



The Shadow Writer

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

September 2005

A Letter from the President

This is my last letter before this year's March of Dimes (Bikers for Babies) Ride. Since this is a special Ride (10th Anniversary of both the St. Louis Ride and the club), it would be nice to have ALL of our members show up for the Ride, wearing their club colors. (hint, hint) The latest club-wide fund raising effort was the casino night at Ameristar. We had a very good turn-out, the music was fun and nostalgic, and the silent auction brought in much more than I thought possible. Thanks to all who turned out for the event, to Ryugen for spinning the tunes, to those of you who bid so generously, and especially to Jeanne Garlock (and Paul) for all the hard work in putting together the auction baskets!

We have a bunch of new members for this month--ten of them. I believe this is more growth in any single month that was not a "renewal" time since I have been a member of the club. I'm encouraged that the club is attracting new people and our "new and improved" message of "ride, enjoy, repeat" is getting across. So keep inviting your friends and family, and I will keep trying to learn new names and faces. Ryugen says that as a retired teacher I should find that easy to do—emphasizing the "teacher" part. I, of course, point to the word "retired" as my reason for not remembering all the new faces and names the first time out. Please remember your name tags to give this ol' gal a fighting chance.

On another note, Kevin has really stepped into the Safety Officer's spot. The pre-ride notices and road captain messages are something I look forward to. Big kudos, Kevin. I hope we continue to have the good fortune of decent weather and turnout for the rides. I'm happy to say we haven't had any serious mishaps for a while. Let's keep riding safe! Weather should be getting cooler and be more comfortable...but watch those fallen leaves on the curves!

Nita Fisher, President
prez@shadowriders-stl.com



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

~Bikers for Babies Ride~

**Sunday, September 25, 1 PM,
from the St. Charles Family
Arena. See details on page 8.
Don't miss it.**

Club Meetings

Club (General Membership) Meeting

7:00 PM, 4th Tuesday each month

Manchester Elks Lodge, 2242 Mason Lane

NEXT MEETING: September 27

Road Captains/Safety Meeting

6:30 PM, BEFORE CLUB MEETING, as needed

Manchester Elks Lodge, 2242 Mason Lane

NEXT MEETING: September 27

SRC Board Meeting

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

Olive Garden, 12990 Manchester Road

NEXT MEETING: October 12

Sunday Group Rides

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

Official ride season began April 3. Rides leave promptly at 10:00 A.M. Arrive early, line up your bike, and visit with your friends.

Membership Stats 2005

Main Members	129
Significant Others	38
Junior Members	2
Total	169

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Submit your newsletter contributions to:

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
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 \$4,210.40, with about \$3,600 budgeted but not yet paid out.

Dennis Meade and Rich Bayers reminded us of the September 19 Bikers for Babies Pre-Registration at Krieger's in either South County Center or Riverport. Volunteers are still needed to help on the day of the Ride. Peggy volunteered her employer's parking lot on Earth City Expressway as a place to meet so we can enter the Ride grounds together.

Kevin Polito reported the first run of the "faster-group" experiment seemed to go well. Sally Hight and Diana Johnson volunteered to help Laura Boone with this year's holiday party. Other volunteers would be welcome. Nita made a request for nominating committee members for the 2006 club officers.

Ray Cromer, former Shadow Rider, gave a presentation on bike detailing. He shared many valuable tips for cleaning paint, chrome, and windshields without damage. He offered a 10% discount to the club if we submitted a "substantial" order for products in his Wax Station catalog.

Orders from Wax Station

Ray said that any orders he receives in the next several days via e-mail or phone will get club pricing. He will bring the orders to the September GM meeting, bagged with an individual invoice. You can pay by cash, check, or credit card. Contact him at 636-207-0812 or mail@waxstation.com. If you weren't at the meeting to get a catalog, you can view products at www.waxstation.com.

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By Peggy Phillips

In September, we think of the weather cooling off, and that's always a great time to be on your bike and feeling the cool air on your face as you ride down the road. But which road?

Here are some thoughts for you to consider in your trip planning.

The Natchez Trace was the "official" trade path between southern Mississippi and mid-Tennessee. Natives and traders walked it, or rode on horseback as they traversed that area of the growing country. Now, that path has been memorialized, and modernized, and contained within a National Park System. It stretches 444 miles between Natchez, Mississippi and Nashville, Tennessee.

For my part of it, I gathered 3 riding buddies and we took off for Natchez, MS over a long Memorial Day weekend. There was a lot of flat agricultural land between St. Louis and Natchez. You could sometimes see for miles out toward the horizons. Natchez, on the other hand, is located in a foothills (or big bumps) area, so you begin to get the feeling of some twisties as you approach southern Mississippi, just before you get to Natchez. There is a real antebellum feeling around the city of Natchez, with some good seafood places to eat and lots of historical markers to explore.

As you leave Natchez on the Trace, you are isolated from the loud traffic of the interstates, and can experience the feeling of being on a very old pathway. Because it's in the National Park System, no commercial traffic is allowed. It's a well-paved two-lane with manicured edges that extend just far enough on either side to give you the park-like setting. At times, it widens out and there are campgrounds and lakes for visitors to enjoy. There are even some short stretches of the original trace along the way, and you can leave the regular roadway and take a spur that travels the actual trail of the original trace.

Along the way, we found visitor centers, historical sights to see, waterfalls & caves that can be seen from a short hike, and the quiet of being on a less-traveled road. You do have to exit off the Trace to get gas and food, so it's a good idea to check out the map, and plan your exits into towns that will provide. Middle and northern Mississippi were fairly flat, and Tennessee was rolling hills. The final 30 or so miles on the northern edge of the Trace are what I call a "series of zen curves". That's my description of those curves for which you find your proper gear, and then just lean, lean, lean...no acceleration or braking needed...just perfect curve after curve after curve.

It can be done from St. Louis in a long weekend, or with a couple extra days tacked on either side....that choice will depend on your riding style and how long you can stay in the saddle each day. I think it's a ride well worth considering. Information at www.nps.gov. Search "Parks" section for Natchez Trace Parkway.

Ride Safe & Have Fun Out There !!!

De-mystifying the black art of tire designations (Adapted from a 2003 American Motorcyclist Association article by Bill Andrews)

It's a rotten feeling. You look down at your tire, and there's no denying that those nice deep grooves have become a shadow of their former selves. It's a goner, and it's getting worse with every mile. As you look around your local shop for a new tire, you see all sorts of letters and words on the sidewalls. Would you believe just about everything you need to know about a tire is contained there? It's really not that difficult to decipher the black art of tire designations, and knowing what you've got makes you a well-educated consumer-which is never a bad thing.

Tire size

First off, there's those big numbers and letters that may read something like 130/90 16, or MT90 16. These numbers indicate the size of the tire, and the rim it's designed to go on. In this case, these are both the same size tires.



The first series of numbers, 130/90 16, is known as the metric designation. The 130 designates the tire's width in millimeters, measured in a straight line through the tire from one edge of the tire's tread to the other. The second number, 90, represents the aspect ratio between the tire's width and its height, or how tall a tire is in relationship to its width. ... In this case, the tire is 90 percent as tall as its width, or 117mm. The last number, 16, is the tire's rim diameter expressed in inches.

The other series of numbers and letters, MT90 16, represents the same tire size, but it's expressed in an alphabetical code. M means the tire is designated for motorcycle use, T is the tire width code, 90 is the aspect ratio and 16 is the rim diameter.

Size

Con-

Front Tires				Rear Tires					
Metric	Alpha	Metric	Alpha	Metric	Alpha	Metric	Alpha	Metric	Alpha
80/90	MH90	110/90	MN90	110/90	MN90	130/90	MT90	150/80	MV85
90/90	MJ90	120/90	MR90	120/80	MP85	140/90	MU90	150/90	MV85
100/90	MM90	130/90	MT90	120/90	MP85			>150—metric only	

version Chart

Speed and construction

Interspersed with these sizing numbers, you're likely to find letters such as 160/70**VR** 16, or 170/60**R** 16**V**. These two extra letters indicate speed rating and tire construction. The letter R indicates ...radial construction and B means belted bias. Each letter in the speed rating notes the maximum speed a tire can sustain under its recommended load capacity. For instance, V is equivalent to a maximum speed of 149 mph. (see following chart)

(Continued on page 7)

October 2 – Elephant Rocks (Don Owen)

Our destination is Elephant Rocks State Park near Pilot Knob, Missouri. There you will see giant granite rocks standing end-to-end like a line of circus elephants. The coarse crystalline red granite formed by cooling magma has weathered into huge, rounded boulders, one of the largest of which weighs 680 tons. The route has not yet been determined, but will likely include a lot of scenic back roads. Picnic sites are available if you want to pack a lunch. Near-by towns offer restaurant alternatives.

October 9 – Meramec Caverns

Meramec Caverns, off I-44 in Stanton, Missouri, is the largest single cave formation in the world. Its expansive rooms, beautiful stalactites and stalagmites, unusual onyx and towering colorful formations make it a true “show cave.” (It also has a history as a hide-out for Jesse James and other outlaws.) A tour is available for \$14. While it is fewer than 50 miles on I-44, expect to meander through more scenic back country on our ride there.

October 16 – Missouri River Bottoms (Mark Levin)

Our October 16 ride will take us through the curving roads, river bottoms and bluffs of North County and across the Mississippi River (twice). The weather should be perfect, the leaves may have begun to turn color and the company is always great. The food should be pretty good, too.

October 23 – Jefferson County (Paul Thurman)

If you like the twisties, this ride is for you. It’s Paul’s version of Deal’s Gap – and you don’t even have to leave the area. You’ll ride hundreds of curves, including some hairpins, although it will be more than 11 miles!

October 30 – City Ride / Eads Bridge (Ira Steuer) — return to standard time

This ride consists of taking scenic surface roads which lead us past some of the best historical homes and landmarks in St. Louis. We will tour past the front of the Arch and river front, ride across the historic Eades Bridge, then loop back across the Martin Luther King Bridge. Lunch is planned at a locally popular neighborhood bar and grill at Laclede's landing. After lunch the ride continues south along Broadway





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(Continued from page 5)

Rating	Q	S	T	U	H	V	W	Y	Z
MPH	99	112	118	124	130	149	168	186	>149

Load and pressure codes

The next number or letter you may encounter is the load index. This is the weight the tire is capable of handling when properly inflated. It's usually expressed in either a numerical or a letter code. Most manufacturers will also spell out on the sidewall what that maximum load is so there's no guessing—you'll find it usually listed with the tire's maximum air pressure.

It's good to note here that you should only fill a tire to the motorcycle manufacturer's recommended level. Besides under-inflation, one of the biggest mistakes people make with their tires is to overfill them to the maximum level indicated on the sidewall. This leads to poor handling and premature wear. If in doubt, contact your local dealer or go to the tire manufacturer's website. Most include the recommended pressure for each motorcycle. And be sure to measure pressure when the tire is cold. Measuring hot will skew the numbers.



Rotation and balance marks

One of the more critical marks on a motorcycle tire is the rotation arrow. Today's specialized tires generally have a tread pattern that must go in only one direction. Some tread patterns are designed to disperse water, and by mounting the tire backwards, they won't work. The other reason for noting wheel direction is the manufacturing process. The tread rubber is initially a flat strip that's cut to length, at an angle, and then spliced together with the two ends overlapping. Under acceleration or hard braking, a tire mounted backwards will try to peel back this splice.

Another mark to look for when mounting a tire is a painted balance dot or dots. Most tires are pre-balanced by the manufacturer, who put a mark on the tire indicating where the valve stem should line up.

Born on date, and wear's the tread?

Look on the side for a raised block with four digits; it's usually next to the U.S. DOT tire identification number. The first two indicate the week, and the last two are for the year. For example, 1702 would indicate the tire was manufactured in April, 2002. Prior to 2000, there were only three digits, with the last one indicating the year.

Some tires may have raised triangles, or the letters TWI, to show where the tire wear indicators are in the tread. When these marks are equal to the tread, it's time for new tires.



Anything else?

Other information on the sidewall is usually spelled out: "tubeless" (TL) or "tube type" (TT), the tire ply, composition and materials used.

Now you know all you need to know to have an intimate conversation with the black hoops around your rims.

September 25—March of Dimes (Bikers for Babies) Ride

The ride stages out of the St. Charles Family Arena. Registration is from 10-12:45; lunch is 11-12:45 before the ride. The ride, beginning at 1:00 pm, will be about 60 miles. Be sure to tell the parking guides you are with the Shadow Riders.

Those who want to ride into the Family Arena together can meet at the CCA Global parking lot, 4301 Earth City Expressway, between 9:15 and 9:30 am. We will leave the parking lot promptly at 9:45 for the short ride to Family Arena.

CCA Global is on the corner of Shoreline and the southbound lanes of Earth City Expressway (which are "one way"). From I-70, take Earth City Expressway North, go to the 3rd stoplight, which is Shoreline. Turn left onto Shoreline. Go thru the next stoplight (at the junction of E.C. Expressway southbound lanes), about 50 feet to the parking lot entrance for CCA Global. From I-370, exit Earth City Expressway South, go thru the lights at St Charles Rock Road and Ryder Trail North; the next light is Shoreline. Turn right on Shoreline and go about 50 feet to the parking lot entrance (on your right). The building number, 4301, is on the front pillar of the office bldg, and CCA Global Partners is in neon letters at the top of the bldg.

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

**SLCC at Forest Park: 314-644-9175
(registration and classes now open)**

**Jefferson College: 636-797-3000
x144 (registration and classes now
open)**

**St. Charles Parks & Recreation:
636-949-3377 (registration and
classes now open)**

New e-mail address?

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

**E-mail: membership@shadowriders-stl.com
or call the membership coordinator.**



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Sept-Oct 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 25 10:00 am Bikers for Babies Ride	September 26	September 27 6:30 Road Captains 7:00 pm Club Meeting Elks Lodge	September 28	September 29	September 30	Oct 1
2 10:00 am Ride to Elephant Rock	3	4	5	6	7	8 Saturday Night Out
9 10:00 am Ride to Meramec Caverns	10	11	12 7:00 pm SRC Board Meeting Olive Garden	13	14	15
16 10:00 am Missouri River Bottoms Ride	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:00 am Jefferson County Ride	24	25 6:30 pm Road Captains 7:00 pm Club Meeting Elks Lodge	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 am CST City Ride / Eads Bridge	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: 1987 Harley Davidson Sportster XLH 1100.

Runs GREAT. Must see and HEAR to appreciate! S&S carbs, Screaming Eagle ignition, Racing cam, Hayes clutching system, Mustang seat w/ backrest; 21 inch spoke front tire, Solid back wheel, Custom paint by War Dog's.

* price reduced to \$7,600*

Call Diana @ 636-916-4790

08/05

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.

08/05

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 or 314-313-7570

Upcoming Motorcycle Rallies / Conferences

If you're planning to attend one of the rallies let Nita know (prez@shadowriders-stl.com or 636-257-2238) so folks can get together if they wish.

Bikes, Blues & BBQ, Fayetteville, AR, September 28-October 1, 2005 (details at www.bikesbluesandbbq.org)

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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SRC Welcomes New Members

Joe Thompson (rides a 2003 black Kawasaki Vulcan 1600 Classic)

Timm Eckenroth (rides a 2003 black Kawasaki Vulcan 800)

Don Baker (rides a 2002 red Kawasaki Mean Streak)

Jeff Kuehn (rides a 2002 black Kawasaki Mean Streak)

Brian Potts (rides a 2000 black Honda Shadow Ace)

Dale Bennett (rides a 2001 Harley FXDP)

Brenda Lerch (rides a 2003 Illusion blue Honda VTX 1300S Retro)

With **Cierra** and **Gabrielle** as juniors

Penny Williams (rides a 2003 Silver Suzuki Burgman 650)

Keith Brewer (rides a 1998 Black BMW R1200C)

Ian Brubaker (rides a 2004 Blue Suzuki GS-500F)



SEPTEMBER 2005

HOTLINE

636-336-1772

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Shadow Riders Club of St. Louis, Inc.
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