

News For Thought



Consumer Product Safety Commission – Lead issue

Recently the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced that off-road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles marketed to children ages 12 and under are now banned for sale in the United States. As you may already know the 110th Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Commission Improvement Act which set limits on the amount of lead that products marketed to Americans 12 years old and under may contain.

The MRF certainly agrees with the intent of the law which is to protect younger Americans from unknowingly being exposed to dangerous amounts of lead.

However, as with many things that come from Washington, this all out ban seems to be a case of unintended consequences. In order to correct this oversight legislation has been introduced. Congressman Denny Rehberg (R-MT) has introduced HR 1587 which would exempt the off-highway vehicles the CPSC has banned. The MRF does support HR 1587 and encourages its members to contact their representatives to cosponsor the important legislation.

The Motorcycle Riders Foundation has been working this issue hard, after making an unprecedented decision to advocate for an issue that does not affect street riders. Vice President of Government Relations Jeff Hennie, along with MRF Vice President Michael Kerr, have been on Capitol Hill together the past week. Working with members from our state partner organizations ABATE of Illinois and ABATE of Minnesota, this issue has been raised in over 30 congressional offices.

While this seems to be as straight forward as an issue can be, after working with Capitol Hill over the past few weeks the MRF has learned just how political this issue can be. Several members of Congress expressed that supporting the above legislation could be used against them in upcoming elections by their opponents because it can be viewed standing in the way of child safety. That point of view is certainly a stretch, but one that will be advocated for by many child safety organizations. The MRF believes it should be the parents that choose to allow their children to ride and race. With the proper amount of supervision and instruction, youth use of motorcycles and ATVs is as safe as any other sport. It is our challenge to convince Members of Congress that supporting (and co-sponsoring) legislation to exempt off highway vehicles from the CPSC ban can have a positive political impact as well.

Save the Date.

May 14th, 2009 is the first official National Motorcycle Awareness day.

The MRF has secured motorcycle parking on the United States Capitol grounds from 10am-2pm. Due to space restraints and security concerns by the administration of the House of Representatives; we may be forced to limit the number of motorcycles that we can bring onto the grounds. So please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to ride your motorcycle to this historic event. Please call 202-546-0983 or email jeff@mrf.org to register your interest.

Girls Gone Riding

Harley Kicks Off Women Riders Month

To help commemorate the 3rd Annual International Female Ride Day, as well as kickstart Women Riders Month, Harley-Davidson is hosting two special rides on Friday, May 1, in New York City and Milwaukee. The rides, as well as additional events throughout the month of May are designed to celebrate the millions of women who have already grabbed life by the handlebars, as well as inspire more women to experience the freedom of the open road.

Starting at Bergen County Harley-Davidson/Buell in Rochelle Park, N.J., the New York City ride will be led by Karen Davidson, great-granddaughter of one of the Motor Company's founders. The ride, which will kick-off at 11 a.m., will roll across the George Washington Bridge before touring the sites of Manhattan. The celebration will continue after the ride with music, food, camaraderie and fun back at the dealership.

Back in H-D's hometown of Milwaukee, country music artist Krista Marie will kick things off at Miller Park at 1 p.m. before bikes rumble through the streets of Milwaukee on their way to the Harley-Davidson Museum.

Both rides are free and open to any female riders with a valid motorcycle license, but space is limited. Women can reserve their place in either ride by logging on to www.harley-davidson.com/womenriders.

Again the media has it ass backwards. I sat at the Federation of Motorcycle Clubs banquet and didn't see any gangs, but I did see Motorcycle Clubs. Check this out. <http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20090403/APC0101/904030458/1979>
Click on the assessment.

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