

Notes on Spokes



Let's
Go
Racing!

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In This Month's Issue

- Missouri Hare Scramble Championship
Steelville
Lebanon
Marshfield
- Black Jack Enduro Circuit
Lebanon

In this issue:

Racers, start your engines; the Missouri Hare Scrambles Championship began in April; the Black Jack Enduro Circuit continued on May 2 and the Arkansas Hare Scramble Series continues. So that is pretty much all I did in April. Unfortunately, I didn't get to Chadwick.

Jerry Sharp accompanied me to the first two MSHC races to see how the new scanning system worked for scoring. He was also able to take pictures, including the one on the front cover, taken at Steelville, MO. Thanks, Jerry.

Speaking of the new scoring system, it worked well. Except at Marshfield where conditions were exceptionally sloppy. If you haven't seen it, the first MHSC race that you sign up for, you get a sticker with a bar code on it. Every time you go through the check, you stop and the scanning person grabs your helmet and scans your bar code.

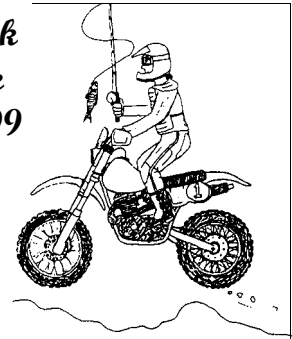
At the remaining races, bring your helmet to sign up to be scanned, pay your money and sign up is done. Cool.

See you on the trail.

Bob

**May 20– OMTRA
meeting at Diamond
Head at 7 PM on
South Campbell.**

**3rd Annual Perch Jerk
Invitational Scramble
Sunday, May 16, 1999**



Greg and Denise Lowe would like to invite you to the third ANNUAL PERCH JERK SCRAMBLE.

Event Format: Timed start & finish, 4 lap race. After 2 laps rider/fisherman must stop, catch and release fish, restart and complete 2 more laps.

Bring the whole family.... Wives, kids, girlfriends (where applicable). Please bring your own fishing poles, if you have them (we can provide a few, but not enough to go around.)

Racing starts at 11:00 am., BBQ at 1:00 pm. **Pre-entry deadline is 5/8/99.** Entry fee is side dish. BBQ provided.

Directions: From West Plains take Hwy 14 west about 1-1/2 miles, turn left through cattle guard, look for flags. From Springfield take Hwy 63 to Hwy 14, turn right approximately 1-1/2 miles, turn left through cattle guard, look for flags.

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TID BITS

Rain !!!

David Berry and his wife, of Lebanon, MO, have a new baby boy, Matthew. I didn't get the date of birth or weight or any important information. But he came a little early. In fact, early enough that he could attend the first race of the MHSC.

If you remember, Jon Simons, Ozark, MO, hurt his knee in Oklahoma City, OK in November, and it was still hurting after months of rehab. His brother Kreg had to drag him back to the doctor to find out that his leg was broken! But it is healing just fine.

This is another trip down memory lane. Back in the March issue I commented on Rusty forgetting his riding gear. It seems that Rusty is still having memory problems. He forgot to bring his boots to the MHSC at Lebanon. Luckily, Shawn Hall had an extra pair of boots with him. Shawn needed to have the carburetor slide modified by Rusty. So, picture this: Shawn, still holding his boots, says, "Rusty, before I let you borrow these boots, just how much is it going to cost me to have the slide cut?"

You need to check out the Flatland Racing web site at www.flatlandracing.com. It has all products, including pictures. Plus, you can order products over the internet.

The ATV-only MHSC at Bolivar has a different starting time. Practice will start at 9:30 a.m. and the race will start at 11:00 a.m..

A personal thanks to Steve Underwood and Jamie Jennings of Surdyke Motorsports in Marionville, MO for their help in tracking down an intermittent electrical problem on my bike. It turned out to be a minor problem, just a bit of exposed metal at a connection that would ground out against the frame, sometimes!

One word can sum up the MHSC near Marshfield, MO on April 25: RAIN. I didn't ride this event, I worked it. The rain started during the ATV race. And it didn't stop. We got over two inches of rain on Sunday.

When I rode sweep after the ATV race, the course was still in good shape. But the rain wouldn't stop. When we swept after the bikes, we felt lucky to get back. The creeks kept rising and the ground got more saturated. Luckily, the ground was pretty rocky, but a few places rutted up bad. In fact, you were lucky to get out of the parking area without a tow.

Promoter Jerry Sharp said, "An amazing sight to me was a line of about 20 riders, standing in the rain waiting to enter the event." An additional three miles of trails had been cut for the motorcycles, but due to the rain, it was not run. Too bad, it included a radical off-camber section followed by a very steep downhill..

I don't have any pictures from the motorcycle race. I didn't want to get my camera out in the rain.

Steve Leivan overalled, giving him three wins in a row in the Missouri Hare Scramble Championship series.



"Jerry, I didn't know you had a tilt trailer." Here's a photo we managed to get on Saturday. Ok, it's a re-enactment.

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LEIVAN GETS NASTY

BY: FRANK LEIVAN

STEELVILLE, MO; APRIL 11

Steve Leivan began his defense of his number one plate with a convincing win at the opening round of the Missouri Hare Scrambles Championship. Leivan, a six-time and defending champion took over the lead early on the opening lap and stretched it out to a minute and a half advantage by the checkered flag.

The series, now in its 18th season, kicked off under ideal racing conditions with an 11.4 mile course laid out by the Nasty Creek Dirt Riders. The event is one of the most technical and challenging rounds of the series, with many rocky, off-camber trails, creek sections, and a grass track section thrown in for spectator appeal. Lap times for the front runners measured right around 30 to 31 minutes, with Leivan's winning speed average of 22.4 mph.

In what became very repetitious during the 1998 campaign, Chris Nesbitt shot his J&W Cycles Yamaha in front of the 13 rider AA pack. Chris Thiele, in his first race since a knee injury took him out of the series at the penultimate round of last years series, followed in second, with Illinois rider John Roth and Yamaha-mounted Brandon Forrester in tow. Leivan's race would begin from the sixth place position.



The new scoring system!

After blasting down the open creek section right off the start, the riders headed up a hilly, off-camber section. Nesbitt, while trying to remove a tear off, lost control and went down, moving Thiele into the lead. Nesbitt was able to hold onto second, only briefly though, as he went down again, just a few yards down the



Steve Leivan on his way to the overall

trail, this time collecting Forrester with him. Roth moved up to second and Leivan took over third.

Leivan closed in on Roth a couple of miles into the lap, while Thiele opened up a comfortable lead. "When I caught up to John, I couldn't see Chris, which made me a little nervous. John moved over and let me by as soon as I caught him, which was pretty cool, and I picked it up and went after Chris. It took me until about halfway through the lap before I ran him down," said Leivan

When Leivan reeled in Thiele, he was surprised that Thiele moved over and allowed him to take over the lead. "I was a little tentative. out there, first race back and all. I didn't have any-

thing for Steve, so I let him go and tried to follow," explained Thiele. Leivan would have only a handful of seconds over Thiele at the conclusion of the first lap. In third position, a minute and twenty seconds back, was Brock Busenbark with YZ400 rider Ken Yount close behind. Both of these riders rode only selected events in 1998, but appear to be ready to go this year.

The second lap saw Leivan extend his lead to 40 seconds over Thiele's Kawasaki, despite a slight sputtering problem with the bike. "After the creek section, the bike 'missed' a couple of times. I thought maybe we had some water get into the fuel or something, but after a few seconds, it cleaned out and was okay for a few miles," Leivan said.

Thiele maintained his cushion over the Yount/Busenbark battle that saw Yount take over third after two laps while Busenbark followed only three seconds back. Mike Windmann, the runner up in the 1998 series and overall winner of the Nasty Creek event last year, moved up from seventh on lap one to fifth at the end of the second circuit.

Leivan's third lap was quite eventful, as the water problem surfaced once again. This time it was a little more severe. "After the second lap, I should have known to take it easy in the creek, but I didn't and my bike sputtered some more. It was a little sketchy there for a mile or so, but once it dried out, I was able to pick up the pace again. It really wasn't much of a problem, except for the really tight stuff," stated Leivan.

The third lap problems were not over for Leivan, though. Halfway through the lap, Leivan encountered a few lapped riders who were negotiating a tricky downhill, rather slowly. Two riders were stopped

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According to his friends, Danny Overturf was having problems with his motor skills

at the bottom of the hill, where the trail made a sharp left turn with not much room. Another rider was going down the hill while another had fallen and lay trapped beneath his bike. The trapped rider turned out to be Leivan's dad.

"When I saw my dad, I started yelling at those guys to get the bike off of him. It didn't look like he was really hurt, but I could tell that he couldn't move," said Leivan. One of the stopped riders went to help, while the rider directly in front of Leivan stepped off of his bike to assist the elder Leivan also. "When Jim got off of his bike to help dad, it fell right onto me. I was trying to get untangled from his bike, keep an eye on dad, and not fall myself," Leivan said. As it turned out, despite the congestion, everyone got going, after a short delay.

Leivan still maintained a comfortable lead when the white flag came out, 52 seconds over Thiele, while Yount had distanced himself from Busenbark by nearly 40 seconds. Windmann's KTM was in a lonely fifth, a minute behind Busenbark, but a minute and a half ahead of Roth. Bobby Duncan had complete control of the "A" class by this time. Duncan, just 16 years old, was making his debut on the big bikes and appears to have things figured out.

The final lap saw Leivan pick up the pace on his SCR/Yamaha/Answer/Dunlop/Silkolene backed WR400 and claim the checkers with a minute and a half to spare. "I felt really strong today and despite a little problem with the water, my bike worked great. I feel really comfortable after having a whole year on the four stroke and riding the GNCC series this year has helped make me stronger, both physically and mentally. This is a great way to start out the year, and I am really looking forward to the rest of the series.

Thiele completed a great "first ride back" to claim runner-up honors on his Team Green-backed KX250. Chances are that Thiele will get stronger and more comfortable as the season goes on and will certainly prove to be a title contender. Teenager Busenbark, completed the podium in third, matching the best ride of his career. Yount slowed on the final lap, but still held tough to finish in fourth. Windmann cruised in to take fifth and some valuable points toward the series championship.

Roth negotiated the rocky trails on his YZ250 to claim sixth, while Duncan raised many an eye with his convincing win in the "A" class and seventh overall performance, despite riding the final lap with a flat front tire. Eighth went to Dan Burgard, who has just made the jump to the "AA" ranks. Burgard finished only six seconds ahead of Tanner England, who in turn had just seven seconds on the XR250 of Kevin

Boyle, who is also in the "AA" class for the first time, and filled out the top 10.

Results

Overall: 1. Steve Leivan (Yam); 2. Chris Thiele (Kaw); 3. Brock Busenbark (Yam); 4. Ken Yount (Yam); 5. Mike Windmann (KTM); 6. John Roth (Yam); 7. Bobby Duncan (Yam); 8. Dan Burgard (Yam); 9. Tanner England (Yam); 10. Kevin Boyle (Hon)

AA: 1. Chris Thiele (Kaw); 2. Brock Busenbark (Yam); 3. Ken Yount (Yam); 4. Mike Windmann (KTM); 5. John Roth (Yam)

A: 1. Bobby Duncan (Yam); 2. Dwight Maggard (Yam); 3. Kevin Borts (Suz); 4. Matt Faletti (KTM); 5. Ryan Wuebbeling (Yam)

125 B: 1. Josh Murray (Suz); 2. Todd Reed (Yam); 3. Jason Dill (Kaw); 4. Ryan Marocco (Yam); 5. Casey Hinkel (Yam)

200 B: 1. Steve Crews (Kaw); 2. Troy Taff (Kaw); 3. Matt Mannering (Kaw); 4. Robert Armon (Kaw); 5. Sean Plamer (KTM)

250 B: 1. Tim Gibson (Yam); 2. Matt Weis (Yam); 3. John Baner (Kaw); 4. Danny Crawford (Hon); 5. Bryan Roy (Kaw)

250 C: 1. Kermit Turner (KTM); 2. Lars Valin (Hon); 3. Jeff Shrader (Yam); 4. Michael Hamilton (Yam); 5. John Loughman (Kaw)

Open B: 1. Mark Kendall (Suz); 2. Karl Harris (Hon); 3. Tom Prenger (KTM); 4. Jeff Kuechenmeister (ATK); 5. Brian Richardson (Yam)

4 stroke B: 1. Danny Herberlie (Yam); 2. Les Busenbark (Yam); 3. Joseph Armon (Hon); 4. Jeremy Altis (Hon); 5. Curt Herberlie (Hon)

Vet: 1. Brian Sharp (Kaw); 2. Dave Berry (Suz); 3. John Baner (Kaw); 4. Kreg Simons (Yam); 5. Tom Summers (Yam)

Senior: 1. Jay Williams (Yam); 2. Andy Nored (Kaw); 3. Jimmy Jones (Kaw); 4. Mark Beck (KTM); 5. Jim Yount (Hon)

Super Senior: 1. Rick Whelove (KTM); 2. Jim Letellier (KTM); 3. Frank Leivan (Yam); 4. Gerald Frericks (KTM)

Junior: 1. Zach Mabery (Hon); 2. Nate Lane (Yam); 3. Jeremy Hansen (Yam); 4. Patrick Myers (Kaw); A. Derrick Scott (Yam)

Women: 1. Rebecca Jackson (Kaw); 2. Michele Eidam (KTM); 3. Sherri De-clue (Kaw); 4. Kellie Crawford (Hon); 5. Amanda Lappe (Hon)

Trailrider: 1. Rick Adams (Hon); 2. Mike Dieckhaus (Yam); 3. Carl Sharp (Yam); 4. Damian Hahoney (Hon); 5. Sam Boenker (Kaw)

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Fischer overcomes the odds at Lebanon



Jeff Fischer on his way to winning.

On May 2nd, the Cannon Creek Enduro was held outside Lebanon, MO. It was the fourth Black Jack Enduro of the year. A fifteen mile loop was laid out with two special tests. The checks at the start of the special tests were known controls, so no time-keeping

was required. So it was kind of a hybrid of an European-style enduro and a regular BJEC enduro. The speed average through the special tests was set at 39 mph, so everyone was late.

The first special test was at the very beginning of the loop, but the first time around it was not timed. Then, there was approximately ten miles of trails before the second special test, which also happened to be at the end of the loop. If you were on time, you had



Dwight Maggard leads Kreg Simons into the first corner of a Special Test.



Oops

about fifteen minutes at camp before starting out on the next loop.

This was the same land where the Missouri Hare Scrambles Championship series held an event 2 weeks earlier, so a little over half the loop was existing trail, which Terry Brumley said reminded him of Timberline trail in Colorado. It was rocky with lots of up and down hills. The new sections of trail were a mix of grass track sections and single track.

The extra short course for women and youth consisted of one trail loop and one special test. The short course had three loops with five special tests. The B riders rode the course 4 times with 7 special tests. The A and AA riders rode one more special test.

Jeff Fischer won the event overall. He had to overcome a flat tire on his way to winning. At the end of the second loop, his rear tire went flat. Luckily, he had approximately 15 minutes between loops to change tubes. Steve Leivan followed with second overall. I'll have the complete results in next month's issue.

Now for my personal opinion of this type of format: It's a lot fun. It is possible to put one of these on a smaller piece of land and we all know how hard it is to find a few thousand acres to have an enduro. But more of the special tests need to be tie-breakers. Maybe all of them. Only tests one and five were tie-breakers, the rest were secret checks. The tie-breakers were timed to the second, the rest to the minute. Riders got the same score whether they came into the check at zero seconds or 59 seconds. I don't know how or if this would have affected overall finishing positions, but the A and AA riders rode eight test sections and only two of them were timed to the second.



Scott Johns shows proper form going up the same hill.





DAVIS

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AA riders take to the woods in the first corner.

I'll run complete results with the official report in next month's issue.



Lee Glenn demonstrates problems encountered in the parking area.

One of my personal rules about riding off-road motorcycle events is: if you have to get pulled into the parking area by a tractor, go home. The other time this happened to me was at Stillwater, OK several years ago, and that proved to be one of the nastiest events I have ever ridden. So when I saw the land owner pulling people in, I was very concerned. Fortunately, only the parking area was bottomless. So I guess I can scratch that off my list of rules.

The parking area was very soft, but the strange part was that you could walk across it without getting your feet muddy.

This was an interesting event for me. My bike had its electrical gremlins and I ended up spectating. This proved to be more dangerous than racing, as John Reppy from Republic can attest, after he stepped on a copperhead snake.

Steve Leivan completed five laps in 2:01:48 to take the win. Chris Thiele followed by 2 minutes and thirteen seconds to take second.

OMTRA Stuff

The OMTRA meeting was held at Mexican Villa South on April 15. Over 25 members attended. Shawn Hall reported on upcoming events including the Lebanon Hare Scramble, the Marshfield Hare Scramble and the Lebanon Enduro.

Shawn again announced that everyone should be receiving KeyTime magazine. If you don't, let him know. He noticed in the last issue recognition was given to the number of Springfield riders taking part in the events and their top finishes in these events.

The OMTRA officer elections will be coming up in July. Please consider which office you might like to hold this year.

It was reported that the spring storms had caused some trees to fall in the Chadwick riding area but nothing was impassable. Shawn, Bob, Jerry, Casey and Cliff have volunteered to ask for a meeting with the new Forest Department employees covering the Chadwick area. He feels it is important to convey our own environmental concerns for the area and offer our services in whatever areas we can be helpful. It is important to retain good relations with the Forest Service.

Mention was again made of the upcoming Perch Jerk at West Plains on May 16. Directions to Greg's house should be elsewhere in this newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to come.

Jerry Sharp thanked everyone for their help in supporting his events and also for their support during his illness.

The idea of doing some Enduro Class motos at some of the local motocross tracks was brought up. Everyone seemed to like the idea of maybe one a month. Jerry Sharp is checking into the schedules at the local tracks to see when we can schedule them.

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Mark Your Calendar

May 16 – 3rd Annual Perch Jerk Invitational Scramble
Greg and Denise Lowe 417-256-1467

May 20 OMTRA meeting. Diamond Head on South Campbell at 7 p.m.

1999 BJEC Schedule

Lee Glenn
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- 5/23 Lead Belt, Flat River, MO
- 8/8 Breezy Hills, Breezy Hills, LA
- 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

Arkansas Hare Scramble Championship Series
Mike Lorenz
501-648-1696

- 5/16 Turkey Ridge – Searcy
- 6/6 11 Point – Pocohontas
- 6/20 Crossroads – Durham
- 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

Ozark Region – Ponca City Qualifiers
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- 5/8 Sprout Patch – Billings, MO
- 5/16 Radical Rob's – Halfway, MO
- 6/12 Challenge Track – Kingsville, MO
- 6/26 Racer's Edge MX – Baxter Springs, KS
- 7/3 Challenge Track – Kingsville, MO

Missouri Hare Scramble Championship
Frank Leivan
417-537-8406

- 5/16 Columbia, MO
- 5/23 Bolivar, MO (ATV Only)
- 6/6 Florence, MO
- 6/13 Fairfax, MO
- 6/19&20 Park Hills, MO (Racers for Research)
- 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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