

Gotstyle Man

SPRING / SUMMER
2015 COLLECTION



Baja 1000 CHECK MARK!

HE IS THE MAN BEHIND TREELINE CATERING,
A FORMER HELICOPTER PILOT AND RECENT BAJA 1000 WINNER.
HIS NAME IS **JOSH HENDIN** AND HE PROUDLY TAKES US
INTO THE DOMAIN OF BIG BOYS AND BIG TOYS.

WORDS: LAURA WEBER



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His favourite toy is something like an exotic bird. He raced his rare Aprilia RSV4 on the Bonneville Salt Flats in the summer of 2013 and more recently at the Grand Bend Motorplex. However, even as an experienced rider Hendin chose to step off of his motorcycle and into a dune buggy for the most epic and arguably the most dangerous ride of his life.

Made famous by celebrities like Steve McQueen, the Baja 1000 takes place on Mexico's Baja California Peninsula and is considered to be the Holy Grail for off-road racers. 2014's Baja 1000 spanned

1275 miles from Ensanada to La Paz and going by Hendin's class, the Baja Challenge, totaled approximately 40 hours. Hendin himself was on the track for a total of 16 hours having lucked out on a coin toss with his driving partner to ride in the driver's seat across the finish line. His team consisted of 6 drivers whom he had met for the first time at the race.

The days leading up to the race were filled with technical planning and course notes. Racers were warned to avoid big groups of people along the course for fear of kidnapping. Bambidos have also been known to sabotage riders by creating booby traps and stealing their vehicles. But for the most part, Hendin explains, locals love the sport and camp out with their families, cerveszas in hand, cheering as racers go by. If anything you have to be cautious of the faster classes, or "trophy trucks," that are encouraged to bump other vehicles out of their way.



Everyone breaks down eventually; it's just the nature of the beast. Hendin recalls at one point having no power to run the car or to call for help leaving him stranded in the middle of the night. While his aviation background led him to tactfully preserve battery power, it was spotting a campfire in the darkness that saved him. Looking like an astronaut, he approached the young family and with his best Spanglish negotiated to buy the battery from their broken down truck. Now he could at least get enough power to radio the support crew. And they still managed to win.

The moral of the story is that you can turn dreams into realities by making them bucket list items (and that the Baja 1000 is the coolest thing a guy can do). "When I was broke the idea (the Baja 1000) was just a dream. But as it became possible it became critically important" Hendin says. A lot of people are numbed by the minutiae of daily life and need something greater to motivate them along the way. You don't have to conquer Mount Everest or go shark cage diving like Hendin plans to do because everybody's list looks different. A lot of lists are unattainable, but we can truly admire those who say f@#& it and actually go for it.

