



Anson Football Team Faces Marvin Ridge in Final of Regular Season

This Friday night, November 7, marks the end of the South Piedmont 4-A regular season. Anson travels to Waxhaw to take on Marvin Ridge.

Directions to Marvin Ridge High School are as follows: From Monroe follow Highway 75 towards

Waxhaw. Make a slight right turn on to New Town Rd. Go approximately 12 miles to Providence Rd. (Hwy 16). Cross over Providence Rd. and continue to follow New Town Rd. about 1/2 mile. Turn left onto Crane Rd. The school will be located at the end of Crane Road on the left. For the stadium take the second entrance. Bear to the right at the round about.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. Let's go Cats! *By Mel Morse*

Youth Basketball Signups

Anson County Parks and Recreation will be holding signups for Youth Basketball 2009. Registration runs through Monday, December 1. This program is open to grades K through 12, for girls and boys. You can sign up at Parks and Recreation at Little Park, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person.

- Registrations will also be held at the following schools:
- Monday, November 17 - Wadesboro Elementary School gym, 3-5 p.m.
Wadesboro Primary School, 3-5 p.m.
 - Tuesday, November 18 - Morven School, 3-5 p.m.
Lilesville School, 3-5 p.m.
 - Wednesday, November 19 - Peachland School, 3-5 p.m.
Ansonville School, 3-5 p.m.

This Week in Sports

THURSDAY 11/6
• AHS JV Football @ home vs Marvin Ridge 7pm

FRIDAY 11/7
• AHS Varsity Football @ Marvin Ridge 7:30pm

Mounting Fuel Prices Motivating Motorcycle Mania

"Have you heard the one about the man who decided to take his wife to an expensive place, and wound up taking her to the gas station?" Yes, it's a joke, but certainly not a funny one, especially when it costs so much to fill up at the pumps.



My MSF instructor, Donna Fisher, stressed the importance of proper riding attire such as I'm wearing here on my new sportbike. "A DOT certified helmet, full leathers with protective padding and boots are all vital to safety first bike riding," said Fisher.

The skyrocketing prices of gasoline seem to warrant skyrocketing motorcycle sales, offering roughly 50 miles per gallon. But, added to rising motorcycle sales also come increased accidents and fatalities. According to the US Department of Transportation, "Deaths due to motorcycle crashes have doubled in the last decade." That's an alarming number, so refuse to become a statistic if you are in the market for a new bike to help counteract gas prices.

As an inexperienced rider it is important to realize possible hazards before enjoying your new bike. Learn by observation, know the rules, ride with an experienced rider first, and certainly ask questions. It would probably be wise if you would enroll in a motorcycle safety course, like the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) offers, but that certainly is not the only one to choose from.

Recently I received a motorcycle and was taken aback by the atypical gift. I had ridden a scooter and a very small dirt bike but never the "real thing." As it turns out, I have some natural abilities, authorities tell me, and have done well for a middle-aged woman with no prior thoughts of ever riding on two wheels again after my bicycle days. But, with the new bike comes a lot of apprehension and even some fear, two elements missing in many new bike owners' consciousness. Without the

realization of your limitations, unwise decisions could affect your safety and the safety of others.

Personally, my 20-hour MSF basic riding course made me a safer and more confident rider. I learned the importance of good safety practices and what seemed like a million and one riding tidbits. "SEE," Search, Evaluate and Execute, is now a strategy for every-day life, not only in my motorcycle riding, but in my automobile commutes as well. Becoming more aware of what lies ahead and allowing time to react to a potential problem has raised my confidence level at least a degree or two. Am I ready for the road? No, I am not. But, I'm more prepared than if I had forgone the class altogether.

Truthfully, the MSF course was probably one of the most difficult and stressful things I've ever done. But I faced my fears, assumed the task, and finished with flying colors, passing the driving portion and scoring a perfect 100 on the written exam! So I am proud as a peacock to be an MSF graduate.

Do not be tempted to simply buy a bike to save money and then jump on with little to no knowledge or training. You could find out why the statistics for accidents are increasing. Be smart; don't ignore good common sense when it comes to your life. You're a lot less likely to be involved in an accident if you keep your guard up, your concentration keen, and your skill at an optimal level.

If you decide to join us on the road, do it intelligently. Come on out and feel the wind on your face and the freedom riding can bring. But, don't ride until you're ready for the ride. Watch out for yourself and others before taking that first big step toward motorcycle mania. *By Melanie Morse*

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