

News For Thought



Colorado Considers Kiddie Helmet Law

While 30 states allow most adults the freedom to choose whether or not to wear a helmet when they ride, only three of those have no helmet law at all, neither for adults or children, and Colorado is one of them (also Iowa and Illinois). At least for now... Colorado hasn't had a helmet restriction since 1977, but HB 1117 introduced by Rep. Dianne Primavera (D-Broomfield) to require helmets for riders under 18 recently passed through the House Transportation and Energy Committee, which Pueblo West Representative Buffie McFadyen chairs. "There's no question that in Colorado, groups like ABATE of Colorado don't want to see helmet laws," says Rep. Buffie McFadyen (D-Pueblo West). "Many of the people who opposed the bill, opposed it on the grounds of it being a slippery slope, that it was an infringement on the rights of parents," says Rep. McFadyen.

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"This is putting the state between the parent and the child, saying 'We're in charge,'" Rep. Kevin Lundberg, R-Berthoud, said in voting against the helmet law in the House.

Rep. Don Marostica, R-Loveland, also opposed the legislation, saying that helmets do not offer that much protection. "This is a feel-

good bill because the only difference between a helmet and no helmet," he said "is whether you have an open casket and a closed casket."

But despite objections about government intrusion into private lives, the bill prevailed February 8 by a vote of 8-5, split along party lines.

"HB 1117 'fixes' little-to-nothing; it is a solution in search of a problem," said ABATE of Colorado State Coordinator Terry Howard, who directs anyone from out of state who wants to weigh in on this bill to e-mail them directly at helmetbill@abateofcolo.org. "We will distribute your comments to our friendlys at the capitol."

No Tact, No Facts, Bikers React

"Hmmm, sure looks like HD is REAL supportive of Motorcyclist Rights, eh?" asks a rhetorical Hairy George, Legislative Director of ABATE of Ohio, as he points out Harley-Davidson's stated stance on helmets and riding, taken directly from page 7 of their latest Spring HD Motor Clothes Catalogue:

"No Jacket. No Helmet. No Gloves. No Riding"

Similar in sentiment to the sign in restaurants and bars that says "No Shirt. No Shoes. No Service."

"I strongly urge every motorcyclist rights activist who rides an H-D in every SMRO in this country to contact Harley-Davidson and express how you feel at this outrageous slap in the face to those of us who support "Freedom of Choice", concludes Hairy.

Weird News: Boobs on Bikes

Hundreds of people, mainly men, lined the streets of Christchurch, New Zealand, to welcome the Boobs on Bikes parade to promote the start of the Erotica Lifestyles Expo.

Bare-chested women and greased musclemen circled the city on Harley-Davidson motorcycles, receiving an appreciative roar when one of the girls used her assets to polish the helmet of the bearded biker piloting her bike.

Crowd reaction was divided almost exactly down gender lines, with a verdict of "over-rated" and "utterly tacky" from the ladies, while men like spectator Kliff Tappin said "People say sex and perversion are wrong, but half the city comes out."

DOOCHIE'S

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"Quiet" Helmet to Save Hearing Loss to Riders

As we segue from helmet hearings to hearing and helmets, scientists are trying to design a helmet to stop motorcycle riders from suffering hearing loss created by helmet noise. The hearing damage is believed to be caused by the noise created as air flows over and through the riders' helmets during a journey.

Research has shown that up to 40 per cent of professional motorcyclists such as police and paramedics suffer significant hearing loss. Many other regular riders could also be running the risk of damaging their hearing without realizing.

A team from the University of Bath and Bath Spa University will now set out to solve the problem. Their new "quiet" helmet would reduce the amount of noise on the ear. Scientists also believe that higher noise levels can reduce bikers' ability to concentrate.

Dr. Michael Carley, who is leading the research program, said: "Our long-term goal is to make motorcycling less damaging, by designing new helmets which make riding less noisy."

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First Annual National Female Ride Day Announced for May 4, 2007

As the fastest growing market in the motorcycle industry, more and more women of all backgrounds and ages are getting pleasure from the pure enjoyment of riding a two wheeled vehicle. Providing a community where female riders can advance their rider skills and know-how - MOTORESS, run by former European female motorcycle racer Vicki Gray, has initiated a day where women are asked to hop on their motorbikes or scooters and ride to work, to school, to meet a friend or to wherever they desire. Just ride!

"The aim of the campaign is to raise female rider awareness, promote those who already ride, while simultaneously encouraging other females to take up the activity," says Vicki Gray, campaign organizer. "The 'day' places a spotlight on female riders," she adds.

For more information please visit 1. www.motoress.com

2nd Annual Fox Valley Motorcycle Show
 at South Park in Oshkosh, WI
 Sunday, June 3rd 2007

Exit Hwy 44

All Makes & Models Welcome
To Show \$15 Registration fee

Music by **Bobby Evans & Alimony Blues Band**
 2:00-6:00pm

Rain or Shine
All proceeds go to the Shriners Childrens Hospital
Family Event

Y Registration 9am to noon
Y Awards at 4:00pm
Y Vender booths available

For more information call 920-233-7275
Ask for John or Julie