

If not Sturgis...How about Daytona??

Mike Edwards

OK, so Sturgis may be a stretch that you don't want to tackle this year. Daytona could be your trip. It's South of here. It's warmer than here. It's much, much closer than Sturgis. Sounds like fun.

This will be my first official trip to Daytona Bike Week. I have always wanted to go and have said 2008 is going to be my year to travel.

I will be leaving on Friday, March 7th riding down I-20 to I-26 to I-95 straight into Daytona. This will be the last official weekend of bike week. I have made the drive many, many times as my family loves Orlando. We go down at least 3 times a year. I plan on returning to Columbia March 10th. This will be a short Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday trip. It only takes about 6/7 hours riding time (380miles).

I am camping, taking my tent, sleeping bag, etc. I will haul what I need with me; after all we are only talking 4 days. I have chosen a campground called the "Holiday Travel Park" off I-95 at exit 278. Never been there, don't know anything about it other than what I see on the website. I sent them an e-mail and received confirmation back that you don't need a reservation. They have plenty of dry camping areas available. The rates are \$20.00 per night with no minimum. Checkout their website: <http://holidaytravelparkco-op.com>. Other places I looked at required a 7-night minimum, pay up front.

As far as what is there to do in Daytona? Hey, it's a motorcycle rally!! Drink beer, watch the women, check out the bikes, go to the beach, see Daytona International Speedway, drink more beer but most important have fun. I know there is a ride called "The Loop". I have seen it on the Bike Week website. I am sure I will do that. There is also a huge J&P Cycles along with a brand new Harley-Davidson dealership off the interstate before Daytona. This is all a new learning experience for me also.

If you're really adventuresome there is always Miami with a hop to Key West. I have made that ride in the past and it is great. Beautiful islands all the way from Miami to the end of A1A. Margaritaville, Pepes Cuban Restaurant, sun, surf and sand but that would take a whole day and I think there will be plenty to do once we get to Daytona.

So if you're interested send me an e-mail at mike508@bellsouth.net. As always I plan on leaving at 7am from my house unless I hear of others that want to go. If so, we will leave from the Pit Stop Gas Station on Spears Creek Road.

The sooner we get there the sooner the fun can begin.

See you on the road,
Mike