

Notes on Spokes

In this Issue:

- Sharp-Gere
- Lebanon MSHC
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- Tid Bits and More



Caleb Wohletz at
Sharp-Gere

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TIDBITS

I got the following e-mail from Jerry Sharp and I thought I would pass it along:

to all,

Surgery for total knee replacement went well.....physical therapy is something else. I am coming along slowly so will be transferred to a rehab unit for 5 to 7 days. Jerry Sharp

2002 Perch Jerk Scramble from Greg Lowe:

April 21st, 2002.

Kid's Race 10:00am

Scramble around 11:00am.

\$5.00 Gate Fee to help offset the cost of insurance

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs immediately after the race.

Please bring a covered dish for the Bar-B-Que after the race

Campers welcome Saturday night, no hookups, pond water available. Maybe we could have a campfire Saturday night if enough campers want to.

Same format as previous years, race two laps, stop to fish, race two more laps, maybe lengthen course to five laps for more riding time.

I will need help putting this together; a couple of people to cook, a couple of people to help score rider's times, a couple of people to measure fish.

We have had good rains, the pond is full, should be some really good fishing. I have added some more logs to the 'log bog', cut some new trail, and have been prepping the MX track. Denise and I looking forward to having everyone from the OMTRA

come race and fish with us.

BJEC BANQUET

The Black Jack Enduro Circuit held its annual banquet the night before the White Rock Enduro. Earl Schnell, Vern Street and Zahn Lewis were the guest speakers. They all talked about the early days of the Black Jack Enduro Circuit. How the events were back then. What the bikes were like. And how they got started in motorcycles and enduros. It was quite a hoot. Of course you had award ceremonies and give-a-ways.

Train Robbers won enduro of the year. Good Job!

When Jim Holub got to the end of the give-a-ways, he held up the few remaining tickets, the twenty or so folks that had not won anything. Jim, I was one of those twenty!

PINE RIDGE

I got the following e-mail from Josh Cook:

The 3rd round of the Arkansas Harescramble Series will be April 13th & 14th. ATVs will run Saturday and bikes on Sunday.

It should be great fun for all with separate children's course and a small moto-X track included with the woods trail.

Look for a flyer on: <http://www.Arkansasharescramble.com>

ST. LOUIS SUPERCROSS

I just got back from watching the Supercross in St. Louis. I had great time. The 125cc race was wild. I'm going to have to watch it again on TV. Chad Reed was in first place. There was a big wreck and I couldn't figure out who was in second or third until almost the end of the race.

The 250cc race was uneventful by comparison. Ricky Carmichael just walked away.

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Forrester Finds First at Lebanon

By: Frank Leivan

New Team Green recruit Brandon Forrester kicked off the 2002 Missouri Hare Scrambles Championship in the same manner as 2001, winning the season opener. This year Forrester had to overtake fellow Kawasaki rider Chris Thiele midway through the final lap to get the job done, but the Factory Connection/RK Chain/IMS/Alpinestars/M2R-backed rider was up to the task and held on to take the win by a bike length.

The battle for the third and final podium position was just as intense. Chris Nesbitt, who had gotten married the night before the event, put together a torrid pace the last two laps of the race and was able to overtake early leader Aaron Shaw, who was "breaking in" his KTM 300. By turning in the fastest lap of the race on his final lap, Nesbitt closed in on Shaw who was fighting a broken hand guard and taking it easy in the tight stuff, Moose/Dunlop/Factory Effex/Scott/Cti-backed Nesbitt made the pass and rounded out the top three.

The first round of the MHSC was barely able to outrun a severe winter storm that hit Monday morning. Sunday, however, was a beautiful 65 degrees and sunny which drew out a huge crowd of participants. Over 400 riders did battle on a 9.2 mile course laid out in the woods along Elk Creek. The trail was considered "tough" by most competitors and consisted of rocky single track, some ATV sections, and a brutal

creek section that got everyone's attention. The top half dozen riders were able to do laps in just under 30 minutes with Forrester's winning pace just under 19 mph.

Thiele put his #98 KX250 at the head of the 14 rider "AA" class with Forrester and the rest of the class in tow. Forrester, Shaw, and Yamaha-mounted Brock Busenbark were all able to get by Thiele before the end of the first lap.

Shaw then went to work, taking the lead spot away from Forrester during lap two. Thiele moved into third, just ten seconds down, while Bobby Duncan had a fast lap and climbed from ninth to fourth on his Clarke/Cycra/ProClean/Wiseco/J&W Cycles Kawasaki.

After three laps and nearly an hour and a half of racing, Shaw blasted down pit row in the lead. Forrester, who was hot on his heels, stopped for fuel, allowing Thiele to move into the runner-up position. Nesbitt was next into the pits, but had trouble with his dry-break system and lost valuable time getting going. KTM-mounted Ken Yount timed his pit stop perfectly while running fifth, as his bike ran dry and he coasted into his pit area.

With less than two laps to go, Shaw had his hand guard come loose and he began to struggle in the tight stuff. Thiele was quick to pounce and again took over the lead. Forrester was also able to get around Shaw, who appeared to be adapting to his new ride with little trouble. Nesbitt was able to take back the positions he had lost during his pit problems and was up to fourth with Ryan Wuebbeling holding down fifth.

Going into the final lap, Thiele's lead measured 11 seconds on Forrester. Shaw was another 14 ticks back and Nesbitt rode an additional 40 seconds down. Wuebbeling and Duncan were next, with Duncan just beating the two-hour time limit at 1:59:59.

Thiele maintained his cushion over Forrester until he came to a hill littered with lapped riders. His line choice turned out to be not so good and Thiele was momentarily halted. Forrester negotiated the hill with less trouble and moved into the lead. It took Thiele a few seconds to get going and by then, Forrester had a cushion of his own.

"Brandon was out of sight when I got going. I caught back up to him pretty fast but I couldn't find a way around him," explained Thiele.

Forrester was able to get through the late race lapped traffic well and avoid any mistakes that would give Thiele an opportunity to take the overall win. The win is the fourth of Forrester's career and the third victory at the Elk Creek venue.

Thiele held on to a very close second ahead of Nesbitt who edged out Shaw by a few feet. Wuebbeling battled a hurting arm to claim fifth ahead of Duncan.

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(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The top non "AA" on the day was AXO/Michelin-backed Caleb Wohletz on a KTM 200. Making his voluntary "A" class debut, the 16-year-old speedster broke free of a two-lap battle with Hansens/Devol rider Tracy Bauman to take a commanding win and finish the day in 12th overall. Bauman ended up fourth in class behind John Struckhoff and another teenager, Anthony Meyer on his 125 Yamaha.

Results

O/A 1. Brandon Forrester (Kaw); 2. Chris Thiele (Kaw); 3. Chris Nesbitt (Kaw); 4. Aaron Shaw (KTM); 5. Ryan Wuebbeling (Kaw); 6. Bobby Duncan (Kaw); 7. Chad Busenbark (Yam); 8. Brock Busenbark (Yam); 9. Ken Yount (KTM); 10. Lars Valin (Hon)

AA: 1. Chris Thiele (Kaw); 2. Chris Nesbitt (Kaw); 3. Aaron Shaw (KTM); 4. Ryan Wuebbeling (Kaw); 5. Bobby Duncan (Kaw)

A: 1. Caleb Wohletz (KTM); 2. John Struckhoff (Kaw); 3. Anthony Meyer (Yarn); 4. Tracy Bauman (KTM); 5. Travis Pilant (Hon)

Open B: 1. Matt Coffman (KTM); 2. Jeff Deeken (Hon); 3. Wayne Hatfield (KTM); 4. Sam Cook (Hon); 5. James Kelemen (KTM)

250 B: 1. Matt Glenn (Hon); Brad Crain (KTM); 3. Las Busenbark (Yam); 4. Joshua Bruton (Yam); 5. Adam Ashcroft (KTM)

200 B: 1. Stephen Simmoneau (Kaw) 2. Josh Murray (KTM); 3. Michael Hamilton (Kaw); 4. Brandon Vaughn (KTM); 5. Steve Akers (KTM)

4 Stroke B: 1. Mike Rozier (Yam); 2. Nick Crawford (Yam); 3. Gary Pilant (Hon); 4. John Acton (Hon); 5. Craig Delong (Suz)

Open C: 1. Marshall Sprague (Yam); 2. Clint Fulliam (Kaw); 3. Brad Swasand (Kaw); 4. Joey Wolfe (Hon); 5. Shannon Riffle (Yam)

200 C: 1. Timothy Healy (Kaw); 2. Jason Tongay (KTM); 3. Matt Wampler (KTM); 4. Hershel Thompson (Kaw); 5. Joe Wetherell (Yam)

Vet: 1. Slade Morlang (Hus); 2. Jon Simons (Hus); 3. Steve Crews (Kaw); 4. Robert Armon (KTM); 5. Elston Moore (Yam)

Senior: 1. John Newberry (KTM) 2. Tom Eidam (Yam); 3. Rick Helmick (Hon); 4. Steve McWhorter (Suz); 5. Ronnie Moses (KTM)

Super Senior: 1. William Guffey (Yam); 2. John Gott (KTM); 3. Billy Johnson (Yam); 4. Gerald Frericks (KTM); 5. Mike Roman-tum (KTM)

Women: 1. Michele Eidam (KTM); 2. Amanda Lappe (KTM) 3. Donna Moore (KTM); 4. April Mace (KTM); 5. Kim Case (Hon)

Junior: 1. Ryan Portell (Kaw); 2. Travis McWhorter (Kaw); 3. Justin Veith (Kaw); 4. Brent Newberry (Kaw); 5. Cameron Mittelberg (Yam)

Beginner: 1. William Spoon (Hon); 2. Dustin Tongay (Hon); 3. Brian Semlar (Hon); 4. Ron Queen (KTM); 5. Chad Meador (Hon)



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WHITE ROCK

The 2002 BJEC season started at White Rock. This year the Razorback riders had a new starting/camping area just outside Combs, AR. Located 2 miles outside of Combs, it made the race much easier to get to. Again, rain affected this race. According to Rick Owens, the camping area was under water just a few days prior to the race. The Razorback riders have put a lot of time into the camping area. They had to build a road down to the camping area and build a bridge over the creek to get from the camping area to the trail. That creek, by the way, looked more like a river than a creek.

I was on row 39 with the Rectors, father and son, plus a go-faster rider on a KTM 125. As soon as we crossed the creek, I knew it was going to be muddy. The first reset was 5.1 miles out at 18 mph. The trails were pretty open. Normally it would have been a cruise to the 2.9 mile marker. But with all the mud, I got there right on time. I expected a check sometime before the reset, but there never was one. After the reset, it was gravel roads and powerlines for several miles until the trail ducked into the woods. Followed shortly thereafter by a check. According to my enduro computer, I was right in my

minute, but the check crew marked me a minute late. Whatever. I followed the check up with a crash anyhow. This special test took us to the end of the extra short course. It was somewhere in this section that my computer sensor quit sensing. I figured that if I didn't pass Dale Lee Rector, I wasn't in any trouble. I wasn't in any danger of passing young Mr. Rector.

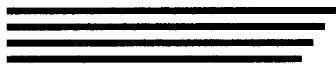
The next special test, all at 18 mph, took us to a reset at the top of the mountain outside the old campgrounds. The Razorback riders run this section every year. If I remember correctly, the last part of it was originally cut for the 2-day qualifier run at White Rock in 94. It hasn't blown out in all these years.

After a few miles on gravel roads and powerlines, the next section took us to 24 mph. It wasn't too bad. I don't remember anything special about the section, until we got to a real god-forsaken enduro bottleneck! The trail went down to a creek and then straight up the other side. Of course, riders were trying to cut in line. Several of them went down in the creek. According to Dale Willis, Clint Carr tapped him on the shoulder just before he was going to take off for his shot at the hill, asking if he could go first. Of course, Clint had no trouble with the hill.

I personally didn't have any problems with the hill. My problems came at the top of the hill when I went to put my goggles back on and couldn't see! Anyhow, the check came up pretty

(Continued on page 6)

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(Continued from page 5)

soon and it was manned by Steve Van Zant and crew of maniacs dressed in Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts. Unfortunately, considering the fact that everybody hit this check late and most couldn't see due to their goggles, several riders didn't even notice the get-ups. Shortly after the check was the main gas and course split. The long course riders went left. Many of the long course riders were behind, even after the reset. The short course riders got an extended reset before heading down the trail to meet up with the long course riders.

Somehow, I didn't get away from the reset on time or something, but when we met up with the long course riders, row 43 was wanting to take off, putting me 4 minutes late. It was an 18 mph section that went for a long ways. After many miles, the short and long course split. It was somewhere in this last section that I blasted a mud hole to get around a slower rider and covered my goggles, again. I managed to kinda clean them off while still riding.

After we did finally get to the check out, Luther Stem was pointing us down the road. This almost ended up being the most interesting part of the day. We thought we were done, but not 100% positive. After going a short ways down the road, we picked up arrows again. Then the arrows took us off the road. There was an SUV parked at the intersection, but nobody was in it. We followed the arrows a little ways and it just didn't feel right. One of the guys in our group was already on reserve. We turned around and went back to the road. Luckily, there were some folks at the SUV and they told us the correct way back to camp. Otherwise, we would have ridden most of the enduro

course again!

If you haven't heard by now, there was a screw-up at the start. It seems that row 10 didn't get away until minute 11. Every row after that started a minute late. Most riders didn't start their computers until the row in front of them was leaving. By doing this, they started their computers a minute late. There seemed to be only two options for the Razorback riders, score it as is or throw the race out. Since technically, the riders should have been riding off key time, they should have been able to correct for this. Since the riders could correct for the situation, the race was scored as is.

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SHARP GERE



Rusty Reynaud on his way to the overall.

On March 3rd about 60 of Mel & Carol Gere's and Jerry & Ellie Sharp's closest friends showed up at Keltner's farm for some fun on dirt bikes and ATVs. The event was put on by the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders to show their appreciation for everything that the Sharps and the Geres have done for off-roading.

Actually, there were three events on the schedule. We started the day with the Pee Wee race, with 7 racers. It was a shorter course than the big bikes rode, but it was still a

tough course for bikes with tires that small.

Once the pee wees were finished, the big bikes went out for practice, followed by the race itself. It was going to be a single 2 hour race. The course was four miles in length. It was a pretty tough course. There were a couple of hill climbs that bottlenecked up. In fact, some of the classes had to be re-routed so they didn't bottleneck.

It was kinda neat that Rusty Reynaud won the race, since he has won so many of the local hare scrambles over the years. Second overall and second expert was Caleb Wolhletz. Caleb rides the A class in the Missouri Hare Scramble Championship series and he got the education of a lifetime during this race. He and Rusty dueled for most of the race, and chasing Rusty for two hours had to be an experience.

Third in the expert class was Mike Mills. This was Mike's first race in thirteen years. Mike, you make me sick. Spud came in next on his Husky. Kreg Simons, not wanting to race his race bike, brought out the old WR250. After not too many laps, he thought it felt too much like a lumber wagon. So he stopped and borrowed Donna Moore's KTM 200. Donna decided that she wanted to spectate for a little while. *(Continued on page 8)*

David Berry and Brian Sharp went bar to bar in the intermediate



Brian Mayfield took one look at the photographer and ducked behind the tree.



Kreg Simons, shown above on Donna Moore's bike. Kreg's day started with a ride in a porta-potty. Kreg's brother Spud decided that he could find a better spot for the potty trailer. It was still attached to the van. So off Spud went, with Kreg inside one of the pottys. When asked how the ride went, Kreg replied, "Not bad, porta-pottys have a real low center of gravity. They really stay put and there was no splashing."

25 years of riding dirt bikes. I just glad it didn't happen at speed.

Unfortunately, Jerry and Ellie Sharp had a prior engagement they had to go to. We did give Mel and Carol a little money to have a good weekend vacation. And since Jerry and Ellie could-

(Continued from page 7)

class. I was working the check and they came in together and were riding hard the whole race. Elston Moore got third in the intermediate class – ON A BOROURED BIKE. Elston was going to race his KTM 200, but realized that the clutch was slipping. At the last minute, he borrowed Justin Smith's brand new Husky. Justin was working the race with a broken wrist. So Elston had zero time on the bike when the race started.

Personally, I worked this race. So I didn't get to ride until the race was over. It really was a cool course, tight and hilly in places. There was a motocross section and a grass track section, so it had a little bit of everything for everyone. I did have my own personal experience with the course. Shawn and I had just finished and I tried to turn left to head back to the truck. And the bike wouldn't turn. I managed to get a rock caught between the fork stops on the right side. This has never happened in over



The Pee Wee class takes off.

n't make it, we just might have to do this again.

RESULTS:

EXPERT: Rusty Reynaud, Caleb Wohletz, Mike Mills, Jon Simons, Kreg Simons, Anthony Meyer

INTERMEDIATE: Dave Berry, Brian Sharp, Elston Moore, Karl Harris

0 – 200: Dustin Jennings, David Pryor, Doug Price, Tyler Bober

201: Open: William Spoon, Matt Ellerman, Clint Callaway, Aaron Kloppe, Kris Kloppe

+30: Cliff Davis, Tim McCormack, Ralph Moore, Don Cloyd

+40: Tony Siler, Greg Simkins, Steve Wohletz, Billy Johnson, Ken Simons

BEGINNER: Kevin Bresee, Dominique Haygood, Brain Mayfield, Steve Wilson, Levi Garrison, Tim Miller, Adam Thorsbakken

YOUTH: Zach Neill, Luke McCullough, AJ Pollard

PEE WEE: Kole Hensley, Marty McCullough, Tyler Pollard, Brandon McCullough, Trevor McCormack, Aaron Williams, Aaron Haygold

ATV: Curtis Moore, Matt Dunbar, Mark Dunbar, David Salbil, Jason Young,

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PARK HILLS

The second race of the MHSC 2002 series was held at the St Joe State Park at Park Hills, MO. Karl Harris and I headed up on Saturday and we knew that it was going to be a muddy race. The area had received four inches of rain in the previous few days. And with 330+ bikes signed up for the race, I knew it was going to be muddy. It was. In fact, I was able to fill up a couple of low spots in my yard with dirt off the bike after I got home.

The Missouri Mudders laid out a 12-mile course. There were a few places where a bike just might have a small problem. Maybe the craziest of the riders was in the Super Senior class, he was riding a Suzuki RM370, about 1977 or 1978 vintage. Either that or the guy that came to ride his brand new XR650 and found out the park was closed for the race and decided to go ahead and race. Wow, I wish I could have talked to him after the race. This would have been a very tough first race. (I hope it wasn't his last race.)

The guy on the RM370 started a row in front of me. Our row caught and passed him before we got to the woods. I'll get an official report from Frank Leivan on how the fast guys did. For one of the slow guys, me, it was 2 hours and 45 minutes, riding three laps, trying not to get stuck. There were some pretty steep hills out there. One or two dozen mud bogs to get past.

If you did ride smart, most of the course was easily passable. On the bright side, there wasn't going to be a dust problem. It was a one-jersey day. Skies were overcast and the temperature was cool. I didn't see any bikes stuck in the same place lap after lap. Course workers were able to get folks going. By the last lap, the course started grooving out from the bikes, making it more rideable by then. Unfortunately, I was tired enough that I didn't want to chance getting my bike, that was by now carrying 40 pounds of mud, stuck!

OMTRA Stuff

The Next OMTRA Meeting:
Buckingham's
April 18 at 7PM



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OMTRA

4/18/02 – Meeting, 7 p.m., Buckingham’s Restaurant, S. Campbell

PERCH JERK

4/21/02 – Greg Lowe’s Place, West Plains, MO

Hillbilly GP Awards Bar-B-Que

5/11/02 – Pavilion at Chadwick, 5pm

Arkansas Hare Scramble Series

www.arkansasharescramble.com

- 4/14/02 –** Pine Ridge, Russellville, AR (870) 612-8186
- 5/5/02 –** Sturkie Hare Scramble, Sturkie, AR (870) 932-4299 or (870) 477-5214
- 6/2/02-** Cedar Creek Grand Prix, Goshen, AR (501) 521-5390
- 6/30/02 –** Beech Grove Bandit, Cass, AR (501) 667-4066 or (888) 520-7301
- 8/25/02 –** Turkey Ridge, Searcy, AR (501) 843-2836
- 9/8/02 –** Frog Pond Hare Scramble, Smackover, AR (870) 725-3966, (870)-725-2328, (870) 612-8186
- 9/22/02 –** Possum Trot Hare Scramble, Harrison, AR (870) 741-3131
- 10/13/02 –** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 10/27/02 –** Ten Bends (888)-844-9440
- 12/1/02 –** River Front Grand Prix, Fort Smith, AR (501) 648-1696

2002 Missouri Hare Scramble Championship Schedule

- 4/14/02 –** Nasty Creek, Steelville, MO (636) 239-5611
- 4/28/02 –** Missouri Mulekicker National, Kahoka, MO (660) 727-3301
- 5/5/02 –** Missouri Dirt Riders \$\$\$, Westphalia, MO (636) 942-4884 or (636) 398-4468
- 5/19/02 –** Brush Busters \$\$\$, Warrensburg, MO (816) 842-2453 – BIKES ONLY
- 6/2/02 –** Blackwater 50 \$\$\$, Marshfield, MO (417) 581-4678 or (417) 581-4544
- 6/16/02 –** March of Dimes, Park Hills, MO (636) 942-4884 or (636) 398-4468
- 6/30/02 –** Newark \$\$\$, Newark, MO (217) 656-3375 or (217) 224-6626
- 7/14/02 –** Show-Me Motorsports \$\$\$, Tebbetts, MO (573) 761-4296 or (573)295-4326
- 7/28/02 –** Poor Boys, Florence, MO (660) 668-2114
- 8/11/02 –** Old Son Racing, Polo, MO (816) 365-5585 – BIKES ONLY
- 8/25/02 –** Lake Creek, Sedalia, MO (660) 668-3578
- 9/8/02 –** Spare Parts, Eugene, MO (573) 395-4655, (573)348-1157, (573)392-3221 – BIKES ONLY
- 9/22/02 –** Smithville Lake, Smithville, MO (913) 856-4015 – BIKES ONLY

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2002 BJEC Schedule

www.BlackJackEnduro.com

- 4/28/02 –** Tulsa Trail Riders, Claremore, OK (918)- 663-6218
- 5/19/02 –** Lead Belt, Park Hills, MO (314) 639-6373 or (314) 510-3243 Email: msilger@ix.netcom.com
- 6/09/02 –** Train Robbers, Little Rock, AR (501) 758-4413 or (501) 835-2677
- 6/23/02 –** Golden Eagle, Stillwater, OK
- 9/15/02 –** Indian Nations, Gruber, OK, Email: jaingram@earthlink.net
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