's meeting was filled with all the usual jokes but afterward Shelina stayed with us to go over the track map and show us some lines and to talk about reference markers.



Shelina is truly a Gem; she is equal parts inspirational and patient. She worked with each of us and tailored her lessons to our individual development needs. For me, personally, we spent a lot of time working on lines through a few troublesome corners. The irony being that the corners that I thought I had trouble with turned out to be the corners where I was fastest. What I believe to be the case is that the corners where I felt the most unsettled were the corners where I pushed myself the hardest. Shelina talked me through the anxiety that I felt on those corners and helped me

sharpen my wit up for when Cory Call, a Top AFM Racer, lit me up coming down the back side of Lost Hills to show me the line through the Sweeper.



Toward the end of the day Shelina pulled me aside to lecture me... She proceeded to give me the "Why the hell aren't you racing" speech. She explained that my aggressiveness warrants full expression and that my lap times are limited mostly by traffic, not ability. She insisted that I bump up out of the beginner group and seriously consider racing. Oki and Rachael didn't hesitate to fuel this fire. The day ended with the four of us girls watching the Race-Start practice session. I remember getting butterflies. It struck me as fear, at first... but I know that was the moment that I knew I would soon be racing.



We packed ourselves back up and hit the fabled Willow Ranch for a BBQ dinner. The joke of the evening came from an older gentleman who, having watch the three of us climb out of our three trucks, carrying three motorcycles asks "Are those bikes yours?" in shock and disbelief. After that brief exchange it was clear that we need more women at these track events! There are plenty of opportunities to network with other female riders from all around and the pride of being self-sufficient with your machine is irrevocable.

April Birthdays

- 02 Megan Amelia (AZ)
- 03 Becky King (FL)
Sheila Paul (TX)
- 04 Nicole Powley (KY)
- 05 Jennifer Leshar (CA)
Katy Rice
- 06 Erin Smith (OR)
- 07 Jorie Starr (CA)
- 11 Nina Wee
- 13 Jennifer Doyle (CA)
Yvette Enciso (CA)
- 14 Sarah Saxton (OH)
- 15 Angela Wilk (PA)
- 17 Sandra Le Belle (CA)
Tena Colbert (FL)
- 18 Liliana Garcia (CA)
Mariana Johnson (OH)
- 19 Julie Shim-Dickson (CA)
- 20 Alexandra Whalen (MA)
Ana Llorente (CA)
Lisa Anderson (NV)
Suzanne Douglas
- 22 Caje Dinjaski
- 23 Jennifer Bauer (CA)
- 24 Laura Adams (CA)
- 29 JLeigh Collins (NC)
- 30 Becky Bailey (UK)
Chana Anderson (CA)
Morgan Berry (OR)

April Ride

1st Annual GirlClutch Anniversary Easter Event!

To celebrate our 1st anniversary, NKB Motorcycles will be hosting GirlClutch's Anniversary/Easter event!!!! There will be throwing a BBQ and ride (in the form of an Easter egg hunt). Come out and share in the food, music, raffles, prizes and festivities!!

Pre-Registration \$8, At the event, \$10. This will get you in the scavenger hunt, get you a plate of food and drink, and a raffle ticket.

Registration starts at 9am at NKB Motorcycles, and the ride will begin at 10am. 3-6 riders per team will get a list of sponsors and a map to visit to pick up Easter eggs, which will have additional raffle tickets inside. The more sponsors you visit, the more raffle tickets you get!!

There will be thousands of dollars in prizes at the end of the day from our vendors and sponsors. (Additional raffle tickets will be available for sale at the event).

Vendors/Sponsors include:

- GirlClutch
 - NKB Motorcycles
 - Cycle Pirates
 - Two Brothers Racing
 - Vortex
 - TrackDaz
 - SKB Paint
 - Chemical Guys
 - Simply Crazy Stunts
- (and more being added every day!)

NKB will be having a HUGE blow out sale (you won't find lower prices)!! Join in on fun games, food, awesome raffle and prizes!!

Come out for the ride, food, and celebrate with us! Dudes, chicks, solo riders, clubs... Everyone is welcome!

Visit www.GirlClutch.com for more details!!

Do you have any ideas/suggestions for a ride? Contact info@girlclutch.com or post it up on our forums!!

Clutch Swag

GirlClutch shirts are now on SALE! Now just \$10!! Get them in time for the next ride!!!

Standard T-Shirt
- black or white; sizes: S-XL
Signature T-Shirt
- black or white; sizes: S-XL



GIRLCLUTCH HOODIES are now in stock!! Sizes range from S-XL and are available in black only.

Want to save on shipping? Order your shirt up to a day before the monthly ride or booth event, and pick up your shirt in person!! Contact info@girlclutch.com or visit www.girlclutch.com/clutch-swag to order your shirts today!



We've been pelted by a brutal winter with snow on the window sills, flooded drainage ditches, oily and slick road surfaces. Yuck! It feels like the Seattle rain has taken up residence here in So Cal and the first thing I want to say in the morning when I stare up at the sky with my bike covered in water drops is, "Are you lost?" as if the storm itself will say, "Oops sorry," and disappear. Here's to wishful thinking...

Luckily, we're in the home stretch, just a hair away from Spring. And after a cold and wet winter of suffering many nights salivating over a parked motorcycle, I'm sure you all are going to be back in the saddle at the first sign of sunshine and comfortable warm temperatures.

I have mixed feelings about these first, beautiful days of April. On one hand, we're now officially into riding season where we can wear summer jackets, stay out late at bike nights and spend a day at the races in a tank top. Sounds nice, doesn't it? On the other hand, Spring also means the death toll amongst riders is going to sky rocket, a syndrome so annually common, many of our own peers write off these deaths as "typical."

The reason for this? Primal anticipation. A rider who takes his/her bike out for the first time after winter is like someone having sex for the first time after a dry spell. You burst out the gate like a cowboy on a bucking bronco only to get bucked off and catapulted into the ground afterward. I'm not saying that every person who takes their bike out at the first signs of Spring is going to crash, not by any means. But I do want you all to be aware of

this tendency to prematurely roll the throttle before you've grown your wings back.

My point is this. Give yourself time to adjust to your motorcycle again. When Spring arrives and the birds are chirping, take a deep breath before you get on your bike. Look your bike over and check to make sure it's safe, especially your tires, chain and lights. And for the love of Pete, always wear your gear, no matter how hot it is outside. Consider your body to be an investment you're trying to protect. Need some incentive? Just imagine the \$800 worth of tattoos you have being scraped away on hot asphalt. No bueno.

And lastly, respect your machine. Many of today's motorcycles, even the Ninja 250, are capable of reaching speeds in excess of 100 m.p.h. If you feel the itch to go fast, do a track day before you ride on the street to get the bug out of your system. If stunts are your thing, head to a stunt spot to practice, but keep the mischief off the freeway. And if you're just out for a cruise, don't ride if you're tired or emotional. Your mind won't be on the road ahead of you and the smallest missed detail could result in the end of your life.

Preaching aside, I hope you ladies have fun this Spring. We have a lot of events popping up on the calendar and I hope you will organize some events of your own. I look forward to seeing pictures! Hopefully, with a little care and respect, we will continue to see your smiling faces for many warm riding days to come.



In the Spotlight

Name: Rachael Westfall

Age: 29

Location: Lake Forest, CA



How did you get into riding?

I guess you could say I was born into it. My parents always had bikes. I started riding on the back with my Dad when I was four years old and my mom strapped me to him with a scarf. They taught me to ride a dirt bike when I was nine years old, but I didn't like it right away, I'll admit. I crashed and they sold the bike. But as soon as I was old enough to take the MSF class, I did. I struggled at first, but after the class, I was hooked.

What are your goals as far as riding goes?

I've done some novice racing and I loved it. I would like to road race again and go to every event in the series for an entire season. Even if I only do it once, I will have accomplished a dream. I'd also like to travel across the country to the women's sport bike rally in North Carolina, as well as do a dual-sport tour in South America or a street tour in Italy. Then I'll be complete.

What are you looking forward to this season?

Getting GirlClutch Racing off the ground and covering my bike in a GirlClutch wrap. That would make me so proud.

Which women (not necessarily riders) inspire you the most and why?

There are so many. I appreciate women riders who

are successful, even after struggling when they first started. Meli Paris-Hayes wasn't always fast and she worked her butt off to get to where she is. I have so much respect for her because she never gave up. Jessica Maine set the stage for women in stunt riding, even after sustaining a broken back. And let's not forget Debbie Evans, a former trials champion who did the stunts for Matrix Reloaded or Vicky Jackson Belle, a former 125cc road racing champion who set a precedent for women in road racing.

Guilty Pleasures?

Speeding when no one is looking, listening to my mp3's while riding, Starbucks and cute boys with tattoos (well, maybe just one)...



Any hobbies/interests outside of riding?

I love archery and writing. I have two bows, a re-curve and a compound. I wrote a novel and am currently re-writing it. I also like wrenching. I don't get to work on bikes often, but when I do, it's therapeutic.

Do you have any pre-track day/race day routines?

Nothing outside of loading the trailer and double checking to make sure I have everything I need like tools, warmers, extra tires, chain lube, bike, gear, etc. I did get to the track one time and realized I grabbed my ex's dirt bike helmet instead of my helmet by mistake. The track org couldn't find me a helmet and gloves small enough and they felt so bad, they gave me a free track day. So I guess being unprepared worked out that time, lol. Oh yeah, and I never drink alcohol, soda or tea on a track day weekend. I have a hard enough time staying hydrated as it is.

Any advice for women looking to start riding or going to track days?

I have two pieces of advice that in my opinion, determine how happy someone (not just women) will be when riding on the street or the track. The first and most important is to stay calm and breathe. Being relaxed will allow you to learn to handle the motorcycle quickly and it will also protect you during high-stress situations, not to mention crashing. I heard racer say one time "think drunk driver" when tumbling after a get-off. It's an ironic reference, but it's true. The looser you are, the less damage you'll do. Just imagine your upper body is a wet noodle. Fight the bike and it will fight you. My second piece of advice is to never give into peer pressure. Do what you feel comfortable doing and ride the motorcycle you feel most comfortable riding. Nobody else is going to operate that machine for you, so ride the bike that's best for you. Had someone told me that early on, I would have stuck with something that had handlebars instead of clip-on's! :)



STUNT Days

BY JENA SOJANO



XDL DAYTONA: ROUND 1 -- Finally, my bike was in good shape and running well, compared to last month. XDL 2011-Round 1 has officially begun!! After a quick drive from Jacksonville Florida down to Daytona, I arrived Thursday evening ready for pretty much whatever. Once I made it to the Speedway, the Gestapo men patrolling XDL's front gate, halted my mission briefly for not having my credentials yet, so I decided to return early next morning.

I found my way back to my hotel and I soon learned it was crawling with a noisy Harley crew partying it up for Daytona's Bike Week. They continued to

jam out in the bar right outside the door to my hotel room for the next few days....I eventually had a good night's rest after shoving cotton balls in my ears. I literally backed my truck up into the woods, almost getting stuck in the trees and mud, so it would still be there when I woke up the next morning.



Friday, I got signed in, bracelet on, and pretty much now it was only a matter of time before the Sartso Women's Cup. I spent the afternoon jumping into practice sessions and chilled before the main event. Overall, qualifying and the comp went well...just a few minor spills here and there, and my radiator managed to hold out until the very end when it started to sputter out anti-freeze.



Sartso Women's Cup:

- 1st - Dena Sodano
- 2nd - Brytni Noell
- 3rd - Crystal Hooks

Men's FMF Cup: 1st - Nick Brocha; 2nd - Bill Dixon; 3rd - Luke Emmons; 4th - Rick Hart; 5th - Shin Kinoshita

Men's AFS Series: 1st - Chris Lints; 2nd - Kyle Sliger; 3rd - Brandon Kloss

XDL Daytona was a flat out good time. I caught up with old friends and watched some of my favorite

kickass riders, but I also had the chance to meet some new ones. After XDL, I loaded up (after getting a few pushes from Griffy "Go fast!" I jump started my bike since I accidentally left my fan running and murdered my battery). Thankfully, it held a charge for the next day and was ready for a day of riding in O-town [Orlando]!

Thank you Girlclutch.com, Racing905.com, Sartso.com, Shinkotiresusa.com, Bikestylesinc.com, Motoheaven.com, XDL, and of course my fellow riders!! Inside XDL has also been filming for their 2nd season and will be airing again this fall on Versus, so be sure to watch it!!!

This year is already crazy, can't wait to see what else happens! Next stop...who knows...but definitely XDL Round 3: Nashville Tennessee!!!!

[The Clutch Report - www.GirlClutch.com](http://www.GirlClutch.com)

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