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Howdy from the highest ranking official in Scooterville, well at least in my mind I can call it what I want.

A few quick items and I will leave you alone. First things first, my election. As you will see in this issue I am collecting donations to my humble election run. The second time around is shaping up to be better than the first in which little old me pulled over 30%. I feel we need some new, unpolished average citizen Joe's (in this case Preachers) on the riders side. At least in my district. I have heard that the royalty in Madison is going to try playing Mommy Dearest with our freedom of choice. Study your choices and vote, vote, vote. Did I mention get out there and vote.

Next up are the places to be this coming month. I will be running around southeastern Wisconsin during the 105th. I will be at the Windhorse Saloon in the valley (25th & Canal). From what I have heard and know of it's promoter Mike, it will be a good time. Another place is Hal's, Wisconsin HD and downtown Waukesha. I figure there is only so much time to get the sites in that I'm sticking with them. If I got time I will try to sneak off to Savanna, IL for the Hotrods & Harley's event but no promises there. While in Milwaukee you gotta try Jonny Hammer's when you get the munchies. Good food, reasonable pricing and not hard to find. What more does a biker need.? Another event will be Fall Ride in Tomahawk. I am gonna float like a butterfly and land wherever I feel. I hope we all have great weather and everyone rides safe. Watch out for Bambi.

Beyond that I don't have much. I would like to thank certain people though. If you happen to see this paper in the Northern part of Wisconsin you can thank my mother. (Mom Rags) She has backed me from the start delivering mercilessly, all while riding one of her bikes. If you see FRP in the Milwaukee area it's probably due to my oldest son Michael. He always seems to find a few hours when I am running behind, and for that I am grateful. To my middle son DJ who is always trying to help out when he's got a few minutes, or wants to drive around wasting gas (which is something none of us can afford nowadays). And even my daughter Tammi helps out when I ask her. Loading papers for shipping, organizing receipts etc. But she is 14 going on 30 after all. I have many other people but I am going to leave them for next month. And that's the way I see it...

## Brothers and Sisters Lost

### Big John's Last Ride

On Saturday afternoon August 2, 2008, John Hager laid down to take an afternoon nap ...and he never woke up. He was only 53. The biker community in our state, especially in Northeastern WI, lost a true friend and a man who's heart was bigger than his large frame. "Big John" as many of us knew him by, owned the "Little River Inn" on Highway 22 just outside of Lena. Big John was a lifetime member of ABATE and also member of the Drifters MC. John was also a veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force during Viet Nam War.



More than a thousand people came so see "Big John" for the last time on Thursday, August 7 at the funeral home in Oconto. And in true biker style, after everyone paid their respects, he was loaded into a motorcycle-driven hearse and given his last ride to the bar accompanied by about 300 bikes following behind him. We all got to the Little River Inn just about dusk and as we passed by his casket each of us appropriately saluted him with a handful of throttle. He was then returned to the funeral home. The next day a Pig Roast was held in his honor that lasted late into the evening with many stories and remembrances about the large man with the big heart that we all knew simply as "Big John". Rest in Peace Brother ...You will be missed.

Mark "Wizard" Tilkens

**PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS**  
*Standing For Those*  
*Who Stood For Us*  
**www.patriotguard.org**

## Meet this month's Next Generation Rider Matt.



If you have a picture of your Next Generation Rider, feel free to send it in to me. Who knows it just might kick start a Hollywood career for them. Send those pic's to preacher@freeriderspress.us or by snail mail to 4500 Hwy 66, Stevens Point, WI 54481



Tim Davenport, La Valle Wisconsin, proud winner of a Can Am Spyder at Elroy Bike Meet 2008 "Elroy Wisconsin - Where Bikers Meet". Motorcycles in June & Bicycles in October.

Visit [www.ElroyBikeMeet.com](http://www.ElroyBikeMeet.com) The bike was delivered by Vetesnik Power Sports, Richland Center, WI

### "Bingo's Downed Biker Fund"

If you have a Brother or Sister down and would like to get them the Free Riders Press, NO PROBLEM, be glad to do it but it does cost money. A lot of people help out by donating some coin. We here will do what we can, but with everybody giving what they can, we will make it go a long way. We all know somebody that's down, and anything would be greatly appreciated.



Send to:  
**"Bingo's Downed Biker Fund"**  
 2206 Jefferson  
 Two Rivers, WI 54241