

Cruisin' News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2004

Looking Down The Road...

A letter from the Director...

Well it sure has been kind of a disappointing summer. I don't remember a summer where it has been this cool outside. It seems like it rains every other day. I am getting ready to leave for Wisconsin for the ALR Midwest Romp and sure enough: it is supposed to be rainy and cool for most of my long weekend.

At the "Romp" we are expecting to have a few representatives from the National American Legion. On Saturday morning we will be having a Chapter officers' meeting. There will be Chapter officers from all over the country attending this very important meeting—the annual "ALR Romps" are the only chance that officers and members from all over the country get a chance to get together to discuss the ALR. It makes for a great weekend with all the events scheduled, the bands, and of course the BEER.

Next year, Michigan will be hosting the annual "Romp". It will be termed the "ALR Great Lakes Romp" and will be held over the 4th of July weekend. This event will take place at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds. We have already had several meetings to get things started. This will be a joint effort with the other ALR Chapters in Michigan. If you wish to help with the event please let me know. We will be needing plenty of people for security etc. As of right now we intend to have the food done by an outside vendor and the fairgrounds will be responsible for beer sales. This is planned to be a family event and children are welcome to attend.

Hope to see you at the next meeting on Sept 2nd.

Ride Safe,
Bill K.



Safety First!

As *She Who Must Be Obeyed* is currently engaged in completing the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's New Rider Course (there may be a new biker in the family soon), it brings to mind the virtues of the MSF.

First, it's pretty foolish in these litigious days to ride a scooter without the proper endorsement on your license. Though an insurance company won't always ask for your endorsement before they insure you, most require it in their contract. This means that, should you have the misfortune to be involved in a motorcycling accident, they can use your lack of endorsement as a reason to not pay your claim! Even when they don't require an endorsement, most charge a higher premium for those that don't—in any case, it costs you more money.

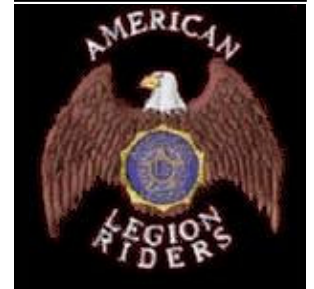
What does this have to do with the MSF? Well, trying to pass the State exam on an eight-foot-long, 800 lb. Harley to get the cycle endorsement is not, generally, on most "things I'd really, really like to do" lists. The auspices of the MSF New Rider course provide a more reasonable means to achieve it (like about a foot shorter and 500 lbs. lighter...). The "green card" received by passing the MSF final exams is accepted at the Secretary of State's office in lieu of their exam.

If that alone is not enough, the MSF New Rider Course may even teach you something you don't know—or, help you realize something you've been taking for granted.

For example, I rode for years without
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MILE MARKERS

- ALR General Membership Meeting 2 September 7 pm

BIRTHDAYS IN SEP:

- Mike Spiteri—3 Sep
- Leon "Chaz" Chassman—7 Sep
- Tony Honcotte—9 Sep
- Leslie Diehl—14 Sep
- Karen "Mouse" McAdams—19 Sep
- Dan Spiteri—21 Sep
- Keith Chance & Bonnie Hills—22 Sep

American Legion Riders On The Road...

May2 Missed the Blessing of the Bikes at St. Dunstan. Anyone have any stories or pictures? *[Almost wasn't, but I was there. Got caught by a train on the way home to get my scooter, and got caught by ANOTHER train on the SAME TRACK, going the other way when I was riding the old girl back to the Blessing! It was cold. It was damp. It was still fun. There were only about eight bikers who were stout-hearted enough to brave the damp chill to be there – the majority were ALR (one was not). There was no ride afterward. A few ran up to Post 396 for some socializing, but most of us just went on our separate ways... Pictures are available on the Post 396 Website in the scrapbook – http://americanlegionriders.net/gc_mi_alr—Bobcat]*

May 8-15 American Legion Riders: Bob (Osama), Lisa (Puddin), Pam (Lips), Mike (Ponytail), Pat (No Alias) and I, Pete (Boo-Ga-Loo) went down to Myrtle Beach S.C. for Bike Week .We had great riding (Wilmington, N.C., Charleston, S.C. and around Myrtle Beach). Lots of fun, games, souvenirs, food, shoes (for the ladies) and good friends. What more can you ask for? Be sure to ask Lisa how she got her new

nickname (PUDDIN). All I can say is: you had to be there. Ran into Wanda McComb (ICE) at the Harley dealership at Wilmington N.C. She supports a lot of worthwhile organizations and has been a friend and riding partner for a few years. She RODE to Sturgis last year. What a lady.... If anyone is interested, we are planning on going back to Myrtle Beach next year. Next time I'll tell about a great bar called Suck- Bang- Blow, the Rat's Hole and a few of the other hot spots. Pam had a patch made for me and I am now officially the Myrtle Beach S.C. Tour Guide.

May 22 Rain and strong winds cancelled our trip to Fostoria, MI. for the Swap Meet sponsored by the Tribesmen MC. In the past, we get together, go out Saturday and spend camp out overnight until Sunday. Makes for a nice weekend ride, with entertainment and friends. This year it rained so much that cars and bikes had to be pushed and pulled out of the mud in the campgrounds.

May 28-31 Wasn't able to attend the Washington D.C. Memorial Run. For those of you that were able to make the trip, let me know how it turned out. Heard from some of the members that attended, that we had a large group of American Legion

The Year Of Riding In Review

Riders. There has to be some good stories and pictures that you can share with those of us that couldn't attend. *[Some pics provided by Charlie "007" Babcock are in the scrapbook at the Post 396 site mentioned earlier... - Bobcat.]*

May30 Attended the Westland Memorial Day Parade and there were 18 bikes plus passengers. Last year we traveled down Ford Rd. and this year we went down Wayne Rd. I think the route was longer this year. A word of advice, if you plan on attending any parade, make sure your bike is in good running condition because they will overheat. A special Thanks... to VFW Post 3323 on Wayne Rd. They were located across the street from the staging area and the American Legion Riders were invited inside to cool off. As a VFW member, I will be sure to visit the Post again in the future. Pat (Bobcat) was our event coordinator for the parade and I'm sure we have pictures on the Garden City web site. *[Uh... Sorry. No. Forgot my camera, and I only took a few pics of us at Post 396 before the parade w/Doc's camera. I need to get me one of those camera mounts for my bike... - Bobcat]*

Boo-Ga-Loo



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

Well, here it is September already. Where on the Good Lord's (not yours, Bob) green earth has the summer gone?! It seems like only yesterday the weather was warming and I was whining about not having my scooter out of the barn (literally...) yet!

Soon, dare I say, the snow will fill the air again, and the bikes of all but the most daring of us will be settled in for their long winter's nap.

Shudder! Perish the thought! Though it has almost been cool enough for snow the entire summer,

I, for one am not yet ready to throw the towel in on yet another riding season! The onset of winter MUST BE STOPPED!

What we need here is a plan! We need to find a way do keep it temperate here throughout the year. (Towing Florida north isn't it, either. It's been tried. Tore up a perfectly good four by four trying it, too. No sense trying to pull one of the other southern states north, either—they're anchored better than Florida....)

Perhaps if we prevent the weather

forecasters from announcing the cold and slippery weather, it won't come? I mean, they've been talking cold all summer and, go figure—it's been cold! It's THEIR fault!

Or, maybe we can get Congress to enact Summertime Savings Time, where we can all roll our clocks back to May? I mean, they make us monkey with our clocks every spring and fall, why not something on a grander scale? Who's with me?

So? Can you tell who didn't get to spend much time on his column this month?



Safety First! (cont)

(Continued from page 1)

really understanding what countersteering was, or how it works. I was doing it, mind you—if I wasn't I wouldn't have survived riding—I just didn't KNOW I was doing it, so I couldn't use it as a skill to increase my chances on the road. It was on the range of the New Rider Course that I first connected that feeling of the bike “slipping down and around” with the act of pressing the handlebar.

Most, if not all, of the concepts I've discussed in this column have had their roots in the work done by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to educate riders. For example, early this year, I talked about checking your bike out before riding—a concept that the MSF refers to as T-CLOCS:

- Tires
- Controls
- Lights
- Oil and Other fluids
- Chassis
- Sidestand

I've also waxed eloquently regarding keeping alert and staying aware of your surroundings so that you can predict and avoid potentially dangerous situations—S.E.E., or Search, Evaluate, Execute. You

guessed it: another facet of the MSF coursework.

Frankly, there is very little that can be discussed with respect to motorcycle safety that is not part of the New Rider Course.

What, you say? You're endorsed and you've been riding so long that the New Rider course is beneath you? OK. There's also the *Experienced Rider Course* where you review your skills using your own scooter. This course will help you keep your skills honed to a razor's edge, with the benefit of showing you how to maneuver your big ol' beast. And since the MSF is underwritten by the cash we pay when registering our scooters, the classes are cheap, too. I think anything that might help improve my skills such that I don't become road-stain is not a bad use for 25 bucks...

Finally, the MSF believes that the **rider** is ultimately responsible for his or her own safety, and that an educated rider is the best tool for motorcycle accident prevention. Who can disagree with that?

For more info, including class locations nationwide, some sample tests, and animated interactive “challenges”, stop by the MSF website at <http://www.msf-usa.org>.

Health Watch: Apathy

ap·a·thy (ăp'ə-thē) n.

1. Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal; indifference.
2. Lack of emotion or feeling; impassiveness.

Apathy is the number-one killer of organizations worldwide. Symptoms include lethargy in supporting organization events, whining when asked to put some effort forward, and a general lack of appetite for anything that requires a bit of commitment. Some forms of apathy cause the involuntary rolling of the sufferer's eyes upon mention of any organizational activity.


In its most advance phases, apathy may cause the sufferer to ignore anything having to do with their organization.

If you think you or someone else is suffering from apathy, move them quickly to the back of the nearest motorcycle, and get them on the road with other ALR members as soon as possible. Ensure that they receive ample doses of camaraderie, involvement, commitment, volunteerism, and a sense of belonging.


Remember: The organization you save might just be your own.

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

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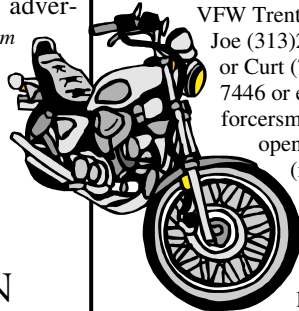
THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Still serving - And Riding!

The Runs...

Biker events in and around our area:

Aug 27-Aug 29 Easyrider's
Cycle Rodeo
Chillicothe, OH 800/962-9857
Aug 28 Post 416 Benefit Run
for Karlee Green
TAL Post 416, St. Helen, MI
989-389-1023 or 989-942-
4642
Aug 28 Enforcers LE/MC
Poker Run
VFW Trenton, MI
Joe (313)220-0213
or Curt (734)612-
7446 or en-
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openwest.com
(no hy-
phen)
Aug 29
13th
Annual
Run To



Hell
Hell, MI 734/481-1452
www.abateofmichigan.org
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 10—Sep 12 Toy Run
Sturgis, MI

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 Thin Blue Line Ride (Dearborn Police)
Dearborn, MI

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 2 4th Annual Toys for Needy Kids Car & Motorcycle Show
American Legion Post 4, Mt. Clemens, MI 586/997-1286

Oct 4 17th Annual Toys For Kids
V.F.W. Post #6691, Fraser, MI 586/948-2522

Oct 10 Plymouth Chili Cookoff
Plymouth, MI 313/845-2269

Oct 10 Giant Swap Meet
Grand Rapids, MI 800/968-4242 www.motorcycleswap.com

Oct 21-Oct 24 Biketoberfest
Daytona, FL 800/854-1234

Oct 24 Giant Swap Meet
Detroit, MI 800/968-4242 www.motorcycleswap.com

Oct 31 Giant Swap Meet
Lansing, MI 800/968-4242 www.motorcycleswap.com

