

Stumpjumpers

DESERT 100

*Race weekend
April 9-12, 2026*



Stumpjumpers is a supplement to The Lincoln County Record-Times and the Ritzville Adams County Journal

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54th Desert 100 weekend returns to Irby April 11-12

IRBY — Racers and spectators will converge near Irby for the 54th annual Stumpjumpers Desert 100 on April 11-12, 2026. The weekend offers poker runs, a mini race for kids, a beginner ladies ride now scheduled for Friday afternoon, live music, food vendors and the signature 100-mile and 50-mile desert races. The event is known for its demanding course and vibrant community atmosphere.

The course consists of a roughly 50-mile loop through Eastern Washington desert terrain featuring sand, whoops and open stretches suitable for riders of all skill levels. Racers in 100-mile classes complete two laps while 50-mile participants run one lap. New for 2026, the beginner ladies ride has moved to Friday to ease Saturday congestion. Pre-registration closed



March 16, but on-site registration remains available Friday and Saturday.

Gates open Thursday, April 9, at noon. The weekend draws more than 1,000 entries and thousands of campers and spectators. The Stumpjumpers Motorcycle Club emphasizes safety, land stewardship and community support through donations to the Odessa

Food Bank. Whether competing in the main race, enjoying the poker runs or simply watching the spectacle, attendees can expect non-stop action and the unmistakable roar of dirt bikes echoing across the desert. The Desert 100 remains the premier off-road motorcycle weekend in the Pacific Northwest, delivering memories that last long after the final trophy presentation.

Stumpjumpers member and Desert 100 chairman Brett Defenbaugh, 52, of Everett, lamented no surprises this year.

“We don’t have any major new surprises this year, so the most appealing thing that we can offer is that for those who have been to the event and know what the event is like, they will be able to continue to enjoy that experience,” Defenbaugh said. “And for people who have never come to the event before, prepare to have your mind blown by

how many people are going to be there and the magnitude of what we can offer as an overall weekend experience. And don’t forget that for four days of camping, it only costs \$20 per person. There’s nowhere else around that you can camp for that level of a price.”

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Desert 100 releases 2026 schedule for April 11-12 weekend

IIRBY — The 54th annual Stumpjumper Desert 100 is set for April 11-12, 2026, near Irby in Eastern Washington. Gates open Thursday, April 9, at noon with a gate fee. All events are motorcycles only; no ATVs, UTVs, SxS vehicles or golf carts are permitted on site.

Thursday, April 9

- Gates open at noon.
- Pre-registration packet pickup only.
- Beer tent open 4-7 p.m., then 6-10 p.m. (all ages until 9 p.m.; heated, ATM available).
- No riding allowed (staff only before noon).

Friday, April 10

- Open riding in the square: 7 a.m. to dusk.
- Registration and souvenir sales: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.
- Adventure and dual-sport GPS tracks and roll charts available.
- Beginner Ladies Ride riders meeting: 2:45 p.m. (behind stage).
- Beer tent: 10 a.m. to midnight (live music at 8 p.m.).

Saturday, April 11

- Open riding in the square: 7 a.m. to dusk.
- Riders meeting for all poker runs: 8:30 a.m.
- Registration and souvenir sales: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3-7 p.m.
- Iron Man and dual-sport courses open at 7 a.m.
- Mini race (kids) riders meet-

ing: 8 a.m.

- Family course opens: 8:30 a.m.
- Hot dog lunch on poker run course: 10 a.m. (while supplies last).
- All poker run entrances close: 10 a.m.
- Kids race trophies: about 1:30 p.m.
- Poker run awards: about 3 p.m. (must be present).
- Beer tent: 10 a.m. to midnight (live music at 8 p.m.).

Sunday, April 12 (Race Day)

- No play riding; racers only.
- Desert 100 registration: 7-8:30 a.m.
- Souvenir sales: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Mandatory riders meeting and bike parade: 8:30 a.m.
- Trophy and contingency presentation: about 1:30 p.m. (must be present).

Tune in to 95.5 FM for the live stage broadcast. All times are subject to change; check the sign-up area for updates. Donate nonperishable food items for the Odessa Food Bank at the gate shack on the way out.

“The most exciting thing that we’re hoping people can experience is the ability to come together and be around like-minded people and have a great riding experience and enjoy the outdoors,” said Desert 100 chairman Brett Defenbaugh, 52, of Everett. “Then come back and have a great time talking about how much they enjoyed riding and really create that



memory-connected experience that we can provide — the opportunity to access the land to ride and create those memories about being able

to connect with friends and family and have a great experience that you’re going to remember for a long time.”



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Desert 100 stresses strict rules to protect riders and property

IRBY — The Stumpjumper Motorcycle Club enforces strict rules at the Desert 100 to ensure rider and spectator safety and to protect the private property that hosts the event. Riders, campers and spectators should review these guidelines before arriving.

Camping and Property Rules

- Only propane fire pits and propane or natural-gas appliances with an off switch are allowed. No wood fires, charcoal grills, pellet stoves or smudge pots.

- Speed limit in camp is 5 mph (counterclockwise). No riding in camp at night. Helmets are required whenever riding.

- No ATVs, UTVs, SxS vehicles, golf carts, go-karts or powered mini vehicles.

- No drones, kites or flag poles under power lines.

- Place garbage in dumpsters only. Stay off gravel piles and private land.

- Campers must depart by 8 a.m. Monday or risk towing.

- No riding on Thursday or Monday. Riding is permitted only in the square on Friday and Saturday.

Race Rules Highlights

- All riders must attend the riders meeting.

- Stay within 12 feet of the marked course (hot pink ribbon marks the course; yellow X marks danger).

- Stop at every checkpoint and finish on the same bike started on.

- Refueling and rider changes are allowed only in designated pits.

- Spark arrestors are required. No tear-offs.



- The course is about 50 miles per lap. The 100-mile classes run two laps; the 50-mile class runs one lap.

- The course closes after the leader finishes plus a wave-start buffer.

What to Know Before Arriving

- Bring your own drinking water; none is available on site.

- Cell service is limited once camp fills.

- Food vendors are on site; restaurants and grocery stores are in Odessa.

- Keep Irby Road and Highway 28 clear.

- Include emergency contact information on the race bib.

“We have the least amount of rules that you’re going to find for any kind of event like this,” said Brett Defenbaugh, 52, of Everett,

who is chairman of the Desert 100 and member of the Stumpjumper Motorcycle Club. “The no-fires rule is because it’s a rural event, we’re densely populated and this is a working cattle ranch. So we need to protect the livelihood of the ranchers in the area that are willing to work with us to help provide this.”

“The no other vehicles be-

sides two-wheeled vehicles on the property is an effort to control the course — it’s only open for dirt bikes — and in camp we don’t want the ground getting torn up. And no drones is because the property owner doesn’t want drones flying, plus we have airlift medical Life Flight on site. If there’s drone activity in the air, they can’t fly.”



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Desert 100 celebrates 54 years as Northwest off-road tradition

IRBY — The Desert 100 began in 1970 as the Mattawa 100 and has grown into the largest and most prestigious off-road motorcycle event in the Pacific Northwest. The Stumpjumper Motorcycle Club, founded in 1967, has hosted the race nearly every year since its inception. The event moved to its current private property site near Irby and Odessa in 2003 after earlier venues in Mattawa and Vantage. Cancellations occurred in 1984, 2020 and 2021.

Now in its 54th running, the Desert 100 draws more than 1,000 racers and thousands of spectators each spring. The roughly 50-mile loop winds through classic Eastern Washington desert terrain of sand, whoops, channeled scablands, sagebrush and basalt outcroppings. It features classes for open, age groups, women, vintage (pre-1986), adventure bikes and teams. The longest start line in North America sends racers sprinting to their bikes for a hole-shot dash before funneling onto the marked course. Finishers cross a stage amid cheers from the crowd.

Past overall champions include Rich Binkley with multiple victories in the 1970s and 1980s, Bobby Prochnau with five titles from 2009 to 2013, Jonah Street and three-time winner Jaden Dahners from 2023 to 2025. The Stumpjumper Motorcycle Club continues to host the event on private land with rigorous land-management practices to preserve the site and ensure the Desert 100 remains a fixture on the regional



racing calendar. The race has evolved from a local desert scramble into a full weekend festival while retaining its reputation as the most challenging off-road event in Washington.

“We started the event back in 1970, and we have been the club that has hosted this event since the time that it was invented,” said Desert 100 chairman Brett Defenbaugh, 52, of Everett. “It is a non-sanctioned event as far as an off-road race, meaning there’s no professional sponsorship or large-name sponsorship from inside the motorcycle industry. So it’s strictly volunteer. In North America,

there’s no race that has this many people in attendance that is strictly put on by volunteers on private property.

“We’re still managing as a couple-hundred-member club to host this race and have been able

to have a sustainable relationship with the local landowners and the local businesses and the local communities so that everybody benefits in the end.”



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Dahners chases historic fourth straight title

IRBY — The Stumpjumper Desert 100 has crowned an overall champion in the 100-mile class nearly every year since 1970. The list of winners reflects the event's deep roots in Pacific Northwest off-road racing and the skill required to conquer the demanding desert course. Here is the complete list of overall winners:

2025 – Jaden Dahners
 2024 – Jaden Dahners
 2023 – Jaden Dahners
 2022 – Paul Neff
 2021 – Race cancelled
 2020 – Race cancelled
 2019 – Dante Oliveira
 2018 – John Beal
 2017 – Ricky Russell
 2016 – Cory Graffunder
 2015 – Jon Seehorn
 2014 – Ricky Russell
 2013 – Bobby Prochnau
 2012 – Bobby Prochnau
 2011 – Bobby Prochnau
 2010 – David Kamo
 2009 – Bobby Prochnau
 2008 – Kevin Parks
 2007 – Kevin Parks
 2006 – Kevin Parks
 2005 – Jonah Street
 2004 – Ben Hale
 2003 – Phil Stevens
 2002 – Rick Bozarth
 2001 – Jonah Street
 2000 – Jonah Street
 1999 – Jonah Street
 1998 – Rick Bozarth
 1997 – Rick Bozarth
 1996 – Rick Bozarth
 1995 – Rich Binkley
 1994 – Nat Wilder
 1993 – Dan Richardson
 1992 – Jason Dahners
 1991 – Nat Wilder



1990 – Jason Dahners
 1989 – Jason Dahners
 1988 – Brent Richardson
 1987 – Rich Binkley
 1986 – Ron Lemon
 1985 – Rich Binkley
 1984 – Race cancelled
 1983 – Ron Dillon
 1982 – Rich Binkley
 1981 – Blaine Elledge
 1980 – Rich Binkley
 1979 – Rich Binkley
 1978 – Blaine Elledge
 1977 – Ken Bailey
 1976 – Rich Binkley
 1975 – Greg Harwood
 1974 – Ed Dolder
 1973 – Ken Habeck
 1972 – Ken Habeck
 1971 – Ken Habeck
 1970 – George Wise



Rich Binkley dominated the early decades with multiple titles, while Bobby Prochnau claimed five consecutive victories from 2009 to 2013. Jonah Street earned four overall wins in the early 2000s, and

Jaden Dahners secured a three-peat from 2023 to 2025. The race cancellations in 1984, 2020 and 2021 were due to external factors, but the event has otherwise run annually since its 1970 debut as the Mattawa 100. These champions represent the enduring legacy of the Desert 100 as the most prestigious off-road motorcycle race in the region.

Stumpjumper member and Desert 100 chairman Brett Defenbaugh, 52, of Everett, championed the idea of the underdog.

“Quite a few of the past champions have continued to ride in the event after they stopped being in the overall winning position,” Defenbaugh said. “In the past decade, quite a few of them have gone on to compete in national riding competition series. One of the previous riders went down and rode in the Dakar off-road race in Saudi Arabia.

“Most of the winners of the race actually live locally and continue to grow their racing experience nationally as they progress forward in their career. But once in a while, there’s a local racer who’s not a professional racer and doesn’t race all the time who actually pulls off winning the event.”



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Frostbite and White Knuckle races return

ODESSA — The desert around Odessa will once again echo with the sound of dirt bikes this weekend as the Stumpjumpers Motorcycle Club hosts the Frostbite Grand Prix and White Knuckle Poker Run.

The back-to-back Northwest Motorcycle Association events are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29. They traditionally draw riders of all skill levels to kick off the spring racing season in Eastern Washington.

The Frostbite Grand Prix begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday with the short course race, featuring classes such as senior, women and open. The long course follows at 11:45 a.m., with junior racing set for 3 p.m. Trophies will be presented at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday's White Knuckle Poker Run, the opening event of the 2026 NMA Poker Run Series, starts at 9 a.m. The last rider will leave the start line at 12:30 p.m. Riders of all ages and abilities can choose to complete between one and four laps depending on their endurance. Trophies will be awarded at 1 p.m.

Event organizer Randy Nilles, 53, of Otis Orchards said riders can expect major improvements.

"You should expect an extremely fast race course," Nilles said. "We bulldozed more than half of the course, probably more like two-thirds."

Landowner Marlon Schafer, 60, of Odessa called the events a major benefit for the community.



"It's a huge boon for the community," Schafer said. "The people who attend these are really good about going downtown for fuel and food, and they support local charitable groups."

A fireworks show Saturday night will cap the weekend. Guy Decker, 62, a licensed pyrotechnics operator from Everett, said spectators can expect a strong display.

"There will be a couple hundred commercial shells up to eight-inch diameter and one pyromusical," Decker said. The show is scheduled to begin about 8:30 p.m.

The Frostbite Grand Prix originally started years ago on the coast near Reiter before moving to Odessa in 2007. Organizers introduced the White Knuckle Poker

Run in part to reduce concentrated impact on the land while maintaining high rider participation.

The Frostbite course typically measures 12 to 13 miles, with the long race lasting about two and a half hours and the short course roughly one and a half hours. A kids race is also held following the main events.

Sign-up begins at 7 a.m. Saturday, and 7:30 a.m. Sunday at the Stumpjumper race site, one mile south of Odessa on state Highway 21.

The events preview the larger Stumpjumper Desert 100 which is located 7 miles to the west of Irby and U.S. Highway 28 is set for April 11-12. Local sponsors and food vendors will be on hand throughout the weekend to support participants and spectators.

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