

Michael, Michael, Motorcycle

This is a story about a guy, a bike and really more about setting goals. You see, I want to show you how setting goals will help you accomplish just about anything you put your mind too. So..... let's get started.

About 4 years ago I planted a seed in my head. Well, the seed was planted many years earlier, but was dormant because I felt it would never happen. So, you can say that it was a seed that took many years before it realized its purpose. This seed was to learn how to ride a motorcycle and go out and buy one. It had to be a Harley Davidson bike. Many of my friends and relatives had bikes. I don't really think that this was the reason I had this interest. I just always thought it looked cool and exhilarating to be cruising down the road on a Harley.

If you remember in November, I wrote an article called "Everyone's a Salesperson". Well, I needed to put my selling shoes on to convince my wife Kim that I was not crazy. It worked, but she still thinks I'm crazy.

Learning how to ride was pretty neat because in the State of Pennsylvania, they offer safe riding courses. I attended this course in May of 2003. The first evening, I realized I was not alone. The class was made up of twelve student riders, 7 men & 5 women, most of us who had never even been on a motorcycle before and two excellent teachers. By the 3rd evening, we were on motorcycles riding on a course. Several weeks later, we all had our motorcycle licenses.

Picking out the right bike was a big decision. The '03 models were on the show room floor at several H.D. Dealers. Harley Davidson was celebrating it's 100th Anniversary in '03. One Saturday afternoon, Kim and I sat with the owner of Thunder Harley Davidson in Sharon, PA, Fred aka Mr. Thunder. He gave me a huge education on selecting a bike. He also told me that I would probably be buying a new one in a year because I'll want to upgrade. Most beginners get into a Sportster. I decided to get into a Low Rider which is from the Dyna Family. It was beautiful! It was black with the 100th Anniversary logo and designs.

I became an official owner of a Harley Davidson and a HOG Member. What do I do now? Well, after many miles of riding and enjoyment, I did go back a year later and upgrade to another bike. I picked out a '04 Road King that Harley only made 100 paint sets. I still ride this bike and Kim and I have been on many wonderful trips with it.

The story doesn't end here. As I said, it is also about goal setting. I had many goals that I accomplished during this experience. But, I've come across many people that have this same goal or something similar. The only person that holds you back is yourself. Many of you have a vehicle, a house, a specific item, or maybe it's a

vacation dream that you have in mind. You need to set your mind to do it and just go out and make it happen.

Last year, a friend and I were out in my driveway talking about our bikes. One of us said that someday we'll go out to Sturgis, SD for the motorcycle rally. After further discussion I said to him, why wait. Let's just go out and do it later that summer. *We got approval from our wives.* We planned it and accomplished it. I've talked with many other riders who have been saying this same statement for years. Someday, I want to go out to Sturgis. Again, just do it! What are you waiting for? Time will not wait for you. You need to take advantage of the time you have and enjoy life.

“The only competition you will ever have is the competition between your disciplined and undisciplined mind.”

-James Arthur Ray

Enjoy the ride of life!

Mike Popella