

# Notes on Spokes

In Memory of

## Marvin Pruitt

By *Cliff Davis*

The off-road racing community lost a great friend this past Memorial Day with the passing of Marvin Pruitt. Known by his family and friends as a kind and gentle man, Marvin will truly be missed.

Marvin, his wife, Sue, and their sons, Jeff and David, were well known on the local motocross circuit in the 70's. Both Jeff and David were accomplished racers. Additionally, Marvin and his sons were regulars at Chadwick. It wasn't unusual for them to ride Chadwick on Saturdays before a motocross race on Sunday.

Marvin was an accomplished hare scramble racer as well. It was commonplace to see Marvin, along with his riding buddies Dave Deck, Racer Smith, Duck Edwards and others, bench-racing, laughing and enjoying themselves in the pits prior to the race. Marvin was no doubt providing many of the stories causing the laughter. On the race course, Marvin was extremely smooth as he was a naturally talented rider. However, while a serious competitor, he was just as much a gentleman on the course as he was in every day life. He proudly hung his Ozark Mountain Hare Scrambles Series' "2<sup>nd</sup> Overall Senior Class" plaque that he won in the mid 80's. After his racing days were over, you would see him riding at Chadwick almost every weekend. I was constantly amazed at the speed

Marvin had at the age where most guys had long given up riding. After Marvin stopped riding, he remained on the racing scene and regularly served as a scorer at our local hare scramble races.

Back in the late eighties, many of us racers hung out at the former Springfield Honda shop nearly every evening after work and on Saturdays, bench racing with Marvin. No doubt, this was as much fun as racing itself. Part of the lure was hanging with Marvin. You could always count on a great racing story from him.

After a longtime career at Dayco, Marvin worked at Jim Moon Yamaha, Springfield Honda and, most recently, Springfield Suzuki/Kawasaki. "Marvin never bad-mouthed the competition," stated Jerry Sharp, one of Marvin's many friends and the promoter of our local hare scramble series. That characteristic, along with many others, made Marvin a great employee. "Not only did we lose an excellent employee," said Jerry "J.J." Johnson, owner of Springfield Suzuki/Kawasaki. "We lost a real friend and a good person. Marvin will be sorely missed by everyone who knew or came in contact with him."

Longtime friend Mel Gere, owner of Action Cycle, recalls the first time he met Marvin. "I remember him walking into the shop just like it

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was yesterday," recalls Mel. "He was in his early thirties and he was looking for an air filter for his Kawasaki Green Streak. I fixed him up and we began talking about our kids' mini bikes. The rest is history." That "history" included many years of attending races together, taking family vacations together and developing a great friendship.

Losing Marvin has been tough. Tough on his wife, his sons, his family and his friends. We lost a darn good friend. At 58 years old, he was just too young to go. But we know that Marvin is in a better place, bringing a laugh to those who are with him. Over the last year, it was a tough ride for Marvin. But with grit and determination, he stayed the course and never gave up. Now, our friend Marvin is riding the heavenly trails. As Jerry Sharp succinctly put it, "Marvin, we will see you again at the top of ole Dairy Queen." Godspeed and farewell, Marvin.

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# TID BITS

Kreg Simons and Jana are getting married. They haven't set a date yet. Kreg figured that he better keep her, since "she puts up with the motorcycle stuff and Jon couldn't run her off being Spud in all his glory." *Kreg, maybe the night before the Chadwick enduro? It's been done before. Lesa, your sister-in-law, might have some ideas. Maybe she could think of some way to help out. Remember, revenge is a dish best served cold.*

Jeff Emig in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame? I've talked to several folks lately who are checking to see if Jeff Emig can be nominated for a place in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Terry Brumley, Cliff Davis and Jerry Sharp are working on this. I'll keep you informed.

I just received my Trail Rider Magazine. If you are not familiar with this magazine, it's a good one covering off-road motorcycling, no motocross or supercross. They are based in New England and do a real good job. Anyhow, late last year they were purchased by Peterson Publishing, the same folks that produce Dirt Rider. Then, Peterson was purchased by a company out of England. They noticed Trail Rider wasn't profitable. The old owners (headed by Paul Clipper) had two options: watch Trail Rider die

or buy it back. Lucky, they bought it back.

While they were owned by Peterson (November 98 through May 99), you could subscribe to Trail Rider for a mere ten dollars per year. A good deal, but if you subscribed during this time, your subscription was probably lost. If you have a cancelled check, send a copy of it to Trail Rider Magazine, PO Box 2038, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055. It sounds like the new owners are going to make good.

**July 15- OMTRA meeting at Buckingham at 7 PM on South Campbell.**

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# Chadwick Stuff

I have just received a couple of things from the forest service. First was the quarterly schedule of environmental analysis being considered for the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District. And second was a proposed amendment to the Mark Twain Forest Land and Resource Management Plan in the areas of recreation, heritage resources, visual management and fisheries.

The quarterly schedule is nothing new. They are still planning on moving some of the trails out of the creeks. Once the new trails are created, old trails will be closed. You can see where the new trails are going to go by the pink ribbons strung from the trees. At least you could see the ribbons before the leaves came out.

The amendment of the Mark Twain Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is split into four areas; recreation, heritage resources, visual management and fisheries. I'll try and interpret this rather large document. I am by no means an expert or even remotely qualified at summarizing a document of this nature. In fact, this document makes some of my computer stuff look like light reading.

Proposed changes to the recreation resources program will expand the emphasis to include a goal of providing quality developed sites to meet the needs and desires of the recreating public while protecting the other resources, and meeting other agency goals. They are going to add direction to make investments in recreation that are needed to meet the needs and desires of the public being served by the facility and to provide visitor information.

The heritage resources program encompasses any-

thing in the national forest that people have done in the past. I don't think this area is going to have any impact on the Chadwick OHV/ATV area, if they consider the fact that motorcycles have been riding on those trails for thirty years.

The Visual Management System, which is being updated to the new nationwide Scenery Management System, basically covers how things look. It takes into account the view from travelways and use areas. The old system allowed a temporary reduction in visual quality, but the use of clearcuts have been gradually reduced over the last ten or twelve years. Consequently, allowing a temporary reduction in visual quality is no longer needed.

And finally, the proposed addition of Fish Management/Aquatic Ecosystems Management subsection covers maintaining populations of fish. I don't know if this is going to affect Chadwick riding area or not.

A copy of the proposed amendment to the Mark Twain Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was included. When I reviewed it, I noticed it mentions ATV/OHV Use under the Recreation Management section. And it states:

ATV/OHV use is prohibited in this area except for the following:

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2. Administrative use, access by emer-



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(Continued from page 4)

- agency vehicles or use authorized by permit of contract.
- 3. On designated trails or in accordance with State or County law and regulations.

Of course the trails at Chadwick are designated trails. And nowhere in the stuff I received did I see anything to do with changing the designation of the trails.

In closing, any comments needed to be post-marked, faxed or received orally by the close of business on June 28, 1999. Of course, it is already past this date. Even after reading this, I don't know if this is going to hurt off-roading or not.

# BAD DAY!!!

## Arkansas State Hare Scramble Series

Pocohontas (Maynard) June 8

Race place Maynard Arkansas: due to a last minute change from Pocohontas to Maynard, the 5.8-mile course had to be one of the top super speedways of hare scrambles. Top hair raising speeds of over 60 mph for up to 1/2 mile at a time. This put lap times some where between thirteen and sixteen minutes.

The track was fun, fast and dusty. It combined the high speed field sections with a short, tight, but wide bermed run in the woods. Then back out to full throttle, six feet from four strands of barbed wire and steel posts, if you dare or if you could see, with puckering little ditches and narrow gates just to keep the old heart pounding. Then there was the PIT. That's right: not just a muddy spot, just a creek crossing or just a hole. The Pit was almost straight down four to eight feet, vertical. It appeared to be bottomless mud at the bottom with a short climb out. It was fun.

It was not a fun day for FIREBALL MOORE of the KICK MOORE BUTT RACING TEAM. On the fourth lap, while coming up behind his racing partner IRON WOMAN DONNA and checking out her riding style from behind, he somehow missed a corner and crashed, endoing (what he said felt like) hundreds of times before stopping with a possibly dislocated right shoulder, bruised leg and ego. Good news that is that Donna went on to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in her trailrider class, good job!

Coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the women's class with a grapevine burn to her neck was Ronda Griggs. Jamin' June Grier came in fourth in the women's class.

Both Stewart Hall and his son brought home trophies in their respective classes. So did OMTRA member Joe Engle.

Because of the heat, dust and running out of camelback fluids, Bad Day Mathis had to drop out after six laps with heat exhaustion and passed out on the bike after coming into the pits, but I tried hard!

Keep on Racing!

Bad Day Mathis

Coming Next Month: the Shawn Hall and son story.

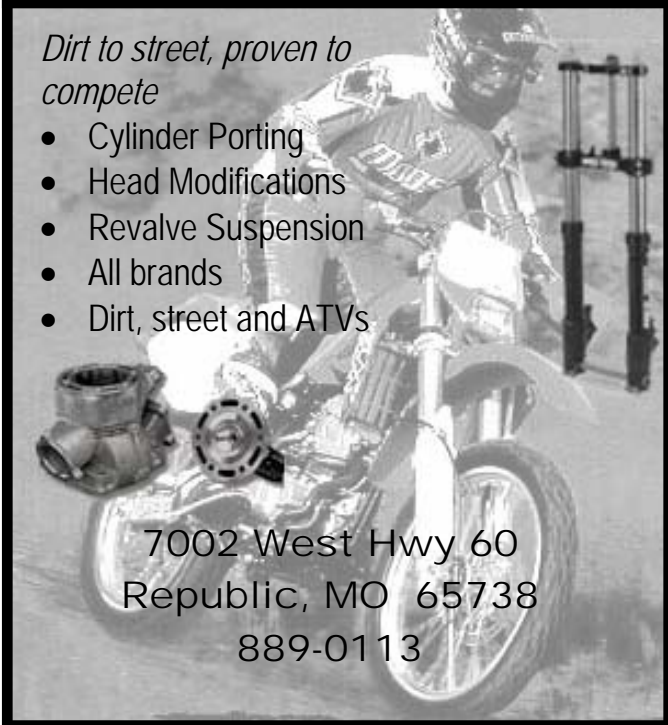
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# MHSC at Florence

On June 6, I went to the Missouri State Hare Scramble championship race at Florence. The almost 8 mile course was the same course used by the ATVs that morning. The course was almost entirely woods, with very few areas to rest.

The start area was bounded on the right by the stuff that comes out of a chicken house. I'm not talking about chickens, feathers or eggs, but the other stuff. The top of it had hardened and it was actually hard enough to stand on in places. In other places, it wasn't so hard. In fact, it was in one of these places that Kreg Simons rode through on his motorcycle and the rear tire dropped through the top. He didn't make much of a roost, but boy, did it smell!

It was also one of the first hot races of the year. It was easy to set too fast a pace and not have enough energy to finish the race. I was surprised how empty the parking area was when we finished.

There was also an extra challenge just before the

riders went through the check. The trail made a bend right under a telephone pole guy wire. Of course, the trail went between the telephone pole and the guy wire. The guy wire was on the inside of the corner. Right about where your face would be. In fact, Dale Willis personally discovered the guy wire when it cleaned him off his bike.

There were also a few technical areas on the course. One of the uphill managed to catch a few riders. I wouldn't have wanted to mess up on that hill. It would have been tough to restart without going to the bottom and getting another run at it.

The course was extra challenging for tall racers. Can you say face slappers? There was a section near the pits that was brutal. All came away with bruises and scratches.

The one final challenge was for the promoters. Someone turned off the generator for the computer. Several riders didn't have laps recorded.

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I can't finish this article without slamming Danny Overturf. Danny rode to the race with Shawn Hall, Dale Willis and I. We are all about 40 years of age. Danny, on the other hand, is in his twenties. Guess who wimped out and quit early? Danny, you're a wimp!

**Results**

**Overall:** Steve Leivan, AA, Yamaha; Chris Thiele, AA, Kawasaki; Dwight Maggard, AA, Yamaha; Mike Windmann, AA, KTM; Matt Faletti, A, KTM; Brandon Forrester, AA, Yamaha; Kevin Boyle, AA, Honda; Bobby Duncan, A, Yamaha; Carl Hansen, AA, Honda; Tim Gibson, 250 B, Yamaha

**AA:** Steve Leivan, Yamaha; Chris Thiele, Kawasaki; Dwight Maggard, Yamaha; Mike Windmann, KTM; Brandon Forrester, Yamaha

**A:** Matt Faletti, KTM; Bobby Duncan, Yamaha; Charles Thiele, Kawasaki; Jon Simons, Yamaha; Ryan Wuebbeling, Yamaha

**125 B:** James Sloan, Yamaha; Mike Hulse, Kawasaki; Casey Hinkel, Yamaha; Matt Jameson, KTM; Joe Lake, Suzuki

**200 B:** Robert Armon, Kawasaki; Pat Declue, KTM; Cory Frericks, Kawasaki; Steve Crews, Kawasaki; Busby, Roger, Kawasaki

**250 B:** Tim Gibson, Yamaha; Jason Stegall, Kawasaki; Danny Craw-

ford, Honda; Matt Weis, Yamaha; Jake Bishop, Suzuki

**Open B:** Brian Richardson, Husqvarna; Tom Prenger, KTM; Karl Harris, Honda; Shawn Hall, KTM; Kurt Mirtsching, Honda

**4-Stroke B:** Travis Pilant, Honda; Gary Pilant, Honda; Jeff Schneider, Yamaha; David Gay, Yamaha; Nick Crawford, Yamaha

**250 C:** David Danz, Yamaha; Michael Hamilton, Yamaha; Dan Halbeck, Kawasaki; Sam Cook, Honda; Troy Wetzell, Yamaha

**Junior:** Steve Akers, Kawasaki; Michael Fisher, Kawasaki; Chris Hinkel, Suzuki; Cameron Mittelberg, Kawasaki; Anthony Morris, Kawasaki

**Women:** Rebecca Jackson, Kawasaki; Naheed Irani, Suzuki; Sherri Declue, Kawasaki; Kellie Crawford, Honda; Michele Eidam, KTM

**Vet:** Rick Kinkelaar, Yamaha; Kreg Simons, Yamaha; Kevin Harman, Yamaha; Wade Hall, Yamaha; Dave Berry, Yamaha

**Senior:** Brad Barnett, Yamaha, Bill Gold, Yamaha, Keith Kibort, Yamaha, Roy Patton, Yamaha, Bob Fuerst, KTM

**Super Senior:** Eric Hansen, Honda, Frank Leivan, Gerald Frericks, KTM, Tony Schlader, Honda, Rick Carpenter, KTM

**Trailrider:** Sam Boenker, Kawasaki, Barry Harris, KTM, Marcus Nelson, Suzuki, Adam Ashcroft, Yamaha, Erik Lawson, KTM

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## From The Chairman...

This is the last time that I will be addressing you as the Chairman of the OMTRA. It is time for the club to get some new leadership. My ideas are stale and we need some new blood. I will continue to be very involved in everything that the club does, and do what I can to make sure that the club grows and prospers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of the OMTRA. When we first formed the club I could only count a few of you as good friends. Now, I feel like I have more riding buddies than I can count. That is worth more to me than you can know. I truly feel that the effort that I have put into the formation of the club has been returned a hundred times over with the new friendships I have made.

The July meeting of the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders is an important one. We will be conducting elections for the coming year.

I would like to ask each of you to come to the meeting on July 15. Come with the idea that you are willing to step up and make a commitment to the future of off road motorcycling in the Ozarks. We all know that if you don't come, you might just get elected. So, if nothing else, come for self-preservation. I want to make a special appeal to the younger riders to get involved. Along with new blood comes enthusiasm and new ideas – we need both.

Mark your calendars now:

## OMTRA meeting July 15<sup>th</sup> at Buckingham's BBQ on South Cambell. Right across from Bass Pro!

Come and join us. I'll bring the beverages.

*Shawn*

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# OMTRA Stuff

The June OMTRA meeting was held Thursday June 24<sup>th</sup> at Buckingham on S. Campbell. Everyone seemed pleased with the food and the facility, as we had the entire upstairs to ourselves.

Shawn discussed the upcoming race to be held at Flat River. He suggested since it was a benefit fund raiser for the March of Dimes that the club should sponsor a participating club member. It was decided to sponsor Jon Simons with a donation of \$100.00.

Shawn reported he has heard a lot of comments about the number of OMTRA members attending (and finishing well) the area events. He reported over 15 club members at the Flat River Enduro. The summer means a break from the Black Jack Series but it starts again in August at Breezy Hills in La. Shawn Hall would like to hear from you if you plan on going and might need a ride.

Shawn also talked about a letter he received concerning the forest management of the Chadwick area. It specifically mentions the Cobb Ridge area and the long range plans for that area. Given the fact that the document was written in that lawyer language no one can ever understand, Shawn gave it to Bob Fuerst so he could have someone look it over who knows that kind of wording. There is also going to be a meeting held for public input and discussion in Ava. Shawn will hopefully be able to give us more details at the next meeting. The conditions of the Chadwick area were also a topic of discussion. Randall and June made the comments that trails were not being maintained well. Many trails were blocked with downed trees and limbs. It seems the permit requirements are not being enforced very well. It is still a club priority to meet with the forest service and let them know we are concerned for the well being of that area.

Reports about the previous Hare Scramble event in Arkansas were given with several club members having very good results, including Shawn's son Micheal. It was mentioned that Darrell Judy might

be starting a sort of guide service for some trail rides featuring up to 3 huge loops. He has offered the use of these trails for club use in the future.

The night ride at Chadwick has been scheduled for the weekend of July 31. The idea is to ride from about 7:30 or so until dark, then eat and be merry. There was a suggestion of having some sort of family-oriented picnic for club members in late August or early September.

There was still discussion of possible enduro class racing at a local motocross track, but the lack of an available weekend has that issue tabled until a later date.

Bart gave a report on a Dual Sport event sponsored by the Midwest Trail Riders that he and some other club members attended. It was a 230-mile event with difficulty rated as moderate for riding, difficult for racing. He reported it was a blast and recommends everyone try to take it in some time. He did say it has a 200 rider limit and the slots go fast, so sign up early. *Editors note: Bart did say it was fast enough for him to break a knee brace.*

The door prize was a can of cable life, donated by Mel Gere of Action Cycles. It was won by Jack White.

Next month's meeting will be the officer elections, so all members should make an extra effort to attend and be involved!

## Other OMTRA Dates

**July 17** – Enduro class at Sprout Patch at Billings.

**July 31** – Night ride at Chadwick

# Mark Your Calendar

**July 15** OMTR, Buckingham on South Campbell across from Bass Pro. 7pm, be there, elections!

**July 17** – Enduro class at Sprout Patch at Billings.

**July 31** – Night ride at Chadwick

## Arkansas Hare Scramble Championship Series

Mike Lorenz  
501-648-1696

- 7/11 Oil Town – Smackover
- 8/22 Hidden Valley – Wynne
- 9/19 Bee Branch
- 10/10 Sturkie Road – Sturkie
- 10/24 Lost Creek – Amity
- 11/28 River Front GP – Fort Smith

## Missouri Hare Scramble Championship

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- 7/11 Tebbitts, MO
- 7/17&18 Kahoka, MO (National Hare Scrambles)
- 7/25 Knob Noster, MO (Motorcycle Only)
- 8/8 Cole Camp, MO
- 8/22 Lebanon, MO
- 9/19 Smithville, MO (Motorcycle Only)
- 9/26 Westphalia, MO (ATV Only)
- 10/10 Festus, MO

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- 7/18 Grain Valley
- 7/31 Billings
- 8/15 Moberly
- 9/6 Hawk Point
- 9/18 Billings
- 9/26 Halfway
- 10/10 Merwin
- 10/24 Columbia

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- 8/29 Little Rock, Little Rock, AR
- 9/12 Tulsa, Tulsa, OK
- 10/3 Crosstimbers, Oklahoma City, OK
- 10/17 Hardwood, Chadwick, MO
- 10/31 Red River, Muenster, TX



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- ATV
- Bicycle

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