

# Phenomenal Femmoto

## An event for Women - and Men

By Diane P. Ortiz

Sitting on the plane headed out to Las Vegas, Nevada, I couldn't help hoping I was wrong. Every year for the past six, I've traveled from New York City to Nevada in the fall not to see the shows, gamble or enjoy everything the Strip has to offer. Not even to rent a bike and cruise through Red Rock Canyon or be astounded by the great Hoover Dam. It's that patch of land opposite the Nellis Air Force Base that interests me. That patch of land with the asphalt curves - The Las Vegas Motor Speedway, home of Femmoto 2007. But this year I was worried.

Every time I glanced at the Femmoto.com web site another event or special deal had been added. I was afraid my favorite motorcycle event of the year was becoming too big. An ambitious schedule was planned with more days of riding on the street as well as the track. The list of motorcycle manufacturers, products and promotions grew almost daily. There were more activities, more of almost everything. And even men were being allowed to participate in some of them. I thought it just wouldn't be the same.

I didn't need to worry. Instead of just a weekend, the event started unofficially on Thursday with a Kawasaki ROK (Riders of Kawasaki) day on the track. Friday was a mixed track day event, run like a

regular track day with the full back track open. Bonnie Strawser and Monte Lutz of Sportbike Track Time and their staff were busy from dawn to dusk, and I'm sure most of the night too, making sure everything worked flawlessly. Not even the howling winds and occasional sandstorm could dissuade the participants or those putting up tents and displays.

Femmoto has evolved from a small one-day event with mostly local appeal, to a nationwide, multi-faceted, multi-day showcase of how serious the motorcycle industry is about courting women. The great thing about Femmoto is that it doesn't seem big or overwhelming - or commercial. The focus is on safety, on and off the track. The opportunity to learn new skills and improve your techniques is easy here, where the coaches are well-known women racers and instructors like "Super Sarah" Schilke and well-known journalist and professional instructor Angie Loy. Learning new skills, improving techniques is only part of the fascination of Femmoto. The highlight is being able to ride your choice of motorcycle, provided by the manufacturer for your pleasure, at your convenience throughout the event. All you need is a motorcycle license, your Femmoto registration and proper gear (full-leathers, full-



face helmet, gloves and boots for the track) and you are good to go!

And go we did. Over four hundred women, and approximately fifty men including my happy husband who has faithfully supported me at this event for many years, got to ride on and off the track. That included riding through a bouncy, heart-stopping pit of excitement on some sporty quads provided by KYMCO. You could tell the "dirty girls" who went through it by the dust on their track leathers afterwards. Another feature was the Coach2Ride (Coach2Ride.com) and Kawasaki sponsored dirt bike course given by instructors Bonnie Warch and Andrea Beach.

All the manufacturers did a great job, with Kawasaki and Harley-Davidson / Buell leading the way with their continuing support. This year they added more features, seminars, promotions and giveaways. The entire list of participants and supporters is on Femmoto.com.

It's not easy making over 400 women happy and Bonnie makes it look easy. This phenomenal event is unique and should be on your not-to-be-missed list for Fall 2008. Haven't been to a Femmoto yet? Start making plans now, because you don't want to miss the next one. And don't worry; it will be bigger and even better!

Register now and see the photos from past Femmoto events at [www.Femmoto.com](http://www.Femmoto.com)

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Diane on the track



Dirt Bike School  
"That was fun - let's do it again!"



"Super Sarah" Shilke had a varied assortment of clothing from Hein Gericke's G-line for women available to purchase.



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