

One question for motorcyclists

Why? Why is it that motorcyclists have to bear the brunt of accidents? Why is it that WE have to pay the biggest price when something goes wrong? When THEY don't see us! Why do we have to be twice as alert, have twice-as-fast reaction times, be twice as focused, and be ALWAYS thinking at least six times as far ahead of our cycle as someone driving a four-wheeler?

Is that fair? No way! But is it fact? Absolutely!

A car comes into contact with one of us, and what happens to the driver?

Usually nothing, or just minor injuries and some vehicle repair that the insurance company picks up anyway.

But a motorcycle? Same scenario, and we're looking at major injuries, being crippled for life, losing an arm, or a foot, or leg ... possibly being brain-damaged - maybe a vegetable for life, or we just get killed outright.

And frequently, it's just because some motorist doesn't see us. Isn't paying quite enough attention. Got distracted for just a second. Was on a cell phone. Was changing stations on the radio or putting in a different CD. And WE end up paying a terrible, terrible price.

Will it ever change?

A number of organizations are making intensive efforts to sensitize motorists to "seeing" us on the roads: The State of Louisiana Motorcyclist Action & Awareness Committee, ABATE, the Motorcycle Awareness Campaign, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, just to mention a few.

Yeah, but will it change? Yes. It is changing. These groups are making a difference; motorists are becoming more alert to our presence because of these efforts.

But ... (You knew that was coming, didn't you?) The sad but undeniable fact remains, that the final responsibility for our safety and survival lies with each of us! Not with "them"! It is doubtless little consolation to those of us who have been killed or maimed because a motorist simply didn't see us, that it was the motorist's fault. And it's certainly not much consolation to those we leave behind - or who have to take care of us afterward.

We are the ones who have to be twice as alert, be thinking six times as far ahead of our vehicle, who can't even afford one drink when we're riding, or run those yellow lights, or all the other things that many four-wheel drivers get away with every day.

Well, we can ... but then, all we'll have left when we're crippled, missing an arm, a foot, a leg ... brain-dead, or just plain dead ... is the satisfaction of saying, "It was the other guy's fault!"

Think it'll be worth it? No, probably not. That's "why."

Skip Haley, motorcyclist member- State of Louisiana Motorcyclist Action Committee

We Need Your Help

Team Tommy is a group of motorcycle riders who believe that Tommy Thompson would make a good President of the United States.

You may not know who Tommy Thompson is but we hope to change that.

He is One Of Our Own. He is a politician who has been a motorcyclist for a long time and, in fact, started an annual motorcycle ride 14 years ago while he was Governor of Wisconsin.

We know that there are many issues that would enter into voting someone into this position. We would like to bring some of those issues to your attention and ask that you relay those ideas and information on to others. We will primarily relate to those issues that address motorcycling on the Team Tommy web site, www.teamtommy.org and request that you visit it often as we constantly upgrade information. See "Links" for important "You Tube" videos. You can also contact members of Team Tommy with specific questions at TeamTommy@aol.com and address questions to them. Team members are listed on the website. Another sites that will have information is <http://www.tommy2008.com>.

We need to have motorcyclists and other concerned people attend the Iowa Straw Poll in Ames Iowa on Saturday August 11, 2007. This is the day that residents of Iowa can vote in the straw poll. Visit the website for more info. about what a Straw poll is.

We will have entertainment in Ames on Friday August 10, 2007 to show our appreciation for those who attend and help us in this cause. Some details are still being worked out and will be posted as finalized. You do not need to be a Iowa resident or even a motorcyclist to attend this free event.

We sincerely hope that the motorcycle media and biker's rights groups will inform their readers and members know of our efforts. This is a further effort to bring attention to as many people as we can and supply them with information so they can make good decisions on things that will affect their lives.

Please consider what members of Team Tommy have to say and who they are.

Rogue

Sturgis Freedom Fighters

Motorcycle Hall Of Fame Member 2005

www.bikerogue.com

Presidential Candidate Tommy Thompson says he favors Freedom of Choice for Helmet Use

Viet Nam Vets M/C WI, Inc. 23rd Annual




Summer Twister
July 26th-29th, 2007

Wildlife Refuge Campground
Birnbaumwood, WI (715)449-3817
www.wildlifecampgrounds.com

\$10,000 IN CASH DRAWINGS
For advance ticket holders only.

9 Great Bands - Over 30 Vendors
FREE Beer, Soda, Food

FREE CAMPING
Starting Thursday at Noon
Advance Tickets: \$60 Donation Tickets at Gate: \$75 Donation
With Current Military ID: \$30 Donation

For More Info: (715)873-3408 or (920)452-4804
www.vnvmc-wi.org WIVNVMC@AOL.COM

Saturday

- POW MIA Ceremony (Noon)
- Ride In Bike Show
- Bike Games
- Adult Entertainment (Night)
- Fireworks & Bonfires

Miller
Good call.

10th Annual "Ride For Wishes" & Fundraiser

Proceeds To Benefit The
Make A Wish Foundation of Wisconsin

When: Saturday, May 26, 2007
Where: Boner Again, Nekoosa WI
Registration: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Cost: \$15.00 for Ride, Meal & Bands
Or: \$10.00 for Meal & Bands

Live Music Including:
Tuck Pence
Jump Ship Blues Band

Food • Raffles • Fun
Vendors Welcome

Any questions, call
Boner @ 715.886.4366

Sponsored By: Paul Kruska, Jim Hansen,
Boner Again, Nairfeld Cycle, KCMC,
Foleys Nite Brew and WGEX



Also remember our 2nd event the summer "Ride For Wishes" on June 16th 2007 at Nekoosa Cycle FOOD • FUN • MUSIC Proceeds to benefit Make A Wish!