



# The Shadow Writer

## December, 2017

Official Newsletter of the  
Shadow Riders Club of St. Louis  
[www.shadowriders-stl.com](http://www.shadowriders-stl.com)

### A Letter from the President

Shadow Riders,

It's been a good year and we've spent some great times together. Here's wishing my extended family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would like to thank those who have participated in keeping the Club running smoothly and an advanced "Thank You" to those who have yet to serve as Board members, or maybe other aspects of our operations. It's been a pleasure to serve as your president and I hope that our upcoming year is full of sunny Sunday mornings and I'm looking forward to all the new memories that we're going to make as a club. I encourage those of you who have not taken an active role in the Club to consider what you can do to help with our day-to-day needs and step up to give someone else a breather. While I don't mind serving it is always nice to be able to just show up on Sunday and go on a ride that someone else has planned and organized. Knowing how that feels drives me to want to organize some of those rides so that my friends in the Shadow Riders can enjoy "my" Sunday without having to do anything but have fun. If you enjoy the benefits of being a member then do as I do and pitch in to help with things. Everything is appreciated. We still need a nomination for vice-president, so think about maybe putting your name on the ballot for this position.

Our next big thing is our Holiday Party. Andrea has been working on it and I think everyone will enjoy what she's done. Ticket prices will remain at \$10 per person for those of you who did not organize a ride; plan a trip; serve on the Board; or participate as a support staff member. Checks can be mailed to Andrea at 58 White Doe Ct., Eureka, MO 63025. Deadline for tickets is midnight on Thursday, January 4th. This gives Andrea a chance to alter the food order a week in advance to possibly save us some money by not paying for food we might not need. I hope we have a big turn-out for this event. Andrea and her helpers will be working on obtaining door prizes for the party.

I hope you feel like your membership has been a "plus" in your life this past year as it has for us. It's so nice to look forward to the weekend, not just because we don't have to work, but we now have somewhere to go, with friends who we love, doing what we enjoy most. We look forward to having you as friends and members again in 2018. I'm just sayin' . . .

John Geiler

President

### Club Meeting (General Membership)

7:00 pm, 4th Tuesday of the Month

The Sports Café, 3579 Pennridge (West of St. Charles Rock Road, North of I-270)

**Next Meeting: December 19, 2017**

Board meeting 30 minutes before regular meeting.

### Sunday Gatherings

Sundays at 9:00 AM. We will alternate between Fuzzy's Taco in Old Orchard shopping center and the Golden Corral at 6110 S. Lindbergh. To keep our calendars updated: the November's gathering will be at Fuzzy's Taco in Old Orchard parking lot on 11/12/17

SHADOW RIDERS MINUTES - 11/28/17

Meeting started at 7pm

President John was absent and VP Erin conducted the meeting.

So far Ira is the only member on the nomination committee. Anyone else who wants to get involved and help find members willing to run for office for 2018 should contact Ira. All nominations need to be in by the end of the December meeting. At this time, the current VP and Secretary are not returning to the board. Tom Schaefer has volunteered to run for the Secretary position.

The board received one nomination for the cruiser of the year award. Anyone wanting to nominate a member for this award should contact any member of the board.

Jim reported there are currently 118 members, 6 less than this 1 year ago. Anniversaries this month are Sue Braun - 10 years and Brandt Quinn - 1 year. Jim has membership renewal applications with him and they are also available on the website. Discussion took place to possibly have the ability to complete the application and pay dues online through paypal. Ted noted that paypal would charge us for this service.

Treasurer Tony reported there was a couple of small deposits made to the bank account since last meeting and a check for \$32 was written to Jim Gianella for membership supplies, leaving a balance in the bank of \$9,836.43.

Webmaster Ted reported that the calendar is up to date with the Sunday morning breakfast gathering locations noted. Safety officer Ross has been given access to the website to update the ride calendar.

Ira absent.

Robin absent.

Laura announced that the chair of the Ride for Wishes committee Henry Barchet passed away suddenly in his sleep on November 17. At this time there is no word on who will replace Henry or if there will be a Ride for Wishes in 2018.

Dennis is planning a trip to The Wall next memorial day weekend. He is inviting members of the VFW and Ride Coaches as well as anyone else who wants to go along to contact him. John is planning a one week trip to Athens, OH next summer. Details to follow. Bob is planning on going to Sturgis again this year, camping at the Buffalo Chip. Anyone interested in joining him should talk to Bob.

Holiday party is set for January 13 at the Elk's Lodge in Manchester again this year. Andrea is planning this for us and details will come soon. Anyone who organized a ride this year will get a free ticket to the party.

Since next month's meeting takes place 12/26, we may move to the week before, which is 12/19. Erin is checking with the manager at the Sports Cafe to see if the meeting room is available for us.

Diana thanked everyone who came out to the Chili Cook Off, she took second place and won a \$100 gift card. Also, she has given proceeds of \$92 to Tony to pass on to our charity.

50/50 was \$26 won by Cliff Connoyer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

**Board of Directors**

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**November Membership**

Main Members	92
Significant Others	25
Juniors	1
Total	118

**January Birthdays**

- 09 - ALAN JOBE
- 11 - BILL JACOBS
- 12 - FRANK L. MEHRTENS
- 12 - JIM GIANELLA
- 14 - ANITA TENNIAL
- 18 - RHONDA SIMORKA
- 19 - ROBIN POTTER
- 31 - MIKE BICOPPOULOS

**No December Anniversaries**

Hello Shadow Riders,

While it is late in the riding season, I've been able to get some good rides in lately. Getting some riding in at this time of year is really good for my disposition!

If you do any riding this time of year, make sure you check your tire's air pressure! And, if we get a warm day in the middle of winter and you get the bike out, be extra careful and watch the pavement after any salt or cinders have been applied to the roads.

The winter months are also a good time to consider any maintenance that needs to be done on your bike... it's always nice to have your bike ready to go when the weather turns warm.

The 2018 Ride Schedule has not been started at this point, but if you have any date or destination that you'd like to schedule, please let me know and I'll get it on the calendar.

Ride Safe!

## **Vice President's Article (continued on Page 4)**

### California trip - Part 3

This month I'll write about the second 5 days of the California portion of the trip. Again, you'll be sorry you missed it! LOL

On the 6th day of the trip, we headed to Weaverville which is inland. Before heading inland, we continued north along the coast to Crescent City. After a few wrong turns, and a stop at the visitor's center, we made it to Jedediah Smith Redwood forest. I can't even describe the beauty and magnificence of the Redwoods. You almost have to lie down on the ground and look up to see the tops of the trees. They are unbelievably tall. I tried to take pictures but couldn't get an entire tree in the frame. If you've never seen a redwood, you need to put it on your bucket list. From there we headed inland (and back into the heat) and had a nice scenic drive to Weaverville.

The next day we headed to Tahoe City (on the northwest side of Lake Tahoe). Along the way, we drove through Lassen National forest and by Honey Lake. I've never seen anything like Honey Lake. The water was more of a milky color and it certainly didn't look like water. It was really pretty! Then it was on to Lake Tahoe where we had a great dinner and saw a beautiful sunset.

From Tahoe City, we headed to El Portal. We started the day by taking a scenic drive on the west side of the lake. At one point, the lake was in front of us and on both sides. It was pretty cool! The plan was to head to the west entrance of Yosemite but the wild fires had a different idea. The road we were supposed to take was closed due to the fires! We ended up entering the park on the east side which I thought was a fortunate detour. It allowed us to take Highway 120 through the park. However, before we got to the park, we could see the bright orange glow of one of the wild fires in the distance. We also saw the helicopters getting the water to drop on the fires. Needless to say, there were some delays but we eventually made it to Yosemite. Once we drove through the park, some of us headed to Yosemite Valley. We stopped at several spots including El Capitan and Half Dome. Again, if you haven't been there, you need to put it on your bucket list. Yosemite is quite spectacular.

### **Bike Count for November**

Honda - 26 Harley - 38 Kawasaki - 14 Suzuki - 5 Indian - 1 Yamaha - 10 KTM - 2  
Vento - 1 Big Dog - 1 CanAm - 1 Triumph - 4 Ducati - 1 Victory - 8 Polaris—1 Ural - 1

The next morning presented a new set of challenges. First we woke up to ash on our bikes and the heavy odor of burning wood. The fire must have been closer than we thought. Then, Dave Walters' (rented) Goldwing had a flat tire that wouldn't hold air. We didn't want to leave him stranded, so we hung around until he could get in touch with the rental company. He was finally able to get the bike towed, tire repaired and caught up with us at the end of the day. While we were waiting for that problem to be resolved, we were concerned about the route to Sequoia National Park. Lou drove up to the ranger station at Yosemite to discover that not only was the planned route closed, the rangers were also recommending not entering Yosemite Valley at all due to heavy smoke.

We got very lucky that we had been there the prior day or we wouldn't have gotten to see it at all! The rangers provided us with a new route and confirmed that Sequoia was open (we had heard that it was closed). Now with Dave taken care of and a new route, we headed off. We drove through part of King's Canyon as well as Sequoia National Park. We got to see both the General Sherman and General Grant which are the 2 biggest trees in the parks. Again, two awesome parks you need to visit. If we had gotten an earlier start, we would have spent more time exploring King's Canyon. I guess that's on my bucket list now. LOL

On our final day of the CA portion of the trip, we split into different groups depending on the destination for the day. Most headed back to Las Vegas. Lou, Rich and I were headed to Boulder City so we said our farewells. We decided to head through Death Valley on the way, although I was very reluctant. Lou and Rich had cooling vests but I didn't. Before we headed into the valley, I drenched myself from head to toe. It looked like I had just gotten out of a downpour. But it turned out to be a complete waste of time. I was completely dry in about 15 minutes. Oh well! I will say that parts of Death Valley are absolutely gorgeous and definitely worth seeing. At the visitor center, there was a digital sign showing the temperature. It was only 121 degrees and we have pictures to prove it. Let me tell you, that is freaking hot!!!!!! I don't ever want to drive a motorcycle in that kind of heat again. What's really unbelievable is that as we were leaving the park I felt it getting cooler. When it got "down to 100", I said to myself "that feels so much better!" Who says that about 100 degrees?! Now I can say that I've been through Death Valley on the bike and will NEVER do it again. My recommendation is to go there in a car with really good A/C.

The day wasn't quite over yet. When we got to Boulder City we headed straight to Hoover Dam. It was getting close to sunset and we didn't want to miss seeing the dam. Evidently they're allowing vehicles to drive over it again so we drove to the other side and parked to take pictures. We were there long enough that we got to see the dam in the daylight and after it was all lit up at night. On the way back to the hotel, we found a great spot to pull over and take some pictures of it with all the lights on. Again, quite spectacular!

So that's the second half of the CA part of the trip. We had the bad timing of being there during a heat wave. I think we hit temps over 100 all 5 days we were inland. And of course there were the wildfires but luckily that only caused a few detours and we didn't miss any of the highlights. Despite the heat and the fires, I think everyone on the trip would agree that it was an awesome trip! Next month I'll write about the ride home from CA to sum up the rest of the trip. I'm sure you can hardly wait.

Keep wearing your name tags!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec. 10 <i>Breakfast at Fuzzy's Taco</i>	Dec. 11	Dec. 12	Dec. 13	Dec. 14	Dec. 15	Dec. 16
Dec. 17 <i>Breakfast at Golden Corral</i>	Dec. 18	Dec. 19 <i>Monthly Meeting at Sports Cafe</i>	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
Dec. 24 <i>Breakfast at Fuzzy's Taco</i>	Dec. 25 	Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30
Dec. 31 <i>Breakfast at Golden Corral</i>	Jan. 1 	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5 Deadline for Party tickets	Jan. 6
Jan. 7 <i>Breakfast at Fuzzy's Taco</i>	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13 <i>Holiday Party at the Elks Club</i>

In Lieu of Rides and Events



Members' classified ads are free! Send to John Geiler at editor@shadowriders-stl.com or (636) 938-4299

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