



Even though it's the end of the school year, this appears to be the back to school issue of Notes on Spokes. First, Donna Moore attended the off-road riding school in Alabama, with Judy Willis as navigator. They put together a story about their adventure.

Plus, Sam Davis attended a motocross school in Kansas and dad Mike put together a story about it.

Thanks for the contributions.

SUPERCROSS

I went to Las Vegas for the last Supercross of the year. Quite possibly the most notable thing about the race was the track itself. The start was outside of the stadium. Plus, every lap the racers would leave the stadium, loop past the start and come back into the stadium. On the plus side, the stadium is kind of small and by moving the start outside, it gave a lot more room for the track inside.

If you haven't heard by now, James Stewart crashed before he even made it into the stadium on his very first qualifying race. He jammed his thumb pretty bad and was not able to race. I was bummed sine I had gone to two supercrosses this year and I didn't see Stewart race once.

In the 125 main, Joaquin Rodrigues had a bad crash on the first lap. The 125 main is a 15 lap race and it took 10 laps to get Rodrigues on a back board and off the track. When I watched the race on TV, the crash didn't look nearly as bad.

In the 250 main, Kevin Windham pulled out a big lead. Again, I don't think TV really showed how big the lead was. It took Chad Reed quite a few laps to get into second place. You could really see how much more aggressive Chad was riding then either Kevin or Ricky Carmichael. He would come around the corner in front of us and dirt was coming off both tires.

By lap 15, Chad had pulled to within 5 seconds of Kevin. I was hoping for a strong duel at the finish. But it wasn't to be. Kevin dropped his front wheel into a whoop and bounced off the track. By the time he got going, he was in third. Both Chad and Ricky got by.

I've got two new advertisers starting this month. A big thanks go to Greg West, Unifirst and the folks at J&W Cycle.

By Bob Fuerst



Donna and Judy's Excellent Adventure

By Donna Moore and Judy Willis

Elston signed Donna up for Suzy Moody's "women only" riding school. Since Elston didn't qualify, Judy got to fill in as "support crew." Steve Underwood, owner of Surdyke Motorsports in Marionville, MO, graciously offered his box van for the trip. Talk about nice -- comfy seats, TV-DVD, XM radio, even a bed! The only thing missing was vanity mirrors (girl thing) and On-star (Judy thing.)

So we pull out of Judy's driveway at 8:45 Friday morning, Donna at the wheel, hauling one motorcycle, two mountain bikes, Judy and her maps and enough travel food to last a week. Things started out pretty smooth: beautiful weather, good roads and good conversation. We made our first stop in Black Rock, AR, for fuel, and set off again (that is, after Judy gets her gas receipt so we can "check mileage.") Anyway, we're cruising into Memphis early afternoon with Judy furiously flipping her maps...turns out she may have <u>too many</u> maps. Dale had cautioned Judy about Memphis being tricky, but Judy said, "No Problem! I've got AAA maps, Map Quest maps and Exploded interchange maps complete with exit numbers!" And yet...The minute we passed the exit we both knew it; fortunately we recovered quickly, getting back on the freeway with no trouble.

So we're cruising thru Tennessee, then Mississippi when we start noticing water, lots of water. Little streams looked like swollen marshes. We're thinking this may make riding school a challenge. Donna said, "That's OK, Suzy can just teach us how to ride in the mud."

We stop again in Decatur, AL. First for fuel, then for directions as Judy's maps proved to be a disappointment. Back on track, we cruise into Huntsville AL. Interesting side note: Huntsville is at the base of some pretty big mountains and whatever people there do for a living, they earn a <u>lot</u> of money. Huge homes, very nice. Anyway, we headed on for the town of Guntersville AL, where Elston had booked us at the Holiday Inn. Turns out, the town sits on the end of a peninsula in the middle of the lake and the lake was up...way up...nearly even with the bridges and very beautiful. Anyway, we pull in a little before 6:00, ten hours, pretty good in spite of Judy's maps. We took a walk along the lake to stretch our legs then went to the hotel restaurant to eat dinner. While we were eating, the couple next to us overheard our conversation and asked if we were signed up for the riding school that weekend. They had gone by Suzy's on the way over from Mississippi. They said the directions weren't all that great. The road out to Suzy's house wasn't marked all that well and they missed it. They offered to let us follow them in the morning, and we figured that was a good idea.

The next morning we call the couple's room at 8:00 – no answer, hmm. So we head to the parking lot – their rig is gone, great! Oh well, not to worry, Judy has "the map." We take off for Grant, about 20 min. away, and get there no problem. However, as we're driving back down the mountain out of town we're thinking we missed the road, so back up the mountain, find the turnoff and we're back on track.

Suzy's place is great. Their acreage sits up on the mountain with her brother's place right next door. She had set up a place to practice braking and clutching, and turns in a flat pasture. She had a separate area for log jumping and figure 8s. They had just put in a really nice grass track the week before we got there. She also had three single-track trails heading out into the woods behind her house.

Since the course was "girls only," her husband Darrell and brother Andy kept the husbands busy riding in the areas that Suzy wasn't using. There were several ladies attending the course, ranging from 8 years to 40s – early 50's. Some had ridden a lot, off and on over the years, and some had just recently got their bikes. Suzy had the sessions very organized. She also discussed bike maintenance and encouraged the girls to do their own work. According to Suzy's brother, Suzy started racing around the age of 9 or 10. At their first event she came home with a trophy and he came home with a broken arm. How's that for a promising future in motorcycle competition.

Suzy worked with the ladies on nutrition and fitness, as well as riding challenges unique to women. Donna and I both enjoyed the course immensely and recommend it to all women riders.

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Unfortunately, during one of the sessions, Donna had a little getoff at about noon on Saturday while tearing up the grass track, resulting in an injury. She immediately jumped up proclaiming, "It's not broken, I can still ride!" We wrapped it up and she did continue to ride a couple of the sessions before realizing this wasn't such a good idea, so Suzy had her help instruct the other girls.

We left Suzy's around 4 pm Saturday and went to a swanky restaurant across the lake from our hotel and pigged out on seafood, then off to Wal-Mart for ibuprofen, ace bandage and Judy's Grandma's cure all, Epsom salts. We spent the remainder of the evening sitting on the balcony at the room, drinking soda and soaking Donna's wrist in the ice bucket from the room filled with warm water and Epsom salts.

Back at the school Sunday morning, Suzy recaps everything from the day before and adds what to put in your fanny pack for an enduro. The girls all hit the trail, except Donna who joined Judy as spectator/photographer, riding Suzy's ATV from point to point on the trail.

The course ended around 3 pm. We pointed the rig back toward home and took off. We expect to make Jonesboro AR easily. We're cruising along making good time when Donna's cell phone rings. Donna, who's driving with a wounded arm, remember, answers to hear nothing but static, and caller ID says its Elston's sister, who doesn't normally call to chit chat. The cell phone rings twice more, still static. Donna thinks something's wrong. We stop in Corinth, Miss. Probably not in the best part of town. Traffic in and out of the station consisted mostly of "groups" of young men just hanging out, staring at strangers. The attendant, who spoke broken English at best, required prepay even at midday, so we fueled up and drove across the street to a better populated business to call Elston's sister, who answers with "What? I didn't call." Turns out she was running a garden tiller and kept accidentally hitting speed dial. Donna scolds her, hangs up and we're on the road again.

We're coming up on Memphis, Judy's shuffling her maps again and we're all over it this time until we're on I-55 and see a teeny tiny "I-55 exit here" sign...too late! Immediately past the sign we top a hill and whoa! Our six-lane freeway becomes a fourlane city avenue with trees growing in the median and nothing but taillights of stopped cars as far as you could see. We're creeping along, bumper to bumper, people were everywhere... hanging out windows in cars, of buildings, walking over the streets. Every single intersection was completely blocked by police cars with flashing lights. We stay on this street running parallel to the Mississippi until it was clear we were heading further down town. Let me make this clear. Not only are we in the wrong place, we are "out of place" if you catch my meaning: two white chicks, one blonder than blonde, in a box van would not typically be cruising this section of town at dusk! We decide to try to circle back to the freeway. We take the first turn available. Judy's furiously flipping her map pages muttering "where are we, where are we" as Donna looks up to check the street sign and says "Beale Street." Judy's thinking "oh boy, this is not good" as she locks the doors and begins digging for her mace and pocket knife. Donna's looking around saying, "Cool – we're on Beale Street!"

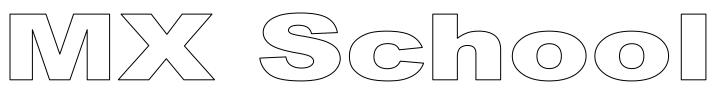
We take the next right and immediately knew that was a mistake. Suddenly there were <u>no</u> people, no cars, and no windows in most of what was left of the buildings. Donna does a quick Uturn (very impressive in a box van) and we head back to Beale Street. We decide we have to get back in that traffic nightmare to get back to I-55, trouble was,

you cannot turn left in that town. Oh, there are turn lanes for turning left, but no one uses them. We sat through one light for five cycles. Cars were all over the intersections going all directions. We finally get turned left along with the guy beside us who was in the right turn lane. Now we're in another left turn lane, more waiting, more crazy drivers. Finally, we're back by the river and we can see the bridge we need to be on. After creeping along in traffic for another mile we finally get back on I-55 headed west. Jeepers! Well, it was an interesting detour to say the least. OK, no problem, we're back on track.

By this time the sun is nearly down and as often happens in the summer, we are being pelted with bugs, Giant bugs, hundreds of them. It sounded like hail hitting the windshield. About this time, Donna's phone rings again. So here we are, cruising down the highway while Donna, who is driving with a wounded arm, talks on the cell phone. This just doesn't seem safe somehow. Still she doesn't miss a beat, and takes all the right exits. As we get into Jonesboro we see a billboard for El Chico restaurant and think "Yum!" We pull into the Holiday Inn and book a room. As we get back in the van to find the room, Judy's cell phone rings. As she talks to Dale, Donna drives around the building looking for room 110. Hmmm, didn't see it, drive around again, nope, still not seeing it, one more time around, Judy's cracking

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By Mike Davis

Last December we bought Sam a new Suzuki RM85L; the big wheel version of the RM85. We purchased it at Surdyke in Marionville, a top notch racer's place to buy stuff! Anyhow, when you buy a new Suzuki RM you get all kinds of programs and contingencies you can sign up for. The one that caught my eye was the FREE motocross school offered by the former 250 three time MX champ Tony DiStefano. Tony D as he is thicker than I've seen in a long time. Visibility was an honest 50 feet.

There were about 25 riders of all ages from pee wee to old men and even a 12-year-old girl riding a big 4-stroker RM 250! As we waited for the fog to burn off (school was to start at 9:00 am) every one prepped their bikes. Tony D arrived and I must admit I was quite surprised to see him in a wheel chair. Seems back in the mid 80's Tony had an accident while prac-



Here are the before, left, and after, right, pictures of Sam on the same jump. He sure is flying higher!

known, was national champ in 1975, 1976, and 1977. He was inducted into the AMA Hall of Fame in 1999.

As I said the school is free to all new RM owners but is open to any one any age, with any skill level. They do expect you to have some basic riding abilities, however. The cost for the one day school is around \$150, so free was a great deal!

The closest school was in Lyndon, Kan., at Dragoon Creek Motocross Park. It was a four hour drive but very easy going through Kansas. The morning of the school the fog was ticing at a track and broke his back, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. Prior to that in the late 70's or early 80's, he accidentally injured his eye with a screwdriver, which really was the start of the end of his great but short career.

He is a great guy, and he had a great way of explaining theory and technique of riding. There were two instructors known only as "Joe Schmo" and "Brooks." Man, these two cats could really fly on the track. Really nice guys too.

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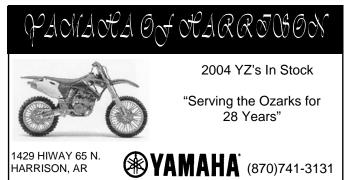
The school started out with a check of the bike setup and some "dry demonstrations" by the instructors. They went to each rider and set up the controls and such while Tony D gave a brief lecture on riding positions. It was very interesting and he answered all questions.



Tony, seated, with Sam. Brooks and Joe Shmo are on the sides.

Next was the warm up ride then they practiced starting gate procedures. This track had a huge gate wide enough for 40 riders! Lots of good tips were given (none of which will be shared until AFTER the next Thayer race) and then they must have done 20 or 30 starts, doing them two riders at a time then critiquing them after each run. Things went very smoothly and there was lots of riding action. Tony D keeps in contact with his instructors via headphone radios and he gets around on a big Suzuki four wheeler with a PA system on it

We then broke for lunch and more questions and such. After lunch the riding really started to get intense. The riders would line up in twos and would ride certain sections of the track like jumps or corners or whoops etc... and would then be stopped and given a review of there skill by "Joe" and "Brooks" and then would finish the track and get back in line. Tony D was in constant contact with the instructors via his headset radio and would also offer advice. Every one was getting PLENTY of ride time in. Sam went through two tanks of gas, and that's a lot of riding on a MX track.



This school was pure motocross oriented and some people wondered why Sam had such a big skid plate and we were the ONLY bark buster outfitted bike there, but the things taught about braking and cornering and body position were very useful. Also, jumping technique was taught and Sam found it very helpful.

They offer one, two and four day "camp" schools. The one-day school would be very good for a beginner rider to learn some basics and to get a day of track time in. Faster guys would need the two-day or four-day camp to benefit. Overall the school was very good and there was LOTS of riding time which impressed me a lot.

I have to mention the track again, Dragoon Motocross Park; it is top notch. The owners, Richard and Juanita Basinger, are great. I believe he works for Yoshimira Exhaust besides running this track. They even offered to leave the gate open for me after I called and said I was coming in late and needed to camp! Check 'em out at dragoonmotocross.com. This place was a great and safe track. Plenty of jumps but all safe and LOTS of REAL dirt!!

The school travels around the country all summer and you can check it out at tonydmxschool.com. Buy a new Suzuki and you get to go FREE.





By Bob Fuerst

The Tulsa Trail Riders had a two-day qualifier at their new offroad riding area outside Scipio, OK, which is kind of close to McAlester, OK, on April 16th and 17th. They did start the Saturday event a little later than the usual 8 am key time. In fact, to give folks a chance to drive in, they started it at noon.

On Saturday, a 17-mile loop was run. The extra short course riders made about half a loop. The short course riders had to run it twice and the long course riders made three loops. On the first loop, there were two special tests. The first was about 7 miles. It had everything from tight bar banging sections to wide open, fast as you could stand sections. After this, was a three mile gravel road section to the next special test. It was about 4 miles in length. It also had a flat out road section. What stood out in most riders' minds from this section was the downhill. They had this one loose gravel rock ledge downhill that had everyone talking. This section also had several mud holes develop. What surprised the promoters was the fact that they were on the hill tops!

On the second loop, they added another test, a grass track test at the start of the loop. It was about 2 miles in length with a few little woods sections thrown in. It was in one of these sections that the bottom fell out and a bottleneck started. By the third loop, they rerouted this section.

Caleb Wohletz pulled off the win for the day by seven seconds over Glen Myatt. Ten seconds behind Glen was Cody Potts.

Steve Travis was fourth AA rider and fourth overall. Zack Bryant was fifth overall and first A rider. Shane Roberts picked up sixth overall and 2nd A rider. *Plus, I had to camp with these two. We didn't have to start riding until noon. But they were up at 6 a.m. bouncing off the walls. Luckily, they did get out of the camper! Oh, to be young.*

In the B Class, it was David Liebl with the win and Lance Crawford picked up second. In the C Class, it was a blast from the past. Jon Shoalmire picked up the win. Jon's father Jack was Chairman of BJEC back in the mid 90s. The last time I saw Jon, he was just a little kid. In fact, if I remember correctly, Jon put together the BJEC Web site. Noah Fiddler was second overall C-rider.

St

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In the Senior Short Course Classes, Ray Campbell, B-Senior, finished first, over Super Senior rider Kevin Young.

Between the late start and the fact that the backup sheets were turned in late, trophy presentation wasn't completed until 9 p.m. For most of us, this wasn't a big deal. We were camping out and didn't have any place better to go. But Caleb had a family get-together the next day and had to leave as soon as trophies were handed out. He didn't get home until 3 a.m.

On Sunday, riders had a 9 a.m. start time. They started the day out with the grass track section being used on the first loop as a test section. They also took out the muddy section that bottlenecked on Saturday. Plus, they re-routed around all the bad mud holes.

With a longer day available, the Tulsa Trail Riders decided to make things a little tougher on the riders. They took out the three-mile road section between the second and third special tests and added an eight-mile trail section. This made things tougher and brought the level of whining up to proper levels. OK, they did change the course back to the road section for the final loop.

Glen Myatt picked up the win for the day by TWO seconds over Cody Potts. Good racing! Scott Bailey was third overall and first A rider. Zack Bryant was fourth overall and second A rider. And finishing out the top five was A-Senior rider Jerry Carrens.

Richard Dawson, B, took the Overall B honors with David Schizum, B, taking second.

Noah Fiddler, C Open, took the Overall C win. He was five minutes ahead of second place rider Russell Campos, C 250.

In the Senior Short Course classes, Mike Shown, A-Master rider, bested Steve Moffett, B-Senior, by two minutes.

Trophies were all handed out in short order and everyone was on their way home by 4 p.m. And as Chili says, there are 4,587 Arby's between Scipio and home. We had to try at least one.

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The Ozark Mountain Trail Riders promoted the fourth event of the MHSC series at the Bull Creek ranch. Not only did my club promote this event, I was the trail master. Speaking of the trail, the ATVs had a seven-mile loop on Saturday and the bikes went



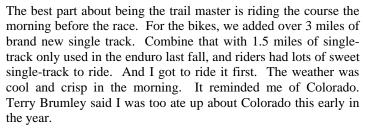
Kevin Borts gives his son Cody a little pre-race prep talk before the pee-wee race. Cody wants to be just like dad; not only did he have all the gear, he was wearing a camelback.

9.5 miles on Sunday.

The ATV loop consisted of a quite a bit of trail used in last year's poker run, with a little bit of new trail added to route the riders over to the trail used in the Hillbilly GP.

About 120 riders showed up for the ATV race. Everyone seemed to have a good time. Even when we had to help riders out of the woods with breakdowns, they commented how fun the course was. After the race, while scores were posted, the pee wee races were held.

These hare scrambles are so much easier to put on than enduros. On Saturday, we made all the course changes from ATV to bikes in time for a nap before dinner!



The riders all liked the trail, though some thought it was a little tight for a hare scramble and passing was difficult at times.

143 bikes showed for Sunday's race. The weather was perfect. All the rocks, logs, trees, creeks and hills were in place. The AA riders took off, with Chris Thiele in the lead and Steve Leivan right behind him. Caleb Wohletz took an off-course excursion into the brush!

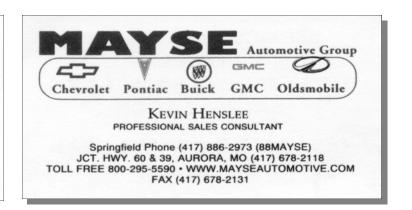
Wohletz made up for his mistake and moved into fourth position by the end of the first lap, where he would stay until the end of lap two with Steve Leivan in the lead. Caleb Wohletz moved up to third by the end of the third lap and on the fourth and final lap. In the last corner before the finish line, Caleb made a last ditch



This is the third corner with Chris Thiele leading Steve Leivan.

effort to put the pass on Steve. Steve was able to maintain the lead and win the race. Caleb finished second. Chris Nesbitt, Clint Carr and Aaron Shaw completed the top five.







By John Humphrey-Combs, AR, March 20

Glen Myatt, a regular SERA enduro and hare scrambles competitor, made the long drive from Mississippi to northwest Arkansas to win the first round of the 2005 Black Jack Enduro Circuit season. Steve Leivan, the eight-time BJEC champion, is typically the man to beat, but Myatt and multi-time District 23 enduro and hare scrambles champion from Minnesota Craig Holasek would both spoil the weekend for him.

The race weekend kicked off with multi-time ISDE gold medallist Jeff Fredette speaking at the awards banquet on Saturday night, and he would stick around on Sunday to race as well. With plenty of sunshine, conditions for the course were near perfect. Nine checks over 71 miles would test the riders on the rocky, hilly terrain.

Checks one and two were zero'd by most of the top riders, but Fredette would burn check two, taking himself out of top 5 contention. "My bike stalled and they burned me. I had plenty of time, but oh well." An emergency check at check three found the top finishers on their minute, but put some tiebreaker seconds on the scorecards. Holasek perfected the check on his Larson Cycles/Moose/Amsoil/ SmithGoggles/EnduroEngineering KTM by rolling in 30 seconds into his minute, and he was the only rider to do so.

Check five was the next effective points-taker, located after a sixmile 24 mph section of technical trail. Myatt and Holasek would best the field by each dropping 2 points in the section. Leivan, series veteran Steve Travis, and a small few would each drop 3. Many other long course riders would drop 4 and 5 points.

The last loop had 20 miles at a 24 mph pace and three checks. Myatt's 0-3:46-6 would be the best ride on the loop and give him the overall. The Answer/NGK/Scott/Clarke/Renthal Yamaha pilot, Leivan, would follow him up with a 0-4:23-6 and beat Holasek's 0-4:08-7, but it wouldn't be enough to make up for the point he dropped earlier to him at check five. Travis, Fredette, Matt Lane, and Drew Chandler would also put in respectable times on the last loop as well.

Total points were as follows: Myatt dropped 11; Holasek and Leivan each dropped 13, with Holasek's 218 emergency points beating Leivan's 239; Travis put in a great ride to drop 14 points and finish fourth; and Matt Lane rounded out the top five with 15. Fredette would ride strong to record a seventh-place finish with 16 points, right behind Drew Chandler.

The Hattiesburg Cycles/Moose-backed Myatt was excited after his first enduro overall. He remarked, "This was my first time to White Rock and it's definitely the rockiest place I have ever been. I had some close calls in the last section when I could have ended up on my head, but I just kept getting away with it."

Holasek agreed with him. "This was definitely rockier than what I'm used to, with more speed changes and timekeeping challenges than what I'm used to," he said. "It was a well-organized event."



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- 5/15/05— Cycleland Park, Nacogdoches, TX
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- 9/11/05 Blackjack Ranch, Blackjack, MO
- 9/25/05— Indian Nations, Scipio, OK
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up laughing and Dale is pretty sure we are both crazy. Donna finally parks the van and goes on foot. She returns just as Judy hangs up the cell and says, "I found it." It turns out the hotel has a courtyard <u>inside</u> and our room faces it! They might have mentioned that at the desk! Se we haul all our stuff in, look up El Chico in the phone book then on the city map Looks easy enough. It's on North Palmer which parallels the highway we came in on. So, we head off north on the outer road. Hmmm, not really seeing much, some office buildings, car dealerships. OK, maybe we're too far north. We cross over the highway and head south on the outer road, we're just about ready to stop and ask someone when Donna sees it, straight ahead. We pull in and park and Donna starts laughing. She says, "Look across the highway, Judy, what do you see?" The very Holiday Inn whose parking lot we just circled <u>three times</u>!

You would think we would have noticed the huge El Chico sign directly across the highway but noooo. We were getting a little "foggy" by then...obviously.

Monday, we set out in search of the IHOP. Sitting in the parking lot in the pouring rain we debate again, right or left. Fortunately, we spy the sign directly across from the hotel <u>again!</u> Since we had been eating light and healthy all weekend, we decided to gorge ourselves on pancakes and eggs, yum! Then we head off in the pouring rain, hydroplaning for home. We figured Hardy AR was a good spot for a break and it just so happens there are a few antique shops there. What a lucky break for us. After a little shopping we headed on home.

Turns out, Donna's "little boo-boo" turned out to be a broken wrist. She ended up having surgery on it a few days after we got home. Even after all that, we both had a blast and would go again in a heartbeat.

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