

**MAY 2023**

SAFETY



Don't Celebrate Too Hard

Hey man! It's me, Jonny Chong. You remember me from all those movies and TV shows with Cheech, don't ya? Oh wait. That was my long-lost cousin Tommy Chong. Never mind.

Hey, don't you love a good celebration? I'm a dedicated party animal myself. And as luck would have it, May brings not two, but four, wait, no. What comes between two and four? Anyway, there's Women Riders' Month, International Female Ride Day, and Wisconsin Motorcycle Awareness Month! WAHOO!

Women Riders' Month is a blast. When it comes to women riders, I hate to see them leave, but love to watch them as they ride away, if you know what I mean, man. Oh, excuse me. If you know what I mean HOG members of both persuasions. Hey, did you know yesterday (May 6th) was International Female Ride Day? Hopefully, as many of you biker chicks who ride got to take your iron horse out for a spin.

But, you know, with all the stuff to celebrate in May, you got to remember when it comes to hitting the road, you got to make sure to do it safely. The last thing you want to do is hop on your Harley **AFTER** celebrating. If you had even one beer, one mixed drink, or a glass of wine, your judgment is beginning to be impaired. Your vision loses it's sharpness, and your reaction time is slowed. The more you drink, the tougher it gets to negotiate the roadways. It's bad in a car. But when you're on only two or three wheels, it's much harder cuz you got levers to squeeze, pedals to press, in addition to steering.

Then there's all that other stuff like illegal drugs and even legal drugs. Some medications even have a warning on the bottle. You know the one I'm talking about. Don't operate heavy machinery while taking this. What do you think a motorcycle is? It's a lot bigger than a drill or a toaster.

Hey, did you know in Arizona they have stores where you can get marijuana? For real! You can even buy things like brownies, cookies, chocolates and gummies that are already laced. They say it's like going into an old-fashioned meat market. Like there are these refrigerated glass cases and you go in a pick out what you want. I wish they'd had that back in the day. It would have saved me a lot of, oh wait. Never mind. I didn't say that. Or was it a flashback? Are you all here? Whoa, did you see that bug fly by my head just now? Oh wait. That was just a floater. Pesky little things.

Where was I? Oh yeah. So, if you want to celebrate anything, do the smart thing. Wait until you get home to drink or do whatever. If you goof, and do it somewhere else, get a ride home in a car. Cause, if you're under the influence, you make hell of a bad passenger on a motorcycle. Passengers need to be alert on the bike too. There's nothing worse than some fool dancing, or swaying, barfing, or even falling asleep on the back of a bike.

Anyway, have fun celebrating the special days and the whole month of May and just because it's Motorcycle Awareness Month in Wisconsin doesn't mean you can let your guard down. People in 4-wheel vehicles are not used to seeing bicycles, scooters, and motorcycles out on the roadways. That's another great reason to save the celebrating 'til you get home, or have a designated driver.

Well, I gotta go. Just like the song says, "There's a bathroom on the right!"
Ride and drive safe out there!



John Knickerbocker, Safety