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From the Editor:

Is anybody ready for the riding season to come? I know one thing, mother nature sure is mixed up on her thoughts about what season it is. In my travels I have seen bikes out the last couple months depending on the weather. With the up and down temps many people I've heard are waiting on their winter checkups and projects. My advice, get the scoot in now so when the temps are back for good your not listening to all the bikes roll by. Many of the shops are busier than normal for the time of year, telling me that others are not waiting for the week before Daytona for their work to be done. Let's keep them busy. Check out the shops that advertise here, tell them you seen their ad here.

A couple quick items. As the year rolls closer to riding time, I am hearing that some events are being cancelled or downsized. Check **www.freeriderspress.us** calender for updates. As I am finding them out they are being added A.S.A.P. A couple being Supercycle show this year Feb. 3 is only one day. Crandons Biker Rally in June is a one day show this year, and the Milwaukee rally in July is up in the air right now. So check back and check back often. Also on the lines of things to do there are plenty of swap meets coming over the next 3 months. My son D.J or I will be at as many as we can as I said last month. Lastly on this subject, for those putting together events, if possible try to either work in conjunction with another event in your area or do your own thing without stepping on anybody else's event. Especially those events that are established. This year is going to be a very interesting time in the way the past motorcycling era goes. That's my prediction for the year. There are winds of change in the air and hopefully it will be for the betterment. Like I said, work together if possible, things always turn out better that way.

And before the curtain falls on this editorial, I would like to give a personal thank you to some individuals. First a big thanks to Tony and Vicki Sanfelipo for putting together a dinner reception for Dave Zien at Capitol City HD. It was a great time had by all and was cool to meet some of the people in the motorcycle industry that I have only heard of. Secondly to Dave himself for the many years of service to all motorcyclists in Wisconsin and beyond. I will have a story featuring Dave I'm thinking next month if I can keep Dave in one place long enough to chat with him. And finally to our troops serving here and abroad. Thanks to them we are blessed with having the best country in the world to live. I feel we can't print enough about them. Thanks vets past and present for your service. And keep checking www.patriotguard.org for any funerals, Troop Welcome Homes or any other way we can give our support.

So let's all sit tight, watch some movies based in Florida to keep warm thoughts in our heads, and we'll be riding before you know it. For those of you that don't hibernate in the winter and continue to get wind through others activities, hit them trails and slopes. Till next month, Preacher

Brothers and Sisters Lost

It is with regret that I announce that ABATE member Doug "Cowboy" Roemer has succumbed due to natural causes.

Cowboy was one of the old "ABATE of Chicago" guys who's involvement with motorcyclists rights dates to long before the re-forming of ABATE of Illinois in 1987. In addition to ABATE of Illinois, he was, or is a member of ABATE of Wisconsin, ABATE of Arkansas, and ABATE of Minnesota. He was also a sustaining member of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation and a life member of the National Rifle Association.

Cowboy had held the positions of treasurer, membership director and newsletter director, in the Chicago Chapter of ABATE of Illinois. He was involved in getting the early version of the Chicago chapters cable access television show off the ground.

He probably filled in for most other positions on the board at one time, or another and his knowledge of the chapter by-laws was second to none. An intensely private person in life, Cowboy had asked his family not to hold

services upon his passing. The Chicago chapter of ABATE of Illinois will hold a short memorial at their

coming meeting on January 17, 2007. Plans are in progress for a RIP patch in his honor.

Cowboy was an American original, stubborn, independent, fiercely loyal and willing to fight to keep his freedoms. Political correctness was an alien concept to him. He liked to drink and smoke and wasn't afraid to mix it up.

A Republican, in overwhelming Democratic Chicago he served as an election judge for his party until he was removed from a polling place by the police, for in his words

"insisting that the rules be followed" the other side was worried about his knife, he was that kind of a guy.

I hope they have an old flat-head Chief and an ice cold Bud for you where ever you are at brother. I'll have one for you - you and DogKiller have one for me Cowboy Forever - RIP

Michael "Boz" Kerr Past-President-ABATE of Illinois - Chicago Chapter



I have passed this guy many times through the years here in Milwaukee. Always said hello to each other, smiled -but never stopped to introduce ourselves or exchange names. A nice guy. He's always been the "Guy with the Horns" to me, and many people.

This year going to Sturgis, I had the privilage of riding with an "old HD Factory reunion run" group, that Teri & I rode out to Sturgis with in 1992 (15 years ago). This year, we met a lot of great people, and we met Arlen & his love Jayne (aka: Tiger Lady). Two of the nicest people; we rode a couple days together, ate, drank, swam, and rode (we did a lot of riding together). Great people. An honor to met you Arlen, Rest In Peace. love ya, Tiger

Trivia, Trivia, Trivia

Well, after trying a "where is this" contest, getting a winner and nobody claiming the prize, I think we'll try something different. **How about a trivia contest?** I give you a question supplied to me by PIPEz. When you have the answer, e-mail it to **trivia@gmaxpro.com** and around the 10th we will post the answer on **www.gmax-pro.com/FREE-RIDERS-TRIVIA** web page. From all the right answers we will draw a winner or two. These folks will win products and items that are donated from different advertisers and businesses. Sound easy enough? Lets get to it!!! **Remember: e-mail answer to trivia@gmaxpro.com**

What year was it when the first motorcycle circumnavigated the globe and what brand of Motorcycle was it?

Meet Megan, this month's Next Generation Rider. She loves to ride whenever she can, and is also a member of Bikers Helping Friends Wishes out of Boscobel.



If you have a picture of your Next Generation Rider, feel free to send it in to me. Who knows it just might kick start a Hollywood career for them. Send those pic's to preacher@freeriderspress.us or by snail mail to 4500 Hwy 66, Stevens Point, WI 54481

" **Bingo's Downed Biker Fund**" If you have a Brother or Sister down and would like to get them the Free Riders



Press, NO PROBLEM, be glad to do it but it does cost money. A lot of people help out by donating some coin. We here will do what we can, but with everybody giving what they can, we will make it go a long way. We all know somebody that's down, and anything would be greatly appreciated.

Send to: "Bingo's Downed Biker Fund" 2206 Jefferson Two Rivers, WI 54241