

traditions on wheels

HEDGE BROTHERS' FATHER INSPIRES MOTOCROSS PASSION

For most children, receiving their first bike is a childhood rite of passage. It was like that for **Brandon and Bryan Hedge** — except that bike had an engine and that rite of passage was into the family passion: motocross.

"My dad was a pro in the 70s during the war, when he came back he had nothing to do with it until we were 5 or 6 years old."

BRYAN HEDGE, 9

Brandon and Bryan had raced motocross recreationally for most of their lives.

"It's just so fun," Bryan said. "You have that sense of adrenaline and fear. You just go and hope nothing happens."

Their passion started with Hedges' father. Growing up on a military base in Naha, Japan, he would often visit the track and watch motorcycle races. He began riding himself and discovered his talent. After moving back to the United States and starting a family, he introduced Brandon and Bryan to motocrossing.

The Hedges decided to race competitively after attending a vintage bike race Diamond Don's in Jefferson, Texas along with some of their dad's friends from his Japan days.

"All of us kind of at the same time decided we were going to get back into it and all race together," Brandon said. "We just all went out there, and we saw how much fun everyone else was having and were like, 'Hey, we can do this too.'"

While the brothers don't often race in the same class, there was a competitive spirit between the two and even with their father. Once, when their father boasted that he'd "bring home the iron" from a race, Bryan ended up taking first place.

"I was really happy," Bryan said. "They didn't even get trophies. It was awesome."

Although Brandon has never been seriously injured racing motocross, Bryan hurt his knee after he crashed going around a turn and experienced mild amnesia afterward. When he returned to his trailer to change, he briefly forgot what happened.

"I think it was just adrenaline," Bryan said. "Going off of adrenaline I just forgot everything. It was pretty cool."

By Shalavé Cawley



TRADITIONS

At the Fall Series North 40 Race, **Bryan Hedge, 9**, finishes in fourth place out of 15. "I love the feel of racing it just gives you that special feel of adrenaline," Hedge said. Hedge was first introduced to motocross by his dad, a former professional in Japan.



SPIRIT OF TEXAS

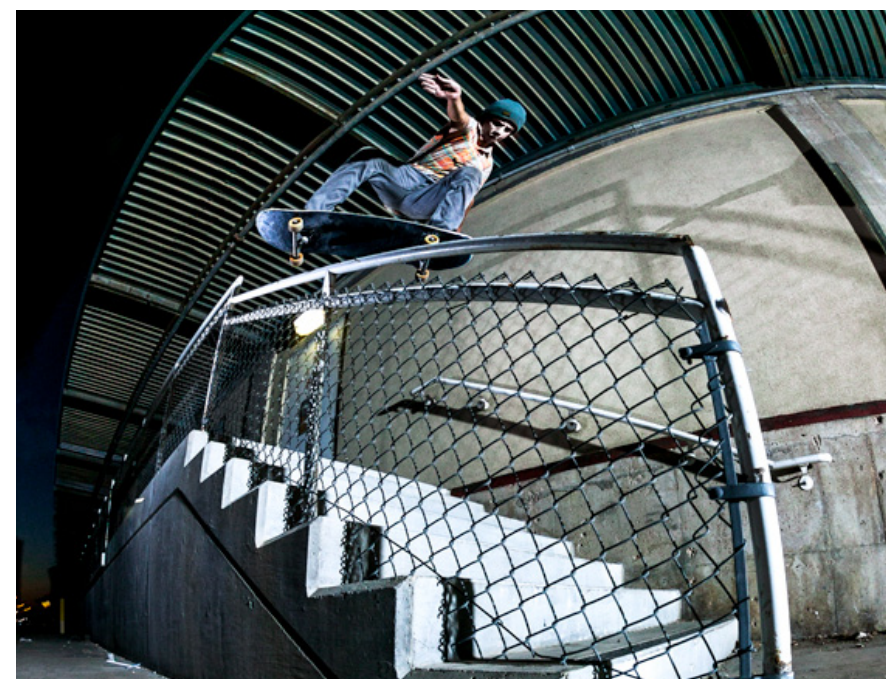
Surrounded by her team, **Amanda Fowler, 11**, gets ready for her competition. "I saw it on TV, and I thought it was cool," Fowler said. "I get to meet people from all around the country." Fowler practiced with Spirit of Texas four times a week for three hours each day.

INDEPENDENT

After learning from YouTube **Austin Spencer, 10**, side flips under **Dalton Mix, 9**. Spencer practiced parkour since the seventh grade. "I do it because it's independent I can do it on my own, no one tells me what to do," Spencer said. "It's like having a class, but you're the only one in it"



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EXPRESSION

After completing a 180, **Marshall Stinson, 11**, lands on the hand rail doing a back-side hurricane. "I've been skating for seven years. It lets me express myself freely without people trying to tell me what to do," Stinson said. Stinson got started because his dad used to skate.

TO FIT IN

At Vandergriff Skate Park in Arlington, **John Petrou, 12**, completes a barspin. Petrou got started by trying to fit in and ended being a lot better than he thought. "It feels good to do something new and go off the path," Petrou said. "The only way you can get better is by practicing."