

CANYON CARVING WITH CURVES ON CHROME

The Ann Arbor based chapter of
Women On Wheels®

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Director's Update:

Fall is upon us and we start getting shaky, because we know that the time to put our bikes away is near.

That's appropriate, because Halloween is coming close, also. We are rounding up riders to join us again for a Halloweekend on October 17/18th. Either Homer Mill/Niles/Edwardsburg Corn Maze again or something different, if that would be preferred. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested in going. The more the merrier.

We also plan to have a costume ride on Halloween afternoon for a couple of hours. Start planning your costumes! Not sure what I'm going to be this year, but I'm thinking about something that goes good with a helmet!

October 31st is also the day to write down your ending mileage and get it to WOW, so Michigan can be represented at the Ride-In in Vermont in July. Last year Minnesota got first place, Minnesota!! Now we can do better than that!

It's sad to end a riding season, but we have next year to plan and look forward to!

-Mary

October Events:

- 10/4 – Chili cook-off (bike show) – Plymouth.
- 10/6 – Ice cream/hot chocolate run. Email Dondi for info.
- 10/10 – Group riding lesson; Pioneer High School; 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- 10/12 – Chapter Meeting 6:30, O'Charlies's in Belleville.
- 10/22 – Dinner run, TBD.

Upcoming Events:

- 12/4 – CCC Christmas Party – Haab's in Ypsilanti; 7:00 p.m.

Fewer ambulances on the 'Dragon'

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 | 9:31 AM



A rider tackles the Tail of the Dragon in Western North Carolina (Image courtesy Flickr - Creative Commons)



ROBBINSVILLE, N.C. -- Motorcyclists in western North Carolina should take note. Beginning next year, emergency help on the Swain County route known as the "Tail of the Dragon" will take longer to arrive.

The Asheville Citizen-Times reported that Graham County is ending its ambulance service into Swain County to respond to wrecks on the well-known motorcycle route on U.S. 129. Motorcyclists from around the world travel to the area to ride the route.

The road starts in Blount County, Tenn., and packs 318 curves in 11 miles. Although most of the road is in Tennessee, at least two people are killed on the North Carolina side of the road in a typical year.

It takes about 22 minutes for an ambulance to get to that part of U.S. 129 in Swain County from Robbinsville in Graham County. It can take as long as 50 minutes to get there from Bryson City in Swain County.

County leaders say they used to get few emergency calls for the route but now get about 30 a year, at cost of about \$100,000 annually.

The Graham board decided to discontinue emergency service, effective Jan. 1, during a meeting on Sept. 21. During that meeting, Swain County Manager Kevin King offered a discounted rate to house Graham inmates in the Swain jail as compensation, said Graham County Manager Lynn Cody.

He said King's offer of \$40 per day per inmate was \$5 lower than Cherokee County, where Graham now houses its inmates. But it still wasn't enough.

"If you don't have a whole lot of inmates you are really not getting much out of it," Cody said Tuesday.

Swain had been giving Graham \$21,000 a year to pick up garbage in the area but wasn't contributing directly to emergency services and law enforcement.

Earlier this year, Graham leaders earlier this year considered asking the General Assembly to change the county line and give them the corner of Swain County. The proposal was tabled.

Most of the serious accidents on U.S. 129 happen in Graham County, according to N.C. Highway Patrol records.

Troopers last year responded to four wrecks involving injuries on U.S. 129 in Swain County and 20 in Graham County. Troopers wrote one speeding ticket in Swain County and 91 in Graham County.

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Safety Tip of the Month:

Watch this AMA commercial about safe driving and safe riding.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNHVo6pWgUs>

Motorcycle Lingo:

Carving - Riding a motorcycle hard and fast through curves and corners with the bike leaning near horizontal. Sometimes known as "canyon carving." Sound familiar?

CCC Photos of the month:



Us at cider mill #3. Gosh PJ...you should be a professional photographer!

