

TID BITS

Chadwick alert.

There will be a meeting about Chadwick April 10 at Ozark, MO. I don't know a lot of details, like when and where in Ozark the meeting will be held. I have found out that one of the subjects will be ATVs and motorcycles being operated out-

side the riding area, on public roads and in Bull Creek. If I don't get next month's newsletter out on t i m e , c h e c k www.HillBillyGP.com for details. This is your chance to get involved, be there.

tively. That's cheating, upper body strength and great balance. He rides a stock DRZ400E and if he keeps it up, he'll be riding the intermediate class. Good Job, Mike.

A big thanks goes to Karl Harris for writing the article on the last HBGP at Keltner's. I got kind of whiney and didn't feel

like loading up the bike in 20-degree temperatures the night before. Luckily, everybody else didn't feel so whiney and there was a pretty good turnout. There was only one 1.5-hour moto instead of the usual two 45-minute motos. Expert riders Anthony Meyer and Caleb

The March OMTRA Meeting: Joey's Only Fish House, Republic Road and Kansas, Springfield, MO March 20 – 7 pm

Hill Billy GP

The 2002-2003 season is over. The weather didn't cooperate as well this year as it has in years past. In spite of that, the series is getting bigger and bigger every year. This is the only series for quite a few folks. I was talking to one of them at the last couple of races. Mike Herbert had done quite well in the over 40 class. He only rode the last three races of the series. When he said that his racing was over for the year, I said, "What, you're doing great." It turns out he kayaks competi-

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Lebanon Suzuki-Kawasaki, Inc. 1-888-898-3014 E-Mail: Suzuki@jobe.net Woletz had quite a duel going for most of the race until the last couple of laps when Anthony was able to pull a slight lead. In fact, Anthony came in a few seconds before the clock showed 90 minutes and we made him go out one more time. Good Job, Anthony.

HBGP awards are going to be given out on May 10th at Chadwick. Yes, it's a Saturday. In fact, it's the day before Mother's Day. Here's the plan: get there early on Saturday and ride until sometime around 6pm. That's when the food, give-aways and awards start.

Missouri Hare Scramble Championship

The first race of the MHSC series was March 2 at Lebanon. I didn't get to the race. However, according to Spud, it wasn't as bad as everybody thought it would be. The weather may have been better than expected, but dust wasn't a problem. Brandon Forrester won by a minute and sixteen seconds over Chris Nesbitt, both on Kawasakis. Chris Thiele, Aaron Shaw and Caleb Wohletz rounded out the top five.

A few of the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders had a good day. Anthony Meyer won the A Class by seven minutes. Jon "Spud" Simons picked up a seventh in the A class. Karl "KTMKarl" Harris won the Open B class. He was the only rider in the class to complete 5 laps. Aaron "Chili" Roberts was second in the 4-Stroke B class. Shane Roberts took the mighty TTR to 3rd in the 200 C class. Elston Moore got third in the highly competitive Vet class. Kreg Simons and Dave Berry came in first and second in the Senior class. John Gott and Billy Johnson were one and two in the Super Senior class

WUDI V

(Continued on page 3)

More BITS

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The weekend of March 1st and 2nd was the fifth annual WUDI ride. Actually, things started a little earlier on Thursday night when the first folks arrived at White Rock National Forest in Arkansas. I didn't get to this either. The folks that come to the WUDI ride all participate in the newsgroup rec.motorcycle.dirt on the Internet. The weather also held down participation in this gettogether.

They rode at White Rock on Saturday and Sunday, then moved up to Chadwick on Monday. I know quite a few of the folks from the Black Jack Enduro Circuit were in attendance, including Brian Jahelka, the web master as tour guide. When they moved up to Chadwick, Stewart Hall and Gary Hendrickson played tour guides.

Black Jack Enduro Circuit

The first race of the year is coming up in a few weeks at White Rock. If you have a youth rider or you are a youth rider, you might want to check out www.blackjackenduro.com.

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WORCS

Steve Underwood, Karl Harris and Brian Sharp headed down to Texas to try out the WORCS series on February 22nd and 23rd. This series started out as a West Coast series. This year, they are going to have an East Coast series and a West Coast series. In November, there is going to be an East/West shootout in Stillwater, OK.

I did see a few familiar names in the results. Steve Leivan was tenth overall, about six minutes behind overall winner Cole Calkins. Caleb Wohletz was 13th overall. Karl Harris was 35th overall and 4th in the A 4-Stroke class. Steve Underwood wasn't far behind at 39th overall and 6th in the A 4-Stroke Class. They also raced on Saturday with Karl picking up 6th and Brian Sharp 10th the 30+ class. Steve got 3rd in the 40+ class.

Go to www.worcsracing.com for complete results.

Karl promised to do a little write-up on the race. It sounds like getting to the race was more of an adventure than the race itself. Hopefully, I'll have something next month.

Offroad Zone Magazine

I just got this e-mail from Greg Thonen. He is starting a new motorcycle and ATV magazine covering motocross, hare scrambles, enduros and just plain trail riding. He says, "Our goal is to give readers the best writing, photography and graphic design available and dedicate those efforts to the true off-road fan." Good Luck, Greg. By the way, what are goals?

Check out www.offroadzone.com

HBGP Keltner's Place

By Karl Harris

The Saturday before the last Hill Billy race at Keltner's, I received a rare invite to ride with two former BJEC champions, Rusty Reynaud and Mark Reed. While I have been taking my racing pretty seriously lately and hated to tear my bike or body up, that's just not the type of invite one receives every day, so of course I jumped at the opportunity. We met at Rusty's place and watched the Supercross before heading out into the cold muddy day to play. The trails were pretty slick but the MX track was a quagmire; we chased each other around and around in the rain for a while, then Mark and I found a cool jump and proceeded to wow Rusty with our freestyle skills. Rusty reciprocated with his version of Pastrana's famous canyon jump, minus the parachute and the backflip. All in all we had a real good time, considering the weather was about as nasty as it gets. The whole time I kept thinking there is no way we'll be racing tomorrow! When we were done we washed up the bikes as the rain started to freeze to everything in sight! I did have

Elston Moore early in the race.

the sense to pass up an invite to witness the mini bike nationals

at Frank's place in Strafford and I headed home and tried to think of an alternate plan for my Sunday.

Imagine my surprise Sunday morning when I logged on the Hillbilly website and Spud had posted "WE ARE RACIN!" Yikes! Talk about unprepared. At least Bessie was clean, even if she was covered with ice. I scrambled around and found all my gear, loaded it up and hit the road. By the time I hit Springfield it started blowing snow, the bridges were getting slick and I was starting to doubt my masculinity. Just about the time I was getting ready to turn around, I saw John and Karen Reppy fly up behind me. John was wound up and ready to race (I think the cop's radar said he was wound up to 87!). I knew then there was no turning back.

For those of you who haven't been to Keltner's place, I'll let you in on a little secret:his place is probably the prettiest place we ride. You park right at the mouth of a big valley that stretches out in front of you for miles with steep timber-laden hills surrounding it. The tops of the ridges

are cleared for farming or better yet, grass tracking. And somehow in an area not known to be exactly fertile, he has managed to keep some dirt around. Not that it would matter on this day as everything was frozen solid! I elected not to ride a practice lap in order to fend off frost bite. Instead I spent my free time scoping out the start. Spud had set up an unSpudlike fast downhill start into a left hander and then down an even steeper downhill on hard packed frozen "death dirt!" I guess if he is gonna make 'em fast, he's gonna make 'em scary. When race time did roll around, 51 brave souls (or fools) lined up to do battle. I was surprised to see 9 intermediates present; this class has really come around in the last few years and it is nice to have more people out there trying to beat me down. We all had our minds set to charge down the start straight at full throttle and back it

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into the first turn, and then we watched Caleb Wohletz nearly catapult his scrawny butt right over the front of his 250F when he hit a little ditch about 20 feet out from start. I quickly reevaluated my strategy and decided to go into puss mode. When the board dropped I found myself up front in the company of Chris Vaught and Justin Smith. Smith decided to give me the first corner and let me follow Vaught down that gnarly hill and around to a short MX section. Vaught set a strong pace and kept the AA's in sight. I decided to just follow him and see how it is done, which worked out just fine until the trail snaked us down a long chopped-up hill and threw us into a gnarly little mud creek.



Anthony Meyer leads Caleb Wohletz into the first corner.

That's when Vaught checked out! I kicked Bessie into overdrive and started playing catch-up. Holding on tighter was not a good plan, and the start of the second lap found me riding the downhills on my knuckles trying to get some warm feeling back in my fingers. I finally started riding loose and made some time back on Vaught. Pushing hard in the grass tracks got me back on his back fender just before the section where he left me on the previous lap. I had decided to keep up with him or die trying when the most amazing thing happened; he pulled over and let me by! I don't know if it was a late Christmas present or an early birthday gift, but I didn't shake the box, I just tore into it.

It was about this time that we started to hit some of the lap traffic. For the most part everyone was cool and went out of their way to make room for us, but some sections didn't have any room and things started getting a little tricky. Catching one small bottleneck in a tight section of saplings got my goggles started on their way to fog city. I tried to unzip my jacket, but

the zipper was stuck and struggling with the top of the jacket in my mouth while riding one handed through the trees did more harm than good. It was about this time that I noticed Chili coming FAST. He had come out of nowhere and was way too close for comfort. My desire to maintain my lead overpowered my want for vision and I decided to try and check out. Unfortunately my diminished brain power kept me from understanding that one needs vision to properly negotiate rugged terrain. I was miraculously able to stay upright, but my plan of pulling away wasn't working and I decided to lose the goggles. Once I had the gift of sight back. I managed to eke out a little more lead on Chili; then on the fourth lap he decided to fall down and let Steve Underwood take up the chase. Underwood had also come back

through the pack after a typical Yamaha start, and he had his sights set on taking my position! I hate it when this happens; why can't they just let me win the darn thing! We were catching a bunch of traffic by this point and I was really lucking out and using the lappers to block for me. I would catch two or three in the grass tracks and try to time it just right so I could get into



Karl Harris heads through scoring

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Chili gets some big air.

(Continued from page 5)

the woods before them and keep Steve behind them. This tactic worked like a charm for most the part, which is a good bething cause the light snow that was falling us was freezing to my contacts and forcing me to ride with one eye closed for a few seconds at a

time to thaw them out! I kept this game going my way for three laps, although at the time I thought for sure each lap was our last and I just knew Ken and Bob were playing games with me when they kept sending me out. Then on the eighth and final lap it nearly blew up in my face. I caught a group of four riders who were having a race of their own and didn't have any intentions of letting me slip by. I had to go into "Trail Rage" mode to pound my way by, which let Steve gain on me quite a

bit. Then in the section I called the Tiny Tim sapling pile, a nasty little off-camber thing that I found was best negotiated while singing "Tiptoe through tulips," the caught a group all piled up and I had little of nowhere to go. Luckily I rem e m b e r e d Bessie's brush hog skills and kicked the PTO in and went for the pass, mowing down everything sight! Steve had to resort to the same



Chris Mitchell overall Youth winner for the season.

tactics, so I was able to hold on and get through the boards in front for my first Hill Billy overall in the A class.



Here's the Beginner class heading into the first corner



Another Tall Guy's Trick

As most of you know, I spend quite a bit of time, effort and money making my motorcycles fit my 6'4" frame. There are times when it's handy to have long legs. I remember one particular hill in a Tulsa Trail Rider event at Henrietta, OK that they made the difference between making it and not making it up the hill.

However, most the time it just means more effort is required to go from sitting to standing.

So when Steve Underwood told me about this little trick that would lower my pegs approximately 3/8 of an inch and also move them to the back by the same amount on my new WR450F, I listened very intently.

First, I purchased a pair of aftermarket IMS foot pegs. But I think this could be done with a pair of stock pegs. Then, I took them to Terry Brumley at Turner Station Welding. Terry cut the little tube that normally rides below the main peg support and welded it above the support. When the peg is mounted on the bike, it causes the peg to ride on the bottom of the pivot peg instead of the top.



Modified IMS Peg left, Stock peg right

Once the peg has been modified, they go back on the bike just like stock. Except the return springs get swapped, use the one that was on the left peg on the ride side and vice-versa.

I don't know if this trick will work on all bikes. I don't think it will on a DRZ.

It doesn't seem like much, but every little bit helps.





Notes on Spokes, March 2003, Page 8

It doesn't get any better than this.

By Bob Fuerst

February 2, 2003, was one of those rare perfect dirt bike riding days. It wasn't dusty or muddy. It wasn't too hot or too cold. And it was the middle of winter. Through word of month about 30 folks met up at a super secret private riding area. There was a ten mile loop laid out, all single track. The trail was broken in just right, but not blown out. About seven miles of the trail were pretty open with nice sweeping turns and the other three were bar bangers. To add icing on the cake, a field with a grass track.

We just kept saying, it just doesn't get any better than this.

Don't let me forget to mention that I had picked up a new bike the day before, a WR450F. I didn't have time to do anything but oil the air filter and chain. That means no bark busters or cut down bars. And for me, no tall bars or tall seat.

Of course, most of use met for breakfast before we went riding. You gotta do that eating thing. And everyone was talking about riding my new bike.

Not much really too memorable happened that day. Well, John and Bryson Gott might have some lasting memories of the day, but I won't go into details.

The go fasters were up front. Caleb Wohletz made a three-hour drive just to be there! Spud came out to play instead of promote. Steve Underwood showed up with his works YZ450F. I think Carl Gallette was escaping. I didn't know Carl now has three kids 1, 2 and 4. He probably found it relaxing chasing big kids through the woods instead of little kids around the house. Let's see, Elston, Chili, Kreg, Brian and KTMKarl were banging bars. I didn't see much of those folks. I saw a lot of Dale, Kevin and Nick.

Wayne Biendorf brought a neighbor kid on a 125. The kid probably saw more go-fasting than he had ever in his life. Or maybe he thought these folks are idiots.

It wasn't just bunch of hard core riders. Kevin brought the whole family out. Donna brought Katie M., that's her and Elston's dog for those of you that don't know. Jackie brought out

the TTR 250 with the e-start. She was glad to be with friends.

I know I missed several folks. Everybody was having a good time.

I think there was more bike swapping going on then usual. I got a chance to ride Karl's KTM 520exc. It's got a tad bit of power. Dale was trying out the YZ250Fs with the 2003 cam. They got automatic decompression, making the bike much easier to start.

The neat part was the next day. A couple of my co-workers were talking about how they wish they were on this Caribbean island or that Caribbean island. I just said, "I wish I could re-live yesterday."



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Manahanahin

The February meeting of the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders Association was held at McGuffey's in Chesterfield Village in South Springfield. For the second month in a row, we had an excellent turnout with about 30 folks showing up.

We got a blast from the past with Jim Moon attending. Not only that, but he brought one of his scrapbooks. I would have liked to have had a chance to read all the articles. But I did get a chance to add a few more names to my list of past Chadwick Enduro winners, 1975 – Jeff Allen, 1976 – Richard Yeager, 1977 – Bill Uzzell and 1978 – Tom Dennis. We also used this opportunity to present Jim with his Chadwick Hall of Fame Plaque.

Kevin Henslee and I had received e-mails from Greg Lowe regarding this year's Perch Jerk. After much discussion and a vote, it was decided that due to the cost of insurance required for the event, not to support it.

Kevin gave a Shawn injury/healing report. Shawn can put all his weight on his bad leg. He can even walk without support, although looking like Frankenstein.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Tommy Johnson passed away. We took up a collection to give to Jackie.

With the real business completed, we talked about a few lighter subjects.

The Hillbilly GP 2002-2003 series is history. Spud thanked all the folks that helped, participated or just spectated. He said even with the challenges the weather gave us, it was a good year. And don't forget the Hillbilly Banquet on May $10^{\rm th}$ at Chadwick.

Things are heating up on www.HillBillyGP.com. Karl Harris is trying to set a record for the number of posts put on the website. If you haven't been to the discussion group, you owe yourself. If you don't have a computer, I think it's time to buy one. Even if it is just for this!

We are starting to get some ATV riders coming to the meetings. We're an off-road club. We all have to share the same land. We need to work together.

We ended up with one of my favorite subjects, Colorado. It looks like we have penciled in our calendar for the week of July 27th. We don't know the exact details yet. I'll keep you posted.

Bob Fuerst

The March OMTRA Meeting: Joey's Only Fish House, Republic Road and Kansas, Springfield, MO March 20 – 7 pm

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Mark Your Calendar

3/20/03 – OMTRA March Meeting. Joey's Only Fish House, Republic Road and Kansas Expressway, Springfield, MO - 7 PM

4/10/03 - Chadwick Meeting Ozark, MO

5/12/03 – HBGP Awards Banquet, Chadwick OHV Area at the Pavillion

2003 Missouri Hare Scrambles Championship

Information 417-537-8406 Frank Leivan

3/2/03 – Lebanon 3/16/03 – Columbia 3/30/03 – Bixby 4/13/03 – Westphalia

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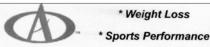
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7/27/03 – Florence 8/10/03 – Polo

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4/13/03 – TBA, Russellville, AR area

5/3-4/03* – Sturkie Road, near Mtn. Home, AR

5/18/03 – TBA, Somerville, TN 5/31-6/1/03* – Pine Ridge, Russellville, AR

6/28-29/03* – River Ridge Classic, Doddridge, AR 9/20-21/03* – Wildcat Grand Prix, Decatur, AR 10/4-5/03* – Hwy 89 Hare scramble, Mayflower, AR

10/18-19/03* – Possum Trot, Harrison, AR 11/2/03 – Cedar Creek GP, Goshen, AR

11/29-30/03* - RiverFront Grand Prix, Ft. Smith, AR

* - ATVs run on Saturday

2003 BJEC Schedule

www.BlackJackEnduro.com

3/23/03 – White Rock, AR

4/6/03 – Gruber, OK

5/4/03 – Nacogdoches, TX

5/18/03 – Park Hills, MO (National)

6/8/03 – Bismark, AR

6/22/03 – Stillwater, OK

9/14/03 – Gruber, OK

10/12/03 – Oklahoma City, OK

10/26/03 - Chadwick, MO

11/9/03 - Red River, TX

11/23/03 – Scipio, OK

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