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CHECKING THE WAKE Safety E-Newsletter

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* National Capital Region Joint Service Motorcycle Safety Event



ADMIRAL JOHNSON ON A TRAINER BIKE

National Capital Region Joint Service Motorcycle Safety Event at the Pentagon

by *Teresa S. Boucher*

01-02 May 2009 marked this year's Joint Service Motorcycle Safety Event, otherwise known as 'The Motorcycle Rodeo'. For those of you who have never been to such an event, I interviewed Mr. George Revoir, our NDW Traffic Safety Training Program Manager to find out more about it. That interview follows:

So George, for those of us who are not motorcycle riders, what is the Pentagon Motorcycle Rodeo all about?

"In a few words, "it's about Military Rider Safety", but you know I'm not a man of 'few words' so here's the big picture!

"More active duty military personnel have died here at home aboard motorcycles (M-Cs) than have died while actively involved in theater operations overseas. The rodeo puts all the elements of M-C rider safety currently available 'right at hand' in an open air venue in one location in Military District Washington.

All elements of "rider safety" are visually displayed and discussed; all responsible parties in M-C safety training for various service branches are available for impersonal question and answers about training, and what personnel can expect to learn and benefits they'll get by receiving training."

Can you describe the kinds of activities that take place during a Motorcycle Rodeo?

"The activities ranged from displays of interactive computerized M-C trainer machines; expert riders displaying their techniques in motorcycle handling; and sample displays of sport bike rider skills taught in sports bike rider training classes". During this specific rodeo, police motorcycle riders displayed professional rider skills and motorcycle rider handling skills were open to personnel in attendance. There was a judging of motorcycles entered in the show that included best sports bike, best cruiser, over all best in show, etc. If you're a motorcycle enthusiast or even think you just might like to be an enthusiast someday, it's a fine way to spend a fun afternoon."



Dan Moore, NDW Lead Motorcycle Safety Instructor talks about M-C Safety issues.



George Revoir is pictured here with Miss USA who was a 'special' guest at the Motorcycle Rodeo this year.

What can be learned at a Motorcycle Rodeo?

"That the military is VERY actively 'engaged' in really lowering the ever escalating number in motorcycle fatalities happening almost every year."

"Personnel can walk around and see exhibits in rider wear and see that there is comfortable and fashionable safe gear readily available from many different manufacturers."

"Many military riders can learn how diverse and interconnected the military training is throughout the region; they are able to "network" their enthusiast activity with other branches; many cross service friendships are formed that easily might not have formed were it not by the catalyst of M-C safety training."

So, can you summarize what the two-day event meant to our region/community? Or more specifically, what message do you want to leave the audience reading this?

"Motorcycle safety awareness can benefit everyone. Interested 'non riders' were able to learn that motorcycles are not a passing fancy or novelty but are equally entitled to safe access to public roadways and also require an extra margin of safe space surrounding the motorcycle."

"The 2nd day event 'Rally rider' saw civilian families lining roadsides as the rider procession passed in formation accompanied by motorcycle police escort."

"That through proactive engagement of command, senior NCOs' and all riders themselves, rider safety can be achieved. For a long time initial M-C training efforts were reactive due to increases in young inexperienced riders crashing bikes much more powerful than their experience and reflexes could manage. Each member of the military is an essential link in the chain of strength of that particular command; the loss of even one member/link drastically impacts the effectiveness of that command's mission."

"That as a commander you want your senior supervision routing out all personnel that ride to ensure they comply with training."

"That as a rider you get enrolled into training to garner skills you very well would not get on your own."

"That as a friend or a spouse of a rider it's very important that your rider gets this training so that they stay in your life for a very long time to come."

"Lastly, that SAFE RIDING is a responsibility of every rider, regardless of rank, military service or type of machine every time they get aboard their machines."

"That stunts and speed demon acts are careless and irresponsible and have a negative impact on all other riders."

Motorcycle Safety Training Sign-Up Information

To sign-up for any of our motorcycle safety training courses

go to:

www.navy.motorcyclerider.com

For detailed information, please contact our Lead Instructor, Dan Moore at 301-751-3199 or dmoore@capefoxit.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The National Capital Region Joint Service Motorcycle Safety Event [aka- Motorcycle Rodeo] is an annual event. Mark your calendars to plan on attending next year.*



NDW Motorcycle Instructors: Ms. Vanessa Jones, Ms. Peaches Hainline & Ms. Dina Lauricella



Bill Johnson [NDW Motorcycle Instructor] sits on his "Best of Show" bike with Miss USA.

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**The responsibility for Safety in all facets of our lives,
really rests in all of our hands."**

