

# News For Thought



## WIERD NEWS: "DEAD" BIKER RETURNS HOME AFTER TWO YEARS

An Australian man mistakenly certified as dead following a horrific motorcycle accident two years ago was reunited with his family last week after a social worker helped to identify him.

Samy Pillai, 50, was believed to have been killed in a hit-and-run accident in June 2005, after his wrecked motorcycle was found along the same stretch of road as a body mangled beyond recognition, the Star newspaper says.

But he was found to be alive, although speechless and partially paralyzed by the accident, after a social worker encountered him hobbling around on crutches almost 200 miles from his home and took him to authorities, who identified him from his thumbprints. Mr Pillai's wife confirmed the man was her husband, but how he spent his years away from home remains a mystery. The couple have nine children, the newspaper reported.

"I am glad Samy Pillai has been reunited with his family who had all this while thought the unidentified body had been his," the newspaper quoted Andrew Raju, the social worker, as saying. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com).

that "The policy covers just under 5,000 Johnson Controls UK-based employees either working in the UK or Europe, in the building efficiency business."

She said employees were free to ride bikes in their own time, including to and from work, but claimed the policy was "for the protection of our people". Johnson Controls employs 136,000 people worldwide.

An anonymous employee who made the policy public said; "If all the blue chip companies start to do this then motorcycling is no longer an alternative form of transport." /[www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

## 1st Annual East Coast Helmet Law Protest

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When: Last Sunday of Myrtle Beach Bike Week May 20, 2007

Location: South of the Border, I-95 and US 301/501 Dillon, SC

On your way back from Myrtle Beach Bike Week, enjoy a freedom ride in protest of mandatory motorcycle helmet laws!

Of course, you MAY wear a helmet if you so desire! This is about the right of riders to decide. This ride is not organized, sponsored, or supported by anyone except other bikers. PLEASE - It is absolutely crucial that you ride sober, responsibly, and safely. Begin lining up at 10:00am. Ride briefing at 10:45am. Kickstands up at 11:00am.

Be advised that there are mandatory helmet laws in most of the states north of South Carolina, and there is a high likelihood of being pulled over and ticketed. If you are ticketed, it is up to you to decide whether to help the states by paying the fines, or become a freedom fighter by arguing it in court.

Updates will be posted to

[http://bikersmag.com/html/i-95\\_helmet\\_law\\_protest\\_ride.html](http://bikersmag.com/html/i-95_helmet_law_protest_ride.html)

## MULTINATIONAL FIRM BANS MOTORCYCLES

The Multinational firm Johnson Controls Ltd has banned the use of motorcycles "on company business," barring thousands of employees across Europe from riding motorcycles under threat of disciplinary action. A company spokeswoman said: "Motorcycles must not be used by employees on company business, " adding

## ROAD PRICING HEATS UP IN ENGLAND

Opposition to the Government road charging plans is growing throughout England, with an online petition against the pricing scheme has made national news after collecting over a half million signatures.

Road pricing would involve a huge infrastructure of a combination of beacons and gantries, or satellites, possibly even all three, to monitor where your vehicle travels and charge you accordingly. The current fear is that road users will have to pay to have on-board "black box" sensors installed that are necessary for vehicles to be recognized and their owners charged.

Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) of the United Kingdom is totally opposed to the level of surveillance and control which the road charging plans represent, and questions the motives of the government in proposing it.

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MAG-UK points out that it may be no coincidence that the technology necessary to achieve the level of surveillance necessary to implement road charging, could also be used to achieve vehicle speed control to automate the enforcement of speed limits with a zero tolerance policy. /[www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

## MICHIGAN MUNICIPALITY RESCINDS MOTORCYCLE BAN

The Oak Park City Council has unanimously repealed an anti-motorcycle ordinance that prohibited motorcyclists from riding on residential streets between 10pm and 6am.

ABATE of Michigan became aware of this ordinance when one of its members, Oak Park resident David Dolinski, contacted the organization and complained about signs being posted advising of the ordinance. ABATE authorized its attorney, Lawrence S. Katkowsky of Bingham Farms, to look into the matter. Katkowsky, who also serves as the Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (AIM) Attorney for Michigan and is legal adviser to the Confederation of Clubs of Michigan, notified the City that the ordinance was illegal under Michigan law and asked that it be repealed before the 2007 riding season.

Apparently neither the council, the City Manager, nor the City Attorney were even aware that the ordinance was on the books and were not aware that it was being enforced. Following the council vote ABATE thanked the Mayor of Oak Park, Gerald E Naftaly and the other members of the City Council for their prompt action to remove this ordinance from their books. /[www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

**The Grand Marsh Area Development Corporation presents**

the  
15th Annual  
CABIN FEVER BREAKOUT  
MAY 12, 2007

Featuring music by:  
**"RAT SASS"**

Poker Run starts at the  
**WOODEN NICKEL**  
County Road E in Grand Marsh  
Registration 10:00 AM - Noon  
 Bike Blessing  
 Cards drawn until 6:00 PM  
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- Live Music ---
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for more info contact:  
Bruce 608 434-0796  
or Patty 608 369-2253

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