

# BMX bikers raise money for leukemia, lymphoma research

On May 3, hundreds of local kids and their parents, including many Hanford employees, will compete in the "Race for Life," a BMX (bicycle motocross) meet to be held in Richland. Whatever the outcome of the various events, the big winner will be the Leukemia and Lymphoma Cancer Society of America. Funds collected from the riders and their sponsors, as well as entry fees collected by the track operator, will be part of a nationwide fund-raising effort to help pay for cancer research.

BMX tracks around the country have held the annual Race for Life since the early 1980s, when a young rider was stricken with cancer. The American Bicycle Association — in his honor — began the tradition, and the event has raised millions of dollars for cancer research. Nationwide, more than 130 BMX tracks participate.

Many Tri-Cities residents are not even aware that our area has a popular BMX track in Richland. Tucked away near Highway 240 next to the Horn Rapids Athletic Complex (where many Hanford employees play summer softball), it's not something you stumble across if you're not looking for it. But many employees of Fluor, Bechtel, CH2M HILL, Battelle's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and other Hanford-related companies either compete along with their kids or have sons or daughters who ride BMX.

Todd Winsor of the Hanford Patrol is a BMX competitor, along with his son and a daughter, Shelby, who's a state champion. Rich Hallen of PNNL competes, and so do his sons Thomas and Kevin. Mark Hartzell, also with PNNL, participates with his son. And employees who have children involved in BMX racing include Dwayne Bierman of Fluor Hanford; the Higbees, Cally (Fluor Hanford) and John (Bechtel Hanford); Michael Charves of Bechtel Hanford; and PNNL staff members Becky Ford, David Hebert, Craig Redinger and Geoff Harvey.

"It's easy to get involved in the fun and competition of BMX racing," said Harvey. "Any kid or dad can compete in this particular event. No membership is necessary — just pay a modest entry fee, which will be donated toward cancer research, and bring a safe bike to ride, a helmet, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and lots of energy."

In fact, according to Harvey, this is a perfect time for kids and their dads who have thought about BMX racing to give it a try. Just donate at least \$10 to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Cancer Society and you can participate.

Whether you'd like to contribute to the cause or to participate in this year's "Race for Life," call Harvey at 372-6083, Redinger at 376-3033, or Hallen at 375-6919 for more information. ■



Competitors in the 16-to-24-year-old expert class of BMX riders take the gate at the Columbia Basin BMX racetrack at the Horn Rapids Athletic Complex in Richland. Dozens of Hanford employees and their sons and daughters compete locally in bicycle motocross. Kevin Favrow (left) and Thomas Hallen (center) are sons of Richard Hallen of PNNL. Brent Harvey (second from right) is the son of PNNL's Geoff Harvey.