

You Might Be A Motorcyclist

IF I DO say so myself, my seminar at Americade this year was one of my best-received ever. Of course, the main reason for that is that I stole the idea from a famous comedian, Jeff Foxworthy. I simply took Jeff's, "You might be a redneck..." format, and applied it to motorcycling. The crowd seemed to love it.

For the hour-long seminar, I had pieced together over 60 motorcycling scenarios, but I can't fit them all in here to share with you, so here are just a few of my personal favorites—every one of which I am personally guilty of. As you read them, simply finish each sentence with, "...you might be a motorcyclist."

If you paid more for your bike than you did for your wife's engagement ring...

If your Christmas cards have a picture of Santa Claus on a motorcycle...

If you ride your bike to work at least two or three days a week...

If you subscribe to three or more motorcycle magazines, and still pick up extras every week at the newsstand or motorcycle dealership...

If you spent more on tires last year than you did on clothes...

If you check the Weather Channel on Friday, knowing full well you're still going to ride that weekend despite what they say...

If you can rattle off the names, model designations and horsepower ratings of all the newest bikes, but can't remember your kids' birthdays...

If you ever had your barber/hairdresser cut your hair really short so you wouldn't have to comb it out every time you took your helmet off...

If you ever grew a beard just to keep your chin warm when riding in the winter...

If your personal stationery, credit cards, checks or business cards have a picture of a motorcycle on them...

If your bike(s) is kept in your garage, while your car is parked outside...

If you remember the exact day you bought your first bike, but have trouble remembering your wedding anniversary...

If you sometimes buy premium gas for your bike, even though it doesn't need it, just because you want to show it you care...

If you can't walk away from your parked bike without looking back at least once to "see if it's okay"...

If you look for excuses to hang around your local motorcycle shop for hours on end, even when you have no business to conduct there...

When you're pulling into a parking lot or rest area, if you look for other bikes to



park next to so you can talk to the riders...

If you won't rent a motel room unless you can park where you can see your bike from the window...

...And, when you get up in the middle of the night to take a leak, you stop by the window just to see if it's still there...

If the return address on all your outgoing mail is those little sticky labels from the AMA...

If your cell phone's custom ringer has been programmed to play "Born to be Wild" or "Bad to the Bone"...

If you ever detoured 100 miles out of your way just to catch 20 miles of twisties...

If your life partner has ever said to you, "You're getting awful cranky lately — maybe you should go for a ride"...

If you use \$6.00 a quart oil in your bike, and buy whatever's on sale for \$0.99 to use in your car...

If your carry-on luggage on the plane is a tankbag...

If your pet dog/cat/goldfish or whatever is named "Scooter," "Harley," "Vincent" or "Triumph"...

If you know the exact make, model and size of tires that are on your bike, and precisely what inflation you run in them, but have no idea what brand is on your car...

If you buy earplugs in packs of a dozen...

If you believe that any piece of metal might look better chromed...

If you ever tried to teach your dog to ride on the bike with you...

If your idea of "taking it easy" is only riding 200 miles today...

If you thought buying your wife a new helmet for her birthday was a good idea...

If you think 8 a.m. is too early to start work, but 7 a.m. is too late to start a ride...

If you turn to look every time you hear a motorcycle exhaust...

If you ever went for a ride when you were sick, rationalizing that it might make you feel better...

If you once rode 1,000 miles or more in a single day, just to see if you could do it...

If you occasionally realize that you forgot to eat lunch, or dinner, or both, because you were "too busy" riding...

If you've ever run out of gas for no other reason than you wanted to see how far your bike would go on reserve...

If the guy behind the parts counter at your local dealership greets you by your first name when you walk in the door...

If your wife threatened to leave you if you bought one more bike, and you started getting her luggage out of the closet...

If you stare out the window of an airplane, trying to imagine what it would be like to ride the roads you're passing over...

If you occasionally go out to the garage just to "look in" on your bike...

If you spend more time hanging out in the parking lot, among the bikes, than actually going inside the place you just rode over 100 miles to get to...

If you ever argued—with your wife or yourself—that it was too cold (wet, windy, or whatever) outside to work in the yard, and then went riding instead...

If the first thing to wear out on your boots is the top of the left toe...

If you can identify various insects by their flavor...

If you find yourself leaning into turns when driving your car...

If you've ever decided it would be easier to just ride the bike than to scrape the snow off the car...

If your answer to, "Why do you own three bikes?" would be, "Fool—because I can't afford four!"

If seeing something leaking out of your motorcycle causes you more anguish than seeing your own blood...

Obviously, I don't claim total authorship of these. Some came from friends, and some were inspired by other things. For example, the one about 7 a.m. being too late to start a ride came from an ad painted on the side of a BMW company semi-truck.

I have a couple of dozen more, but sure wouldn't mind adding to my collection, if you guys have any thoughts on the subject.

—Fred Rau
Senior Editor