

USGPRU

United States Grand Prix Racers Union

The Gerloff Family Vacation



Grayson and Garrett Gerloff
Photo by: Casper Creisman

The Gerloff family is scurrying around with boxes and supplies scattered about the driveway. A curious onlooker would think they were preparing to go on vacation, and to the Gerloffs, they are....they're going racing with the USGPRU this weekend. The Gerloffs are one of many families that participate in the USGPRU national road racing series.

Mark (dad) is in the garage busy finishing up a top end re-build on one of the race bikes. He instructs the boys, Garrett and Grayson, to get off their skateboards and start loading the racing trailer. It is Thursday afternoon and they have to get on the road to knock out the driving tonight so they can arrive at the track by early Friday morning for practice.

How did they get into this lifestyle? The boys started racing motocross at 4 years old. They became interested in road racing after the family moved to Alabama and attended an AMA pro event at Barber. **After trying road racing for the first time, they were hooked** and have been competing on the pavement for the last two years. The boys have big dreams to become another set of brothers to race professionally. "We have pretty big shoes to fill if we want to be like the Hayden or Bostrom brothers," says Grayson.

At the track it's a family effort to make everything click. **Dad changes tires and tunes the bikes while Lisa (mom) is busy with the stop watch** getting lap times, watching the boy's riding techniques, and sizing up the competition. "Last year was our first year traveling the national circuit. Garrett did a great job finishing in the top ten in both classes. This year Grayson is old enough to compete too, so we will have our hands full supporting two boys racing," say Mark.

After a full day of practice, the boys goof off with their friends in the paddock while mom makes the whole crew dinner. Dad finishes some adjustments on the bikes so the race will go as planned. During dinner everybody bench races and has fun discussing the possibilities of the race tomorrow. The family turns in early to be rested for the big day.

The real preparations for racing start at home. **Road racing has become a very big part of the Gerloff's life.** A typical day starts at 8:00am with the boys getting on their school work. With all the time spent on the road last year, traditional school schedules tended to

be a little inflexible. So this year the boys started home schooling. "It's much easier this way because we can get their schooling in around the racing schedule," says Lisa. According to Garrett, "When we are done with our school work, my dad has us do chores around the house, help work on the race bikes, or we get to go ride our dirt bikes until my dad gets home from work." Then it's off to the gym for weight and cardio training. **The boys take their racing very seriously. They are on strict diets and train extremely hard in the gym** to be in top physical form, and remember these kids are only 12 and 13 years old!

The USGPRU really makes the environment inviting for competitors. **"This is a great racing organization with a real family atmosphere.** The camaraderie between all the participants is second to none. Whether you are competing for the first time or you are in the running for a national championship, the USGPRU has something for everyone," says Lisa. Last year American Honda came on board in conjunction with Moriwaki Engineering to develop an incredible MD250H race bike and racing class. "The contingency money is unheard of for youth racers. **Garrett earned more than \$12K racing the Moriwaki,**" exclaims Mark. The boys are really starting to get noticed on the road racing scene too. Over the last two years the boys have been picking up sponsors to support them in their racing endeavors. Along with all the sponsors that support the USGPRU, the Gerloffs would like to give a big thanks to all their 2009 sponsors for their unwavering support of "Gerloff Boys Racing": Scorpion EXO Helmets, Southern Honda Powersports, Honda Pro Oils, Bridgestone Tires, Stickboy Racing, T2 Tirewarmers, XXX Race Fuel, Cycle Gear, DCDecals, and Danny Turner @ Turner's Cycles.

By the end of the weekend, the family has had another successful race with the USGPRU. Now it's time to pack up the trailer for the long drive home. **The family is exhausted, but in the end it is all worth it. "I wouldn't trade this for anything.** We get to spend almost every weekend with our boys as they try to accomplish their goals," Lisa says with a tired smile on her face as she sets off for home.

The 2009 USGPRU season kicks off at Button Willow raceway in California on March 21st and 22nd. The Gerloff boys are ready for another racing vacation, are you?

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2009 Schedule

Eastern Region:

Apr 4-5 Jennings GP

May 2-3 Road America

July 11-12 Heartland Park

July 25-26 NJ Motorsports Park

Sept 12-13 Mid-Ohio

Western Region:

Mar 21-22 Buttonwillow

Apr 18-19 Firebird East

Jun 6-7 High Plains Raceway

July 11-12 Thunderhill

Aug 8-9 Miller

National Final:

Oct 3-4 Barber Motorsports

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