

Cruisin' News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

AUGUST 2004

Looking Down The Road...

A letter from the Director...

Here it is, the Summer is almost half gone. Seems like it just started. It's been almost two days since it rained so I guess we are just about due again.

I understand that Helen White is doing well and recovering from her knee surgery.

Doyce "Rooster" Waynick is still recovering at U of M Hospital after his motorcycle accident. I hear they are going to discharge him this coming Thursday (7/22) and he will be staying with family until he further recovers - Best wishes Doyce.

I just got back from Vacation and am a little out of touch yet. It was a nice time off from work and I really had a hard time going back. Vacations are strange

because it seems as though you wait forever to get them, then in a flash it's over and time to go back.

For anyone looking to go to the "ALR Midwest Romp" there is information on our website at: <http://americanlegionriders.net>.

If you are going and interested in taking the ferry from Muskegon to Milwaukee, please contact Porky, Moe Price, Bob Sebes, or me for more information. Hope to see a lot of you there!!

Our next meeting is on Aug. 5th. I may be out of town that day, but please try to attend.

Ride Safe,
Bill Kaledas



Safety First!

Low speed riding. How many of us Riders *hate* maneuvering at low speed on our bikes? (Go ahead—we're all friends here—raise your hand.)

How many are nervous on the back of their Beloved Scoot when doing a Michigan Left, or leaving a supermarket parking space. Or (shudder!) a U-Turn on a parked-up residential street?

Ah! But low speed stuff doesn't have to be no fun at all. Here are a few points to remember that will help you get over any heebie-jeebies you might have for the slow stuff.

First, nowhere is it more important to LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING! Look well ahead of the bike—not right ahead of where you are, but far enough along your planned path to give your

mind a chance to calculate it. This alone can drastically improve your low-speed maneuverability (and is one of my particular problems...).

A slow-moving bike is ULTRA sensitive to any steering input, too. The effect known as "gyroscopic precession"—the same thing that makes counter steering work—keeps the bike upright, but, at slow rolling speeds, doesn't have the momentum to hold it as stably upright as it does at speed. The effect is that much more subtle movement will cause the bike to change direction—a butt-shift, a knee turn, etc.

When in the saddle moving under low speed (under eight or ten MPH), Do your best to keep a stable position on the seat.

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MILE MARKERS

- ALR Unity Run 25 July leaving Post 396 at 10 am
- Forgotten Eagles RAM 4-7 Aug
- ALR General Membership Meeting 5 August 7 pm
- Freedom Ride 7-9 Aug
- ALR Romp 19-22 Aug

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST:

- Kathy Haberek & Jim Williams—1 Aug
- Kevin Carpenter—4 Aug
- Ed Killian—7 Aug
- Heather "L'il Red" Ritchie—10 Aug
- Ed Tripp—11 Aug
- Margaret Wert—12 Aug
- Sue Wert & Helen White—15 Aug
- Richard "Ricco" Ciaramitaro & Robert Joiner—21 Aug
- Nonie Stabenaw—24 Aug
- Diane Kaledas—26 Aug
- Big Bill Compton—31 Aug

Group Picture Taken At The June 2004 Meeting



American Legacy Scholarship Ride?

Adapted from the NALRIC Forum, dated 9 April 2004:

The opportunity to attend college shouldn't be out of reach for children left behind when a parent serving the U.S. Military dies while on active duty. That's why The American Legion started the "American Legacy Scholarship" - to provide scholarships for children of active duty service men and women killed on or after Sept 11, 2001.

The Legion would like our Legion Riders family to put together rides and events across the country on September 11, 2004 to help raise funds for this scholarship.

Most of us can remember where we were and exactly what we were doing on Sep 11, 2001. It affected us all

and three years later we are still engaged in a war on the terrorism that came to our shores that day. The young men and women serving in uniform and their families deserve our help. This is just one of the ways we can do it.

I'm late in providing this information due to the recent server outage; however, The American Legion is asking for our help, and this is one way for us to show what an asset the ALR is to the American Legion. We now have limited time to plan an event for 9/11; however, there is nothing to prevent us from planning an event on another date to benefit the scholarship fund, or from donating to it from our charity fund.

Individual donations can be made online by visiting:

<https://join.legion.org/legacy/>

Or, via mail, by providing a check or money order made payable to "American Legacy Scholarship" along with your name, address, phone number and, if you have one, email address to:

American Legacy Scholarship
The American Legion,
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Donations are tax deductible and, for a limited time, individual donors will receive a lapel pin commemorating the dedication of the WWII memorial in Washington, DC.

...And Don't Call Me "Ed"

Good Lord! (Not you, Bob.) Have I really been writing this thing now for seven months?! Who'd a-thunk it?

Over these months, it's been a struggle finding informative and entertaining content... And, as was inevitable, there have been some "administrative" bumps along the way, too. Let's "un-bump":

First, my apologies to those whose birthdays were missed on the *Mile Markers* column. Unfortunately, I can't publish what I don't have. Not all of my records are complete and accurate—and mistakes are unavoidable when retyping from paper copies into the database I use for this. Please understand there was no insult intended through the omission or

misrepresentation of your birthday. Honest.

Next, I beg forgiveness from those who, for whatever reason, don't want to hear from us but have. I've automated newsletter distribution, and there are still some bugs and bloopers in the system. Some ex-members still slip through the filters and get an unwanted newsletter or get mentioned in it. I'll fix it. Eventually. In the meantime, I'm sure you know what a trashcan is for.

And then to those non-members who were receiving newsletters in the past, but aren't now: what records I have are based upon the membership list, and, unfortunately, you aren't on it. I've added a courtesy list to my distribu-

tion—see to it that I get your name and address, and I'll see to it that you are placed on the courtesy list. (Members that aren't receiving a newsletter: let me know—I probably mistyped your address... or we don't have a current one?)

Finally, my sincere apologies to my family, friends, home, possessions, hobbies, and career—all from whom I've been stealing the time to get this newsletter done. On the bright side: She Who Must Be Obeyed and I won't be having any more kids! (*I don't have time for the manufacturing process any more...*)

Seriously, though, folks—bugs are being worked out as we go. It just takes a little more time when you only hear about them once a month.

Safety First! (cont)

(Continued from page 1)

Keep your butt in the middle, your knees against the tank, and your feet on the pegs or floorboards. **And relax!** Let all the steering input be intentional and through the bars.

In other *Safety First* columns, I've indicated that the majority of your stopping power is in the front brake. This is both by design and because, when stopping at speed, your momentum will cause your and the bike's weight to effectively shift so that much more weight is at the front than the rear. (This shift in effective weight is why your front forks compress or "dive" when stopping.) It stands to reason, then, that the front brake will more efficiently stop you—the front wheel has more *traction* with the road since more of the weight is on it. Front brakes are designed to grip the front disks with great force due to this. And that great force can be a real problem when you're going slow—especially when turning.

When puttering around at parking lot speeds, the gentler rear brake won't upset the balance of the bike as readily as the front will. Plus, at low speeds, the rear brake has more than enough stopping force.

Another point to ponder: first gear is typically too responsive to throt-

tle input for smooth low-speed riding. Once you get the bike on a roll, try popping it into second gear to moderate the transmissions response to any throttle input. Second gear is less responsive at low speed than is first gear, and this should help to smooth out the ride.

There are times, though, that you are traveling much too slowly for second gear. In this case (and even while traveling fast enough to use second gear), you'll need to feather the clutch in order to keep a steady gait. Hold the clutch in to the point just before it disconnects the engine from the transmission—the "friction point". Then, let the clutch gently in and out from this point to control your speed. This is particularly useful where your speed is lower than your bike's idle rate will allow you to go.

And **be alert**. Many drivers respond irrationally to traffic situations, often darting out of their lane in the hope that the one next to them will move faster. They rarely take enough time to ensure the lane is free of anything smaller than a car. And those backing out of parking spaces at the mall usually can't see beyond the cars parked next to them. Your safety lays in your ability to spot others' movement...

Ride Around Michigan

Like the ALR, the *Forgotten Eagles* is a not-for-profit organization which operates to heighten awareness of the POW/MIA issue, in particular, and veteran issues in general. Similar to The American Legion, they are a community service organization.

As indicated in the June issue of *The Cruisin' News*, they host the "Ride Around Michigan" each year to raise money to support their activities and the USO; and to promote awareness of POW/MIA and veterans' issues within the community at large. This year's ride is **August 4 through 7**.


The Forgotten Eagles are asking for as many Riders as possible to participate in the southeastern part of their ride. **There is no cost**, besides your time and your gas—each portion is close enough to the start that you can go home each day, if such is your desire!


The SE MI portion is 693 miles long, starting in Port Huron/Mt. Clemens, and zigzagging through the counties in SE Michigan to finish in Caro-Houghton Lake for a Freedom Ride there. Contact Terry Nelson if you plan to participate. He can be reached at: dilligaf@lighthouse.net or by phone at (906) 297-2141.





ALR MARKETPLACE

Your ad here helps produce the monthly newsletter (Ads are \$10 each/\$120 for 13 months)

 Pat Squires—Remerica—Integrity Realtors
16172 Middlebelt Livonia, MI (734) 525-4200x43
Pager (734) 566-6428 Email: csquires2sell@aol.com
Web page: www.remericaintegrity.com

 Sons of the American Legion
Squadron 396
Active in YOUR community!

 Greg Price—The Realtor Who Makes Things Happen
Century 21 Americal
Office: 734-946-9040 Cell Phone: 313-550-0847
Email: grinnerman@msn.com

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(586) 463-7700 www.wolverinehd.com
"World-class facility, great people!"

 AMERICAN STEEL MOTORCYCLES
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www.americansteelmotorcycles.com
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Only \$10 a month!

Place your ad in **Cruisin' News!**
Contact
newsletter@americanlegionriders.net

This Space Available

Place your ad in **Cruisin' News!**
Contact
(734) 397-9758

Support The ALR

This Space Available

Place your ad in **Cruisin' News!**
Contact
PO Box 871309 Canton Township, MI 48187-6309

Print ads are listed in first-come, first-served order; left to right, top to bottom. Web ad presentation is in random order. Ad proceeds fund copying, folding, tabbing, labeling, and mailing costs.

The American Legion Riders

c/o The American Legion Post 396
6860 Middlebelt Road
Garden City, MI 48135

Phone: 734-397-9758
Fax: 734-397-9758
Email: newsletter@AmericanLegionRiders.net

Cruisin' News

is a *Publication of The American Legion Riders, Department of Michigan, Post 396*

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Is this newsletter correctly addressed? Contact the editor if *anything* is wrong—name as displayed, address, etc. *Thanks!*

Read this online at
http://americanlegionriders.net/gc_mi_alr

Advertise With Us!

The *Cruisin' News* gives you the opportunity to get the word out to a group of motorcycle enthusiasts dedicated to the support of Veteran's issues. We're a hellatiously loyal group well known to support those who support us. Your \$10 ad helps to produce this newsletter, getting ALR info—and your ad—to members via both mail and the web. Please advertise with us. *The ALR is a program of The American Legion—a non-profit Veterans' organization*



THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

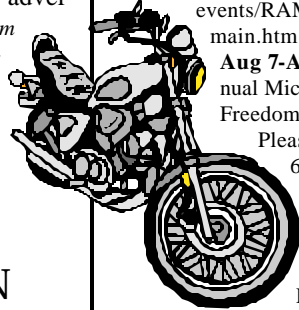
Still serving - And Riding!

TO:

The Runs...

Biker events in and around our area:

Jul 25 ALR Unity Run
Garden City, MI 313-561-7499 or 734-330-1895
Jul 25 Annual Ride to Remember Utica, MI 586/634-7634
Aug 4- Aug 7 The Forgotten Eagles' Ride Around Michigan (906) 297-2141 <http://forgotteneagles.org/events/RAM-main.htm>
Aug 7-Aug 8 Annual Michigan Freedom Ride Mt Pleasant, MI 616/258-4212
Aug 7- Aug 15 Sturgis Rally
Week
Sturgis, SD 605/347-6570
Aug 8 Straight to Hell Run
Motor City HD, Farmington Hills, MI 248/379-5062
Aug 13-Aug 15 Easyrider's Rally
Fowlerville, MI 800/962-9857



Aug 21 KAZ MAMON RIDE to EDUCATE
Oakland International Airport, Waterford MI 248/452-7769
Aug 27-Aug 29 Easyrider's Cycle Rodeo
Chillicothe, OH 800/962-9857
Aug 28 Enforcers LE/MC Poker Run
VFW Trenton, MI Joe (313)220-0213 or Curt (734)612-7446 or enforcersmc7@wideopenwest.com
Aug 29 13th Annual Run To Hell
Hell, MI 734/481-1452 www.abateofmichigan.org
Sep 4 Toy Run
Sturgis, MI
Sep 4 Thin Blue Line Ride (Dearborn Police)
Dearborn, MI
Sep 5 Battle of British (Freedom Hill)
Sterling Hgts., MI 810/979-7010
Sep 5 911 Memorial Ride
Memorial Park, Oxford MI 248/969-7728
Sep 11 MIRG Poker Run
Holly, MI 248/634-7514
Sep 11 Fiz's Annual MRF Benefit
Bova VFW Hall, Westland, MI 734/751-3894
Sep 12 BT's Toys for Tots
Hell, MI 810/783-7000
Sep 12 Motor City Toy Run
Westland, MI 313/438-3464
Sep 17-Sep 19 Trail Of Tears
Chattanooga, TN
Sep 18 Annual Michigan Remembers Run
Lansing, MI www.michiganremembersrun.com
Sep 25 3rd Annual Fall In Hell
Hell, MI For more information call 734/481-1452
www.abateofmichigan.org
Oct 4 17th Annual Toys For Kids

