



## *The Shadow Writer* *September, 2014*

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

### **A Letter from the President**

Hey Everybody,

We are starting to get into my favorite time of the year to ride. We had a bit of a hot spell but things are starting to cool off for some great riding. It's time to start cranking some miles on the bike. I was able to make it the last couple of weeks for Sue's and Cliff's rides, which were well-organized and well-attended. A good time was had by all.

I am looking forward to Frank's and Erin's rides in the upcoming weeks, but as I was looking at the calendar, it appears that we have quite a few open Sundays. Rides still need to be planned for those. If you could just take a few minutes to look at our ride schedule posted beneath the calendar on the website, maybe you'll find a Sunday you can volunteer to organize. Even the Sunday of Bikers for Babies needs to have a ride planned for those who are not participating in that event. Remember, your favorite ride this year is the one you organized yourself.

We had a great time on the trip to the Canadian Rockies. After traveling over 6,000 miles in 15 days, I'm pretty sure around the world in 80 days would be a piece of cake. Glacier National Park in the Canadian Rockies is truly spectacular! I could tell you all about it, but it's something you'd really have to tour on a motorcycle yourself to truly appreciate. I consider myself blessed to have had the opportunity to take these long adventures every year, and being able to do it with a great group of friends is just icing on the cake. We had our share of adversities – road construction, hail in South Dakota, rain, cool temps, avalanche, etc. – but we always worked through it together and made the most of every day.

Speaking of trips, Bikes, Blues and BBQ is coming up at the end of the month. If you've never taken a trip with the club, this is a good one to get started with. It's a short, easy-going, 4-day trip on some great motorcycle roads and a pretty cool event. You can find all the info on our website.

It's that time of year again when we need to start thinking about electing our 2015 board of directors. If you think you might be interested in running for office, or you know someone who would make a great officer, come to the monthly meeting and let's talk about it.

Let's go for a ride together, Lou Soucy

#### **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: September 23, 2014**

Board meeting 30 minutes before regular meeting.

#### **Sunday Rides**

April through November:  
Meet at Old Orchard Center, 14128  
Manchester, behind Arby's. Plan to arrive around 9:30, line up your bike, then visit with friends. Rides leave at 10 a.m.

SR general membership meeting Aug 26/14

Eric reported on the re-do of the road captain program. John is putting together a ride for a Saturday or Sunday in the near future to refresh ride guidelines for new and old road captains. Anyone wanting to be included in this ride should contact Eric or John.

Treasure Russ reports membership dues above budget and account in good shape.

Webmaster Ted reported that merchandise has been removed from SR website at the request of Lou. The issues some members were having with the calendar have been resolved.

SNO coordinator Ira reported a small group on August 9 at the Feasting Fox. He's looking at putting together an outing to Classic Motorcycle Museum and Route 66 museum in the future. Also may do a ride to the war museum at Jefferson Barracks.

Dave Simorka reported that Polaris Sling Shot bikes are arriving now at Big St. Charles Motorsports. Come over and check them out, they are very cool.

Diana Johnson reported the car and bike show at Wildwood City Hall had a light turnout due to the heat. She manned Shadow Riders table to promote our club.

Bob Meuller reported the small group that went to Sturgis had a great time, lots of entertainment.

Russ is hosting a group trip to Hot Springs, AR September 13-18, anyone interested in joining, contact Russ Davis.

Bikes Blues & BBQ in Fayetteville, AR is September 25-28. Again this year, a group of Shadow Riders will be attending. If you haven't yet booked your room, check with Dave Simorka for arrangements with a local motel.

Chili Cook-Off is set for October 25 at St. Charles Harley Davidson. Come on out and support the cook-off queen.

50/50 \$19 was won by Robin

**Board of Directors**

Lou Soucy, <i>President</i>	314-731-4166 LouSoucy60@Yahoo.com
Eric Johnston, <i>Vice President</i>	636-379-7299 EKJohnston@Charter.net
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**Coordination Team**

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**August Membership**

<b>Main Members</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Significant Others</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Juniors</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>

**October Birthdays**

06 - KAREN JOHNSTON  
 07 - RON HUGHES  
 09 - DEBORAH JOHNKE  
 10 - ALLEN PRICE  
 13 - JANET SHANKS  
 14 - CHRIS SCHWEITZER  
 15 - DAVE WALTERS  
 15 - TERRY BROOKMAN  
 28 - DAVE SIMORKA

**September Anniversaries**

No Anniversaries in September

Hi All,

The last couple of Shadow Rider meetings have been light in information because much of the board and members were away on some great trips. One to Arkansas and the other to the Canadian Rockies. We were able to fill much of the meetings with stories from members on their recent rides.

The next meeting Sept 23, will be packed with information and I hope updates from those that joined the trip to Canada. After riding 6200 miles and arriving home on Saturday, our President, Lou attended the Sunday ride the very next day. Now, that's a hard core rider.

Pete Hoyer, a long time member, just got back from his bike trip last month to Alaska with his significant other, Cathy. I hope Pete will attend our next meeting and give us a report on his adventure.

Our club picnic is booked for Oct 5, if you would like to volunteer to help or bring something come to our next meeting and speak with Chris Schweitzer our organizer. He will be there to give us an update on his plans.

We would like to update our Road Captain list. I have not had anyone volunteer yet. This is a good chance for the newer riders that ride on Sundays regularly, to step up and take a active role in THEIR club. John our safety officer has a fun day of training planned for those that want to be road captains. Leading or dragging a group is not hard. It will give you a different perspective of riding within the group. Have you ever wondered why we do certain things while riding or why we are going slower than you would like? Its all about safe group riding. Come out and see what its all about!

Our next meeting should be very informative.

VP, Eric Johnston

### **Chili Cook-Off Time**

**By Diana Johnson, Chili Cook-Off Queen**

**St. Charles Harley Davidson's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off is Saturday, Oct. 25, from 11am-3pm at the dealership in St. Charles.** Visit [www.bigstcharlesmotorsports.com](http://www.bigstcharlesmotorsports.com) or [www.stcharlesharleydavidson.com](http://www.stcharlesharleydavidson.com) or call 636-946-6487.

I will be representing the Shadow Riders Club in this charity event by serving up my award winning 'Triple Pepper Penetration' chili. Samples are only 50 cents each and we get to keep the proceeds from the samples we serve. Prizes are awarded in 3 categories; People's Choice, Judge's Best, and Best Name. We took the first 'Triple Crown' ever in 2012 by winning Best Name, People's Choice, and Judge's Best. If every member attended, brought friends, and voted our chili as the best, we would surely bring home some cash again. All of our profits will be donated to our 2015 club charity. I can not win if you don't show up and vote.

Please join us Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014, at St. Charles Harley Davidson. Support your fellow members, support our club sponsor, support me, and get a belly full of some mighty tasty chili. Here's a helpful hint: Plan on Chili for lunch that day. By the end of the day many participants run low or out of samples so you don't want to be late. This is a rain or shine event. Lou will put together a ride to the dealership that day. **Be at Old Orchard and ready to ride by 10:00 a.m.** or come by the chili cook off when you can and meet up with your SRC buddies.

Well, I'm still re-learning to call wheat bread "wheat bread" and not "brown bread". Folks in Canada sho' do talk funny.

As Lou mentioned in his letter this month, very nonchalant, we did actually experience the aftermath of an avalanche. We are very alert on our long trips, due to traveling in unknown areas, so there was no adverse effect on our ride. We did experience the surprise of coming around a mountain road to be greeted by rocks in our lane the size of our helmets. The amount of rain that the local area experienced, which we learned from locals while eating our lunch was the accumulation of 2 weeks of steady rain, had caused the soil on a hillside to release what was ordinarily stable rocks and debris. We maneuvered the obstacles and pointed them out to all members of our group (like pointing to the elephant in the room) and nobody had any problems avoiding the rocks. And "Yes", this leads me to my subject of the month:

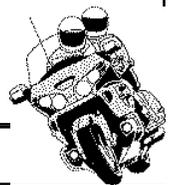
#### "Dealing with Road Hazards"

We see the "Fallen Rocks" signs often enough. So often in fact that since we never see fallen rocks we take the signs for granted and pay them little mind. In our case the signs were spot on. I contacted MODOT to ask them where they post these signs and also the signs that indicate "Motorcycles Should Exercise Extreme Caution". The response was a little disturbing on the latter. If the Highway Department has experienced fallen rocks in a location they will post a permanent sign. If, in a construction zone, they encounter too many motorcycle *accidents*, then they will post a temporary motorcycle caution sign. So, unless we don't mind being the reason for the posting of the sign we need to be aware of any and all road hazards. Many accidents are a result of not slowing in time to avoid the incident. Too many times we just lean into a blind turn because there were no signs to indicate any apparent danger, only to discover a vehicle pulling out of a driveway into our line of travel, or a receiver hitch (which we encountered not once but twice on our trip) in the middle of the lane. While riding fast doesn't necessarily create more hazards, not being able to slow down in time does.

Motorcycles are such a small minority of vehicles on the road that highway departments and contractors don't seem to understand how work-zone hazards affect two-wheelers. So we as motorcyclists need to be aware of common road hazards to avoid them. It's more important for motorcycles to get "lined up" for obstacles like bumps; loose gravel; steel plates; raised manhole covers; and other work-zone hazards, while other drivers don't understand what we're doing. We have to realize that many times other drivers aren't being impolite, they just don't know what we're attempting to do. It's a safer option to yield to other traffic and allow ourselves the luxury of avoiding these obstacles by taking advantage of our elevated viewing position from the seats of our bikes. Taking the time to create a greater approach angle when encountering objects like uneven lanes; railroad tracks; construction "bumps"; and less-than-smooth transitions in the pavement surfaces gives us greater control when navigating these hazards. As we experienced on our trip, even expansion joints in bridge and dam joints can be dangerous if not crossed properly or at the wrong speed and lean angle. Let's watch for little telltale signs of road changes like the disappearance of lane markings, indicating a recent repair; a darker colored section of pavement in curves indicating an aggressive curve design; shadows or a 3 dimensional appearance of road surfaces indicating a spill, or build-up, of gravel or asphalt, or surface damage resulting in missing portions of pavement.

Our awareness on our recent trip kept us safe and made our journey a happy memory.

I'm just sayin' . . .



No new members for August

#### Bike Count for September

Honda - 36	Harley - 29	Kawasaki - 12	Suzuki - 6	Yamaha - 6	BMW - 2	KTM - 1
Vento - 1	Big Dog - 1	CanAm - 4	Triumph - 2	Ducati - 1	Victory - 3	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept. 14  Marquand, MO Burso Winery	Sept. 15	Sept. 16	Sept. 17	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20
Sept. 21  Weingarten, MO Midway Cafe	Sept. 22	Sept. 23  Monthly Meeting Sports Cafe	Sept. 24	Sept. 25  Group leaves for Bikes, Blues, and Bar- B-Que	Sept. 26  BBB	Sept. 27  BBB
Sept. 28  TBD  BBB	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4
Oct. 5  Shadow Rider's Picnic	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 11
Oct. 12  Bikers for Babies Or Hardin, IL (Mel's)	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 17	Oct. 18

### Rides and Events:

**Sept. 14:** Frank is taking us south to Marquand, MO to the Burso Winery and Bistro. We will be traveling down old Highway 61 and other scenic country roads for a day of fun.

**Sept. 21:** Erin will be leading this ride to Weingarten, MO using some of the alphabet roads that we love so well to eat at the Midway Café, home of some of the areas best onion rings.

**Sept. 25:** The club leaves for Eureka Springs, AR to enjoy the festivities of Bikes, Blues, and Bar-B-Que in Fayetteville, AR for 4 days. An event not to be missed. If it rides on 2 wheels it will be there. Good times and great people. Test ride any model of Harley; Victory; Indian; or Yamaha. We will also be riding some of the greatest motorcycles roads in the country while there.

**Sept. 28:** We have no ride planned for this Sunday so if you have a favorite that you like, or would like to make up your own route, let us know and we will make the appropriate changes to the schedule.

**Oct. 5:** Chris Schweitzer will be hosting the annual Shadow Riders' Picnic. We will do a short ride from Old Orchard and arrive around noon. Please contact Chris and see what still needs to be done to make the picnic a success. We will post updates about the picnic as plans progress.

**Oct. 12:** Bikers for Babies annual event will be held on this Sunday. Those of you not attending the event are welcome to accompany Bob Mueller on a ride to Mels Riverdock Restaurant in Hardin, IL, one of our favorite eateries.

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

**Gateway BMW Motorcycles**

**Bob Honz**

General Manager



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1997 Harley FLSTF Fat Boy (1340cc)  
Silver & Black (two-tone), second  
owner, lots of chrome 23K miles  
\$6,700 OBO  
Contact Angie at 618-444-1748

For sale: 2000 Honda Shadow  
600VLX. Windshield, saddle-  
bags, engine guards, sissy bar.  
\$2500 Sue Braun 636-575-3281

We have a friend of the club who  
would like to sell a bike. It is a  
2007 Vulcan 900 with 12,000  
miles. Clean bike, garaged.  
\$4500 OBO.  
Contact Raymond @ 314-398-1241

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