

SIDETRACKS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA SIDECAR CLUB ~ ~ ~ Spring 2017

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From the President:

Happy Spring! We have a lot coming up soon. On June 4th we have the Ride For Kids and on June 8-11 we have the Howdy Summer/Georgia Rally Of Powered Equipment. The more folks who show up at both events the better! For info on the Ride For Kids in Atlanta go to this site http://pbtf.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2804&pg=entry#.WNpgShlrJE4 . or just go to <http://www.curethekids.org/> and click on the event link and find the Atlanta (or Birmingham or Nashville, they are desperate for rigs) link. You can sign up there as well. Rally info will be in other places in the newsletter. Let's have a good rest of 2017, regardless of what else might be going on around the country, nothing we can do about it anyway so might as well go out an ride. Hope you all have been doing just that, I have.

I could give the safety talk in this space, but you've all read it before and it basically can be summed up like this – be aware, be alert, be careful, and don't be stupid while out riding. Yep, that sums it up well.

The rally this year will be similar to last year, but I plan on being there the whole time and may even take the extreme measure of towing one of my rigs up for grins and to ensure I don't have to high tail it over to Richard Winter's or somewhere else when I have access to a trailer (thanks Scott!) when whatever I bring up dies. It will be Van's old trailer, so even if Red is hauled up, there is room for another rig if needed. If you want a cabin, sorry, all reserved as of the last time I called. Plenty of room for tents and RVs though. The more rowdy and general gathering site is by the cabins (face it, our rowdy ain't that rowdy), as one camps farther away from the cabins the quieter the area you are in gets. Primitive camping is the quietest bet, unless a lot of Ural folks show up and take it over than all bets are off. I can dream, can't I? Will be bringing up the cooker and such again this year and dinner is on me, that's right, I said it. I'm cooking and will refuse donations for dinner this year. After last year, you are all aware that your Pres can cook. You all were overly generous last year, and I thank you, but it still made me feel a bit guilty taking it (even if I didn't get a single bite). If anyone else wants to cook any other meals for the group, let me know, we'll gladly make that happen. Would like to see some a group ride for the street set or may be a combined ride where we all leave at the same time, stay together for a while then the dual sport/Ural folks split off to play in the dirt. Of course those who wish an stick to the street are welcome to and all are welcome to get rigs dirty, especially the pretty ones with shiny paint and chrome... Myrtle just might be recovered to try to do the Rally again, if not Myrtle, Red will be in attendance after a many year gap. Richard got his part all fixed (thanks for the donor Van), I am just trying to work out other issues that cropped up after the engine repair (and she does run good now, thank you Richard!). You know, after time all (old) Ural wires are white...ugh...

Some of you may have noticed my almost total absence from "social media". For my own mental health and well being I abruptly walked away from it all in November. That included Facebook and all forums I take part in, all of them. Some I will not be going back to as they added nothing to me and I was adding nothing to them. To tell you all the truth, missed it a little at first, now not really at all. I have found that I enjoy my God, family and motorcycles much more than social media, just saying. Was going back in this month but decided that while I was on a roll with it, and kept getting this little irritating thought that would not go away, gave it up for Lent as well. Will get back on line after Easter. Will log on long enough to post a pic or video on Sundays (Sunday is a "feast" day, Lenten observations on a feast days are generally discouraged in the faiths I've belonged/belong to, religion lesson over) but that has been about it.

And saying that, keep an eye on the web page, it will be updated soon and will be adding a picture feature of some photo albums I was given as soon as I get them all scanned in. Some of the pics will tug at you as most of the folks are but memories. Keep the memories folks and build on them for the younger folks coming up. It's the least we can do for them. The web page renewal came up this month and I covered it again. We own georgiasidecar.com and georgiasidecar.org for a few more years. Anyone want to be the Webmaster. The current one (me) is not going a real good job...

Ride safe all!

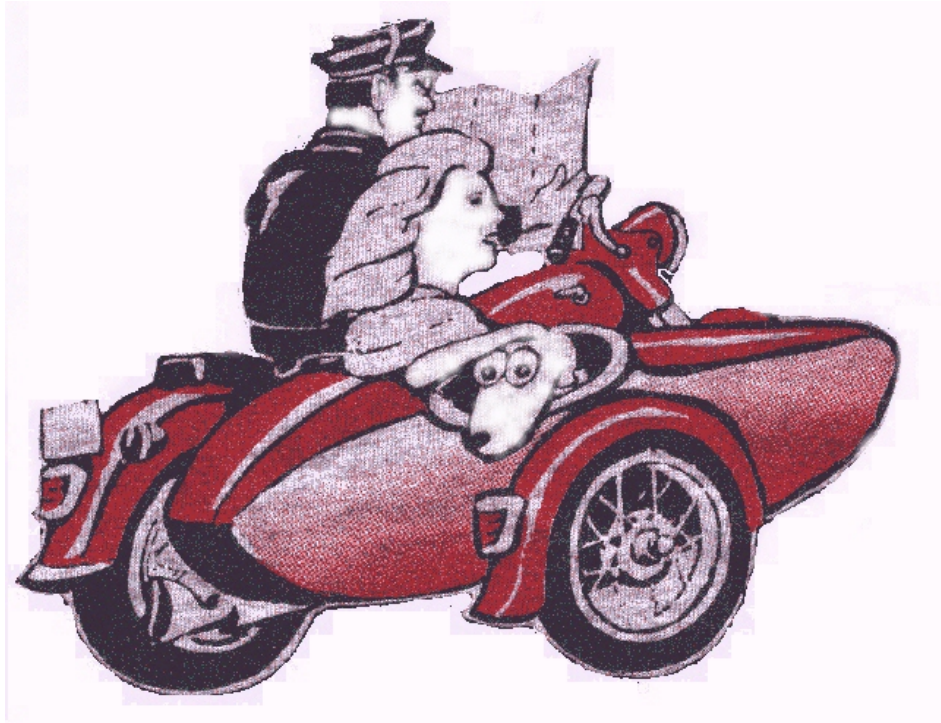
James

From the Vice President:

Our "campout" in March was held at the Hampton Inn in Leeds, AL. Attending were Van and Sharon Nichols, Steven and Rosie McDonald and Edie George. We toured the facilities of Motus Motorcycles, Confederate Motorcycles and Barber's Motorcycle Museum. We ate at some new restaurants in the area, visited other tourists attractions such as the Vulcan statue, the Veteran's Monument, Eagle Scouts Memorial and Lady Liberty statue. We had a great time and wished more had attended. Maybe next time... Presented is a picture of us at Barber's standing next to a picture of our own Kevin Klages look-a-like.







The Northeast 3-Wheelers Motorcycle Club

March 2017

Dale's Tales:

Hello 3-Wheelers,

Many of us who own sidecar rigs have a tendency to hold onto them much longer than most motorcyclists keep their motorcycles. A lot of us installed expensive sub frames on our bikes out of necessity or to add strength to our existing frames. We also purchased leading link front forks or triple tree modifications such as E Z Steer to reduce the trail, which makes our rigs a whole lot easier to steer. We've also added extra heavy duty shocks as well as steering dampers, sway bars and some of us have even gone over to the dark side and are running car tires on our bikes. What I am getting at is, when we have so much \$ invested it is doubtful that we can re-coup what we put into our outfits when we decide to sell. As some of us know it can be sometimes difficult to sell a sidecar rig. First of all, we have a limited buyers market (compared to motorcycles) and unless someone is looking for the exact bike/sidecar combo that you have, selling your rig can be frustrating unless you lower your asking price to entice the buyer. Ultimately, a lot of us decide that our rigs are worth more to us than it would be to sell at a rock bottom price. That is why I, along with many of my sidecar buddies, own rigs that are between 25 to 40 years old. The problem we face with keeping our rigs (in some cases until they become antiques) is that parts availability to keep them running and road worthy begins to dry up. Some of us including myself have been stockpiling spare parts for our bikes over the years, which have now become a dilemma for me. During the winter months I like to head out to the garage on occasion to do a little maintenance on my rigs but this year after tripping over a swing arm, stubbing my toe on a spare motor and realizing that I no longer had enough room to move let alone do anything else, I came to the conclusion that I needed to clean house. As I surveyed my garage I was looking at drive shafts, final drives, a radiator, saddlebags, various body panels, an engine, countless other parts and even a complete parts bike. What was I going to do? Because I may someday need these parts for one of my aging rigs the scrap yard is not an option (although my wife may disagree). I ended up purchasing a small storage shed and as soon as the weather breaks I will start to transfer my personal m/c bone yard into it. Nowadays when I'm approached by first time potential sidecarists inquiring about putting together a rig, my advice to them is to look for a bike that has had a long production run. In the past I've made the mistake of putting together rigs with a bike that had a short production run and also sold in low numbers in which parts eventually became unavailable. I've since learned from my mistakes because nine years ago I put together my Kawasaki KLR650 powered rig which at that time had a 21 year production run. Up to now the KLR has had a 30 year production run virtually unchanged, so at least for that rig there is no need to stockpile any part (yet). Recently Bill Ballou took a well-earned day off from work and joined the NE-3-Wheeler regulars for our weekly Friday lunch gathering at Beth's Diner in Monson. Dave Walulak was also able to bring along Joe Malzenski for the first time. A lot of good sidecar talk ensued and Bill shared with us some photos of the modified California FS3 sidecar his friend Bill is putting together which will feature steering linkage to the s/c wheel allowing it to turn with the bike. Much like Bill's home built Ballou Sidecar that he built years earlier. The skill and talent that these guys possess is incredible. We were mesmerized listening to Bill tell us about how he and Roger Symington pushed their HP rigs to the limit keeping up with the solo road racers through the twisties while down in Maggie Valley NC. Good stuff. That's it for now.

Keep the 3rd wheel down, Dale

Sidecars in the Smokies

Welcome to North Carolinas Sidecars in the Smokies.
Come and join us for a fun filled weekend of camping, riding, raffles, fellowship, good food and great people. The sidecar rally will be held at Iron Horse Motorcycle Campground in Robbinsville N.C. the weekend of April 27th thru April 30th 2017. On site camping reservations will be taken by the Iron Horse Campground call: 828-479-3864 or e-mail info@ironhorseNC.com. Website is www.ironhorseNC.com

Make them ASAP.

Rally fee includes prime rib dinner on Saturday night. Preregistration by April 1,2017 gets you a rally shirt also. Registration is \$40.00 per person.

Drivers Name _____ Shirt Size _____ Color _____

Address _____

City,State,Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Drivers Name _____ Shirt Size _____ Color _____

Passenger Name _____ Shirt Size _____ Color _____

Passenger Name _____ Shirt Size _____ Color _____

Passenger Name _____ Shirt Size _____ Color _____

Number of people _____ X \$40.00 Total enclosed _____

Choice of shirt colors are Black, Blue, Red, Green, Brown, Turquoise.(or ask)

Mail completed form and money to:

Cliff Cyphers

1963 Old Murphy Rd

Franklin, NC 28734

maconcba@yahoo.com

(checks payable to Cliff Cyphers)

The Northeast 3-Wheelers Motorcycle Club

January / February 2017

Dale's Tales:

Hello 3-Wheelers,

Recently the United Sidecar Association asked their state reps. to pay a visit to the USCA top tier vendors in their states regarding a free 6-month membership to anyone purchasing a sidecar. This turned out to be the perfect opportunity for me because ever since George Haggerty told me about Ural of New England's open house that he attended last year it had been on my radar. Thirty years ago I was riding around New England on my rig, rarely ever seeing another s/c rig when I first heard about the New England Moto Guzzi Club from Windsor Locks CT. I was told that it was an all brands club and there were approximately 25 to 30 sidecars within the club. I couldn't believe it, and I quickly joined them. One of the first outfits that caught my eye was Ken Africano's vintage BMW/Ural. I loved the classic style of that rig. That rig has long been one of my favorites and the present day Urals kind of remind me of it. Coincidentally, my old sidecar buddy, Dennis Cardin had mentioned to me several times that he was also interested in taking a road trip up to Ural of NE. I first met Dennis when I joined the Guzzi Club and at that time he was also riding an old BMW with a Velorex 562 attached to it. Dennis bought and is now in the process of restoring Butch Cross's GI1200/Friendship 3 rig but like myself he's always open to other options. So, we picked a day that was suitable for both of us and headed up to Boxborough. We were both somewhat surprised when we entered the showroom to find about 20 or so Ural rigs on display. Where else can you walk into a dealership and see that? Dennis and I both thought that all Urals were all the same and only cosmetic changes differed from model to model, so we were surprised to notice that certain models had different frames as well as suspensions. The M70 models looked more like a cruiser and had telescopic forks whereas the Patrol and Gear up models looked more off road oriented and had leading link forks. I believe the CT single wheel drive was the least expensive model. The salesman talked with us for over an hour and a half answering all our questions and trying to convince us that all of the issues that the Urals once had were now a thing of the past. Unfortunately, all these fixes come at a cost, which is why the price has increased so much in the last dozen years or so. I would tend to believe what the salesman told us because I know several hackers that purchased Urals in recent years with nary a complaint. We understand that they are not a high-speed highway rig and that it's best utilized as a back road tourer. A few years back while attending Claude Stanley's Sidecar Ron Dee Voo Rally in PA. There were Urals all over the field being repaired mostly because their owners took them on the highways at higher speeds to get to the rally. It's uncertain whether Dennis or I will ever own one, but we both agreed that they are great looking rigs. While on our drive home we asked each other that if we were to buy a Ural, which model would it be? We must have been on the same page because based on price, options etc. we both chose the Ural Patrol. Oh well, looks like I'm off to the next sidecar dealer on behalf of the USCA. It's a tough job but someone has to do it.

Keep the 3rd wheel down, Dale

From the Editor:

The Howdy Summer and GROPE flyers have been posted on the Georgia Sidecar Club Website. This year's event will be the 20th one in a row for Kathy and myself. We still look forward to it every year. And, as James said, the format for the weekend will be the same as in recent years. No fees, no schedule, no stress. There will be door prizes on Saturday evening, but this only can happen if folks donate some items. Get creative with door prizes (last year the coveted prize was a box of knives that had been confiscated by the TSA).

I think that we need to come up with some kind of message board for this year's Howdy Summer where anyone can post messages. Sight seeing rides, breakfast rides, lunch rides, dinner rides, ice cream runs, etc. There is not a lot of room for traditional sidecar games, but maybe someone could come up with some kind of game or competition for our group. Everyone needs to help get the word out about the Howdy Summer Gathering.

Art

2017 Keystone Kampout July 27 – 30, 2017

Amish Country Campsites, Winesburg, OH 44690

No rally fees, Just a campout. Friday night, pot luck weinie roast and 50/50 drawing. Ice cream ride to follow to honor Harry Walter. Saturday night dinner ride to Der Dutchman Or Mrs. Yoders Restaurant.

Camping fees are 29.00 a night or 175.00 a week. Reservations can be made by calling 330-359-5226 or visit the website at amishcountrycampsites.com. Sites fill up quickly so please make your reservations early. Free firewood, playground and pavilion on site. If you prefer to motel there are several bed and breakfasts and motels in the area, and if you want a room in a local Amish home ask the campground owners about them. If camping they usually give you a couple of coupons for some free cheese and an ornament from a blacksmith. There is a ton to see and do in the area, just watch out for the horse puckies and buggies. I'll be there the whole week, so anybody is welcome anytime, come on out and enjoy the area with us!

For any questions contact - Kevin Klages, KSG President at 304-737-1531 or 304-670-3299 or at stretchkwk@hotmail.com