TOMMY'S FECHTIP

Greetings to all as we celebrate the birth Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. The New Year is upon us and it is this time of the year that we might be thinking about what we need for the next riding season. If you are like me, you can't always find just what you need at a shop or a store. Maybe the price is a factor, or your bike is older than a 1986 and you just can't find the parts you need. Swap meet season is in full bloom and they are an excellent source for all of those hard to find items. I know what you are thinking, leathers, feathers, knick knacks' and t-shirts ugh!

But wait, just at the next table, there is that narrow glide dual disc wheel you have been looking for! Take a look around at these swap meets, and you will find lots of interesting items and people. It's a good time to have some fun, check out the parts, meet some new friends and see some old ones. There is something for everyone to be found and usually at a great price.

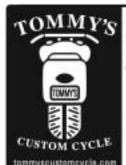
Here are a few ideas to help you get what you want.

For the best selection, come early. Bring along someone who knows what you need if you are not sure. Try to know what fits what and what years. Most H.D. parts have a part number with a number like 34221-79. The -79 means the part came out in 1979. Sometimes you will see a part with the year and a letter next to it like -79A, that means there was an update or revision to that part. I have seen the revisions as high as D or even higher. Having part numbers is helpful, if you are looking for a part like a FL inner primary, and yours is a 1985 then your part number would be 60661-84 which would fit a late 84 to 88 baggers. There are also early and late bikes commonly found in change over years such as 1984. So do your homework in advance so you can get the right parts and save some major headaches later.

Cash, American Dollars, is the currency, usually not plastic, you can always stop by the local ATM if you are running low. At the swap meet there are great deals everywhere. Get that new vest, front end, Evel Kneivel lunch box or a stock set of mufflers, in case you are hassled by the Man. You can have your jacket repaired, patches bought and sewn on. Sometimes there are great tattoo artists and a chance to see some awesome artwork. While there, meet with motorcycle rights organizations such as ABATE. The Christian Motorcyclists Association is always happy to see you, and spread the Word of the Lord. Meet and greet the good people from the Free Riders Press and grab a free paper! Why not go check it out. Every meet is different and new. Supporting these events not only helps you get a great deal, it also brings together friends old and new. It helps to stimulate the economy, helping all involved to make ends meet and put food on the table.

I will see you there!





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