Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas! We held the annual children’s Christmas party on Dec 17th. It was a lot of fun seeing all the smiles on the kids! SCVR’s great volunteers stepped up in overwhelming numbers and did a fantastic job in making the kid’s party a huge success!

Looking back at 2016, SCVR had a great year with a lot of fun rides and a wide variety of events. Keep an eye on the SCVR Facebook page, the calendar of events on the web page and the quarterly issues of this newsletter for upcoming events in 2017.

We ended the New Year with a great growth in membership. Please renew your dues for 2017 today, using the form included in this newsletter or the one on our website. If you don’t need to renew, sign up a new member! You could win $100 for signing up the most new members in 2017. A new contest starts every year on January 1st. SCVR needs to build its membership for a stronger voice at our capitolis both locally and nationally. Shane and Dan will keep us all posted on upcoming bills that we will need you to discuss with your Representative and Senator.

A few weeks ago Jess, Susie, Randy, Wendy and I joined the crew of the Flood Run in presenting a check to Gillette’s Children’s Hospital for over $129,000! SCVR has been honored in leading this ride the past several years. Join us on April 15th in leading it again for this great cause.

On February 11th, SCVR will be hosting the annual Mid-Winter Party/ Membership drive. Join us for a fun evening at the Red Barn VFW in Cottage Grove starting at 5 p.m. Music will be provided by a SCVR favorite, Bad Girlfriends. Bring a dish to share at the potluck dinner and we will be giving away lots of door prizes! If you don’t want to worry about drive while enjoying the evening, reserve a room at the Country Inn & Suites in Cottage Grove by calling 651-768-7350 and mention St Croix Valley Riders to get a discounted rate on the room. There will be a shuttle bus running between the VFW and the Country Inn during the evening. Don’t miss this night of fun! Check out the flier in this newsletter. And if it has been a while since you attended a General Membership meeting, make a weekend out of it by joining us on Sunday morning at 12 p.m. at the St. Paul Park American Legion for the February meeting.

This brings me to asking for volunteers to run the event - we need help in the kitchen, membership, merchandise, working the door and clean up at the end of the evening. Volunteers are what make this such a great organization! Contact me or any of the Board members to help (our contact information is on Page #3). Also keep in mind we will need help with other events throughout the year, like the Donnie Smith Show on March 25 -26, the Fury Open House on April 29, the Round Barn Rally on June 24 and of course the Chili Feed on September 9 where we need around 250 people to make that a success! Check out the Calendar of Events on our website for dates of all our events.

Two important days to keep in mind are Lobby Day in Wisconsin and Biker Day in Minnesota. Our legislative guys, Shane Murphy and Dan Hren will keep you updated on these events. If you can’t attend please contact your legislator and get to know him or her, many of them are newly elected and would like to meet and hear from you.

The last thing I’d like to talk about is Rider Education. SCVR will reimburse most members for the cost of an approved motorcycle training class, so taking a class is virtually free for you to attend. 2016 was very disappointing in the small amount of members that took a course. I can guarantee that all of us will learn skills from these classes that will make us safer and better riders. The Department of Public Safety classes for the novice to most experienced riders can be found at www.motorcyclesafety.org. You can register for classes right now, so sign yourself and your friends up for a spring class today!

Looking forward in seeing you all at an upcoming event!

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

Mark Koon
President


Newsletter Advertising Salesperson Needed

Are you a natural born salesperson? Could you sell blinker fluid to an over-the-road truck driver? Then you are the person we are looking for. SCVR is looking for one or more members that would like to solicit advertising from area motorcycle-friendly businesses so that we have the income to support this newsletter. Contact Mark if interested.
**ADVICE FROM THE VICE**

**by RANDY HOLLAND**

Season’s Greetings and salutations to all members and families out there “enjoying” our weather. Hope your holidays were blessed with warmth and good cheer. By the time this hits the printed page we will have had our children’s Christmas party and will be off and running to kick off the Mid-Winter party. I hope to see a lot of new faces along with all you regular attendees. If you can bring along a few extra with you it’s always the more the merrier this time of year! We have had a bit of a bumpy year as far as having to see a lot of our friends endure some hardships, just know there is not one of us here who hasn’t thought of you. Keep up the good fight and we will see you soon!

With all that out of the way, on to business… this is the time of year we should be looking ahead. New leadership is in the government and with that will be a lot of new people who need our guidance. Being a biker is not all parties and charity rides, it’s also a commitment to keeping our freedoms. The most important thing we have is our commitment to our brothers and sisters. WE WATCH OUT FOR EACH other and show them our freedoms are just as important as anybody’s. (Ok my stint at the pulpit is done)

On a side note with all this down time without riding your bikes here is a bit of “Rode Captains Advice”. Now is the time to be thinking about your ride. The shops are slow and could use your business now, not this spring. If you have any work to get done on your ride, this is the time you should get it in for tires, brakes, suspension work. I don’t know of one place in town that wouldn’t pick up your ride, do the work and deliver it home ready for spring. Some places even give you a bit of a break for thinking ahead to get it in early. Ride Hard, but Ride Smart and Be Safe!

Randy

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**A Message from the Outgoing Vendor Coordinators**

From Therese Hammett:

I would like to say “Thank You” for a great year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.

A big thanks to Patty Thompson for all her work in the previous years before me.

This is a rewarding job involving a lot of time consuming work but it is so much fun to meet with and work with all of the vendors. It all comes together to make our annual Chili Feed a GREAT event.

I went around to our vendors this year and asked for donations of products or services and was pleased to receive so many great gifts which we will be giving away at the February 11th Mid-Winter Membership Party at the Red Barn VFW in Cottage Grove.

I look forward to talking to all of you.

A special THANK YOU to all of our vendors for all your hard work throughout the years.

2017 Vendors include:
- Bico Australia
- Visual Imaging
- Club Tiki
- Kim Crafts
- Come and Get It Catering
- DW’s Therapeutic Massage
- Midwest Pin-Ups
- Faw-Kinn-AC
- Rock Star Rebels
- Greg’s Leather
- Color Factor
- Go Brazen

From Julie Rice

I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year! With the New Year 2017, some resolution ideas could be; “I will volunteer more.” “I will contact my legislators regarding our mission”. “I will renew my membership and get one friend to join with me”.

Please come to our general meetings on the second Sunday of each month. These meetings will give you information about our events, legislative news, financial information, and an opportunity to purchase some SCVR swag. Stay safe and healthy this year, and see you at the next meeting.

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**Secretary’s Update**

From Therese Hammett:

I want to take this time to express my gratitude for being able to serve the St. Croix Valley Riders in the short time that I have been a member. Therese and myself have been in some kind of volunteer capacity since our first year. It amazes me that there are so many wonderful people in this organization. I know that I don’t spend too much time talking to all of you but when I do I listen to your concerns and ideas.

As you all know, Therese and myself are handing down the Vendor Coordinator position this year and opening the door for some new blood. It has been a great experience working with the wonderful vendors. They enjoy our events and most of all they like our members.

To show their thanks to this great organization, our vendors donated a bunch of gifts for our Membership Party in February. Thank you to all of the bands that entertained us at all of our functions and BIG THANKS to all of our sponsors.

(Kim Fricke will be taking over for the Hammett’s and we wish her luck in her new position)
Balancing the Books

It’s here! The snow, the sub-zero temps, the many heavy layers of jackets/gloves, and my bike being sad sitting in the garage. Although I did discover my warm Carhart neck gaitor I bought during a bike trip through IA is much more useful than a scarf at the bus stop! So I’m going to use it! I don’t have much for hobbies in the winter, sadly enough, so that affords me plenty of time to work, take some online courses, and get other things done like hitting the treadmill and working off the plates of cookies that people give me. Although Ron would probably argue against that since I can’t seem to get this article to him on time! I have to say SCVR had a great year! As of this writing we are requiring review since we see it and our newsletter costs as high as I would have liked to Chili Feed profit although not did do better than last year on sales, and merchandise membership dues or merchandise Rally broke even (not including sales), and merchandise Heartland STEAM is one of which is – people don’t really “get it” when I describe SCVR. We are way more than a social group or an SMRO chapter of someone else – we have proven that we can influence legislation and are growing more partnerships with local state senators and representatives. And yes, we hold “the Chili Feed”… So when someone asks – “you guys are really an MRO?” or “I thought SCVR was a chapter of X?” – it requires an (inward) sigh and then (smile) brief explanation of what SCVR really is – an independent MRO and much more (in corporate speak – our “value proposition”). And then you present a membership tri-fold or show them the website. It’s quite effective.

Heartland STEAM is one of those conferences I am referring to – the Midwest-focused weekend in of having fun and attending a few seminars to learn something. It’s a great experience and in Sioux City, IA 2nd weekend in April. Shane and I are going and if you go - have a birthday beer with me – and we will reimburse the registration fee – which is another advantage of SCVR membership. Stay warm! Beth Franz, Treasurer
BY: Julie Rice
On Saturday December 17th, SCVR and the St. Paul Park American Legion hosted about 83 children and their families to a fun filled afternoon of Christmas Spirit. Santa listened patiently to children’s wishes for what they wanted for Christmas. We had special volunteer elves who helped with face painting, cookie decorating, tattoos, picture coloring, and pin the nose on Olaf. The Legion supplied candy filled stockings to the children after their Santa visit. Each child was given a toy of their choosing, along with a hat and mittens. A special thanks to the St. Paul Park firemen Ron and Mike, for driving the children in their fire truck. The weather outside was frightful, but the atmosphere was so delightful, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
MRF 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda

At the 2016 Motorcycle Riders Foundation’s (MRF) 32nd Annual Meeting of the Minds Conference held in Oklahoma City, OK, a Legislative Strategy Session was hosted by the MRF’s Legislative Committee. The MRF’s Federal Legislative Agenda for the 2016 Meeting of the Minds to the 2017 Meeting of the Minds annual cycle is as follows:

Pursue and monitor efforts related to the next highway bill (expiring in 2020). Ensure the following provisions are included:

- Motorcycle Education & Awareness Program Grant Funding
- Continuation of the NHTSA Lobbying Ban related to helmets
- Continuation of Motorcycle Advisory Council (MAC) to advise the FHWA

Oppose any motorcycling related federal blackmails or federal sanctions

Oppose any action that would negatively impact motorcycles, motorcycling, and motorcyclists

Oppose any federal standard proposing stamping and certifying of motorcycle exhaust systems

Work to discourage ALL forms of distracted driving

Advocate at the federal level concerning the federal definition of a motorcycle ensuring that crash and fatality statistics are separated from other classes of vehicles including autocycles, non-motorcycle powered vehicles such as mopeds, scooters, and various cabin-based steering wheel type vehicles

Oppose any motorcycling, motorcycle, or motorcyclist-based discriminatory legislation or rules proposed by the U.S. Congress or by any federal agency.

Seek a legislative vehicle to include motorcyclist anti-profiling language in the 115th Congress

Continue participation in motorcycle related activity in the European Union, United Nations, and Canada

Fiercely oppose any mandatory helmet, apparel or conspicuity standards

Advocate for changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard including the following actions:

- Additional research and independent studies concerning the effects of higher blends of ethanol on motorcycles
- Guarantee the indefinite and universal availability of approved fuel blends, containing no more than 10 percent ethanol by volume
- Make additional changes to EPA’s Misfueling Mitigation Plan (MMP) ensuring that motorcyclists are educated and protected from using federally prohibited fuel in their small engine products such as motorcycles including improving existing-at-pump signage and labeling
- Ensure the inclusion of motorcycles and biker perspective in discussions regarding Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and emerging technologies
- Advocate and monitor for motorcyclists concerning laws and regulations related to Autonomous Vehicles, specifically:
  - Required testing for motorcycle recognition and responsiveness
  - Electronic and cyber security systems of self-driving vehicles to maintain strong standards to ensure the safety of motorcycle users
  - Establish clear liability in crashes between autonomous and non-autonomous vehicles

Pursue safer roadway design strategies at the federal level

Continue to promote our theme of crash avoidance versus safer crash-urying NHTSA to focus on crash prevention and rider education

Pursue limiting funding in a relevant legislative vehicle for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and their increasing involvement in motorcycling safety issues

(MRF 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda is being continued on Page #8)
Please consider joining the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF), a non-profit based in Washington, D.C. focused on motorcyclists’ rights. With a full-time lobbyist, they are the eyes and ears on federal legislation and send out regular communications and alerts to State Motorcycle Rights Organizations (SMROs) like SCVR. You can learn more about MRF by visiting their website at www.mrf.org.

SCVR Newsletter Advertising

Distribution is quarterly at the beginning of January, April, July and October. All artwork must be submitted (print-ready) as a JPEG by the 15th of the month, prior to the month of distribution. For example, all artwork for the April issue must be submitted by March 15.

The SCVR newsletter is printed in a tabloid format - each page is 11” by 17” with a 10” by 15” print area.

Prices and sizes listed below are per quarterly newsletter - for advertisers who wish to place an ad in 4 consecutive newsletters, there is a discount available.

- Full page - 10”x16” - $800 color or $600 B/W
- Half page - 10”x8”(H) or 5”x16”(V) - $400 color or $300 B/W
- Third page - 10”x5.3”(V) or 4.9”x10.9”(H) - $265 color or $200 B/W
- Quarter Page - 4.9”x8.2”(V) or 10”x4”(H) - $200 color or $150 B/W
- Business Card Ad - 3.8”x2” - $40 color or $30 B/W
- Custom sized ads are available and will be quoted on an individual basis.

More advertising information can be found by going to our website (www.scvr.org) and downloading the advertising PDF located under the ‘Advertising and Sponsorship’ tab or by contacting Interim Advertising Coordinator Ron Lischeid for more details at lischeid@msn.com or by phone at 612-250-7272.

The 2 Most Important Days in 2017 to Defend Your Motorcycle Rights

**Grassroots Lobby Day at the Wisconsin Capitol 2017**
Thursday, February 23, 2017 starting at 11 A.M. at the Inn on the Park
(Visit www.abatewis.org for more details)

**BIKERDAY at the Minnesota State Capitol 2017**
Wednesday, January 25, 2017 starting at 9 A.M. in the Capitol Rotunda
(Visit www.abatemn.org for more details)

St. Croix Valley Riders is a Proud Event Partner with ABATE of MN and ABATE of WI for Lobby Days
The November Elections are over and we should be relieved, but it seems that the mass media still has quite a bit more to say about that. That’s OK, because our interests are not tied to political party lines or either side of the aisle! I have a feeling that this is going to be a productive session as we have several new reps in both chambers and we can build upon successful relationships that have we have been nurturing over the past few years.

The House & Senate will reconvene in Regular Session at Noon on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. We will be working on a number of bills including:

- Anti-Profil ing of motorcyclists
- Insurance discount for riders that take a certified safety course
- No change to the current helmet law
- Motorcycle Safety License Plate

The Minnesota State Capitol is finishing up the remodel and this is great news. Biker Day at the Capitol is on Wednesday, January 25th at 9:00AM and this is an important event for us to show our commitment to our cause and to make sure that we are well represented, because we haven’t had a large presence since the Capitol has been closed to gatherings two years ago. If there is one thing that you can do this year, attending Biker Day is it!

Live Free, Ride Free
Shane Murphy
MN State Legislative Director

Our extended 2016 riding season has come to an end and as I’m writing this article white stuff is dropping from the sky.

The election is over. Whether or not the candidates you supported were elected, we must now all stand together and let our elected officials know where we stand on issues important to us. The newly elect Vice President, Mike Pence, is a motorcyc le enthusiast that I believe will be good for all MROs and SMROs.

The Wisconsin legislative session begins in January and we will continue working on drafting bills on the definition and classification of an autocy cle. The new session gives us an opportunity to advance the black box and right of way (ROW) violation bills that we support and hopefully when this year’s session ends, they will become law. The ROW debate is revealing that there are two sets of standards when plea bargaining being s for accidents involving right of way violations – one set for the Haves and a separate set for the Have Nots. We will continue to work to see that everyone who violates another person’s right of way that results in personal injury or death gets equal punishment.

Grass roots lobbying day in Wisconsin is Thursday, February 23rd. Please consider taking the day off work and joining motorcyclists from all across the state at the state Capitol in Madison. Members of the legislature will remember you better when you talk to them in their office, so that when you see them again in your hometown they will remember what you are concerned about motorcycle issue. Once again, there will be a bus leaving Hudson on that Thursday morning around 6 a.m. Please get in touch with me if you would like more information about traveling to Madison with us.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Help build St. Croix Valley Riders membership in 2017 by urging your motorcycle friends who are not currently members to join us. The larger our membership is, the louder our voice becomes in Madison and Washington, D.C.

Dan Hren
WI legislative director
Monitor private organizations that oppose the legislative agenda or mission of the MRF and investigate their funding sources to make certain they are not receiving federal tax dollars
Monitor public organizations for funding sources when in opposition to our legislative agenda or mission, respond appropriately if they receive federal tax dollars
Closely monitor the federally mandated Affordable Care Act (ACA) for potential motorcyclist and motorcycling discrimination as well as attempts to repeal and replace provisions of the ACA for potential motorcyclist and motorcycling discrimination
Fully engage the EPA on upcoming activity on motorcycle emission regulations and motorcycle drive train mandates
Support the Black Box Protection Act to regulate black boxes in motorcycles, seek to clarify the rights of the vehicle owner to ownership of the recorded data
Monitor fair tolling concepts on federally funded roadways and projects supported by federal bonds
Monitor and support federal efforts to study and review the benefits and harms of lane splitting and lane filtering
Monitor and respond to federal legislative or regulatory activity concerning the usage of the terms gang, club, known associate, and associate when referring to motorcyclists

In addition to the Federal Legislative Agenda issues, the MRF has partnered with the Sustaining State Motorcyclists Rights Organization (SSMRO) members to act as support and a resource on the following state specific issues:
Oppose any mandatory helmet, apparel or conspicuity standards

Engage with multiple partners to draft federal anti-profiling language specific to motorcyclists and work to include it in the upcoming state legislative sessions
Work with SSMRO members to shape autocycle legislation at the state level as it relates to the definition of motorcycle and/or fatality and crash statistics
Help to inform our partners and allies the MRF position on autonomous vehicles to ensure consistency in state laws and regulations in the safety of this emerging class of vehicles

(MRF 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda continued from Page #8)
2017 SCVR January - April Event Calendar

January
Tue. 3rd - WI Legislative Session Begins
Tue. 3rd - MN Legislative Session Begins
Sun. 8th - General Meeting @ Noon (American Legion, St. Paul Park, MN)
Wed. 25th - MN Biker Day at the Capitol

February
Sat. 11th - SCVR Mid-Winter Party & Membership Drive (Red Barn, Cottage Grove, MN)
Sun. 12th - General Meeting @ Noon (American Legion, St. Paul Park, MN)
Thurs. 23rd – WI Biker Day at the Capitol

March
Sun. 12th - General Meeting @ Noon (American Legion, St. Paul Park, MN)
Sat. 25th - Sun. 26th - Donnie Smith Bike Show (River Centre, St. Paul, MN)

April
Fri. 7th - Sun. 8th - Heartland STEAM Convention (Howard Johnsons, Sioux City, IA)
Sat. 8th - Defrost your Nuts Run (Mallalieu Inn, Hudson, WI)
Sun. 9th - General Meeting @ Noon (American Legion, St. Paul Park, MN)
Sat. 15th - Spring Flood Run (Shriners Bar, Lakeland Shores, MN)
Sat. 29th - Fury Open House & SCVR Membership Drive (Fury Motorcycle, So. St. Paul, MN)
No Change to the Adult Motorcycle Helmet Law
The motorcyclists of Minnesota ask that you continue to support the current Minnesota adult motorcycle helmet law, which requires those under 18 and those on a learners permit to wear a helmet while allowing endorsed adults the choice to wear or not to wear a helmet while operating a motorcycle. No helmet on the market can prevent a crash. The best way to prevent injuries is to prevent crashes. Crash avoidance and holding those who use our roadways accountable for their actions are the key factors for injury prevention.

Oppose Changes to Motorcycle Insurance Requirements
This is an attempt to bring motorcycles into the Minnesota no-fault insurance regulations. When Minnesota’s automotive no-fault insurance law was created in the mid-1970s, motorcycles were specifically excluded for good reason: Motorcycles are very different from cars and require different insurance policies. In addition, this change would drastically raise motorcycle insurance rates. Estimates up to $1500 per year have been quoted, and this is per bike, not per rider. Owners of multiple motorcycles would be especially hard hit.

Curtail Profiling of Motorcyclists in Minnesota
Motorcyclists are frequently stopped by police as they travel simply because they ride a motorcycle or are wearing motorcycle riding apparel. Often these pretext stops are accompanied with the explanation that a traffic infraction has occurred, which is not always the case. In some cases people have been told they are violating a law that does not exist. In other cases the violation cited simply has not occurred. Motorcyclists come from all walks of life and most are law abiding citizens. Motorcyclists should not be treated differently from other members of the transportation mix. We support legislation that assures chief law enforcement officers, at the state and local level, establish and enforce a written policy governing the conduct of peace officers engaged in stops of motorcycle riding citizens.

Improve Motorcycle Training and Awareness
On opening day of the 2017 legislature, ABATE of MN will introduce legislation to:
- Require insurance companies to offer a 10% motorcycle policy discount to those who take a motorcycle training course.
- Require that all motorcycle training funds, which Minnesota motorcyclists pay into when obtaining or renewing a motorcycle license endorsement, be used for motorcycle training and awareness. Currently a portion of this money is placed in Minnesota’s general fund.
- Establish a motorcycle awareness license plate (for all vehicles up to one ton trucks). Unlike other specialty plates, these plates have a message that would reinforce the importance of driver responsibility. This would be voluntary and all costs are covered by the user, with a portion of the purchase price going to the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Fund.

You don’t have to be a genius to figure out that Drinking and Riding Don’t Mix
Accident Scene Management Training
Class Planned for 2017

After more than 30 SCVR members attended an Accident Scene Management class in during the spring of 2016, we are once again planning a class before the riding season starts in 2017. These classes are taught by qualified instructors who are part of the group Road Guardians. The class that we will be offering is listed as a Bystander Assistance Program known as “A Crash Course for the Motorcyclist”

The topics that are covered include:
• Identify how to prevent further injury
• Assess the situation and gather information for the EMS
• Effectively contact the EMS
• Treat the injured in a logical manner using the ABCSS of Trauma
• Identify other life threatening injuries that can be treated at the scene
• Identify common environmental first aid problems requiring immediate care

Important skills that will be taught and practiced include:
• How and when to move an injured person
• Jaw thrust emergency breathing
• Full face helmet removal
• Controlling external bleeding
• Assessing and treating shock
• Spinal Immobilization

The class is currently scheduled for 8 hours (8-5) on Saturday, March 4 - location as of yet ‘To Be Determined’

For more information or to reserve a spot contact Ron Lischeid the Rider Education person at 612-250-7272 or by e-mail at lischeid@msn.com or talk to NORM!!
Some of you may be wondering why you have been mailed a copy of the St. Croix Valley Rider’s current newsletter considering the fact that you are not a member. At the December Board of Directors meeting, it was voted to send between 800 and 1000 copies of our organization’s most current quarterly newsletters to select groups of non-members as a way of introducing ourselves. It is our hope that once you see who we are and what we do that you might want to become a member yourself. Our annual dues are only $20 per year for an individual or $30 for a couple. There is a membership form that you can fill out and mail to us on the bottom of Page #7 of this newsletter. By increasing our membership, we can better serve you and make your membership even more valuable. Please check us out. If you see our members when you are out on the road, say “HELLO”. You can find out more information about SCVR by visiting our website at www.scvr.org or by checking us out on our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/StCroixValleyRiders/