Close Encounter of the Scary Kind

Saturday morning, early, heading out for breakfast with other riders when a “Close Encounter of the Scary Kind” occurred which has prompted me to write this.

Two bikes were heading south on a nice 2-lane highway running 45-50 mph. I was the trail bike and was 3-4 seconds behind the lead when conditions changed from ideal to emergency without warning. The lead bike started moving toward the center line which didn’t bring up any red flags but then I caught a glimpse of a couple of raccoons crossing in front of the lead bike. Not seeing any in my tract I stayed put and got off the throttle. Then there were 5 of the critters and the red flag popped up. Lead bike was slowing fast so I followed. My bike, being rather light of weight didn’t have enough tire grip and the rear wheel locked up with the rear end sliding to the right.

This now put me aiming straight at the rear of the lead bike. At that point stopping in time was not an option so I got back on the throttle in order to get control of the bike and then tried to steer around. I almost made it but there just wasn’t enough time or space. Rear view mirrors clipped and I believe the highway peg of the lead hit my luggage which promptly broke loose taking the turn signal with it. Both bikes remained upright and under control with what is minor damage considering what could have happened.

My point you ask? Awareness of your riding environment at all times.

1. 360 degrees awareness
2. Conditions vs. your riding capabilities
3. Interval

I try to ride with complete 360 degree awareness of my riding position. Thinking back on this experience I believe I did as I saw what was happening and started making decisions on what to do. I also try to ride within my capabilities and again, I think I was. When the rear tire locked and started to slide I got control of the bike quickly. The problem, as I see it, was the interval between me and the lead bike. I try to maintain a 4 second minimum interval at 45-50 mph. I was probably at 3 seconds. When an emergency situation presents itself decisions have to be made really, really fast. In my case 3 seconds. If I was 4 seconds back I might have made it but at 3 seconds, I just didn’t have a chance considering the closing speed.

The Cruisers ride in groups for the most part so the above scenario is a constant threat to our safe riding. We got lucky today but I sure don’t want anyone else to experience anything like this.

Ride smart: stay alert to your environment, ride within your capabilities and maintain a super safe interval.

Hugh G. Brandt, Correspondent 7/17/13
**Editors Note:** I was informed by Hugh that the family of 5 raccoons that were the cause of this mishap survived and are now happily out harassing other bikers.

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**View From the Side**

The summer and the riding season are rapidly flying by. There were several events in July. We started off with the Des Plaines Fourth of July parade followed by the picnic at George and Beverly Gauss’ house. According to George, “the food was great and the “Aqua bells” provided quite the entertainment.” This is always a well-attended event and everyone has a great time. Thank you George and Beverly for opening up your home and providing all the delicious food.

Joe Fiedler’s "Aqua bell Routine" 7/04/2013

The following weekend was the Duck Creek campout in Pardeeville, Wisconsin. While the group was smaller than usual this year, everyone had a great time. The weather was cooperative and the roads were fantastic! Several people rode up for the Saturday ride and Steve Mendel’s route did not disappoint. We could have done without the very Rustic Road, which had several sections of gravel, but that’s a part of the adventure in motorcycling. It was a great time thanks to Steve and Bill Lindwall.

Joe Fiedler led two FART rides this month. One of them was on a very hot day so the attendance was low so they kept the ride short – I think eight miles must be a record for the shortest ride! Thanks Joe for leading these rides.

7/26/2013 F.A.R.T. Ride; "To hot to ride".

The Ride for Autism Fundraiser was a total success. Mike O’Malley reported we raised $1,190.90 for this worthy cause. I do wish to thank Mike O’Malley and his crew for collecting this money for a very worthwhile cause. The event also gets our name out into the community.

The beginning of August brings the eagerly awaited Smoky Mountains weeklong tour. I know the participants are excited about this trip and have been talking about it for months. I’m sure there will be plenty of stories to share after the trip! Bob Graeff has done extensive planning for this trip as well as Bill Lindwall and Joe Fiedler.

Joe Fiedler is finalizing details for his Trifecta for August 16th, August 17th and August 18th. There will be a lunch ride on Friday, a dinner ride on Saturday and a breakfast ride on Sunday. Keep checking the web site for the details and join Joe for one or more of the rides.
Rounding out the month of August will be the third annual Sunrise Memorial Run on Sunday, August 25th. Kickstands will be up at 5:10 a.m. as we head down to Montrose harbor for the sunrise. Join us as we remember and celebrate the lives of our fellow Cruisers who are no longer with us. All of the details are on the website and Mike O’Malley can answer any further questions.

The August membership meeting is also the planning meeting. It is time to plan the events for 2014. Do you have a favorite day trip or a favorite restaurant? Come up with a route, put the event on the calendar and have fellow Cruisers come along. If there is an activity that you enjoy, chances are great that other members will enjoy it too. We’re always open to new events and ideas. If you are unsure about running an event yourself, contact me; I’ll be happy to co-chair the event. Any of the current tour directors or Board members will also be able to lend support and advice on planning an event or a route. Think about what event YOU will contribute to the 2014 calendar at the planning meeting. Without YOUR input, the calendar will be empty. If you are unable to attend the August meeting, just tell a Board member about your plans to get it on the calendar. We had 32 events on the calendar for 2013, let’s make 2014 another active year. Please do YOUR part!

See you on the road...

Sandy

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**Reports From the Board**

We will start the 2014 Annual Activity Planning Meeting at next month’s meeting. Please come ready with your activity’s proposed date and most importantly a co-chair. I will have blank calendar’s available at the meeting.

So if you have an activity please let us know at the August meeting. Thanks.

**August 2013**

Des Plaines Police have their National Night Out Event

**Tuesday, August 6th.**

More information: 847-391-5410

The Des Plaines Police Department will be acknowledging the National Night Out from 5pm-8pm in the north parking lot of Maine West High School 1755 S. Wolf Rd. Des Plaines, IL

The event will include a display of Police and Fire Vehicles, a presentation, a climbing wall, face painters, and several other displays.

National night out is making the community aware of crime and drug prevention awareness and support on a local level, they are hoping to create neighborhood spirit and to form partnerships between the community and the Police Department.

**4th Annual Woman’s Run**

**Sunday, August 11th, 9:00am to 5:00pm**

Dukane Chapter of ABATE

$10.00 per person

Open to women riders women passengers and men that love them

Fox River Harley Davidson

Randall Road

St Charles, IL

More information 630-669-2588

**Walneck’s Motorcycle Swap Meet**

**Sunday, August 18 8am-3pm**

Mc Henry County Old Fairgrounds

1049 Country Club Rd

Woodstock, IL

Admission is $7.00
Buy, sell and trade new and used Motorcycle Parts and Accessories

Swap meet with American, British, Japanese Euro, Dirt Bikes, parts new and used Leather goods Patches and Sewing T-shirts and all kinds of what-not’s for sale including motorcycle posters.

For more information call 630-985-2097

**Linda Czyz, Community Relations VP**

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**GREAT JOB! THANKS!**

*Old Farts Lunch Ride* - Steve Penczak  
*Fourth of July Picnic* - George & Bev Gauss  
*Duck Creek Campout* - Bill Lindwall & Steve Mendel  
*F.A.R.T. Rides* - Joe Fiedler

Thanks again,  
**Joyce Pavelko, Individual Involvement VP**

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This issue and the next few issues will include “Up Close and Personal” interviews of the directors that have volunteered this year under the umbrella of Chapter Management Vice President.

**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH STEVE PENCZAK, EDITOR**

Q. When did you begin riding? A. I was 15 when I paid my neighbor $1 for each lap around the block on his Orange Sears (Puch) 150 moped.

Q. What was your first motorcycle? A. I rented Honda 50s, the step-through kind, for some months until I was able to buy a Honda 90S, the one that you had to use a clutch and shift and looked like a real motorcycle.

Q. How many motorcycles have you owned? A. Only 9

Q. How many motorcycles do you currently own? A. 2

Q. When and where was your first long distance motorcycle trip? A. JPC Around the Lake ride in 1983.

Q. What was your favorite long distance motorcycle trip? A. Route 66 ride from Lake Shore Drive to the Santa Monica Pier with then member Rhys Blair in 2004. Actually there have been many other long distance rides that could fall into this category.

Q. Where were you born? A. Chicago

Q. If you have a significant other or spouse, what is her name? A. Lucy and I have been married 43 years.

Q. Where do you live and how long have you lived there? A. Addison, about 15 years (25 years in Hanover Park)

Q. How did you become aware of the JPC? A. From a fellow I worked with at the railroad, Steve Moll.

Q. When did you become a member of the JPC? A. 1984

Q. What is your favorite current JPC event? A. Almost any of our week-end overnight rides.
Q. What is your favorite past JPC event?  A. Apple River

Q. How have you been active in the JPC?  A. President, Newsletter Editor, Chairman of the Election Committee, many time newsletter article contributor, Chairman and Co-chair of many events over the years, and many other things from years past that I am too short of memory to remember.

Q. Explain why motorcycling is important to you.  A. The sense of freedom I feel when I am out riding and also the opportunity to see and encounter things that I am hard pressed to enjoy when behind the wheel of my car. The sights and sounds around me seem more intense when experienced from the saddle of my motorcycle.

Q. What do you like best about being a JPC?  A. It is definitely the people. I have known some of them for almost 30 years and find that my fellow Cruisers are some of the nicest, most interesting people around and I still enjoy spending time with most all of them.

Q. Favorite color?  A. “Arrest-me red”

Q. Favorite movie?  A. M.A.S.H.

Q. Favorite food?  A. Almost anything Chinese, Japanese and Thai

Q. Least favorite food?  A. I won’t eat lamb.

Q. What is an interesting fact about yourself?  A. As far as I know, I am the only Cruiser that has ever been hit by a skydiver while at a pseudo-club event, Lynn Duffin’s wedding.

Respectfully submitted by

Lynn Vicker, Chapter Management VP

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WORK: IT’S FOR PEOPLE WHO DON’T RIDE A MOTORCYCLE

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Our Summer vacation to Maine

Ken and I recently returned from a nine-day road trip to Maine. We encountered some interesting places and roads along the way. I thought I’d share a few highlights that others may want to include in their future travel plans.

Pennsylvania - DeBence Antique Music World in Franklin, Pennsylvania

The museum has a wonderful collection of calliopes, nickelodeons, music boxes and player pianos. Every piece on display works and it is quite an extensive collection. After leaving the museum, we continued on US 62 to SR 666, which is one of Pennsylvania’s dragons. It was a very scenic and curvy route.

Massachusetts - Mount Greylock Scenic Byway – follow Route 7 from Lanesborough, Massachusetts

This scenic byway is 16.3 miles from Lanesborough to North Adams. It is newly paved. There are many curves on this tree-lined road as it increases in altitude, including several hairpin turns. It was rather dark and eerie on the road on this drizzling, foggy day with no sunshine coming through the trees. At the summit is Mount Greylock, the highest peak in Massachusetts at 3400 feet. At the summit is the 92-foot Veterans War Memorial Tower that on a clear day affords an almost 80 mile, 360-degree view.

Vermont – There are many great roads in Vermont, most notably SR 100. Route 108 through Smuggler’s Notch is also a road not to be missed! One of our stops in Waterbury, Vermont is always Ben & Jerry’s for the factory tour. The sample at the end of the tour is always appreciated! This time we sampled a new flavor they are trying to name. It was blueberry ice cream with dark chocolate chunks – yum! We took U.S. Route 2 from Colchester, Vermont to Rouses Point, New
York which took us island hopping in Lake Champlain.

Acadia National Park visitors center

Maine - Acadia National Park near Bar Harbor, Maine

Acadia is the first national park east of the Mississippi and a very beautiful national park. There is a 27-mile park loop that connects Acadia’s lakes, mountains and seashore. Cadillac Mountain Road offers panoramic views of the coast and island-studded bays. Thunder Hole, Sand Beach and Otter Point are some scenic stops on the park loop.

Coastal view at Acadia National Park

Respectfully submitted by

Sandy & Ken McCall

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From The Bleachers

On Friday, June 28th I led 8 riders on an approximate 70 mile, 2 hour scenic lunch run from the Hoffman Estates McDonald’s (Rt. 72, east of Barrington Road, on the North side of the street) to the Snuggery Restaurant (the former Snug Harbor) on the Fox River in McHenry. Everyone claimed to have enjoyed the ride and all seemed quite satisfied with the lunches served.

Old Farts Ride Group enjoying a 'Happy Meal'.

Wined & dined & ready to head home.

I apologize for the short notice given for this ride and I promise I will try to give more warning of the next Old Farts run that I lead.

Steve Penczak

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Unidentified individual in the Gauss' pool July 4th.

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**August Birthdays**

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**August Events**

- **Aug 3** - Smoky Mountain Ride - Bob Graeff
- **Aug 15** - Old Farts Coffee - Funky Java - Villa Park
- **Aug 16** - FART Ride - Joe Fiedler
- **Aug 17** - Dinner Run - Joe Fiedler
- **Aug 25** - Memorial Run & Sunrise Breakfast - Mike O'Malley
- **Aug 27** - JPC Board / Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Des Plaines Elks Club.

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**September Events**

- **Sep 6-8** - Surprise Campout - Barrington/Wagner
- **Sep 14** - Balltown Lunch Run - McCall/Lindwall
- **Sep 19** - Old Farts Coffee - Funky Java - Villa Park
- **Sep 24** - JPC Board / Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Des Plaines Elks Club.

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*Please try to remember that a procrastinator's work is never done!*

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*Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with.*
The fly-by, Wi-Fi hacking 2 wheel machine

Stealth motorcycle for special forces being tested

Honda, BMW experiment with the autonomous motorcycle

Largest Motorcycle Poker Run

Motorcycle Diaries: 1924 Couple retrace dad’s rugged ride across America

20 Cool Motorcycle Culture Hand Lettering Illustrations

The motorcycle daredevil next door premieres new show on SPEED

The future of motorcycle instruments

Motorcycle Helmet with HUD with VIDEO

Lean in: First-time motorcycle rider tries to keep his dignity, his lunch and his grip (photos, videos)

Crashed But Not Burned - And Here's Why

Motorcycle safety recalls for 2012 and 2013

US Special Forces testing stealth motorcycle

Protect your Privacy from Event Data Recorders

VIDEO

Maybe the biggest exhaust pipe ever seen

Partner Ride....OMG!!!!!!

Motorcycle on Water

Honda's Mean Mower

Pet Bird Outlaw Lady

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation: Woman

Washington Lottery

why we ride

Bikers Make Lousy Speed Bumps.

Drive Aware.

Utah Department of Public Safety
**FOR SALE**
1983 GL1100 Aspencade, 57,000 miles, factory CB, radio, intercom, cruise control, & bike cover. Great condition, has never been in accident. $2,200 or best offer
Bill West 847-387-4069

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**Smoky Mountain Pre-Ride**

Bill's bike.

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**How many Cruisers does it take to set up a screen room?**

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**June 7th F.A.R.T. Ride group getting ready to leave the IHOP**

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**This month's words of wisdom:**

"If it ain't broke,

*fix it until it is*"!

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**Rainy day at the European Bike Rally this past May in Burkesville, KY. The bourbon tour sure relieved the boredom.**