



The **BLAST**

The Newsletter of the Sport Touring Motorcycle Club

Vol. 4, No. 9 September, 2000

Can I go Daddy?

By Joe Hughes

Those words can cause so much joy and trepidation at the same time. Believe me.

Since my son, Thomas, could speak, he had been asking when he could go with me on the motorcycle. My answer always was "when your feet can reach the foot pegs." The first time I told him that, he placed one foot on the rear peg, while standing on the ground and stated how he was now ready. I explained that they had to reach while sitting on the seat.

Well wouldn't you know, one day during the winter of 1998, his feet *did* reach the pegs while he was sitting on the passenger portion of the seat. Now what do I do?

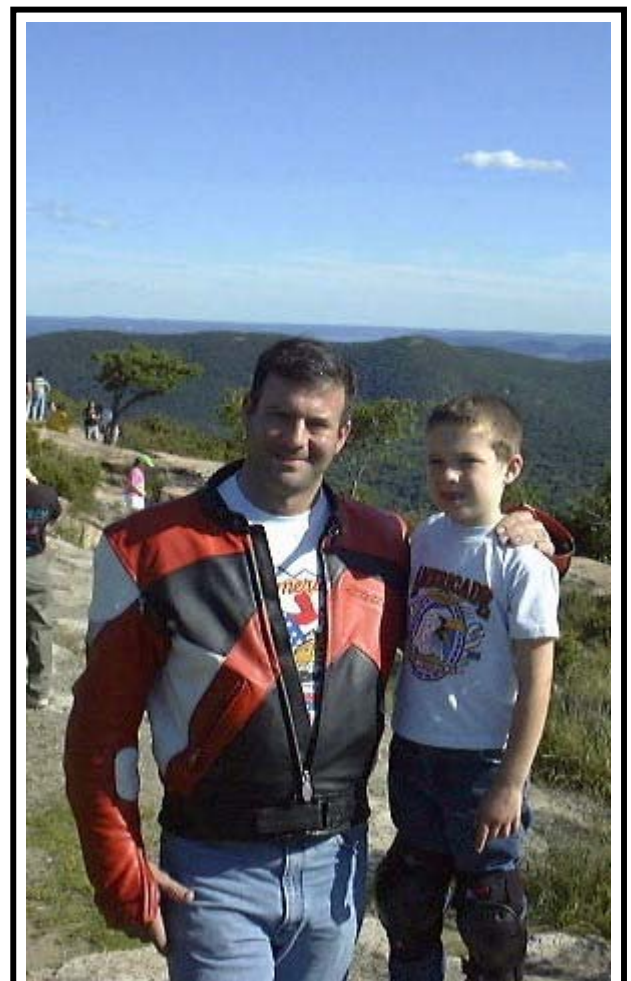
While at the 1999 Motorcycle Show at the Javits Center, I started to look for some type of protective gear for children. Other than motocross-type gear, there wasn't anything really suitable that he wouldn't grow out of in six months time. However, Shoei did have an Extra Small RF-800 on display. The helmet seemed to fit snug enough that it wouldn't come off in a time of need, and they had one in candy red, the same as mine. That one went home with us.

Now, his mother had said to be sure to buy him something while we were there. I don't think she meant a \$300.00 helmet by any means, but she let it slide when we walked in the door. (Sort of, but that's another story.)

So, now he has a new helmet, and every time I go out for a ride, he wants to come along. Riding on the tank or on the back seat up the driveway into the garage just isn't cutting it for him anymore.

I stall him through the rest of the winter months and into spring. "Too cold" I tell him. I wonder to myself if I will really keep this promise to my son, and take him riding any time soon.

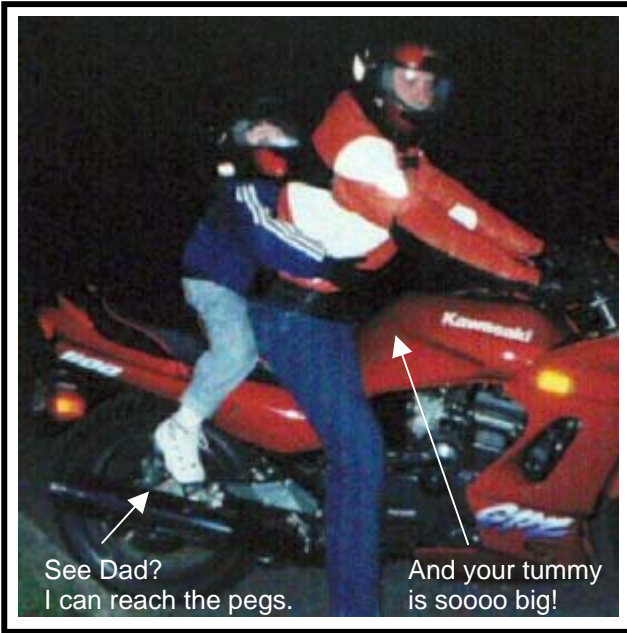
One spring evening, when it wasn't too cool, I dressed him in sweat pants and a sweat shirt, covered by a pair of jeans and a denim jacket, with another jacket over that. I haven't been able to find a pair of gloves to fit his hands yet, so I settle for the little canvas and leather work-gloves Debbie had bought him for his mini tool bench.



JOE AND THOMAS HUGHES

A beautiful mid-August Sunday found this pair racking up the miles. The final destination put them on Bear Mountain by the Perkins Tower. So, Joe, when does Thomas get his own wheels?

I gave Thomas the rules for riding on the back. When I lean right, you lean right. When I lean left, you lean left. Don't smash your head into my back when we stop and don't let go of my waist. One thing I hadn't anticipated was with the helmet on, he had to bend his neck way back in order to be able to reach around to my waist. I had him hang on to my belt instead.



I had wired his helmet with a Chatterbox headset, so we could have some communications while we rode. This was great for him, and for me. If he had a problem, he was able to tell me and I could ask if he was okay.

We rode around town for what seemed like hours, but was really only about forty- five minutes. I was definitely in a heightened state of awareness with my son on the bike for the first time. I now know how a deer feels on the first day of hunting season.

The best part of that ride, and the point at which I knew he wasn't afraid at all, was when we went around the Monument Circle in Cresskill, NJ. We were leaned to the left for three-quarters of the circle, and then I pitched the GPz quick to the right to come down Madison Avenue. Out of the speakers in my helmet, I hear "weeeee, let's do that again!" So we did. Twice.

Talk about stress on a ride. I have done 300-plus mile rides with STMC, and not had the shoulder, back and neck pains that a ten-mile putt around town with my five-year-old son on the back produced.

Since I started taking Thomas on the bike last year, we've expanded our riding area. The first ride outside of our town and the surrounding towns was when I took him down River Drive, along the Palisades by the boat basins and under the George Washington Bridge. Then one morning, we showed up at a Club Ride to kick some tires and mingle before everyone saddled up and headed out.

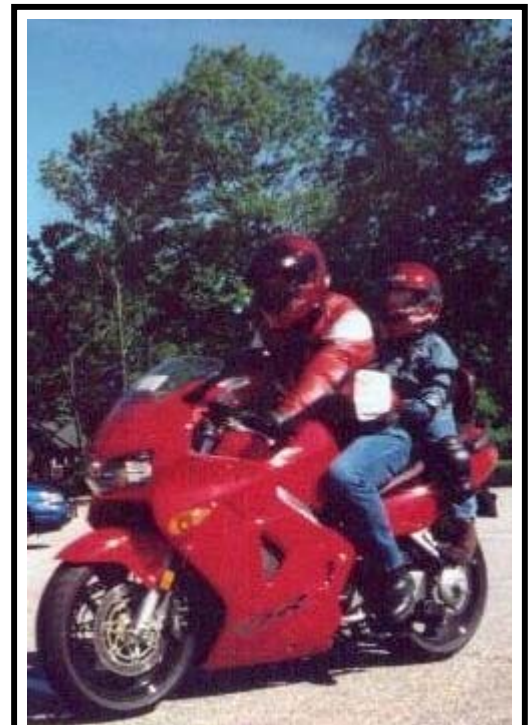
We've also improved on his riding attire. With the addition of a pair of motocross gloves, a BuddyBelt and his elbow and knee pads he has for roller blading, he is a little better protected.

One Sunday in mid-August, Thomas went with me for his first "real" ride. My friend, Neville, and his fiancée, Monica, came by on his Katana. The four of us headed out toward Greenwood Lake. The original plan was to ride around the lake and head home, but it was too nice a day not to make the most of it.

Instead, we rode around the lake, then I pointed the VFR up Rt. 17A toward Harriman State Park. We ran RC 106 to Seven Lakes Drive and then took a break at the Tioratti Circle. Thomas was having more fun than I had imagined by this point and wasn't getting at all bored, so we continued on deeper into the Park and over to Bear Mountain. At the top of the Mountain on Perkins Drive, I ran into some friends I hadn't seen in some time, so we took another break and snapped some photos of the incredible views.

After pulling out of the Park onto 9W, we headed home. When we finally got back to the house--100-plus miles and four hours later--Thomas was probably the happiest kid in Bergenfield, if not all of New Jersey.

And me, I'm one of the proudest parents in America.



THOMAS' FIRST "REAL" RIDE

A Picture Perfect Sunday in August

By Frank Sole

After the number of Sunday ride cancellations this year due to rain and snow, I was very happy that Sunday the 20th turned out to be such a perfect day for riding. I consider myself very lucky that both of my rides this year were blessed with wonderful weather.

This particular ride has evolved from one that I did last year. My motivation for the ride was the realization that there are a number of great roads in Sussex County NJ that could be exploited. The idea for the 3 views of Highpoint actually came from my wife, Margy, when she and I went out to scout out the route. She noticed that the High Point Monument appeared a number of times on the route and she came up with the third view at the Elks-Bronx memorial park high above Port Jervis. (By the way, did anyone notice the fleeting fourth view?)



The starting point for working out this route was Amity NY. It provided a good location to gain entrance to Sussex County. Last year, we got to Amity via Routes 17a and 1. This year, we got there via Route 511 and the Warwick Turnpike. On this particular Sunday, the traffic on these two roads was unusually heavy. It seemed that, because of the nice weather after all the rain, a lot of people were out for a Sunday ride. Besides the cars, trucks and motorcycles, we saw bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and even skis! There was a guy in Stokes Forest on Sunrise Mountain Road wearing a pair of "roller" skis heading up the mountain. Now I've seen everything!

After we got through the traffic, we headed into the first section of snarly back roads that are a big part of this ride. That's



DAN MORROW AND DAVE FREEMAN

where we got the first of three surprises. It seems that both Orange County and Sussex County decided to "pave" certain back roads with that infamous combination of loose gravel and fresh oil. YUM!! I first noticed the gravel when, all of a sudden, I was doing a two-wheel slide to the left. I took it in stride, thanks to Danny Walker and American Supercamp. Needless to say, I had misread, or rather just plain missed, the change in road surface. After coming out of the slide, I settled into a comfortable groove and just continued to have more fun. (Thank you Ron Barr for the Supercamp trip. I highly recommend it for everyone.)

Once we hit Sussex County, we were treated to some nicely paved county roads, as well as more snarly back roads. A favorite county road among them is SC 651, which we took northbound. This road is usually ridden southbound on the "Twist and Shout" ride. To quote a famous philosopher: "A road in the other direction is a different road."

Toward the end of the ride, we entered Stokes Forest and Sunrise Mountain Road. This is a 7.5-mile, one-way stretch of road through the woods. The first time through, at the end of the one-way section, we turned into Stokes for a nice ride back out to route 206. We then went back to Sunrise Mountain Road for another go at it. This time, we continued straight out of the park and onto SC 650. This leads to SC 653, which is a nice roller-coaster ride. It has also proven to be

somewhat treacherous. This is the road where Frenchy crashed a couple of years ago and we saw a downed Suzuki TL1000. OUCH!!

We finished up with the view above Port Jervis, where you can look down at the town. From that height, it looks like a tabletop model railroad, including the old Erie turntable. From there, we headed out through the Hawks Nest twisties and on to the Hawks Nest restaurant. When my group of four walked in, we found out that we were seated at the last 4 seats in the place. (Four riders had left early.) It was 2 p.m. and the place was still packed! We waited an hour for our food. Dan ended up at the Port Jervis diner where they were greeted with smiles and fast service.

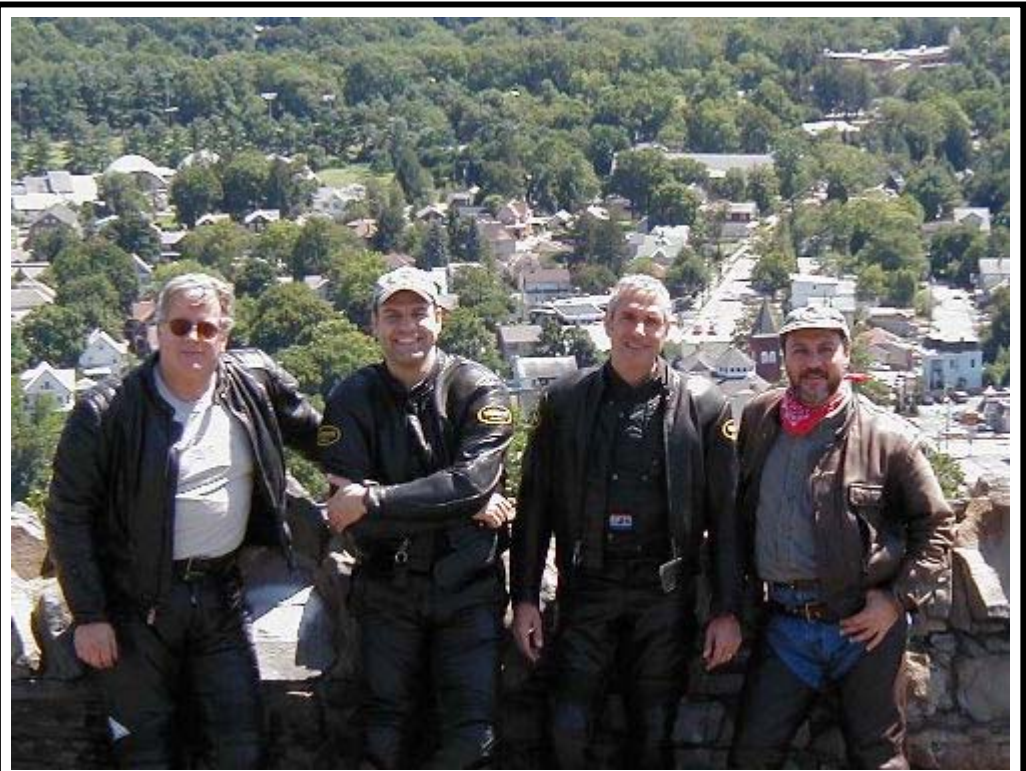
Our ride home along Routes 1 and 17a was also enjoyable

given the perfect riding conditions and lighter traffic. When we hit 287 South to Morristown, Hakan "Can't ride 2 times 55" Kutlu took the lead and I was treated to a triple digit, hair-raising slalom of a ride back home. Thanks pal! I couldn't have done it without you. Once again, the feedback about the ride was very favorable. Dan had a lot of nice things to say about the route. (Thank you Dan for leading the second group.)

Gary Lee, of the DESMO list, was on the ride and later commented, "What are the chances that nobody but Alan and myself had a most incredible ride in the clear August sunshine? The STMC has roads and routes that can't be beat. At least I kept the route sheet."

My group consisted of STMC members Hakan Kutlu, Ron Kutzin, Charles Grey and Robert Melita. We had two other riders in my group, Gary Lee and his friend Alan. Another non-member bailed out on 206.

Dan Morrow's group consisted of STMC members John Funke, Jeff Greenwald and Eric Moyssiadis. Other riders were Dan's friend Dave Freeman, a guest who heard about us from AMOL, a guy who rode with us a few times this year, and a friend who he told about us. This last guy went down twice in a row on Sunrise Mountain road. He got up and finished the ride. Give that man a prize!



CHARLES GREY, HAKAN KUTLU, ROBERT MELITA AND FRANK SOLE

Winding up Frank's "3 Views of Highpoint" ride at the Elks-Brox memorial park high above Port Jervis. It was definitely a picture perfect day on a marvelous ride.

This Sunday... Ride with STMC!

Sport Touring Motorcycle Club rides any Sunday that the roads are dry and the temperature is at least 40 degrees. We depart from the STATE LINE LOOKOUT in Alpine, NJ at 9:00 a.m. The State Line Lookout is located on the Palisades Interstate Parkway (north) between exits 2 and 3. STMC invites members and non-members alike to join us for Sunday rides. If you choose to ride with us, though, be sure to bring a bike in good condition, with good tires and brakes (we WILL check) and a FULL GAS TANK. Bring current legal paperwork and wear PROPER PROTECTIVE GEAR (we'll also check that). Most importantly, bring a NON-COMPETITIVE attitude. You'll be asked to check your testosterone at the door. You may have it back at the end of the ride. For more details, call the STMC Hotline after Thursday of each week at (201) 487-4958. Most rides will be in excess of 250 miles.

Kittatinny is Mark's Spot

By Mark Yeldham

During one of those rare occasions when I come to a Monday night meeting, I was asked by President Bruce if I could lead a ride. Just what I had in mind!!

Dan Morrow and Frank Sole set me up with a route sheet for the Kittatinny Mountains in PA by week's end, so, of course, I got my trusty maps out and, as usual, had none for the area. Prepared as always, I embarked on a quiet and beautiful Sunday morning for our remote start out of the Randolph Dunkin' Donuts on Route 10.

Despite the rainy weather, I have had a beautiful motorcycling season so far this year and this morning, with the sun breaking through the clouds and sprinkling across the trees as I glided down Skyline Drive toward 287 south, proved that it was still that way. Even on the dreaded "slab", the K1200RS settled in with it's characteristic growl (Same as in the '86.), ate up the asphalt and presented me with the familiar, pleasant set of sights, scents and sounds that I've become addicted to.

I got to Dunkin's around nine AM, as planned, and was happy to see a good-sized crowd. By the time 9:45 rolled around, and with Bruce's help (Yes, he showed up.), we rolled out in three separate groups. Remember, I was the "Official Lead Road Captain" who had just given the pre-ride speech. I was "Misdemeanor Mark", who was trusted to lead a medium to fast pace, not miss any turns, not lose anybody, find a place to eat and, most importantly, not let "Felony Jack's" group pass me. Oh the pressure!!



Jack Haberman, Marty Baluski, Bruce Egenhauser and Mark Yeldham

After a mishap at the track earlier this year, Jack is, once again, riding with us. Not only is he back, but he jumped right in and led a group. Mark, pictured above, throwing his "Official Lead Road Captain" weight around.



Actually, it turned out to be *very* pleasant. It's just *cool* to lead!

Riding with me were Steff Feld (Harley), John Funke, Gary (Suzuki), Charlie (Duc) and Steve (VFR). Joining Jack were Charles Grey, Marty B., Ron K., Woody and Bruce with his friend, Matt Mande (Ninja 600). Frank Sole was the standard-bearer for Team Kinder and Gentler with Dougie Fresh T., Ken & Gina Corsun and Joe H. with friends, Bart & Brett (GSXR 600's) in warm pursuit.

We took NJ 10 west to 513 south and 24 west, picked up some nice twisties on 517 north, then plugged through 20 miles of 46 west to PA and 611 north. From there we meandered through the Kittatinny Mountain area, which varied from twisties to high-speed sweepers to (You made this route, didn't you Jon K.?) choppy fire-roads (Dirt, that is!). The weather actually turned out better than I expected. There were no late-afternoon darkening clouds carrying their threat of thunderstorms. Indeed, the breaks in the cloud cover served to highlight some of the views of the mountains and banks of the Delaware with their characteristic, multi-shaded hues of green.

Quik Shifts...

**September 24 is
Remote Start Sunday
at STMC**

**Details will be announced
On the STMC Hotline
(201) 487-4958...**

...And on the STMC Website

www.angelfire.com/nj/stmc

It was nice that the three groups were able to stay spaced apart, yet meet at gas stops and finally for a late lunch in the town of Delaware Water Gap. In fact, it was getting close to one thirty, with the stomach growling, when I spotted an interesting eating establishment called Trail's End Cafe. We all met up and enjoyed "brunch", which included a spread of fresh fruit and breads.

After lunch, it was kind'a neat to lead *everyone* back to New Jersey via some familiar twisties in Sussex county and over to West Milford/Ringwood where we went our separate ways home.

It was a pleasure and, I think, even an honor to lead my friends and fellow riders on a great ride. I look forward to leading many more. Hey you guys! What about lunch in Woodstock again?

No Foggy Mtn. Breakdowns

Wilt, Blehl Teams Take Trophies At Speers' Reliability Run

The STMC buddy teams of Jeff and Lori Wilt, and Vince and Janice Blehl paced the Buddy Class at the 30th annual Foggy Mountain Reliability Run held August 20. Speers Yamaha, Clifton, sponsors the event. STMC member Joe "Vito" Addabbo owns Speers, a Main Avenue landmark.

Team Wilt won a tiebreaker with John and Leann Rodriguez to continue their unbroken string of first-place finishes in timed road run competition. Lori sealed the win when she drew the lowest number out of a hat prior to key time. The winning Buddy Class score was 995 out of a possible 1,000. Vince and Janice Blehl posted a 993 to take third.

"I was running right on my minute all day," said Jeff Wilt. "In fact, I was running far too much on my minute. I was surprised by the first checkpoint and dropped two points by being four SECONDS early. For some reason I just couldn't adjust myself to run closer to the middle of the minute."

Don Ginty was Overall High Point winner with a score of 999. Ramapo's Dick Roberts won the Expert Class with 997, followed by fellow Ramapo member Matt Woodcock (also with 997) and Fred Nimeroff (996).

Tom Lyons won the Solo Class with 995, followed by John Cafarella (993) and Rich Pilkington (996). Chris Powers won "Horse's Ass" Award by coming in dead last with 791. To win equine derriere honors the rider must be earlier at each checkpoint than any other rider. It's not as easy as it sounds. STMC member Joe Niemec missed grabbing HA honors a couple of years back by being **SO** early that he blasted past a checkpoint before it was even open, resulting in a DNF.

Official Results

2000 Speers Yamaha Foggy Mountain Reliability Run

Overall High Point Winner

Don Ginty (999)

Expert Class

1. **Dick Roberts (997)**
2. **Matt Woodcock (997)**
3. **Fred Nimeroff (996)**

Solo Class

1. **Tom Lyons (995)**
2. **John Cafarella (993)**
3. **Rich Pilkington (992)**

Buddy Class

1. **Jeff and Lori Wilt (995)**
2. **John and Leann Rodriguez (995)**
3. **Vince and Janice Blehl (993)**

Triple digits? Nah, Ron is only 50.



Rapt listeners, Jack and Mark, hear Ron explain what it is like to be so old.



Michele, Doug, Marty and Joe imbibe a tad too much wine.

Ron's surprise birthday party was a success. The look on Ron's face as he and Joy made their entrance was priceless. There was good food, good company, good entertainment and one heck of a birthday present. Can you say Aprilia 250?

Andiamo's Restaurant in Haworth was the place with STMC taking up half of the six tables. There was all the usual STMC merry and mayhem making, hiding the Aprilia (cruel, cruel), sucking helium...

The entertainment, other than us, was a skit featuring 'Ron' and Death. 'Ron' made his entrance in shredded leathers and motorcycle parts. Death then came to take him away, but 'Ron' valiantly fought him off. As Death received a call about a plane crash, he had to leave, but he warned us all that he would be back for us someday. So, if you see some guy in a hooded cloak carrying a scythe, watch out.

After the skit, we all piled outside to check out Ron's new machine. Apparently, the neighbors thought we were a bit loud and, of course, called the cops. Therefore, we had the official, requisite STMC LEO appearance. Can't we go *anywhere* without the law following us?



Ron, Joy, Death and Ron



Aprilia, Ron and Joy, "Moto-Wife of the Year"

New Jersey Motorcycle Festival

When: Sunday, September 24 10:30 - 5:30
Where: East Freehold Park, Freehold NJ

\$10.00 per person
 (includes free door prize ticket for Toshiba color TV)

Benefits National Kidney Foundation for NY/NJ

\$5,000 Judged Bike Show (\$50.00 to enter show)

- * International Food Court * Great Bands *
- * Beer Garden * Bikini Contest *
- * Tattoo Contest for Men & Women * Vendors *
- Special Appearance by Ice Cream Man from Hell

This is it, my first issue of the Blast. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

This month was too good to me. The articles were plentiful and seemed to page break evenly with little effort on my part. I really enjoyed reading them, as well as trying to stuff them neatly on the pages.

Thanks to Jeff, and everyone who contributed, for making it all fairly easy for me.

- JWF



Hear ye, hear ye! Read all about it! New editor joins The Blast!

John Funke hired as Ass. Editor. Hooked for a comment he said, "Yeah, they threw me to the sharks. I don't think I'll flounder on this issue, but if I do, I'll just worm my way out of it. The only problem will be fishing for articles."

When asked if Jeff was all washed up, John replied, "Nah. Jeff still has his hook in the water. I am glad he cast this opportunity my way. I'm lured to STMC and was trolling for more involvement, and for that I have to fish or cut bait."

Mark Your Calendar

September 14	Jack Haberman Birthday	October 9	Vince Blehl Birthday
September 21	Albert MacPherson Birthday	October 9	Charles Grey Birthday
September 22	Frank Covucci Birthday	October 12	Lauren Secular Birthday
September 23	Douglas Scott Birthday	October 13	D-34 AMA meeting.
September 24	Remote Start Sunday.		Southshore MC on Long I Island.
September 24	Chai Riders MC Ride to benefit Jewish Federation of Ulster Co. 50 miles around the Ashokan res. \$20. Call STMC member Lauren Secular 212-689-0063	October 14	Cycle Fest 2000 at FDU The Ultimate Motorcycle Event in New Jersey!!
September 24	NJ Motorcycle Festival to benefit The National Kidney Foundation	October 15	Ramapo MC Fall Foliage/Timed Run Call Dick Roberts 201-767-3594
September 27	Henrik Bo Pedersen Birthday	October 19	Vito Addabbo Birthday
		October 21	Jason LaMay Birthday
		October 22	Martin Baluski Birthday
		October 28	Brian Downing Birthday

November 10 AMA Pre-Sanctioning Meeting. We must go to get a date for the 8th Annual Anniversary of the 101st Mothers Day Road Tour

CYCLE FEST 2000

at Fairleigh Dickinson University/Motorcycle Safety Program (NJ)

When: Saturday, October 14 - 10am to 4pm (Rain or Shine)

What: The Ultimate Motorcycle Event in New Jersey!!

Featuring:

Hourly Door Prizes

Ride-In Bike Show

Seminars / Workshops

Demo Rides (thanks to BMW of Manhattan and Bergen Harley/Buell!)

Motorcycle Skills Challenge

Accessory & Riding Gear Vendors

Motorcycle Dealers

And Good Food!!

What more could a motorcyclist ask for?

Fairleigh Dickinson University - Motorcycle Safety Program

River Road exit on Route 4 in Teaneck, NJ (5 miles from the GW Bridge)

For directions, call 800-338-3887 or email motorcycle@mailbox.fdu.edu

FDU Motorcycle Safety Program offers Basic, Intermediate and Experienced Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCourses, and is fully approved by the MSF and NJ Office of Highway Traffic Safety/Motorcycle Safety Education Division.

CycleFest Mission:

- To encourage all riders to participate in safe & responsible motorcycling, creating safer roads for all;
- To improve the public understanding of motorcycling;
- To thank our former/current students and sponsors for believing in, and supporting FDU's Motorcycle Safety Foundation Courses.

Sport Touring Motorcycle Club
260 Riverside Drive
Suite 3F
New York, NY 10025

