



# MOTOCROSS PREVIEW

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# MARKS THE SPOT

## 2009 HARRISBURG MOTORAMA ARENACROSS

STORY BY BILLY URSIC PHOTOS BY JIM BULL-MCRACINGACTION.COM

It's a common misconception that arenacross racing got its start in Texas. While what we know as the National Arenacross Series today (*series* being the key word) was created in Texas by Mike Kidd in 1985, the first arenacross event was likely held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, several years earlier.

In the summer of 1977, Armin Hostetter and his three sons were finishing up their fifth season of promoting motocross races at Trail-Way Speedway in Hanover, Pennsylvania. Having been a farmer all his life and a motorcycle racer in his youth, Armin had an idea.

"We made yearly visits to the Pennsylvania Farm Show every winter," explains Brad Hostetter, Armin's son and the current Harrisburg Motorama Arenacross promoter. "My father knew the large arena had a dirt floor, and coupled with the fact that no one was racing outdoors over the winter, the solution was obvious: indoor racing. With a few phone calls, he put together the first Motorama event on February 15 and 16, 1978, called the Harrisburg Indoor Motorcycle Championship."

Over the last few decades, arenacross has grown in leaps and bounds, as did the Harrisburg Motorama. "We've experienced growing pains with our arenacross, but the main focus

has always been the racing," Hostetter says. This particular event has attracted racers from all over the Northeast, including names like Mike Jones, Barry Carsten, Ty Wallace, Damien Plotts, and even Travis Pastrana. "I remember Travis Pastrana doing the big double on his 80!"

The 2009 Harrisburg Motorama was the thirty-first running of this grassroots event, with more than 1,500 riders participating in front of 8,000 spectators. The big winner of the weekend was the aforementioned Carsten, who hails from the Garden State of New Jersey.

Though it's one of the more popular attractions, arenacross racing isn't the only type of entertainment you'll find at the Motorama. The Speed Show features wall-to-wall performance-oriented vehicles, sprint cars, late models, muscle cars, hot rods, and more. There's also the Tunerwar Sport Compact and Bike Show, R/C car racing, Quarter Midget and Go-Kart racing, a Spina Bifida Charity Auction, live bands, a Miss Motorama Pageant, and more.

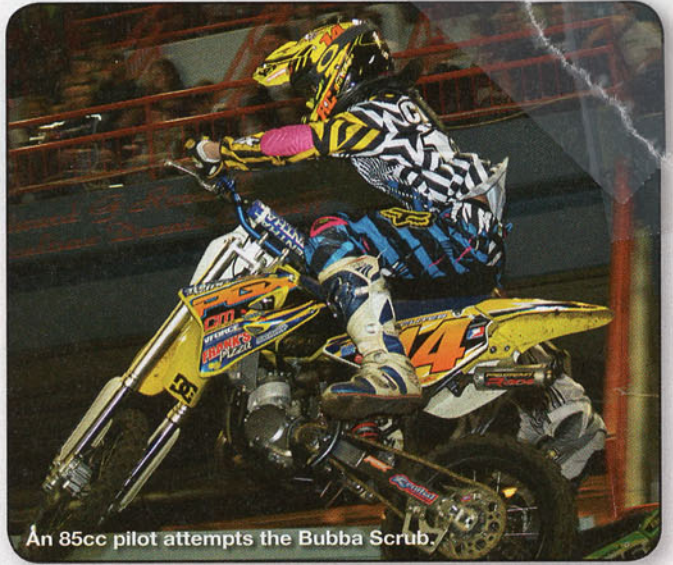
The dates are already set for next year's Motorama, so mark your calendars for February 20-21, 2010. For more information on the Harrisburg Motorama, visit [www.motoramaevents.com](http://www.motoramaevents.com).



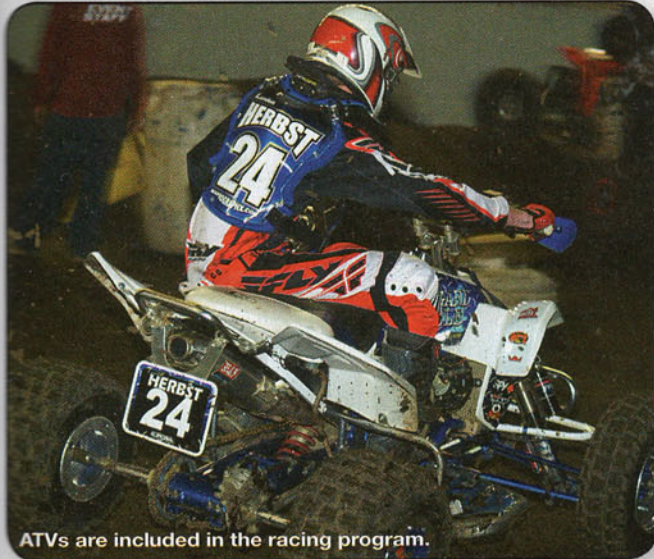
B-class racing gets underway at the 31st Annual Motorama Arenacross in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



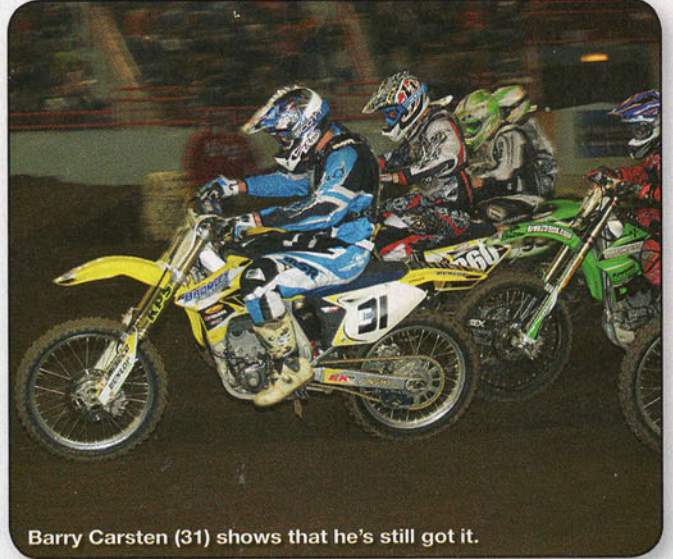
Vendors come out in droves for this event.



An 85cc pilot attempts the Bubba Scrub.



ATVs are included in the racing program.



Barry Carsten (31) shows that he's still got it.



Winter weather isn't a concern here.



Chase Yentzer celebrates a victory.