

Southern Cruisers Riding Club

Chapter 62

Augusta, Georgia

MARDI GRAS PARTY!

Please join us for Chapter 62's first MARDI GRAS PARTY!
and Fish Fry / Potluck on February 21, 2009. Time TBA.

Since our Christmas party was a success your Chapter 62 officers decide it was the perfect time to have another get together, well you guessed it during MARDI GRAS.

Normally we have our monthly meeting at the same location and the same time on the third Saturday of the month. This was the only date available during the month of February.

We have the same club house in the Brandywine subdivision where one of our members live (thanks Troy).

Since Steve and I had so much fun cooking during the Christmas party we are going to do it again. As mentioned above this is a Fish Fry!

Lisa Taylor (Randy's wife) is the main point of contact. Please use Randy's email. Randy and Ken (me) are the secondary contacts.

Lisa put together a list of items needed and it is posted on the forum. Please contact her if you are willing to volunteers to bring specific dishes to compliment the Fish.

She is also putting together a RSVP list to keep track of the head count. We need this to determine the amount of food needed. When the RSVP is sent out please respond only if you plan on attending.

There will be a minimum per plate donation, if your heart can afford more it will gladly be accepted. This will be used to help cover the cost of the food (fish) and the cost for the club house. The proceeds will be donated to St. Judes.

Parked Cars

With all those parked cars lining the side streets, it's easy to start thinking of them as permanently fixed objects. Just remember, most of them are automobiles. They move occasionally. The clever rider looks for clues that a parked car is about to go mobile. For cars parked parallel along the curb, watch for a driver behind the wheel, or eyes reflected in a side mirror. Look for exhaust emanating from the tailpipe, for a brake light illuminated, or for a flickering backup light as the driver shifts into drive. Beware a front wheel turned towards the street, and remember that the top of a wheel moves twice as fast as the bumper.

Do you see there's a driver in the station wagon, and the front wheel is pointed toward the street? It shouldn't be a surprise when the driver pulls out in front of you without looking.

Don't ignore cars parked in narrow driveways just off the street. A driver backing into the street isn't likely to have a good view of a motorcycle zipping along. This is especially important where cars are parked on steep inclines or partially hidden behind retaining walls, hedges or fences. When you do spot any clues that a vehicle might move, get prepared for evasive action, preferably a quick stop.

Pedestrians, Bicycles and Skateboarders

You're more likely to encounter kids and animals dodging into the street near residences. Kids playing along side streets also become complacent about traffic, and might chase a bouncing ball into your path without thinking about the consequences.

Bicyclists, in-line skaters and skateboarders are also very common these days on suburban streets. For whatever reason, many of these folks seem to believe that the traffic laws don't apply to them. It's fairly common to encounter an adult bicyclist or skater zipping through an intersection against a red light, or sailing off the sidewalk and into the street against the flow of traffic. And remember that a vehicle in the opposing lane may swerve across the line to avoid a skater or bicyclist. Young children can be excused for not really understanding the risks, but adults who should know better are just as likely to be the victims. 60% of bicyclist fatalities are in the over-15 age bracket.

Darting into road is the single largest contributor to pedestrian accidents. Of the 4,749 pedestrians killed in the US in 2003, 79 percent of the fatalities happened at locations other than intersections. It may also be helpful to know that 65 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred at night, in normal weather conditions. You probably won't be surprised that 5 - 9 year old males and 10 - 15 year old females have the top injury rates. But the highest fatality rate belongs to the

55 - 64 year old males. It may also be helpful to note that 37% of total pedestrian fatalities occurred between 8:00 pm and midnight on weekends.

The majority of pedestrian fatalities were at locations other than intersections.

In a motorcycle vs. pedestrian or motorcycle vs. skateboarder collision, the motorcyclist is more likely to come out on top. But even if you aren't hurt and your bike is undamaged, don't assume you'll survive the accident unscathed. Even if you had the green light, the sympathy of the court is more likely to lean toward the pedestrian than toward the motorcyclist. And your insurance company won't like the deal either. So, even if you have the right-of-way, consider all pedestrians and human-powered vehicles moving targets to avoid.

Rear Enders

You might be a little paranoid about being rear-ended. Yes, there are crashes where a car rear-ends the bike. But the most likely scenario is that the rider rear-ends another vehicle. The majority of all motorcyclist fatalities involved the motorcycle crashing head-on into something. When I checked the numbers a few years ago the score was: 1,540 front of bike fatalities vs. 76 rear of bike. In other words, be aware of vehicles behind you, but pay primary attention to what's happening ahead of you. If you see someone approaching from your rear who doesn't seem to be slowing quickly enough, you could take evasive action-say pulling up alongside the car ahead.

Clues and Rumors

When you're riding in traffic, position yourself for the best view, and for maximum separation from other vehicles. For example, where buildings or large vehicles block your view of traffic on streets to your right, you could move to the left side of the lane, or even move over to the left lane. That same tactic works for narrow alleys. It may not help to look drivers in the eye or watch their turn signals, but there are some hints about what other vehicles are about to do. To identify potential left-turners approaching from the opposite direction, watch for these important clues:

- * The vehicle begins to slow as it approaches an intersection
- * The hood dips slightly as the driver begins to brake
- * An oncoming vehicle eases over closer to the centerline
- * The front wheel begins to turn in your direction

Never assume the driver comprehends you are approaching, even if you have eye contact. Watch the top of the front tire to get the quickest clue the vehicle is actually starting to move.

MEETING INFO:

We have two regular scheduled Monthly Meetings, one is the Monthly Social, held the first Saturday of every month at 7:00pm at various locations and the regular Monthly Meeting held the third Saturday of every month at 1:00pm:

NOTE: The **Feb 2009 Social** will be Saturday Feb 7, 2009 at 7:00pm at T-Bones Steak Restaurant located on Washington Road in Augusta, GA. The monthly social is held the first Saturday of the month.

Regular Monthly Meeting - held third Saturday of the month. Time - 1:00pm. Location is at the **Side Track Bar and Grill** on Washington Road in Martinez. The next monthly meeting is on Saturday FEB 21, 2009.

PLEASE SEE ABOVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE **MARDI GRAS PARTY!**

NOTE:

If you no longer wish to receive future newsletters please let me know and I will remove your name from the email list. If you would like to have your name removed from being a member of the Augusta SCRC Chapter Riding Club please let our 1st Officer Randy know at the following email address - crt3@knology.net, he will then ask me to remove your name from the email list.

This newsletter is intended to provide basic information about what is going on with the Augusta SCRC Chapter. **Please take the time to visit our Forum web page on Delphi Forums -** <http://forums.delphiforums.com/augustachapter/start> there is no cost for the basic membership. There you will find the latest ride information and general discussions about events going on with the chapter. There is also a link to our new web site - <http://www.augustascrc.net/default.aspx>

There is also info about the mileage program and other news about the chapter.

Remember if you are joining the forum page for the first time, introduce yourself to everyone in the "New Members" tab with your forum name and your real name so the rest of us will know who you are.

ONGOING RIDE(S): NONE

LOCAL CSRA EVENTS:

Check the following web link: <http://www.metrospirit.com>

UPCOMING DAY RIDES:

Where's the Beef Ride: Ride to Benton Lee's Steak House

When: 7 Feb 09
Where: Lowes Parking Lot, Peach Orchard Road, Augusta, GA.
KSU: 9am
POC: gman @ 706.832.4862

UPCOMING OVERNIGHT RIDES:

Hey Cruisers! The 2009 Savannah Invasion will be Friday Feb 27 & Saturday Feb 28, with Sunday March 1 as checkout and go home day. Friday we will have an evening at Augie's with a live band. There will be special discount tickets for Friday and Saturday to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Friday afternoon we will have guided rides for the local area. Saturday will be a dice run, our famous and fabulous lunch and Saturday evening our main gathering with 50/50, silent and live auctions. Start making your plans now. Hope to see ya there!

Road Captains are working on plans for day and weekend rides. Ride times are announced on the Forum, keep checking for the latest ride info.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSES

Georgia Motorcycle Safety Course

Tobacco Road Elementary School & Ft. Gordon, Augusta, GA
(800) 245-4410
<https://online.dds.ga.gov/motorcycle/index.aspx>

South Carolina Motorcycle Safety Course

Aiken Technical College
(803) 593-9954, ext. 1230
In Person: Aiken Technical College
700-800 Building
WBDD Registration Desk
Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

They have three levels, beginners, intermediate and advance.

MONTHLY HEALTH TIP: by Randy Taylor

Watch out for wet surfaces when chasing a tennis ball!!!!

Be Health,Ride More!

Thanks,
Randy "X-Man"
Augusta SCRC Chapter 62
1st Officer

Hope to see you out on the road.

Ken "Ax"
Augusta SCRC Chapter 62
2nd Officer