Notes on Spokes



Ricky, watch out. Elston gets big air at Thayer.

October 2 C

TID

BITS

Things have been pretty busy lately. It's been a while since Notes on Spokes hit the streets. I've got a couple of late-breaking tid bits of information.

First: The OMTRA Christmas Party

Incredible Pizza is the Location

Friday Night December 30th we have party rooms 1-3 (one large room) reserved from 7:00-8:30 PM, so we need to eat and then go play! Buffet closes at 10:00 and the games shut down at 11:00 PM.

As you come in let them know that you are with OMTRA Then you will have two choices.

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Please be prepared to pay OMTRA (NOT Incredible Pizza) that night for your family's choices, OMTRA will then write a check at the end of the night for the group.

Second: There will be a December meeting on December 21st. Check out www. Hillbillygp.com for location.

I just finished the ultimate dirt biker vacation. Next month, I'll have articles from the Last Man Standing and Endurocross. I've already written them up. So, hopefully, the next issue should hit the streets pretty soon.

I've got a little story from the Hardwood: Steve Underwood of Surdyke Motorsports loaned a Yamaha Rhino to Bull Creek to help with the enduro. Karl Harris and I were moving some trash with it. I commented that I thought the chicks would really like one of these. Except they would say, "Elston, can you put some back seats in this so more chicks can ride in it?" Then, they would ask if it could by made quieter so the chicks in the front could hear the chicks in the back. Then, "Elston, can you put a blender in, so we can make margaritas?"

A reminder: This is the last year I'm going to do Notes on Spokes. If you know of anyone interested in continuing the newsletter, please have them contact me. Thanks.

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HBGP Thayer 2005

By Bob Fuerst

The first race of the 2005-2006 Hillbilly GP season was at Thayer Motorsports Park. For those of you new to Hillbilly GPs, there are two 45 minute "motos". In the case of the race at Thayer, the course consisted of the MX track and woods trails. The total length of the course was about 4 miles. The motocross track is about a mile in length. The woods trail is a combination of ATV trail and single track.

Thayer is unique on the circuit that it incorporates a motocross track. It is also the only race has a live engine start with a backward dropping starting gate.

Race promoters Jon "Spud" Simons and Ken Simons, along with number one trail flunky Aaron "Chili" Roberts, not only had the trail

well-marked but found an unused section of woods to add some new single track.

I arrived on Friday to help set up the computers for the season, and I quickly realized it was going to be dusty. We got the computers set up and ready for the ATV race on Saturday. New for this year, the ATVs would run on Saturday and the motorcycles on Sunday.

Signup for the ATVs went well. The first moto started and yes, it was dusty.

The Pee Wee race was held between motos.



Kole Henslee, foreground, and Tyler Mallow duel in the whoops.

Then the second moto was held. The finish of the second moto was a nail-biter. Tony Friga and Jake Wyatt dueled to the finish. The course finished up on the motocross track. It came out of the woods onto a long section of whoops, followed by a 90 degree left turn, then a 180 degree left and a 90 degree right before the 10 pack. The 10 pack is a series of ten jumps. If you are a good rider, it is a series of five doubles.

The course has a few more turns and a jump, before a table top at the finish.

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)



Start of the Pro Class

Tony and Jake came around the motocross track with Tony getting past Jake in the ten pack, a thrilling end to the race.

Sunday morning dawned cloudy and soon it started drizzling. There was a drizzle and light shower during signup. It didn't amount to much rain, but it was just enough rain to knock the dust down.

Riders lined up for the first moto. The start caught a lot of riders off-guard. The gate dropped almost immediately after the flag dropped. This track has one long start straight, with a dog leg to the left, followed by a 180 degree left turn.

The course uses part of the motocross track followed by a grass track before turning into the woods. At that point, the course used ATV trail before jumping on to single track. I believe there were two sections of single track.

Steve Leivan won the first moto. In fact, he was the only racer to make 5 laps. Clint Carr finished second. He missed getting to run a fifth lap by 20 seconds. Steve also won the second moto for the overall for the day. Clint picked up second for second overall. I heard that Steve was following Clint around the motocross track when Clint fell, nothing big, a simple slide out. Steve waited for Clint to get up. Steve wanted to pass him fair and square.

In the A Class, it was Dwayne Miekley's day, he won the first moto and picked up a second in the second moto. Zack Neill won the second moto, and a fourth in the first moto made him the second A rider for the day.

John Carswell won the B Class with 2 moto wins. It was also his last ride in the B Class. John finished 6th overall in the first moto and 8th overall in the second moto, giving him the chance to start on the front row. David Ross is also moving up after this race. He picked up 2 second place moto finishes for second in the B Class for the day. In the first moto David finished 9th overall and in the second moto, he finished 12th overall.

Jeff Shelton won the youngest of the old farts' classes, the over 30 class. Jeff won the first moto and picked up a third in the second moto. Brent Walters finished fourth in the first moto and second in the second moto for second for the day.

Local Parts Unlimited rep Malcolm Wood won the over 40 class by winning both motos. Nick Stine picked up two second place finishes for second in class. I've got to point out that Nick is actually over 50 years old, but Spud wouldn't let him ride the over 50 class. Another point, Malcolm and Nick each had good enough times to win the over 30 class.

A fifth and first was good enough for Kerfer Rosier to win the C class. Thomas Siler finished fourth and second to take second for the day in the C class.

Now for the really old fart class, the over 50 class, it was John Gott's day with two wins. Eric Hansen and Dwight Martin swapped second and third place finishes, with Eric taking second for the day with the second moto breaking the tie. By the way, this is a new class this year.

The Trailrider class had Farrel Parker and Danny Barkley swapping the first two positions. Farrell won the day by winning the second moto.

Quentin Tinsley won both motos in the Youth class. He was also the only rider to make four laps in both motos. Chad Vaught finished second with two second place finishes.



First Enduro

By Mike Herbert

After racing a few years of Hillbilly Gran Prixs, Bob Fuerst finally persuaded me to try an enduro. The only concern I had was figuring out this time-keeping. Turns out that if you get on a row with someone who has done enduros before and is good at them, then you don't have any worries at all.

Bob paired me up with John Brunsgaard and Jerry Cook, both excellent timekeepers. John comes from Minnesota, and just moved to Arkansas, as luck would have it, my town, too. He is also known as Jeb on KTM talk and is a master



Mike samples Spickard's Notch.

guru at almost anything about these bikes.

John and I took out for Hardwood about 4:00 am. with my daughter, Michelle, as the photographer and reporter. This was the first time a bike of mine has ever been in an enclosed trailer. John has one extreme bike trailer, loaded with every spare part, tool, and all the gear you could ever need. It was organized in a way that a KTM factory machine shop would envy.

We got there in plenty of time, so I was able to take the grand tour of Spokes' RV; with a rig like that you would never want to leave the race site. When it came time to alert the riders of the meeting, Spoke got everybody's attention with the sound of his RV air horn. Wow, loved that horn, and it is loud. Shawn Hall called the meeting to order. There were riders

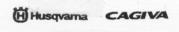
from Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and Arkansas. After the race details were covered, Wayne Crosby did us the honors of saying the prayer.

Now time to get to the starting line. The first loop ran without incident. I just followed along with John and Jerry. People kept me on by autographing my front fender with a bunch of numbers. I was undecided at the time if I was trying for a high amount of numbers. That wasn't the case, I found out at the end of the race; low numbers are what you want.

As I am making my way through the course, I am noticing the number of checkpoint people out there, and it does take quite

(Continued on page 6)







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a few people to cover all these checks along the way. You had better have all your ducks in a row to put one of these enduros on. Ozark Mountain Trail Riders Association (OMTRA) did just that and ran this event smooth as silk.

Into the second loop, the trail got even better and it was like a gourmet meal, you start off with the appetizer, then on to the main course as the race progresses. John and Jerry were keeping the time right on the money at all the checks. Later, John had a get off, right after a one of those checks, when he slid down a rocky off-camber downhill. After a quick ok check, he mounted right back up. It turns out that he had a busted wrist, but not only did he tough it out and rode the rest of the race, he won his class.

Now the short course was over, it was time for what everybody was waiting for — the long course. It's the good stuff, where there is not a lot of wear or bike traffic on this part of the course. The long course did not disappoint me; it was in great shape. Jerry's bike at this point was smoking a lot and it was almost like following a mosquito fogger. He was definitely having mechanical problems, so he pulled over and waved me by. Thanks, John and Jerry, for your timekeeping skills. Jerry, I really thought your Eagle helmet was cool and very sharp looking.

Now I was on my own, all the really good stuff laid ahead like a big steak, and my mouth was watering with anticipation. The trail stayed tight with trees, rocky ledges, and elevation changes all the time. This keeps you focused and hopping all the time.

Some key pinnacle points to remember were spots like Spickard's Notch along the bluff, and the Toilet Bowl which has its sudden blind drop offs, making it my favorite of all. Not even a few hundred riders could put their tire groove on this solid piece of rock. During this part of the race, the only two riders I saw coming by were the fast guys Matt Lane and none other than Steve Leivan. Matt on his KTM, with his eye catching orange rims that make you want to buy some, and Steve Leivan on his four-stroke Yamaha, riding smooth as always.

When the woods were starting to open back up, I knew we were starting to get closer to the ranch house. If a guy could just keep that kind of perfect trail going it seems like you could go on forever. It was so much fun on this part of the course, I was almost dreading that the end was near. In one way I kind of missed the bar banging action that hare scrambles brings, but in another way, I really did enjoy racing against the trail that enduros gives you. By getting into that zone, you are able to forget about all your other troubles and it is just you and your machine making magic in the woods.

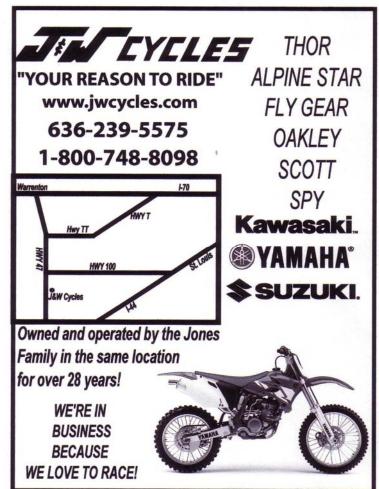
Then came grass track, it was the last part of the course and was laid out well. Finally came the finish line, where you get your last check, and your card is put up like yesterday's laundry for everyone to see.

After doing an enduro, you may wonder, would I do one again? "A Big Heck Yea, I would." Anybody that likes to ride would fall for one of these enduros in a big way.

See you on the trail,

K-1

What Mike didn't mention was, he got seventh overall in his first enduro! Bob





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2005 Hardwood

By Bob Fuerst

OK, you've read Mike Herbert's report on his first enduro. I thought I might add a little bit more.

The 2005 Hardwood was the second to last event on the 2005 Blackjack Enduro Circuit calendar. It was put on by the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders Association. The weather cooperated with a little rain on Thursday night and cool temperatures on Sunday. In fact, the cooler temps after the heat of summer had most riders feeling like they were in great shape.

And I was trail master. So I have a pretty good idea of the course. The start was at the same location as last year. And spectators had a chance to watch the riders for the first part

of the course as they looped around the edge of the parking area. The speed average was set at 15 mph.

I put the first check right at the 3 mile mark. If you don't know all the rules of enduros, the first check cannot be before three miles. All the top riders were able to easily zero the first check. It would be 4.5 miles before the next check. This part of the course was almost all single track with just a little bit of ATV trail thrown in. Plus, there were no big up or down hills in this section. It did include the famous Half Mile Hill. It's kind of steep, but since it was made by a bulldozer while surveying the property, it wide enough for all the riders to make.

At 15 mph, all the top riders were able to zero this section also. But the first part of the course is designed so the extra short course riders have fun. Row 24 included three AA riders and 1 A rider. They managed to pass the row in front of them just



Steve Leivan on his way to winning the Hardwood Enduro.

before they got to the second check. As they came in to the check, riders on row 24 were trying to scrub speed as riders on row 23 were trying to get past them to get into their minute on time. It made for a real crazy time at the check.

A reset greeted riders so all the riders could get back on time. What followed was a 5-mile-long road section. The A and B riders didn't complain too much. It was a beautiful day to be riding a dirt bike. Here's what overall winner Steve Leivan had to say about this section: "The road section at the end of loop one was probably what kept a lot of the smiles on the short course faces. I like it too, though. I got to ride with Dad some and that's why I started BJEC in the first place."

This was followed by a short single track section leading to the vintage motocross track. There was only one complaint about the track, riders couldn't rip on it. After the track, it was down the hill, around the pits to a check at the 18-mile mark. It was pure timekeeping coming in to this check and a lot of riders were caught hot and burned this check.

Short and long course riders had a reset approximately 15 minutes long at this time. Extra Short course riders were done at this point. The course was going to get a little tougher and the speed averages were going up.

Check four would be the first check on this loop. It was 1.8 miles from the reset. The speed average bumped from 15 mph (Continued on page 8)



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(Continued from page 7)

to 18 mph, .3 before the check. Unfortunately, the flip cards got off at this check and it had to be thrown out.

What followed was a 5-mile special test at 18 mph. This special test included Tree Trail and Boobie Trail. Yes, we have a trail called Boobie Trail, look at the topographic map, you'll know what I'm talking about.

This was the first points taker of the day. For all but one rider, Steve Leivan managed to zero this check. Only Matt Lane, Tracy Bauman and Zack Bryant managed to get through the section dropping only one point.

Riders had a 12-minute reset shortly after this check. That would be 12 minutes if they were on time. From the looks of it, most riders got to take advantage of this reset.

The speed average dropped to 15 mph through Flying W Trail and up Half Mile Hill. Then it bumped to 18 mph at the start of Cut Throat Trail. Cut Throat Trail is about 1.2 miles long. Check six was at the end of it. Most of the A and AA riders zeroed this check, but the C and Senior riders that did were really feeling like studs when they did.

A two mile reset followed. At 18 mph, riders that were on time had almost had seven minutes. What followed was 1.8 miles of logging road to the next check, check 7. Only one check remained on short course. Unfortunately, it was 10 miles of single track before the riders would see it.

This part of the course consisted of Deerstand Trail, Karl's Trail, BS II Trail and The Trail Behind the House. It finished up using the vintage motocross track. The speed average was 18 mph for the entire section. It would be the big points taker for the short course riders.

Matt Lane was the fastest rider through this section, dropping

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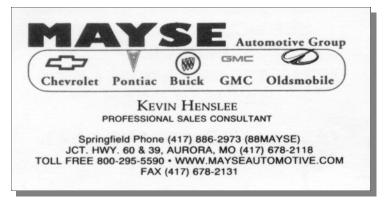
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one point and 51 tiebreaker points. Steve Leivan followed with one point and 74 tiebreaker points. Tracy Bauman was the only rider to drop two points in the section.

Charlie Eller, Zack Bryant and Brian Jahelka finished up with threes in this section.

Short course riders were done. Long course riders had one more loop.

John Newberry from the B-Senior class took the overall Senior Short Course honors, dropping 10 points.

Brent Smith, C Open, won the C course, dropping 13 points.

26 riders took off on the long course. At this point Steve Leivan had a one point advantage over Matt Lane.

The third loop started out with a 15mph speed average. The first check was 1.9 miles into the loop. Riders would have three miles at 15 mph after the check. Then, the speed average bumped to 18 mph for the next 9 miles. The test started with Tree Trail, followed by Boobie Trail. Then, for the first time of the day, the riders got to sample Long Ribbon Trail. This is approximately 4 miles long and according to Aaron "Chili" Roberts, it could bottle neck on flat ground, which is why it was not used on the earlier loops.



Tracy Bauman on his way to third.

OMTRA Meeting Check out www.hillbillygp.com

The September OMTRA meeting was held at Buckingham's on the 21st. More than 30 members were present.

Shawn Hall, chairman of the Hardwood Enduro event, discussed the upcoming event. Flyers for the enduro were distributed among members, to be placed in area motorcycle shops and in other businesses, in order to get the event information out there to those who might be interested in it. Assignments were given to several club members who are willing to work the event. If you would like to volunteer your help, please contact Shawn. The Club will be working on the enduro trails for the next two weekends. Any club member working the enduro is encouraged to show up to help. The club will be meeting at the ranch on the weekend of Oct. 15th for a "pre event" party for the members. Mike Davis reports some 200 raffle tickets have been sold so far. If you need some more tickets to sell, contact Mike.

Jon Simons reported the Hillbilly Gran Prixs will be starting up on the second weekend of October. The first event will be held at the track in Thayer. There will be some new classes this year and the ATV's will race on Sat.

The November OMTRA meeting was held at Buckingham's on S. Campbell on the 16th with lots of members and new faces present.

Shane Martin showed a video he recorded at the Last Man Standing event.

Several Missouri riders took part in the event, including club member Karl Harris. Karl gave us an entertaining report of the race and its challenges.

Several club members attended the event as spectators. Among those were Elston Moore and John Reppy who also had a slide show of pictures from the event to show to the club. Everyone involved in this event highly recommends going to next year's event, saying it has to be seen in person to truly be appreciated.

Mike Davis reports the raffle tickets are still selling. He thanked the ATV Hillbilly Racers specifically, as they purchased quite a few tickets at the Westphalia event. The drawing for the bike has

(Continued on page 10)



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Mark Your Calendar

OMTRA meetings the third Wednesday of each month. Check www.hillbillygp.com for location.

2006 BJEC Schedule

www.BlackJackEnduro.com

3/4/06 — Indian Nations, Scipio, OK 3/5/06 — Indian Nations, Scipio, OK 3/19/06 — White Rock, Combs, AR

4/30/06 — Lead Belt National, Park Hills, MO **5/7/06** — Cycleland Park, Nacogdoches, TX

5/21/06 — Red River, Bulcher, TX

6/11/06 — Train Robbers, Bismarck, AR

6/25/06 — Golden Eagle, Stillwater, OK

9/17/06 — Blackjack Ranch, Blackjack, MO

9/30/06 — Camp Gruber, Braggs, OK

10/1/06 — Camp Gruber, Braggs, OK

10/15/06 — Hardwood, Walnut Shade, MO

10/29/06 — Crosstimbers, Oklahoma City, OK

11/12/06 — Indian Nations, Scipio, OK

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Dec.17-18 Bull Creek, Walnut Shade

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Jan. 7-8 Century Farms, Richland

Jan.28-29 Black Jack Ranch, Collins

Feb.11-12 Hillbilly Hwy's, Highlandville

Mar. 4-5 Cassville Nationals, Cassville

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been moved to coincide with the Toys For Tots race at Bull Creek in December. There are still tickets waiting to be purchased, contact Mike Davis.

The club expressed their appreciation to all the members who helped make the enduro at Bull Creek successful, especially to Bob Fuerst and Shawn Hall for their many, many hours of work all year long to make that event run smoothly.

Several club members will be heading to the Missouri State Harescramble Awards Banquet in a few weeks to receive their awards for placing in their classes. This will also be the meeting of the race promoters to decide on events and issues for next season. One issue Spud brought to the attention of the club was that of having ATV races at many of the events. He says they will be deciding at the meeting if they are going to continue this or if there is a need for the ATV events to be held separately. The club voted to support the idea of separate events for ATV's and bikes.

The club cleanup day will again be held on January 1 at Bull Creek. We will be working on the hillside again this year.

The issue of a club Christmas party was raised. Shane Martin is looking into places where we could get together.

Judy Willis—OMTRA Secretary

(Continued from page 8)

Then, the riders picked up Flying W Trail, Half Mile Hill and Cut Throat Trail ending with a tie-breaker check. This was check 10 and Steve managed to beat Matt through this section by one second! The win would come down to the last special test.

The last special test was 13 miles long, all at 24 mph. Some points were going to be dropped.

This section was almost identical to the final section on the short course, with one addition, Toilet Bowl Trail. This time when the riders came down Gott's Elevator, instead of going out to the road, they stayed right and went through Spickard's Notch to Toilet Bowl Trail. Toilet Bowl Trail is a blast to ride, but there are a couple of places that could bottleneck easily and I thought it would be best to leave this to the long course riders only. Of course, Toilet Bowl Trail includes the infamous Toilet Bowl. Toilet Bowl is a three-foot drop-off in a creek that has this

bend to the right that makes us think of a Toilet Bowl.

The other trails remained including finishing up on the vintage mx track.

In the end, Steve managed to pull another minute on Matt in this section. Steve finished with 15 total point and Matt followed with 17 points. Tracy Bauman finished third with 21 points. Two riders finished with 22 points, Charlie Eller and Zack Bryant. Charlie took the edge with 1297 tie-breaker points to Zack's 1356.

Charlie Eller also took the overall A honors.

Overall B went to Richard Dawson with a total of 34 points.

All the trophies were handed out and riders were on their way by 3:30, short course riders got out of there a couple hours earlier.

I was talking with Brian Jahelka after the race. He commented "Boy, I felt like I was a kid on my DS80 20 years ago, the trails are so close to Chadwick of 20 years ago."

Thanks to Miller Photography for all photos from Thayer and the Hardwood Enduro in this issue.



Matt Lane styling on his way to second.

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