

sigh Is it spring yet? I write this as the large flakes of that white stuff are piling up outside!

I have always joked about sitting on the bike, out in the garage, heat turned up and a fan blowing on me - trying to get the 'feel' of being out on the road. Can't say I have ever gotten to that point. Yet! Seems like the older I get, the longer winters seem to be.

I wonder how other bikers spend the winter months! I know a few who pull their bike in the house and 'tinker'. Some pull the bike in the house with that as the premise, but in reality nothing gets done. I must admit, just having the bike within easy view, as well as access, should the urge arise to simply sit on it for a while, is a plus!

There are those who take this "opportunity" (looking at the glass half-full here) to do a complete tear-down. New paint perhaps! Heads milled? Maybe some new chrome! Lots of spit and polish! Who knew dirt could get in THERE? And getting chrome polish out of the nooks and crannies of those eagles is a bit of a bi***, but well worth it when she shines like a new penny.

How about pouring over parts catalogs and bike magazines? Picking things out that we will order, dreaming of stuff financially out of our reach and chuckling at the choices of some. Accessories, for the bike as well as the rider! New fangled gizmos and the latest technology as well as things that are just for fun or decoration.

Do you seek out swap meets and gatherings? Trying to get your "fix" of that comraderie? We tend to see less of our ride buds during these winter months - sad but true.

How about reliving some rides by reading a back issue or two of FRP? Reminders of places you've been or want to go.

Some research a ride route, plan a road trip and make the necessary arrangements. I would guess this takes the edge off of the cabin fever a bit as well as gives you something to look forward to.

And of course there are those who simply cover the ol' girl up in the garage and wait out these cold winter months as best they can.

However you deal with these blustery days, whatever you choose to do to pass the time, at least you can rest assured of one thing for sure, you are not alone. Far from it!



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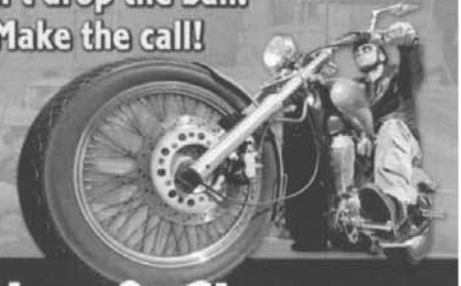
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FROM THE DESK OF JOE WEIGEL:

Hoping to get down to Daytona for bike week this year. I think we have made it to Sturgis every year for the pst 20 years; but only get to Daytona now and then. To me, Sturgis and the Black Hills are some of the most fantastic riding in the country. Florida is a nice warm weather ride during the Wisconsin cold; but cannot compare to the Black Hills. We will let you know if we make it.

THE INDEPENDENT SHOP ASSOCIATION