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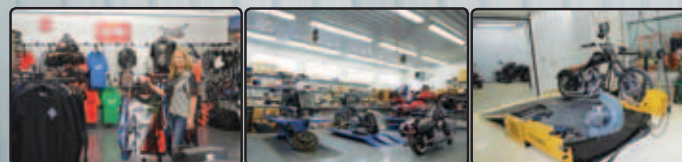
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Thunder Cam I.....	3
Tech Tips.....	6
Letter From The Owner.....	7
Thunder Roads MI Events Calendar.....	10
Veterans Corner.....	12
Jason the Lawyer ~ Get Ready to Ride.....	14
Jokers Wild.....	16
Thunder Paws.....	19
Running to the Thunder.....	20
90th Year Anniversary Celebration.....	23
MI Thunder Run Ride n' Win.....	24
2016 Thunder Fun Night.....	28
Biker Preacher's Corner.....	31
Jody Mo's Thunder Fun.....	33
ABATE.....	35
History of a Motorcycle ~ Part 9.....	36
Sudoku by Geneva.....	42
Biker Friendly Directory.....	44
Bullet Points.....	46

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# THUNDER ROADS

MAGAZINE FOR THOSE WHO LOVE

## YEARS OF THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE NETWORK



# Getting ready for that *SPRING* Ride!

CONTRIBUTED BY *The Iron Cowboy ~ Thunder Roads Ohio*

Take a few minutes to look over your bike and make sure everything is ready to go. If you're not comfortable wrenching on your own bike or would simply like another set of eyes to go over everything – this is a great time to call your local dealer or shop and schedule a spring service check. There's no shame in reaching out, and a spring session at the shop is a great chance to have everything looked over before you hit the road!

**1. Dust Off Your Bike.**

Remove the cover and any blocks used to keep your bike in place during winter storage and lower the bike onto its side stand. Remove any plugs, rags or covers from the exhaust pipes and air intakes meant to keep out animals and foreign objects. Wash away any coating you may have applied to protect the frame, rims and chain.

**2. Look Over the Fuel System.**

Replace the fuel filter and examine the fuel tank, fuel lines and fittings for cracks and leaks. If you used fuel stabilizer, your fuel should be in good shape. Make sure by opening the filler cap and looking inside for gunk or stratification. If the fuel is consistent and clean, you can go to the next step. If not, you're better off draining the tank and fuel lines before running the engine. You also should check and clean your carburetor. Add a fuel system cleaner the next few times you fill your tank.

**3. Make Sure it's Well-Oiled.**

Many motorcycle manufacturers recommend that you change the engine oil and filter before storage and again in the spring. During storage, the oil can separate, causing a condensation build up that may harm your engine. Whether or not you changed your engine oil before storage, you'll still want to check the oil level before riding.

**4. Check the Fluids.**

Check the fluid hose connections for looseness or signs of leakage. Check for cracks in all hoses and replace as needed. Check the levels and consistency of all of the fluids. Change any fluid that looks suspicious and top off any that need refilling. Always use a new sealed container when topping off fluids. Flush and replace the old antifreeze with proper coolant. You also should replace the air filter.

**5. Charge the Battery.**

If you removed the battery for storage and kept it charged, just clean the cables and terminals with a wire brush, then grease and reconnect. If you kept your battery trickle-charged or hooked up to a tender,

it's probably in good shape. However, if the bike was stored without disconnecting the battery or without using a smart charger, the battery will need to be fully charged or replaced if it won't hold a charge. In either case, check the leads for corrosion and make sure they're attached snugly. Depending on your battery, you may have to fill the cells with distilled water. Be sure the vent tube is connected and properly routed.

**6. Kick the Tires.**



If the weight was off your motorcycle's wheels during storage, chances are your tires are in good shape, but you still should inspect them thoroughly before riding. Check for cracks, bulges, punctures, stress marks or flat spots. Using a tire pressure gauge, check air pressure in both tires to ensure they're properly inflated. If needed, refill your tires to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. Inspect the wheels for dents and carefully tighten any loose spokes. Grease the wheel bearings.

**7. Hit the Brakes.**

Check and fill the brake fluid level, and replace it if it's dirty. Examine the brake lines for cracks and leaks. Inspect the brake pads and discs or shoes for wear. If they're thin, you may want to get new ones. Thoroughly clean the brake rotors with brake cleaner. Lubricate the front-brake hand lever and throttle cables.

**8. Rev the Engine.**

If you didn't spray fogging oil or lubricate the top of the cylinder before storage, remove the spark plugs and pour 2 tablespoons of oil into the spark plug ports. This will lubricate the top portion of the cylinder walls before you start the bike. When you pull the plugs, check the gaps; if needed, use a gap-setting tool to set them to the manufacturer's specifications.

**9. Inspect the Frame, Suspension and Steering.**

Inspect the frame and fairing for hairline cracks. Pay close attention to areas around the engine and transmission brackets. Move the forks forward and back to feel for looseness. If there's any movement or clunking from the steering head, tighten it properly.

Inspect the handlebars for cracks and lubricate the cable connections. Pay particular attention to brake-lever pivot bolts, axle nuts and drain plugs. Lubricate all bearings and grease the kickstand. Check the condition of every nut and fastener, and tighten as necessary.

**10. Double-Check the Chain and Sprockets.**

Check the sprocket for missing teeth or uneven wear. Test the amount of slack in the motorcycle's chain and adjust the tension to the manufacturer's specification. Then lubricate the chain.

**11. Take a Look at the Electrical System.**

Check your electronics, switches, lights and gauges for proper operation. Test your regular and high-beam headlamps, and front and rear turn signals. Test your rear brake light and ensure it lights up when you engage the brakes. Test the horn to ensure it's working.

**12. Test the Controls.**

Examine the cables and hoses for cracks, kinks or other damage. Test the levers and pedals to make sure they're well-lubricated. Test the throttle to ensure it flows smoothly and does not jam or spring closed when released.

**13. Update Your Insurance Policy.**

Make sure your insurance policy is current and in force. Far too often people have seasonal policies and they forget to renew once the snow thaws. Then – one slip on winter cinders or a distracted cager can spell financial ruin for you. If you've added any custom parts or equipment, you'll want to be sure they're covered as well.

**14. Hit the Road.**



Let the bike idle for a few minutes to get its fluids circulating. Check to see whether it idles smoothly and at the correct RPM after reaching normal operating temperature. Use the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's T-CLOCS (Tires, Controls, Lights, Oils and Fluids, Chassis and Stands) checklist before you hop on the motorcycle.



**THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN**

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*April Showers... Roads are Clean...  
Let's Get Ready to Ride n' Win!*

Dust off your Ride Cards and get them ready for soon the Ride n' Win contest will be kicking off again this year! The Registration Stops are excited, the Ride Stops are excited, the event stops are too and so should YOU, because you get to ride to these places and have a chance to win FREE stuff! We are not talking about free pencils like my grandma used to give out to trick or treaters...we are talking about CASH, Gift Cards, VIP tickets & passes and much more! Did you know that each month we gave away about 50 prizes! Some people have won 2 & 3 times folks! So get ready for the kick off on May 1st! If you don't have a Ride Card yet, you can sign-up for one at Registration Stops, which will all be listed in next month's issue.

Now, let's talk about April...check out that custom bike created by MotorCity Customs! There are some exciting changes unfolding and you can read all about it on page 27 in this issue. Make sure before you get your bike out to ride that you check it over, which you can read all about in this issue, along with all the events coming up & more! We are going to have an exciting season here in Michigan! Don't forget to be at the Detroit International Bike-O-Rama April 2nd & 3rd at Cobo Hall too. Make sure you come by and say hi as we will be set-up there with all the Thunder Roads Gear & more! Check the events calendar for all the upcoming events you won't want to miss.

Thank you to all the monthly contributors to TRMI and our wonderful advertisers~ for you are all what helps make and keep Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan the #1 FREE Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan!

Last month the Biker Friendly character was on page 10, in the picture with Max & his toolbox. 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.



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

*Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.*



*Jody Mohowitsch*

**MICHIGAN**

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# TRMI EVENTS CALENDAR 2016

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

## APRIL

April 2  
First Responders Appreciation Event  
Capitol HD, Dimondale, MI. 12-3pm,  
event for all Law Enforcement, Fire-  
fighters, & EMS personnel. Free food  
& drinks, raffle, & more. For more info  
go to [capitolhd.com](http://capitolhd.com)

April 2-3  
Detroit International Bikeorama  
Cobo Center, Detroit, MI. Ultimate  
build competition \$10k, prizes,  
trophies, vendors, massive swap  
meet, bikini contest, bike giveaway  
& more. For more info or vendor  
info go to [detroitbikeorama.com](http://detroitbikeorama.com)

April 3  
36th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Lansing Center, Lansing, MI. 10  
am- 4pm, \$6 pp, 12 & under free,  
buy- sell-trade; parts, leather, jew-  
elry, patches, accessories & more.  
For more info go to [hugeswap-meets.com](http://hugeswap-meets.com)

April 7  
Ladies Garage Party  
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 6pm-8pm.  
Food, Beverages, Fun.  
For more info go to [AbcHarleyDavidson.com](http://AbcHarleyDavidson.com) (See full page ad inside  
front cover).

April 10  
36th Annual Grand Rapids Motorcy-  
cle Swap Meet  
DeltaPlex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI.  
10 am - 4 pm, buy-sell-trade, bikes,  
parts leather, food, beer. For more  
info go to [grandrapidsmotorcy-  
cleswap.com](http://grandrapidsmotorcy-<br/>cleswap.com) (See ad this issue).

April 16  
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 11am-3pm,  
Free food & ride in bike show, 101

WRIF live radio broadcast, sexy 16  
rock girl finalists. For more info to  
go [AbcHarleyDavidson.com](http://AbcHarleyDavidson.com) (See  
full page ad inside front cover).

April 16-17  
Motorcycle Swap Meet & Expo  
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Cle-  
mens, MI. 10am-6pm, Admis \$5.  
Children age 12 & under get in free  
if accompanied by adult. New/Used  
bikes, parts, & accessories. For  
more info contact Angela at [angelan@gibraltartrade.com](mailto:angelan@gibraltartrade.com) (See full  
page inside back cover this issue).

April 24  
Birch Run Motorcycle Swap Meet  
11600 N. Beyer Rd. Birch Run, MI.  
10am-4pm, \$6 & free parking, over  
400 vendors with motorcycles,  
parts, accessories. Vendor spots  
only \$40.00 for used parts vendors.  
For more Info call Bubba 989-893-  
5187 (See ad this issue).

April 24-26  
Spring Open House & 1 year An-  
niversary  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. Test rides,  
new product demos, free food. For  
more info go to [raycsh-d.com](http://raycsh-d.com) (See  
ad this issue).

## MAY

May 1  
32nd Annual Peotone (IL) Motor-  
cycle Swap Meet.  
Will Co. Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL.  
10 am- 4pm, \$7 pp, early bird 7 am  
10 am \$10 pp, Bikes, parts, leather,  
food & beer. For more info go to  
[paragonspromotion.com](http://paragonspromotion.com) (See ad  
this issue).

May 1  
17th Annual Blessing of the Bikers  
Church of the Living Word, Ovid,  
MI. Ride in Bike Show regis by  
noon, hog roast all you can eat \$5,  
50/50, prizes, charity ride. For more  
info go to [cotlw.org](http://cotlw.org) (See ad this  
issue).

May 7  
4th Annual Allegan Blessing of the  
Bikes & Classic Cars  
Blessed Sacrament Church, 110 N.  
Cedar St, Allegan, MI. 8am- 2pm, \$5  
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May 7  
"Moses" Bib Bash & JoAn's 80th &  
Stu's 83rd Birthdays  
Museum of "Moses", McBain (Vogel  
Center), MI. 10 am- 2 pm, hot dogs,  
cotton candy, vendors, short ride  
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May 7  
Blessing of the Bikes/Poker Run/MI  
Traveling Vietnam Wall.  
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last bike out at 12 pm and last bike in  
at 4 pm, concessions& vendors avail-  
able. The MI Traveling Vietnam Wall  
will be on display from 11am-3pm.  
POC: [wild\\_bill\\_1sgt@yahoo.com](mailto:wild_bill_1sgt@yahoo.com)

May 7  
Operation Guardian Angels Ride For  
Warriors  
Casa de Montecristo in Countryside,  
IL ride ends Notre Dame, IN. Starts at  
12 pm est, Dinner, raffles, and more.  
\$30 per rider, \$100 per non-rider (ban-  
quet tkt only). For more info contact  
Tori at [Bulliersq1@gmail.com](mailto:Bulliersq1@gmail.com)

May 7  
Operation Guardian Angels Ride For  
Warriors  
Hamilton HD, Sturgis, MI ends in  
Notre Dame, IN. Starts 3pm est, Din-  
ner, raffles, and more. \$30 per rider,  
\$100 per non-rider (banquet tkt only).  
For more info contact Tori at [Bul-  
liersq1@gmail.com](mailto:Bul-<br/>liersq1@gmail.com)

May 8  
36th Annual Mother's Day Swap Meet  
& Bike Show  
Midland Fairgrounds, Midland, MI.  
Sunday, 10am-4pm.  
Admission is \$5. Children under 12  
free. Ride and bike show 10am-3pm.  
Sign up 10am-1pm. For more info  
email [bubba@bubbastricitycyle.com](mailto:bubba@bubbastricitycyle.com)

May 13-14  
Spring Open House  
Dick Scott's Freedom Powersports,  
Livonia, MI. Fri. 11am-6pm, Sat.  
11am-4pm, Live Music, Food & Re-  
freshments, WRIF onsite w/ games  
& prizes. For more info go to [www.  
DickScottPowersports.com](http://www.<br/>DickScottPowersports.com) (See  
full page ad this issue).

May 13-15  
44th Annual Blessing of Bikes  
festival  
Baldwin, MI. Vendors set up all over  
the town, giant food fest, camping  
is available. (No vendor set up at  
the airport). Blessing will be on

# TRMI EVENTS CALENDAR 2016

Sunday May 15th at the airport  
sponsored by Para Dice Motorcycle  
Club. Gates will open at 9 AM and  
donation in \$5 per bike (not per  
person). More than 40 thousands  
bikers come every year from all  
over the country. For more info go  
to [paragonspromotion.com](http://paragonspromotion.com)

May 14  
Blessing of the Bikes Swap Meet &  
Bike Show  
Cash 4 Motorcycles, Milan, MI. Bless-  
ings at 1pm-3pm by C.M.A. \$10 per  
bike to enter. Gates open at noon.  
Food, music, corn hole & more. Rain  
date on 15th. For more info go to  
[Facebook.com/Cash4Motorcycles](https://www.facebook.com/Cash4Motorcycles)

May 14  
Blessing of the Bikes Fun Run  
Redford Moose Riders, 5 mile rd,  
Redford, MI. Open at 11 am, blessing  
noon, last bike out 1 pm, back 5:30  
pm, \$20 rider, \$10 passenger includes  
dinner, raffles band. For more info call  
313-768-6350

May 14  
Ask the Tech Workshop  
Shiawassee HD, Birch Run MI.  
12pm-4pm  
A workshop where the HD techni-  
cians can answer your questions  
for free. Ride & receive a free  
safety inspection. For more info  
go to [www.shiawasseeharley-  
davidson.com](http://www.shiawasseeharley-<br/>davidson.com) (See full page ad this  
issue).

May 21  
Cause For Paws 5th Annual Poker  
Run  
American Legion, AuSable Twp, MI.  
Regis. 10am-11am. Kickstands up  
at 11:30 am. \$10 operator, \$5 Rider.  
Food and prizes. For more info call  
Crazy at 989-820-5703

May 21  
8th Annual Biker Blessing—Mat-  
thew Brotherton Memorial Cancer  
Ride  
Merriman Road Baptist Church,  
Garden City, MI. Regis. 9:30am,  
blessing at 1pm, ride at 2pm. Free  
food, free bike wash, music, bike  
show, vendors. Door prizes and a

chance to win a flat panel T.V. For  
more info go to [mrbcfaithriders.  
com](http://mrbcfaithriders.<br/>com) (See ad this issue).

May 29  
28th Valpo-Fest Motorcycle-Car  
Show & Swap  
Porter Co Expo Center, Valparaiso,  
IN. 9 am- 4 pm, \$8 pp, 12 & under  
free, free to ladies who ride their  
bikes. Bikes, parts, leather, live  
bands, celebrity appearance, bike  
rodeo, food & beer. For more info  
go to [paragonspromotion.com](http://paragonspromotion.com) (See  
ad this issue).

## JUNE

June 4  
Michigan Riders Memorial Wall Fund-  
raiser Party  
10520 Iosco Rd, Fowlerville, MI. \$10  
donation, 4pm-?, music, food, free  
camping, clean showers/restrooms.

June 4  
Open House  
Capitol HD, Dimondale, MI. 10 am-3  
pm, live music, free food, new prod-  
ucts, vendors & more. For more info  
go to [capitolhd.com](http://capitolhd.com)

June 5  
Biker Sunday  
Midland Nazarene, Midland, MI.  
10:45 am service, food, refreshments,  
biker games, bike show, live music,  
rain or shine, all bikes welcome. More  
details to follow in next issue.

June 5  
Blessed in Hell Blessing Of The  
Bikes  
Hell Creek Ranch, Pinckney, MI.  
Gates open at 10:30am Sharp!  
Show starts 11:30am-12:30pm &  
1:30-2:30, \$10 per bike. Ride in  
bike show/over 20 vendors, food  
vendors & live music. For more info  
go to [Hellcreek ranch.com](http://Hellcreek ranch.com)

June 9-11  
28th Annual Sandy Corley Memorial  
Run  
The Double JJ Resort, Rothbury, MI.  
For more info or vendor info go to  
[sandysharley-davidson.com](http://sandysharley-davidson.com)

June 11  
We Love Our Troops Annual Poker  
Ride  
Ithaca Fairgrounds, Ithaca, MI.  
Regis. 11 am-noon, \$30 day of, \$25  
advanced, 125 mile ride, dinner avail,  
prizes, alcohol free ride. For more  
info go to [weloveourtroops.net](http://weloveourtroops.net)

June 12  
21st Annual Vintage Motorcycle  
Show & Swap Meet  
Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Cor-  
ners, MI. 8am-4pm, rain or shine.  
Bikes 25 yrs old & older. Regis. at  
[gilmorecaremuseum.org](http://gilmorecaremuseum.org) (See ad  
this issue).

June 18  
Red Arrow Riders Benefit Ride- Talons  
Out Honor Flight  
VFW Post, Kalamazoo, MI. Regis.  
10:30am. Kickstands at 1pm.  
\$15 single, \$25 double. Includes din-  
ner, camping, live music, and prizes.

June 25-26  
24th Annual Ride for Father Fred  
Classic Motor Sports, Traverse City,  
MI. \$25 rider, \$15 guest, Sat. regis 9  
am- noon, Sun. regis 8am- 10:30 am,  
blessing of bikes, 50/50, escorted ride,  
advanced tickets avail, rain or shine,  
all motorcycles welcome. For more  
info go to [rideforfatherfred.com](http://rideforfatherfred.com)

## JULY

July 8-10  
Operation LZ Michigan  
Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport, Oscoda,  
MI. Say thank you for your service  
& welcome home to Vietnam vets,  
family members and patriots. Open to  
public, free, entertainment, vendors,  
memorabilia displays. For more info  
go to [operationlzmichigan.org](http://operationlzmichigan.org)

July 14  
Escorted Ride to Vietnam Traveling  
Memorial Wall  
Valley Plaza, Midland, MI. to Sanford  
American Legion. 9 am leaves, 6pm  
opening ceremonies. Open 24 hrs.

July 14-17  
Muskegon Bike Time  
At the Rez, Muskegon, MI. Free

entry to vendors & most entertain-  
ment, headline bands, beverage  
tents, stunt shows, national ven-  
dors, contests & more. For more  
info go to [muskegonbiketime.com](http://muskegonbiketime.com)  
(See ad this issue).

July 16  
Trooper Chad Wolf Memorial Ride  
Biker Bob's HD, Taylor, MI. Regis  
9am-11am, leaves 11:30am, ride  
starts/ends at Biker Bob's HD,  
escorted ride, proceeds to trooper  
Wolf's family, live music, lunch.  
For more info call Biker Bob's HD  
734-947-4647

July 21-24  
Ogemaw Hills Bike Week  
Ogemaw Co Fairgrounds, West  
Branch, MI. Biker games, AMA Pro  
Hillclimb, bike show, vintage bike  
show, live entertainment, camping,  
tattoo contest & more. All motor-  
cycles welcome. For more info go  
to [ogemawhillsbikeweek.com](http://ogemawhillsbikeweek.com) (See  
ad this issue).

July 28-31  
30th Annual Wetzelland Bash  
Grover Hill, OH. Special guest:  
Jackyl & Jasmine Cain. Bike show,  
tattoo show, rodeo games, live  
music & more. For more info go to  
[wetzellmc.com](http://wetzellmc.com)

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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.

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### Electric Patch May Offer Relief From PTSD

Researchers at UCLA are using a noninvasive form of treatment called external trigeminal nerve stimulation (eTNS), (electrical stimulation of the nerves) that can be added to an existing regimen of therapy and medication. One of the researchers, Ian Cook, co-developed the still-experimental technique as a treatment for controlling epileptic seizures that were not responsive to medication. In the current study, 12 chronic sufferers of PTSD, whose traumas ran the gamut from car accidents to rape to combat, participated in the eight-week open outpatient study using eTNS.

“Overall, we saw about 30 percent reduction in symptoms across the board in anxiety, sleep, startle reflex, and all major symptom domains of PTSD,” says Leuchter. They also saw a 50 percent decline in severity of depression. While that may not seem like a particularly strong symptom reduction, Leuchter adds, “Any reduction in symptoms in this population is very important because this was a group that had suffered with treatment-resistant symptoms for a very long time.” One quarter of the subjects’ PTSD went into remission.

Since the UCLA study was an augmentation trial—that is, eTNS was administered in addition to patients’ existing regimens of psychotherapy and medication—their next phase of research will be a double-blind study, conducted with the VA in Los Angeles, on veterans who have served in the military since 9/11. Since it will be using placebo treatment, at the end of the study, veterans who received placebo will be given a chance to try the eTNS system, as well.

### Lawmakers Start Nonprofit to Help Struggling Veterans

Republican Rep. Tom Barrett and Democratic Sen. David Knezek have announced a new nonprofit to help struggling veterans after the state’s Auditor General released a scathing audit unearthing problems at a state-run veterans’ nursing home in Grand Rapids.

Barrett says he and Knezek, both Iraq War veterans, had been laying groundwork for the nonprofit before the recent audit led to the resignation of Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Jeff Barnes in February.

Barrett says the nonprofit has already raised money from corporate sponsors. It aims to help break the chain of events leading to veteran suicide, help get service dogs for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or brain injuries and host town hall meetings.

### Genesee County Department of Veterans Services receives \$15,000 grant

State Rep. Pam Faris, D-Clio, has announced that the Genesee County Department of Veterans Services has been awarded a \$15,000 grant by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. The money will be used to hire an additional permanent, full-time accredited benefits counselor.

“I am thrilled to see needed money come to Genesee County to help our veterans,” Faris said. “This area has a long tradition of hardworking men and women, and our local servicemen and women extend that tradition across the globe. The benefits counselor will be a very helpful addition to the already excellent work of the Genesee County Department of Veterans Services.”

The Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency’s county incentive grant program will give money to 19 Michigan counties in the first round of fiscal year 2016 grants. The grants are awarded to counties looking to create local departments of veteran’s

affairs, hire additional accredited benefits counselors or upgrade or invest in new technology — all to better connect those who have served in the Armed Forces with the benefits they’ve earned.

### State veterans homes pursuing Medicare, Medicaid certification

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency would receive \$70 million to support the Michigan Veteran Health System under Gov. Rick Snyder’s fiscal year 2017 budget recommendations.

The recommendation includes \$8 million for MVHS to pursue federal certification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – a move that is critical to the long-term financial stability of Michigan’s veteran’s homes.

“This funding will help ensure our veterans receive quality care while aligning Michigan with best practices in the veteran health care field,” Snyder said. “More than 600 men and woman live in these facilities, and this step will allow the Michigan Veteran Health System to provide improved and necessary care for veterans of today and tomorrow.”

CMS certification would allow MVHS to collect additional federal funding available to Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible residents whose cost of care is not fully covered by VA per diem rates.

Capital improvements to both veterans’ homes have better positioned MVHS to receive CMS certification, including:

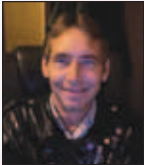
Implementation of electronic medical records at both state veterans homes.

The creation and construction of family rooms and living rooms for visitors at DJJHV.

An increase in the number of surveillance cameras and the installation of card access pads on many exterior doors at GRHV.

The installation of a patient anti-wandering system for some units at GRHV.

**David McCallister “Possum”**  
*Retired AF MSgt computer tech.  
 Norad Cheyenne Mt CO, Misawa AB Japan,  
 Boerfink MTK Germany,  
 RAF Croughton England, Tinker AFB OK*



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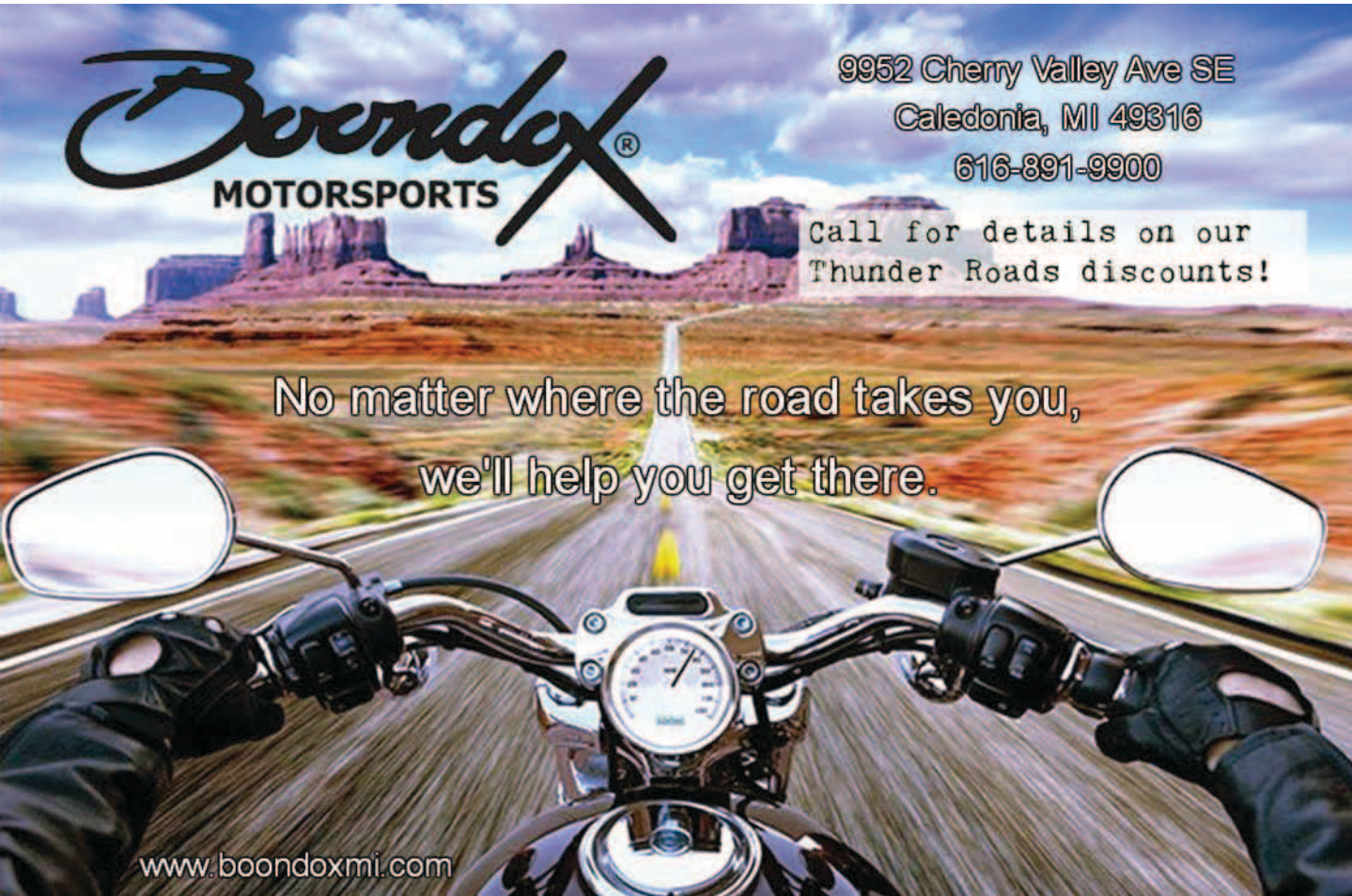


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# The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

## Jason's Top Tips for Getting Ready to Ride

We made it! The clocks have sprung forward and it's officially spring, time to list my top tips for getting ready to ride this motorcycling season. That is, if you ever really stopped riding, since winter was so mild...

**#1 Don't Ride Without Insurance:** I know, I know, I keep going on about insurance! But the thing is it's really important that you are properly insured before you hit the road. If nothing else, this winter has helped prove my point that you shouldn't cancel your motorcycle insurance during the winter: if you didn't have coverage, you wouldn't have been able to go out on those crazy-warm days we saw, and I know I saw a bunch of bikes out in January 2016. Obviously, another reason to keep your coverage in winter is that your homeowner's policy will not cover your bike if there's a flood, fire, or other damages, so why take the risk? In Michigan, you're required to carry bodily injury coverage to ride legal. I also recommend carrying comprehensive coverage, in case you are in a wreck and want to get your bike fixed. You made need special riders for custom work or other accessories, so be sure to talk to your insurance agent about what you've got and what you need. You can also learn more on my website, [www.TheMotorcycleLawyer.com](http://www.TheMotorcycleLawyer.com).

**#2 Get our Biker Card:** Every year, we work with local vendors to get deals or freebies on products and services for bikers who carry our Biker Card\*. In addition to all that swag, our Biker Card could also help save a life: The card provides vital information for what to do in the event of the crash, including first-aid basics and other safety tips. To get the card, visit [www.MotorcycleLawyerMichigan.com/20.html](http://www.MotorcycleLawyerMichigan.com/20.html) and fill out the request form. You can also see a list of participating vendors and see other freebies we have to offer, including bumper stickers, tire gauges, and free advice.

**#3 Get your Bike Ready:** This is a strange spring because I feel like a lot of readers may not have put their bikes to bed last fall like they normally would. What you have to do to get your bike ready to ride is going to depend on what you did in the fall and how you stored it during the winter. If you fully prepped and stored your bike for winter, then you'll have to start with an inspection: remove the cover and put it in a proper storage container so it doesn't get damaged, then start looking at your bike. Make sure all your wires and hoses are attached and damage-free, look for rust or corrosion, check your battery for damage, and test your lights and turn signals. You should also check your brakes. If you rode during the winter, you may want to consider an oil and filter change, and maybe taking the bike in to a licenses mechanic for a full tune-up. The extra cash and effort now could pay off if you are able to avoid problems (and downtime!) in the middle of the riding season. Finally, check your tires.

**#4 Check your Tires:** Tire condition is so important I felt like it needed to be its own tip! Whether you stored or rode this winter,

you should check your tire pressure, and look them over for flat sports, wear, cracks, debris, and so on. Invest in a small portable air tank so you can fill your tires at home. Even though it's been so mild, at this time of year we do tend to see a lot of swings in temperature, which can affect your tire pressure day-to-day. NHTSA recommends checking tire pressure before every ride, and I'm going to say that's not a bad idea at least until the temperature levels off a bit. At least check them once a week: always use a reliable tire gauge, and check them when the tires are cold. I also recommend carrying a simple repair kit when you ride, just in case you run into a problem.

**#5 Watch for Motorcycles:** Maybe it seems weird to include this, but it's important that we all get back into the habit of watching for motorcycles as the season gets underway. Start playing "Count the Motorcycles" with your kids when you've got them in the car with you. Start posting on social media about the importance of motorcycle awareness; follow me on Facebook ([facebook.com/TheMotorcycleLawyer](https://facebook.com/TheMotorcycleLawyer)) to see and share all kinds of information, links, and posters about motorcycle awareness and safety. Spread the word, you could save a life... maybe even your own.

Motorcycle Awareness Month 2016 is fast approaching, and I'm looking for some help from readers. I want to know your best motorcycle awareness tip, that "one thing" you wish you'd known when you first started riding, or a story you'd like to tell that relates to Motorcycle Awareness Month. Email me ([writer@lawyerforlife.com](mailto:writer@lawyerforlife.com)) or message me on Facebook to get in touch.

*\*The Motorcycle Lawyer's Biker Card is not affiliated with the Michigan Thunder Run Ride Card Program.*

**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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Dear people who type in all lowercase.....

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Sincerely, Capital Letters.

A very old man lay dying in his bed. In death's doorway, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookie wafting up the stairs.

He gathered his remaining strength and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands. With labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven.

There, spread out on newspapers on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies.

Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table. The aged and withered hand, shaking, made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when he was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife.

"Stay out of those," she scolded, "they're for the dang funeral."

A woman was patiently trying to help her husband set up his new computer. He however was acting annoyed and impatient.

She told him to choose a password for security purposes.

He made it plainly obvious to his wife what he was entering by stating each letter out loud as he typed: P...E...N...I...S

His wife fell off her chair laughing when the computer replied: Password Rejected. Not Long Enough.

A fifty-ish woman was at home happily jumping on her bed and squealing with delight. Her husband watches her for a while and asks, "Do you have any idea how ridiculous you look?, What's the matter with you?" The woman continues to bounce on the bed and says, "I don't care; I just came from having a mammogram and the Doctor said I have the breasts of a 20 year-old" The husband sarcastically replied, "What did he say about your 55 year old ass?"

The wife quickly replied, "Actually, your name never came up."

#### Things That Make You Go WTF?

WHY do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while so-called healthy people can buy cigarettes at the register right by front door?

WHY do people order double, bacon cheeseburgers, large fries, and a Diet Coke?

WHY do banks leave mammoth vault doors wide open and then chain the pens to the counters?

WHY do we always take a dump, then stand up and turn around and scope it out?

WHY do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

WHY do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight?

WHY can't most women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

WHY don't you ever see the headline; 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

WHY is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

WHY is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

WHY do Politicians always talk about equality when our entire political system is structured to pit us against each other with two major sides?

WHY is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

WHY is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

WHY isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

WHY didn't Noah swat those damn, last two mosquitoes?

WHY do they sterilize the needle and the arm when prisons do lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? WHY don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

WHY don't sheep shrink when it rains?

WHY are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

WHY if flying is supposedly so safe, do they call the airport the terminal?

WHY in a 3,000 sq. ft. home, if there's one fly in the entire house, it's buzzing around you throughout the entire day?

WHY is it if you go grocery shopping when hungry you end up spending twice the amount of money on food you can't eat till you get home? Good reasoning to stop and grab a burger before going to the grocery store.

Why is it some people will go sky-diving and love it but refuse to get on a commercial plane as a passenger and fly?

Why is the word conundrum so fun to say?

Fact: Life is Short, but laughter goes a Long way.

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All Saving Tails Animal Rescue dogs are fully vetted. Microchipped and spay or neutered (if of age.) We are foster based, so all our animals are living with families so they can be ready to be part of your family. For more information on these animals or others available please go to [www.savingtailsanimalrescue.org](http://www.savingtailsanimalrescue.org) / 248-692-4619



## Bailey

Is a gorgeous black lab girl seeking her forever home. She is sweet and good with other dogs. Are you looking for a good family dog? Then this is your gal.



**Bailey**



**Blossom**

## Cyrus

This boy was found in a backyard, abandoned with no food or water. Even though he experienced the worse kind of neglect he is very sweet and loving. Not high energy except when walking, but a little patience and time will take care of that.



**Cyrus**



**Holly**

## Blossom

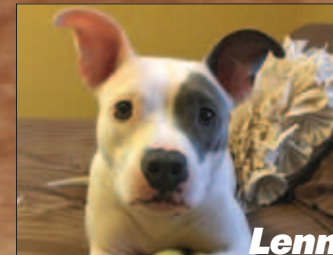
Is a beautiful brindle girl that will make a wonderful companion. She will need a fenced yard. Good with other dogs and kids.

## Holly

Please how can you not smile when looking at those ears! This sweet little girl is looking for a family to play with. She prefers a fenced yard but will give you hours of love, play and kisses.

## Lenni

This sweet petite girl has been waiting a long time for a home. She is good with other dogs but doesn't do as well in a hectic environment.



**Lenni**



**Lizzy**

## Lizzy

Was surrendered due to no fault of her own. She is a sweet mature girl that will make a wonderful companion.

## Remy

Is an adorable goofy guy that loves everyone. We believe he was kept in a crate for hours at a time, if ever allowed out. That doesn't stop him from wanting to share his love. He is still learning his manners, but what he has to give for that patience is so much love.



**Remy**



**Roger**

## Roger

Is an adorable goofy guy that loves everyone. We believe he was kept in a crate for hours at a time, if ever allowed out. That doesn't stop him from wanting to share his love. He is still learning his manners, but what he has to give for that patience is so much love.

## Sally Mae

Is a senior girl that thought she had her final home. She is good with kids and people but would probably do best to have the house to herself. She would make a great companion for a senior that is looking for couch buddy that wouldn't require a lot of work.



**Sally Mae**



**Wilson**

## Wilson

This boy has waited so long for a forever home. He is a mature hound that will sing you his hound song of love. He is good with other dogs, not cats please, and loves people.

Saving Tails Animal Rescue (STAR) is proud to announce that they are a Pets for Patriots partner. We will be featuring a Pet for Patriots - Pet of the Month on our website: [savingtailsanimalrescue.org](http://savingtailsanimalrescue.org)



If you are a veteran you will receive 50% off the adoption fee.  
To find out more about this wonderful program, you can go to [petsforpatriots.org](http://petsforpatriots.org)  
*STAR thanks all the men and woman who are serving or have served our country.*



# RUNNING TO THE THUNDER

BY Rick Wyatt (ghost)

Anybody who has been around road bikes more than one season has probably heard of “**Rolling Thunder**”, the motorcycle event that takes place in the nation’s capital every Memorial Day weekend.



The purpose of the gathering is to honor the POW’s, MIA’s and those who have paid the ultimate price in all wars where Americans have served. The highlight of the weekend is the motorcycle parade through Washington on Sunday morning when a couple hundred thousand bikes literally make the ground shake as they roar down the avenue. Because it draws so much attention, and the participants come from all over the country, the parade is broadcast on C-SPAN every year. Yes, it is a very big deal, and I am proud to say that I have participated!



There is a second ride which intersects with then blends into “*Rolling Thunder*” on the Friday prior to Memorial Day. Because of this relationship, and a shared mission of honoring America’s heroes, most people assume that they are one in the same, but nothing could be farther from the truth. The ride I am talking about is called “*Run for the Wall*”, and I am proud to say that I have made it. One of the biggest differences is that most participants in “*Rolling Thunder*” come from the eastern US and ride in for the weekend and then back home to be at work on Tuesday. Riders in “*Run for the Wall*” leave Ontario, CA and spend ten days on the road before arriving in DC the Friday before Memorial Day to participate in the weekend. For the sacrifices the riders in “*Run for the Wall*” make to participate they are given a position of honor near the front of the Sunday parade.

Participation in “*Run for the Wall*” has gotten so large that they have had to break it into three separate groups with different routes as they make their way east. On their journey coast to coast the participants in the “*Run*” are ambassadors for “*Rolling Thunder*” at every stop they make. And at every stop the “*Run*” is welcomed by veterans groups, community groups, whole communities, churches, motorcycle dealers, and fuel stops with food, fellowship, sometimes free gasoline, and always a ceremony to remember the heroes they ride for who “cannot ride for themselves.”

Ten days, approximately 3600 miles (one way), sounds like a long haul, and it is. But, when it is broken down between the stops and take into account the places you go, the things you see, and the people you meet, you find yourself wishing it didn’t have to end. When I made the “*Run*” in 1999, I found that my sorrow to be heading home from DC was proportional to the elation I felt when our initial group of 300 bikers pulled out of Ontario. Most of the riders were from the western states, but we also had riders from Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Azores. Add to that those of us who rode west from all over the country to claim “ALL THE WAY” status (a patch earned not given), and all the riders that joined our eastward odyssey and you begin to understand how special “*Run for the Wall*” really is.



“*Run for the Wall*” is one of the most special experiences of my life, so much so that I am going again this year. I am looking for other riders who want the adventure of a lifetime. Need to do some research, check out “[rftw.org](http://rftw.org)” or their Facebook page and U-Tube videos. Or contact me at [oleghost@yahoo.com](mailto:oleghost@yahoo.com) with any questions. I am leaving the Lansing area on May 12th, and I welcome anyone to join me.

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**Sun May 29th** *Porter Co Expo Center*  
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Celebrates  
90th Anniversary



BY Dale Terry









Perry Harley-Davidson®, Inc., Michigan's oldest Harley-Davidson® dealership, was founded in 1925 by L.J. "Bun" Perry, father of the present owner, Richard Perry. It was established on Portage Street between 2nd and Walnut in downtown Kalamazoo. During the 1920s, the motorcycle dealership moved to 551 Portage and in 1951 to 579 Portage; all this time remaining in the same block of Portage Street. Upon the death of his father in 1962, Richard Perry took over the dealership; becoming its president at the 1975 incorporation of the business. Substantial additions were made to the Portage Street location in 1970, 1975, and 1996 bringing this facility to its final 8000 sq. size.

With an eye on the future and the need to again expand the facility to take care of the needs of our customers, a 10-acre property was purchased in late 1999 and construction was begun on the present 24,000 sq.ft. facility at 5331 S Sprinkle Road. At the Harley-Davidson® winter meeting in New Orleans in January of 2000, Richard Perry was awarded a 75-year longevity plaque by the Harley-Davidson® Motor Company. This honors Perry Harley-Davidson®, Inc. as one of the oldest Harley-Davidson® franchised dealerships in the United States in continual

operation by the same family. This plaque hangs proudly along with the 25-year plaque awarded to Bun Perry in 1950 and the 50-year plaque awarded to Richard in 1975, in Richard's present office.

Perry Harley-Davidson® is conveniently located near the areas of Kalamazoo, Portage, Allegan, Otsego, Planwell, Ross, Battle Creek and Grand Rapids.

*One little story Richard told me was about his dad (he wasn't sure of the year), but he had bought a Harley on credit to go race in Wisconsin. It was just him and his mechanic. They loaded his bike with a sidecar full of tools; put it on the trailer and away they went. He won enough money that weekend to pay the bike off! The moral of the story is; don't ever give up on your dreams or goals.*






Happy 90th Anniversary  
Perry Harley Davidson!



# 2016 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



**Get Ready! The 3rd Annual**  
**Michigan Thunder Run Ride n' Win**  
**Contest will be kicking off**  
**MAY 1ST**



**Starting in the May issue you will find all the details!**  
**Then all you need to do to get started is**

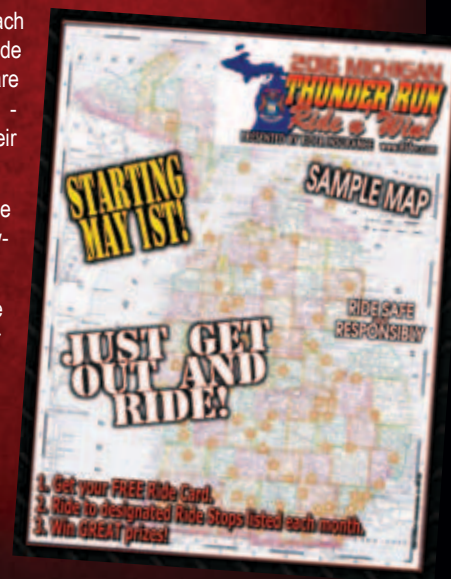
1. Go to any Registration stop listed on the map with a red star or on the Stops pages (actual map will be provided in the May issue). If you already have your card from last year or the year before, you do not need to register again. The Ride Cards do not expire so hold on to it. The information that you provide when you sign-up for your FREE Ride Card only goes to me and will NOT be used for any other purpose than this contest. You will not have to provide any other personal information again after this. You will be handed your FREE Ride Card right then. It has a unique number on it- take note because that is YOURS and ONLY YOURS.
2. Once you have your Ride Card go to any or all of the stops listed this month and show them your card! Registration stops are also ride stops. There are also event stops each month. That stop will write your unique Ride Card number down. Let them know if you spend over \$10 there because your Ride Card number will get counted twice!
3. Check the following months issue to see if your Ride Card number is listed as a winner. You must check this each month as Thunder Roads staff will not contact you and let you know you won. If your Ride Card number is listed as a winner email MichiganThunderRun@gmail.com to claim your prize. In the email provide your name, address, phone number & Ride Card number. Again, the information only goes to us at Thunder Roads. Please note: You only have 45 days to claim your prize from the 1st the month it is listed in the magazine.

**Make sure to pick-up your copy each month of Thunder Roads to see that month's Ride Stops and also to see if your Ride Card is listed as a winner!**



## FEW FACTS

- Winners are randomly picked from each Registration/Ride Stop, Ride Stop & Event Stop each month.
- The more places you check-in the greater your chances are of winning a prize from that stop or one of our sponsors prizes!
- If you spend \$10 or more at any of the Registration/Ride Stops or Ride Stops your Ride Card number gets counted twice! Please note: The reason why this contest is FREE to you the rider is because our sponsors and stops. So we want to encourage everyone to support them in return. That is why we count your Ride Card number twice if you spend \$10 or more.
- You can check-in 1 time each week at each Registration/Ride Stop & Ride Stops. Riders are able to win multiple prizes - based upon the drawing of their check-in.
- Riders are able to win multiple prizes - based upon the drawing of their check-in.
- Some prize drawings are specific to only check-ins for the particular month - while others prizes are drawn from check-in's season long.
- ALL CHECK-INS remain in the system for end of the season prizes!



# 2016 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



**It's really that simple!**

1. Get your Michigan Ride Card.
2. Get the list of stops each month from your Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine's website
3. Ride out to these stops and show them your card.
4. And then you win cool prizes, including cold hard CASH!

**Thunder Roads Michigan** will also be registering riders for Ride Cards at specific events throughout the year as we distribute magazines. Key events; such as Harley Fest, Bikes on the Bricks or Bike Nights will have special booth for Ride Card registrations. We will list these events each month on the Event Stops page in the magazine. In most cases, we will be offering special incentives to those checking in with their previously issued Ride Card at these stops.

**Thunder Roads Michigan** will also be working with charities and various non-profit events to include them in the Run schedule as well. This will be an easy means of encouraging participation and attracting riders from outside the local communities. In many cases, we will have specific prize drawings for those at these events.

The Ride Cards will allow participants to easily and safely check in at all stops. Some Thunder Roads Michigan Sponsors will also be offering discounts to readers that present the cards. Thunder Roads will be listing special discounts and offers in the magazine throughout the year as an added value to readers and means of encouraging our partners to offer these extra savings.

PLEASE NOTE: Once you have received your MICHIGAN RIDE CARD, you will not be asked to provide personal information or emails at any location for check-in. You simply enter your ride card number!

This is not simply a "Chinese fire drill" or mad-dash across the state. This is a Ride program. It is meant to be a means for readers to discover new riding destinations and enjoy the ride there. In fact, we have designed the program to encourage folks to break out of their local routes and trek to the furthest corners of the state.

**Just Get Out and RIDE!**

We want to keep things exciting for you – the readers and riders on the run. We're bikers and it's all about the ride. We want to help create fun experiences for you and share some cool spots in our state. We have designed this run to entertain and challenge our readers – as well as promote our partners. If your business would like to be a stop or be a sponsor, please email us at MichiganThunderRunRide@gmail.com



**RIDING OUT OF STATE? IF YOU RIDE TO PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO, INDIANA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND OR WASHINGTON DC MAKE SURE TO PICK UP A COPY OF THUNDER ROADS IN EACH STATE AND LOOK FOR A REGISTRATION STOP NEAR YOU TO REGISTER FOR THAT STATES RIDE CARD. THEN CHECK-IN AT ANY STOP LISTED IN THAT STATES ISSUE. YOU COULD WIN PRIZES IN EACH STATE!**



**LET'S RIDE!**

As we mentioned, this is a dynamic event – intended to be tweaked and developed over time. If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns – please don't hesitate to let us know.

You can email us at MichiganThunderRunRide@gmail.com



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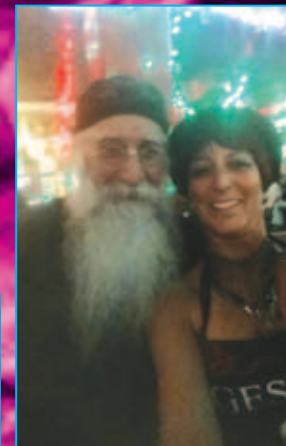


2016

# THUNDER FUN

# NIGHT!

by Billy D



A

few years back, I was in Daytona for bike week and took a few photos' of the sights, scenes, and outright madness that takes place every year in March down in Florida. Little did I know at the time, that those photos would lead to place with this magazine

and lots of great times with fellow bikers from the mitten and all over the country. Now, Daytona has a long standing tradition and I believe that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the event. This past January Thunder Roads MI celebrated our 3rd annual Thunder Fun Night and while 3 can hardly

compare to 75, ya know what they say, everything has to start some place!

As January came to a close, it had been over 3 months since the bikes had been packed away for the winter, bike nights and riding had become a distant memory and cabin fever begins to take hold. With the short days and cold temps closing in it was definitely time to get together with friends and PARTY! This year's party started at the Bay Valley Resort in Bay City, Mi. Bikers began showing up early in the afternoon to get a base together, meet new friends and reacquaint with old buds. I believe the main draw of this night is meeting new people and as the juice starts flowing that's usually not a problem at all. As everyone began to pack into the buses for the night, they were greeted smiling faces eager for fun. These buses from Silver Sands are tricked out man; with great tunes, crazy lights, and

most importantly—stripper poles! The poles are a great feature, but usually don't start getting properly utilized until after the first bar stop, as the shyness and sobriety begin to wear away.

The bus I happened to be on had an extra feature and one I was hoping to avoid this year. As I looked around, getting my bearings I spied my buddy Rusty and his magic cooler of Tennessee firewater—I knew I was in trouble... Sure enough, it wasn't long before an innocent little water bottle was passed my way and I was well on my way, like I'd been attached to a rocket booster! I've said it before and I'll say it again, if ya see Rusty and his cooler, just say NO! You've been warned.

The first destination was Bay Lanes and everyone paused for photos and dinner. Next, we blew into the 702 Bar & Grill in Midland to listen to tunes and grab a few brews. After the 702 we cruised



to my home town of Hemlock Mi and hung out the Farmers Home Tavern on M-46. It was great to be back in town and if you're ever in Hemlock, I mean why not-right, be sure and grab one of their famous burgers. You'll be glad ya did. I have to admit, that as we approached our final destination things were getting hazy—Rusty damn it! The final destination was the My Alibi Bar, west of Midland on Meridian rd and they had a rockin band and plenty of refreshments to sample. At My Alibi we raffled off some prizes, danced, and began to wind it on down a little bit...I think.



I had a blast at this year's Thunder Fun Night and want to give a special thanks to the Bay Valley Resort, Beer & Brats Bar & Grill, Silver Sand Coach, Bay Lanes, Ray C's HD, Dunbar Metal Arts & Powdercoating, Shiawassee HD and everyone who traveled from all over the state to join us for the ride. Salute!!

PHOTOS BY Debra Wright & Billy D





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**WHERE THERE'S BIKES... THERE'S GOING TO BE THUNDER...**

## Biker Preacher's Corner

With the Flint water crisis still going on – I felt the nudge from the Holy Spirit to bring some truth to the overall reactions many people are having. The truth is God has promised to meet all your needs according to His riches – even those physical needs like water. Listen, instead of rioting, picketing and blaming people who are not to blame. Trust in God!

The Bible says in **Philippians 4:19 (HCSB) 19** And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Listen, this is one of thousands of God's promises for us, and the only thing required is to walk in His promises by Faith; 1) faith that God is real and loves you, 2) faith that His word is true and 3) faith to apply His word for your life.

Now, some issues that I and many others see right now, specifically in the Flint water crisis, is there is way too much finger pointing going on. There is enough blame to go around for everyone. Listen, finger pointing, gossiping and slandering peoples character isn't going to fix the problem. One of the 10 Commandments is **Exodus 20:16** "Do not give false testimony against your neighbor."

Calling for the governor's resignation and maligning his character is doing just this – bearing false witness. Let those government agencies and those people who are legally tasked to look into the governor's handling of this issue do their job. They will bring correction and hold him accountable, if warranted.

Next, there are politicians who are running for president that have come to Flint pretending to care about the good people of Flint, when in reality they don't care at all. They are there just putting on a show, milkin' this crisis for votes and then there are those so-called reverends who do not preach the gospel of Jesus Christ nor do they act in accordance to Him or His word. They come to sow discord and frustration by starting riots, protests and other forms of violence. Don't fall for it!!

My point in saying all this; is all this nonsense distracts people from the Only One - who can truly help and bring peace – God. The Bible says in **Proverbs 10:12** "Hatred stirs up conflicts, but love covers all offenses." So, the answer is? Stop rioting – thinking that that's going to help. Be a part of the solution and not the problem.

What we all need to see is neighbors helping one another, supporting one another, caring for one another. Communities coming together, not looking to cause trouble or be otherwise disrespectful, but being helpful and caring... The bible says in **Psalms 133:1** "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!"

Here's the example of what I'm talking about. **Romans 12:10** "Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor."

We are all praying and pulling for you Flint!

Much love and respect,

**Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay**  
Senior Pastor, National President & Founder  
Victory Biker Church International  
[apostlebman@victorybikerchurch.org](mailto:apostlebman@victorybikerchurch.org)  
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# Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

## Inspiration

(From Forbes- Top 100 Inspirational Quotes)

*I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear.* ~ Rosa Parks

*It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.*  
~ Confucius

*If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough.*  
~ Oprah Winfrey

## Biker Poems ~ Riding Thru by Amanda Mapel

Under the wheels, under my feet, pass mile upon mile of old fields of wheat.

And out of the corner, no the tip of my eye, there are fields of green just passing right by.

No matter how much I have in the bank or how much I owe on this bike I now thank.

The mercy of nature, for the fields I see and the fertile land in the heart of me.

## Fun Facts

In 75% of American households, women manage the money and pay the bills.

It takes about a half a gallon of water to cook macaroni and about a gallon to clean the pot.

Sigmund Freud had a morbid fear of ferns.

Polar Bears trying to blend in with the ice will sometimes cover up their black nose with their paws.

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## I am a FOOL for April

I am always in the month preceding the month I write this article for, when I write it. Sometimes, particularly in Michigan, the present is at odds with the future by virtue of weather, holidays, and general mood of the season. Perhaps never as much as when writing in early March for an article to be read in April.

It has been clear enough and warm enough to ride my motorcycle twice in the last week or so interspersed with a near blizzard followed by an abrupt melt off and now another all day snow fall. It's like bipolar weather. (No pun intended.)

Monotonous and distasteful, kind of like the presidential election process taking place. All dark clouds and portending doom as I see it.

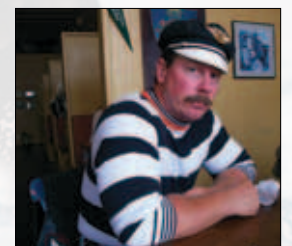
Oh but April! April fool's day on the 1st. Whether its fool's day for thinking winter is really over, or for the foolish joy of impending spring flowers I do not know, although I know which I wholeheartedly prefer. I am ready, my bike is ready, and I have more plans than I will have days and time to do them. Winter rides are fun, usually short, and definitely helpful. But, I am longing for that 2 hour stretch with the throttle just above the speed limit and the sun and warm breeze coaxing some much needed heavy sighs out of my gut. Replaced with a meaningless, emotionless, smile that appears for no reason and stays.

It's what it is all about, and what I care about. It is why I keep on doing the things I do to keep being able to do it. Myself and a waning group of people like me. We are not what we once were though. It's not as easy to get up and go without a thought. On fighting for our rights, sometimes it's hard to keep the fire burning. It's confounding to look around and see our peers flaking off due to one recourse in their life or another. Yes, we are a dying breed. One of many segments of American society that has seen its best days.

And it is hard to accept. We expected to be immortal I guess, and have an endless supply of reinforcements coming up. But, while we were fighting for our rights as bikers, successfully for the most part, so many other rights and liberties were being whittled away around us. Our kids and grandkids have grown up largely indoctrinated into accepting these infringements as just normal everyday things. They do not miss what they never had. Tyranny has flanked us and taken the rear. At this point all it has to do is wait us out. Eventually we will all be gone and so will be the resistance.

But, I am writing this in early March, with snow flying and my driveway clogged, and my woodstove blazing. Maybe by the time you read this the spring showers will have raised a few flowers and my mood about things in general will have me feeling a better spin on America. And, it is a disservice to ignore the few, new, young people in our great grass roots organization. Sparks that have to be maintained and encouraged. Not for us old timers benefit, but for them. And a big part of doing that is getting them out there on two wheels and feeling it. Freedom feels good. And once you feel it you definitely know when you lose it. Ride with the new bikers. Take them to the places you love to go. You don't have to convince them of anything, they will convince themselves. And keep on fighting the good fight as long as you can. Until the last free biker is sitting on his or her scooter, surrounded by those who would take it, flying the bird at them and hollering FTW.

~ Rusty



**Rusty Bongard**  
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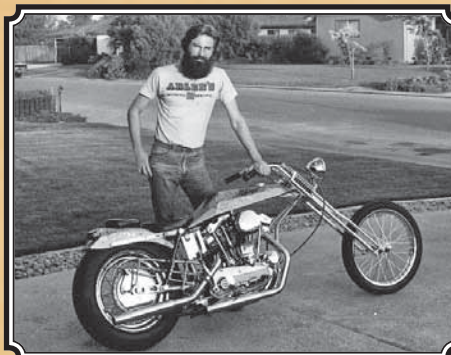


# HISTORY OF MOTORCYCLES:

## Part 9

Last time we took a look at the 1950's and the "birth" of the biker lifestyle. The changes in American culture and society continued to rapidly evolve in the 1960's as well. Harley-Davidson continues branching out during this time, introducing a scooter to their line of rides, as well as the introduction of the Sprint model. In 1962 Harley purchased 60 percent of the stock in the Tomahawk Boat Manufacturing Company and by 1963 the factory is fully operational as a H-D facility. By entering the boat manufacturing game, Harley soon realizes the relevance of fiberglass in motorcycle production and shortly thereafter begins production of its own components. In 1964 the three wheeled Servi-Car becomes the very first Harley-Davidson motorcycle to receive an electric starter. In 1965 the Electra-Glide replaces the Duo-Glide and is updated with an electric starter. The Electra-Glide is the first FL available with electric start, and the Sportster line followed soon after. Now don't get me wrong, kick starting a bike is cool as hell, but if you're at all like me (lacking in the excess muscle department) then the concept of electric start is consummate. 1966 brought about the birth of the Shovelhead in the Harley family, and the beloved Panhead was replaced on the Electra-Glide models. 1969 brought about the start of the darkest days in Harley history for die-hard lovers of the brand...the merger with American Machine and Foundry, longtime producer of leisure products.

On that note, I'm going to pull a June Cleaver and change the subject in an attempt to divert attention from Harley's adaptation. During the 1960's Floyd Clymer Imports continued using the Indian name on import bikes that were essentially motorcycles fitted with Royal Enfield Interceptor 750 cc parallel-twin engines. British manufacturers including Triumph, BSA, and Norton continued producing bikes and remained dominant in some markets until the rise of Japanese manufacturers in the late 1960s. Of these Japanese manufacturers, Honda led the way. By 1969 the



Honda name was big in the world of motorcycle racing, and they had also introduced the first mass market bike to come with a disc brake.

So now that we are up to speed on the framework of the 60's, we can get to the focus of this installment. The egocentric, inherently dramatic, attention whore of the motorcycle family...the chopper. In the 1960's chop shops and custom builders started springing up everywhere. As custom shops multiplied, so did the number and the diversity of bikes. The original chopper movement was taken to extremes when builders started chopping down and lowering the frames and stretching the rakes. Some shops even built custom exhaust pipes for their patrons. Now, I know we are all about motorcycle safety, but safety wasn't necessarily the top priority while creating a custom chopper. Choppers are all about style, beauty, getting noticed...a bit diva-ish if you will. Heavy rake angles sacrificed low-speed handling and cornering ability, but damn you looked good tearing up the asphalt. And let's face it; by this time in motorcycle history, there was a big enough contingent of people modifying motorcycles that the chopper "style" had begun to take hold. A certain set of modifications became somewhat of a standard... narrow tires on 19"-21" wheels, forward mount foot pegs replaced floorboards, headlamps and tanks were often replaced with smaller versions, and last but certainly not least...chrome. Lots of chrome... you've gotta have bling for your metal prom queen. One motorcycle modification that began at this time and has stuck around since in one form or another came about due to the passing of a law that required a "retention fixture" for passengers. So a vertical back rest was constructed and added to the rear of bikes...the Sissy



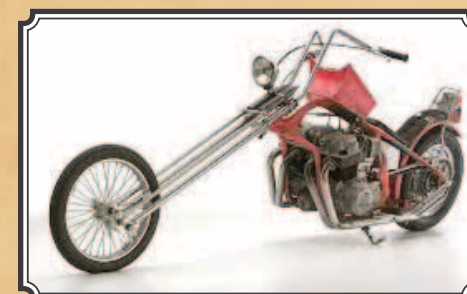
Bar is born. And in true chopper fashion, many were custom made to be elaborate and often taller than the rider's head.

Now we can't forget paint...the 60's brought about a surge in candy colored paint, metal flaking, and multi-colored patterns. A look that I like to refer to as the "tilt-a-whirl" paint job...if you have ever been to a small county fair it will make sense. The chopper truly allowed for the ultimate freedom for both builders and artists. And the 1960's gave us some of the most memorable and most recognized names in motorcycle history...let's take a look at a few.

Probably the most recognized name in chopper history is Arlen Ness. Ness's bikes were characterized by having low frames and highly raked springer front ends. Many of his bikes also retained the rear shocks to provide a more forgiving ride than the typical hardtail chopper. Ness started out of his garage in 1967, on a bike he bought with prize money from a bowling tournament. He entered his first bike in a show and won first place... this started his career in customs. He worked nights out of his garage in San Leandro, California until he had built up a customer base big enough to allow for him to complete customs as his primary job function. ...and the rest (as they say) is history. The biker world is damn happy you know how to bowl, Mr. Ness.

In 1967 Denver Mullins and Mondo Porras opened Denver's Choppers in San Bernardino, California and soon became famous for building "long bikes"....Denver Choppers.

Denver's Choppers was the first company to manufacture long down tube stretch frames, which came to be known as the Swedish style. This company was instrumental in starting the aftermarket industry that flourishes today with custom parts including frames and springer front ends. Mondo has been dubbed "The Godfather of Choppers" by his peers... quite an honor when your peers consist of motorcycle icons.



Finally, we cannot discuss choppers without the mention of Ron Finch. Finch opened Finch Custom Cycles in 1965 in a small building in Pontiac, Michigan (GO BLUE!). Finch designed, built, and painted amazing one-off motorcycles in his own incredibly unique and extreme style. In addition,

Finch created metal sculptures that resisted any aesthetic classification....the guy may or may not have been a touch off his rocker, but what the hell, his twisted mind made some bad ass metal. Not content with just re-creating metal, he also is highly regarded for his experimentations with paint processes.

His first nationally known custom was a 1966 BSA which he named "Kaleidocycle", which provoked Ed "Big Daddy" Roth to headline Ron as "Michigan's Motorcycle Madman".

The 1960's brought lot of changes to the motorcycle world... not that any of these crazy modifications could have possibly been thought up in a pharmaceutically induced delirium, but it sure would make things a little easier to comprehend if they had been. Regardless of where the ideas came from, I'm damn glad they transpired from concepts into the entity that is the chopper. The 60's made for a captivating installment in motorcycle history. Next time we will look at the 70's, and hat kind of changes the motorcycle lifestyle and industry faced.

Melanie Schwarte  
~ Thunder Roads Magazine of Iowa



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# Bullet Points

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BY RICK WYATT

## FIRST FREEDOMS

In case you haven't noticed we are entering a period of time that comes around every four years which has been aptly named the political "silly season." We will be subjected to a relentless onslaught of media ads, bill boards, mass mailings, and telephone calls making pie in the sky promises, pointing accusatory fingers, and voicing outlandish claims as candidates woo and schmooze us for our vote. I would never presume to tell anybody how to vote and I am not really preoccupied with "R's" or "D's" or pachyderms or jackasses; but I do pay attention to ideological viewpoints and the perceived role of government in the everyday lives of citizens. Many of you are probably wondering what any of this has to do with "Bullet Points," and my simple answer is that without an accurate historical perspective many people will gladly exchange their freedom (and ours) for the bondage of governmental dependence.

There is a reason we have a Bill of Rights in our constitution, our founders lived under the tyranny of an abusive and distant government where all power and authority was reserved to the crown. Public meetings, including church, were closely monitored by agents of the government and speaking out or publishing anything that could be viewed critical of the king or his representatives would result in summary beatings, imprisonment, or execution without trial or appeal. Most people don't know that the original drafts of the Constitution did not contain a *Bill of Rights*, instead they embraced *Federalism* with all authority once again resting with a central government then emanating to the states. If it had not been for George Mason and the Virginia delegation to the Continental Congress threatening to walk out of the proceedings we would probably be living under a very different form of government than we do. Mason believed that the power of government must come from the people and the rights of the people and the limits of government must be clearly defined. Once adopted these principals, our **First Freedoms**, have made the United States unique among the nations for the last 225 years, and the teeth behind these principals is the *Second Amendment*; our right to "keep and bear arms." Some founders viewed the Second Amendment as more an obligation than a right, George

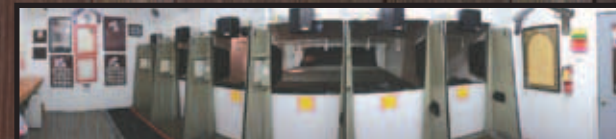
Washington wrote "A free people ought not only be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government." To that I would add ---AMEN!

Back to silly season and ideologies; there are more than 19,000 gun control laws on the books coast to coast already, most resulting as a knee jerk reaction to tragic, but isolated incidents such as the recent shootings in Kalamazoo. The loudest screams always follow mass shooting incidents and are accompanied by claims that we lead the world in such mayhem. Remember that old saying "figures don't lie, but liars figure," truth is we don't make the top ten for mass shootings among modern industrialize nations and barely rank in the top one hundred among all the nations of the world. Another claim is that "more guns will result in more crime," but according to Sheriff David Clark of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin expanded concealed carry laws actually drive crime statistics down and he actively encourages the citizens of his county to get licensed and carry. And then the third big lie is the need to close the "gun show loophole." This claim has got to be the product of too many overactive imaginations on a proverbial witch hunt because sales at gun shows are governed by the same rules and laws as firearms sales anywhere else and any dealer caught outside the law is ejected by the show promoters (who have the most to lose).

Those who muse that it would be impossible to disarm America apparently haven't bought ammunition the last couple of years. When the EPA has closed the last lead foundry and is in the process of closing all the brass works around the United States, requiring the importation of these materials to make ammunition, you begin to realize they don't have to take the guns. These are the same people who tell you what to eat, what to drive, how much soda you can drink, how warm/cool your house can be, nanny rule after nanny rule, regulate, regulate, control, control, etc., etc., etc. Another old saying to keep in mind "power corrupts, absolute power (control) corrupts absolutely," and many in the political class believe they are best qualified to run each and every one of our lives. All that stands in their way is the Second Amendment and the people's ability to take their government back!



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LOT 63079/69729  
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18492000

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LOT 69091/67847 shown  
61454/61693/62803

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Customer Rating: ★★★★★

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