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Biker's Perspective – Femalian Viewpoint

Been riding for...seems like 100 years. I clearly remember the day I was apprehensive getting on a motorcycle. I remember that feeling very well. Very well because that day was today, and every day I ride!

Over the years I've heard riders say to non-riders, when attempting to explain the thrill of riding, "Been ridin' for years! It's great, not scary!" Well, maybe they don't feel apprehensive (or don't admit it), but I do! I've made too many visits to hospitals and homes of downed fellow bikers, and attended too many wakes over the years, not to recognize the chance I'm taking every time I ride off.

I have a realistic fear of the what-ifs. Checking every cross side street as I approach them, thinking what-if that car doesn't see me? Or what-if they don't stop at the stop sign? What-if, at the intersection, that turning car ahead doesn't see me? What-if they intentionally turn in front of me, thinking I'm farther away than I am? What-if, on a blind curve, an approaching car crosses over into my lane? And finally, what-if that cell phone idiot, next to me, decides to cut into my lane not looking for me or anyone else. Sound paranoid?

Take a moment and think back to just about any accident you (me), or someone you know, had. It usually goes something like this..."I didn't think they would..." or "I thought they'd..." or "didn't see them coming, turning"...what-ever. How many times have we said "Boy, that time I was damn lucky!" Even when we're careful, Shit Happens!

We all realize that no matter how careful we may be, we still take a chance every time we ride off. I don't ride terrified, those who do are a danger to themselves and others, but I do ride very cautiously. Life would certainly be monotonous without taking some chances and for me, riding is certainly worth taking that chance. I'm careful and think of the what-ifs, nevertheless I fully realize riding will always remain, as my tank humbly states, a "Momentary Lapse of Reason".

Hopefully, feeling a bit apprehensive and thinking of the what-ifs will keep our butts safe, enable us to share great memories, and ride on to create countless more!

Jynx



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stillwater, MN- June 10-11, 2006, St. Croix Harley-Davidson will host the 3rd Annual Ride for Their Lives-Poker Run for Paws. The ride will depart on June 10th at 11AM from St. Croix Harley in River Falls at 883 Highway 65. Bikers will enjoy a scenic ride thru beautiful Western Wisconsin and stop at participating bars along the way to get their cards stamped and to register to win free prizes.

On June 11, riders will enjoy a complimentary lunch catered by Muddy Paws Cheesecake of Minneapolis and an open house at Home for Life Sanctuary, 375 Highway 65 North, Star Prairie, WI. Riders will draw cards at the open house: a stamp from each stop gains a card for the participant's poker hand. Make a donation at the open house and gain an extra card! The best hand will win a free trip plus airfare for two to the Amelia Island Resort and Plantation on Amelia Island, Florida. This event and ride are free. Donations will be gratefully accepted and are tax deductible.

Donations will be accepted before the ride departs on June 10 from St. Croix Harley, River Falls, at all participating bars and at the open house on June 11. Home for Life is a nationally recognized care for life sanctuary for special needs animals: those animals who are disabled, elderly or who have medical or behavior conditions that make them difficult or impossible to adopt out. Animals facing euthanasia come to Home for Life from all over the United States and Canada to live out their lives in the peaceful rural setting of the sanctuary. The animals are referred to Home for Life from other shelters and rescue groups, veterinarians and private parties. In addition Home for Life offers an array of community outreach programs which touch people of all ages with the sanctuary's message of empathy for all living things and are designed to combat the root causes of animal neglect, cruelty and abandonment. For more information on Home for Life, visit our web site: www.homeforlife.org.

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