



## **Retreads® History & Origins**

### **THE NAME "RETREADS®"**

The name RETREADS® comes from the name of vehicle tires which were initially used during World War II. Retreading (putting new treads on used tires) was a process that permitted many civilians during the war years to continue to use their vehicles when their tires wore out, as new tires were very difficult, if not impossible to get during those rationing years. Similarly, many of us began our motorcycling years back when we were young. When we got married and started raising a family, many of us had no time or money available for such luxuries as motorcycles. However, once the children were well on their own, and free time and more money were available, our thoughts of motorcycles returned and we were itching to get back on the bikes we loved so much. So in a way, we were "Retreaded".

### **ORIGIN OF THE RETREADS®**

The "RETREADS®Motorcycle Club" was conceived and founded in 1969 by five men through a letters column in a motorcyclist magazine. George Spidell, a Navy Chief Petty Officer living in El Cajon, California, had read a letter to the editor in a national motorcycle publication. The comments of the letter are long forgotten, but the writer's signature stirred George's curiosity. It was signed "Sheep Dip". George wrote to the magazine with the request that they forward his response letter to Sheep Dip. Instead, they published his letter in its entirety with an explanation that they were not a clearing house for letter writers. But they did publish George's letter! Sheep Dip never did answer, but five other motorcycle riders did: Bob House of Topeka KS; "Kanney" Brown of PA; Baurgaurity Laughland of London, England; Jack LeCain of British Columbia; and Ludwig Speidel of Quebec, Canada. George made copies of those letters and sent them to the other five. Then he copied the answers to those and sent them out again. Before long it was a regular thing for the six geographically separated riders to write each other. George continued copying the letters and circulating them to the entire group.

In time, the group agreed they should form a correspondence motorcycle club. An inquiry to the AMA for a charter brought back the information they would have to have 10 members to qualify.

Once again George appealed to the letters column of the motorcycle press. Soon, ten kindred spirits applied for their AMA Charter. The RETREADS® became a formal club in July, 1970. Their monthly newsletter was called the "RECAP" - another name given retread tires.



## Retreads® Crest

The **SHAPE** of the Retread Crest was taken from a U.S. Navy award presented for that which is considered to be the best!

The **CHIEF** - is a field of **GOLD** with the name RETREADS in **BLACK** thereon. It denotes those Golden Years Over Forty. The name RETREADS is obvious; we have reached an age where a "retread" has become necessary!

The **BAND SINISTER** - is **BLACK and BLUE** and slants upward from left to right across the field. It signifies the Black and Blue marks that we have all acquired while learning to ride.

The **UPPER SINISTER** field is split, half being **RED** with a pair of Rampant Stallion Heads in place and half being **BLACK**. The **RED** half of the Upper Sinister field represents valor and the blood that we have shed. The Rampant Stallions which appear so proud represent the strength and stamina of the Retreads. As a pair, they indicate that we work together as a team. The **BLACK** half of the Upper Sinister field is for the mourning of our departed brothers and sisters.

The **LOWER DEXTER** field is **WHITE** with the Roman Numerals "**XL**" and the word "**PLUS**" beneath; both in **RED**. **WHITE** symbolizes our purity of mind and thoughts, and also the color of our face in that first tight squeeze! The **RED** Roman Numerals "**XL**" and the word "**PLUS**" designate the age of Forty and Over, which one must be to become an official member of the Retreads.....and as everyone knows, Life really does begin at Forty.

A **BLUE OVERBAR** may also be placed above the field of **GOLD**, upon which the name of the State or Provincial Chapter in which the wearer resides is written in **WHITE**.

WE.....the **RETREADS®**.....wear this **CREST with PRIDE**. It designates us as members of a select group that enjoys a wonderful sport, good times, many laughs and miles of open road.

***The Retread "Crest" and symbol "XL+" are Registered Insignias and Trademarks in the United States of America and Canada.***

