

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

September 2007

Old Friends Trace the Path of Lewis and Clark

Mark Cook

President Thomas Jefferson was a man who kept incredible, detailed records, and some have speculated that this almost compulsive need to tally fueled his curiosity. While his predecessor, John Adams, had a true worldview, worrying about the French Revolution, Jefferson's sights were closer to home: He wanted to know everything about the new American West, a vast territory extending from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. By the early 1800s, westward expansion had become a hot topic for the president, and he secretly ordered Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition to the area. Jefferson's motives were clear: "To explore the Missouri River and such principal streams of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean...may offer the most direct and practical water communication across the continent, for the purposes of commerce." Lewis and William Clark used a \$2500 expansion stipend to assemble a team of 33. The expedition commenced on May 14, 1804 and ended on September 23, 1806 when Lewis, Clark and the aptly named Corps of Discovery returned to the heartland, leaving behind an 8000-mile trail of hardship and sacrifice and bringing home unfathomably hard-won knowledge.



Dial your time machine ahead approximately 198 years and you'll find Dennis Wolter and a corps of hardy motorcycle riders attempting to follow the Lewis and Clark trail from east to west. Oh, and get this: They made the trip on two-stroke 250cc Puch "Allstate" motorcycles once sold at your friendly neighborhood Sears. Not something, in other words, you'd see in a Ken Burns documentary.

"But...why?" you ask. Wolter sums it up: "I've always been a history buff and have been fascinated by the Lewis and Clark expedition. I wanted to see what was left of the trail, and I wanted to do it on the Allstates." Wolter pauses, preempting the next question with, "Because I wanted to prove you could. Anyone can do a trip staring

through the windscreen of a new Harley. Much of the trip was on logging roads, and sometimes we had to lift the bikes over fallen logs. You can't do that with a 500- or 600-pound motorcycle." Along the way, Wolter turned his band of riders into Allstate believers, to say nothing of the scores of motorcyclists he met along the way. Although certainly not as dangerous or austere as the Lewis and Clark expedition, Wolter's ride had two ground rules: The riders would stay at campsites whenever possible and live simply.



Wolter describes this journey as the trip of a lifetime—an opportunity to see the still vast American West at a pace gentler than that offered by the great interstates.

On the Lewis and Clark trail in North Dakota. This was a known place where Lewis and Clark had been, though the river has been vastly changed in the time since. The river has been dammed so many times it has taken over much of what is left. Left to right: Bill Vermillion, an experienced rider more comfortable with Harleys ("When I told him he was going to be riding the Allstate he looked at me like I'd just shot his dog," Wolter says); Dennis Wolter; Luke Boldman; Keith Wolter. Neither Boldman nor Keith Wolter had ridden much before the trip.

"We were trying to beat some thunderstorms across Montana and the gas cap did not vent properly, which made the mixture too lean. Plus we were running flat-out into a heavy head wind. All of a sudden, Luke, who was on his bike, and I saw an orange flame shoot out of the carburetor about a foot long. Scared the crap out of him," Wolter says. Stopping by the side of the road, they found molten aluminum in the back side of the



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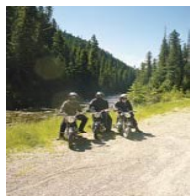
Old Friends Trace the Path..... *continued from page 1*



air filter. At that point, Keith Wolter departed the group in Helena, Montana, which left an extra bike. Perhaps ignominiously, this bike spent the rest of the trip in the chase van.

"We're crossing the Columbia River Gorge in Astoria, Oregon. Emotionally, this was difficult because I knew the end of the trip was near," Wolter says. "Although I felt a lot of pride in the fact that we'd made it on these bikes, I also [felt] a lot for the Lewis and Clark expedition, which had no available supplies and had to deal with truly rugged terrain. It gave me a great appreciation for what these guys went through with no supplies. And the terrain is hard."

In North Dakota between Mitchell, South Dakota, and Bismarck, on the actual Lewis and Clark trail. "You may notice the windshield stanchions on the fork. We were fighting 60-mph winds and the combination was hard on the bikes. I was following in the van the day before, going up a long hill and watching, thinking, 'Man, that bike sure is running clean,' when all of a sudden I see the rear wheel hopping. The pipes were blue. I pulled a pipe and the piston rings were porridge. I reworked that bike that night in Mitchell in the campground. The next day I broke it in carefully, and that motorcycle went on for the rest of the trip."



Riding along the Missouri River in South Dakota. "This is where all the history is," Wolter says. "It's one of those places closest to what Lewis and Clark saw. You ride a nice two-lane

dirt road down to the river. I had hoped more of the trip would be on roads like this, but that's progress." Up to Highway 500, the Lolo Motorway in Idaho. "You're seeing the good part of the road. When you get to the top it turns west. It's open for a month during the summer. This road goes up from Highway 12, which follows the river at about 5000 feet,

ascends to 7000 feet and runs into an east-west trail; this is the actual Lewis and Clark trail. This road is going to become a full state highway. And they're going to make it so you can drive motor homes over the trail. This is the reason we wanted to do it when we did."

Along the Clearwater River in Oregon. "We're following along Highway 12. This road goes down to a bridge at Kill Cold Creek. The expedition had to kill a horse here. This was the prettiest part of the trip, clear and cool even in early June."

This is where Lewis thought the Mississippi River began, at Chill Cut Pass. Just over the mountain, a spring flows out of the Continental Divide, and Lewis believed that half the water fell west to the Pacific and half east to the Atlantic.

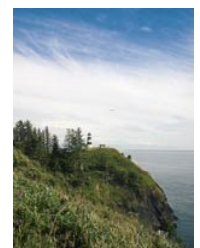
Bridal Veil Falls along the Columbia River. "It's a touristy thing, but we had to stop in. This is such a beautiful place."

Cape Disappointment looking south, with the Pacific to the right. "We had camped the night before at a campground right on the Pacific. We were out touring that day to see the Cape and Fort Clatsop," where the expedition made camp on the southern shore of the Columbia for the winter of 1805. "The park ranger, when he found out what we had done, gave us all gold pins. I cut the stab off and epoxied one to the tank of my bike."



Hat Rock in Montana. "A parking lot and a bronze plaque is all that marks the spot where Lewis and Clark first saw the Rocky Mountains way in the distance. This must have been an incredible feeling, to see those mountains. They must have wondered just how in the hell they were going to get over. Later in the expedition, Lewis noted that the Columbia surged every 24 hours, and from that they knew they were close to the end."

The end of the line, the monument in Astoria. "We were in really good spirits, knowing that we'd done a really neat thing and that we'd made it to the Pacific. The police cleared the square and allowed us to take this shot."



Chicagoland Ride for Kids Smashes All Time Records

The 2007 Chicagoland Ride for Kids® was the program's most successful event ever, raising more than \$400,000. This phenomenal result represents a whopping 8.4 percent increase over last year's event.

The excitement began early on Sunday morning as more than 2,600 motorcyclists and supporters flocked to the beautiful Allstate Insurance campus in South Barrington, Ill. Spring-like weather made for a great riding day.

The motorcyclists enjoyed a police-escorted tour of the rural countryside northwest of Chicago, crossing back and forth over the Fox River before returning to the Allstate campus. There they joined the jubilant Celebration of Life program. From 6-year-olds Nikki and Tristen to teenagers like Melanie, 14 brain tumor patients shared their inspiring stories.

The standing-room-only crowd also heard from Carol Sevrey, who lost a child to a brain tumor. "I got goosebumps and tears at my first Chicagoland ride seven years ago," she said. "It gave me hope then and it gives me hope today to be with here with all of you, knowing that other parents won't have to bury their child."

Other VIP guests included Dr. Jason Fangusaro of Children's Memorial Hospital and Detroit Lions wide receiver Marcus Robinson.

The total raised at the 19th annual Chicagoland event was \$400,058. The top individual fundraisers were Paul Edick and Linda Szyper of Chicago with \$30,800, closely followed by Stacia Skinner and the Robert Gruensfelder family with \$29,525.

GWRRRA IL Chapter G2 was the top club, contributing \$89,468. And on a day filled with many firsts, the customers of powersports dealer Neilsen Enterprises of Lake Villa, Ill., turned in \$128,892—a stunning 10.8 percent gain over 2006 and a new dealership record. Corey Fishman of Chester, N.J., won the grand prize, a brand-new Honda motorcycle.

Deepest appreciation went to the Chicagoland event's task force, led by Vito Racanelli, Sandy Berens and Rick Montgomery. Together with their hardworking event volunteers, they organized an unforgettable day of hope for kids with brain tumors.

Suzuki Big Kahuna Nationals were at VIR in August contributed by Gene Snead

DANVILLE, VA. - Miss Big Kahuna 2007 is Playmate of the Month, February 2007, Heather Smith. Heather will preside over the Suzuki Big Kahuna Nationals presented by Dunlop and ROCKSTAR at VIRginia International Raceway, August 17-19!

Meet Heather and the rest of the Umbrella Girls at the Original Doubleheader. Heather is one of the lovely women featured in the 2008 Umbrella Girls calendar. "I'm thrilled to be able to see the Superbike races," says Heather. "I've always loved speed and excitement, so this is going to be a real treat for me, and for the fans at the track.

"I understand that VIR is a beautiful place to visit and a great place to watch races. I've heard a lot of good things about the track so I'm looking forward to seeing it in person next month," she adds.

Heather and the Umbrella Girls will be at the track all weekend, adding another attraction to the event so be sure to meet them and get an autograph.

Returning to VIRginia International Raceway, August 17-19, the Suzuki Big Kahuna Nationals presented by Dunlop and ROCKSTAR brings a full weekend of racing, stunt shows, fan parties, kids' area, jumbo screen viewing, a larger vendor area, and much more. The Big Kahuna will have something for everyone.

Promoted by Colorado-based M1 Entertainment, the three-day double-header brings some of the best road racing riders to VIR's scenic 2.25-mile road course. As always, the Suzuki Big Kahuna Nationals will offer a variety of ticket packages. Standard three-day general-admission tickets with paddock access will be available (\$65 advance/\$75 at gate), as will one-day tickets for Friday (\$25, not available in advance), Saturday (\$50/\$60) and Sunday (\$50/\$60). General car parking will be available for \$5, and infield car parking is priced at \$10. Motorcycle parking will be free.

Autonomous Vehicle Record Set at VIR ...contributed by Gene Snead

DANVILLE, VA. - A record of a different sort was set today at VIRginia International Raceway (VIR). This record wasn't set by a driver, but rather by Insight Racing's N.C. State University-sponsored "Lone Wolf," a Lotus Elise sports car modified to drive itself from one place to another. This completely robotic vehicle drove the Full Course at VIR in just over 6 minutes, topping out at 49 mph.

The Lone Wolf is NCSU College of Engineering's entry in the DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) Urban Challenge project to develop fully autonomous vehicles capable of operating in a city environment with no human intervention. The Urban Challenge race is scheduled for November 3rd. The Urban Challenge project is intended to allow the military to have one-third of its vehicles with this self driving ability by 2015.

Recently tested at VIRginia International Raceway, the Lone Wolf successfully completed several laps of the 3.27-mile natural terrain road course at increasing speeds. "The top speed in the Urban Challenge is 30 mph, but with a beautiful Lotus Elise at fabulous Virginia International Raceway, we couldn't resist the urge to drive the Lone Wolf fast," said Grayson Randall, Founder of Insight Racing. "After some tuning overnight we had a great run Thursday morning, knocking almost two minutes off our official time from Wednesday." The VIR event was sponsored by Lotus of Durham, in Durham, N.C.

The quick times actually led to a well-documented and humorous incident when the car dropped two tires off into the grass and in returning to the track, spun out. According to VIR officials, this is a common maneuver for novice drivers. The spin resulted in more amusement than concern as the team crowded around a video camera to play and replay the incident. Video of the spin can be viewed on YouTube at: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=edFUCSBLjN8>.

The next public appearance of Lone Wolf is planned for August 15 at Control Corporation's headquarters in Maple Grove, Minnesota. Control is one of the team sponsors.

"We are happy to be able to host the tests of Lone Wolf at VIR" said General Manager Josh Lief, "but of course we're pulling for the Hokies", Lief said with a smile. "With VIPER and JOUSTER on our Motorsports Technology Park, this is just one more way VIR is being used for something other than racing cars."

Insight Racing (www.insightracing.org) is a robotic vehicle racing team sponsored by NC State University, Lotus Engineering, Insight Technologies, The Advanced Vehicle Research Center, SAS, Northrop Grumman, NC CAR, Control Corporation, Smith Anderson, Ascot Technologies, Auto Europe, BC Micro LLC, PC MedEvac, Tekelec, Automation Direct, Cinnamon Peripherals, DataWatt Solutions, NC Global TransPark, Four Brothers Auto, gridconnect, Lotus of Durham, Novatel, OmniSTAR, PEAK system technik, Revware, Sanford Lee County Regional Airport, and Yokohama Tires. Insight Racing's Lone Wolf has been featured in the Discovery Channel's Daily Planet Show and will be featured in a BBC Special called "The Future" which is scheduled to air worldwide this fall. To sponsor the team or for more information, contact Walt Sliva at (919) 931-1118 or wjsliva@ncsu.edu.

VIRginia International Raceway is a multi-purpose road racing facility, located on the Dan River between Danville and South Boston, Virginia.

July Club Ride to the Crazy Crab in Reedville

It was the perfect day for a ride to the shore. We had a great turnout for the annual 127 mile trek to the Crazy Crab Restaurant. It was the third time we made this journey down winding roads and through beautiful country and restored towns like Kilmarnock and Reedville and traveling almost the entire length of The Trail Rt 14. Reedville is at the very end of Rt 360 and offers a nice alternative from the mountains in the west. I had the best time of all riding Wayne's Yamaha sport tourer and was exhilarated by sudden bursts of speed not usually experienced on my Virago. All in all we had a great time and plan to do it next year. My thanks to all who participated. Bruce



Guilty Plea in Deadly Pa. Oil Slick Crash

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. (AP) - July 11, 2006 - A Bloomsburg man has pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter for failing to report an oil slick he left on Route 42 that led to a fatal motorcycle crash.

The Press Enterprise reports 49-year-old Donald Franklin contested some of the facts presented in court yesterday, but was willing to accept responsibility for his actions.

Columbia County District Attorney Gary Norton says Franklin was "grossly negligent" by failing to clean up or report the oil that spilled from his car's damaged oil pan onto the southbound lane of Route 42 south of Catawissa on June 5th, 2005.

Forty-year-old Carla Bickleman of the Reading area was killed when her husband's motorcycle went out of control after hitting the oil.

Sentencing will take place later. Franklin could receive up to a five-year prison term.

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Clothesline Suspect Wanted

San Jose, California

The rope that clotheslined a motorcyclist in the hills above Los Gatos, putting him into a temporary coma, was strung across the roadway for safety reasons, according to the attorney for one of the three people charged in the case.

Donald Bryant, 62; Donna Olsen, 46; and Edward Anderson, 48, were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the May 6 incident that put their neighbor, motorcyclist Robert Barnes, in a coma for five days.

Barnes also received more than 500 stitches and had several titanium plates inserted in his face, according to authorities. Bryant and Olsen appeared in a San Jose courtroom on Friday.

Outside the courthouse, Bryant's attorney, Dennis Lempert, said no witnesses link his client or the other two defendants to the rope that was strung across Loma Chiquita Road in unincorporated Los Gatos. "No one saw who put the rope up," Lempert said.

The rope was tied across the road at the home where Anderson and Olsen live, according to prosecutor Leigh Frazier. "Anderson owns the home where this was strung up," Frazier said.

Lempert also suggested the rope had a legitimate purpose. "There's a problem with people racing up there ... the rope was up to try and slow people down," Lempert said.

According to Frazier, there was no justification for the defendants' actions. Each of the three defendants faces two counts of assault with a could have been (Anderson's) kid; he dirt-bikes," Barnes said.

The victim, Bob Barnes, told NBC11 that he doesn't know why the group attacked him. He said it happened after a day of dirt-biking in the hills of Los Gatos. He said he thinks what was strung across the road was a piece of heavy wire or rebar. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department told NBC11 News that two groups of neighbors have had several conflicts over who has rights to use the road outside their homes. Investigators blame those conflicts for the prank gone bad. Donald BryantBarnes, visibly scarred and using a cane to

walk, attended Friday's hearing. He said he wanted to see all three defendants receive the maximum possible sentence, which is eight years in prison, according to Frazier. "I don't think it was about me. I think it was about dirt bikes in general. It could have been anyone.

Minutes from April Meeting

Jerry called the meeting to order.

Henry reported that the club's treasury has an available balance of \$820.62.

Ride Captain Wayne said the July ride to Crazy Crab Restaurant was well attended, on a good weather day. The August ride will be a Beat the Heat Breakfast Ride to Dillwyn. The first dinner ride in September will take place on September 6.

The club ride on September 30 will end up at Joe and Kathy Snyder's Louisa County home for a cookout. Riders will leave the Marketplace Café, Parkside Exxon in Innsbruck at 8:00 a.m.

Hank and Jason have collaborated to update the club website – the new, improved version should be ready for viewing in September.

Rick Arsenault brought up the recently passed traffic violation law. He pointed out that it behooves all riders and drivers to read the wording in the law and be aware of its far-reaching stipulations.

After winning the 50/50, Alvin gave his portion to the club. Total 50/50 proceeds were \$44.00.

Regarding the auction of Ride for Kids premiums, it was agreed to auction half the premiums tonight and the remaining half at the September meeting.

All said and done, meeting was over.