

Notes on Spokes

February 2002

Tracy Bauman (137)
and Rusty Reynaud
(x1) duel in the first
turn at Cassville

- In this Issue:
- Hillbilly GP at Cassville
 - Dream Bike
 - Tid Bits and More

TID BITS

THE OZARK MOUNTAIN TRAILRIDERS WILL BE HOSTING A 2-HR HARE-SCRAMBLE ON MARCH 3RD NORTH OF BRANSON. GET THE WORD OUT. THIS IS AN APPRECIATION EVENT FOR MEL & CAROL GERE AND JERRY & ELLIE SHARP. DIRECTIONS WILL BE POSTED AT A LATER DATE.

SEE YA, KEVIN

When I talked to Kevin on 2/10, he was still working on getting the directions to this race. He will post them on www.hillbillygp.com.

Hello all. A great friend and a local legend in the off-road racing scene, Mel Gere, has retired. Mel and his wife Carol, sold Action Cycle LTD at the end of 2001. For over twenty-five years Mel was the number one source for parts and accessories to thousands of racers and casual trail riders. Mel played many other roles as well including race promoter, banker (you guys know what I am talking about), advisor, father, and all-around great friend.

Mel's daughter and son, Carmel and Doug, have arranged a well-deserved Retirement Party for him. They are inviting all of you to be a part of it!

The Party will be held Tuesday, February 26, 2002, 6 - 9 p.m., at Cuzzin's Pizza, Pub and Grill located in the Andreas Plaza (4339 South National) just south of Republic Road. (For you out-of-towners, this is in Springfield.) The cost will be \$5.99 for adults and \$3.99 for kids. It should be noted that Cuzzin's serves up 26 different drafts of beer.

I encourage you to get there early as it will be a great turnout! Bring your best Mel/Carol/Action Cycle stories and old photos if you have 'em. Don't miss this party as it will be a ton of fun! Cliff

Injury report:

I hate to do this kind of thing, but unfortunately, it

(Continued on page 3)

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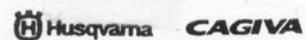
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MORE BITS

comes with the territory.

Steve Leivan was hurt at the Cassville Hillbilly GP. He broke his arm and six ribs. He now has a trick titanium rod in his arm and he's not wearing a cast. He hopes if everything goes well to ride the MHSC series. Luckily, he had already planned to work the first event at Lebanon.

Lee Letellier broke his leg while riding at Chadwick on Sunday (1/27/02). It was a compound fracture and surgery was performed to install a rod in his leg. He is in Cox South Hospital doing OK. He will probably go home Tuesday. Rusty Reynaud and myself made the comment that we are getting tired of carrying fast guys out of the woods on flat boards. Get well soon Lee. Kevin Henslee

I was riding with Justin Smith (and a bunch of other folks) at Marshfield, MO, when Justin went down.

He didn't think it was too bad. In fact, he rode back to the truck. He even tried to ride again. I heard he didn't go to the doctor until Wednesday, where he found out that he had a broken wrist. If you don't know Justin, he started chasing the Missouri Hare Scramble Champion series last year where he got real fast.

NEXT MONTH

- Hillbilly GP at Highlandville
- WUDI IV
- MHSC at Lebanon
- Sharp-Gere Hare Scramble
- Mel's retirement party

WUDI IV

It's the fourth annual early spring get together of a bunch of folks that regularly communicate on the Internet.

Last year, they went to Little Rock, AR and rode at the site of the Train Robbers Enduro. This year, they are riding at Chadwick on 2/22 thru 2/24, then they are packing up and going to White Rock.

Jim Cook of Smackover Motorsports is one of the organizers of this "event."

My plans are to drive to the OMTRA meeting on 2/21 in the RV. When it concludes, head to Chadwick. Ride Chadwick Friday and Saturday morning. In the afternoon, pack up and head to Lebanon for Sunday's Missouri Hare Scrambles Championship race. The sacrifices I make for this newsletter.

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Racin' Luck

Unseasonably warm temperatures greeted approximately 150 racers for the fourth Hillbilly GP of the 2001-2002 season at Cassville, MO. 110 bikes and 40 ATVs took to Spud's 4 mile course. This race was back to the standard two 45 minute motos.



Greg Lowe leads Stewart Hall coming out of the second corner at the start of the first moto

It was a tight, hilly course. It was *really* tight for the ATVs. The start straight was very short. The experts started first and they couldn't have had time to

upshift before the first corner. The first corner was a 180-degree corner around a cedar tree with another short straight before you went into the woods. You might get a pass in before you got to the woods, but then it got tough or lucky.

And speaking of luck, I race the over 40 class and I had the luck going my way this day. Unfortunately, some other folks didn't. Just after we


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Here's the start of the beginner class. The beginner class doesn't get too much attention. But without the beginners' entry fees, promoters wouldn't be able to have these races, and we were all beginners at one time. So don't abuse them too much.

started the last lap, in the bottom of a ravine, Stewart Hall and Greg Off decided they needed a little quality time together. They were running second and third before they went down. Stewart had just

(Continued on page 5)



At left is the start of the first moto of the intermediate class. 191 is Karl Harris and 334 is Dave Berry. I'm not sure of the rider on the XR leading.

(Continued from page 4)

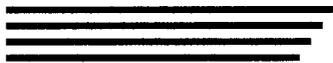
got going when I caught them and Greg was still in the ravine. The ravine was so steep that Greg ended up ghost riding just to get out of there. Anyhow, Stewart wasn't very far in front of me when we came to a bottleneck on one of the steep hills, not far from the end of the course. Stewart went to the left through the woods and got stuck. When I got there, I charged the hill, hoping something

would happen and I would get through. It was like the parting of the waves. The bikes moved just enough for me to wiggle through and pick up another position.

Then, during the first ATV moto, it wasn't really bad racing luck, it was bad spectating luck. An ATV got out of control on one of the hills and managed to roll down the hill with a spectator, Betty Smith, breaking her leg. Both her husband and son were racing in the ATV race. In fact, when her son

(Continued on page 6)

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The start of the Pee Wee race. These kids are pretty intense.



Ryan Johnson, age 9 (almost 10), Pee Wee class winner. "He's a little motocrosser," said one member of Johnson's pit crew. "He's fearless. He can jump that thing about as far as the big guys jump their 250s."

stopped to help, she told him to get back out there.

Then the bikes took off for their second moto. On the second lap, at the bottom of this big hill, there was a rider down. I didn't know who it was at the time, but I found out later it was Steve Leivan. He was running

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 6)



Hey, don't you think you're a little too big to be racing in the PEE WEE Class?

As I write this, they have already put a titanium

second at the time. Since there were lots of folks around, I continued racing. The promoters stopped the race at the half way point on the second lap so an ambulance could get Steve out. It turns out Steve broke his arm and six



Future Champions

rod in his arm.

Since the race was stopped and the hour was getting late, the promoters decided to score the bikes on just the first moto. As usual, you can see the results on www.HillBillyGP.com.

DREAM BIKE!

By Karl Harris

I just wanted to drop a line to caution readers of Notes on Spokes to the dangers of dream bikes. I know it is popular to fantasize about the joys of owning your dream bike, but the presence of the lottery system as it exists could put your reputation or possibly even your life in jeopardy. Recently I attended a trail ride at Chadwick with a middle-aged fellow whose wife had just weeks before given permission to purchase one of these new fangled dream bikes. Luckily no one was hurt.

The day started off well. I actually showed up for breakfast before him, which is a good sign. You see his not being exceptionally early is a display of his maturity—his ability to stay focused and alert even though a dream lay tethered in his trailer waiting to escape. Even our first ride showed signs of promise. Absent were the telltale signs of the dream bike sickness. There were none of the hideous full throttle gravel slinging rev limiter tests or berm-blasting brake slide sessions; in their place I found smooth controlled riding style and a surprisingly brisk pace. Back at the truck I spoke with the man and was surprised at his calm and confident attitude. The vocabulary he chose inspired confidence in his character; the terms “awesome,” “bitchen” and “gnarly” were not to be found. I remember thinking to myself, here in my presence is a man so strong of will that he may be able to squash the dream bike curse. Our next moments showed even greater signs of his strength. He even went so far as to ride in a relatively large group. This is an action almost unheard of from a 30-plus-year-old man; to be riding a brand new bike in the

presence of so many of his peers is invitation to almost certain ridicule or, worse yet, personal injury. Confidence was oozing from his every pore. Next he shocked the entire procession by offering his new ride to be tried out by other members of the group. A few of them threw caution to the wind and took him up on his offer, and he rode their mounts without complaint.

I was beginning to doubt this man’s sincerity; could he REALLY LOVE this new bike? Then at the geographically furthest point from the safety of the truck, my world was made right again. This man was not super human. He did not possess unworldly skill that allowed him to circumnavigate fate. At this, the most remote point of our journey, the man sat humbled by the natural order of things. Faced headlong with the realization that even a brand new state of the art super wackazoomie race machine requires one simple yet undeniable input.

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OMTRA Stuff



The Next OMTRA Meeting: Diamond Head February 21 at 7PM

The January meeting of the Ozark Mountain Trail Riders was held at the Springfield Brewing Company. Even with rather nasty weather, we had a pretty good turnout with about 2 dozen folks showing up.

I didn't take any notes, so I am trying to remember what was discussed. Spud discussed having a camping weekend at Marshfield, the site of the Hillbilly GP. He mentioned having it the week after the Missouri Hare Scramble Championship race there on June 2, but there is a Black Jack Enduro Circuit race that weekend (6/9/02). So a possible weekend is Memorial Day weekend.

Kevin talked about the Mel & Carol Gere/Jerry & Ellie Sharp appreciation race on March 3. (Would that be the Sharp-Gere Race.) He hadn't been to the site at the time of the meeting, so there wasn't much more he could say about the event.

You need to attend the next meeting. Here are a few of the topics on the agenda:

1. Colorado. Many folks have expressed interest in going to Colorado this summer. Bring your calendars, we need to determine a date.

2. Website. Kevin wants to discuss combining the OMTRA website with the Hillbilly GP website.



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(OMTRA)

Mark Your Calendar

OMTRA

2/21/02 – Meeting, 7 p.m., Diamond Head Restaurant, S. Campbell

Mel's Retirement Party

2/26/02 – 6pm to 9pm, Cuzzin's Pizza, Pub and Grill, Andreas Plaza (4339 South National, Springfield MO)

HARE SCRAMBLE!

3/3/03 – Appreciation event for Mel & Carol Gere and Jerry & Ellie Sharp

2002 Missouri Hare Scramble Championship Schedule

- 2/24/02** – Elk Creek \$\$\$, Lebanon, MO (417) 537-8406
- 3/17/02** – Leadbelt, Park Hills, MO (314) 966-2620
- 3/24/02** – MXP \$\$\$ Columbia, MO (636) 488-3174 or (636) 257-2260
- 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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- 3/10/02** – Beech Grove Bandit, Cass, AR (501) 667-4066 or (888) 520-7301
- 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 BJEC Schedule

www.BlackJackEnduro.com

- 3/24/02** – White Rock, Combs, AR (501) 521-4194 or (501) 267-2683
- 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
- 10/06/02** – Red River, Muenster, TX (940) 387-8123
- 10/20/02** – Hardwood, Chadwick, MO (417) 581-4046 or (417) 833-6672
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