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ROADRACING WORLD & MOTORCYCLE

TECHNOLOGY™

**ON THE TRACK, ON THE STREET:
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1290 SUPER DUKE R



BUILDING THE MOTOAMERICA TWINS CUP WINNER
PART ONE: SUZUKI SV650 PROJECT

**24TH ANNUAL
YOUNG GUN AWARDS**
THE BEST AMERICAN KIDS,
CLASS OF 2020

COLUMNS:

- Garrett Gerloff, Chris Ulrich
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- The Kids' Page
- ASRA/CCS Newsletter

SHOPS:

SUZUKI MUSEUM
HAMAMATSU, JAPAN

VINTAGE:

1961 AJS 7R
SOHC 349cc RACER

High Performance Parts & Services Directory | Racing, Track Day, & School Calendar

International Island Classic



American Josh Hayes (4) leads Jed Metcher (22) and Alex Phillis at the International Island Classic at Phillip Island. Photo by Russell Colvin.

American Josh Hayes picked up where he left off in 2019 at the International Island Classic January 25-26 at Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, winning Race One aboard his Mojo Yamaha CMR FJ1250. Hayes beat New Zealander Alex Phillis (riding for Team Australia) and his 1980 Suzuki XR69 by 0.165-second with Team Australia's Jed Metcher and his 1984 Yamaha FJ1200 another fraction of a second back in third.

24th Annual Roadracing World Young Gun Awards:

2020 Young Guns

By David Swarts

Roadracing World started this exclusive special feature recognizing the most promising young road racers as an answer to pessimists who claimed North America had no new, up-and-coming young racers. This edition of the Roadracing World Young Gun Awards marks the 24th consecutive year of showcasing what is actually an abundance of new talent.

The young riders recognized here are the top-26 most promising young road racers under age 19 in North America. Each is being featured individually on www.roadracingworld.com. Here are the Roadracing World Young Guns, Class of 2020.

(Riders are listed in alphabetical order.)



Young Guns Rocco Landers (97) and Damian Jigalov (78) battling for the lead during a MotoAmerica Junior Cup race. Photos by Brian J. Nelson.

▶ **Jackson Blackmon**, 18, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, placed fourth in the 2019 MotoAmerica Junior Cup Championship with four podium finishes; he also ran some MotoAmerica Twins Cup races, earning another podium finish. He plans to continue racing in the MotoAmerica Twins Cup in 2020.

▶ **Torin Collins**, 14, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, finished 15th in the British Talent Cup Championship with a best race finish of seventh. He plans to compete in the European Talent Cup in 2020.

▶ **Dallas Daniels**, 16, of North Mattoon, Illinois, took one win and nine podium finishes in the 2019 MotoAmerica Junior Cup, finish-

ing a 600 Superstock WERA National Challenge sprint at the Grand National Finals. He plans to race with WERA and FMRR in 2020.

▶ **Blake Davis**, 13, of Lynchburg, Virginia, won several races and Championships with WERA in 2019 and earned the AMA Nicky Hayden Road Racing Horizon Award. He plans to enter the MotoAmerica Junior Cup in 2020.

▶ **Alex Dumas**, 17, of Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, won five races and took eight podium finishes on his way to winning the 2019 MotoAmerica Twins Cup Championship. He will race in the MotoAmerica Stock 1000 class in 2020.

ing 29 races overall in 2019. He plans to compete in the MotoAmerica Junior Cup in 2020.

▶ **Teagg Hobbs**, 17, of Vero Beach, Florida, took a best race finish of fourth and placed eighth in the MotoAmerica Junior Cup Championship. He plans to move up to the MotoAmerica Twins Cup for 2020.

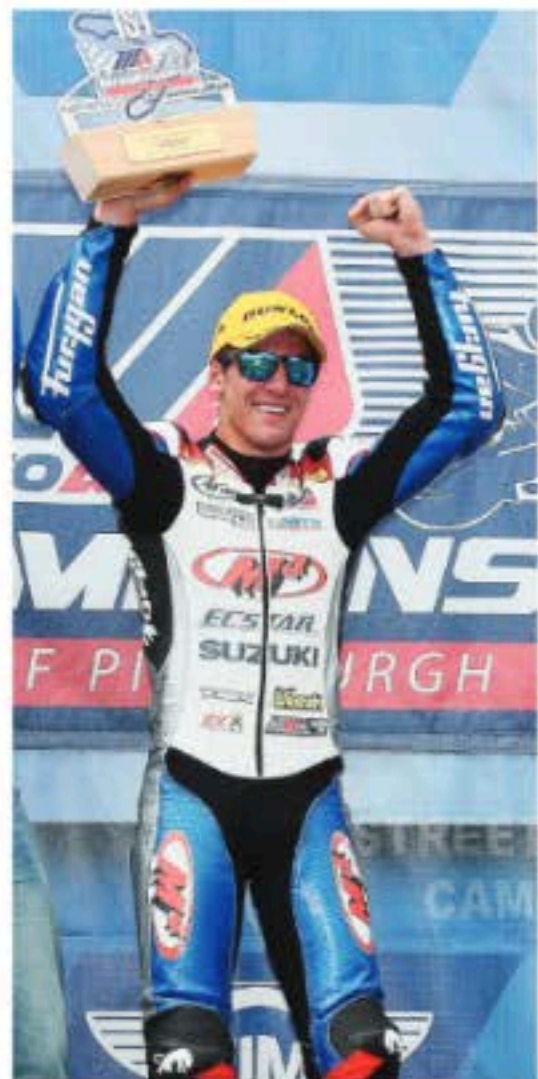
▶ **Damian Jigalov**, 15, of East Dundee, Illinois, earned one podium and six top-five finishes in the 2019 MotoAmerica Junior Cup. He will race in the European Talent Cup in 2020.

▶ **Sean Dylan Kelly**, 16, of Hollywood, Florida, started his 2019 season by earning pole position and finishing second at the Daytona 200. He then went on to win two races on his way to placing fourth in the 2019 MotoAmerica Supersport Championship. Kelly will continue in MotoAmerica Supersport in 2020.

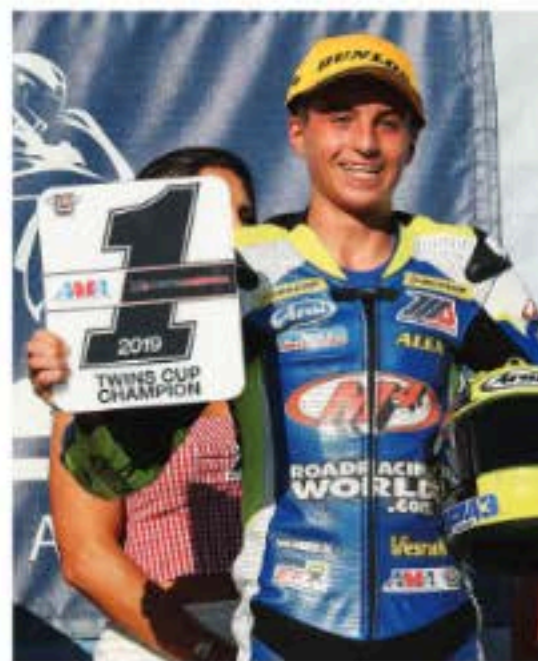


▶ **Brenden Ketelsen**, 16, of Sacramento, California, took a fourth-place finish in a MotoAmerica Junior Cup race at Sonoma Raceway. He plans to focus on the AFM series in 2020 while making selected appearances in the MotoAmerica Junior Cup.

▶ **Toby Khamsouk**, 17, of Banning, California, finished 12th in the 2019 MotoAmerica Junior Cup Championship with eight top-10 results. He plans to move up to the MotoAmerica Twins Cup class.



(Above) Sean Dylan Kelly won two Supersport races in his first MotoAmerica season. (Left) Blake Davis won the AMA Nicky Hayden Road Racing Horizon Award. (Below) Alex Dumas won the 2019 MotoAmerica Twins Cup Championship.



ing races. He has been selected to join the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup in 2020 and will also do some MotoAmerica Junior Cup rounds

SUZUKI SV650

PROJECT BIKE PART 1



WINNING THE MOTOAMERICA TWINNS CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

By John Ulrich

It started as a casual, "let's build a fun track day or club racebike" thing when the latest-generation Suzuki SV650 came out in 2017. The first pass involved flatter handlebars, modifying the forks and shock, installing number plates, Venhill braided stainless-steel brake lines, an M4 ex-



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Step two was fitting a GSX-R1000 front end (forks/triple clamps/brakes/clip-on handlebars), along with K-Tech fork cartridges and a K-Tech shock, and a different version of a belly fan. But something was seriously missing in the set-up; the bike didn't want to turn, the belly pan was dragging in fast corners, and it was a lot less fun to ride.

So Racing Editor Chris Ulrich went out to Chuckwalla Valley Raceway with race-mechanic-for-hire Rob Silva and spent several sessions working on the set-up, including raising both ends significantly to adjust the geometry.

Suddenly the bike would turn again, and next came Hotbodies SV650 bodywork styled after the GSX-RR MotoGP racebike, and a set of prototype Woodcraft rearset controls.

Then two things happened: MotoAmerica announced a new set of Twins Cup rules for 2019, and 2018 MotoAmerica Junior Cup Champion Alex Dumas got kicked out of the class for doing too well in the 2016-2017 KTM RC390 Cup, which became the Junior Cup in 2018. The reward for success, for becoming the Junior Cup Champion, was banishment. The 16-year-old needed a new ride.

Dumas tested on a GSX-R600 Supersport bike in November 2018 but wasn't comfortable. And then came the idea of running him in the Twins Cup, starting with letting him test the project bike for two days at Chuckwalla Valley Raceway with Jason Pridmore's JP43 training program. Dumas liked the bike and went quick despite the stock engine, which made about 70 bhp on the dyno, and the die was cast.

By the time the 2019 MotoAmerica season was over, Dumas had earned eight podium finishes out of 11 races, taking five wins and winning the championship by 26 points. The motorcycle made more power and was faster at every successive round, and ended up making 90+ horsepower. The how and why, each step along the way, is what this series is all about.

To be continued...

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(Top) Twins Cup Champion Alex Dumas on the project racebike. Photo by Brian J. Nelson. (Above & Below) The SV650 with and without bodywork. Features include GSX-R600 forks and brakes; Dymag wheels; Hotbodies GSX-RR replica bodywork; carbon-fiber airbox; GBRacing covers; K-Tech shock; Vortex clip-ons and sprockets; Woodcraft rearsets; and a lot more we'll cover later. Photos by John Ulrich.



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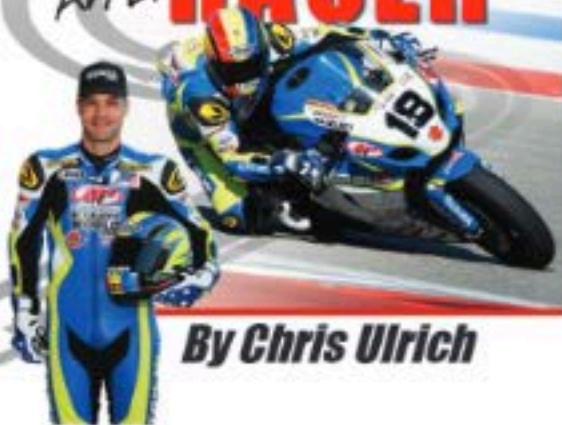


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THE Adventures OF X AN EX RACER



By Chris Ulrich

As I write this, preparation for the 2020 MotoAmerica racing season is coming along for my family's race team. We are working to prepare all the bikes for the season and do any last-minute sponsor deals that come up. It's all normal stuff that happens really quickly during the lead-up to the start of a season.

After the announcement hit about Team Hammer taking over all MotoAmerica racing operations for Suzuki, we announced that Toni Elias would race one of the Superbikes during the 2020 season. Our team is run differently than the Yoshimura team, so I was a little nervous how Toni would react to the changes. But my mind was put at ease after Toni came to our race shop in Athens, Alabama, for a meeting. He was excited about his new crew chief and the way we approach things, so it was a positive start.

A few weeks after announcing Toni, we signed Bobby Fong and sent out the press release. This decision was difficult, but it was the right decision for Team Hammer. We took some heat for signing Bobby instead of Josh Herrin, but we believe in our guy



MotoAmerica Race Team Owner: Posing on the podium with Sean Dylan Kelly (left) and Bobby Fong after a Supersport race at Road America, 2019. Both are back with us for 2020. Photo by Brian J. Nelson.

and wanted to continue to work with him. Bobby delivered six wins and the Supersport Championship for Team Hammer in 2019. He works extremely hard at his racing and we believe that he can be a consistent Superbike contender in the Team Hammer environment. I can't wait to see what Bobby can do this year.

Our 2020 Supersport team consists of Sean Dylan Kelly (SDK) and Lucas Silva. SDK had a great first MotoAmerica season in 2019, winning two races and finishing on the podium seven times despite having to learn to race a 600 (coming off a MotoGP Rookies 250cc Moto3 bike) and learn all the tracks. He also made his Grand Prix debut in Moto2 at the Valencia Grand Prix. Now, after a year of experience, we are expecting SDK to reach his full potential

in 2020. Lucas comes to us after a solid 2019 Supersport season riding a Team Hammer-built and -supported Suzuki GSX-R600 for the Altus Motorsports team. Our goal is to help Lucas become a podium contender.

Our 2019 MotoAmerica Twins Cup Champion Alex Dumas is moving to Stock 1000 this season. Jumping from a 95-horsepower SV650 to a GSX-R1000 is

a big transition, but he showed good speed racing his dad's stock-engined GSX-R1000 in the Chuckwalla Valley Motorcycle Association (CVMA) Winter Series at Chuckwalla. I think he's getting the hang of the bigger bike and will be battling near the front a few races into the 2020 season.

I'm excited about our 2020 rider line up. We have motivated, proven race winners on the Superbikes and the next generation of young talent racing Supersport and Stock 1000 for Team Hammer. It's a good group and I'm really looking forward to watching them do battle in 2020.

The race team has been taking up a lot of my bandwidth, but I still have other responsibilities to take care of for my other job as Racing Editor at *Roadracing World*. This month I headed to the south of Portugal to ride the 2020 KTM 1290 Super Duke R (a.k.a. the Beast 3.0) on the street and on the track. As usual, the trip was very short, but the bike was a ripper, so I didn't mind flying in and out. Turn to page 18 to read my detailed review.

Now the riders are set, the bikes are almost done. Next up is testing, and then we go racing. It's going to be a big challenge, but I'm looking forward to it. See you at the racetrack! **RW**

