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DETAILS INSIDE

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from the editor's desk

Greetings Virginia Riders! We can't thank you enough for all of the support that we've received from everyone. If you're one of our readers who have Virginia Rider emailed to you or you read the magazine online at our website each month, we greatly appreciate you! With over 20k readers so far, & growing, we are truly blown away. Virginia hasn't had its own motorcycle/moto magazine for a couple of years so we were hoping that Virginia Rider would be well received. I've gotta tell you, we've been overwhelmed in a very wonderful way to be welcomed with such open arms.....THANK YOU SO MUCH!

We'd like you all to know how much we appreciate the businesses that place ads with us. They are the backbone of our magazine. Their advertising support helps fund our entire production process from our design, research, marketing, layout, website, printing, shipping, etc...we surely could not do this without them. They're here for YOU! The ads that you see in our magazine are placed by the best rider-friendly businesses in our state. These businesses are mostly owned & staffed by motorcyclists so they understand what you want & need for products & services. You can count on these folks to have your back & we highly encourage you to support them. Starting in July, we'll be featuring one of our advertisers every month to bring you an up close & personal inside look into the best rider-friendly businesses in the state of Virginia.

We're always trying to find new ways to help get the word out about motorcycle safety to not only those who ride but to motorists who you share the road with. The other day while I was at the gym, I was speaking with the attendants at the front desk, Pam & Lopez, who are also readers of our magazine. They've never ridden a motorcycle but they like being around them. Lopez was telling me about his ride to work one morning & his encounter with a motorcyclist along the way. It was 5am so it was still dark outside. In his view ahead he had the tail lights of the truck in front of him. Then all of a sudden he realized that there was a motorcycle in between him & the truck only after the motorcyclist had changed lanes & moved away from the truck. The motorcycle's tail light totally blended with the truck's tail lights so they looked like all one vehicle in the dark from behind. Lopez could not see the rider at all. Then Pam shared with me about her close call on an interstate bridge when some motorcycle riders next to her started standing on their seats while at high-ways speeds. Although the stunt may have looked impressive to some other drivers, it can be very scary for others. Pam had to slow down to get away from them as she felt very unsafe driving anywhere near them. Friends, we as motorcyclists should do everything that we possibly can to make ourselves be seen on the road by the clothing that we wear & the accessories that we choose for our bikes. How can people "watch for motorcycles" if they can't see them??? And...., if you're one to have the urge to do stunts on the road, wheelies & seat stands etc...., please save it for the bike shows or parking lots to show off your skills. Not only is it dangerous for yourself but it makes sharing the road with other vehicles unsafe.

We want to see you in the magazine! Send us your pictures for our "SHOTZ" pages! If you have a dog that rides, we'd love to have you & your pooch in our "Ruff Riders" feature! Help us keep the "Events" calendar hopping!...send us your events so we can get them added in! Email your submissions to virginiaridermagazine@yahoo.com.

Thanks again for being here with us! Be sure to get your wind therapy in every chance you get – it can keep you out of the doc's office! Here's wishing you, Health, Happiness & Safe Travels!

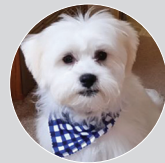
Stay awesome,

Kelly

IN THIS ISSUE



You don't have to be Game Of Thrones' Dany Targaryen to ride the **BACK OF THE DRAGON**. Just head down to VA route 16 in Tazewell. All the details of the iconic ride are inside.



It's quite possible that **TEDDY**, a Shi-chon, knows exactly how cute he is. His owner, Tim Nash, says, "Teddy was 3 months old when I got him in Staunton VA. I started Teddy riding with me at 4 months and now is 2 1/2 years old."



It's **RIDING SEASON**, and you'll want to keep up with every rally, show and ride happening. We'll list the latest here and on the website to keep your wheels turning.



Matt Danielson from **TOM MCGRATH'S MOTORCYCLE LAW GROUP** thinks that three-wheeled motorcycles aren't motorcycles at all, but cars. Here's why.



You never know where Marc and Rose will end up next, and they like it that way. This month's **GREAT PLACES TO RIDE** finds them on a rollicking adventure through Newport, Arrowhead and The Drive on a 2011 Road Glide Ultra in Cool Blue Pearl, courtesy of Wayne Cycle Shop.



In **SHOTZ**, our monthly pictorial, we'll feature your pics of rides, bikes, friends and anything else relating to bikes that you'd like to share with us. Send 'em in!



The **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION** has published the definitive group riding article on formation and hand signals. Read (or review) the venerable document inside.



GOOD FOR YOU

CMA Chaplain Eugene Kraybill introduces us to the ultimate Road Captain. Hand signals may help keep us safe on the road, but the keeper of The **LIGHTHOUSE** is where true safety lies.

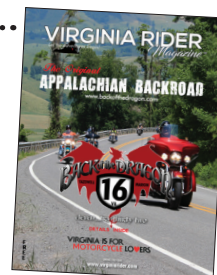
Have you ever been out on a road trip & hunger sets in with no food places in sight? Yep, it's happened to us all at one time or another. We've got food to go in our monthly **GOOD FOR YOU**.

Kelly Collins - Owner/Editor
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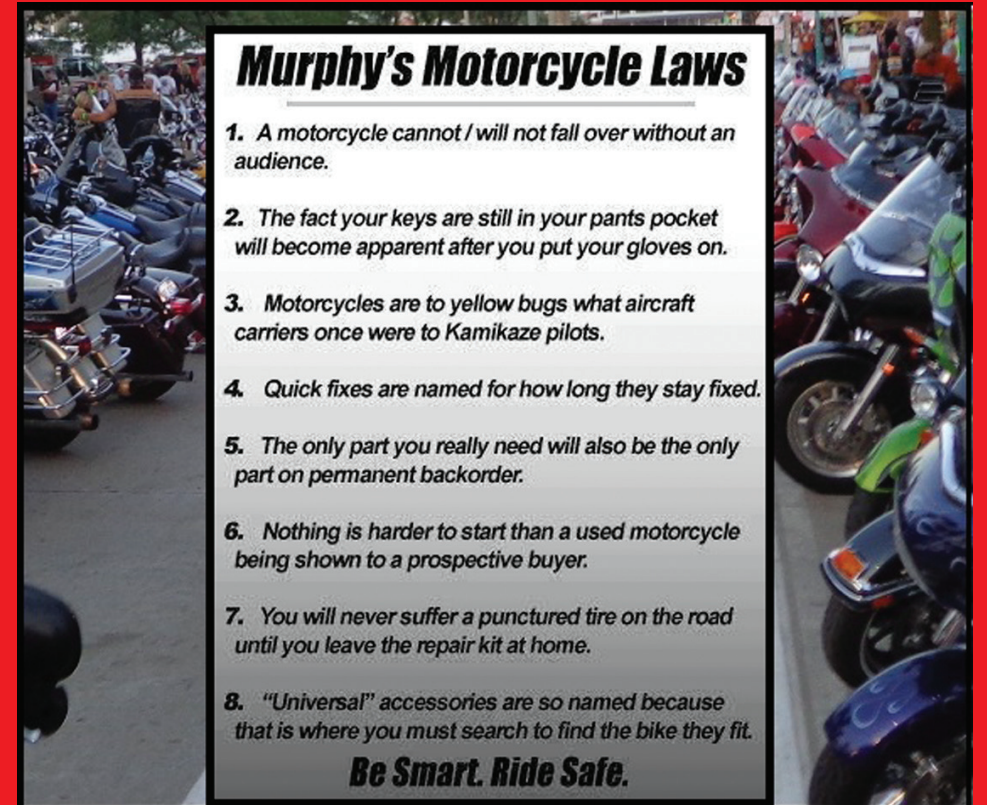
ON OUR COVER:

VA Route 16, aka the **BACK OF THE DRAGON**, is the original appalachian back road. You can ride it too if you dare! See the details inside.



Ever wonder who "Murphy" was & how "Murphy's Law" got started?... **Murphy's Law** ("If anything can go wrong, it will") was born at Edwards Air Force Base in 1949 at North Base. It was named after Capt. Edward A. Murphy, an engineer working on Air Force Project MX981, (a project) designed to see how much sudden deceleration a person can stand in a crash. He even had some for motorcycles.

MURPHY'S LAW FOR MOTORCYCLES



Murphy's Motorcycle Laws

1. A motorcycle cannot / will not fall over without an audience.
2. The fact your keys are still in your pants pocket will become apparent after you put your gloves on.
3. Motorcycles are to yellow bugs what aircraft carriers once were to Kamikaze pilots.
4. Quick fixes are named for how long they stay fixed.
5. The only part you really need will also be the only part on permanent backorder.
6. Nothing is harder to start than a used motorcycle being shown to a prospective buyer.
7. You will never suffer a punctured tire on the road until you leave the repair kit at home.
8. "Universal" accessories are so named because that is where you must search to find the bike they fit.

Be Smart. Ride Safe.

FOURTH ANNUAL

RIDE TO FIGHT SUICIDE



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Registration: 8:30AM & \$15 Bike Entry Fee
Bikes Out: 9:30AM & \$5 Passenger Fee

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Featuring: Thieves of Burden & Core

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for motorcycles

A MOTORCYCLE'S BEST SAFETY FEATURE IS YOU.

EVENTS

- ★ **May 24th Bike Night w/ SLYDE**
Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson, 6450 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23692, 757-499-8964. Visit www.hrhd.com.
- ★ **May 25th Cars & Coffee Yorktown**
9am - Come out and bring your ride. Cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, whatever ride you take pride in needs to be out here. Come show off all that hard work you been putting into it. Hampton Roads Harley-Davidson, 6450 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23692, 757-499-8964
- ★ **May 25th Ladies Intro To Motorcycles Workshop**
Southside Harley-Davidson, 385 N. Witchduck Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462, 757-499-8964.
- May 25th The First Annual Hampton Roads Vets Fest – Portsmouth, VA
Sponsored by End 22, HRBE & Bayside Harley-Davidson. In Honor of the 22 Vets and 1 Active Duty member that we lose EACH DAY to Suicide. For full details go to: <https://www.helpend22.org/events/hampton-roads-vet-fest>
- ★ **Jun 1st Summer Riding Gear Workshop**
Southside Harley-Davidson, 385 N. Witchduck Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462, 757-499-8964.
- Jun 1st Ride to Remember - Portsmouth, VA
Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association Chapter 27-1's Annual Ride to Remember. Come join the CVMA Chapter 27-1 at Bayside Harley-Davidson for our 3rd Annual Memorial Ride in honoring & remembering the Fallen Heroes of the Armed Forces. Start at Bayside HD, 2211 Frederick Blvd, Portsmouth, VA 23704. End at Outer Banks HD, 8739 Caratoke Hwy, Harbinger, NC 27941. Registration Table Opens and breakfast starts at 9am. Safety brief at 1000. KSU 1030. Raffle drawings will take place at Outer Banks HD. \$25 per Rider/ \$5 Passenger. Register today at <http://www.cvmavirginia27-1.com>
- ★ **Jun 6th – 8th South Central Bike Fest – Chase City, VA**
Join us for the 3rd annual South Central Bike Fest as we raise money to assist area cancer victims. It's a weekend of camping, bands, DJs, cruise-ins, bike shows, poker runs, bike rodeos, fireworks, bikini bike washing, swap meet, and more. It's not just another bike fest. We will kick off at 5:00 pm on Thursday evening with a town-sponsored BBQ supper & DJ. On Friday at noon, join in on a 2 hour or 4 hour historic ride (southern style) dedicated to our fallen bikers and veterans. We have some fantastic country roadways with many historic stops for your riding pleasure. DJs (Brad & Wildthang), The 10 Sinful Years Band. Saturday morning begins at 9AM with a poker run and lots of other events accompanied by music from SOUNDHOUSE DJ Services, The Tobacco Road Band, & Moonshine Sons will finish up the evening. Vendors & Sponsors wanted. @SouthCentralBikeFest. Lee Brankley, (434) 210-1503. www.southcentralbikefest.com Located at the Fire Training Grounds, 534 Jonbil Rd., Chase City, VA. All veterans, active military, and first responders are granted free admission with proper ID. We also have onsite camping and RV rentals available. Early entry at 3 PM on Thursday, all bikes/campers will be out by Noon Sunday.
- ★ **Jun 15th God Bless the Children Run 2019 – Staunton**
Sponsored by Staunton Moose Riders #1635. Ride to Fort Valley, VA. After run activities: Food * Pool * Raffles * Entertainment * Dance * 50/50 * Cornhole * Bike Show with Prizes * Good People & Good Times! \$10 donation per bike for each ride. Registration is at 8:30am. Wheels roll at 9am from Staunton Moose parking lot at 139 Cedar Green Rd, Staunton, VA 24401. All proceeds go to Moose Heart Children's Fund. Summer of Fun Runs - Every 3rd Saturday through the summer.
- ★ **Jun 15th 8th Annual MDA Poker Run – Portsmouth, VA**
Registration: 9:30am. Last bike out: 10:30am. After party: 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Join us for the 8th Annual MDA, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Poker Run at Bayside Harley-Davidson, 2111 Frederick Blvd, Portsmouth, VA 23704. Food provided by Central Meats. Food prepared by Q Daddy's Pitmaster BBQ. Live Music by Assisted Living. Beer sold by DAV. Door Prizes * 50/50 Raffle * Food & Drinks * Silent Auction * Group Rides Available * Blind Draw Cornhole Tournament * T-shirts & Pins while supplies last. Rain date – Saturday, July 13th, 2019.
- ★ **Jun 22nd FREE 3D Mammograms**
The Pink Ride in partnership with Chesapeake Regional Health Care Breast Center is offering 3D Mammograms to anyone 40 years of age or older who is not covered by insurance & has not had a mammogram within the last 12 months. There are 25 screening appointments available on each of the following dates: June 22nd, 9am-5pm,

EVENTS

at Big Woody's, 1479 General Booth Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23454. October 1st, 9am-5pm, at Ocean's 14, 1401 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. October 29th, 9am-5pm, at RK Auto, 2661 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. October 30th, 9am-5pm, at Pungo Pizza, 1824 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. Walk-ins are welcome, but spots fill up quickly. We recommend that you preregister today. <http://www.chesapeakemammo.com>. Registration Questions Please Contact: Buddy Cummings 757-339-3156, Lisa Carroll 757-312-4055, Don't Delay - Get Them Checked Today!

Jul 19th – 21st Thunder in Kanawha's 10th Anniversary – Dugspur, VA Come for a day or for the entire weekend. We have lots of fun activities planned like our famous Wet T-Shirt Contest, our Best Bike Competition and Live Music performances. Be sure to visit our vendors who will be setup in our large modern barn. You are welcome to participate in the many Bike Games. Have your bike cleaned at our Bikinis Bike Wash. Enjoy some great food and your favorite beverages at our Arena Concession Stand or in our Carriage House Saloon. You are invited to our 10th Annual Rally for a great party with your friends. We look forward to seeing you. Bands performing: Confederate Railroad, Tim Elliott, Problem/Child, Bad Mountain Brew, Southern Thunder, Flat Blak Cadillac, Honky Tonk Outlaws. Get your 2019 THUNDER IN KANAWHA ticket today! Choose your ticket \$15 for Friday, \$25 for Saturday or \$35 for the weekend!!

- ★ **Jul 20th God Bless the Children Run 2019 – Staunton**
Sponsored by Staunton Moose Riders #1635. Ride to Marlinton, WV. After run activities: Food * Pool * Raffles * Entertainment * Dance * 50/50 * Cornhole * Bike Show with Prizes * Good People & Good Times! \$10 donation per bike for each ride. Registration is at 8:30am. Wheels roll at 9am from Staunton Moose parking lot at 139 Cedar Green Rd, Staunton, VA 24401. All proceeds go to Moose Heart Children's Fund. Summer of Fun Runs - Every 3rd Saturday through the summer.
- ★ **Aug 17th God Bless the Children Run 2019 – Staunton**
Sponsored by Staunton Moose Riders #1635. Ride to Moorefield, WV. After run activities: Food * Pool * Raffles * Entertainment * Dance * 50/50 * Cornhole * Bike Show with Prizes * Good People & Good Times! \$10 donation per bike for each ride. Registration is at 8:30am. Wheels roll at 9am from Staunton Moose parking lot at 139 Cedar Green Rd, Staunton, VA 24401. All proceeds go to Moose Heart Children's Fund. Summer of Fun Runs - Every 3rd Saturday through the summer.
- ★ **Oct 1st FREE 3D Mammograms**
The Pink Ride in partnership with Chesapeake Regional Health Care Breast Center is offering 3D Mammograms to anyone 40 years of age or older who is not covered by insurance & has not had a mammogram within the last 12 months. There are 25 screening appointments available on each of the following dates: October 1st, 9am-5pm, at Ocean's 14, 1401 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. October 29th, 9am-5pm, at RK Auto, 2661 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. October 30th, 9am-5pm, at Pungo Pizza, 1824 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. Walk-ins are welcome, but spots fill up quickly. We recommend that you preregister today. <http://www.chesapeakemammo.com>. Registration Questions Please Contact: Buddy Cummings 757-339-3156, Lisa Carroll 757-312-4055, Don't Delay - Get Them Checked Today!
- ★ **Oct 29th FREE 3D Mammograms**
The Pink Ride in partnership with Chesapeake Regional Health Care Breast Center is offering 3D Mammograms to anyone 40 years of age or older who is not covered by insurance & has not had a mammogram within the last 12 months. There are 25 screening appointments available on each of the following dates: October 29th, 9am-5pm, at RK Auto, 2661 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. October 30th, 9am-5pm, at Pungo Pizza, 1824 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. Walk-ins are welcome, but spots fill up quickly. We recommend that you preregister today. <http://www.chesapeakemammo.com>. Registration Questions Please Contact: Buddy Cummings 757-339-3156, Lisa Carroll 757-312-4055, Don't Delay - Get Them Checked Today!
- ★ **Oct 30th FREE 3D Mammograms**
The Pink Ride in partnership with Chesapeake Regional Health Care Breast Center is offering 3D Mammograms to anyone 40 years of age or older who is not covered by insurance & has not had a mammogram within the last 12 months. There are 25 screening appointments available for Oct 30th from 9am-5pm, at Pungo Pizza, 1824 Princess Anne Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. Walk-ins are welcome, but spots fill up quickly. We recommend that you preregister today. <http://www.chesapeakemammo.com>. Registration Questions Please Contact: Buddy Cummings 757-339-3156, Lisa Carroll 757-312-4055, Don't Delay - Get Them Checked Today!

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GOOD FOR YOU

FOOD FOR THE ROAD

Have you ever been out on a road trip & hunger sets in with no food places in sight? Yep, it's happened to us all at one time or another. If you want to enjoy your ride without having to worry about where the next restaurant or convenience store is or worse yet, having to deal with that biting hunger, here's some excellent dried goods and other foods that will hold at least several days without going bad, or can be purchased the day they are going to be eaten.

NUTS are a great source of protein and other goodness we all need each day in our diet. Look for raw or roasted nuts that aren't sugar coated in the process. Almonds, are always one of the best choices due to their nutritional value. A handful of almonds can definitely take the edge off of any hunger pangs.



Fruits Oranges, apples, apricots and pears pack nicely and can hold up being knocked around a little in your bag. Fresh fruit is best & if you can find a farmer's market or fruit stand. Some fruits that won't last very long & can get mushed up pretty quickly are peaches, bananas, grapes, cherries & berries.



VEGGIES Cut up Carrots and celery are the two most common veggies to find on the road and will last a few days packed without refrigeration. They're perfect to dip in some nut butters that can also be easily packed for travel.



RICE CAKES Crispy, crunchy Rice Cakes, preferably whole wheat rice cakes, will satisfy that need to "munch".



NUT BUTTERS Just like nuts, nut butters are a great go along because they don't need to be refrigerated and travel well.



CHEESES There are many kinds of cheeses but only a handful that will travel well. Aged Gouda is hard so it doesn't melt. Parmigiano Reggiano is great for picking at. Pair it with fruit & nuts & you have the perfect high-protein snack. Fiore Sardo (& other types of Pecorino) cheese is durable & doesn't spoil. Montgomery Cheddar & other Aged Cheddars are awesome travel companions. Appenzeller, a semi-hard swiss cheese, is soft but travels very well. If you can't find Appenzeller, pack along Gruyere instead.



CHOCOLATE Most chocolate isn't good for you but if you look for chocolate that has 70% or higher of cacao and is USDA organic, you've got some healthy snacking & a great dessert.



What are your favorite foods to pack for the road?



COMING SOON

The new 5000 square foot Back of the Dragon Welcome Center! Our Welcome Center will feature a brewery, specialty coffee, yogurt, food trucks, merchandise, open seating, and a patio. This atmosphere provides the perfect opportunity for sports car and motorcycle lovers to sit back, relax and talk about their experience. It will also exhibit an iconic 12 ft. Dragon.

NESTLED IN THE HEART OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS, LOCATED IN SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA, IS THE INFAMOUS RT. 16, "BACK OF THE DRAGON"

VIRGINIA IS FOR
MOTORCYCLE LOVERS™

Its three mountains lead to 32 miles of knee-dragging excitement while boasting over 400 curves, switchbacks, slaloms, & S's that are sure to challenge even the most skilled enthusiast. The ride has numerous elevation changes of up to 3,500 ft. With breathtaking scenic views, approximately 60% of the road is in National Forest with several pull offs for photo opportunities.



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GREAT PLACES TO RIDE

with Marc Ritchie and Rose Grant

NEWPORT, ARROWHEAD & THE DRIVE



There are days when the kickstand is finally down, and we sense that we just experienced something truly extraordinary. Not that most rides aren't, but if we ride enough, most of them become somewhat of a blur when looking back, especially the local ones mired in repetition. Regardless of what factors are at play, sometimes the bike seems like a clearly capable cosmic connecting catalyst, making things happen that ordinarily wouldn't. Maybe I've seen Caddyshack way too many times, but I think if Ty Webb were a rider instead of a golfer, he'd tell us to, "be the bike."

And what a bike we were! After devouring a delicious breakfast at Kathy's in Staunton with our good friends, Henry and Joyce, we climbed aboard a previously loved, 2011 Road Glide Ultra in Cool Blue Pearl, waiting for us at Wayne Cycle Shop in Waynesboro, VA. Jennifer, Mike and Adam had the machine all ready to go, including checking the tires and topping off the tank, because that's the way they roll. They've been doing it the same way, successfully for nearly 50 years, with friendly and experienced staff embedded in the motorcycling/powersports community. It was also great to see Susan Rush back with them. As anyone who's ever known her can at-

test, she's one of the kindest and sweetest persons you'll ever meet.

We were finally in Mötley Crüe forecasted weather territory: cloudy and high in the 80s. And mesh jackets would be making a debut in April! Plan A called for Team Harley to ride up The Drive and down Rt. 340, which ultimately made no sense. Instead, it was reversed, taking advantage of the mountains and higher temperatures later in the day. It also worked out better logistically, for a picnic lunch.

I often imagine the first song I hear playing on a ride as some sort of prophetic omen setting the tone for the day's events. Today, a toe-tappin, head banging hard rock song was playing from an Australian band about a bush, but it had nothing to do with violence or shrubbery. And it dawned on me; if it wasn't safe on a work computer, ACDC probably had a song about it :) Either way, it foretold of a "kick-ass" day.

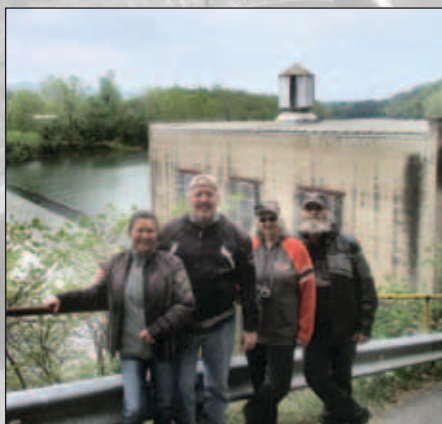
The squeeze was on. Only this time, it was my Pillion's right leg, as I pulled the toggle engaging the cruise control. Twin Cam and The Vance & Hines were turning heads of those not zombied to their phones while we rolled through small towns. We stopped at the Newport Dam

on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, north of a town, whose name escapes me. Rose and I stopped here on one of our first rides together six years ago. And it seemed to me, the driveway we hiked back up, wasn't as steep back then.

We all decided to pack some subs in Luray for a picnic later. The pilot and co-captain of Team FLT, and savant of escaped names and imaginary business establishments, also thought the sub shop was still where it was six years ago. Having broken the news that we'd have to backtrack, Henry had the perfect response, "It doesn't matter. I'm riding." If I were Clark back in the day, history would only know Lewis.

The pavilions were all empty at Lake Arrowhead, so we got a front row picnic table overlooking the lake. 70s with a slight breeze was about as perfect as it could be. A couple of bumble bees hovered overhead: the vibration from their wings ever so briefly entrained with each other's like two engines on a plane. We watched an owner and her dog walk down along the dam at the other end of the lake, fetching sticks in the water and wagging its tail almost to a blur. I'll take this over a room filled with TVs any day.

Rose and I had a bit of a scare heading up Thornton Gap when a pickup truck ahead of us, pulled over somewhat to



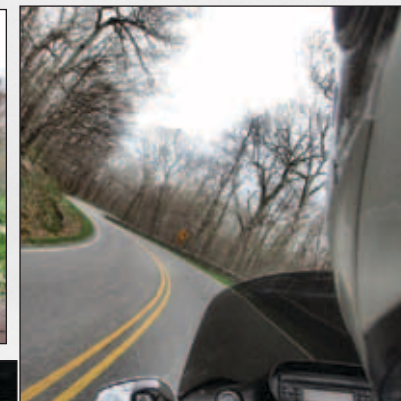
the side to our right. It was still halfway in the road, no turn signals, and briefly lunging forward as if it intended to make a U-turn. The high beams had already been deployed since KSU. Twin Cam and The Vance & Hines were in decel, and the horn was deployed for what seemed like an eternity, as we slowed to a crawl. Fortunately there was no one behind us and Team Manslaughter stayed put. SMH - ____

Once inside the park on Skyline Drive, we all stopped on the other side of Mary's Rock Tunnel, where Henry and Joyce got a new profile pic thanks to a photographer I know ;) Ascending to altitude, we seemed to have the park pretty much to ourselves, aside from the Tour de Skyline in full force on this Tuesday afternoon. We were able to get by them fairly easily, except for when they were two abreast.

I thought we'd have coffee at Big Meadows Lodge on the back patio. After Delaware North took over concessions at the park, the java was so good, we were there 46 times that year. True to form, Clark didn't check the resort schedule and when we arrived, we found it still closed for the season. One of the many nice things about Skyline Drive, is there are always alternatives. And ours this day, would be another 30 miserable miles of riding to Loft Mountain Wayside. OK, maybe we had a little fun on the way ;)

I think the last time Rose and I were here was during the eclipse in the fall of 2017. I remember because another good friend of ours caught a perfectly tossed pack of feminine hygiene products off the shelf thrown to him, just before entering the men's room. After all, what are friends for?

We enjoyed the coffee as everyone relaxed outside on the deck. The sun was now shining brightly and we welcomed the breeze. The pod of all tri-ness got one final workout at Sawmill Run Overlook. The sun was at our back, but the pics turned out fine in B&W, and I was thankful there were no face plants on this ride, trotting back to the set in time for the pic.



I often imagine the first song I hear playing on a ride as some sort of prophetic omen setting the tone for the day's events.



Enjoying the view, I realized what a special place this is. It's sometimes hard to imagine in a world, where everyone seems at times, to be stuffed in a sardine can, a place with countless vistas of vastness: void of anything man made, just wilderness as far as the eye can see. And it's here, and places like this, if we truly "are the bike," then maybe, perhaps, we'll get to see most, if not all of them.

Cheers and thanks for reading!!

Marc Ritchie
Photos and Pillion in Life: Rose Grant
Correspondence: [facebook.com/brmtcva](https://www.facebook.com/brmtcva)





OUR ULTIMATE MOTORCYCLE ROAD CAPTAIN

Safety briefings and hand signals. (Examples are from the Motorcycle Legal Foundation website: <https://www.motorcyclelegalfoundation.com/motorcycle-hand-signals-chart/>)



While riding my Harley in a single file line on an unknown road, I'm trusting my road Captain for guidance and safety. Who is my road Captain?

Hand Signals and safety briefings are important for our motorcycle group when we are riding. With our motorcycle association we have a physical road captain that provides us with safety advice before we take to the road. Once on the road, he leads the way and we follow his hand signals while we are riding. These hand signals could be changes in our riding formation, when to slow down, or when to stop. This provides safety and order to the motorcycle group.

Spiritually, we also have a road Captain. He rides with us 24/7, and is by our side every hour and every day wherever we are. His name is "Jesus", and his name is above all names. We all have different backgrounds and journeys. Life can be tough. Who do we really trust along the road? Where is our safe zone? Jesus knows and understands all things. When in a crisis or when others struggle, we call to Him for help. "Jesus...help me!" He guides us and gives us assurance as we travel and ride our journey of life.

Many Bible verses give us a visual as to how much we can rely on him. (Used <https://biblegateway.com> in the New Living Translation.) "I am the Light of the world", Jesus says about himself in John 8:12. "Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". He also says, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Meditate on these words. Know that Jesus is the ultimate road Captain who brings order and safety to our lives. Jesus was a living example of someone who was not accepted in his society and died a bloody death on a cross, all with the intent that humans could have a life with God in Heaven. Jesus did not come to condemn the people in the world, but to save them. He was pointing the direction to go and was killed for it. Jesus did die and the beautiful thing is...he did rise from the dead. His resurrection showed that death could not hold him down, which means that death will not hold down anyone who trusts in Jesus, confesses to him, and seeks Jesus to be their road Captain. Jesus points the way to have life with God in heaven.

Wherever you are in life regardless of what you have done or thought you were, please know that we all have the opportunity to draw closer to Jesus. Call upon his name and ask for help, get to know him as your Spiritual Road Captain.



This article was written by Eugene Kraybill who is the Chaplain for the Shenandoah Valley Christian Riders of Christian Motorcycle Association. Eugene is also a professional airline pilot and the Airport Chaplain based at the Washington

Dulles International Airport. He rides a 2007 HD Sportster XL 1200C.

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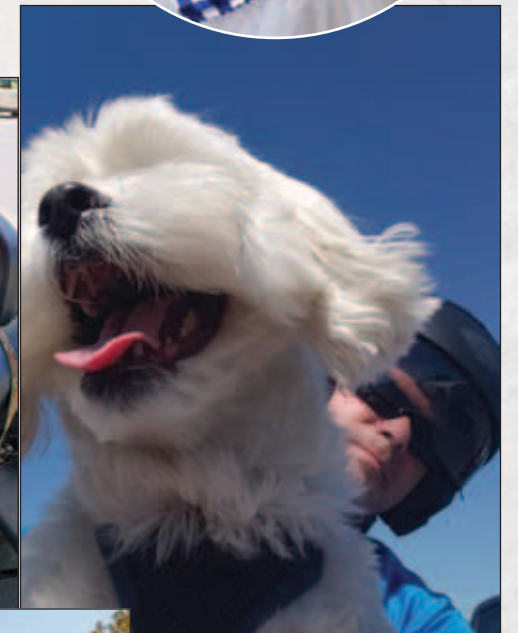
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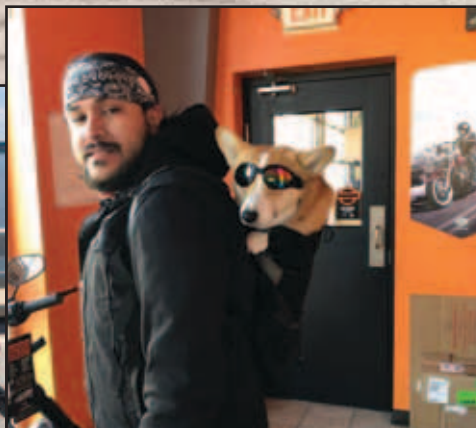
Tim Nash "aka" (Wildman) Charlottesville VA Teddy is a Shi-chon that they call the Teddy bear breed. Teddy was 3 months old when I got him in Staunton Va. I started Teddy riding with me at 4 months old and now is 2 1/2 years old. We rode together this past weekend both days. I have a Harley-Davidson FXRS 1988 that has been in family over 31 years. Teddy sits in front of me in his doggy bed & looks out with ears flopping in the breeze. He loves to go to Harley shops, play and greet everyone & get treats. The bike is my FXRS 1988 Harley Davidson. The great story with this bike as it has been in family 31 years! I inherited FXRS last September, tore it down to frame, back up. Installed big 113" Ultima motor- 120 horsepower, 120 ft. Pds. Torque. Adding to that, my uncle & I are planning to take USA trip this summer.

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TECH KNOWLEDGE



MOTORCYCLE TECH GADGETS

There's no escaping the influence of technology on our lives. We've got smart homes where we talk to our lights and refrigerators, facial and fingerprint recognition for our smartphones, and self-driving cars are just around the corner. I'm not sure we'll see self-riding motorcycles any time soon, however, technology is changing motorcycling—in many ways—for the better. Here are some areas where technology is impacting how we ride and relate to our bikes.

COMMUNICATION

With advances in Bluetooth and wireless technology, bike-to-bike and rider-to-passenger communication technology is getting better, making it much easier to communicate with each other while riding. Often referred to as motorcycle intercoms, the fact is, new technologies offer much more than just intercom communications. These gadgets attach to your helmet, include speakers with high-quality audio, and communicate to your smartphone, GPS, and in some cases to satellite radio providers. Many of these use voice commands so you can keep your hands where they should be—on your handlebars. Some helmet manufacturers offer integrated systems, saving you from installing the system yourself. Check out systems from SENA, Cardo, and Shark.

Verdict: Useful

LIGHTING

Of all the motorcycle rider training tips I've heard over the years, the one I always remember is "ride with a strategy to see and be seen." It's no secret but is incredibly important to be alert and visible at all times. Improvements in LED lighting technology are helping make riders safer by making them more visible. High-powered auxiliary lighting improves conspicuity during the day and nearly brings daylight to the road in front of you at night. For the rear of your bike, pulsing or flashing LED brake lights to alert anyone behind you when you are slowing or stopping. For those looking to add a little bling to their motorcycles, you can mount LED light strips to your wheels, spokes, or just about anywhere else—it's easy to make your bike glow like a Christmas tree. *Verdict: Mostly useful. I think the wheel lighting is questionably gimmicky.*

SECURITY

One of the coolest implementations of technology for motorcycles is in motion-sensing alarm disc locks. So instead of merely locking your bike, when the new systems detect movement, they sound an ear-piercing alarm. Some systems have smartphone apps that will alert you when the alarm sounds. *Verdict: Useful*

HELMET HEADS-UP DISPLAY

Innovative technology firms are developing technologies that will display relevant data—such as the operation status of your bike, music,

and audio prompts from your smartphone or GPS, and even your action camera—directly onto the face shield of your helmet. Some companies are integrating augmented-reality-enhanced navigation and safety information. *Verdict: Today I think this is a gimmick, but as the technology matures, motorcycle heads-up displays could be more useful.*

GPS TRACKING

I think most of us will agree that GPS and GPS-enabled smartphones have virtually eliminated the need for maps. This is sad. I still love pouring over maps when planning journeys, but I'll admit, turn-by-turn navigation has made finding any place, anywhere so easy. However, a GPS tracking device installed on your motorcycle will help pinpoint the exact location of your bike. So finding a stolen motorcycle can be much easier. For those extended road trips, some GPS trackers will not only track you in real time and allow friends and loved ones to know exactly where you are but will record the route for posterity. These trackers use any or a combination of several technologies including Bluetooth, cellular networks, or satellites. Plus, many require annual subscriptions or service contracts. Also, usefulness depends on the technology and location and availability of networks. Check out products from Spot, Trackimo, and Spy Tec. *Verdict: Useful*

ACTION CAMERAS

As technology allows for smaller and less-expensive cameras, more and more riders are documenting their rides and adventures. More innovative systems not only allow cameras to be mounted to helmets, but they can be attached almost anywhere on your bike, making for some crazy and cool perspectives. Technology advances not only make these cameras tiny, most are now waterproof, eliminating the need for bulky and clumsy housings. Plus, the cameras are pushing the resolution to 4K and now respond to voice control for starting and stopping recording and accessing advanced features like slow motion, time lapse, and more. Apps that control these cameras now make it easier to post to social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram. *Verdict: Gimmick and useful. The footage can be boring unless you spend the time editing the footage and improving the audio and soundtrack.*

THE FUTURE

Other technology advances in motorcycles include electric bikes, gyroscopic motorcycles, and suspension and stability control systems. Even riding gear is getting more high-tech with advanced fibers and armor systems, and jackets, pants, and boots are getting lighter, more efficient, and, pending on the season, cooler or warmer. How much technology do you want for your ride? There are a lot of things to consider. It's probably best to focus on those things that are most useful, like safety and security and then look at the gadgets and gimmicks that might just bring more fun than usefulness.

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QUICK TIPS: MSF's Guide to Group Riding

Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but for many, riding as a group – whether with friends on a Sunday morning ride or with an organized motorcycle rally – is the epitome of the motorcycling experience. Here are some tips to help ensure a fun and safe group ride:

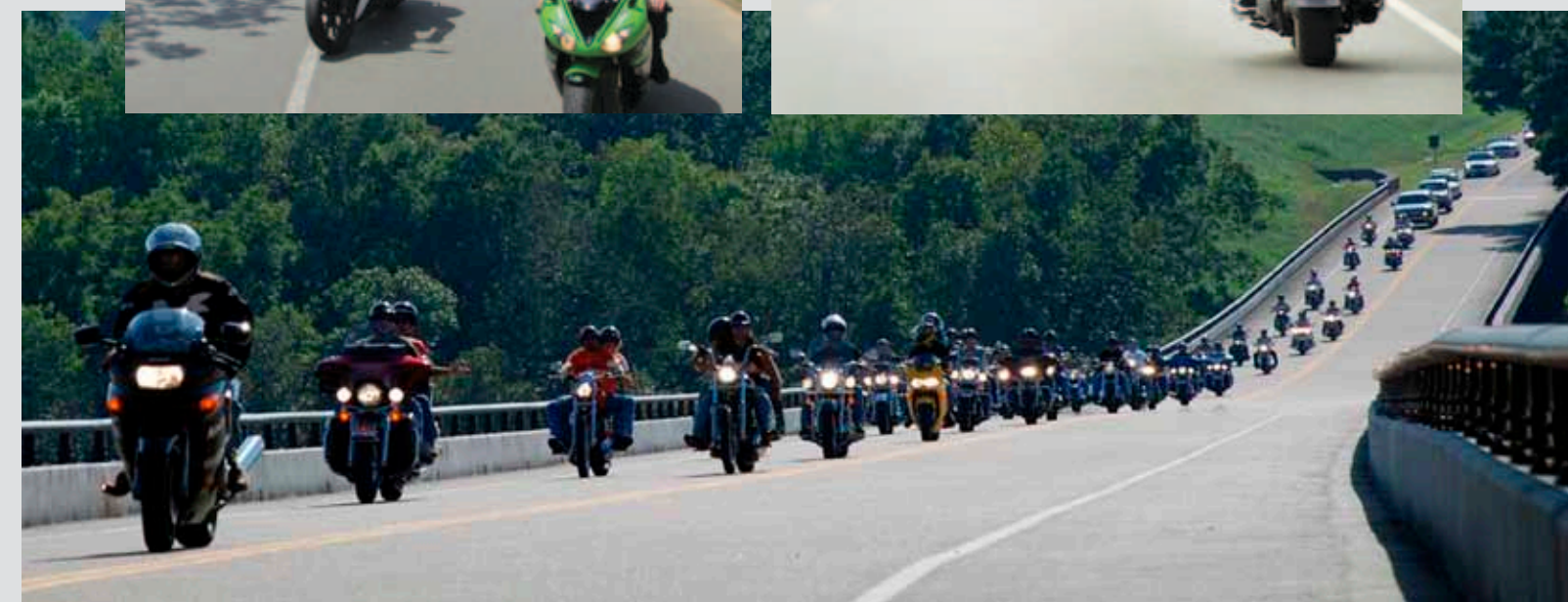
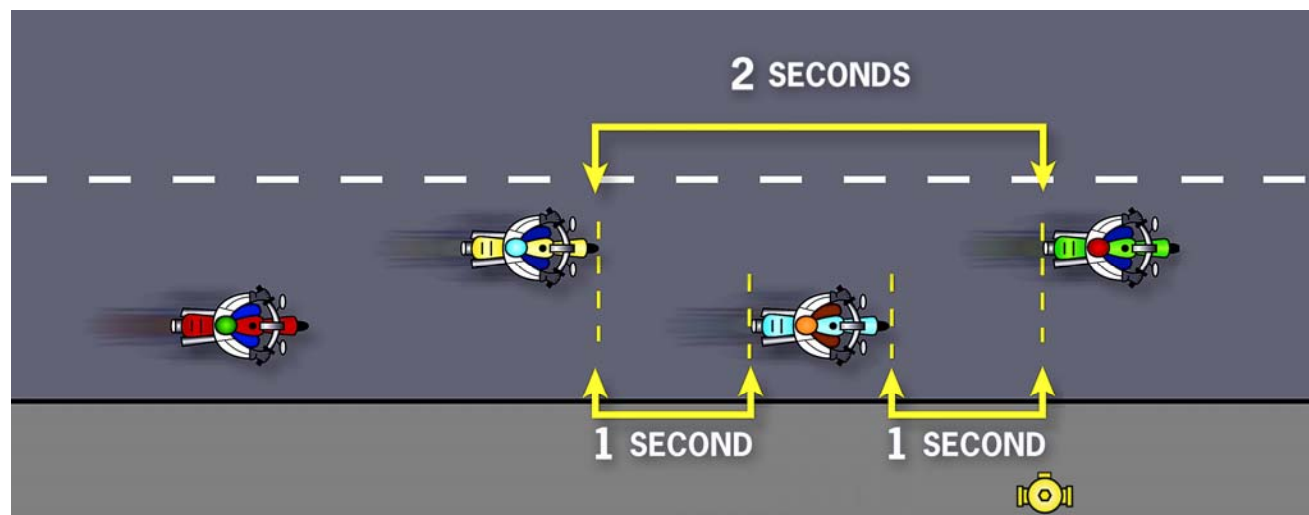
Arrive prepared. Arrive on time with a full gas tank.

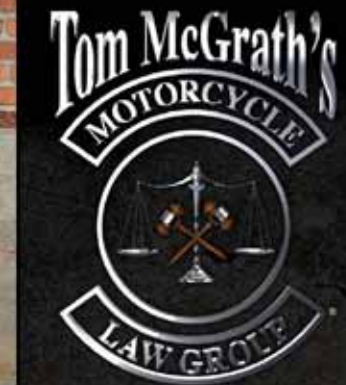
Hold a riders' meeting. Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals (see diagrams on page 3). Assign a lead and sweep (tail) rider. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures. The leader should be aware of each rider's skill level before the ride and monitor the riders during the ride.

Keep the group to a manageable size, ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, separated by a few seconds, each with a lead and sweep rider.

Ride prepared. At least one rider in each group should have a first-aid kit and full tool kit, and all riders should carry a cell phone, so the group is prepared for any problem that they might encounter.

Ride in formation. The staggered riding formation (see diagram below) allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation with a minimum 2-second following distance is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.





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THREE-WHEELED AUTOMOBILES SHOULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED AS MOTORCYCLES

April 30, 2019

This month, the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) announced the introduction of a letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) regarding the current federal definition of motorcycles. NHTSA defines a motorcycle as a motor vehicle with motive power having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground. With the recent proliferation of three wheeled automobiles such as the Polaris Slingshot and the Campagna T-Rex, this definition is no longer adequate. A motor vehicle equipped with a foot-controlled accelerator and a steering wheel should not fall under the definition of a motorcycle merely because it has three wheels.

Many motorcycle rights organizations have addressed this issue on the state level. The majority of states now have a classification of motor vehicle called an autocycle. Although definitions can vary from state to state, the following is a typical autocycle definition:

“Autocycle means a three-wheeled motor vehicle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride and is manufactured to comply with federal safety requirements for motorcycles. Except as otherwise provided, an autocycle shall not be deemed to be a motorcycle.”

One of the reasons that state motorcycle rights organizations are addressing this issue is to prevent these vehicles, which are growing in popularity, from being included in motorcycle crash data. Including motor vehicles that are not actually mo-

torcycles in the corresponding crash data negatively impacts our data. However, the manufacturers of three wheeled automobiles prefer to have their vehicles classified as motorcycles because it avoids them having to meet federal automotive safety standards. This allows them to manufacture these vehicles at a lower cost than if they were forced to meet the safety standards for automobiles. The autocycle definition above was written so as to take that concern into consideration.

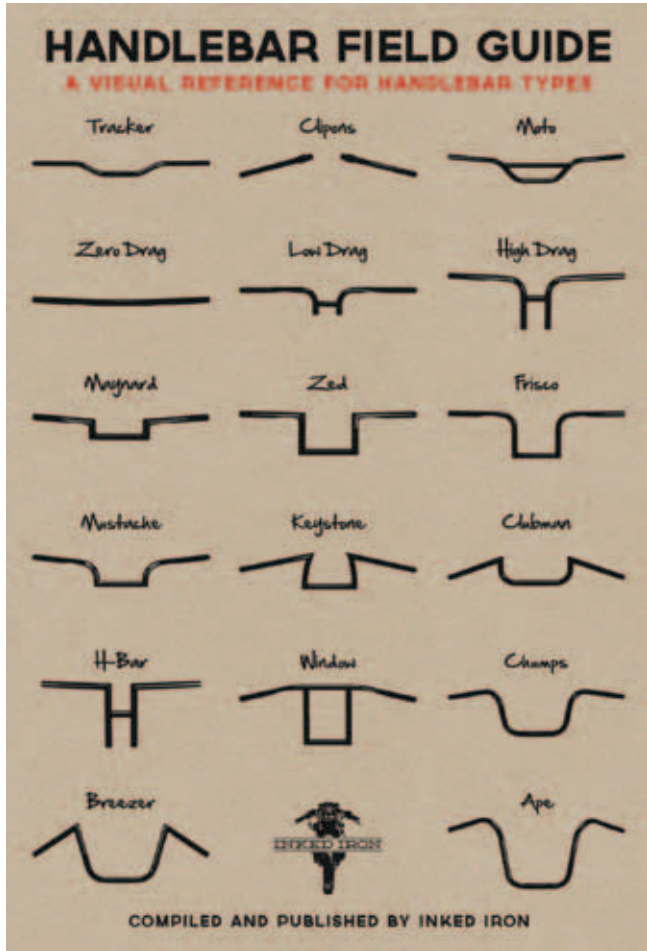
While addressing this issue on the state level helps, until it is addressed on the federal level we will continue to see three-wheeled automobiles included in motorcycle crash data. We will also, as the recent announcement by the MRF so aptly put it, continue to have “a patchwork of rules and regulations at the state level for licensing, registration and insurance.” We will continue to have instances where a person buys an autocycle in one state, only to find that when he moves to another state that he now owns a motorcycle, albeit one with a steering wheel and a gas pedal. It is time for uniformity with regard to this issue. It is time to take a look at the federal definitions of motor vehicles and bring those definitions in line with what is actually being operated on our roadways today.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about anything that I have written, please feel free to contact me.

Matt Danielson
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NAS Oceana - Aeropines Golf Course
1001 G Ave. Bldg. 581 Virginia Beach, VA 23460
Registration & Lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SHOT GUN START AT 1:00 PM

\$600.00 Per 4 Player Team

Each golfer will receive a day of golf, cart, lunch, beer, dinner, and a goodie bag. Dinner and Award Presentation at NAS Oceana - Aeropines Golf Course after the Tournament.

For Info & Registrations Contact: Buddy Cummings (757) 339-3156 or email us at: thepinkridevb@gmail.com

NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL INDIVIDUALS FIGHTING BREAST CANCER!

thepinkride.org

The Pink Ride

In Partnership with

CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

BREAST CENTER

is offering **100 FREE 3D Mammograms** to anyone 40 years of age or older who is not covered by insurance & has not had a Mammogram within the last 12 months.

There are 25 screening appointments available during each of the following dates:

- June 22nd, 9am-5pm @ Big Woody's
1479 General Booth Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23454
- October 1st, 9am-5pm @ Ocean's 14
1401 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
- October 29th, 9am-5pm @ RK Auto
2661 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452
- October 30th, 9am-5pm @ Pungo Pizza
1824 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Walk-ins are Welcome, but spots fill up quickly. We recommend that you pre-register today.

chesapeakemammo.com/

For Registration Questions Please Contact:
Buddy Cummings (757) 339-3156
or Lisa Carroll (757) 312-4055

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