

The Tarheel Traveler

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My Experience Taking the BikeSafe NC Course—by Kelly Mills

Last March, several of us from my company motorcycle group attended the BikeSafe NC class given by police from the surrounding communities. These included: NC Highway Patrol, Raleigh PD, Cary PD, Durham PD and others.

The class consisted of three classroom sessions, one in the morning and two in the afternoon, and two rides out with your shadows, a 45 minute ride and a 70 minute ride. My shadows were an officer from Raleigh and one from Cary. Mark Brown from MotoMark1 led the classroom sessions.

There were more officers than students for our class because half of the officers were being trained to run BikeSafe classes in different locations. So, we had eleven students and at least twice that many police!

Classroom sessions were informative, and sometimes I felt that I was in one of those "scared straight" schools watching film footage of motorcycle wrecks. I wasn't too sure if I wanted to ride anymore after seeing some of the videos. But, the footage was related to what was being covered in class, and Mark did a great job and helped us analyze what caused each wreck. I felt like I was getting a little bit of police training (and I was).



-In the morning ride, I tried to stay in the left tire track because the two officers following me were lined up as if we were in a group ride. I got dinged for that and they told me to use the whole lane, but said that I did pretty well.



One thing that those officers do is put their right foot down at stops. I tried doing this, but was very unsteady. I asked one guy why they did that, and he said because he was tired of doing pushups for all of the times he didn't! My shadows said that they do that so they will get off their bikes on the right side when making a traffic stop. That way they don't accidentally get off on the traffic side. That made sense, but I'm going to keep putting my left foot down so that I can hold the rear break and not put my foot into the goo in the middle of the road. David Hough of Proficient Motorcycling also recommends putting the left foot down, so I think I'll stick with that.

In the afternoon I rode as if my shadows weren't there, using the entire lane for curves, turns and for keeping away from cars. They said that I did much better riding like that.

We were given a certificate for taking the class, safety vests, hats, pens, etc. It was nice to get a little swag after taking a free class!

Continued — My Experience Taking the BikeSafe NC Course

By Kelly Mills

Here's a list of things that I learned from taking the class:

Make sure your bike is all working correctly. Tires, lights, etc. They will check it.

Don't ride like you're in a group by sticking to one part of the lane when the officer is behind you. Use the entire lane when riding, especially when making turns and when going by other cars.

In addition to turn signals, use hand signals when turning.

Look over your shoulder and then in your mirror before changing lanes.

Get in the habit of checking your mirrors about every eight seconds or so.

Look left before going through an intersection because that's the car that will hit you first.

Don't cross the center line with any part of you or your bike when making a right turn. This is tricky when going over some railroad tracks on the route they use.

Try to put your right foot down at stops instead of your left. This isn't mandatory ;-)

Don't try to do a U-turn in one and a half parking spaces like the cops.

Don't jump out of your skin the first time the cops blow their horn to get your attention!

I recommend this class to anybody at any level of riding. Most riders pay big money for this type of training. For more information see <http://www.bikesafenc.com/>

Here are some comments from people who took the class with me.

Al: "I really liked the course and would recommend it. Like Kelly, I got dinged a bit on the first ride because I was riding more as a member of a group of 5 rather than as an individual, but no big deal. The 2nd ride is what really matters. I've been riding pretty continuously for 25 years, but picked up several good tips. I could tell a difference in my awareness of others – especially from behind and while stopped – and my cornering. If you get in trouble, don't look at that lamp pole or ditch on the side of the road."

Jim: "I, too, got dinged for moving around in the lane too much and for not pointing out obstacles. As soon as we all realized what they wanted, all of us did substantially better for the afternoon ride. I was GROOVIN' FRICKIN' cool to see all those "authority" BMW's parked side by side. Man..those guys can RIDE."

Ed: "Both my son and I really enjoyed the class. It was very worthwhile and informative. It was good to get professional feedback on my riding skills, and you couldn't beat the price."

Dan: "Something that they mentioned to me was to leave the bike in 1st at stoplights. The reasoning for this is that you can react quickly in case a vehicle coming up behind you does not intend to stop. Overall I too really enjoyed the classes and riding sessions. Only negative that I could think of would be trying to watch for signals from them, and in one instance on I40 (merge with US1/64) I found out how functional their loud-speakers and sirens are!"

EDITORS NOTE: I've attended BikeSafe and so have other TT members. In our conversations, we've all agreed, well worth attending, cause learning can be fun. As Mark Brown sez "if the blue lights are in front of you, it is an escort. If the blue lights are behind you, it's a pursuit."



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Forum Chatter

March Destination Ride

The destination for March is a ride from Raleigh to Honolulu then to Washington for some of Bill's hot dogs then return to Raleigh. All without leaving the state of NC. We will leave the BP at the Spring Forest and 401 at 9am on 3/17. The current forecast is looking good.

Pete

Re March Destination Ride;
Dan, What did you think of that Victorian house up on blocks? I thought it looked weird. The weather did cooperate today all be it with a foggy start.

Pete

It did look "out of place". I'm trying to imagine it with a big stone foundation and a large garage underneath filled with?

Dan

Editor's Note: Ya never know where Pete's ride will go. Always and adventure without the dirt or gravel.



Rally Season

Rally Season is almost here, the GA Mountain Rally kicks off the season. Some have braved a few rallies this year, heading to FL or other warmer locations. For those that have been doing this a few years, old news and for others "what's a rally?" a gathering of hardy souls and some might consider them hardy fools, that gather at various locations and socialize. Method of transportation is mainly via motorcycle and accommodations are in tents however, some using alternate modes of transport and have been known to sleep indoors.

Willing to share some of your "camp fire" stories??

Willing to share some of your "camping tips"??

Willing to share your possible "Rally Schedule"?? I'm planning on GA MT Rally and a Memorial Day Weekend – not sure which location; Cass Rally WV, ROK Rally TN or Chicken Rally AL



What Happened & What Might Happen



Elections:

Unfortunately, no one was willing to step up to the Prez position and that office will be vacant until someone expresses an interest.

Benefits of the position:

FREE membership

Prez@tarheelbmw.org e-mail address

And other fun things during your term as President.

Discount on motorcycles, use of company vehicle, clothing provided by national organizations, fresh air, meet new people and just having a good ole grand time.



Coffee Stop weekend was a brewing success. From set up Saturday morning until shut down Sunday afternoon, all went well. A little windy early Saturday and the day turned out pretty decent. A good crowd turned out and enjoyed the day. A few things were observed: not many bikes being ridden to bike week, not many bikes being trailered to bike week, not many people stopping that were going to bike week, a new seat on a GS will cost less than a new bike,



Hanging with my PEEPS. A small gathering of hardy souls at a wonderful location: Floyd VA
Good roads, good eats a great place to visit.



Human Speed Bumps—

The Meeting Place – Sunday April 15th

Pete & Sandy's Swap Shop

4816 Bluetick Road

Raleigh NC 27616

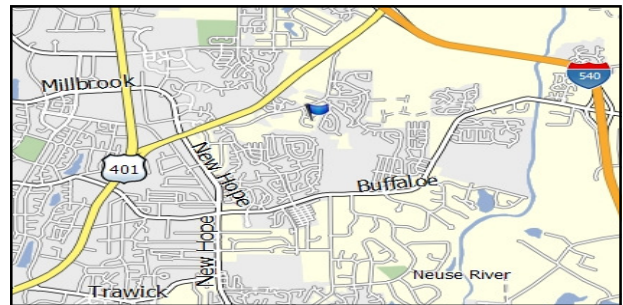
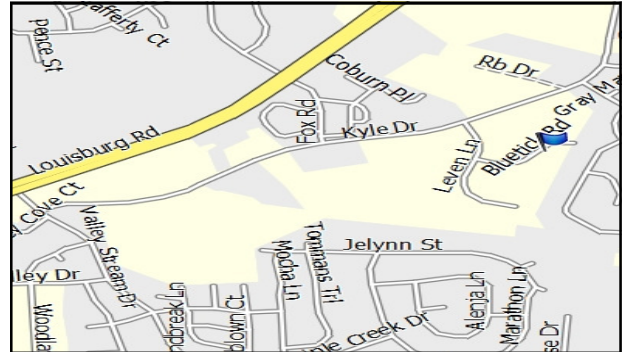
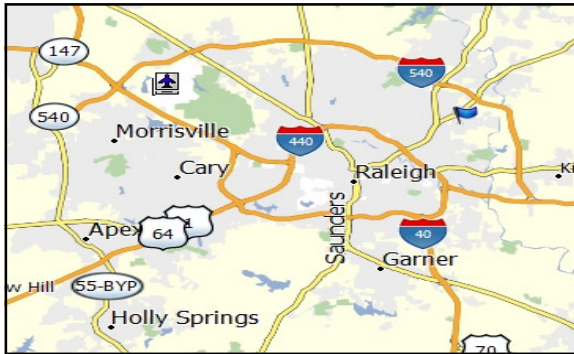
GPS N35 50.779 W78 33.418

1130am – Tire Kicking

1pm Meeting

Buying & Selling from the time U get there till U leave

1. Take exit 11 to merge onto US-1 N/US-401 N/Capital Blvd/North Blvd toward Wake Forest/Louisburg. 2.6 miles
2. Slight right at Capital Blvd. 0.2 miles
3. Continue onto Louisburg Road. 1.1 miles
4. Turn right at Fox Road. 0.2 miles
5. Turn left at Kyle Drive. 0.2 miles
6. Take the 1st right onto Leven Lane 466 ft
7. Take the 1st left onto Bluetick Road.



2012 Meeting Hosts

May: Jimmy & Cherrie, Willow Springs	Sep: Pat Fryer, Fayetteville
Jun: Harris Park Picnic	Oct: No Brainer, Zooland
Jul: Open	Nov: Open
Aug: Daniel Boone Rally, Boone NC	Dec: Open

Pete & Sandy's Swap Shop

Time to clean out the garage, closet, toolbox, tankbag – U get the idea, and bring them things you no longer use cause someone might be hankering to use what youz got. Iffin not gonna use them, at least have the priveliage to say “I’ve got one of them”.

Coffee Stop—2012



K75—Darryl sporting a Halloween Campout T-shirt. Like clockwork, Darryl & Ron stop every year for some java.



PHOTOS



Set Up

Darryl

Java Joe

Ron, Steve & Emily

Ed & Liz

Paul, Pete, Emily & Ray

Paul & Pete

*Mike & James & Gene
Gene & Al's bikes*



Tarheel Traveler Calendar

4/7— 1st Saturday Ride, 10:00 a.m. Gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. at **Capitol BMW**, 4209 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh, NC, (919) 834-5111, (GPS N35 84.075 W78 60.148) and at **Carolina Euro**, 2407 Greengate Drive, Greensboro, NC (GPS N36 01.592 W79 48.083)

4/8 - 2nd Sunday Ride - 10:00 a.m. Breakfast at 9:00 a.m., gassed up and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. **Carolina Brewery**, 120 Lowes Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (N35 44.676 W79 09.962)

4/11 - 2nd Wednesday TT Dinner, 7:00 pm. Kick Back Jacks 1405 Garner Station Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27603

4/14 - Destination Ride - 9:00 a.m. Gassed up and ready to ride at 9:00 at the BP Station, 5016 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh, NC (GPS N35 51.359 W78 33.399) The ride is cancelled if it is raining. More information on the Destination Ride, check the Yahoo Group

4/15—Meeting 1130 Tire Kicking 1pm Meeting—Pete & Sandy Osta 4816 Bluetick Road, Raleigh NC 27616

4/18 - 3rd Wednesday Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Elizabeth's Pizza 2468 Hope Mills Road, Hope Mills NC

For additional event/rally dates be sure to check the TT website www.tarheelbmw.org

April 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 1st Sat Ride
8 2nd Sunday Ride	9	10	11 Kick Back Jacks	12	13	14 Destination Ride
15 Meeting	16	17	18 Elizabeth's Pizza	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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