

**SERVING MISSOURI / NORTHERN ARKANSAS / KANSAS**

**"Note's on Spoke's"**



# NEWSLETTER

**23RD ISSUE**

**LOCAL DIRT BIKE NEWS**

**AUG'96**

"The time's are a changing." I

heard that tune somewhere . . . . and it applies here, to all of us.

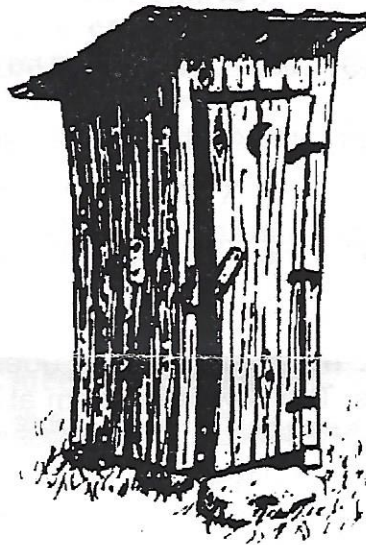
Many of you know about Draper Lake in Oklahoma City. A place that was a free riding area, now has a permit requirement. Well folks . . . . Chadwick joins that category on 1 Jan '97.

I think it's evolution of sorts. I have always believed that riding areas in this part of the country would eventually change. They have to. Part of it I'm sure is due to the need by the forestry service to generate income. With Chadwick's plan, generating income really means the area (or activity) needs to help pay for itself. You can argue this a number of ways including that "we" as taxpayers have already contributed and do in fact pay the forestry wages. Sounds good but we as off-road enthusiasts are a specialty use group. Our specialty use area needs to generate some income to sustain itself in the way of improvements and general maintenance.

All revenue generated (the way I understand the current plan) pays 80% directly back to the forest district that controls Chadwick. This means dollars for Chadwick itself. The one thing it does that I like very much is ruin an argument by radically opposed environmentalists that their tax dollars help pay for it. The hope is that it will pay for itself.

Another thing to consider is that there are more and more people. Our population is growing. That means more and more people are fighting to gain and protect areas for their form of out-

## "Deep Thought's"



door recreation, whatever that form is. There are

only so many available pieces of ground so that fight will intensify as numbers of people increase. Makes sense doesn't it? These aren't new thoughts for me and really are the basis for starting this letter. There needs to be a vehicle to share news. Develop mailing lists of concerned people in our form of recreation. At the local level this means we have the potential to show a unified front on issues. Unfortunately I believe in the future it will not be enough . . and probably isn't enough now! At least it's a start.

People who enjoy off-road vehicles are, for the most part, individualistic folks. They want to do their own thing. I understand that completely as I am one of those people. The sad part is that the people comprising groups that would actively try to limit our riding opportunities are very well organized . . . and motivated! We, whether we like it or not, have to become better organized also . . . . or we will become unable to compete.

As for the pay-to-ride thing at Chadwick? . . . I think it has more positive benefits than it has negatives. When you turn the page, you will find the flyer that is being handed out by the forestry. There are some questionable areas, wrinkles if you will, that are still being hashed out so there will be news to follow this as the thing evolves and we get closer to the 1 Jan '97 date. We will do our very best to keep you posted! There's a lot more in this issue that is related to this topic so let's turn the page and get to it!





# **!!!ATTENTION RIDERS!!!**

**Effective January 1, 1997 all ATVs,  
MOTORCYCLES, and BICYCLES used  
on the Chadwick Trails need a PERMIT.**

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## **PERMIT FEES**

**ATVs & MOTORCYCLES: ANNUAL \$35 DAILY \$5.**

**BICYCLES: ANNUAL \$20 DAILY \$3.**

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## **WHERE THE MONEY GOES**

80% of the fees collected will be used at Chadwick for maintenance and improvements of trails and facilities. The remaining 20% goes to the US Forest Service for use at other recreation sites. The new fee system at Chadwick is authorized by Congress in 1996 under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Usually, the money collected from fees goes directly to the US Treasury.

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## **WHY CHARGE FEES?**

The current trend of smaller government has resulted in less money and fewer people to do the work necessary to keep the Chadwick Trail system open and operational. The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program will ensure the money collected from people using Chadwick will be spent on Chadwick.

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## **INFORMATION UPDATES**

We are committed to keeping you, the Chadwick users, informed of what is happening. The fee program is new to all of us. We don't know all the answers yet. As we obtain information, we will pass it on. If you want to get on our mailing list, send us your name and address. You can reach us at the Ava District Office at (417) 683-4428, or write to Chadwick Trails, Ava Ranger District, PO Box 188, Ava, MO 65608

July 12, 1996



# **CHADWICK . . . . the "Official View."**

As we mentioned several months ago, Chadwick had been proposed as a Fee Demonstration area. With the passing of the Omnibus Consolidated Recissions and Appropriations Act Of 1996 (PL-104-134) by Congress this spring, Chadwick along with another 49 areas across the nation, has been approved to participate in this experiment.

The good news is that 80% of the fees collected from permit sales will be reinvested in the Chadwick Area. Currently, any fees collected at recreation sites are returned to the U.S. Treasury with no direct benefit to the site where the fees were generated. This new program is a 3-year test to demonstrate the feasibility of returning fees to the originating site for operation, maintenance, and improvements.

At the Ava Ranger District, we're excited about this new program. Over the years, we've had less money and fewer people. Our lack of funding shows. The Fee Demonstration Program will allow us to focus our energy and attention in direct proportion to the amount of use or fees collected. For every \$35 annual permit, \$28 will be spent on Chadwick.

An important aspect of the Fee Demonstration Program is your feedback. Many of you have told us that you would gladly pay to use the area, especially if it means keeping it open. As we go through the upcoming year under the new system, let us know how you think we can improve. Send us your suggestions. We'll use your input to modify our program to best meet your needs.

## **The New Gray Trail**

Some of you may have ridden the trail which weaves on and off H highway. This is not an authorized trail and we have attempted to close it several times in the past. It looks bad from the highway and presents a hazard to riders coming into vehicle traffic on H highway. We have an alternative route between Camp and Cobb Ridge campgrounds. This trail parallels H highway and will be marked with gray diamond markers. The present trail will be closed again so please use the marked trail to travel between Camp and Cobb Ridge.

## **The Kansas City Shelter**

I know many of you who contributed to the Friends of Chadwick fund raisers for the shelter house at the Kansas City campground are wondering if you will ever see anything there. I'm happy to report that the \$5,000.00 that the Friends of Chadwick donated to the Forest Service towards construction of this shelter has multiplied. The Friends of Chadwick used this \$5,000.00 to apply for a matching grant from the National Forest Foundation. That grant has been approved and the amount now available amounts to \$10,000.00. We hope to be able to start construction this fall.

*Jim Uyles*

Ava Ranger District



# 4-WHEELER ROUND-UP RESULTS?

The results? ? ? ? ? **A FUN TIME!** Jim Moon (Friends of Chadwick,) Rick Moon (Ava Ranger District Rep.) Aggie StClair (Chadwick do-it-all-person . . . and GREAT Lady) were all there in addition to folks from Iowa, Illinois, and of course, Missouri. The Hot Dogs and fix'ns were served up on time courtesy of Aggie and my wife (yes, that's another "owe for life thing") and judging by the appetites . . . were received well!

About dark, 12 4-wheelers escorted by three or four bikes left on the course . . . into the darkness. **IT WAS FUN!**

One of the more memorable moments came as we're all trying to get organized to leave and Rick Moon (Ava Forest Ranger guy) walked over and kicked-started his "older" Yamaha 4-stroke only to have the kick start shaft sheer off right where it leaves the case. Undaunted, Rick takes off running and bump starts the thing and rode the whole trail that way.

"Several" stops were made along the trail route to let everyone bunch up and truly relish the dust as our little "train" meandered it's way through trail# 101. It was almost eerie to see all the headlights bouncing shadows through the darkness, but fun.

## GOOFY? . . . DON'T ASK!

Les Blizzard showed up at the last minute with his daughter and a guy about his daughters age, and one new Polaris 250. The young guy was no little person, and Les isn't "puny" so I immediatly had to ask "are all three of you riding that thing?" I really didn't get a good answer before Koonta-Man stepped up and told Les he had brought an "extra" 4-wheeler down for Steve Underwood of Surdyke Yamaha of Marionville (the person actually sponsoring this thing) and that he didn't think Steve would object to Les riding it.

This extra 4-wheeler turned out to be a "smaller" Yamaha that Steve had sent for his kids. We're leaving as I notice Les and the young guy on this thing as we go down the pavement leaving camp. To tell you it was overloaded wouldn't really do it justice. Picture

a very small boat with two big people in it under power on choppy water. The front wheels just kind of skipped on the pavement now and then. That's before we even hit trail! Needless to say . . . they crashed. I would imagine it's easy to crash if you can't turn because the wheels are in the air. They and the 4-wheeler survived, making the entire course.

*It's just a shame Yamaha couldn't be there to film the whole deal. Forget commercials about Baja torture testing . . . those 4-wheelers are tough!*

Cards were drawn as soon as we got back and prizes provided by Surdyke Yamaha of Marionville and Joby Windmiller of Tucker-Rocky were handed out by an eleven year-old trophy girl from Iowa. The cool thing is that everyone got something!

Special thanks to Tucker-Rocky and Surdyke Yamaha of Marionville for providing the prizes, and making the thing possible.

It was enough fun we're thinking about doing another one in the fall! If you were there and liked it or just think it might be fun, let us know! If there's enough folks that want to . . . it'll happen again.

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# CHADWICK SPECIAL?

Well, it didn't start out that way but as long as we're on a roll . . . let's go with it!

In the past we have done small, short articles about "People Who Care." These were fun recognition type things that we wrote about people we noticed really contributing in some way to the local off-road scene.

While we haven't done that for awhile, I recently got the chance to meet someone who qualifies for an article.

At the 4-wheeler round up in Chadwick I was introduced to Rick Moon, Jim Moon's son and current Ranger at Chadwick. Rick not only went with us on the 4-wheeler run but also sat outside my trailer with me until about 2AM as we philosophized about the world in general. Rick grew up riding in and around Chadwick . . . and it shows. There is keen, genuine interest in Chadwick as a riding area coupled with a sensitivity toward off-road people in general. He is after all, a dirt enthusiast.

The reason he makes that list as something above ordinary is partly because of his unique position. As a Forest Ranger with a good possibility of being in charge of enforcement of the new permit program, he is in a position to know how you and I feel. The fact that he cares about Chadwick, and likes to ride, in no way gave me the impression he would not do his job as a Forest Ranger . . . I believe he will. I also believe he will be sensitive to our problems and concerned.

So what am I telling you? I guess I'm advocating all of us digging out our Chadwick maps. Finding that address for Ava Ranger District that's printed on the back of it (that's the part you never look at) and writing Jim Voyles (main Ranger Supervisor for the District) and begging him to assign Rick as the full-time Ranger for Chadwick. He would be good for Chadwick!

For those of you who remember . . . take a minute and think about ol' Glen Gambell on his Yamaha Trials bike with shovels and picks sticking out of a bag strapped to the back fender. . . . Glen was undoubtedly Chadwick's greatest ambassadore and I think Rick Moon is cut from the same mold. Too bad we can't vote on this!

One of our conversations at about midnight centered around illegal hill climbs at Chadwick. If you've ridden there . . . you've seen them. #1 They're ugly. #2. They are sure erosion starters. #3. Everytime one gets started . . . it hurts us all!

It's going to take all of us in the way of stopping when you see one of these going down, and asking them to quit. I know "we" aren't forest cops but I think I could easily explain that their activity (hill climbers) is having a negative effect on my ability to go to Chadwick and ride. Any environmentalist has only to find one of these to use it against all of us. Take a minute and selfpolice our area? I think it's worth it.

If you have a suggestion for a hill climb area . . . Stop Rick Moon and tell him about it. "Maybe" an area could be established for this purpose? It's worth a try anyway.

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# "Bite's"

Did any trash get picked up at Chadwick after the 4-wheeler thing? Yes. A cloudburst came along about 9:00 AM and got everybody into a "pack-up and go" mood. In a steady drizzle I watched everyone leave. Couldn't blame them at all. Rick (Ranger) and I looked at each other, grabbed trash bags, jumped on my 4-wheeler . . . . and collected 14 bags of trash in a steady rain. Trash got collected.

**DAVIS KAWASAKI-SUZUKI** of Bolivar are with us with a new ad for the rest of the year. Check out those pants prices!

**COLORADO** will about be ready to go off by the time you get this. Based on the phone calls I and Mike Shown (Mike's Machine) have been getting . . .everyone is going. If you can make it, we'll be converging on Spring Creek (just west of Taylor Park, or southeast of Crested Butte) on the 16th for a couple days of fun riding. Joby Windmiller (Tucker Rocky Rep.) is providing some give-aways along with Mike's Machine, A-Loop/MOOSE Racing, and BJEC is giving a chest protector, fanny pacs, and Camel baks . . . . all with the BJEC logo on them. You don't have to go fast to win one in the Poker Run format . . just be lucky!

Steve Underwood (Surdyke Yamaha of Marionville) has his Colorado bike ready. Try a WR-500 with a balanced crank, Ohlins shock and Marzocchi 45 Magnum forks (I would guess there's a KTM sitting somewhere . . .forkless!) Apparently the "need for speed" has hit Mr. Steve hard. I mean really, with that "air hammer" he can double jump some serious mountain peaks! Maybe even win a hill climb or three!

# Express Package

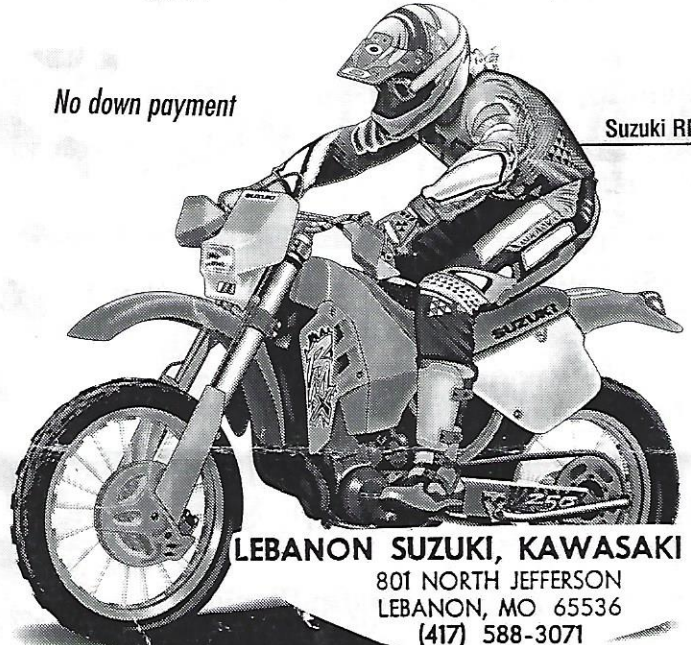
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