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# Illini Free Spirit Riders

Sponsor: Fox Valley Cycles

419 Hill Avenue – Aurora, Illinois 60505 – (630) 851-2910 – [www.foxvalleycycles.com](http://www.foxvalleycycles.com)

## NEWSLETTER & EVENTS

June 2009

### Newsletter



- Despite all the rain (as I write this, this Spring has progressed to being the sixth wettest on record in the Chicago area) and cooler temps lately, we have had some excellent ride events. Turnout has been good to great, leadership and planning has been great, and in my opinion the general enthusiasm everyone is displaying is higher than I remember anytime in my previous two years with the club.
- We have picked up several new members this year, and we have some potential members waiting in the wings. I am encouraged by this influx of new blood, and have high hopes for this to be a banner year for our club.
- Get well wishes continue for Leo Thompson, who was injured in May while previewing the route for his then-upcoming River Run. Around that

same time, our own Vern Scott was rear-ended while stopped at an intersection. Luckily, Vern was not injured. Unfortunately, both Leo and Vern are dealing with bike repair issues and we wish them both well on that front, too.

- Special thanks are due once again to our friends at Fox Valley Cycles for giving us prime table space (and for feeding us) at their open house on Saturday, May 30. Besides meeting and greeting people as they entered and exited the dealership, we were also able to raise a few dollars with our silent auction. Thanks also to those who helped out that day by volunteering for table duty, donating auction items and, in some cases, bidding on auction items.
- Have you visited our website lately? If not, you should. The photo gallery continues to grow—who knows, you may even be in there now! Check out the calendar of events, too. Besides event dates and times, you can also find maps of the locations. Do not hesitate to refer others to [www.freespiritriders.com](http://www.freespiritriders.com), either. Our site really has become an information resource for both current and prospective members.
- Any members interested in riding together in the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run on Saturday, June 20, should meet in the parking lot of Fox Valley Cycles between 8:00 and 8:10 AM, gassed up and ready to go. See Michael D'Aversa with questions.

### Safety Tips

- Despite lower motorcycle sales this year, I seem to have had more inquiries regarding motorcycles—what kind to buy, where to buy, are they safe, etc—than at any time I can remember. This is great, but I have reservations about all these new riders out on the highway without the proper training, experience and equipment. Having taken both the Basic Rider Course and the Experienced Rider Course, I am a strong advocate for the Motorcycle Safety Project (<http://www.outreach.niu.edu/mcycle/>). I try to emphasize the need for proper training from the MSP or some other source of instruction, that they buy a motorcycle suited to their needs and desires, and that they shop at Fox Valley Cycles 😊—shameless attempt to get brownie points). Remember that you are likely viewed by some as an expert, whether you are one or not, and the way you conduct yourself and the assistance you give will have a large impact on the decision-making process of the person(s) seeking your advice.

# President's Message

On very short notice, due to an unfortunate turn of events, we discovered that Leo's River Run, May's "last Sunday" ride, would be lacking a very critical ingredient—namely Leo. With just days to spare, I set out to find a member who not only was familiar with the route, but was also able, willing and available to lead the run. Luckily, past president Eddie Cullins agreed to lead and on May 31, he and fifteen other members and guests turned out to enjoy a pleasant and safe ride. We encountered one deer, but Eddie spotted it well ahead of time and Mark Freuh, riding second, radioed what was going on up there. By the time that deer crossed in front of us, the entire group had already slowed to a safe speed and we were able to watch and curse the animal before continuing on. What a great little ride!

Just as safety is no accident, great club happenings don't just happen. I want to thank *all* of the members who have stepped up, shown up and otherwise done their part to make our events come off as well as they have so far. Don't stop now! As I write this, for June we still have the Rock Island Arsenal tour, dinner at Starved Rock, and a Galena-Savanna ride, plus the Freedom Run, which I hope many of us will attend. You, too! —*Michael D'Aversa*

## Calendar

<b>Rock Island Arsenal</b>	<b>June 13</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Watch email for details**—Military regulations <u>require</u> each rider to wear a <u>certified</u> helmet, eye protection, full-fingered gloves, high-visibility clothing, trousers, leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket—this is similar to the requirements for the MSF courses.</b>
Ride to Work Day	June 15	-----	International Motorcycle/Scooter Ride to Work Day
<b>Roving Dinner</b>	<b>June 17</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Starved Rock, 2668 875th Road, Oglesby, IL (use this address for your GPS)*</b>
Illinois Freedom Run	June 20	8:00AM	Meet at FVC – Grundy County Fairgrounds, Morris, Illinois to Marseilles, Illinois —\$10 entry, \$5 breakfast—worth 3 tickets <u>if</u> riders participate as a group representing the club (see newsletter).
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>June 24</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Bridge Street Café, 213 S Bridge St, Yorkville, IL (630) 553-9230*</b>
<b>Last Sunday Ride</b>	<b>June 28</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Galena/Savanna Ride—watch email for details***</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>July 1</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Larry's Diner, 24522 W Lockport St, Plainfield, IL (815) 436-3055*</b>
<b>First Saturday Ride</b>	<b>July 4</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Red Bud Ride: watch email for details***</b>
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>July 8</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>Meeting at FVC and dinner at the Select Restaurant in Montgomery**</b>
<b>Harley Museum</b>	<b>July 12</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Harley-Davidson Museum, Milwaukee, WI: watch email for details**</b>
<b>Roving Dinner</b>	<b>July 15</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Andres Restaurant, 5 Webster Street, Batavia, (866) 491-4523*</b>
<b>Chicagoland R4K</b>	<b>July 19</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>	<b>Chicagoland Ride for Kids, Elgin Community College</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>July 22</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Bridge Street Café, 213 S Bridge St, Yorkville, IL (630) 553-9230*</b>
<b>Last Sunday Ride</b>	<b>July 24</b>	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Brunch Ride: watch email for details***</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>July 29</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Diamonds, 3000 Plainfield Road, Joliet, IL (815) 436-1070*</b>
<b>First Saturday Ride</b>	<b>August 1-2</b>		<b>Wisconsin Ride For Kids overnighter: Contact Michael D'Aversa for additional information.***</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>Larry's Diner, 24522 W Lockport St, Plainfield, IL (815) 436-3055*</b>

\* worth 2 Participation Challenge tickets —\*\* worth 3 Participation Challenge tickets—\*\*\*for the remainder of this year First Saturday and Last Sunday rides will be worth 5 tickets