



# *The Shadow Writer*

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

**November 2005**

## **A Letter from the President**

You've probably guessed that the main thing on my mind these days is the proposed by-laws amendments (you should have received them in the snail mail) and the up-coming club meeting.

As you looked at the proposals you might have thought, "we settled this two years ago and shouldn't have to deal with it again." The reality is that, during those two years, club membership has changed, the number of people who participate in our rides has changed, the willingness of other clubs to come to our events – and our interest in going to theirs - has changed. When circumstances change it is not unreasonable to reexamine old issues.

With six proposals for by-laws amendments, some of which contradict each other, you may well be feeling overwhelmed and be confused about the impact of each and which vote will accomplish what you want.

It really won't be that difficult, if we take it step by step. And I promise you that I will do my best to make the meeting and the process as painless as possible and to "un-bewilder" you before I ask you to vote.

I also promise that the rest of this newsletter has nothing in it about by-laws. So read on, and enjoy!

Nita Fisher, President  
[prez@shadowriders-stl.com](mailto:prez@shadowriders-stl.com)

**PS. Kudos to Allen Plucinski (junior), whose chili took the 3rd place People's Choice award in Ted's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off. Allen represented us well. Thank you, Allen (and family).**



The Shadow Riders Club of St. Louis  
Is a Chartered Club of the  
American Motorcyclist Association

### **~Saturday Night Out~**

On November 19, and in the rest of the winter months, Saturday Night Out will become Saturday Afternoon Out. See page 11 for details.

# Club Meetings

## Club (General Membership) Meeting

7:00 PM, 4th Tuesday each month

Manchester Elks Lodge, 2242 Mason Lane

**NEXT MEETING: November 22**

## Road Captains/Safety Meeting

Will be called by the Safety Officer as needed.

## SRC Board Meeting

7:00 PM, 2nd Wednesday, **EVEN-NUMBER MONTHS**

Olive Garden, 12990 Manchester Road

**NEXT MEETING: December 14**

## Sunday Group Rides

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

**Ride season is officially over as of Dec 1.**

Unofficial pick-up rides leave at about 10 AM, depending on weather and interest.

## Membership Stats 2005

<b>Main Members</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Significant Others</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Junior Members</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>

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### Submit your newsletter contributions to:

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

**Deadline to be in a given month's issue is the 2nd Tuesday of that month.**

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

1. Go to: [www.shadowriders-stl.com](http://www.shadowriders-stl.com)
2. Click on the ShadowWriter button on the right side of the Web 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. When Adobe Acrobat comes up, you can save the file to your local hard drive if you wish.

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

Larry Wahlers reported that we have a working balance of \$3,910.16, with about \$3,200 budgeted but not yet paid out.

Dennis Meade and Laura Boone reported that the March of Dimes Ride next year will be on October 8. Kevin Polito reported that Mark Levin was home from the hospital after suffering a broken collarbone, ribs, and ankle and a punctured lung in an accident on our October 23 Jefferson County ride. Erin O'Donnell reported that we now have 24 women riders.

Paul Garlock reported that Kevin Polito had been nominated for safety officer for next year and had accepted. From the floor, Nita Fisher was nominated for president and accepted. The other Board members were nominated for their respective positions and Sally Hight was nominated for secretary; all said they'd think about it. Paul Garlock was nominated for vice president but declined.

After a brief discussion, the club voted not to hold a marble run in 2006.

A question was raised about selecting a holiday charity this year. It was agreed that with all the competing demands, we would not adopt a club charity, but encourage members to give individually. Laura Boone told us about needs of hurricane refugees in Cape Girardeau and attendees agreed that members should be informed of that option.

### Nominations Now Open for 2006 Club Officers

To volunteer or nominate someone else for an office, contact:

**Paul Garlock** at pgarlock@arcturis.com or (636) 861-1380

**Eric Levy** at ericslevy@earthlink.net or (636) 405-0807

**Gary "Deerslayer" Deabler** at boeingtech@charter.net or (314) 724-6437

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by Kevin Polito

For a beginning rider, one of the biggest hurdles is getting over the fear of leaning. It just feels *wrong*. We associate leaning over with *falling* over. This is a case of our intuitive feelings — our gut reactions — being at odds with the physics of riding a motorcycle.

Steering is another example in which our intuition is wrong. Our first instinct is to turn the bars like a steering wheel. But we quickly learn that at anything over a walking pace, this will result in us going in the *opposite* direction.

Learning to countersteer — push the right handgrip to go right and the left handgrip to go left — is our introduction to the fact that in motorcycling, what our intuition tells us to do is often just the *opposite* of what we *should* do.

Learning to ride is as much intellectual as physical. Before we teach the muscles what to do, we need to learn a bit about the physics involved.

After countersteering, leaning is the next exercise in intellect over intuition. Physics explains why a motorcycle must bank through a corner (like an airplane), but all we need to know is that leaning is required and that countersteering is the way to make it happen.

But even knowing that leaning is essential and that more speed requires more lean, we still have that gut feeling inside saying, "I can't do this, I can't make it." To overcome the fear of doing the right thing, we need to use *counter-fear*: use the fear of the *consequences* of doing the *wrong* thing to motivate us to instead do the *right* thing.

As we know from MSF courses, braking should be done *before* we get to the corner. If we try to brake while leaned over in the corner, the braking force will cause the bike to try to stand up and go straight — two things we don't want to happen in the middle of the corner.

So what if you enter a corner at a speed that feels too fast? Intellectually, you know that more speed requires more lean. But often the fear takes over. This is when you need to engage *counter-fear*. Remind yourself what will happen if you give in to fear and make the *wrong* move — in this case, choosing *not* to push harder on the bar and lean farther.

If you choose not to lean farther, what other options do you have? Let's take a look at them. There are basically three: (1) brake hard; (2) swing wide and cross the yellow line into the oncoming lane; (3) freeze up and ride off the road.

Option 1 will most likely cause the bike to stand upright and go straight, sending you off the road. If you brake really hard, you could lock either or both tires and skid out of control.

Option 2 will put you in the path of any oncoming traffic. You could become the hood ornament on a car or truck. If you cross the yellow line, see the oncoming car, rethink your decision, and then decide that leaning is not such a bad idea, you'll have to lean a *lot* farther to get back in your own lane than if you had just leaned farther in the first place.

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Option 3, freezing up and riding off the road, will in the best-case scenario send you out onto a perfectly level, billiard-smooth field where you'll have only to contend with the limited traction of grass. Much more likely is that you will drop off into a ditch and be thrown from the bike or make sudden lethal contact with a solid object such as a tree.

Do the consequences of options 1, 2, and 3 scare you? They should. They should scare you a lot more than applying more pressure to the grip and leaning farther. But let's look at the consequences of doing the *right* thing, leaning farther, because in the back of your mind, that move also has scary consequences.

Every motorcycle has a limit as to how far it can lean before hard parts of the bike make contact with the pavement. Even if nothing were to make contact with the pavement, at some angle, the tires will run out of traction.

Few motorcycles will run out of tire before they run out of cornering clearance, so scraping the pegs or footboards will be the first indication that the bike is running out of clearance. The scraping noise can be startling at first, but it's not necessarily the sign of impending doom. Most pegs and footboards are designed to fold up an inch or two, so when the scraping starts, there's still a little leaning left.

If you keep leaning till every bit of cornering clearance is used up, what will happen is that the hard part that will no longer give will lever the rear tire off the pavement. When this happens, the bike will fall down on the low side.

Keep in mind that you have to lean pretty far to scrape something, and you have to lean *awfully* far to use up every last bit of cornering clearance.

But if you run out of clearance and the bike goes down on the low side, the most likely consequence is that you and the bike will slide across the pavement, with the bike in front of you. Your riding gear will have more friction than the bike's metal parts, so you will slow down more quickly than the bike will. That is, the bike will keep sliding on ahead of you.

A low-side crash is much preferable to a high-side crash, in which the bike jerks sideways and throws you off. In a high-side crash, you could end up sliding down the road with the bike sliding *behind* you, and when you stop sliding, the bike could run into you.

But in the scenario we're talking about, in which you overcome your fear and lean farther, the most likely consequences are: (1) you make it through the corner, (2) you scrape the peg through the corner, or (3) you use up all available clearance and have a low-side crash.

All three consequences of doing the *right* thing are better than any of the consequences of doing the *wrong* thing. The worst consequence of doing the right thing — the low-side crash — is better than hitting a car head-on, hitting a tree, or being catapulted off the bike.

So if you enter the corner with more speed than you like, and you feel a little bit over your head, look *through* the corner to where you want to go, use *counter-fear* to overcome your fear of leaning, and then countersteer to lean the bike through the corner.

*by Mike Fuhro*

I received a ticket from the City of Manchester Police for running a red light on Sunday morning, July 3, 2005, before going out with the club for our Sunday ride. After sitting at the intersection for several minutes waiting for the light to change, I made a left turn from westbound Carmen Road onto Highway 141.

I decided to fight the ticket. I can get pretty anal, and ended up assembling a 20 page document that contained research material on inductive loop detectors (those pesky strips cut into the pavement that don't always detect motorcycles), diagrams of the intersection and where my bike was, as well as pavement and weather conditions that influenced where in the traffic lane I approached the light. Then I threw in some info on Missouri and City of Manchester traffic regulations, the text of existing statutes in Tennessee and Minnesota that permit proceeding through red lights if they malfunction and do not detect a motorcycle, and pending legislation in the Missouri Legislature modeled after the Tennessee and Minnesota statutes.

I took photos of the intersection from several angles. Exactly one week later I went up to intersection at the same time, and with some help, made a video that showed me sitting at the red light for over six minutes. The video also contained footage of the light functioning properly when cars approached. The Court Clerk for the City of Manchester said they could accommodate VHS tapes, so I edited the video and cut a 15 minute VHS tape.

My defense was based on the premise that no matter what I did in that situation, I had to break the law. I mentioned this to the Court Clerk when I called to ask if they could accommodate a video. When I arrived on my court date I told the Court Clerk they might want to put me last, since I had a twenty page document I was going to introduce as evidence, as well as a 15 minute video and some photos. I took a seat and a couple of minutes later was asked to approach the bench. I was informed the charges were being dropped. I was never told precisely why. One theory is that my brilliant defense was air tight, and I was clearly an innocent man. Some contemporary intellectuals have suggested they just didn't want to be bored to death.

I'd be happy to provide my 20 page document to any other hardened criminals charged with similar felonious acts. (You can contact me at [mikestl777@charter.net](mailto:mikestl777@charter.net).)

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On January 14, 2006, the Shadow Riders Club will hold their annual holiday party.

This year's festivities will take place at:

Sheraton Four Points Hotel

3400 Rider Trail South (Located behind Jack-in-the-Box)

Earth City, MO 63045 (Phone: 314-291-6800)

Our meal will be served buffet style. For your dining pleasure we will be serving London Broil with peppercorn sauce, Chicken Alfredo pasta, potatoes, vegetable, Caesar salad, and dessert. You will receive one free drink coupon. The cash bar will be Happy Hour priced. Bottled beer is \$2.75, wine and well drinks are \$3.00. The Sheraton Hotel is also offering us special room rates of \$59.00. Tell them you are with the Shadow Riders to get the special rate.

This year's band is Skyline. You heard them at our party last year. You also heard them at the Bikers for Babies event as well as local establishments throughout our community. They play good classic rock and dance music.

We will have attendance prizes and will be inviting our sponsors. This event is for adult members only and their guest. You can register and pay at November's or December's general membership meetings by seeing Diana Johnson. You can also mail your check directly to Diana at 600 Nancy Dr., St. Charles, MO 63301 or call 636-916-4790 for more information. December's GM meeting is the **absolute last day** you will be able to register and pay.

Cocktails and check-in at 6:00 pm, food served at 7:00 pm, and the band will be performing from 8:00 – midnight. Please come join in the festivities; maybe win an attendance prize, meet your sponsors, enjoy some really tasty food, and do a little dancing. You may just have a GREAT time.

## HOLIDAY PARTY RETURN STUB

(print and send with your check)

**Return stub & check to:**

**Diana Johnson**

**600 Nancy Dr.**

**St. Charles, MO 63301**

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**@ \$15 per person =**

**Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Because there are so many needs as this holiday season approaches, and no good way to choose among them, the club members at the October meeting decided not to adopt a club charity this year, but to encourage members to give individually, as and where they saw fit. They also agreed that we should share information about the following need.

About 400 families who fled here from Hurricane Katrina were placed in Cape Girardeau rather than in the shelters created in and around St. Louis. The main reason was cheaper “rent.” But that area cannot handle them well, there are not enough jobs, and they are largely being overlooked when it comes to government support.

They desperately need winter coats, diapers, toys for the kids at Christmas, and food. Other contributions would, of course, be welcome. You can bring your donations to the next general membership meeting or drop them off at the March of Dimes office (2001 S. Hanley). Laura Boone will see that they get where they need to go.

**Motorcycle Safety Foundation  
Basic and Experienced Rider  
classes are offered at these three  
locations.**

**SLCC at Forest Park: 314-644-9175  
(classes start again in March)**

**Jefferson College: 636-797-3000  
x144 (classes start again in March  
or April)**

**St. Charles Parks & Recreation:  
636-949-3377 (classes start again in  
the spring)**

**New e-mail address?**

**Please let us know, so you won't miss out  
on any SRC news.**

**E-mail: [membership@shadowriders-stl.com](mailto:membership@shadowriders-stl.com)  
or call the membership coordinator.**



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# Nov-Dec 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 20 10:00 am Augusta BBQ Ride	November 21	November 22 7:00 pm Club Meeting Elks Lodge	November 23	November 24 Thanksgiving Day	November 25	November 26
November 27 10:00 am Riders' Choice Ride	November 28	November 29	November 30	Dec 1	2	3
4 10 am Pick-up ride	5	6	7	8	9	10 Saturday Afternoon Out
11 10 am Pick-up ride	12	13	14 7:00 pm SRC Board Meeting Olive Garden	15	16	17
18 10 am Pick-up ride	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27 7:00 pm Club Meeting Elks Lodge	28	29	30	31

**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**

07/05

**For Sale: 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. \$200.00 negotiable; will consider trade.

**Memphis Shades fat boy windshield** with mounting hardware for a 2005 VTXr. Windshield has less than 100 miles on it. \$200.00 negotiable; will consider trade.

**Contact George at 314-838-8115, 314-422-3112, or [crane11@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crane11@sbcglobal.net).**

08/05

**For Sale: 1999 Honda Valkyrie Standard**

43K miles, newer tires, bigger windshield, rejetted, 6 brothers pipes, lots of extra chrome; studded seats and back rest, LeatherLyke Bags. Great shape, always garaged and never down. Bought an Interstate and need the room. **\$7500**

**Call Steve at 636-257-4515 or e-mail for pics to [valkrdr\\_2@hotmail.com](mailto:valkrdr_2@hotmail.com)**

10/05

**For Sale: Shadow Riders Merchandise**

We still have short-sleeved t-shirts (\$15), sleeveless t-shirts (\$12), ladies' tank tops (\$10), large club patches (\$30), small club patches (\$15), and coolie cups (\$1.50).

**Contact Merchandise Coordinator Jeanne Garlock at [jgarlock@brickpartnership.com](mailto:jgarlock@brickpartnership.com) or 314-313-7570**

## Upcoming Motorcycle Rallies / Conferences

**AMA International Women & Motorcycling Conference, June 30-July 3, 2006, Athens, GA**

Conference will be held at the Classic Center just south of the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and will include expert seminars and panel discussions geared toward female riders, plus vendors, industry representatives, demo rides on the new bikes, riding skills day, and parties. Price to AMA members who register by December 31, 2005, is \$150; add \$25 for later registration.



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**"IF YOU BOUGHT SOMEWHERE ELSE,  
YOU PROBABLY PAID TOO MUCH"**



### Saturday Night Out

With the end of daylight savings time, Saturday Night Out will become Saturday Afternoon Out. We will start after lunch, ride to a snack or dessert stop, and be home before dark.

This month the event will be on Nov. 19, the 3rd Saturday of the month, to avoid a competing event on the 2nd Saturday. We'll meet at Old Orchard Center at 1:15 pm for departure at 1:30 pm. A pleasant, scenic fall ride of about 1½ hours will take us to Hank's Cheese Cake on Big Bend Blvd. for dessert.

### SRC Welcomes New Members

**Jan Herman** (rides a 2003 purple Honda Shadow Spirit 750)

**Allen Plucinski** (rides a 2005 black Suzuki S40)

**Jay and Tina Meyers** (ride a 1998 black Kawasaki Vulcan)

**David and Jane Potter** (ride a 2005 gray BMW K1200LT)

**Dede Clinch** (rides a 2006 red Honda Shadow VLX)

**Neil Clinch** (rides a 2006 black Honda Shadow Spirit)



**NOVEMBER 2005**

***HOTLINE***

**636-336-1772**

**www.shadowriders-stl.com**

**Board of Directors**

<b>Nita Fisher</b>	President	<b>636-257-2238</b>
<b>Dennis Meade</b>	Vice President	<b>314-845-9646</b>
<b>Cathy Eidson</b>	Secretary	<b>314-426-7460</b>
<b>Larry Wahlers</b>	Treasurer	<b>314-221-2504</b>
<b>Kevin Polito</b>	Safety Officer	<b>314-645-0501</b>

**Coordination Team**

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

***Shadow Riders Club of St. Louis, Inc.***

**3149 Crystal Lake Dr.**

**St. Louis, Missouri 63129**

**Please send address changes  
to the above address**