



Beating the Riding Weather Blues



Shelly "Cricket" Beatty

Pink Thunder

As I look out my window at the first glimpse of sun in days, I wonder just how cold it is out there. I'm sure this cold weather riding season is early and will last through February. Some will leather up or throw on some rain gear just to ride. You are more likely to find me by the fire at home. So, what's a girl to do when riding is out of the question? What women are known to do best, go shopping!

It's time to catch up on the upcoming spring fashion for bikers. So, I stopped in at the local Harley dealership of course. Yes, I'm guilty of loving Harley clothes, but after all they tend to wear well when riding. So, I will use that excuse to own so many. Some of my favorites for riding that Harley make are the thin, but long sleeved shirts. I wear them year round, so for the extra money you spend on a name brand shirt, it gets worn. When I checked in to see what Harley would be opening the spring season with I found out I had to wait. March is when they will be putting the new season inventory on their shelves.

Another favorite of mine that Harley makes are their shoes. Usually, you can find them in a local biker clothing store besides Harley stores, but this year I'm being told they will only be offered at Harley dealerships. So, hit up your local stores for their clearance sales! My other favorite is their jackets. They have such a large selection. Last year pink was the hot color for Harley. I'm dying to see what this year will be. Of course there is always a large selection of the famous black and orange.

Harley isn't the only place to shop. Don't forget your local bike shops! A lot of them now have a retail side to them. Remember when you buy local you help your local businesses stay in business. So, the next time you want to stop for just a pair of gloves because you lost one mysteriously, they will be there for you!

For the internet lovers I've found a few sites to check out hotleathers.com, leatherup.com, ladybikerstuff.com (everything from custom decals to the pinkest of pink

leathers), foulmouthshirts.com (attitude shirts, the site is best view by adults only), dirtygoatees.com (a Thunder Roads Texas advertiser), otomix.com (here's one you probably never thought of, a work out clothing line. Check out the burnout section.)

Let me change gears here. Don't forget to shop for your bike when you are not riding! I mentioned the local bike shops earlier. This is their slow season, dealerships included. You are probably not riding much due to weather, so get that bike in the shop and have it ready to ride, not waiting in line for service when the riding season truly begins. Also, if you stopped by and signed guest books and such at the local shops, most probably sent you holiday cards offering discounts for oil changes and more. A lot of shops also hold their own events right there in their parking lots. Anything from swap meets to annual parties. If you are looking for things to do or a savings and you didn't get any mailings make sure to stop by all your favorites this year and get on their mailing list.

Nope, I'm not done shopping yet! I spent some time looking into better skin care management! What I mean is, I don't currently have a windshield on my bike. So, what am I doing to beat the wind and weather during the last of the cold season? I have found there is no replacement for covering your face of course. My favorite new item is as simple as a bandana, but it's made out of 100% polyester rather than cotton and instead of tying it you have Velcro. I put it on after my sun glasses over my nose and ears then tuck the tail down into the front of my jacket. This way it keeps my neck warm too. After that I add my helmet. I like it because I don't have wear a full face

helmet or a mask, but also because at stop lights I can pull it down slightly and not fog up my sun glasses. So, have fun shopping and gearing up for the spring riding season!



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