Hello Southern Cruisers! My name is Rick Perry & I am the Founder & the National President of the Southern Cruisers. Most of the Members of the SCRC call me “Rickster” which is a nick name I had picked up before I started the club. And it just stuck with me (along with lots of different names I have been called, but we won't get into all of them... LOL!).

Anyway, our pic shows myself along with my dear wife, Vicky, & my daughter, Lynsey. Both Vicky & Lynsey have been involved with the SCRC from the very start & has been a very big help with me along the way. They have been very supportive of the Southern Cruisers & all of our activities.

I'm not going to take up much of your time here on our newsletter, but I thought it would be of interest to some of you to know just how the Southern Cruisers really started because I know it's been all kinds of different story's told. The truth of how all this started was like this.... one of the guys I worked with bought a new motorcycle. After I took a good look at it, that's all it took - I had a new motorcycle within a couple of weeks. After getting out & rolling around alone for a while, I decided it would be much better to have friends ta get out & ride with... & that's what got me to thinking about starting our own club.

After talking with some of the guys I worked with, I decided to start the club. We went through all kinds of names & patch designs before I decided on our current name & logo. Believe it or not, the whole idea started out to be just a local club here in Memphis. But after I put up a simple website & opened a Delphi forum, others started asking me questions about the SCRC.

The next thing I know, others were asking to open chapters in their area. It was then I decided to make our club 'free to join' because I felt it was way out of line to ask people to pay dues just ta ride with their own friends & make new friends along the way. So I decided to keep things as simple as possible, & I'm proud to say that almost 13 yrs later, we still operate the very same way.

We opened our second chapter in Tennessee, & then I talked with a man from Georgia who was asking to start a chapter & also offered to create our website – www.SouthernCruisers.net. After that is when everyone started contacting me about starting chapters in their own area. So I agreed & that's how we become the club we are today - it was just that simple. No big plan involved or any rules at the time.... I know that sounds like simple planning, but that's just the way we started.

As the founder of the Southern Cruisers, I must say it's been great making all the new friends all across the globe. The way the Southern Cruiser officers & members keep our club growing & on track as being the Best & the Original Riding Club around the world. We have been copied by others, but the Southern Cruisers, is the Southern Cruisers, there's no other like us!

I must also say that the Southern Cruisers just runs in my blood & I'm proud of it. To end this up I would like to thank all of our Officers & Members because without all of you we would not be the club we are today & I'm proud to say that “I Love It”

“Hammer Time” by Bruce “Hammer” Mathis

April has been a trying month! Too many things need to be done, so little time!

Good news, bad news... the good news: we (Princess & I) made it down to the poker run benefitting St Jude hosted by Oklahoma’s Ouachita Mountains Chapter 51. The bad news: we went in the cage (car)! We waited until after noon on Friday to leave, but it just wasn't gonna stop! It rained all the way on us (159 miles).

But it had stopped raining Saturday AM – it was a great day for a ride! Had a good turnout for the first annual poker run for the chapter. And it is always good to see old friends... & make new ones! Maybe we should have trailered... sure did miss riding! And we were razzed about driving the cage... but we were there. And like I told a FO that was razzing me... “Hey! I may not have my bike, but I am here... AND I've got my woman with me!” Looking forward to more rides with Southern Cruisers in coming months – check the calendar for an event near you.

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.taGnyWwQUzlN_v.month

If you plan on having an SCRC event in 2011, you better “get to gettin” it approved! Contact Babba Prescott to get it reviewed & approved!

May 7 – “Cruisin’ for a Cure” – Wichita, Kansas
13-15 – Central States Regional Ride-In – Hot Springs, AR
14 – Chapter 63 St Jude Poker Run – Lexington, Kentucky
16 – “Cruisin’ for a Cure” – Pensacola, Florida
20-22 – Mississippi State Rally – Vicksburg, MS
21 – Earl Lundsford Memorial Ride – London, Kentucky
27 – Maryland SCRC “Fun Run” – Williamsport, Maryland
27-29 – SCRC Rolling Thunder – Sterling, Virginia
June 2-5 – California State Rally – Oakhurst, California
3-5 – Tennessee State Rally – Cookeville, TN
12-13 – “Rollin’ for the Kids of St Jude” – Berwick, Louisiana
14 – Run to the Sun” – Wilmington, North Carolina
19-20 – “ Pig Iron Run 500” – Virginia
24-26 – “Tennessee Ridge Runner” – Johnson City, TN
July 2-4 – “Fais-Do-Do” – Lafayette, Louisiana
15-17 – Georgia State Rally – Commerce, GA
“Soaring Eagle”

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www.southerncruisers.net
news@southerncruisers.net

SCRC Calendar (cont’d)

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

SCRC Memorial Page

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

I don’t know if you read these… or if you visit the memorial page, but I do. The poems are incredible… but what really gles me is the members we have lost over the short years that SCRC has been a club. 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!

Thou I have had to leave you, Whom I love,
to go along the silent way, grieve not,
nor speak of me with tears,
but laugh and talk of me, as if I were beside you.
For who knows but I shall be oft times.
I’d come, I’d come could I but find the way.
And would not tears and griefs be barriers?
So, when you hear a word I used to say,
or touch a thing I loved,
let not your thoughts of me be sad,
for I am loving you just as I always have.

A Growing SCRC Nation - New SCRC Chapters

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

Waycross SCRC #466 Waycross, Georgia 1st Officer – Frank Crews
Senterre #507 Belcourt, Quebec, Georgia 1st Officer - Sylvain Pruneau
North Central Louisiana SCRC #550 Ruston, Louisiana 1st Officer – Randy Almond
MoArk SCRC #488 Thayer, Missouri 1st Officer – John Stower
Springfield #551 Springfield, Missouri 1st Officer – Tim Ruble
Gothenburg # 541 Gothenburg, Sweden 1st Officer – Jim Andreasson

Something Happening SCRC Style – in Tennessee

This was the Tennessee State Rally 2010 in Cookeville, TN on June 4, 5 & 6, ‘10. As always, this was a very good rally with about 100 or more Southern Cruisers getting together & having fun. There were several bike ride through the beautiful country side of Middle Tennessee. There were a lot actives going on at the rally site in the evening, & people opening up there hearts & wallets for the kids of St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

The picture was made at Fall Creek Falls in the beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park about 40 miles south of Cookeville.

Thanks to Wayne Hardin, 1st Officer - Shiloh Chapter for sending this into the SCRC Newsletter!

“Jay Hart” - The Memorial Ride

“Hey Big Sister! Jay! Jaayay!” Justice says as he grabs my toes. I’m taking a power nap on the couch. I kick him in the leg.

“Hey, Sis! Get up! It’s time to roll,” Justice says as he pulls my hair.

My name is Jessica Eugenia Hart - Jay to my friends. My little brother Justice, who happens to outweigh me by 100 lbs, is a pain in my backside. He has a knack for walking into my house & waking me up.

“Where’s the Crazy Cajun?” I ask.

“He’s going to meet us at the parade. He has a couple things he has to do first.”

“Give me five minutes to get ready.”

It’s Memorial Day weekend. The whole town celebrates with a parade & a Memorial Service at the cemetery. Our SCRC Chapter participates each year. It’s time for us to honor those who sacrificed for us.

“Okay,” I say while putting on my vest & grabbing my helmet. “Let’s go.”

The sun’s shining bright. It’s going to be a nice riding day. I open the garage & roll my Enduro out. Vest, helmet, gloves…check. I have two little flags mounted on each side of the windshield. I start the bike & follow Justice into town. We meet up with the rest of our chapter at the parking lot of the high school football field. It’s the starting point for the parade.

“Hey Jay!” Bear yells. Bear is the FO. “Front & center. Get some folks here I want you to meet.”

I take off my helmet & walk over to meet Bear.

“This is Marshall & Terri James,” Bear said.


“That won’t do,” she said as she grabbed me into a hug. She had a southern drawl. I can tell she’s not from here. “I get hugs from all my friends. And any friend of my Timmy’s is a friend of mine.”

NEW State Officer (STO) in Oklahoma

Join me in wishing Tia Azlin the best of luck & safe riding as the NEW STO for Oklahoma! She has been an SCRC member since 2003, & 1st Officer of SCRC Shawnee Chapter 194 in Shawnee, OK, since 2007.

She will do a great job in Oklahoma!
“Soaring Eagle”

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“Jay Hart” - The Memorial Ride (cont’d)

“Timmy?” I ask.

Bear & Justice laugh.

“Did I hear your name?” a Cajun voice asks.

“You did,” Terri said as she hugged “T”, the Crazy Cajun.

My eyes are all over the Crazy Cajun. He's not in his usual tight jeans & leather vest. He's traded his biker wear for a uniform. A very pressed & very white uniform with a lot of medals. My mouth drops 2” below my chin.

T put his hand on my chin & closed my mouth.

“Surprise, little lady.”

“What are you?” I ask. “I mean, I know it's a Navy officer uniform. Won’t you get in trouble for impersonating an officer?”

Everyone laughs.

“Chief Warrant Officer Four, at your service Ma'am,” he says with a bow.

Everyone laughs again.

“Timmy! I can’t believe you didn’t tell your little lady you were in the Navy!”

“I’m not his little lady,” I disagree.

“She's almost his old lady,” Justice says. I elbow him.

“I'm not anyone’s little lady or old lady!” I say. “And no, he didn’t tell me he was in the Navy. And he still hasn’t told me who you are.”

“Well, Sugar,” he says with that Cajun accent, “This is my Mom & Pop.”

T put his hand on my chin & closed my mouth again.

“And today, I’ll be marching in the parade with some of the other vets while you ride behind to show your support. Then I’ll be at the Memorial Service at the cemetery to give a little speech.”

T put his hand on my chin & closed my mouth again.

“Next time I have to close your mouth it won’t be with my hand, if you know what I mean,” he says wiggling his eyebrows.

By: Angie “Church Lady” Ryan, Northeastern (Okla) Chapter

Meet an SCRC 1st Officer (FO) – in California

Meet Steve “StevieB” Bunce, SCRC FO of Chapter # 339 in Antelope Valley (in the High Desert of southern California).

Hello to all of my SCRC brothers & sisters! Although you may envision the desert as something desolate, it is really quite beautiful in its own way.

I started riding dirt bikes at 6 yrs old, & I threw my leg over my first street bike at the ripe age of 16! This means I have been riding on the street for over 42 years! Wow! how time does fly!

I have owned & ridden Harley’s, Triumph’s, Norton’s, & more metrics then I can remember… I currently ride an ‘03 Yamaha Road Star which I just love.

Back in ’02, I was looking for folks to ride with… & via the internet, I found the SCRC & discovered there was a chapter in the Antelope Valley.

In Nov ’02, my wife, Teresa, & I became proud members of the Antelope Valley Chapter of SCRC. Our FO at the time was Steve Garrett. Having two “Steve’s” in the chapter caused quite a bit of confusion, especially when someone would call out “Hey Steve!” This led to my biker name “StevieB” which quickly ended the confusion.

My wife, Teresa (aka “Wiggles”), & I quickly became very comfortable with everyone & felt right at home. In May ’03, I was asked to become a Road Captain. In April ‘04, I was asked to assume the responsibilities of SO. In July ’08, I proudly became the FO of the Antelope Valley Chapter. In Dec ’10, I was totally humbled & shocked when I was asked to be a member of the SCRC Board of Directors. This just blew me away!

The Antelope Valley Chapter was founded in July ‘02. It started small, but has grown to 127 members. We have a very active chapter. We have had rides with as many as 40 bikes.

When we went to the California State Rally last year, our chapter had 61 members in attendance! We do a lot of fund-raising for St. Jude & have a really fun time doing it. We are also active within the community helping to raise funds for local charities.

Besides the rides, what I enjoy most about the SCRC & our chapter is all of the truly wonderful folks I have come to know. When we talk about the SCRC being a big family it is not just buzz words - it is an honest description of what the SCRC is all about. It is these great folks that keep the fun factor in high gear for me!

Up here in the high desert, we have amazing roads to ride. My favorite road is located in the Ventura Mountains. It is called Lockwood Valley Road.. & it has it all! Winding twisties through forested areas with some of the most beautiful views you have ever seen. In the spring when the snow is melting, you actually have to go through small streams which cross over the road. This just adds to the adventure.

If you are ever up our way please drop me a line. I would love to show you some of our beautiful rides & introduce you to the wonderful folks in the Antelope Valley Chapter.
Meet an SCRC State Officer (STO) – in New York

Meet Kevin “Rosco” Rissew, SCRC STO for New York since 2010 & is a member of Ontario County Chapter 116 in Geneva, NY. He is STO over 15 chapters (15- 1st Officers & 7 - 2nd Officers).

In Jan ‘03, I was a member of Finger Lakes Chapter there were only 4 chapters in NY at this time. I was SO in ‘03 - ‘04, then moved to NY STO for 1-1/2 yrs. Then I moved up to New England Regional Officer for 1 yr, then moved up to NorthEast Regional Officer for 2 yrs. After that, I retired & took a couple years off. Then I was asked to step up again as New York STO in ’10.

We now have 15 chapters in New York due to a lot of hard work from all the officers in our state (for the short riding season that we have). I have been riding on the road since I was 16 yrs old. I also rode dirt bikes while growing up. I rode till I started having kids in the ’80’s. My last ‘new bike’ then was an ’85 Honda Shadow 500. Then I picked up riding again in ‘01.

I think I have owned every brand of cycle at one time or another. I ride an ‘06 H-D Electra Glide now. It took me 40 yrs till I was able to buy my new baby right off the showroom floor!

I joined Southern Cruisers with a friend & co-worker in ’02 after he told me about the SCRC after he was visiting his buddy in Roanoke, VA. We checked it out & decided to join. My most favorite time was the wheel chair traveling around the country - I handled the patches for this event.

My favorite road is Lake Road – it runs around Lake Ontario. I haven’t done the whole thing yet, but it has a lot of great scenery & great history stops & see.

The worst road has to be “Old Can of Worms” Hwy 490 & 590 split Interstate.

Here in New York state, we have one great lake & five finger lakes to ride around. We also have Niagra Falls, many state parks, & the Adirondaks. They say it is bigger than most other destinations all rolled in one! And this is just in ‘Upstate NY’! Then you have ‘Downstate NY’ – it has the capital district, the Hudson Valley… & head a little father south east & you have NY City, & & then you can head out to Long Island. We here in NY have it all - but not a long riding season.

In the last 10 yrs, I have been to VA State Rally, NY State Rally, NH State Rally. And I went to Florida & met up with “BB” & “Wolman”, then went to Georgia & met up with Jay Voss & friends. I headed west & met up with brother “Reb” & the members of Stone Mountain.

I have ridden to NYC, Pennsylvania, Maryland, & New Jersey. I have had a lot of fun over the last 10 yrs with the SCRC & hope for another great 10 yrs!

Safety Tip – Night Riding

Riding a motorcycle after dark can be enjoyable & a safe alternative to daytime riding during the summer months. One old adage is “do not over-ride your headlights.” You can only see what they illuminate, & if you cannot bring your bike to a safe stop within the range of your window into the darkness, you are asking for trouble.

Assuming your eyesight is OK, the rest of the equation is determining how up to the task your lights are. Some touring bikes may be pretty well endowed with lighting. On the other hand, some sport bikes & others may be just “so-so”.

Headlights perform a few functions: “low beams” offer wider, shorter-range beam patterns with a “cutoff” in the height of the pattern so as not to blind oncoming drivers. Driving lights, or “high beams”, offer longer, generally narrower-angled beam patterns meant to illuminate as much of the road as possible.

LED’s & reflective tape helps with your visibility in the dark for all to see. Be aware of the color of your lights though, because many states don’t allow blue lights except on emergency vehicles. And red lights only on the rear (NOTE: In Oklahoma, a violation will cost you about $325 with court costs).

Also, the DOT may specify the color – amber used only for the side, & white for the front. Keeping the reflectivity colors to spec may help others identify if you are coming, or going. Aside from your bike, the same goes for your clothing & helmet. You want to be easily identifiable as a person when riding. If you go down & are injured on a dark road, you want to be visible well before another motorist runs over you.

Wear clear, clean, unscratched eye protection at night. Carrying a small non-abrasive micro fiber cloth & water (or safe solvent) to clean your face shield is handy. You may also want to bring an extra layer of clothing for cooler evening temperatures.

You will be sharing the roads with nocturnal creatures: deer, raccoons, possums, etc., but one of the most dangerous animals on the road: the inattentive driver. As bad as some drivers are in the daytime, at night they are more likely to make mistakes. Give yourself plenty of space.

Don’t underestimate being tired. Being fatigued or stressed can make you as disadvantaged as someone with alcohol in their system.

Aside from being aware of the possible pitfalls, with enough rest & preparation, riding at night can be a great contrast to daytime riding. In the summer it can be comfortably cooler & possibly less crowded. Everything looks different & you may see sights you’ll never see in the daylight. Whatever you do, don’t just leave it all up to your luck. If you realistically anticipate conditions, you will have a better, safer ride.

Ride safe & enjoy the night! Mike Sumter, Will Rogers Chapter 159
“Soaring Eagle”

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Meet an SCRC International Officer – in Quebec, Canada

Meet Yves “Doc” Ricard (or “LeDoc”), SCRC’s Quebec Provincial Officer since October 2010.

I am a native Canadian that rides a Silver Black ’06 Vulcan 2000cc. I am the founder of SCRC 514 & was Outaouais’s FO Officer Until October 2010.

As a kid living in the early 70′s where there were a lot of motorcycles in my neighbourhood, I became fascinated with motorcycles. At the age of 14, I bought my 1st bike - a BSA Silver Star. At the time, it was the greatest thing on the planet!

To my amazement the fact that I was riding a motorcycle open my eyes on what was really the greatest thing on the planet, WOMEN! My bike was a real babe magnet… since then I never stop riding.

In ’08, I attempted to start a motorcycle club for Health Care Workers. And since that didn’t work out, I spoke with a friend from Arizona & he suggested to me to look into the Southern Cruisers Riding Club. I then went on the net & started reading articles about this club. I got hooked & wanted to find more so I filled out an application on the net.

Most of the clubs around the Ottawa Valley were uni-lingual: English, most of the French speaking people around spoke both languages, French & English. The biggest concern - most francophone riders around had is that they were spending 8 hrs a day speaking English at work, so they thought it would be nice to enjoy our favorite activity in their mother tongue, French.

Then one Saturday afternoon, I got a call from a lady call Laurie Johnson who was at the time “Quebec Provincial Officer”. What a gall! We chatted for a while, laughed a bit, became good friends, & it is then that I decided that this club was for me. To be able to meet people from all specs of life that shared a common liking, to ride bike, this SCRC was for me.

Assisted by my partner, best friend & my wife, Pauline “Sunwitch” Gingras, we started setting up the SCRC Outaouais Chapter 514. Pauline became my right hand partner & my counsellor. All that was done was done with her assistance, she was my SO.

The trips I like the most are the longer one, Iron Butt Style, 5-8 hr trips, minimal stops, rain or shine - it does not matter to me, a ride is a ride. One thing I noted throughout the years is that the human body does not melt. So let’s enjoy life until life is no more.

Most of my weekly riding is done in my area, around the thousands of lakes, small villages & winding roads. So many things to see & never enough time.

Anyway if you want to have a great time “Doc’s Style”, join us at the first Quebec Mega Bash Beach Party on Canada Day - July 1st, 2011: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvNwn5z711A

SCRC 101 # 7 - Officers

Now it’s time to visit the State Officer (STO) & Assistant State Officer (ASTO) section & their responsibilities:

7) The State Officer shall be appointed by the Regional Officer & approved by the National Vice President to serve an unlimited term & may be removed by the same, or by action of the National Officers, Regional Officer or Board of Directors for conduct that shows the SCRC in a bad light, or any other reason deemed in the best interest of the Club.

The State Officer duties include:

a) Assisting the National Vice President in opening Chapters & determining if a new chapter should open when another chapter exists in close proximity.
b) Assisting the National Vice President in replacement of First Officers in his state, whether they resign or are removed from office.
c) Maintaining communications between Chapter First Officers & the dissemination of information. State officers shall keep the National Officers & Regional Officer informed of all matters that concern the SCRC.
d) Organizing a State Rally or Multi-Chapter Events.
e) State Officers must have been an actively participating member in the Southern Cruisers for a minimum of 1.5 years. They must have a working email address & phone number.
f) State Officers will not hold any other Full-Time Officer position in the Southern Cruisers Riding Club.

8) The Assistant State Officer shall be appointed by the State Officer with the approval of the Regional Officer & the National Vice President to serve an unlimited term & may be removed by the same, or by action of the National Officers, Regional Officer, State Officer or Board of Directors for conduct that shows the SCRC in a bad light, or any other reason deemed in the best interest of the Club.

The Assistant State Officer duties include:

a) Assistant State Officers’ only duty is to assist the State Officer when needed in the handling of matters within that state. The Assistant State officer, only when needed, is to step in & take the place of the State Officer. However, Assistant State Officers cannot remove a member within the SCRC without first obtaining approval from the State Officer or National.
b) Assistant State Officers must have been an actively participating member in the Southern Cruisers for a minimum of 1.5 years. They must have a working email address & phone number.
c) Assistant State Officers will not hold any other Full-Time Officer position in the Southern Cruisers Riding Club.

Poker Run on Motorcycles? What is that?

Want to go on a poker run this Saturday? Oh, you’ve never been on one, I remember back when…

(Many of you know what a poker run is, many have participated in one) & you may have even been part of putting one on for a charity. But new riders may not know what one is, or what to expect.

If you have participated in a poker run, you know there are several different versions or ways to play (i.e. – draw 5 cards, 7 cards, or buy extra cards, dice run, etc.).

Basically, a poker run is an event where a rider buys a hand (or more than one), then visits several checkpoints drawing a card at each one in an attempt to get the best poker hand (or it can be done on a points system).
Poker Run on Motorcycles? What is that? (cont’d)

The riders also have to adhere to a time limit – be to the end checkpoint before a certain time (known as ‘last rider in’). The best hand (or highest score) wins a prize or cash payout. There can also be prizes or cash payouts for other reasons (second place, third place, low hand, etc.).

Many times there are also other ‘parts’ of a poker run may be (part of the entry fee or for purchase): food on or after the ride, t-shirts, 50/50 drawings, ‘door’ prizes, entertainment, etc.

All or some of the money raised by the poker run can be donated to a charity, donated to someone locally in need, or used to support the hosting club, or some other reason(s) – usually a worthy cause.

But for most of us… It’s just another excuse to get together & ride! And it is fun - even if you don’t win! So, let’s go!!

Meet an SCRC Member – in Texas

Meet Larry “Comanche” Letzer, proud member of the SCRC Family in Chisholm Trail Chapter #82 in Copperas Cove, Texas. His officers are: FO - Steve Walker, SO - Geoff Harris.

I am just a member of a great family: SCRC Chisholm Trail # 82. I had not been riding for many years & all of a sudden in my late 60’s that urge to ride again hit. Of course, my wife was not thrilled, but in 48 years of our lives together, she has always been supportive. Just should not have bought that bike on her birthday. Yeah, I did!

I had no one to ride with & the dealer suggested SCRC. Actually, I have known him since ’74 when I bought a Suzuki 100 from him for my son to deliver newspapers. My wife & I alternated riding behind him in our cage while he threw the papers at 5:00 AM.

I had not been on a motorcycle since the early ’80’s when I rode my Elsinore 250 dirt bike into a tree. I did not realize I had dislocated a shoulder - just knew that it hurt. I am a photographer & had 3 more sessions that day. Afterwards, I went to the hospital & was told my shoulder was out. Not the first nor the last, but the last time riding a bike.

Took a BRC course & naturally I wanted a bike. That is when the Suzuki LS 650 was delivered - on Bernie’s birthday! There was a ‘chill’ in the house that night… & following week, month, etc.

I signed up to SCRC online in ’07 & got a phone call from Norman Huddleston, Chapter 82 FO at the time. Also, got a call from Rodney “Rainman” Williams who invited me on a ride & explained how the web site works. My wife, Bernie, & I got a really warm welcome into the SCRC. Although I had not been on a motorcycle for over 30 yrs, I rode every chance I got.

Before long, I wanted something bigger, faster, & badder. I traded the small Suzuki in for a new C50T & rode on just about every club ride – I was having a ball.

On Jun 1, ’08, I took off on a 172-mile trip. I was less than 3 miles from the house when a cage ran a red light while I was turning. I grabbed a whole bunch of front brake while turning & down I went - 5 broken bones in my right leg & ankle. My bike was not damaged - my right leg acted as the engine guard.

While recuperating, I read “The Proficient Motorcyclist” 3 times & spent a lot of time online learning motorcycle tips from James Davis, owner of a motorcycle safety site.

I continued to go to SCRC chapter meetings & got the road name Crash” - very original! I healed & continued my membership in SCRC. Greatest bunch of people I have known.

On Oct 18, ’09, I had ridden with the club to Marble Falls for a brunch & left them there as I was going to see our oldest granddaughter play soccer in Georgetown, TX. I was riding 70 mph along a beautiful country road at high noon when this deer comes out of a cornfield. We had what they call in the Army “a meeting engagement”. I rolled 4 times on the asphalt - thank God for the full face helmet I was wearing. A very nice couple was behind me & stayed with me while we waited for the ambulance. She held my hand & kept me focusing. He called 911, but did not know where he was. I had just looked at my GPS a mile back so I was able to tell him & 911 our location. Both a ground & air ambulance were there in a few minutes. They asked me which I wanted & told them I was really in pain. They laughed & said, “In about 2 minutes you will have no pain at all.”

They were right. I went to the Army hospital near my home so I would be close to my family. They drove through Fort Hood’s main gate & realized they did not know where the hospital was. I directed them to the hospital from the gurney in the back of the ambulance. I spent my 71st birthday in Darnall Army Hospital & had lots of visitors from the chapter.

After I healed, my son suggested I get a trike. So I bought a GL 1800 trike. I still ride two wheelers whenever I get a chance.

Thanks to Jim Kelly, Sr. Road Captain, for recommending me as a Tailgunner. I have made some of the best friends ever in SCRC. What I like most about SCRC is the fellowship & willing to help one another.

And my favorite road is Highway 16 from Bandera, TX to Kerrville, TX. My least favorite road(s) are 1431. I really do not dislike it, but the pucker factor rises - this is where the deer hit me while going 70 MPH!

Chapter Patch – Gateway Chapter 47

Does your chapter have a chapter patch? If so, remember that is must be worn on the FRONT of your vest – not the back! If it is on the back, please have it relocated to the front.

A chapter patch also has to be approved BEFORE it is made available to the chapter. For approval, the 1st Officer of the chapter must submit the design to Richard Krause.

I asked for some pics of chapter patches & the story behind them on the SCRC Officers forum. So, officers – check it out. There is a lot of good info on that forum. And some good discussions that may benefit you & your chapter, too! I am always intrigued by other’s artistry & creativity!

Submitted by: Jim “BigUn” Hillier, 1st Officer of Gateway Southern Cruisers Chapter 47

I’ll jump on this one... our chapter patch took over a year to develop with a lot of thought & discussion. The active members at the time when it was developed are all rather “old school”. So we wanted something that had some true symbolism behind it. So here goes:


Chapter Patch – Gateway Chapter 47 (cont’d)

1) Red/White/Blue - Obvious correlation to the U.S.A.
2) Overall shape - Consists of the outlines of Illinois & Missouri because our membership comes from both sides of the river.
3) Red lines - Represent the major highways that converge in St. Louis.
4) St. Louis Arch - While a fairly obvious correlation to the St. Louis area, the important aspect to the arch is the size. Using downtown St. Louis as the center point, our membership comes from a radius of nearly 90 miles. So we “cover” a really large area.
5) No dividing line between Illinois & Missouri - While we are “officially” a Missouri SCRC chapter, we have a balance of membership from both sides of the river. We don’t see the river, or the state line that it follows, as a “dividing line”. That’s also why we refer to ourselves as the Gateway Southern Cruisers.
6) Silver border - The bonds of brotherhood/sisterhood that we develop through the chapter can serve as a “silver lining” when we are having a “cloudy day”. The chapter patches of the FO & SO have a gold lining.

Also, our chapter patch is not only worn on the front of the vest, it’s worn specifically on the front, right, upper quarter. That way when meeting someone, the patch is “presented” to them when reaching to shake their hand.

“Say What?”

How many times do we repeat sayings we have heard a thousand times while growing up, & never even once gave a thought to “what does that mean”. No doubt we have even said these infamous quips of wisdom in the same context as we learned them!

I remember setting on my Great Granddad’s front porch waving at my brother. I think he came around… he would ask me about every one of these saying alive to be enjoyed by the younger generation. Sure we could text, twitter, or email them around, or we could send them to “Hammer”. Who knows, maybe he could even sneak one two into the news letter, & seen who spots them. It would be like looking for a needle in a haystack!!!!!!!!!

“Mr. Obvious (& yes I am a sight for sore eyes!)… Submitted by “Mr. Visible”.

What time is it?

Does anyone that does not wear a watch ask you what time it is on a regular basis? A buddy of mine does not wear a watch. And when we would head to the lake for a long holiday weekend, or when I was on vacation & he came around… he would ask me about every one or two hours “What time is it?” It drove me crazy!

Well, he would not buy & wear a watch (for whatever reason)… so one day, I finally took mine off & gave it to him to wear. And I did that every time we went to the lake after that as well.

“Cause when I am on R&R time (rest & relaxation), I really don’t care what time it is if I don’t need to be anywhere doing anything at a particular time. I know to eat when I’m hungry, I don’t need to wait for noon by the clock or whatever.

“Just give it back on Sunday evening” I told him.

I think cell phones take care of that now… every one that I have had has a clock on the face of it. And most everyone I know has a cell phone now. Heck – they even update automatically when Daylight Savings Time changes roll around. And also when we change time zones while traveling. Ever wager on who’s will change first when you cross a time zone? Hmmm… makes me wonder - why am I still wearing a wristwatch.

But some people must be on a schedule of sorts. Me – when I am into serious R&R time, I just figure I am practicing for future retirement!
Georgia SCRC – “Bring a Friend” Ride

Dec 27, 2010 – A Georgia State Patrol Officer was shot & killed in the line of duty - the first State Patrol Trooper killed by gunfire since 1974.

Ken “Dr. Jekyll” Hyde, Georgia STO, writes: “He had relatives in Southern Cruisers… so, I decided to push hard for a large turnout of Southern Cruisers for a benefit ride hosted by another local group. Below are a few words that BB put down for us from her perspective.”

“A day like today makes me so proud to be a Southern Cruiser & re-affirms to me that we have a greatest group of members assembled. We had some dedicated members riding over 100 miles this morning in 30° weather to get to the start point. I thank every member that got out today should give themselves a huge pat on the back. This could of not happened without you.”

“The ride (on March 12) was promoted as “Bring A Friend” Ride. I was trying to introduce folks to the brotherhood we have in the Southern Cruisers.

And Barbara “BB” Boone’s contribution: “An opportunity was presented to support a local family of a fallen police officer. Ken “Jekyll” Hyde, GA State Officer saw the opportunity to not only have Georgia SCRC family together… but also to spread goodwill & fellowship of the SCRC.”

“Posts went up, flyers tacked, calls were made – members opened their homes & spare rooms were filled - an estimated 26 chapters in the state, 214 bikes, & 256 members! Some rode over 250 miles one-way to attend this ride - it was 30° that morning in parts of the state. SCRC members & friends shared early morning smiles, stories, & fellowship before taking a short police-escorted ride to the ride. The ride hosts were pleasantly overwhelmed when our group showed up in force. The local news agency had to call for backup to cover the story - you can see SCRC wings as far as the eye can see in their coverage!”

“Reb observed that in all his years in SCRC, this was the largest gathering of members in Georgia for a single ride. Visitors with the group were heard commenting not only about the camaraderie, but the true affinity each & every person had for each other & the passion of motorcycle riding. Many have since joined local chapters & are not only friends, but now in the SCRC family.”

Why Motorcycles Are Better Than Men
1) Motorcycles never develop spare tires.
2) Motorcycles don’t get you pregnant.
3) Motorcycles don’t have parents.
4) Your motorcycle will let you know if something is wrong.
5) You don’t have to kick your motorcycle to get it going.
6) Your motorcycle won’t judge your friends.
7) If your motorcycle is boisterous, you can buy a muffler.
8) You won’t have to put your motorcycle through grad school.
9) If your motorcycle smokes you can do something about it.
10) Motorcycles don’t care about how many other motorcycles you have ridden.
11) When riding, you & your motorcycle both arrive at the same time.
12) Your motorcycle won’t ogle other motorcycles.
13) Your motorcycle won’t care if you have a poster of your fantasy motorcycle.
14) If your motorcycle has high mileage, you can just get a new one.
15) You don’t have to drink beer before your motorcycle looks appealing.
16) Motorcycles don’t insult you if you are a novice.
17) Your motorcycle never wants a night out alone with the other motorcycles.
18) Motorcycles don’t make you late.

UPDATE ON OUR ST. JUDE DONATION
The SCRC has give over $1,700,000 as of this Year!
WAY TA GO SOUTHERN CRUISERS!

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.
I am Southern Cruisers! And so are YOU!