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"Soaring Eagle"

Monthly News for Our SCRC Nation
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"*Hammer Time*"

Finally got back to the typewriter… errrr… computer. Life has been pretty 'robust' lately. Translation – BUSY!! Busy at work, busy at home. And the weather has been nice enough here to be riding! Or working… so, I work.

But on the bright side… check out the SCRC calendar. There are plenty of events listed to attend this year. Are there any close to you? Get astride the bike & head to them & support them. Take the long way to get there, & the long way home.

An old boss used to tell me "Take your time going, but hurry back." What? That does *NOT* apply when you're riding, does it? I hope not.

Thanks to many that have sent in stories about their chapter or event. Please keep 'em coming. I will get them in here… hang in there. I might note here that I try to avoid newspaper stories. I have not had much luck getting permission to re-print copy from them. If you can do that, it would be great – before you submit it.

Now I gotta go – gotta work on "*Sophia*". Yep – she's at it again. She's getting pretty finicky on me anymore… she must have heard me mention those three letters…. Yep, three of them. She gets a bit jealous, ya know.

Hope to see you on the road… 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!*" by Bruce "*Hammer*" Mathis

2012 SCRC Event Calendar

Listed below are the SCRC events on the 2012 SCRC calendar:

http://www.airsetpublic.com/AirSet.jsp#app.CalServe+gi.taGnyWwQUzlN_v.month

If you plan on having an SCRC event in 2012, contact Bubba Prescott to get it reviewed & approved!

MARCH

March 23-25 - Savannah Invasion Savannah, Georgia

APRIL

April 12-15 - Florida State Rally Silver Springs, Florida
April 15 – Covington Bike Fest Covington, Georgia
April 19-22 - Spring Rally 2012 Millington, Tennessee
April 21 – Macon Dice Run Macon, Georgia
April 27-29 - NC Spring Gathering/State Rally Asheboro, North Carolina

MAY

May 11-13 - Air Capitol "Cruisin' for a Cure' Wichita, Kansas
May 12 – Chapter 63 Annual St. Jude Charity Ride Lexington, Kentucky
May 17-20 - Central States Regional Rally McAlester, Oklahoma
May 17-20 - MS State SCRC Rally Gulfport, Mississippi
May 25-28 - Loudon SCRC Rolling Thunder Event Sterling, Virginia

JUNE

June 1-3 - WV State Rally Sutton, West Virginia
June 2 – Run to the Sun North Carolina (city not listed)
June 7-10 - California State Rally Big Bear Lake, California
June 7-10 - Tennessee State Rally Cookeville, Tennessee
June 8-9 – Pa. State Rally State College, Pennsylvania
Jun 22-24 - Tennessee Ridge Runner Johnson City, Tennessee

JULY

July 12-15 – Kentucky State Rally Richmond, Kentucky
July 19-21 - Georgia State Rally Commerce, Georgia
July 20-22 – New England Rendezvous – Barton, Vermont
July 27-28 - Indiana State Rally Scottsburg, Indiana

AUGUST

August 3-4 - Virginia State Rally Roanoke, Virginia
Aug 30-Sep 2 – 2012 SCRC National Rally Lafayette, Louisiana

SEPTEMBER

September 27-30 - Texas State Reunion DeSoto, Texas

OCTOBER

October 12-14 – Run for the Border 11 Texas (city not listed)

NOVEMBER

November 2-4 – National Peanut Festival Rally Dothan, Georgia

A Growing SCRC Nation - New SCRC Chapters

Sending out a "*rev 'em up*" welcome to these new SCRC chapters. Chapters can be located at – (http://www.southerncruiser.com/chapterpage/index.htm)

- **Nottawasaga #370** Wasaga Beach, Ontario, Canada 1st Officer – Bruce Leslie
- **Northern Illinois #72** McHenry/Elmhurst, Illinois - 1st Officer – Joe Lump, 2nd Officer Brad Bakke
- **High Bridge #233** Rice, Virginia 1st Officer – Scott Jackson
- **Judsonia SCRC #370** Judsonia, Arkansas 1st Officer – Norman Horvath
- **Desoto SCRC #414** DeSoto, Mississippi 1st Officer – Ralph DiBiasi
- **El Paso SCRC #451** El Paso, Texas 1st Officer – George Smith
- **Heartland SCRC #566** Lake Placid, Florida 1st Officer – Terry Penland
- **Laurel SCRC #567** Laurel, Mississippi 1st Officer – Bobby Brady
- **Sylacauga SCRC #569** Sylacauga, Alabama 1st Officer – Daniel Lewis
- **Poplar Bluff SCRC #527** Poplar Bluff, Missouri - 1st Officer – Michael Brooks

SCRC Memorial Page

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

Don't stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glint in snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain
I am the gentle autumn rain
When you wake in the morning hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quite birds in circling flight
I am the soft starlight at night
Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep

Please visit the memorial page… the poems are incredible! 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!

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SCRC Chapters with a New Name

Chapter #489 changed to Banks Crossing SCRC #489
Chapter #152 in Louisiana changed to Lake Charles SCRC #152

SCRC 101 #18 – GROUP RIDE GUIDELINES – Part 2

MEETING PLACE AND DEPARTURE TIME:

A) Meeting place and departure times will be posted to the membership either by e-mail or phone preceding the scheduled event.
B) Rider briefing should be held just prior to departure, to establish a schedule for gas and rest stops, inform the group of the intended route, provide other pertinent information and review the group riding guidelines including formations and procedures.
C) Individuals should make every effort to arrive promptly at the scheduled meeting time and be completely prepared for the scheduled departure time. This includes a full tank of gas, and necessary restroom visits.

RIDING FORMATION AND INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS:

A) The standard formation, under good conditions of road, traffic, and weather, will be a double row, staggered, in one traffic lane. The interval will be no less than one second between staggered riders, which will automatically make a 2 second interval between you and the bike directly in front of you.
B) The SCRC Road Captain will be at the head of the group, and typically will ride just to the left of lane center. The Tail Gunner will ride at the rear of the formation.
C) New members, guests, and any riders with little experience in group riding will be positioned at the front of the group, just behind the Road Captain.
D) Each rider should maintain his or her starting line up position in the group until arrival at the destination. This allows each rider to become more familiar with the riding style and habits of those nearest him or her in the group, and is particularly important for the new or inexperienced riders.
E) Under certain conditions the Road Captain will signal the group to form a single file formation. The signal is the left arm held overhead with one finger extended. Drop back to a safe following distance from the rider in front of you and move into a single file.
F) It may be necessary to form smaller groups for safety due to surrounding conditions or local ordinances. There should be a temporary Road Captain to lead and a Tail Gunner to control the second part of the group.
G) This may mean that the last rider of each group would become the Tail Gunner for that group. If possible, this rider should be another experienced Road Captain or Tail Gunner. If another Road Captain/Tail Gunner is not available, this rider should be briefed prior to the run as to his or her responsibilities in the event this situation should occur.
H) It is recommended that trikes and bikes with sidecars be to the rear of the formation and ride single file at all times ahead of the Tail Gunner.

SPEED, INTERVALS, AND DISTANCES:

A) The Road Captain will attempt to establish and maintain a uniform speed; consistent with the ability of the least experienced rider, surrounding conditions, the posted speed limit, the bikes at the ride, and safe riding practices. The Road Captain should establish before the ride the abilities of the people and the bikes themselves prior to departure, especially concentrating on new riders, new members and visitors to the ride. The Road Captain should continually check his mirrors to insure the formation is in good shape.
B) The Road Captains may choose to separate the group of inexperienced riders into a group of their own, consistent with expected or actual conditions, making sure there is an acting, experienced Road Captain and Tail Gunner to guide them.
C) All riders will make an effort to maintain the same speed to minimize the effect of irregular speeds on riders at the rear of the group.
D) All riders will maintain a safe distance and lane position between themselves and the rider directly ahead; to be consistent with existing road, traffic, and weather conditions.

Let's Ride Anyway!

I must relay an SCRC story that always gives me a chuckle. This year's California State Rally in Oakhurst, CA, was, as always, a ton of fun. The difference this year was as we awoke on Saturday morning, Mother Nature had decided she would bless us with a wee bit of moisture.

As the morning went on, the rain went from a mist to a sprinkle. My phone rang - lo & behold, it was our FO Stevie B. Steve, informing me that he was in Yosemite Park & it was barely misting. I asked some fellow riders what they thought & a resounding "Let's go!" was heard.

We left the hotel in our leathers & chaps - 7 bikes & 11 bodies, heading for beautiful Yosemite Valley. As we entered the park, the mist was a little heaver, but undaunted, we pressed on.

Just about the time we headed thru the tunnel to one of the most awesome sites, it was now raining. The group made the decision to go all the way into the valley (about 10 more miles). As we made our way to the valley, we passed our fearless leader, Steve, headed the other way (in a cage, mind you!). We waved & continued on into the valley.

After drying off a little & putting some warm fluids in our bodies, we decided it was time to venture back to the hotel. The rain was pretty much constant & the temperature was starting to drop a little.

My 'better half' never said a word until we were about 5 miles from the gate, & then she just said "How much further?"

I assured her we were only 5 miles from the gate & would stop & take a little break. What I didn't tell her was my hands were about frozen & the feeling was leaving them. We made it to the gate & took a well deserved break to dry off & warm our bodies a bit. The hotel was about 16 miles away, but the rain had turned back into a mist. The roads were a bit drier, so the ride was actually very nice.

We were greeted back at the hotel by Stevie B., & our always so friendly Tailgunner Dougie. They both swore it was just a mist when they had called.

Kudos's go to all our ladies for going along for the ride & just enjoying it - it was a nice sunny day. Rain or shine, our brothers & sisters of the SCRC are always a pleasure to ride with. Now can I get a little help polishing the chrome?

Thanks to Mark Fisk (aka "*Jacque Cousteau*"), SCRC AV Chapter Road Captain,

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The Last Outpost Chapter 451

Well, Texas has a new chapter – The Last Outpost Chapter 451 in El Paso. With its ten members & growing, El Paso provides the best all year riding weather. On a normal ride, one will have to travel two hours & back - roads do exist out here.

The chapter's FO, George "Mr. Clean" Smith, & SO, Bryan Forte, talked about the making of the chapter way back in May '10 when we first met during training in Ohio.

Bryan comes to us from SCRC in Hinesville, GA, & George from Korea. We both have a deep passion for the Southern Cruisers & love to ride.

The El Paso chapter will continue to grow with the great members we have & will add here. The chapter is barely a month old & has had one ride & fixin' to have a BBQ so we can discuss rides & Southern Cruisers in general.

Our name "The Last Outpost" fits perfectly seeing as we are the last chapter before crossing into New Mexico. And our military post, Fort Bliss, being the last military outpost in the middle of nowhere. It is a deserted environment & dry as one can get. As stated - perfect for riding.

There are members who know the area very well who can lead the rides to explore more. We hope to carry on the good name of Southern Cruisers & provide rides to our brothers & sister who ride here from other areas. One ride in mind will be the Texas Big Bend Ride… Look out! Here we come.

Submitted by: Jo & George Smith

Meet an SCRC State Officer – in Georgia

"Dr. Jekyll" or Mr. Hyde? You Decide - Hello my name is Ken Hyde, although many know me as "*Dr. Jekyll*". I am the Georgia State Officer. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Tammy "*Candycane*", for 17 wonderful years. For many years, I was simply known just as "*Candycane's husband*".

I started riding when I was 8 or 9 yrs old - starting with mini bikes & dirt bikes until 1985 when I was able to purchase my first street bike - a Kawasaki 700 LTD. I have been riding the streets ever since. I currently an '01 Honda Valkyrie Interstate which I ride & enjoy very much.

In '00, I had come to the point in my life with all the activities & not having anyone to ride with that I almost sold my bike with the intentions of not replacing it. Then, in the summer of '00, I met some folks in the SCRC (REB, Tonto & others) at an event & was invited to join the SCRC. I did not join at that time.

Then a year later at the same event, I was invited again - & joined in Sep '01. I ride with the Lost Mountain Chapter #393 located on the North West side of Atlanta, GA.

I had never held any other official position with the SCRC before other than Road Captain. I have just always done as much as I could to promote the SCRC & help out where I could.

In '07 when I was asked to be the Georgia STO, I first declined several times thinking I didn't have the time to take care of all that would be required of a STO. I had overnight to think about it & before the morning I told myself it was my time to give back to this wonderful club that has given us so many good memories & great friendships we will cherish for the rest of our lives. We have enjoyed over 60 rallies in & around GA in the past 10 years.

Georgia has 32 chapters run by some of the best officers in the country. We host two annual rallies in the state of Georgia - the *Savannah Invasion,* March 23-25, 2012, & of course the *Georgia State Rally*, third weekend in July. We usually draw over 600 members from all over the U.S.A. & Canada for the state rally with our numerous scenic roads.

Probably my most favorite road in Georgia to ride would be Hwy 60 from Blue Ridge to Dahlonega. And the road I would suggest everyone to stay off of is I-285 around Atlanta.

I have so many fun memories while in the SCRC & want to share just a few. There was the time at the Tennessee State Rally when Sweeper & I had a bet going on a slow race with all proceeds going to St Jude. I was the red team complete with red hair & costume.

Then there was the time at the *Georgia State Rally* that I dumped a cooler of ice water off the 2nd floor onto 5 unsuspecting women to quiet them down! Of course it didn't work.

I was the master of ceremonies at the "*Womanless Beauty Pageant*" at the '06 *Georgia State Rally*. And just being crazy wearing a blond wig in '03.

Of course there are so many more memories. If you see me somewhere, it would be great to share some stories. Hope to see you all in Lafayette LA at the National Rally in 2012.

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SCRC West Central # 55 (Florida) - Christmas Day Dinner

Pictured (L-R): Ernie (SO), Peggy, Charby, Theresa, Karen, John, Dudley (FO), Lois, & Dave.

With the temperature in the low 80's & plenty of sunshine, the ride for Christmas Day Dinner was near as perfect as it could be. Four couples & FO Dudley made the ride for a most enjoyable meal at a local buffet restaurant in the neighboring town of Plant City.

Submitted by: Ernie Foote, SO West Central Chapter 55, Zephyrhills, Florida

Get a New Perspective on Life

When things in your lives seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar & the 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class & had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large & empty mayonnaise jar & proceeded to fill it with golf balls… then asked the students if the jar was full. They all agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles & poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They again all agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand & poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "Yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table & poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends & your favorite passions---& if everything else was lost & only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house & your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff. "If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time & energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

"Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get a medical checkup. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house & fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand & inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

Submitted by (but not written by): Max Davis, member of Dog Creek Hills Chapter 276 in Claremore, OK.

SCRC Weiss Lake Chapter #80 (Alabama)

The Weiss Lake Southern Cruisers yearly outing to Cherokee County Health & Rehabilitation Center was yet another very memorable event... We have been visiting the Nursing Home every year since 2007 with Christmas presents for all the residents.

This year we managed to raise enough during our annual Leesburg Day Fundraiser to provide fleece throws (comforters) to every resident & still managed to have a little left over to pick up quite a few goodies for the Activities Dept.

Special thanks to Lori Kirk, CCHRC Activities Division, who was on hand to guide & assist our members. Thanks also to the good folks from the Christian Motorcycle Association that rode over to assist in handing out the goodies! And a special thanks to all our sponsors & donors from our motorcycle show fundraiser held in conjunction with Leesburg Day. Just to see the appreciation in the faces of the residents makes all the work & time invested seem insignificant.

Got a Story?

Everyone has a story to tell. Easy to tell, but harder to write down! Thanks to all of those that have responded & sent me stories for the newsletter. It will be a great help for future newsletters.

When you send me your story, please include:

- Your full name (& nickname if you have one)
- Chapter name & no.
- Chapter hometown
- A few pictures to go with it
- Copy (CC:)your 1st & 2nd officers
- Stories should be your story about riding... and/or riding with Southern Cruisers.

Thanks for the stories. Just wanna make sure it is tied to SCRC & a SCRC chapterAgain... thanks. Send me your story & pics: news at southerncruisers.net

Please note – promotions for your individual chapter's events (other than from the SCRC calendar) will not be included in the newsletter.

Remember…

"***I am Southern Cruisers! We're all family here!***"

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