

TRICK TEAM SUMMER TOUR

FROM ABQAIQ, WITH LOVE.



Photo by Bob Osborn

It's Raccoon Lips, gettin' crazy at the World's Fair in Knoxville. It rained like a sucker there. We never did find out what was in that big gold thing. The Murray NBL World Cup race was on this same weekend, about ten miles away.



This is the big bike shop in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia. In addition to your basic Taiwan K-Mart special (posed neatly in front of everybody), you can buy a Pepsi, or a moldy candy bar, or you can get your shoes repaired here. The guy in the blue T-shirt is Jason Duncan, SE's factory rider in Saudi. The guy with the goatee is the shop owner. His son is in the back. We're not sure who those two tall funky looking dudes are.



During a three day layover in Southern California, between a two week road trip to Washington and flying to Saudi, Buff and R.L. squeezed in some shows at Magic Mountain where they were filmed for AFTERNOON, a new nationally syndicated TV program, for airing a month or so before this issue comes out. The Nurd Herd had a fairly busy summer.

There's a whole lotta trick riding goin' on in Holland. This is Ronnie Croes showing R.L. and Buff a new trick... the front wheel hop. You have to have forearms like Popeye to do this. Waalre.



YOU ASKED FOR IT wanted a shot of Buff jumping a car, so everybody volunteered the Duke's Porsche, which he graciously consented to after explaining in great detail to Buff what would happen to his body should he leave so much as a single knob mark on it. (On a more serious note: R.L. and Buff visited Duke in the hospital this morning - September 7th - and said he is out of the coma and on his way to recovery from the tragic accident in Ponca City on August 1st.)

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YAH-HOO! Zillions of people at the World's Fair getting a taste of what BMX is all about. Knoxville.

Super demonstration acrobatique de deux grandes vedettes americaines.

That's Belgian — describing BMXA's very own Squiddly Squadron. Yep, this year the rad lad's summer tour went international. Saudi Arabia. Holland. Belgium. Foreign intrigue. Adventure. Mystery. And, alas, no Taco Bells. Buff almost stayed home.

Scot Breithaupt of SE Racing accompanied the Trick Team overseas. Bob Duncan, father of Jason Duncan who races for Scot, invited the guys to come over to entertain American employees at the Aramco oil company in Saudi Arabia. R.L. and Buff already had an invite from Gerrit Does, the main mover behind the IBMXF, to come to Holland. So BMXA's ace promotional director, Darlene Leer, dialed the details, shaped the



Girls of the U.S. beware, the Nurd Herd is on the road again. Phoenix, heading east.

schedule, and all systems were go. The Trick Team began the

American portion of their tour on June 20, accompanied by Kelly



This was the road company for most of the summer tours. (R to L) R.L. did most of the supervising, Kelly Hines did most of the announcing, Buff did most of the complaining, and Dave Sigler did all the work.



Photo by Andrejs Zommers

Synchronized kick turns. Seattle.

Hines (announcer) and Dave Sigler (equipment manager). They headed to Mesa, Arizona for a show at the Bicycle Harbor shop. They're the folks with the hot racing team and the new Harbor Lite frames. Then on to El Paso, San Antonio,

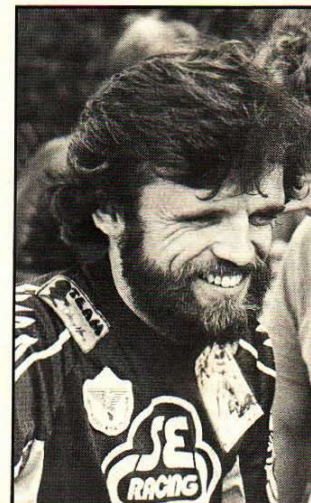
Houston, and Santa Fe before returning home for the July 4th weekend. That left just enough time to suck up some soul food at Rosa's before headin' north for stops at Redding (California), Hillsboro and Tillamook (Oregon),

and Aberdeen, Bolsa, and Renton (Washington).

In Seattle Kelly was placing a fast food order when the squawk box asked him to slow down. So Mike went: shhhh . . . riiimm . . . pppp . . . baaaaaa . . . ssssketttt . . . and they cut him off.

Nobody knows where the *Wanted - A Meaningful Overnight Relationship* sign on the van came from.

Back home the guys had time to



Sheik Old-Mohamed Breithaupt did the announcing for the Nurd Herd in Saudi, Holland, and Belgium. In return, Buff and R.L. assisted Scot with his safety/racing seminars. These three guys came back to the U.S. totally pumped on a bunch of bonkers new secret Trick Team stuff for 1983 shows.

do three shows at Magic Mountain and be filmed for the *You Asked For It* television show.

Then it was off to Houston with Scot to climb on Aramco's 747 charter jet to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Aramco schedules two charter flights every week to shuttle employees and business people back and forth.

Our intrepid travelers' first foreign adventure was their encounter with their combination driver, guide, and den mother — Eric Drucker, a San

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Antonio college student. Here's the team's description of Eric: "He came walking into the airport in Levis, his shirt hanging out, sandals, sunglasses, a five o'clock shadow, looking like he had just woke up. He always looked like he just woke up. He was great."

"Eric liked to tell jokes while he drove. He'd ask what category. You could say butterflies and he'd come up with something. We'd be driving on two-lane highways with big diesel trucks and he'd pull out and turn around and tell jokes and cut back in. He had it wired, his driving, but we were on the floor a lot thinking we were dead. If it was close, he'd just go in the dirt and make his own lane. Another thing. There were very few traffic lights so everybody kind of races through the intersections. Destruction Derby. It's really exciting."

The price of gasoline certainly doesn't discourage driving. Buff saw prices as low as thirty cents a gallon.

One interesting note. Car wrecks are left beside the road as a reminder to take it easy. Guess what? The cars wrecks don't get stripped. Hardly anything gets stolen in Saudi Arabia.

The BMX tracks over there are mind blowers for visitors. One reportedly cost over a hundred thousand dollars. That's because it's all asphalt. Ten foot tall banks, berms, whoops, jumps, double jumps. Totally asphalt. The kids crash, slide on their bellies for twenty feet, and pop right up.

Foreign travel means foreign culture. The American visitors were given a crash course in etiquette, manners, and customs, as guests of Saudi Arabia.

The status of women in Saudi Arabia was carefully explained. "The girls and women wear long black dresses and black veils all the time, just like in the movies. You don't see them in public much. We didn't see young couples together. We were told if we stared at the girls, like to check them out or to talk to them, their fathers and brothers would probably come after us."



Filming for YOU ASKED FOR IT. R.L. on "Kong," the Trick Team's awesome new quarter-pipe ramp. The show is supposed to air some time around when this issue hits the stands.

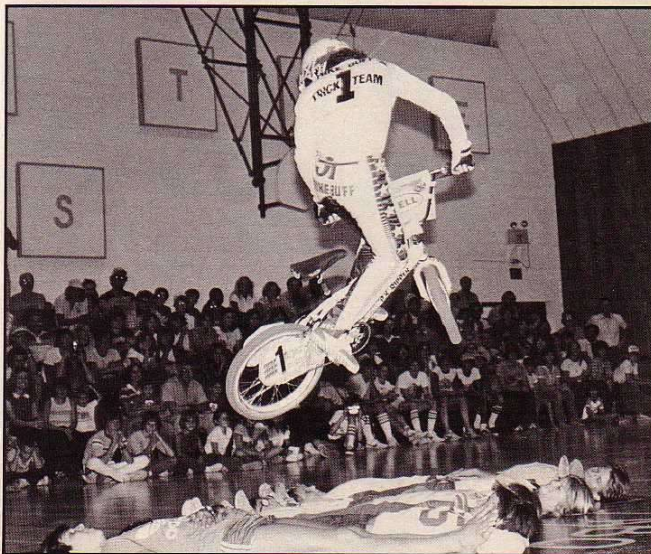


Bunny hopping onto a table. R.L. makin' it. Seattle.

Photo by Andrajs Zommers



(L to R) Abdul-Aziz Halawani (the SE distributor in Saudi), Sheikh Old-Mohamed Breithaupt, Sheikh El-Jamal Buff and Sheikh Al-Jahrji Osborn. Four very important Arabian bicycle peddlers. Abqaiq.



It got up to 120 degrees during the day in Saudi, so most of the Trick Team shows were in gyms in the evening. The guys said that when they did a show during the day it would take them three hours to stop sweating. Interesting, huh? Dhahran.

The religious taboo on alcohol is the law of the land. Violators are in deep whoopdy doo. Foreigners are usually deported. The locals face stiff prison sentences short on your basic pleasantries.

Severe penalties apply to other crimes too. Occasional public executions and mutilations prove to be an effective deterrent to crime. R.L. was impressed. "Somebody's head got chopped off while we were there. He stole some jewelry and then stabbed somebody. The victim didn't die, but they executed the thief anyway. They used a sword and it took a couple of tries to behead him. Another guy had to watch until it was his turn. The yearly crime rate over there is about three."

What about the famous Saudi Arabian heat? According to Buff, "It's really hot, but it's not humid so it doesn't bother you so much. We did one show outside in 110 degrees, but most were in gyms. Once you start sweating, though, it takes about three hours to stop, even if you're in air conditioning."

Buff and R.L. had a chance to mix with the locals. "We played ping pong with guys our age. We had a great time while we were there."

Along with the roadside wrecks, the guys also noticed empty skyscrapers. "We'd see these high rise condominiums that nobody ever moved into because they didn't have separate elevators for men and women or they forgot the plumbing or something."

It appears that a hefty chunk of the oil money floating around in Saudi Arabia does trickle down to the people. The government offers all-expenses-paid college educations (in the U.S.) to all qualified students. Citizens can apply to the government to buy them some land and then borrow the cash (no interest) to build a home. And it's not uncommon for the government to forget about the loan repayment after a few years.

The guys put on shows and seminars in four different cities in Saudi Arabia. Dhahran, Ras Tanura, Udhailiyah, and Abqaiq.

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Buff and R.L. dedicated all their shows in Saudi Arabia and Europe to Dana Duke, the Trick Team's announcer on the 1981 summer tour, who was seriously injured in a car-train accident while they were in Saudi.

The touring trio grabbed Aramco's charter flight to Amsterdam at the end of their eleven day stay in Saudi Arabia. All three travelers raced in Europe. R.L. won 16 Over Expert at the BMX Grand Prix of Belgium and



Strollin' through the Amsterdam airport like it was nuthin' at all. Buff, Scot, and R.L.

Buff won the Open. The OM, Scot Breithaupt, tried his hand at local events and swooped 'em.

The Dutch take their BMX real serious. They belong to clubs which have regularly scheduled practice sessions at tracks. R.L. was amazed by their determination. "We'd do like 20 or 30 starts and after about 15 I started to get tired, but these guys were racing to get back to the gate. I beat them at the beginning, but by the 20th start in a row they were starting to catch me."

The talents of a couple of younger Dutch lads, Nico Does, Gerrit's son, and another kid named Marco, who everyone calls Wolsink, impressed the Trick Team. "They can do tabletops, one-hander-one-footers. They can jump better than almost anybody over here already. And they're only about 12 years old!"

After a ten day stay in Holland, the trio piled onto another charter jet and headed for Houston and



Freestyle riding is definitely catching on. Some of the riders in Holland are excellent at it. Like this guy. Waalre.

home. They arrived in Los Angeles just in time for Buff to take everybody to breakfast at a Taco Bell. His treat. They insisted.

So, two months. 30 thousand miles and plenty of smiles. Entertaining and spreading the word about BMX. R.L. and Buff came home as level-headed as

ever. During their travels they're showing a lot of youth here and now overseas too that having a game plan for life and working hard to accomplish it pays off. Everybody at BMXA is totally proud that our dynamic duo is able to contribute to the continuing growth of BMX. Welcome back, guys. ■

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