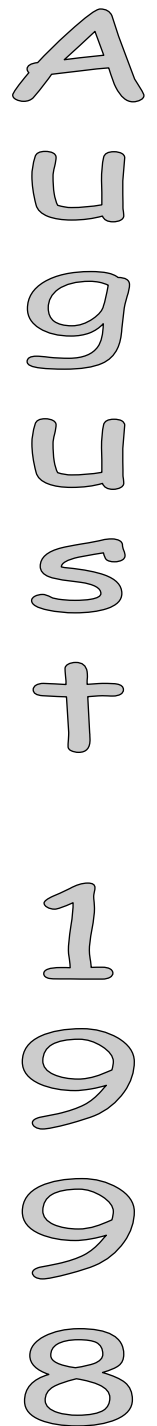




Possum Hollow's 20th Anniversary!



A few months ago, Cliff Davis asked if I would run an article on the 20th anniversary of Possum Hollow. I thought this was a great idea. Having helped with a few hare scrambles and enduros, I know how much work goes into putting on a race. I personally appreciate all the work Jerry has done so I can have fun.

By Cliff Davis

We are fortunate to have several "first families" of off-road racing in southwest Missouri including Jim and Peggy Moon, Mel and Carol Gere and Marvin and Sue Pruitt. However, given that this year is the 20th Anniversary of Possum Hollow Motocross Track, special recognition should be given to another "first family" who made it possible, Jerry and Ellie Sharp.

Motorcycling became a part of the Sharp family in 1973 when Jerry bought their son, Mark, a Honda XL70. (Ellie was out of town that day.) In 1974, the XL70 was traded for a Yamaha 100. Mark raced the Lake City and KCIR motocross tracks in the Kansas City area where they lived. In April of 1975, the Sharps moved to Springfield. Mark, now sponsored by Jim Moon Yamaha, began racing at the infamous Clear Creek motocross track. Some of you may remember that Jeff Ward and Mike Brown raced Clear Creek at the NMA National in 1977.

Unfortunately, Clear Creek closed that same year. Jerry recalls that he and Mel discussed that someone needed to open another track in the area. But who? Ellie says that it was in February of 1978 that she encouraged Jerry to open a motocross track. Two weeks later, Jerry had plans drawn up and land purchased. Six weeks later on April 17, 1978, Possum Hollow held its first motocross race.

And boy, do I remember that first race like it was yesterday. I was 14 and Coy Workman took me to the race. It rained that morning all the way to the track (we were driving in from Richland, some 100 miles away) but it turned out to be a beautiful day. The track, designed and worked by William Moon, was in great condition. I was riding a 1976 Suzuki RM 250 and Coy was riding a 1977 Suzuki RM 370. Jerry recalls 117 riders attending the first race. Carol Gere and Sue Pruitt did the scoring up on scaffolding that was provided by Wayne Biendorf. That day was the beginning of twenty years of racing at Possum Hollow Motocross Track. During the first season, Jerry figures that they held 10-12 races. "We weren't sure what we were doing", recalls Jerry with a laugh. For not being sure what they were doing, they sure created a mainstay in southwest Missouri.

Many great racers cut their teeth at Possum Hollow. It was the first track Guy Cooper raced besides his home track in Oklahoma. Another Oklahoma pro motocrosser, Cliff Palmer, raced at Possum Hollow as well. Missouri's own Jeff Emig raced minis there for 5 or 6 years. Jerry says that Emig was the first rider

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

to clear the hump coming out of the pond and he did it on a Kawasaki 60.

There were many local riders who were there in the early years, like father and son duo George and Walt Johnston. George, Walt's dad, would line up on the expert row with his Bengt Aberg Replica Yamaha TT500 and holeshot the class only to pull off the track before the second turn. Former National number holder and local boy Johnny Gott raced his RM 125 at Possum. Always a fixture at any local motorcycle event, Mike "Duck" Edwards spent many Sundays racing at Possum. Then there were go-fasters Greg Hall and the Pruitt brothers, Jeff and David. I remember at one race when David's YZ fouled a plug at the starting line of the Expert Class. Not having time to replace the plug, he ran across the track and rolled Marvin's Yamaha IT200 out of the bed of the truck. Complete with mud from Chadwick the previous day, David smoked the class on the old clapped out IT200. He was smooth as butter.

Other fixtures at Possum were Doug Gere, Larry Waite, Billy Schooling, Rocky and Ricky Austin and their real cute sister who rode an RM100, Allen and Casey Haynes, the Simons brothers, and my favorite, Gene Brown. Gene was at every motocross race I ever attended at Possum. I swear Gene was in his fifties when I met him in the late 70s and still racing in the late 80s. (If anyone knows of Gene's whereabouts, we need to feature him in an upcoming issue.) Jerry was hesitant to mention names of former racers, as we both know that many great local racers will be overlooked.

Jerry also promoted a hare scramble every year at Possum Hollow. Jim Moon and Marvin Pruitt told Jerry how to do a hare scramble. Unfortunately, they didn't tell him how to stop the race. Jerry panicked during the race but was able to find Marvin who told him how to end a hare scramble. Since that first race, Jerry has been the mainstay in promoting local hare scrambles. In the early years, he co-promoted the scrambles with Jim "Buttermilk" Johnson, Duck, myself, and Dennis Tomlin. If it weren't for Jerry, we probably wouldn't have had the great hare scrambles series we had in past years. Additionally, Jerry donated Possum Hollow for the Toys for Tots race put on every year by Steve Underwood, and still donates all the awards for the Toys for Tots. Many may also remember that Jerry and Ellie promoted motocross races at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds in the early eighties.

In the late 80s, Jerry and Ellie leased Possum Hollow for a short while. In May of 1997, 11 months shy of its 20th Anniversary, Jerry and Ellie sold Possum Hollow. Today, the Sharps assist with operations of Sprout Patch Motocross Track; and run Possum Hollow Trophies out of their home. Jerry is the director of the Missouri State Motocross Championship Series.

Jerry and Ellie say that all the years involved in the motorcycle community have been great. They feel that Possum Hollow was a family event and they saw many father and son relationships develop because of racing motocross. Jerry says, "Very few racers got into trouble." Motocross keeps them too busy to find trouble. Jerry and Ellie summed up their experiences over the past twenty years by saying they "met great people" along the way.

Jerry and Ellie, you have been great friends to all of us. As someone who has raced on and off for just over twenty years, most of the races I attended were promoted by Jerry Sharp. And I thank you for that, Jerry! The entire racing community thanks the both of you for making our lives so much better!

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TID BITS

⇒ Just before going to the printers, I heard from Lee Glenn, President of BJEC, that the **Little Rock Enduro** has been rescheduled for **September 20**. It is going to a be standard time keeping enduro. They have moved it to private land.

I opened up the July 29 issue of Cycle News and they mention Cliff Davis and give him a little press on running for the Missouri General Assembly. Check out his web site at www.TeamGOP.com/Davis136. Gee, and you all thought you had to be fast to get into Cycle News.

Jac Richmond, OMTRA member and BJEC rider, has accepted a job in the Detroit, Michigan area. I talked to him at the night ride and he should be moved by September. It sounds like he will be trading rocks for sand. Remember, Jac, sand is just very small rocks.

August 9 Hare Scramble: South on 69 Hwy to 358th, go East to Drexel, follow 18 Hwy to Merwin, right on Y Hwy 1/2 mile, entrance on right. Call 913-334-0881 or 913-287-5154

July OMTRA Meeting

The July meeting of the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders Association had a big turnout at the Repair Shop. We held the election of officers for the next year. The following members were elected:

Chairman – Shawn Hall
Vice Chair – Randell Mathis
Treasurer – Darin House
Secretary – Judy Willis

Committee Chairman:

Communications – Bob Fuerst
Legislative – Jerry Sharp
Land Preservation – Larry Scharnhorst
Social – Bart Williams
Event – Casey Haynes and Duane Barker

The float trip is scheduled for August 30 at Dawt Mill. The club is going to buy burgers and buns and “Bar-B-Que Bill” White has volunteered to cook them. The cost is \$29. Call Randell or Bart to sign up.

The night MX at Sprout Patch scheduled for July 11 was rained out. It has been rescheduled for August 15. The gates open at 4:30. Practice starts at 6:00 and racing starts about 7:00.

THE OFFICIAL VIEW

It's been a year and a half since the Chadwick Motorcycle and ATV Use area became a Fee Demo area and we started collecting fees for trail use. Eighty percent of these fees are returned to be used in the area itself rather than being sent to Washington and used for who knows what. We have begun using the monies collected. As you have noticed there are rail fences in the Cobb Ridge Campground to help control use on the grass areas. We plan on starting relocation of trail 101 later this summer and will in the future relocate trails where erosion is a problem and repair water bars where needed on existing locations.

Cobb Ridge Campground has always been a free use campground. Starting October 1, 1998 a fee of \$5.00 per site will be charged for camping here. This is also a part of the Fee Demo project, so 80% will be returned to be used for campground improvements. We plan on drilling a well for water soon and replacing the existing toilet with a new one. Future plans call for expanding the campground, providing showers and flush toilets along with a dump station and playground.

We hope these improvements will make the area safer and more enjoyable for you the user.

Contributed by Jim Voyles

OMTRA Night Ride at Chadwick

If you take your dirt bike to a wedding, you might be a red neck. That's what I kept thinking on Saturday afternoon. On Saturday, July 25, my cousin got married and it was the third annual night ride at Chadwick. So I loaded up the trailer, put on my suit and headed to the wedding. The wedding was at 2:00 pm. So, it was no problem for me to make the wedding, but the reception was at 5:30. As soon as I finished dinner, I was gone. *Not only am I a red neck, but I am also cheap.*

I got to Chadwick at 8 o'clock, just as a bunch of riders came back from a twilight ride. This gave me time to check out the regulations on the map of the riding area printed by the Forest Service. It says, "Vehicles not equipped with both operable headlights and tail lights can only be oper-

ated during the time period of one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset." Good, it looks like everybody had that covered and then some. Several folks not only had headlights on the vehicle, but also had headlights on their heads! Just duct tape a flashlight to your helmet for a little extra light.

About 9:30, we headed out in two groups. I was asked to lead my group to the thorn tree and wait for the second group.

I knew I was in trouble right from the start when Brian Sharp comes past me. He can't be using his headlight. It is pointed at the clouds. Even though it wasn't hot, it was humid. We were so uncomfortable waiting, we finally had to take off, just to get some air movement.



Here's Randall Mathis with his headlight setup. He said, "I can jump start a diesel." His plan needs some fine tuning. He had to hold the wire in his teeth and the front brake line caught on the light when the forks compressed. He also had a problem with his riding partners. Randall had stopped next to a water hole to adjust his light when Rusty, on an ATV with his wife Joy, blasted through, soaking Randall.

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"No dummy, that thing goes around that do-kicky." Now think about it, these guys are having problems with a tent. How do they ever work on their motorcycles?

(Continued from page 4)

After going for a loop on 104, we were back at the thorn tree. With all the rain we had, 101 was one puddle after another. Instead of splashing our way back to camp, we went up Dairy Queen. That's right — Dairy Queen at Night!

Six of us are members of the Dairy Queen at Night Club. Wes Bair was the first one up the hill. Tony Kirkup, Danny Overturf, Russ Halverson, Gary Hendrickson and myself followed.

It wasn't that bad. Provided you know the lines, you don't stall, and no one stalls in front of you. If you do stall going up a rock ledge, then you get to roll backwards in total darkness, unless you taped a flashlight to your helmet.



Getting ready for a Sunday morning ride.

Don't think that to come to the night ride you have to ride up Dairy Queen. Most folks rode at a more sedate pace and everyone had fun.



Danny Overturf has waaay too much energy.

The next OMTRA meeting is August 20 at Mexican Villa South at 7:00 PM

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THIELE STEALS SPARE PARTS HS WIN

By: Frank Leivan
Knob Noster, MO; July 12

After winning his first event of the Missouri Hare Scrambles Championship two weeks ago, Kawasaki rider Chris Thiele made it two in a row by topping round nine at Knob Noster. Thiele suffered a three kick start, but by the midway point of the race, had hooked up with Mike Windmann and pulled away from the pack. Late in the race Thiele picked up the pace and pulled away to a 50 second win.

The Spare Parts Motorcycle Club laid out a 10.6 mile course on the Dillingham property near Warrensburg. A small dose of rain on Friday evening and temperatures far below normal made for a great race and left many of the racers asking for more.

Chris Caplinger put his YZ400 into the first corner in front with Leigh Letellier, who is only attending selected events this year, in second. Mike Windmann, who has been the picture of consistency all year, held third, and Chris Nesbitt, who was coming off of his best ride to date, with a third at the previous round, in fourth.

Caplinger momentarily got hung up on a creek crossing and Letellier, Windmann, and Nesbitt all moved around. Once in the lead, Letellier rode smooth, although somewhat nervous, having not been in front in well over a year. Letellier held the lead for the remainder of the first lap with Windmann right on his rear fender.

Thiele was the man on the move, coming from fourth all the way to second on the second lap while Windmann had the lead and Letellier settled into third. Caplinger recovered from his first lap problem and was tied to Letellier's rear fender, while Nesbitt struggled to find his rhythm and rode in fifth.

Mile after mile Thiele closed the gap on Windmann and by the fourth of five laps had closed to within striking distance. Only a handful of seconds behind the leaders, Caplinger and Letellier had a similar battle going for the final podium spot. Thiele was able to make a pass on the fourth lap, but went down soon after and Windmann got it right back. Thiele was able to catch back up and when Windmann struggled to pass a lapper just before the white flag, Thiele made his move.

"Once Chris passed me I tried to stay close, but he had enough of a gap that we had to work the lappers individually instead of together and he just pulled away," said Windmann. And pull away he did, stretching his lead to some 50 seconds on the final lap, while pointing his J&W Cycles/Moose/Renthal backed KX-250 towards the checkered flag. Windmann completed another great ride on his Pro Dirt KTM to finish second for the sixth time this season. Caplinger completed his most solid ride since a win at round two to claim third on his Donelson Cycles Yamaha, despite taking more than his share of soil samples. Fourth went to Letellier, his best performance thus far

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

on his selected schedule. Jeff Lappe kept his little 125 KTM pinned to win the "A" class for the fourth race in a row and finished fifth overall.

I attended this race. It was great weather for July 12. If you weren't there, you missed a great race. The promoters of this race tried some thing new. They had a second display monitor hooked up to the scoring computer. They routed the trail away from scoring, giving the pit crew time to put place in class and how far behind or in front they are on the pit board. Bob.

Results

O/A: 1. Chris Thiele (Kaw); 2. Mike Windmann (KTM); 3. Chris Caplinger (Yam); 4. Leigh Letellier (KTM); 5. Jeff Lappe (KTM)
AA: 1. Mike Windmann (KTM); 2. Chris Caplinger (Yam); 3. Leigh Letellier (KTM); 4. Ken Yount (Yam); 5. Tanner England (Yam)
A: 1. Jeff Lappe (KTM); 2. Jason Counts (Kaw); 3. Mike Kruger (KTM); 4. Tom Klimm (Kaw); 5. Charles Thiele (Kaw)
125 B: 1. John Struckhoff (Suz); 2. Levi Rawson (Yam); 3. Kurt Eibell (Yam); 4. Casey Hinkel (Yam); 5. Luke Manion (Yam)
200 B: 1. Steve Crews (Kaw); 2. David Haworth (KTM); 3. Everett Shinault (Kaw); 4. Robert Armon (Kaw); 5. Dae Lederle (Kaw)
250 B: 1. Collin Sheridan (Yam); 2. Ryan Wuebbeling (Yam); 3. David Bishop (Suz) 4. Matt Weis (Yam); 5. Nick Crawford (Yam)
250 C: I. Tim Gibson (Hon); 2. Lars Valin (Hon); 3. Dan Halbeck (Kaw); 4. Bryan Roy (Kaw); 5. John Baner Jr. (Kaw)
Open B: 1. Matt Coffman (KTM); 2. Tom Prenger (KTM); 3. Jeff Kuechenmeister (ATK); 4. Marty Smith (Hon); 5. Larry Portell (KTM)
4-Stroke B: 1. Travis Pilant (Hon); 2. Gary Pilant (Hon); 3. Shawn Taylor (Yam);

4. Ralph Gerding (Hon); 5. Doug Jones (Yam)
Vet: 1. Rick Matteson (Yam); 2. Gary Mittelberg (Kaw); 3. Dwayne Miinch (Hon); 4. Dave Berry (Hon); 5. Tom Huber (Yam)
Senior: 1. Ron Ribolzi (Yam); 2. Bill Gold (Yam); 3. William Guffey (Yam); 4. Keith Kibort (Yam); 5. John Newberry (Hon)
Super Senior: 1. Eric Hansen (Hon); 2. Jim Letellier (KTM); 3. Rick Carpenter (KTM); 4. Gerald Frericks (KTM); 5. Bob Copeland (Kaw)
Junior: 1. Robert Duncan (Yam); 2. Jeremy Wisecup (Kaw); 3. Zack Mabery (Hon); 4. James Sloan (Yam); 5. Steve Akers (Kaw)
Trail Rider: 1. Craig Delong (Hon); 2. Jody Smith (Suz); 3. Gregg Hecht (KTM); 4. Sean Van Derwood (Hon); 5. Bryan Donley (Suz)



The Annual Perch

Jerk Scramble

June 21, 1998

The second annual perch jerk scramble was held on the sprawling estate of Greg and Denise Lowe in conjunction with neighbor Cecil Thornton. With our neighbor's cooperation the course has doubled in length over last year's. The 3.1 mile course featured lots of off cambers, rocks, a little mud and just a few tight spots. The course included a .5 mile motocross track that has several double jumps, two of which were small enough even the off-road guys were jumping them! The bigger doubles were aired out only by the moto-heads entered in the race. Why is it enduro riders don't like to get very far off the ground?

Dignitaries included last year's big jerk (big fish champion) Dale Willis, last year's overall winner Barry Nye, Dave Ernst from Skyline Honda/Yamaha, and Brian Powers from Central Cycle Kawasaki/Honda. The nine rider field started enduro style, 1 minute apart. They were thankful the race was only 4 laps considering the over 90 degree heat. Riders started in a randomly drawn order with KTM300 mounted Dale Willis first, followed by Jesse Martin on his KDX200, Barry Nye on his big ATK406, KDX200 mounted Joseph Neal, Jon Neal aboard his KDX220, 'Motocross' Mike Morrison on his RM125, Brian Powers on the only 4-stroke, an XR400, then Dave Ernst and last out was Deric Lafevers.

After two laps the riders pulled in to the required fish stop. The only order change was Jesse Martin pulling out of the race, sporting several strawberries, claiming a tree moved out in front of him. The fishing portion of the race was particularly tough this year with a few riders taking almost an hour to land a fish. Barry proved his fishing prowess again this year by catching the first fish, a mighty bluegill.

Deric Lafevers captured overall honors and gets to keep the coveted annual perch jerk scramble traveling trophy for the next year. Gag awards were given for the biggest and smallest fish. Dave Ernst was the big jerk (biggest fish) and Mike Morrison was the little jerk (smallest fish).

Our thanks go out to all who attended and all who helped make this event a success. Special thanks to our neighbor Cecil Thornton for his generous cooperation in the use of his land, and to Stan at D & S Cycle for the course marker arrows. This is an annual event, and we hope to make it bigger and better next year.

Greg and Denise Lowe

Where's the Reset?

Casey Haynes has been riding the last couple of races of the Missouri State Motocross series. Here's part of an e-mail he dropped me.

The first race of the 8 race series was held at Kingsville, MO southwest of KC. There were 310 bikes according to the man, Jerry Sharp.

Some locals that I know of were:

- Randall, June and James Mathis. James raced 125 novice for sure and maybe the 16-24 year old class as well I think he finished in the top 10. There were 30+ riders in his class.
- Joby Windmiller rode the 30+ class and finished 5/6 but he was flying in the real rough whoops section they had!
- Larry Wyat and his family were there watching Tyler win the 6-8(?) yr old 60cc class. He also rode the open 60 class I think. Kevin Rix and his dad were there and he also rode the 125 novice class and finished in the top 10.
- I rode 250 int and finished 4/5 out of 7.

Round two. Allen and I drove to Columbia where Joby and Vicki had graciously saved us a spot. Camped out. Got up at 6, watched it rain until 7:30 and drove home. It was a blast, NOT!

Contributed by Casey Haynes

What do you think? Hopefully, Casey will keep us up to date about what is going on with the MO State MX Championship. I have the schedule in the calendar section of this newsletter. And, if you want to give it a try yourself, come out to Sprout Patch on August 15.

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Mark Your Calender

August 15 Enduro class at Sprout Patch

August 20 - OMTRA meeting at Mexican Villa South at 7:00.

August 30 - Members only float trip on the North Fork of the White River

Missouri State Hare Scrambles

Frank Leivan
417-537-8406

August 2 - Alton

August 23 - Diamond

September 13 - Platte County

October 11 - Extreme Motorsports Park

October 18 - Platten County

El Dorado Cycle Midwest Trial Series

Rick Cantrell
417-859-4158

August 2 - Cape Girardeau, MO

September 13 - Marshfield, MO

October 10 - White City, IL

October 25 - Park Hills, MO

Branson USA Motocross Championships

909-657-6834

September 25, 26 and 27

Arkansas Hare Scramble

Championship Series

August 30 - Sturkie Road (Salem)

September 6 - Old Crow (Russellville)

October 18 - Lost Creek (Amity)

November 28 - Annual Promoter Meeting

November 29 - River Front G.P. (Fort Smith)

1998 BJEC Schedule

Lee Glenn

913-441-6522

September 20 - Little Rock, AR

September 27 - Tulsa, OK

October 11 - Red River, TX

October 25 - Chadwick, MO

November 22 - Oklahoma City, OK

Missouri Vintage Motocross Series

James Thompson

417-589-4016

September 6 - Conway, MO

October 11 - TBA

October 18 - Collins, MO

Pro-Am Motocross

1-800-748-8098

August 9 - Washington, MO

MO State Championship MX Series

July 18 - Kingsville

July 26 - Columbia (MXP)

August 8 - Billings (Sprout Patch)

September 7 - St. Louis (Cycle World)

September 20 - Halltown (Possom Hollow)

September 27 - Moberly (HLR MX)

October 25 - Grain Valley (X2)

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THIELE TOPS RACERS FOR RESEARCH HS

Park Hills, MO; July 5

Results

O/A: 1. Chris Thiele (Kaw); 2. Mike Windmann (KTM); 3. Chris Nesbitt (Yam); 4. Steve Leivan (Yam); 5. Rick Matteson (Yam); 6. Brock Busenbark (Yam); 7. Jeff Lappe (KTM); 8. Brandon Forrester (Yam); 9. Dan Burgard (Yam); 10. Chris Caplinger (Yam)

AA: 1. Mike Windmann (KTM); 2. Chris Nesbitt (Yam); 3. Steve Leivan (Yam); 4. Brock Busenbark (Yam); 5. Chris Caplinger (Yam)

A: 1. Jeff Lappe (KTM); 2. Dan Burgard (Yam); 3. John Roth (Yam); 4. Kevin Boyle (Hon); 5. Charles Thiele (Kaw)

125 B: 1. Barndon Forrester (Yam); 2. Jason Dill (Kaw); 3. Casey Hinkel (Yam); 4. Luke Manion (Yam); 5. Tony Raineri (Yam)

200 B: 1. Steve Crews (Kaw); 2. Everett Shinault (Kaw); 3. Dae Lederle (Kaw); 4. Robert Armon (Kaw); 5. Randy Wagahoff (Kaw)

250 B: 1. Rick Matteson (Yam); 2. Jake Bishop (SuZ); 3. Nick Crawford (Yam); 4. David Bishop (Suz); 5. Duane Rambo (Hon)

Open B: 1. Danny Crawford (Hon); 2. Kelly Eye (KTM); 3. Larry Poretll (KTM); 4. Chris Sloan (Yam); 5. Bill Wood (Hon)

4-Stroke B: 1. Rick Kinkelaar (Yam); 2. Chris Hutson (Hus); 3. Brian Richardson (Yam); 4. Ralph Gerding (Hon); 5. John Dodd (Hon)

Vet: 1. Dwayne Miinch (Hon); 2. Gary Mittelberg (Kaw); 3. John Banes (Kaw); 4. Tom Huber (Yam); 5. Michael Blair (Hon)

Senior: 1. Keith Kibort (Yam); 2. Brad Barnett (Yam); 3. William Guffey (Yam); 4. Jimmy Jones (Kaw); 5. Andy Long (Suz)

Super Senior: 1. Robert Caplinger (ATK); 2. Frank Leivan (Yam); 3. Rick Carpenter (KTM); 4. Bob Jones (Kaw); 5. Gerald Frericks (KTM)

250 C: 1. Tim Gibson (Hon); 2. Gary Wolf (Yam); 3. David VonHoltten (Suz); 4. Michael Hamilton (Yam); 5. Bryan Roy (Kaw)

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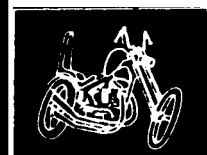
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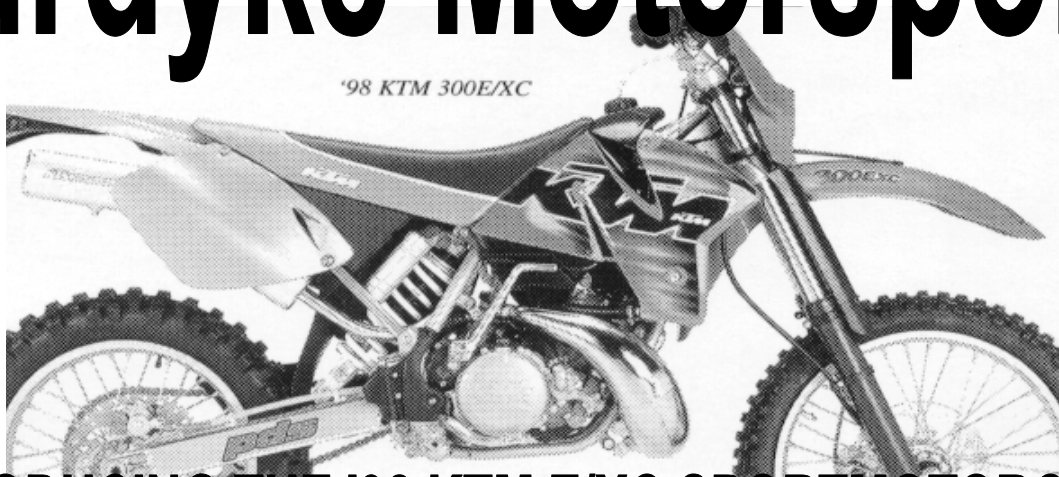
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