



The Shadow Writer

**Official Newsletter of the
Shadow Riders Club of
St. Louis**

March 2006

A Letter from the President

Fellow Shadow Riders,

The official ride season is almost here and I'm getting excited! I'm looking forward to seeing old friends on a regular basis and riding with the best group of bikers I know. I hope you are too.

I was really pleased with the response we got by including the ride planning in our general membership meetings. It seemed to me that there was a lot more involvement and enthusiasm than we've had in the last couple of years. Turnout was strong and members came up with six new rides. There has also been commitment to organize overnight rides to Branson on July 8-9 and to the Indiana covered bridges (date yet to be set), in addition to the annual ladies' over-nighter on Mother's Day weekend. You'll hear more about these as details develop. There is a pocket-sized version of the ride schedule on page 11 of this newsletter. I hope you will find lots of rides that appeal to you. And a big thanks to all of you for your participation.

I also want to thank everyone who made a contribution to this month's newsletter. You'll see that we've gone back to twelve pages and they are all full! If you like what you read, let the author know. And think about submitting an article or story of your own for next time.

Ride safe and have fun!

Nita Fisher, President
prez@shadowriders-stl.com



~It's Not Too Late~

You can still sign up for 2006 Mileage Awards (for 7500, 10000, or 12500 miles)! Send your starting mileage (Jan1) to Bob Mueller at (636) 946-8360 or bobmuellerjpc@hotmail.com.

Club Meetings

Club (General Membership) Meeting

7:00 PM, 4th Tuesday each month

Manchester Elks Lodge, 2242 Mason Lane

NEXT MEETING: March 28

Road Captains/Safety Meeting

Will be called by the Safety Officer as needed.

SRC Board Meeting

7:00 PM, 2nd Wednesday, even-number months

Manchester Elks Lodge, 2242 Mason Lane

NEXT MEETING: April 12

Sunday Group Rides

Meet at Old Orchard Center, Manchester & Braeshire Ave. (West of Weidman Road)

Official ride season starts April 2. Rides leave promptly at 10 AM. Come early, line up your bike, have some food and visit with friends.

Membership	Mar '05	Mar '06
Main Members	105	96
Significant Others	34	27
Junior Members	0	3
Total	139	126

New e-mail address? Don't miss out!
Send it to membership@shadowriders-stl.com or call the membership coordinator (Erin) at 314-293-0404.

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Send newsletter contributions to:

editor@shadowriders-stl.com (or mail to 4945 Fox Bridge Rd, Pacific, MO 63069)

Deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

How to re-print or re-read your Shadow Riders Newsletters.

1. Go to: www.shadowriders-stl.com
2. Click on the ShadowWriter button (right side of home page)
3. When asked, your User Name is *sunday* and your password is *oldorchard*
4. Click on the issue you want and let it load
5. You can then save the file to your local hard drive if you wish.

(Note: Adobe's FREE PDF reader or equivalent is required.)

Larry Wahlers reported a working balance of \$5300.23 as of February 1st. Erin O'Donnell reported that we now have 126 members. Jeanne Garlock reported that she has long-sleeved t-shirts available for sale at \$18 each.

Nita Fisher presented the Board's budget proposal for 2006. It was based on projected income of \$7737.23, including the February 1st balance, \$1000 of sponsor fees from the two sponsors currently committed to renew, and \$800 from sale of holiday party tickets. Budgeted expenditures, in the same categories as previous years, totaled \$5990. The club voted to approve the proposed budget.

Ryugen Fisher suggested that our plans for "helmet days" to collect at street corners for March of Dimes depend on having members commit to participating. He will be asking for that commitment soon. Peggy Phillips explained that in addition to credit for the club, participants get credit for a proportionate share of the amount collected.

Kevin Polito led the group in the final session of ride planning for 2006. The Annual Ladies' Overnight Ride was tentatively set for Mother's Day weekend (May 13-14).

Laura Boone volunteered to host the dinner for the Progressive Food Ride on June 10.

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by Eric Levy

The garage smells lightly of gas, rubber and carbon. It's still cold and I can see my breath.

I hit the garage door opener, the door opens asthmatically, creaking and grinding. In the garage light, I see the object of my desire.

The Nomad sits quietly, almost forlornly, on one side of the garage, as it has all winter. Keying open the left saddlebag, I pull out the tire gauge. Stooping under the back fender, I smell tires and the light oil in the rear gearbox.

Pressure in the back is fine. Pressure's fine up front, too. The front tire is angled over, a bird sleeping with its head under its wing. Dormant.

I look longingly at the satin black finish of it, and lean across the gleaming black nacelle of the tank and insert the key into the ignition.

The electrical comes on, a ghostly light illuminating the chromed bars. The sound of the fuel injection system priming the engine hisses slightly. The gassy thrill of excitement suddenly fills my stomach.

I hold the starter button and the big V-twin roars to life, a syncopated thump THUMP thump. My hands shake slightly from the cold or anticipation.

Walking around the back, I feel the puff puff puff of the exhaust on my pants legs. The smell of exhaust is like perfume after so long.

Pulling my helmet off the shelf, I eye the smoked visor. No bugs. Turning it around, I pull it over my head, feeling like a knight girding for battle. With practiced ease, I fasten the chin strap and pull it tight under my throat.

The leather gloves are stiff with disuse. I pull one on before realizing I haven't zipped my heavy leather jacket. Grabbing the Y pull, I hear the satisfying zip as the jacket closes around me. The other glove slides on and I look at the rumbling bike. It sounds warm, sounds ready.

I throw my right leg over, taking in a little sharp breath as I stretch muscles I haven't used since fall.

Settling into the seat, I grab the bars, and check to make sure the mirrors are aligned properly. My breath steams through my open visor.

I pull the bike backwards, and into the chill of the morning. I angle the bike around and spot the sun coming up over the trees.

I kick the highway pegs down off the crash bar on the left and then the right. The gear shift clunks down from neutral into first as the transmission is engaged.

A little clutch and the bike pulls forward, anxious. A slight bit of throttle, now.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Goosing a little more power from the engine, I feel an exhilarating shiver as the bike pushes me back into my seat. I put the bike into second, and give the throttle a firmer twist.

The bike gives a throaty roar, a beast released from captivity, and leaps across the pavement. I pull my visor down, sealing my helmet but for a small strip at nose level.

I head for the countryside, the sun glinting pinkly from my mirrors. Up ahead, another motorcycle approaches from the opposite direction.

I throw my left arm out and down, my first two fingers in an inverted V, a biker salute. The other motorcyclist responds with the same sign. A brotherhood of the breeze.

The road opens up like a flower, each curve a gentle rebellion against gravity and centrifugal force. My mind empties and switches into ride mode. Sun, wind and asphalt. The world narrows to two lanes and I take flight.

Make Sure It's Ready to Ride!

by Kevin Polito

The riding season is upon us. Before you head out to enjoy the first fun ride of spring, you need to give the bike a thorough check-over to make sure it's roadworthy. Although the lists that follow seem pretty extensive, it won't take that long to check everything.

Tires and Wheels: Check air pressure. Check the tread depth of both tires. Check for cracks or bulges. Look for any nails, screws, or other objects. If you have wire-spoke wheels, check the spoke tightness. Look for leaks around bearing seals.

Controls: Check brake and clutch levers, brake pedal, and shift linkage: Move easily? No cracks or bends? No loose mounting bolts? Check control cables. Frayed or bent? Pinched? Can you turn the bars to full lock both left and right? Check fluid levels in master cylinders for brakes and hydraulic clutch. Check brake hoses. Make sure the throttle moves freely and returns by itself.

Lights and Electrical: Check battery terminals. Clean and tight? Check fluid level. Check the headlight, taillight, turn signal, and reflector lenses for cracks. All lights securely mounted? Wiring in good shape? All lights work? Turn signals flash? Horn works?

Oil and Fluids: Check engine oil level, brake and clutch fluid levels, coolant level.

Chassis: Any cracks, dents, or bends in frame? Forks and shocks travel freely? Properly adjusted? No fluid leaks? Chain in good shape, clean, lubricated, properly adjusted? If belt, is it properly adjusted? If shaft, oil level correct in final drive unit? Check all fasteners on the bike. Is every nut and bolt tight? No missing nuts, bolts, or cotter pins?

Kickstand: Not cracked or bent? Return spring in place and working? Mounting bolts not loose?

A few minutes spent checking your bike over before the first ride can save you hours of trouble down the road.

Happy trails!

by Ryugen Fisher

Well, it's been a while since I wrote anything for this newsletter, but now that I'm on the Board again, one of my various duties is to regale and perhaps even bombard you with news and views and other such stuff. No applause, save it for the end.

One of the more important duties of the Vice President is to serve as the "go-to guy" for the March of Dimes. And that finally brings us to the topic of this month's rant.

As most of you know the SRC has been either 1st or 2nd in money raised for Bikers For Babies, year after year. We owe this exalted status to some very hard working and dedicated people. They work hard all year long to make their very impressive contributions. These are people who consistently bring a minimum of \$1000 to the table. If you are one of these folks, please STOP reading now. You have earned my esteem and respect.

If you are still with me, I want to ask you right now, what are you doing to EARN YOUR PLACE when the Shadow Riders lead the parade? Did you put out some pledge cards? Talk to folks at work? Or, the main topic today, did you volunteer for HELMET DAYS?

Last year, Helmet Days were sad, sad events--not enough up front volunteers and not everyone who volunteered bothered to show up. On the last scheduled day, I even dragooned a NON-Member to help me on my corner. Don't get me wrong, you can make good money working a corner. I averaged about \$100 an hour. Other folks did good also. It adds up.

This year, I have not put any Helmet Days on the schedule. Normally we have done three of them. This year will be different. This year the General Membership will decide how many Helmet Days we will have. We will do that by volunteering. Send me an email or give me a call (ryugen@palaver.org or 314-803-5084). When I have enough volunteers, we will coordinate our first day. Then we will do it again. And if that is successful, we will do it again. It is YOUR place in the parade, the movers and shakers will be out front anyway. You want us to stand tall and be proud? Do your part to earn it. This year it really IS up to you.

'Nuff said

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by Jim and Marsha Guyer

Several years ago on a trip to Colorado with fellow Shadow Riders, we rode out to the Four Corners. Anyone who's been there knows how hot, dusty, and desolate it is. We walked and then rode through the corner of Utah and said, "If this is Utah, we've seen it!" And that was the opinion we held until this past July, when we rode into Northeastern Utah out of Colorado on Highway 40.

We were actually on our way from the Rocky Mountains to the Oregon coast and Highway 40 was a pretty direct route west. If you go that way, be warned that while the road is good and the traffic sparse, there are NO (and we mean NO) services of any kind after you leave Steamboat Springs, CO. So be sure and fill up and carry water, coffee, whatever.

We entered the Beehive State of Utah at Vernal. This little town's claim to fame is that it's the west entrance to Dinosaur National Monument. Even if you're not into dinosaurs—and we're not!--make a stop. It's very well done, with the Quarry Visitor's Center is built right over the rock walls where they're excavating fossils. Many complete skeletons from the Jurassic period have been recovered. The exhibits cover the history of the area and over 1600 dinosaur bones are on display.

While in Vernal, be sure and eat at the 7-11 Ranch Café. It's right in the center of town on Highway 40, has off street parking and good food and restrooms. The cowhide tablecloths and covered wagon décor let you know right away that you're not in the Midwest. They serve homemade biscuits for breakfast and homemade scones for lunch and dinner. We can personally vouch for the scones!

After lunch we turned the bike north at the intersection of 40 and Highway 191 and within a mile we were out of town and into some of the most beautiful county we've ever seen. The road winds through the Ashley National Forest and the Uintas Mountains. There are a lot of turnouts for archaeological sites in the Sheep Creek Canyon Geological Area. This route is also known as the Red Canyon of the Green River. The reds and greens, along with the blue of the occasional lake and the sky provide dramatic scenery. In addition to the beauty, this road had some of the most challenging curves on our trip. There were hairpin turns with 8 and 9% grades with NO bank. The speed limit signs said 10 mph and they weren't kidding!

Highway 191 continues north through the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. The area includes the 91 mile-long Flaming Gorge Reservoir which was carved out by the Green River and has been dammed. Again, just spectacular scenery. At the south end of the gorge, Highway 191 joins with SR44. Head northeast and you'll come to the Red Canyon Visitor's Center and Overlook, with views from 1400 feet above the canyon. The Flaming Gorge Dam, rising 502 feet above the bedrock, also has a visitors' center. The routes on either side of the gorge bring you back to I-80 just across the state line in Wyoming.

And in case you're wondering about the state motto, we think the beehive has some symbolism in the Mormon Church, but the official line is that the pioneers used hard work and a sense of community, much like the beehive, to turn the dessert into farmland.

April 2—Augusta BBQ (Organizer: Diana Johnson)

A new take on an old favorite. We will work our way to North Hwy 94 in St. Charles and ride through farmland that will bring us into O'Fallon. We pop out on South 94 to complete our journey through scenic twists and turns. This ride is approximately 75 miles (2 hours of riding, give or take). We end in Augusta at the American Legion Hall for BBQ pork steaks and fried chicken with all the fixings. The price for this all-you-can-eat lunch is \$8.50.

April 9—Chester, IL (Organizer: Kevin Polito)

Put your mind at ease and enjoy a peaceful, meandering ride southward as the Bluff Road follows the Mississippi River down through farms in the rich bottomland along the Illinois side. Reid's Harvest Smorgasbord in Chester will provide a wide variety of delicious dishes in its all-you-can-eat buffet.

April 16—Grafton, IL (Organizer: Rich Eudy)

One of our shorter rides, the route takes us to Alton by way of Highway 94, then up the river road to Grafton, with a short scenic tour through the Village of Elsah. Then on to the Loading Dock Restaurant.

April 23--Pioneer Cabin, IL (Organizer: Ira Steuer)

Three different clubs say they have enjoyed their visit to Pioneer Cabin, located in Willisville, IL near Chester. The ride is of medium length, not too long and not too short. Food is served family style and the owners describe their cooking as "a taste of the good old days".

April 30—Hermann, MO (Organizer: Kevin Polito)

We'll head west in a festival of winding roads through the hills and valleys of Missouri wine country. Lunch will be the buffet at Simon's Restaurant in the heart of downtown Hermann.

Motorcycle Safety Foundation

Basic and Experienced Rider classes are offered at these three locations.

SLCC at Forest Park: 314-644-9175 (classes start March 24)

Jefferson College: 636-797-3000 x144 (next available class starts June 3)

St. Charles Parks & Recreation: 636-949-3377 (classes start March 18)

March-April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 26 Road Captains Orientation Ride	March 27	March 28 7:00 pm Club Meeting Elks Lodge	March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1
April 2 10 am Augusta BBQ Ride	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7	April 8 Saturday Afternoon Out
April 9 10 am Chester, IL Ride	April 10	April 11	April 12 7:00 pm SRC Board Meeting	April 13	April 14	April 15
April 16 10 am Grafton, IL Ride	April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22
April 23 10 am Pioneer Cabin, IL	April 24	April 25 7:00 pm Club Meeting Elks Lodge	April 26	April 27	April 28	April 29
April 30 10 am Hermann, MO Ride						

Notice: Classified ads will run for a maximum of three (3) months. Contact Nita Fisher at editor@shadowriders-stl.com or (636) 257-2238 when your item is sold, or if you want to re-submit your ad or place a new one.

For Sale: 2000 Yamaha 650 V-Star Custom.

Excellent Condition. Windshield, Highway Bars, Saddlebags, Sissy Bar, Red, 89xx miles, **\$3250**

Call Dan Newton at 314-707-5284

03/06

For Sale: 2003 Valkyrie, under 3000 miles, excellent condition, Corbin seat, Memphis Shades windshield, air wings, leather bags, **\$10,500**

Leatherlyke Saddlebags (model #339) off a 2005 VTXr. Very good condition with a few barely noticeable scrapes that do not affect function. No mounting hardware included. Suggest you call Leatherlyke at 800-594-2008 to verify suitability for your application. **\$200** negotiable; will consider trade.

Memphis Shades fat boy windshield with mounting hardware for a 2005 VTXr. Windshield has less than 100 miles on it. **\$200** negotiable; will consider trade.

Contact George at 314-838-8115, 314-422-3112, or crane11@sbcglobal.net.

03/06

For Sale: New K & M air filter for VTX1800C Honda motorcycle. Make offer
5-new Suzuki chrome plated oil filters for an 800 intruder. Make offer.
1 like-new Bridgestone Patenza tire, size P225-50R17. 5000 miles on it. Make offer.

Call Chuck Etling at 314-966-2072 or Maetling@msn.com.

03/06

Want to Rent: Trailer that will hold two motorcycles for the time period of June 18th to June 25th. Trailer will be used to take a 1200R BMW and a Honda VTX1800C to the Honda Hoot at Knoxville, TN.

Contact Charles Etling at 314-966-2072 or Maetling@msn.com.

03/06

Motorcycle Rallies

Branson Motorcycle Rally, May 18-21, 2006 (www.bransonmotorcyclerrally.com)

Americade, Lake George, NY, June 6-10, 2006

Honda Hoot, Knoxville, TN, June 21-24, 2006 (www.hondahoot.com or 800-347-1289)

Wing Ding (Gold Wingers), Nashville, TN, July 3-6, 2006 (www.gwrra.org)

InZane 6, (Valkyries) Frisco, CO, July 12-16, 2006 (www.valkyrieriders.com/inzane)

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, August 7-13, 2006 (www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com)

Bikes, Blues & BBQ, Fayetteville, AR, September 27-30, 2006 (www.bikesbluesandbbq.org)



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YOU PROBABLY PAID TOO MUCH"**



2006 Ride Schedule

Date	Destination	(Organizer)	Date	Destination	(Organizer)
April 2	Augusta BBQ	(Diana Johnson)	Aug 6	Perryville Picnic	(Ryugen Fisher)
April 9	Chester	(Kevin Polito)	Aug 13	Gasconade	(Rich Eudy)
April 16	Grafton	(Rich Eudy)	Aug 20	Kimmswick	(Tom Kreuzkamp)
April 23	Pioneer Cabin	(Ira Steuer)	Aug 27	Hartbauer-McBride	(Kevin Lerch)
April 30	Hermann	(Kevin Polito)	Sept 3	Pocahontas	(Ira Steuer)
May 7	Sikeston	(Ira Steuer)	Sept 10	Lake of the Ozarks	(Larry Wahlers)
May 14	Hannibal	(Kevin Polito)	Sept 17	Elephant Rocks	(Larry McGowen)
May 21	Litchfield/Niehaus	(Mark Levin)	Sept 24	River aux Vases	(Peggy Phillips)
May 28	Springfield Races	(Bob Mueller)	Sept 30	Bikers for Babies Pre-registration	
June 4	Fort de Chartres	(Ryugen Fisher)	Oct 1	Highway 19	(Bob Mueller)
June 11	Highway 185	(Erin O'Donnell)	Oct 8	Bikers for Babies	
June 18	Brussels	(Rich Eudy)	Oct 15	Four Ferries	(Mark Levin)
June 25	Picnic – Hawn Park	(Peggy Phillips)	Oct 22	Augusta BBQ	(Nita Fisher)
July 2	Bixby	(Kevin Polito)	Oct 29	Frankenstein, MO	(Eric Levy)
July 9	Washington	(Kevin Polito)	Nov 5	Ferrin, IL	(Pete Hoyer/Cathy Noel)
July 16	Jefferson County	(Dan Newton)	Nov 12	rain date	
July 23	Weingarten Picnic	(Nita Fisher)	Nov 19	rain date	
July 30	Two Counties	(Dennis Meade)	Nov 26	rain date	



MARCH 2006

HOTLINE

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Board of Directors

Nita Fisher	President	636-257-2238
Ryugen Fisher	Vice President	636-257-2238
Sally Hight	Secretary	314-351-9883
Larry Wahlers	Treasurer	314-221-2504
Kevin Polito	Safety Officer	314-645-0501

Coordination Team

Erin O'Donnell	Membership	314-293-0404
Nita Fisher	Newsletter	636-257-2238
Ryugen Fisher	Web Master/E-Mail	636-257-2238
Ira Steuer	Saturday Night Out	314-839-3669
Jeanne Garlock	Merchandise	314-313-7570

Shadow Riders Club of St. Louis, Inc.

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St. Louis, Missouri 63129

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