



## TWIGG CYCLES RIDER'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

January, 2008  
[http:// www.twiggcycles.com](http://www.twiggcycles.com)



### President's Message



Well, the TCRC did it again. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Christmas Party took place at Redmen Lodge and it was a BLAST. Of course, your President had to be time-challenged on that day and arrived late. Geezers, we showed up 25 minutes late at the door!!! Really, it was a fun time to be had by all participants. I, personally, wish to thank all the members for making it to the party and the two TCI people that also showed up. All members should give special thanks to the Jones', the Rethemeyers, and Jackie Fulcher for the organization and preparation of the Christmas Party. And TCRC members should also thank our Sponsor TCI for their contribution to our enjoyment. I could go on and on about the festivity, but you had to be there to enjoy the "flavor" of it.

Now, on to another topic, there has been some non-Club email floating around that seems to create some negative responses to the content of those emails. We, as members of TCRC, have been very fortunate to always have outstanding members to represent our Club. It would be unfortunate for the club to take a path of least resistance and downgrade the quality of the camaraderie due to dissention. This is not what we are about. But, then to, you don't need to walk around with a smile on your face all the time, everyone will be wondering what you were up to.

Now for some serious thinking, January of 2008 will be the start of the nomination and election of the new administration of our Club. I know that there had been a few absent members, and there had been the loyal core at the meetings. But in order for this Club to function and grow, ALL MEMBERS need to have their voices heard on who the new Administration will be. This is your Club, and how it will proceed in the future is in your hands.

And now Last but not Least,

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

And

**Happy Holidays**

for all others.

Until the next club meeting and riding day,

*George Burkhardt, President*

### Secretary's Report

The December meeting was attended by 18 members. Travis from TCI reported on the success of Black Friday and Ladies Night events at Twigg Cycles. We currently have a balance on hand of \$1602.62. David Jones is looking for people to be Ride Captains for the 2008 Riding Season. It was suggested and voted upon to give our waitress, Pam a Christmas gift and card and when the 50/50 was drawn, Dana Shafer received \$37.00 and Pam got \$38.00 (plus an extra \$2.00 donation by Diane Jones to make \$40.00). Congrats and thanks!!!!

*Carol Rethemeyer, Secretary*

### From Russ

"I want to thank the club very much for the flowers they sent while I was in the hospital and to all those who sent cards. It really means allot to have friends like all of you. Hope you all have a joyous holiday season."

Thanks,  
Russ Townsley

### Officers & Staff

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Our ice cream rides and dinner rides are every month from April to September.

Ice cream rides, 3rd Tuesday each month. Meet at Twigg Cycles at 7:00 PM and we will ride somewhere for ice cream.

Dinner Rides, 2nd Tuesday each month. We will meet at a restaurant at 6:30 PM. The ride will be your ride there.

The location will be in the newsletter each month.

"Come Join Us"

## TCRC 2008 Schedule

### DAY TRIPS

Leave from Richardson's Restaurant after our regular breakfast meeting the first Saturday of each month.

<b>April 5</b>	<b>Marine Corps Museum</b> in Quantico, VA
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Oatlands Plantation</b> (circa 1803) in Leesburg, VA
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Penns Cave</b> , in Centre Hall, PA
<b>July 5</b>	<b>Fort Bedford</b> , in Bedford, PA
<b>August 2</b>	<b>Union Mills Homestead</b> , in Westminster, MD
<b>Sept. 6</b>	<b>Luray Caverns &amp; Antique Car Museum</b> , in Luray, VA

### OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Leave from behind Blockbuster on the dual hwy. in Hagerstown on Saturday morning. There is an AC&T gas station there to gas up.

Departure times to be announced, probably 8:00 or 9:00 AM.

Motel reservations will need to be made 4-6 weeks in advance.

Detailed information will be available as they get closer.

<b>June 21-23</b>	<b>Smith Island, in the Chesapeake Bay.</b> We will leave Saturday morning and return Monday evening, 3 days.
<b>Sept. 27-28</b>	<b>American Mountain Theater and Train ride, Elkins, WV</b> We will leave Saturday morning and return Sunday evening, 2 days.

### Dinner Rides

Dinner rides are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. These are not group rides. We meet at the restaurant at 6:30 PM.

<b>April 8</b>	<b>Barbara Fritchie</b> , Frederick	<b>May 13</b>	<b>Mountain Gate</b> , Waynesboro
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Dave &amp; Janes</b> , Emmitsburg	<b>July 8</b>	<b>Red Byrd</b> , Keedysville
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Blue Ridge Summit</b> , Blue Ridge Summit	<b>Sept 9</b>	<b>Family Restaurant</b> , Greencastle

### Ice Cream Rides

Ice cream rides are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. We leave from Twigg's at 7:00 PM for about an hour ride.

<b>April 15</b>	<b>The Meadows</b> , Hagerstown	<b>May 20</b>	<b>Potomac Creamery</b> , Boonsboro
<b>June 17</b>	<b>Debbie's Ice Cream</b> , Smithsburg	<b>July 15</b>	<b>South Mtn. Creamery</b> , Middletown
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Mikes</b> , Greencastle	<b>Sept 16</b>	<b>Antietam Dairy</b> , Waynesboro

### CLUB LOGO

**Chief Moulds is heading the Logo Wear sign up, if you would like to proudly display your club on clothing you can place your order at the breakfast meeting. If you have a shirt or jacket that you would like to use, bring it to the meeting.**

## WHAT IS A BIKER?

After riding for some 35 years and owning more bikes than I can count, I am still a little confused when someone asks me the question, "Are you a biker?" Do I ride? Yes. Do I own a motorcycle? Yes. Do I saddle up often? Yes, usually daily. Is riding a motorcycle the most important thing I do? Yes, right behind being with my family and making a living. There are many definitions for real biker. Many riders think being a biker means that you ride a scooter constantly and probably don't even own a car. Some think that only Harley riders are real bikers, while others believe that being a club "1 percenter" is the key to the biker title. I've also heard guys say things like, "Real bikers ride in the rain." Well, I guess I'm not a real biker because I drive my truck when it's raining. But I consider that an intelligence issue.

I also hear conversations that if you have a good job and make great money, somehow you have been disqualified from being a real biker because you are now a yuppie or a R.U.B. (rich urban biker). Well, I plead guilty again because I have a pretty good job, and I do okay. I guess I've lost points again on the real biker scale. Do tattoos, outrageous haircuts or earrings get you closer to the Holy Grail of real bikerhood? How about the folks who ride sport bikes, Gold Wings or trikes? Are they real bikers? Can a Gold Winger ever become a real biker? According to many so-called experts, once you get a Gold Wing, you get busted back down to Private. Zero points on the real biker scale. What happens to a real biker if he suddenly loses his mind and -- God forbid -- buys a British bike?

I'm sure many of you are a little like me and wonder what makes a biker and whether or not we qualify. Do I think like a biker? Do I look like a biker? Do I have to dress for work like I dress when I'm riding my scoot to be a real biker? Do I make too much money to be a real biker? Do I have to put bike parts into the dishwasher to be a real biker? Can I take my scoot to the dealership for an oil change and still keep my Real Biker Card?

Recently, as I drove home from work, I came across a young guy pushing his Honda cruiser down a country road. After stopping to investigate, I went home and got my trailer and some tie-downs and came back to help this guy get his scooter home in one piece. It was apparent early on that he wasn't a "true biker," that is, an experienced biker. I didn't know the exact definition of true biker, but I knew he somehow didn't qualify. He would need to serve some time before applying for his Real Biker Membership Card.

After we got to his house and unloaded his bike, he offered payment for my services, and I refused. He thanked me and then proceeded to tell me how he had bought the Honda to go to Sturgis with friends and how wonderful the experience had been. He went into his house and got some photos of his trip to show me. He explained how exciting the whole biker experience had been, how friendly the biker community was, and how surprised he was to feel so welcome. He said he had recently gone through a divorce and the Sturgis experience had rejuvenated him, served as a sort of therapy. As he explained what had apparently been a life-changing experience, it occurred to me that he was putting into words the whole biker experience from the fresh point of view of someone who had just arrived. He was so excited, it almost made me laugh out loud.

I realized he was describing what being around bikers was all about. It was like he was re-introducing me to an old friend, a friend I had almost forgotten about and was very happy to re-discover. I'd been around bikers for so long I'd forgotten what gives our lifestyle such appeal. I had taken for granted the essence of the experience that had super-charged my Honda-riding friend.

(Continued Next Page)

Then he asked me if I was a biker.

Taken off guard but also responding very quickly, I said, "Yes, I am a biker."

For the first time in my life I didn't have a problem understanding the definition of biker. I didn't question my qualifications, brand, style or dress. I'm not even sure I had a Harley T-Shirt on. It doesn't matter. At that moment, I understood that being a biker was that feeling of comfort you have when enjoying a sport that celebrates the outdoors and a free spirit. It's the feeling you get when you ride alone or the thrill you feel when you hear 100 bikes rumble down the road. It's also the feeling you have when you sit around the fire at night planning the adventure for the next day. It's like those T-shirts that say, "If I have to explain, you wouldn't understand."

The experience I had helping a newcomer to the biker world is also a part of the real biker definition. It hit me like some sort of religious epiphany that being a biker was not really what you looked like or what you ride or how often you ride. It was the inner peace that you achieve when you are on that scooter and you're a million miles from work, worry and pressure. Real bikers are all members of a kinship with no concern for status or wealth. Instead, they have a "Live and Let Live" philosophy, while still watching each others' backs.

After all these years, I've finally discovered the answer to the real biker question. If you get a shiver up your spine when a good sounding scoot goes by, have ever stopped to help another rider in distress, or can't sleep because you're thinking about the morning adventure, don't worry, you're a real biker. It doesn't matter if it's a sport bike, a cruiser, or a dirt bike. If it's got two wheels and you get that special feeling when you saddle up, you get the membership card for life, no questions asked.

Somehow, this two-wheeled piece of steel has become a catalyst for bringing out realness in people. So the next time you see a Gold Wing or a sport bike go by, or you run across a broken down Honda, give the rider the respect he or she deserves, because they probably are a real biker. My Honda friend was. He was a real biker the minute he pulled into Sturgis and got that special feeling.

Adapted and submitted by:  
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