

QUAD CITY AREA

Most of you know this area of the FREE RIDERS PRESS is for news & info about the greater Quad City Area. I will try to get to some of that but first I feel I need to share some of my thoughts about motorcycling in the year 2008 and beyond. As some of you might know I have a radio program called The FREE ROAD RADIO SHOW heard on 100.3 FM WCCI out of Savanna, IL Saturday's at 8 am (also on the net at www.wcciradio.com) Now this might seem like a blatant plug but I prefaced with that because looking for news and info about motorcycling for the program I find way too much on motorcycle accidents. Another thing I have found that the facts and figures on how many accidents compared to some other time in the past, what percentage of change, how many more motorcycles have been registered, new motorcycle owners etc etc is confusing and vague at best. So what is my point here? Well you know I am going to tell here and now. It does not matter what the numbers are or what categories there are. What matters is way too many riders are getting hurt or killed. Nor does it matter as to the why's, how's or the reasons. Because there will be people, cut from the same cloth as the seatbelt and now NO smoking bunch, that will come up with reasons why something has to be done to protect those who ride. It might start out with no flip-flops or something else that safe and sane riders would not do anyway. And since it won't be that big of an issue there would not be much opposition, it will become a law. And before you know it there be more laws telling what to wear, how to and so on & on.

Just think of a time not that far off in the future ... before you get on your bike you strap yourself into a full body electronically controlled and monitored airbag equipped suit. The suit is on and the com cord is connected; now you can get onto your bike. No wait you need to put the helmet on, sealing you in almost like an astronaut. Now you can swing a leg over, guiding it through & in-between all of the new extra required crash bars, bumpers and other exotic safety devices. As you start up the bike the new electronically controlled and government monitored safety devices come to life all but taking over control of the bike. So there you are all safe and protected sitting on what looks like something from a twisted MAD MAX movie, but you're going to enjoy all the freedoms of the open road so how bad could it be? Well just how bad it could get depends on the riders of today. Yes! YOU! reading this now. Some of you might be thinking wow how Sci-Fi or ridiculous this guy is. Yes it is way out there, but the point is unless those who ride take steps to reduce accidents NOW, others will do what they think is the right and or best thing to do. Riding as safe as you can which means all new and returning riders get training. Refresher training is must for all riders no matter how long how many miles they have under their belts. ALL the Freedoms we have and currently enjoy must be not only earned but protected and watched over least we lose them as we have others.

And now for the news ... Since this issue is coming out early in time for the H-D 105th Event I can still tell you about the 4th Annual Harleys & Hot Rods to be held in Historic Downtown Savanna, IL Labor day Weekend. The nightly headlining bands are Fri - KINGS KISS and Sat - D. B. Bryant. "Pipes" will be

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