

# MITAS MOTO NEWSLETTER

May – June 2017

## Interview

### Karl Katoch, founder and icon of Erzbergrodeo

Erzbergrodeo – a synonym for the world’s toughest Extreme Enduro race. 1,500 riders from all over the world come each year to the Erzberg open-pit mine to face its challenges. We spoke with Karl Katoch just a few weeks before the 23rd edition of the event and must admit that he is a person with passion, vision and strong will.

**Where and when did you come up with the idea of Erzbergrodeo?**

The Austrian film maker Günther Mayr found the location for his TV-format „Off Road Magazine“ in 1994 and asked me if I had any ideas for a cool racing event. When we first visited the Erzberg mining compound, we were completely blown away by the site and immediately sat down to think of an outstanding race.

**Was it difficult to convince the company operating the mine to allow you to organise such an event?**

Well, it was not so difficult back in 1995, but the Erzbergrodeo has developed into an international mega event and we are now facing completely different problems that need to be solved. We are closely working together with the mining company and trying to find solutions fit for both sides of the table (which is not always an easy thing to do).

**How do you see Extreme Enduro nowadays?**

Extreme Enduro has developed into a renowned and serious part of offroad motorcycle sports over the past two decades. Erzbergrodeo has played a major role in this development, which is why we have the responsibility to further enhance the image of our sport. It is positive for me to see that an increasing number of Extreme Enduro race events are held all over the world, however, it is even more important that all these new races contribute to the positive image of Extreme Enduro. It’s definitely not enough to be extreme only.

**What’s your achievement you are most proud of?**

Maybe it’s the fact that we have established Erzbergrodeo as one of the world’s most renowned motorsports event by awarding the winners a handshake, a piece of rock and lots of respect, instead of prize money!

**What are your plans for the future?**

Never change a running system! As long as it’s possible to ensure such high level of quality racing at Erzbergrodeo, we will carry on to offer an outstanding challenge to ambitious racers from all over the world.

**Describe yourself in one word.**

Strong.



Karl Katoch

Haven’t been at Erzbergrodeo yet? [Watch the video](#) and don’t miss the next year’s event.



## Events

### Erzbergrodeo

(15 – 18 June, Eisenerz, Austria)



### VERD

(3 – 4 June, Verd, Slovenia)



## Racing results

### Wade Young won

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Extreme XL Lagares

(27 – 28 May, Lagares, Portugal)

Wade Young (Sherco factory) managed to win the pro class of the race even if Extreme XL Lagares is more favourable to trial riders. The race consists of a prologue, night race and the main race.

Here are Wade's words describing his feelings after achieving this great result: "Making dreams into reality. Couldn't be much happier to win Extreme XL Lagares against the best in the business. Thanks to my team for making it happen."



Wade Young, winner of 13th Extreme XL Lagares

### Chris Birch, winner of big bike class at Hellas Rally

(21 – 28 May, Greece)

Chris Birch won the big bike class (M5) and 6<sup>th</sup> place overall. Chris was riding Mitas C-17 (front) and E-12 (rear). Chris has proven once again that he is a real master of the adventure bike.

**Watch the video** if you would like to see some of his awesome riding skills.



Chris Birch at Hellas Rally



## MXGP

**Mitas motocross competition tyres C-19 and C-28 are performing well on recent MXGP races.**

The Mitas-sponsored riders are constantly gaining places among the twenty best riders in FIM Motocross World Championship:

🏍️ Damon Graulus (24MX Lucas Oil Honda): 16<sup>th</sup> place (MXGP of Trentino), 13<sup>th</sup> place (MXGP of Germany), 20<sup>th</sup> place (MXGP of Russia)

🏍️ Ken de Dycker (24MX Lucas Oil Honda): 12<sup>th</sup> place (MXGP of Russia), 19<sup>th</sup> place (MXGP of Lombardia), 18<sup>th</sup> place (MXGP of Portugal)

🏍️ Milko Potisek: 20<sup>th</sup> place (MXGP of France)



Damon Graulus at MXGP of France



Ken de Dycker at MXGP of Lombardia

### Events in July and August:

1 - 2 July, **MXGP of Portugal** (Agueda, Portugal)

22 July, **Adrian Flux British FIM Speedway Grand Prix** (Cardiff, UK)

22 – 23 July, **MXGP of Czech Republic** (Loket, Czech Republic)

25 – 29 July, **Red Bull Romaniacs** (Sibiu, Romania)

5 – 6 August, **MXGP of Belgium** (Lommel, Belgium)

12 August, **Teng Tools Swedish FIM Speedway Grand Prix** (Malilla, Sweden)

12 – 13 August, **MXGP of Switzerland** (Frauenfeld – Gachnang, Switzerland)

19 – 20 August, **MXGP of Sweden** (Uddevalla, Sweden)

26 August, **MIB Nordic Gorzow FIM Speedway Grand Prix of Poland** (Gorzow, Poland)

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