

# 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:

What a great summer our group has had. The Michigan chapters of WOW hosted a national ride-in, we took several trips to the West side of our State, we rode in fund raisers, we rode for ice cream, some of us got certified in Accident Scene Management, a few of us rode over the Big Mac bridge, and some of us went to Hell and got blessed! And along the way we made some good friends and isn't that really the best part of being a member of the group? I hope you'll take a minute to reflect back on the fun we've had this past summer and also look forward to the new adventures we are planning for 2009.

## We've got you covered:

If you ride with us regularly you'll notice that our group has at least doubled, probably tripled in size this year. And as you know, as our group gets larger it becomes more important to know how to safely ride in a group. Some of you may have questions about how to ride in different situations, what you should do at a traffic light, how you should proceed through an intersection while riding in a group, etc. The more you ride in a group the more questions you have – this makes perfect sense. Don't worry we've got it covered! Look for a new page on our web site with our group riding rules and other information on group riding and plan on attending our group riding lessons this spring. ***You're never too good to get skooled!***

I want to take a moment to recognize and thank a few of our members that have taken on a lot more responsibilities. Kim is our new treasurer, Char is our new secretary, Ruth and Char are sharing the newsletter duties. A round of applause for all! Thank you!!

*Ride Safe – Julie*

## Oct Events:

- **Oct 13th Chapter Meeting in Ann Arbor** – Meeting to include Officer Elections – Location Classic Cup Café
- **Oct 18th – 19th Overnight ride to Niles, MI** - Plenty of fun activities planned for the weekend.
- **Oct 26th Costume Ride** – meet at Weber's at 1:30

## Upcoming Events 2008:

- **Nov 10th** – Chapter meeting in Ypsi
- **Nov 15th** – **Movie night at Melissa's house.** Bring a dish to pass.
- **Dec 13th** – **Holiday party at the Common Grill in Chelsea**
- **Dec 14th** – **Wicked at the Opera House**

### **New Member Shout Out:**

CCC is really excited to welcome:

Karen - 2003 Harley Davidson Softail Heritage Classic

Teresa - 2005 Kawasaki Z1000

If you're on the road and see a fellow woman rider, hand her your business card and tell her about CCC.

### **Safety Tip of the Month:**

Ears Are for More Than Hanging Sunglasses On! Most riders think that the majority of noise associated with riding comes from the motorcycle itself. However, wind noise created by air turbulence produces almost all noise over 35 mph, which is why you need hearing protection. Earplugs lessen the amount of sound reaching your ears, with most having a noise reduction rating of between 20 dB and 33 dB

### **Announcements:**

- New member breakfast meetings start up again in January!

### **Motorcycle Lingo:**

**OEM** - An acronym, "Original Equipment from Manufacturer," refers to parts or components

## ***MASTERING THE U-TURN***

*by Anne Solari*

Recently some friends and myself took a Sunday afternoon ride to Ybor City. Ybor, for those of you who don't know means, NO PARKING in Spanish. Once there, as usual, we had a tough time finding a parking space. In order to actually park, we had to make several quick U-turns on the narrow streets. Since I was leading, I could see in my mirrors the dirty looks my friends gave me as I led them on several U-turns in an effort to find the elusive parking spot. Their grumblings over the quick turns inspired me to write these tips.

As I have stated before, just about all production motorcycles are capable of making a U-turn in well under 20 feet. That means that you can U-turn on just about any two lane road including the narrow streets in Ybor City.

Here's the technique you need to apply. If you are about to make a left hand U-turn, keep your foot firmly on the rear brake, keep the clutch in the friction zone and roll on the throttle. Dip the bike towards the right curb, then quickly and smoothly turn your head completely around to the direction you want to go. At the same time you are turning your head, you should be pushing on the right grip turning your handle bars as far as possible and leaning the bike to the left. The same technique applies if you are making a right hand U-turn.

To practice this maneuver, find a parking lot with back to back parking lines. You will find the white lines of the parking spaces are placed 10 feet apart. At first, use three parking spaces. Start with your motorcycle towards the left side of the first parking space, then ride forward towards the right of the opposing parking space, turn your head completely around as you turn the handle bars and make a 30 foot U-turn.

Keep practicing this making your turn tighter each time till you can eventually turn using only two of the parking spots. That will give you a 20 foot U-turn and enable you to make a U-turn on just about any street.

Practice this maneuver equally to the right and to the left. You may find that making a right hand U-turn seems to be more difficult if you are right-handed. That means you practice the U-turn to the right more than to the left and you will get comfortable making the U-turn in both directions.

The real key to this maneuver is to look where you want the bike to go. Remember, if you look at the curb or the end of the pavement on that narrow street, that's where you will go. So, at all costs, avoid that temptation. With about 3 hours practice, you should be able to turn on any street whenever you feel like it with total confidence. Good Luck!

## CCC Photos of the month:

### Fun at the cider mill and in Grand Haven



### Lake Michigan weekend and fun in the Michigan shaped pool



### We also take time to eat!