



Freedom's Road Newsletter
Written by Freddy Freedom



Daytona 2009 To The Rescue
Bikers welcome
By Freddy Freedom

The snow and ice just keeps piling up with every weather forecast. Record cold temperatures and cabin fever epidemics sweep across the country as “Old Man Winter” and his faithful companion “Mother Nature” unleash their unmerciful fury day after long cold day, putting a choke hold on most of the country as the fight for survival continues. Hope fades as you scrape the frost off the window and look outside. You ask yourself the question, “will the sweet music of tuned exhaust and the blinding reflection of polished chrome of days gone by ever be heard or seen again?” Just as things look hopeless, good news arrives as you look at the calendar and realize Daytona Bike Week comes early this year!



Bike Week is always exciting whether this is your first time coming down or your fiftieth. There’s a special magic about the first bike rally of the year, a feeling of renewal. A chance to leave the cold and snow and the pressures of everyday life behind for a chance to relax and do some long awaited riding. Unlike Sturgis, Daytona is not known for breath taking scenic rides, yet Florida really does have some great rides and some really worth while things to do and see that are unique only to Florida.

Besides the nationally known theme parks like Disney World, MGM and Sea World, which are all well within a couple hours ride of Daytona, there are some super cool not so well known places and things to see and do. Head north out of Daytona and northwest of Holly Hills to Tomoka. A ride through and in and around Tomoka Park and the “Tomoka Loop” is one of the most scenic rides you’ll ever take as you cruise along towering palms and streets covered by oak tree canopies, heavy with spanish moss along the Tomoka River.



A day trip to the oldest city in the United States, St. Augustine, is a great side trip. Just north of Daytona, it offers the Fountain of Youth, Ripley’s Believe It Or Not museum, the country’s first

jail, a ton of unusual shops, the country's first military fort, as well as being a nice oceanside city. Blue Springs, in Orange City, is only about an hour ride southwest of Daytona and boasts one of the biggest concentrations of Manatee's. They migrate up the St. Johns River in the winter to enjoy the crystal clear 72 degree waters of Blue Springs. At Blue Springs you'll find canoe rentals, narrated boat tours down the famous St Johns River, picnic areas, a super self guided picturesque boardwalk tour that really takes you back in time to the "Old Florida", along with a swimming area in the springs. There are also cabins to rent if you wanted to spend the night. Heading west on SR 40 about an hour and half from Daytona is Silver Springs, world famous for the glass bottom boats. Several Tarzan movies were filmed there and there are sure to be a gator or two.

If you want a serious but easy country ride head west on SR 40 all the way over to the Gulf to Cedar Key, a quaint, laid back Gulf side town. Kick back at any one of the many Gulf side establishments order up dinner and enjoy a spectacular sun set. Gulf sunsets are among the most renowned in the world. Get a sea side cottage or motel room and head back the next day. This is well worth the time spent. Once you are on the Nature Coast (the Gulf side) head south on US 19 through Crystal River, Homosassa and into Weeki Wachee and take in the famous mermaid show. Then head east on SR50 to I75 north to SR40 east back to Daytona.



After you have seen all the vendors and checked out Destination Station, did the Main Street thing, hit all the joints up and down US1 and generally partied yourself silly, get off US1, A1A and Main Street. You came to ride, so ride. No, Florida doesn't have Spearfish Canyon or Badland National Park or Mt Rushmore, but we do have some of the most unique and unusual scenery in the country. We do have white sand beaches on both coasts and we do have something you can do here that you can't do in South Dakota... **RIDE IN YOUR SHIRT SLEEVES IN MARCH!!** So ride.

HOPE TO SEE YA ON FEBRUARY 27TH !



Hogs In Ministry

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13