

Sanity for the seasons

1973 was the beginning for me. Early that September I dropped a 175 c.c. Honda in the dealership parking lot, right after purchasing it in Bad Axe, MI.

I then made it onto the road only slightly injured, and began riding it on real streets and highways. I got a motorcycle endorsement through a very quick test by a policeman that later made it possible for me to do some quick out of state rides in some out of state places, like Guam, Malta and Iceland. That was then, but now I've been rooted in Northern Illinois over 13 years now.

I got married shortly after being rear-ended by a security guard in Guam, and soon became a riding deprived person. We rooted here late in '98 and I began to have problems that were unusual for me, such as misplacing keys and other dumb stuff like that.

Here is my story, after the un-motorcycle friendly winters here would end year after year. I would get riding fever, but my non-rider wife would always stop me from getting a bike. The slow but continuous destruction of my riders well being was getting worse. I have a theory that I was mentally dumbing myself down as a way to make my non-motorcycle existence less painful to bear.

In April 2007 however, some sort of survival of the soul part of my brain self-activated, like it was a switch or something. On the same day my daughter was celebrating her 16th birthday. I was having a very special great day of my own. I had quietly bought a little Buell Blast, and had snuck it home and hid it under a tarp.

The following riding "season" was like no other, I couldn't stop riding that little Buell. I would tan & burn in the sun all day, and then ride into the night like it was a dream.

I had no clue of something called HOG (as an organization) that is. Most of where my head was at for motorcycle culture knowledge was from what I had known it to be in California years before. The only thing I knew was that I didn't know what things would be like now.

Luckily during the great 2003, I had at least driven a f-150 up north to follow the 1000's of motorcycles that were heading to the Milwaukee Harley Davidson festivities. I didn't think at the time to try to socialize with any of the people there however, because I really was an outsider who didn't quite know what to say. So I just took in what I saw, really enjoyed it, but was still bike-less.

Getting back to some kind of point to this story, after I was no longer without a bike, I stopped misplacing items and forgetting things. I began to get sharper, and my morale was restored. My wife found the hidden Buell, but got over it. I then found myself trading in for 2 used Sportsters before the year 2007 ended.

I learned of H.O.G. somehow in my travels by the end of that year, I joined just before just before my bike was rear ended at a light with me on it, and it went into storage to be fixed. If that hadn't happened, I don't know how long I might have kept pushing into winter on that year of my riding re-birth.

Any how, I still have the same 1200 Sportster, looking for a Dyna switchback someday, and it is only January 1, 2012. I got my 2012 H.O.G. package in the mail yesterday, New Year's Eve. I also was not surprised, but quite pleased this year when my life membership package arrived Dec. 7.

It is now the winter season, but in a few months the winter road salt will be gone, and it will once again be time to get on that bike and ride. For me there is no doubt that Harley-Davidson is my "Sanity for the seasons."

John Slavin Waukegan, IL

When the Last Biker Falls

Author Unknown

The old ones stand out now, their numbers dwindling down. They're a sad loss to the American scene, these individualists with the worn down clothes and faces. You can still see them sometimes, the real ones, some in packs, not as large as a while ago, sometimes alone.
The alone one is the best.

One who's been there a long time, staying in the life he loves, never giving into a system that sucks you up like a vortex if you slip just one foot into it. He's got his connections - a few like him that care for and protect each other. Hanging onto the only unique lifestyle left, like old dinosaurs, their faces are leathered and rough by forty, but their eyes still sharp and knowing.

Some are gray in the beards and braids, some are limp in the step and some pain in the kidneys. Still they know that no other life is life, but merely a dreary journey into everyone else's monotony. He looks at the new ones, then turns away, knowing they will never know of life on the road and of the women who can take it. Wild, loving women who'll hang in with them, because they love it too. A woman with a wild heart and a loyal soul, that's what's needed here.

The new ones are shiny and young and a bit too clean. They're born into a system that has an iron grip now. The new one's will never know and couldn't take "the life."

I think it's a mystery, even to the old ones, why this life is theirs, but it is, and it's the only one.

When the last biker falls, like the dinosaurs, the sun will go down on a breed of heart-of-gold, tough as nails, free spirited men, who even at their worst, love what's theirs and protect it. In a world-wide system that is making all people as alike as manufactured dolls, the earth will be a duller place...

When the last biker falls.

Biker Party
May 19th
Food, Fun & Music
The Place in King Waupaca, WI
Noon-???
\$10/single \$15/couple
For more info (715) 453-3594
(715) 258 8899
Proceeds go to Big Miles Legal Fund

**"WALNECK'S"
MOTORCYCLE
SWAP MEETS & SHOWS**

May 6 - Monroe, MI
8am - 3pm
Monroe County Fairgrounds/3775 S. Custer Rd. - M50
Admission: \$6.00

May 20 - Sheperdsville, KY
8am - 3pm
Bullitt County Fairgrounds I65 & RTE 245
Admission: \$6.00

June 3 - Morris, IL
8am-3pm
Grundy County Fairgrounds/I80 & 47 exit 112
Admission: \$6.00

June 10 - Springfield, OH
8am-3pm
Clark County Fairgrounds/OH exit 59 off I70
Admission: \$6.00

American • British • Japanese
Bikes & Parks • Dirt Bikes • Leather
Novelties • Toys and Much More!!

Sell something old...
Buy something new!
Reserve your space
early for indoors

Walneck's Inc.
7923 Janes Ave., Woodridge, IL 60514
630-985-2097
www.walneckswap.com

**SUMMER THUNDER
ANNUAL POKER RUN**
AUGUST 25TH 2012

MUSIC
BIKE SHOW
FOOD
BEVERAGES

REGISTRATION:
10:00 - 11:30 AM
1-800-371-9098

SUBURBAN HD.
THIENSVILLE, WI
RIDE ENDS IN SAUKVILLE

MUSIC BY SOUTHERN IMPACT
WWW.PLEASANTVALLEYAUTO.COM
PLEASANT VALLEY AUTO BODY
HOLESOT CUSTOMS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SAUKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

LOG CABIN BAR & GRILL
CORNER OF COUNTY RD. E. AND
GRAMS RD. RIPON, WI

 OPEN DAILY AT 11 AM
920-361-0290

-Friday Fish Fry
-Fresh Homemade Pizza
-Free Camping- tents to big rigs
-Home of Katie Lous Discount
Motorcycle Apparel

June 1-3
4 year Anniversary Party &
Custom Car Show June 1-3rd

June 2
Wisco Biker Guide Party
& Motorcycle Show

Aug 18th
Ride for Awareness Run
(to promote child abduction awareness)

Sept 1
Rew/Ross memorial Poker Run
LOGCABINROCKS@CENTURYLINK.NET