



Illini Free Spirit Riders

Honda Riders Club of America Chapter 0151



Sponsor: Fox Valley Cycles, 419 Hill Avenue, Aurora, Illinois 60505 (630) 851-2910
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NEWSLETTER & EVENTS

June 2014

May Rides:

I don't have much information on some of the rides since we did not get write ups for them so I am including the stats for the rides.

May 4 Motorcycle Sunday
14 Members

May 11 Studebaker National Museum
5 Members 4 Guests

Studebaker Ride

This ride led by Tim Gron was great fun, according to the members that attended the ride. From this photo we can see that it was



May 16 – 18 Northern Kentucky
10 Members 1 Guest

Kentucky Ride:

It was a grey and cloudy morning on the first day of the Ride. It remained a dark and cloudy day pretty much all the way to the hotel in Florence, KY. It actually cleared up some in the evening and we had a nice dinner before retiring for the night. The second day started out with much optimism and Sunshine! Ken led us on a great twisty hilly ride through the back roads of the area. There was some excitement as one of our members decided to go off-roading. After verifying the rider was ok and digging the bike out of the mud, we headed to lunch, only to discover a Goldwing was relieving itself on its back tire. After a quick call to the [Honda dealer in Florence](#), the rest of the riders decided to ride to the dealer to have the bikes checked out. This cut off the second half of Kens ride for the second year in a row. The guys at Honda found the final drive to be overfull and it looked like water had gotten in it because the fluid was grey. They drained and refilled it and checked for leaks, there were none. We returned to the hotel and called Jon Bercaw who joined us for dinner. After dinner we sat and reflected on the day before calling it a night. On Sunday we had a nice sunny ride home.

Final thought: We all know stuff happens and you deal with it.. The fact that the group stuck together speaks volumes about the kind of people that make up the members and people we ride with. Thanks to all who were on this ride, it was Fun and Memorable.

~Editor



May 31 Mississippi River Photo Shoot

14 Members 1 Guest For a ride born from the need of a member to get a photograph of the Great Mississippi River, it turned out to be a really beautiful day and excellent ride. Anyone who has ridden on a Bill H ride knows you're going to ride on some good roads. This ride was no exception, great weather, great views. Great Ride

~Editor.

www.freespiritriders.com

Members Corner

We are hoping to get members to write articles for the newsletter. This article can be about whatever you, the club member, wants to write about. Things like informational editorials, ride reviews etc. you get the idea.

Our first letter is from club member Jim Kopchok

Practice makes perfect

Practice makes perfect. Words we have heard often since childhood. Most of the time these were directed at my need to do my math homework or practice my piano lessons. As I have grown older I have seen these principles applied to many other situations, such as professional sports, military, safety forces and in IT departments (an area I am very familiar with), to make sure we have rapid response to situations that could affect our business continuity, etc. "Practice" helps us to deal with the confusion and chaos that can surround unexpected and stressful events. It helps us to react in a well-rehearsed way that should help mitigate the problem and put us on a path to a healthy response that will likely lead to a better outcome.

I was reminded of all this during the past weekend, when an unexpected turn of events had one of our group's riders take a fall during an out of state ride. Fortunately, the rider only experienced some scratches and a wounded pride, while the bike, looking very worse for wear, was still ride able.

Our group of 10 bikes was enjoying the Kentucky back roads. The previous day we had traveled about 380 miles through some very rough weather, with several hours of heavy rain and temperatures that started out at around 39 degrees. No question we were all tired from the long slog through the rain.

The following morning was much nicer and we were eager to get to our primary purpose and view the beautiful rolling hills and pastoral settings through some exciting winding roads in Northern Kentucky. Having ridden for several hours that morning, we were just heading to our lunch destination when the words "biker down" came across the CB. That brings me to the point of this article.

What happens next will always be different for each kind of emergency situation. What I was struck by this time was the way everyone came together to help the rider and his bike, but also by the need to have some organization when something like this happens, no matter how minor it might appear.

The rider, having lost control of his bike, suddenly found himself in a ditch on the right side of the road that was also very wet from the previous rains.

That's what hit me. The suddenness. We all understand that if we ride enough someone will probably experience a mishap of some sort... flat tire, gravel on the road, or something far more serious. Things that could happen where minutes and our response can be a significant difference to the injured person. Yet we spend most of our time planning the fun stuff of the ride and can be ill prepared for the bad. I've taken seminars on crash scene response and still didn't feel comfortable with my reaction.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRACTICE

That's where practice comes in. Knowing how to react as a group and as individuals to an emergency situation.

There are several things we can do to prepare:

1. Organize
2. Train
3. Execute

Organize: Understand each person's role if an emergency scenario occurs. The Ride Leader is up front and may not notice what has happened. It is the duty of the Sweep to radio or signal to the leader that there is a problem. The Ride Leader can then guide the group to a stop in a safe place. The Ride Leader must evaluate the current traffic conditions to determine where this might be. It is not good to put the rest of the group in harm's way due to unsafe traffic conditions. Other members of the ride may be confused by what is happening. Not everyone uses a CB. Even in my own case, with the CB on, I was not expecting that message and wasn't sure what I had heard! Prior to the ride, checking on who has any emergency first aid kits would help. Who will be responsible for directing traffic around the accident area? Do they have reflective gear or some form of lighting to signal on-coming traffic? Does this person understand that just standing there and pointing around the area may not be enough to signal on-coming cars and trucks? It is often important to wave your arms and make other noticeable movements to get the attention of drivers. Do not put yourself at risk in the process. Is there anyone in the group trained or experienced as a first responder? Does anyone have first aid training? The safety of anyone injured is critical. Is there anyone with mechanical aptitude? Before any attempt to remount the bike, it needs to be assessed for damage. Tires, lights, forks/handlebars, suspension, fuel/fluid leakage, etc. all need to be assessed. In our case, there was significant mud on the tires that would initially cause unsafe riding conditions. Who is responsible for contacting emergency personnel, if needed? Who knows the exact location to report to emergency personnel if needed? The other members of the group have a role as well to NOT contribute to any confusion that may already exist!

The best planning effort of all is to take a course or read up on crash scene response to learn the best practices for these situations.

Train: Like any well-coordinated endeavor, training is important. Putting the team into action with a plan and firm understanding of everyone's role makes for a better likelihood of a positive outcome.

Execute: Use your planning and training skills to execute in response to this emergency scenario. There is a lot more than this brief summary, but everyone has to start somewhere!

1. Assess the scene
 - a. How many riders, status, traffic conditions, safety of the scene, leaking fluids (combustible?), stay out of danger
 - b. Warn off other vehicles and make sure you, the victims and others are out of harm's way.
2. Victim management
 - a. Don't remove helmets, move victims or put victim at additional risk, especially if victim is unresponsive. Are there trained responders nearby? Deal with most seriously injured first.
 - b. Check for pulse and breathing.
 - c. Use first aid skills as needed.
3. Get Help
 - a. Call 911 for local emergency response!
 - b. Recruit help for bystanders

SUMMARY

On the IFSR web site, Mike D'Aversa has a great quote about the risks of riding a motorcycle. Yet, Mike is also very diligent and cognizant about riding precautions. He has personally experienced what can happen quite quickly on a bike, as have many of us. It's great to just sling our leg over the saddle and go, but some forethought and preparation can really help when things go bad. There is a lot we all can do individually, of course, to try and avoid these situations as riders, but that's a story for another day. Please take time during your next ride to make sure we are ready in any case of emergency, no matter how small. I'm no expert in these matters, but concerned for my own welfare and that of my fellow riders. It could be you or me that needs the help!

POSTLOGUE

You'll be happy to know our group responded well. After our Sweep (Ron) alerted the Leader (Ken), the group pulled safely to side of the road. We were on a back country road, but there were still cars passing in both directions. Stephanie directed traffic. Ken pulled his bike to the back of the group where he turned on his emergency flashers for traffic coming behind us. Members of the group hurried to check the rider and his bike. Eddie and several others got the bike out of ditch and did an evaluation, noticing a chunk of the rim that had been damaged and a cause of concern for maintaining tire pressure. There was substantial caked on mud from the ditch on the tires that would create traction issues, there were broken mirrors and other damage that was examined to determine rideability. While the rider was checked for his own health, we contacted a local Honda dealer to check on hours (it was Saturday) and location for a more professional evaluation. It helps to happen to have a real nurse along (Tracy D.) and an ERT and former EMT (Ken). We were able to ride another mile to our restaurant site (no Honda rider lets anything stop them from eating!) and calmly evaluate what to do next. In this case, everything worked out with some success and no grave danger to rider or bike. Are you ready for the next time? RIDE SAFE!

Jim Kopchok

*These letters are the opinions and views of individuals, and are not necessarily the opinions or views of the Illini Free Spirit Riders Motorcycle club.

President's Message

I might need to tone down my sarcastic comments about Harley Riders. While returning home last week-end, our motorcycle broke down, and a guy with a Harley trailer stopped to help us. He said "I've picked up a lot of motorcycles, but this is the first Goldwing!".....mmm.... my condescending habits are going to be hard to break. Come to the next meeting to hear all the details.

"Keep your bike in good repair, as motorcycle boots aren't comfortable for walking" ---Seen on a wall in Sparta Wi. Earlier that day!!

Bill Hay, President

Calendar

June Rides

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Ride Name</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Departure</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>
Postponed	6/8	Sunday	Route 66	Jim T.	9:00 AM	Bolingbrook truck stop
	6/13-15	Fri-Sun.	Crossroads Village	Tracy S.	9:00 AM	Boling brook IHOP
	6/21	Sunday	Freedom Run	Larry T	9:00 AM	FVC
	6/21-29	Sat-Sun	Texas -Crossroads Ranch	Bill H.	7:00 AM	Woodmans

June Dinners

6/4	Dinner Ray's Evergreen in St. Charles
6/18	Dinner Buck's Pit Stop in Hodgkins
6/25	Dinner The Lodge in Wasco

*The Wednesday Dinner Schedule for the upcoming month is decided at the monthly meeting. Please come to the Monthly meetings to have input on the dinner schedules.



Illini Free Spirit Riders Meeting Agenda May 14, 2014

- Opening
 - Thank you to all for attending
 - Recognition of guests & new members
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Old Business
 - Past Club Rides Reviews
 - Moonshine Lunch Run 4/12, Leader—Tim G.
 - Fox River Ride 4/27, Leader—John C.
 - Motorcycle Sunday, Leader—Mike D.
 - Studebaker Museum, Leader—Tim G.
 - 2014 Club Mileage/Participation, Award/Raffle....*what to do?*
- Emergency Contact List Update
- Anyone do anything interesting last month?
- New Business
 - Fox Valley Cycle News
 - Select upcoming dinner locations
 - Tonight – Elmer's, Montgomery
 - May 21st – Pal Joey's, Batavia
 - May 28th – Crosstown, Naperville
 - June 4th—
 - June 11th, meeting night—
 - June 18th—
 - June 25th—
 - Additional New Business?

Upcoming IFSR RIDES!!!

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Ride Leader</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place To Meet</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
5/16 - 5/18	Friday-Sunday	Northern Kentucky	Ken K	7am breakfast 8am KSU	Matty's Grill & Pancake House Shorewood, IL	1,000
5/31	Saturday	Mississippi River Photo Shoot	Bill H	TBD	TBD	350
6/08	Sunday	Route 66	Jim T	9 am	Bolingbrook Truck Stop	160
6/13-6/15	Friday-Sunday	Crossroads Village, Flint Mi	Tracy S	9 am	Bolingbrook IHOP	700
6/21	Saturday	IL Motorcycle Freedom Run	Larry T.	7am	FVC	130
6/21-6/29	Sat-Sunday	Texas—Crossroads Ranch	Bill H	7 am	Woodman's North Aurora	2,300
7/3-7/05?	Thurs-Saturday	Wing Ding, Madison Wi	Lee L	TBD	TBD	350

- Upcoming Events, Next Meeting—June 11th
- Closing
- 50/50 Drawing



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Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2014

Opening

President Bill Hay opened the April meeting of the Illini Free Spirit Riders Motorcycle Club at 6:05PM. Twenty four members, including new member Paul Smith and guest Ken Kantor, were in attendance.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the March meeting were made available prior to the meeting. Bill asked the members to review the minutes. A motion was made by Lee Lasseigne to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Crawley presented his report. Lee Grunwald motioned to accept the report. The motion was seconded and a vote was taken. The report was unanimously accepted.

Business

Old Business

- A discussion tabled at the March meeting regarding "Mileage Awards" was revisited. The Club Officers are to present three viable suggestions for the reformatting of the "awards" and present them at the May meeting. The members present at the May meeting will vote on which plan of the three to go with.
- A discussion tabled at the March meeting regarding a Summer Picnic was revived. The idea of a combination Ride / Picnic was discussed and later tabled until the May meeting.

New Business

- In the Fox Valley Cycles' report, John Conley reported that the new Honda models are coming in and he also has a model available for Demo Rides. Motorcycle Sunday is coming up and FVC will be there. John presented updated information on his April 27, 2014 ride. It will be to Sheridan, IL.
- Upcoming rides are... 4/12 Moonshine Lunch Run ... 4/25 Florida Sunshine Seek Ride ... 4/27 John's Ride to Sheridan, IL ...5/4 Motorcycle Sunday ... 5/11 Studebaker Museum Ride ... 5/16 Northern Kentucky Ride and 5/31 Mississippi River Shoot.
- Upcoming dinner locations were decided. Grandma's Table will be tonight's post-meeting dinner location. The location for April 16th is Firehouse Pizza, Oswego. Ashbury's at Boughton Ridge, Bolingbrook was chosen for April 23rd and Diamond's, Joliet for April 30th. May 7th dinner will be at Mike & Denise's, Aurora. Elmer's on RT25 following the May 14th meeting. Additional dinners include Pal Joey's on the 21st and Crosstown, Naperville on the 28th.

Adjournment

With no additional New Business, President Bill Hay asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron Dougherty made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and President Bill Hay closed the meeting at 6:40PM.

Members met at Grandma's Table for the post-meeting dinner.

Ken Kutschke
Secretary