

**Choosing the Ride, Choosing the Way**

When I first started riding back in the early fifties, I rode a J.C. Higgins, and then an AMF Roadmaster after "Higgy" was wrecked. There was a space of time when I rode a '57 Chevy, a '59 Olds 88, a '58 Rambler Station wagon, and a 1960 Chevy Stepside, since most of the girls weren't allowed to ride motorcycles. Through the years, I have driven foreign and "domestic" cars and ridden "rice burners" and American made motorcycles. It used to be a pretty strong preference that determined what we rode, but nowadays, it's more about what we can afford and what's available.

"Ol' Blue" is starting out the season this year sitting in the garage, waiting for our ship to come in so we can do some motor work. When we get the finances together, it may be that we have to wait for another ship to come in, bringing us necessary parts from afar, even though Blue is American made through and through. We know that a certain amount must be spent on labor to get Blue up and running, but we aren't sure how much more will go into needed parts. Bottom line, it probably won't cost as much as it will cost to keep us gassed up for the rest of the season at \$20 a tank full. Yet, I will be thankful for double the fuel mileage.

The financial crisis which threatens all of us has caused us to question our means of transportation recently. For many years, a shortage of oil loomed as a reason to explore alternate forms of conveyance. Recent discoveries have shattered the shortage myth, but global warming – er – climate change – has taken over the top spot. It is high time to retire the internal combustion engine for a more efficient means of powering ourselves up and down the road, say the experts. We are now waiting for the new technologies to be fitted to motorcycles – or, "non-motor"cycles, so we can ride on the newest fads to hit the highways and byways. Here are some sneak previews.

**"The Yamawindacycle."** It has a huge propeller mounted on the handlebars – not designed to pull the cycle through the air, but to generate electricity which powers small motors attached to each wheel, as the cycle rolls down the road. There is some doubt as to how to get it started, keep it going, and how big a prop is needed, but results are favorable on long, steeply downhill roads where fairly moderate speeds are possible.

**"The Total Suzolution."** A sufficient battery of batteries should store enough energy for short runs at moderate speeds, being recharged between runs with normal household current. Of course, the more batteries available, the longer the range and higher the speed. To handle the increased weight, it is suggested that one extra wheel be added to each axle – also called a "car." For a longer, more speedy trip, you may need a really long extension cord.

**"The Hydrohonda."** Tests are ongoing toward the development of an engine powered by hydrogen, with the added benefit of producing water as a byproduct. If a gathering system can be perfected, the waste from this engine can be sold to thirsty consumers for \$1.50 per liter. This idea seems to be related to the practice of freeze-drying water. It is virtually weightless to carry around, and all you do when you need a drink is add H2O. Early attempts at development of this cycle have bombed.

**"The RetroVictor."** This is nothing more than retrofitting a motorcycle with a steam engine. Insulating body armor, especially on the lower extremities, is highly recommended, and it adds to the look and lore of this retro beauty. Admittedly, the resulting look is ultra-cool, but luggage capacity is compromised because of the need for coal or wood storage. As we speak, plans for future development are on track.

**"The Cold Fusion Beemer."** Atomic power has not been left in the dust, with development of this fairly safe fusion machine. Visibility is no longer a safety issue, since this bike glows in the dark. How sweet is that? The weaponized version, built for military applications is guaranteed to blow the opposition away. The biggest obstacle here is in marketing a motorcycle that most folks think is either a Ford, or a fruit smoothie.

My favorite "new" cycle, ready and waiting at your local store?

**"The PP Cycle."** Get those legs in shape, and get back to the basics of Pedal-Power. That good ol' "Harley" sound comes from playing cards clothes-pinned on the tins, engaging the spokes. Frankly, it's about all I can afford these days.

Our world is overflowing with new technologies, and I have no doubt that we will someday have some of these options available. The sad thing is that what we now enjoy may no longer be an option. Enjoy it while you can. This "light-hearted" look at the issue is intended to draw a spiritual parallel for us that is anything but amusing. The world offers us many choices when it comes to spiritual things. God, our Creator, offers us only One Way to find meaning and purpose in this life and the life to come. Jesus Christ said that he came into the world to give his life as a ransom for us who were enslaved by sin and Satan. Jesus came to give us eternal life in heaven with him. If we turn from our sin and turn to him in faith, he will save us. This is not one of many ways to God, it is the only option we have available to us. Will you turn to Him, and trust Him today?

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