

Motorcycle class will focus on road safety



ROD LLOYD

JOHN POMROY

By CARL STODDARD

Riding a motorcycle can be risky, especially for novice riders who think they can just kick over the engine, put the bike in gear and go.

"Ninety per cent of the accidents come from people not knowing what they're doing before they start to ride," says John Pomroy. "They just step on it and go. They don't even know how to stop the thing."

Pomroy will be teaching a clinic in Southfield to help beginning motorcyclists become better and safer riders. The free class is offered in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building auditorium (26000 Evergreen) at 7:30 p.m. for six consecutive Wednesdays beginning April 19.

The class is offered jointly by parks and recreation and the Michigan-Ontario Trials Association. To sign up for the class, students must attend the first session.

Pomroy, a Royal Oak resident, said the motorcycle clinic's purpose is to

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—Rod Lloyd

introduce motorcycling to the public in a positive manner.

ONE OF THE first topics covered will be safety. Preventative maintenance, types of competition, rules of the road and motorcycle legislation also will be discussed.

Rod Lloyd of Southfield is president of the Michigan-Ontario Trials Association and a late-comer to the world of motorcycles. He was 38 before he moved onto the road on a two-wheeler. At first, he confined his riding to the streets. Like many riders, he quickly learned that riding on the pavement requires constant alertness.

"Road riding, by far, is more dangerous than off-the-road riding," Lloyd admits. "I think a defensive attitude is your best way to protect yourself. When

you do that, you assume everybody is going to run into you.

"I find myself riding less and less on the road," he adds. "Paranoia is catching up with me."

For those who must ride on the streets, Lloyd and Pomroy offer these bits of advice:

- Buy a bike with enough power to get you out of dangerous situations easily.

- Do not, however, buy a larger bike than you can safely handle. "Then you'll be all in one piece when you step into a bigger piece of equipment," Pomroy says.

- Avoid driving in the "blind spot" behind and to the left of the car in front of you.

- Don't ride in the center of the lane. That area is covered with oil dripped from thousands of cars. Instead, ride in the cars tracks.

Such advice should not be taken lightly. Lloyd says a person is seven

times more likely to be injured riding a motorcycle than driving a car if involved in an accident.

Both Lloyd and Pomroy advocate motorcycle riding primarily as a sport or form of recreation. Pomroy, who began riding when he was 17, has been in motocross races, cross country races and even on the ice. But the thrill of going 120 m.p.h. over rough terrain has been tempered as he gets older, Pomroy admits.

Today, both he and Lloyd devote most of their time to riding in observed trails competition. The events call for motorcyclists to navigate rough terrain—including rocks and fallen logs—without allowing their feet to touch the ground. Speed is not a factor in the sport.

"You can get a lot of challenge without killing yourself," Lloyd said.

For more information on the motorcycle clinic, persons may call Southfield Parks and Recreation at 354-9603.

Student fast hits world food crisis

Thirty-one high school students took part in a 24-hour hunger fast last week at North Congregational Church in Southfield to draw attention to the world food shortage.

Donations pledged during the fast totaled \$1,272.

Sponsor of the fast was CROP, an ecumenical, non-profit branch of Church World Services. Funds collected will be divided, with 40 per cent going to Sudan, 40 per cent going to Western Samoa, 10 per cent going to Southfield FISH and 10 per cent to Focus Hope.

The participants represented five Southfield churches: St. Bede's, Emmanuel Lutheran, North Congregational, Southfield United Presbyterian and Hope United Methodist.

During the fast, participants met with a Peace Corp volunteer who had been in Western Samoa and U.S. Rep. William Brodhead. The fast concluded with a meal of rice and vegetables.

The fast was coordinated by Rev. Charles Sonquist Jr. of Hope United Methodist, and was assisted by Tim Beal, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Lemponen, Dave Howell, Mrs. Ruth Hetherington, Mrs. Paul Rabaut and Mrs. Jill Bergstrom.

The following young people participated in the fast: Mike Papaniuse, Laurie Webb, Glenn Moser, Brian Duran, David Donald, Steve Steder, John Thomas, Ed Hill, Missy Thomas, Lynda Donald, Ken Kistner, Robbi Wolf, Adrienne Bennett, Kelly Speck, Barbara Smith, Kathy Erickson, Bob Shroobree, David Setzke and Dan Banda, all of Southfield.

Susan Salmen, Bob Drake, Peggy Stemmer and Michelle Scranon of Lathrup Village.

Stuart Bilyeu of Birmingham, Edith Disler and Andy Bergstrom of West Bloomfield, Kathy Pertunmaa, Jane Demorest, Jeff Demorest, all of Novi, and Jo Zink of Canton.

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