

News For Thought



DEPLETED LICENSE PLATES, OVERBOOKED RIDER ED COURSES

As a sign of the times, with a record number of motorcyclists on the road and increasing numbers of motorcycle registrations, rider training courses in numerous locations across the country have been booked solid and now officials in Kansas have reported running out of motorcycle license plates.

The Hutchinson News reported that the problem is bad enough that counties with plentiful plates are being asked to share with other counties. "We are out of motorcycle tags, and we don't know when we'll get more," said Reno County Treasurer Clark Miller. "We've begged and borrowed from other counties," he told the newspaper, "but we can't get more."

When the state made its annual tag order, gas prices hadn't reached their current levels and officials didn't anticipate the resulting demand from motorists switching to more fuel-efficient transportation.

At least one motorcycle owner complained to the newspaper of being sent away from the DMV office this week and advised not to drive his motorcycle until it was properly tagged, with no promise of when tags might be available.

www.ON-A-BIKE.com

MYRTLE BEACH APPROVES HELMET LAW AND OTHER ORDINANCES TO DETER BIKERS

Myrtle Beach City Council recently gave initial approval to more than a dozen city-wide ordinances specifically aimed to limit bike rallies and dissuade bikers from coming to town.

On Tuesday, September 9, the council unanimously approved all but one of 15 proposed new laws pertaining to two back-to-back May motorcycle rallies, though the restrictions would remain in place year round.

The proposed ordinances that were passed on first reading ranged from a ban on the operation of motor vehicles that do not have required EPA (federal) stickers on their mufflers, to prohibiting more than one vehicle parked in a single public parking space, to implementing a mandatory helmet law and eye protection requirement for anyone riding a motorcycle within city limits and authorizing authorities to impound their motorcycles. The helmet ordinance also outlaws the sale or use of any non-DOT compliant helmet in the city.

In June the City Council not only passed a property-tax increase dedicated to funding an anti-bike rally campaign, but also started the process to enact ordinances aimed at ending motorcycle-related vending within city limits.

Another vote on the approved anti-rally measures is required before they can become law, which may take place before riders arrive in Myrtle Beach for the "Pilgrimage" fall bike rally, giving local police agencies an opportunity to begin enforcing the new ordinances.

Former Myrtle Beach Mayor Mark McBride, who once said he'd like to use his car to "nudge" a biker who wore an offensive T-shirt, said he's all for the city strictly enforcing the laws and said the city should bring in as many police officers as it needs. "If they enforce the laws," McBride told the Sun News "people will not want to come back if their good time is curtailed." www.ON-A-BIKE.com

LOUD PIPES SAVE LIVES!

Silent but deadly, a California lawmaker says electric and hybrid cars and motorcycles may be good for the environment, but they're bad news for the blind.

State Sen. Alan Lowenthal, a Long Beach Democrat, has pushed a bill through the legislature to ensure that vehicles make enough noise to be heard by the blind and visually impaired when they're about to cross a street.

**THE
HARDTAILS
SALOON**

208 West Main Street
Hortonville, WI 54944
(920) 779-6877

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
MON-FRI 11:00AM
SAT 10:30AM SUN 2:00AM

"GET IN THE WIND"

GRILL OPEN DAILY

GREAT SANDWICHES & HOMEMADE
SOUP & CHILI

LIMITED BREAKFAST ON SUNDAYS

OVER 16 DOMESTIC AND
IMPORTED BEERS

HAPPY HOUR & DAILY SPECIALS

LIVE MUSIC

The state Senate approved the bill on August 20 on a 23-12 vote and sent it to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who according to the San Francisco Chronicle has not taken a position. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

TOUGHER IN ALASKA -- JUNEAU BIKER CULTURE SUBJECT OF MUSEUM

Juneau has more motorcycles per capita than most places in the United States even though there are only 91 miles of road in the city shared by over a thousand motorcyclists, and is the only capital not accessible by road.

"That's pretty interesting," said Sarah Asper-Smith, guest curator of a museum exhibit on local biker culture, adding there were 1,025 registered motorcycles in 2006 in Juneau. "That's something that runs through the exhibit, is why do we have so many motorcycles in town when you can't drive out of town? I think it's that sense of freedom that Alaskans have in common."

"91 Miles to Ride: Juneau's Biker Culture" at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum highlights Juneau biker culture with memorabilia and photographs, some of which date to the 1930s, when there were a lot fewer roads. Also on display are four classic motorcycles, including a 1924 Henderson Inline IV, a 1936 Harley-Davidson Knucklehead, a 1946 Indian Chief, and a 9-foot-long 1975 customized chopper, all on loan from local bikers.

"The weather never really bothers us," said Craig "Oz" Rasmussen, who has ridden his '36 Harley from Dawson City, Yukon to Tijuana, Mexico and is a member of the Southeast Alaska Panhandlers Motorcycle Club, which is prominently featured in the exhibit along with the Southeast Alaska Tongass Chapter of H.O.G. (Harley Owners Group), Juneau Alaska Bikers Advancing Training and Education (ABATE), and other groups. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

NEW ZEALAND BARS BIKER PATCHES

Biker patches are not welcome in central Timaru and club members will have to remove their colors before entering some businesses.

"Businesses can now place stickers on their front doors stating that gang patches and colours are not permitted to be worn on the premises," reports the Timaru Herald. Increasing gang activity prompted the joint initiative from Safer Communities and the South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce, says the newspaper.

All businesses have the right to refuse entry as long as it is not seen as discrimination, and the stickers are not classed as discrimination, say officials.

The Chamber of Commerce designed and paid for the printing of 100 stickers and is assisting in the distribution. Chamber manager Dave Jack said more stickers will be printed if needed.

Timaru mayor Janie Annear said the stickers were just another tool to stamp out gang activity, adding that they weren't naive enough to think the gang problem was over and were always thinking of new initiatives; "The battle is never totally won." www.ON-A-BIKE.com

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have."

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) Patriot and 3rd President of the United States

**CALLAHAN'S
MAIN STREET
PUB**

Food • Pool
Checkers • Cards
Darts • Cribbage • Bar Bingo

Rosholt, WI 715-677-4740

Motorcycle Riders Depot

639 Grand Ave. Schofield, WI 54476 715-359-0989

Full Service Dept. - Custom Builds - Rebuilds - Performance - Dynojet Dynamometer
Large Show Room - Parts & Accessories - Jewelry & Clothing - Winter Storage

**Club
Forest
Bar**

SINCE 1927
HAPPY TIME WIT' DAILY
FOOD AND DRINK
SPECIALS 4-8PM
EVERYDAY

WE HAVE A HISTORY
FOR GREAT FOOD,
FUN, AND LAUGHTER.
EVEN A GHOST OR 2

RIDERS REGISTER TO WIN \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE WEEKLY
OPEN 7 DAYS AT 11:00 AM HEY!
STOP IN AND SEE US!
WE'RE ON HWY 54W BETWEEN FLOWER AND RAPIDS, HWY