

Southern Appalachian H.O.G.



Chapter 5443

March/April 2008

Newsletter

Lisa Crum, Editor

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!

And I don't mean Friday night at the fights! I mean that sound of the pipes cracking as we head out on some of these wonderful spring rides! That unmistakable "potato potato potato" sound of a Harley engine idling brings me to the window every time I hear it. Days I'm working and can't ride, I get that faraway look in my eyes when I pass folks out and about.

Well, indeed spring has sprung, and so has the pollen! We've kept our duster very busy knocking that yellow-green stuff off the Harley and off our cars the past few days. When we ride, sometimes it's like I've got yellow mascara on. Just a reminder to all you folks who wear contacts, if you have a backup pair of glasses to ride in, I strongly suggest you pass on the contacts for a few weeks. I got the nastiest corneal abrasion a few years back when pollen got under one of my contacts. You might need to

keep an antihistamine product and some extra tissues in your saddlebag too. Bad as I hate to use nasal spray, these first few weeks of spring mean a shot of that occasionally when we ride just so my sinuses don't



Someone sent me this little jewel by email...let's hope that's not really the new \$5 dollar bill! Better yet, I hope one of these days we don't look back and say, "Remember when you could get a gallon of gas for that?!"

make the trip miserable!

Isn't it great to get past those long winter months? We didn't have a BAD winter this year, but "for some reason" it seemed to linger forever. As a fellow biker, you know exactly what that reason was!

So now that it is full-blown riding season, get that fresh oil change, a new back tire if you wore yours out from many miles last year, and let Mike's service techies give your baby a good checkup to start the riding season off

right. There are some mighty pretty new Harley Motorclothes hanging on the rack, stocked at Mike's just in time to shed those jackets and ride in "your shirt sleeves" ...or without sleeves for that matter!

And now to the price of gasoline...by now we're all staring incredulously at the signs outside the service stations. The syndicated cartoons that started flying around a few years ago had amounts on them that we only wish we could get back! When I started my Charleston job back in October 2003, gas was \$1.47 a gallon and I was sweating over it. When I left that job a year later, gas had jumped up to \$2.03 a gallon and I knew I couldn't afford the drive any longer.

Wouldn't you give your eye teeth for two-dollar-a-gallon gas now!!! In light of it all, having a Harley makes more sense than ever in terms of alternate transportation. In the summer, it'll probably be the main source of getting around for some of us, unless you want to be like the fellow from Cross Lanes who, the other day, rode his

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horse to work at CAMC!

Good for him...but I'd rather ride my hog. Still, I couldn't resist tacking the little cartoon illustration onto the front of this issue's newsletter.

Someone sent that to me by email a few days ago. You know that old saying...it's funny but it hurts too much to laugh!

I pray that all of you will have a safe, enjoyable riding season this year. Please check your tire pressure often, as these spring temps tend to fluctuate. And watch, watch, WATCH those other drivers out there. They're like the deer beside the road around here...very unpredictable, so you have to be the one on guard and anticipating what they might do next. Make yourself as visible as possible by reflective clothing at night, bright colors by day (oh so hard for Dana and me because we love to wear black!), and check out the goodies rack at Mike's for extra lights and reflectors you can purchase for your Harley. In terms of safety, you can never have too many. I hear many public service announcements on the radio encouraging motorists to watch out for us. Let's hope that they do...

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US!

We'd love to hear some of your interesting riding stories or maintenance tips. Please

email me at

L_CRUM@VERIZON.NET

and we may include your info in our next issue of the newsletter. Also, I welcome any suggestions or ideas you have for improvement. Please feel free to contact me any time...this is YOUR newsletter!

—Lisa

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH: EXCESSIVE TIRE WEAR—A LIST OF CAUSES

By James R. Davis
Master Strategy Group

Excessive tire wear, and/or cupping, is a problem that most motorcyclists experience over time. Too often this is simply the result of failing to maintain proper tire pressure. However, this is far from a complete answer.

Cupping is a phenomena that is absolutely normal! Excessive cupping or excessive wear on one side of the tire as compared to the other is not.

There are at least seven causes of cupping and/or uneven wear in the front tire other than tire air pressure:

- Most roads are banked away from the center. Thus, if you ride vertical, the side of your tire closest to the center of the road wears more.
- Your tires 'scuff' when you force a speed change with

them. The rear tire scuffs when you accelerate and when you brake (and every time you ride in a direction other than straight ahead.) Thus, it tends to have even 'cupping' as compared to the front tire (which scuffs when you brake but not when you accelerate.)

- While alignment is not usually a problem with motorcycles - it can be.
- Carrying an unevenly divided load (all your tools, jumper cable, etc.) in one saddlebag can result in your riding the bike other than vertical most of the time.
- If one of your front shocks is defective you will experience uneven tire wear.
- Excessive use of the front brake will result in excessive cupping.

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