

# *Bruce on Bikers' Rights*

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## **DON'T CALL YOURSELF A FREEDOM FIGHTER**

*Unless you actually get out and vote!*

Fellow Riders and "Freedom Fighters":

The November elections are only a few weeks away. Soon we will finally get a merciful reprieve from the disappointing back-and-forth "lipstick politics" polluting our myopic media, and at long last we will know whether the mess *We the People* made by voting for Dubya *twice* will be inherited by "Oblabla and the Mouth" or "McSame and the Milf".

**SPEAKING OF VOTING...** If you have not yet registered to vote, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions about where or how to register or vote in any state, you'll find a wealth of information online at the **U.S. Election Assistance Commission Voter Information Center**:

<http://www.eac.gov/voter>

Remember that voting is not just a right: It's a responsibility. Your exercise of that right is necessary for the preservation of our freedom. **If you don't exercise it, then don't ride around calling yourself a "freedom fighter".**

And before you vote, I encourage you to get familiar with the real, substantive issues—not just what cable TV talking heads are blathering about—and the political candidates' positions on those issues. Do not assume that all Democrats are liberals or anti-biker, or that all Republicans are conservatives or biker-friendly. It was, after all...

...**A DEMOCRAT** (U.S. Congressman Rob Andrews, NJ) who allied himself with ABATE of the Garden State in this year's noble if unsuccessful attempt to unseat Frank Lautenberg, saying "*I fully support the effort to preserve the rights of the motorcycle community by opposing unnecessary federal laws that seek to constrain the liberty of riders.*"; and it was

...**A REPUBLICAN** (State Representative Carlos Lopez-Cantera, FL) who solicited the aid of ABATE of Florida's president and paid lobbyist in sponsoring HB-137, legislation authorizing the seizure of motorcycles, threatening us with "*They'll lose their bike... Their motorcycle license will be revoked for 10 years, and it's a mandatory arrest so they will go to jail.*"

**Bikers—and all other voters, for that matter—must stop assuming that *any* political "label" is by itself sufficient basis for a responsible decision!** And I can only hope I need not say the same about gender or race...

**ONE MORE THING...** Do not accept the spin and smear spewing from *any* political camp as gospel. And for God's sake, be skeptical about anything you read in those ridiculous chainmails that are clogging the pipes of the Internet. **Snopes.com** is a good place to go to separate fact from fiction:

<http://www.snopes.com/>

If you want to know if Obama really is the Anti-Christ, for example, simply type “obama antichrist” into their Search box and click “Go”. And did John McCain admit to being a war criminal on 60 Minutes? Search **Snopes.com** for “mccain war criminal” to learn the truth of this matter ... and many more.

Speaking strictly for myself and no other individuals or organizations,

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P.S. Kudos to American Motorcyclist Association Chairman of the Board Stan Simpson for his inspiring “Building a Better AMA” article on page 16 of the September 2008 issue of **American Motorcyclist** magazine, in which he proclaims we can “*Expect more activism by the AMA in the areas of noise reduction, access to public lands, rider discrimination, increased education and awareness, and opposition to mandates.*”