

United Sidecar Association

Newsletter No. 19

February 1978

PRESIDENT
Al Johnson

SECRETARY
H. A. Kendall
19201 Centre Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430

CHAIRMAN
Ed Johnson

TREASURER
T. Strassenburg
18461 Martin

January Meeting

Good weather was responsible for double the January turnout with 13 members in attendance. Present were Paula, Ed, Hal, Lee, Terry, Becky, Al, Jim, Joe, Larry, Tim and our two junior members, Craig and Kyle. By now, if you do not know who is who, come to the meetings. Only Hal and Lee came in their outfit but Terry claims to cover more mileage annually on his outfit.

We are grateful to Paula for the lovely Valentine cake - delicious. Many thanks to Jim Rubens for the Test Report from Das Motorrad. One of these days we will have to learn to read German. And - for the great Christmas photos.- thanks.

Club T-Shirts

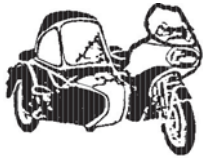
Membership and finances are sound so we are proceeding with ordering Club T-Shirts. Please let me know how many you want for yourself, your spouse, and your children to be properly attired and give your sizes. Shirts will run about \$14.00 each. We will order S, M, L and XI and, if available, junior sizes.

Events for 1978

Keep those annual dues coming in. Your faith in the U.S.A. has been rewarded. We have a schedule of exciting events for 1978. It took a while to get sufficient interested members to make our runs worthwhile. Parties, picnics, poker runs, overnight tours, races, beaches, forests and vineyards for 1978. Something for everyone.

Our thanks to Joe, Ed and Al who plotted long, often and secretly over the frigid Chicago winter. A vote of thanks from all of us to our magnificent trio. Show them you appreciate by rolling out in force. And, bring your guests.

A calendar of events is attached. Keep it handy and safe. These runs will be in addition to our regular monthly business meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 A.M. at the Cuckoo's Nest in Monee.



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NEXT MEETING

MARCH 11, 1978 - 11:00 A.M.

HOPE YOU WILL ALL BE THERE.

Friday Evening Meeting - Change of Venue

Ed Johnson is moving his Friday night meeting place to Lassens Tavern on 183rd St. in Homewood (8:30 P.M.) if anyone wants to drop in for a friendly chat.

3rd Wheel and Voting for Office

We discussed the 3rd Wheel situation at the meeting on Saturday, February 11. Many U.S.A. members are also 3rd Wheel members but we are locked out of representation as their By-Laws require you to be physically present to vote. Nor are we alone. About 70 percent of all 3rd Wheel members are outside the home State of Minnesota.

As members are elected yearly, candidates for office and their qualifications should be published in the 3rd Wheel News and votes either by proxy or by post should be accepted. Many of you have written to Bill Espe on this point. Congratulations.

The U.S.A. feels that the 3rd Wheel is the National Sidecar Organization. It has the obligation to truly reflect the wishes of the majority of its members if it wishes to encourage support of members from outside Minnesota.

Sunday Riding Schedule

We need a Run Captain and an alternate for each Club event (one to lead, one to act as back stop) (Study the schedule carefully and let Joe, Ed or Al know which runs you will definitely attend. These runs are schedules in response to your requests. They will be successful only if you participate.

April 2 Channahon State Park

9 Off the Cuff Party Run

16 U.S.A. run to Kankakee at 9:00 A.M. - L.O.C. Midwest 2nd Annual Meeting at 1:00

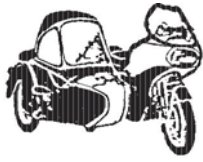
May 7

14 No Ride on Mother's Day

21 Poker Run U.S.A. members and their guests only.

29 Indy 500 Night before the Race Party. Indy, Indiana

30 Indy 500/Field Meet 2-day event. Departure time to be announced



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Sunday Riding Schedule, Continued

June 4

11 Field Meet - Markham, Illinois

18 No ride on Father's Day.

25

July 2

8 Overnight Tour - Byron, Illinois - Approximately 250 miles round trip.

Aug. 6 Ride to Union, Illinois for a tour of the Railroad Museum.

13

20 Indy 500 Club Tour - Indy, Indiana - Date is approximate.

27

Sept. 3

10 Ritchie, Illinois

17 Tabor Hill Winery - Bridgeview, Michigan

24

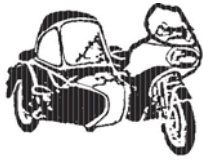
Oct. 18

15 Poker Run - Intra Club Event.

22

29 Cook County Forest Preserve Tour - Fullersburg Woods and Environmental Theater.

All runs will meet at the Cuckoo's Nest in Monee, Illinois at 9:00 A.M. and leave promptly at 9:30 AM. Open dated will be filled as the season progresses. Any serious suggestion considered by the activities committee, Joe, Ed, Al.



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Tollway Situation

Illinois stands singularly alone in ripping off sidecarists. While the Illinois Tollway claims to be “following the lead which has been established in other states” we have not found a single state that now rips off sidecarists for the third axle, but then we have not heard from all states, just most of them with tollways. Following extracts are taken from letters received from various tollway authorities:

State of New Hampshire, Turnpike Division

“A 3-axle classification would be inequitable.... We use identical equipment as Illinois.. our treadles may count three axles However, we propose to consider them as a Class 1 (vehicle), the same as a passenger car” U. H. Mullins, Director of Turnpikes.

Maine Turnpike Authority

....a memo is being sent to all toll stations on the Maine Turnpike informing them to issue a Class 1 ticket to motorcycles with a sidecar. This is the same ticket issued to passenger cars.” Philip B. Flaherty, Superintendent of Fares.

Indiana Toll Road Commission

“.... All motorcycles, including those with a sidecar, are classed under our Toll system as a “Class 1” all of our Toll attendants are aware of this classification for motorcycles, with or without a sidecar. This is part of their training program....” Ellsworth C. Peterson, General Manager.

Texas Turnpike Authority

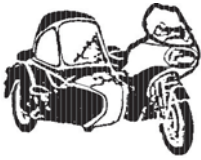
....we confirm that our toll rate for a motorcycle with sidecar is the same as for a passenger car.” George Francis, Administrative Assistant.

Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Transportation

“Our counting system is based on a dual strip treadle which is tied into our classification and computer system (like in Illinois-H.A.K.). “the Division of Toll Facilities will resolve to classifying them as Class 1 vehicles. “This should take care of any problems caused by the sidecars.” C. E. Brown, Director, Division of Toll Facilities.

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority

We have now modified our toll collection system so that a motorcycle with a sidecar will be classified as a Class 1 vehicle on all of our Oklahoma Turnpikes. “I appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention.” Ralph Anschutz, Toll Supervisor.



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Tollway Situation, Continued

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District

“Motorcycles and motorcycles with sidecars are registered in the same classification as automobiles we have not been aware of any problems with the axle counting treadles. Even if the sidecar wheel was even with the rear wheel, it could register as three axles if the motorcycle was not crossing the treadle perpendicularly. If this did happen, we would still charge the normal automobile toll.”
Dale W. Leering, General Manager.

State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation

“the rate at the Connecticut Turnpike Toll Stations is the same as for a passenger vehicle or a Class 1 vehicle.” Louis Korsonsky, Toll Operations Manager.

Ohio Turnpike Commission

“the wheel alignment of a motorcycle with a sidecar could be such that our equipment would consider it to be a 3-axle vehicle. We do know it was NOT (emphasis ours) our intention to charge a Class 2 fare for a vehicle such as you describe (motorcycle with sidecar, sidecar wheel offset from rear wheel). Accordingly, we have instructed our Toll Collections Department to classify motorcycles with sidecars as Class 1 vehicles and charge Class 1 tolls.” J. Morrison, Director of Operations

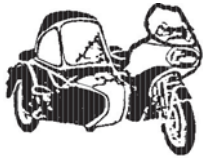
Florida Department of Transportation

“By copy of this letter I am advising my Regional Supervisors to insure that the normal passenger vehicle-motorcycle toll is charged on all Florida Toll facilities. R. W. Stevens, Chief of Toll Facilities.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

“Motorcycles with sidecars have always been and will continue to be recognized on a Class 1 vehicle on the Pennsylvania Turnpike System. Even though the vehicle is actually comprised of three axles...our method of operation ... includes motorcycles with sidecars in the Class 1 category. “We have recirculated our policy to all of our Officer-Collectors.”

“If in the future, you or any member of the various clubs to which you belong encounters a problem with a specific collector at a specific interchange along our system, I would appreciate that information being forwarded to me for appropriate disposition.” Egidio Cerilli, Chairman.



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Tollway Situation, Continued

Illinois Tollways:

In light of the above, here are some responses from the Illinois Tollways:

“It is the legal obligation of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority to establish all tolls on a uniform basis. As you are aware, some sidecars have two axles, while some have three.”

“Our toll collectors must, therefore, charge a motorcycle with a sidecar a total of 3 axles, more than an automobile. If we were to allow our toll collectors to make an exception to the .15¢ per axle rate schedule, the veracity of our accounting system would be in doubt. The toll collectors count is monitored by a computer through the use of rubber treadles.”

“We contacted the manufacturers of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle ... the rear axle of their cycle and the axle of their sidecar is exactly 5 inches apart. These vehicles do, therefore, have three axles. Therefore, on the basis of the manufacturer’s information ... we must charge for sidecars.”

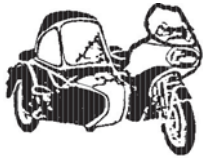
The above extracts were taken from several letters written by Daniel J. Kennelly, Jr., Executive Director, and by Kenneth A. Abraham, Assistant to the Executive Director.

Now, fellow sidecarists, from the above you will note that some tollways never ripped us off. Others, inadvertently ripped us off because no-one ever presented the situation to them. In all cases, except Illinois, they immediately changed their toll collection system. I know that some of you sneak through the automatic gates even though they plainly state “Cars Only,” and drive madly off if anyone challenges you. But, we are not, second class citizens. All we want is equal rights to share the cost of the tollways equally with other road users. We do NOT feel it is fair nor reasonable for us to subsidize cars, two-axle trucks and two-axle buses by paying 50 percent more.

We need you to add your support. Write today to the Illinois Tollway System and ask them to justify their position. As we have reduced the tollway cost in other States so we ask you to do the same for us. The Tollway address is:

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
2001 W. 22nd Street
Oakbrook, Illinois, 60521

H, A, Kendall, Secretary
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Tollway Situation, Continued

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