

QCA

With the last storm still evident, yet another storm is headed to the QCA. All the snow, ice and COLD has gotten many of the people I chatted with, while OUT N ABOUT talking about this coming season. Some of the talk is about when they will get their bike out on the road or how they miss riding and can't wait for the "season" to start. But it seems that the most talk is about the coming events in the area. Now maybe because it is coming up this month on the 15th & 16th or that it will be held at a new location in the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center (with free parking). No matter the reason people are looking forward to the 24th Chicago Supercycle Show. I'm going to be there and not just because of my involvement with the Iron Horse Bike & Music Festival and its sponsorship of this years live music, The Ron LaPuma band. I'm looking forward to meeting builders Dave Cook, Jerry Burrow, Dave Dupor along with 7 time AMA Grand National Flat Track Champion Chris Carr, the man who piloted the BUB Lucky 7 Streamliner to a new world land speed record of 350.88 MPH. Check the web site www.supercycleshow.com for all the show details. I know the Iron Horse Social Club in Savanna, IL has a few spots left for its bus trip to the Supercycle Show, not sure as to where The Outpost's in Fulton, IL seat count is. If you want to drive yourself I do have tickets for sale.

Speaking of OUT N ABOUT. I was at the Iron Filly in Thomson IL and Donna would like anyone doing poker runs looking for a new stop to give her a call. Also in Sabula, IA, home of the Iron Horse Bike & Music Festival, the Homeport Bar has new owners and a new name Driftwoods. They are planning to bring back food and provide fuel for boaters. In Davenport, IA I found J J Motorsports, now while they deal more in dirt bikes and quads they do have a few bikes on sale. But what caught my eye was the Hover Scooter they have for sale. It skims over hard surfaces and you "ride" it standing up while hitting speeds of 20 MPH. Yes I know it is no where near the current record, but still 20 mph while standing up.

I had the pleasure of chatting with Kim aka Parts Girl during her Davenport swap meet. The weather really hammered this year's show. Many vendors got snowed in and couldn't get there and the storm kept many of the locals home. I found out that she, much like Dickie of the Supercycle show, had gotten the show from John Parham of J&P. While going around the show I ran into Charlie of Charlie's Ride Free. Some of you might remember when it was on Ave of the Cities in Moline, IL well the new location has opened on Rt. 84 in Colona, IL. Another friend of mine Lloyd Robbins was there with his Iron Hearse Destinations. He is building a hearse that will be towed behind a trike and will be offering services to the area. I first met Lloyd when I was operating the Drag-N-Challenge a few years ago. I plan to be at the Cedar Rapids, IA show March 2nd in. Hope to see you there.

When I stopped at Hollywood Dave's in East Moline, IL to make a drop and talk some more with the man himself Hollywood Dave, I met "Mohawk" from Savage Iron Motorcycle. Mohawk does some very cool things and he promised to have me come by and check them out. Another hello to all those I saw during the Rod & Custom Auto, Motorcycle & Product Show in Rock Island this past January.

As I am working on expanding my coverage area I stopped in at Kalmes a small roadside gas station-bar-restaurant-food store in St Donatus, which just north of the half way point between Sabula and Dubuque on Hwy 52. They have an awesome burger which is no surprise as they have had over a century of family ownership to make it great.

Until next time, Ride Safe

Gery Schemel- gery@gmaxpro.com

Increased global demand for motorcycles forecast

Global demand for motorcycles is projected to exceed 59 million unites in 2011. According to a new study from The Freedonia Group, Inc., a Cleveland-based industry market research firm, the demand for motorcycles is forecast to advance 6.0 percent annually to 59 million units in 2011, representing \$49 billion in manufacturers' sales.

"This growth emanates from a mix of developed market incremental improvements and emerging market expansions," quoted the independent report released February 7th. "Demand for all categories of motorcycles is expected to remain healthy, despite the plateauing of growth in key markets such as China, which is rapidly transitioning away from motorcycles and toward cars for its transportation needs."

These and other trends, including market share and company profiles, are presented in "World Motorcycles", a market research study conducted by The Feedonia Group, an unbiased international business analyst with Fortune 500 clientele. The most rapid growth will occur in developing markets, where rising income levels and the introduction of higher quality machines featuring the latest technologies will fuel demand.

"This growth will be tempered in part by the increasing number of restrictions or outright bans on motorcycle use in urban areas in Asia," according to their research. "In developed markets, fuel prices and increasing restrictions on car use in some regions such as Western Europe are stoking interest in the exceptional fuel economy and cost effectiveness motorcycles offer. While the market for large and expensive high displacement motorcycles will also remain moderately strong, concerns regarding future demand have emerged due to the aging of the customer base, especially in the United States and Western Europe."

Two separate motorcycle markets exist, as broken down in the report. The first centers on the industrialized Triad (the US, Japan and Western Europe), where motorcycles are seen as pleasure vehicles. The other, much larger market in unit terms exists in the emerging economies of Asia, Latin America and the Africa/Mideast region, where motorcycles are seen as primary family and work vehicles. "While Asia is dominant in terms of unit volume, most key players derive far higher revenues per unit from sales in developed markets such as North America," says the study. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

Vision Zero

An international conference has been convened to investigate methods of eliminating all risk on the roads, and the possibility of eliminating motorcycles as well. Government transport advisors from across the European Union gathered in Brussels for the three-day conference beginning February 12th, called: "Safe Highways of the Future... exploring technologies and changes required to enable zero deaths on Europe's roads to become a reality."

Presenters included Swedish transport advisor Claes Tingvall who devised the "Vision Zero" transportation policy. Vision Zero aims to eliminate all deaths on the roads through technology, and Tingvall famously said on TV: "There is no room for motorcycles in Vision Zero."

Rune Elvik, a Norwegian transport advisor, recently said a debate was needed on whether motorcycles should be allowed on the roads in order for Vision Zero to progress. Topics of the conference included "Safer Vehicles By Design". www.ON-A-BIKE.com

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Attn: Free Rider Press Patriots:

Please let me know about these Biker musicians & their music. Their Biker songs will be part of my display at the Sturgis & Iowa Motorcycle Museum.

___Mike Jones___ "Yesterday 1903"

___?___ "Dancing on the Floorboards"

___?___ "Kickstart to your Heart"

Please let me know about other home grown/Biker Music
Dave Zien, 1716 63rd St. Eau Claire WI, 54701

Blue Dog's Nation.
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*"Praise the snowplows and let'em Raise gas prices Merle!
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*"Keep Your Heats Down!" Homestead: www.admattersinc.com
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