

The Richmond Rider

A publication of the Richmond Rider's Motorcycle Club ... all makes and models since 1993.

A charter chapter of the Honda Rider's Club of America

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Ready to Ride - Prepare for A Safe Motorcycle Riding Season?

Cruiser Magazine

With the riding season bearing down on us, the time is ripe for some preventive maintenance. A little time and effort expended now can ensure your riding season won't be interrupted by mechanical, or other, problems. You can also get your bike just the way you want it for maximum enjoyment on summer rides.



Service department: A full tune and service is a good place to start. This should include sometimes overlooked measures like changing the brake fluid and lubing major pivots—such as the steering head and swingarm. Liquid-cooled bikes should have their cooling systems flushed every few years. Whether you or your shop does this service, it should include a careful search for signs of weakness (loose spokes or an oozing gasket, for example). Fix anything that could take you off the road. Are there any adjustments that would make your bike more comfortable or manageable? Perhaps the brake pedal location or the angle of the handlebar? Do it now.

Early replacement: You should also replace any parts that are getting old before they put a crimp on your summer fun. Tires are the best example. If they are getting thin or aged-cracked or worn in the middle, making the motorcycle squirrely when leaned over, it makes sense to replace them now. This gives you time to order the tires you want, not just what the dealer has on hand. A premium aftermarket tire will generally give longer mileage

and better traction. Other candidates for early retirement include an aging battery or brake pads. Again, you can order what you want now. Light bulbs also fall in this category. They get old and dim before they blow out. We usually replace all the minor bulbs every two years (use the heavy-duty versions of those bulbs) and keep a headlight bulb handy. You might also consider replacing your headlight bulb with one that has the same 55-watt low beam but a significantly brighter 75- to 100-watt high beam for more light when you need it most. (It will also get the attention of those other drivers who don't dim their lights until they are 10 feet away.) Make sure your charging system will handle it, especially if you also have other electrical accessories, such as spotlights.

Accessorize: The off-season is also the ideal time to equip your bike for the rides you're planning for this summer. This might mean a backrest for your riding companion or traveling amenities like saddlebags, a rack and a comfortable saddle. Saddlebags can also be handy if you plan to commute. Or how about one of Rivco's air horns to get the attention of those cell-phone users who are supposed to be drivers?

Riding gear: This is the time to replace that scratched face shield or tattered rainsuit. You might also want an additional pair of gloves, perhaps something warmer than that lightweight, vented pair but not as hot as winter gloves. Are the soles on your boots losing their tread? Better to replace or resole them now than put your foot down in a sandy patch of road and watch it slide out from under you. Has your helmet gotten loose and floppy from

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Ready to Ride?

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extensive wear? Are the seams on your jacket or gloves unraveling? Take care of these things now. And you might want to expand the range of your gear. A vented jacket will make riding on hot days much more fun than that heavy one and is safer and can even be cooler than no jacket.

Join the club: If there is a club for your model, consider joining it. You will get access to the combined experience of all the members. You'll learn which accessories work best, fixes for weak points and other useful information. You will probably also make some friends and find new events in your area. For example, Kawasaki Vulcan owners can join the Vulcan Riders and Owners Club (VROC) free with Web access (www.vroc.org) and be bombarded with the wit and wisdom of fellow Vulcaneers.) Most other cruiser brands and models also have web-based organizations, many of them free.

Take the course: Nothing interrupts your riding season like a crash. Why not sign up for the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Experienced RiderCourse? To find one in your neck of the woods, call (800) 446-9227. Many states' courses are filled up for the year by spring, so call right now. Do it with your riding companions. You might also consider some other types of skills-building courses. See "Back to School for ideas.

Make a list: Finally, put a small pad of paper and a writing implement in your riding jacket or a storage spot on your bike. Use it to make a list of things that require attention, replacement or adjustment, and accessories you find yourself needing. It will come in handy at this time next year

Great Roads Web Tool

Harley-Davidson Motor Company has announced that its new Great Roads interactive Web tool is now live in the Experience section of www.harley-davidson.com. The Great Roads tool encourages riders to explore the country on their motorcycles, and enables enthusiasts to rate and review 20 of the nation's scenic byways.

Riders have the capability to expand their motorcycle experiences with the aid of the Great Roads web tool by finding new routes and reading personal reviews from fellow enthusiasts who have ridden and rated the areas.

Each Great Road listing includes types of scenery and road characteristics – whether the roads are twisty, or if the area is flat or mountainous. It also provides essential travel information for motorcyclists, such as whether there are adequate gas stops, how much traffic to expect and the best time of year to ride the route.

Maps of the Great Roads can be customized for a rider's individual needs using a convenient link to the Harley-Davidson Ride Planner. Great Roads included in the web tool also offer details on local Harley-Davidson dealers in that area, and several offer suggestions for lodging that can be booked through a travel specialist.

The Great Roads web tool provides links to other enthusiast services including Authorized Rentals and Tours and Harley-Davidson Shipping. These services help riders overcome constraints such as time and weather to expand their riding and touring opportunities.

To rate and review a Great Road, enthusiasts need to create a Harley-Davidson user profile at www.harley-davidson.com, and then link to Great Roads page under the Experience section.

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Ride for Kids Celebrates \$4.4 Million of New Hope

Asheville, N.C. – The national Ride for Kids® program once again broke its own fundraising record in 2006, generating more than \$4.4 million to fund medical research and support children battling brain tumors. For the 23rd consecutive year, the thousands of motorcyclists who attended the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Ride for Kids® events across the country proved they continue to care.

"Every motorcyclist who has ever joined a Ride for Kids event should know that they represent the largest non-governmental source of funds for medical research into pediatric brain tumors," said PBTF President Mike Traynor. "Thanks to their generosity and strength of spirit over the past 23 years, children are living longer and better lives. We take great pride in our long-term achievements in fighting the most challenging of all the childhood cancers."

The minimum donation for each motorcyclist who attends a Ride is just \$35, but many riders bring a great deal more – both financially and emotionally. Chicago-area chef Steven Skinner and his wife, Stacia, for example, have been involved in the Ride for Kids® since 2000. This past year they raised \$24,250 for the Foundation by hosting a block party featuring a roasted pig and then bringing those funds to the Chicagoland Ride. "We're very picky about who we donate to," said Steven. "But the Ride is fantastic, the whole event is a lot of fun and it's something we can do to help make the lives of young cancer patients a little better."

Motorcycle clubs and dealers are also vital to the Ride for Kids® program, vigorously promoting their local events and organizing participants. The top chapter/club award for 2006 went to the Gold Wing Road Riders Association Illinois G2 of Woodland, Ill., whose members raised \$98,855. And again this year, the customers of Nielsen Enterprises of Lake Villa, Ill., made it the top motorcycle dealer in the country, contributing \$114,961 to the Ride for Kids.®

The top individual fundraisers in 2006 were Scott and Mary Jo White of Phoenix, Ariz., who raised \$94,000 in memory of their daughter Nikki, who died of a brain tumor. That level of dedication is deeply appreciated by the scientists who are searching for

the causes of pediatric brain tumors, and a cure. Dr. Glenn Gobel of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center told participants in the Pittsburg Ride that they are making a real difference. "When researchers like me are struggling to make progress," he said, "it's a great comfort to know you are all there with me, working to provide the necessary funds to continue our work."

The Ride for Kids® program is grateful for the ongoing support of its presenting sponsor since 1991, the Honda Rider's Club of America, as well as hundreds of companies and motorcycle dealers across America who have helped us reach thousands of riders across America," said Traynor. Since its inception in 1984, the Ride has raised more than \$34 million.

No matter what brand or type of motorcycle you ride, you're welcome to join the Ride for Kids.® In 2007, events will take place in 37 cities, from Sunrise in south Florida, an event that opens the season on Feb. 18, to Carnation, Wash., for the Puget Sound Ride. More information and the complete 2007 schedule are available at www.rideforkids.org.

About the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation funds medical research grants to help find the cause of and a cure for childhood brain tumors. The largest source of non-governmental funding for pediatric brain tumor research in the world, the PBTF also offers support programs for families with a child who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Programs include free literature about brain tumors in English and Spanish, two national newsletters covering Ride for Kids® events and medical research, the Informed Parent and Survivor Internet Conference series, and college scholarships for brain tumor survivors. For more information about the PBTF, please call (800) 253-6530 or go to www.pbtfus.org.

VIR Sets 2007 Schedule

Article contributed by Gene Snead

Alton, Va. (Nov. 28) – VIRginia International Raceway has established its schedule of spectator events for 2007, offering another season of the best in professional and amateur automobile and motorcycle racing on one of the world's most beautiful and challenging racetracks.

In 2007, VIR will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the track's opening in 1957, with a very special celebration planned as part of the Gold Cup Historic Races in June.

The season gets underway March 23-25, with **Historic Sportscar Racing, Ltd.** (HSR) providing a rolling history lesson in road racing. The weekend will include Historic Stock Cars, the Historic GTP/Group C & WSC Series, BOSS Super Cup Series for big-bore open-wheel cars, Anglo-American GT Challenge, Historic GT Series, Klub Sport Porsche Challenge, Rolex Endurance Challenge Series and feature races. Many of the cars that race with HSR raced at VIR in its early days, and will be right at home on the challenging and beautiful 3.27-mile circuit.

The weekend of April 27-29 will herald the return of one of VIR's biggest events, the **Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series presented by Crown Royal Special Reserve VIR 400**. The Rolex Sports Car Series is the fastest-growing professional sports car racing series in the world, and VIR has been a mainstay on the schedule in recent years. In 2007 the exotic Daytona Prototypes and the production-based GT cars will have separate 400k races. The 2006 race included one of the most exciting race finishes in series history, one that was dubbed "The Rolex Moment of the Year." The Rolex Sports Car Series will be joined for the first time by the brand-new **SunTrust Moto ST Series**, an endurance-racing series for twin-cylinder, four-stroke motorcycles, which will stage a 500km race. Also joining the VIR 400 weekend for their first time at VIR will be the **Star Mazda Championship presented by Goodyear** and the **Skip Barber National Championship Series**.

The SCCA's North Carolina Region will return in force over the weekend of May 12-13 with the **Seventh Annual Double SARRC/Double MARRS Challenge**. This event has grown into the largest SCCA regional east of the Mississippi, featuring more than 400 cars from all over the East Coast. Entrants from the Washington, D.C. area and northward compete in the Mid-Atlantic Road Racing Series (MARRS) and will continue their friendly "North vs. South" rivalry with their southern counterparts who race in the South Atlantic Road Racing Championship (SARRC).

Also in May, and new to the VIR spectator schedule, is VIR's **Stock Car Open Practice Day**, tentatively scheduled for May 29. For only \$10 (a portion of the

proceeds will be donated to charity), fans will be able to watch America's top stock car teams practice on the 2.25-mile North Course. An autograph session with the drivers is in the planning stages. The Plantation Valley Kart Track will also be open that day to the public.

Over the weekend of June 8-10, VIR's signature vintage racing event, the **Gold Cup Historic Races**, will be the centerpiece of the track's year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of its first race in 1957. A painting by renowned motorsports artist Mike Mate showing many of the most significant cars in the track's history has been commissioned, and will make its public debut at the Gold Cup Historics. In addition, a number of very special cars and guests have been invited to participate in the weekend's festivities. There will be special parties, a car show, an art display, a "Storytime" session with our special guests and plenty of good, old-fashioned vintage racing to provide a weekend full of memories.

The first big motorcycle racing event of the year will take place over the weekend of June 23-24, as the seventh annual **Virginia Festival of Speed**, featuring the 24th season of the Championship Cup Series, will provide a combination of America's best Sportsman and professional motorcycle road racers going handlebar-to-handlebar at 160mph for their share of purse and prizes as the CCS Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Roadracing Championships Series presented by Lockhart Philips USA and the Infinity GP Racing Series compete over VIR's picturesque 2.25-mile North Course on Saturday and Sunday..

The North Carolina Region of the SCCA will return over the weekend of August 11-12 for the annual **Oak Tree National**. The national SCCA calendar wraps up in late September with the annual Valvoline Runoffs® at Heartland Park Topeka, which makes the Oak Tree National a critical event in terms of collecting precious championship points required to obtain a coveted invitation to the Runoffs®. As a result, drivers from the host region as well as other regions all along the Atlantic seaboard will be headed to VIR in order to collect those valuable, last-minute championship points. This can lead to some very interesting and unusual match-ups on the track and unforgettably intense racing.

The weekend of August 17-19 will bring the return of the fastest and most exotic road racing motorcycles in America to VIR for a seventh time as AMA Pro Racing's wildly popular **Suzuki Big Kahuna Nationals** brings the best in the business to do battle on VIR's challenging 2.25-mile North Course. The doubleheader format will give

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fans two feature races for the headlining AMA Superbike Championship presented by Parts Unlimited, in which the factory teams and world's best riders compete for corporate bragging rights utilizing staggering budgets to produce some of the most technologically advanced bikes on the planet. Rounding out the program will be AMA's other pro series, the Pro Honda Oils Supersport Championship presented by Shoei, AMA Repsol Lubricants Superstock Series and Lockhart Phillips USA Formula Xtreme Series, plus lots of off-track fun and excitement.

The **Championship Cup Series** motorcycles will return to VIR for a second 2007 event over the weekend of September 22-23, providing more of the spectacular elbow-to-elbow racing featuring some of America's best amateur motorcycle racers and giving area fans of the two-wheeled sport an additional chance to enjoy the picturesque surroundings at VIR.

The **Sportscar Vintage Racing Association** will make its annual visit to VIR over the weekend of September 28-30 for the Virginia Vintage Races. The SVRA weekend has become a tradition since VIR reopened in 2000, both for the track staff and the racers. Among the highlights of the event will be the MotorCheck Formula Car Festival, featuring the finest vintage open-wheelers in America, plus the IMSA RS/2.5 Challenge Reunion Race for small-bore sports sedans that raced in IMSA's Challenge Series in the 1970s. Also on the schedule are the Mike Stott-UBS Sprint Series and MotorCheck Sprint Series.

The weekend of October 5-7 will see the return of one of the most exciting events to hit VIR in many years. The **GT LIVE/KONI Challenge Series Weekend** will bring back the multi-faceted "motorsports theme park" of GT LIVE, including drifting, time attack, karting, rallying, stunt bikes, car and bike shows and music, that was so popular with young enthusiasts last year. Joining GT LIVE again will be the KONI Challenge Series (formerly known as the Grand-Am Cup Series), which will end its 2007 season with a pair of six-hour endurance races for the Grand Sports (GS) and Street Tuner (ST) classes.

The 2007 racing season at VIR will come to a close November 3 with the Sports Car Club of America North Carolina Region's unique **Charge of the Headlight Brigade** 13-hour endurance race. The Charge of the Headlight Brigade, now in its fifth year, is the perfect way

to wrap up the season with a marathon event that ends in darkness.

The 2007 season at VIR will offer something for everyone, whether your motorsports taste runs to two wheels or four, or to amateur or professional competition. Ticket information is available on the track's website, www.virclub.com. In 2007, for the first time, VIR is also offering a Season Ticket, which will allow access to all of the track's spectator events. A VIR Season Ticket, which includes preferred parking, will cost \$350.

"We're really looking forward to 2007," said VIR General Manager Josh Lief. "Since the track reopened in 2000, each year has been successively better and more exciting. We have established great partnerships with all the various groups who race at VIR, and we are continually adding amenities and features to the facility to make it the best motorsports destination in America. We are very excited about celebrating the 50th anniversary of the track's opening at the Gold Cup Historic Races in June, and we hope that everyone will come out and join us for more high-speed fun in 2007!"

For more information on VIRginia International Raceway, visit the track's website at www.virclub.com or telephone 434-822-7700.

March Ride photos courtesy of Wayne Westbury



Richmond Riders Motorcycle Club



President: Jerry Reid 744-2870



Secretary: Patsy Reid, 744-2870

Vice President: Rick Arsenault 883-5180



Newsletter: Bruce Hackett, 733-7330



Treasurer: Henry Murray, 674-6560



Webmaster: Jason Lawhorn, <http://www.richmondrider.com> 781-0800

VIRginia International Raceway 2007 Season Schedule

John Gardner Public Relations Director - Article contributed by Gene Snead

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>
March 23-25	Historic Sportscar Racing
April 27-29	Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series VIR 400 (plus SunTrust Moto ST Motorcycle Endurance Series, Star Mazda Series and Skip Barber National Championship)
May 12-13	North Carolina Region, Sports Car Club of America SARRC/MARRS Challenge
May 29 (tentative)	Stock Car Open Test Day
June 8-10	Gold Cup Historic Races VIR 50th Anniversary Celebration
June 23-24	Championship Cup Series Motorcycle Road Racing Virginia Festival of Speed
Aug. 11-12	North Carolina Region, Sports Car Club of America Oak Tree National
Aug. 17-19	AMA Superbike Championship Suzuki Big Kahuna Nationals
Sept. 22-23	Championship Cup Series Motorcycle Road Racing
Sept. 28-30	Sportscar Vintage Racing Association Virginia Vintage Races
Oct. 5-7	GT LIVE/KONI Challenge Series Weekend
Nov. 3	North Carolina Region, Sports Car Club of America Charge of the Headlight Brigade 13-Hour Enduro

2007 Poker Run - Start of Another Terrific Year



April Poker Run raised over \$1600

Over 90 people registered

**The winner of the \$124 50/50
donated it to the Pediatric Brain
Tumor Foundation - way to go!**

