



M.E.S.S. CONTEST # 3

HUNTINGTON, W.VA.

Almost minutes after our return from the Middletown Contest, CHRIS CARTER informed me that he wanted to fix his ramp. Seeing the future possibility of a contest, I quickly agreed to help him since I had no idea how I was going to pull off M.E.S.S. #3 without a ramp.

We worked on the ramp every spare minute we had in those 2 short weeks. During this time period, I also worked like crazy trying to get sponsors for the upcoming event. I already had some prizes under my bed from Tracker. They sent them in January since I told them I wanted to be prepared for my contest. Now I would be able to put them to use.

I mailed postcards to all the people I thought would come to the contest. I told them that the ramp was small, but fun and rippable. It was then all set. Now all I had to do was hope someone showed and the weather was clear.

On the proverbial "Friday," practice day, I welcomed skaters I had no idea were coming. I didn't expect very many people due to poor timing and an extreme lack of notice. I was put to ease when skaters pulled up from ten different states. There would definitely be a different group of shredders at this M.E.S.S. contest. I guess some knew that when I do something, I try to get as much fun out of it as possible.

Most travelers had done 4-12 hrs. of driving so I couldn't let them down. They came to my house carload by carload. I distributed maps to each car explaining how to get to the ramp which was just outside of town. From what I heard, some serious snaking was going down out there on that ramp. Pennsylvanian DAN BROWN was said to have snaked every skater present that night and believe you me, there were plenty on the ramp. By 7 p.m., everyone was at the ramp including myself. I talked to all the guys and gals from W.VA., OHIO, TENNESSEE, INDIANA, KENTUCKY, ALABAMA, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WASH., D.C., AND MICHIGAN.

After the convos and practice session was over, we all headed for the pizza place. Some skaters opted to eat homemade bologna sandwiches instead of the stale pizza. When the food was downed, I decided to take everyone to the downtown brick banks.

We had such a hot session with 15-20 radsters just blazin'. It was not long before an officer of the law enforcement agency asked us to leave. He evidently could not comprehend the fun we were having, so he turned us into criminals to satisfy his curiosity. No confrontations took place as most cruised away in silence not knowing where in the world they were going. The guys that stuck with me got treated to the midnight movie that was just starting. It was the least I could do since the bank session came to an abrupt end and most were bummin'. It was the first time the police force had kicked anyone off the banks.

After the rowdy crowd (to say the least) at the movie became calm, we saw and heard the remaining 22 minutes of the flick. INTENSE!!!!!! When we got out, the 5 of us went back to the now-forbidden banks for one last session before bed. It was totally free of hassles this time. Fatigue quickly set in so we piled into the car for the short trek to my house.

Upon our arrival at my crib, we noticed a hairy faced man standing in front of my porch looking at the 12 skaters that were asleep on the floor and on the bannisters. We watched him, made weird noises, but he was hard down staring at the unsuspecting rippers. Next, we hauled out of the car and made louder noises as we approached my house. He moved on down the street and the asleep became awake. Well, really they were all pretending to be asleep to see what that crazy character was up to. As we stood in the yard discussing what had just taken place, Santa made his return trip. Believe it or not, he stopped right in front of my face and looked into my eyes. He was only 1 foot away so I said to all the skaters behind me, "Uh, let us scatter!" We then scrambled inside for protection. Soon we were all crashed out on floors, couches, coffee cups, sinks, and on the T.V., or should I say they were? I was in a soft, comfortable bed.



Danforth contorts his bad self to take 1st



Endless Summer local, "Fergy",

Next Day:

Saturday, contest day, the weather was bio and the skaters were just the same. Most of the 30 converged on the ramp in the early morning. As time went on, the heat became typical of W.VA. summers, and I mean we're talkin' 90s. The first division was the 2A class which got underway around 1 p.m. Each rider was given 2 runs, with the highest average taking the top spot, and so on. When all the dust had settled, West Virginian OZZIE TAYLOR had pulled in top honors with a rad display of tricks, including a boooooommb drop! Ramp owner CHRIS CARTER cost-cut his way to 2nd place. Out-of-towner STEVE RAGLAND cruised into the 3rd place zone followed closely by "FEET BOY" JOHN WITTPENN. After the rest of the 2As were judged and placed, the 3A unsponsored division was next to hit the 'wood.

There were 8 rad skaters in this division and 93.725 of them did not know their fellow head-to-head counterpart. Totally shredding his way to first was KEVIN (Squid) DICKMAN. He skated hard, bio, and consistent. There was no mistake about who deserved 1st this contest. DAN BROWN was the closest to Kevin with easy tricks like Layback airs to inverts, 5-6 sec. stalled inverts, and attempted Andrecht Miller flips. DAN just didn't have enough hands to catch the "Squid." In third, it was DOUG MAYER of Penn. He had a rad bag of tricks that helped him earn a new skate. 4th went to the "Bama" boy, STEVE HOBBIE, who came on strong towards the end of the contest. In 5th was the only Tennessee skater that made it up north for this contest, JOE BOWERS (Vigaro). After the 3A unspo.

was over, everyone sessioned on the pop I had gotten from the local bottling companies. Everyone was also prime for a B.B.Q. but when I checked the coolers, most of the dogs were gone. It seems a few skaters grew impatient and ate them raw. While all of this was taking place, the 3A sponsored were practicing for their heats.

After pulling a delay tactic so that MARTY JIMENEZ had enough time to drive over from Cincinnati, the final stage of the contest got underway. This was, by far, the hardest division I have ever judged. Skaters like BILL FERGUSON, PAT CLARKE, O.P. MOORE, JINX, BRETT MARTIN, and BILL DANFORTH make it hard on judges when they all do well. At any rate, the man of the hour was DANFORTH. A combination of a lot of things added up for the win at M.E.S.S. #3. He was the only skater to receive a 10 on one run. He never fell during the head-to-head heats and very rarely sketched. Like I said before, it was a tough contest to judge and one of the main reasons for this was PAT CLARKE from Virginia. His style was the best I had seen in a long time. That, combined with bio moves, placed him in the 2nd position. PAT also got his picture in the newspaper the following day. The bio BILL FERGUSON nabbed the #3 spot with hot airs, loops, inverts and much more. Not bad for a pool rider. MARTY JIMENEZ slid into the 4th place area followed by BRETT MARTIN in a close 5th. O.P., HILL, SHIK, BUTELLA, and SUMMERFIELD filled out the rest of the sponsored division in that order.

After the contest was over, MARTY RICHARDSON and myself blazed to my house to load up all the prizes. The car

was jammed with boxes and other things. We then cruised back to Carter's estate. Everyone was inside, so MARTY JIMENEZ and myself counted all the prizes, figured out the results of the contest, and decided who was to get what. It took about an hour in the car, but we finally figured it all out and it was fair as the weather. I had previously calculated that we had over \$1,000.00 in prizes and stickers. There were a total of 3 shoe boxes full of assorted decals from lots of companies. Everyone copped at least \$20.00 worth of prizes so there were "NO" complaints. Immediately following the distribution of the major awards I gave each skater a complimentary W. Va. tote bag that the Secretary of State had previously sent me for the contest. The scam was to hold the bags out and I would fill them up with stickers and other things. Needless to say, it took me 1/2 hour to hand out all the stickers. Some people got greedy while others got greedier. It was all in fun and everyone was totally satisfied when it was all over and done.

I would personally like to thank all the sponsors who helped make my contest a major success. They are as follows: ALVA; BRAND X; CITY STREET WHEELS and SMOOTHILL; COCA COLA; CONTROL BOARDS & ACCESSORIES; GULLWING TRUCKS; KONA SKATEPARK; MADRID; PEPSI COLA; POWELL-PERALTA; SCHMITT STIX & ACCESSORIES; 7-UP; VISION; THRASHER MAG; TRACKER TRUCKS; TWS; VARIFLEX; and Z-PRODUCTS. When you have help from A-Z, you know you'll have a bitchen contest!!! I thank you again.

"RIDGE"

M.E.S.S. #4 NEW CARLISLE, OHIO Photos and Introduction by Bob Pribble Story by Brett Martin

As of September 3, the M.E.S.S. is still quite happening. Brett Martin hosted contest #4 on his ramp in New Carlisle, Ohio. This contest really showed who the diehard skaters are.

Story by Brett Martin

When I got home from work on Friday, there was already a session in progress. Not on the ramp, but in our pool. Mike Hill and Kevin Dickman (Dayton Locals) along with Bill Danforth (Michigan) were present and accounted for. Later that day, we played hacky sack until the Indy crew showed up in the good ship "SWAMPMOBILE." Also arriving on the scene was Paul Hugesian who had just flown in from Wisconsin. Lyle, Britt, and Jay headed up a meager Tennessee turnout.

We headed inside my house where everyone was soon making fun of M-T.V. Bob "Pribble" suggested that we get ahold of a video player, because he had 5 hrs of California's best skating on tape. After a long period of waiting and a few phone calls, we were soon watching the Powell Brigade film along with Joe's Ramp Jam, an Upland contest, The Great Desert Ramp Battle, and a session on Cab's ramp. We then had a few sessions of our own after the films ended.

SATURDAY

The first thing we did was to run all of the unsponsored (1 run each) to see who was in the 2A and 3A divisions. After that was accomplished, the contest was underway.

We ran the 2A division first. Little Mark Hienzman pulled his first win in the series by beating Mike Bennett who has been in retirement for about 2 months. He still had enough "youngster" in him to snag second. 3rd place went to tiny Scott Richardson. This guy is going to rip when he gets older. Next, the 3A skaters were due to rip.

In the 3A division, some heavy blazin' usually takes place so we ran them in the standard head-to-head system with qualifications. Paul Hugesian and Britt Parrot battled it to the end with Paul coming up with first place and Britt with second. John Kulp sailed into 3rd. John used to be a Squidlet Division skater, but now he's ripping in the 3A division. This is just a small example of how the skating has progressed since M.E.S.S.#1.



Marty Jimenez, Stylish Invert

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK SUMMERFIELD

In the sponsored division, I don't know how I did it, but I won the sponsored division. All I know is that I have "never" skated my best like I did this day, not even on my own ramp!!! Nabbing 2nd place and not far behind, was 'Mr. Consistent,' Bill Danforth. Bill is a Madrid skater and has wins from M.E.S.S. 2 & 3 under his belt. Newly sponsored Gullwing rider, Lyle Donoho, landed in 3rd. Not bad for his first sponsored division contest. I'm sure Gullwing will be happy with Lyle on their team cause he shreds.

There was an average spectator crowd that witnessed the end of M.E.S.S. #4. No gripes were heard before, during or after the contest which I found too cool.

Immediately following the contest, my parents put together a scrum-dilly-ishus cookout. As soon as everyone had their fill, I awarded the tons of prizes to the 21 skaters who had competed earlier. When the prizes were all distributed, it was sticker time. I got on top of one rollout deck and started throwing stickers down on the crowded flat bottom section. There were a few minor injuries but that comes with the game. Three shoe boxes filled with stickers takes its toll when you get stickomania.

Towards the end of the day, everyone cruised over to the legendary D.O. banks in Cincinnati. This has to be one of the best bank spots in the Midwest, if not the whole country. If you've never heard of the D.O., let me tell you a little about it. It has multi-banks, multi-levels, and multi-curbs which enable you to do the impossible. It also has a ramp extension that G.S.D. built when he used to live in Cincinnati. The place simply has never ending lines.

When the tour of Southern Ohio was over, everyone cruised to their final destinations (Home). All in all, I would have to say that everything went very smoothly and I would like to thank these sponsors for helping it to be just that:

Atlantic Skates; Brand X; G & S; Gullwing; Madrid; Motobuilt; N.H.S.; Powell-Peralta; Rough Trade; Schmitt Stix; Sims; Sio; Thrasher; Tom Thumb; Tracker; TWS; Variflex; Walker; Z-Products and Pepsi Cola of Springfield. Also my parents and girlfriend.

Catch you at M.E.S.S. #5
Finals in Tennessee

M.E.S.S. #3

RESULTS: Top 15

2A
Ozzie Taylor
Chris Carter
Steve Ragland
John Wittgenn
Marty Richardson

3A Un-sponsored
Kevin Dickman
Dan Brown
Doug Mayer
Steve Hobbie
Joe Bowers

3A Sponsored
Bill Danforth
Pat Clarke
Bill Ferguson
Marty Jimenez
Brett Martin

M.E.S.S. #4

RESULTS: Top 15

2A
Mark Hienzman
Mike Bennett
Scott Richardson
Chuck B.
Russel Payton

3A Un-sponsored
Paul Hugesian
Britt Parrot
John Kulp
Jay Cabler
Kevin Dickman

3A Sponsored
Brett Martin
Bill Danforth
Lyle Donahoe
Marty Jimenez
Bob Pribble



Kevin Dickman, *lien air*



Bob Pribble

