



Mid Michigan Riders Inc.

Established 1986

MARCH 2010

2009 Officers

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MARCH ACTIVITIES:

- 14 Sophia's on W. Saginaw,
Grand Ledge 9 AM
- 17 General Meeting
6:30 PM Piazzano's
- 27 Card Party 6-10PM
Dawn & Warren's
- 28 Aldaco's on S. Cedar
Lansing 5 PM



The Truth about Drinking and Riding by Jeff Cobb

While no one will publicly declare alcohol consumption and motorcycling are OK, there remain definite problems in a culture offering mixed messages.

Despite campaigns to raise awareness that drinking and riding don't mix, the incentive to consume alcohol and ride a motorcycle has done anything but gone away.

Included in the allure is a sometimes quietly accepted, revenue-generating subculture enabling such behaviors as riding to the bar, or bar hopping, or participating in massive regional rider festivals where drink (and sometimes drugs) are plentiful.

Or, it could be simply individuals who ride after drinking for their own reasons.

To be fair, some more progressive and safety-minded motorcycle clubs have a rule that no alcohol may be consumed until the side stands are down for the night.

But even so, drinking and riding is more than a blip on the radar screen for transportation safety officials. About 46 percent of riders killed in accidents, according to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), have alcohol in their systems at the time of their death.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes are 2.5 times more likely to have consumed alcohol than passenger vehicle drivers.

In 2007, the number of alcohol-impaired motorcycles in fatal crashes increased by 10 percent while the number of alcohol-impaired drivers of passenger cars declined 6 percent.

NHTSA defines "alcohol impaired" for vehicle operators over 21 with Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) measured over the 50-state legal limit of 0.08 grams/deciliter.

As in previous years, the 2007 analysis of motorcycle riders and passenger vehicle

The Truth about Drinking and Riding con't.

Drivers killed showed about 83 percent of the alcohol-impaired accident fatalities were males.

Recreational riding and recreational drugs, unfortunately, may be seen as compatible, including by those already predisposed to have alcohol problems.

According to Kelley Tway, media relations manager for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), drinking and driving for car and motorcycle operators is habitual. Tway said first offenders surveyed after being arrested for drunk driving anonymously admitted they had gotten away with drinking and driving an average of 87 times prior to being caught.

The statistically worst time periods for those who drink and ride are nights and weekends. These are when the bulk of the crashes happen. In 2007, about 57 percent of alcohol-impaired operators (motorcycle and car) were killed in weekend crashes. Most died between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Responding to these and more troubling statistics, the MSF continues its efforts at attempting to wake up riders to the “pure folly” of riding with alcohol in their bloodstream. There is no safe recommended limit, according to the MSF Director of Special Projects, Ken Glaser. He advises “zero” BAC.

The MSF estimates that even the least amount of alcohol increases a rider’s chance of crashing five times. And a (still potentially legal) BAC over 0.05 percent increases chances to crash 40 fold.

While there have been fewer studies for motorcycle riders than for auto drivers, alcohol use and riding are known to be lethal, self-deluding combination. With BAC as low as 0.01 to 0.04 percent, riders’ judgments are reduced, while at the same time, they become less critical of their own actions.

With inhibitions diminishing, and sensory stimuli affected by the alcoholic buzz, anecdotal accounts suggest some might even think riding feels more fun as their qualifications to do so continue to dangerously degrade.

From 0.05 to 0.07 percent, thinking and reasoning powers further diminish, and ability to perform complex skills continues to decrease. By the time the legal limit of 0.08 percent is crossed, reasoning powers are severely hampered, and even common simple tasks are done with errors.

A study performed last year by The University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies confirmed a BAC within the legal limit of 0.05 percent affected performance.

Riders on outrigger-equipped bikes that could not fall experienced measurably decreased abilities on a controlled test course after only one or two drinks.

While some riders studied could realize when alcohol was affecting performance, the researchers concluded trying to “self-regulate,” or be extra careful was no guaranty of not crashing

A scary reality

Some riders continue to think they can handle alcohol, as evidenced by bikers who ride to bars, and other phenomena in the American motorcycle scene. This is not exclusive to cruisers, or any particular lifestyle. Some sportbike riders, especially relative younger ones, may hop on their crotch rocket after having a drink or two—or several.

Their decreased abilities, which they cannot adequately judge, combined with decreased sense of inhibition, may yield an increased sense of (false) confidence. While riders may typically try to be careful, anecdotal accounts of those who feel the thrill of ripping through several gears well over 100 mph while drunk are not unheard of.

In the mid-90’s, NHTSA conducted focus groups of 70 men and 15 women who admitted they drank and rode motorcycles.

HTSA stressed these interviews could not be used to draw a conclusion for a larger group, but they revealed at least some people entertain seriously sketchy attitudes regarding drinking and riding.

The Truth about Drinking and Riding con't.

For example, one motorcyclist from Denver said a little alcohol improved his riding.

“I know that when I ride and if I have a beer it feels better riding. It loosens you up—it relieves tension,” he said, “It feels more exciting riding. You enjoy your ride better if you have one beer.”

A particular belief was that even if a rider has had several drinks, if he could at least start the motorcycle and get it moving, he would be fine.

“If you don't fall down within the first few feet, you're going to be ok,” said the rider from Denver. “I've seen guys do that. There's something about being on a motorcycle—you focus yourself. When you get on your motorcycle and hit the road, the wind and the air just seem to go, “Boom, I'm okay now.”

And another rider from Boston concurred.

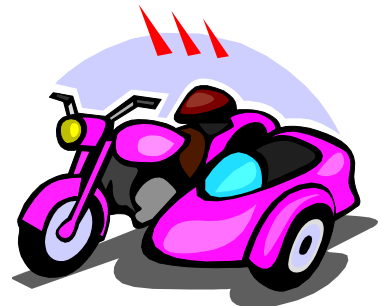
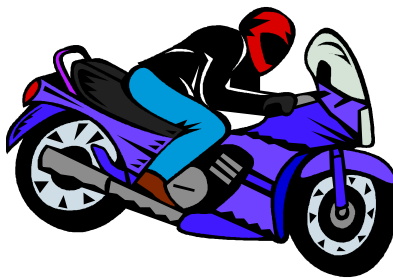
“If they're totally wasted, then you worry about their safety,” he said, “If they're just a little bit wasted then it's ‘Watch out for the cops.’”

Other misconceptions among these riders were that 0.08 percent BAC may barely be a problem, and some said it usually was not the rider's fault, but another motorist's, if a crash happened.

While depending on your experience, you may find such accounts incredible, foolish, not applicable to you, or all of the above, it is nevertheless true that some riders think and do dangerous and crazy things.

Why? No doubt more studies are needed for conclusions, but it seems apparent that culturally held attitudes continue to be problematic.

If nothing else be warned: Don't listen to influences to drink and ride, and never allow yourself to compromise for any reason.



PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS Of Gene Hoover

We have had some productive meetings and I wish we could see more people involved.

Rodney and Nancy are going to need help with the Christmas committee, so if anyone is interested please contact them.

Can't wait for the snow to go away so we can start riding some of the nice rides we have planned.

Keep in mind we still need to recruit new members, because we don't want to keep all the fun to ourselves!

Happy St. Patricks Day

VICE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS of Rodney Chapin

We had a good meeting in February. Got a lot done.

We are going back in the touring business. We are trying something we did a few years ago.

The first tour will be County Seats. The cost is \$5. There are 83 county seats. There will be 25 chosen and you need to get at least 20 out of the 25.

If it works this year, maybe we'll try it again next year.

See you soon.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Gwen Fuller

February 17, 2010

Meeting called to order by President, Gene, at 6:35. There were ten members present.

Minutes from the January meeting. Motioned by Terri and 2nd by Don to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter. No corrections. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: motioned by Don, 2nd by Norb to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Passed.

Committee Reports:

Rally Committee—Terri reported that each member had a list of four charities presented to them. The charities were: 1) Toys for Tots, 2) Homeless Vets, 3) Parkinson disease and 4) Sparrow Hospice Services. With a return vote members decided on Sparrow Hospice Services. Don motioned, 2nd by Rodney to accept the votes for the charity rally. Passed.

Ride Committee—In Warren's absence, Terri reported on the ride committee decision for rides. Terri passed out to members a new ride schedule. We are going to have a club tour this year. It will be a County Seat Tour. It will cost each club member \$5.00 to participate in the tour. Don motioned, 2nd by Terri to accept the ride schedule with changes and also accept the ride tour. Passed.

Safety Committee—Dave had no report. Terri and Sherie said they would be on his committee.

Picnic Committee—Beth, Gene, Jerry & Cheri

Christmas Committee—Rod, Nancy, Don & Gwen.

Recessed at 6:55 pm to eat. In Session at 7:20 pm

New Business

Dinner Rides were set up for the last Thursday of the month at 7 PM.

April 29—Tony M's. Lansing

May 27—DeLuca's—Lansing

June 24—Tomato Bros.-Howell

July 29—Waldorff—Hastings

August 26—Buddies—Holt

September 30—Eaton Place—Charlotte

Dave brought up an idea to have a fund to help club members in need. Tabled until March for more info.

SECRETARY'S REPORT con't.

by Gwen Fuller

Terri brought up for the rally to raise their commitment. Terri motioned to raise our commitment to \$200.00, 2nd by Gwen. Passed. This money is above what is spent on expenses. Last year we spent \$50.00 on water and ice. The money will be at the discretion of the committee.

50/50 drawing \$22.00 won by Terri

Incentive drawing \$45.00 won by Gwen.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- 1) EVERY club member will need to fill out a new membership form EVERY year.
- 2) EVERY club member driving a bike will have to show proof of his/her cycle endorsement.
- 3) EVERY club member will have to sign an annual waiver

You cannot be a club member in good standing without completing these items.

It will also be necessary for family or friends riding with the club to do item 2 and 3.

Two club members had their bikes out on
Sunday, February 21st.

Can you figure out who they were?

One is easy, it is in the newsletter. The other one you will have to guess at.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Beth Hoover

We are getting closer to riding! We need to get rid of the snow and have it warm up a little and then we'll be ready to ride! We have planned a lot of good rides this year and I can't wait to start riding.

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|
| Checking Beg. Bal. | \$785.51 | | |
| Newsletter | -125.00 | Petty Cash | \$50.00 |
| US PO Box | - 24.00 | | |
| AMA Fee | -35.00 | | |
| D-14 fee | -10.00 | | |
| Dues | +\$225.00 | | |
| Shirts | + 25.00 | | |
| 50/50 | + 15.00 | | |
| Incentive Drawing | -5.00 | | |
| Ending Bal. | \$851.51 | | |

MID MICHIGAN RIDERS, TEN YEARS AGO

by Nancy Chapin,
Historian

We had four new members in February 2000. We had another small meeting. There was some discussion about the direction the club was going.

The ride committee had the meeting February 29 and most of the rides were set in stone.

On March 5th, the club was going to Jimmy's Grill near Lowell for dinner, a great place to go.

All the snow birds were coming back to us soon.

New member, David Leppien was asked to draw the 50/50 ticket for the drawing. Guess who won. Yep, David win the 50/50 drawing. Lucky guy!

Betty Stipe was not present at the February meeting so she lost out on the \$10. Must be present to win.



Congratulations to Deb and Bob Loucks! They are grandparents to a darling baby boy, Zachary Robert..



Also we are all wishing Dawn a quick recovery from some surgery she had. Good thing she got this over with before good weather or Warren would be out there doing wheelies without her.

It's good to see the club staying busy through the winter months and enjoying time together. Good friends help get us through the cold weather.

As always, if anyone has something for our newsletter just send it to me and we'll get it published

Granny's Mumblings

I couldn't stand it!

Yep Granny's training wheels went out February 21st. The sun was shining, the motor was running, the temperature was above 30 and Granny took off. What a great Day! Good thing that old girl heats up (not sure if it's the bike or the body).

This year is going to be a bit of a balancing act for Granny as she is getting her horse back out. In 2008, he was in three national magazines. In 2009 he sat. So he needs to be back out.

Jidderbug and I are making plans for another adventure on our bikes. We'll probably be gone a week or so. On the other hand, we will just wander as we please and see the sights as we go.

I am sure each of you are anxious to get back out on the road.

If you get real bored, you can always get the oil changed and tinker a little with other bike stuff.

There will be a swap meet in Grand Rapids on March 28th if any of you are interested.

Bob and Deb are new grandparents and that baby is just a doll!

It is great to have the club decide to support Sparrow Hospice Services for this year's charity.

It will be another time of hard work to get our rally together but we have one behind us to learn from so hopefully this one is easier.

Granny with training wheels

Stupid Hurts—and Keeps on Hurting (taken from AMA Crash Course)

It was a sunny day, 97 degrees, and I had some quick deliveries to make. I jumped on my 2005 Goldwing trike. I always wear a helmet, but it was hot and I was only going a few miles, so I figured shorts and a t-shirt would be OK. Besides, trikes don't tip over.

I was on a four-lane road when a vehicle in front of me stopped to turn left. I stopped, too.

The next thing I knew, I was hanging on to the left side of the trike, dragging my left butt cheek on the hot pavement. I had been hit from behind.

I later found out that a third vehicle rear-ended the car that hit me, then left the scene.

Thanks to my decision to ride in shorts and a T-shirt, I am now being treated for serious road rash.

Each week, I visit a care center that specializes in deep-skin wounds for “debriding,” where a doctor takes a quarter-inch spoon-shaped tool and scrapes the wound to keep it from scabbing.

Yes, it is as painful as it sounds.

The doctors say I shouldn't have any scarring as long as they continue the treatment for the next six to eight weeks.

Bottom line: Wear the proper riding gear or don't ride. Please learn from me: Stupid hurts!

John Lance
DeWitt, MI



FOR SALE:

1 women's snow pant, very warm \$50

These pants zip down the sides
cost about \$150 new.

Contact Nancy Chapin

1996 Goldwing SE, Pearl White, 78,300 miles \$6,500

2005 Yamaha V-Star 1100 Classic, metal flake white,
many custom parts, 7,945 miles \$5,500

Contact Norb at 517-323-7053

FAVORITE RECIPE

submitted by Terri



Chicken Parmesan Bundles

4 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
1 1/4 c. shredded mozzarella cheese
6 T. grated parmesan cheese
6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, pounded to 1/4 inch
1 egg
10 Ritz crackers, crushed
1 1/2 c. spaghetti sauce, heated

Set oven at 375 degrees.

Mix cream cheese, spinach, 1 c. mozzarella and 3 T. Parmesan. Spread onto chicken breasts. Roll and secure with a toothpick.

Beat egg in bowl. In separate bowl add remaining Parmesan and cracker crumbs. Dip the chicken in egg, roll in dry mixture.

Place seam side down in 13 x 9 sprayed pan. Bake 30 minutes. Top with spaghetti sauce and mozzarella..

MARCH ACTIVITES

- 14 Sophie's in Grand Ledge 9 AM
- 17 Gen. Mtg. 6:30 PM Piazzano's
- 27 Card Party 6-10 PM Warren & Dawn's
- 28 Aldaco's 5 PM S. Cedar

APRIL ACTIVITIES

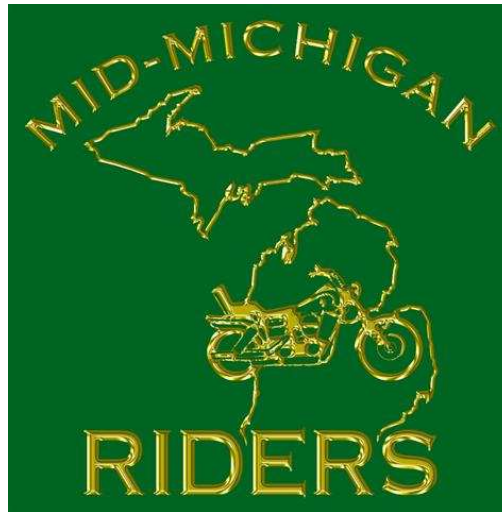
- 11 Blondie's Barn Haslett & Marsh Rds. 9 AM
- 17 Gen. Mtg. 6:30 PM Piazzano's
- 24 Syrup Festival Ride Warren leader meet at Flap Jack on US 27 DeWitt 9 AM
- 29 Tony M's on Creyts 7 PM

MAY ACTIVITIES

- 8 Mystery Ride Bob, leader meet at Flap Jack S. Cedar 9 Am
- 15 K'zoo Air Museum Warren, leader meet at Big Boy Charlotte 9 AM
- 23 Blessing in Hell Gene, leader meet at Millcreek Depot in Leslie 9 AM
- 27 DeLuca's 7 PM
- 29 Hudson Leather Warren, leader meet at Mason A & W 9 AM

MARCH Activities:

- 14 Sophia's in Grand Ledge W. Saginaw 9 AM
- 17 General Meeting Piazzano's 6:30 PM
- 27 Card Party 6-10 PM Dawn & Warren's
- 28 Aldaco's on S. Cedar in Lansing 5 PM



Mid Michigan Riders

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MARCH 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----------|-----------|---|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Sherie's B-day | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Sophie's in Grand Ledge 9 AM | 15 | 16 |  17 Gen. Mtg. 6:30 PM Piazzano's St. Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 Spring Begins |
| 21 Cheri's B-day | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Card Party Warren & Dawn's |
| 28 Aldeco's 5:00 PM | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |