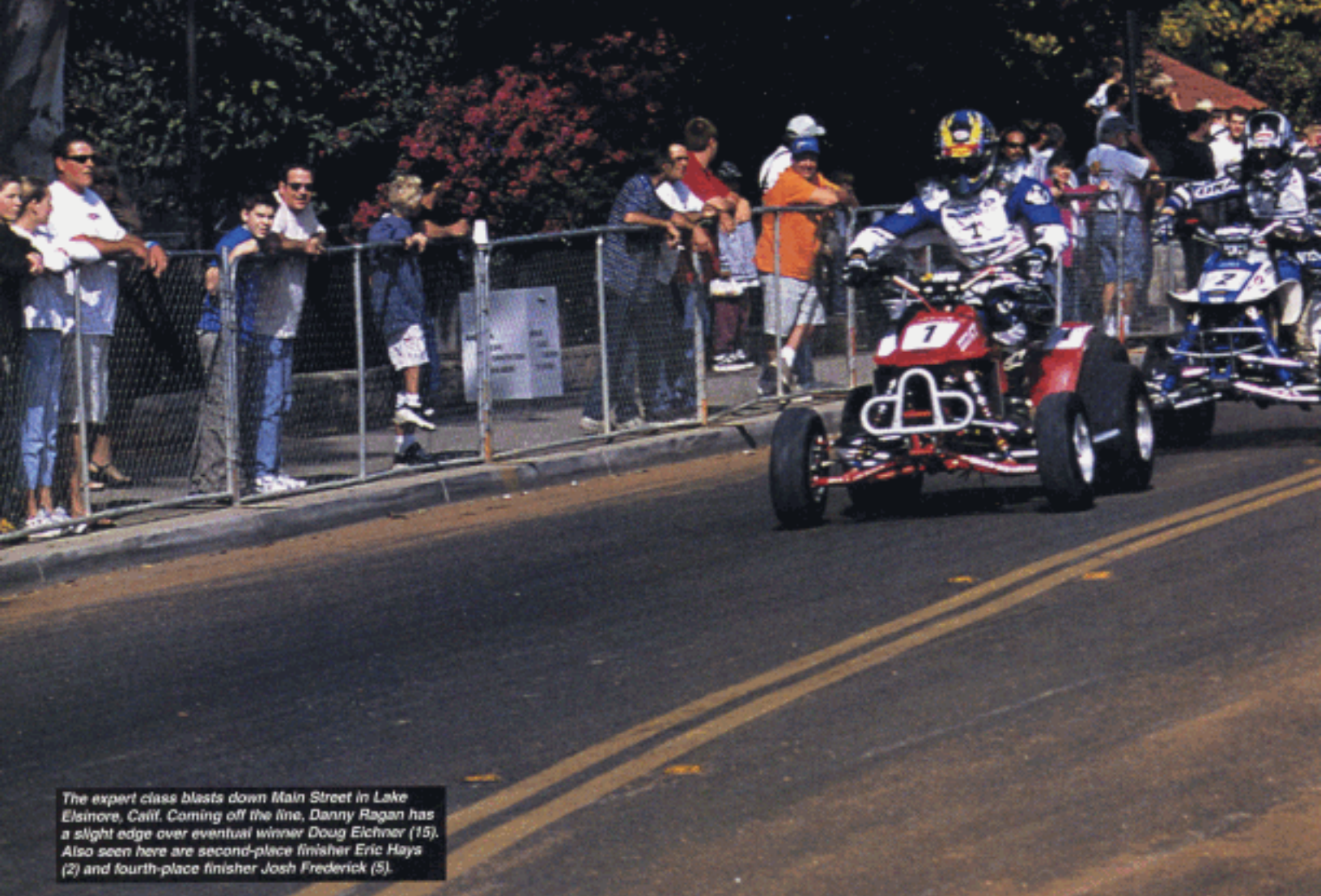
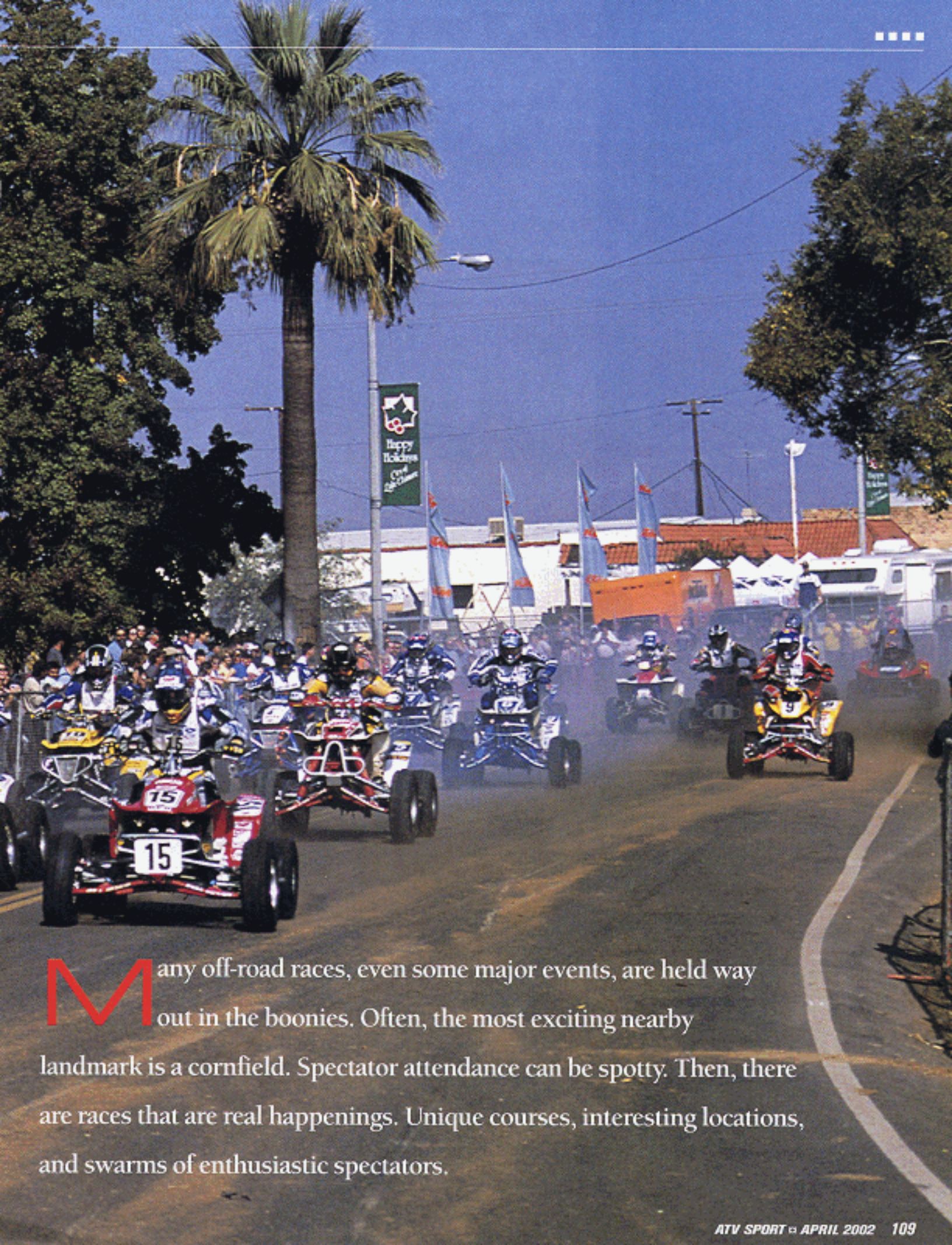


STREETS OF FIRE

LEGENDARY CALIFORNIA STREET RACE: THE 2001 ELSINORE GRAND PRIX



The expert class blasts down Main Street in Lake Elsinore, Calif. Coming off the line, Danny Ragan has a slight edge over eventual winner Doug Eichner (15). Also seen here are second-place finisher Eric Hays (2) and fourth-place finisher Josh Frederick (5).



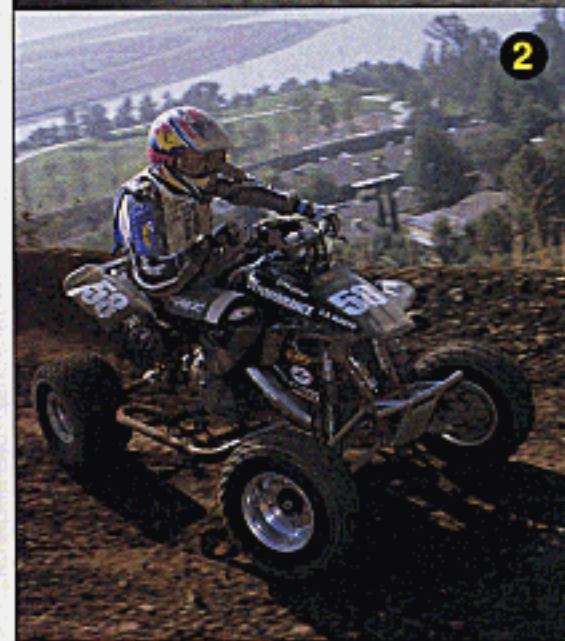
Many off-road races, even some major events, are held way out in the boonies. Often, the most exciting nearby landmark is a cornfield. Spectator attendance can be spotty. Then, there are races that are real happenings. Unique courses, interesting locations, and swarms of enthusiastic spectators.

The annual Elsinore Grand Prix is such a race. Begun in 1968 (before ATVs!) and featured in the legendary motorcycle racing movie "On Any Sunday," the southern California event became one of the most famous off-road races in the world. In 1996, after almost 30-year hiatus, the race was revived and, for the first time ever, quads were included. Over the years, the event has attracted many of America's top quad competitors including Doug Eichner, Mark

Ehrhardt, Dean Sundahl, Travis Spader, Chad Duvall and Matt Smiley.

The high-speed course is a 6.5-mile loop and the start of the 30-minute quad race begins on Main Street in downtown Lake Elsinore. After going on and off some paved sections, the riders work their way into the foothills. One bobble on these fast, slippery and narrow trails can result in a tumble down a steep 300-foot slope.

Next, the racers tear into a valley with



1. Jeff Anderson takes the checkers for a third-place finish. 2. Larry Heidler avoided flying off into space and took the intermediate win. That's Lake Elsinore in the background. 3. Nearing the end of the 6.5-mile loop, Doug Elchner races down a narrow trail just above Main Street. 4. Just a few minutes before the start it's "get nervous time." Duncan Racing's Lenny Duncan (57) finished second in the intermediate class aboard a Raptor. 5. Racing goes on all weekend at Lake Elsinore with hundreds of two-wheelers competing.



2001 Elsinore Grand Prix

Results

EXPERT

1. Doug Elchner; 2. Eric Hays; 3. Jeff Anderson; 4. Josh Frederick; 5. Danny Ragan

INTERMEDIATE

1. Larry Heidler; 2. Leonard Duncan; 3. Dan Barnett; 4. Brent van Zuyen; 5. Ted Brobeck

NOVICE

1. Valen Harris; 2. Eric Patten; 3. Riley Kuykendall; 4. Lynn Prosser; 5. Doug Keil

BEGINNER

1. Rodney Gates; 2. Paul Vaska; 3. Doug Bowman; 4. Gene Ferguson; 5. Glen Miles

PREVIOUS ATV EXPERT CLASS WINNERS

1996: Doug Elchner; 1997: Chad Dowell; 1998: Mark Ehrhardt; 1999: Doug Elchner; 2000: Ron Orner

5

4

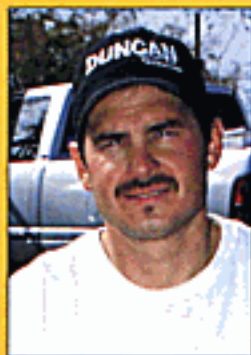
IN HIS WORDS

EICHNER TALKS ABOUT THE 2001 ELSINORE GP

It was pretty cut and dried. I got the holeshot and led the whole thing. Lappers were a little bit of a problem, though; even more so than at Pont de Vaux, and that's 12 hours and 100 quads on a shorter circuit. If they'd move out of the way at Elsinore, I'd give them a courtesy wave. But if they'd stay in the middle it was tough because there was often only one line. Then, I'd have to muscle my way around. On one turn, a Banshee didn't see me coming and came into me.

I was also worried about fuel. I'm running a bigger carb, a 39mm with the 300cc Duncan PC 2000 cylinder, and I didn't have a desert tank. On the last lap I coasted down the hills just to be safe. Still, at the end I had very little gas left!

So, other than the fuel situation and lappers, everything was smooth. The motor ran great and the Lobo handles great. I will run a desert tank next year, though!



tighter corners, a crowd-pleasing tabletop and an 85-mph excursion over the I-15 freeway! Then it's back into the foothills and into town for the finish on Main Street.

This year, Duncan Racing's Doug Eichner took his third victory at Elsinore and became the winningest ATVer in the history of the race. Eichner knows all about being the "winningest" and he holds the record for wins at the famous 12 Hours of Pont de Vaux in France (see our December issue). The Oregon native is older than many pros, but his fiery style has won him other national championships in the stadiums and in the GNC Open class.

No, ATVs were not invented until 1971, but their inclusion in legendary races like the Pikes Peak Hillclimb and the Elsinore GP demonstrates that, although our sport is relatively young, it has already taken its rightful place in American racing history.

This annual event is held in November. For 2002 info, call GFI at (909) 341-8002. ■



1. Sidecars, Pilots and Odysseys race during the quad event, but are scored separately. 2. Near the finish line on Main Street, race goers check out machines, apparel and food. 3. They are four-wheeled off-road vehicles alright, but "dirt surfers" didn't compete with the quads at Elsinore!