



The Baffle

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Take a trip to the Tail of the Dragon
- Check out the August and September event calendars
- Look inside for riding safety tips

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Bikers

Hello UR Brothers and Sisters. You have to admit that being a “biker” is cool, right? There are a lot of reasons why it is cool, and it may be a little different for all of us, but it’s still cool. For me “being cool” was not on my list of reasons for getting a motorcycle, it just “happened”. Let me explain:

Rhonda and I have always loved to get in the truck and ride. It didn’t matter where or how far we just like to “go”. This was reason enough to get a bike. There were lots of reasons not to get one (we thought) and you know what they are – they are dangerous, they can get you in trouble, bad people ride bikes, it sucks to ride in the cold and the rain, and on and on and on.....

I didn’t even know the good reasons for getting a bike until I got one. When we rode in the truck, Rhonda could slide up beside me, or she could move all the way over to the other door, ha....not on the bike baby – I got’cha now!!!!!! The “closeness” that we have when we ride could not have been described by anyone and have them really “do it justice”. Then you have the feeling of the wind in your hair as you “glide” through the country side – “If you don’t ride you wouldn’t understand” could never be more true for this one – no way you can describe it to someone, right?

Now – what we had no idea about is the memories that the bike would allow us to make. It is absolutely a “memory machine”. We have tons and tons of photos with are closest friends in some of the most beautiful places around. We have a life time of great

memories that we can recall anytime and always put a smile on our face.

The “cool” comes from the feeling of being so relaxed. When you are relaxed and your mind is clear it shows. It also comes from the family or brotherhood that bikers obtain. They come rolling down the road as one, dressed in the same colors, with the roar



of thunder rolling with them.....man ole man!!!!!! All of these things rolled up together (and put in the saddle-bag) make us bikers – and makes us cool Now we did find that all of the bad things we heard were true: They are dangerous – yes they are because riding to get ice-cream is not for the light-hearted! They can get you in trouble – yes they will, the yard will never be the same again!

Bad people ride bikes – Yes they do – “bad to the bone” that is! It sucks to ride in cold rain – Well..... I will give them that one!

Now we – The United Riders – have proven that being a Biker is about attitude, not the bike! We have bikers in the club that don’t even have a bike – now that’s cool too!!

So – It’s OK to be a Biker – It’s cool to be a Biker – be proud you are a Biker – be proud you are a United Rider, and the rest of the world will look at you and say – their cool (even if they won’t admit it)

As Always..... Love your family, laugh with your friends, and enjoy the ride!

David Hess
President – United Riders

United Riders Riding Club



United Riders is a group of friends and family who enjoy riding and the time spent making memories with each other as a group. We care about the community and the needs therein trying to help make a difference in a positive way. All those with the willingness to accept the groups' values and show respect for each other are welcome to join us in our endeavor to improve our community.

Monthly Safety Tip: Knowing Our Limits

Everything in life has limits. When we were young, we had bedtimes that were far too early, especially on a summer night, or when something good was on TV. As we got older, curfews and the frustrations of limited spending money chafed us. We were pretty much controlled by how often and how long we could borrow the car. Still, we stretched and broke the limits with only minor repercussions.

As riders we have limits, too, and these, unlike legal limits such as speed and right-of-way, can only be stretched so far before the consequences become very dire indeed. These limits are our personal limits, the limits of our machines, and the limits of our environment. To ride safely, we must know these limits and ride within them. This would be a fairly easy task if the limits were fixed and separate. However, they are each highly variable and intertwined so that one can affect the others.

Personal limits change constantly. There are the slow, but perceptible signs of aging when we finally don glasses that eventually give way to bifocals and when hearing dims. As we reach the over-the-hill age of 40, night vision begins to lessen. With any luck, skill and experience provide compensation.

Not even the young among us are immune to personal limits. We are all susceptible. These limits can be imposed by physical conditions such as fatigue or emotion or by medications, both over-the-counter and prescription. New prescriptions can have unexpected side effects, and drug interactions can produce terrifying reactions. Medications should be carefully discussed with doctor and pharmacist before we ride. Getting all prescriptions filled at the same pharmacy lessens the chance of a conflict or overdose not being spotted. Recreational drugs create dangers that should be obvious.

Over-the-counter drugs frequently pose problems.

Almost every label on allergy medications carries the warning, "May cause drowsiness. Do not operate heavy machinery while taking this medication." By heavy machinery they don't mean bulldozers or tanks. They mean cars and trucks and motorcycles and riding lawnmowers and anything else where a drowsy, dizzy or uncoordinated operator could have an accident. Almost every skill needed to safely operate a motorcycle is affected by such medicines.

Even when we're at our physical best, our motorcycles pose limits. Obvious ones are type and power. A fully loaded touring bike is not made to ride over sand dunes at the beach, nor is a two-up 125-cc bike safe on the interstate. Even the best-maintained bike is subject to routine wear and tear. New tires are slick until the mold-release wears off. Cheap tires can offer poor traction under even optimum conditions. Brake pads wear. A poorly cared for bike is two-wheeled disaster.

Even when our bikes and we are in tip-top condition, the environment can sharply define our limits. A twisty back road is a joy on a warm sunshiny day. The same road on a cold, wet night is a rider's nightmare. Cold can dull our reflexes and slow our reaction times. Numbed hands operate controls more slowly and with less feedback, making full-braking stops less effective. Nature can brush a road with sand or mist it with rain or fog. Our only choice is to slow down and to avoid any sudden changes in speed or direction. We should never be so dumb that we don't realize it is time to get off the road.

Our limits, the limits of our machines, and natural limits, all combined in endless permutations, are part of the challenge of motorcycling. Knowing these limits and riding within them are part of the responsibility of motorcycling. And that is part of the joy of motorcycling.

Sergio Sandoval, Safety Officer

*Ride safe and keep the rubber side down!

Treasure's Corner: Making Your Membership Your Own

What does it mean to be a "United Rider" Club MEMBER? As far as we're concerned, that's totally up to you.

One of the great things about being a part of this club is how easy it is to be a member. For some, riding occasionally and wearing their UR patch with pride is all the involvement they want. For others, hardly a day goes by that they're not planning a club function, ride or meeting, sorting through some riding photos, riding with fellow members, or planning a ride to some faraway place for an adventure.

With a small club, it's hard when there are only a few to help with functions or duties and we do need all the help we can get. And as we grow, there will be more people to help with these functions and duties. The work load will be spread out a little more making it more fun.

So whether your idea of fun is a short ride or all day, a fundraiser or getaway – We know you'll get involved and enjoy what the club has to offer.

REMEMBER – You can always have fun at a little expense...

Sheri Sandoval, Treasurer



Destination: The Tail of the Dragon

North Carolina is one of the best States for riding a motorcycle. You have Mountains to the West and the Ocean to the East, and you can get to each of them in a couple of hours. Each of them is beautiful in their own right. The Mountains have miles and miles of great roads to explore, such as the Blue Ridge Parkway. But none of the roads are quite as famous as an eleven mile stretch of US-129 through Deals Gap, called the "Tail of the Dragon". This 11 mile section of highway is a "must ride" if you own a motorcycle.



"This 11 mile section of highway is a "must ride" if you own a motorcycle."

I first heard of this about a week after purchasing my Hog, and it was "put on my list" before I even had a chance to know exactly where it was located. The stories that you hear about this road Well give you visions of a jagged stretch of broken up hard-top, with evil spirits on the side of the road grabbing at your soul, while you are battling 100 mph winds and rain, and there is a fire breathing dragon right on your tail waiting for you to slow down!!!!!! Well, let me tell you that is not the case. This area is, in my opinion,

the most beautiful place to ride in the state.

The "Dragon" starts just south of the intersection of NC-28 and continues north into Tennessee to Tabcat Bridge, for a total of 11.8 miles, and about 318 curves (most of them are blind curves too). NC-28 from Bryson City is no joke either (known as the Hell-bender).

Now I don't want to downplay the thing too much, because it can "bite you hard" if you don't stay "on top of your game". I have had the pleasure of riding it

several times now, and each time is better than the last. You can "grab it and whoop' it", but there are a few things to look at before grabbing the dragon by the tail:

1. Make sure your bike is mechanically sound, especially the tires and brakes (your going to need a lot of both)
2. Stay between the double yellow line and the white line (closer to the white line is recommended)
3. Let the "idiots" pass you, ride your own speed
4. Focus on the road, you can pull to the side of the road to sight see. Let your lucky passenger do the sight-seeing
5. Smile when you pass the people on the side of the road taking your pictures

Remember, there is no time limit

There have been several movies filmed on or around the dragon. "Thunder Road", a 1958 Robert Mitchum film about backwoods moon shining. "Two-lane Blacktop" from 1971, part of "The Fugitive" from 1993, and "In Dreams" from 1998.

The dragon has claimed around 20 lives since 1995, most of them have been because the biker crossed the road and into an oncoming car or truck. The "tree of shame" is full of broken bike parts, clothes, and stories of how the wreck happened.

If you need a week-end adventure let me suggest leaving home on Friday, ride the Dragon and the Cherokee Skyway on Saturday, and ride home Sunday via the Blue Ridge Parkway to Boone. I promise you will discover exactly why you bought a motorcycle. Grab the dragon, hug the white line, and stay off the tree of shame!

David Hess
President



July 2011 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting held July 14, 2011 at Bill's Pizza

- Observed birthdays for the month.
 - John Wayne Bolton
 - Deena Payne
- Lanee will help on the snap fish account and she has printed off instructions.
- Sheri gave the treasure report.
 - \$1,360.40 in the bank not including the patch money that had not been collected.
 - Picnic cost \$95.00
- Announcement of new members.
 - Tony Batton
 - Sandra Batton
- Discussed ride calendar.
- Announced the charity for this year ~ **Shepherds Inn.**
- We need to hit as many bike nights as possible to hand out fliers.
- David will do a preprinted letter to distribute to businesses for contributions,
- Brent and Michelle offered to print the fliers for us.
- Chrissy won the 50/50.

Angie Small
Secretary



Classifieds

If you need your patches sewn on your vest contact Dora Hunt, 854 Mt. Zion Church Road, Thomasville, NC 27360, (336) 867-5965. Please leave name and number if no answer.

Post your items for sale or info here!!!

If you have items you would like to have posted in the Classifieds please contact Arizona Bunce at sunshinedaisy37@hotmail.com or David Hess at dhess@vecoplanllc.com



AUGUST 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 United Riders Business Meeting	5	6 Emma Bunce's 1st Birthday Party - George & Arizona's 2:00 PM
7	8	9	10	11 Open Mem- ber Meeting - Bill's Pizza Eat @ 6:00 PM Meet @ 7:00 PM	12	13
14 Angie & Randy's Church Ride—Leave DK Cycles @ 10:00AM	15	16	17 Sheri's Dinner Ride to Ham's— Leave DK Cycles @ 6:30 PM	18 Bikers for Boobs Bike Night - Up- town Charlie's in Asheboro 7:00- 9:00	19	20 Street Watch Ride - Leave DK Cycles @ 10:00 AM
21 Brent's Ride to Tug- gle's Gap - Leave DK Cy- cles @ 9:30AM	22	23	24 George's Dinner Ride to Spring Garden Pizza -Leave DK Cycles @ 6:30	25	26	27 Sheri's Pot Luck Meet and Greet Jona & Kath @ 1:00 PM
28 Hess's Mystery Ride - Leave DK Cycles @ 10:00AM	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 United Riders Business Meeting	2 Ride to the Dragon	3 Ride to the Dragon
4 Ride to the Dragon	5 Ride to the Dragon	6	7	8 Open Mem- ber Meeting - Bill's Pizza Eat @ 6:00 PM Meet @ 7:00 PM	9	10
11 Odell's Church Ride - Leave DK Cy- cles @ 10:30 AM	12	13	14	15 Bikers for Boobs Bike Night - Uptown Charlie's in Asheboro 7:00 - 9:00	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Bikers for Boobs Breast Cancer Ride Meet @ DK Cycles @ 8:00 AM
25 Pink Heels Tour - Meet at DK Cycles @ 10:00 AM	26	27	28	29	30	



United Riders Riding Club

609 Vista Drive
High Point, NC 27263

Phone: 336-918-6714

E-mail: unitedriders2010@yahoo.com

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Announcements

If you see the following family members, wish them a Happy Birthday:
Odell Pritchard ~ August 9th
Lanee Kirby ~ August 21st
Larry Buck ~ August 25th



If you have items you would like to have posted in the Announcements section please contact Arizona Bunce at sunshinedaisy37@hotmail.com or David Hess at dhess@vecoplanllc.com