

Benji Likes Wind In His Hair As He Rides On 'His' Harley

By BURWELL WHITTENTON
Staff Reporter

What can you do if your dog wants to ride a motorcycle?

That's easy — make him a buddy seat.

But what if he has nothing to wear? No problem — just stitch up a dachshund-sized leather jacket.

No problem, that is, for Cindy Marlow.

It just didn't seem fair that Benji couldn't go along when she and her husband Tony headed for a weekend spin on their Harley-Davidsons. Where there's a will,

there's a way, so before long she had concocted a customized biker basket for Benji.

A sturdy plastic storage cube and some strong cord did the trick. Next, Benji was outfitted with a harness and leash to keep him safely in the basket.

But the strong breezes whipped up by a brisk ride down the interstate demanded more protection than his everyday attire of shaggy brown hair. Cindy's skills as a seamstress came to the rescue.

Benji's new jacket is made of a black simulated leather fabric, fully lined, accented with authentic silver grommets and fastened with a gleaming silver zipper. He

has a certain devil-may-care attitude as he takes his perch behind Cindy and lets the breezes blow through his hair on the highway.

Cindy and Tony have taken special precautions to make sure Benji has a safe ride, double-checking the security of his basket and leash. They discovered that unless the leash is fastened low in the basket, Benji might lean too far over and bail out before the end of the ride.

Does Benji enjoy the custom-designed gear? No doubt about it, says Cindy. As soon as she puts on her own black leather jacket, Benji races for the door and barks. It's time to head out for the open road again.



BORN TO BE WILD — Benji, the dachshund, got a taste of the open road on the back of a motorcycle, and now he can't wait to get back out there. Cindy Marlow custom-designed his "biker dog" gear.

Staff Photo/Burwell Whittenton

Banana Auditor

(Continued from Page 1)

In the late 1870s the invention of the telegraph and the Central American Railroad gave the industry the push it needed, making it the household food it is today.

Rich in vitamin A, riboflavin and thiamine and fiber, bananas are easily added to the diet.

Green bananas are very firm and as they ripen, turn yellow. As it ripens, starch turns to sugar. The riper the banana the sweeter the taste.

Green tipped are best for cooking. Full yellow is great for eat-

ing and brown specked indicates they are best for baking in bread and cookies.

Actually the old rule that you shouldn't place bananas in the refrigerator is not true. However, the skin may turn dark but the pulp will stay at the desired ripeness.

So, now you know as much about bananas as we do. One last thought.

Someone mentioned that there's probably a national Banana Day.

Scary, isn't it? We'll keep you posted.

Statesville Recreation & Parks Schedule For Week Released

Statesville Recreation and
Parks Department

Bristol Road Recreation Center - 1701 Bristol Rd
Bristol Road Seniors - Tuesday, 10 a.m. Various activities each week.

Garfield Recreation Center - 409 Garfield St. - 878-3434
Ceramics - Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., Laron Satterfield, instructor or Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., Sarah Reeves, instructor. \$5 / city residents, \$10 / non-residents a month, plus materials.

Garfield Angels - For girls ages 10-16. This program will help young ladies make the transition from childhood to adulthood with instruction on hair care, leadership skills, personal goal setting and basic etiquette. Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. No charge. Instructor: Eria Templeton.

Afterschool Enhancement Program - Provides homework assistance, recreation and cultural activities. 2:30-5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. No charge.
Teen Council - Come join the Teen Council. We want to plan fun things for you to do, but we need your input! Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.

Grace Park Recreation Center - 510 West Bell Street - 878-3433

Seniors/Golden Age Club - For ages 55 & over. Second Tuesday each month for entertainment, information and fellowship. Also group trips and outings. Membership fee \$2.

Ceramics - Grace Park Scout Hut, Mondays, 6-10 p.m. or

Tuesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Doris Edwards, instructor. \$5 / city residents, \$10 / nonresidents a month plus materials.

Table Tennis Club - Scout Hall. Open to all ages. Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m.

Karate/Martial Arts - Ages 6-adults. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Bill Riter, second degree black belt, instructor. \$25 for city residents, \$30 for nonresidents

Children's Art Class - Ages 9-16 Students will be sketching with pencil, working with water colors and acrylics. William Scott, instructor. FREE! Tuesdays 6-8 p.m.

Bentley Community Center - 324 Wilmington Ave - 878-3472

B.A.B.E.S. - (Bentley's Aspiring Beauties Entering Society) - Will help teach young ladies ages 12-18 modeling, hair care, leadership skills, self-esteem and how to conduct themselves. No charge.

Wise Guys - Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. Will help young men ages 14-18 learn self-responsibility in many areas through activities, seminars and discussions. No charge.

T.A.P.S. - (Teenage Awareness Programs and Seminars) - Second Friday of each month, 7 p.m. Boys and girls ages 14-19. Instructor, Eric Heaggans. Will help participants develop great emotional well being, sociable accountability and economic opportunities. Offers dances, field trips and other events.

55 and Alive - Offered the second and fourth Thursday of each month, 12 noon. For men and women ages 55 and up. Enjoy

activities such as bingo, low impact easy exercises, and trips. Information sessions will cover topics about health and other services available to seniors. Transportation to and from the center is available from I-Care. No charge.

Youth Programs

Junior Boys Baseball & Girls Softball - For area seventh and eighth graders, Practices being held.

1998 Summer Youth Baseball - The Youth Baseball program is open to all boys and girls between the ages of 5-12. Last day to register is Monday, April 6, 1998. You may register at the Statesville Recreation and Parks Department Administration Office on Signal Hill Dr. from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday - Friday or Grace Park Recreation Center - 510 W. Bell St., Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5 for city residents and \$10 persons living outside the Statesville City limits. Fees are due at the time of registration.

Adult Programs

Adult Softball - Leagues offered: Men's Open, Men's Industrial, Men's Church, Men's Morning Industrial, Women's open, Women's Industrial. Entry Fee \$135 per team. Deadline for entry fee, rosters, nonresident fee is April 6.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics Track & Field - Statesville High School Stadium. Volunteers needed. Thursday, April 2, 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.