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**July 29-** (MN) Hog Feed - The Annual Pre Sturgis Party at the Joint. 913 Cedar Ave, Mpls. Starts at Noon

**July 29-** (WI) 8th Annual Save-A-Pet Charity Poker Run sponsored by Jerseypine Cruisers. Reg: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Pet Supplies Plus, 1206 W. Dundee Rd., Buffalo Grove, IL (NW corner of Dundee & Arlington Heights Rds.) For more info call Betty 708-366-3822 or Bill 815-728-1159

**Aug 3-5th-** (WI) 10th Annual Can't Afford Sturgis Bash at Heiding Acres Campground 7827 Hwy 54E Wis. Rapids for more info 715-323-1633

**Aug 11-** (WI) The 4th Annual "Rog Run" in Stevens Point Reg: at Joe's Bar 11-noon

**Aug 10-12th-** (WI) Chopperfest 2007 at Butternut Park Butternut, WI This is a major family event. Games, innertubing, wrestling, camping, vendors etc. for more fp1.centurytel.net/chopperfest07 or call Bryan at 715-266-3217

**Aug 18&19th-** (MN & WI) MS River Road Run from the Twin Cities to La Crosse, WI for more info www.msriverroadrun.com or call 1-800-FIGHT-MS

**Aug 25 & 26th-** (WI) DaGrove Harley Shootout Rally at Great Lakes Drag-a-way in Union Grove, WI Sat 8-11pm Sun 8-9pm for more info www.harleyshootout.com

**Sept 12-16th-** (WI) Tomahawk Fall Ride in Tomahawk. Bubba's Big Party at Nokomis Town Park on Hwy L. for more info www.tomahawkfallride.com

\*\*\* (WI) Tuesday Night Fun Bike Rides throughout the summer months (except July 3rd). Call Black & Chrome in Wausau, WI for more details 715-355-3720

\*\*\* (WI) Live music at Pik's Pub in Tomahawk, WI every Friday for info 715-453-8966

\*\*\* (WI) H.L.M.C Fox Valley Set Night 1st Sat. Every month for info 920-722-6518

**You got an event? A benefit? Or just something you want to let everybody else know about, let us know. E-mail your event to preacher@freeriderspress.us. Many more**

**events listed at www.freeriderspress.us**

**For more Minnesota events www.minnesotasoriginal.com**

**\*\*\*Due to space limitations, only advertised events are guaranteed to be published in Calender\*\*\***

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**The smells, sights and sounds of the biker lifestyle.**

When I ride, I have a tendency of checking out my surroundings, all of my surroundings. Do you ever feel like your actually part of your environment when your driving in your car? I know I don't. But when I'm riding, my surrounding and I are one. I feel on top of the world. Free and oblivious to the hectic pace of today's society. The feeling of having no place to go, or timetable to keep. This is what riding is for me. This is my reality/ fantasy combination that I live another day to see.

When I ride I take in all that's around me, like the smell of a swamp on a warm afternoon. The musty odor that seems to let me be able to see the animals that inhabit the area. A chipmunk running across the fallen log. The smell of that same log rotting away saying softly that time has left me behind. The smell of the murky, dark, stagnant water, were a fish lay dead on the shoreline. A slight haze covering the hidden natural treasures that lay beneath it. A whole new world striving to live and co-exist with the other creatures around it.

The smell after a freshly fallen rain. The air is filled with a new, clean, recharged air. Air that you may be able to smell while driving in your car, but the crispness is lost.

I was riding the other day. A warm, sun shining day that had a slight breeze. All of the sudden a smell of freshly cut hay in the adjacent field filled the air. I pictured a mother taking care of her children in the 1800's. She's hanging laundry while the children play tag by a slow running stream. Did I see that, obviously not, but the relaxation that riding can bring has no rival.

Then there are the sights of the great open road. The wildlife that you may take for granted in your busy everyday life. The mouse that scoots across the road in front of you. The sight of riding down a country road and seeing a Black Bear standing on it's hind legs just watching you as you are watching him. The power you can see in an eagle wings when he's flying right next to you and your bike. The smoothness of every flap of his wings giving him the grace needed to get where he's going. The freedom he knows can only be felt in the open like you know while in the saddle. And being from the upper mid-west we can't forget our white-tailed friends that seems to be watching us from every roadside. The glow of their eyes at night, sometimes being so many in number the roadside is lit up with tiny candles. And at times the deer almost seem like they're looking for that break in traffic he needs to get to the other side of the road. Unfortunately sometimes he tries this at

the wrong times for the rider and cagers, but then again nothing relaxing in life comes without a cost. And then comes the little kid driving in the car next to you, waving, pointing and smiling. Need I say more!

And lastly comes the sounds of nature that one might hear when not riding. The sounds of that june bugs hitting the lexan windshield, sounding like someone threw a marble at it. A rock hitting the headlight with a sharp pop cracking the lense, or maybe even the sound of water coming up from the cars that pass by you going the opposite direction of you. The massive flag blowing in the wind with a crack of the fabric while the metal clips clank against the steel pole. Or maybe the train that's running along side of you, with it's wheels hitting and grinding the rails while gliding along.

Everyone has their own reasons for being in the wind, but this is a short example of why I choose to make this style the biker lifestyle, my lifestyle.