



Winter Newsletter 2007

North Shore Women on Wheels

And the countdown begins.....

Preparing for Motorcycle Riding Season

10 Tips to Get Ready to Ride

1. **Remove your bike from storage.** First things first. Remove the cover and blocks that we used to keep your bike in place during winter storage. Also remove any plugs or covers from the exhaust pipes. Wash away any wax you may have applied to protect the frame, rims and chain.
2. **Change the engine oil and spark plugs.** Many bike manufacturers recommend that, in addition to regular scheduled oil changes, you should change the engine oil and filter prior to storage and in the spring. During storage, the oil can separate, causing a condensation buildup that may harm your engine. While you're changing the oil, replace the spark plugs. Use a gap setting tool to set the gaps to the manufacturer's recommendations. You also should check and clean your carburetor, replace the air filter and check the transmission fluid.
3. **Check the battery.** If you removed the battery for storage and kept it charged, all you have to do is clean the cables and terminals with a wire brush, then grease and reconnect. Depending on your battery, you may have to fill the cells with distilled water. If your bike has a fuse box, check the fuses and replace them, if necessary. Keep spare fuses on hand as well.
4. **Flush the cooling system.** Flush and replace the old antifreeze with a proper coolant. Be sure to check for cracks in all hoses and replace if needed.
5. **Check the fuel system.** Replace the fuel filter and examine the fuel tank, fuel lines and fittings for cracks and leaks. If your bike has a petcock, turn the fuel system to "ON". After burning the fuel from storage, add a fuel cleaner the next few times you fill your tank.
6. **Check the brakes.** When it comes to safety, brakes may be the most important part of a bike, so spend time checking them on a regular basis. Inspect the brake pads and discs for wear. Check the brake lines for cracks. Lubricate the front brake hand lever and throttle cables. Check and fill the brake fluid level or replace if dirty.
7. **Inspect the frame and suspension.** Visually inspect the frame for hairline cracks around the engine and transmission brackets. Adjust the forks and lube all bearings. Lastly, inspect the rear shocks and fender mounting hardware and grease the side stand.
8. **Check the tires, wheels and chain.** Check the tires for cracks, worn treads and correct tire pressure. Inspect the rims for dents and carefully tighten any loose spokes. Grease the bearings. Check for wear on the chain and sprockets. Also check and adjust the chain slack.
9. **Prepare to ride safely.** Even after you've checked all the mechanical components, never ride a bike without proper safety precautions. Inspect the headlight—including high and low beams, the taillights, brake light, turn signals, instrument panel lights and horn. Take the time to clean and adjust the mirrors. It's also important to wear the proper gear, such as a good helmet, eye and face protections and protective clothing, even on short trips.
10. **Be sure you're covered.** After making all the routine checks listed above, check your insurance policy and review your coverage's to make sure they meet your current needs. If you have added any custom parts or equipment, you'll want to make sure they are covered. It is also important to know how to report a claim to your insurance company.

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Next Edition:

- Breast Cancer Rally—June 3, 2006
- Americade—June 4-9, 2006
- LETS RIDE
- Monthly meetings

While we were hibernating, we were not sleeping....

Fall Foliage

Sept. 29th 30th & Oct 1st

Hosted by North Shore Chapter of Women on Wheels.

Grand Summit Hotel, Bartlett, NH

About 40 people attended this years Fall Foliage. What a great time was had by all after a very cold ride up. The Saturday ride to Evans Notch was incredible, the scenery

was at its peak. Thank you David for leading us on yet another beautiful ride.

The social on Saturday night was a great turnout. Everyone had fun. We had an indoor Poker Run thanks to the creativity of Sue P. which included golf, darts, a pig toss & Spin the Bottle. Even the cops showed up!!

Christmas Party

On December 10, 2006, Sue and Lisa were gracious enough *again* this year to open their beautiful home for us to hold our annual Christmas party. All in attendance enjoyed themselves. The Yankee Swap was a big hit again this year..



Festival of Trees Nov 18—Dec 2

In November the North Shore Chapter of Women on Wheels participated once again in the Methuen Festival of Trees. The event is held every year; NSWOW members decorated a tree in a theme that best represents us as a group and then donated it to the Festival of Trees. The North Shore Tree was named **“Our Journey is our Destination”** and was decorated to reflect the journey that we make each time we take to the road. The trees are viewed by the community for two weeks. Raffle tickets are sold to the visitors who, in turn, drop the tickets into the buckets beside each of the trees they would like to win. At the end of the two weeks the winning tickets are pulled and the winner gets to take home the tree. The money collected is then used throughout the community to fund projects of the Historical Society.



Winners

Contests are held for best trees and properties of the trees. We are proud to announce that we, The North Shore Chapter of Women on Wheels, are the proud winners of “The Conifer Award 2006, 2nd Place-Best Use of Lighting”.



Winter brought:

Elections:

Roxanne was re-elected our fearless leader (Director). Lorraine is our newly elected Treasurer. These are the two elected positions, but we are all a group and all work together as a team. A big thank you to our Chapter Founder and outgoing Treasurer, Pam Foss. Without you Pam we would not be here!!

A Mentoring Program was initiated this winter. If someone in your area has been in touch with Gail, (our New Member Coordinator), asking about Women on Wheels, Gail will contact the person who is closest to that prospec-

tive or new member and ask her to "Mentor" her. This is just a way to make that person feel more comfortable and be able to attend a meeting having already known someone. It is not as intimidating as coming alone.

An Events Committee was established and met in January to plan rides and organize our events.

The group went to see "Happy Feet" and "Wild Hogs" at Chunkys this winter. We also got together for many bowling outings.

A handful of members attended the WOW Brunch hosted by South Shore. We took a peek at their ride calendar and have ex-

pressed interest in going on a couple of their planned rides.

The "WOW WOW" was held in March but no one from North Shore Chapter could make it. Maybe next year girls.

Jacky has kindly created a member info list. It is suggested that you keep a copy on your bike in case of an emergency, a friend is always a phone call away. If you don't have one Jacky can arrange for you to get one.

This years rides are now posted on the Calendar. Check the Forum and lets start the chattering up again.

We are planning to set up booths at many dealerships open houses this season. Becca Cross, our State Ambassador will be arranging for each chapter to have a travel-kit with items to set up on our tables. We are planning to set up at Honda Depot in April and Seacoast Harley in May. We will be promoting Women on Wheels and selling raffle tickets to the Annual Breast Cancer Rally to be held in June. See back page for more info on that outing.

Reservations and plans are made for "Americade" in Lake George, NY for June. A safe trip is wished on everyone attending.

Member's Spotlight

This month we welcome two new members to the North Shore Chapter of Women on Wheels....

Judy Raboin joined up after seeing the WOW booth at the Bayside Expo Center. Judy lives in Medford, MA. She is married to Brian and has three kids, Jackie & Keith are 16 and Kelsey is 14. Judy passed her license exam two years ago and there is a Harley Davidson, Heritage Softail parked in her garage....

Linda Hersey (also affectionately called Linda 3) is as of press time taking her Motorcycle Safety Course. Good luck Linda!! In her own words she claims to be a "total NEWBIE". She brought her newly adopted "Baby" up all the way from Florida. That "Baby" is a 1987 Honda Rebel Custom Trike. Cool beans Linda.

Welcome to our newest members. We hope to be riding with you til we "can't ride no more" !!

When you see us moving past you quickly:

Don't take offense or think we're trying to "show off". Ninety five percent of the time, we're trying to get out of your blind spot or taking ourselves out of a potential dangerous situation that has evolved around us.

Distancing ourselves from you does not mean we want to race, but that we're giving ourselves the edge we need at the moment.

When you hear our horn:

Don't take offense or think we're trying to aggravate you.

All we're doing is letting you know where we are in relation to you on the road, and we're more than likely aware of your inattentiveness to us while you're talking on a cell phone, eating, reading or involved in some other distracting aspect to your driving. It's important to us, and you, that you know we're there.

When you hear our loud pipes:

Don't become angry and hostile toward us. Yes, some are quite loud, but for some, there's a purpose behind being loud. It's about letting you know we're close by and we're constantly hoping that our investment in this accessory will help save our lives. Our pipes are really not about our ego...it's a pride and personalization to our form of transportation.

When you see us in our clothes:

Don't become fearful of us or think us weird. Our leather jackets, chaps, gloves and boots are the barriers between losing massive amounts of flesh should something cause us to go down...nothing more, nothing less. Safety gear is paramount to our riding. We wear patches on our jackets, and pins on our vests. These are symbols of pride and honor within our group(s), individuals giving back to those who gave. These things bond us as a brotherhood and sisterhood among bikers. Not that we're better than anyone else, but that we have the same kind of nobility and pride in our accomplishments as you may have in the various aspects of your life. I guess one could say; our patches and pins are the decals and the bumper stickers of our involvement with society and the general public, of which we are very pleased to be a part of in our own little way.

When you see us in a restaurant:

You don't have to shield your child or feel intimidated. We have family, wives, husbands, children and loved ones too, just like you. We smile; we laugh and enjoy the moments we have. We are approachable, and would befriend you, if given the opportunity.

When you see us in a parking lot:

Don't convince yourself that we're there to "get you". More than likely, we just finished a long ride and are taking a break. Or, we may be meeting up with other riders for a charity run for young children, or another very worthy cause. We may just be admiring one another's bikes, sharing our pride with other brothers and sisters, just like you do with your personal vehicle. It's what we do...it's a part of our lives, and we'd be more than welcome to share with you what riding a bike is all about...if you'd only ask.

When you see aggressive riding bikers:

Don't put us all in the same stereotypical category as those whose behavior and actions would cause you to react in disgust and intolerance. Many of us do not agree with this style of riding either, and we know and understand that human nature tends to blend us all together as the "same group". Most of us don't want that title...and don't deserve it.

Author Unknown

NORTH SHORE WOMEN ON WHEELS

Director:

Roxanne Pagliuca
roxannep76@hotmail.com

Assistant Director:

Carol Guthrie
cguthrie009@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Lorraine Lombardi
rainzie@comcast.net

Secretary:

Mary McConnell
marysmutz@COMCAST.NET

Webmaster:

Cyma Haynes
webmaster@nswow.org

New Member Coordinator:

Gail Riley
gsriley1@hotmail.com



I've saved the best for last....

As we all know, Women on Wheels is a repeat donator to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The 14th Annual Breast Cancer Rally will be held Sunday, June 3, 2007 at Chooch's Food & Spirits, in Brookfield, MA.

Wendy and Mike Harris have donated the pink and white "Survivor" bike that Wendy rode during her fight and recovery from breast cancer. The bike will be raffled off at the rally in June. Thank you to Wendy and Mike. During January and

February, the Massachusetts chapters set up tables at the Motorcycle Shows in Wilmington, Salem, NH and Boston. We sold raffle tickets and lots of pretty pink things, with the proceeds to go to breast cancer research. WOW is proud to say we raised over \$5,700 to donate. And we are still all out there selling tickets, that figure will go up. There will be a Chinese Auction held at the rally also. Sue Poulblon is coordinating the donations for the auction. If you have anything that you would like to donate (does not have to be motorcycle related) please contact Sue at 603-362-5682 or at Susan.Poulblon@Sun.COM. The above logo.... Wendy's sister-in-law has offered to put this logo on any shirt you provide to her, free of charge. It would look awesome if we all rode into the rally with that logo on our shirts!! Wendy can be reached at 978-685-2336 or at wendy@mjphotos.com.



Editors note:

Being a cancer survivor and having recently lost my mother to cancer. I think I can speak for all cancer patients when I say I would like to thank each and every one of you that have donated your time, efforts, money, thoughts and prayers for cancer patients. I truly believe that attitude has a lot to do with survival. I know that with the funding for research and the right attitudes we will most definitely eliminate this terrifying disease.

With our help, someday we will find the Silver Bullet.....

In a lab somewhere downtown
Trained eyes peer through a microscope
Curled fingers type a report
Ominous words slide under my door.

Shock grabs the moment
Disbelief interrogates my past
Uncertainty clouds my future.

Tiny terrorists steal my own blueprint
Use my nourishment and transport
And lock on to corrupt my body.

While neighbors fret taxes, lawn,
weather
And strive for a better cappuccino
I do needles, cold metal surfaces, and
gigantic futuristic machines

Then I wait in the doomsday room.

Favorable results come quickly; a day or two
Unfavorable results take longer; a week or two
Ultimate results; six months, one, two, five years.

Rapid pulse . . . amour? tennis?
No. My heart is nourishing the tumor
Elevated fever . . . the flu? amour?
No. My body is trying to burn out a new activity.

Acquaintances quickly forego clichés, advice, and
anecdotes
Precious moments and hours are spent with
treasured friends and family
Thoughtful notes slide under my door

If there were only a silver bullet.

Bill Velte