

QCS

As another winter storm bears down on the Quad Cities and with a very cold weekend ahead it makes me pine for warmer days. As my mind wanders to the times from riding seasons of past, a smile crosses my face. A yearning to feel the wind on my face and the freedom of the road over takes my thoughts. As much as I miss being able to ride all year down in south Florida, remembering the hot and humid days chases away thoughts of living there again, sorry Mom.

While remembering the past times be they seasons, months or years you should look as well to where you are now and how those events from the past have let's say help guide the way here. With a major election upon us this might be a good time to really look back at how the elected officials from your district voted on matters that affect the rights and freedoms of motorcycle riders everywhere. No it is not just about helmet laws and the loud pipe debate. You could fill page after page on just those two alone. The issue is even bigger. We have laws and acts that make it harder to manufacture motorcycles, which seems wrong since motorcycles are more fuel efficient then cars. *SIDENOTE* Where's the HD Servi-car? Seems it makes more then just "cents" to have it brought back, of course using the latest technology. Now I do know that HD "had" some plans, a couple of years ago, to have a 3 wheeler built in collaboration with Lehman Trikes. Not sure where that's at now.

Well back to the election and how your officials voted. A great place to start is with A.B.A.T.E. The Illinois A.B.A.T.E. put out a voters guide grading elected officials, those that replied to a questionnaire, on how they voted on issues affecting motorcycle issues. I'm sure you can get that kind of information from A.B.A.T.E. of your state. Another way to find information is on the web site www.opencongress.org Yes it will take some time and effort, but what we allow to happen today will impact us now and the future. How many things will slip away before you stand up? Speaking of standing up, Tommy "One of Our Own" Thompson who did stand up and acted on his beliefs by running for President, has ended his campaign. I would like to thank Tommy for all his efforts in his ongoing campaign for motorcycle riders everywhere.

The freedoms and rights that we have and enjoy today were paid (freedom is not free) for by some guys a couple hundred years ago, you remember The Founding Fathers. We owe it to them to be able to say we have earned those rights and freedoms by protecting and keeping them as they were intended. Every vote means something, use yours.

Let's get back to warm thoughts of the coming season. Later this month starting Feb 29th, yes it's a leap year, is the 67th Daytona Bike Week. Closer to home on March 15th & 16th is the Chicago Supercycle Show being held at a new location in Schaumburg. Check out www.supercycleshow.com for more info. The Outpost (check the ad for the phone number) in Fulton, IL and The Iron Horse Social Club in Savanna, IL are hosting bus trips for the 15th. Check the FREE RIDERS PRESS calendar for more event listings.

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Custer Pit Stop Run May 27th. I wasn't able to attend the run but got a few pictures. Wiener and Judy would like to thank all that helped raise money for during their Poker Run for Hospice. Stop in and see them while out this summer. Located in the big town of Custer, WI



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