FEBRUARY 2010

BikeBytes

The Monthly Magazine Of The Scottish Motorcycle Club

Welcome

Well, it's official – we have just experienced the coldest December and January in Scotland since records began.

The good news is that the first club run of 2010 is only a few weeks away, in early March, and before that there is the SMC 10th Anniversary Dinner at the Atholl Palace, Pitlochry on 6th February.

Coming up:

10th Feb – Club night, Black Bitch Tavern, 8pm.

6th March – Ken Eddie's half day Perthshire run, Broxden Services, 12:45.

10th March – Club night/ AGM, Black Bitch Tavern, 8pm.

Please check out the 2010 calendar of events on the website.

There are still several blank spaces to fill with full or half day runs. Any ride out suggestions would be most welcome.

Steve MacKinnon

Editorial

Quiet time of year….biking wise, isn't it? Not much chance to get out on the bike. I was pretty quiet at work when the snow was on the ground and now the roads are reasonably dry, I've got no time to call my own…hey-ho!

It's at this time of year that I spend a lot of time reading books on other people's biking adventures and just imagine that I'm there with them. I have the standard 'Jupiter' works, which are brilliantly written tales and for sheer bravery and solo adventure, you can't beat Lois Pryce and her travels in Africa and South America.

I also discovered Geoff Hill, who's a travel writer and biker from Northern Ireland. His first book ('Way to Go') saw Geoff and a friend bring a couple of Indian Enfields from Delhi, through Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, back to the UK. Followed by a Harley trip along the old Route 66.

The first of Geoff's books I bought though ('The Road to Gobblers Knob') was a trip on the Pan-American Highway from Chile to Alaska on a Triumph Tiger 955i !...I wonder what attracted me to that?

He's a really entertaining writer and the books are extremely funny…I can recommend them and I'm happy to loan them out to anyone in the club who fancies a good chuckle!

One other publication that I found recently and really enjoyed was something that didn't include a long trip, but is just as much of an adventure. 'The Carin' Sharin' Chronicles', by Dave Gurman, contains the highly entertaining tales of a London motorcycle despatch rider. It's not terribly PC, but it's pretty thought-provoking and you just can't put it down.

On a completely different tack, the City of Edinburgh Council Transport Committee met this afternoon (9th) and decided unanimously to ask for another report on Powered Two Wheelers in Bus Lanes in the light of the London trials and the successful implementation of schemes in many other areas. We hope to have this report back sometime after June and we're obviously crossing our fingers for a positive response this time.

So, many thanks to all those club members who participated in the run last year and to all the BMF and MAG members who've supported this campaign. We also have to thank Councillor Stuart McIvor, who's been a great help with presenting our case to the committee. Stuart is an ex-motorcycle cop, who, although he doesn't have a bike at the moment, is very much on our side. Not all councillors and politicians deserve a bad name!

Ken Glendinning

Contact the Scottish Motorcycle Club via the Membership Secretary:
Steve MacKinnon
Tel: 01786 475948 07802 200964 E-mail: Stephen.mackinnon@tiscali.co.uk

Unwanted Christmas Presents?

Here are some tips for biking uses for some of those unwanted, horrible or cheap Christmas presents that have been lying about the house since December. Some of these may turn out to be very useful after some lateral thinking is applied to them.

This is a list of the top five most unwanted gifts and their alternative uses:

1: Top of the list has to be socks, something every man can be assured of receiving over the festive period. Now, I'm not against receiving a pair of socks for Christmas, far from it, but I'm not that keen on the bright, multi-coloured, variety or those covered in cartoon characters. I've never exactly been seen as a fashionable man, but even I must draw the line somewhere.
However, what I have found is that socks are great for carrying loose change, mobile phones, spare keys and all those other little nick-knacks that tend to get lost in the bottom of a tank bag. In this respect, the brighter or more multi-coloured the sock, the better, as it makes them easier to spot as you rummage through your luggage.

2: Jumpers, pullovers, sweaters, call them what you will. I don't know about you, but I like plain simple ones in plain colours. However, from time to time, something sneaks in that I wouldn't even wear for a bet, let alone out of choice. But, they can make great helmet bags or covers, particularly when they are new as the material tends to be nice and soft and much better padded than a conventional helmet bag. Stitch the sleeves up to make a carry handle, put a bit of elasticated tie around the bottom and hey-presto, one helmet bag that doesn't carry any advertising and is more likely to take a few minor knocks than your conventional one!

3: Handkerchiefs appear to be self-breeding. For every two that I throw out, another ten will magically appear from nowhere. But, keep some stowed on your bike at all times; they make great clothes for wiping oil from a dipstick, or, how about wrapping them around your hands when you check your tyre pressures? They'll not only help keep your hands clean, but they'll also stop you from grazing your knuckles in the ground.

4: Talcum powder and smellies – A Christmas perennial. This must be the only time of year when your relatives can drop a subtle hint that you stink and get away with it. But, the boots own brand talcum powder can be great at soaking up those little oil or water spills in the garage. In the summer, when your helmet starts to get a bit whiffy, a couple of drops of after shave into the liner has a really freshening effect and can avoid the need to spend hours washing the liner out and probably days leaving it to dry out in the airing cupboard. Just make sure that you don't put too much in or you may get odd looks from ladies in the street (or 'of the street'). However, a couple of drops of 'Old-Spice' (can you still get that stuff?) will certainly smell better than last season's 'Eau de sweat and dirt'!

5: And finally, there's the baby wipe. Now, my son is certainly no longer a baby, in fact he's just turned fifteen, but there still seem to be packs of baby wipes around the house. What I found is that not only are they great for wiping all the dead insect life from your leathers, but they are even better as visor cleaners. Baby wipes are not only easy to use, but what is in them seems to stop flies and bugs from sticking in the first place. On every trip, I usually take a small pack with me….after all, if they are gentle enough for you baby's backside, they're certainly good enough for my visor.

So, there you are, some top tips for using your otherwise useless Christmas gifts. No doubt, many of you will have your own…if so, write and tell me and I'll put all your useful tips into **BikeBytes** for everyone to share.

Ken Glendinning

Wouldn't call this guy 'Chicken'…would you!



This issue edited and published by: Ken Glendinning, 14 Craiglockhart Avenue, Edinburgh, EH14 1HW
email: bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk Tel: 0131 443 2616/07774 135243

A TOUCH OF … NOSTALGIA

I've just been having a look through the old Forum in the original Scottish Motorcycle Club website which I set up in 2000 - it makes fascinating reading.

Ronnie Taylor from Port Seton posted a wonderful Bike Poem there on 9 Oct 2003 which is as relevant now as it was then:

Knight Rider

Knight Rider I stood there before it,
This fine and trusty steed.
The chrome it glittered and sparkled.
In the twilight of my deed.

And as I adorned the helmet,
my breath, it became but one.
I alone with this Stallion,
The Master, and this beast of fun.

Quickly upon this beast I climb
and settled in my nest.
My gloves, My boots, My armour,
The smell and all the rest.

Now down the empty road I look,
I feel ready for the night.
Thoughts of freedom, The journey!
My heartbeat to excite!

Along the darkened road I fly.
My light to pave the way.
I'll take my stallion along the road
Until the break of day.

Ronnie Taylor

Unfortunately, we've lost touch with Ronnie, despite trying to find him again – does anyone have contact details?

If you know of a poem or would like to write and submit a poem or article for publication in *BikeBytes* and on the website, please send it to the editor, details at the bottom of the page.

All contributions welcome!

Old Fine Art

Run Reports

The website is being regularly updated with run reports and photographs, so why don't you log-on and read some of the reviews at:

www.scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

Articles for BikeBytes

Send any articles, pictures, funny stories or anything vaguely motorcycle related to:

bikebytes@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk

BikeBytes competition

No competition this month I'm afraid….I just haven't had the time. We'll get a crossword generated for next month's edition though.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

The Notices for this year's AGM are being emailed out this month. The AGM will be held on **Wednesday, 10th March** in **The Black Bitch Tavern, 14 Westport, Linlithgow EH49 7AZ** starting at **8pm**.

A form for Nominations, Motions and Proxy voting is included with the Notice. If you wish to make a Nomination, propose a Motion or vote by Proxy, I need to receive your form by Club Night on Wednesday, 10th February. Nominations for all posts are welcome. For info, I've noted below those current committee members who are prepared to stand for re-election but all posts are open to all members as the committee members retire annually. A strong hint: at present, unfortunately, there are *no* female members on the committee.

The eight Committee Posts are:

Chairperson	(Ken Eddie will stand for re-election)
Editor	(Ken Glendinning will stand for re-election)
Events Co-ordinator	(John Moss will stand for re-election)
Meetings Secretary	Vacancy
Membership Secretary	(Steve MacKinnon will stand for re-election)
Treasurer	(Alex Muir will stand for re-election)
WebMaster	(Paul Broughton will stand for re-election)
Committee member w/o portfolio	Vacancy

Please try to attend the AGM, to join in the discussions and to help shape the club for the year ahead.

If you need more information or have any questions about any of these posts please contact me at secretary@scottishmotorcycleclub.org.uk or call me on 01786 475948.

Steve MacKinnon

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