

CANYON CARVING WITH CURVES ON CHROME

The Ann Arbor based chapter of
Women On Wheels®

www.curvesonchrome.com

Director's Update:

Happy New Year! Hope your holidays were peaceful. What a great year 2008 was for CCC. Our membership more than doubled, we were one of the host chapters for the WOW Ride-In, some of us were certified in Accident Scene Management, we went to Muskegon for Bike Times, bike nights, ice cream rides, the MMM, we traveled down some new roads, but most importantly we made a lot of new friends. I'm not sure how 2009 can or will top 2008 but I know I'm really excited about the possibilities for the upcoming riding season. Before we jump into 2009 I'd like to take a minute to recognize some of our members that *went the extra mile*:

Dondi, for organizing our points contest (which more of us will join this year) and coordinating the IMS show. Char for stepping up as our secretary and co-newsletter editor and for not laughing at us when we had to give her a running push when her old bike wouldn't start. Kim for stepping up as our treasurer, and keeping her cool when an idiot cut into our group and made an abrupt turn in front of her. Ruth for agreeing to become our co-newsletter editor and bringing Beckey into our group. Paula for always being 'ready to ride'. Shirley for coming to all the 2008 new member meetings, even when she 'wasn't feeling it'. Jaz for organizing our 'favorite band game' and for the cool shirts. Carla for manning the walkie-talkies at the Ride-in (she'll know what I mean). Melissa for opening up her home for our movie night. Anne for leading the way so we can all relax and know we're on the right path. PJ for taking some great pics of our rides. Diane for reminding us we were all newbies once. Tracey for thinking of creative ways for us to raise funds. Mary for being a great navigator. Pat for always managing to make us laugh with her crazy bike stories. Jeannie for being our first

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

January Events:

- **January 10th 10:00–4:00 Accident Scene Management Class.** The cost is \$25.00. This is the basic class and will be held at Pioneer High School. Lunch is not supplied but we will be ordering pizza. Limited seats available. The Advanced Class will be held at a later date in March 2009.
- **January 12th 6:30 pm. Chapter Meeting** at Foggy Bottom in Dexter.
- **January 25th 2:00 pm. Colonial Lanes** for a fun afternoon of bowling. Contact Char (mzchar@rocketmail.com) and let her know if you plan to attend so she can make reservations

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **February 8, 2009 11– 4 pm Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet.** Novi Expo Center. Parking \$5, Admission \$10.00
- **February 9, 2009 Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm** Saline. Location will be announced at January's meeting.

New Member Shout Out:

CCC is really excited to welcome:

Yuki Yukio

newsletter editor and for creating the 'what's your day gig contest'. Brian A. for being a great support member, and for patiently showing me how to change my oil. Teresa and Karen for joining our group and not running away Pam chased them down in the parking lot. Pam for chasing down potential new members in parking lots. Yukiyo for knowing how to hot wire her bike.

What I guess I'm really saying is thanks for the memories ladies, I look forward to many more in 2009.
----Julie Stafford

Announcements:

- If you have any articles or additions to the newsletter, please send them to Char at mzchar@rocketmail.com or Ruth at ruth_vickers@yahoo.com.
- I'd like to give a shout out to Julie who is always enthusiastic about 'new member meetings', updating the website on a regular basis and agreeing to be co-director!! Thanks Julie!!

Safety Tip of the Month: 2-second rule

If the bike ahead of you does not remain in control, then you need to be able to avoid hitting her without doing whatever got her into trouble (such as hitting something in the road.) In low traction environments (or going downhill) you need more time and distance.

The '**2-second rule**' means that in staggered formation there is a ONE second spacing between each bike, thus a TWO second spacing between bikes in the same track.

IF your reaction time to an unexpected threat is 1 second or less and

IF your motorcycle skills are as good or better than those of the next driver ahead of you,

Then whatever the motorcyclist ahead of you does you should be able to do without running into her. (Including a panic stop, or a turn across your path, or both.)

Motorcycle Lingo:

Biker - Simply put, a motorcycle operator. True bikers have a passion for the art of motorcycling, and easily get all wrapped up in this passion during even a simple 1/2 mile commute, but they rarely allow their motorcycle to sit for more than a week without taking it somewhere. Anywhere. Just for the simple excuse of a joy ride will do.

Something to Share: **Motorcycle Winterizing Tips**

On the internet at: <http://www.gmasw.com/bikewin .htm>

When the (Michigan) riding season ends, these tips may be helpful.

Oil Change and Lube: Change the motor oil prior to Winter storage. I change mine, and then run it for a few minutes to circulate new oil around the engine. (There will be differing opinions on this.) Regardless, **change the oil** before storing! Also, lube moving parts (cables, etc.) with recommended lubricants. Note: An exception to this is AMS Oil and possibly other synthetic lubricants (Update: Nov 2007).

Run Carb(s) out of Gasoline: Purge the carb(s) before storage anytime and add gasoline stabilizer to your tank per the instructions.

Wash Motorcycle (thoroughly): As stated in my "Motorcycle Cleaning Tips" a motorcycle needs a thorough washing before storage. I use a leaf blower to dry it, and then towel off excess water.

Windshield: Remove bugs off as soon as possible... some insects contain chemicals that will etch paint, and ruin windshields... aside from the fact that bug parts are more difficult to remove when dry. Use an *approved* cleaner for your motorcycle windshield.

Painted Areas and Frame: Apply a coat of wax on painted areas to keep condensation from collecting and damaging your bike. Note: The motorcycle frame often gets neglected, but it should be waxed prior to winter storage like other painted parts.

Chrome and Rims: Clean the chrome and aluminum parts, then coat them with a good chrome polish (e.g., *Harley Davidson, Mother's, or Clean Cycle Metal Polish*) will clean/polish these areas. It will be easier in Spring to shine. However, if you are hard pressed to do a thorough job on these areas and want to keep the tarnish off (especially aluminum), a coat of silicone lube will give some protection (washed off in Spring). My off-road bikes always got a silicone treatment before Winter storage (even though I occasionally rode a bike in the snow).

Chain and Drive Belts: Adjust the chain or belt per spec. If you have a chain drive, lube the chain with a chain lube (SAE 90 works) or lightweight grease (leave a note to clean excess in Spring).

Leather: There are several leather cleaners and conditioners. Leather riding gear should get a thorough cleaning, and then coated with leather conditioner before storage. Note: Several light coats are better than a heavy one. If your leather gets wet, a light coat of Lexol (brand name) conditions the leather. Buff leather with a soft cloth after the cleaner/conditioner is dry.

Vinyl: Clean vinyl with a *vinyl cleaner*, and then use a protector. There are several products on the market. Buff with a soft cloth when dry.

Battery: Tending the battery is advisable. Remove the battery. Clean the terminals. Check the fluid level (add if necessary)... use a flashlight to shine through the battery to see the level. Then attach a Battery Tender (a brand name as well) to keep the battery charged. Place the battery on a wood plank (not concrete). Put a tender on your *wish list* if you do not own one (Harley-Davidson makes a good one.)

Exhaust Pipes: Little critters and bugs do not know any better...so stuff a clean soft cloth in the end of your pipe, and/or cover the end with a plastic bag (secured with a rubber band). Leave note to remove the bags and rags in Spring. (Note: A little fuel oil on the rag will discourage most critters from making a home in a pipe. (Dampen, not soak, the cloth with fuel oil then stuff in the pipe(s).)

Tire Pressure: Check the tire pressure, and leave note to check in Spring.

Cover: Protect your motorcycle with a breathable cover, or use a soft cotton bed sheet to keep dust off. Neither will prevent condensation from forming. Note: Cats like to perch on warm places during the cool months. I put a box over my seat and backrest to restrict that activity.

Clean Helmet: Wearing a helmet is a matter of choice (in my humble opinion). In Michigan, it is still mandatory (law) as of November 2007. There are products advertised to “freshen” your helmet that work well. But, a simpler and cheaper method is to use a little *Ivory* dish soap, or *Dr. Bonner's Peppermint Oil Soap* with warm water to clean and refresh your helmet. Note: A damp cloth rubbed around the inside does wonders every week or so. Allow the helmet to dry before using.

Remove any temperature sensitive gauges, e.g., Oil Temp Dip Stick. Extreme temps may damage this equipment. Stuff clean (lint free) cloth in “holes” and leave note for Spring.

Spring Note/List: Write down all the things you need to do or check in the Spring. Then, tape the list to the ignition or handle bars where you will see it before you use the motorcycle.

If you cannot do these things, take your motorcycle to a reputable dealer. Hopefully, they will get everything ready for winter storage.

CCC Photos of the month:



What is this?

