

MISSOURI / NORTHERN ARKANSAS / KANSAS

Note's on Spoke's



NEWSLETTER

19th ISSUE

LOCAL DIRT BIKE NEWS

MARCH '96

ENDURO "NIGHTMARES!"

A recent Enduro in Texas (recent like in the 18th of February) has stayed with me. It was the '96 kick-off event for the Black Jack Enduro Circuit, co-sanctioned with the Texas Championship Enduro series.

The reason it has stayed with me is the last two issues we have put out . . . talk about enduro's, and what to expect. I "think" that information still holds true for almost "any" enduro you might go to in most parts of the country . . . but not in Texas!

It was a very good event, with good trails, excellent speed averages, and "scary checks." Scary because they surprised me every time I found one! Always situated in some suck hole thing or around a corner, or down in a "near suck hole," . . . hole. In essence . . . perfect! So what was the big deal? "They" do things different in Texas. I was mentally exhausted by mile 15 just trying to figure out why there was no mileage! If you remember back an issue or two, you'll recall I stated that "they" have to give you mileage every 3 miles. NOT IN TEXAS! In Texas, it's every 5 miles and by the rarity of mileage markers that I found . . . checks must count as mileage markers too.



Another thing I found to be different was that checks have to be accurate for mileage within two hundredths of a tenth. AMA and almost everyone else requires they be accurate within a tenth. This got me thinking . . . don't ever PUT ON AN ENDURO IN TEXAS! If you only have to give mileage every 5 miles, you have essentially increased the amount of mileage for a rider to be

off in. What's that you say? It's pretty normal in any course for riders to cut a corner by three feet, or slide out in corners by four feet, or get lost slightly in a clearing and make a fifty foot circle adding, or subtracting mileage . . . slightly. Requiring mileage every three miles insures the rider has the opportunity to correct for these innocent "deviations." When you increase the mileage posted requirement to 5 miles . . . that's almost double the area to screw up in! NOW, require the promoter to have his checks accurate to two hundredths of a mile . . . and you have created a narrow margin for the promoter (and the rider) to work in.

The up side to this is . . . it seems to work. Yes, a lot of people burned at least one check. A good percentage burned two, and a few unlucky souls burned several. Yours truly burned one, which later was thrown out due to a poorly marked corner between checks 5 and 6 which put the mileage off 5 hundredths (legal in AMA and nearly every other enduro circuit in the world) but illegal in Texas due to the two hundredths rule.

The other unusual thing about Texas is the trail marking. I had forgotten about this since riding a Lubbock 2-day several years ago. We're used to trees. Lot's of trees. Convenient trees always ready to hold an arrow. In Texas trees get sparse, sometimes replaced with cactus . . . or a random rock here and there. There's nowhere to staple an arrow. Solution; tie ribbons on almost anything. This means you get used to following arrows in the tight woods test sections, come out into an open area, and get in the "let's circle around this field parade" with about twenty other riders until somebody finds the trail out, and you all go for it! I think this is actually good as it gives riders ample opportunity to brush up on their grass track skills in those open areas as they race frantically around

totally brain-dead-lost. I personally won at least two motos in one clearing and maybe would have won more had I not noticed that I was racing against "new," confused riders each lap. As some riders found their way out . . . new ones entered and the improvised grass track test went on . . . at least until I calmed down enough to find my way out . . . and left the race to others. Was the course marked bad? . . . No, it was just different. I'm not used to ribbons hung from tree's and brush instead of arrows.

The bottom line after all my whining is: It was a hoot! The actual trail was great with no face slappers. Mileage was accurate, kind of far apart, but always on the money. I can't wait for next year!

YES . . . THAT'S GOOFY!

Snapshots from this enduro included:

Ron Shreve and Max (the motorcycle Dentist) Harkey both live within 30 miles of Springfield Missouri. Both chose to go to Texas. They started a minute apart. Ron caught Max in one of those open clearings, Max went wide, Ron no doubt "ripped" his WR-250 Yamaha thinking he had the inside line . . . and ran over Max. Run over isn't really adequate, when I got there I noticed Ron with two bikes parked standing there looking at this guy lying on the ground in front of him curled up in a fetal position. I asked Ron if he needed help and he answered; "No, he just wants to rest a minute." I didn't know it was Max mainly because I've never seen Max curled up in a "butt-high" fetal position before . . . and left. Later, I found out it was him.

Now I ask you . . . If they just want to run over each other . . . couldn't they just stay in Missouri and do that? I mean really, . . . figure all the gas money and tolls that each of them paid.

"Me" in a 24 mph section (late of course) trying to go as fast as I knew how, sliding around a tight left hander in tight woods only to do a very ungraceful nose-wheely as I got "all over the brakes" in an effort to miss a cow complete with two baby's in a panic, running down the trail about three feet in front of me, hopping and kicking at a dead run (noticably upset) at this intrusion on their peaceful grazing area.

While this may not seem to unusual (we were riding on a ranch preoccupied with raising cattle) I have to admit, I stopped long enough to make sure they didn't have ribbon tied onto them anywhere . . . that would mean I was missing trail!

BEGINNERS OUTLOOK

Les Blizzard sent me a couple of notes on the Texas "Jimmy Jack Enduro," and they seemed worthy of sharing with you because it was his first enduro.

Top Ten ways of knowing your first enduro was "not" an overnight success!

1. Following Steve Underwoods family & friends in his motor home on what turned out to be a non-stop trip to the Jimmy Jack Enduro. Come to find out . . . motor homes don't need to stop for gas, food, or BATHROOMS!
2. Riding on the same minute as Ron Shreve (an A rider) who gets both of us lost within 100 yards of the start line.
3. When you finally reach the last check point, you overhear conversation about night approaching and the need to light lanterns.
4. Having Steve Underwood look at your score card when it's over and say; "Well . . . turn it in anyway, you never know!"
5. Giving your score card to the lady who has been scoring hundreds in her head only to see her panic when she sees your numbers and spends five minutes looking for a calculator.
6. At the first gas stop on the way home, finding out that your legs won't work, and you can't stand up straight once you pry yourself out of the truck.
7. Thinking I must have hit my head hard in one of my falls because my brain damaged mind can't wait until the next Enduro!

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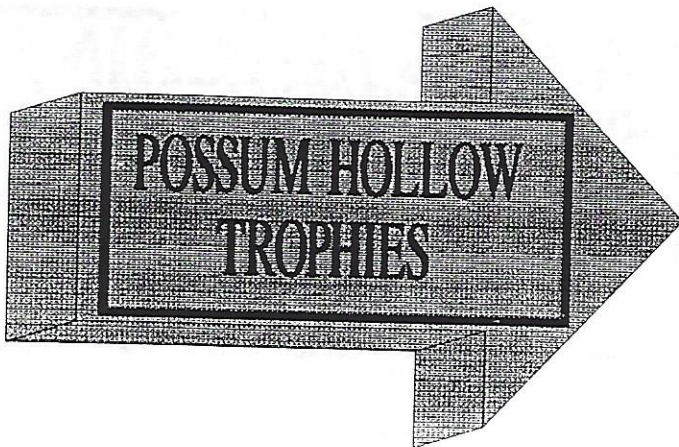
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A LOT OF YEARS!

In the past we have done little articles titled: *Motorcycle People who Care*. These covered folks who have made, or make a significant contribution to off-road riding in our area.

Jerry and Ellie Sharp fit that description to a tee. This came to mind when I noticed Jerry had drug Ellie out to score the last two Hare Scramble events on the Winter/Spring Hare Scramble series. Ellie strikes me as a Holiday Inn type of girl . . .definatly not a stand in dust and get roasted on score type person. I asked Jerry what he had promised to get her out there and he just mumbled and walked away, Ellie on the other hand said . . ."It's big!"

They have been doing off-road events in the southern Missouri area for something like 18 years. This includes Possum Hollow MX and various Hare Scramble events. They are the experts in motorcycle trophies and have been doing that for some time. They recently added a computer etching component that allows them to make plaques with virtualy "any picture" on it. If your holding an event and need quality plaques . . .they are the ones to see! Check out their ad in this Newsletter!



"In flight refuel?"

This is a must for YAMAHA riders! Terry Brumley is making some very high quality auxillary gas tanks for YZ's. Auxillary you say? Yes, this thing is high tech, very well finished aluminum that sits down in your air box and has a "Y" fitting that hooks into your gas line. Fill both of of your tanks and your gas capacity is up around WR levels. The cool thing is that it automatically works giving you extra fuel and range. The auxillary tank holds something like .6 gallons of gas, just the ticket for off-road riding at the occaisional Hare Scramble or Enduro. To get one call Terry evenings at the number listed below.

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Possum Hollow TROPHY'S

Jerry Sharp Springfield, MO.

(417) 887-3524

Spring/Winter MO. Scrambles?

The winter series "thankfully" was cancelled and postponed about three times over the winter due to knee deep snow and sub-zero temperatures. Well, it's here. I choose to call it the winter/spring series.

The third event was held at Lu's place north of Bolivar MO. on the 25th of Feb. The turn out wasn't great but for those who came . . .the trail was very good. Mostly tight to semi-tight woods with some open transition areas and a rock creek bed that got everyone's attention.

Jamie Jennings on his CR-250 handily swept the overall without any serious challenge especially after Dwight (Haggard) Maggard stoped on the second lap to take his brush guards off that were hanging down from his handlebars . . .how does that go again? The more you turn that allen wrench, the tighter that brush guard/ bar-end insert gets. Somebody tell Dwight how that goes . . .Please!

1st O/A-Jamie Jennings. 250-Chad Vaught, Brian Selk, Kreg Simon. 200-Dale Rector, Kevin Rix, Derek Zinchuck. +40-John Pavich, Randy Presthus, Terry Brumley, Floyd Siebert. Beginner-Kelly Kile, Mike Mansker.

I know there were more people there than this so I have to believe Jerry got pulled away from his typing to start paying Ellie whatever debt was agreed upon to get her out scoring. I'd just like to know what that debt is?

MOOSE RACING

I just had to mention Pete Denison and the guy's and gal's at MOOSE RACING/A-LOOP. In Texas I noticed the Overalls recieved a cool MOOSE fanny pack. At the Six-Days in Tulsa it was obvious that these guy's had pumped major dollars into that event in the form of banners ribbon and who knows what else. For the last two years they have bent over backwards to help the Black Jack Enduro Circuit, supporting the yearly Banquet with awards . . .and quality, fun speakers to keep everyone entertained.

So why am I bringing this up? Mainly because when I see someone "really" supporting off-road activities . . .and going that extra mile, it matters to me, and should to you. This entire organization does that quietly on a daily basis. In my opinionA Class Act! Check out their products, they have "COOL STUFF!"

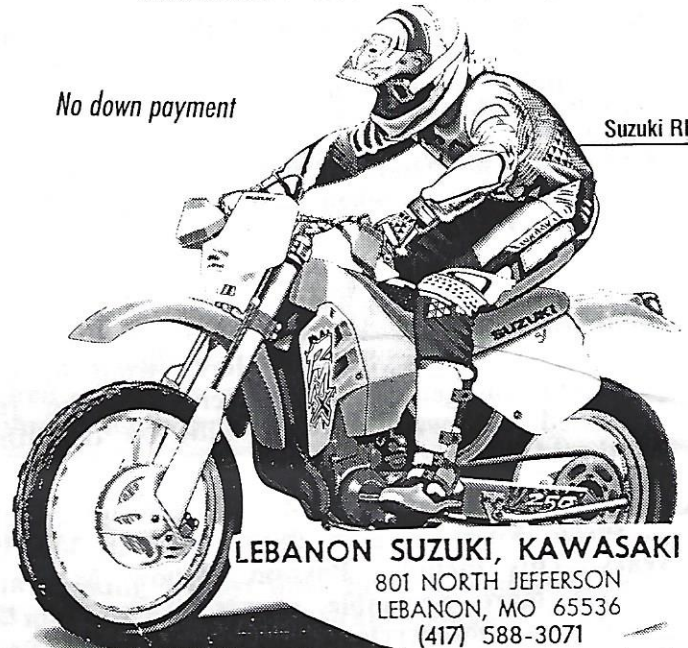
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"NEW WAVE," GRAPHICS? POSSUM HOLLOW MX

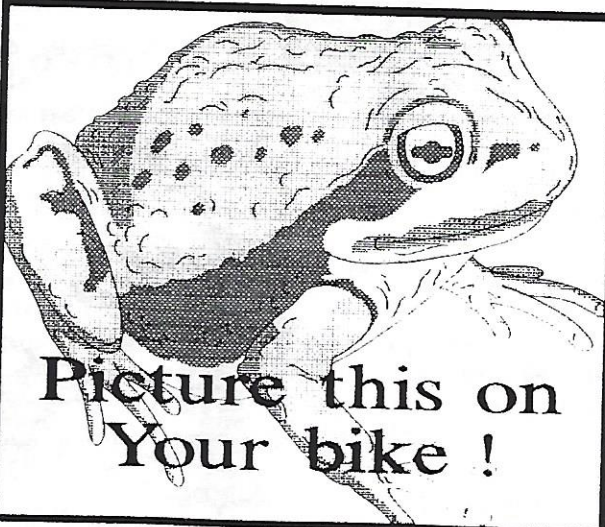
Yes, really! I have it from a very reliable source . . . well, pretty reliable, it was Koonta Man, that Steve Leivan has a new style of graphics!

The real deal is that Steve put some number plate backgrounds on Steve Underwoods new KTM and they had enough air bubbles in them to qualify for the "toad look!" This prompted a lot of good natured questioning of Steve Leivans technical expertise!

"I think" the whole thing boils down to experiance. Steve probably doesn't have a lot of experiance putting on stickers because they aren't a big deal to him. Not a big deal? . . . Why? It is my theory that fast guy's like Steve pass you so quick in the woods that you don't get to see stickers anyway. Slow guy's like Koonta and Me have a lot of stickers because it's more important for us to look good. I mean after all when "everyone" pass's you . . . a lot of people get to see our stickers as they're cussing us for blocking the trail! I say "lighten-up" on Leivan he goes too fast to "need" stickers!

The other possibility is that the "toad look" will catch on and become the new "in thing" in stickers, but I wouldn't count on it!

To be the first on
your block to have
TOAD graphics . . .
Call: 1 800 Go Steve



Picture this on
Your bike!

The Possum Hollow MX season kicked off on Mar 3 '96. Over fifty riders attended and here's the list of winners. Possum Hollow MX schedule is in the Race Date's section of this NEWSLETTER, check it out!

50cc 4-6 years-Andy Ruppert, Dylan Tomlin, Jerrod Livingston, Derek Johnson.

50cc 7-8 years-Jimmy Albertson, B.J. McKay, Alyssa Sharp.

60cc 6-8 years-Joseph Livingston, Zach Saeinz, Jimmy Albertson, B.J. McKay, Alyssa Sharp.

60cc 9-11 years-Stephan Simmoneau, Michael Simmoneau, Jarrod Williams, Robert Busiek, Earl Heathcock.

80cc Beginner-Chris Muse, Dusty McDonald, Kasey Crowe, Mac McCasland.

80cc Senior-Drew Cuhna, Joe Jarvis, Brandon Butterfly, Ray Ruppert.

80cc Open-Drew Cuhna, Dusty McDonald, Scott O'Conner.

Schoolboy-Aaron Storey, Marty McDonald.

125 Beginner-Bill Schater, Kevin Rex, Charles Hachtell, Chris Muse, John Howard.

125 Novice-Kenson Goff, Dusty Emerson, Jeremy Watkins, Charles Amodeo, Scott Woods.

125 Intermediate-Aaron Storey, Marty McDonald, Chris Byrd, Shane Macon, Mike Brooks.

250 Beginner-Fred Giarrette, Bobby Anderson, Tracy Stone, Justin Walke, Kelly Kile.

250 Novice-Kenson Goff, Matt Huckelberry, Paul Robertson, Dusty Emerson, Randy Southard.

250 Intermediate-Dustin Taylor, Ryan Powell, Jerry Smith, Chris Schellenberger.

Over 30-Doug Gere, Dennis Tomlin.

Over 35-Brian Albertson, Olen McCasland, Chuck Watkins.

Outlaw-Ron Turner, Lance Jones, Dustin Taylor, Chris Schellenberger.

ATV-Randy Gardner, Greg Looney, Tom Howard, Micheal Moon.



RACE DATE'S

BEAR CREEK ENDURO

Bear Creek Enduro

Kirby, AR. Mar 3, '96

The Texarkana Dirt Riders held their 13th Annual, Bear Creek Enduro in the surrounding forests of Lake Greeson. George Waller Jr. topped all comers in this dual-sanctioned SERA / BJEC event that drew 400 riders from 12 states. Rusty Reynaud came out of a several year retirement aboard his new Surdyke Yamaha of Marionville KTM 360 to earn 1st AA, two points off Wallers pace. The trails consisted of tight woods sections characterized by endless exposed roots broken up by steep uphill littered with soccer ball sized, jagged rocks. The short course went 71 miles with the long course going 93. Numerous resets broke up the tough trail sections making the event extremely enjoyable. Good trail marking coupled with spot-on mileage added to the overall success of the event.

O/A-George Waller Jr. 5. AA-Rusty Reynaud 7, Vincent Davis 7, Steve Travis 7, Nolan Knight 7, Jeff Fischer 7, Stephen Reed 7, Steve Leivan 9, Leigh Letellier 9, Mike McCutcheon 10, Allen Nicholas 11, Jody Paterson 11, Al Weisenfels 15, David Berry 15, Benny Richards 15. A 200-Nathan Knight 14, Daren Ogden 14, Gary Walkup 15, Rick Owens 15, Brad Hilker 17. A 250-Mike Monroe 5, Peter Boredes 10, Allen Haynes 11, Mark Kendall 11, Jim Ingram 11, Jamie Jennings 13, Kevin Borts 14. A Open-Mike Shown 14, Wesley King 15, Jimmy Ward 17, Steve Underwood 17, Jimbo Mitchell 18, Jim Brawner 18. A Intermediate-Gregg Goglen 11, Kevin Miller 12, Steve Fow 12, Gary Little 13, Tony Ligon 17, Kevin Harmon 17. A Senior-Wayne Beindorf 16, Rocke Weaver 16, Harold Compton 20, Ron Shreve 21, Terry Brumley 22. A Sr. Sportsman-Randy Presthus 13, Rick Robinett 13, Luther Stem 14, Ken Thompson 16, Tony Wood 18, Gary Corum 21, Tom Hill 39. A Super Sr.-Darrell Judy 10, Ronnie Ciero 11, Charlie Burke 12, Gerald Pearson 16, Bob Pike 18, Mark Hudson 18, Lee Glenn 19, Frank Leivan 22, Jack Shoalmire 30. A Youth-Mike Climer 26, Jared Jackson 27, Jon Shoalmire 29, Jesse Faulstick 40, Danny White 75. 4 Stroke Long-Kevin Boyle 14, Darren Jerome 37. B 200-Matt Joachin 14, Mark Phillips 16, Dale Lee Rector 21, Chad Belcher 21, John Welsch 21, Todd Silvis 25, John Dennington 31. B 250-Blake Plonsky 12, Brian Hudson 14, James Eliff 16, Bobby Joe Stults 17, David Gerbes 18, Colin Joachin 20, Chris Sloan 23, Karl Gallette 21. B Open-Mark Carpenter 22, John Bray 24, Joh Lawson 36, Morris Warino 37, Randy Laudermilk 51, Lee Moffitt 53. B Intermediate-Mike Higuera 20, Phil Cocharan 24, Stev Udem 25, Scott Duncan 26, David Jones 27, Phillip Whisenant 27, Phil Templeton 28, Bob Fuerst 28. B Senior-Royce Wyatt 15, Royce Guidry 16, Larry McClellan 17, Dan Wylie 20, Steve Pierce 20, Tommy Johnson 20, Randy Parke 24. B Super Sr.-Phillip McMillan 12, Jody Coleman 15, Ray Melton 17, Carl Ivey 26, Larry Knotts 39. B Youth-Chase Dunn 1, Clint Gann 3, Cody Fow 4, Aaron Willis 4, Clint Carr 5, Josh Weisenfels 5. Super 55-Zahn Lewis 21, Clarence Bonafacius 21, Marv Donaldson 35, Jim Letellier 42, Jack McCutcheon 50. 4 Stroke Short-Jon Yarbrough 22, Mike Wylie 23, Neal Daley Jr. 25, Wayne Crosby 26, David Mullens 38, Darren Bigner 47. C 200-Mathew Glenn 14, Reese Comeaux 14, Tyler Steele 18, Jamie Mathews 21, Robert Stuckert 21, Ben Knight 21, Jeff Keeling 23, David Sutter 28, Jeremy Williams 26. C 250-Lucas Comeaux 9, John G. Hunt 13, Dennis Stanley 14, Stewart Hale 16, Daniel Sandridge 17, Mike Mansker 17, Britt Fogg 18, Chuck Hanson 19, Jeremy Allman 23, Todd Knight 29. C Open-Tim Edwards 11, John Fagan 14, David Miller 21, Joshua Cook 23, Wayne Grantham 23, Hunter Klopp 28, Bryan Lucenta 32, John Raleigh 33, Keith Rooney 36. C Intermediate-Tim Carr 9, Charlie Ellis 12, Mike Barnes 14, Jimmy Ratliff 16, Elston Moore 16, Russell Burton 21, Mike Stevens 21, Todd Donaldson 24, david Bonsall 26, Sam McCarthy 28. C Senior-Danny Stevens 17, Rick Marr 20, Mike Chudy 25, Les Bilzard 24, Neal Cagle 26, Robert Stiles 27, Richard Donaldson 27, Dale Rector 28, Fred Thompson 30. Women-Donna Moore 8, Katrina Royster 10, Lisa Yother 25, Sherry Comeaux 77.

Black Jack Enduro Circuit



THE "REAL DEAL" ON BEAR CREEK

The real deal, unlike the version sent to Cycle News, is that this Enduro had roots! Not just a couple here and there . . .zillions of them! Some spots had enough that neither tire touched the ground at any one time. Add some uphill that bordered on "oh-my-god" and you get the picture. It was enjoyable mainly due to timely resets and diversity of trail selection, you got to ride high-line type sections, tight woods, swoopy woods, creeks, in and out of creeks, road, something between road and trail . . .it was good! The down side was some corner markers torn down by a disgruntled 4-wheeler (complete with cooler and babe on the back) which caused many riders to lose an extra point riding around lost momentarily in this section.

GOOD THINGS:

Ron (Road Kill) Shreve didn't run over anybody this trip out but I did notice Max Harkey wasn't taking any chances and didn't even ride. I also noticed several people checking Ron's number to make sure they weren't in front of him.



Rusty Reynaud came out of retirement and put in a good ride (good enough for 1st AA) on his new Surdyke Yamaha of Marionville, 360 KTM. It's good to see him back on the circuit, resuming his winning ways!

Vincent Davis is back after his back injury last fall (read broken back here) on an XR-400 that he has flying! That 400 went well enough with Vincent on it to tie Rusty for 1st AA, only to lose on tie-breakers. That fact that Vincent is back and going fast isn't the whole story . . .if anything, he's "goofier than ever!" Don't worry, it's a good "goofy!"

Attendance is up! I'm seeing a lot of faces I haven't seen for a few years. The last two events have been co-sanctioned but even that doesn't account for the over 400 rider turn out. BJEC membership is up 50 people over last year and that's with a lot of renewals not in yet! More and more people are riding these things . . .and that's good! If you haven't ridden one of these, you need to! Check out the BJEC schedule in the Race Date's section of this NEWSLETTER!

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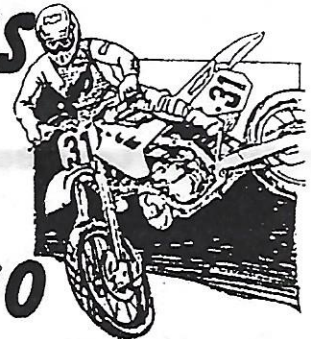
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