



► **PRESIDENT**
Michael D'Aversa

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Illini Free Spirit Riders

Sponsor: Fox Valley Cycles
419 Hill Avenue – Aurora, Illinois 60505 – (630) 851-2910 – www.foxvalleycycles.com

NEWSLETTER & EVENTS

December 2009



Newsletter

- The 2009 IFSR Christmas Party has been canceled due to an insufficient number of members indicating an interest in attending. Sorry folks, but we tried.
- Our condolences go to our own Vernon Scott, whose father passed away in November. A card was passed around and presented to Vern at the Participation Challenge Party.
- Jim Thevenot was the biggest winner from IFSR at the Participation Challenge Party; however, numerous members won prizes at the Fox Valley Cycles event. Our thanks to Chris, Michelle, Chell and the rest of the FVC team, for all their hard work, to say nothing of

the Honda reps, who provided some prizes. We had a great time! Photos from the event are on www.foxvalleycycles.com.

- Speaking of Fox Valley Cycles, if you're looking for a Christmas gifts for that special motorcyclist, be sure to stop by and look around. Besides the bikes, they have a nice assortment of accessories, clothing and other gift-worthy stuff.
- As discussed at the November meeting, we have requested 100 discount coupons for the International Motorcycle Show coming to Rosemont February 19–21, 2010. To get yours, simply attend the January 13 and/or February 10 club meetings. We should have the coupons by then.
- We wish you a Merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year and in general, a joyous and safe holiday season. As always, our regular schedule of Wednesday suppers and meetings continue through the cold months. Please come out and join us as we pass the winter by talking about the last riding season and looking forward to the next one.



President's Message

As this is my final column for the newsletter as your 2009 club president, I thought I would do a little reflection, sharing with you my thoughts on the past as well as my hopes for the future. For the Illini Free Spirit Riders, 2009 has proven to be wonderful in some ways and pretty darned bad in others. We probably had the most scheduled rides since I joined the club in early 2004 — some of the best attended, too. Although I wasn't able to make every ride, I went on quite a few and enjoyed them all, even the slightly soggy ones. This is ultimately why I joined the club—I wanted to find people with whom to go for rides and I sure hit the jackpot on that score. This club is exactly what I needed to find and for that, I thank each of you. We also gained a number of new members, some of whom made significant contributions of time, effort and talent for the good of the club. I won't embarrass any of them by naming names. Instead I'll just say that I'm glad they came along.

On the down side, we've lost a few members along the way, several of whom were fairly active at one time. Some have stopped coming out for health reasons, some for work-related reasons, and I have no doubt that some were suppressed by financial stresses. I also know that a few have faded out because they did not feel welcome or else did not experience a sense of "fit" with this club. While I hate to see anybody go for any of those reasons, I must accept and respect their decisions. I also know from experience that in order to thrive, no organization can be everything to everybody. If we even tried to be everything, we'd lose our very identity and end up as nothing.

One last negative observation: There have been a lot of economic casualties within the power sports industry, some of which hit really close to home. There is no point in pretending not to notice. How many cycle dealerships are gone in our own area? Fox Valley Cycles has been an integral part of this club. I'm grateful that our "home" shop is still around and I hope that they will be for many, many years.

My hopes for the future? Many more great rides, smooth roads, and sunny skies. Many more evenings spent around the table, telling stories and laughing together. The return of prosperity. And, of course, your friendship. These last two years as your president have been simply fantastic. I love you people (and since I'm not running for anything, I didn't have to say that). Thanks for a great ride!

-- Michael D'Aversa

Calendar

Roving Dinner	December 16 6:30PM	Grandma's Table, 1700 Douglas Rd, Montgomery, IL (630) 892-1100
Dinner	December 23 6:30PM	Bridge Street Café, 213 S Bridge St, Yorkville, IL (630) 553-9230
Dinner	December 30 6:30PM	Diamand's, 3000 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL (815) 436-1070
Dinner	January 6 6:30PM	Larry's Diner, 24522 W Lockport St, Plainfield, IL (815) 436-3055
Meeting	January 13 6:00PM	Meeting at FVC and dinner at Bill's in Montgomery
Dinner	January 20 6:30PM	(TBD)
Dinner	January 27 6:30PM	Bridge Street Café, 213 S Bridge St, Yorkville, IL (630) 553-9230
Dinner	February 3 6:30PM	Larry's Diner, 24522 W Lockport St, Plainfield, IL (815) 436-3055

