

Jan 2023



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President's Ramblins

"I'm sure that we have all been good little boys and girls and that Santa granted all of your Christmas wishes this year! All of the feedback I heard after the Christmas Party was that it was the best one yet. Everyone loved the food and DJ providing the music for us to dance. Thanks again to Scott for organizing our event with the DeSoto Club this year.

Our next event will be our annual Polar Bear Ride on January 1st of course. We always like to see just who is brave enough to ride their bikes. As always, we want you to come regardless of how many wheels it takes! Last year we were almost all in our cars except for one brave couple, Larry and Liz Scott. This year we are trying something a little different. We plan to meet with the other AR Chapters and meet at Mather's Lodge at Petit Jean State Park at 11:00 AM for lunch.

We think they are having a buffet which will make it easier on everyone. Let's plan to be at the East Gate Shell on Hwy 5 at 9:30 and depart by 9:45. We can consolidate cars there if you want to carpool with others to lunch. Let's make this another fun event for our Club and get the year started off with a perfect ride on day ONE.

I hope to see you all at our first Club meeting on January 14 at Clampit's Country Kitchen, 9 AM for breakfast and 10 AM for our meeting.

Don Hewett
AER Club President

2023 Activities



2023 Staff

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Dion Hewett

Vice President

Scott Pennington

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Newsletter/Webmaster

Valerie Hewett

Ride Coordinator

Jan Miles

Membership Enhancement

Mike Neal

Facebook Administrator

OJ & Jan Miles

Meet to Eat

Dan & Angie Drennon

Quarter Master

Dan Drennon

Safety Enhancement Advisor

Vin Hayes

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year

We are going to have a Planning Meeting on the third or fourth week of January, where the Steering Committee will come up with all the rides and events for the coming year.

If you have any suggestions, email Don at dhewett@yahoo.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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MERRY CHRISTMAS



MERRY CHRISTMAS



And Last but not Least



Butch can Dance



MERRY CHRISTMAS



The West Gate Decorations



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Look what Scott got for Christmas



A Harley Pan America



Happy Birthday, Valerie




At the Scene of the Accident

In all the years and the thousands of miles that our group has been motorcycling throughout Arkansas and all around the U.S., it is quite remarkable that we have not experienced a serious accident or major injury. While dumb luck may have a part to play, I am confident that our success thus far is greatly dependent on the group's competent leadership, our advanced riding skills and the overall safety consciousness which is practiced regularly by everyone.

That being said, let us take a deep dive into the correct and proper procedures that we should exercise should a serious accident or crash occur during one of our group rides. The simplest form of accident would likely be a single bike running off the road perhaps in a turn on a road with no shoulder. Next up would be two or more bikes crashing into one another which may or may not involve one or both leaving the pavement. Worst of all would be an incident where a bike is involved in a collision with another vehicle. That clearly would involve a greater likelihood of injury as well as the legal aspects to be considered. In any of these cases, the following procedures should serve well as a guide for the group. Let's assume that we have a group of 12 bikes riding on rural roads here in Arkansas and someone runs off the road. Per our standard procedures, the following bikes should pull off the road immediately and the nearest bike ahead should move ahead and get notification to the ride leader. Obviously, there are many permutations concerning the relocation of bikes and riders. We surely don't need all 12 bikes and riders at the accident scene so the leader needs to find a safe place nearby for the group ahead to loiter while the situation is evaluated.

1. The first priority is to secure the scene. Someone needs to step up to be on-scene commander and designate two people to be road guards, one a few hundred yards ahead of the accident and one a few hundred yards behind the accident staying there to provide an alert to oncoming vehicles.
2. Quickly assess the condition of the victim to determine if there are any serious injuries present, i.e. broken bones, serious bleeding, unconsciousness. If that be the case, do not attempt to move or disturb the victim rendering only methods of comfort. Immediately call 911 to get the EMT's on their way. In a remote area with poor cellular coverage, this may require someone to ride to the nearest suitable location to make the 911 call. Do whatever is necessary to communicate an exact location to 911 dispatch. This may involve GPS coordinates, mile marker number or nearest town. Make certain that the area is clear enough (two car lengths) to make room for emergency vehicles. If the victim ends up being transported via ambulance, make sure to recover the key to his/her bike before the ambulance departs.



3. If the victim's injuries are clearly very minor, i.e. some scrapes and bruises with little or no bleeding, then we can administer minor first aid (gauze, band-aids anti-inflammatory drugs). At this point, the concern is to make every effort to retrieve the bike and determine if it is safely operable. If the group has been split up, it may be necessary to re-join in order to have sufficient hands available. The decision needs to be made within the group whether to continue the route or return home or to break up into segments.

4. If the accident involves another vehicle, call 911 immediately and request law enforcement as well as EMS identifying the exact location. Set up the road guards, clear the area and administer first-aid as necessary. In this situation, make every effort to locate the motorcyclist's license, registration and insurance papers as well as any form of roadside coverage he/she may have. The on-scene commander must take responsibility for any necessary communications with the driver and/or occupants of the other vehicle(s). It is important to make every effort to take care of our rider and his/her bike but we want to be sure to have "all our ducks in a row" when the police/sheriff arrive. Survey the scene, try to determine what happened and how, be prepared to answer questions and try not to be defensive about "motorcycle prejudice".

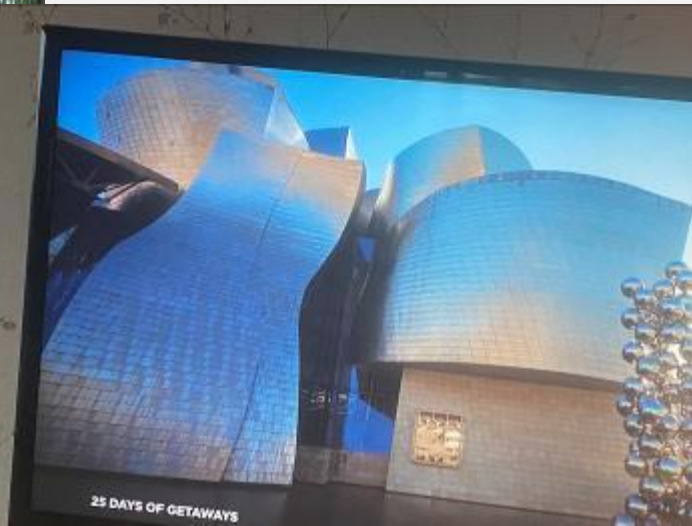
5. During the confusion that will no doubt ensue during the events described above, the ride leader is going to be hard-pressed to put all the pieces back together. Hopefully, the group did not get terribly dispersed as a result of the accident. Obviously, it would be best if everyone was able to communicate via mobile phones. When that is not practical, shuttle trips back and forth from the scene may be necessary to reorganize the group. Depending on the seriousness of the accident, it is best to organize the minimum number of people necessary to operate at the scene while the rest loiter at a paved, open area nearby under the guidance of an appointed leader.

6. In order to keep mayhem to a minimum, everyone needs to understand that we have all just experienced a form of trauma and keeping our cool at this point is the surest way to prevent a mishap from turning into a disaster. Undoubtedly, the group has been split up into two or three parts. Some are acutely involved in managing the scene, others may be miles away and have no idea what has happened. Leadership is highly important at this time and true leaders must have a clear head and a reasonable understanding of what the situation requires. We began this ride as a group and now, due to this accident, supporting one another in the group is of the highest priority. Proper communication within the group is absolutely vital at this time and establishing proper means and methods of communication will surely make the event more endurable and less traumatic. If we strive to regularly communicate these protocols within the group before we start out on a ride, then the group will have a higher probability of enduring a mishap with a minimum of damage.

Happy Trails,

Vin

MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain





Merry Christmas

Happy New Year