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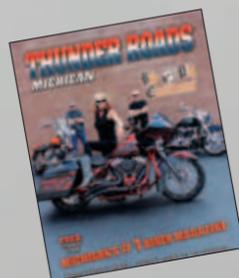




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## Beautiful Fall

It's that time of the year to start planning your fall color tour rides to northern Michigan. Our state is so beautiful in the fall and we all know that the tunnel of trees and up north is the place to go to see the leaves changing color. We are not ready to put our bikes up yet, so leather up and ride! This time of year please be sure to watch for critters and plan your routes accordingly.

We are also wrapping up the Thunder Run Ride n' Win contest for the year, but be sure to hold on to your Ride Cards for next year! Also, check and see in this issue if your Ride Card is listed as a winner from the September stops and please follow the instructions below to claim your prize. If you are a hunter and get a buck this season please email me a picture of you and your buck to editor@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com and you could win a Thunder Roads T-shirt and also get your picture on the Thunder Roads Buck Pole page in an upcoming issue. If you also hold your Ride Card in the photo I will make it a hoodie for the prize to the biggest buck winner! So be sure to email me those photos and have fun with it!

In this issue there are a lot of great articles. There's an extra special one to me and that is a story about my daughter and her dad taking a motorcycle trip out west. Many of us can relate and have our own memories of going on motorcycle rides with our dads. Also, Bad Pig Customs shares his story and I hope you enjoy them all.

This month is breast cancer awareness month and I would like to give a special tribute to anyone that has lost someone from this terrible disease. My sincere condolences to you.

Thank you to all of our advertisers for making and keeping Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan what it is... the #1 Free to reader's motorcycle magazine in our great state! Please be sure to patronize our advertisers when you are looking for any biker friendly business. Bikers Supporting Bikers!

Last month the Biker Friendly character was on page 3, on Heather's purse. See if you can find him this month (larger version found in the Biker Friendly Directory). Be sure to like Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan on Facebook as well as Jody Mo Thunder Roads Michigan as I randomly post contests to win prizes and you wouldn't want to miss that!



**Now for some "Mo" Advice:**

**Any action that you take; words you speak or move you make, do it as though everyone is watching, because you could be leaving a lasting impression of yourself and you character.**



**MICHIGAN**

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# READERS RIDES *Bev Clink*



1966 Harley-Davidson

I obtained the Harley from the estate in 2013. Every time I look at the bike it brings back memories. I know my dad is looking down smiling knowing that I am taking care of it. My eyes will always be telling me that the bike is his and always will be. I am just taking care of it.

Dad purchased it August 23, 1965 for \$825 out-the-door. The last time it was ridden was 1975. Everything is original the way my dad left it.

*Dedicated in memory of my dad Carman Inglis*



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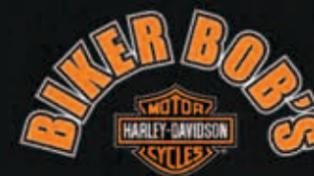
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# VETERANS CORNER



If you have time to volunteer in a funeral honor guard detail it would greatly help American Legion and VFW posts who are having trouble finding volunteers.

## Volunteer Veteran's burial squad presides over its own funeral

The last rifle salute had been fired, the last taps played, the last American flag folded and respectfully handed to the widow. After more than 5,000 funerals spanning 40 years, it was time for the All Veterans Burial Squad to finally retire. They had gotten too old for the job.

Capt. Louie Martinez, 83, shook hands with the last seven members of his squad — all of them, except one, in their mid- to late 80s — then he collected their M1 rifles to send back to the Army. They wouldn't be needing them anymore.

"I called the mortuaries the next day and told them we were no longer in existence," Louie says. "They were upset, but they understood. We had all just gotten too old." Those 8-pound M1 rifles were too heavy for frail arms to lift to the sky and fire. Their once-strong legs too weak to stand at attention at grave sites for an hour or more.

Since 1975, the All Veterans Burial Squad had honored thousands of this country's passing veterans throughout Los Angeles County, but no one was there to honor them at their last funeral.

Tommy Traba was 53 when War World II veteran Jim Tewksbury welcomed him and 58-year-old Fito Magdaleno into the San Fernando Valley-based squad in the mid-'80s.

Tewksbury handed them an M1 rifle, but the cost of the Air Force uniform they would be wearing was on them. "Jim trained us, taught us everything," says Traba, a Korean War veteran who has stood at attention over the graves of 3,357 veterans the last 29 years.

When it came time to stand over Tewksbury's grave, these tough old vets who seldom show any emotion lifted their rifles to the sky and openly wept as they gave their leader a three-volley salute.

And when the squad's two buglers retired a few years ago, there was no one to take their place. They were replaced by a tape recorder. The thing that hurts most, the men say, is the fact that there are no younger veterans willing to step forward. Whether it's lack of time, lack of commitment or apathy, the burial squad doesn't know.

## Air Force Vet Working to Honor Fallen Vietnam Veterans

An Indiana man is asking for help in his search for photographs of Vietnam War veterans. Air Force veteran David Hine explained on "Fox and Friends Weekend" today why this concept of finding vets' photos is important to him.

"Being in the military ... you continue to remember those that served before you, with you and those that are currently serving now," he stated. "We can't afford to forget the sacrifices that every man and woman made when they paid the ultimate sacrifice for the country."

When the 20-year US Air Force veteran finds the correct photos, he shares them on the national Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund's Virtual Wall of Faces. <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>

He said that the memorial fund began to collect the photos of the 58,378 veterans' names on the wall in 2009. "We owe it to them to make sure they're honored and remembered," Hine shared.

If you know any Vietnam War veterans whose photos you would like to share, check out the virtual Wall of Faces

## Airman Spencer Stone, hero in foiled French terror plot, to receive Purple Heart

Airman 1st Class Spencer Stone, hailed as a hero around the world for helping stop a gunman's planned rampage on a train in France, will receive the Purple Heart, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said Monday.

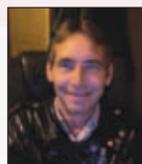
Defense Secretary Ash Carter will preside over the award ceremony at which Stone will receive the Purple Heart, as well as the Airman's Medal, James said at her keynote address at the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference. The Air Force had previously announced Stone would receive the Airman's Medal, which is the Air Force's highest noncombat award.

Stone's friend, Army Spc. Alek Skarlatos of the Oregon National Guard, will also be honored in the Pentagon's center courtyard Thursday.

Stone, Skarlatos and their friend Anthony Sadler were on vacation Aug. 21 when they subdued, disarmed and hogtied a heavily armed gunman on a train heading from Amsterdam to Paris. The gunman, who was armed with an AK-47, a Luger and a box cutter, stabbed Stone during the melee, sending him to the hospital. France awarded all three Americans the Legion of Merit within days of the attack.

Stone "personified [Air Force] values in an extremely heroic fashion when he stopped evil on a French train three weeks ago," James said.

**David McCallister "Possum"**  
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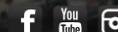
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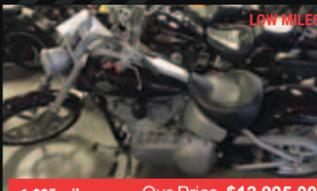
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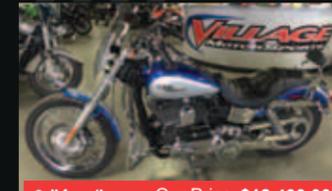
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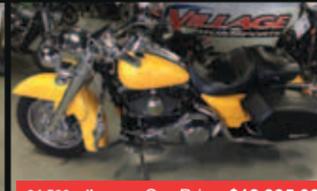
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# The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

## Autumn Riding Tips and No-Fault

The days are getting shorter, the weather is cooling, and it's only a matter of time before we have to get our bikes ready for their long winter slumber. If you're like most bikers I know, you're trying to squeeze every last drop out of this riding season before it slips away. Autumn riding in Michigan can be totally different from riding at any other time of year, so it's important for bikers to be prepared for things like deer in the road and unpredictable weather. Below, you'll find some tips for autumn riding and a look at how Michigan's no-fault law applies -- or doesn't -- in certain situations.

Did you know that one in every five collisions in Michigan involves a deer? The Michigan Deer Crash Coalition statistics for 2013 show that there were almost 50,000 reported collisions between vehicles and deer; more than 1,200 of these involved injuries, and twelve people were killed as a result of these types of interactions.

Most people involved in a vehicle-deer collision say the same thing: "It came out of nowhere!" Living in Michigan, we know that vehicle-deer collisions can happen anywhere, at any time. That said, statistics show that October and November tend to have the most vehicle-deer collisions, usually around dusk and dawn, and in general we see more deer in rural rather than urban areas.

So what can bikers do to lessen the chances of being injured in a deer crash? There are no guarantees that anything can prevent these crashes, but it never hurts to practice braking and evasive maneuvers in a controlled environment before hitting the road. Dress for the crash, not for the ride: wear protective equipment that could help to minimize injuries if you go down. Speed can also be a factor in these types of collisions; if you are in an area where deer are common, slow down to give yourself more time to react. There are also advanced rider courses offered through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation that could help train motorcyclists on how to react in a deer encounter situation. If you're on a group ride, spread out and use a formation that won't turn a single motorcycle-deer collision into a multi-bike crash.

Have you ever heard the saying "If you don't like the weather in Michigan, wait five minutes... it'll change"? In autumn, as in spring, we tend to see wild swings in temperature from night to day, and a beautiful sunny day can turn into a rainy mess in less than an hour. My first tip for dealing with Michigan's unpredictable environment is to check your tires: cold nights switching to warm days can have a noticeable effect on tire pressure. Use a reliable tire gauge and check tires when they're cold. Consult your owner's manual to see if it recommends adjusting tire pressure for certain temperatures or weather conditions, and keep a small portable air tank on hand in case you need topping up.

As for the weather, it may seem obvious to say, but check the forecast before you leave the house. If there is even a slight chance of rain, grab some rain gear for the ride. If you're going on a long trip, check the forecast for your destination as well. Most motorcyclists know that the roads are slickest just after it starts raining, or during a light rain. That's because the oil, fluids, and dirt that were sitting on the road have been lifted off the surface, but haven't washed away yet. Some experts recommend moving over in the lane to ride in the tire ruts, or closer to the center line, to avoid riding in the middle of the lane where the road will be most slippery. Watch your speed and be on high alert if you're in an area with other vehicles.

Did you know that a motorcyclist is not entitled to no-fault benefits if they crash their bike without a motor vehicle being involved in the accident? The keywords

here are "motor vehicle" and "involved". In Michigan, a "motor vehicle" is defined as "a vehicle, including a trailer, which is operated or designed for operation on a public highway by power other than muscular power and has more than two wheels" (MCL 500.3101). Motorcycles, mopeds, power wheelchairs and mobility scooters, among others, are not included as motor vehicles.

A motor vehicle is "involved" in a crash if the operation of the motor vehicle contributed significantly to the crash or injuries; contact between the motor vehicle and the motorcycle is not required. In other words, if you hit a deer on your bike, or slide on slick wet roads, you won't qualify for no-fault benefits. In addition to motor vehicle involvement, a motorcyclist must have at least the minimum required insurance on their bike in order to qualify for no-fault benefits. Every case is different\*.

What are no-fault benefits? They cover medical bill coverage (for life); coverage of replacement services (help with household chores); coverage of attendant care (in-home nursing / health care assistance); wage loss coverage (limited, for up to three years); and coverage for vehicle mileage used for medical appointments.

If you've read my articles before, you know that I always encourage bikers to talk to an insurance expert to be sure they have the right coverage, and enough of it, to protect them in the event of a crash. I always recommend bikers carry personal health insurance, in addition to whatever coverage they carry on their bikes. And yes, that's in addition to the minimum \$20,000 in first-party medical benefits you are legally required to carry if you want to ride without a helmet.

Next month, I am going to write an article all about insurance: what is required, what is recommended, and how it can help protect you in the event of a crash. Stay tuned!

Like this article? Have a question? Let us know! Facebook.com/TheMotorcycleLawyer; Twitter.com/CycleLawyer1; Writer@LawyerForLife.com.

\*Obviously, I can't cover every aspect and nuance of the law in a single article. If you've been hurt in a crash, or know someone who has, call me at 1-877-BIKER-LAW to talk about it.

**Attorney Jason A. Waechter** is a Michigan attorney specializing in the areas of motorcycle and motor vehicle injury litigation as well as Michigan's Motor Vehicle No - Fault Law. Mr. Waechter has collected millions of dollars in settlements, awards and verdicts for his motorcycle clients over the past 20 years. A portion of each case settled goes to educational resources for bikers, funds to help bikers while their cases are being litigated and our motorcycle accident prevention campaign.

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# The JOKERS WILD

Two guys left the bar after a long night of drinking, jumped in the car and started it up. After a couple of minutes, an old man appeared in the passenger window and tapped lightly. The passenger screamed, "Look at the window. There's an old ghost's face there!"

The driver sped up, but the old man's face stayed in the window. The passenger rolled his window down part way and, scared out of his wits, said, "What do you want?" The old man softly replied, "You got any tobacco?" The passenger handed the old man a cigarette and yelled, "Step on it," to the driver, rolling up the window in terror. A few minutes later they calmed down and started laughing again. The driver said, "I don't know what happened, but don't worry; the speedometer says we're doing 80 now." All of a sudden there was a light tapping on the window and the old man reappeared. "There he is again," the passenger yelled. He rolled down the window and shakily said, "Yes?" "Do you have a light?" the old man quietly asked.

The passenger threw a lighter out the window saying, "Step on it!" They were driving about 100 miles an hour, trying to forget what they had just seen and heard, when all of a sudden there came some more tapping. "Oh my God! He's back!" The passenger rolled down the window and screamed in stark terror, "WHAT NOW?" The old man gently replied, "You guys want some help getting out of the mud?"

This Halloween I met a genuine Fairy that said she would grant me one wish. "I want to live forever," I said.

"Sorry," said the Fairy, "I'm not allowed to grant wishes like that!"

"Fine," I said, "then I want to die after Congress gets their heads out of their asses!"

"You crafty bastard," said the Fairy.

On the night of a Halloween costume party a couple were arguing, having trouble picking suitable outfits. After a while the wife got mad and stormed out of the room. Fifteen minutes later she came back completely naked except for a lemon between her legs.

The husband looked at her for a moment and then stormed out of the room himself. Twenty minutes passed and then he stomped back in, completely naked, with a potato around his penis.

The wife gave him a weird look, and the husband quickly replied; "If you're going as a Sour-Puss, I'm going as a Dictator".

A couple, both age 78, went to a sex therapist's office. The doctor asked, "What can I do for you?"

The man said, "Will you watch us have sex?"

The doctor looked puzzled, but agreed.

When the couple finished, the doctor said, "There's nothing wrong with the way you have sex," and charged them \$50.

This happened several weeks in a row. The couple would make an appointment, have sex with no problems, pay the doctor, then leave.

Finally, the doctor asked, "Just exactly what are you trying to find out?"

"We're not trying to find out anything," the man replied.

"She's married and we can't go to her house. I'm married and we can't go to my house.

The Holiday Inn charges \$90. The Hilton charges \$108. We do it here for \$50... and I get \$43 back from Medicare.

One dark night Bubba & Buck were walking home after a party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery, just for laughs. Right in the middle of the cemetery they were startled by a tap-tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows. Trembling with fear, they found an old man with a hammer and chisel, chipping away at one of the headstones. "Holy cow, Mister," Bubba said, after catching his breath, "You scared the crap outa' us, we thought you was a real-time, ghost!

What the hell are you doing working here so late at night?"

"Those idiots!" the old man grumbled. "They misspelled my damn name!"

Three vampires walk into a bar.

The waitress comes up to them and asks them what they'll have.

The first vampire says, (Transylvanian accent inferred)

"I'll have a glass of O Positive."

The second vampire says, "I'll have a glass of O Negative."

The third vampire says, "I'm the designated driver.

I'll just have a glass of plasma."

The waitress turns toward the bartender and yells, "Gimme' two bloods and one blood lite!"

Q: Why did the vampire need mouthwash?

A: She had bat breath.

Q: Why wasn't the vampire working?

A: He was on his coffin break.

Q: Why did the vampire's lunch give her heartburn?

A: It was a stake sandwich.



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OCTOBER 2015 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN 17

# Rockin Rides Car & Bike Show

by Rachel Rhines



On August 8th we held our 2nd Rockin Rides Car & bike Show at Saganing Eagles Landing Casino. The morning rain impacted the number of registered vehicles for the show; a total of 183 vehicles braved the rain drops, down from 210 last year. However, once the sun came out the spectator traffic really picked up and we saw well over 1,000 more people this year than last!

There were a variety of fabulous vendors this year selling everything from Girl Scout Cookies to Motorcycles! If you stopped in during the first half of the day you might have caught a glimpse of Robert the Human Statue. Robert was covered from head to toe in bronze color; even his eyes were bronze with contacts. Dressed as a police officer, Robert would stand so perfectly still and all who passed by would assume he was a statue. Waiting for the perfect moment to startle onlookers, second only to the Rockin Rides, Robert was truly a star of the show. When Robert arrived for the day he was very excited to share the news he had just heard that he is going to represent the US in the 2015 World Living Statue Championship in the Netherlands in September!

Many spectators stopped by the Nord Ride Motorsports tent to check out the Can Am Spyders, including the brand new F3 model. For those who were interested free test rides on these reverse trikes were also available.

The 183 vehicles competed in 29 classes for trophies and plaques, everyone that entered a vehicle or bike in the show, were able to vote for their favorite in every class. 35 bikes competed in seven motorcycle classes. The Best in Show Motorcycle trophy was awarded to Timothy Shafer for his 1949 Harley Davidson 45 WL.



Even though the rain dampened our spirits a bit in the morning, we rebounded nicely and everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone that helped make this year's show a success, especially all the wonderful vehicle owners that showed off their sweet rides, there was such a wide variety of vehicles it was amazing! We're already starting plans for next year, hope to see you there!



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8630	5828	6171	8913	5523	6112	9059	7711	7061
6536	8806	5109	6182	7531	7484	5109	8201	7804
				7429	8744	8706	6251	
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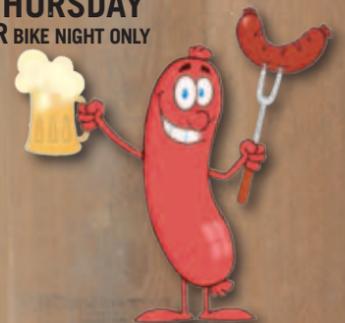
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# Brando's Harley Sells For \$256,000

By T.J. Hinton, TopSpeed.com

The late Marlon Brando didn't just portray and influence the biker lifestyle in *The Wild One*, he actually was an avid motorcycle enthusiast in his personal life long before the 1953 hit movie. One of his rides just fetched over a quarter-million dollars at a Julien's Hollywood Legends auction. The 1970 Harley-Davidson FLH Electra-Glide, with black sheet metal and "gangster whitewall" tires, had only 13,859 miles on the odometer when it was purchased by a lucky, and apparently well-heeled, enthusiast for a staggering \$256,000.

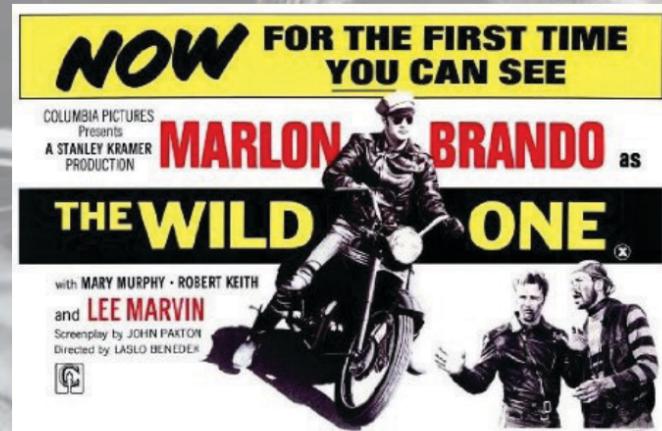
Mr. Brando bought this sled on April 8, 1970, and was the original owner, leaving it pretty much stock and keeping it in very good condition. The engine is what the old boys called a "Shovel-Pan." It had the Shovelhead top end with the old Panhead bottom end, evidenced by the peanut-hull shaped gearcase cover on the right side that accommodated the generator drive gear that ran off the cam gear, as opposed to the nosecone-style cover used on the later Shovelheads that replaced the generator with an internal alternator housed within the primary-drive cover.

This detail adds a bit of rarity to the bike, in addition to the star power bestowed upon it by its original owner, especially since the 1970 FLH model is listed as having the nosecone/alternator setup. This makes me believe that either this is not the original engine, or perhaps it is actually a 1969 1/2 (maybe?) sold as a 1970 model. Whatever the case, the new owner must be tickled pink to score such an interesting and iconic sled. I only hope that said owner actually rides it (carefully) and doesn't relegate it to a museum display.

There was a time when Alfa-Romeo and Harley-Davidson were the only two vehicles that actually appreciated in value when they were bought; everything else depreciated in value the instant you drove it off the dealer's lot. Granted, this was mainly because of the much-maligned "waiting list" used by Harley dealerships in the 1990s, but the end result was the same, a Harley in hand was worth more than one in the bush, as it were. Having said that, the price on this ride far surpasses this artificial price boost, and shows the lengths collectors will go to in order to own their own little slice of history. I wonder if the "Brando" tag came with it.

For motorcycle reviews and news, visit our friends at [www.TopSpeed.com/](http://www.TopSpeed.com/) motorcycles

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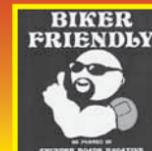


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# Bad Pig Customs



## Who Is Oak Park Mark?



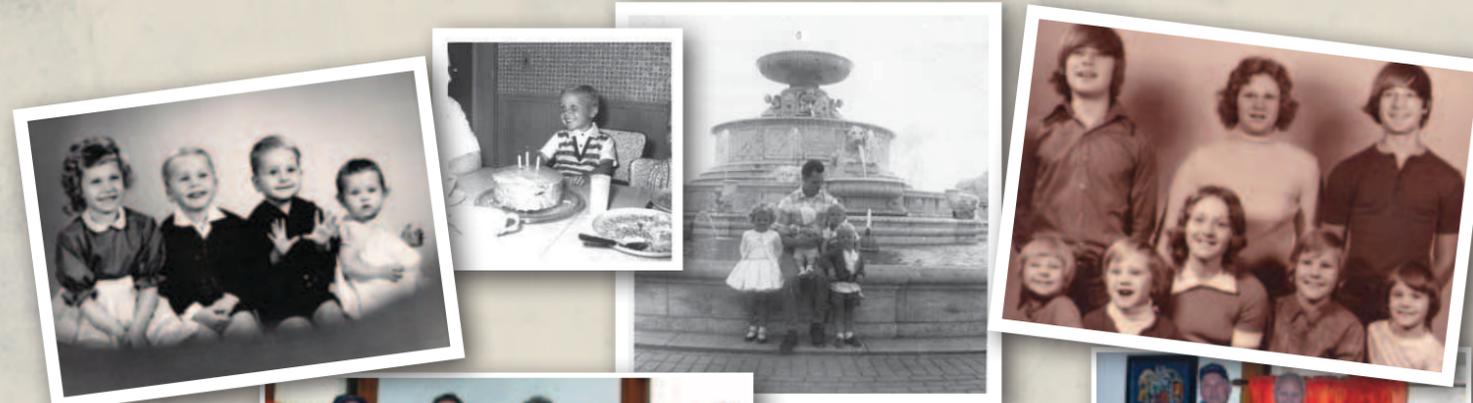
My name is Mark Zagacki also known as Oak Park Mark. I have been a part of the Harley-Davidson counter-culture since 1996. This was a turning point in my life, which set the wheels in motion you could say. Around 1999, I started to do swap meets. I actually "homemade" a wooden trailer to move my parts around. What I would do is, completely buy out other vendors, just because I could, all the while maintain a full-time job. This whole motorcycle thing was just a thing I did on side, but it eventually became a huge part in my life! Over the years, I met many people who I consider my friends and business partners (Yogi, Sportster Tom, Gus, Jack, and Bubba). By 2003, as I continued to gather more and more parts, I moved all the furniture out of my home and replaced them with parts. It didn't stop there. Soon my basement was filled with parts. Next, my garage was completely packed with parts. It was getting to the point of absurdity, when my son Eric stepped in and told me to move the parts out. Then, in December of 2012, I was able to lease a building on 9 Mile Rd. and Dequindre. I then formed Bad Pig Customs.

Originally, Bad Pigs was going to be run by myself and Dave Foster. Dave was going to handle the service end of the business and I was to focus on selling parts. Unfortunately, things didn't exactly work out that way and I was left holding the reigns. The next few years, were quite literally a roller coaster ride. The ups and downs would have made a pretty reality show. Without the help my two nephews; John and Terence Vincek, I seriously doubt I would be in the same position as I am today. Whether it was working on bikes, selling parts, or setting up the logistics and paperwork for the business, they were there! Also, Phil Hodges who worked for me as mechanic for a few years really helped the service part flourish for the years he worked here. He now runs his own shop in Fowlerville called Motorcycles Plus. While everything wasn't always sunshine and rainbows, we persevered and continue to build up Bad Pigs.

Then in June of this year, I was offered a proposal from Dave Foster. That if I bought the building next door to us, he would come in and run the service department out of it. In actuality, I had already sent the owner of it an offer to buy it. When Dave came forward with that, I knew I had to pull the trigger. By the time of writing this, we have moved all the service equipment and set the new building solely for mechanical. In reality, Dave is Bad Pig Customs and I am Oak Park Mark's.



Over the last 3 months we've really gone through some major growing pains Most of the time brought on by myself. I am really grateful and feel lucky to have Dave as a partner, handling the shop along with all the service, maintenance and custom work. Which frees me up to do what I do best; and that's buying and selling parts, going on the road, hitting swap meets here in the Midwest, and just enjoying the whole activity that surrounds the counter-culture that Harley's seem to create. I love doing it. So, I decided to work towards a new goal, in the next few years I am hoping to transform the old building into an actual retail store, Oak Park Mark's.



This weekend was a banner weekend for me, along with turning 58 years old on the 19th and my 40th high school reunion, which both fell on the same day. It caused me to be very introspective with all the years that have gone by.



I'm feeling pretty happy with where I'm at in this point of my life. The shop is a huge part of what I do on a daily basis. They say if you enjoy what you do, then you won't work a day in your life. I have found there's definitely a lot of truth to that. It's a lot of work, but at the end of the day, I'm content with my decision in opening Bad Pig Customs and have no regrets.



Not just the business end, but also the community that is built around the culture. For example, the thing that hits my soft spot in my heart is having a young guy that makes \$10.60 an hour working afternoons at Walmart and he can hardly make ends meet. Every little bit of extra money he has left goes into maintaining his 2002 FXD with 45k miles. Then, he finds out that he needs a cam chain tensioner kit and doesn't have an extra \$600 to repair it. Then, I have an opportunity to really help him out, just for the love of the job. I'll make the call to fix his bike pro-bono or for just the cost of parts (after discussing it with Dave). Because at the end of the day, the money is not the most important aspect to me. I would rather help someone out rather than turn them away just because I stood to make nothing financially from them.



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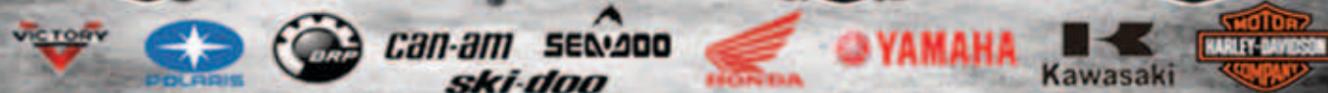
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# Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

## Inspiration

(From Forbes- Top 100 Inspirational Quotes)

*If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.*

~ Booker T. Washington

*I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.*

~ Leonardo da Vinci

*Limitations live only in our minds. But if we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless.* ~ Jamie Paolinetti

*You take your life in your own hands, and what happens? A terrible thing, no one to blame.* ~ Erica Jong

## Riddles

**A.** Always old, sometimes new. Never sad, sometimes blue. Never empty, sometimes full. Never pushes, always pulls. What am I?

**B.** Imagine you are in a dark room with a locked door. All you have with you is a rope and a pencil. You can hear the rain outside, but there are no windows. How do you get out?

**C.** What gives life and love, and is there till they die? What can hide you and find you, heal you and feed you but should never give up on you?

(Answers to riddles below)

## Fun Facts

**B**en and Jerry's send the waste from making ice cream to local pig farmers to use as feed. Pigs love the stuff, except for one flavor: Mint Oreo.

**I**n space, astronauts cannot cry, because there is not gravity, so the tears can't flow.

**T**he electric chair was invented by a dentist.

Answers: A.) The moon B.) Stop imagining C.) A mother

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# Making Memories ~ Father & Daughter Motorcycle Trip

BY Dave Bonter

After watching the weather and seeing that it looked very good for the upcoming week, and it was the last week before school started for Emilee, I thought what a great time for a ride. So, I asked Emilee on Friday if she would like to go for a motorcycle ride. Her first question was what bike and where. After telling her that we would take the Road Glide and not the Wide Glide (she like Kim, my other half, much prefer the back rest on the Road Glide) and that we would go across the Mackinac Bridge (we went there last year for short overnight ride) and maybe Wisconsin and Minnesota. She thought for a while and asked, "Are we going to stay in a motel?" I said, "Yes". Then she asked, "Can we get a motel with a pool?" I said to myself, that's not too much to ask for, so I told her, "we can", so she said "yea". I said, "Great, we need to start packing and we leave Monday morning".



## MONDAY MORNING AUG 31, 2015

We got started around 10 am leaving our home in Midland on our dad-daughter trip.

We took Linwood road east to I-75 getting gas and a snack for Emilee, we headed north on 75. After Emilee finished her drink, she said in my ear, "I can't find my cookies". I said, "I'm sorry, but they must have blown away". That wasn't what she wanted to hear! She learned that the pouch on her hooded sweat shirt was not a good spot to store her snacks; I told her I don't know how Kangaroo's do it. She proceeded to tell me that the only reason that she picked those cookies is because her grandma always has that kind of cookie for her when she goes there... Famous Amos cookies. They were pretty good and she usually had to fight grandpa for them. Anyways, I told her I was sorry and we would stop and replace them at the next stop. We continued north on 75, it was a nice sunny day and we both had a light sweat shirt on. Passing Gaylord, Emilee said that she was ready for a break, (which I soon found out meant potty, snack and something to drink) so I pulled off at the Waters exit for the break, (where I replaced the missing cookies) she was a happy camper again. Back on the road, next stop the Mackinac Bridge (Emilee's third crossing on a motorcycle). I dug out four dollars and we were on our way. On the way across the bridge, I rode on the steel grating. I told Emilee to look down; she thought it was pretty cool that she could see the water through the bridge. Plus, it's a beautiful view;

the Island, the water, the boats. After crossing the bridge, it started getting foggy. We turned on highway 2 and headed west, along the northern shore of Lake Michigan, which also is a great view. The next stop Epoufette at the Bay View Inn, a little restaurant that I have stopped at before that I thought Emilee would like. We ate overlooking the water, the fog cut down the view, but Emilee really enjoyed the Humming birds that were eating their dinner on the other side of the window. She also liked playing the little mind games that were sitting around on the window ledge. Back on 2 west, the fog was getting worse and it was getting cooler. We continued on to highway 117 north to Seney where we stopped and Emilee put her leather jacket on (the only time she wore it on the trip) and I put on a sweat shirt. At Seney, we got on highway 28 and again we were west bound. We followed 28 thru Munising and now along the southern shore line of lake Superior to Marquette where we spent our first night at the Settle Inn. Emilee noticed the indoor pool hot tub sign. After checking in, and getting some dinner she hit the pool. After the last couple of hours being a little cool, the hot tub felt great. End of day one 350.5 miles.



## TUESDAY MORNING

After breakfast and Emilee taking another swim, we were back on the road following highway 28 41 west. It was a nice day; sunny and warm. Yet, another great day for riding. We continued on west on the two lane highway, just east of Ishpeming. On a big sweeping curve, I saw a big blue suburban passing on the curve coming right at me. Knowing who will win this battle, I moved over and drove on the shoulder of the road. Thank God it was paved. I know he didn't see me until he just about passed me. I saw his head snap around and look at me, but I just smiled and waved at the State Trooper as he passed me. I pulled back in my lane and continued on my way with my precious cargo intact. Man, you have to keep your eyes open, because anyone can have a bad day with folk's texting and driving. A few more miles west on another curve, we were alone on the curve when a bald eagle lifted off the ground right next to us. How beautiful it was, and my next thought was, please stay over there, he must have heard me. A little white knuckled for a moment, those birds are big. Emilee

riding most of the time with her chin on my shoulder so she could see around me, and being able to talk in my ear, said, "Dad, I think it's time for a break". So we pulled off got a snack and drink. Again west bound enjoying the nice day, we rode on to Bergland on the north shore of lake Gogebic also where highway 64 crosses 2, we stopped there for lunch.



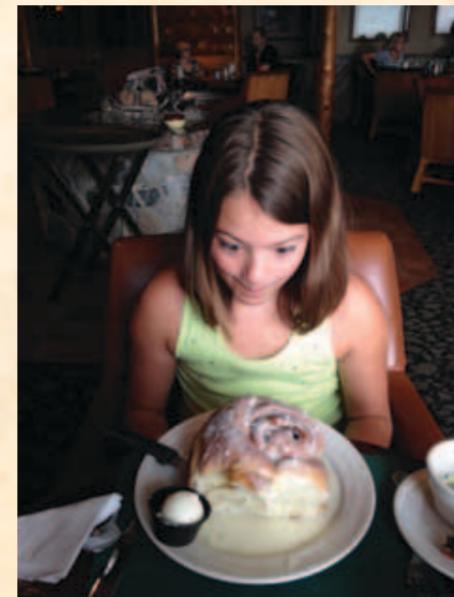
We had a nice late lunch and break, and headed west. The last stop in Michigan was at the Copper Peak ski flying hill, just outside Ironwood. Unfortunately for Emilee, they are only open Wednesday thru Sunday to give rides on the ski lift, we were there Tuesday. It was still something nice to see and I think she enjoyed it. I asked her if she would like to try that and she said she did not! She went skiing for the first time last winter and she did really well. I can't even stand up on skis, let alone go off a ski jump. Back on the road, next stop the Michigan Wisconsin border for a picture of Emilee by the sign her first out of state ride on a motorcycle. After taking a few pictures of Emilee by the welcome to Wisconsin sign, a yellow street glide pulled up and stopped behind us. He also took a picture of the Wisconsin sign and said that this is his 41st state that he has been in this year. He asked if we minded if he rode along with us, of course we said we would enjoy the company. Back on the road, west bound following are new friend, on into Ashland Wisconsin. We pulled off to take a picture of Lake Superior, and chat with our new friend.



His name is Howard Ross; he was going west to Bonner's Ferry. That would complete his 48 state quest that he set out to do in a single year. He also was a minister from Ohio. He asked if my bike had been blessed and I said, no it hasn't. I just got it on the road this spring (I picked it up as a total and put it back together this past winter). Howard blessed the bike and said a prayer for Emilee and I for a safe trip. We said goodbye to Howard there, because he was going north along the water. It is nice to come across good people like that on the road; we also wished him a safe trip. Back on the bike and again west on 2. We rode on, stopping for gas and of course a snack break. On to Duluth Minnesota, again stopping for a picture by the state sign, and a freighter loading up in the harbor.



Emilee noticed the sign for a hotel and waterpark and thought it would be a good spot to stop. I called, but after finding out it was a little over \$200.00 for the night I decided to keep going, plus it was still early. My riding partner... not so happy about my decision! So we rode on to Grand Rapids Minnesota, where we found a great place to stay. Emilee spotted the pool sign, it was the Sawmill Inn. After checking in and surprised at the modest price, they also gave me a coupon for breakfast at their restaurant in the morning. After a very good dinner, Emilee hit the pool. The next morning for breakfast Emilee got a huge cinnamon roll, which even made her eyes pop! She ate about a third of it. I did insist that she eat a cup of fresh fruit first.



We met another nice young lady that worked there in the restaurant. She had just bought her first bike; a sporty. She said she just completed the safety course. We visited with her while we ate. She said she had been riding mostly by herself, getting comfortable with the bike. I agreed with her that's a good way to do it. You never know who you might talk to; a man from Ohio doing a 48 state ride this year or a young lady from Minnesota just starting off on her riding adventures, or the other people who come up to you and want to tell you about someone they knew who used to ride, I will leave it with that. You know those kinds of people. End of day two 725.8 miles.

# Making Memories ~ Father & Daughter Motorcycle Trip

continued...

## WEDNESDAY MORNING

We loaded back up, another nice sunny day and headed west on 2 again, with North Dakota in our sights. We passed many lakes and small towns along this route. This is why I chose this way, to share it with my daughter. Headed west with the warm sun on our backs, hoping Emilee is enjoying this as much as I am. Then all of a sudden, she yells and points to the right, "Look dad, two eagles!" Above some cattle lying under some trees, sat the two eagles. Looking up, I spotted three more circling above, which was six eagles in two days. That's a pretty cool thing to share with your daughter, good memories. We followed highway 2 to Bagley Minnesota, where we took highway 92 south to highway 200 west. Taking pictures and stopping along the way for the break and snack, this was a must for Emilee, and also reminded me that I miss my Mustang seat. The stock seat on this bike is not so comfortable for me. Let's just say I didn't argue when she wanted to stop for a break, it felt good to stretch a little. We went on west until we crossed the Red River, we were in North Dakota. I had to stop and get a picture. I also told Emilee that was the title of one of my many John Wayne movies.

and the great weather. It was sunny and high in the 80's and low 90's.



The next thing you know, I saw the welcome to South Dakota sign, so we stopped and I got a picture, Emilee's forth state so far. Highway 18 turning into 25 at the state line, we went on south to highway 10 and turned east to Sisseton, where we spent our third night. After checking in at a Super-8 motel, of course with a pool, we headed down the road and had dinner. Back at the motel Emilee hit the pool and me in the hot tub, which again after riding all day felt really good. End of day three 1,092.3 miles.

## THURSDAY MORNING

After breakfast at the motel, we were back on the road and east bound in a homeward direction. Traveling 10 east until we crossed the Bois de Sioux river we are back in Minnesota where the highway becomes 28, we ride on to Sauk Centre, where we stopped at the Ding Dong Café for lunch. It's a little mom and pop place, with great food. Emilee got a kick out of the name.



Which, she also enjoys watching too. I guess it's the nut and the tree thing. The wind is pretty strong in western Minnesota and North Dakota, which was not too much of a surprise to me. But to my surprise, was how stable the road glide was. My friend Casey talked about it, but it was my first time experiencing it in forty plus mile an hour winds. On again, west bound on 200, until we crossed I-29 where 200 went north. I continued on west on 200-A, that soon met Highway 18 that runs north south. This intersection is the farthest northwest that we went; it also is the home of KVLV-TV Tower at 2,063 ft. which is North America's Tallest Structure. I wanted Emilee to see it and also to get a picture of it. From there we headed south on highway 18, stopping and having lunch at Subway. We kept on through the country side highway, passing through small towns, enjoying the ride



After lunch we got on I-94 and rode the X-way through Minneapolis St Paul into Osseo Wisconsin, where we spent the night. Of course stopping here and there for breaks and gas. We stayed at another Super-8 with a pool, after eating at Moe's (which was Emilee's grandpa Mohowitsch's nickname) Diner, which was kind of like that 50s diner in Michigan over by 131 and 57.



I think you probably know what happens next...you are right! Emilee went swimming! That girl loves to swim. End of day four 1,442.0 miles.

## FRIDAY MORNING

After a quick breakfast at the motel, we were on the road headed east on highway 10. About eleven miles from the motel my back tire went flat, (it felt like Emilee was doing gymnastics behind me). This not being my first flat, I knew what it was and got pulled over ok. I just got off the bike and Emilee back off the edge of the road at a safe distance, when along comes a Harley.



I waved at him and he pulled over and stopped. To my good fortune, he had the number of the local Harley shop in his pocket. His name was Al. He was riding an old shovel and he was on his way to the Harley shop, I wish I would have gotten his last name, but I did get a picture of his bike. I gave the number a call and they were on the way to pick us and the bike up. About forty five minutes later, we were loaded up and on the way to the shop (Black River Falls Harley Davidson Wisconsin). Back at the shop, while we were waiting, they gave me the key to a new ultra and said why don't you run down to the restaurant and have lunch while you wait, so we did. The guys at the shop were also at lunch. Back at shop, paid the bill, thanked them for all their help, and with a lot of the day now gone we headed east now on highway 54. I was headed kind of southeast with the intentions of taking the ferry from Manitowoc Wisconsin to Ludington Michigan. About a four hour crossing, but now with the tire delay and the ferry schedule, that was not going to work. So I headed towards Green

Bay, and also starting to feel the effects of the Labor Day traffic and my daughter's safety as I maneuvered through Green Bay. Taking highway 41 north, I cross back into Michigan and stop in Menominee for our last night on the road. We stayed at the American Inn and yes, it had a pool! After having dinner, we hit the pool and hot tub. End of day five 1,686.0 miles.

## SATURDAY MORNING

After breakfast at the motel, we loaded up and were getting ready to go when a gal putting some things in her car next to us walked over and said hi. After telling her where we were headed, I asked her if she would take a picture of us and she said she would. After taking the pictures and talking a little more, she said, "Boy I really wish I would have been able to take a trip like that with my dad on his Harley". Thanking her for taking the pictures, on the road we go, taking 35 northeast out of Menominee. Not to my surprise, being back in Michigan we woke up to pretty heavy fog. So the visibility along the lake shore was quite impaired. We road on to Escanaba where 35 and 2 come together, the fog starting to clear a little. Taking 2 east to Manistique where we stopped for a snack break and gas. We were back on the road again, with the Big Mack Bridge in my sights...when Emilee spotted a sign Garlyn Zoo and asked if we could stop. So, off to the zoo we go! I was surprised that it said a Siberian Tiger was there.



It was a good find and a nice gathering of animals. The tiger was huge, over 500lbs and seven ft. long! There was no charge to see the animals, just some donation boxes and a gift shop (where I bought Emilee a Garlyn sweatshirt and a stuffed animal). Back on the road to the Bay View Inn at Epoufette, Emilee wanted to eat lunch with the Humming birds again. The Humming birds are a little more scarce with more people eating out on the deck by the bird feeders, but there was a few and she was happy. We got back on 2, and were about twenty five miles from the bridge. We crossed the bridge again, what a view. We were now headed for Cadillac Lake Mitchell, for our annual family reunion. Taking I-75 south to 55 west to Lake City, taking the back way and coming out on Boon road in Cadillac. Taking Boon road through Cadillac and across 115 to Lake Mitchell and Camp Torenta. I am not sure what she likes more; family or the lake to go swimming, I did tell you she likes to swim didn't I? Ha Ha. Well, the end to a great trip, with great weather and the best riding partner that I could have ever asked for, my daughter Emilee! End of day six 2,043.0 miles.

Stopping to think for a minute, what an accomplishment for a nine year old to set behind dad for six days leaving Michigan, into Wisconsin, into Minnesota, into North Dakota, South Dakota and back into Minnesota, Wisconsin and back home in Michigan covering 2,043.0 miles, way to go Emilee I am so proud of you!

Thanks for the memories, Love dad xoxo



## A NOTE FROM EMILEE

Thanks for a great trip dad! Thanks for taking me to all the hotels with pools. My dad is a very nice person. He takes me on motorcycle trips, buys me awesome things and he is the best dad in the history of dads living today. My dad is wonderful. I'm lucky that I have everything that I do. My dad can be funny and serious sometimes. I love my dad very much!

Love, Emilee

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2015 Indian® Chieftain® Thunder Black with tan saddle & bags, MSRP \$25,223 Selling Price \$23,723 plus taxes, fees license & reg.

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# Biker Preacher's Corner

**Greetings everyone!!** Well... here it is - the season of fall is upon us, but for many of us we will ride until snow flies!! Gotta collect those miles and stories, right?

As we consider the changing of seasons - fall turning into winter, I feel impressed, by the Lord, to write about the fact that God does not change. Hebrews 13:8 says **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** Ya see, circumstances change, plans change and people change - one minute they might be your best friend, then before you know it, something happens that strains the relationship.

My point is that God is the same yesterday, today and forever! He doesn't change with the whims of society, He doesn't change His mind, and He doesn't love you one day, then hate you the next. This gives us great peace and hope knowing that His love for you has no end!!

Psalm 100:5 says "For Yahweh [The Lord] is good, and His love is eternal; His faithfulness endures through all generations. Listen my friends, GOD IS GOOD! He is not fickle or unstable like the enemy (Satan) would have you believe.

Likewise, God's Word doesn't change. There are many voices in society today and many try to contradict the Word of God, saying things like, "God accepts your sin" or "God made me this way" all as a means to justify their own personal sin and condemn those who live by and accept biblical truth. The hypocrisy in society is much worse then what you might think about Christians.

The Bible says in Hebrews 13:9: "Don't be led astray by various kinds of strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be established by grace and not by foods [false teachings], since those involved in them have not benefited." Listen, The Word of God (The Bible) is complete and flawless, it's perfect - the only source of Truth and completely trustworthy.

Also, God's love doesn't change. Ephesians 2:4-5 says **4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, 5 made us alive with the Messiah even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!**

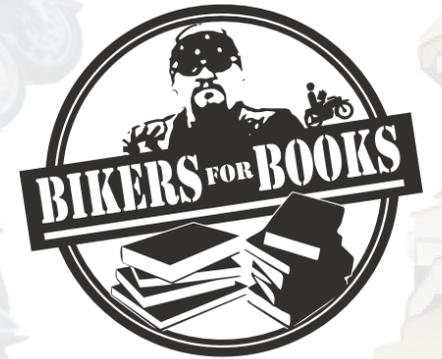
GOD LOVES YOU and has great mercy toward you! You might be thinking, "then why is all this bad stuff going on in my life and in this world?" The short answer is, because of the sinful choices that we, human beings, make.

Listen, God is also just - He allows us to reject His love and His world. But, when we do that, we get what we got coming. The Bible puts it this way, Galatians 6:7 "Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows he will also reap,"

So to wrap this all up - God is good and His love and mercy endures forever... and the devil can go to hell!

*Much love and respect,*

**Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay**  
Senior Pastor, National President & Founder  
Victory Biker Church International  
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# TRMM EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

## OCTOBER

Don't forget to email your events to [editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com](mailto:editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com)  
Bike Nights listed ONLY on ads in each issue.

October 3  
Breast Cancer Awareness Event  
Battle Creek HD, Battle Creek, MI.  
Wear pink and come out and show your support. For more info call 269-979-2233

October 4  
31st Annual Peotone Motorcycle Swap  
Illinois. Buy, sell, trade parts, leather, food, beer. For more info go to [paragonspromotion.com](http://paragonspromotion.com) (See ad this issue).

October 4  
Ride with the Eagles Benefit Run  
Fraternal Order of Eagles, Walled Lake, MI. Regis 9:30-11:30am, 1st bike out 11 am, last bike in 5 pm. \$20 rider, \$15 passenger, raffles, food, prizes, cars welcome. For more info call Renee 248-249-0125

October 9  
GM Workshop  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30-6:30pm, new store, new gear, new attire. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

October 9  
Fall Open House & 90th Anniversary Party  
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 5:30-8pm, free beer, bbq, music & giveaways. For more info go to [perryharley-davidson.com](http://perryharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

October 10  
Chili & Dessert Cook-Off  
Brighton HD, Brighton, MI. 10am-2pm. For more info go to [brightonhd.com](http://brightonhd.com) (See full page ad inside front cover this issue).

October 10  
42nd Annual Kalamazoo Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Wings Stadium, Kalamazoo, MI.

October 10  
Octoberfest Beer Tasting  
Battle Creek HD, Battle Creek, MI.  
Sample beers from local breweries. For more info call 269-979-2233

October 16  
Harleys at the Dragway  
Milan Dragway, Milan, MI. \$12 race or watch, all bikes welcome, fun runs, vendors, biker games & more. For more info go to [milandragway.com](http://milandragway.com) (See ad this issue).

October 16  
TTT Workshop  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 6-7pm, Talk to Tech, Boom Audio Workshop. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

October 18  
Birch Run Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Birch Run Expo Center, Birch Run, MI. 10am-4pm, \$6. For more info call 989-893-5187

October 23-24  
Fall Festival  
Vehicle City HD, Motorsports, Classic Diner, Riding Academy, Flint, MI. Cold beer, prizes, hot food, free gifts, 50/50, live music. For more info go to [vehiclecityharley.com](http://vehiclecityharley.com) (See 2 page spread this issue).

October 24  
2nd Annual Bikers & Friends Comedy Night  
VFW Hall, Wyandotte, MI. opens 5:30pm, 6pm dinner, 7:30 pm show, advance Tkt \$25 or \$30 at door if available; includes buffet dinner, 2

beers, wine or soft drink. For more info call Mike 734-771-2287

October 25  
Delta Plex Arena Motorcycle Swap  
Delta Plex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI. 10am-4pm, \$8 adult, buy, sell, trade parts, leather, food, beer. For more info go to [paragonspromotion.com](http://paragonspromotion.com) (See ad this issue).

October 30  
PA Workshop  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30-6:30pm, Winter storage assecorizing. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

## NOVEMBER

November 7  
Fashion Show  
Hamilton HD, Sturgis, MI. 11 am, a kick ass affair. For more info go to [hamiltonharley-davidson.com](http://hamiltonharley-davidson.com)

November 13  
GM Workshop  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30-6:30pm, first reveal/choice on holiday pickins. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

November 21  
Family Thanksgiving Dinner- Iron Saints  
Cross & Resurrection Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti, MI. Free thanksgiving feast, all bikers welcome. For more info call Slo Mo 734-218-3173

November 27  
TTT & PA Workshop  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 6-7pm, Boom Audio Workshop. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

## DECEMBER

December 4  
Women's Shopping Night  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5-7pm. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

December 11  
Men's Shopping Night  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5-7pm. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

December 12  
The Black List Biker Xmas Party  
Hamilton HD, Sturgis, MI. Call to get on the invitation only list. For more info go to [hamiltonharley-davidson.com](http://hamiltonharley-davidson.com)

December 18  
TTT Service Workshop  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 6-7pm. For more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

## EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!

Increase your attendance by posting your event in  
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To get your event listed in Thunder Roads Magazine and on our website, send the information to  
[Editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com](mailto:Editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com)  
Event information must be received prior to the 10th of the month preceding the event month to be posted in the magazine.

Remember to call ahead before planning to attend any event as the information/dates may change. Thunder Roads is Not responsible for errors or omissions.

# EASYRIDERS RODEO 2015

## FOWLerville, MI

by Debra Wright



In the March 2015 issue of Thunder Roads MI Magazine, I covered part of the Easyriders Rodeo Tour and how it all started with John Green. In August, I was able to attend the Easyriders Rodeo in Fowlerville MI. If you haven't attended a weekend Rodeo, you need to at least once. Sometimes once is all it takes as the saying goes (and you're hooked). It's very laid back, a nice time with friends, and others that have the same "ole time biker interests" kind of event.

There are events to participate in, or you can just hang out and watch. Such as:

The Bike pulls – a long time event, 500 to 6000 pounds is on the sled. Just watching these pulls keeps you on the edge of the bleacher hoping that the motor doesn't blow up. The back wheel is working so hard the dirt is making a rooster tail behind them as they try to make a full pull and see that green flag waving instead of the red one.

A Potato Race – A really fun thing to do. You have to have a rider and a passenger. The passenger rides on a tire roped to the back of the bike. As it starts the passenger grabs the potato in motion. And after the tire (with the passenger) crosses the finish line, the passenger has to jump up and run like hell to throw the potato into a 5 gallon bucket from where they started. It is all timed and can get really dirty.

The Bar Stool Races – This is also a long time event. You ride on a motorized bar stool that the Rodeo supplies, and have to go around a track that is made with hay barrels. Trying to stay on the barstools around turns and bumping into to other riders is a hoot! It's not as easy as it looks. There is only one rule.... No rules! Thanks Arnie for that tidbit!!

With all these games, there's lots of cheering and smiles from the crowd and other contestants. It's not dangerous so everyone can give it a try, and why not? You don't want to wait till the end and then say to yourself..."I should have done that."

Along the main area there are vendors, food, and a ride in free bike show to enjoy. While camping there, you're able to take a nap and eat at your leisure. The grounds supply clean showers and bathrooms 24/7 for you to clean up. In the evening, there is a venue of bands to sit back and enjoy. You also have the campground after 5 pm parade of bikes, trikes, mini bikes, golf carts, bicycles, and pretty much anything that moves to just cruise around and enjoy the views. Beads are always handy to wear and gift!! This is a no judge area. You are what you are and be proud of it. With all that, and the fun you bring, it makes a good weekend. The town of Fowlerville is very welcoming to have breakfast, or to start your day absorbing any liquids you consumed the night before to start again. Most of the businesses are open for you to enjoy and they are very biker friendly.

You can follow the Easyriders Rodeo Tour to their next destination ([www.easyridersevents.com](http://www.easyridersevents.com)) or wait till it comes back again next year. Everyplace is a different experience and one you will not forget. That is, if you can remember it in the first place! Thanks to the entire Easyriders Rodeo staff that help run the show. They work hard and have fun; you can see and hear it. I had the pleasure to meet just a few and want to thank them for sharing the stories with me.

**Gary** – Field Director and a past 4x champion of the bike pulls.

**Eclipse** – One of many field coordinators, that is all over out there making sure the games go smoothly and always has a smile.

**Arnie** – A long time mechanic and a field coordinator

**Big Tom & Billy Tinney** - camera and video crew

**Scott Harmon** – In charge of the traveling memorabilia semi-trailer.



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# WEST SIDE STORY

Greetings  
and welcome  
to a new  
monthly article  
in *Thunder  
Roads  
Michigan.*

BY Tom Shields



First, allow me to introduce myself, my name is Tom Shields and I am the TRMI representative for the Muskegon and surrounding areas here on the west side of the state. I approached Jody Mo awhile back about the possibility of writing a monthly article to highlight some of the activities, community events, and happenings here on the west side and share them with the rest of the great riding community that reads TRMI every month. And she said "go for it"!!!!

Now, I'm not anywhere near a professional writer, so hopefully no one will be looking for Pulitzer winning type journalism! But I'm going to do my best to put into type and create some buzz around the great things happening here, along the shoreline.

We all know that the great state of Michigan offers some stunning riding opportunities along with great attractions and festivities literally every weekend of the year. Even though the riding season for 2015 is winding down there are still a ton of great days left to get out and enjoy the road. If you have never been down the coast line from the northern end by Ludington, south to the Saugatuck/Douglas area, or it's been awhile since you have, you need to get out and enjoy that trail!! We have beaches that rival the best in the world up and down the west coast of this state, get out and enjoy!

So what's happening on the west side this month:

Depot to Depot Fall Color Tour – this is a great little ride between the historic train depots in Muskegon and Whitehall. Enjoy the scenic stops and historic points of interest on this self-guided tour while taking in the fall colors. Information at [visitmuskegon@co.muskegon.mi.us](mailto:visitmuskegon@co.muskegon.mi.us)

Oktoberfest, October 2-3 at the Muskegon Sports Complex, 462 Scenic Dr., enjoy live music, food, craft beers and wine!

Hot Rod Harley, a TRMI advertiser, is celebrating its 10 year anniversary on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:00am to 2:00pm. There will be food and fun with performances by World Champion Scott Murray from Sick Air. Specials galore in each department and a free custom painted micro fiber dust cloth with each purchase.

Well that's it for now!! Safe riding, get out and enjoy!



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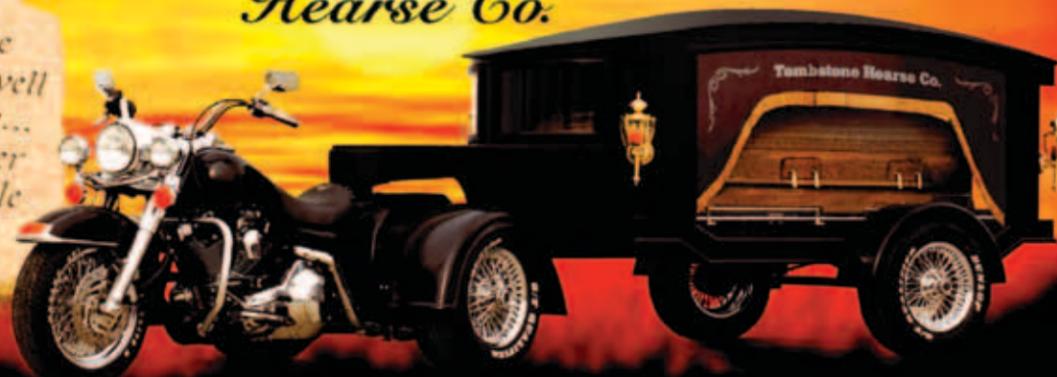


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Each puzzle has 9 boxes. Each box has 9 squares. Write #'s 1-9 in the squares without repeating the same # from side to side, top to bottom or within the same square.



As Always...  
Ride safe  
friends!

Winner Last Month

Jason Grimes  
of Louisiana

Congratulations!

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# Tech Tips By Steve

## OH NO! IT IS GETTING CLOSE TO THAT TIME... WINTER STORAGE

### Not trying to rush things my friends

but it is time to start thinking about getting the ride ready and gather the things for winter storage, unless of course you are one of those guys who tries to ride all winter. I am going to hit on the most important items you should do. Doing all the right things before you put it up will help your bike last a long time and it will help you plan your budget for maintenance during strange time or in the spring. For the love of God PLEASE try to get your bike to your shop during the winter from as much work as you can afford, we didn't dig out from this year's spring rush till July. Most shops will pick your bike up for free or for a small charge, this will help you out and help your local shop out with some business during their slow time.

### Fuel

Make sure you put some type of fuel stabilizer in your fuel tank and make sure it is full when you put your bike away for the season. Remember don't start your bike for a quick "fix" to hear it run, unless the bike gets up to running temperature and all the oils get warm. It can draw moisture into your engine and trans, this condensation wreaks havoc upon your motorcycle. You can also use a fogging spray if you like to coat your carburetor with lubricant. You simply remove your air cleaner and spray into carbs until the exhaust starts to smoke, then shut off remove spark plugs and spray some into the cylinder, then replace air cleaner and spark plugs.



### Tires

Make sure they are properly inflated, low tire pressure can damage your tires during storage, this is also a good time to inspect them to see if you need tires next spring (or for a Christmas present). If it will be in the cold in a garage or barn consider elevating it, getting it off the ground that will help your tires.

### Battery

Make sure your battery is on a battery tender; make sure it is not a cheapo. Get one that will continually check the battery and keep it charged without over charging it. If you have not yet, put a pigtail on your battery, this helps ease connecting to your battery without any disassembly. I have told my customers that take short rides to plug in their charger when they are not riding all year round. I personally love pulse tech battery chargers, they do all kinds of miracles for your battery.



### Clean that BIKE!

Make sure you clean that ride up well before you put it away. This is a great time to really inspect the bike overall, look for damage, loose wires, and do a safety check to make sure everything is working properly. I know some people spray parts of their bikes down to keep rust and corrosion away, however never use regular WD40 for this. HOWEVER WD40 does make a long term corrosion and rust inhibitor that will work well. Amsoil also makes a heavy duty metal protector too. Read instructions and apply as directed. It is good to cover that bike too, and if you store in a garage or barn you may wish to put some steel wool in the exhaust pipes, the critters hate the stuff and won't get into your pipes. Mice and rats don't like fabric softener either.



### OIL

Make sure you change your engine oil before storage. This will take away all the bad things inside your oil that will harm your internals. Also, all these contaminants will be gone so when you start it up in the spring you don't have anything harmful running amuck in your internals.

Thank you for reading and thanks for the calls, love your questions! Have a great riding month!

Take care and God bless all of you wonderful people!

Steve

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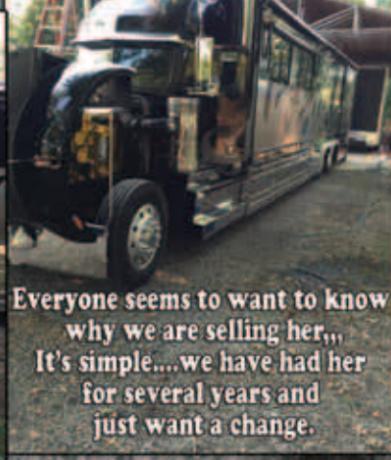
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# K.I.S.S. IN THE KITCHEN

KEEP IT SIMPLE SWEETIE

Composed & edited by: Toni McCoy Shearon aka "Thunder MaMa" of Thunder Roads National Founders' Office.

*I have chosen this name for our monthly recipe page, as that was what my mother, rest her soul, always used to say when I would assist her in the kitchen. Mom was an avid supporter of the K.I.S.S. (KEEP IT SIMPLE SWEETIE) method of cooking. I now, more than ever, truly appreciate her philosophy of always taking shortcuts where you can, as long as your ultimate outcome is that of down home, labor of love cooking.*

## SYRUP GLAZED CINNAMON PORK CHOPS

8 Thin Cut Pork Chops, but with a 1/8th inch band of fat around entire chop (ask Butcher to cut special if need be)

In a large non-stick skillet, add a large pat of butter a medium drizzle of Olive Oil over medium high heat. Wait till butter gets a tad light brown and add chops. Work them so they all fit in the pan. Now just let them sit. Don't be playing w/ them or lifting them. Meat will always let you know when it's ready as it will release from pan very easily. Once you flip them they will be a gorgeous caramelized brown. Sprinkle Cinnamon over each one after they've cooked on other side for approx. 90 seconds. Then take a quality syrup and drizzle just a few motions across each chop.

Remove from pan to a dish to rest and add 1/2 cup of water to pan to deglaze pan and use rubber spatula to push up any stuck to meat pieces. This makes a fabulous sauce. Pour generously all over chops. Serve hot. These are incredible! If you want to offset the sweet then add a pinch of Cayenne Pepper to each chop. Perfect!

1/2 tsp. of Nutmeg  
1/4 Cup of Quality Syrup

In a medium-large quality pot on top of stove, add all ingredients and mix by hand gently or use one of those battery operated liquid mixers. Let it get good and hot but do not burn. Pour into (4) soup style bowls or mugs w/ handles and top with thin slices of peeled apples sprinkled with cinnamon and baked in oven for several minutes. Simply Delicious!

## E-Z MINI CARAMEL APPLE CHEESECAKES

**BASE**

- 1 Cup of Graham Cracker Crumbs
- 2 Tbls. Sugar
- 1/4 tsp. Ground Cinnamon
- 3 Tbls. Melted Butter

**CHEESECAKE**

- 2 Cartons of Whipped Philly Cream Cheese
- 1/2 Cup Sugar, 1 tsp. Vanilla Extract, 2 Large Eggs; lightly beaten.

**TOPPING**

- 1 Large apple; peeled and finely chopped
- 1 Tbls. Butter, 1 Tbls. Sugar, 1/4 tsp. cinnamon & a dash of ground cloves, 1 Cup of Butterscotch Caramel Ice-Cream Topping

Preheat oven to 350. Line 12 muffin cups with white paper liners. In small bowl, mix cracker crumbs, sugar & cinnamon. Stir in melted butter. Spoon 1 rounded Tbls. of crumb mixture into each muffin cup and press down with a narrow bottom glass; like a shot glass to get it firm. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese & sugar until smooth. Beat in Vanilla. Add eggs, beat on low speed just until blended. Pour over muffin pan crusts. Bake 15-18 mins. until the centers are set. Cool in a high sided pan; just add water half way up of muffin pan.

In a small ceramic bowl, nuke apple with butter, sugar and cinnamon for only 2 minutes and piping hot. Remove and stir in Caramel Topping. Remove mini cheesecakes and place 2 on each plate and put the Caramel sauce out for people to drizzle as much as they want over their mini cheesecakes. These are SO yummy and once you've made a couple times will only take you a flash to make.

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN BIKERS!



# Bullet Points

**WOLVERINE**

Shooting Sports, Inc. *Courtesy of Wolverine Shooting Sports, Inc. ~ Dani Sparks*

## RINGS, BASES AND SCOPES, OH MY!

Hunting season is quickly approaching here in Michigan, and many are readying their rifles and shotguns to head out into the woods in the hopes of getting a deer this time around. Last year, everyone was a little late getting started, but this year we are seeing hunters right on time, so make sure you're not left in the dust! Many hunters have long ago ordered their new guns, and even more have been coming in to the shop since early September to have scopes mounted and bore sighted. I field many questions about this process, so I'd like to cover some of the basics.

You can find a plethora of information available online and in hunting magazines about the different types of scopes, and what you will need based on the caliber of firearm you're using and the distance at which you'll likely need it. Make sure that the type of scope you buy is capable of withstanding the recoil from whichever firearm you'll be shooting. If you're unsure, ask someone at a gun store to help you pick on out. Be sure to come in with a budget in mind, as there are many scopes available with a massive variance in price points.

You have a scope. Now what? Well, it needs to be mounted, and you have some options. You can go to a local gun store (like Wolverine), and we will help you get everything you will need to have the scope mounted properly. It is entirely possible, depending on the model firearm you have, that parts may need to be ordered, so make sure you come in early enough that we don't have to scramble to acquire them for you! You will need a base, which will either be a one piece or a two piece base, depending on your receiver, and scope rings. If your scope doesn't come with a simple cover, you will need to purchase lens covers, as well. You don't want to scratch the glass in transit!

As a rule of thumb, your base should match the finish of your gun, so if your receiver has a matte finish, you'll want a matte black base, and if it's glossy, that is ideally the base you'll want to acquire. You can absolutely use a matte base on a glossy finish receiver, as this is more a matter of preference, but most people prefer the base to blend in with the receiver upon which the scope will be mounted.

Following the same rule of thumb, your rings should match your scope. If your scope has a matte finish, get matte rings, a stainless finish scope would take stainless rings, and a glossy finish scope would take glossy rings. Aesthetics are important to me personally, so I would not like the appearance of a glossy scope with matte or stainless rings. Your mileage may vary, so ultimately, you should do what appeals to you. The important part about the rings is the height. Some scopes will require a slightly taller ring to adjust the elevation properly, though they may be short enough to take a low ring. If you have a gun shop do the installation of the scope, they will be able to adjust as they go along if they encounter such an issue. At Wolverine, we charge only \$25 for a basic scope installation with bore sight (parts not included), which does not include drilling and tapping if it is required.

In terms of lens cover, you have several options. If you choose a simple, stretchable cover, it is something that you will need to be sure to put in a pocket while you're in your stand, or else you may lose it, and you won't want to walk through the woods without a cover, or branches and brush may scrape against your glass and damage it. You may also choose flip open covers, or see through covers, depending on your preference, and both will adequately protect the scope. With either of those options, just be sure to get the proper fit on the scope, so that you won't accidentally lose your covers out in the woods.

Last but not least, what on earth is a bore sight, actually? When we install your scope, we will bore sight it. We can also do this service separately for eight dollars. We use special bore sighting tools, and we adjust your scope so that you'll be shooting on paper. In other words, you'll be hitting the target, but the fine tuning is generally left up to you. We can fine tune your scope, as well, but that carries an additional charge, plus the cost of the ammunition used. Most people choose to do this process themselves, using the ammunition they will use for hunting, and sighting it in for their own preferred range.

Now you have the basics, and hopefully we will see you out at the range before you head into the woods this November!

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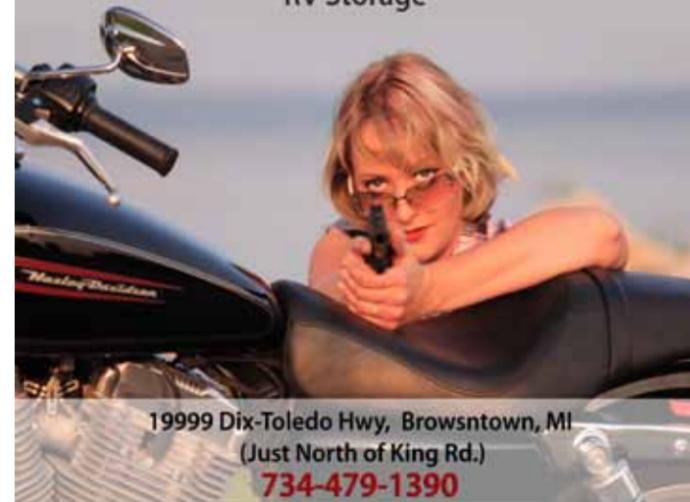
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### WHY YOU SHOULD NOT JOIN A.B.A.T.E. OR SUPPORT OUR MOTORCYCLIST RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

I am a member of ABATE of Michigan's board of directors. I have been a member of ABATE of Michigan for 20-25 years. I got my license and endorsement in 1976 when I was 16. I suspect I am more like most BIKERS than not, yet most BIKERS are not supporting members of ABATE. I can only surmise as to the reasons why, but rather than blab away about why you SHOULD be a supporting member of ABATE; I am going to tell you why I think you should NOT be.

If you choose to be an apathetic individual, not interested in politics, law, government intrusion, or your constitutional rights, save the annual \$25 support membership cost, as you have no use for ABATE. That 25 bucks'll get you an evening's belly full of beer and you're a winner.

If you don't have a problem with Uncle Sam taking your money for licenses, registrations, fees, and fines, in whatever amount and for whatever reason Uncle Sam decides, you should not support ABATE. Consider it your patriotic duty.

If you believe, like another Michigan Organization, S.M.A.R.T.E.R. (than you), that it should be mandatory for ALL motorcyclists to practice ATTGATT (All The Gear All The Time) and you share the nanny Nazi attitude that what YOU think is the right way to ride is the way everyone else must ride, WE DON'T WANT YOU!

If you have no problem with having the government determine what exhaust system you MUST use, and make it mandatory that your exhaust have certain factory stamped EPA metal doohickeys attached, which may be inspected by police any time they want to....Nah, you do not want to support ABATE.

If you're perfectly happy with the insurance industry, both auto and medical, lobbying bills to create laws that decrease or eliminate your benefits, while increasing your premiums....., not covering your work related health care if you even RIDE a motorcycle,... do not ride with us.

If you agree that automobile drivers have more right to use the roads, and highways, parking lots, and parks, than motorcyclists – stay clear of ABATE.

If you're uneasy in the knowledge that real bikers, are in the Capitol in Lansing talking to legislators in regard to bills and laws that effect every aspect of motorcycling....so often that they are on a first name basis with most of the legislators...YOU REALLY don't need the stress of being associated with ABATE.

Red light bills, training and awareness bills, insurance bills, right to repair bills, HIPAA, enforcement bills, equipment requirement bills, distracted driver bills, penalties for right of way violations bills, MCCA bills, Discrimination bills, ..... Are you paying attention to these motorcyclist concerns? WE ARE!

ABATE originally, and for me still, stands for A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments. Some are more at ease with American Bikers Aiming Towards Education. Either way, we do the same thing. We watch, listen, engage, and pursue whatever we need to keep our way of life, and our freedom to ride, SAFE.

ABATE is not a club. Abate is not about parties, patches, and donating to causes. We do party, we do have patches, and we love to help our communities. But we are about motorcyclists rights.

We do not segregate ourselves by the brand, or type, of motorcycle people ride. We do not care what race, creed, sex, or religious affiliation anyone has. We do not care if you're a MC member, a lone wolf, or a former or wannabe rider.

If you're a veteran organization member, a HOG member, or a member of another state or national rights organization, WE are the recognized grassroots biker organization that carries weight in Lansing.

If you love the freedom our creator endowed us with at birth, and believe in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution our founding fathers wrote to GUARANTEE us keeping those rights.....you should be a member of ABATE.

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~ Rusty



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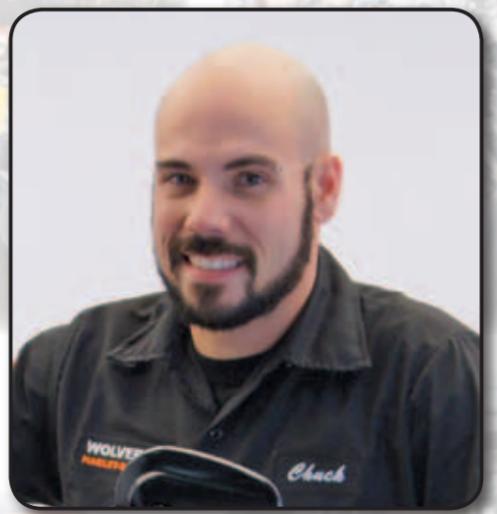
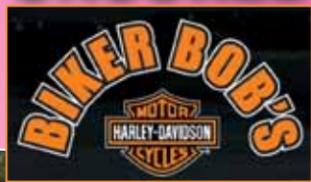
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