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## “Soaring Eagle”

### Monthly News for Our SCRC Nation February 2011



February 2011  
Vol. 2 Issue 2

#### “From the Top!” – A Few Words from an SCRC National Officer

A few words from: Bill Presley, SCRC National Officer - Membership Director.

“My first bike was in 1963 when I was a 13-yr old boy. It took a lot of promises to my Dad before I convinced him to allow the purchase. It was a Puch that was made in Austria & sold at Sears.”

“At 13, I found out that motorcycling was an addiction that couldn't be cured. I took my first overnight bike trip in 1963 with all my fishing gear strapped to the little bike... & it was only 50 miles away from home to my aunt's house. That was the start of my addiction to riding.”

“Over the years I've owned several motorcycles, but I took a break in riding so that I could raise kids. In July 2000, I married Nelda & the first real thing that we did (after the honeymoon, of course) was buy a Victory motorcycle & join the Southern Cruisers. We had heard about the SCRC from another Victory rider.”



In the Florida Keys

“Joining the Southern Cruisers was one of the biggest highlights of my life, after my wife, kids & grand kids, of course. In the SCRC, we have met friends from thousands of miles away & have ridden with many of them. The Southern Cruisers Riding Club is a network of friends & extended family that were brought together due to the love of riding & stay together due to the friendships. The members that you haven't met are like old friends that you will someday meet.”

“I decided to retire early & enjoy the pleasures of riding, so on July 5, 2005, I signed retirement papers at the company I worked for. The next day, July 6th, I packed my luggage & strapped it to my motorcycle & headed out from Alabama on one fantastic adventure that was on my “Bucket List”. I rode to Chicago to the beginning of



With SCRC friends in California

the old “Rt 66 - The Mother Road” & completed it in a few days.”

“In California, I rode with Southern Cruisers from different chapters & attended the SCRC “Left Coast Rally” at Lake Topaz, NV, where Southern Cruisers from several states & Canada came together for a fantastic 5 days of party time & great mountainous riding.”

“Then I zigzagged through every western state in the USA so that I could catch some of the most perfect roads & scenery, plus ride the Pacific Coast Highway. I met & rode with Southern Cruisers along the way when time permitted. I rode on into Canada, destination Victoria, & rode with some of our members there. WOW! what great fun that was. I finally arrived back home in Alabama after 32 days & 11,348 miles of pure riding pleasure. This trip taught me that the Southern Cruisers are the same family & friends everywhere you go.”

“Along my 10-1/2 yrs with the SCRC, I have had the pleasure of serving the members in different levels. My first position was serving the local members as 1<sup>st</sup> Officer. I've served as Alabama State Officer, member of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board & became the National Membership Director early in '06. It has been a pleasure to serve in these positions & it is all due to the wonderful, fabulous & great members who are the soul of the Southern Cruisers. Thank you SCRC members, you are the core & you are the reason that we are the best riding club, ever.”

By Bill Presley “Keep it simple, fun & safe.”

“Life is good, the roads are there, ride 'em.”

#### “Hammer Time” by Bruce “Hammer” Mathis

So... how many checks did you write the date as “2010” on them? I wrote... & re-wrote several... I am usually stuck in “last-year-gear” for the first month or so of a new year. Guess that is why I use plastic (VISA) most of the time.

I usually make at least one New Year's resolution... & “Princess” does not make any. But, this year, it is opposite – I have not made one... & did not even consider any. I/we have had too many “things” going on right now for me to think about it much. Anyone got a New Year's resolution for me? Send me an e-mail... maybe I can list 'em next month.

One interesting fact in January '11 (as reported on national weather) – in the early part of the month, 49 of the 50 U.S. states had fresh snow at one time. Florida was the only state that did not qualify. I thought that was pretty cool (no pun intended).

Two words sum it up for January – COLD & SNOW! Keep the bike in the garage & get out the sleds! Unless you got studded tires for your bike & are into ice-racing! As ‘wave’ after ‘wave’ of cold weather goes across the USA, I wondered if there was gonna be a break in the action to slip in a ride. But our break finally came right near the end of January ... for Oklahoma anyway... above 55° for a couple of days!

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!”

#### A Growing SCRC Nation - New SCRC Chapters

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

**Lake Livingston SCRC #506** Onalaska, Texas

1<sup>st</sup> Officer – Clay Kesinger

**Stockbridge SCRC #546** Stockbridge, Georgia

1<sup>st</sup> Officer – James Skidmore

**Buford Dam SCRC Chapter #547** Buford, Georgia

1<sup>st</sup> Officer – Tom Carter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer Alex Garcia

#### NEW SCRC State Officer (STO) – in Washington

Congrats to Dee Dee “Bad Kitty” Baker for accepting the STO position in Washington! She is a member of SCRC Seattle-Eastside Chapter 368.





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#### Meet an SCRC 1<sup>st</sup> Officer (FO) – in Texas

Meet Jodie “Thumper” Orlando, 1<sup>st</sup> Officer of Houston, Texas Chapter #49:

“Hello fellow Southern Cruisers! I bought my first bike in February ‘06 as a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday present to myself. I had never ridden a bike before in my life, but decided I wanted to do something different for my big 5-0! I had always enjoyed riding as a passenger, but never dreamed I would actually operate one. I couldn’t stop thinking about it... how I could ride whenever I wanted & didn’t have to wait to be invited to ride WITH someone. So out I went in search of information on what I should buy & how I was going to learn to ride it!

I never told anyone in my family about it because I was certain they would think I lost my mind. With 7 kids in my family, we did do some crazy things over the years, but this was considered very unlike something I’d ever do.

I decided on a brand new 2006 Silver Suzuki Boulevard C50. Since I had no clue how to ride, I had the bike delivered to my house. The man that delivered it had to ride it up my driveway & park it in the garage for me....I look back now & get a good laugh over this. After riding in my subdivision, the school parking lot & venturing out on “big roads”, a little farther each time, I decided I needed to find more people to ride with.

I ran across the Southern Cruisers in an online search. I would read all the “goings on” posted on the forum, check out the different chapter web sites....I finally decided I was going to hook up & ride with the Houston Chapter. My first ride was to Yankees Tavern in Carlos, TX, for the Annual Hawaiian Shirt Ride in July 2006. What a blast...and the people, they were NORMAL...like me, they had a passion for riding. These people weren’t scary at all...LOL! Everyone was so nice, I kept coming back! I went on every ride I could & every meet-up with other chapters.

In November 2006, I was asked if I’d like to be the Membership Director for our Chapter. You see, I have a gift to gab & I would talk to everyone that would listen to me, about the Southern Cruisers. In November 2007, I was asked to become Houston’s Second Officer, to which I proudly accepted! I continued to ride to every SCRC event, rally & city I could....I just couldn’t get enough of the absolute fun times I was having with these fantastic folks everywhere I went.

In December 2008, I graciously accepted the First Officer position & it has been one fantastic ride after another for me!!!

This month, February 2011, is my 5th year since I bought my first bike & will be my 5th year with Southern Cruisers Riding Club, the absolute best riding club out there! I put 60,000 miles on my Boulevard in 4 years of riding with SCRC. I bought a Honda VTX



Hill Country - Texas



1300R last year & have put another 10,000 on it. Yes, you could say I love to ride!!!

To top off my story, I’m proud to say that the Texas Southeast Chapters were awarded our 2011 Texas State Reunion in September 2011 & it will be held right here in HOUSTON, TEXAS.....y’all come join us!!! <http://www.scrctexasreunion2011.com/>

#### SCRC Calendar

Listed below is the SCRC events on the 2011 SCRC calendar: [http://www.airsetpublic.com/AirSet.jsp#app.CalServe+gi.taGnyWwQUzIN\\_v.month](http://www.airsetpublic.com/AirSet.jsp#app.CalServe+gi.taGnyWwQUzIN_v.month)

If you plan on having an SCRC event in 2011, you better “get to gettin’! Contact Bubba Prescott to get it reviewed and approved!

- February 18 – Mardi Gras Ball – Mobile, Alabama
- February 18-19 – “Chilly Willy Fun Run” - Montgomery, Texas
- March 4-5 – “Los Moras Run” – Bracketville, Texas
- March 25-27 – “Savannah Invasion” – Savannah, Georgia
- April 3 – Northshore “Cruisin’ for a Cure” 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Poker Run – Louisiana
- April 9 – Chapter 63 St Jude Benefit Concert – Lexington, Kentucky
- April 15-17 – Florida State Rally – Pensacola, Florida
- April 16 – Ouachita Mtns Chapter 51 Poker Run – Poteau, Oklahoma
- April 29-May 1 – NC “Spring Gathering” – Asheboro, North Carolina
- April 29-May 1 – Virginia “Meet & Greet” – Chester, Virginia
- May 7 – “Cruisin for a Cure” - Kansas
- May 13-15 – Central States Regional Ride-In – Hot Springs, AR
- May 14 – Chapter 63 St Jude Poker Run – Lexington, Kentucky
- May 14 – “Cruisin for a Cure” – Pensacola, Florida
- May 20-22 – Mississippi State Rally – Vicksburg, MS
- May 27 – Maryland SCRC “Fun Run” – Williamsport, Maryland
- May 27-29 – SCRC Rolling Thunder – Sterling, Virginia
- June 2-5 – California State Rally – Oakhurst, California
- June 3-5 – Tennessee State Rally – Cookeville, TN
- June 4 – “Run to the Sun” – Wilmington, North Carolina
- June 4 – VA “Pig Iron Run 500” - Virginia
- June 9-12 – Kentucky SCRC State Rally – Morehead, KY
- June 17-19 – “Fun Run” – Bedford, Virginia
- June 24-26 – “Tennessee Ridge Runner” – Johnson City, TN
- July 2-4 – Fais-Do-Do – Lafayette, Louisiana
- July 15-17 – Georgia State Rally – Commerce, GA
- July 22-24 – New England Rendevous – Barton, Vermont
- July 29-31 – Great Lakes Gathering – Sterling Heights, Michigan
- July 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



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#### Meet an SCRC State Officer (STO) – in Louisiana

Meet Andy McFarland, SCRC STO for Louisiana. He is STO over 9 chapters & 16 1st & 2nd Officers.

“Hello - I'm Andy McFarland, member of the Acadiana Chapter #239, in Lafayette, Louisiana. Going back in time I remember finding the name Southern Cruisers on the internet after buying an '02 Honda Spirit. It had been many years since I last sat in the seat of a motorcycle - probably 25 or more. As a member of the Southern Cruisers, I cannot begin to count how many people I've met & become friends with over the years. Many of these people I now see more than my own immediate family.”

“Six months after I joined the club, I was asked by Raider (RO at the time) to step up to 1st Officer. At the time the chapter had 14 members. Within 1-1/2 yrs, the chapter outgrew four meeting spots! This is a very good problem to have.”

“While serving as 1st Officer of the Acadiana Chapter, I was asked to serve a term on the SCRC Board of Directors. This was truly an experience I will never regret. I served on the Board for a 3-yr term.”



“After serving about 6 yrs or so as 1st Officer, I decided to step down. After stepping down as 1st Officer, I was asked by “Rickster” & Richard Krause if I would consider taking the reins of the STO position. I must admit, it was something I knew would be exciting,

but something I really had to think over. After a couple weeks I accepted the challenge. Currently, our state has 10 Chapters & 525 members. I must say, Louisiana has some of the best 1st Officers a STO could ask for. A greater group of guys & gals cannot be found. More than once we have heard that when Louisiana arrives, the party



begins. If a party is not there we will bring one with us. One of the biggest parties & social events of every year is the SCRC National Rally. The wife & I have attended every one since '03.”

“In '04, I sold the Honda & bought a Yamaha Roadstar. Needless to say I was really 'hooked' by this time. The wife & I took every riding course available in the area. Motor Cop & Officer Trainer 'Top Gun' Wells Cornet became a household name & became a good friend of ours.”

“One of the things I will never forget him saying is that I had “4 yrs of bad habits, not 4 yrs of experience”. His training has probably saved our lives more than once.”

“I currently ride a Harley Ultra-Glide (or as some call it a 'Road Sofa'). What's the old saying... “If Mama ain't happy, Daddy ain't happy”. I choose to keep peace in the household.”

#### Stolen Bike Story – Part 3

Ok – you have read where I was “harassed” for the stolen bike that looks like mine. And also where the wife of the owner came to my house & interrupted my viewing of “Survivor”.

Well in early June '10, we were heading home in the cage on a Monday night when we spotted a bike the same color-scheme as “Sophia” (and the stolen bike). It was parked in a local BBQ joint where the Goldwing Riders club holds their monthly meetings.

So we (“Princess” & I) turn into the parking lot to check it out. We slowly circle by it in the cage a couple of times. I can tell from the other owner's pics & description that this is not his stolen bike. And I tell “Princess” it is not his bike.

BUT... then, a ‘little devil’ (he does this on a regular basis) taps me on my left shoulder.

“Psssst!” he whispers, “Someone called the police on you when you rode to town on “Sophia”. The LEAST you can do is return the favor – regardless who it is & who is riding it.”

I stop the car in front of the bike contemplating what I had just “heard”. Should I? or should I not call the police? After all – this might actually be the stolen bike, right?

But, I decide not to... but it was fun considering it!

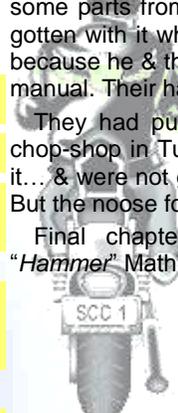
Anyway, later I called J.T. (the owner of the stolen bike). And found out it was him at the meeting riding the bike! I laughed! He had found & replaced his stolen bike with another like it – he had found it in SE Texas.

The day after he & his wife had came to our house (grrrrr - flashback of missing “Survivor!”), he had settled on his insurance, & went a'searchin'.

On another note, he also told me the local police had purchased some parts from his stolen bike including the repair manual he had gotten with it when purchased. It was verified repair manual was his because he & the previous owner (also local) had written notes in the manual. Their handwriting was compared & matched.

They had purchased it on E-bay... & got it from a supposedly chop-shop in Tulsa (about 25 miles away). But they could not prove it... & were not getting cooperation from the Tulsa Police Dept. – yet! But the noose for the crook(s) is getting smaller.

Final chapter to come next month... Submitted by: Bruce “Hammer” Mathis... *Grab some wind, Hammer!*





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### Meet an SCRC Regional Officer (RO) – Southeast U.S.A.

This month’s regional officer: Meet Barry “B.A.” Martin, SCRC’s Southeast RO. His region covers 5 states & 134 chapters: Alabama (29), Florida (33), Georgia (29), North Carolina (25), & South Carolina (18).

“Hello to all my Southern Cruisers family! My name is Barry Martin – “B.A.” to most close friends. I am the Southeast RO now for around 18 months. My wife, Tammy Martin, is currently the 1<sup>st</sup> Officer of Southeast Alabama Chapter #13.”

“We have an ‘02 black Goldwing, ‘09 black-cherry Goldwing, & a custom ‘04 red VTX 1300.”

“I accepted the position because I want to make sure the club is looked upon in a good light & members are doing all they can to make the club a safe & enjoyable experience. I also like the fact that St. Jude is our #1 charity.”



several things in road construction areas.

First: Gravel & sand! Seems like they use a lot of this in Oklahoma... & leave it on the roadway during & after they fix (or add) to a road.

Second: When they remove the lines & alter the lane path, they “dig” out the paint from the surface of the roadway. Many of the areas this happens in leave large gouges in the road. If your motorcycle tire is narrow, it will get caught in the “dug out area” & can be hazardous getting out of it!



Third: Always slow for animals... BUT, in construction zone, slow even more. When barricades are in place, the animals have no escape route & will run along them until they find a way to get through to the other side of the road. They can end up getting hit by a cager... or you. Either way, the outcome could have tense moments.

Fourth: In closing, also when in construction zones, use extreme caution when you have to ride through them. There are many obstacles including “rubber-neckers” (people gawking to see what is going on) & hitting the brakes hard. So leave plenty of room between the cages & other riders. & you should be able to pass through just fine.

Pay attention & be safe so you don’t become a statistic for the media. Keep the rubber on the road & have fun!

Special thanks to Mike Sumter, Will Rogers Chapter 159, for these safety tips!

### “Hart Less!” – On Valentine’s Day

Billy Idol is singing “White Wedding”. Need I say more? The stereo is so loud the walls are shaking! I’m dancing around the kitchen table putting together Valentine’s Day goodie bags for the children at the hospital. Wiggle, wiggle - 2 steps back... & I bump into something solid (other than the wall).

I jump & turn to see my brother & his sidekick, “T”, alias the “Crazy Cajun”, standing in my kitchen grinning at me.

Hi - my name is Jessica Eugenia Hart (Jay to my friends). I live alone. AND my brother, Justice, is starting to be a pain in my backside.

“Dammit Justice!” I yell over the music. I stomp towards the stereo & turn it down. “If you don’t stop letting yourself in...”



“I have been an SCRC member for around 9-yrs. My last position was 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer in Chapter 013 in Dothan, Alabama. I joined SCRC because I liked the structure & safety minded nature of the club.”

“I started riding mini-bikes at an early age. My first road bike was a Honda 350 - around 16-yrs of age. I have been riding motorcycles for over 40-yrs. In all, I have logged over 1/2-million miles in that time. I have owned Hondas, Yamahas, & Harleys.”

“My favorite road is any that is in the mountains & has many curves such as: GA 348, NC Snake, VA Blue Ridge Parkway, & OK Tali-Mena Scenic Drive.”

“My least favorite would be the Devils’ Triangle after the state park. Mostly because it is near a mine & after it rains it is a “mud bog ride” with all the trucks dragging mud on the road.”



### Safety Tip – Caution! Road Construction Ahead

With all the road construction going on now days I thought this might be a good time to remind you all of a few standard ideas.

It doesn’t matter how wide your tires are - you need to watch for



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#### “Hart Less!” – On Valentine’s Day (cont’d)

“What are you going to do, Jay?” he interrupts. “You know you need to turn that crap down or you’ll never hear a burglar if they come in.”

“Crap? You did NOT just call Billy Idol crap... Out! Get out!” I yell pointing at the door.

“Geeze Louise! What is it with you & Billy Idol anyway?”

“Out, Justice! And take your “little friend” with you. And next time you come over you better knock before you come in.”

“I did knock... but you didn’t answer! I brought my “little friend” because he had a proposition for you & your stupid holiday crap. But I guess we’ll just be on our way now.”

“T” is still standing in the kitchen - now with a puzzled look on his face.

“What kind of proposition? You are not trying to fix me up, Justice. I told you I don’t need a man.”

“What? And he’s such a fine specimen. Show her, “T”.”

“T” pulls his arm out & flexes his muscles. He stands in his best Mr. Universe pose for a few seconds with his arms up, & then he folds them down... & finally, one up & one down. He starts walking like an Egyptian.

I grin. Then I start to laugh. The “Cajun” IS Crazy! “Okay, what’s the proposition?”

“I want to take our chapter back to the nursing home,” “T” explains. “I think we should get a ride going to take the old folks some flowers & visit again.”

“T”, you can go to the Nursing Home anytime you want,” I explain.

“Yeah I know... but this is different. My sister just bought Rosie’s Roses in town & she needs help.”

“I already have a job,” I say.

“But not on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. I mean, she could use the extra help an all. And if I get her some volunteer help, she’s agreed to give me a carnation for every resident at the Nursing Home. So I’m volunteering.”

“Okay, say I do this & we get the flowers. I don’t want to be the only one who has to go & deliver them & make arrangements to be there & get everyone gathered up.”

“That’s not a problem,” “T” says. “I already talked to Bear. And he said he’d call everyone & let them know about the plan. He’s also going to call the Nursing Home & get it arranged.”

“Wow! You’ve been on the ball. So what time do I need to be there?”

“I’ll pick you up.”

“No way. I’ll drive myself.”

“Weather permitting I’m taking the Rocket. If you’re nice I might even let you drive it down the block.”

That’s better. Finally a Valentine’s Day that might turn into fun. “What time did you say you’d be here to pick me up?”

“T” grinned. “See you at 8:30 AM, Slim.”

Submitted by: A.J. Ryan, Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter 7

#### SCRC 101 – No. 6 - Safety

Time to visit the “Safety” section of the SCRC Constitution this month. Here is the 1<sup>st</sup> part:

##### SAFETY

1) The Southern Cruisers Riding Club considers safety to be the most important feature of any ride. Given the nature of the club’s free structure and that membership in the SCRC is voluntary; at no time does the SCRC accept responsibility for any rider’s actions or lack of action before, during or after a ride. Safety information can be located at this site:  
<http://southerncruisers.net/newriding.htm>

Each individual rider is 100% responsible for:

- safely operating their vehicle in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws.
- Making sure that they and their vehicle are un-impaired, and are currently functioning safely.
- Making sure that they can perform and maneuver safely in the riding environment that they are in. Should they be not 100% sure of their ability in the current ride, they must remove themselves from the situation. At all times, each rider must ride within their capabilities.
- Section (a) - (c) above and thus, ultimately, their own safety, actions and/or lack of action.

It is the duty of every rider to make sure the environment is safe for themselves as well as for other riders. In doing so, every ride will be as safe as possible.

#### SCRC Memorial Page

Visit the SCRC memorial page... & read a few of the poems & stories. They are absolutely awesome! Check them out at:  
[www.scrctemorial.net](http://www.scrctemorial.net)

I have posted another memorial poem. Enjoy! Reflect! Remember!

#### **“END OF THE ROAD”**

When I come to the end of the road, and the sun has set for me,  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room, Why cry for a soul set free.  
Miss me a little, but not too long, and not with your head bowed low.  
Remember the love that we once shared, Miss me, but let me go.

For this is a journey all must take, and each must go alone.

It is all part of the Master’s plan, a step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart, go to the friends we know.  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds, Miss me - but let me go.

George Monseur

#### COLD! On a Motorcycle

I didn’t write this - a friend emailed it to me. But when I read it, I knew that it would be the best explanation to that age old saying about riding... “If I have to explain, you wouldn’t understand”.

Cold! There is cold...and then there is cold on a motorcycle. Cold on a motorcycle is like being beaten with cold hammers while being kicked with cold boots.. a bone bruising cold. The wind’s big hands squeeze the heat out of my body & whisk it away; caught in a cold October rain, the drops don’t even feel like water. They feel like shards of sharp bone fallen from the skies of Hell to shred my face. I expect to arrive with my cheeks & forehead streaked with blood, but that’s just an illusion, just the misery of nerves not designed for highway speeds.

Despite this, it’s hard to give up my motorcycle in the fall & I rush to get it on the road again in the spring; lapses of sanity like this are common among motorcyclists. When you let a motorcycle into your life you’re changed forever. The letter “M” is stamped on your driver’s license right next to your sex & weight as if “motorcycle” was just



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#### COLD! On a Motorcycle (cont'd)

another of your physical characteristics... or maybe a mental condition.

But when warm weather finally does come around, all those cold snaps & rainstorms are paid in full because a summer is worth any price.

A motorcycle is not just a two-wheeled car; the difference between driving a car & climbing onto a motorcycle is the difference between watching TV & actually living your life. We spend all our time sealed in boxes - & cars are just the 'rolling boxes' that shuffle us from 'home-box' to 'work-box' to 'store-box' & back... the whole time entombed in stale air, temperature regulated, sound insulated, & smelling of carpets.

On a motorcycle I know I'm alive! When I ride, even the familiar seems strange & glorious. The air has weight & substance as I push through it, & its touch is as intimate as water to a swimmer. I feel the cool wells of air that pool under trees, & the warm spokes of sun that fall through them. I can see everything in a sweeping 360° - up, down & around, wider than Pana-Vision... & IMAX... & unrestricted by ceiling or dashboard.

Sometimes I even hear music. It's like hearing phantom telephones in the shower or false doorbells when vacuuming - the pattern-loving brain, seeking signals in the noise, raises acoustic ghosts out of the wind's roar. But on a motorcycle I hear whole songs - rock 'n roll, dark orchestras, women's voices, all hidden in the air, & released by speed.

At 30 mph & up, smells become uncannily vivid. All the individual tree-smells... & flower-smells... & grass-smells flit by like chemical notes in a great plant symphony.

Sometimes, the smells evoke memories so strongly that it's as though the past hangs invisible in the air around me, wanting only the most casual of rumbling time machines to unlock it. A ride on a summer afternoon can border on the rapturous.

The sheer volume & variety of stimuli is like a bath for my nervous system, an electrical massage for my brain, a systems check for my soul. It tears smiles out of me: a minute ago I was dour, depressed, apathetic, numb. But now, on two wheels, big, ragged, windy smiles flap against the side of my face, billowing out of me like air from a decompressing plane.

Transportation is only a secondary function. A motorcycle is a joy machine. It's a machine of wonders, a metal bird, a motorized prosthetic. It's light... & dark... & shiny... & dirty... & warm... & cold... lapping over each other; it's a conduit of grace, a catalyst for bonding the gritty & the holy.

I still think of myself as just another rider, but by now I've had a handful of bikes over a couple dozen years & slept under my share of bridges. I wouldn't trade one second of either the good times or the misery. Learning to ride was one of the best things I've ever done.

Cars lie to us & tell us we're safe, powerful, & in control. The air-conditioning fans murmur empty assurances & whisper, "Sleep, sleep." Motorcycles tell us a more useful truth: we are small & exposed, & probably moving too fast for our own good, but that's no reason not to enjoy every minute of the ride.

Submitted by: Michael "Wizard" Gray, 1st Officer – SCRC Fort Smith Crossing Chapter 532

#### Ethanol – Don't You Just Love It!

Not sure how you feel about gasoline with 10% ethanol additive, but I think it SUCKS! And in several respects! Now I am no expert,

but I did a little research...

Of course you realize that ethanol is basically just grain alcohol - some synonyms include: Ethyl Alcohol; Ethyl Hydrate; Ethyl Hydroxide; Fermentation Alcohol; Grain Alcohol; Methylcarbinol; Molasses Alcohol; Spirits of Wine.

Remember "gasohol" back in the '70's oil bust (when they quit making 'muscle cars')? That is what ethanol additive was then... & now.

Ethanol absorbs water making it highly corrosive to steel. And its flashpoint is only 55° F! So EMT's responding to an accident have a new type of issue to deal with. Ethanol is a polar solvent which requires alcohol type concentrate (ATC) foam to fight it effectively. Water does not work – it only dilutes the ethanol without "removing" the potential to burn! And you would need 3-4 times ATC used to extinguish a gasoline fire of the same size.

It has been determined that adding 10% ethanol increases the octane by 3 points. Then how does that reduce my fuel mileage? And at 190% proof, they need to be bottling the stuff instead!

If we look at either the producer & consumer side, it ain't good!

Producer side: takes corn away from world food source driving up corn-related food costs, "hidden costs" cost more to produce than originally anticipated, takes away from world H<sub>2</sub>O source (takes approx 1-1/4 gals fresh H<sub>2</sub>O to make 1 gal ethanol).

Consumer side: reduced vehicle fuel mileage (reduced 10% or more) resulting in spending more at the pump, this also results in your engine wearing out prematurely.

And very soon (if not already) they are getting ready to increase the ethanol additive to a 15% level! And they expect up to a 30% reduction in fuel mileage because of it. I am curious what else it will do to our engines (cage or cycle) then? I invite you to do some homework on this matter.

BUT – it is good for the air quality! "Grab some wind... hammer down!"

#### NEW Map of SCRC Nation

David Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer of Greater Raleigh Chapter #70, has started a map for all of the SCRC chapters. It can be linked to a web page or forum. The starting point is SCRC Memphis Chapter 000.

If all officers log in & added a marker, it would grow & show all of the chapters in the SCRC in the world. This would be a big help for potential new members to select the nearest chapter to them. A chapter forum or web page link can be added in the comments just like Google.

Your chapter officers can add your chapter – an email was sent to all officers with login info. Officers - do not give out the password.

Login (the left corner of the map is an add marker link) to add info. Then point to a place on the map (or the easiest way is to put in a zip code), & in the comments section of the marker you can add your chapter web page or forum url. And you can even upload your chapter patch design (if you have one).

This is a great map - it can be use for the whole world, not just the U.S.A. Check it out on the last page... & at:

<http://www.communitywalk.com/map/index/919440>

Send your SCRC news to: [news@southerncruisers.net](mailto: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.

I am Southern Cruisers! And so are YOU!



[www.southerncruisers.net](http://www.southerncruisers.net)  
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# "Soaring Eagle"



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