

Need something to do this winter? Head out to a Swap Meet or Bike Show...

Tis the season for motorcycle events to rev up... What are you talking about, Preach? Now I know you lost it. Well as I have said in prior issues, some of the best events are in the cooler month's. Namely swap meets and bike shows. Some big, some smaller, with November typically kicking off the season.

Although swaps like Walneck's www.walneckswap.com and Paragon www.paragonspromotion.com run all year long, a majority that I know of pick up where the riding season ends for most riders. Even though some shows get lucky with great weather like the ABATE of WI 2E show of 2009 held in March giving an extension to saddle time, most shows makes it to chilly for a ride. We do live in Wisconsin after all!

I have found that most people go to swap meets for parts that typically won't fit in the saddlebags. Then you have your riders that are just looking for that special add on to personalize their ride to fit their style. I have always wondered how many of these folks you see digging through parts bins actually know what they are looking for. According to most of the vendors, "70% or more know exactly what they have in mind". Me I wouldn't know a '55 pan dash from a '62 dash, but the die hard swappers are tuned in big time.

Besides parts you have specialty items like jewelry, custom leather, doo-dads, pictures, manuals and food just to name a few. If you want something motorcycle related you can usually find it at a swap meet. From what I can see there is a swap meet somewhere in the upper Midwest every weekend between the end of November and May. Keep an eye on the F.R.P. www.freeriderspress.us calender for your convenience.



Then you have the bike shows. Like the swap meets, some are big like the Donnie Smith Show in St. Paul www.donniesmithbikeshow.com and the Chicago Motorcycle Show in Chicago www.chicagocycleswap.com. Then you have the smaller venues that do an equally good job of giving you a good time like the 2E Waverly Beach Show in Menasha, WI that ended up filling the room up with bikes to be judged with all the proud owners hoping for some recognition.

So watch for the swap meets and shows, and enjoy the cold month's with a warmth in your heart for the motorcycle related items that keep the riding season in the for front of your mind.

Some of the swaps to keep an eye on are GT Promotions (in and around WI), Gringo & Mickey's Swaps in MN, the ABATE region swaps, Walneck in IL, IN, MI and OH along with Paragon and Expo 1 in S.E Wisconsin.

*** Pictures from the 2009 Waverly Beach Show and GT Promotions Oct. Swap and Show.



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~ VENDORS ~

10 x10 Space \$35 ea
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A limited supply of tables are available for \$5.00 each
USED BIKE CORRAL \$20.00 EACH

All vendor spots must be pre-paid. To reserve your spots please mail payment no later than 2 weeks before the show.

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