

## **TITLE SLIDE** (Scooters)

My favorite thing in the world is my scooter, and I'd like to share with you a little bit about them.

## **TITLE SLIDE** (History)

**picture 01** Many people experimented with the bicycle, trying to find a way to make it go faster. Then, in 1868 a Frenchman attached a small steam engine to a bicycle. There were other attempts to use gas engines on a bicycle to speed it up. The first gas engine/bicycle combination was called a motocyLETTE.

**picture 01a** The first real "scooter" that was mass-produced was developed by Hildebrand & Wolfmüller. This wasn't just a bicycle with a motor attached, it was a distinct entity in itself. But that was the extent of the scooter industry for many years – until after World War II.

**picture 01b** Enrico Piaggio, the son of an aircraft manufacturer, recognized the drastic need to provide an affordable transportation option for the Italian people. They needed something that could be easily maneuvered around the war-torn streets and roads. When the first scooter prototype was finished, Enrico took one look at it and said, "Sembra una vespa!", which is Italian for "It looks like a wasp!"

**picture 02** The Vespa was born. The Vespa was a two-wheeled vehicle, different from the motorcycle. The front of the steel frame was wide, stopping dirt and dust from flying up on the rider. The first Vespa was built in 1946, and in its first 3 years of production, it sold about 35,000 scooters. By the mid-fifties, Vespas were being exported to other countries, like Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain and Spain.

**TITLE SLIDE** (Misconceptions) Many people get Mopeds mixed up with scooters.

**picture 03** Mopeds are more of a motorized bicycle in that they have peddles and can be ridden like a bike. Their top speed is 30 mph, far slower than most scooters. Although mopeds are "street legal," the licensing requirements for a Moped are less strict than those of a motorcycle or scooter.

**picture 04** In Ohio, you can ride a moped when you are age 14. To be licensed to ride a scooter, you must be at least 16, need to take a motorcycle safety class (if you're under 18), and pass a written and riding test.

**picture 05** I always get the question, "Can you ride your scooter on the street?" Scooters are "street legal" as long as they are at least 50 cc's or more. Scooters vary from very small, 50 cc,

**picture 06** to quite large, 650 cc. The larger scooters are designed to be ridden long distances and quite capable of being ridden on the highway. People don't usually know the difference between motorcycles and scooters.

**picture 07** Often times, people think that the engine size is the biggest difference between motorcycles and scooters. That is not necessarily the case. Although motorcycles can be very heavy and very fast,

**picture 08** small motorcycles can be 150 cc's and be quite similar to a medium-sized scooter on the road.

**picture 09** The biggest differences between motorcycles and scooters is that a scooter has an automatic transmission (no clutch), and motorcycles generally have a manual transmission (clutch).

**picture 10** The other difference between motorcycles and scooters is the body shape. The engine and gas tank on a scooter is under the seat so that a rider can "step through" a scooter. Because the engine and gas tank are

under the seat, the engines and gas tanks cannot be as large as on a motorcycle otherwise the rider would have to sit too far off the ground.

**picture 11** The engine on a motorcycle is between the rider's knees so that the rider has to step over the engine in order to get on the bike.

**TITLE SLIDE** (What I like about Scooting)

**picture 12** Although I do wear a helmet, I still can enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of the ride when I'm on a scooter far more than I can in a car.

**picture 13** I enjoy the comradare of motorcyclists and scooter riders on the road. Often times, riders give each other a special wave... two fingers pointed down to the road using the left-hand to acknowledge

**picture 14** "two on the ground." I enjoy the escape of being on a scooter by myself... no music, no phone, no passengers. It's nice to have time for myself and my thoughts without the day-to-day distractions getting in the way.

**TITLE SLIDE** (Closing)

Although there are certain risks associated with riding a scooter, you can minimize those risks by wearing proper equipment, taking a motorcycle safety class, and being an alert rider.

**picture 15** I hope you've learned a little about scootering, and perhaps you'll get a chance to give it a try someday.