

The

Richmond Rider

www.richmondriders.com

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

March 2009

The Road Back

Rider Magazine

Thirty years ago in 1976, while stationed in Charleston, South Carolina, I fell in with a group of friends who became an ensemble cast in my life. Their friendship made my Charleston years some of the best in memory. Since then, we'd often talked about a reunion, but it took 30 years before all would gather in Charleston once again. For me it was an opportunity to tour the Charleston area on the bike, rolling along scenic highways where I had lived 30 years before. I looked forward to seeing how things had changed.



Interstate travel on the motorcycle was what it always is—boring and noisy with wind. At Augusta, I exited east on Interstate 520, the “loop highway” around the city, then took SR28 to Highway 278 for the first leg of the open country ride. I had picked an easterly route, Highway 278, to Highway 78 and then Highway 61, remembering it as a particularly scenic road. This is also a more direct route to Charleston than the interstate, so while small towns slow the pace, travel time is approximately equal, with the rural scenery improving the ride.

Once on Highway 278, I was treated to the perfect combination of light traffic, an open two-lane highway and a bright and sunny day, making interstate speeds the norm. While it was the beginning of summer, cooler than normal temperatures and low humidity made the ride very comfortable.

West of Williston, SR781 connects 278 to Highway 78. Near Elko, I stopped at an antique car junkyard featuring '50s vintage autos to take photographs contrasting the modern motorcycle in front of these aging examples of classic Americana. It seemed a shame to see automobiles with such style simply wasting away unappreciated in a field.

As I picked up Highway 61 approaching Charleston, clouds gathered, readying for an afternoon rain. I debated stopping to don the rainsuit, but cloudless sky and sunshine were several miles ahead so I kept moving. I rode through light rain, but the BMW's fairing and forward momentum kept me mostly dry. Riding past Summerville, I was glad to see that the highway hadn't changed much in 30 years. Overhanging great oak trees dangling Spanish moss line the road on both sides in several sections, giving the feel of riding through a green organic tunnel. Closer to Charleston, old southern plantations like Middleton Place and Magnolia Gardens have long ago been converted to state parks, and remain as tourist attractions. Here, the road hasn't changed, but housing and retail establishments now line its western side. This area is growing fast, and sadly, the road must follow.

Near Charleston, I picked up Interstate 526, the loop highway constructed around the city in recent years. Thirty years ago, only local roads allowed access to Isle of Palms or Folly Beach north and south of Charleston. The highway connects these beach areas and makes travel around the city quick and easy. The elevated road also takes you over the Port of Charleston, giving some perspective of how big port operations are here. The cargo ships—with the stacked crates, containers and loading cranes—are massive, and take up a mile of the Cooper River on either side of the highway.



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The Road Back *continued from page 1*

a quick right turn at Ocean Boulevard got me to the hotel. I arrived just in time to meet friends in the lobby checking in. The weekend was spent with good company and great fun—although it had been 30 years, all fell in together like no time had passed.

Sunday dawned and after breakfast the group parted company, agreeing to do it again. Now it was time to ride again. One of the great things about taking a vacation on the motorcycle is that “vacation” lasts until you pull up to the front door. Going home is not anticlimactic, just another interesting day.

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As I started north on Highway 61, the MP3 player randomly selected a 20-minute-long “classic rock” musical piece from the ’70s. The song’s intro and the combination of riding a road unchanged since the ’70s caused an “other worldly” feeling of being transported back in time. I simply smiled and rolled down the road, knowing it like an old friend, and taking in the entire *déjà vu* experience. Had I chosen the music, I wouldn’t have picked this piece, but now it seemed a perfect choice, causing me to reflect on who I was then, who I am now, and reliving a bit of my own history. The music ended just as I rode away from the most picturesque part of the highway—perfect timing.

At Augusta I got back on the interstate, locked the throttle and made time to Atlanta. With stops for photos, it had been a long riding day. I pulled into my driveway, finishing the 330-mile ride from Charleston at 7:30 p.m., with another great tour behind me and one of the best weekends in memory. I’ve heard it said that you can’t go home again, but every once in a while if you catch it just right you can find yourself taking a truly memorable ride on The Road Back.



The Richmond Riders - 16th Annual

POKER RUN

**To Benefit the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation
Sunday, April 5th, 2009 - From 9am to 3pm
Rain or Shine!**

Allie was six years old when she had surgery for a brain tumor.

(A few words from Allie are on the reverse.)

**Allie, and many other Children challenged by brain tumors, need your help
Registration Begins at 9:00 am - Last bike out by 11:30**

Event begins at The Shoppes at Bellgrade at the corner of Huguenot and Robious Road in the parking lot adjacent to River City Diner (11430 West Huguenot Rd / Midlothian, VA).

Entry fee is \$10.00 per player for a 5-card hand, and \$15.00 for a 7-card hand.

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the ride around 2:30 pm.

Maps, directions and instructions will be distributed at registration the day of the ride.



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Allie, and many other Children challenged by brain tumors, need your help

**Come Join Us for a Fun-Filled Day of Motorcycling
Down Some of The Best Riding Roads in Central Virginia**

Donations are also gladly accepted. Please make checks payable to The Richmond Riders, and mail to The Richmond Riders Motorcycle Club, 7906 W. Broad, Richmond, Va. 23294.

For more information, or to contact us, visit our website:

www.richmondriders.com

A Few Words From Allie S.

When I was six years old and in the first grade, I had surgery for a malignant brain tumor. As a result I have some neurological damage, sort of like a person with a mild stroke. I had to repeat 1st grade and learn to read all over again. Because of this I have learned to value my education and have made it my first priority.

For some people it is obvious that they have after effects from their cancer, but mine is less obvious. Some people look at me strangely because I am different but they don't have a clue what I am going through. School is tough for me because of my short term memory. I have to study twice as long as an average student to learn new material and receive the same grade. It also means that I have to write notes to remind myself of things that I have to do so I don't forget. I have learned to use patterns and color-coding techniques to help keep me organized. I want people to know that I am hard-working, and do not give up. I get frustrated but brush it off and I'm determined to accomplish my goals no matter what it takes.

One opportunity I might have missed out on if I hadn't had a brain tumor is my passion for art. My mom enrolled me in an art class after the surgery to help me use both sides of my brain. I found it very relaxing and a way to escape into a whole different world. It makes me forget about my disability and helps me feel more normal like an average student. Art has been so therapeutic for me that I would like to open my own art studio when I graduate so I can teach children to paint. I feel that I should give back to the people that have helped me so much, and this is just one way that I can. I would especially like to work with students that have special needs.

My cancer experience has made me understand how precious life is. I never leave someone I care about without saying I love them. Cancer is a life-changing experience and having lived through it I have learned not to take life for granted.

Richmond Ride for Kids®

June 7, 2009



Virginia First Lady Anne Holton joins the 2008 Ride for Kids® stars.

Richmond Times-Dispatch 8460 Times-Dispatch Blvd. Mechanicsville, VA 23116

When you join hundreds of other motorcyclists for this scenic ride through the Virginia countryside, you'll have a great time while raising funds for the PBTF's medical research and family support programs! Riders on all makes and models are welcome.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 9:45 a.m. The escorted ride starts at 10 a.m. sharp, *rain or shine!*

The ride will loop back to the Times-Dispatch. After a light lunch, participants will enjoy a Celebration of Life program that features interviews with young brain tumor survivors—the Ride for Kids® “stars” of the day. Award presentations to top fundraisers will follow.

The minimum donation to ride is \$35, but the more money you raise, the more premiums you earn. For each \$300 you raise, your name will be entered into a drawing for a brand-new Honda motorcycle! For more information, call 800-253-6530.

If you're unable to attend, send your registration form and donations to PBTF, 302 Ridgefield Ct., Asheville, NC 28806. Mark your form “Not Attending” to credit your ride and receive your premiums by mail.

KTM Sponsorship of Dual Sport Trail Riding Series

National Dual Sport Trail Riding Series. From the EXC off-road race bike to the 990 Super Enduro, KTM builds some of the most versatile and extreme dual-sport motorcycles available today. Now, the company is putting its name on the country's premier schedule of dual-sport events, the AMA KTM National Dual Sport Trail Riding Series.

As part of the three-year relationship, at the end of each season KTM will award one lucky rider in the series with one of the most popular bikes in the company's lineup: a new KTM 530 EXC.

KTM North America President Jon-Erik Burleson added, “While KTM is known for building motorcycles that are ‘Ready to Race,’ we are also fully dedicated to the recreational rider. While that commitment has long been apparent in our lineup, which includes one of the industry's broadest ranges of dual-sport motorcycles, we're excited about the opportunity to extend that commitment through this sponsorship of the AMA KTM National Dual Sport Trail Riding Series. I'm personally looking forward to this season and awarding one of the series' diehard participants the keys to a brand new KTM 530 EXC.”

AMA KTM National Dual Sport Trail Riding Series events include miles of trail connected by some of the best dirt and gravel roads the nation's backcountry has to offer. Often multi-day events (with one-day participation optional), these rides include route sheets of well-marked courses of 100 miles or more each day. While the rides aren't competitive in nature, in many cases the terrain is just as challenging as what you'll find on a national-caliber off-road race.

The AMA has been promoting this national series since 1987, and the events have demonstrated strong growth in both participation and number. Currently, for 2009, the schedule for the AMA KTM National Dual Sport Trail Riding Series includes 23 events.

The series kicks off April 25-26 in Renfro Valley, Ky., and there are events scheduled in Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Oregon, New Hampshire, Illinois, Indiana, California, Virginia, Alabama, Arizona and New Jersey. To get the latest information about the 2009 AMA KTM Natio

Rides & Events

March 2009

March 22nd is the Poker Run PRE-Ride. We'll be meeting at the River City Diner in the Bellgrade Shopping Center. The ride leaves at 10:00 AM.

April 2009

April 5th is the RIDE FOR KIDS POKER RUN!!!! Registration begins at 9:00 AM and the last bike rolls out at 11:00 AM. We'll be meeting at the River City Diner in the Bellgrade Shopping Center.

May 2009

This ride will be on May 24th. We'll be heading to the "Peaks of Otter" in Bedford, VA. The ride will leave at 8:30 AM from the McDonalds on Patterson Avenue.

Dinner Rides (TO BEGIN IN SPRING!!!)

The fourth Wednesday of every month, and the first Thursday of every month.

Other Ride Info Coming Soon!!!

Richmond Riders Motorcycle Club

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Atkinson 264-7209

Secretary: Jo Ann Murray
674-6560

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AMA Announces Free Roadside Assistance

Rider Magazine

Pickerington, Ohio (February 13, 2009) – The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) made three important announcements at a press conference before the opening of the annual International Powersports Dealer Expo in Indianapolis.

AMA Membership: A Revolution

The AMA announced a major new membership benefit: free AMA Roadside Assistance for the same \$39 annual cost that AMA members currently pay to belong to the world's largest member-based motorcyclists' rights organization.

Advertisement Every member who enrolls in the AMA's new auto-renewal program is rewarded with free AMA Roadside Assistance. It's an incredible value that covers all of a member's motorcycles, plus all of his or her other vehicles, including motorhomes and trailers. And it's available for every kind of rider: cruiser, tourer, sportbike, commuter, dual-sport, off-road and racer.

"AMA members have long supported our efforts to protect and promote motorcycling," said AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman at a press conference preceding the opening of the annual Powersports Dealer Expo in Indianapolis. "With our new auto-renewal program and free AMA Roadside Assistance, we are finally able to provide a much sought-after benefit that every member needs, every time they ride. And it's completely free."

Dingman added that the first 25,000 members who enroll in the new AMA autorenewal program will receive a \$10 shopping coupon from AMA partner BikeBandit.com. BikeBandit.com is just one of more than two dozen AMA partners who provide members with useful and valuable discounts on products and services.

When asked how the AMA could afford to provide AMA Roadside Assistance for free, Dingman said, "It's simple really. In the past, we've sent out more than 1 million pieces of renewal mail a year. With auto-renewal, we save a lot of money that would otherwise be spent on paper, postage and staff time. Savings from this 'green' initiative will allow the Association to dedicate more resources to member benefits."

At the press conference, Dingman revealed the new AMA membership structure:

AMA Champion (\$39) is the new, best-value membership. It costs the same as the previous "Full" membership and includes all existing member benefits. AMA Champions also receive free AMA Roadside Assistance on all of their vehicles when they opt-in for auto-renewal of their memberships.

AMA Competition Plus (\$39) is the new best-value membership for those who enjoy racing with the AMA. It costs the same as the previous "Competition" membership and includes all existing member benefits. Like AMA Champions, AMA Competition Plus members get free AMA Roadside Assistance on all of their vehicles when they opt-in for auto-renewal of their memberships.

AMA Standard (\$39) is the same as the previous "Full" membership. It does not require auto-renew and does not include free AMA Roadside Assistance. Dingman also unveiled two enhanced AMA membership levels.

AMA Defender (\$49) includes all of the benefits of an AMA Champion membership, plus it designates a \$10 annual contribution to the advocacy efforts of the AMA Government Relations Department. AMA Defenders receive free AMA Roadside Assistance on all of their vehicles when they opt-in for autorenewal of their memberships.

AMA Hall of Fame (\$49) includes all of the benefits of an AMA Champion membership, plus it designates a \$10 annual contribution to the AMA's Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum. AMA Hall of Fame members receive free AMA Roadside Assistance on all of their vehicles when they opt-in for autorenewal of their memberships.

Details of the AMA's auto-renewal program and free AMA Roadside Assistance are available in a comprehensive four-page spread highlighting all of the AMA member benefits in the March issue of American Motorcyclist, and on the AMA website at www.AmericanMotorcyclist.com. Non-AMA members can easily join and redeem this tremendous offer, as well as take advantage of numerous other savings, by simply selecting Join/Renew in the Membership menu of the AMA website."

February Meeting Notes

Jerry called the meeting to order and Susie reported that the club's treasury has an available balance of \$1,083.00.

Ride Report: Wayne announced that this would be his last year as Ride Captain.

22 Mar 09: Poker Run pre-ride. Leave River City Diner at 10:00 am.

5 Apr 09: Poker Run.

25 Apr 09: Club ride to Lawrenceville, VA. Lunch will be at the Cinnamon Café. Leave River City Diner at 9:00 am.

This a Saturday ride instead of Sunday

17 May 09: Peaks of Otter Ride. Leave McDonald's on Patterson at 8:30 am. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM 24 MAY 09.

OLD BUSINESS:

Business cards look great and were distributed at tonight's meeting.

Flyers were distributed to members.

Poker Run is 5 Apr 09:

Wayne Dunn is handling food again and will be the same as last year. Wayne has done a rough estimate on food cost and it should be around \$350.00.

Jerry asked if we should make a donation to the Powhatan Fairgrounds after the Poker Run. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Brian Austin will go to the cycle shops on Midlothian and let them know about the poker run and inquire if they will donate door prizes.

Gene will do the coffee again and has a table.

Henry has a table and a tent.

Bruce will do Stop no. 2. Volunteers are need for the other stops.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ultimate Cycle has a new owner and it is located on Midlothian Turnpike.

50/50 raised \$30.00

All said and done, the meeting was adjourned.