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"Soaring Eagle"

Monthly News for Our SCRC Nation
 August 2011



Aug 2011
 Vol. 2 Issue 8



Welcome To The Southern Cruisers Riding Club
 13th ANNUAL CRUISIN' FOR A CURE NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 18th thru August 20th, 2011

Mountain Home, Arkansas

HOSTED BY CHAPTERS FROM ALL AROUND

"Hammer Time" by Bruce "Hammer" Mathis

Happy Birthday to me! Happy Birthday to me! Wow! The "Soaring Eagle" has been in print for one year this month! Thanks to all that have contributed their stories & pictures for this newsletter!!! You are what makes it a great addition to Southern Cruisers Riding Club!!!

Looking back at July! It's been a HOT ONE INDEED! The popcorn is popping in the fields making it so white it looks like snow! Better grab my coat & go outside to check on it! Just kidding... heh!

It has been hot... real hot in my neck of the woods. Sure want to be careful riding in this heat. The 3 rules are: 1) Stay hydrated, 2) Stay hydrated, 3) Stay hydrated!

When I ride home, I learnt to take a 'white cement' highway as much as possible. Now & then I make the mistake of taking a route that send me hurdling down a newly asphalted highway. Black road in the summer means more heat (is that the opposite of 'black ice'?). Much more heat! And you can't buy any shade on that highway!

Sure has been a busy July for me... seems like I am spending more & more time in the driver's seat of my cage... & I am not sure that is not a bad thing with 100°+ temperatures. As long as my A/C hangs in there! "Sophia's" A/C is broke... know a good mechanic? I actually saw a Goldwing trike in Ardmore, OK, in July with a sidecar that had A/C in it. Nice!!

Are you heading to Sturgis in August? If not, check out the webcams in Sturgis – heck, you might even recognize someone in front of the camera! Just get on & Google 'Sturgis webcams' & BINGO! You are on your way.

I hope to see you at the SCRC National Rally in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Don't let the temps keep you at home – there will be some great riding in that area. And shaded highways! And cool water! And great people (SCRC members)! Watch for my new SCRC mantra for 2012!!!

Remember... "I am Southern Cruisers! And so are You!" You will recognize me when you see me... I am the one wearing the SCRC patch on the back of my vest! "Grab some wind... hammer down!"

SCRC Calendar

Listed below are the SCRC events on the 2011 SCRC calendar:
http://www.airsetpublic.com/AirSet.jsp#app.CalServe+gi.taGnyWwQUzIN_v.month

If you plan on having an SCRC event in 2011, contact Bubba Prescott to get it reviewed & approved!

July 2-4 – "Fais-Do-Do" – Lafayette, Louisiana

15-17 – Georgia State Rally – Commerce, GA

July 22-24 – New England "Rendezvous" – Barton, Vermont

29-31 – Great Lakes Gathering – Sterling Heights, Michigan

29-31 – Indiana State Rally – Columbus, Indiana

Aug 5-7 – Virginia State SCRC Rally – Lynchburg, Virginia

Aug 18-20 – SCRC "Cruisin' for a Cure" National Rally – Mountain Home, AR

Sep 16-18 – Texas State Reunion – Houston, Texas

Oct 7-8 – "Run for the Border" – Del Rio, Texas

Nov 4-6 – "Peanut Festival" – Dothan, Alabama

A Growing SCRC Nation - New SCRC Chapters

Sending out a "rev 'em up" welcome to these new SCRC chapters:

 **Ada Oklahoma SCRC #384** Ada, Oklahoma 1st Officer – Doug Mclure

 **Michiana SCRC #544** Mishawaka, Indiana 1st Officer – Jason Luse
 **Culpeper SCRC #106** Culpeper, Virginia 1st Officer – Alvin Pettitt, 2nd Officer – Steven Klix

 **Lewis & Clark SCRC #462** St. Louis, Missouri 1st Officer – Merle "Merlyn" Hash, Jr.

 **Clinch Mountain SCRC # 123** Rutledge, Tennessee 1st Officer – Darrell Brooks

 **Ocmulgee # 556** Cochran, Georgia 1st Officer – Kenneth Darsey

 **Sand Hills # 557** Moundridge, Kansas 1st Officer – Terry January

Correction from July's Newsletter:

Bayshore SCRC #554 is in Union Beach, New Jersey (not Union City, NJ)



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New SCRC State Officer - Iowa

Please welcome David Hawver as the new SCRC STO for Iowa!! We wish him the best of luck in his new position.



SCRC Memorial Page

Visit the SCRC memorial page... & read a few of the poems & stories. They are absolutely awesome! Check them out at: www.scrmemorial.net

Please visit the memorial page.. the poems are incredible! We are not a very old club, but what gets me is the members we have lost. There are many faces of members that I never met... & some that I have. We are all Southern Cruisers! The pictures prompt me to.. Reflect & Remember!

In our lives we have many wonderful opportunities. We all have the opportunity to gain an education, to travel, to work, to play. We may stay single or take a spouse. We might have children or pets, both or neither. Nothing has a greater impact on us than the friends we make and decide to share a small or large part of our lives with.

It is to the friends we have lost that the Southern Cruisers Riding Club dedicates this page. Let us always remember the smiles, laughter, jokes, handshakes, bear hugs or just the warm feelings we have shared while with these friends. May they always watch over us ever reminding us that our tomorrow might not come and we will soon be with them again.

We are grateful for the time that all of our fallen members did spend with us and we know that they are joining so many wonderful members who are forming a new chapter with the finest riding roads, greatest weather and the Best 1st Officer any chapter could have.

THE STATION

By Robert J. Hastings

Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision in which we see ourselves on a long journey that spans an entire continent. We're traveling by train, and from the windows, we drink in the passing scenes of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at crossings, of cattle grazing in distant pastures of smoke poring from power plants, of row upon row of cotton and corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our minds is our final destination - for at a certain hour and on a given day our train will finally pull into the station with bells ringing, flags waving and bands playing. And once that day comes, so many wonderful dreams will come true.

So restlessly, we pace the aisles and count the miles, peering ahead, waiting for the station. "Yes, when we reach the station

that will be it!" we promise ourselves. "When we're 18... win that promotion ... put the last kid through college ... buy that 450 SL Mercedes-Benz ... pay off the mortgage ... have a nest egg for retirement." From that day on, we will all live happily ever after. Sooner or later, however, we must realize there is no station in this life, no one earthly place to arrive at once and for all. The Journey is the joy. The station is an illusion - it constantly outdistances us.

Yesterday's a memory; tomorrow's a dream. Yesterday belongs to history; tomorrow belongs to God.

Yesterday's a fading sunset; tomorrow's a faint sunrise. Only today is there light enough to love and live. So, gently close the door on yesterday and throw the key away. It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad, but rather the regret over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow.

"Relish the Moment" is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24 "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, swim more rivers, climb more mountains kiss more babies.

Count more stars. Laugh more and cry less. Go barefoot more often. Eat more ice cream. Ride more merry-go-rounds. Watch more sunsets. Life must be lived as we go along.

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Meet an SCRC International Officer – in Australia

Meet Andrew Nichols (Andy or Nic to friends), FO of the newly formed SCRC Adelaide Chapter 543 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia. Adelaide being the second chapter to open down under (the first being Chapter 113 on the Gold Coast, Queensland).

I looked for a friendly social group that held the same values as myself & pure & simply, loved to ride their bike, but wanted to do it as a group. That's when I came across the SCRC site & looked into it more, asked some questions of the SCRC family, & from there it wasn't hard knowing that the Gold Coast was around 3 days ride from Adelaide... so Adelaide Chapter 543 was born. Adelaide Chapter 543 opened in October 2010 so it is very early days yet, but gradually we will grow in numbers.

I have been riding bikes on & off since I was in my early 20's. Being married to the same wonderful woman, Lyndy, for 25 yrs & having two beautiful daughters can slow down the bike riding when they are young, but as they got older I found I had to ride again. Now nearer to my mid-fifties & the girls grown up, I still find I love the exhilaration of riding my bike. I have owned a number of bikes from an early Honda CB500/4 to a Kawasaki 900, a Honda CB900, & in





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Meet an SCRC International Officer – in Australia (cont'd)

'08 I purchased my first new bike - a Honda VTX1300S (retro) which was my first cruiser. I love to ride it every chance I get, keeping in mind that it is now winter here in Oz, so a bit wet & cold.

South Australia is a state in the middle of Oz with lots of riding space - around 983,000 square kilometres of it. Population is only around 1.6 million but we have some of the most beautiful country to ride in. Temperatures can get extreme in S.A. - up to 43°C (109°F) in summer & down to 12°C (54°F) in winter but plenty of great weather for riding.

Only an hour or so from Adelaide we have the amazing Barossa Valley wine growing district which is some of the best riding & most picturesque in Australia. We also have even closer to town the Adelaide hills area which has some amazing roads to travel.

If any of the SCRC family decide to come down under, please look me up if in Adelaide, South Australia & I will show you some of this amazing country.

“Keep the tyres to the bitumen & the sun at your back”

Regards from Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

Andy “Nic” Nichols - 1st Officer Chapter 543

Recipe - Mexican Pasta Skillet

Prep Time: 30 min Start to finish: 30 min

Makes: 6 servings (about 1-1/3 cups each)

Ingredients:

- 1 lb extra-lean (at least 93%) ground beef
- 1 jar (16 oz) Muir Glen organic mild salsa (or medium)
- 1 cup Muir Glen organic tomato sauce (from 15 oz can)
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 2 cups uncooked regular or multigrain elbow macaroni
- 1 cup Green Giant Niblets frozen corn
- 1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat sharp Cheddar cheese (2 oz)

In 12” skillet, cook beef over medium-high heat 5-7 minutes, stirring occasionally until thoroughly cooked; drain. Stir in salsa, tomato sauce, & water. Heat to boiling. Stir in macaroni & corn. Reduce heat; cover & simmer 12-15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until macaroni is tender. Sprinkle with cheese. Cover; let stand 1-2 minutes or until cheese is melted. Mmmmm!!!

Submitted by Laurie “Joker” Worton, Indianapolis Chapter 92

“Jay Hart” - Jay’s Lucky Number (Part 1)

“C'mon Cruiser. We have to get the bike ready.” Cruiser follows me to the garage. It's been two months since I adopted him. He's a hound puppy with floppy black ears & long legs. His paws are big & his tail is dangerous. He's become the club mascot & spoiled by everyone who meets him.

My name is Jessica Eugenia Hart. Jay to my friends. Today is the big dice run at the casino. My brother Justice & his friend T, alias the Crazy Cajun, & I are all entered for a chance to win a little cash & possibly a '11 Harley Sportster! A percentage of the proceeds will go to the children's hospital.

“Hey Jay!” Justice yells. “You about ready?”

“Working on it.”

“Well, get it in gear,” he says twisting & swinging a shop rag at me. Cruiser grabs the rag & starts to play tug-of-war with Justice.

“Okay boys,” I say. “Cruiser needs to get into his doggie tote.”

“You mean, you're not going to take him?” Justice asks. Cruiser

looks at me & whines.

“Not this time.” Cruiser whines again.

“I think T has a surprise for him.” Cruiser looks at Justice & wags his tail.

I hear T pull into the driveway on his Rocket III. Cruiser & Justice go out to greet him.

“Cruiser, my man!” Cruiser jumps on T & starts to howl. T pets him behind the ears & walks into the garage. Cruiser & Justice follow.

“Hey Babel!” He says.

I growl at him.

“I mean Jay. Just plain ol' Jay.” He smiles. “I modified Rocky. Come have a look see.”

I follow him & Justice to the driveway where Rocky, the Triumph Rocket III, is parked. My eyes get big & my jaw drops when I see Rocky. He now has arm rests on the back seat with a harness attached. I smile.

“I thought that would make you smile,” he says. “I think it deserves a hug too.” I hug T. “And maybe a kiss.”

“Don't press your luck, you Crazy Cajun.”

Justice laughs.

“Well, let's see if Cruiser is ready to fly solo without you back there holding him on,” T says. He picks Cruiser up & sets him on the seat. He buckles the harness around him. Cruiser licks his arm. T pulls a bandana out of his pocket & ties it around Cruiser's neck.



“That dog is like his owner,” Justice says. “He always wants to go.”

“Speaking of that, let's mosey,” I say.

I give Cruiser a pat & a kiss on the head. “Don't worry friend. I will be right behind you.”

Justice leads our small parade, with T & Cruiser in the middle & me as tailgunner. I keep a special eye on Cruiser who has his tongue hanging out & his ears flopping in the wind. I smile.

Twenty miles later we are at the casino.

“Look at the dog!” I hear a woman yell. “How cute!”

“I think I've seen just about everything now,” Justice says.

I walk over to Cruiser. He barks.

“Hey boy! How was that?” He licks my neck as I hug him.

“He's a good rider,” T says. “I can tell you've been working with him.”

“I haven't done much. He's a natural. Some dogs chase cars. This dog lives to ride.”

“I see a t-shirt idea here.”

“Yeah, me too.”

Justice gets Cruiser off the bike & makes sure the harness is secure. He hands the lead to me. We walk to the registration booth together with people staring, talking & wanting to pet Cruiser.

I pick up my registration packet. It has a dice hand & a patch. I sign a release form.

“Extra hands are \$5,” the guy says.

I look at T.

“I've got this,” he says. “I need to register me & my passenger.”



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“Jay Hart” - Jay’s Lucky Number (Part 1) (cont’d)

“That’s \$30. Your passenger needs to sign the release form too.”
“He can’t write.”

The guy has a puzzled look.

“He’s got paws,” T explains. Cruiser stands on his hind legs & waves his paws at the man. The man smiles.

“Then I guess you’ll have to sign for him. Is he going to drive the Sportster home if he wins it?”

To be continued...

Written by: Angie “Church Lady” Ryan, SCRC Northeastern (Okla) Chapter7

Meet an SCRC Member – in Mississippi

Meet Angela Jackson, Secretary & proud member of Warren County Chapter #212 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Her officers are: FO - Doug Kamien, SO - Baron Kleinhans. & BONUS: Her husband, Dan “LilJack” Jackson, is the Mississippi STO.



Angela & Dan

I am a passenger on our ‘98 Goldwing (that is, until I find the Valkyrie I want). Rick Croot gave me a nickname years ago... but it never really stuck (Bill Presley doesn't realize it though!).

I have been riding off & on (as passenger) for about 30 years. And steadily for the past 10 years. I had my own bike for several years, but really do enjoy being “the passenger”. I get to relax & enjoy the scenery. I do hope to build me a trike one day (a

Valkyrie trike).

I joined the Southern Cruisers in 2001. When I met Dan, he was a member of the Mobile, Alabama, chapter. I enjoyed riding with the group & loved the people. And I decided to join as well.

What I like most about SCRC is the people. It is always nice getting together with everyone, it doesn't matter who you are or what you do, we are all the same when we come together.



A little story - I invited a friend to join us for a state rally several years ago, she had a “thing” for what everyone did... or who they were. She would ask me “What do they do?” I would always answer “I don't know - ride motorcycles & enjoy life.” She just could not understand how I had known these people for so many years & not know what they did for a living. I tried explaining to her that it does not matter what any of us do for a living or how much money we make - when we are together, we are all the same. She still does not get it... & probably never will. I am so

thankful that I do.

My favorite road: I really like parts of the Natchez Trace Parkway because it is really peaceful with beautiful tree-lined roads, but after about 30 or 40 miles I am ready to move on - it can put me to sleep.

My least favorite road(s): Highway 587 (Red Bluff Road) Monticello, MS – there is a lot of loose gravel, too many sharp, blind curves. I crashed in one of those curves because of gravel!

There is not a lot more to say - I am who & what I am, I will never

try to portray myself something or somebody I am not. I try to be the best person I can be

My First Ride with Southern Cruisers!

Time for a flashback. Let’s go back over 10 yrs ago to my very first ride after joining Southern Cruisers. I joined SCRC Tulsa Chapter 167 back in 2000. My first ride was to the Spavinaw Hills area - time to hit some curves! I was riding solo all the time back then... I met the chapter just south of Claremore, OK, as they were heading north on Rt 66. So I fell in behind them, & then we stopped in Salina before heading on towards Spavinaw. I was third from the rear in the line of a dozen or so bikes. Behind me (next to the last) was an older gentleman (70+ yrs old) on a Honda Valkyrie. And bringing up the rear (Tailgunner) was his son riding on a Honda Shadow.

Then, just a couple of miles south of Spavinaw on a not-so-hard curve, I caught a glimpse of the older man bike veering off the road as we were going thru the curve! We immediately shut ‘em down & went back to check on the rider. As I mentioned earlier, he was an older rider on a Honda Valkyrie – & the bike was a too big for him to maneuver thru the curve & he lost control. He barely (by inches) missed a highway sign. And he stopped rolling while still in the grass before going off into the trees, BUT his bike was not so lucky – it must have acted like a pinball in the trees! It was busted up pretty bad. I checked out the rider based on my previous first aid training... & the only damage I could see was skin’t-up knuckles & chin. His helmet had some nasty gashes in it - so it paid for itself! The ambulance came & took him in to the closest hospital to get checked out – & a friend of the chapter was called to bring a pickup & trailer to get the bike (sort of like SCRC’s Eagle Rescue).



Bret, me, and another member

So we decided to ride on to Spavinaw Park to wait for the pickup & trailer to arrive. BUT WAIT!!! The 1st Officer cannot locate his bike key. NOWHERE! I’m thinking it is a prank by one of the other members – & I am getting more & more nervous about this bunch. He cannot locate his key... at all! So the 1st Officer has to leave his bike beside the road... & jumps on behind the 2nd officer (is there a term for that?).

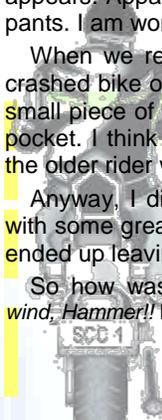
After we are at the park for 30 minutes or so... TA DA! His key appears. Apparently he had put it in the smaller ‘watch’ pocket of his pants. I am wondering “What did I get into with this group?”

When we returned to the scene of the accident, we pushed the crashed bike out of the trees & loaded it onto the trailer. I retrieved a small piece of the wreckage (a pc of the saddlebag) & stuck it in my pocket. I think I still have it somewhere... The bike was totaled, but the older rider was checked out & was Ok.

Anyway, I did end up sticking around – that was a great chapter with some great members. We had a lot of fun with them... but many ended up leaving SCRC within 6 months after I had joined.

So how was YOUR first ride with Southern Cruisers? Grab some wind, Hammer!! By Bruce “Hammer” Mathis

So how was YOUR first ride with Southern Cruisers? Grab some wind, Hammer!! By Bruce “Hammer” Mathis





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Meet an SCRC State Officer (STO) – in Washington

Meet Dee Dee “Bad Kitty” Baker, SCRC STO for Washington (since Jan 1, 2011), & is a member of Seattle-Eastside Chapter 368 in Seattle, WA. She is STO for 4 chapters.

I joined the SCRC in '03 & I have served as Treasurer, Event Coordinator, FO, & Ride Photographer for my chapter. Our ride pictures: <http://community.websites.com/user/duledee01>



Dee Dee & David

There are 4 chapters in WA State: Sea-East 368, Mt. Rainier 360, Kitsap 280 & Central WA 272. We enjoy frequent multi-chapter rides & one we're looking forward to this month is a visit from our SCRC West Coast Regional Officer, Greg “Sparky” Ponton. All of our members are excited to get to know “Sparky”, as well as share some of our beautiful back roads with him!

I'm a late bloomer when it comes to motorcycle riding. I had never even sat on a motorcycle before I was 53; when on a whim, I rode 2-up with a gentleman friend. Shortly thereafter, I was introduced to the SCRC on my first group ride & immediately felt a connection with the members of Chapter 368 who welcomed me with open arms. Within a few weeks, I purchased my first motorcycle - a Yamaha 650 V-Star. Only problem... I didn't know how to turn on the engine, so another friend in the chapter had to ride it home for me.

I wrote a journal of my experiences learning to ride, which I was honored to have published on the RideMyOwn website. To this day I continue to get inquiries on it & it's quite humbling how something so simple can be so far reaching:

http://www.ridemymown.com/articles/personal/learning_to_ride_journal1.shtml



I met my finance, David “Long John Dave” Bevan (“LJD”) more than 6 yrs ago through our shared passion for motorcycling riding. Shortly after we met, “LJD” joined the SCRC & served as Road Captain, SO, & now is FO of Sea-East Chapter 368.

“LJD” surprised me last month – asking me to marry him in front of 30+ of our dearest friends! We were at a SCRC multi-chapter dinner

banquet at the Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally in Baker City, OR. We will be married on September 4th, 2011!!

The Pacific Northwest (PNW) is a motorcyclist's dream destination & Washington is appropriately named the Evergreen State. We have mountain ranges, lakes, rivers, ocean, farmland & islands to explore all within a 30 min – 1 hr ride by land or ferry route.

I have so many favorite rides here in the PNW & prefer long distance riding. However, one near & dear to my heart is located right here in my own back yard in the Snoqualmie Valley; after all, it's where I learned how to ride.

I'm just shy of 100,000 miles under my butt now & riding my 3rd bike - a '10 Can Am Spyder RT-S (semi-automatic). I never thought I'd ever say this, but “I'm free on three!” After struggling with arthritis the past few years, I knew it was time to give up my beloved '04 VTX 1300 & traded it in with 72K on the odometer!

Folks say the Spyder, aka “Charlotte”, brings out the kid in me. I say, “I haven't had this much fun since first learning how to ride!”

Over the past 8+ yrs, I've truly enjoyed being actively involved with the SCRC, primarily because of the wonderful folks I've met along the way. I know if it weren't for the support & mentoring I received, I mostly likely would not be riding today. It was a gift I will forever be grateful for & the camaraderie we share is unquestionable.

If there's one thing I'd like to leave with you it would be to stay actively involved & support your local chapter. The benefits you will reap are undeniable; life long friendships, great rides, memories & stories that only get better with time!

Recipe – Meat Hoagie

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Start to Finish: 40 minutes

Makes: 6 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Fiber One original bran cereal
- 1 jar (25.5 oz) Muir Glen tomato basil pasta sauce
- 1/4 cup fat-free egg product
- 1/4 cup finely diced onion
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 lb lean (at least 93%) ground beef
- 6 whole wheat hot dog buns, split
- 3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat mozzarella cheese (3 oz)

Heat oven to 375°F. Spray large cookie sheet with sides with cooking spray. Place cereal in re-sealable food-storage plastic bag; seal bag & finely crush with rolling pin or mallet.

In large bowl, mix cereal, 1/2 cup of pasta sauce, the egg product, onion, & Italian seasoning. Stir in beef; mix thoroughly. Shape into 18 (1-1/2 inch) meatballs. Place meatballs on cookie sheet. Bake 15-20 minutes or until thoroughly cooked & no longer pink in center

Meanwhile, in 2-quart saucepan, heat remaining pasta sauce over medium-low heat until hot. Place buns cut sides up on another cookie sheet

Place 3 meatballs on bottom half of each bun. Top with slightly less than 1/2 cup sauce & about 2 tablespoons cheese. Bake 4-6 minutes or until cheese is melted & top half of each bun is toasted. Place top half of bun on each sandwich.

Calories 350 (Calories from Fat 80); Total Fat 9g (Sat. 3 1/2g, Trans 1/2g); Cholesterol 50mg; Sodium 690mg; Carbohydrate 38g

Submitted by Laurie “Joker” Worton, Indianapolis Chapter 92



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SCRC 101 #11 - Membership

Now let's talk about your membership in Southern Cruisers:
MEMBERSHIP

- 1) The Southern Cruisers Riding Club is a free, voluntary club. There are no dues but there are some commitments. Membership in the SCRC is open to anyone with an interest in group riding regardless of race, creed or sex and all applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Operators of motorcycles must have a valid Motorcycle endorsement on their license. Members must be either a Rider or Passenger on a street legal Motorcycle. Spouses, if they ride with their husband or wife as a passenger are eligible to join with the same Membership Status as the motorcycle operator. Non-riders will only be allowed Membership under special circumstances to be determined by the Chapter First Officer and any of the National Officers. The Southern Cruisers is an open club but retains the right to terminate the membership of any member that is found to be in violation of any part of this constitution or other club rules.
- 2) The Southern Cruisers Riding Club is a No Dues, "Family Oriented Club" and does require some attendance to Meetings or Rides. However, lack of Communications and Participation in a 90 day period may lead to revocation of Membership at the discretion of the Chapter First Officer. Only after attempts to contact Member through Email, Telephone attempts or US Mail are not responded to or the attempts fail due to incorrect information. The Southern Cruisers is not an Internet Club for Motorcycle enthusiasts.
- 3) Anyone wishing to apply for Membership shall either complete:
 - a) An application form that has been reproduced on paper and return it to the chapter 1st Officer, or
 - b) The online form at: <https://secure.southern cruisers.net/purpose.htm>. The words "I AGREE" must be entered on the online form for consideration of Membership. A signature must appear if using reproduced forms. The SCRC and its Chapter Officers reserves the right to refuse Membership to anyone with the approval of the Membership Director.
- 4) Upon submittal of the Membership Application, the Chapter First Officer shall contact the new applicant as soon as possible, within a week preferably.
- 5) The First Officer may remove Membership from any Member that does not comply with the Constitution of the SCRC or acts in a manner that does not reflect the SCRC in a good light. The First Officer may also turn problems within the Chapter over to the State Officer for more direction on the problem with the intent to make a final decision that's acceptable to the SCRC and the Membership of that Chapter.
- 6) The National President or Vice President and or any National Officer can at any time revoke or refuse membership to any person for the good of the Southern Cruisers Riding Club as a whole.

Safety Tip – CAUTION - Mowing Ahead!

A couple of years back, we were riding to Memphis for the SCRC National Rally & decided to take some back roads through Arkansas. When we left it, was a nice, cool, clear morning... & we made through Bentonville, Arkansas, with no problem. From there on, though, things went downhill!

On one of the country roads we were traveling on, the Arkansas State Dept. decided to do some mowing. We rounded a curve... & to our surprise, a truck with a sign was on the box mower of a tractor mowing. The sign on the back of the truck read “MOWING AHEAD”.

Well to this guy, ahead was only 40 feet! Now we were running 55-60 mph on these curvy roads, & I was pulling a trailer behind my Harley Ultra. Needless to say, I just got shut down... BUT, also had to avoid the oncoming car with barely only enough room to slide between it & the warning truck!! And MAYBE we had about one foot to spare to keep from going under or onto the box mower!!

Luckily, the riders behind me had more time to shut down safely because they saw my brake lights go on. Sharon was also giving the 'slow down' sign. After a few choice words... & I had a chance to get my heart collected from my throat, we went around the tractor thinking that was “the one event” for this trip. NOT!!!

Well, we road about 20 miles on down the road when, lo & behold, there was *another* set of state vehicles mowing & warning people that they were doing it “ahead”. This time, they were just before the curve so we had plenty of time to slow down & approach them cautiously.

In both cases, the road was still a little damp, & then the mowers threw damp, green grass onto the roadway - which made the road even worse. As most of you know, damp green grass on a blacktop road is not good for traction! Especially when on a motorcycle.

Moral of this story is to watch for tractor mowers & grass on the road when traveling the back roads of America because you never know what awaits you around the next curve.

Be safe & always be prepared for the next curve & what is waiting on you their.

Submitted by: Mike Sumter, Will Rogers Chapter 159

“A Caged Outlook” – What is a Motorcycle, Anyway?

Ok – I'm confused!!! What makes a motorcycle a motorcycle anyway? Is it the basic design? Could it be the number of wheels, engine configuration, or the way in which you ride rather than drive it?

I've seen a bicycle with a chainsaw motor rigged on it. Does that make it a motorcycle? Cycles can be a two wheeler, or a three wheeler. The three wheelers are not always set up with two out of three wheels behind the rider in the standard trike styling. New configurations have them out front, forming a reverse trike. There is even a trike in my home town set up in the reverse trike styling, which has an old Indy type body on it. It looks like a cross between a soap box derby, a cigar tube, & a 1960's Indianapolis 500 racer. Oh & it is some where between lime & chartreuse in color.

Are motorcycles still motorcycles when they are made from the back half of a Volkswagen Super beetle? It still has 1/2 of the body, VW engine, rear fenders, rear window, back seat, & back seat glass. I don't know for sure, but I bet there are some that still have the front seat, 4 on the floor, & the original fuzzy dice!

Oh but wait! It must be a cycle, because it only has one front wheel!

This weekend, while driving the Oklahoma Will Rogers Turnpike, I passed a unique trike on the side of the road. It was on the Missouri side of the infamous McDonalds Bridge. It was mostly a mid-50's Chevy truck bed fabricated onto a set of motorcycle front forks. Good ol' Chevrolets are still leaving people stranded along America's highways... even as cycles! Bad Bow-Tie! BAD!



From the archives of the wit of “Mr. Visible”



"Soaring Eagle"



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These Darn Gadgets!!

When I bought my Blackberry, I thought about the 30-year business I ran with 1800 employees - all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures & communicates with Facebook & Twitter.

I signed up under duress for Twitter & Facebook so my 7 kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids & 2 great-grandkids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grand kids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie & Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix, & something that sends every message to my cell phone & every other program within the texting world!!

My phone was beeping every 3 minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation. I am not ready to live like this. Now I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

Then the kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now & then going over to the grocery store or library. Now I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Bluetooth [its red] phone that I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once... & was standing in line at Barnes & Noble talking to my wife with everyone in the nearest 50 yards was glaring at me. You see, I had to take my hearing aid out to use the thing, & I got a little loud.

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh & then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead - Well, it was not a good relationship.

Now when I get really lost, I call my wife & tell her the name of the cross streets. She is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, but at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 yrs, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose 3 phones all at once! I have run around digging under chair cushions, & checking bathrooms, & the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves... but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" question every time I check out just knocks me for a loop!! I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them in with me.

But now I toss it back to them! When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacks-ual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look. I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, "No, but I do toot a lot."

P.S. I know some of you are not over 50. I sent it to you to allow you to forward it to those who are. You see, us senior citizens don't need any more gadgets. The TV remote & the microwave are about all I can handle!!

North to Alaska! Ride with SCRC in Alaska

We received a wedding invitation from my nephew Ryan - he planned to get married in Wasilla in late June. My girlfriend Cheryl had never been to Alaska & was on board for the trip in a heartbeat.

SCRC Anchorage Alaska Chapter does not use Delphi forums, so I

launched an e-mail to "NoFear", the Southwest RO serving Alaska. Soon I'm in touch with "Big Mike", FO of Anchorage Chapter.

And I had let Mike know we'd just be able to meet his chapter for lunch since Harley rentals are \$300+ per day, YIKES! (In southern California, it's only \$110 or less per day).

He offered his Yamaha Roadstar - he had a spare one in my garage at the moment (which is our primary 2-wheeled transportation). Of course, we accepted his generous offer & told him we'd give a call when we arrived in Wasilla.

Fortunately, the wedding was Friday afternoon - which left the entire day Saturday open to ride. Remember the phrase "entire day open".

We arranged to meet at Mike's house in Anchorage at 9:00 on Saturday morning. Despite fairly heavy rain early in the morning, Cheryl & I left our rental house in Wasilla (praying for better weather) & arrived at Mike's on time. Being the gracious guy that he is, he set up on his "little" Roadie & himself on his 2000cc Kawasaki. "Big Mike" is a BIG guy! His Roadie fit me like a glove. The only differences were Kuryakyn grips (with a throttle boss tab), a CB radio, & quiet pipes. It was kind of nice riding quietly for a change.



A couple, David & Jeannie (above) met us at the ride staging area. Some chapter members couldn't make the run but came in to shake hands & say "hi" anyway... NICE! Caging it in, a member named John hadn't made up his mind whether to ride that day or not so we 'aged' him on & he met us later. Another member, Debbie, & her new bike "Mary Jane" was the last to arrive.

Since all present had ridden this route before (except for Cheryl & I) there was no briefing - & off we go through the south end of Anchorage. These folks follow all the rules of group riding we are taught when we're new in SCRC: staggered formation, following distances, etc. In about a half a mile, I was completely comfortable & at home with these people I'd never ridden with before!

At the South end of Anchorage, we jump onto the AK1 (aka the Seward highway). The last 27 miles of this leg is along Turnagain Arm of the Cook Inlet. The Turnagain Arm of the Cook Inlet & Hope, Alaska, both have interesting stories as to how they were named.

Our first stop is for gas & coffee at Girdwood, AK 41 miles from staging. In Alaska, gas stations are few & far between so we get gas anytime we have the opportunity, since it would be easy to get stranded.

After some coffee, pastries, & the purchase of a few T-shirts & postcards from a place called "The Tourist Trap", we're back on the road again. Our next leg is 51 miles along AK1 with a few stops just to take in the view. Our Anchorage Chapter likes to stop often. As the driver, I really appreciated this since it's impossible to see all there is to see & still keep an eye on the road.



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North to Alaska! Ride with SCRC in Alaska (cont'd)

While Alaska does a phenomenal job of keeping their roads & highways in excellent condition, there were a few bumps on the way. After hitting one of these & watching Debbie almost catch air, Big Mike came on the CB to tell me to watch out for the bump. “Thanks Mike”



Stop in Girdwood

After about 34 miles of the AK1 we turn right to head down the 17 mile Hope Highway to the Seaview Bar.

At the end of the Hope Highway, we're now on gravel roads & the town is tiny. There are a few RV's, campers & fishermen, not too many buildings but it's just a beautiful spot for a stop & lunch. I had imagined that my Dad with his truck & camper towing his 17 foot boat would come to a spot just like this. A phone call to Idaho confirmed he had indeed been here.

An excellent lunch then the question is posed by the Anchorage Crew, “want to ride on in to Seward?”

We had flown over 2,300 miles from LAX to Anchorage so Cheryl & I looked at each other & said, “Sure!” Being the excellent navigator I am, I thought, “Cool then we'll just loop back to Anchorage.” WRONG! Many of the roads in Alaska go one place, the end of the road, & that's where you are. Make a 180 & you're on your way back.

We had some excellent conversations at each stop & learned a few things. In Alaska, one does not have to have a permit to carry a concealed firearm, & that they don't have the death penalty....interesting. We also learned that at low tide, areas of the Cook Inlet are exactly like quicksand; people have been caught & ultimately drowned when the tide came in. Important safety tip: don't walk on the sand!

While the leg to Seward from Hope is only 71 miles, it takes a couple hours to get there, the views continue to be beautiful only no

more Turnagain Arm to look at. There was plenty of water along the way though.

Canyon Creek parallels AK1 for awhile, then Lower Summit & Summit Lake, Jerome, Tern & Upper & Lower Trail Lakes which drain into Kenai Lake, followed by Bear Lake. Are we in Minnesota or what?

We then cross Resurrection River which eventually drains into Resurrection Bay in the town of Seward. One of the first things we see entering town is the Seward Airport. This reminds me that there are four, that's right FOUR airports in Anchorage. The International Airport, Merrill Field, then a smaller one, half gravel/dirt but mostly water on Hood Lake. To make sure they have the most airports in a small area, there's also Elmendorf AFB.



Brian & Cheryl

(photo: airports title: Anchorage International & Lake Hood)

Also in Seward, the major high security penitentiary was pointed out “just over that hill there across the water.” There was also an interesting story about life in Seward during the winter months that you really need to hear from Alaska residents. There was also a conversation about how none of the passes we were going to ride through were very high (altitude) to which I replied, “They don't need to be since your snowline is about 1,500 feet.”

Retracing our exact route backwards from Seward to we stopped in Indian, AK at a restaurant called the Turnagain Arm Pit. An incredible BBQ place across the highway from the water with outdoor seating. No SCRC ride would be complete without an excellent meal.

One of the things I heard from the Anchorage Chapter members that really got my attention was from Big Mike; “Thanks for coming up, we love to show off our State!” All of the members present were just fun people who knew how to have a good time riding. Cheryl & I felt we were treated like royalty.

Upon leaving Big Mike's house I really felt a heavy place in my heart & the look on his face said, “Come back & ride with us again soon brother.”

We had ridden or driven 365 miles, left our rental house at 0800 & returned at 2300. With 20+ hours of daylight, when the Anchorage Chapter rides, they quite literally ride all day!

Depending on schedules we may go up again next year, or possibly try one of the Idaho Chapters since I grew up in Boise.

I guess the point I'm really trying to make here is it's really worth it to check out whatever area to plan to vacation in & see if the SCRC has a chapter nearby.

In doing so, Cheryl & I were literally able to experience a “ride of a lifetime” & made some incredible friends with our SCRC brothers & sisters in the Great White North. We hope they come down soon to ride in Southern California. We have a Roadstar in the garage.....

Brian “Producer” Eveland, California STO



Big Mike



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Are the Temps Too Hot to Ride?

Many say the key to riding in hot weather is to stay hydrated & stop several times to cool off. I do not disagree with that - but there are several alternatives to riding in ‘too’ hot weather that I prefer over that!

The No. 1 alternative) AVOID RIDING IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY! Especially group riding with your chapter. But, just because it is hot in the middle of the day does not mean you have to quit riding as a chapter. Chapter rides are completely on a voluntary basis...Read on....

2) Plan rides for the cool mornings! Sure you have to get up earlier - but you will enjoy the ride so much more than an attempt to ride in the heat of the day! Take a nap later inside where it is nice & cool in the heat of the day.

3) If it is a ride to socialize - ride & meet somewhere for breakfast. Then head home afterwards before it gets real hot. Nothing says your chapter has to ride 200+ miles each time it rides.

4) Plan rides later in the evenings when it starts cooling off. There are more bugs out in the evening, but that's just part of riding!!

5) Plan shorter rides... AM or PM. Just make the rides shorter... period. Once again, nothing says your chapter has to ride 200+ miles each time it rides. Ride 10 or 20 miles, eat some breakfast or ice cream, shoot the bull, chew the fat, etc... & then head home.

Can you think of any more? Just because it is ‘too’ hot out does not mean you have to stop riding! If it's hot in the mid-day, don't plan a ride for the mid-day. “Grab some wind... hammer down!”

Send your SCRC news to: news@southerncruisers.net I will try to get it a newsletter soon. Please note – promotions for your events (other than from the SCRC calendar) will not be included in the newsletter. Promote those via forums, fliers, etc.

Remember... **“I am Southern Cruisers! And so are YOU!”**



The SCRC Group from Washington

Submitted by Washington STO Dee Dee Baker

