

# Notes on Spokes

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Dale Willis at Toys  
for Tots

## In this Issue:

- Toys for Tots
- Cleanup at Chadwick
- Hillbilly at Marshfield
- Tid Bits and More

# TIDBITS

**Dream Garage:** I'm looking for a little reader participation. There's not much happening this time of the year, so help me fill up next month's issue. Send or e-mail me your dream garage. There are a few rules: Limit your list to two-wheelers with a motor only. If your dream bike isn't current year, include the year and limit your list to six bikes. Try and get me your list by the end of January. *If you need some help, look at the Buyer's Guide in the January 2, 2002 issue of Cycle News.*

Scotty Hall got a new Honda EX400 and the next day he left for a week doing the family thing in Colorado. Don't you think that was a long week!



Lordy, Lordy Rusty's Forty. Rusty Reynaud, shown at Toys for Tots, turned 40 on January 4. A few of us had a little get together at Rusty's place to celebrate his fortieth birthday. We had chili with all the fixins (OK, there was cheese you could put on top), a bon fire (it was snowing) and of course dirt bike ridin. Even

though Rusty is now officially an old fart, he hasn't slowed down. Happy Birthday, Rusty.

**Wudi IV:** The annual trail ride put on by folks that frequent the internet newsgroup rec.motorcycle.dirt is scheduled to start the weekend of February 23 at Chadwick. After the first weekend the group usually moves on to another site. They are talking about going to either White Rock, AR or Breezy Hills, LA.

I've never been able to attend one of these events. Last year, they had one south of Little Rock, AR at the site of the Train Robbers enduro and it rained so much that I decided to skip. Steward Hall acts as trail leader for this adventure. Hopefully, I'll make this one.

Have you been to [www.hillbillygp.com](http://www.hillbillygp.com)? This is the official Hillbilly Gran Prix Series web-site. I usually visit this site at least once per day. It gets a lot of posts in its forum section this time of year and they are usually very funny. Steve Leivan put this bike in the classified section: 2000 Yamaha YZ426 - \$3900 - 417-537-8406. And then Spud replies:

WHATS IT LOOK LIKE? GOOD TIRES? HOWS THE PLASTIC? HAS IT EVER BEEN RACED? HOW FAST IS IT? WHAT KIND OF BARS? WILL YOU DEAL ANY? HOW MUCH? HOW COME? WHATS YZ STAND FOR?? IF I RACE IT CAN I GO AS FAST AS YOU? IS IT THE BIKE OR THE RIDER? HOW COME? WHAT KIND OF GAS DO YOU USE? OIL? WILL YOU TAKE TRADES? HOW COME? HOW DOES IT HANDLE 3RD GEAR TRAILS? WHATS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A 426 & A 400? I'M ALSO LOOK-

*(Continued on page 11)*

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# C O L D



**Brayden Payne on his way to 5th in the 200cc class**

One word describes the Marshfield GP: COLD! The high for the day reached 24 degrees! Spud and crew laid out a six-mile course for the third Hillbilly GP of the season on December 30, 2001. The course itself wasn't too tough. But did I mention it was cold? Due to the cold, one 1.5 hour race was held for the bikes and another 1.5 hour race was held for the ATVs, instead of the usual two 45 minute motos format.

I didn't get exact numbers, but I think about 60 bikes and 30 ATVs showed up. That's a real big number, con-



**Here's some hard core racers waiting for the start**

sidering the COLD.

It was real hard to get into a rhythm due to the ICE! If the ground looked dark brown, it was FROZEN, ICE not mud.

This kind of cold does funny things. Pens stopped working at the check. Check crews had to keep a supply of pens in an inside pocket. As the pens would freeze up, they would swap for a warmer one.

There was one creek crossing in the race. I went to the left where it was shallow. But some of the riders blasted through to the right. The water froze as soon as it hit them and then it just flaked off.

Bikes wouldn't start. I had to put a space heater on my bike for a few minutes to get it started first thing. I saw other bikes being towed to get them started.

After the race, I was standing so close to a fire trying to keep warm, I almost set my coveralls on fire!



**Somebody is still warm enough to give the thumbs up.**

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# TOYS FOR TOTS

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, Steve Underwood sponsored the Surdyke Motorsports Toys for Tots race. After a couple year absence, the event returned to the Possum Hollow Raceway. A funny thing about having it at Possum Hollow, nobody could give directions. Greg Lowe was asking for directions on the internet. Several people, including Cliff Davis, posted back saying they have been there a million times and could find it in their sleep, but they didn't know to tell which roads to take. Casey



**John Gott gets the hole shot at the start of the first moto in the over 40 class.**

Haynes finally said, "Go to Halltown and wait for a racer to pass you and follow them." This is exactly what Greg did and just a few minutes after Greg pulled off the road, Dale Willis passed them and Greg pulled in behind.

Speaking of Greg, he has very resourceful squirrels at his place. One of them managed to get into his detached garage and stored its winter stash of acorns in one of Greg's boots!

Anyhow, back to the race. About eighty folks showed up with a fifteen-dollar toy. That's \$1,200 of toys for a bunch of kids that might not get a toy without this event! Good Job Dirt Bikers!

The course itself was divided into three distinct parts, the motocross track, the creek and the hillside. The motocross track was just that. It had jumps. Nothing like the supercross jumps on TV, but you couldn't see much light under this woods rider's tires. The creek section suited everybody,



**Kole Henslee and Chris Underwood dued the whole kids race.**

*(Continued on page 5)*

 **Jim, Josh, & Gabe Cook**  
**Sam Robertson** 

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**Somebody had to make a statement**

woods riders and motocrossers alike. There weren't many rocks and good dirt. The trail just wound back and forth between the trees. The other section was the hill side. It seemed to be the longest section of the course. I think all the rocks from the other two sections had been moved up to this section. They were all square-edge, off-camber, loose and plated, and of course they were covered

with a thin layer of mud. Did I mention the logs? Well, let me tell you about the logs. There really weren't all that many, but every single one was slick and angled the wrong way. This year there were enough entrants that beginners and eight-



**The start of the expert class, first moto.**

ies ran for an hour. Then the "Big Bikes" went for an hour, then the minis rode an abbreviated course for a half hour. They rode the motocross track and the creek section. Most of the riders were followed by their dads. In fact, Allen Haynes said he was more tired from following son Kaleb around than from his own race. After the kids' race, the "Big Bikes" went

*(Continued on page 8)*

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# Chadwick Clean Up



About 12 brave souls braved the cold to help out clean up day at Chadwick on December 23. While Randal Mathis, Doc McKenzie and I put up a few trail markings, the rest of the folks picked up enough trash to furnish a small apartment, as you can see from the picture.

After we got done, I followed Doc McKenzie on the ATV to look at his handiwork. Doc is completing 7.5 miles of trail relocation. I haven't ridden all of the new trail, but what I have seen

required much work. It's getting all of the trail out of the creek bottoms. Now, it

Here's Doc playing, oops, I mean working with his excavator.

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*(Continued from page 6)*

follows the side hills. In fact, some of the trails are starting to remind me of the trails in Colorado.

Speaking of Doc, after 40 years in college, he's finally out. Of course, he's retired. Congratulations Doc.

We didn't do anything formal like a bar-b-que this time. But after the trash was picked up, everybody went for a ride. Maybe later this spring we can do something more formal. I'm sure there will be more to do at Chadwick by then.



Here are a couple of photos of Doc's handiwork. This is a section of 101. At left, Doc is standing on the new trail. The old trail routed around the other side of the tree. It made for one of the most difficult sections of 101. 101 of course being a trail for beginners to work on their skills. *I remember riding a fourwheeler down the old trail for one of those beginners.* Above is a new branch of 101 that is up and out of the creek bottom. It is the trail in the left picture that branches to the right of the tree.



Here's a crash and burn shot from the kids' race. You can see Dad's ready to help.

(Continued from page 5)

for another hour, only going the opposite direction from the first moto.

I must mention the start of the second over 40 moto. Bart



Spud takes a break from promoting the Hill Billy GP series to have some fun at Toys for Tots

Williams was the official starter of the event. He did one of these fake start things. He dropped the board a couple of inches and pulled it back up. The dog. About half the class took off. I didn't. I had to give

Bart the gesture. Bart, get back on a bike. Your days as a starter are numbered.

I wasn't able to stick around after the race. But the expert class (Rusty Reynaud, Steve Leivan, Dale Rector and Allen Haynes) was freight-training. The real winners, of course, were the kids. I hope everybody had a good time.



I hate when this happens. Allen Haynes has already passed me, and Dale Rector wishes I would get out of the way very quickly.

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# OMTRA Stuff

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## The Next OMTRA Meeting: Springfield Brewing Company January 17 at 7PM

The Ozark Mountain Trail Riders got wild and crazy at the 2001 Christmas Party. This year's was held at Shawn Hall's house. Shawn was not only kind enough to let us use his house for the party, but he let us run amuck on his 60 wooded acres. (OK, Shawn was leading the muck and mayhem around his property.) The only problem with the riding was the rain. It started raining about 3pm and didn't stop until Monday. That drove us in earlier than we would have liked, but you can't control the weather. If you ever have a chance to ride at Shawn's, don't pass it up. He's got some real neat trails.

Since it was raining outside, we had to find other diversions. Namely, pool, ping pong, motorcycle videos and video games. The video Time to Ride was popular enough to be played twice. I brought it, so I may be a little prejudiced, but I think this is the best off-road video out.

The next thing on our agenda was FOOD. It happens to be one of those things dirt bikers do well. Christine Hall (no relation to Shawn) catered the dinner. And what a dinner it was. I can't even remember all the different types of foods. But it was great. Thanks, Christine.



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- 05/19/2002 – Park Hills, MO
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- 06/23/2002 – Stillwater, OK
- 10/06/2002 – Red River, TX
- 10/20/2002 – Chadwick, MO
- 11/03/2002 – Oklahoma City, OK

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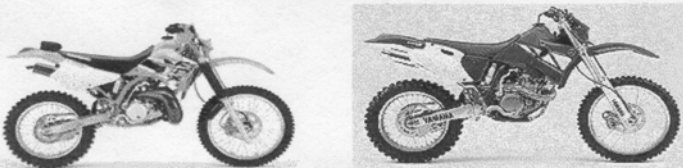
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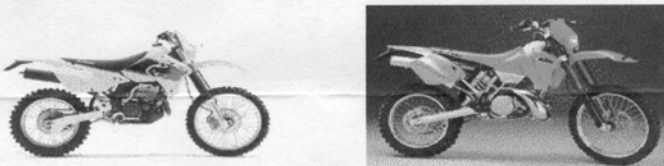
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(Continued from page 2)

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*It was absolutely hilarious. Thank you Spud.*

Hey, do you know that with this issue, Notes on Spokes has been around for seven years. That's right, SEVEN. Randy Presthus was at the helm for the first three and I've been here four years now! Over the years, there have been a bunch of folks contribute articles and other such nonsense. Thank You. Of course, it wouldn't be possible without the support of the advertisers. *So, support them!* So they can continue to support Notes on Spokes, so you continue to get your monthly fix of dirt bikin' news.

See you on the trail.

Bob

P.S. Randy Presthus, crank up that old word processor. I could use something to fill up next month's issue.

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