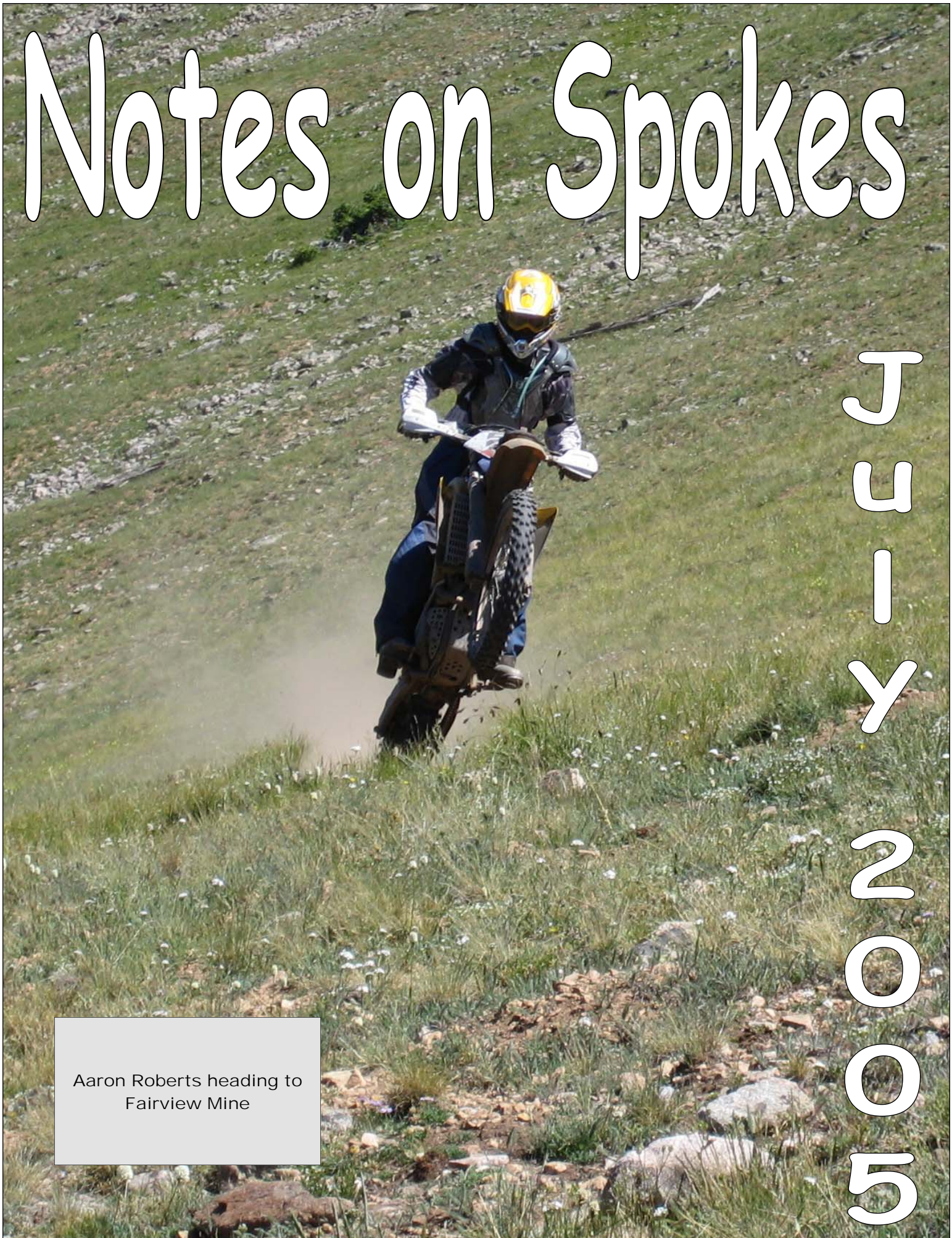


Notes on Spokes

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Aaron Roberts heading to
Fairview Mine



TID BITS

As you can see, Colorado filled up this issue. Get used to it. In a few weeks, I'll be heading back for the Colorado 500. I've got to write about something.

The Ozark Mountain Trail Riders are raffling off a Yamaha TTR 90. They have purchased two bikes, one to raffle off and the other to give to a kid who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to have a bike of his own. There are a total of 400 tickets, so your chance is pretty good of ending up with this bike.

I saw the little bike the other day and it's pretty neat. Yes, it's a little small for me. But it does have a button!

OMTRA members will have tickets available for sale soon.

Greg West, the new OMTRA Social Chairman, is hard at work. He's got the August meeting set up, August 17th at Ryan's Steakhouse on South Campbell, and he's got a great t-shirt already designed for the Hardwood Enduro this fall. Good job, Greg.

Usually a bunch of folks from the Springfield area head up to St. Louis for the Supercross. Mark your calendars, because it is in February this year. I know of a travel agent who has a block of rooms reserved. Call me if you are interested.

OMTRA had a booth set up at the Wonders of Wildlife's Adventure Day on July 30th. I'll have pictures in next month's issue. We spread the word to a few folks who didn't know there was off-road racing or a club in Springfield.

Hard core racing: I've read of two hard core events coming up. The first is call Last Man Standing. It's going to be at the same location as the Red River BJEC event at Bulcher, TX. It's the weekend after the BJEC event on November 12th and 13th. Only top riders can ride, and half of the event is at night. See www.lastmanstanding.com

Second is the Endurocross in Las Vegas. Several local riders are trying to get together a trip for one of the top Midwest riders. I'll have more details as they become available.

A reminder: This is the last year I'm going to do Notes on Spokes. If you know of anyone interested in continuing the newsletter, please have them contact me. Thanks.

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COLORADO!

By Bob Fuerst

It was time for the annual trek to Colorado. This year, we were heading to Taylor Park. We didn't even try to form a caravan to head out. Linda and I with her nephew Thomas headed out on Thursday, July 14th, to do the tourist thing at Dodge City, KS and Royal Gorge, CO, getting to Taylor Park on Saturday. We were heading into Dodge City when an RV with trailer pulled out onto the road in front of us. It was Max and Daniel Harkey. They had been battling vapor lock problems (in the RV, dummy, not Max). They thought it was a problem with the gas cap, since they had removed it and the RV ran better. We followed them into Dodge City for a new gas cap and they were on their way for a few more miles. But it wasn't the gas cap. They spent the night in the parking lot of a repair shop, waiting for a new fuel pump to be installed. *The fuel pump is inside the fuel tank on Max's RV.*

We next saw Max and Daniel when we pulled into a gas station in Pueblo, CO, and there they were. What are the odds?

Don't open the awning at 50 mph

Don't ever try to open your RV's awning at 50 mph. This happened to us between Pueblo and Canyon City. Luckily, I got it stopped quickly and no damage was done. Of course, we had to make our traditional stop at the Wal-Mart in Salida, CO.

On the rims

While in Salida, I got a good signal on my cell phone and called Chili. Aaron "Chili" Roberts was headed out with Mick "250 on a 250" Spickard, Shane Roberts and Jordan Whitmer. It was Jordan's first trip to Colorado. I found out that this crew was behind us and behind schedule. They had a double blow-out on the trailer tires just outside Abilene, KS at 2 a.m. They got to spend the night at a tire shop in

Abilene. Chili said he didn't even feel it when the tires blew out and toasted two rims. They had only made it to Limon, CO by the time I had made it to Salida. They did contribute \$505 to the Abilene economy for three new rims and four tires. They now have two spares for the trailer, plus one of the tires on the other side was bad.

Where am I?

We head to Taylor Park by way of Cottonwood Pass. The funny thing was, I gave directions to two people, both with Colorado tags on their cars, while we were parked on the pass.

Leave me at Wal-Mart

Ah, we finally made it to Taylor Park. We met up with more folks from Missouri. Camping next to us were the Bryants, Keith and Jen Bryant with sons Zack and Nick, regulars on the MHSC series. Their trip out was not without incident. They pulled off to get a few hours of shut eye in a Wal-Mart parking lot. Zack woke up and decided to do some shopping. About 45 minutes later, he came out and the rig was gone! He thought they were playing a joke on him, but they were almost 45 minutes down the road! Luckily, he had his cell phone with him.

Oops, I looped out in fifth gear

Also at the campground were Kevin Boyle and a couple other folks who race the MHSC series, and the flatlanders from Texas. Zack had been riding with this group when they decided to go for one more short loop before dark. Heading back to camp, Zack pulled a wheelie. And not just any wheelie: he was up to fifth gear when he had to set it down. The bike did this big time slapper and he slid for a long way. He got a major burn on his elbow. No more riding in Colorado this week for Zack.



One of the trailer rims

OK, it's time to go riding

On our first day of riding, we decided to take it a little easy. You should take

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

it a little easy until acclimated to the altitude. The elevation at Taylor park was 9,455 feet, according to my GPS. We took the road to Lily Pond Trail. The road is the main road out of Taylor



Mick, Jordan, Nick and Shane coming down American Flag Mountain.

Park, also known as Forest Service Road 742. Then, you need to take a left on FS 748 and right on FS 760. There is a sign pointing to Lily Pond trail at this intersection. Lily Pond is also trail 534. It's a good single track to start out on. Nice and winding, but no big climbs or descents. This trail goes all the way to Dor-

chester campground, but we turned off on Reno Divide Road, which parallels Italian Creek at this point. This road takes you up to Widner's cabin, Star Mine and American Flag Mountain. Just after the pass, take a left on the trail that takes you to FS 744. You have to turn right off FS 744 at the swampy place onto trail 415, Bear Creek Trail. Bear Creek is a fun trail, but it does have a few intersections in it that can be easy to miss. Plus it had a few climbs that caught me by surprise. This trail leads to Deadman Gulch Trail. There was another group of riders stopped at this trail. Hey wait, I know some of those riders. Big John and Bruce Lowery from the Colorado 500 were out for a little ride. They thought it was neat that I took two trips to Colorado every summer to ride dirt bikes. I think it's neat, too.

At the top of Deadman Gulch the trail becomes 420. I call this trail 39 Switchbacks. I actually haven't counted the number of switchbacks, but the trail goes back and forth a lot before it gets to Cement Creek Road. Just before the trail gets to the road, the trail crosses Cement Creek. Hikers and mountain bikers get to cross a downed tree with a flat side to make a bridge. There were a group of mountain bikers. We had passed two on the way down and the third was already at the bottom. They got a kick out of watching us cross the creek.

We turned right and headed up to trail 562. This is not a single track. It's ATV wide. (Divide fun factor by the number of tracks.) It was also very dusty. Then we took a short section of Reno Divide Road to Flag Creek Trail. This trail is very popular with mountain bikers. From Flag Creek, we headed to Spring Creek Reservoir. Not wanting to take the road back to Taylor Park, we headed up to Doctor's Park Trail.

There were several folks on this trail who should not have been there and didn't want to be there. Two mountain bikers were heading up this big hill. It's a long winding trail that just keeps going up. We were going down the hill and these two mountain bikers were heading up it without any water and it was getting late in the day. Luckily, once they got to the top of the hill, it was pretty much downhill to the main road.

This trail jumps out on a gravel road for a short bit. This is where we bumped into "the hippy" on a YZ450. He was riding with a guy on a DRZ who had not been on a dirt bike in ten years. They got separated. The truck was parked at Cement Creek. He didn't know how to get there. We gave him some

(Continued on page 5)



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(Continued from page 4)

directions and the last we saw of him, he was heading toward Cement Creek. I hope he found his truck and his buddy. Our group didn't see the buddy on Doctor's Park trail.

I was also low on gas at this point and headed back by road with Mick Spickard. I had to hit reserve before I got to the main gravel road. I made it all the way to Taylor Park on reserve.

Greg and Alicia West, new members of the OM-TRA, made it to Taylor Park to join us.

Hell day

Chili was way too pumped this day. I think he wanted to take all the toughest trails in the state of Colorado. We headed out of Taylor Park by way of Union Park. Just past Union Park, we take a left on Cameron Creek Trail. Well, at least most of us take a left, Nick Bryant goes right past three of us. Jordan has to chase him down and bring him back. At the top of Cameron Creek trail is sacred ground. This is where Chili met Scott Summers. OK, it was four years ago, but Chili will always remember the exact spot where they met.

We headed down Gold Creek Trail for a short ways and took a left on Fairview Mine Trail. It's great fun for the first half. Mick followed me with his helmet cam. It was great to watch our trail rides at night. The last half of this trail is very off camber and ends with some tight switchbacks.

After the single track, we showed Jordan and Nick around the mine. They had never been there. Then, it was a trip down the two-track to Pitkin. This journey was not without incident, as Nick tried to sample the softness of the Colorado rocks. They aren't very soft.

In Pitkin, it was time for lunch and fuel. Lunch is always better on the trail.

After lunch, we were headed to Granite Mountain. Start by heading toward Middle Quartz campground. Turn right at the first gravel road and cross the creek. Then as the road starts bending to the right, take the nasty boulder road to the left. This becomes a single track, trail 485, that takes you up to the back of the bowl. I don't know the name of the bowl, the map doesn't have a name. But this bowl is at least a mile across. Once you get into the bowl, the trail becomes 481. There is a tricky intersection to catch on this trail. You

are going downhill for a long, long time and finally you come to a horse camp. You need to make a right and cross the creek. Then, make a hard right on the single track. Stay on this trail until you come to Horseshoe Trail, trail 482. This trail is officially tough. It took us two hours to go seven miles. And they were not without incident. Let's see, first, Nick overheated his bike. Then I crashed and bent my shifter and poked a small hole in my side case, the ignition side. The

(Continued on page 6)



Jordan crossing Cement Creek







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(Continued from page 5)

trail starts with some nasty creek crossings, followed by some rocky climbs. Every time you thought you had made it to the top, there was another climb. Then there was a short section where you could actually shift up to second gear. Better be careful; the longest, steepest off-camber climb that I have



Bob crossing Texas Creek.

ever ridden surprises you as you make a left-hand corner. It was somewhere along this trail that Nick broke his brake lever. After the long climb, you have to stop at the cabin. You are usually so tired at this point that you have to stop.


We fixed a couple of bikes and took a break. At least until the mosquitoes tried to carry us off. The trail is not over yet. There is quite a climb to the summit. It was in this section that Mick tried to be an astronaut. It must have been what he wanted to be as a kid, because he kept launching his bike. As I passed him, his bike was straight up and down and about to land on his header pipe. *If anyone has a good deal on a header pipe for a WR250, contact Mick.*

You do get a bit of a break as you ride along the summit. You'd better rest up during this section, because once you crest Granite Mountain, you have to go down the rockiest switchbacks. Everyone had to walk their bikes at some point. Well, I could walk my bike without getting off of it. It's one of the toughest trails that I have ever tried to go down. I've got to add, the trail was dry and it was one of the easiest ascents I've ever made up Horseshoe.

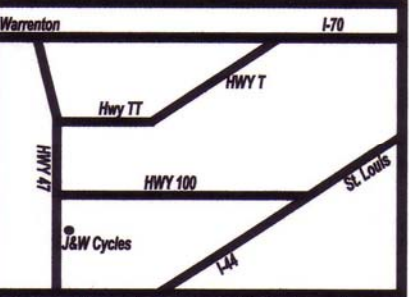
What's a Pieplant?

We didn't let up for day three. The rest of the crew had never ridden the north end of Timberline Trail. So we headed up the road to Cottonwood Pass and took a left on Timberline. This day, Max and Daniel Harkey joined us. If you are not familiar with this trail, this is the tough end of the trail, but we were taking it the easy way. We took this trail all the way to Pieplant Mill Site. The whole way down this trail Mick and Chili were playing trials. Every time one touched the ground, a dab, they got a point. They had all kinds of rules. For example, if I stopped to look around to find the trail, they could stop and not get a point. If I just slowed down but didn't stop, they had to go slow with dabbing. And

(Continued on page 7)



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(Continued from page 6)

whoever got the fewest points since the last time I stopped got to follow me for the next section.

This went on all the way to the end of the trail. Then we stopped and looked around at the Pieplant Mill Site. After this, we headed back to Taylor Park for lunch and fuel.

Then, it was on to Star trail. We were almost to Star Trail, 411, when Keith and Nick Bryant, heading the other way, stopped us and told us they had ridden Star



Daniel on Timberline Trail

Trail from north to south. I've never ridden it going this direction. I've always ridden it from south to north. I've always thought it was too tough to ride the other direction.

Our trip up Star Trail was rather uneventful. It's got all the good stuff, rocky uphill, rock gardens, rock ledges, roots, creeks and a monster downhill. And we rode it the easy way!

By the way, a pieplant is a rhubarb plant.

Tourist day

We had had three tough days up to this point. It was time to take it a little easier. Chili, Mick, Jordan and myself on bikes hooked up with Linda and Thomas on ATVs and headed over to St. Elmo. We took the road to Tin Cup, headed past Mirror Lake and over Tin Cup Pass. The road gets pretty bumpy once you pass Mirror Lake. It's easily doable by bike or ATV. But I did see a brand new Ford F-150 4 X 4 coming the other way, so I guess it's not that bumpy.

In St. Elmo, we had to stop for a Mountain Dew and ice cream sandwich. By the way, I still owe Mick for that ice cream sandwich, don't let me forget. You must take time to feed the ground squirrels and chipmunks. The folks of St. Elmo have set up a habitat for the little critters and you can buy some sunflower seeds to feed them. They climb all over you to get fed.

Then we headed up to Hancock Pass. The road is an old railroad bed. It's really in good shape, you could drive a car up it. You go past the old town site of Hancock. It's worth stopping and looking around. Hancock is at the east end of the Alpine Tunnel. There are some signs at this end of the tunnel, but the museum is at the west end of the tunnel. We took a left and right to head up to Hancock Pass. This part gets pretty rough. Linda commented that this was the roughest trail that she had ever taken an ATV up.

At this point, we split up. Chili, Mick and Jordan ride over to the museum on the west end of the Alpine tunnel. I take Linda and Thomas and head down. We had already made that stop. We headed over Cumberland Pass by way of the old road, then took Slaughterhouse Gulch back to Taylor Park.

The other group went back by way of Fairview mine, the first part of hell day in reverse.

(Continued on page 8)



Jordan dropped the bike on Star Trail

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(Continued from page 7)

The Last Day

For our last day of riding, we rode the rest of the Timberline Trail. We picked it up on Cottonwood Pass road. Well, some of us did. Chili's Husky was leaking gas and he turned around at the trail-head. The rest of us, Mick, Jordan, Shane, Max, Daniel and myself, rode Timberline to the end at Mirror Lake and took Willow Creek road to Tin Cup.



Thomas, Jordan, Chili and Mick feed the chipmunks in St. Elmo.

Just in time for lunch at Frenchie's. Of course, we had to stop at Frenchie's.

Chili had never managed to get to Frenchie's for lunch. His streak is still alive. As we finished up, here comes Larry Scharnhorst, another Springfield rider. He was camping at Pitkin with Dale Rector and a few other folks. It's a small world.

After lunch, all I wanted was a nap, but instead we headed to Napoleon Pass. For some reason, I've always ridden the other direction. It's a pretty tough ATV trail that parallels Cumberland Pass road. We talked about heading back to Taylor Park by way of Fairview Mine, but since Chili wasn't there, the group voted to head back the easy way, using the old Cumberland Pass road and Slaughterhouse Gulch.

Loading up and heading home

With the riding over with, there wasn't much more to do except get out of there. We did do something new this year. All the folks with digital cameras loaded their pictures on my laptop and I burned CDs for everyone with over 380 pictures on each CD.

Mick and Chili took the big rig over Cottonwood Pass. By big rig, I mean a crew cab pickup with a 35-foot fifth wheel and a 12-foot trailer behind that. Chili reported that they could look out the side window and see the back trailer!

Kansas was just as flat and wide as it was on the trip out, except we were going home to 104 degree temperatures.

OMTRA Minutes

The July OMTRA meeting was held on the 13th at Bredeaux Pizza on Battlefield, with several members, old and new, in attendance. The first order of business was the election of this year's officers. This year's officers are:

President — Shane Martin

Vice President — Kevin Hensley

Secretary — Judy Willis

Treasurer — Mike Davis

Social Chairman — Greg West

Mike Davis informed the club that several new members and families joined at the OMTRA play day. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event, and the club is considering hosting another one, possibly after the Hardwood Enduro. Karl and Julie Harris were very instrumental in the success of the club play day and were recognized for their efforts.

OMTRA stickers and hats are still for sale. Greg West is working on some new designs for these items and should have some samples for viewing at an upcoming meeting. The club would like to have a new design by the Enduro.

The club is also working on marking some of the established trails at Bull Creek. The aluminum for the signs was graciously donated by Midwest Sheet Metal.

Bob Fuerst reports he is busy working on the trails at Bull Creek, getting ready for the Enduro. Many trails are in need of some clip-

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 8)

ping and grooming. The club is planning an Enduro Work Day on August 6-7. Plan to be there with clippers and chain saws. There is a lot of area that needs work, so please attend if possible.

Kevin Hensley and several other club members will be running a check at the upcoming Blackjack Enduro event in Blackjack, Mo.

The new Hillbilly GP schedule is now posted on the Web site. Spud and his crew are pretty excited about the new event sites this year as well as some new classes and other changes.

Mike Davis gave a report on the monetary status of the club. Some club money was used last month to help the Leivan family with groceries during their time at Cox Hospital while Frank was getting treatment. It was also noted that club member Scott Frazier helped the Leivans with some accommodation expenses during Frank's hospital stay.

The club voted on and agreed to sponsor the gift of a mini bike to some lucky youngster this Christmas. The club will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win your own mini bike. These proceeds will then be used to purchase a mini bike to be given away at Christmas time. Kevin Hensley has more information on the types of bikes and Mike Davis has the raffle tickets ready to sell. Contact either of them for more information.

Aaron Kloppe informed the club that Wonders of Wildlife is sponsoring an outdoor adventure event on July 30. They asked him to contact the club about setting up some bikes and trailers in the parking lot for families to view. They also requested club members be present to discuss motorcycling with interested parties. Several club members volunteered to be there with their equipment, including Jeff Shelton and Elston and Donna Moore.

Raffle items for the meeting were donated by Elston Moore. They included a new calendar, won by Spud, and a bag of assorted maintenance items won by Dale Willis.

Next month's meeting will be held on Aug 12 at a location yet to be determined.

Judy Willis

OMTRA Secretary



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Mark Your Calendar

OMTRA meeting—August 17th at Ryan's Steak House, 2501 South Campbell. When you go through the cashier, let them know you are with the OMTRA - Starts at 7pm.

2005 BJEC Schedule

www.BlackJackEnduro.com

- 9/11/05 — Blackjack Ranch, Blackjack, MO
- 9/25/05 — Indian Nations, Scipio, OK
- 10/23/05 — Hardwood, Walnut Shade, MO
- 11/6/05 — Red River, Bulcher, TX

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- 8/21/05 Newark, ATVs AND Bikes on SUNDAY
- 9/4/05 Eugene, Bikes Only
- 9/18/05 Bixby, Bikes Only
- 10/02/05 Smithville, Bikes Only
- 10/15-16/05 Park Hills, ATVs on Sat.

Forward Motion Hare Scramble Series

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- 9/11/05 — HAMILTON MO
- 9/25/05 — CARBONDALE KS
- 10/9/05 — WARRENSBURG MO
- 10/30/05 — MILFORD LAKE KS
- 11/13/05 — CARBONDALE KS

2005-2006 Hillbilly GP

- Oct. 8-9 Thayer Motorsports, Thayer
- Nov. 5-6 Loaiza Dairy Farms, Westphalia
- Dec. 3-4 Mile High, Seymour
- Dec.17-18 Bull Creek, Walnut Shade
(This Will Also Be A Toys For Tots Event)
- Jan. 7-8 Century Farms, Richland
- Jan.28-29 Black Jack Ranch, Collins
- Feb.11-12 Hillbilly Hwy's, Highlandville
- Mar. 4-5 Cassville Nationals, Cassville

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www.arkansasharescramble.com

- 8/13-14/05 — Plumberville
- 9/3-4-/05 — Mayflower
- 9/17-18/05 — Harrison
- 10/1-2/05 — Decatur
- 10/22-23/05 — Ozark
- 11/12-13/05 — Goshen
- 11/26-27/05 — Fort Smith

Learn to balance your bike on a light pole



Actually, this is a picture of Brian Sharp at the OMTRA fun day at Radical Rob's motocross track. On July 3rd, OMTRA rented out the track for members to play. All active members could ride for free. There was a catch. OMTRA membership dues expired on June 30th.

Several folks volunteered to make this happen. Karl Harris worked with the owner of the track to rent the track. Julie Harris spent her day sitting at the gate collecting dues. Mike Davis purchased and cooked many burgers and hot dogs to feed the hungry troops.

Everyone had fun. The club got several new members and got several folks who had not renewed in several years to renew.

If you didn't make it the track was pretty much jump-free, with only two double jumps. In fact, most of the woods riders managed to jump the easier of the two doubles.

It looks like it might be an annual event.



Michael Hall, Shawn and Kim's son, got a week's vacation from serving on a US submarine. He had a good time. It was great to see him.

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