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Six Point Raiders follow Star of David

By ELIZABETH ROBERTS | Forum Publishing Group

January 23, 2008

"We are all Jewish, and we feel a connection. We want to ride and have a good time," said Tova Fischtein of West Boca Raton.

The co-founder of Six Point Riders, a member-run motorcycle association, added, "But we are a new club looking for safety."

Bare-headed to allow for his mammoth cigar, Eddie Birnbaum rides his Harley Davidson in a leather vest that spells out his place in this growing group of graying bikers: "Six Point Riders. Established 2006. Tradition."

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To understand why "Established 2006" and "Tradition" are not an oxymoron, consider that Six Point Riders references the six points of the Star of David, insignia of a group that bills itself as full member of the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance and recognized by the South Florida Presidents Council of Clubs and Organizations.

This is not the first Jewish Motorcycle Club — there are 23 worldwide — just the first accepted into the council.

It's a fine distinction to be sure, but membership in this group brings with it certain expectations - including expanding a group that has grown from four to 20 members in just a year.

"We want to let the public know we are out there," said Birnbaum of Deerfield Beach, road captain of the

nonprofit group. "In case they want to join a Jewish group."

This is a group dedicated to a social life built around bikes. They meet. They ride. They eat. They ride back.

"It's just a thing for Jewish bikers to get together," Birnbaum says.

What makes this group unique, however, is its bow to religion.

Members don't ride on Jewish holidays because everyone is in temple.

They stop at kosher restaurants. They ride with a caution that other groups leave by the side of the road.

Even riders who don't wear helmets observe rigid safety precautions.

To change lanes, for example, a road captain to the rear of the group radios the road captain at the front. When the lane is clear, the rear road captain blocks it by moving into the lane.

Safety doesn't, however, preclude fun.

"You have to wear a helmet in those states, but you could hear everybody laughing on their. bikes," Birnbaum said, recalling the twisting roads through the mountains. They were screaming like cowboys.".

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