

Oil-heat pros get their motors runnin'



Taco president John White Jr., an avid motorcyclist, and Common Ground's Dan Vastyan admire the custom-built machine.

Steppenwolf's "Born to be Wild" was a theme song for generations of bikers. Though the soundtrack may have changed through the years, hard working American trade professionals are among those who enjoy good, all-



outdoors romp on th' road.

At this year's OESP (National Association of Oil and Energy Service Professionals) convention, May 20 to 24 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, the popular, event-opening, all-day fund-raiser will again involve bikers, cyclists, walkers and runners, joined by a cause to help those less fortunate.

"As we've done for several years, we'll open this year's trade show and educational event with the 'Oil Heat Cares' fundraiser, with proceeds that help families in need by improving heating systems," said Judy Garber,

executive director of OESP.

On Monday, May 21, the "Oil Heat Cares" event will involve motorcycling (starting at 10 a.m.), bicycling (at 1 p.m.), running and walking (at 4 p.m.). Be sure to visit the OESP website for more information at [www.thinkoesp.org](http://www.thinkoesp.org).

All bike rides lead to providence

If you like the rush of the road and quick response of a throttle, OESP's motorcycling group — the event's newest entry — will be sure to please. Roadmaster Kevin Bowman, branch manager, Bell-Simons Company and member of the Rhode Island OESP Chapter, has mapped-out an all-day ride into Northern Connecticut with a stop at the Vanilla Bean Café that will conclude with a tour of Taco, Inc. Why, it's as American as hot dogs, baseball and Taco's 007.

The biker spirit thrives at Taco. CEO Johnny White rides an old Fat Boy or a sassy new Rocker. Product manager Carl Perrone buzzes around on his four-cylinder Yamaha V65 muscle cruiser, while Taco-Canada's Sean Giberson tools around in the Toronto area on his silver VTX1800 chick magnet.

Coming to the event from afar is Long Island's hydronic trade pro Billy Weiner who, last year, bought a

new Harley, replacing an Electra Glide he'd ridden for years. Also planning to ride: George Perrelli, F. Perrelli & Sons, E. Haven Conn.; Ralph Adams, Parker Fuel, Ellicott City, Md. and David Bessette, MacFarlane Energy, Dedham, Mass.

Talk to any trade pro/motorcyclist about their bikes and be prepared to do a lot of listening. There's a romance to the road that's only possible to know, see, smell and feel when there's nothing between you and an open horizon. On a bike, it's just you, the engine's rumble and thrust, the wind against your chest and that bug-spitting grin on your face.

"Riding takes a back seat only to the family and fishing," said Minnesota contractor Eric Aune, who's been known to visit customers or submit estimates aboard his '83 Road King "shovelhead."

Hog fever

John Perry of Advanced Comfort Systems in North Smithfield, R.I. comes from a family of bikers. "I use my Dad's Road King," said John. "Actually, it's more my Mom's than my Dad's — she rides it more than he does, and she's in her 70s!"

Hog-fever has sparked a special "Biker's Club" group on Taco's FloPro

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Industry writer Dan Vastyan built the "Taco Bike," a lean, custom "bobber" that first saw public scrutiny at the 2011 NAOHSM/OESP show in Hershey, Pa.

Neighborhood (visit [flopro.taco-hvac.com](http://flopro.taco-hvac.com) and from there log in or register for the a.) FloPro Team and also the b.) FloPro Neighborhood), where bikers show off their moto-babies and swap stories about especially good rides. There you'd see news of Taco-inspired biker and industry writer Dan Vastyan who

went tire-to-tire with OCC on a chop-shop effort to build an ultra-custom, old school "bobber."

An avid biker and Taco fan, Vastyan combined his passion for hydronics and two-wheeling to build the "TacoBike" which made its debut at the NAOHSM/OESP show in Hershey, Pa., last year. It's a lean,

green hard-tailed machine that embodies the essence of good Taco customers everywhere: solid, compact and powerful; stealthy and low to the ground; custom-fit for the

"Riding takes a back seat only to the family and fishing."

— Eric Aune

biker seeking the open road's heart and soul.

"There's no other machine like it on the road," said Vastyan. "From its Taco 'tattoos' and big, fat whitewall tires, hand-crafted leather seat with FloPro impeller and a WWII artillery



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shell casing air filter frame, to its custom and rigid frame, the machine was built to be like Taco in every way possible a bike could resemble a manufacturer and its customers.

"We now know so many people in the Taco camp, with loads of bikers at the company and among its customers," Vastyan added. "The inspiration to build a bike honoring them was an easy thing to do — and a whole lotta' fun in the process.

"In fact, Johnny White liked it so much that he bought it to display it in their new Innovation and Development Center that will be close to completion when the OESP convention is held," he said.

The "Oil Heat Cares" motorcycle ride will include a trip to Taco and the state-of-the-art learning and training facility.

So if you're planning a trip to this year's OESP show, and if you like to walk, run, bicycle or moto-bike for a good cause, consider Oil Heat Cares — [www.oilheatcares.com](http://www.oilheatcares.com).