

# News For Thought



## Gitmo For Bikers

Bikers going to jail in Queensland will now be sent to a "bikie-only prison" at the ultra-secure Woodford Correctional Centre as part of the Australian government's push against "bikies". The biker gang-only facility, which critics have compared with Guantánamo Bay, will form a core part of the Newman Govt's attempt to drive outlaw bikie gangs from Queensland.

Convicted outlaw motorcycle gang members will be kept in their cells for 23 hours a day at the centre, denied access to gym equipment, televisions and be subject to a more stringent regime of drug testing and searches. All calls unrelated to their legal representation will be monitored and their mail opened and censored while visitor contact will be restricted to one hour a week. Bikie members already in Queensland prisons will also be transferred to the new facility, which is aimed at denying them the ability to use prison time to recruit new members and widen their drug distribution networks says government sources.

Premier Campbell Newman told The Courier-Mail that the facility will be an integral part of sweeping legislation to be introduced and passed through State Parliament, adding that the new laws will also automatically ban bikies from accessing bail and hand greater investigative powers to the Crime and Misconduct Commission. In addition to mandatory enhanced prison sentences of up to 25 additional years for gang members, the government is also considering tougher penalties for crimes committed in prison, including weapon offenses, assaults and drug use, as well as stiffer penalties for prison staff caught colluding with gang members.

Civil libertarians and members of the legal fraternity have condemned the proposed bikie crackdown as unnecessary, ill-conceived and arrogant.

Thanks to Mike Davis of the NCOM Brothers Behind Bars (BBB) outreach for sharing this information.

## Motorcyclists Hope To Change New Illinois Poker Run Law

A new law meant to protect poker runs is creating frustration. House Bill 2520, the "Poker Run Act", was drawn up earlier this year because of concerns that poker runs were a type of illegal gambling.

The bill to legalize poker runs for charities and Not For Profit organizations was passed with overwhelming support and was signed into law in August, moving the fundraisers under the Illinois Charitable Games Act.

However, the regulations means charities and poker run stops all need to pay for a license. All locations involved are now required to pay a fee of \$50 a year. The non-profit behind the event must have a permit that costs \$200. Any funds raised will be taxed at 3%.

Motorcycle groups are now looking for a new solution. Poker runs bring out bikers and bring in big dollars for charity causes, but many fear the new law will put an end to many of the events.

The push for change came when the motorcycle advocacy group, ABATE of Illinois, wanted to protect poker runs, which some states are cracking down on as illegal gaming. According to WSIL TV (ABC), the Illinois Department of Revenue says lawmakers didn't ask for their help in drafting the legislation so now the agency is enforcing those taxes and fees, but they're also talking with bill sponsors about finding a new category for poker runs.

Representative Rich Brauer has already drawn up a bill that would put poker runs under the jurisdiction of the county where they're being held.

**Motorcycle Riders Depot, Inc.**

639 Grand Av. Schofield WI 54476  
715 359 0989

Full service department  
Custom builds & rebuilds

Performance—  
Dynojet  
Large showroom

## CDC Asked To Back Off Motorcycle Issues

Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI) has authored a letter to the Centers for Disease Control requesting that the CDC stop investigating motorcycling issues such as helmet laws.

"Given the demands on your budget and the unique ability

of the CDC to address such pressing issues as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's and a host of other conditions, and issues which afflict millions of Americans and others around the globe, we encourage you to direct your attention and resources to areas that are not currently already being addressed elsewhere in the government," wrote Petri in the letter he is requesting fellow members of Congress to co-sign.

With the government shutdown ending, now is the time to contact your Congressional Representatives and ask them to sign onto Rep. Petri's letter to the CDC.

## Positioning Plates To Permit License Plate Recognition

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) wants to change the angle of motorcycle license plates and has requested comments on a proposed amendment to a safety standard on "lamps, reflective devices and associated equipment to allow the license plate mounting surface on motorcycles to be at an angle of up to 30 degrees beyond vertical" (on horizontal installed plates).

According to the agency, the change would bring the U.S. rule more in line with European regulations, increase design flexibility without compromising safety or increasing costs, and allow license plate recognition technology used by law enforcement organizations to continue reading license plate characters.

## Three-Wheelers Exempted From Motorcycle Licensing & Helmet Laws

The Michigan legislature has approved a bill to change the state's motorcycle laws to allow Elio Motors to sell a three-wheeled car in the state without buyers being required to get a motorcycle endorsement.

The "Elio" (pronounced EE-lee-oh) is considered a "motorcycle" under federal and state safety regulations because it has three wheels and weighs less than 1,600 pounds. Nonetheless, it handles like a car according to inventor Paul Elio, who says Michigan's old law would have required buyers of the Elio to take a motorcycle safety test that teaches things like, "the throttle is on the right handlebar" and you should "lean into a curve."

The company is banking on other states with similar laws to have them modified by the time Elio Motors plans to start production of the Elio in late 2014, but their main concern is the five states that require drivers of three-wheeled vehicles to wear a helmet.

Joel Sheltrown of Elio Motors says those laws must be changed by the time the Elio is for sale, because wearing a helmet in a car obscures the person's vision and hearing, and the weight of the helmet also has the potential to cause severe neck damage in an accident.

Such laws could also hinder sales of the three-wheeler, which will be manufactured in Shreveport, Louisiana, where the state recently amended their laws to allow Elio occupants to ride without a helmet and operators won't have to get a special "M" endorsement on their driver's license as required of motorcyclists.

## Global Tire Market Projected To Grow, Driven By Motorcycles

The worldwide market for tires is projected to grow at a 5% annual rate for the period 2014-2015, and motorcycles will be a key driver.

According to an industry report, the increasing demand for motorcycles positively influences the demand for tires and hence leads to the growth of the Global Tire market. The demand for motorcycles comes from developing and under-developed countries where the penetration rate of cars is low.

Also, it is expected that the adoption of tubeless tires in the Global Motorcycle market will increase and will have a positive impact on the Global Tire market.

**4 STOOLS SHORT**  
180 2nd St. North Wisconsin Rapids  
Hours: 8am - 2am Every Day  
(Happy Hour M-F 8am-6pm)  
Food Served All Day  
(Sandwiches, Pizzas & Nachos)  
Also Available:  
Free WI Fl, Bag Games and Beer Pong  
Darts and Pool

**HANCOCK HOTEL BAR**  
113 S. Main Street  
Hancock, Wisconsin 54943  
Owners: Terry & Dick Werner  
Phone: 715-249-DICK (3425)  
\$.25 off for members of ABATE,  
HOG and all veterans  
Veterans always welcome

**Island City Inn**  
Your Host In The Beautiful Northwoods  
715-356-3090  
7528 Highway 51 south  
Minocqua, WI  
54548