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MAYHEM in Mesilla

Crossroads City Derby Dolls push to gain respect for sport

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Courtesy photo

Meet the Crossroads City Derby Dolls at the Mayhem in Mesilla event Friday at El Patio.

Rockin' and rollin'

Meet the Derby Dolls at Mayhem in Mesilla event

By Lucas Peerman
Photo Editor

Girls on skates ... wearing fishnets and mini-skirts ... pillow fighting with each other? No, boys, you aren't dreaming — it's really happening, this Friday night at El Patio, part of the Mayhem in Mesilla fundraising event to introduce the community to the Crossroads City Derby, a women's flat track roller derby league based in the Mesilla Valley.

Of course, these girls aren't just nice to look at — they could kick your ass, especially if you get in their way on the track at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, where the 30 or so Derby Dolls practice twice a week.

The track inside the county building is slightly narrower than a regulation rink and skaters frequently collide with a pair of mattresses as they come around the first bend. Their search for a larger venue — at least 10,000-square-foot big, enough for 1,000 spectators — has been in vain thus far.

But Charlene "Puncher Villa" Bencomo-Ortiz, best

If you go

- ▶ **What:** Mayhem in Mesilla, a fundraising and awareness campaign for the Crossroads City Derby
- ▶ **When:** 10 p.m. Friday
- ▶ **Where:** El Patio, 2171 Calle de Parian in Mesilla
- ▶ **How much:** \$5
- ▶ **Info:** crossroadscityderbydolls.com
- ▶ **Also:** Some of the Derby Dolls will also be appearing Thursday at the Rainforest, 1765 S. Main St. Local ska/reggae band Liquid Cheese will provide the entertainment and attendees can enter a raffle to win a guitar, tattoos or piercings. Cover is \$4 for the 21-and-older event.

friend Joslene "The Venomous DeMilo" Morgan and co-worker Becky "Hippie Chick" Hamling — the Unholy Trinity of CCD — believe roller derby has a future in the Mesilla Valley and the three founders are out to build support for, and provide information about, the often misunderstood sport.

"People think we're just a bunch of girls on skates going around in circles, beating up on each other. They really don't know what roller derby is all about," said Bencomo-Ortiz, a special education teacher by day.

It's not only a legit sport, she said, but also a social club

that helps to empower females to take control, on and off the track. "We're all entrepreneurs out there," she said.

And her teammates? "These girls, I probably would have never talked to (before), but now, they're just awesome. It really is a sisterhood among girls."

The league would like to have an exhibition bout in a couple of months, Bencomo-Ortiz said. They need referees and sponsors (and they'd love a legal expert and a chiropractor). And members hope to get sanctioned by the Women's Flat Track Derby Association.

In the meantime, the Derby Dolls plan to hold events, such as Mayhem in Mesilla, to

raise awareness of the league.

Some of the Derby Dolls will be showcasing their skating skills at El Patio. They'll also be challenging members of the Sun City Roller Girls (El Paso's roller derby team) in arm-wrestling contests, hula-hoop battles and pillow fights. Body stenciling and raffle prizes will be available and local rock band The Raggies will be providing tunes. An information booth will be set up to answer questions and members will try to recruit possible skaters of all shapes and sizes.

"It can be somewhat intimidating for girls to try out," Bencomo-Ortiz admitted. "They say, 'I haven't skated since the third grade.' That's OK. Get out here and try it. We're all learning out here."

The only requirements? Be 21-and-over and willing to shell out money for gear, plus \$10 a month in dues, and commit to six hours in the rink per week. And if you have those fishnet stockings from last Halloween, even better.

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A sampling of Crossroads City Derby Dolls



DRED FRAGGLE

Derby # 1 that 1

Day job: Sociology graduate student

Quote: "Roller derby — anger management at its finest."



ERIKA S. TRAUMA

Derby # 10-4

Day job: Account executive

Quote: "What'chu gonna do when I come for you?"



EVIL LUCIAN

Derby # 1859

Day job: Biology instructor

Quote: "Nothing gives you speed like the whip."



GUERA BEEF

Derby # 99¢

Day job: Nursing student

Quote: "Fresh meat never looked so good."



HEARNO EVIL

Derby # 2

Day job: School teacher

Quote: "Hit or be hit."

Did you know: Hearno Evil was born with a genetic hearing loss.



NICOLEON BONEPARTS

Derby # 76

Day job: Social worker

Quote: "There's no quoting in derby."

Did you know? Nicoleon Boneparts moonwalks in her skates.



SLAM-A-HO

Derby # 808

Day job: Client service agent

Quote: "Slam it! Jam it! Push it!"

Did you know? Slam-a-ho's given last name is Ho.



SOOKIE SLAMMER

Derby # 80proof

Day job: Nanny/student

Quote: "You will learn to love the floor."

— Sweet Child of Crime (Sun City Roller Girl)