

I was recently introduced to a different type of rider. One I had previously "written off", for lack of a better term. The "weekend warrior", as they are referred to.

As I have said before, I am new to much of the biker lifestyle, and some of my teachings were pretty hardcore. Then, in the blink of an eye, the group I had been riding with for a few years all but fell off the face of the earth. Let's just say it wasn't what it use to be and we went our separate ways. All good in the end, but hard to accept in the beginning.

I had been 'taught' weekend warriors were just that. They didn't live the lifestyle, didn't 'get it' and riding was low on their list of priorities. Wow was that ever wrong, wrong, wrong!! Looking back I regret I was so foolish to ever believe anything remotely close. My recent introduction hit close to home. And by that I mean, a so-called weekend warrior had become a part of my life. When we started out, we talked about riding etc, but it was still winter and he no longer had a bike. It was obvious to me though, he was a biker at heart - he got it. When the weather started warming up, he got that itch, same as the riders I had previously rode with. We were soon scouring craigs list, inquiring with friends and checking out ebay in search of a bike. After a few weeks he found one that caught his interest and we drove to look 'er over. He took it for a spin and came back with that tell-tale grin on his face. Yep, he let the owner know he wanted the bike and arrangements were made for payment, pick-up etc. An '81 Super Glide, 80 inch shovel head stroked to 85 with an S&S super E shortie carb. Baby blue in color and has a sweet vibrate to 'er since there are no rubber motor mounts.



The day of pick-up finally arrived and I drove him out there. There was still a nip in the air so he dressed for the ride. I managed to snap a few shots of the "maiden voyage" as he got ready to leave. Stopped to put gas in and he was already making adjustments and mental notes of things to change, upgrades etc.

Summer arrived and he was scootin' around town, into work and coming by for a visit. At last the day arrived he came and took me for a ride. I must admit, I was a bit concerned about his riding skills. No offense to him, but riding with someone new is always a bit stressful at first - your life is literally in their hands. First ride was a big loop out of town, through the countryside and then back home. He did a fine job and I was soon very much at ease behind him.

As we neared my home he turned his head a bit and aksed "Ready to go home, or do you want to ride some more?"

"Now THERE is a stupid question!" I responded. He laughed a bit, gave 'er some gas and away we went.

The rides soon became more frequent. I had forgotten the peacefulness that comes with riding, just the two of us. I had gotten so use to riding in a group - which was fun, but I am now reminded of what I was missing out on again.

He was at the house for dinner one night and my oldest child was quizzing him about his bike etc. Finally, the sarcasm running rampant as it does at our house, my son asks, point blank "So you are a biker, eh?"

The response given surprised me a bit at its wording, but fit to a T. "No, I ride a bike, I'm not a biker." For the first time I understood an aspect of riding motorcycle that I hadn't had a handle on before. Now some one would say if you ride, you ARE a biker. This conversation was geared toward what society refers to as a biker - hope that makes sense.

He has been tweeking things here and there, gettng the bike to run smoother, respond quicker and making plans for new paint this winter. He knows his way around the engine of his blue baby and what he doesn't know, he finds out.

I guess my point is this. Don't count out the weekend warrior. Just because there is a blue oxford dress shirt and tie on under that leather jacket instead of Harley t-shirt with the sleeves cut off, doesn't mean his heart isn't in the same place as yours when it comes to riding. Lesson learned - I'm big enough to admit that.



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