

## **Just My Point Of View** **by Tim, Owner of Bikers Bay** **480-421-1404 or 602-923-0114**

Times are getting tough and money is getting tight. We are frequently being asked how to save money on operating and servicing a bike. Here are some ideas.

For MPG gains, keep your air filter clean: In western states your air filter is working overtime. A clogged air filter reduces the engine's efficiency and will decrease your gas mileage. If you have not replaced your stock paper filter with a rechargeable filter, it is worth the investment.



Maintain tire pressures, this will help a little on gas mileage and extend the life of your tires. Check to make sure you are running the right tire pressure, as different tire manufactures recommend different pressures. Use the next lower grade of fuel. Many bike manufacturers call for 91 octane gas. Most bikes will not have any issue with moving to the next lower grade of gas. With my HD, the 89 works great and even felt as if it ran a little better.

Move to a semi-synthetic engine oil – There are many high quality semi-synthetic oils that will save you money and give you the protection you need. Castrol offers a semi-synthetic oil that has the added protection properties for longer life and heat resistance. Worried about changing back...there is no truth to the myth "Once you go syn, you can't go back."

"Back off the throttle a little — I ride a '03 Ultra...I get 42 MPG if I run below 75 and 32 MPG when I run above 80.

Look at off brand items – There are some very good quality off brand products that will save you a significant amount of money and perform. We are working to identify and test off brand products to create Bikers Bay's "value line products that perform™". We have identified, and tested, a "value line" tire that run around \$260 per set, installed. The tire looks good and has technical specs that match Metz and Dunlop's.

And finally, get your bike serviced by a good Independent. They will always save you money.

Ride safe and we hope to see you soon.

**Tim Brewer** - Bikers Bay