

Sisters Point of View:

Hello again

I was thinking about some of the crazy things I have done in my life. Some of them I am very proud of and some not so proud of, but I want to tell you about a real proud time. (This is not about my kids even though they are the proudest thing I have done in my life).

I was at a biker party and all biker parties have motorcycle games. Well this one was no different. There was a few games that I loved, one was the obstacle course. This game consisted of a motorcycle (of course) and a strap, that was strapped to the machine and the other end was attached an inner tube. On this inner tube a person would have to lay/sit in it and be pulled/dragged behind the person riding the motorcycle, and go through an obstacle course as fast you can. Well I wanted to play this game (remember back in the days few women rode), so I got a girlfriend of mine to be on the inner tube. Now I better tell you that at this time I rode a chopped out Honda 750 (not a Harley). There were a bunch of men riding and women on the inner tube, then it was me and my girlfriend. I was laughed at by quite a few people, yet some of my women friends cheered me on and even some men.

Why I am so proud of this is that I came in 2nd and the difference between me and 1st was 3.3 seconds. I never took my feet off my foot pegs, a clean ride all the way around (and anyone who has ever rode a chopper knows that they are hard to control on uneven ground) and never put my inner tube partner into the hay bails.

Another game was the blind triangle. Now I only played this one time down in IL but boy it was fun. They have a triangle marked off and at the point there is a barrel, you start out at the bottom (the base of the triangle) and try to get as close as you can to the barrel without putting your feet/foot down or hitting the barrel or going out of the lines. Well it was my turn and I told myself you can do it, but during this very short ride something inside of me got spooked and DUMB ME hit my front brake and down I went. Well when I got out from under my machine and took the blindfold off I was within inches of the barrel. I figure that is what spooked me (women's intuition) but I lost because I went down. But I was very proud of myself. A man came up to me later and told me that if I

would not have went down I would have won. I was the closest but rules are rules. I went down but boy did that make me feel good.

You got any stories let Preacher know or send them to me and I will make sure they get to Preacher.

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**HONDA HYBRID**

Honda Motor Co., the world's biggest motorcycle maker, said it is developing motorcycles that can run on gasoline-electric engines and fuel cells, extending the so-called hybrid technology for the first time to two-wheeled vehicles. The company has built a scooter with a 50 cubic centimeter hybrid engine and a 125cc fuel cell-powered scooter, said Honda President Takeo Fukui, speaking to journalists at its research center in Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo. Honda, one of the world's two makers of vehicles with hybrid engines, is trying to use its technology to extend its edge over smaller motorcycle makers Suzuki Motor Corp. and Yamaha Motor Co. Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest producer of hybrid cars, doesn't make motorcycles. Automakers are trying to take the lead in developing cleaner technology as governments around the world tighten emission regulations. Vehicles that are more fuel-efficient and which run on alternative fuels are also becoming increasingly popular as the price of oil surges to record levels.

**A COOL IDEA**

Air conditioning for motorcycles? An Israeli inventor has designed what he claims is the world's first air-conditioning unit for motorcycles. Physicist Glen Guttman from the company Entrosys said the device was technologically simple, but added: "Like any simple idea, you have to think it up, and then you have to implement it." The bike is fitted with an electronic unit powered by a standard motorcycle battery which funnels cold air into a thermal vest worn under the rider's jacket. Speaking to Israel Army Radio, Guttman said the air conditioning unit was a small, lightweight box that fitted into the vehicle's storage compartment and was connected to the driver's body by a rubber tube. "The torso is the obvious target for air conditioning if you take into account the human physiology," said Guttman.

The system cost \$450,000 to develop, which Guttman raised through investors, and he now hopes the cooling motorcycle air conditioning unit will be on the market by the middle of next year. He said each unit would cost "several hundred pounds" and would first hit European and American shores. The inventor said, however, that he will not be testing the unit himself: "My investors don't want me to ride a motorcycle myself. They want to make sure I stay safe."

Meanwhile, "Air-conditioned" jackets have become a big hit in Japan. Jackets with built-in electric fans are providing relief in Japan during the country's record-breaking summer heat. The prototype grey nylon coats have two fans in the back above the waist which are connected to a battery pack. The air runs along the wearer's body and comes out at the cuffs and the neckline, drying off sweat which cools the skin as it evaporates.

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