

# STRIP FEST 2005

**WELCOME TO THE BIGGEST  
LITTLE SPORTBIKE EVENT IN  
THE DIRTY SOUTH. AND YES,  
BOYS, IN ADDITION TO DRAG  
RACERS AND STUNTERS THERE  
WERE A FEW IN-THE-FLESH  
STRIPPERS THERE TOO**

*Words: Shaun "Scrapyard" Kelly Photos: TK*

It was a simple plan hatched five years ago in the nowheresville town of Greeleyville, South Carolina. Imagine a one-day event that would encompass every aspect of the extreme streetbike world: obscenely fast drag bikes, chrome-dipped show stoppers, awe-inspiring stunt riders and more. Throw in some cool cars, plenty of loud music and some gorgeous girls wearing, um, some very "humid" clothing, and the end result, five years later, is the biggest little sportbike event the Low Country has ever seen.

Strip Fest 2005, held at Midway Dragstrip just outside of Greeleyville, stayed true to its underground roots and was promoted primarily by word of mouth and lots of pavement-pounding by event promoter Thomas Evans of East Coast Stunters/outonparole.com fame. All Evans' hard work apparently paid off—people were still flowing through the gates at 11 p.m. to get in on the action!

The highlight for most of the day was the top-notch drag race action, as is to be expected in the drag racing-mad Carolinas—if you didn't know better, you'd think Midway was hosting a round of the AMA/Prostar national series that day. Only this wasn't traditional, rules-bound racing. There were no points, no contingencies, and no trophies; there weren't even time slips. Just plenty of straight-up, run-whatcha-brung grudge matches, the way hard-core drag fans like it. The pit area stunk of race fuel, nitrous oxide and burnt rubber, and the staging lanes were a mob of stretched street bikes: big-bore, nitrous-huffing 'Buses, slammed GSX-Rs, plenty of green machines and a handful of Honda and Yamahas all mixing it up for the bragging rights that come with Strip Fest glory.

At four o'clock the drag racers took a break and the track opened up to the stunt lunatics. Stunters were given an open track for a one-hour practice session before the competition began, with entrants given a two-minute individual expression session to show off their best routines. Evans and the ever-lovely Sabrina Stern of RiotRadio.com worked the mics and special guests Tony D'Orsi of Tony D Freestyle, RiotRadio.com's Evan Bradshaw and L.T. of East Coast Stunters handled judging. Team H.A.I. made the drive from Orlando, Florida, and their presence definitely raised the bar for the show. They were given a run by the boys from Anger Management, though, who showed some serious style with Rowdy's 400-foot endos and no-throttle-hand coasters and



Above Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.

Left Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.

Below Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.



Above Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.

Right Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.

Below Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.



Young One's wheelie combos. East Coast Stunters also represented on their home turf: Kelly Joe rocked the crowd with a spectacular series of combo wheelies, no-handed coasters and high-speed high chairs and Lunatic pulled out all the stops busting stunts on a straight-out-the-box Harley Sportster! The crowd even sampled some fiddy stunting thanks to the crew from Motopimps.com, but in the end it was Henry Romero of Division 1 Freestyle who took home the Strip Fest street freestyle crown.

Don't get the idea, though, that all the Strip Fest action took place on the dragstrip—that was hardly the case. Mudz Extreme Sportz set up a 50cc race-track for the kids and presented trophies to 20 youngsters who gave the course a shot. Mudz also raffled off a 50cc quad to one lucky winner who is no doubt now the coolest kid on the block. The Kustom Shop put on a car show that exhibited the latest trends in the four-wheeled world and Norton's Car Stereo hosted a sanctioned SPL Shootout that left our ears ringing for days—as if the field of open-piped drag bikes wasn't producing enough decibels...

The Kings of Carolina and Carolina Candy bike clubs together hosted the custom bike show, and contestants on this end easily rivaled any custom V-twin show. Amazing paint jobs, miles of chrome and new and innovative ideas left the judges with a lot to consider for top honors. Bike clubs from around the Low Country came to check out the custom bikes and the rest of the Strip Fest scene, including No Limit Riders and the I-26 Boys. Also making a strong showing were the members of the SCriders.com forum.

How do you finish off such an adrenaline-rich, action-packed event as this one? You cool things down with a wet t-shirt contest, of course! Cover the children's eyes, because once Sabrina Stern showed up with her pitcher of cold water and passed out a few dozen water guns to the crowd, things got X-rated in a hurry. After the water started flying all bets were off with regard to the winner—and in a few minutes, so were most of the contestant's clothes! Nothing like putting the "strip" in Strip Fest, eh?

Action continued popping off until the early morning hours without a hitch. The DJ kept spinning, the drag bikes kept racing and the stunters kept partying with fire breathing antics and plenty of random goofing around. If you missed it this year, start making plans for Strip Fest '06—the best little show in the Dirty South.



Left Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.

Below Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page. Caption to go here describing the amazing imagery on this page.

