Max Harkey heads up a tough part of the Canyon Creek Trail up to Granite Mountain outside Pitkin, CO In this Issue: Colorado Montana **Kevin Hensley Tid Bits and More**

TIDBITS

If you hadn't noticed, this issue is chock full of riding out west. I hope nobody thinks I've gone too far, because I'm not done about trips out west. I just received the following letter from Wally Dallenbach: "Dear Colorado 500 Rookies, I am writing to welcome you to the 26th Annual Colorado 500 Charity Invitational Dirt Bike Ride, 'The Ride of Champions' and to thank you for your participation." In order to get to ride the Colorado 500, you have to be invited by a veteran. In my case, I got a call from Terry Brumley a few months ago asking if I wanted to ride it. I didn't need to know when or how much before I said yes. I figured I could work out those details later. So you'll get to read about another Colorado trip next month.

I went to an open house for SLS International, Inc., a maker of top-end stereo speakers. What does that have to do with dirt bikes? Well, the president of SLS is John Gott, long time dirt biker and a friend of mine. These speakers are the Mercedes-Benz or Rolls Royce of stereo equipment. Good Job, John.

It sounds like Jon Simons is going to running the Hill Billy GP series this fall and winter. I'll pass along more information as it becomes available.

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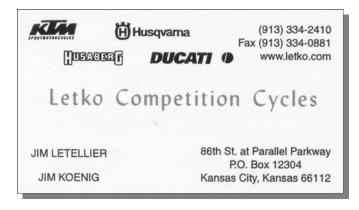
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HEY OMTRA MEMBERS: It's time to pay your dues! OMTRA membership goes from July 1 to June 30. So, if you didn't pay your dues at the OMTRA Meeting at Bart's, then send in a check.



Travis Edward Reynaud was born June 27, he weighed 5 lb 10 oz. He spent a week in the hospital but now he is doing great. He's up to about 8 lbs. Thanks, Rusty & Joy



HALL FAMILY GOES WEST

By Shawn Hall

I know that most of you do not want to hear about another guy's vacation, but the editor of this publication asked me to tell you about the trip that my family and I made out west. We planned to do a combination family vacation, see all the sites kind of thing and also get some riding in. The rig of choice was the Ford F250 crew cab powerstroking monster pulling the 26-foot moto castle. A special thanks has to go to Spud Simons here for some advice in setting up the bike shoes in the trailer. That worked real well. I would also like to thank Rusty Reynaud for lending me an extra bike. It is great to have friends.

We left Ozark, Missouri on June 15 and headed west through Kansas. After a day and a half of driving we hit the Rocky Mountains. The roads got steep, but I did not care. I was just happy to get into some cool mountain air. We spent the first four days at a big family resort in South Fork, Colorado. My parents and my 3 brothers were there with their kids for my father's 70th birthday party. I thought I would be stuck in a place and forced to ride mountain bikes and fish for enjoyment, but much to my surprise there were ORV trails heading right out of the end of the campground. As it turned out I did not do any riding, but it just goes to show you how much riding there is in Colorado.

After four days of the family thing we left to go over to the favorite riding area of most of the Missouri/Arkansas contingent. This is the riding area around Taylor Park.

On our way to Gunnison we had to drive up and over Slumgillion pass. I had an incident on the pass that I would not like to repeat. It seems that I had my trailer brakes turned down too low and I overheated the truck brakes. I was able to get it to stop, but it was too close for comfort. We had lots of smoke coming from all four wheels. Two lessons learned: 1. Don't climb passes with 100 gallon water tanks full 2. Make sure you control the braking better. I never made those mistakes again and the truck did great. Going up was the easy part. The Powerstroke never got hot. After stopping on a turnout for lunch and pouring water on the brakes we continued on down to Lake City and then on to Gunnison. We then went up to Spring Creek, which is up above Almont.

Possum Hollow Awards 3009 Goldenrod Rd. Ozark, MO 65721 Jon & Lesa Simons I had made some tentative plans to hook up with fellow BJEC B-Vet rider Sean MacCarthy. He has a cabin up on Spring Creek. Right next to his cabin is a national forest campground. The best part is that it is right at the end of the pavement. The camp site was unimproved, but beautiful. We hooked up for a nice chat on Wednesday evening and planned to ride on Thursday afternoon. We got up Thursday and the boys and I got geared up for a ride. We made it about 6 miles when Mike's bike had a major problem. We towed the bike back to camp and tore the motor down. The damage was major. The main bearing failed, which threw bearing parts up into the top end. End result is a destroyed motor. I went riding without Mike that afternoon with Sean. To say the least, I was bummed. Mike took things in stride and prepared to spend the rest of the trip riding on the XR 200.

Sean and I had a great ride. We rode up around Spring Creek and over to Cement Creek. We rode down the 27 switchback trail and up the waterfall trail. The scenery was great and the trails were awesome. We had a cookout that evening with both families and another KTM rider from the local area. A special thanks to Sean and his wife Shannon for the hospitality while we were at Spring Creek.

On Friday we drove out to western CO and up to Dinosaur National Monument. It was great, we made plenty of stops and checked everything out. We then drove up just short of Flaming Gorge Dam. The next few days we spent in the Tetons and Yel-

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lowstone doing the tourist thing. The trailer worked great as a home on wheels and the bikes stayed secure. We saw lots of wildlife including 4 bears, buffalo and antelopes.

The next part of the trip was a visit to the Bull Run Guest Ranch in Cascade, Montana. I had seen a Speedvision special on this place a few months before the trip and figured that we were only going to be about a 3-hour drive away.

Bull Run is a 17,000 acre ranch that is a working cattle ranch and also a guest ranch that offers guided hunting trips in the winter and guided horseback and ORV riding in the summer months. A great guy by the name of Joe Tripp runs the place. Joe is an avid off-road motorcycle rider. His weapon of choice is an XR650R. He has it set up as a dual sport and he checks on all of his guests making sure all is well. As I understand it you can ride at the ranch almost year round. One nice thing is that the altitude is much lower than Colorado. I ran my standard jetting for Missouri and the bike ran fine. The top elevation is around 5500 feet. We camped in the campground, which was right on the Missouri River. The camping was unimproved but was fine. They also have primitive cabins that can be rented. If I was to make another trip I think the cabins would be the way to go. The cabins are further up in the mountains.

We started the first day by going on a guided family ride. A guide for the first day is required. Our guide, Dave, turned out to be a very accomplished off-road rider. After a nice tour of the

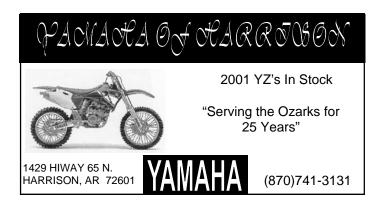
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main trails we headed back to camp for lunch. Dave, Mike and I hooked up in the afternoon for a more serious look at what Bull Run has to offer. After doing some high speed cow trailing (read tight and fast) we headed up to the higher peaks. The hardest trials were rocky and off-camber. We had a blast. After a couple hours of riding Dave wanted to know what I really liked. I said a few more trees and tight. Well, we found out what is tight to someone from Montana. We went down into a tight creek bottom and fought our way through deep creek crossings and heavy brush. We had a blast. Next we headed up to Devil's Kitchen. This is a steep climb up onto a very rocky hillside. Dave was on a well prepped WR 250 and he could really cover some ground. After about 50 miles we headed back to camp and began to plan the next day.

Mike and I planned to ride to the furthest point on the ranch. The warned us that the trail was very steep with some serious switchbacks and off-camber sections. We rode for 6 hours and made 35 miles. This was one of the toughest rides I had ever been on. Mike was on the trusty XR and he was glad. He could reach the ground when things got dicey. We finally made it back to camp and we were ready for a break.

All in all Bull Run is a great place to visit. It is a long way from Missouri, but I would love to get a large group together and plan another trip. I do have brochures if anyone is interested. I will bring them to the next OMTRA Meeting.

After leaving Bull Run we went on to South Dakota and saw Little Big Horn, Devils Tower, Jewel Cave and Mount Rushmore. Then it was time to head back across Nebraska and Missouri. We arrived home on July 3rd after driving almost exactly 4000 miles. I can tell you that I was really sad to see it end. We all had a great time. Although when you read this it seems that we were in a hurry, we never felt that way. We just kind of went when we wanted and stopped when we wanted. I hope the boys had as much fun as Kim and I did.

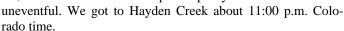


COLORADO

By Bob Fuerst

Saturday, July 28, 2001

I woke up Saturday morning to a down-pour! Not a good sign, when planning to leave for a five-day trip to Colorado. My tripmates were Max and Daniel Harkey. I was expecting them at 8am. They got there at 7:55. They were late! As luck would have it, the rain slacked off by the time we started to leave. In fact, by the time we got to Kansas City, the rain had stopped. Gas stop – Bunker Hill, KS, 43 gal at 1.21 per gal. Not bad, almost 10 miles per gal. We also lean out the carb on the generator. Max thinks we should be getting better gas mileage. Wrong motor, Max. The rest of the trip was pretty





Our campsite at the National Forest Campground, outside Pitkin, CO

Sunday, July 29, 2001

We took off from Hayden Creek campground for Salida on the Rainbow trail. We planned a fifty-mile day. Not bad for the first day. Max, Daniel and I were all on Suzuki DRZ400s. This would be the first trip to Colorado for these bikes. How would they work? We would find out very soon. We also found out today was dry and dusty. The bikes are jetted lean for Missouri. They were still lean at 8,000 feet at Hayden Creek, but as they warmed up things improved. The Rainbow Trail is single-track from Hayden Creek to Salida. It's open to hikers, mountain bikers, horses and dirt bikes, but no ATVs or jeeps. It's just too narrow. Things did get pretty exciting for Max. He was leading up this very narrow off camber with a blind corner. This mountain biker didn't see or hear Max until Max yelled. Even with Max stopped and on the side of the trail, the MTBer hit Max head on. Lucky, neither party was hurt, but it ripped the front forks and wheel off the bicycle! It turned out it was a father and son riding together. The first words out of the father's mouth: "Are motorcycles allowed on this trail?" Lucky, we were in the

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Max and Daniel outside McDonalds in Salida, CO

(Continued from page 5)

right and he stopped going in "that" direction. We helped them put the front end back. Unfortunately, since the front end is press fit on, it only made it about a quarter of a mile before it came off again. They had to carry it a couple of miles back to their car. Ouch.

After that the day was much less eventful. We made it to Salida in time for lunch. Have you ever walked into McDonalds in full moto gear? We did. People do look at you, but probably not like they would, say, in downtown Spring-

field. After lunch, the trip back was much less eventful. After loading up, we were on our way to Pitkin.

Monday, July 30, 2001

Today was a day for exploring. We headed out the motor-cycle trail that left from the campground. It turned out to be a dead end. After five miles of wandering around in the woods, we were back in camp. Oh well. Then we headed up Middle Quartz Road. I had never been up this road. It started out passable by an RV. We know, we passed one. Then, just past the campground, it became an ATV trail. A tough ATV trail. It led up to the road to Alpine Tunnel. Daniel had never been to the tunnel, so away we went. The tunnel was started in 1879, and the first train went though in 1881. The last train went through in 1910. Now, it's a museum. When's the last time you went to a museum in full moto gear? After the museum, we burned some bur-

gers back at the RV. Then we went to check out the trails and roads east of Pitkin. I had though there was another way to Granite Mountain. There is: Take forest road 769 to Waunita trail. It's only 2.25 miles long and T.s into Canyon Creek trail, the trail that leads to Granite Mountain. Now this was a tough trail. It heads up over Granite Mountain to the road over Tomichi pass. The road over the pass goes by several old mines. It's cool. Then we picked up the same ATV trail we took in the morning. It was much easier going down. Then back down Middle Quartz road. I wish I had a speedometer on the DRZ. It hauls in 5th gear. The last trail we took was the ATV trail back

(Continued on page 7)

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SUZUKI

KAWASAKI

(Continued from page 6)

into camp. It ended 50 feet from the RV. You gotta love it.

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

It rained overnight. We headed back to Granite Mountain, only today, we wanted to try Horseshoe Trail. We thought Canyon Creek trail was tough yesterday; Horseshoe trail is much tougher. I can't remember the number of times we had to help each other over the tough spots. Because of the rain, every root was a trap. Slicker than snot! We made it to the top of Granite Mountain and were coming down the switchbacks when it started to rain. The rain wasn't too bad on the trail. But it made for long road ride back to the RV. The rain did cut our day a little short, but we had fun.

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

We got more rain overnight! It was also our last day in Pitkin. We headed through Pitkin and up to Fairview mine. The ride up to Fairview Mine was 7 miles of twisty dirt road, and the temperature was cool enough that we

needed jackets. I did shed my jacket when we got to the single track. The rain didn't affect this trail too bad. It just made some of the roots a little snotty. The trail is pretty much off-camber,



Max heads up Horseshoe Trail.

rocky and narrow for the first 2 miles. Then it opens up until we hit Gold Creek trail. Gold Creek was 2 or 3 miles down hill on the pegs to Fossil Ridge trail. The rain did affect this trail. It made for some tricky climbs. Add a downed tree to one of those climbs, just to make things interesting. We cut off Fossil Ridge trail at Willow Creek trail and headed to Ohio City and back to the RV. We had to be out of the campsite by 2 p.m. We packed up and headed back to Hayden Creek campground for one more day on the Rainbow Trail.

Thursday, August 2, 2001

This time we went the other direction out of Hayden Creek campground on the Rainbow Trail. This time we headed to Westcliffe, almost 30 miles of trail. The first ten miles are single track. Rocky off-camber, loose softball size rocks, marble size rocks, small block size rocks, rock ledges, uphill rocks, downhill rocks, well, you get the idea.

For the remaining 20 miles, the trail opens up to an ATV trail. It still had rocks in places, but it didn't have near the number of rocks that the single track did. It was a fun trail. The bee sting

wasn't a lot of fun. It appears bees are attracted by Suzuki yel-

(Continued on page 11)

Interview: Kevin Hensley

By Kreg Simons

Name: Kevin Hensley

Age: 37

Lives: Originally from Springfield; now lives in Nixa

Works: Earnhardt Chevy in Aurora

Start: Got into bikes in 1971 at 7 years old when longtime family friend Jack Sharp (father of Brian "bad knee" Sharp) introduced his father into bikes and it became a family thing, camping every weekend at Chadwick. Side note: who remembers the SAWDUST pile??

Family: wife Marci and 2 sons, Cole and Casey

First bike: a Honda SL 70

Current Bikes: 2001 YZ 250, TTR 125, KTM 65 and KTM 50 and the backups, a KTM 300 and a PW50 just in case they are needed.

2 Stroke or 4 Stroke: Prefers 2 strokes: "just better"

Favorite race place: The old 65 raceway (this is like the second or third person to say this; maybe we need to talk to the shooting range that is there now and see if we can ride there again)

Favorite place to play ride: Rusty's trails are pretty neat and of course Chadwick

Desired places to go: Utah would probably be my next choice I've done the Colorado thing and it was great, so now Utah

Rides at least 1 time a week usually, maybe more, depends on the kid thing

Superstitions: NONE???

What's on the coffee table: "Nothing; I just cleaned it off" (We really know that Marci did the cleaning off and there had better been at least 1 motorcycle mag on it before she did)

Fingers on the clutch: 2

Boxes, Briefs or ???: Briefs: I'm not man enough or too old for the thong thing

Music: Rock and Roll (although last week I heard some rap type stuff coming out of the van: he said it was the boys' though)

Color: YZ blue of course Right or Left handed: Left

Heros: "Just in general I really respect Tiger Woods; he has accomplished so much. In bikes, Roger Decoster and Jim Pomerroy from the old school; new guys, Shane Watts is quite a guy and seems to be pretty laid back."

Favorite car: HAHAHAHA "I'm in sales; I never drive one very long, but I would like to have a VETTE someday."

Parting shots: "I would like to thank Steve Underwood for all he has done for me and the dirt bike sport around here. I would also like to thank all the off-road/dirt bike people. It's just such a close family—you can go out and compete against someone and they don't get mad at you, it's just fun. No snobby people, no trendy stuff, just good people."

Direction you would like to see the club going as the new Charman/President (man with a title): "I'm real concerned, as we all are, about the riding area in Chadwick and what the future is down there. We need to stay strong as a club to help keep Chadwick open for off-road riding and give us as much positive press as we can get. We need to strengthen the club, get our numbers back up and get people involved and have more family gatherings, even something simple as a picnic just to get the whole family involved. and exposed to our bad habit."

Good Luck Kevin and Thank You for being our new Chairman



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The Next OMTRA Meeting:

August 16th at 7:00pm at: Buckingham's on South Campbell

OMTRA meeting: Bart and Rita's house June 21. It was election time. I'll cut to the chase. The following are the new officers for next year:

Kevin Hensley is the new chairman! Shawn Hall is the new vice-chairman. Kreg Simons remains the Treasurer. Jennifer Callaway is the new secretary. Dale Willis and Jon Simons are co-competition chairmen. Bob Fuerst continues as communication chairman. Cliff Davis remains legislative chairman. Rusty Reynaud will be trailmaster for the enduro.

After the meeting, the discussion centered around the upcoming enduro on October 21.

On a side note: Be careful how you jump into an above-ground pool! Unless you want a tidal wave; just ask Bart.

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Dale's Roofing



(Continued from page 7)

low. The 2001 yellow is more attractive than the 2000 yellow. Once we made it to Westcliffe, we wimped out and rode the highway back to Hayden Creek. We wanted to get on the road. I don't know why, for 14 hours across Kansas, we kept saying, "Why did we leave?"

Conclusion

In five days of riding in the Colorado Mountains, we didn't have a single problem. Not even a flat tire. The DRZ makes a great Colorado bike. It makes good power and is still quiet. And don't forget the magic button. If you stalled the bike during a tough hill climb, even on an easy starting 2 stroke, you had to get into a position to start the bike. With electric start, just pull in the clutch and push the button.







