

TECH STUFF

Here's a quick checklist for pulling your bike out of storage

Preparing for Motorcycle Riding Season

1. Remove your bike from storage. First things first. Remove the cover and any blocks that were used to keep your bike in place during winter storage, as well as any plugs or covers from the exhaust pipes. This is also the time to wash away any wax you may have applied to protect the frame, rims and chain.
2. Change the engine oil and spark plugs. Many bike manufacturers recommend that in addition to regular scheduled oil changes, you should change the engine oil and filter prior to storage and in the spring. During storage, the oil can separate causing a condensation buildup that may harm your engine. While you're there, replace the spark plugs. Be sure to set the gaps to the recommended manufacturer's setting using a gap setting tool. You will also want to check and clean your carburetor, replace the air filter and check the transmission fluid.
3. Check the battery. Since you probably removed the battery for storage and kept it charged, all you have to do is clean the cables and terminals with a wire brush, grease and reconnect. Depending on your battery, you may have to fill the cells with distilled water. If your bike has a fuse box, it's a good time to check the fuses and replace if necessary. It's also a good idea to have some spares on hand.
4. Flush the cooling system. You need to flush and replace the old antifreeze with a proper coolant. Be sure to check for cracks in all hoses and replace if necessary.
5. Check the fuel system. Replace the fuel filter and examine the fuel tank, fuel lines and fittings for cracks and leaks. If your bike has a petcock, turn the fuel system to "ON." If there is a "PRIME" option, turn to it for about 20 seconds, then to "ON." After burning the fuel from storage, add a fuel cleaner the next few times you fill your tank.
6. Check the brakes. When it comes to safety, brakes may be the most important part of a bike and time should be spent checking them on a regular basis. Inspect the brake pads and discs for wear. Check the brake lines for cracks. Lubricate the front brake hand lever and throttle cables. Check and fill the brake fluid level or replace if dirty.
7. Inspect the frame and suspension. Visually inspect the frame for hairline cracks around the engine and transmission brackets. Inspect the handlebars for cracks and oil the cable connections. If needed, tighten all nuts, bolts and mounting brackets. Adjust the fork and lube all bearings. Lastly, inspect the rear shocks and fender mounting hardware and grease the side stand.
8. Check the tires, wheels and chain. Check the tires for cracks, worn treads and correct tire pressure. Inspect the rims for dents and carefully tighten any loose spokes. Grease the bearings. Check for wear on the chain and sprockets. You will also want to check and adjust the chain slack.
9. Prepare to ride safely. Even after all the mechanical components have been checked, you should never ride a bike without proper safety precautions. Inspect the headlight, including high and low beams, the taillights, brake light, turn signals, instrument panel lights and horn. Take the time to clean and adjust the mirrors. It is also important to wear the proper gear, such as a good helmet, eye and face protection and protective clothing, even on short trips.
10. Be sure you're covered. After making all the routine checks listed above, check your insurance policy and review

your coverages to make sure they meet your current needs. If you have added any custom parts or equipment, you'll want to make sure they are covered.

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Squirrel tales

Hello Brother & Sister, the time is flying and the days are getting warmer and yes, spring is in the air. Most of this month I have been busy gathering information for poker runs and pig roast as well as selling ads. We also have a bunch of new sponsors to welcome to The Free Riders Press, stop in and check them out. They help us to bring your paper to you each month.

It's time to start planning for all of this year's poker runs, pig roast, parties or just taking a putt on the back country roads and breathing in all the fresh air. It's also still time to get the bikes dialed in after a long winter's nap. There are still lots of excellent swap meet to attend before we hit the roads. A big one will be on May 22nd put on by Ole Time Production in LaCrosse, it is gonna be huge including a ride in bike show with 13 different classes. Check it out in this issue. I'm thinking about entering one myself. If you missed the New Eagles M/C 1st Swapmeet in Sparta all I can say is, Snooze, You Lose. The New Eagles put on a very good show. Live music, some good food and a great bunch of vendors. I ran into a lot of old friends as well as meeting great new ones. So, I

give Bubba and all of the New Eagles M/C Brothers (let's not forget the Sisters) a tip of the hat and job well done. Check out the calendar of events for the upcoming pig roasts. I will most defiantly be at the Border Riders M/C Pig Roast at the end of May. I've been there several times in the past years, let me tell you that it is a blast. All I can say is if you don't have a good time during this 3 day bash, you must have passed out the first night and missed the rest of the weekend. As of this month I have changed addresses but my e-mail will still be squirrel@freeriderspress.us. I want to thank Preacher, Lorie and Chipmonk for putting up with me for the past few months. I love ya BROTHER & SISTER, you are what a biker family is all about, FAMILY FIRST.

Love, Respect and Brotherhood is what makes my world go around. See ya next issue, SQUIRREL

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