

Cruisin' News

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

MAY 2005

Looking Down The Road...

A letter from the Director...

Well I had my first real meeting and we all seemed to make it OK. It was a good first meeting with new people on the board with fresh ideas and a lot of new energy.

One of our main goals this year will be trying to build up our Charity Fund again, so we can carry out the charity work that is so important to this group. Also we need to get more people involved with all the activities. If you have any ideas for a fundraiser, social night or a ride please let anyone on the board know so it can be brought up at a meeting, or use the form on Page 3.

Vicki from The Lions Club has asked us to help with their White Cane Fundraiser this year. We have committed to Saturday April 30 from 10:00 to 4:00 at the intersection of Ford and Middlebelt, we need your help—stop by and pitch in!

May always is a good month for us—we

have The Blessing of The Bikes at St. Dustan's Church on May 1 at 1:00 p.m. and weather permitting a ride after. Please try to attend as this is always a good start to the riding season.

Of course we can't forget Rolling Thunder Memorial Weekend In Washington D.C. This year is really special for us as we will be placing a wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier on Saturday .

July 4th weekend is our other really big gathering with the Great Lakes Romp in Fowlerville. Volunteers will be needed for our share of this weekend. Make a reservation at the camp ground and come and join the fun.

We are working on other ideas to try and get us through another safe and fun riding season. Plan on joining us for some good times and good friendship.

Ride safe!
Porky



A Brief History of Memorial Day...

"The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

The preceding is General Order No. 11 made on May 5th, 1868 by General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers—likely similar to the current American Legion in intent and composition.

The proclamation put forth the seed for our modern Memorial Day, originally known

as Decoration Day—a time to honor those who sacrificed their lives in the performance of their duty to God and country by decorating their graves.

It wasn't until 1971 that Congress declared Memorial Day as the National Holiday we observe today.

This year, amidst the barbecues, parades, and other celebrations, be sure to take a moment to reflect on the lives ended in service to our great country. This year, let's be sure to see Memorial Day for its purpose—let's view it as more than a day off of work or school and truly honor those for which it was intended. When you see or hear the "missing man" formation fly by, or see other demonstrations of loss, take a moment and say a prayer for those people lost in defense of those things which we, as Americans, hold dear.



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MILE MARKERS

- Lion's Club White Cane Sale 30 Apr 10am
- ALR Blessing of the Bikes 1 May 1pm
- ALR General Membership Meeting 5 May 7 pm
- Rolling Thunder 26-30 May
- ALR Wreath Presentation 28 May
- WW Memorial Day Parade 29 May

BIRTHDAYS IN APR:

- Bob "SOB" Stabenow—3 May
- Richard "Mums" Mamayek—7 May
- Bill Mull—10 May
- Donna Dean (for real this time)—14 May
- Bill "Spanky" Borrusch—18 May
- Ponytail Mike Globke—22 May
- Donna Spiteri—24 May
- Al "Porky" Spiteri—28 May
- Carl "Old G" Grimm—31 May

Safety First


It has been my habit in this column to talk about those things we can do as *bikers* to make us safer. Considering that very few motorcycle accidents are the fault of the motorcyclist, it occurs to me that there is another facet of motorcycle safety that I really need to address: performance behind the wheel. Two things brought this home for me: a recent conversation with one of our high-speed, crotch-rocket-pilot brethren, and seeing an ad for motorcycle safety picturing a biker who looks disturbingly like our own Osama with the caption: "He fears no man. But on his bike, he's terrified of soccer moms in minivans."

How many times have you been stopped at an intersection and paid attention—REALLY paid attention—to what the drivers of the cars around you are doing? I've been taking sort of an informal survey in this way lately, and have found a disturbing percentage of drivers yacking on their cell phones, scarfing burgers and other such sloppy foods, applying makeup, WATCHING TV, reading, or otherwise not paying attention to what they're supposed to be doing! No wonder the #1 phrase uttered by a driver after smacking down a biker is "I

didn't see him". Crimony! With all that going on, they wouldn't see a SEMI, let alone a motorcycle!

So how can we improve our survival odds and those of our two-wheeled brethren with all of this "anything but driving" going on?

First, don't participate. When you're driving, concentrate on the drive—don't eat, telephone your friends, etc. Pay attention to what's going on in your windshield and mirrors, rather than your cell phone's keypad. That's the greatest service you can perform for those sharing the road with you. Remember that under current laws, it is *your* responsibility to be fit to drive. Being tired or distracted are no longer accepted excuses.

And when riding, just assume that THEY are not paying attention to you. Therefore, you should pay even more attention to them—be keenly aware of your environment. If you assume they're doing everything but driving, you'll be better prepared when one of them pulls some blind move into your path. And, above all, ride so that you create space in front of and behind you so you'll have maneuvering space when they do. 

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

Ah! Relief! Winter is gone for the next several months, and my mistress the scoot and I are going to become acquainted once more.

The garage is in pretty good shape, and She Who Must Be Obeyed's ride is happily ensconced therein (a **BIG** thank you to **Gentleman Dave** for seeing to it that it got there! You're a life-saver, Bro!) The two have each received their season-starter baths, and now it's time to enjoy them.

This should be an interesting summer with the Romp in Michigan, and ALR brothers and sisters from all over these United States coming

to enjoy.


Would be nice if the Adult Choice amendment is made to our helmet laws by then, but I'm not counting on it. Seems it was sent to the House Transportation Committee to die, as nary a peep on it has come from Lansing-way since they chucked it in there. (If you haven't, stop by <http://nalric.com> to get a letter to send to Granholm, asking her to sign it—of course, that assumes it gets to her...)

Good Lord! What is it that the insurance industry in Michigan (spelled AAA) thinks they are gaining by constantly having it killed? If

You have spoken!


Last month, we asked whether we should create and distribute a contact list, yearbook with photos, or leave well enough alone. And you have answered. After tabulating all of the "ballots" returned by mail and at the April meeting, it has been determined that the majority of respondents would like a contact list distributed.

Now, we are proponents of privacy, and will do all in our power to protect yours. If you have responded that you did not wish to participate, your data will not be included. **IF YOU DID NOT RESPOND, BUT DO NOT WISH YOUR DATA INCLUDED, YOU MUST RESPOND PRIOR TO 30 MAY 2005.** Lack of response will be taken as your consent to include your data.

The contact list will be distributed in printed form only to all valid and participating (included in the list) members in attendance at the June meeting. It will be updated quarterly with new members, and will be made available upon request to valid members of the Chapter, again, under the condition that the requestor is included in the listing—if you choose not to participate, you choose not to receive a copy. 

the other states that have passed adult choice had all the myriad catastrophes insurers foretell, wouldn't a rational person expect them to reverse it? Fact in point, none of them came to pass, and their insurance is actually cheaper than ours (even when bought from Michigan-based insurers). Go figure.

Oh, well. Enough of that rant.

I'd appreciate your support at the **Wayne Westland Veterans Parade**. We'll leave the Post at 11:30 am on Sunday, May 29th to stage at the Wayne-Ford Civic League. The parade will begin at 1:00. See you there! 

Do what you wanna do...

Seems that we've lost touch over the years with what the membership wants to do—that's the only reasonable explanation for the poor turnout at Chapter events.

Fear not, Faithful Rider! The Officers do not assume that our wants and likes are exactly yours, and we have this nifty newsletter thingy by which we can communicate with each and every one of you! Soooo, we figured the best way to find out what YOU want to do as a Chapter is to simply ask you!

To the right you'll find another clip-and-send questionnaire. On it, we ask for your name and membership number, and whether you'd like to volunteer to help out on any events, volunteer as a Road Captain, or suggest a fundraiser or event.

Want Dinner Rides? Suggest 'em! Poker Runs or organized group rides? Suggest 'em! Spaghetti dinners? Ice cream socials? Chapter Ride-n-Camps? Well, you get it. Anything you think that you and your compadrés would enjoy.

Don't feel that you must chair, plan, or work on the event if you suggest it, but, even so, please provide your contact information so that we can get back with you for more information on any event you might suggest! **THANKS!**



Activities and Fund Raiser Data Form

Member Number: MI-

Name: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Check one below:

I would like to help in our Chapter's events! Call me!

I'm experienced, and would like to be a Road Captain!

I'd like to suggest the following event or fund raiser!

If we do it, I'd like to be the chairperson!


If we do it, I'd like to help plan it!

If we do it, you can count on me to help run it!


Clip and turn in at any meeting, or mail to ALR PO Box 871309 Canton, MI 48187-6309

ALR MARKETPLACE


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



Pat Squires—Remerica—Integrity Realtors
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Pager (734) 566-6428 Email: csquires2sell@aol.com
Web page: www.remericaintegrity.com



Sons of the American Legion
Squadron 396
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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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This Space Available

Only \$10 per month!

Place your ad in **Cruisin' News!**
Contact
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This Space Available

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Contact
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Support The ALR

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

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Sanity note: *NALRIC.com and
www.AmericanLegionRiders.net both
go to the same site...*

**Is this newsletter correctly ad-
dressed?** Contact the editor if *any-
thing* 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*



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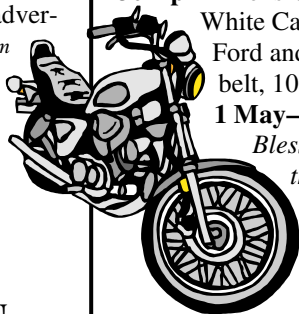
Memorial Day 2005

The Runs...

Biker Events In and Around our Area...

As in the past, be sure to follow up on these events before attending. We do our best to ensure the dates, location and contact info are accurate, but mistakes are easily made and hardly corrected...

30 Apr—Lions Club White Cane Sale—
Ford and Middlebelt, 10am—
1 May—ALR Blessing of the Bikes—
St. Dunstan, Garden City, MI Contact Crazy Bob



7 May—Bikin' For Burns—Pirani's Event Center Flint, MI Contact abateregion20.tripod.com
12-15 May—Myrtle

Beach Bike Week—Myrtle Beach, SC Contact www.MyrtleBeachHarley.com

15 May—Blessed in Hell—Hell, MI Contact 517-540-6572

20 May—Warlocks Fish Fry—\$1 for a plate of food—8pm—Detroit, MI Contact www.warlocksmc-detroit.com

21-22 May—Moving Wall—Selfridge Air National Guard Base, MI

26-30 May—Rolling Thunder—Washington, DC Contact Bill "Polka Bill" Kaledas

28 May—ALR Presentation at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—Washington DC Contact Bill "Polka Bill" Kaledas

29 May—Wayne/Westland Veteran's Parade—Westland, MI Contact Pat "Bobcat" Babcock

3-5 Jun Traveling Wall at Yankee Air Museum <http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org/events/6405.html>

4 Jun—Ride For Life—Berkley, MI Contact 248-593-5150

5 Jun—Ride for a Reason—Dundee, MI Contact 734-947-4647

11 Jun—Operation Uplink Ride—Lapeer, MI Contact 810-664-9222

12 Jun—ALR Ride For Care—Lansing, MI Contact 517-694-7057

12 Jun—Eye Ride—Farmington Hills, MI Contact 517-540-6572

12-20 Jun—Laconia Motorcycle Week—Laconia, NH Contact 603-366-2000

