

On The Softer Side

By: Cam Blevin



Come and Take a Ride with Me

All right that's it I've had enough! I allowed myself to be a victim AGAIN! Playing the victim is a role I've learned to play very well over the past several years and to tell you the truth I'm pretty much done with it. Maybe now is my time to get p***ed off. Let me explain, a month after my house was broken into I was covering an event and I left my truck at the event while I rode with a good friend to cover another story that was important to me (an upcoming benefit ride). Before I could get back, my truck got broken into. But this time I know it wasn't someone who knows me, it was just a random act of criminal behavior. So why do I now feel better about my truck being broken into? Sure, they got around \$100 dollars, they took my portfolio (that I've spent endless hours working on), they took lots of my business cards and all of my work stuff, and yes, two days later I was finally mad enough to break down and cry (give me a break, sometimes I'm such a girl). But, I am OK? they didn't steal my truck, they didn't bust out my windows, they didn't break my locks, they didn't take my leather riding jacket that was lying in the backseat! On the petty side of life; someone stole my gum, I'm pretty sure they needed it more than I do! And this time, no one broke my trust. As much as I love my truck, it is a truck and it is replaceable (please don't tell her, she might get her feelings hurt)!

Unfortunately we all have to live through this kind of stuff on a daily basis. So why am I OK? Because I woke up this morning and it was raining, my little love had a cold and stayed home from school and I had to rearrange my week. So what was the first thing I said in that sentence, "I woke up this morning"! And I did. And by the Grace of God I will do the same thing tomorrow morning. So what's my point? First, with every new dawn we all get another chance to do try harder, do better and the chance to fix some of our mistakes. Second, OK, admittedly I seem to wear the "Psycho's Wanted" neon sign on my forehead a LOT but I also meet so many of the most amazing people on this planet. Third, and most important, I truly lead a wonderful life! Random acts, both good and bad, happen to all of us and occasionally we are the ones performing random acts (hopefully for the good). We can't get stuck in the negative or we'll miss all of the wonderful things in life.

And at this moment, we are in the best part of the year! I haven't researched it yet but I'm pretty sure battery sales goes down this time of year (battery powered vibrations verses gas powered vibrations, you choose!). Every

time I get on the bike I know I'm living a great life! I get to see, smell, and taste the environment in a way most people never get to not to mention getting to hang out with friends, discover new places and did I mention the vibrations (I know let go of the throttle while you're sitting still it can idle by itself but what fun is that)!

So sometimes, bad things happen to good people, I guess that's why they call it life! And we all have those days when we feel like the whole world just "P***ed in our Wheaties" but generally these are just bumps and bruises in this journey called life. There are others that aren't so lucky. Due to forces of nature, wrecks, medical issues, and sometimes, horrible acts of violence these people's lives are changed forever.

One of the things I'm proudest of when it comes to being a biker chick is the biking community is one the most giving groups I've ever seen. I have never known another group of people that are so widely different in every aspect of life but are still able to put their daily lives aside to come together and perform random acts of kindness for people they don't personally know. Most of us have one event, benefit ride, charity ride or poker run that pulls on our heartstrings and I think deep down we all want to help others. Sometimes it's hard to know who to help or how to help but in the summer that task is made easier and just by participating in these type of rides we know we are helping others.

So here's my invitation, come and take a ride with me. Let's see how many different organizations and how many people we can help this summer just by taking a ride. If we look outside of our own world and our own petty problems we'll realize there are so many people who can use our help. And if help comes in the form of going on a poker run and getting to enjoy a beautiful day, hanging out with old friends and meeting new friends, enjoying a couple of cold ones, and helping someone along the way, wasn't it worth the trip? It always is for me. In this thing called life, I would rather be remembered as a giver verses being a taker. So as we forge into the summer months, come and take a ride with me. Even if we aren't on the same ride we'll all be helping someone that needs a helping hand, a guardian angel or just a show of support by others.

On a personal note, after enjoying Biker's Paradise Tuesday Night Dinner Rides for the past few years everyone wanted to continue our Tuesday Night Dinner Rides even though the shop is no longer around. Anyone who used to ride with us or is interested in riding with our group is welcome to e-mail tuesdaynightride@yahoo.com for a monthly calendar. The starting location changes monthly and the dinner location changes weekly. So if you are in the St. Louis area, drop me a line.

So until then, be Safe, have Fun and Enjoy the Ride of Your Life,

Cam