

June 15, 2011



**Officers:**

• President  
John John Stutzman  
stuinfla@yahoo.com

• Vice President  
Dan Fiorelli  
dtfiorelli@verizon.net  
941-922-5798

• Secretary  
Valerie Poneleit  
gulfcoastriders@  
hapscycle.com  
941-928-2845

• Treasurer  
Larry Cochran  
larry@cochranusa.com  
941-722-7642

HRCA #0293

We are motorcycle  
enthusiasts and  
welcome all makes  
of motorcycles.

## Breaking News !!!

*Hap's Cycle Sales has a new employee, his name is Michael Simmons. Some of you may know him from the Ride for Kids , he has joined our team and has brought many talents with him in various capacities. What makes Michael such a unique person is that he is a brain tumor survivor. He is 21 years old and he has his own apartment, travels by bus to the grocery store and even cooks his own meals. The only thing he lacked was a job.*

*He is limited to certain duties because he can not stand for long periods of time.*

*He came to see Bob Poneleit for a job cleaning motorcycles. Bob couldn't say no to such an eager and enthusiastic person, Michael has been performing some simple office duties helping Valerie, he is very computer savvy and has strong Graphic Art talents, We have him addressing envelopes, He has the most perfect penmanship for a young man. Michael works on Tues. and Thurs. from 9:00 am to Noon. Please stop by and say hello to Michael and see that infectious smile he has.*

### Thursday Night socials

Every Thursday night we meet at a selected location at 7 pm. Ride over to a different place every Thursday evening to meet old and new HGCR friends. Please check the Thursday Night Social flyer for the current Thursday night meeting place. Please email patovadia@yahoo.com with any suggested places you may like to bring HGCR for our next Thursday Night Social plans. You may also check our website for current dates and place (hapsgulfcoastriders.com) or check out the flyer posted on Haps Cycle bulletin board.

## Minutes June , 2011

*Haps Gulf Coast Riders Minutes of May 18,,2011 Meeting*

*Members present 26 Guests 0*

*President John Stutzman calls meeting to order at 7:05 pm*

*Treasurer Larry Cochran reads Treasure Report,*

*Ending BAL \$9361.49*

*PBTF Fund \$ 218.00*

*Chick Fil a egg fund \$1131.34*

*Bob Poneleit motions to accept Treasurers report*

*Alton Ayers seconds it, All in favor to accept ,motion carries*

*Pat Ovidia talks about the Non Camp Out on June 25<sup>th</sup>.,*

*She has 8 couples booked so far.*

*Bob Poneleit talks about the abate Rodeo and ending the Jolly Roger PR ther.*

*It would benefit our club and help raise the attendance for both clubs.*

*Larry Cochran motions for HGCR to get involved and Jack Ovidia seconds it.*

*After much positive discussion the club votes unanimously to be part of Abate.*

*Kangaroo Kourt: Valerie busts Jack Ovidia a \$1.00 for signing up Pat O as a passenger and not a rider at our Fil a Egg Run,Pat then busts Jack for losing her MC key.*

*Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm*

*Minutes from June 15, 2011 HGCR Meeting.*

*Members 21 Guests 0*

*President John Stutsman calls meeting to order at 7:05 pm*

*Larry Cochran reads Treasurers Repot End bal 9315.21 PBFT \$220.00 Fil a Egg 1181.34*

*Motion to accept report, all in favor. John welcomes new members Victor & Jennifer Baut*

*LB Blanchard talks about the HGCR House to House BBQ scheduled for Sun August 14,*

*Club will supply all the food, we will have a **continental breakfast** at LB house,*

*Onto Bob and Val to watch Ride Like a Pro video's (snacks) and then to Randy and Sonya's for a BBQ food etc.and then to Pat and Jack Ovidia's for cappucino's and desserts*

*Greg Lough is laid up with a bad neck/back. We will have a training class so the*

*Club members, and anyone can invite others to join us at Hap's Cycle .*

*Jack Ovidia suggests we start having monthly Safety Talks again, we ask*

*Greg Lough and John Kande's to be the facilitator's for us.*

*Pat Ovidia talks about thurs night socials, suggest we move them back to 7:00*

*O'clock, All in favor, She will alternate from dessert to dinner each week.*

*Kangaroo Kourt; David Bixler busted \$1.00 for forgetting the HGCE meeting.*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm*

**God does not deduct from man's allotted time those hours spent riding a MOTORCYCLE**

### **Ride Suggestions**

if you would like to suggest a ride, email us with the following information:

- Name of restaurant
- Restaurant phone number
- Food/Drink
- Hours/Days Open
- Miles to restaurant

**"Peanut Pal" by Valerie Poneleit**

*As you all already know, the dates for the HGCR 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Jolly Roger Poker Run*

*Is Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>. This year we have been invited to end our poker run at the Abate Rodeo.*

*They have the best Field Events you will ever see !  
They have food vendors, retail vendors, and*

*Of course you will see the most amazing Slow Race's !*

*That was the part that tickled Big Al . For those of you who Do Not know who Big Al is ? He*

*Is the infamous Bob Poneleit of Hap's Cycles.*

*When he is in the environment of other passionate bikers competing against one another,*

*He becomes Alive ! Bursting with Excitement !*

*So !! we have decided to arrange a teaching class*

*With Big Al and Doc as our mentor's. We want this to be the best club/ charity event ever.*

*We will supply a small cc. bike so no-one has to use their own (unless you want to )We will host it in the empty field at Hap's Cycle Sales , we'll have tents for shade and water for thirst. This is open to anyone who wants to join us .*

*Members and Non Members*

*And just maybe ??? we "Coaster's" has kick some A?????*

*Please R.S.V.P. to Valerie 365-3443*

*[gulfcoastriders@hapscycle.com](mailto:gulfcoastriders@hapscycle.com)*

**Ride Like a Pro**

*If anyone has copies of Jerry Motorman Palladino's DVD's*

*We need "Ride Like a Pro Volume IV"*

*And "Surviving the Mean Street's"*

*This is for the Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, BBQ .Please let Valerie know*

**Save the Date**

**Sunday September 18, 2011**

**Hap Poneleit Memorial Ride  
to Benefit Junvinile Arthritis**

**Sheryl Stutzman is our Sunshine Person for the club, when you hear that someone is under the weather, please contacts her at; 544-6715  
If anyone would like to help Sheryl ?  
Contact her [stuinfla@yahoo.com](mailto:stuinfla@yahoo.com)**

**9-11 Remembrance Ride**

**Vietnam Brotherhood will present the Colors**

**Contact Rory MacConnell  
of the Blue Knights**

*Suncoast Offshore "Pancake Breakfast on Sat July 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

*You can purchase the tickets at Hap's Cycle Sales.*

*Cost \$10.00 for Applebee's on Fruitville Rd*

**REMINDER!! SEND IN YOUR 2011 HGCR Renewals**

**\$15.00 per person – make check payable to HGCR Club**

**P.O. Box 5298 Sarasota, FL 34277-5298**

For membership

Information contact:

Valerie Poneleit

[gulfcoastriders@](mailto:gulfcoastriders@hpscycycle.com)

[hpscycycle.com](http://hpscycycle.com)

Applications are on the

Inter-net

[www.hapsgulfcoastriders.com](http://www.hapsgulfcoastriders.com)

### **Calendar of Events**

**Sun Jul 3, Club Ride 9:00 am Haps**

*Riders Choice ! Who shows ? Decides*

**Sat Jul 23, Club Ride 5:30 pm Haps**

*Hickory Hollow BBQ in Ellenton*

**Sun Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, HGCR 9:00 am Haps**

*House to House , Club pays for BBQ*

**Sat Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, Club Ride 5:30 pm Haps**

**TBA"**

### **About Our Organization...**

#### **Meetings and Rides**

*Club meetings are held every 3rd Wed. of every month at 7:00 PM for a general meeting and optional dinner ride to follow.*

#### **Members may bring a guest**

*We ride the **1st Sunday** and the **3rd Sat.** of every month. All rides leave out of Haps' Cycle Sales parking lot at 2530 17th St, Sarasota, FL. The times of the runs are **Sundays at 9 AM** and*

### **Rodeo Training Class**

**Get Ready for the Abate Rodeo on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**The HGCR's will host a class on September 25<sup>th</sup> to learn how to**

**Participate in field events.**

**Either as a Passenger or a Rider**

**We will supply a couple small cc. bikes to use in the field at Hap's.**

**For all members and non-members**

*[Saturdays at 5:30 PM.](#) Always consult the newsletter or website for any ride time changes.*

#### **Membership cost**

*\$15.00 per person per year and renewable once a year in January.*

#### **Rain Date Policy**

*If it rains on a scheduled ride, the ride will be cancelled. Members can use their roster to make other arrangements.*

**Hap's Gulf Coast Riders  
6320 Elmwood Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34231**

# Super Boat Grand Prix events

Calling all Volunteers!!!! It's that time of year again for fun in the sun and helping for a great cause. My name is Linda Peters and I am the volunteer coordinator for the Grand Prix..My husband is retired Traffic Motor Officer/Marine Officer Doug Peters. We wanted to contact you, thinking that the new event "Speed Card Ride and Pancake Breakfast" would be a good event for your club. Also, the parade crowd control. If you prefer to be contacted a different way, please let me know. I am including my phone number, if you need to contact me. I have a list with times and events that need to be covered and will pass this along. If you have an event and time you are already interested in, please let me know. Thank you in advance for your time and willingness to help. I look forward to meeting and working with you!

**Kickoff Party** Saturday, June 25th, from 5pm-12 am Auction Checkout runners (8 for this) and bathroom attendants 5-12am (can be split between several people)

## **Ebb and Flo Fashion Show**

Wednesday June 29th 7pm-12am front door tickets (8 people) and Raffle Sales (5 people)

## **Festival Parade of Boats**

Tuesday June 28th 12-4 for street sign posting 12pm-4pm (10 people) and again Wednesday June 29th to check the signs,( 2 people anytime)

## **Festival Parade of Boats**

Thursday June 30th for crowd control from 6-7pm at various intersections down main street. They will be given t-shirts for this. (12 people needed) Great viewing opportunity!!!

## **Awards Ceremony Set up**

Sarasota Municipal Auditorium 4-5pm (2 people)

## **Speed Card Ride**

July 2nd at three locations, first location from 7:30-9 at the Applebees on Fruitville Rd.(4 people needed for registration and 4 for the Pancake Breakfast also 2 for parking help) The second location is at 10am at the Crescent Club on Siesta Key for the card pick up (4 people for that) and the Last Card Pickup Table at the Power Boats By the Bay from 10:30 -2:30 (4 people) They also requested anyone to help with the tally of points after the card pick up.

### **Power Boats by the Bay Tents**

Roving tent people to help keep the tables clean in both the VIP and Public tent areas.  
Friday 10-2pm and 6-10pm and on Saturday 6-10pm.

### **Grand Prix Party**

**High Heel Hike** Saturday July 2, 4 at registration 8:00 am and 8-10 guys for route markers.

Again, Thank you for your consideration in helping with these events!

Linda Peters

## Group Riding Class

*The 25<sup>th</sup> of June there is going to be a group riding class at Rossiters. Class starts at 10am. Chapter members attend free. A small fee of \$10 to non members to pay for materials. Sign up at the clothing desk at the dealership. If you are not able to sign up please call and they will sign you up. This is an informative class.*

If you haven't already done this or if you need a refresher, please go to this class. It makes us all safer!

**Rory MacConnell wrote on the Wall for 9-11  
Remembrance Ride.**

Rory wrote:

"As of today 06/19/11 all moving forward. We will have "BOSS HAWG" playing music during the AM line up. Also we will have the " Java Dog" coffee bus on site for all the coffee and morning refreshments.

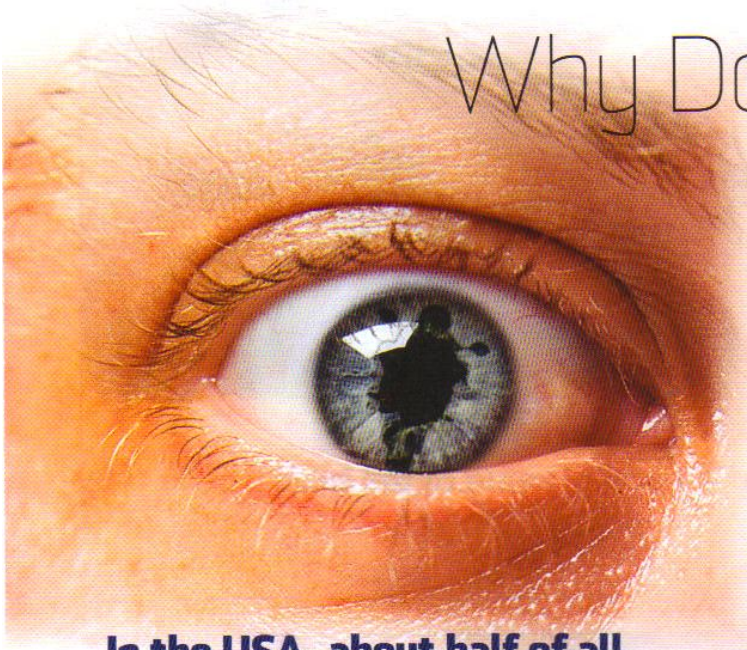
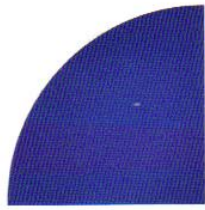
The Vietnam Brotherhood will be presenting the colors starting at 11 AM.

Walgreen's has again donated water for the ONLY FUND RAISING TO PAY FOR THIS FREE EVENT, \$1 each. also Walgreen's will be doing a FREE photo shoot"

To see this event's Wall, follow the link below:

[http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=135321009879775&view=wall&mid=467f313G5541a4a0G2c1128aG23&bcode=ciSEYZmm&n\\_m=gulfcoastriders%40hapsycle.com](http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=135321009879775&view=wall&mid=467f313G5541a4a0G2c1128aG23&bcode=ciSEYZmm&n_m=gulfcoastriders%40hapsycle.com)

Thanks,  
The Facebook Team



# Why Don't They See Us?

**In the USA, about half of all motorcycle crashes involve another vehicle and in half of those the other driver was at fault. Their constant refrain, "I didn't see the motorcycle."**

BY DAVID L. HOUGH

**W**hen the famous "Hurt Report"\* was published in 1981, motorcyclists and training developers eagerly pored over the statistics and recommendations. Motorcyclists had long known that automobile drivers frequently turn in front of us, and—after the collision—claim to not have seen us. The Hurt Report put numbers to our suspicions and offered some advice: "...this points out the need for the motorcycle rider to develop a traffic strategy so that he can **see and be seen** in traffic. This should be the most important component of any motorcycle rider training program."

Motorcyclists, manufacturers, and the Department of Transportation quickly took that business of seeing and being seen to heart. The government required headlights (and tail lights) on street motorcycles to be wired on. Aftermarket inventors

produced headlights that flashed between high and low beams and tail lights that flashed momentarily when the brake was first applied. Manufacturers of riding gear added reflective panels, reflective bands, and even brightly-colored jackets and suits in the yellow-green "Hi Viz" spectrum. This business of being seen became known as "conspicuity" or taking steps to make yourself more conspicuous to other motorists.

It's awfully hard to think that a nearby driver would *not* see a motorcyclist wearing a high viz jacket riding a brightly-colored motorcycle equipped with modulating lights. I remember my suspicions at the time that drivers couldn't help but see us and, after making quick turns without looking, were simply trying to find excuses. But later I learned from firemen and railroad engineers that drivers turn in front of oncoming fire engines and railroad locomotives in spite of their blazing lights and blaring horns. What's going on here? To gain some insight, let's look a little deeper into how humans see and comprehend the world around us.

## Foveal vs. Peripheral Vision

We'd like to believe that other drivers should be able to "see" a motorcycle when it's in plain view but "seeing" is a complex process. We monitor the scene in a relatively fuzzy way with our peripheral vision and then focus our central ("foveal") vision on whatever details seem important. We do this so automatically that we don't realize how complex it is. The center of vision, the fovea, is the only part of the eye that sees in sharp detail. The Fovea sees only about 1 to 2 degrees outward from the center. The rest of the field of view is called "peripheral." The farther out from the Fovea, the less detail can be observed. Peripheral vision can't pick up fine detail—it's used for monitoring and detecting.

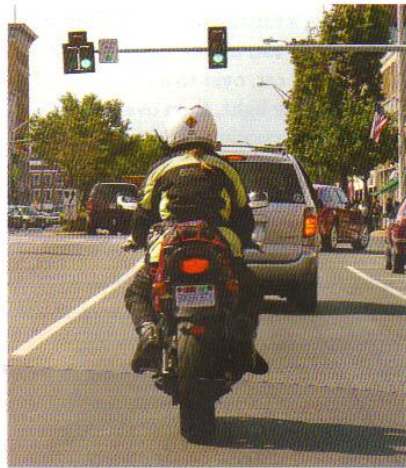
If peripheral vision picks up anything of interest, then central vision is triggered to focus on it. As you're reading this, you are focusing your fovea on the details of just one or two words on the page and scanning the line of text in a sequence of quick glances.

Here's a little experiment: place a finger at the middle of this column, focus on your fingernail, and see if you can still read any words on either side. Then move your finger to the edge of the column, focus on it, and see if you can read a whole line. It should be obvious that only in your central vision (the fovea) can you see much in the way of details.

\*actual title: "Motorcycle Accident Cause Factors and Identification of Countermeasures Volume I: Technical Report" (H.H. Hurt, Jr., J.V. Ouellet, and D.R. Thom)

interest in motorcycles, the more likely we are to register in their peripheral vision. A driver who has a motorcyclist in the family will typically see the bike and maybe even look closely to see what brand it is or what sort of gear the rider is wearing.

But a driver who has no interest in motorcycles may not “see” a motorcycle. If the driver has no motorcycling experience, no family members who ride and no motorcyclists in the neighborhood, the driver’s brain is conditioned to not “see” a motorcycle. This is called “inattention blindness.” In other words, if someone



**A driver who has some interest in motorcycling will most likely see a motorcycle.**



**A driver with no interest in motorcycles may see the bike as just a fuzzy blur.**

is not thinking about (attending to) something, they can look right at it and not comprehend it’s there. A motorcycle might appear as just a foggy blur. It’s not that the driver’s eyes don’t see the motorcycle but that the driver’s brain is programmed to ignore the image. That really throws a monkey wrench into our theories about conspicuity.

Inattention blindness isn’t just a problem for auto drivers. It affects us all. Here’s Biker Bob, cruising the superslab with some friends. Bob is running low on fuel but his buddies don’t seem to be planning a fuel stop. Finally, Bob decides to leave the group and gas up before his tank runs dry. When he notices a sign for a gas station at the next exit, he peels off.

There’s an intersection at the end of the exit ramp and Bob is relieved to see a gas station on the other side. He immediately heads for the station but halfway across the street he hears screeching tires and sees a driver braking to avoid a collision. Bob is incensed

another driver would not see him.

As he is fueling up, the attendant asks Bob why he didn’t stop for the STOP sign. Bob looks across the street and there in plain view is a stop sign. He can’t believe he didn’t see it.

Why didn’t Bob see the sign? He was “attending to” fuel, not signs. His mental priority was the personal relevance of fuel and his peripheral vision quickly spotted the gas station. He was so focused on fuel he overlooked the danger of a collision.

Humans also see what we expect to see and that’s determined by our experience. A motorcyclist sees lots of cars and trucks and therefore expects them in traffic. A car driver sees cars and trucks but few motorcycles. So, a driver expects to see cars and trucks but is less likely to expect a motorcycle.

**At any moment while you’re riding in traffic, about half of those other drivers around you won’t comprehend you are there.**

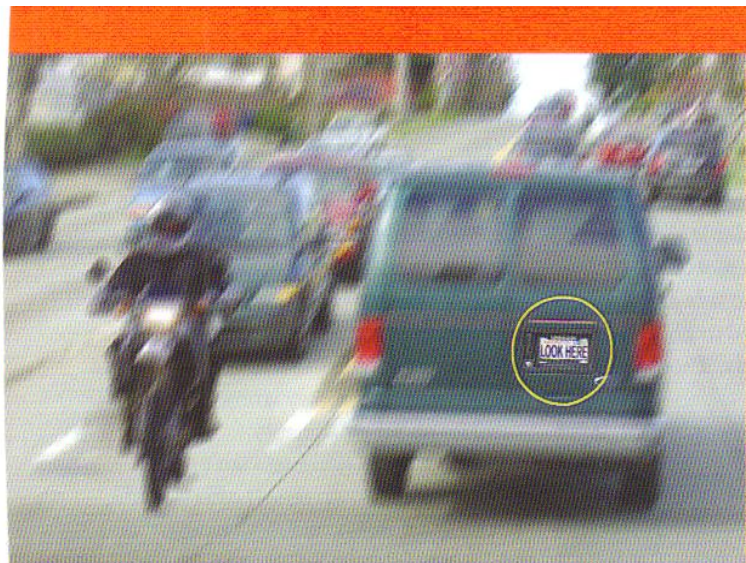


**Bob is relieved to find a gas station where he can fill his tank. He roars across the intersection without stopping. Why wouldn’t Bob see the STOP sign? Because his mind is focused on fuel and ignores the visual image of the sign.**

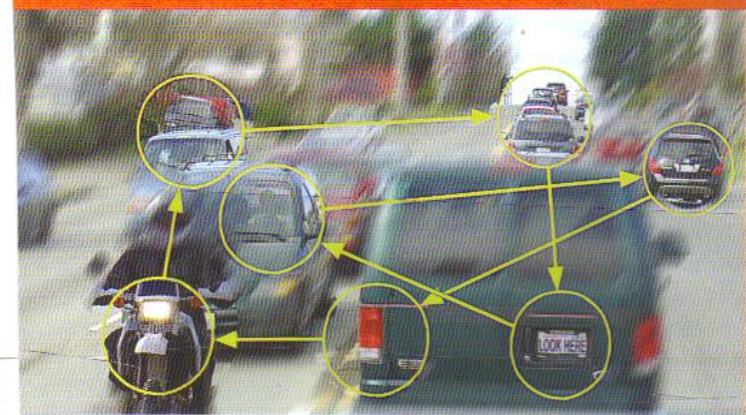
This business of “inattention blindness” explains why our attempts at being conspicuous might be thwarted. A driver who has no interest in motorcycles, and isn’t expecting to see a motorcycle, may not comprehend a motorcycle regardless of how conspicuous it is.

Bad news, good news. The bad news is that at any moment while you’re riding in traffic, about half of those other drivers around you don’t comprehend you are there. The good news is that only a few of those drivers are pointed in your direction. ▀

*David L. Hough is a long time BMW rider and motorcycle journalist, a BMW “Friend of the Marque,” an AMA Hall of Fame inductee, and author of the best selling motorcycle book Proficient Motorcycling.*



You can only focus on one small detail at a time. Everything else in your peripheral vision is a fuzzy blur.



## Seeing = Focusing on the Details

You're probably thinking, "what's that got to do with motorcycles?" Well, a motorcycle will appear as just a blur in someone's peripheral vision. In order to "see" a motorcycle in traffic, a driver must focus foveal vision on the bike to determine what it is. If a blurred motorcycle in a driver's peripheral vision doesn't trigger central vision to take a glance at the bike, then it just remains a blur of no consequence.

To make judgments about such things as speed and distance, we must take several successive focused glances, shared in sequence with all the other priorities in the peripheral vision demanding attention. Let's say the driver momentarily focuses on the license plate of the van ahead, then glances over at the driver of an oncoming car, over to a car ahead of the van, back to the van's left brake light, then over to the bike's headlight, and so forth. The sequence of focused glances (a "saccade") will be very complex as the driver attempts to take in the various details and remember them.

## Visual Priorities

When a driver is looking for other vehicles, there are priorities. Higher priorities in the peripheral vision get more attention from the Fovea. Apparently, large objects get a higher priority than smaller objects. Let's say a driver waiting to turn left observes an oncoming truck in her peripheral vision. The truck will probably get visual priority just because it's bigger. So, the driver glances at the truck several times and makes some judgments about speed, direction, and distance. If the bike doesn't attract attention, it just gets ignored. The driver might decide to make a quick left turn in front of the truck before it gets to the intersection.

If there are only one or two vehicles...