

SIDETRACKS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA SIDECAR CLUB ~ ~ ~ Summer 2018

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From the President:

Hi guys. New members, if this is your 1st newsletter, they generally are a lot more up beat, sorry. I am just going to cut straight to the chase, normally, this letter is about how wonderful the turn out was at the rally and all that sort of stuff, but that is not the case this time. While the quality of the attendees was great, and the generosity of our members was amazing (thank you Art & Kathy and Van & Sharon) the quantity, well, stunk. On top of that, 3 sets of folks had to leave early for a variety of unforeseen reasons, bummer (sickness, sold house, and sitter issues). For the weather we had and the location we have, turn out should have been larger. That got me questioning what we did to get the word out and what can we do differently to get folks to just show up. Was it on the web page, yep, sidecar.com, dunno, ADV riders, dunno, I can't post there for reasons that are too insane to even start to get into here, Soviet Steeds and the other Ural outlets – yep! Did folks email the folks they have in the past about it, I don't think so, were we chatting about it on other social media platforms as we have in the past, again, I don't think so, and their lies a problem. We had a good turnout in 2017, so really did not see this coming. While going over what was done and not done I keep on coming back to the same issue over and over again, Facebook. Tons of chatter about the rally on Facebook, plans made on Facebook, left out half the club, who are not on Facebook! I know a lot of you all just love Facebook, I also know that roughly an equal number of folks in the club either are not tech savvy enough to deal with it or, like me, don't like it, because of how it is used by advertisers and a variety of other very good reasons. Yep, you all who are active there get all the scoop you all care to share – with each other, the rest of the club become mushrooms. Folks, we have a few members whose only contact is the phone and the newsletter, they don't do the internet! Yes, there are folks not on the internet, lots of them! The reliance on Facebook as our main communications avenue is simply not working. Internal club stuff cannot be handled in a public form! It didn't work, it doesn't work. If it did, we would have had a HUGE turnout, we did not. Ask yourself, how many new members have we gotten from the Facebook page, I believe the number is close to zero. How many new folks came to the rally as a result of Facebook, may be 2, but I think they actually heard about it elsewhere. The only other Ural that showed up knew about it from Bluemoon Cycles attempts to advertise for it, and that was greatly appreciated. As a side note, Bluemoon had an event July 4th, anyone besides me not know about it? Apparently I really don't think the turn out was what was expected. On the Ural side, 2 of our regular attendees (Scott and the Winters) had vehicle troubles and family over respectively, that happens but does not explain what happened to the others. I am working hard to figure out why they stayed away in droves. No one commented "why" on my less than stellar Rally Report on Soviet Steeds. Some of our regulars did not show up, some for known reasons, but some, we have no idea why they did not come. My next Ural Rally will be the fall rally in Asheville that may coincide with a

larger event that is new to the east coast. There I WILL find out why those folks did not attend. To me, the most troubling part is, was something done to cause folks to not show up. My blood sugar/temper issues are well known, and even joked about by some of you (BTW, it's not funny, ask any diabetic, it sucks. May it not happen to you, unfortunately got news for you, some of you are heading there.) that may have had something to do with it, other folks making comments that make some folks feel unwanted (and admit, some of you just said "good riddance", guess what, that is selfish, childish and unacceptable for folks claiming to be adults – got it? I sure hope so.) sure doesn't help. Folks who heard those (yeah, that's the only thing I've gotten negative feedback on, so it was more widespread than I thought) may not have been aware those were directed comments and felt unwelcome. Isn't that just peachy? Honestly, I really don't care if someone or something some other person is doing makes someone uncomfortable or if someone does not like how someone lives, raises their kids or treats their dogs (saying that, any abuse will not be tolerated), we have a policy for that, get up and walk away, get away from the irritant get with folks more to your liking and let it go or go to a Club officer (to make that clear, Eddie, Janice, Art and I are the officers at this time) and let them handle it, PLEASE! Did anyone else notice the lack of kids this year. 2 "kids", ok, 1 and a teenager reminded how the young teenagers treated her at the same age, please folks, what do you think happened?

Saying all that, let's pull the Club Business off the Public Facebook channel and use the newsletter, email and the phone exclusively for club business, until we figure out how to make Facebook more inclusive – regardless of your thoughts, my thoughts and reality shows it is not. Post events in newsletter FIRST going forward, then Facebook after the newsletter is publicly posted. What is the point of membership if we give everything up front to all at the expense of our non FB using PAYING members? Use Facebook for fluff - posting pictures, ride reports (that would be better off in the newsletter come to think of it), jokes (off color ones are just fine too). You know, stuff that may make someone want to join the club, would not make good newsletter copy and not just make folks want to chat with us – from a distance. Use it to chat up the rally or other events, when it is brought up on Facebook, jump in and encourage folks to come and try to attend, then try to get them to join the club! There is little or no chatter trying to get non-members to become members! That is a HUGE problem!

To keep FB friendly, let's make sure to not post anything that might make folks want to stay away. Anti-kid comments, political crap that has no place on a Sidecar page, general nastiness need to be just not done (unless a newbie asks for advice, gets it from a known real expert and with no experience chooses to argue – candidate for deletion IMHO.). If sniping starts, guess what, you are all admins, delete it. By the way, I will not speak of any of this on the Facebook channel, as it is Club Business. If any of you would like to discuss any of this, my mail and email addresses and phone number are public, attempts to discuss this with me on Facebook will be ignored or deleted. I rarely log into Facebook these days for a ton of reasons, when I do, I go straight to our page, the Ural and sidecar pages, see what my REAL friends, you know, the folks I have physically met over my 6 decades on this earth are up to. I then log out before anyone I really don't care to talk to sees I am online or something pisses me off. These days, I ignore the folks, sadly some old friends, that just want to talk about stuff they know nothing or little about but can repost a lie in less than a second or their personal politics (left, right or weird, don't want to read it) and that is all they talk about – culling them as fast as I can...

If something does not build up the club, it is a problem for the club, prove me wrong and grow the club with Facebook and you will rarely hear me speak ill of it again, if it fails to, it may not be an avenue we need to continue.

Yeah, that's a lot of stuff that is heavier than I like to write. Now back to other things, we have a mid-Friday camp out coming August 17-19 at Hard Labor Creek State Park. And our 25th yes 25th! Annual Howdy Summer Rally will be held on June 6-9, 2019 at Whispering Pines Campground in beautiful Hemptown, Ga. We need to make it special, I have not decided what to do with GROPE, but for right now I think euthanasia might be a good choice, need to think on it a bit more. We also have a Christmas Party in there somewhere that needs to be worked out and as it is MEMBERS ONLY,

unlike the camp out and rally, needs to be discussed somewhere other than Facebook! Please try to attend our events, without you all it's the same 5 or 6 people hanging out with each other, not that we mind, but some new folks to have fun with is always good! This is also where we used to come up with future plans! It worked really well! Hard Labor Creek has 20 cabins (10 undergoing renovation right now), so no, we are not insane and camp in August. We'll camp in an air-conditioned cabin and come out and enjoy the August heat when we want to and not try to live in it! Unfortunately, I will not be at the August camp out. That weekend a friend of our Church family is marrying a guy from a real family I've known for most of my life (as in before we even moved to Georgia), which side to sit on? And working an event, oh am I gonna get teased about this one, for the United Methodist Women that weekend (same day). To tell you all the truth, would rather camp, but already committed...

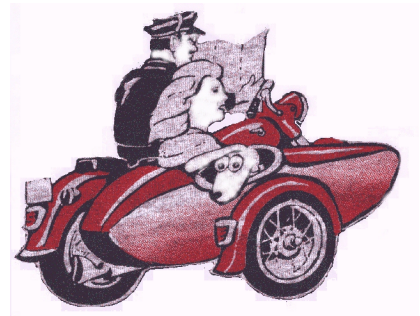
Sorry about the tone of most of the letter, but I felt this needed to be addressed sooner rather than later, cause if we keep going this route there may not be a later. Everybody ride safe and try to NOT be a number of that scoreboard of death GA DOT has up on our highways. At least the aren't talking on hand held devices and texting anymore – in theory...be thankful for small favors.

James

From the Vice President:

Our rally has come and gone. A good time was had by most, maybe all. Anyway our next campout will be August 17-19. We will be at Hard Labor Creek State Park. Please come and enjoy time with fellow sidecarists.

Eddie



From the Editor:

The 2018 Howdy Summer was the 21st in a row that Kathy & I have attended (if you count 1999 when the USCA National was held in Georgia). I look forward to attending next year's event. It was the usual laid-back weekend, with Saturday night being the exception. A group of young "adults" were camped close to the cabins. They started out cheerful and friendly enough, but things got ugly amongst them as they over consumed alcohol. The night ended with the police being summoned to tone things down. (Ah youth...)

Some of our members participated in the Ride For Kids Atlanta the weekend before the Howdy Summer. I will include some photos from the RFK. Kevin has had his Friendship III mounted to a bright yellow Gold Wing (more pics). Steven and Rosie are on a major road trip as I write this so I will add FB pics of that. Maybe Kevin will share the story of his fig in the next issue. Also it would be great to hear about the McDonald's adventure.

Please note my new email address on the masthead. I will soon be migrating away from my Cox email... Art















Ready to tackle the road to Meat Cove (the northern most point in Nova Scotia) on the Cabot Trail.

Coming Events:

June 6-9, 2019: HOWDY SUMMER!!! -- Whispering Pines Campground at:
<http://www.whisperingpinescampground.com/index.htm> or call them at: **(706) 374-6494**

July 26-29 2018: Keystone Sidecar Club Kampout – Find more detailed info in this newsletter.

August 3 - 12, 2018: Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Sturgis, SD.

August 17 - 19, 2018: Annual Northeast 3-Wheelers, Laid Back Vermont Campout, (413) 519-0015.

September 7 - 9, 2018: Hoosier Hack's So Long Summer Campout, Muscatatuk Park, North Vernon, Indiana. For more info contact Fred Hunterman at (317) 831-8105.

September 28 - 30, 2018: NEMG Club/NE-3-Wheeler Rally/Gathering - see rally flyer.

October 18 - 21, 2018: Biketoberfest, Daytona Beach, Florida

AMISH COUNTRY CAMPSITES



phone(330) 359-5226

If you need time to slow down and smell the flowers this is the place for you. We try hard to keep a neat and clean place for you. We have 50 RV sites and 10 tent sites. Our campground is easy to find. Follow US.62 to Winesburg, Ohio. We are located 1 1/4 mi. north of Winesburg on the east side of the road.

In a 12 mi. radius from our place there is a lot to do, including Lehman's Hardware, Amish Door, Der Dutchman Restaurant, and many other things to enjoy. Many of our customers enjoy using our free map of the area to drive the back roads of our scenic country side.

We have nice clean rest rooms with warm showers, public telephone, modem friendly and free fire wood for campfires in our fire barrels, 20 & 30 amp. elec. and water at each site. We also have a dump station.

RATES:

One Night with 2 people = \$29.00

Weekly Rate with 2 people = \$175

Extra Person = \$2.00/night

Air Cond. or Elec. Heater Use = No Charge.



Kevin's Keystone Sidecar Kampout

Keystone Sidecar Club Kampout July 26-29 ,2018

Our Kampout will once again be held on the last weekend of July 26-29 ,2018 at Amish Country Campsites near Winesburg ,Ohio . There are no fees for the Kampout ,Contact the campground for your campsite And pay them for your camping . If you're interested in a room there are some available locally through the campground at nearby homes real reasonable ,just ask them about it . I highly recomend making reservations early as it is a fairly small , very clean , publically open campground . Their phone number is 330-359-5226 and their website is www.amishcountrycampsites.com . This is a nice area with a lot to see and do ,horse and buggies ,lovely farms ,a ton of small business's and craft places and great food everywhere. There is free firewood and we do have use of the pavillian for the kampout .

As in the last 3 years we plan a pot luck weenie roast for Friday night ,with a 50/50 drawing and ice cream run afterward ,weather permitting , to honor our past president Harry Walter . On saturday evening we try to get a dinner ride to either Der Dutchman or Mrs. Yoders restaraunt ,whichever can handle out group. That's about it for the planned activites , other than a lot of story telling and BS'ing .

If needed Contact Kevin Klages at 304-737-1531 home , 304-670-3299 cell or stretchkwk@hotmail.com

P.s. There are a lot of Amish hotels and Bed and Breakfast places nearby ,some can be pricey but all are very nice . For some with Large Rv's [over 30 foot or so] there are rv parks within 10 miles or so , you can call the campground for their recomenations on size if nead be .

P.P.s. We will be there starting Sunday afternoon on the 22 nd for the whole week ,Anybody is welcome to come and visit the whole week or a couple of hours too . Looking forward to seeing many of our old friends again this year .

Kevin