

MISSOURI / NORTHERN ARKANSAS / KANSAS

Notes on Spokes



NEWSLETTER

18TH ISSUE

LOCAL DIRT BIKE NEWS

FEB '96

KOONTA-CROSSER?

Died-in-the-Wool, KDX-200 rider, "Koonta Kinta Man," is now on a YZ-125. Why would a guy who rides Enduro's and the occasional Hare Scramble buy an MX bike? That's what I was wondering.



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Since we were in Chadwick the other day practicing our patented; *Let's create a moving bottleneck*, routine (that's a nice way of saying we're ungodly slow,) I seized the opportunity to really watch Koonta Man on his new YZ. #1 . . .the thing is pretty. Dark blue plastic and white frame . . .it's cool. #2. . .On open 3rd/4th gear trails it's also very fast (it's probably fast on any trail with a young MX type guy on it.)

We stopped about 30 minutes into this ride and Koonta Man tells me how great the low end is . . .and how it might not need any flywheel. Not more than ten minutes later I'm following him up a pretty nasty ledge rock, second gear hill . . .when he just vanishes! I did have enough time to see his back wheel light up on a ledge just before he took an abrupt 90 degree left into some pretty stiff looking cedar tree's. Hmm . . .doesn't need flywheel Huh? In most places . . .Koonta went fast.

It has the coolest kick starter I've ever seen on a full size bike. Yamaha guy's won't even know what I'm talking about, but the thing looks like it should be bronzed and hung from the rear view mirror in your car. Yes, it's cute. Like a baby kick starter, neat.

I whined for several stops before Koonta got tired

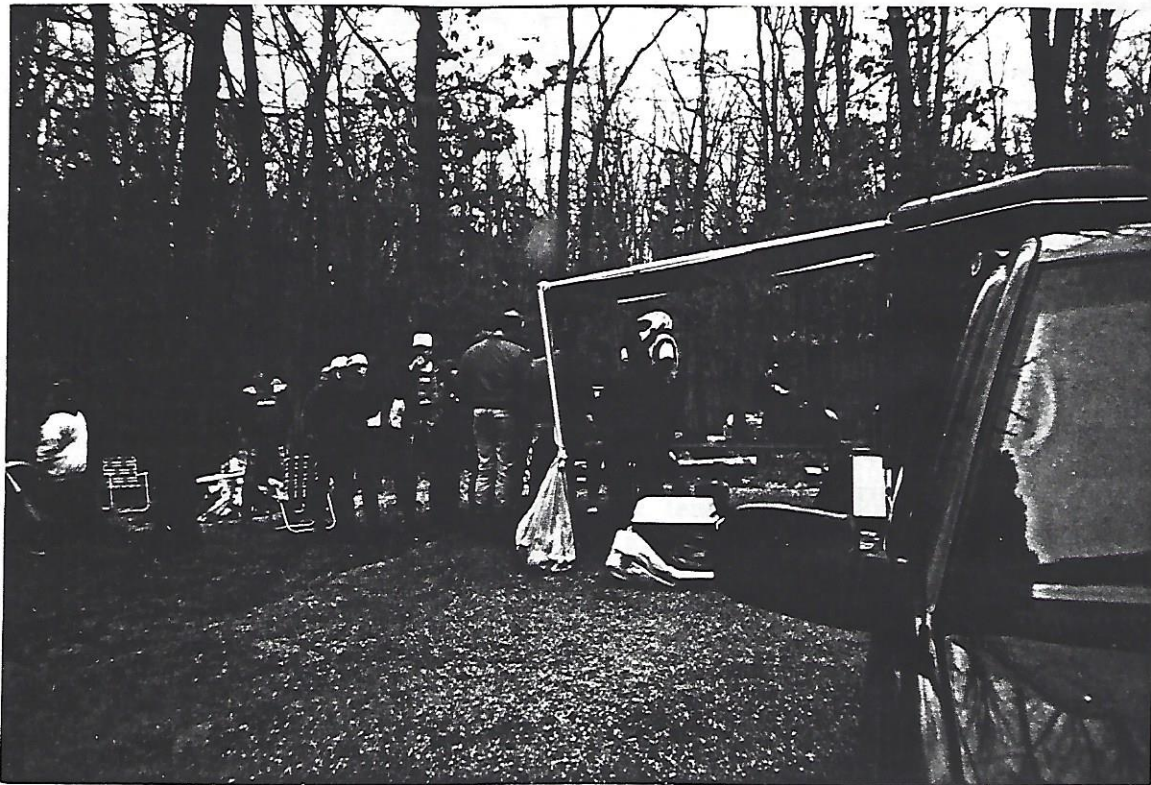
of the whole thing and let me ride it: I thought . . .GEEZ, this thing doesn't have any power! Well it doesn't when the rider outweighs the whole bike by about 40 lbs, and is lugging it around in third gear at 15 mph! It did feel like it weighed less than 100 lbs. It did have plenty of power once you found the correct gear and got everything singing. I now know why most 125

riders look like tooth picks and are young with lots of energy to keep shifting to keep the power in the right place. Is it a fun bike? . . .YES! Do I want one? . . .NO! I heard squirrels giggling when I rode by! Visualize a 230 lb old, fat, slow guy on a bike that isn't much wider than a 2 X 4 and weighs about 198 lbs. Yes, it's squirrel entertainment. It is an amazing amount of fun mainly because it's so light. I'm so used to riding an open bike a gear high that I had this thing "moaning" but when I did find the right gear . . .it would rip! While I still don't quite understand why he bought it, I do understand his enjoyment with the fun factor . . .it is a HOOT!

Let me see now . . .he said to take my right boot off, place my big toe on the end of that little kick starter . . .and push it through. Yeah, but there was one other thingOh yeah, if it didn't start for some reason . . .carry it back to the truck and he would start it for me. Hmmm, it's only a couple of miles back there . . . maybe I'll just carry it back and make sure I've got this right!

NO PROBLEM!

RESIDUE . . . FROM NEW YEARS DAY AT CHADWICK



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← The big guy in the middle with the bald head must of found the same head hill that I did. Check out his pants . . . it was a seat sucker!

CHADWICK, MO.

Left to right:
Main organizer, old, slow, fat guy-ME.
Main cook, supporter-my wife, Sandy. Main Polker hand decider-Jerry (Hollywood) Sharp of Possum Hollow fame.



Handing out "ton's" of stuff, provided by area dealers was a high-light of the day.

Cleaning up the road and seeing everyone have a good time, was even better.



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OBSERVATIONS?

Life, for me, is a series of observations. A recent trip to Chadwick on a cold morning offered these:

John (Big Mac) Lawson was riding with us at pretty good speed and for no apparent reason (I was right behind him) "parked" his KTM 300 up a four foot bank in a large tree. This wasn't really significant . . .but knowing I was right behind him . . .had him getting off (the bike stayed upright wedged in the tree) and walking back like . . ."Yes, I meant to park it there." Sorry John . . .that won't fly!

Rusty Reynaud trying out his new 360 KTM moving "massive amounts of dirt" with the back wheel . . .in camp, prompted this side-line comment; "That thing, may not be environmentally safe!"

Big Mac . . .er, John Lawson (yes the same one) "never" making it up any hill and using his back tire for an excuse. *It's not our fault he's got a back tire on with dimples left for knobs.*

Max (The motorcycle dentist) Harkey on his new RMX commenting as we watched Koonta Man, Big Mac, and Shawn Hall from the top of a frozen hill (we were on top . . .they were still down at the bottom); *Who's driving this bus?* I quit leading after that and "got" the "new leader" . . ."Max," on the next three frozen hills as we waited for people . . .*Well . . .just who the hell . . . is driving this bus?* Max gave up leading after that too.

Watching everyone load their bikes on their trailers except Koonta Man. His bike went on someone elses' trailer, the flywheel went with another P-up, Koonta got in his P-up . . .for all I know his gear might have been left there . . .or went in someone elses' trailer.

I just hope he manages to collect all those pieces and get things back together again . . .we've got to go to Chadwick again next week!

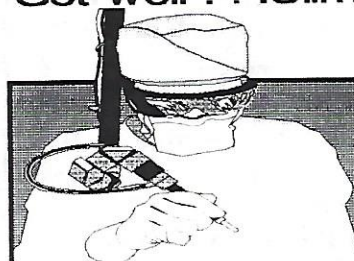
Dale Willis on his kitted 300 WR Yamaha (that's a Surdyke Yamaha WR 250 with a kit) made it up every hill we did either with us, or before us. On the first hill as we stood watching "Big Mac" dig a hole halfway up the hill with his KTM, Dale says; *I bet when he gets here . . .he's going to blame this whole deal on that back tire.* Big Mac finally makes it and pulls up to us with sweat running out of his helmet and says; *That damn back tire!* Needless to say Dale was laughing. This was repeated on the next three hills. Let's see now . . .I lost that bet so I need to find the scabiest tire I have out behind the shed for Big Mac . . .after all, the bet never specified a NEW TIRE!

Jamie Jennings on his new CR 250 caught my eye. CR's, at least to me, have always seemed slick, tidy, and purpose oriented . . .like a weapon of some kind, . . .neat. Jamie's is no exception except this day he had a pair of those '70's HIPOINT looking, big, floppy hand protectors on that look like they're about 2 feet long. Yes, I'm sure his hands were warm, and yes, he still went very fast . . .but it just didn't look right. It kind of looked like a slim, *Brooke Shields . . .with dumbo ears!* Oh well!

The day was winding down when Rusty told me he and Jamie were going out for a quick "20 mile" jaunt, and asked if I wanted to come along. I responded; *NO . . .you guy's aren't going to take me out there and hurt me!* After they left, I went over to my P-up side mirror to see if someone had written "STUPID" on my forehead, and I hadn't noticed. Old age has not made me that gullible! Those guy's ride about four levels higher than I do and for distances about twice as long as I want to. Now . . .I wonder what I've done to make them want to hurt me like that?

CLIFF DAVIS

Rusty Reynaud, Wayne Beindorf, Steve Underwood, Jamie Jennings and others found Cliff upside down on a steep downhill last Sunday (28 Jan.) It appears his front wheel got away from him in loose stuff . . .but as I type this, he's in St. Johns Hospital in Springfield. Something like three or four ribs broken along with a hole in a lung that shouldn't be there. I expect he'll be out by the time you get this but you can drop him a note at:



Cliff Davis
3685 South Western
Springfield, MO. 65807

MORE ENDURO STUFF

Les Blizzard, from Springfield, MO sent me an interesting letter. In it he informed me that he was a first time member of the Black Jack Enduro Circuit for the upcoming year, and had some questions. It got me thinking. Here are his questions . . .and a few of my own:

How are work days handled, and how are work points tabulated and awarded? You will get a rule book that explains this in detail when you join but in a nutshell . . .*the best three scores from events in which the worker scored points shall be totaled and divided by three(3), rounded to the nearest whole number. This average will give one additional score (work average.)* You can have two work scores but . . .*the first work score will not be utilized in the calculation of the second work score.*

How are transfer points calculated? *Advancement of all "C" and "B" riders will be based on overall placement of all riders in that category. Upon accumulation of 100 points, a "B" rider will advance to "A" class. Upon accumulation of 80 points, a "C" rider will advance to "B" class. All advancement will be at the end of the season in which the rider qualifies for advancement.*

Is transferring from C-B-A elective or mandatory based on points? Advancement is mandatory. The system is designed to advance riders who have displayed high levels of competence (through wins in their class) to the next level.

If there is a line of bikes going into a check, when are you scored? Will you be late waiting in line? Do checks have to be entered single file? There is no hard and fast rule pertaining to this. In theory the check crew will identify you as to what time you crossed the flags in the event of a jam up in the check. Honestly, this doesn't always work (especially at tie-breakers) and it's up to you to get in. Usually this isn't a problem. There are only four riders on your row and they rarely all get to a check at the same time. If the section preceding the check is rough there may be multiple rows entering the check . . .it's up to you to get in. The reason AA riders weren't allowed to ride on the same row, is checks. Two AA riders entering a tie-breaker check and trying to hit it on an even 30 seconds . . .might kill each other and take out the check crew. Your answer . . .get in there on time!

How do I join BJEC and get a schedule and fliers announcing races? Send \$20.00 payable to BJEC to: Billy Treadwell, 1420 E. Will Rogers, Stillwater, OK. 74075. Be sure to include your address, age, bike brand. .and size, and skill level. A,B,C.

GOOFY . . .TECH TIPS?

A reader tip recently received . . .Monkey Nipple? Actually I couldn't decide what to call this. Everyone knows what Monkey butt is . . .and this guy's talking about nipple soreness . . .so . . .Monkey Nipple. What is it? It's the soreness that you feel after riding a long time with your chest protector constantly rubbing around on your nipples. Most guys put tape over them (read pasties here) which looks really funny . . . but works. This reader tip offers a different solutiongrow a big stomach! That way the chest protector never hits your nipples because of the big gut! I hate to admit this but . . .I haven't had "monkey nipple" in several years now . . .HmMMM . . . what do you suppose that means?

Another favorite is a female rider on a big wheel 80 expressing her desire to have a bigger tire on the back of her bike. Dwight (Haggard) Maggard is listening and offered this sound advice . . .PUT MORE AIR IN IT! Why didn't I think of that?

I also received a request to define . . ."Hoot." Well . . .I don't know what "hoot" means. When something is cool and I run out of words to describe it because in my opinion . . .it's neater than "cool," I use the word . . ."hoot!" Of course . . .opinions are like . . .never mind, this is a family oriented thing.

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DIRT ALERT!

ATTENTION ALL RIDERS!!!!!!

MISSOURI HOUSE BILL #777, MISSOURI RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUND!!

ANYONE THINK WE NEED BETTER OR NEW PLACES TO RIDE IN MISSOURI?

Well, here is our chance! Recently Missouri Representative Craig Hosmer sponsored HB #777, The Missouri Recreational Trail Fund. If passed into law this bill could generate approximately \$1 million (from Missouri gasoline tax dollars used in off-highway vehicles) for the construction, and maintenance of all types of trails (including motorized) all across Missouri! While the final wording of the bill is still being discussed, WE ALL NEED TO GET READY TO WRITE OUR MISSOURI STATE REPRESENTATIVES, STATE SENATOR, AND GOVERNOR CARNAHAN AND ASK THEM TO SUPPORT AND VOTE FOR HB #777! THE BILL CURRENTLY HAS SUPPORT FROM MOUNTAIN BIKERS, EQUESTRIAN USERS, AND THE MOTORIZED USERS. ONLY THE SIERRA CLUB HAS VOICED THEIR OPPOSITION! The Sierra Club has gone as far in a recent hearing, on HB #777, to propose a substitute bill which would prohibit the spending of any of the fund on motorized trails on public lands! YES, THE SIERRA CLUB WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR GASOLINE TAX DOLLARS ARE ONLY SPENT ON HIKING TRAILS! While Sierra Club's substitution is currently not being considered, we will need everyone's help to get this bill passed! Find out who your Missouri State Representative and Senators are, and stay tuned! We will get back to you with more details and instructions in the very near future! We could even use this trail fund money to buy land to build trails on! Let's make the most of this opportunity!!!!!!

Thank You.

Steve Thomas, Legislative Director, Midwest Trail Riders Association, P.O. Box 1203 Maryland Hts., MO 63043

WE WILL be following this closely! The impact of this has far-reaching implications for riders in Missouri, and neighboring states.

Check around (an write down "your" State Reps. and Senators, including their address's, and post them on your phone or somewhere you'll be able to find them later. We need to respond to this and make our voices heard!

GET READY!

**DIRT
ALERT
1!**