



# ALR POST 240

JULY - SEPT 2008

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## MEMBERSHIP

Members Since 2003.....8  
 Members Since 2004.....3  
 Members Since 2005.....5  
 Members Since 2006...10  
 Members Since 2007...13  
 New 2008 Members.....12  
**Total Members: 51**

## BIRTHDAYS

### JULY

18.....Roger O'Neal  
 29.....Joe Williams

### AUGUST

16.....Jeremy Winkleman  
 16.....James Suber  
 17.....Angie Longbine

### SEPTEMBER

8.....Marc Beswick  
 9.....Paul Meyer  
 23.....Gale Lott  
 29.....Vince VanCleave

## OFFICERS

Director: Joe Williams  
[joe@alr240.org](mailto:joe@alr240.org)  
 Asst Director: John Weigle  
[john@alr240.org](mailto:john@alr240.org)  
 Secretary: Melody Williams  
[melody@alr240.org](mailto:melody@alr240.org)  
 Treasurer: Dennette Weigle  
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 Road Boss: Paul Meyer  
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 Membership Chairperson:  
 Bobby Harold  
[rharold@alr240.org](mailto:rharold@alr240.org)  
 Historian/Webmaster:  
 Sandy Meyer  
[sandym@alr240.org](mailto:sandym@alr240.org)  
 Chaplain: Vince VanCleave  
[butcher@alr240.org](mailto:butcher@alr240.org)

## **SPECIAL NOTICE**

The monthly ALR240 meeting for July will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday July 11, 2008, upstairs at the American Legion Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there.

## **HEADLINES & NEWS**

**FLAG Retirement Box Brings out the Public.** The Flag retirement box dedication ceremony was conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 2008. The ceremony was brought to order by Director Joe Williams and Chaplain Vince VanCleave opened up with prayer. A very appropriate speech on the history of the American Flag was given by Assistant Director John Weigle before the unveiling of the beautiful box which will add a nice décor to the American Legion Hall for years to come. The mayor of Chapman was present along with a representative of the local newspaper. Local residents were also in attendance, including Chapman resident and Junction City's Military Order of the Purple Heart President, George Smith, Jr., who placed the first flag in the box to be retired. The ceremony was closed with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation and an ALR 240 coin to Shelly Jones for all her hard work hand painting the awesome display on the box.

**WHEN TALKING ABOUT A "GOOD TIME", SPRING FLING COMES TO EVERYONES MIND.** The second annual ALR240 Spring Fling was a HUGE success and everyone who attended definitely had a "Good Time", if not better. There were 17 members who camped out at Council Grove Lake for the entire weekend. Vince, whom was still recovering from surgery, even paid us a visit for a few hours. The Lake accommodations and facilities were all state of the art. The meals were all well planned out and prepared, including our picnic lunch at the park in Burlingame, KS, which was along the very peaceful and scenic route we took on Saturday. We all enjoyed socializing as a group along with dancing to a live DJ on Saturday evening. So if you missed out, be sure to mark your calendars for next year.



## **MEETINGS**

### **ALR POST 240**

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of Month  
Where: Upstairs of Legion Hall -  
Post 240 - Chapman, KS  
Time: 7:00 PM

Annual Dues: \$15.00

### **Am Legion Post 240**

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month  
Where: Post 240 - Chapman, KS  
Time: 7:30 PM

Annual Dues: \$25.00

### **American Legion Aux**

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month  
Where: Post 240 Chapman, KS  
Time: 7:00 PM

Annual Dues: \$12.00

### **Sons of the Am Legion**

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month  
Where: Post 240 Chapman, KS  
Time: 7:00 PM

Annual Dues: \$25.00

### **ALR Dinner Rides**

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month  
Where: Meet at Post 240  
Time: 1:00 PM

### **BINGO**

When: Every Saturday  
Where: Post 240 - Chapman, KS  
Time: 6:00 PM

## ***Group MSC Proving to be a Useful Tool.***

ALR240 conducted a Group Motorcycle Riding Course on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. There were approx. 15 members present along with 2 guests from the Fort Riley motorcycle group. We viewed the video, went over the handbook and came up with some of our own very interesting questions and scenarios. After completing the classroom portion we all took a group ride to get ice cream. But with the warmer weather and everyone wanting to enjoy the wind in their hair, we are riding together as a group more frequently than ever. The poker runs, dinner rides, weekend getaways, parades or just having an impromptu garage run, we are spending more time together doing what American Legion Riders love to do.....RIDE!! This year is a little different than past years because now we tend to think about what we all learned from the MSC every time a familiar situation arises. And in the long run, it makes us all better riders and more self conscious while on two wheels.

## ***ALR240 Conducts Opening Ceremony for Relay for Life!!!***

Several members from ALR 240 conducted the opening ceremony for the annual "Relay for Life" in Herington, KS. Relay for Life is usually a 12 hour walk to support women with breast cancer. Sandy Meyer did all the coordination for the ALR portion of the event. With some help from the local Boy and Girl Scout organizations, and the public, the track was lined with 50 American Flags as ALR member did two laps as a unison group while having breast cancer survivors riding shotgun.

## **Director's Corner**

One of my greatest joys from riding my motorcycle is the effect it has on my senses. Everything is so intensified. When I look at the passing scenery, colors are much more vivid. The feel of the wind rushing across my skin is more stimulating. The cooling temperature; as I pass in and out of the shade; dip into a small valley or cross a bridge, is so welcomed. The sound of the bike is music to my ears, and there is nothing like the sweet smell of alfalfa blooming in the field, flowers in spring, or the forever memorable stench of a road kill skunk.

While riding and pondering this, I wondered, can this affect us more deeply, perhaps emotionally? I think the answer is a resounding "Yes" and at a group level. ALR 240 is a very tight group. We are more sensitive to each other's needs. We respect each other and there is a level of friendship that bonds us together like I have never experienced. This heightened sensitivity extends to others as well, as we reach out to help those in need in our own special manner. The events of the past month have proven my theory. Yet, there are those who don't understand. For those I simply say, Mount Up, Ride Free, Ride Safe and Ride Often.

*Joe Williams*



## **ROAD BOSS' TIPS FOR THE ROAD**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 4 July...Independence Day
- 19 July.....Flag Day  
Activities, Chapman, KS
- 1 Sept.....Labor Day
- 5-7 Sept...ALR State Rally  
El Dorado, KS
- 11 Sept.....Patriot Day
- 22 Sept...Autumn Begins

### **Other Events of Interest:**

- 19 July 2008  
Disaster Relief Poker  
Run, Chapman, KS
- 9 August 2008  
St Jude Hosp Dice Run  
9:00 am CCS in JC, KS
- 6 September 2008  
ALR240 Poker Run  
Chapman, KS

**Summer is finally here!!!** The days are longer and the chills of winter have disappeared. Prime riding time in this wonderful state of open roads and little traffic. Last time I talked about looking your machine over and making sure it was ready to ride. Now with riding season fully on us I would like to remind you to stay alert out there while enjoying your time on two wheels. As some of you know Sandy and I had a close call a short time ago. We were pulling out of our driveway one morning after it had rained the night before. Something we had done hundreds of times before. The front wheel hit some mud and started to slide out causing a tense few seconds while trying to regain control and not fall over. In the process I managed to jamb my toe pretty bad and Sandy hurt her knee. This all happened under 10 mph and not 200 feet from our front door. What caused this to happen you ask? I had a cap on and decided to turn it around before we got on the highway so it wouldn't blow off. All it took was a second of distraction and things got out of control quickly. So even though the weather is nice stay alert for things out there that can cause problems and don't allow yourself to be distracted while you're on your bike.

Some things that have caught my attention in recent weeks while riding. Harvest is in full swing now and there is a lot of slow moving large farm equipment on the road. Intersections that once had sand on them from the winter now have grain spills. Driveways out of muddy fields have tracks of mud on the road. With the weather being hotter I have seen more shredded truck tires on the roads. Road construction and the related traffic and equipment. None of these things are truly dangerous to us on our bikes unless we fail to see them in time to react. Enjoy the nice weather and the time on your bike. If you find yourself losing concentration or becoming distracted, stop for a few minutes and get your head back in the game. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids so you don't get dehydrated. Most of all have fun out there because that's what it's all about.

*Paul Meyer*

**TREASURER'S NOTE:** If you order T-Shirts, please make sure that you either pick them up at our next monthly meeting or make other arrangements in a timely manner. Thank You!!

### **Please Welcome New Members:**

*Chris and Gale Lott, Brandon Seibel and Caroline Rieger- Seibel, Gary Crippen, Jack McVan, Jason Schneider, Dave Hurley and Dave Hurley II, and Jane Feather*

***VISIT US AT THE:***

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 240 WEB SITE**

[www.alr240.org](http://www.alr240.org)