

News For Thought



Man Breaks Moving Violation Record

An Italian scooterist in Turin has shattered the previous record for moving violations with a whopping 144 points in less than 15 minutes.

His crimes include: not wearing a helmet, riding without rear-view mirrors, speeding, running a red light, not stopping when police ordered, riding the wrong way down city-center streets, riding without lights, riding on pedestrian footpaths, riding without insurance, and worst of all, incorrectly attached license plates.

The previous Italian record had stood since April at 116 points in a single night. Not to be outdone, an American woman recently racked up 70 speeding tickets in 5 months. As a mortgage broker in Phoenix, Arizona, Francesca Cisneros is used to working with big numbers, but it's the double-digit speed limits she has trouble with.

Speeding cameras in Scottsdale, a suburb of Phoenix, snapped pictures of the 32-year-old woman as she tore through the sun-baked city in her Honda Civic between March 2 and July 31, and she has been issued 70 speeding tickets.

"She told arresting officers she was speeding because she seemed to be late for client meetings all the time," Scottsdale Police Department spokesman Mark Clark told Reuters. "I guess she's got some time management issues."

Police said Cisneros said she threw her speeding tickets away because she thought nothing could happen to her if she didn't pay them. Clark said Cisneros faces some \$11,000 in fines and could have her license suspended. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

Fuel Prices Drive increased Motorcycling

Motorcycle enthusiasts expect to use their Harleys, Kawasakis and Hondas more often and for longer periods of time than they did a year ago. Gas prices and a strong passion for riding are two of the main driving factors behind the increased desire to ride, according to a new survey by Nationwide Mutual Insurance.

According to the survey, 35 percent of motorcyclists said they will ride their bikes more over the next year as a result of fuel prices. Enthusiasts are also turning their hobby into an everyday form of transportation. Survey respondents reported they spent 26 percent of their total riding time last year commuting to work.

"Motorcyclists know that riding is more than a hobby -- it's also one of the most efficient means of transportation available," said American Motorcyclist Association Chief Executive Officer Patricia DiPietro. "As more Americans discover both the joys and the cost-effectiveness of motorcycling, we're sure to see more motorists dedicating their time, and their financial resources, to the passion of riding. But before hitting the road, it's important all riders make sure their insurance is up-to-date."

The survey conducted by Brandware of 2,544 motorcycle, power boat, bass boat and ATV owners shows that both male and female motorcyclists expect to ride their bikes for approximately 22 more hours than they did in the past year. Male motorcyclists expect to ride 172 hours over the next year, while female riders expect to ride 146 hours.

Motorcyclists are so passionate about their fuel-efficient bikes they indicated they will pay \$3 to \$4 more per gallon before they stop riding.

According to the survey, both male and female motorcyclists committed over half of their total money spent on leisure activities to accessories and improvements to their motorcycle over the past five years. Male riders invested more than \$7,000 on their bikes over this time period, more than any other group of powersport enthusiast.

As motorcyclists invest more financial resources and increasingly rely on their bikes as a form of daily transportation, the question of adequate financial protection becomes a concern. While most motorcyclists are insured, more than one in ten surveyed indicated they are not. And even those who have insurance may not have enough. Among insured riders, one in five said they are not covered for liability and one-third are not covered for collision or medical payments.

More than 30 percent of motorcyclists surveyed don't believe they have enough insurance to cover the replacement value of their bikes and 14 percent said they would rather take their chances than pay to fully insure it. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

Big Ben Won't Promote Helmets

Ben Roethlisberger, the Super Bowl XL winning quarterback whose June 12th motorcycle accident made worldwide headlines when a car turned left in front of him, says he won't be promoting helmets any time soon.

Following his release from the hospital after undergoing facial reconstructive surgery, the Pittsburgh Steelers star released a statement saying that; "If I ever ride again, it certainly will be with a helmet," immediately raising hopes among pro-helmet law advocates that he would barnstorm the country making speeches and filming public service announcements to promote helmets. But don't count on it.

In an exclusive interview with "Good Morning America," the quarterback told Robin Roberts why he wouldn't become an advocate for helmet use:

"I don't think that that's my place," he said. "You know, I think that some people feel that, you know, I probably should be doing that and being a big advocate for that. But for me, you know, I'm going to let people make their own decision 'cause I think that's what it's about... So I don't think you'll see me doing any kind of billboards or advertisements." www.ON-A-BIKE.com

Norwegian Motorcyclists Win Fight Against Cable Barriers!

On Friday 4th August the Norwegian Minister of Transport, Mrs. Liv Signe Navarsete, announced a ban on the use of cable barriers. She did so after years of lobbying by FEMA's member organisation, the Norwegian Motorcycle Union (NMCU). "Finally, we see an end to the egg slicers", said NMCU chairman Jan-Fredrik Moller.

Since the early nineties, the NMCU has spearheaded the struggle against cable barriers, or wire rope fences, a design not at all developed with motorcyclists' safety in mind. In a press conference outside the Department for Transportation in Oslo, Norway, the Minister of Transport, Mrs. Liv Signe Navarsete, made the following announcement:

"I have, in agreement with the Norwegian Public Roads Administration, reviewed the objections from the NMCU, and examined the case more closely. Today I have this message to the NMCU and the Norwegian motorcyclists: The Public Roads Administration shall hereafter use crash barrier types that offer a high level of safety for all groups of road users. This implies that there will be no more road stretches fitted with cable barriers, beyond those already installed".

EPA Issues Guidance for Custom Motorcycle Builders

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently released a Letter of Guidance for the "Certification Procedure for Highway Motorcycle Engines," which will allow the use of certified EPA-compliant engines without restriction.

Under EPA regulations issued in 2003, custom bike builders are limited to building only 24 non-compliant motorcycles per model year, and individuals are allowed to own only one EPA exempt kit bike in their lifetime. But now, following a year of successful efforts between the EPA and industry and consumer groups, the "Certification Procedure for Highway Motorcycle Engines" will allow builders of aftermarket engines to provide EPA-compliant engine packages to individuals, dealers and small volume motorcycle manufacturers, thus circumventing the strict regulations applied to non-EPA compliant motorcycles. Therefore, the new Certification Procedure will permit certified engines installed in new highway motorcycle chassis to be operated or re-sold without onerous construction and ownership restrictions, provided the requirements of the procedure, as well as the federal Clean Air Act anti-tampering requirements, are met.

By using motors that are certified to meet emissions regulations, individuals and builders can now build EPA compliant motorcycles without having to go through the complicated and costly emissions testing procedures themselves, thus allowing small volume manufacturers to build and sell as many custom motorcycles as they want to, and individuals can now own, ride and sell them without prior restrictions as long as the engine package is not altered in any way that increases exhaust emissions. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "Liberty and freedom and democracy are so very precious that you do not fight to win them once and then stop. You do not do that. Liberty and freedom and democracy are prizes that are awarded only to those people who fight to win them and then keep on fighting eternally to hold them."

Sgt. Alvin York (1887-1964), WWI Medal of Honor recipient

Wally Worlds Annual

"PIG ROAST"

September 9th at 2 pm

**FREE MILLER LITE, HIGH LIFE
& FOOD WHILE IT LASTS!**

*****Bring a dish to pass*****

MUSIC BY: NITE STAR

Horseshoe Tournament

9am Registration / 10am Start

\$10 Entry Fee - 100% Payback