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Bass Pro Shops partners with SMX League to bring Monster Energy SMX World Championship final to Thunder Ridge

ANAHEIM, Calif. Jan. 9, 2026—The SMX League™ announced that Thunder Ridge at Big Cedar Lodge near Branson, Mo., was selected to host the high-profile 2026 Monster Energy SMX World Championship Final on Saturday, Sept. 26. This comes as a part of a multi-year partnership agreement with Bass Pro Shops, launching at the Monster Energy AMA Supercross stadium season opener on Saturday, Jan. 10, at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, Calif.

The Monster Energy SMX World Championship Final will feature elite racers from across the globe, including the U.S., United Kingdom, New Zealand, France, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, Japan and Estonia.

"This partnership is a powerful fusion of two fandoms that live for adventure," said Juliette Feld Grossman, CEO of Feld Motor Sports. "By bringing the SMX World Championship Final to Thunder Ridge, we're creating a one-of-a-kind destination experience that blends world-class racing, nature, and hospitality."

This partnership marks the company's first foray into offroad motorcycle racing while also signaling their continued overall investment into motorsports, having roots in NASCAR dating back to 1998. Bass Pro Shops, North America's premier outdoor and conservation company, founded in 1972 by Johnny Morris, now becomes the official outdoor recreation retailer, with Big Cedar Lodge the official wilderness resort for the SMX World Championship series.

The partnership between SMX and Bass Pro Shops comes at a pivotal time, as the sport con-



tinues to grow in scale and fan engagement. The SMX World Championship features 17 Supercross races and 11 Pro Motocross races making up the 28-round regular season. The world's most elite racers are then seeded into the postseason, which features two SMX Playoff rounds and a World Championship Final.

This groundbreaking collaboration brings the SMX series to its pinnacle at Thunder Ridge one of the most picturesque and

jaw-dropping venues in North America. Thunder Ridge is a one-of-a-kind immersive outdoor experience, making waves and creating unforgettable memories by combining the natural beauty of the Ozarks with the stunningly beautiful architecture that seamlessly integrates into the surrounding environment.

In just a couple of years since its opening, Thunder Ridge has quickly taken its place among the most impressive venues in all of

North America, with a capacity of 20,000-plus and offering breathtaking views of Table Rock Lake and the infinite forested Boston Mountain vistas. Set within a stunning natural amphitheater, the SMX Finals will deliver world-class racing alongside a premier stay at Big Cedar Lodge, the Official Accommodations partner, featuring championship-level golf, exceptional restaurants and immersive outdoor experiences across its iconic

resort.

"We are excited to welcome the SMX World Championship to Thunder Ridge and to share this incredible sport with fans around the world," said Johnny Morris, noted conservationist and founder of Bass Pro Shops. "This event will showcase the natural beauty of the Ozarks while creating unforgettable experiences. We can't wait!"

Tickets for the SMX World Championship Playoffs and Final

go on pre-sale Tuesday, Jan. 27, with general tickets on-sale to the public on Tuesday, Feb. 3. SMX racer and notable fan favorite Malcolm Stewart, an avid outdoorsman and fisherman off the track, will also serve as an ambassador for the partnership during the 2026 season.

For more information regarding the SMX World Championship, please visit SuperMotocross.

SAF creates two new positions and promotes current staff members to kickstart 2026

Continuing to fulfill its mission to defend, secure and restore the right to keep and bear arms for all Americans, the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) has created two new positions and promoted current staff members to fill those roles.

Dana Wilson has been promoted to the role of Director of Development, and Tanner Lineberry will serve as the organization's new Associate Director of Marketing.

"We're always looking at ways to ensure we meet the organization's strategic goals and objectives, and during a review of current needs it became apparent these new roles were pivotal for SAF's future growth and ability to impact the right to keep and bears arms," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "Given Dana's and Tanner's experience and backgrounds we felt they would be a perfect fit for the new



SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

positions. We look forward to watching their continued success and are excited about the further advancement of SAF's Development and Marketing programs."

The Development and Marketing departments both play key roles in securing funding for the organization's cornerstone strategic litigation program, as well as educating the public about SAF's critical work and the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

To help move those objectives forward, Wilson will be tasked

with implementing strategies to find new donors, work with current benefactors and develop unique ways to engage with future supporters. On the marketing side, Lineberry's responsibilities will include creating new public education initiatives along with continuing to grow SAF's recognition and reputation in the Second Amendment space.

For more information visit SAF.org.

The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting

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the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. SAF engages in aggressive legal action to ensure the principles of armed self-defense, personal liberty, and the ownership of arms are defended, secured, and restored.

Through public education initiatives, SAF teaches the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

NSSF's Protect Liberty PAC announces major NASGW contribution

From The Hunting Wire

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The NSSF's Protect Liberty Political Action Committee (Protect Liberty PAC) received a major contribution from the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers (NASGW) that will be utilized to help identify and support the election next year of candidates who are dedicated to preserving and protecting liberty, freedom and the Constitutional rights of all Americans. The \$25,000 contribution from NASGW will buoy Protect Liberty PAC's efforts ahead of the November 2026 election to ensure voters in key battleground states and congressional districts across the country are informed about candidates who will fight for their Constitutional rights and not carry out a "woke," progressive, far left political agenda that threatens those rights.

"This is an extremely generous contribution from NASGW and represents their belief in Protect Liberty PAC's mission to elect candidates who will fight for our liberties and freedoms, including the Second Amendment," said

Lawrence G. Keane, Protect Liberty PAC's Treasurer. "There is less than a full year ahead before Election Day next November and we hope more businesses in the firearm, ammunition, hunting, recreational and shooting sports industry will consider following NASGW's lead this early on and support Protect Liberty PAC — their industry's super PAC."

"Our rights are precious, and in our system of government, if we want to continue to preserve and protect those rights, we need to elect people to Congress who have our best interests at heart," said NASGW President Kenyon Gleason. "NSSF's Protect Liberty PAC was created to assist leaders who strongly represent and share the values of our members so it's incumbent on us to help them amplify their voice by providing much needed resources. We're proud to continue our support and urge others to consider supporting this important work as well."

Protect Liberty PAC is a federally registered "super PAC" founded in 2023 by NSSF. Pro-

Neal McCoy recites Pledge of Allegiance

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forming countless shows for troops around the world. Beyond the stage, McCoy embodies the values of kindness, humor, and service that define the Texas spirit, making him a true ambassador of the Western way of life. For more information, visit nealmccoy.com.

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 31st Black History Month Edition Celebrating America's 250 Birthday!

Coming in February!

Hattiloo Theatre Partners with Market Theatre to bring Play to South Africa in February. See article on sports-Ent. 5

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