

As I review this write-up about Bike Week 2006, I started thinking about the last few months. It seems that, in general, the attitude and morale of everyone and everything concerned with Bike Week was more positive and relaxed than last year. There was a lot less stress, and everyone I met appeared to enjoy themselves more than in recent past events. Probably due, in part, to the fact that there weren't any hurricanes or storms looming over our heads. Daytona was cleaned up from all the damage the storms of 2005 had left in their wake, and everyone in town was glad to see the visitors rolling in.

This year with the help of several members, we put together a full VMOA schedule which was in addition to all the other activities taking place during Bike Week. I like to think we gave our members their monies worth, and that they took home some good memories of the weeks events.

So, let's talk about the week's events and how they played out. I want to start out by thanking Eric Harnish for laying out the VMOA rides, and his help setting up the VMOA Dyno shoot-out. His experience and assistance helped make these events a success. There are more members to thank, but read on to find out how everyone pitching in makes the events something memorable and fun.

The VMOA's week started out with an early visitor get-together. We met at the Oyster Pub in Daytona Beach. This event usually has the smallest attendance, because not everyone has arrived in Daytona yet, but I was pleasantly surprised by that we had 25-30 people attend. I met several members that night that I hadn't met before. Conversation usually centers on the upcoming events,



and where everyone is staying for the week.

Tuesday morning was an event with a different flavor. The Orlando Museum of Art has the exhibit the "Art of the Motorcycle" on display. The exhibit is similar to the one which was at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. It explores the motorcycle as a cultural icon and design achievement. There are 80 bikes of various styles old and new on display. Eric Harnish led the group ride to the Orlando Museum for the exhibit and lunch afterwards.



Wednesday everyone met at Denny's in Daytona on US-92 for breakfast, and then an all day ride. Eric again stepped up to the plate, and led this ride. I was not able to make this or the other ride, but several members approached me throughout the week and expressed the great time they had, on this ride which was "harder, faster, and more sporting" than the last few rides in previous events. The positive response to the ride will help us to plan the attitude of the routes we take during Biketoberfest.

Thursday morning was VMOA Ride #2. Let me thank



Randy Bullard for stepping forward to lead this ride. The ride started in Ormond Beach, wound thru some back roads in Deland, up thru the Ocala National Forest, down thru Eustis, and back up to Daytona. Randy lives in Jacksonville, FL, and came to Daytona to "pre-run" the route a few days early. I got good feedback on this scenic ride from some non-local members, but from Randy's account, I think he had more fun than anybody else who went with him!



Thursday afternoon, many of the riders ended up at the home of VMOA member Jai Infanzon. Jai and Christine hosted the VMOA Swap meet/Cookout. This was an event we setup for the members to be able to buy and sell motorcycle parts, hangout and swap stories, and have a place to relax for the day. The turnout was greater than we expected. We had about 45 members show up for the event. At any one time there was about 30 VMAX's lined up out in front of Jai's house. I can only imagine what his neighbors were thinking. Jai also displayed his award winning VMAX's as well. You may have seen some of them in Street fighter magazine at one time or another. The only disappointing item was that almost no one had any parts for sale. I only recall seeing parts from 3 members for sale. Oh well, better luck next time. Hey at least the turnout was robust. I do remember that we had 3 new members join the VMOA at the Swap meet/Cookout.

Thursday events ended up with what I can only call VMOA Daytona tradition. What am I talking about? Bulows Campground. Every Bike Week, Rich Scharf, Steve Lynch, and Chuck always put on an evening BBQ/Fire/ Hangout at their campsite for VMOA members. It always has a great turnout, and Bike Week 06 was no different, except for the fact that the guys had a different campsite location this year. But, that didn't stop 35 riders or so from attending the event. Thanks again guys... great nite for all!

This year the VMOA Dyno Shoot-out was held on Friday morning. Based on the great attendance we had all week at the other events, we expected the dyno lineup to be packed. This was not the case. We had far less attendance at PCS for the shoot-out than has been in past events. However, while the action may have been slow, the members



who did attend mentioned their appreciation for having the dyno reserved for us. I will say that we signed up 2 new members prior to their run on the dyno. It was a good week for new member signups. In the Modified class, Manny Silveira took 1st place, and Robert Lightsey took 2nd place. In the stock category, Bob DeGrippe (former VMOA store) took 1st place, and Brian Malone took 2nd place. We didn't have any members in