

CANYON CARVING WITH CURVES ON CHROME

The Ann Arbor based chapter of
Women On Wheels®

www.curvesonchrome.com

Director's Update:

Spring is still holding tight to cold days, but warmth is cracking through a little more every day. I hope everyone's had a chance to put on some miles. My third road trip of the year was finally the charm. Anne and I started our riding season the last week in February by almost freezing in Florida, Mississippi and Alabama on a rented H-D Street Glide. On Mother's Day we were cold and wet riding home from Three Rivers. Three and a half hours in a temperature of 48 degrees with no let-up in rainfall for the whole trip. But this past weekend was blissful returning from Allegan (granted we had to stay north of I-94 to avoid thunderstorms and rain, but that wasn't too tough). Bellevue Road was the most obscure of the two-lane roads we traveled. You could just see and smell the green exploding in the grass and leaves after early morning rain, followed by temps of 81 gave growth a boost. Corn that will be as high as an elephant's eye by July 4th was just at the nubbin stage. An added bonus was getting to see spring three times this year. Flowering trees were a-blooming down south in February (I had to appreciate something while my teeth were chattering!). South-Central Michigan had a long luxurious spring flowering tree season. Then again the West side of Michigan was a-bloom Memorial weekend. Ah, the pleasures of the open road, never mind the numb- butt syndrome (note to self: remember to put Alaska Leather pads back on the bike seats!).

Happy (And Safe) Riding, Mary Co-Chapter Director

June Events:

- **June 7th Ice Cream Social Run** Charity ride with the West Michigan Drifters! We're meeting in Allegan around 10:00 to begin the ride. Hope to see you! One of the Drifters has offered her spare bedrooms if you need a place to stay. Anne has more details.
- **June 8th Bike Show at Hickory Corners.** This is held on the West side of the State, near K'zoo. Check our web site for more details.
- **June 9th Chapter Meeting at Anne and Mary's house.** This is our regular chapter meeting and it starts at 6:30, maybe we can get a ride in right after?
- **June 10, 11, 17, and 24th are bike nights.** Let's try to meet at some of these. Send an email to our group if you are planning on going to any.
- **June 14th Zukey Lake Tavern ride.** How about lunch? This should be a fun afternoon!
- **June 22nd is the Bike Blessing in Hell!** Spread the word if you're planning in going, let's get a group and ride to Hell together! Details on our events page.

New Member Shout Out:

Since we're out riding so much we haven't spent a lot of time recruiting. Please look for a New Members Meeting soon.

If you see a fellow female rider, make sure you let her know about CCC. If you need biz cards, ask Anne, she's dying to make more up!

Announcements:

There are many bike nights listed on our events page, let people know if you can meet up there.

Something to Share:

Sorry, Julie has been so busy riding she forgot about asking for submissions. She is so fired!

If you have something to share, please send it to jeggertsen@gmail.com she'll make sure it gets in our next edition

Upcoming Events:

The National Ride In begins July 8th. We have more information on our web site, check out www.curvesonchrome.com click on the events and rides link.

Motorcycle Lingo:

Jet - Precisely drilled opening in the carburetor through which fuel passes into the air stream. More generally, any hold used to control the passage of gas or fluid.

Gear Head Gossip: *When the "BUG" bites.*

By: Joan Stein

Many non-motorcyclists ask, "What's the attraction?" Whether it's off road or on road riding that is your love, most of us who do ride have been bitten by the "BUG." This month I'd like to deviate from the normal Gear Head Gossip article and share with you some of the personal experiences to which this "BUG" takes me.

It all began last year when my husband, Bob, and I decided we wanted to buy a trike. After we ordered our three-wheel Spyder, we learned that we needed our two wheel endorsements. So enroll in the MSF course at WCC we did. Well, one of us passed and one of us crashed. I won't go into the details, but dropping that bike during the test was one of the best things that ever happened to me. It was that incident that prompted me to buy my Honda Rebel 250cc...so I could practice, practice, practice. Sometime during those 300 parking lot miles of practice, the "BUG" bit me and bit me hard.

It bit me so hard that I had to harness this new found energy or I just knew I'd go nuts. This is not a good position to be in with winter fast approaching and PMS (parked motorcycle syndrome) on the rise. So, I began learning everything I could about my bike. Over the winter months not only did I do all the maintenance on the Rebel, I also began researching engine components and their function. You know the "BUG" bites hard when someone with zero interest in knowing a coil from a carburetor is now devouring the information and can follow the wiring schematic for the charging, starting, and ignition systems. Go figure...

Thank goodness, winter came to an end. March brought me my endorsement, in April came the PB class,

and now it's May. Oh boy, the "BUG" wants dirt bike school. What a blast! Please note that watching me do the U-turn in a box on my Rebel is not a pretty sight. So I thought that going to dirt bike school might help. Imagine standing on the foot-pegs; butt off to the right; bike tilted to the left; going around a curve...and in dirt no less. What a rush! I was so geeked that I raised my hand and said, "Can I demo that?"

Riders came from all over. Two 5 year olds came from Chicago just to get their "safety certificate". We asked the dad how long they had been riding. His response was "Since yesterday." And then there was the 70+ year old who came all the way from Iowa to experience the "Rites of Spring." He's come every year since 1998. Campers and port-a-johns peppered the fairgrounds, with plenty of grass and trails in-between. So what do you do in your spare time? You ride anywhere and everywhere you can!

Our nephew Eric and friend Jack joined us on this excursion. Eric had never used a clutch before, so I let him practice on the Spyder before his class began. I walked my toosh off while teaching Eric how to stay in the friction zone, so as not to stall the bike. Now I know why MSF instructors are so tired after giving a class. Jack said he enjoyed watching me teach Eric, using the hand signals I learned in my BRC class. And then it was my turn. Jack's Suzuki 400cc is a pretty tall bike...at least for me. My feet never came close to touching the ground. Jack held the bike upright until I got going. And then both Jack and Bob had to catch me as I brought the bike to a stop. What a hoot!

By now, I'm used to people just shaking their heads as I tell them where this "BUG" is taking me. What's next you ask? Well there's the ERC in July, then on the horizon are Total Control School, Track Day, and Ride Like A Pro (police training). In addition, I'm thinking of turning the spare Rebel 250cc engine I have into a 450cc, as well as converting the Buell Blast into a mini-dresser.

As for "BUG" and me...we're best buds now. So if there's a "BUG" that's biting you... my advice is...don't fight it...see where it wants to take you...I bet you'll love it!

CCC Photos of the month:



The Chrome Drifters, having fun in Allegan!

