

News For Thought



Texas Poker Runs may move to Mexico:

Texas has said no to charity poker runs, but at least one El Paso charity has an ace up their sleeve: Juárez. Members of the Vista Hills Rotary Club, who had been trying to spice up their fund-raising with poker for years but couldn't find a legal way to do it in El Paso, came up with the idea of having a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament in Juárez, to be hosted by its sister club in Juárez, the Club Rotario Juárez Norte.

In Austin, Sputnik, state chairman of the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association, which organizes charity poker runs, found the idea brilliant. "Oh, yeah, that would work," he said.

Charities around the country including churches, have been cashing in on the Texas Hold 'Em craze without much controversy. But in Texas it's a little trickier since Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott issued an opinion in December stating that poker runs -- the popular fund-raisers in which bikers pay to pick up playing cards along a route to win prizes at the final stop -- amounted to illegal gambling.

Sputnik, who also serves on the NCOM Board of Directors and Legislative Task Force, said he is looking for "a way around" the attorney general's opinion. He has brought up the idea of switching from poker to throwing darts, which is considered to be a game of skill. In El Paso, Mando Parra, a member of the Bandidos Motorcycle

Club and the chairman of the West Texas Confederation of Clubs, is looking to take his poker ride for cancer research to New Mexico, where gambling is legal. In that case, the fund-raiser would have to benefit a New Mexico charity, he said. "The El Paso charities are the ones that are going to lose," said Parra. www.aimncom.com

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May We see your plates please?

Britain is to become the first country in the world where the movements of all vehicles on the roads are recorded. A new national surveillance system will hold the records for at least two years. The network will incorporate thousands of existing CCTV cameras which are being converted to read number plates automatically night and day to provide 24/7 coverage of all motorways and main roads, as well as towns, cities, ports and even gas stations. By next March, a central database installed alongside the Police National Computer in Hendon, north London, will store the details of 35 million number-plate "reads" per day. These will include time, date and precise location. There are plans to expand this surveillance to five-year storage. The next thing we know the authorities will be watching what we do in our powder rooms. Remember folks, that which happens in Europe crosses the pond very shortly. When it hits this country we will be in a POLICE state. Helmet laws won't mean a damn thing then. AIMGunny@aol.com

Myrtle Beach settles NAACP biker suit

Associated Press

The city agreed Thursday to settle a federal lawsuit with the NAACP after the civil rights group claimed black bikers were discriminated against during a motorcycle rally each spring. The group sued almost three years ago claiming that black bikers attending the Atlantic Beach Bikefest on Memorial Day weekend were treated differently than bikers at a predominantly white Harley-Davidson rally the previous week. Police required traffic to move in only one direction during the black rally while the white bikers could cruise both ways down the city's shoreline Ocean Boulevard. Under the settlement, which still must be approved by a federal judge, the city agreed to require one-way traffic along the boulevard between 2 p.m. and midnight during the three main evenings of both rallies. The city will pay no damages and each side will pay its own legal fees.

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Oklahoma Veterans needed for Motorcycle Plates

Veterans can now apply for special motorcycle license tags in Oklahoma. The proposal was signed into law Nov. 1, but according to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, which manages special license plate production, a minimum of 100 pre-applications are required by May 1st or the OTC won't put them into production. The proposal, which was part of the law signed by the Governor, states "anyone honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Military" is eligible to apply for these motorcycle tags, and the proceeds will go to help fund the 45th Infantry Division Museum, one of the finest Military Museums in the country, which has had its operating budget cut in half by the state. "Here's some cool information," says Tiger Mike Revere, State Coordinator of ABATE of Oklahoma and member of the NCOM Board of Directors, "The law actually mentions ABATE of Oklahoma in the verbiage!" The OTC has contacted ABATE to design the new veteran's license plate. www.aimncom.com

England Swung

Even the English property tax people are getting in on the game of spying on the public. Now we are hearing of the use of SATELLITES to check on home improvements. If they see your new garage or garden shed in these pics taken from space, they'll just jack up your property taxes! This is fundamentally slimy, folks, and to my mind, a horrible invasion of privacy. What they are doing in England is an abomination. This stuff comes across the ocean faster than scat. AIMGunny@aol.com

Honda Motorcycle Co.

The new Goldwing has AIR-BAGS available on the 2006 models later this spring. Lots of people say the idea of an airbag on a bike is just downright NUTS! The new 'Wings also have a GPS critter available that will take you wherever you want to go, maybe even to the mother-in-law's. I understand it really works well. Also along with some minor design changes to the front end, the '06 Goldwing has a new sound system with 6, count 'em, SIX speakers, plus a six-disk CD changer, and even a plug for your I-Pod. AIMGunny@aol.com

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