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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

May 2009

Newsletter



- Can't make up your mind about that new motorcycle in FVC's window? Well, here are a few incentives:
 - The economic stimulus bill has decreed that you will be able to deduct sales and excise taxes on your 2009 tax return. That should make you almost happy to pay your fair share.
 - Honda is offering Double Bonus Bucks (a rebate) up to \$2,000 on select models.
 - Financing as low as .99%.
 - An invoice reduction on select models.
 - All non-current year models are on sale.
- The 18th annual International Motorcycle and Scooter Ride to Work Day is June 15, 2009. The ride has been moved to the third Monday in June as that is a favorable time of year for weather over much of the world, and riding on Monday encourages riding for the entire week. Hopefully, it will also promote more news coverage on Sunday, normally a slow news day.
- Our most senior member recently bought a brand spanking new Gold Wing. Congratulations, Alan, on the new bike and thanks for inspiring the rest of us.

Safety Tips

I am becoming increasingly more concerned about making myself visible while riding my motorcycle. Daytime riding calls for bright colors and riding so that you are more easily seen (can't remember how to do this... consider taking one of the MSF courses (www.outreach.niu.edu/mcycle/) or visit this excellent site sponsored by the State of Texas: tinyurl.com/d3mlbf). For riding after dark, I have added the HALO Reflective Helmet Band. It is a non-adhesive band of Scotchlite reflective material endorsed by the MSF and is sold by FVC (see photo at right). 3M Scotchlite has several different types of reflective tape you can add to your helmet/clothing/bike/saddlebags/etc. I assume that FVC can obtain these items, also. In addition, I added one of the Hyperlights brake light systems (www.hyperlites.com/)—Michael and I each have one of their systems on our motorcycles. These work to increase your visibility day and night. Think about adding Driving lights, if you do not already have them. They create a triangle of light that catches more attention than just a headlight, and they provide better visibility of the road immediately in front of you. They are expensive, but what isn't in the world of motorcycles?



I would like to make *Safety Tips* a semi-regular feature of this Newsletter. If you have any tips or wish to comment on previous tips, please let me know. Your tips/comments can be attributed or non-attributed (be nice).

President's Message

You know what they say about the best-laid plans. I awoke early on April 26 to check the weather forecast for Motorcycle Sunday. Those trustworthy souls at the National Weather Service had predicted a 30% chance of showers. As of 7:30 AM, the local radar showed a wide band of showers well to the north of Aurora. "Aha!" I proclaimed to myself, "It looks like we are riding today!" The rain began as a few drops in my driveway, grew to a significant downpour on my way to Aurora, and never really let up until about noon—just in time for the bike blessing at Phillips Park. Besides me, Eddie Cullins and Al Henderson also rode motorcycles to the event that day. We were well outnumbered by those Free Spirit Riders who came via automobile, but we were far from being the only riders out there. Thanks to all who showed up, no matter how you got there. We'll see what next year brings.

By comparison, we had a much nicer day for the First Saturday ride to Union. I had to bow out due to family issues, but it sounds like John Bercau and company had a good time. Next up is Leo Thompson's River Run on May 31. A perennial favorite of the club, it's short, it's fun, and you really should be there!
—Michael D'Aversa

Calendar

Roving Dinner	May 20	6:30PM	Sonic Drive-In, 2974 Kirk Road, Aurora, IL (630) 375-8360*
Springfield Mile	May 23/24		See FVC for details
Dinner	May 27	6:30PM	Bridge Street Café, 213 S Bridge St, Yorkville, IL (630) 553-9230*
FVC Open House	May 30	9:00AM	Be there, or be square**—worth 3 Participation Challenge Tickets <i>if you volunteer some of your time</i>
Last Sunday Ride	May 31	9:00AM	Meet at FVC—Fox River Run*
Dinner	June 3	6:30PM	Larry's Diner, 24522 W Lockport St, Plainfield, IL (815) 436-3055*
Overnight Ride	June 5–7	TBD	AMA Road Races @ Road America—watch email for details**
First Saturday Ride	June 6	9:00AM	Mystery Ride—watch email for details*
FVC Dirt Days	June 7	9:00AM	Fox Valley Off Road, Wedron, IL**
Meeting	June 10	6:00PM	Meeting at FVC and dinner at the Select Restaurant in Montgomery**
Rock Island Arsenal	June 13	9:00AM	Watch email for details**—Military regulations <u>require</u> each rider to wear a <u>certified helmet</u>, 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 MSF courses.
Ride to Work Day	June 15		International Motorcycle/Scooter Ride to Work Day (see the Newsletter)
Roving Dinner	June 17	6:30PM	TBA*
Illinois Freedom Run	June 20	6:00AM	500 Speedway Blvd., Joliet, Illinois to Marseilles, Illinois—worth 3 tickets <u>if</u> riders participate as a group representing the club.
Dinner	June 24	6:30PM	Bridge Street Café, 213 S Bridge St, Yorkville, IL (630) 553-9230*
Last Sunday Ride	June 28	9:00AM	Galena/Savanna Ride—watch email for details*
Dinner	July 1	6:30PM	Larry's Diner, 24522 W Lockport St, Plainfield, IL (815) 436-3055*
Red Bud Ride	July 4	9:00AM	Watch email for details**

* worth 2 Participation Challenge tickets —** worth 3 Participation Challenge tickets