

Cruisin' News

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

JUNE 2005

Looking Down The Road...

A letter from the Director...

Well, its that time of the month to write another article. We had another great meeting, with Vicki from the Lions Club thanking us for a job well done. We were able to raise over \$2500.00 for them. As a group that gives of their time, the Riders are the best.

With Rolling Thunder comes a good time and a time of harmony for all who attend. The bar-b-cue on Saturday is always a great time for all.

Our biggest event this year will be Rolling Romp held on the 4th of July weekend. We can always use volunteers and hopefully we can have a large turnout from our Chapter. The last of the details for this will be given out at the June meeting please plan to attend.

Also, there is a group of us planning to attend the "Back to the 40's" dance on June 5 at Burton Manor. All the profits will go to the wounded vets from Iraq and Afghanistan Wars at Veterans Haven. Come out and show your support. You can call 734-721-4594 for more information.

Finally, the board has come up with a couple of new ideas for fundraisers for this year. Please attend the June meeting and plan on signing up to help. Tony has some ideas for dinner rides also. So all we need is you to attend and have some fun.

The riding season is just getting started so please ride safe and watch out for the other guy.

Ride safe!
Porky



Safety First

It may seem silly to talk about this in what is starting out to be a pretty cool riding season, but this month we'll talk about heat management –RIDER heat management.

Michigan's riding season can present extremes in temperature and humidity. A single day can easily see changes of temperature of 20°, based on almanac average highs and lows. Dressing for a ride based on the expected high can leave you at risk for hypothermia in the morning, and dressing for the morning temperature can present a risk of heat stroke in the warm afternoon.

And don't discount the effects your speed will have on your temperature through wind chill! A 50° day is great for

riding, but riding at 70 mph on that 50°F day can result in an apparent temperature of 38° - that puts you in hypothermia territory pretty quick, if you're not dressed for 38°!

One method to deal with this on all-day rides is to outfit yourself in layers of clothing that can easily be removed as the temperature increases, or added as the temperature drops. Of course, carrying your leather and a light jacket that can be worn under your vest, plus chaps and, maybe, raingear is a great idea, but rather tough to do if you don't have cargo-carrying capacity on your scoot. Even if you ride a big ol' bagger, you may not have sufficient space in your bags to carry all that gear. Be sure that

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MILE MARKERS

- Rolling Thunder 26-30 May
- ALR Wreath Presentation 28 May
- W-W Veterans Parade 29 May
- ALR General Membership Meeting 2 Jun 7 pm

BIRTHDAYS IN JUN:

- John "Dragon" Riling—2 Jun
- Pat Squires—4 Jun
- "Polka Bill" Kaledas—6 Jun
- Tony Hancotte—9 Jun
- Kirk "Crossbones" McMahon—11 Jun
- Lenny Butkiewicz—18 Jun
- Steve "Slammin' Sammy" Miracle—20 Jun
- Gary "Glide" Estermeier—22 Jun
- Louis Fadder & Sue "SOB" Borrusch—23 Jun
- Gary "Super G" Reggish—26 Jun
- Robert Griffith—28 Jun
- Jerry "The Mayor" Robinson—29 Jun

Safety First (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

the layered clothes you select can be reasonably carried on your bike when off you. Or, buy riding gear that has features to help you control your heat. There are several riding suits available today that are warm, lightweight, vented and, as an added bonus MUCH tougher than even leather.

If you can't stand the thought of riding down the road in something that looks like it was stolen from a Power Ranger's closet, there are even jeans available that have vent panels in them. (*Shorts should not be considered as riding gear!*) New "traditional" clothing and gear is also designed to help you manage heat. For instance, most modern leather jackets have zippered vents which you can open to let air flow between you and the jacket—not that wearing your vest over it as we do leaves these functional—you have to "cooperate" with the clothing in order that its special features can do you any good. Many helmets are also available with vent scoops which can be opened to allow cooling air between your head and the bucket.

Probably the best option, available

to all—regardless of cargo carrying capacity and budget—is to stop occasionally, doff the chapeau, and relax when on a warm ride. If you've layered up, this is a good opportunity to drop a layer or two as well. Once you feel cool, and the sweat's dried off of you, gear up and get back out on the road. If it's too cool for you, stop at a donut shop and enjoy a coffee, tea, or hot chocolate while warming up. The warm drink will help in getting your overall core temperature back to normal if you'd been skirting the edges of hypothermia. Good time to add layers of clothing, too.

And don't forget the bottle of water! Riding in heat of any kind can lead to dehydration—particularly if it's hot and the humidity is high!

Hypothermia, heat stroke, and dehydration all have their own symptoms, but are common in that they adversely affect your level of consciousness, rationality, ability to make decisions, and reaction time. Impairment of ANY of these is dangerous to a biker, and these conditions impair all three. In this regard, it is far better to be prepared for what our climate confronts us with than to look cool on the road...



Charity Fund Plummetts!

As of this writing, there is just \$40 in our Charity fund! This means we have no money for the various charities that come to our meetings requesting money. We don't even have money for those events and charities we've committed to giving dollars to each year!

This, folks, is why we've been bugging you about fundraising ideas. We've tried the typical "institutional" fundraisers like cookie dough and pizza sales, and they did yield up some monies—which were quickly disbursed to charity—but, frankly, we're not a bunch of school-age kids who sell items door to door for their team, we're a motorcycle association! One would think that between the 124 members and supporters in our Chapter, we'd be able to come up with *something* having to do with bikes that people would be willing to throw a few bucks at in order to build the charity fund back up!

If you have ANY ideas, we'd like to hear them. And, though we'll need help from a few to put on suggested events, don't think that just because you came up with an idea, you have to plan it and make it work. But please share your ideas.



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

Good Lord! Where in the hell did that SNOW come from?! I don't ever remember snow that late. What's next? Six months of night before tomorrow?!

Well, spring has sprung, but it appears to have given itself a hernia doing so. This has been the coolest, raunchiest start of riding season since, well, since... ..last year.

Don't know why I complain since I have no intention of moving from Michigan. But it's still pretty frustrating. At least it didn't rain on us at our blessing this year. Wasn't the greatest weather for riding, but at least it was dry.

I've gotten most of the mangled or strange records out of the new Chapter membership database. So, if your birthday pops up at the wrong time, or you're not getting your newsletters, stop and see me so we can fix your database record.

Speaking of not receiving newsletters, I've heard many saying that they never got their newsletter last month. Since they are prepared per post office requirements (folded and tabbed rather than stapled), and are sent first class, I'd have to say that there's something amiss in my database—except for some of the complaining parties are people whom I

know I have the correct address for. I guess the post office just can't get good help these days.

Finally, our last two issues contained "clip and mail" information and idea submission forms. Less than 10% of you bothered to send anything in regarding a contact list, and, at the time of this writing, only one member bothered to send in any ideas for events or fund raisers. Now *that's* apathy. Ho-hum. It's your Chapter, and I suppose you can do with it what you want—but you can't say we're not trying to breathe some life back into it. We'd sure appreciate your help.



Newsletter News

Special thanks to member Jerry "The Mayor" Robinson for hooking up a \$120 sponsorship from Northwoods Harley Davidson in Gaylord!

Jerry joins Lenny Butkiewicz as the only folks who have gone out of their way to stomp up ads to help keep the presses rolling. I think I'll name them to the Advertising Department :o)

Thanks, guys! Definitely could not do this without you!

Since I have already unsuccessfully tried to quit being newsletter editor once, I guess I'll continue to do it until (a) it becomes cost prohibitive to the Chapter (See *Charity Fund Plummetts* on page 2), (b) someone else wants to take it over, or (c) I'm no longer able to do it.

To that end, as with the Charity Fund and General Fund, the **Newsletter fund needs cash to operate.** Unlike the Charity fund, if the Newsletter Fund is dry, newsletter publication begins to deplete the General Fund—the Chapter's operating cash.

Ads are \$10 per month or \$120 for 13 months, and includes the same amount of time on our web site's banner ad rotator. The Sponsor can provide their own ad copy, using the ads in each issue as guidance, or I can make an ad for them

from their business card, phone book ad, or from scratch.

Checks or money orders for newsletter ads should be made payable to "ALR" and mailed to

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

or

ALR Newsletter
PO Box 871309
Canton Township, MI 48187-6309

Payment can also be dropped to Stormy or me at any meeting. Ad materials need to go directly to me.

Also, **if you'd like to have information included in the *Cruisin' News***, I need to get it prior to the publication deadline for the newsletter. In general, the deadline is 5:00 pm on the Wednesday two weeks prior to the next meeting. This deadline applies to anything to be published, including calendar items and articles. See the web site calendar for the actual dates.

Speaking of articles, if you have anything you'd like to write about, I'd be happy to have you write a piece for the newsletter—I'm sure you're all getting tired of reading nothing but my rantings each and every month!

Online Option

Did you know that this newsletter is available online on our website? Sure is! The same pdf file I send to the publisher each month is published in the Newsletter section at http://nalric.com/gc_mi_alr


Did you know that you can choose to receive the electronic version instead of a printed copy? If you'd prefer not to receive the printed version, and would rather receive a notification of when the electronic version is available on the website, let Bobcat know, and I'll make it so!

The electronic version is generally available online the same day I send the printed version out for printing, so you get your newsletter a little bit ahead of all the snail mail recipients, plus, it is in color, and it saves your Chapter the cost of printing, processing and mailing your copy!


If you do select electronic, and your spouse is also a member, note that I pair spouses in the mailing section of the Chapter Membership Database. This means that whatever format select for either of the couple is the format they both get.

ALR MARKETPLACE


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



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Only \$10 per month!

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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
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Garden City, MI 48135

Phone: 734-397-9758
Fax: 734-397-9758

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Cruisin' News

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

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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 nonprofit Veterans' organization.*



THE
AMERICAN
LEGION RIDERS

Still serving - And Riding!

www.AmericanLegionRiders.net/gc_mi_alr

T O :



**Still Serving...
And Riding!**

American Legion Riders

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 ac-
curate, but mistakes are easily
made and hardly corrected...*

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

“Polka Bill” Kaledas

28 May—ALR Presenta-
tion at Tomb of the Un-
known Soldier—

Washington DC Contact

Bill “Polka Bill”

Kaledas

29 May—
Wayne/Westland
Veteran's Pa-
rade—Westland,

MI Contact Bobcat

30 May—Belleville Rolling Thun-
der—Belleville, MI

Contact 734-697-5090

3-5 Jun—Traveling Wall—

Yankee Air Museum

Contact 734-483-4030

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

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

5 Jun—Wounded Warrior Project Dance—
Livonia, MI Contact 734-721-4594

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

16 Jun—GC ALR Ladies Night Out—Chatters on
Wayne at 6:00 pm

18 Jun—Andy Ross Run—Trenton, MI
Contact 734-776-3086

18 Jun—Full Circle Breast Cancer Ride—Flint
Twp, MI Contact 810-397-9706

19 Jun—Dad's Day in Hell—Hell, MI
Contact 734-429-1044

26 Jun—Peace Officers' Benefit Ride—Brighton,
MI Contact 517-540-6572

1-4 Jul—Great Lakes Romp—
Contact AmericanLegionRiders.net

3 Jul—Run To The North Wall—Detroit, MI Con-
tact vvasmithp@vba.va.gov

