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NEWSLETTER

Local Dirt Bike News

February 1998

CAMPGROUND EXPANSION

The Cobb Ridge expansion continues; as I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Forest Service is preparing to expand the Cobb Ridge campground. There were three alternatives proposed. The first alternative was no action. The second was a north campground, expanding across 171 from the present campground. The third alternative was expanding the existing campground further to the south.

The Forest Service has decided to go with Alternative 3 in a letter dated December 19, 1997. The decision is subject to appeal. Appeals must be filed by February 9, 1998.

Alternative 3 includes:

The campground expansion will be constructed south of the existing Cobb Ridge Campground. The expanded campground will be designed for double and triple sites, with space to accommodate the users. Other improvements include:

- a. Drilling a well to provide water to the campground.
- b. Construction of flush toilets, showers and sewage disposal system.
- c. Developing a host site with utilities and installing a fee station.

- d. Replacing existing vault toilets and installing new vault toilets in the new campground.
- e. Constructing access road and pull-out spurs in the expansion area.
- f. Building a playground in the new campground.
- g. Installing a trailer dump station.

The Forest Service plan may be implemented on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. If an appeal is filed, implementation may not occur for 15 days following the date of the appeal disposition.

Included with the decision notice was a statement that the campground expansion would not make any significant impact and an environmental impact statement is not needed.

(Continued on page 2)

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The Forest Service also received 13 letters and one phone call during the official comment period. They included the comments with the decision notice.

They were very interesting reading. Every one of them was from users of the Chadwick Motorcycle and ATV Use Area. I recognized several of the names of the people commenting. I know them from riding the Black Jack Enduro Circuit. They are from out of state and took the time to send a letter. Thank You.

Most of the letters are very much in favor of the campground expansion. They all express how much they love

to come to ride and camp at Chadwick. They see this as having a positive impact to the Chadwick riding area.

They like the idea of having water and a dump station. Both of which will make their camping experience much better.

Several of the letters commended the U.S.F.S. personnel for all the good work they do and the close working relationship they have with the motorcycle/ATV riders.

There were several interesting points brought forth in the comments and all were responded to by the Forest Service.

Several comments were made regarding the new fences. First, several people would like to see some sort of walk-through to get through the fence, since some of the campers in their group are older and have trouble getting over the fence. *The Forest Service is in the process of incorporating walkways into the picnic areas.*

Second, with the fences there is little space to park the camper, a trailer and several ATVs. *The new camping spots will be larger to accommodate more parking and the larger RVs.*

There is concern regarding non-motorcyclists/ATVers camping at Chadwick and going back and forth to Branson or Table Rock Lake. *The Forest Service responds: Although vacationers visiting Branson or the lakes are welcome to camp at Cobb Ridge, there are many convenient commercial RV parks closer to their destination.*

I feel the Forest Service personnel did an excellent job in getting feedback from the users of the Cobb Ridge campground before they made their decision.

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OMTRA

Minutes of the January 15 meeting.

The January meeting of the OMTRA was held at the Repair Shop on Kearney. They had set up an excellent meeting room for us. Eighteen people made it out on this cold January evening.

Due to the weather forecast and the other extenuating factors the Chadwick work day was pushed back to February 1.

Shawn Hall proposed that he work on a rough draft of the Bylaws for the club. He will then bring copies to the next meeting (or the one after that) for club review and feedback.

We discussed having a rider clinic at Chadwick sometime this spring. We are hoping to expose newer riders to the right way to do this dirt biking thing. We are still looking for someone to head up the Rider Awareness committee.

Membership count is up to 49. Please sign up a buddy to get to that 50 member milestone!

Most of the folks were able to stick around for some good bench racing before heading out in the cold.

The next meeting is February 19 at Mexican Villa South at 7 pm.

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February 1 work day at Chadwick

We had a small but hardy crew to work on 101. **Justin Choate, James Grier, June Grier, Dwayne Mikili, Larry Scharnhorst, Dale Willis, Rusty and Joy Reynaud and myself** put in five hours putting in drainage ditches along 101.

The weather looked very iffy on Sunday morning, but actually worked out to be very good for doing this type of job. It was overcast, but did not rain and the temperature was in the forties.

I will have more on this next month!

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TID BITS

ST. LOUIS SUPERCROSS

If you are thinking of going to the Supercross in St. Louis on March 28, Mel Gere at Action Cycle is going to buy a block of tickets. Right now, Mel has verbal commitment that the tickets include practice and entry into the pits. Mel needs to know if you are going by February 15!

A day in the life of Tommy Ray.

Tommy did so many "interesting" things at Chadwick on New Year's Day in the name of fun that he deserves a whole column all to himself. Tommy "Frugal" Ray did not want to put his new chain and sprockets on before the trail ride. So, about four miles into the ride, someone tells him "Tommy, don't you think it's about time for new chain and sprockets?" "Oh, there back at the truck. I thought I could get one more ride out of these." Wrong. *Three teeth were missing on his rear sprocket already.* By the time he got back to camp, his sprocket was wobbling. He borrowed another rear wheel from Elston Moore and headed out on the second loop.

Somehow he got his bike just a little too close to a tree and ripped off a radiator shroud. (Imagine that at Chadwick.) Well, just about that time another rider on a bike just like his joined the group he was riding with and every time they got to a trail intersection and looked back, they thought it was Tommy. They did this

for four miles. Tommy, being the resourceful fellow he is, zip tied his bike back together. Don't you just love zip ties.

Finally, the group gets back together and things go fine for quite some time. Tommy is a very good rider. But he had a little problem with another tree. Only this one was lying on its side and it was almost the size of the front wheel. There was a smaller tree in front of it.

**The next OMTRA meeting
is February 19 at
Mexican Villa South
2755 S. Campbell
at 7:00 PM**

Just the size to rebound the front wheel off of and over the big log. Wrong again. The smaller tree gave and sucked up all upward and forward momentum. But, somehow the bike made it over the tree, without Tommy. Someone yelled out, "Tommy, your bike made it." In a

daze Tommy said, "Really, what bike?" He couldn't see the bike from where he was standing. I don't think he knew what day it was or where he was, but he was having fun.

On New Year's Day, I was asked to sweep the first loop and I caught up to a group of bikes and ATVs. The riders consisted of **Becky ?, Donna Moore, Joy Reynard, June Greer and Lesa DeLong.** Well, Lesa must be a wild woman. She was on a DR 125. She must have been doing triples, because a pin that held the footpeg in place had broken and the footpeg had rotated down and was four inches lower than it should be. The rest of the group did not want Lesa to miss out on the fun. So Lesa got on Joy's four wheeler and Joy got on the back. Joy said Lesa blasted every water hole, soaking Joy in the process.

Steve Gann volunteered to give **Max Harkey** a ride down to the DR 125 on his four wheeler. When we get down to the DR, Steve says, "We would have gotten here quicker, if Max had kept his pee pee in his pants." Say what?

Randal Mathis gave me this Tid Bit. He and **Rusty Reynaud** took a bunch of riders out on the second loop.

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Tid Bits continued...

One of them had only been riding for three months. Well, the second loop was a little tough for someone who had only been riding for three months. Anyhow, one of these riders came up to Rusty and asked if he had ever raced before. Rusty said once or twice. Rusty, maybe you should give it a try. You seem to be pretty fast on a bike.

I received a membership application for the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders the other day from **Jeff Smith** of Nixa, MO. He said, "I participated in the 1/1/98 Chadwick clean up and fun ride and heard of the OMTRA. Thank you for your work to preserve what we have." Thanks, Jeff, and thanks for joining the club.

As I am writing this the Winter X Games are on ESPN2. It's pretty cool. One of the games is Snocross. It looks like motocross on snowmobiles. I did not see any triples, but they were doing doubles and whoops. The corner speed did not seem as fast as a bike, but it definitely looked fun. The machines weigh 500 pounds and cost \$20,000.

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One of the other games was downhill mountain biking on the ski slopes with spikes in the tires. They were saying the competitors were getting so far back on the bikes that they were wearing holes in their pants. Drawing blood. Ouch. Hey, what about fenders!

OK CITY ARENA CROSS

Johnie Freebe, Larry Scharhorst, Dale Willis and I went down to Oklahoma City on January 10 to see the Arenacross. It was real cool. We saw some excellent racing. **Cliff Palmer**, an OK City native, put on a real good show. He got first in the 125 race and a close second in the 250 race. We had ring side seats. There was a good chance of getting roost in your beer!

The OK City Arenacross is a good way to get out and see some good racing in the middle of winter. The track they make at the Lazy-E arena is almost as big as the St. Louis Supercross.

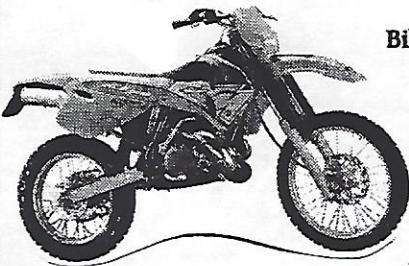
They have 50cc races at the intermissions. It was great the kids rode the whole track. In one the first races one of the kids blew the first corner and flipped over the berm. Boy, those kids are flexible at that age. He bounced up and was on his way.

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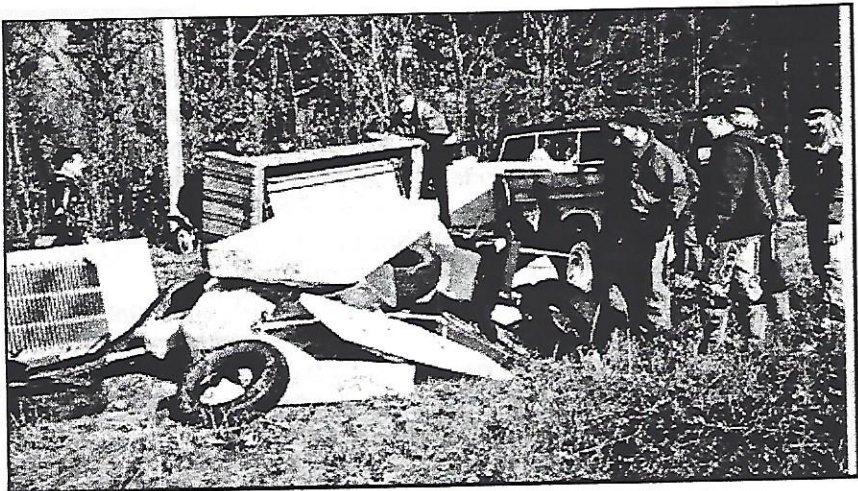
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New Year's Day!

The New Year's Day clean up, trail ride and cook-out was a complete success. Almost 90 riders showed up and the weather was about as good as it gets for New Year's Day. Shawn Hall, OMTRA Chairman, had a bent flipper. *He hurt his arm swimming. Not diving. No, he didn't hit anything. Shawn you're getting OLD.* Anyhow, Shawn volunteered to run things back at the pavilion. The teeming masses went out to pick up trash. Boy, did they find the trash. There was enough over by Strawberry Ridge to set up house-

keeping. A couch, table, chairs, two refrigerators and more. The ditches were picked

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Here is the crew unloading the trash for pickup on Hwy. H at Strawberry Ridge.

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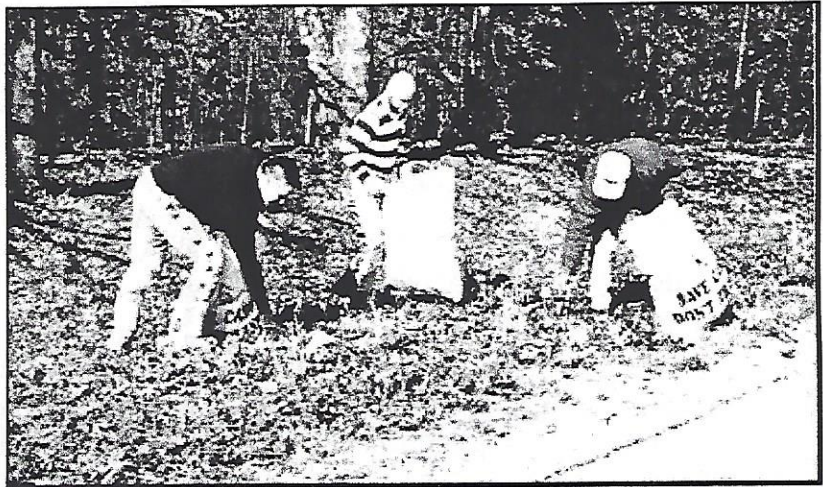
clean. There were yellow trash bags lining the road when I left. GOOD JOB!

Daniel and Max Harkey, Rusty Reynaud, Randell Mathis, Steward Hall and myself laid out the trails for the ride. The first loop was approximately 8 miles. It mostly consisted of 101. We wanted to have something everyone could ride. The second loop was much tougher. It consisted of approximately 18 miles of trails used in the famous Chadwick enduro (or is that the infamous Chadwick enduro?). Anyhow, nobody whined about it being too easy.

Everybody was ready for food. Hot dogs, chips and pop. Only the best for this group. Giveaways were con-


tributed by Wayne Crosby of Lebanon Suzuki/Kawasaki, Steve Underwood of Surdyke Yamaha of Marionville and

(Continued on page 10)



Picking up trash along Highway H. *This group has that chain gang look about it!*

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(Continued from page 7)

Mel Gere of Action Cycle. There were more on the way. Greg Lowe had received goodies from Joe Drinnon of Drinnon Suzuki, Danny and Stan of D & S Cycle and Brian Power's Center Cycle Kawasaki and Honda all of West Plains. But, between Fordland and Rogersville the transmission in Greg's van went out big time. Tranny fluid laid down a strip for half a mile on highway 60, flames and everything!



L to R, Jon Simons, Kreg Simons and Tony Kirkup doing what they do best!



Here is Agie helping out, of course.

A big thanks goes to Agie St. Clair. She did most of the work before the event, like, Cooking the food and getting the trash bags from the highway department.

Last but not least I want to thank all the riders who showed up to pick up trash. How many other recreational activities have this many people showing up on New Year's Day to pick up trash?

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