



POCONO RIDERS INC.

Volume 38, Issue 3

March 2024

Welcome to March!

We've got to start riding soon because I'm running out of things to write about! Thanks to Emil who organized an impromptu breakfast, I did get a few photos of some club members enjoying each other's company!

In our home, March is the month to celebrate the Irish, so my newsletter is themed on LUCK (and unlucky) and its relationship to motorcycles.

How many of you have a gremlin bell on your bike? Do you know there are rules that you must follow for bells to be lucky? Read ahead and you will know.

Green is psychologically a calm color *unless* it is on a motorcycle! Read up on the history of associating a green paint job with bad luck, when it comes to bikes.

If you are like me, I really enjoy vintage motorcycles. I've included information on the Irish Veteran and Vintage Motorcycle Club, a bunch of people who devote their time to their passion of vintage motorcycles. They have a facebook page that you may want to follow.

Scott's Gadgets finishes this newsletter with a great idea that we could all use.

I look forward to the club rides coming up next month as I'm sure you do too! Start prepping your bike....it'll be here before we know it! Take care,



Almost Here!

APRIL

4/21 10:00 AM DWG Visitors Center Vice President's Ride-Rt. 125 Dakota Staples

4/28 10:00 AM DWG Visitors Center Wayne County Ride-Emil Rolando

Lucky Bells

Why Do Motorcyclists Put a Bell On Their Bikes? Good question. Amar Punekar posted information that explains this practice.

Every motorcycle rider has his/her own beliefs and practices while riding.

These habits are sometimes visible, while sometimes they go under the carpet. One such question that pops up is why do motorcyclists use a bell on their bikes while riding.

While some will find it superstitious, others will take it as a solid belief.

So, the debate raging about the utility of these bells can go on and on! Nevertheless, many of your companions will keep using them, irrespective of what others think.

A lot of technical and emotional thoughts also go into the selection and use of these bells. It matters a lot to know the story of who's and how's behind the motorcycle bells too.

In this article, we review the reasons why motorcyclists put a bell on their bikes. I also address the fact about how it helps them and what beliefs go behind it. Moreover, a small idea of what makes them feel these bells are ineffective will also help you out.

Motorcycle bells are hollow ringing bells with a center shaft that makes them a typical bell. However, they are small in size and make no mistake, they make a lot of noise.

Famously, these bells are also popular by the name of Guardian Bells.

You will meet a lot of riders who also call these as Gremlin bells while using them. This is where the story about their actual use starts to build.

In actuality, these bells make noise when the motorcyclist is riding his bike. However, it's not a loud or troubling noise but a soothing one for you as a rider.

Motorcycle riders are famous to tread their path. As a rider, you will go on trips that include hundreds of miles worth of continuous riding. During such trips, many troubles, including accidents or misfortune can meet you on the way.

It is a belief that these motorcycle bells protect you from any undue evil that comes along. The world of bikes knows that any trouble that comes along on the roads due to gremlins.

Motorcycle Gremlins

The main reason why motorcyclists put bells on their bikes is the gremlins. What you know as the motorcycle gremlins are creatures that are responsible for all your riding troubles. These imaginary creatures, according to the belief, stick to the empty roads waiting for their prey.

When an innocent rider crosses their way, the gremlins use every possible force to disrupt him. This includes the use of unruly objects and forces to cause accidents and falls too.

When this happens, the gremlins draw energy from the negativity that follows, harming the rider. Their attention is also to destroy the motorcycle, thus destroying the free spirit of goodness.

In the legends, these gremlins often lurk at the bottom of the roads, sticking to the motorcycle. Hence, as a rider, you do not often notice what waits in your way to trouble you.

Motorcycle Bells Protecting Their Riders

The guardian bells take care of you as a rider by fending off these gremlins before they reach you. It is because they have the typical noisy design that confuses anyone coming in the way. The storytellers claim that any evil energy always has a low tolerance to sound of high pitch.

Such sounds disorient them and throw them off the course, giving the rider an easy way. Hence, the motorcycle bells have the popular belief of protecting their beloved riders in every way.

Getting a Motorcycle Bell

While the goodness of these bells are many, getting one is not as easy. For example, it is not good for a rider to get a bell of their own by buying it. The popular belief says that the bells do not have any good charm or power if you buy them yourself.

Hence, these need to come from someone who can be your fellow rider. The bells come as a mark of good luck or love that marks their care for you. This means they carry the enchantment of luck along with them in the form of the giver's care for you.

Most times, fellow riders will get these to mark off a special day for you. For instance, if you have the start of a big trip that awaits you full of risks, they give you a bell. Sometimes, if you buy a motorcycle that is your long-term wish, the fellow riders gift you a guardian bell.

Where to Attach One?

In addition to knowing why motorcyclists put a bell on their bikes, it is important to know where. For example, several people often attach these to the upper frame of the body of their motorcycles. You will also find riders using these adjacent to the handles or the sides of them.

However, if you ask someone who's a veteran, they will suggest you against it. The believers always want people to put these bells at the bottom part of the frame of the bike. This allows the bells to be as close to the road as possible without breaking up.

As in the previous section, the stories tell that the gremlin is closer to the road. They lie in such a way that they directly contact the bike's frame and stick along. This way, they get the ability to cause maximum destruction without breaking a sweat.

Hence, the bells not only warn you quickly but also fend them off. Keeping them to the lower frame member allows good connection and also solves the purpose.

Don'ts of a Motorcycle Guardian Bell

After knowing their utility, the level of interest for you will surely go up. However, these bells also come with many things you need to refrain from while using them. While some actions are not advisable, others are a strict no as a rider believing in luck.

#1: Don't Reuse Bells

It is a strict NO to reuse or buy second-hand bells for gifting to a person. The belief says that each bell has an enchantment making it effective for one bike. Once you detach it from the motorcycle, the bell loses that special fondness it has for the machine.

Using it on any other one thereafter will simply be a waste of space. Hence, the bells have their way of letting go once you remove them.

#2: Remove Bells from Repurchased Bikes

If you are buying the motorcycle from one of your friends or someone else, do not use old bells. In this case, remove the bell and hand it over to the previous user before buying.

Only use a new bell on this machine when someone gifts it to you with affection. Using a second-hand bell with a resale bike is believed to be an equivalent of bad luck too.

#3: Falling Off

The believers say that if a guardian bell has bad intentions behind it, it falls off. In such a case, do not reattach the fallen bell back to your motorcycle in any way. Simply remove the bell and pay it the honors of a proper send-off.

Make sure the bell is not possible to come to use for someone else. Do not sell the bell for money to anyone else, including the pawn buyers.

#3: Which Bell to Use

Special gremlin bells have designs or symbols on their body. These symbols are put up as enchantments of protection by the person giving them to you. Most sellers who give the motorcycle bells have the facility to inscribe these spells or messages on their bodies.

Hence, buying a bell with a metal design is often the best choice. In common places, you will find silver metal bells for giving to the rider you care about.

Story of Belief

The story behind why motorcyclists put a bell on their bikes is a hearsay one from Mexico. A rider treading the long desert route went with a face-off, falling from the motorcycles. The gremlins, approaching him with an intention of harm, were many.

To prevent the motorcycle and his life, the old rider fended with every possible item. In this zest, a bell that came to his hand was able to attract riders in the nearby area to help him. The rider's arrival in time saved the injured fellow and so the belief of the guardian bell starts.

Motorcycle Bells for Safety and Luck: Conclusion

From the whole timeline, you see that beliefs play an important part in the motorcycle bells theory. It involves your emotion as a rider and the feel of the other riders towards you. Moreover, the value of the safety of your motorcycle from any harm is equally essential.

Hence, motorcycle guardian bells will give you the kind luck for safety. They will act as the gift of good wishes to protect you while you ride through the unknown.

The Power of Bells



In the spirit of St. Patty's Day, I found these Guardian Bells on Amazon. Although inexpensive, the thought behind them is priceless.



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An impromptu get together for breakfast brought out some Pocono Riders for some casual conversation and camaraderie.

Special thanks to Emil for organizing this!



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Unlucky Green Motorcycles...

We're talking about luck and bikes... well, what about the other side of the coin? It's been a well told tale that green motorcycles are bad luck. A superstition that's been around since the early part of the 20th century.

Wonder why?

It's Harley Davidson's fault! In WW II, motorcycles were a big part of the war's transportation and what color were they? Green!

Harleys were at the forefront and used for delivering messages and surveillance but, once the German forces discovered this, their snipers made green motorcycles their target. Soon the military riders on motorcycles were facing casualties.

In no time, people started associating green motorcycles (especially green Harleys) with bad omens.

Post World War II, the use of motorcycles in the military decreased. The motorcycles used in military frontlines entered the aftermarket. And soon they were resold at a good price as they had a military tag. It is rumored even the manufacturers themselves refurbished these green motorcycles and resold them.

But these motorcycles didn't perform well for the domestic rider. Most of these motorcycles were worn out, had lots of mechanical issues, and broke down far too much. That coupled with the army green paint job labeled them as subpar and soon went out of fashion.

The color green and its association with bad luck also bled over to 4 wheel vehicles. In the 50's and 60's, green cars saw a lot of accidents and crashes in the racing arena. Notable of these crashes were of Gaston Chevrolet. The Indianapolis 500 Champion, was reported to be driving a green car when he met with the fatal track crash.

With so many supposed accidents associated with green cars the racing community soon started avoiding them. Similar to the motorcycle community now avoiding green bikes. The superstition is far more prevalent toward green Harleys. Far more than green motorcycles.

The surprising part? Even Harley Davidson, for quite some years, slowed down on green motorcycles. The motorcycle giant bowed down to the superstition definitely for a few years. Or even close to a decade.

And then, Kawasaki decided to blow this superstition out of the water! Introducing the Ninja! With their bright lime green paint job, the Kawasaki models stood out in the motorcycle market and its legacy of being one of the most popular racing motorcycles worldwide proved they didn't buy into the whole "green bikes = bad luck"!

The original WWII motorcycle that began the superstition of green bikes bringing bad luck is shown on the right. All others are those who said “phooey” to the idea!

Check out these beautiful **green** motorcycles!



IVVMCC

Irish Veteran and Vintage Motorcycle Club

In researching the IVVMCC, I found a page that describes their beginnings, I copied and pasted it here for you to view. If vintage is your thing and you've got no plans to go to Ireland, check out The Race of Gentlemen TROG. I witness beach racing a few years ago in Wildwood with pre WWII machines.

The history of the powered bicycle goes back more than a century, indeed the very first vehicle to run with a petrol engine was the Benz two-wheeler!

Since then machines have progressed from high, unstable and unreliable contraptions to the present-day superbikes which have road-holding, performance and comfort inconceivable to the pioneers.

In the 1930s it was realised that, unless there was encouragement for the preservation of some examples of each era the machines would be scrapped, and there would be no record of the dramatic and interesting story of a great industry.

The first organised event for the so-called "old crocks" was a run over the route of the original 1896 Emancipation Run, from London to Brighton, and this was the start of an event which has continued ever since, with increasing participation by Irish riders. Nowadays the Vintage MCC has more than 12,000 members.

In Ireland the Leinster Club held a run for old cars before the Second World War, in which some motor cycles took part, and the famous D&D Mosney Runs were well supported from the 1950s. A motor cycle section of the Irish Veteran & Vintage Car Club was formed in 1967, run-ning events for some years, which led to the formation of the present IVVMCC in 1976.

Early standards of restoration were generally much less ambitious than today, and much of the fun was dressing up in fancy gear, with the result that getting to the finish was quite an achievement.

Nowadays the restorer is supported by a great number of specialist suppliers, and many home restorations achieve a remarkable standard. The history of the motor cycle is fascinating, ranging from the exotic racers to the humble workaday two-strokes, and it is a history in which Irish people have played no mean part.

There is a camaraderie among riders which makes newcomers instantly welcome, whether or not they are owners of machines, and the "craic" on the average run has to be experienced. We try to have a talk or video, or something of interest at every Club meeting.

IVVMCC c.l.g. was founded in 1976 to cater for everyone interested in classic and vintage motorcycle restoration and use.

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IVVMCC

The present membership is about 280 enthusiasts, with over 600 machines, the oldest dating from 1899. We are actively engaged in the preservation of Ireland's motor cycling heritage for present and future generations.

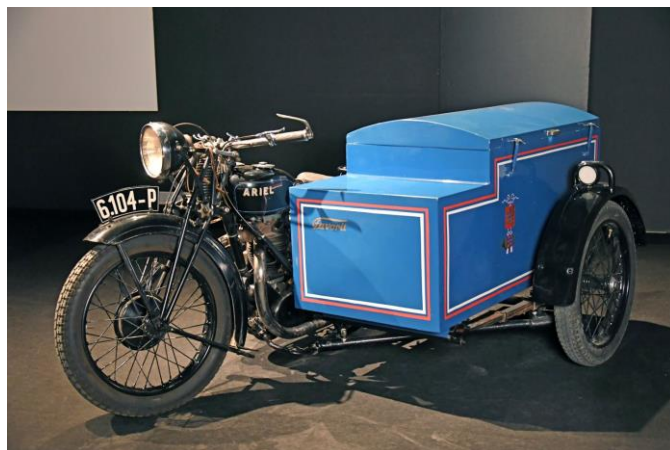
We run 11 major events during the year including the largest Motorcycle Show and Autojumble in the Autumn at Leopardstown Race Course.

In May we have a Pre-1930s weekend in Kilkenny, and in June a Pre-65 weekend in the Golden Vale. Our other road runs and events are open to pre-2000 year machines.

You don't need to own a bike to be a member. Our monthly newsletter, 'Exhaust Notes', is free to members, and technical help is available.

The best part of course, is the members themselves! We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Pembroke Wanderers Hockey Club, Serpentine Ave., Ballsbridge, at 8:30 p.m. Our monthly meetings have an attendance of 40-60 and sometimes include a talk or video. Members can also attend meetings by 'Zoom'.

We also have a regional organisation operating in the Dundalk area. We are affiliated to the Vintage Motor Cycle Club of Great Britain and to the Irish Vintage Society (IVS).



Scott's Gadgets

March 2024

Last week I did a favor for a scooter friend of mine from New Jersey. A few days later a package arrived from Amazon. To my surprise the package contained a solar power bank. This device can be used to charge cell phones, laptops, GoPro action cameras helmet communicators and flashlights to name a few.

The solar power bank is 8" x 4" x 1 1/2". It weighs a little over one pound. The unit is waterproof, dustproof, chemical resistant, heat-resistant and drop-proof. A solar panel is on the top of the unit. It also contains a flashlight which will run continuously for 100 hours and I am told it can easily charge a cell phone 20 times. Its storage capacity is rated at 42,800 mAh.

I plan to use this unit to charge my cell phone and Sena when on day or multi-day trips. The beauty is that I will be able to put it on the bike while stopped or moving and the sun will charge it. It does have a charging cord for home charging. It has two charging ports so I can charge two devices at one time.

I found this item on Amazon for a retail price of \$29.98. Amazon carries similar units priced based on their storage capacity. I have used a much smaller power supply for years but this one will be a game changer for me! I hope you check it out!

Happy Motoring!

Scott

Power-Bank-Solar-Charger -
42800mAh Portable Charger, Solar
Power Bank, External Battery Pack
5V3.1A Qc 3.0 Fast Charger Built-
in Super Bright Flashlight (Orange)





VINTAGE
PHOTOS

RMTC
2015

AMERICADE





We're on the web visit us at:
www.poconoriders.com

Meeting Place:

We will meet at the PA Visitor's Center at Delaware Water Gap

Sunday Rides: On Sunday, anyone considering becoming a member of our club is more than welcome to ride with us for a maximum of two rides. In order to continue riding with the club membership is required.

Wednesday Rides: Departure location via email or message board on www.poconorider.com Perspective members welcomed.

Attention: Ride Leaders: Please post some additional info about your rides on our message board the Wednesday prior to your ride. ...