

United Sidecar Association

Newsletter No. 7

April 1977

A dozen members came on two, three and four wheels to make the April meeting. The weather was magnificent. Other members were probably out riding - next time the weather is good, perhaps you might just drop in at the Plantation Cafe on the 2nd Saturday of the month at around 1:00 P.M.

Note: Swap Meeting at the Amphitheater at 43rd and Halstead 10:00-4:00 April 24, 1977.

An Egg Hunt was held on April 17th at 12:00 in Lemont, sponsored by the Gasoline Cowboys, 4835 Wabansia, Chicago, Phone: (312) 626-5745.

The Merry Month of May

May will be a very active month.- see below:

Florida Sidecar Association Rally

The Florida Sidecar Association will hold their 2nd Annual Sidecar Rally, 14-15 May.

International Retread Rally

The International Retread Rally will be held in Pittsburgh, 15-20 May.

First Disorganized Run

Closer to home - The United Sidecar Association will hold its First Disorganized Run on Sunday, May 1. Meet at the Plantation Cafe at 9:00 A.M. in Monee on Court and Route 50. This will be led by our President, Al Johnson, ably assisted by our Treasurer, Terry Strassenburg. Beg, borrow, or acquire 2 or 3 wheels and have a ball. Where we are going will be a surprise but you are guaranteed a good time. No entry fee. No points. No prizes. No trophies. Bring a friend or two. The Run should finish about mid afternoon, including rest and pit stops.

Regular Meeting of the USA

Next Regular Meeting of the U.S.A. - The Plantation Cafe on Saturday, 14th May. We need you at the meeting - so come and enjoy.

Road Run/Poker Run

May 15 - following the U.S.A. Meeting - your choice of a Road Run sponsored by the Gasoline Cowboys - 12:00 Downers Grove (312) 626-5745. or a Poker Run sponsored by the Illiana Lucky Wheels - 12:00 from Speedway (U.S. 30 at Scherville, Indiana).

Ridgewood Cycle Association Run

May 22 - The Ridgewood Cycle Association - 1:00 Dendrino's Restaurant, 183rd and Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park.

May 29-30 - Indy 500- camp overnight

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BIG NEWS - ONE

The U.S.A. is now Chartered under the auspices of the American Motor-cyclists Association - Charter Number 4676. Sanctioned runs can be held and we can participate in events held by other A.M.A. Clubs.

BIG NEWS - TWO

The U.S.A. Cloth Badges have arrived from Korea. They are very, very good - depicting a fast touring outfit driven by Jerry Clayton, a professional Racer and Newswriter in England. Price is \$1.50 each, or free if 1978 Dues are paid at this time. Badges available from the Secretary.

BIG NEWS - THREE

Membership is now up to 17 Families and growing.

TECHNICAL SECTION

From time to time, we plan to have some technical tips. All contributions welcome. If you have some feature on your outfit you wish to share, please pass it on.

LIGHTS

Without getting involved in the lights-on controversy, you must have adequate lights on at night time, especially if you travel in Rural areas. The State Laws are of no help in defining what lights are required or necessary on a sidecar installation. For your protection, you must be seen and must be able to see. Many of the points discussed below are common sense but several outfit riders seem not to care that they cannot be seen.

1. Running lights (side lights, marking lights, whatever).

a) A small white light should be mounted facing the front on the fender, frame or front of the sidecar. It should not be lower than 15 inches nor higher than 30 inches and should be on the right hand side of the sidecar, within 8 inches from the right-hand edge of the wheel.

The purpose of this light is to let oncoming traffic know the width of the sidecar.

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b) A similar small red light should face rearward for the same reason. This light may be on the fender, frame or rear of the sidecar, with similar height and location restrictions for the front white light.

Both running lights should be on anytime the tail-light is lit at night time. In day time, they are not necessary.

These bulbs should be between 4 and 8 watts.

2. Sidecar Headlight (or Spotlight)

A headlight (or spot) on the sidecar should be located on the right side (if used). It should be at least 15 inches above the ground but less than 24 inches. This should be controlled by its own switch and have a fuse in the line to protect the bike's electrical system from any shorts that may develop in your wiring. Use a fuse 50% higher than the current rating of the bulb. If the light is set for distance, it should be turned off when oncoming traffic approaches. If it is set for the same distance as your dipped low beam, it can be used at all times. In any event, it should be aimed forward and slightly to the right - it should never be directed into oncoming traffic. This bulb can be from 35 to 65 watts.

Caution - check that your bike's own lighting system is adequate enough to generate sufficient current for the additional light. If it is not it will draw current from your battery and your battery will discharge. A voltmeter and ammeter will aid in determining your system's capability and will be discussed in a later Newsletter.

3. Stop Light

A stop light should be on the right rear of the sidecar near the sidecar tail light (or it may be in the same housing if a dual bulb is used). It should operate any time the front rear brake is operated, the same as the motorcycle stop light. It should be between 15 to 21 watts.

4. Traffic Indicators

Front and rear turn signal lights, if left on the cycle, can be confusing if the right indicators are left on the motorcycle. The right indicators should be mounted on the extreme right side of the sidecar, both front and rear. The same bulb size should be used (18 to 21 watts). The front traffic indicator can be located from the fender forward and the rear traffic indicator, from the fender rearward.

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Reflective tape should be used along the right side of the sidecar or small side lights (amber in front, red in rear, either 3 or 4 watts) may be used on the right side.

By making yourself visible, your chances of survival are increased. By being able to see the road better your chances of getting where you're going safely, are improved.

Your comments and criticism are welcomed.

Items of Interest

Bergamont Brass Foundry produces several hundred high grade belt buckles. We can obtain any of these buckles for about \$2.00 to \$4.00 each, depending upon type and quantity ordered. If interested in the catalog, please contact the Secretary.

Motorbooks International - Hundreds of automobile books are available at 20 to 40% off list if bought through the Club. If interested in any Auto Books, contact the Secretary for catalog. Unfortunately, they do not handle motorcycle books.

News from or about Members

Once again no news from or about Members - once again no copy - pick up your pen and paper and drop your Secretary a line. Safe riding,

H. A. Kendall Secretary
United Sidecar Association

LATE NEWS - EVENT

Motorcycle Blessing

The Crossroads BMW will have a Motorcycle Blessing on Sunday, April 24, 1977 at 1:30 P.M. at St. Joseph's Church, 5304 Homan Avenue, Hammond, Indiana. All are welcome.