

Notes on Spokes



W O O N Y r a c e r b e T

Spud leads Caleb Wohletz at the OMTRA hare Scramble. *No, the lead didn't last very long.*

TID BITS

Shawn Hall's gonna be a grandpa. Shawn's oldest child, Shanon, is expecting in August, right around the time of Shawn's birthday. Congratulations. I think the most fun was asking Shawn's 15-year-old son, Scott, what he thought about being an uncle and a role model. He didn't think he was quite ready for that.

The fifth annual WUDI ride is scheduled for the first weekend in March at White Rock National Forest, AR. Most of these folks "get together" on the Internet to talk about dirt bikes. After a couple of days at White Rock, they move up to Chadwick for a couple of days. Last year, they started at Chadwick and moved to White Rock. I was able to join them for the first couple of days at Chadwick. But, like last year, it conflicts with the first Missouri Hare Scramble Championship race at Lebanon. A few of the "local" folks that attended this event are Stewart Hall, Jim Cook of Smackover Motorsports and Brian Jahelka, BJEC Scoring/Web Master. If the weather is just too nice to pass up, I might have to head to Chadwick, after that race at Lebanon. Anyhow, last year it was amazing how far people came to ride this.

David Berry has been digging around in his archives. This time he sent me a copy of a few pages of "MIDWEST MO-

TORCYCLING NEWS" from 1973. There was an interesting article and pictures from the Little Hoot Owl enduro held March 18, 1973. There's a picture of row one leaving the starting line. It included Jim Moon and Gary Reynaud (Rusty's dad); by the way, Gary was the overall winner the year before.

Here's the first paragraph from the article:

"CENTER, MO, March 18, 1973 - The Lucky Wheels Motorcycle Club has been holding enduros since 1960, but today was the first time they have held a spring run. They have always been in the fall before. Today's run drew a record number

of 238 entries from 5 states. Out of the 238 riders who had signed up, only 57 riders completed the run, making all four check points and 3 observed checks."

This was a 60-mile ride and approximately 25% of the riders finished. Wow, that's hard core. They also included the number of machines that entered by brand. The list included names like Ossa, Cooper, Montesa, Puch, M-Z, C-Z, Monarch and of course Hodaka. In fact, 21 entered on Hodakas. Folks, I don't even want to think about riding a Hodaka 60 miles.

I do need to point out that David's dad Lloyd was second in the 125cc class out of 39 entries!

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Tommy Johnson

1954-2003

Koonta-Kinte, T.J., Mo-fo Johnson, Tom, Tommy, Sergeant Johnson are all names people know Tommy by. I was fortunate to know him by all these names. If you have read this newsletter for any amount of time ... you know most of them and how they got to be there. Tommy was the source of many of the characters and funny situations relayed through this newsletter in its early days. Tom was also my editor for the first issue and many that followed after. If you know him by any of these names, you already know his unique humor. Tommy was just plain fun to be around. Always funny, always up to something. Tommy usually saw a situation or problem about 5 degrees to the left or right of where I saw it but always called it accurately and provided a fresh and usually funny perspective on whatever event had our attention.

I first met Tommy in the late '70s after moving to Ft. Leonard Wood. We were in the same unit, shared a love for dirt bikes (one of us knew nothing about dirt bikes ... me) and spent a couple of years living next door to each other. We went to at least 50 enduros together over the years, first in tents, then a step up to older (read "well used" here) vans and ultimately to even more used RVs. Working together and living next door gives one the opportunity to really know someone. Hours of conversations throughout the years revealed a couple of Tommy's greatest loves. Dirt bikes and kids. He was a natural with kids. It didn't matter if they were his or yours, Tommy had fun with them and I believe they genuinely liked him. Dirt bikes and the people who rode them were always on his mind. As his health declined slightly, so did his active riding, but he never stopped loving anything associated with dirt bikes.

As I reflect on Tommy's life, I realize that he was one of the very best friends of my life. If you met him ... he was your friend too. Tommy was just that way with people.

As I stood at the cemetery in Marionville on January 28th under gray skies and a blustering winter wind, the military color guard began folding the flag taken from Tommy's coffin. I couldn't help but see Tommy's face as he handed me the folded flag on the very same type of honor detail so many years ago, and I turned crisply to line up with a seated widow and knelt to present her with her flag honoring the service of

her loved one. This time it wasn't Tommy handing me anything, it was a sergeant I didn't know offering Tommy's flag in honor to Jackie. Honor him well as a friend, a father, a husband, a soldier, and a devoted dirt biker. I believe he gave each one of us more than he took, and that's what we will miss. A guy as unique as Tommy lives on. Think of him the next time you start that dirt bike and know he would like to be there with you.

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HBGP Marshfield

On January 12th Spud and crew held the fifth Hill Billy GP of the season at Marshfield. Let's see what I can remember from the race. First off, it was slick. The temperatures were above freezing. Not by much, but enough to give you that mud on top of ice feeling. Almost 90 bikes and 60 ATVs showed up. Not bad for the middle of January.

Instead of usual two 45-minute motos, everyone got to ride one 1½ hour moto. This was a real good thing; after the ATVs rode the course, it was virtually unrideable by motorcycle.

Competition in the expert class was the closest I've seen in years.

Expert Class

Place	No.	Name	Bike Brand	Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Lap 4	Lap 5
1	14	Anthony Meyer	Yamaha	00:20:12 - 1	00:40:00 - 1	00:59:40 - 1	01:18:57 - 1	01:38:06 - 1
2	18	Caleb Wohletz	KTM	00:20:19 - 3	00:40:09 - 3	00:59:44 - 4	01:18:58 - 2	01:38:36 - 2
3	13	Rusty Reynaud	Yamaha	00:20:15 - 2	00:40:07 - 2	00:59:42 - 2	01:19:36 - 3	01:40:23 - 3
4	12	Tracy Bauman	KTM	00:20:22 - 4	00:40:11 - 4	00:59:44 - 3	01:19:50 - 4	01:41:00 - 4

Look at the differences between 1st and 4th. On the first lap 10 seconds separated 1st from 4th. It was 11 seconds on lap 2 and on lap three only 4 seconds! I know Rusty stopped for gas at some point in there also.

You notice Anthony Meyer came out on top. It may have been a small expert class, but it was stuffed with talent. Congratulations Anthony!



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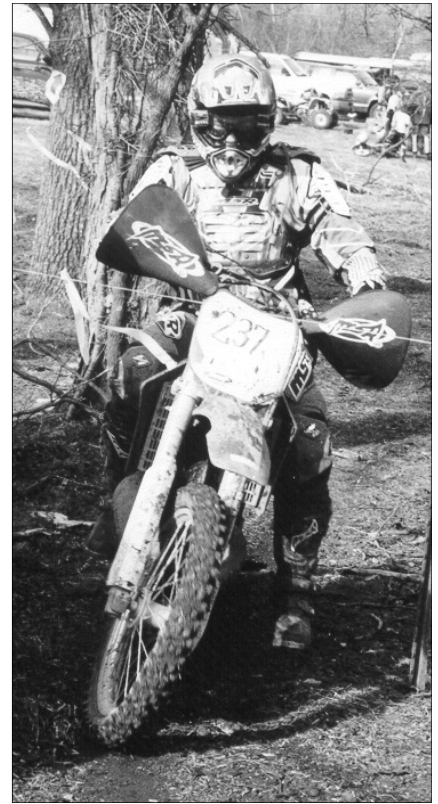
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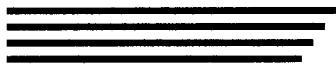


Chili really wishes I hadn't taken this picture



Elston Moore heads through the check.

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This looks like the expert class. It doesn't look that slick, but they are doing everything they can to keep it up on two wheels.

OMTRA Hare Scramble 2003



Overall winner Caleb Wohletz

It was cold—really cold—on January 26th when the members of the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders Association held the second annual Hardwood Classic. Due to the weather conditions, rider turnout was low. We also held one 1½ hour moto for the bikes instead of two 1 hour motos.

Caleb Wohletz was pretty much the class of the motorcycle

field. He just kind of checked out. This kid is really flying. From what I heard, he is 18 years old and has only been racing for the past three years. He also wants to ride the ISDE in Brazil this year.

The intermediate class had some pretty good action. Karl Harris and Steve Underwood were really fighting for first place



Steve Underwood leads the start of the intermediate class

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 6)



Kevin Ruckdeschell leads Karl Harris and Aaron Roberts

until Karl managed to put a hole in his side case. Let's just say he won't need to oil his boots for a long time. Steve was really looking good on his new YZ450F. This is one sweet bike. It's also one trick bike. Look for an upcoming test in Notes on Spokes. Maybe Not.

I'm not really sure what kind of action Chili and Elston had. They spent a lot of time rolling around in the woods. I'm not sure what that means. Or did they just fall down a lot? They tried to come through the finish tied. Or was that holdin hands? Let's just

get a good rumor started.

I really wish I had gotten a copy of the results. It would have made writing this article much easier.

No complaints were heard about the lack of trophies. I think about 80% of the participants went home with one.

On a positive note, Shawn Hall was seen riding his motorcycle on both Saturday and Sunday. He can't walk without crutches.

He needed help getting on and off the bike without help. But you couldn't have wiped the smile off his face if you punched him off the bike!



Shane Roberts on his way toward winning the 200cc class on the mighty TTR

Ride report – 1/8/03

By Bob Fuerst

Spud gave me a call last night, “Wanna go riding?” I’d heard the weather forecast, 65 degrees! We’re meeting one o’clock at Highlandville. I didn’t know if I could make it. But I needed to try. I’ve been working waaaaay toooo many hours. A few things fell into place this morning. I made a few phone calls and headed into town for a meeting, driving pick up truck, pulling trailer, dirt bike in trailer. I wrapped the meeting up by saying, “I gotta go dirt bike riding. I’m outta here.”

I called the wife from the cell phone on the way, “Honey, I’m going riding.” She wasn’t surprised. I told her we’d ride ‘til dark then bull shit ‘til past dark.

Spud said folks were meeting at 1 pm. I got there a little after 2, but better late than never. Spud, Nick Stine, Steve Underwood and Aaron “Chili” Roberts were getting ready for a lap. I told them to go ahead. I’d get ready and join them on the next lap. The laps at Highlandville are about 4 miles in length.

They aren’t back yet and I’m ready to ride. So I head out on the trail thinking I’ll cut out after a few miles and head back to meet the guys back at camp. I didn’t know I headed the wrong direction on the loop until I met Steve going the opposite direction. He was under the root, if you know the Highlandville trail. He also wanted to know how I was going to get the pig turned around. You see, the root is over a ravine and the sides are straight up about eight feet and at the bottom, it’s only wide enough for one bike.

I did get the pig turned around and asked them what they were waiting for and they said me. So we headed back to camp. That’s when Mick Spickard showed up.

The agenda for the day was, ride a lap and bull shit, repeat.

On my first full lap, I was tight. This isn’t a good place to tighten up, too many things to hit or fall into. But I made it around.

We did this one or two more times. I was loosening up. It was getting dark, so I stayed on the track, making a couple of laps in

a row. I made it at least half way around when the clutch stopped working, no more forward momentum. So I walked back to the truck.

After I got back to the truck, I could hear Chili and Spud going at it. Actually, I could hear Chili going at it. You could only hear Spud when Chili had shut off going into a corner.

After shooting the bull again (it’s a very dead bull by this time), Mick drives me to the bike. Luckily, the bike is in a drive-to place. I show him all the free play, about a half inch at the lever. It’s funny, the clutch was working perfectly right up until it stopped. That’s when Mick looked down at the lever outside the motor and said, “Bob, you have a rock jammed behind the lever.” He removes the rock and all of a sudden, the clutch works perfectly again. It’s better to be stupid than have to buy a new clutch.

Anyhow, I ride the bike back to the truck. I told Spud and Aaron that the clutch healed itself. Steve and Nick had already left. They asked really, it’s working fine. Yes, right after Mick removed the rock.

We’re all loaded up and shooting the bull until it’s getting very dark, just like I predicted. Chili’s complaining that he’s getting too much press in the newsletter. And, of course, getting press in this newsletter isn’t necessarily a good thing. But Chili has been spending a lot of time helping Spud with the course for the Hill-billy GPs. In fact, they’ve been seen together so much, that Chris Vaught has been calling Chili “Mini-Spud,” like from the Austin Powers movies. They didn’t know who was the most insulted, Spud or Chili.

Dirt bike riding is even more fun when you get to play hooky.

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OMTRA Stuff



The February OMTRA Meeting:
 McGuffey's in Chesterfield Village on South Kansas, Springfield, MO
 February 20
 7 pm

Over 30 folks showed up for the meeting at Fuddrucker's in Springfield on January 23. It was one cold night and there was one of our biggest turn-outs ever. We even got a couple of new members to sign up!

Let's see, what did we talk about? We decided to make a donation to COHVCO. OK, what's that. It the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition. Since many club members go to Colorado at least once per year, we thought it would be a good idea to send them some money to help keep the trails open. *And if you don't go, all it takes is one trip to Colorado and you'll be going back every year!*

COHVCO is made up of ATV, dirt bike, 4WD and snowmobile clubs in the state of Colorado. I get a copy of their newsletter. The June issue listed all the clubs in the state and there must be 100 clubs in the list. Pretty impressive.

Speaking of clubs, Justin Smith was telling me about a new club forming in West Plains, MO. He said, they are mostly ATV riders. They have monthly planned events, not races, but camping and trail rides. It even sounded like they had some land in the West Plains area for riding. I'll try and find out some more information and pass it along.

For the sort of annual OMTRA trip to Colorado, we are looking at the second half of July right now.



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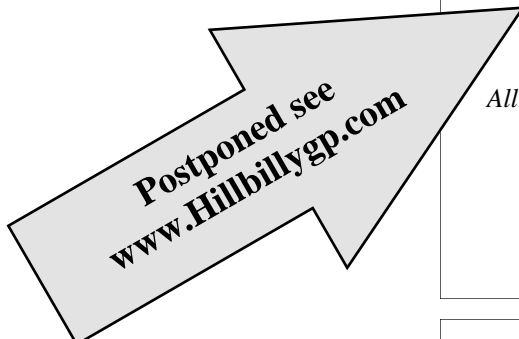
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- 6/1/03 – Marshfield
- 6/22/03 – Knob Noster
- 6/29/03 – Park Hills
- 7/13/03 – Tebbetts
- 7/27/03 – Florence
- 8/10/03 – Polo
- 8/24/03 – Sedalia
- 9/7/03 – Smithville
- 9/21/03 – Eugene
- 10/5/03 – Blackwell
- 10/19/03 – Park Hills

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- 4/6/03 – Gruber, OK
- 5/4/03 – Nacogdoches, TX
- 5/18/03 – Park Hills, MO (National)
- 6/8/03 – Bismark, AR
- 6/22/03 – Stillwater, OK
- 9/14/03 – Gruber, OK
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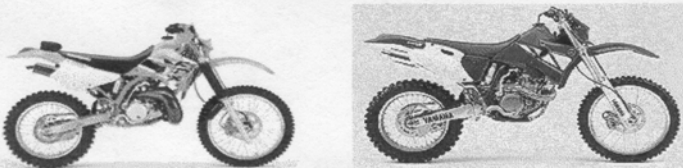
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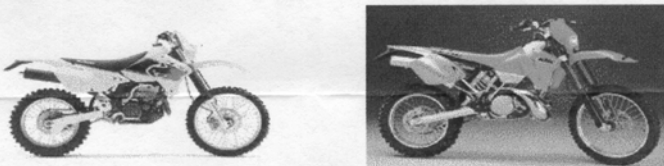
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