

Did You Know?

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What is happening at the Copper Dome?

I am glad that you asked because by the time many of you read this, the legislators will be on their merry way. I say that because as many of you know 2008, will be an election year. I am sure that all of you know that unless you have been on a long ride and have not seen any news, or have been sleeping under a rock.

This election year in our state will also feature the three legislators that represent you, running for office. This is a great time to meet them on their ground or yours wherever that may be. They will be treating you as a voter again instead of a constituent. I think that there is a big difference and noticeable difference with some of the legislators. Remember you can find out your three legislators by googling; "Arizona Legislators". Take a trip around that website for all kinds of useful information.

This year the Motorcycle Lobbyists are going to work at repealing the emissions testing in Maricopa County. For those of you that bought those 2002 models you know what that means. Yes you will be emissions testing that bike if you live in Maricopa County. As all of you know, this county is the only one in the country that does emissions testing on motorcycles. We have had meetings with the stakeholders that may oppose us, but what ever you think, we are still going to have a fight on this one. Could we get a little assistance from the motorcycling public? There are about 150,000 of you out there spread into all of the nooks and crannies of Arizona and we could use your help. I know that this does not affect many of you, but you never know when emissions testing could come to your neighborhood. We need

to end this as soon as possible. For those that have told me that it will never happen, we were successful in eliminating the emissions testing in Pima County earlier this year.

How about those noise ordinances that are popping up all across the country? Has anyone been cited in Arizona recently? This is going to be a major problem for all of us that have changed our exhaust. Yes that would include me, but my pipes are not as radical as some. For those that want to look up the Arizona statute on this, go to the page that I referenced above and check out what the law says about changing your pipes. Here is the bottom line from my perspective; if all of the motorcyclists do not use a little restraint when it comes to twisting the wick, we are going to get regulated to the point that we will not want to ride. Get the word out to other riders to be a little more respectful of their surroundings when they decide to jump on and twist the wick for optimum listening pleasure, which would include the benefit of many non riders.

Past articles I have written about right of way violation legislation. We are going to try it again. We have an appointment with one of our legislators next week, so stay tuned for the next episode of "motorcycles against the four wheelers". Or, you could call it the "kill a motorcyclist and get a free pass by the "go to jail" spot". If most of you actually knew what happened to these drivers that were not paying attention while they were running red lights, or turning left in front of the riders, and each other as well, you would not believe it. So go and check it out for yourselves. Many of the inattentive drivers do not even get a fine. If they are fined, it is about a hundred bucks. We need to make some changes so that the drivers will put the cell phone, newspaper, book, makeup, MP3 player, or whatever they are fiddling with while driving, away. I am not sure that a heavy fine will do it, but maybe it will get someone's attention.

Join one of the Motorcycle Rights organizations in Arizona. Email me about an Experienced Rider class coming up.

Ride Safe, Informed, and well trained.
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