



Editor's Corner

1-2-3, here it was March already and as quick as it came, it was gone already. Here we are in April, after Easter – and it is still snowing!

I know, many of us do not know what to make of this and we like to complain about it. Then I read this really interesting piece about which country in the world has the happiest people:

Believe it or not, it is FINLAND! The Finns are the happiest people in the world! For much of the year, Finland has but a few hours of light and temperatures below 0 degrees.

What makes this all even more surprising, Norway is second on the “happy scale”, followed by Denmark and Iceland. All cold and dark!

The U.S. of A dropped four places to 18th in the latest UN’s annual World Happiness Report.

Why is it, that our powerful and wealthy nation – whose founding promise is the individual pursuit of happiness – consistently falls into second tier in that discipline?

Human beings, so we are told by anthropologists and social psychologists, are social creatures (no surprise here) and much of our happiness flows from our connections to other people, our sense of community and joint purpose. On these measures, the USA – despite its economic dynamism and vibrant culture – is in distinct decline. Trust in government, the media and other institutions has plunged. Most people feel the system is “rigged” in favor of corporations, coastal elites or some tribe other than their own.

Work, and the ceaseless hunt for money, security and consumer goods dominate most people’s lives. Time for family and friends and the activities that build community and meaning is often scarce. Loneliness is epidemic. So are addictions to painkillers, unhealthy food and technology. The most alienated among us load up on weapons and express their soul-sickness in bloody rampages.

What sets happier nations apart is the premium their cultures place on time spent in nature, in harmonious contact with friends and family. If there is a suggestion we can collectively and personally take from the happiness ranking, it’s this: Richness comes from human connection. GDP and the stock market matter less than friendship!

Mike



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It may not look and feel like it, but the date for our **Poker Run** is approaching fast. **May 20** will be here sooner than you think and we still have a lot of ground to cover. Volunteers are needed for a variety of duties! Please check with Mike York and/or Ally Orlando to find out how to help.

Bike Week in Daytona this year was the 77th time the event took place. Half a million bikers supposedly attended. While this has been and still is mainly an event to park and show your custom cruiser on Main Street for many it is the kick-off to the annual riding season. The classic 200 mile race has plunged in popularity after the sanctioning bureaucrats cut it down to a 600cc competition but it still draws quite a few spectators. Danny Eslick on his TOBC Racing Yamaha R6 captured his fourth victory on Saturday March 17.

There are plenty of recalls out there and almost every major manufacturer has one. Harley Davidson is leading the way once again with 175,000+ bikes needing service of the Anti-Lock brake system. Indian 2015-2017 Roadmasters need an electrical system check and the 2009-2016 Honda GL1800 Goldwing requires an airbag repair. Who would have thought some 20 years ago, that these components would have to be addressed on a motorcycle?

With an increasing popularity in 3-wheelers, there are demands for more common regulation by legislation. We have Three-Track symmetrical (Trike) Three-Track asymmetrical (Sidecar), Leaning Three Wheelers with two wheels in the front and one in the rear and Autocycles with two-wheels in front and one in the rear. The significantly different skills to ride/drive these machines may require different license qualifications.

Now that “autonomous driving” is the latest buzz word in the automotive industry, we have to be prepared that this will infiltrate our hobby too. Honda has a “Riding Assist” system with a bike that stands on its own and even follows a rider who gets off and starts walking. Scary, isn’t it?

The BMW Motorcycle Club of Georgia returns to the picturesque fairgrounds in Hiawassee for its 28th **Georgia Mountain Rally** from **May 4th to May 6th**. This being the first major rally of the year, it may be the event that will start the riding season for some of our members unless someone has signed up for the **MOA Getaway** at Fontana, NC, **April 20-22**.



It is worth reporting that Mike York, our Prez, has a brand new bike, a 2018 R1200RT. The color is called “Planet Blue” and it looks pretty nice. Mike already rode it to breakfast.....There are basically 20 years between this and my old 1999 R1100RT, and it sure shows. One major difference is the suggested list price, which was \$15,900 for the RT in 1999.....

...and before I get reader’s feedback with a complaint, I want to mention that John Bebout has a new RT too.

It is supposedly Mars Red Metallic. Picture coming soon!



BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron

President: Mike York Vice President: Allyn Orlando
Treasurer: John Bebout Secretary: TBD
Board of Directors: TBD
Newsletter: Mike Simon akronbmwnews@yahoo.com