

News For Thought



Carburetor Tuners Banned

Effective July 1, 2006, the sale of mercury carburetor tuners and the replacement mercury for them will be banned in the states of California and Maine. It's already banned in Connecticut and Rhode Island and then next year in New York and Vermont. These tuners (Carb Stix, Motion Pro, etc.) are usually four long glass or plastic tubes that are attached to a vacuum spigot on each carb of a four cylinder bike. Vacuum sucks the mercury up the tube and the four carbs are balanced so that each has the mercury going up to the same level. This has been how ya' do it on multi-carb bike for years. My boss Sam Hochberg will tellya; he used to ride a KZ-650 back in the 80's, and it ran with four carbs. Because the mercury is toxic it will now be banned. There's gotta be SOMETHING to replace those suckers! Meanwhile, don't break yer carb-stick; soon ya can't get a new one! www.aimncom.com/mc_news

Dr. Phil, Motorcycle Safety Advocate

Motorcycling fans have found a new friend in the mass media: Dr. Phil McGraw of the popular Dr. Phil television show. And thanks to Helmet House and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, millions of viewers on Tuesday, April 18 tuned in as the good doctor helped a young Marine from Bay St. Louis, Miss., discover the right way to ride a motorcycle.

The producers of the Ask Dr. Phil and Robin segment needed our help with some riding apparel, said Richard Kimes, national marketing manager for Helmet House. They were filming a segment about a Marine, George Goetz, who had just returned home after a tour of duty in Iraq. Anxious to experience the thrill of motorcycling, he decided to spend some of his savings on a sport bike. Goetz began riding without any training or a motorcycle license. And, although he had a helmet, he lacked any other protective riding apparel. His mother was so concerned that she hid his keys. That's when Dr. Phil got involved, said Kimes. With Dr. Phil as the referee, the story unfolded in front of a national audience.

Dr. Phil is an avid motorcyclist who frequently rode a dirt bike in the past, said Kimes, who attended the taping of the show. Dr. Phil brokered a deal between Goetz and his mother: if the young man would take training, get licensed and wear the proper gear, his mom would return his motorcycle keys.

Dr. Phil then introduced Rob Gladden from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, who presented Goetz with a new set of safety gear and explained that the MSF had arranged a special Basic Rider Course for Goetz and 11 of his buddies.

A young hero and his mother got a helping hand from Dr. Phil. It's just another example of how motorcyclists really do help one another. www.aimncom.com/mc_news

Women "Empty Nesters" on Bikes!

So says the AARP. Field Reporter for The Sack, my editor Sam Hochberg, who's also the Oregon AIM Attorney, is a fellow old-guy – well, he's got some catching up to do with your Gunny – but he saw a short biker-news article in, of all places, the AARP Newsletter! Yeah, that's a group for seniors, but seniors aren't what they useta be when WE were kids! This article talks about something Sam says most of us who actually RIDE already know: There are a helluva LOT MORE women on bikes these days; more and more who are in all-female riding groups. The manufacturers are responding with more ergonomic bikes, and products aimed at women riders. In particular, these associations and clubs are gettin' a lot of "empty nesters," the AARP says, whose kids have grown and left home. DUH! How many women do YOU know with two or three little babies and maybe another job too, who still have the TIME to ride? www.aimncom.com/mc_news

ARMED FORCES MC
WISCONSIN CHAPTER

2nd ANNUAL POKER RUN TO HELL
AND
MOTORCYCLE RODEO

\$15.00 Donation per person
July 22nd 2006
Registration Noon - 1:00 pm

COLD SHOT
633 W Wisconsin Ave Appleton

Last Card Drawn at 5:00pm
OUTERLIMITS STILL
N1994 Maloney Rd Town of Vandebroek



FREE OVERNIGHT CAMPING
Live Music / Ink Slinger / Vendors / Prizes / Food
Contact Koa 920 205-2222 for more information

Slow Walking Ticket

Mayvis Coyle, 82, believes she's not getting a fair shake from the Los Angeles Police Department. She says she was shuffling with her cane across busy Foothill Boulevard in Sunland on Feb. 15, carrying groceries, while a traffic police officer watched and waited. Even before Coyle finished crossing the intersection at Woodward Avenue, he had scribbled a \$114 ticket for crossing against a don't-walk signal, the Daily News reported.

"I entered the crosswalk, it was green," said Coyle, who is fighting the citation. "It turned red before I could get over. There he was, waiting, the motorcycle cop. He said, 'You're obstructing the flow of traffic.'" Hey now, this Gunny AND his boss Sam are gettin' into the senior category here, and I think we deserve a little more respect, along with ALL our senior citizens, don't you? www.aimncom.com/mc_news

Glowing Praise

Yamaha of Japan has developed a glow-in-the-dark film to coat motorcycles with, to make them more visible on highways at night. They've figured out this vacuum pressure process that sticks an even, thin layer of phosphorescent plastic film to irregularly shaped fenders, engine covers and cowlings. I like this idea a LOT more than Honda's air-bag system, available as an option on the '06 Gold Wings. Cage drivers might even see us and avoid running over us! Check it out at your local Yamaha dealer; they're using this stuff now on the EC-02 electric scooter. www.aimncom.com/mc_news

NAACP tracks Myrtle Beach biker rallies-Associated Press

The racial discrimination lawsuits involving the treatment of black bikers during motorcycle rallies here have been resolved, but the NAACP says it will continue monitoring the events, even setting up a hot line to take complaints. The civil rights group sued a hotel, restaurants and the city of Myrtle Beach. But the lawsuits were resolved before this year's predominantly white Harley-Davidson rally began today. A predominantly black biker rally, Atlantic Beach Bikefest, occurs over Memorial Day weekend.

The Myrtle Beach chapter president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the group's relationship with the city has improved since Mayor John Rhodes took office in January. "I would think that there's a sense of responsibility on the city to be working more with the NAACP than they would before," said Mickey James, a member of the Myrtle Beach chapter. The NAACP sued the city in 2003, claiming it discriminated against Bikefest participants by enforcing a one-way traffic pattern during that event but not during the Harley rally. City officials previously said the pattern was necessary because of the size of Bikefest crowds. But they settled with the NAACP in February, and the one-way traffic plan for part of Ocean Boulevard began Thursday.

New GPS navigation for Bikes:

Garmin, the well-known GPS manufacturer, has come up with one for motorcycles! It's called the "Street Pilot2820," and can be used hands off. Great idea for the rider who can't find his way home. You can even call home for directions if you buy the correct interface system. The thing has hotels, restaurants, stores (so momma can shop) and many other neat features. Don't have pricing, but this critter can't be cheap. www.aimncom.com/mc_news

Wisconsin Enacts Roadway Users Responsibility Act

The Roadway Users Responsibility Act contains numerous pro-motorcycle provisions and represents a huge victory for Wisconsin bikers.

Senator Dave Zien, longtime motorcycle rights activist and member of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists Legislative Task Force, was one of the chief authors and sponsors of the legislation. Among its provisions, AB 964 / S 528 increases penalties for motorists who cause injury or the death of other roadway users. If the victim of the crash is a motorcyclist, bicyclist or pedestrian, the violator must attend an Awareness Class to learn how to Share the Road.

Also under the measure, all Driver Education classes will be required to include Share the Road with Motorcycles portion. In another section, a paperwork reduction portion will allow a Motorcycle Rider Education graduate to bypass the Learners Permit requirement prior to obtaining their motorcycle endorsement.

Lastly, the bill will allow a motorcycle, moped or bicycle to proceed through a red vehicle actuated traffic signal that does not recognize their vehicle when the path is clear and after waiting 45 seconds. www.aimncom.com/mc_news