

# CANYON CARVING WITH CURVES ON CHROME

The Ann Arbor based chapter of  
Women On Wheels®

[www.curvesonchrome.com](http://www.curvesonchrome.com)

## Director's Update:

Hey everyone! I hope you enjoy the first issue of our official newsletter – Canyon Carving with Curves on Chrome! I know you're all anxious to get riding and we have a lot of events scheduled to do just that. Please check our web site often for EVENTS and RIDES.

We had a lot of fun in 2007 with the rides to Muskegon, the Covered Bridge, MMM, and Frankenmuth to name a few, but 2008 is going to be even BETTER! We have the National Ride-In, the MI Member Meet (MMM), Muskegon Bike Time, a Saugatuck Weekend, a casino adventure, not to mention the regular chapter events we have planned! I'd also like to bring you up to speed on our BOW WOW's (formally known as our New Member Meetings). **Breakfast Out With Women On Wheels®** or BOW WOW's was a huge success – we met a lot of interesting riders and many of them joined CCC. Don't forget, if you know a woman rider that might be interested in joining our group, please bring her to an upcoming meeting. And please join us at our next BOW WOW; it's a great way for potential members to get to know us. -- Julie

## New Member Shout Out:

CCC is really excited to welcome:

Lori Guy  
Jeannie Eggertsen  
Joan Stein  
Patricia Miller  
Susan McCarthy  
Anita Riling

We've also had a few more BOW WOW's and we're hoping we'll be able to welcome more new members in the next newsletter!

## March Events:

- **Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting** starts at 6:30 at Foggy Bottom Coffee House in Dexter. This is an important meeting – we'll discuss the ride schedule for 2008, get a Ride-In update, and learn about the upcoming Michigan Member Meet. We also have information about CCC shirts! Hope you can make it to this mtg.
- **Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> St. Paddy's Party** at Anne & Mary's. Party starts at 5:00. They are providing corned beef, please bring a dish to pass and anything 'special' you'd like to drink. And if you're up for it, bring \$3. We're going to get a hot game of Tonk rev'd up.
- **Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> BOW WOW** at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Co. Meeting starts at noon. Please come and show our potential new members what fun joining CCC can be!

## Upcoming Events:

- Apr. 19-20<sup>th</sup> Lansing MI. The Michigan Members Meet (MMM) is fast approaching and rooms are becoming hard to get. If you plan on attending both days and would like a room, please give Anne a call. All Michigan Women On Wheels® are invited to attend. More details at our Mar 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Are you new to group riding? CCC is conducting Group Riding Lessons for those of you that have never ridden in a group and for those that need a refresher. First two dates are Apr. 13 & 21<sup>st</sup>. We have more information on our web site, check out [www.curvesonchrome.com](http://www.curvesonchrome.com) click on the events and rides link. Or send an email to [asolari@aol.com](mailto:asolari@aol.com)

## Announcements:

- If you're planning on attending the Mich. Member Meet in April, please contact Anne if you need a hotel room. [asolari@aol.com](mailto:asolari@aol.com)
- Many of us have upcoming membership dues – Please contact Kris Adler [toto97flsts@yahoo.com](mailto:toto97flsts@yahoo.com) for due dates.
- If you haven't done so already, please submit your bio to Julie so she can get it on the web site.
- Our annual GROUP PICTURE will take place at 6:15 on May 12<sup>th</sup> at Aubree's on Whitaker with our regular chapter meeting immediately following at Side Track in Depot Town, Ypsi. Please try to come (on your bike)

## Safety Tip of the Month:

**Assume Drivers Can't See You & Ride Like You're Invisible:** Ride assuming that you and your motorcycle are totally invisible to motorists. That means you must never assume that drivers can see you. The odds are, they can't, so always have an "out" for dangerous traffic situations. Motorcycle Safety depends on you.

### Motorcycle Lingo:

**Canyon Carving** - Riding the twisties (road curves) to an extreme.

## Why Bother? By: Jeannie Eggertsen

"Motorcycle Mama". "Biker Bitch". "Easy Rider". Crazy SOB. I have been called them all at one time or another since I started riding a motorcycle. I've gotten the stares from pedestrians and other motorists as I drive through downtown Ann Arbor. The fact that I ride a motorcycle is a bit of a curiosity to many people. Co-workers and friends have asked lots of questions about it. Of course, most of these people have no idea the complexities involved in getting to this point. To get my endorsement, it was a bit of a journey. My husband got his endorsement first. I swore I would never ride a motorcycle because I thought they were just too dangerous. After he convinced me to try it out on our neighborhood street, I was hooked. I remember with some humor now cruising back and forth in a parking lot having the hardest time going from 1st gear to 2nd!

I then devoted an entire weekend in rainy, cold weather at the Motorcycle Basic training course at WCC. I had a bad afternoon session on a touchy bike the 2nd day, and didn't think I was going to pass the tests the next day. Fortunately, I got my head out of my \*ss and nearly aced them. It was then off to the secretary of State to take their written test, which we were warned by the WCC trainers could be a bit convoluted in the question wording. It was, but I passed. Now I was ready to ride.

When go for a ride in your car, you don't really have to think much about it. Not so much on a motorcycle. A blown tire can be deadly. Feeling tired? You don't want to space out on a motorcycle. Potholes, and in the larger cases, pot-craters, are frightening. Dogs are more of a hassle than you'd think. And, of course, there are all the other vehicles who don't always see you. Always scanning ahead for these and many other potential pitfalls.

With all this to worry about, some people wonder why bother. Why take the risks? I still remember my first "high speed" (50-55mph - it's all relative!) ride down Dexter-Ann Arbor road (just North of Miller). It was intense. The wind. The scenery flashing by. The motorcycle responding underneath me to every dip and turn in the road. It was a rush. Many years ago, I went skydiving. The feeling of free-fall was incredible. Until that moment on Dexter-Ann Arbor, nothing had ever compared in sheer fun factor. Taking the motorcycle to work would made a pretty routine, and uninteresting trip a joy! I'd arrive at work juiced up and ready to go (especially on those couple of 35 degree days!). Just a quick cruise through the neighborhood could lift my spirits on a downer day.

So these are some of the reasons why I deal with all the complications of riding. Riding a motorcycle helps make life a little less routine, and a lot more interesting. That's a good enough reason for me.

### ***Fuel Valves in Carbureted Systems***

On some bikes, gas is gravity fed to the carburetor via the petcock valve. This fuel valve has three positions: ON, OFF, and RESERVE. When turned to the ON position, gas flows from the gas tank to the carburetor, until the gas falls below a certain level in the tank. When this occurs (as you may well suspect) the engine is out of fuel and stops running. Turning the valve to the RESERVE position allows the engine to run on the remaining fuel in the tank. Typically this amount is minimal, allowing the rider enough time to get to a gas station to refuel. This reserve position is important as many bikes have no fuel gage to indicate when fuel is low. Of equal importance is the OFF position on the petcock valve. When the ride is over and the engine stopped, the valve needs to be turned to the OFF position. This will prevent any more gas from entering the carburetor. If you forget to do this simple yet important step, your engine may flood the next time you go to start it. The fuel valve is simple in design and seldom needs servicing.

What does need to be checked is the filter or sediment trap. In fuel systems that have petcocks, the filter may be located either in the fuel tank at the top of the fuel valve or on the bottom of the fuel valve. Filters located in the fuel tank are more difficult to check because the fuel tank must be drained of all gas first. When rust or sediment clog the filter, the flow of gasoline is reduced thus creating what's called fuel starvation.

### ***Electronic Fuel Injection Systems***

Motorcycles equipped with electronic fuel injection (EFI) systems provide increased fuel economy, better performance, and reduced emissions than that of carbureted bikes. In addition EFI systems have fewer components, making them more reliable. A high pressure is applied to the fuel, which "atomizes" it into small droplets. Atomized fuel is better able to mix with the low pressured air being drawn into the cylinders. This results in a more efficient burn once the fuel/air mixture is ignited by the spark plug.

EFI systems are typically mounted near or inside the fuel tank. The rationale for this location is twofold. First, because a pressure of 40 – 80 pounds per square inch is needed to create the small droplets, it's easier to push fuel out rather than to pull it out. Second, the farther the fuel pump is from the heat of the engine the less opportunity for vapor lock to occur. A computer called the electronic control unit regulates the specifics: how much, how long, and how often.

Like carbureted motorcycles, those bikes with EFI systems also have a filter that traps debris. These fuel injection filters are typically located inside the fuel tank. With EFI systems, the changing of the fuel injection filter is best left to certified motorcycle mechanics.

### ***FYI: a peek into the past...***

*The 1949 Indian Scout model 249 was an air cooled, parallel twin, with an overhead valve four-stroke engine. It had a 53.5 inch wheelbase, telescoping forks, dual spring suspended solo seat, single-down tube cradle frame, rear suspension-shock-axle-frame assembly, and weighed 280 pounds.*

References: How To Repair Your Motorcycle by Charles Everitt, Peterson's Basic Motorcycle Troubleshooting by Richard Bean

**CCC Photos of the month:**



**We passed!! The Accident Scene Management course.**



**Hot Rod Shirley and her V-Rod**



**How much did you pay for those leathers?**



**Having fun in Tecumseh!**



**Oh my God Mary, I think we killed her -**