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PRIZED POSSESSIONS

Andy Baker

RANDY FAKER

Known more for his enthusiasm than talent, Andy Baker (aka 'Randy Faker' - Jerkyl #47) was a road rider who was subsequently bitten by the *On Any Sunday* racer dream. But, as Baker explains, "Picking up motocross at age 45 had its downfalls. And most MX outfits look like teenagers' bed sheets. That left dirt track. So, not to look the total

goose, I snuck into Nepean Raceway as a photographer one day and was immediately hooked. Old bikes sliding around a dusty oval? Heaven!"

Within a year, Baker had founded The Jerkyls (an evolution of 'Jerks who ride in Circles' or 'Circle Jerks'), commissioned a classic dirt track movie called *Back-Up*, staged several "SundaySlide" days at Nepean and

made "SlideNight" evening a regular occurrence for countless riders, journalists and filmmakers.

Now recognised internationally as flat-track jokers, The Jerkyls help others who want to experience dirt track, but aren't there for podiums or trophies. "Racing gets too serious," says Baker. "Riding in a gang, on the other hand, gives you someone

to laugh at and someone to beat. It doesn't matter how fast or slow you are. It's all about chasing the guy in front and having fun."

You can't help but like the cut of this offbeat guy's jib, so we hit him up for an insight into the three possessions he prizes most. Given Baker's also a professional photographer, he took it upon himself to shoot this selfie, too!

1 THE JERKYL'S

My mate Bill and I started vintage dirt-tracking with no intention of winning, just surviving. We told anyone who'd listen that it was all about taking part, not competing to win, and before we knew it we had 20 guys riding with us. Everyone gets a name - Chukka, G-Love, Choppa, Faker, DP, Huggy, Scruff, Hoppo - plus we've expanded things to include SlideNights at my garage where we give each other shit trophies. It's all about beers, bikes and mates.

2 CHAMPION FRAMED RT1

I love the Redline Champion short-track frame. This notorious frame (originally designed for the Yamaha RT1 motor) and the fibreglass fairing were on Craigslist from Idaho, USA. John Ewing from Old Mate Racing built me an awesome 360cc piston so I could ride in the pre-'70s class. There is no real information base for this machine, so everything is custom-made to fit. It's a labour of love and I don't think it'll ever really be finished. At least, I hope not.

3 MY CAMERAS

At age six, I got my first camera. It felt good and made a great 'click'. But the best feeling was taking pictures of what I thought mattered; of my vision of the world. Later, as a photojournalist, taking pictures took me to places I could otherwise only dream of. They'd start conversations and record history, and they've paid for my life for 30 years. For light travel, it's the Fuji X Series. In extreme conditions, the Canon EOS has never let me down.