

# Cruisin' News

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2005

## Looking Down The Road...

### A letter from the Director...

Well, OK ask me about my vacation.

Hopefully the rainy part is gone and Biketoberfest in Daytona will be dry and fun!

We have a lot of activities coming up in November and December and we need volunteers to help.

The Shotgun Raffle is on now, hope everyone is doing their share buying and selling their raffle tickets.

Congratulations to Rich Amenson on winning a pair of tickets to the UPC Dinner Dance on November 5th at Roma Hall. It would be nice to have a couple of tables of Legion Riders there helping this worthy organization.

Veterans Day is also another busy day for us with the ceremony at City Hall in the morning and the stuffed cabbage dinner in the evening. Please remember there are only 60 tickets for the dinner, hope you have yours bought already so you won't miss out.

## Safety First!

An important activity for the ALR is group riding. We ride as a group to and from events, and many events require that we ride as a unit—such as parades.

There are also few activities we participate in that have more potential to end the day in ruin.

Riding as a group requires quite a bit from those participating. Each rider is responsible for his or her own safety, true, but what you do to protect yourself in a group ride absolutely must not put a fellow rider into danger. As well as remaining aware of the environment you are riding in (traffic, pavement condition), you also must constantly remain

We heard that the Post would be closed on Thanksgiving Day, so the Thanksgiving Dinner for those who will be alone will not be held. Disappointing.

Of course, the Friday after Thanksgiving is always another big day for us with selling Goodfellows papers. As always your help here is greatly needed. Then comes the last Saturday of the month—the day of the Santaland Parade. We need riders to ride in this Parade, and other chapters have been invited to participate with us also. This parade is for the kids and the kids love to see the motorcycles.

December is also a busy time for us with all the charity work that needs our help. More talk of this at our November meeting—don't forget the Riders Christmas Party!

Enough! I am going back to my vacation activities...

Ride Safe & Stay Happy.  
**Porky**

aware of those around you and where they are.

There are a few accepted "rules" to follow when participating in a group ride. These aren't formal laws, and aren't universally followed, but they are "designed" with consideration for rider safety. If you really think about them, you might decide that there is no other way to ride! Let's take a look.

First, there's the habit (guilty here, too) we have of riding side by side and yelling comments to each other—or, heaven forbid! — holding a full conversation

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### MILE MARKERS

- Howell Post 141 Boo Bash—29 Oct
- GC-UPC Dinner Dance—5 Nov
- ALR General Membership Meeting—3 Nov 7 pm
- ALR Dinner Run—14 Nov 6:30pm
- Ladies Night Out—21 Nov 6pm
- Santa Land Parade—26 Nov

### BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER:

- Terry "TJ" Johnson—2 Nov
- "Crazy" Bob Squires—3 Nov
- Dan "Rafterman" Rafferty—4 Nov
- Adam "Walt" MiHalo—9 Nov
- Matt Squires—10 Nov
- Jeff "The Beef" Davis—11 Nov
- Dennis "Streets" Haberek and "Mother" Dave Higgins—25 Nov
- Bob "Osama" Sebes—27 Nov
- Dianna Beesley—28 Nov
- Adam Ptasnik—29 Nov

### ***Safety First! (cont.)***

*(Continued from page 1)*

over the din of traffic and our pipes. This is pretty dangerous as, most times, trying to be heard and understood robs the road of our full attention. And the road deserves—no, it DEMANDS our full attention. Besides, in a group ride, you should not be right next to each other!

“The hell!” you say. That’s right. You should not be right next to another rider.

About all you can truly control in a group ride is time and space. The idea is that you make sure you have enough SPACE between you and the bike in front of you to allow you the TIME to react to anything that occurs in front of you. You should ideally also preserve the space to your side to allow for evasive action in the event of road hazards. On the other hand, you don’t want a column that runs miles long as the tail will constantly be getting stuck at red lights. The solution? Two columns, yes, but with staggered bike positions. Each bike has its flank free, and enough time between it and the bike a head of it. The bikes in each column are half the space behind the bike in the adjacent col-

umn. Parades are generally considered “controlled environments”. You are riding on a closed path at low speed, and a side-by-side formation is appropriate.

Speaking of red lights, only a Police-escorted column of bikes should proceed through a red light. If you find yourself in the middle or end of a column approaching an intersection, obey the signal. If you don’t and are hit, YOU are at fault, and your family will find it damned difficult to collect any money to care for you if you survive the incident. A road captain or sweeper, noticing that his column has been cut off, should slow the pace of the moving column to allow those caught by the light opportunity to rejoin without having to break the sound barrier to do so.

On the subject of speed, it is important that the group obey the speed limits of the road and travel at the posted speed. Road rage is regularly blamed for various traffic incidents. Road rage is induced by many things these days, including being trapped behind overly slow-moving traffic—such as a column of bikers

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### ***A Season Of Renewal***

Sounds like a church service, doesn’t it? *NOT!* T’is the season in which Legion memberships are up for renewal—Riders, too!

Once you have your new, 2006 Legion, ALA, or SAL membership card in hand, you can also renew your ALR dues for 2006. Simply bring your new card, a completed Member Data Form (the free surprise prize inside this issue!), and your bike registration to me with \$12 at any meeting, and your renewal will be underway!

Note that you can also mail copies of all of the above (except for the \$12. That has to be a check or money order...) to me at

#### **ALR**

**Attn: Membership Renewal  
PO Box 871309  
Canton, MI 48187-6309**

As usual, the copies will be shredded, and your card will be mailed to you post haste!

Please consider getting all of your renewals in EARLY this year! As an Adjutant, I can tell you that we GREATLY appreciate those who don’t wait to the last minute.



### ***...And Don’t Call Me “Ed”***

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving it the traditional harbinger of the Holiday Season. It was a time set aside by the earliest settlers to give thanks for their survival through their perilous journey from Europe, and for their safe landing and survival in the Americas.

Today, aside from a time of feasting, it is a time to give thanks for all the great things we have.

We really do have it quite good. We here in Michigan have been spared horrific natural disasters such as they’ve experienced both around the world and here in the States this past year. We have shelter, and food to eat. We have our families, friends; our cars and bikes—even with the current state of Michigan’s economy, we still have more to be thankful for

than to regret.

But these are all material things; comfort things. Thanksgiving should also include a thought towards men and women who have served the country through whose auspices we have the freedoms and abilities to have such material things to be thankful for—particularly, those who have died doing so.

Yes, not all of the wars fought by these fine men and women served directly to preserve our freedoms. But consider this: if you’re not a vet, but were eligible to serve during any of those conflicts, but didn’t have to go, you need to be thankful for those who did go. They preserved your freedom by filling the need so that you did not have to—di you ever think of it in

those terms? Also, if they had not fought, who is to say that those they fought against would not have brought the fight to us, as the cowards of the al-Qa’ida attempted to do that 11 September 2001?

So, this year, while you’re tallying up the list of those things you are most thankful for, be sure to include our Veterans. If you have the wherewithal to do something to directly show your thanks—taking a lonely vet in to share your supper, for instance, or by sending a care package to a VA hospital or to soldiers actively serving—that means all the more.

Happy Thanksgiving!

- *Bobcat*



**Safety First (cont.)**

(Continued from page 2)  
 running down the road. If someone wishes to pass the column, do all possible to make it easy for them to do so. Don't race them, or flip them off. Just let them go by.

Learn the hand signals used to communicate through the column. It is important that these signals are passed down the column so that everyone is on the same page. If you don't know them, you can't know what you're being told.

Riding in a group is also a huge expression of your trust in those you are riding with. Be sure you are also worthy of others' trust! Do not ride outside of your abilities, and do not let others press you to do so. If you are uncomfortable with someone on your flank during runs, make sure those you are riding with are aware of it. If you are little leery of riding at highway speeds, let them know that, too. A good road captain will do his or her best to position you within the group such that you're never pressed to go beyond your capabilities or confidence level. For instance, a biker uncomfortable with speed and curves may be placed directly behind the road captain. This allows them to keep an eye on you, as well as allowing the slower riders to set the pace for the column, preventing

the ride from placing you into dangerous situations where you are asked to outride your abilities.

Also, if you've never ridden in a group, start by riding with someone you know and trust. Get used to matching their pace, and get used to holding your line (not cutting into their path, particularly while turning or in curves) with them. Once you're comfortable riding with one other, dip your toes in the waters of group riding. It's a good idea to let your road captain know that it's your first ride. Again, they'll usually position you close to the head of the column for the reasons cited above.

And, the "officials" of the ride: the road captain and his or her assistants. These folks should be selected for their experience, decision-making capability, and their sense of responsibility. If possible, these folks should have radios to link them, and a "sweeper" should be at the tail of the line in order to assist with anyone that has to leave the ride due to breakdown or other reasons.

Though you're always free to make your own decisions, remember that they have the potential to affect others when you participate in a group ride. The time for that beer is after the riding is done.

**Sympathy**

The Post 396 Chapter would like to express their deepest sympathy to Bill and Dianne Kaledas and family on the passing of Dianne's father this past month.



**Notice Pursuant To The 2 February 2005 Chapter By-laws Amendment**

Per the amendment to our bylaws voted in at the 3 February 2005 meeting of our Chapter, you will not be allowed to renew your membership with our Chapter if you intend hold membership in any other Chapter of the ALR.

Note that revocation of your membership in our Chapter will occur if dual membership is disclosed or discovered following renewal. This revocation will not precipitate a refund of dues paid for 2006.



**Elections On The Horizon!**


It's time to start thinking about who you would like sitting at the head table of our meetings during 2006! Nominations will be accepted at the January meeting.


Nominees are required to have held Chapter membership for a minimum of one year in order to hold office.




**ALR MARKETPLACE**

Your ad here helps produce the monthly newsletter (Ads are \$10 each/\$120 for 13 months)

 Pat Squires—Remerica—Integrity Realtors  
 16172 Middlebelt Livonia, MI (734) 525-4200x43  
 Pager (734) 566-6428 Email: csquires2sell@aol.com  
 Web page: www.remericaintegrity.com

 Sons of the American Legion  
**Squadron 396**  
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**Century 21 Americal**  
 Office: 734-946-9040 Cell Phone: 313-550-0847  
 Email: grinnerman@msn.com

**Dial Drugs**  
**Your neighborhood pharmacy and drugstore!**  
 8226 N. Merriman Westland, MI 48185 - (734) 427-2850

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 866-NORTHHD www.northwoodshd.com

**Only \$10 per month!**

Place your ad in **Cruisin' News!**  
 Contact  
 newsletter@americanlegionriders.net

**This Space Available**

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 (734) 397-9758

**Support The ALR**

Place your ad in **Cruisin' News!**  
 Contact  
 PO Box 871309 Canton Township, MI 48187-6309

Print ads are listed in first-come, first-served order; left to right, top to bottom. Web ad presentation is in random order. Ad proceeds fund copying, folding, tabbing, labeling, and mailing costs.

# The American Legion Riders

c/o The American Legion Post 396  
6860 Middlebelt Road  
Garden City, MI 48135

Phone: 734-397-9758  
Fax: 734-397-9758

Email: [newsletter@AmericanLegionRiders.net](mailto:newsletter@AmericanLegionRiders.net)

TO :

## Cruisin' News

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**Editor:** Pat "Bobcat" Babcock

**Contributors:**

Al "Porky" Spiteri—Director

**Sanity note:** NALRIC.com and  
[www.AmericanLegionRiders.net](http://www.AmericanLegionRiders.net) both  
go to the same site...

**Is this newsletter correctly ad-  
dressed?** Contact the editor if *any-  
thing* is wrong—name as displayed,  
address, etc. *Thanks!*

Read this online at  
[http://americanlegionriders.net/gc\\_mi\\_alr](http://americanlegionriders.net/gc_mi_alr)

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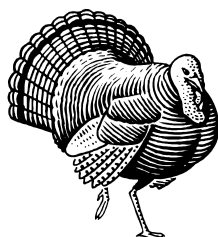
The *Cruisin' News* gives you the opportunity to get the word out to a group of motorcycle enthusiasts dedicated to the support of Veteran's issues. We're a hellatiously loyal group, well known to support those who support us. Your \$10 ad helps to produce this newsletter, getting ALR info—and your ad—to members via both mail and the web. Please advertise with us. *The ALR is a program of The American Legion—a nonprofit Veterans' organization.*



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LEGION RIDERS

*Still serving - And Riding!*

[www.AmericanLegionRiders.net/gc\\_mi\\_alr](http://www.AmericanLegionRiders.net/gc_mi_alr)



*Happy  
Thanksgiving!*

## The Runs...

### **Biker Events In and Around our Area...**

*As in the past, be sure to follow up  
on these events before attending.*

*We do our best to ensure the dates,  
location and contact info are ac-  
curate, but mistakes are easily  
made and hardly corrected...*

**20-23 Oct—Biketoberfest—**  
Daytona Beach, FL Contact  
800-854-1234



**23 Oct—Giant Motor-  
cycle Swap Meet—**  
State Fair Grounds  
Detroit, MI Con-  
tact 800-968-  
4242

**29 Oct—Post  
141 Boo**

Bash—Howell, MI

**5 Nov—UPC Dinner Dance—**  
Roma's of Garden City, Cherry  
Hill & Venoy

**11 Nov—Stuffed Cabbage and  
Shotgun Raffle—Post 396**

**25 Nov—Goodfellows Paper Drive—**Ford &  
Inkster Road in Garden City

**26 Nov—Santaland Parade—**Garden City

**3 Dec—Santaland Party—**Maplewood Center

**10 Dec—Chapter Christmas Party—**Post 396

**13 Dec—Christmas Lights Ride—**Hines Park

**16 Dec—Chapter Cookie Bake—**St. Dunstan  
Community Room

**18 Dec—Needy Family—**Maplewood Center

**1 Jan—First Ride of '06—**From Post 396

**5 Jan—Nominations for 2006 Officers**



**DID YOU GET YOUR SHOTGUN RAFFLE**

**TICKETS YET?!** Tickets to win a Remington  
870 Express Magnum shotgun, case and trigger  
lock are \$2 each or three for \$5 and are available  
at the bar, and from any of your officers. Net  
profit from ticket sales are to be split between the  
Post and our Charity Fund. Drawing will be held  
at the Veterans' Day Stuffed Cabbage Dinner, 11  
November 2005. Need not be present to win.

Happy Holidays!  
Happy Holidays!