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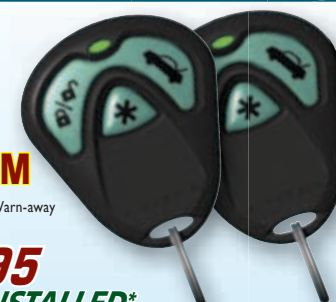
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Happy Valentine's Day Sweet Bikers!

Love is in the air...Love for everything that we look forward to in Michigan. Such as Thunder Fun Night coming up on February 18th, which I can't wait for! Also, the Ride n' Win contest, which will be kicking off again on June 1st, and of course all the awesome other events that we look forward to attending each year as well as new ones. It won't be long and the warmer weather will be upon us again.

In this issue we have some very cool articles that I hope you enjoy reading. Congratulations to Walt Snider! He was the winner of the Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan Facebook Cover Photo contest, which is our cover this month. If you have a great photo and would like to submit it for consideration go to ThunderRoadsMichigan.com and click on photo contest. I hope everyone is staying warm and making the best of this time of year however you can until riding season is upon us again.

Please patronize our advertisers and tell them too, thank you for supporting Thunder Roads and making it the #1 Free Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan!

Last month the Biker Friendly character was on page 10, in the events calendar photo. See if you can find him this month. See much larger version found in the Biker Friendly Directory (BFD).

Now for some "Mo" Advice:

Every day we have a choice on how great or bad that day can be. Despite the things that come our way we can choose how we receive them and what to do with them. Don't let "things happening" dictate how you feel. Choose to be happy, positive and grateful for all that you have whether that is a little or a lot. The more grateful you are for what you have the more you will receive.

On a special note to my friends Tom, Teena, Bryce, Shirley and Bob...

You can either "Get To Livin or Get To dyin". ☺



Jody Mohowitsch



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MICHIGAN**

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IN THE SHOP WITH RON

TO REPAIR OR NOT TO REPAIR

This month in the shop we're going to discuss plastic repair. When to repair or replace and also some different products, procedures, and equipment. There are probably as many products and procedures available as there are different types of plastic to repair. Gluing, 2-part epoxy products used with or without reinforcing cloth, hot staples, welding (yes welding), etc. For this article we're going to focus on 2-part epoxy repairs and welding/hot stapling. The decision to repair or replace will be based on several factors, feasibility (can the item be repaired successfully), will repair affect part in a negative way (i.e. clearance or function issues), longevity (will repair hold up over time), also cost and availability of a replacement part should be considered. I have repaired many types of plastic for many different applications; some successful others not so much. Not all plastics are of the same chemical makeup. Some are more repair friendly than others; some just can't be repaired successfully. The first step to a successful repair is to determine the type of plastic (as close as possible) that you are trying to repair. This can be accomplished several different ways.



The one I use most often is the grind test. To perform this test, take a small angle grinder with a 50-grit disc and in an inconspicuous spot on the part to be repaired, lightly grind a small area. If it produces a dust of sorts, it's one type of plastic, if it appears to melt and smear or ball up, it's another type and countless other possibilities. It's very important to identify the material being repaired in order to choose the best repair option. As mentioned earlier there are so many different types of material and different procedures if anyone has any questions please contact me at the shop and I will be glad to help. Now let's talk about some of the procedures and equipment used. First, we'll look at a 2-part epoxy and reinforcing cloth.



I would recommend this for a small non-structural type of repair, such as a small gouge or crack say in a side cover or shielding or similar. This repair does not offer much as far as structural integrity or strength, but mostly cosmetic or appearance related issues. The next procedure we'll look at is hot staples. The equipment consists of a hot staple gun, different staples for different applications, and a flat iron to heat and smooth plastic.



By Ron Johnson

I would recommend this for a broken mounting tab or cracked housing or something like that, where appearance is not your primary concern. We also have a plastic welder, which consists of a welding gun, transformer with adjustable heat settings for different types of plastic, and a filler rod for most different types of plastic.



This is the method I use most often and when used in conjunction with hot staples or reinforcing cloth for added strength it can produce a strong and reliable repair that can also be made to look good. Since we're out of space, next month I'll walk you through a couple of basic repairs in an effort to make it a little clearer.




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FEBRUARY

February 1
Deadline Today to register for Thunder Fun Night and Reserve your Spot for Feb 18th! Pkg deal includes overnight hotel stay, dinner, breakfast, party bus trans/gratuity & door prizes. Everyone 21 yrs. & over welcome. For more info & to reserve your spot go to ThunderRoadsMichigan.com > click on store> click on Thunder Store > Thunder Fun Night. To pay via credit card or for questions call Jody Mo 989-615-5757 (See all event details online at ThunderRoadsMichigan.com).

February 4
Chili Cook Off
Boondox Motorsports, Caledonia, MI. Noon- 3 pm, Super Bowl themed. For more info call 616-891-9900

February 4
Customization Workshop
Perry HD, Portage, MI. Noon- 2pm, free refreshments, learn from the pros, register by calling 269-329-3450.

February 5
2nd Annual Muskegon Motorcycle Swap Meet
L. C. Walker Arena, Muskegon, MI. 10 am- 4 pm, \$7 adult, early birds \$10 7 am- 10 am, indoor event. Buy, sell, trade, bikes, parts, leather, food, beer. For more info go to paragonspromotion.com (See ad this issue).

February 5
Super Bowl

February 11
Customization Workshop
Perry HD, Portage, MI. Noon- 2pm,

free refreshments, learn from the pros, register by calling 269-329-3450.

February 14
Happy Valentine's Day

February 18
4th Annual Thunder Fun Night
Bay Valley Resort, Bay City, MI. Early check in available at noon, receive a goody bag at check-in, must meet in the lobby at 5 pm, must already be registered to attend. For more info & to reserve your spot by Feb 1st go to ThunderRoadsMichigan.com > click on store> click on Thunder Store > Thunder Fun Night. For questions call Jody Mo 989-615-5757 (See all event details online at ThunderRoadsMichigan.com).

MARCH

March 5
Detroit Area Motorcycle Swap Meet
Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi, MI. 10 am- 4 pm, \$8 pp, 12 & under free, buy, sell, trade, bikes, parts, leather, jewelry, patches & more. New lower costs for vendor spots available. For more info call 989-225-1244 (See full page ad this issue).

March 10-19
76th Annual Daytona Beach Bike Week
Daytona Beach, Florida. 10 days of festivals, concerts, cruises, showcases, & more. For more info go to OfficialBikeWeek.com (See full page ad this issue).

March 19
44th Annual Kalamazoo Motorcycle Swap Meet & Parts Expo
Wings Event Center, Kalamazoo,

MI. 10 am- 4 pm, \$8 adult. Buy, sell, trade, bikes, parts, leather, food, beer. For more info go to paragonspromotion.com (See ad this issue).

March 25-26
10th Anniversary Custom Motorcycle Show & Expo
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens, MI. Sat 10 am- 8 pm, Sun 10 am- 6 pm, \$7 pp, 12 & under free with adult. Cash prizes for bike show, bikini contest on 25th, vendors & more. For more info or to reserve your vendor spot call 586-465-6440 or go to gibraltartrade.com (See full page ad this issue).

APRIL

April 9
37th Annual Grand Rapids Motorcycle Swap Meet & Parts Expo
Delta Plex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI. 10 am- 4 pm, \$8 adult. Buy, sell, trade, bikes, parts, leather, food, beer. For more info go to paragonspromotion.com (See ad this issue).

April 15
16th Annual Cadillac Motorcycle Swap Meet & Parts Expo
Wexford County Civic Center, Cadillac, MI. 10 am- 4 pm, \$7 adult, kids 12 & under free. Buy, sell, trade, bikes, parts, leather, food, beer. For more info go to paragonspromotion.com (See ad this issue).

MAY

May 7
32nd Annual Peotone Motorcycle Show & Parts Expo
Will Co Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. 10 am- 4 pm, \$7 adult, \$10 early birds admission 7 am- 10 am,

indoor & outdoor event. Buy, sell, trade, bikes, parts, leather, food, beer. For more info go to paragonspromotion.com (See ad this issue).

May 19-21
44th Annual Blessing of the Bikes Festival
Baldwin, MI. Vendors, giant food festival, camping available. Blessing on Sunday at airport. \$5 per bike, gates open 9 am.

May 26-June 4
Ohio Bike Week
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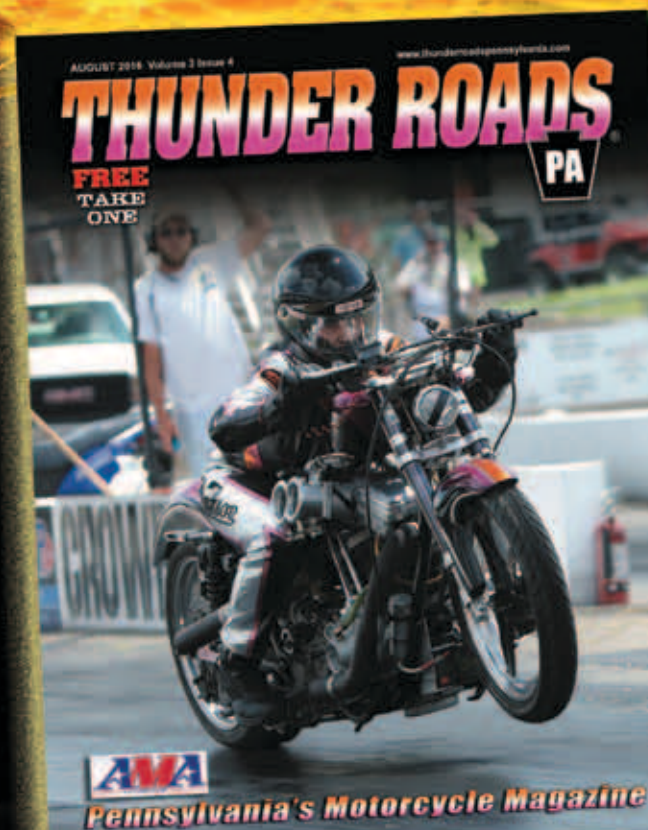
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To get your event listed in Thunder Roads Magazine and on our web site, send the information to:

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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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VETERANS CORNER

Millions More Vets to Be Able to Shop at Exchanges Online

After two years of study and debate, the Department of Defense has made a policy change, effective next November, to allow 16 million honorably discharged veterans to shop online for discounted military exchange products.

Peter K. Levine, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed a memorandum Wednesday announcing the benefit expansion, effective Veterans' Day Nov. 11, and giving Congress the required 30 days' notice before actions begin to implement the plan.

Months of preparation are needed to make e-shopping portals more robust and to allow the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) time to create software for verifying veterans' status using Department of Veterans Affairs records.

Thomas C. Shull, chief executive officer of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, led a three-year quest to expand online exchange shopping to all honorably-discharged veterans with access to computers. It cited two reasons.

One was to reward their service with exchange product savings that, on average, will be near to 20 percent versus commercial department store prices when military exemption from state and local sales tax are considered too.

Shull's other purpose was to increase exchange revenues to help offset troubling declines due to the drawdown of active duty forces, base closures and the end of military tobacco discounts for the higher priority of healthier populations.

The Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard exchange services joined Shull and AAFES in pushing for the shopping benefit expansion. They worked with Levine's office and with resale board executives in refining the proposal.

The online benefit does not extend to veterans' dependents, although spouses and family members theoretically could use the authorized customer's log-in credentials, given the nature of an online shopping benefit.

With DMDC verifying shopper identifies electronically, the department will not have to produce special identification cards. DMDC estimates that 13 percent of eligible veterans, primarily those who served before 1981 might not be in their data base when the shopping benefit becomes available. Presumably guidance will be issued for veterans who might have access problems initially.

Veterans upset over benefit changes at VA

The New Year brought some new changes to the way local veterans receive their benefits. Veterans who travel to the VA hospital for appointments used to be reimbursed right away in cash for the mileage, but those payments will not come in a different method.

"In Saginaw now, we don't receive our travel pay anymore when we go to a VA appointment. Whereas before we used to be paid right up front," said Craig Edgin, Army veteran. When veterans like Edgin have to visit the VA hospital their expenses, including transportation, are covered. For years vets could get the money the same day of the appointment.

"Whenever you go to an appointment they pay you afterward. You'd get a sheet and take it to the pay window and then they'd pay you cash and then you'd go put it in your tank," Edgin said.

Carrie Seward, with the VA, said starting Jan. 1 the VA will no

longer make cash payments at the travel pay cashier window. The change complies with new federal requirements.

The VA in Saginaw will have cash for veterans unaware of the new policy. The new rules will reimburse veterans by check within 14 days or via direct deposit within five days.

Edgin said the new policy is going to cause problems. "And a hardship. I'd be willing to bet there's a lot of vets out there that won't make their medical appointments now because they don't have the gas money to go," Edgin said.

Edgin said he just wants to get the word out to other veterans who may not be aware of the change and to tell the VA he thinks they are making a mistake.

Michigan companies, state agencies hiring more vets

With state encouragement, Michigan companies — and state agencies — are stepping up to hire more veterans.

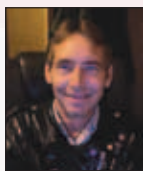
According to data on the state's website, the unemployment rate for Michigan veterans has dropped from a peak of 15.9% in 2010 to below 5% today.

Gov. Rick Snyder said some of the credit for that decline belongs with the Veteran-Friendly Employer program, sponsored by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. Michigan employers participating in the program hired more than 2,700 veterans in 2016, Snyder said.

James Robert Redford, director of the agency, said the purpose of the program is to connect veterans with "employers who understand the value of their military training and discipline."

The agency also holds an annual ceremony to recognize Michigan employers for their success in hiring veterans. In addition to the Michigan Department of Transportation, employers recognized at the gold level were DTE Energy, General Motors, Quicken Loans, Roush Enterprises and Whirlpool.

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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

WHAT'S WHAT, AND WHAT DO I NEED TO RIDE IT?

Unless you're one of Michigan's ice-riding elite, February is too cold to ride... even for the hardest of motorcyclists. As I mentioned in my January article, this month I wanted to update readers on how Michigan laws define motorcycles, trikes, and mopeds to help you prepare for the upcoming season. Do you need a motorcycle endorsement to ride? What about insurance? Read on to find out. As always, remember that a single article can't address every aspect of a situation nor make recommendations on any particular situation. For any legal questions, call me at 1-877-Biker-Law.

What is a motorcycle? Legally speaking, in Michigan a motorcycle is defined as "every motor vehicle having a saddle or seat for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground but excluding a tractor," (MCL 257.31). Both two- and three-wheeled motorcycles (trikes) fall under this definition, and riders of both types are subject to basically the same rules.

For example, both motorcycle and trike riders are required to have a motorcycle endorsement (CY) on their driver's license: motorcyclists who ride on two wheels and who pass either a certified rider training program exam or a Secretary of State road exam on a two-wheeled bike will receive an unrestricted CY endorsement, which allows them to ride either a two- or three-wheeled motorcycle. Riders who use a trike to pass their certified rider training program exam or Secretary of State road exam will receive a CY endorsement with the restriction "Code 20 – NOT VALID FOR A 2-WHEEL CYCLE". Riders with a restricted CY endorsement are only legally permitted to ride a three-wheeled bike on the road.

There are also insurance requirements for bike and trike riders. At a minimum, riders must have bodily injury coverage with a minimum of \$20,000; without that, you aren't riding legal. In my opinion, having uninsured and under-insured motorist coverage is a no-brainer: these compensate you for your injuries the negligent driver has no insurance or not enough (I recommend at least \$100,000). Finally, I generally recommend carrying a medical or health policy, which would cover you where no-fault benefits would not be available because a "motor vehicle" is not involved, such as; if you were to drop your bike because of loose gravel, a pothole, an animal, or even another motorcyclist.

In Michigan, motorcycle and trike riders may legally ride without a crash helmet, provided they meet certain criteria: they are at least 21 years old; have at least \$20,000 of first-party medical benefits coverage; and have had their motorcycle endorsement (CY) for at least two years, or passed a Certified Rider Training program in order to get their CY endorsement. All riders must have insurance on their motorcycles (See Article 34 on my website), and they must carry an additional \$20,000 in medical coverage if they want to ride without a helmet. Vanity helmets are permitted provided riders meet all criteria for riding without a helmet.

What is a moped? According to Michigan law, a moped is "a two- or three-wheeled vehicle which is equipped with a motor that does not exceed 100 cubic centimeters piston displacement, cannot propel the vehicle at a speed greater than 30 miles per hour on a level surface, and its power drive system does not require the operator to shift gears," (MCL 257.32b). In Michigan, mopeds must be registered with the Secretary of State, and must meet certain equipment requirements in order to be approved: For example, a moped must have a horn mounted that can be heard at least 200 feet away; it must have a tail light, brake light(s), and a muffler.

Similar to the requirement for motorcycle and trike riders to have a CY endorsement, moped riders must have a special license to operate a moped upon a public road. This type of license can be issued to riders age 15 and up, provided they can convince the Secretary

of State that they are competent to ride a moped safely. There is no road test for a special restricted permit to ride a moped, and once issued, the license is good for up to four years. As of February 7, 2017, moped riders caught riding without a proper permit will be subject to a first-violation fine of up to \$500 or jail for up to 90 days (or both). After a conviction, the fine could be as high as \$1,000, and the jail time as much as one year (or both).

Moped riders under age 19 must wear a crash helmet when riding on public roads. They should also ride on the right edge of the road and stay out of the flow of traffic whenever possible. Mopeds are not permitted on freeways, nor are they permitted to ride more than two abreast, or to lane-split (ride between lanes of stopped or slow-moving traffic), or to ride on sidewalks or in bike lanes. It is illegal to carry more than one passenger on a moped.

What about mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs? Mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs are not considered motorcycles or mopeds, as per Public Act No. 492 of 2014: "Power-driven mobility device means a wheelchair or other mobility device powered by a battery, fuel, or other engine and designed to be used by an individual with a mobility disability for the purpose of locomotion." As of right now, people who use these mobility devices are not required to have an endorsement or insurance in order to ride.

There are a number of regulations and recommendations for mobility scooter or electric wheelchair riders: They should ride as far to the right of the road as possible; they should not ride more than two abreast, especially when riding in the road; and they may ride on the sidewalk, provided they give right-of-way to pedestrians. To see other rules and restrictions for mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs, visit my website at www.motorcyclelawyer-michigan.com, or search "MCL 257.660".

Remember, this is not an exhaustive list of requirements for legal riding in Michigan. Laws are complex, and no single article can cover everything. If you are uncertain about what documentation you need to get your CY endorsement, or you don't know what type of license you need, contact your local Secretary of State branch or visit them online; many branches now offer appointments! If you've been injured in a collision, please call me at 1-877-Biker-Law to discuss your situation. If you want to see the latest motorcycle law information, graphics and links, and other motorcycle awareness content, follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/themotorcyclelawyer.

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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A Mafia Godfather finds out that his bookkeeper, Guido, has cheated him out of \$5 million dollars. His bookkeeper is deaf. That was the reason he got the job in the first place. It was assumed that Guido would hear nothing, so he would never have to testify in court. When the Godfather goes to confront Guido about his missing \$5 million, he brings along his lawyer who happens to know sign language. The Godfather tells the lawyer, "Ask him where the money is!" The lawyer, using sign language, asks Guido, "Where's the money?" Guido signs back, "I don't know what you are talking about." The lawyer tells the Godfather, "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about." The Godfather pulls out a 38, puts it to Guido's head and says, "Ask him again and if he doesn't tell me, I'll kill him!" The lawyer signs to Guido, "He'll kill you if you don't tell him." Guido trembles and signs, "OK, OK! The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the shed at my cousin Bruno's house." The Godfather asks the lawyer, "What did he say?" The lawyer replies, "He says screw you, you don't have the balls to pull the trigger."

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a Nursing Home?" "Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup." "No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Bubba was taking a dump and checking out FB and read that on average; an American man will have sex two to three times a week. Whereas, a Japanese man will have sex only one or two times a year. This was very upsetting news to Bubba. He immediately called his best buddy, Earl, and said, "I know you're going to be as shocked as I was, but I just come to find out that I'm Japanese."

The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can be in a robe before you start looking like a patient who's just flew out and over the Cuckoo's Nest.

The other day my kinda' ditzzy neighbor with green hair (she changes it every month), came running up to me in the driveway

jumping for joy! No judgement. it's just her "thang". I didn't know why she was jumping so excitedly but I thought, "what the hell", and I starting jumping up and down along with her as that's just the best way to pacify her. She said, "I have some really great news!" I said, "Great. Tell me why you're so happy." She really is enthusiastic and sweet. She stopped jumping and breathing heavily from all the jumping up and down, told me that she was pregnant. I knew she'd been trying for a while so I told her, "That's great I couldn't be happier for you!" Then she said, "There's more" I asked, "What do you mean there's more?". She said, "Well, we are not having just one baby. We are going to have TWINS!" Amazed at how she could know so soon after getting pregnant, I asked her how she knew. She said.... "Well, that's the easy part. I went to WallyWorld and they actually had a home pregnancy kit in a TWIN-pack. Both tests came out positive!"

I think it's pretty cool how Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos. Just sayin'.

I can't understand why women are okay that Penny's has an older women's clothing line named, "Sag Harbor."

The teacher asked the class to use the word "fascinate" in a sentence. Molly put up her hand and said, "My family went to my granddad's farm, and we all saw his pet sheep. It was fascinating." The teacher said, "That was good, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate,' not 'fascinating'." Sally raised her hand. She said, "My family went to see Rock City and I was fascinated." The teacher said, "Well, that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate'." Little Johnny raised his hand, but the teacher hesitated because she had been burned by Little Johnny before. She finally decided there was no way he could damage the word "fascinate," so she called on him. Johnny said, "My aunt Carolyn has a sweater with ten buttons, but her boobs are so big she can only fasten eight!" The teacher sat down and put her head on her desk.



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THE ANNOUNCEMENT

Polaris decides to streamline their motorcycle business



Polaris Industries shocked many when they announced on January 9th that they would be immediately begin “winding down its Victory Motorcycles brand and related operations”. For diehard Victory riders, fans, and even some dealers – there seemed to be complete disbelief.

Polaris began producing the first Victory motorcycle, the V92c, back in 1998 from a production line in Sprit Lake, Iowa. It was an American-made cruiser being introduced as an alternative to the clear industry leader – Harley-Davidson. While there was clearly a learning curve to be conquered – Victory scored some early success with the motorcycle press and built a loyal following of owners. Polaris seemed dedicated to not only competing in the motorcycle market, they were willing to blaze their own path with their own style and some truly unique designs. Probably nothing said this more than the introduction of the Victory Vision in 2007.

Previously introduced in 2005 as a concept bike, the production version was no less groundbreaking with a design and presence unlike anything else on the road. The result of a reported four years of R&D and a \$20 million dollar investment by Polaris, the Vision was a clear statement that Polaris was focused on creating their own interpretation of “the motorcycle”. In the case of the Vision, the fixed fairing touring bike has an almost fanatical following. I’ve never once met a Vision owner that didn’t swear it was the most comfortable bike they’d ever ridden. This is further supported by the fact that you almost never see them for sale. At the time of writing this, ebay motors has

only 6 of them listed for sale across the entire country and craigslist came up with 2 in the state of Ohio.

This passion for Victory Motorcycle amongst their riders is further evidenced by a 2015 Consumer Reports survey that rated Victory as the motorcycle brand with the highest owner satisfaction, besting even Harley-Davidson. In fact, eighty percent of Victory owners responded that they “would definitely buy again,” versus 72 percent of Harley-Davidson owners. (Of course, Harley owners dispute the relevancy of this survey by simply asking “Why would I ever want to buy another motorcycle, I’m happy with my Harley!”)



Victory’s final lineup of motorcycles included 12 models spanning the cruiser, touring, bagger and electric classes: Octane; Vegas 8-Ball; High-Ball; Gunner; Vegas; Hammer S; Vision; Cross Country Tour; Cross Country; Magnum; Magnum X-1; and Empulse.

A New Addition to the Family

Victory’s future may have been sealed though, when Polaris acquired the name and heritage of Indian Motorcycle in 2011. This gave Polaris possibly the one thing that Victory lacked – a history and a legacy of success. At the time of the purchase, Polaris affirmed that they would be continuing the Victory line as an independent brand. This was supported with the launch of the actual new production Indians - designed from scratch and produced without any real crossover from the Victory line. Three years later, Indian now has nine models with even more promised even this year. Each completely distinct from the Victory models from development to production. Certainly, though, the success of the Indians seemed to dominate the industry buzz and draw sales from everyone in the market – including Victory.

This past year, an attempt was made to further distinguish the Victory and Indian brands for consumers. Indian would be the heritage cruisers, more traditional and nostalgic. Victory would transition to more of a power cruiser, the embodiment of “AMERICAN MUSCLE”. Polaris invested heavily in Victory race bikes – both gas and electric, and introduced exciting new concept bikes with an emphasis on power and performance. It seemed an easy distinction to make and one that resonated with riders.

However, it would appear that the cost of developing and operating two independent lines of motorcycles finally became too burdensome and Polaris decided to pull the plug on the Victory line. I’m guessing that there had to be outside factors to explain the abrupt change in course, and financial gurus are pointing to Polaris acquisitions and costs well outside the two-wheeled world as the cause. Regardless, it seems a shame to countless Victory riders. Of course, passion and (brand) loyalty have almost always outweighed fiscal responsibility in the minds of American riders.

The Sun Will Come Out

Despite the many dramatic headlines (“Polaris Industries KILLS Off Victory Motorcycles” – Forbes), current Victory owners really don’t have too much cause for real concern. As Jon Petrich, owner of Witchdoctors Specialties - a Victory aftermarket manufacturer and distributor pointed out in his Facebook live “Why is everyone going crazy? ... As far as I know today, everyone’s bike still started... There’s no reason for anything to change for us!”

When you boil things down, Polaris is simply not producing new Victory motorcycles. They haven’t “gone out of business”. Polaris is a powerhouse and clear industry leader within the power sport industry and they aren’t going anywhere. Polaris is still committed to the consumers and dealers that have invested in the Victory brand and will continue to supply parts for at least another 10 years. Polaris will still continue to provide service and warranty coverage to both the Victory dealers and owners. You might compare the situation to when GM discontinued their “We Build Excitement” division – Pontiac. Almost 8 years later, there’s certainly no challenge to get your Grand Am or even Prowler serviced. You just take it to any GM dealership. I think that it’s safe to assume that’s going to be the case with Victory motorcycles.

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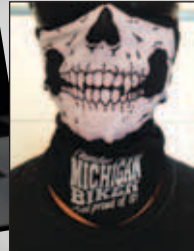


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Inspiration

A Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. ~ Abraham Lincoln

Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension. ~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

Imagination is more important than knowledge. ~ Albert Einstein

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds. ~ Francis Bacon

Biker Poem

The Reason ~ by Unknown

Does Tiffany's define a cut of brighter hue?

Or swords of steel slice rain as thin or true?

My ventilator breathes in air with lungs of chrome;

Pedestrians glimpse flashes as I roam.

Cylinders are topped with flashy steel,

Exhaust pipes burn of blues and sprinkled teal.

Highway bars protect by blended white;

Yellow clouds dance on my chrome headlight.

Forks forged firm suspend with mirrored shine,

A frame of black and orange through prism fine-

Brake lights beam reflected back each time

Chrome spectrums tell the maker's story line.



Bullet Points

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**KEEPIN' IT
CLEAN**
BY RICK WYATT



A couple of months ago I wrote about preparing for deer season early. Right now is the time to be preparing for 2017, that is unless you are one of the fortunate few who can afford to re-outfit on an annual basis and not depend on the gear you used this past season. A little time and due diligence now will go a long way toward the start of a successful hunt for years to come.

Your single greatest investment more than likely is your firearm, and even if it isn't it is still represents the principal tool of your quest. The first step for a pre-storage cleaning of a firearm is to break it down as far as you are comfortable with. Understand that I say this with a bit of trepidation because most of us have a friend (s) who we quietly fantasize about losing their tool box. You know, the guys that bring you their "whatever in boxes and zip-lock bags" knowing that you and you alone can save their bacon. But, then maybe they have saved us a ton of money over the years, because we are so busy fixing their crap we don't have time to break ours! Anyway, at the very least remove the barrel and action from the stock, remove the bolt assembly and (if possible) the trigger assembly. The whole purpose for this is to expose any areas where moisture may be trapped and cause rust and corrosion, including under the scope base (which is the most often overlooked moisture pocket), please note that a magnetic base parts dish will be worth its weight in gold for holding the tiny screws and springs you may encounter.

Once disassembled inspect each part for wear anomalies which may require professional attention such as broken screws or springs, bent pins, and cracks in places where cracks should not be; then begin the cleaning process starting with the barrel. Rifled barrels should be cleaned in the direction of bullet travel, in other words from breech to muzzle, because it helps maintain accuracy integrity. Needless to say, if you are using granddad's ancient cleaning rod and brushes, this can be a pain in crapper because of having to install, remove and reinstall the brushes and cleaning jags with every pass. A better solution is to use a **BORE SNAKE**, or even better the **OTIS CLEANING SYSTEM**. Both of these products are designed to facilitate easy breech to muzzle cleaning, don't take up much room in your gear box, and are available for both rifles and pistols in all popular calibers. As far as bore cleaners, there is a plethora of products available, but I have become attached to **GUNZILLA**. I became most aware of this product line when parents of the men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan were coming in the store and buying it by the quart to send to America's finest, because it stands up so well under the harshest conditions. Come to find out they are Michigan made, non-petroleum based (making it safe to use on all finishes), and offer an outstanding copper/lead remover as well

as solvents and lubricants and don't leave the house smelling like **HOPPES**. Anyway, coat the inside of the barrel with whatever solvent you use and let it sit while you move on to the trigger group.

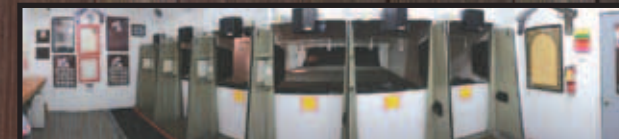
I do not recommend tearing down a trigger group unless you know that you know exactly what you are doing! Have a friend who thought he did, only to find out that he needed a special assembly jig to reassemble, that one went to the service center in a zip-lock bag. For most of us, the best course of action is to use some sort of pick to remove built up crud, douche it down with spray solvent/lubricant, and blow it out with compressed air, then repeat if necessary. I do not advocate the use of many of the "gun scrubbers" available in the market, because they remove the lubricants needed to protect precision parts in the trigger assembly. If your trigger mechanism is so cruddy you feel a need for a deep cleaning, please take it to a gunsmith and let them dip it (and your bolt) in their ultra-sonic machine. As a finishing touch, you might want to use a little moly-grease on the sear; you won't believe the improvement in performance.

Turning back to the barrel, now that the solvent has sat a while, pull a good copper brush through the bore several times, then start pulling patches. If the patches start coming out green it indicates a buildup of copper in the rifling and you may want to consider using a copper/lead remover until the patches pull clean. Once you are satisfied that the bore is clean, with a light coat of lubricant to prevent corrosion, wipe the outside of the barrel and receiver with a clean old tee shirt (best gun cleaning rags ever) looking for surface rust, scratches and dings that go through the finish to bare metal. Surface rust can usually be removed with a little solvent and a piece of course burlap (instead of steel wool), and **BIRCHWOOD CASEY** makes pens like sharpie markers in blue, dark blue and black to seal boo-boos. Finally, put a light coat of lubricant on the outside of the barrel and receiver and begin to reassemble your firearm, making sure to use Lock-Tite on all metal to metal screws. By the way, if you have an older gun with a wooden stock and the wood isn't holding the screws so well anymore, a dab of plastic wood will work wonders.

Now that the gun is clean and moisture free, please do not put it into a foam lined case unless it is in a silicon sleeve, because foam is notorious for holding moisture. By the same token safes and vaults allow air to move around all of your guns but household humidity can wreak havoc inside the best of safes. A reusable dehumidifier or even a can of descant (available at most hardware stores) will save you a ton of grief.



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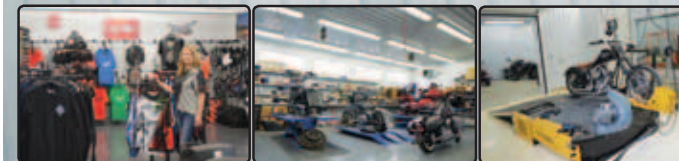
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Biker Preacher's Corner

It's February!

Just a couple more months and we will be riding again! Typically, I like to write something about the main holiday of the month, specifically, during the winter months. Again, this month, I want to make a little twist on Valentine's Day and talk about brotherly love.

The Bible says in **Romans 12:10** "Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor."

What I'm talking about here is how we Christians, specifically, are to care for each other and show brotherly love toward one another – as brothers and sisters in Christ. But we cannot stop there, we must love those that do not, yet, know Christ. Listen, the world is waiting for us, Christians, to be what Christian means... Christ-Like ones.

So many times, I've seen Christians divided along denominational lines. One group won't hangout with or work with another and even worse, they tend to talk smack and spread lies about each other. My brothers and sisters this should not be!

I've also seen this error within many motorcycle ministries. One M/M won't work with any other because they think they're the best of the best and that they don't need anyone else. This, my brothers and sisters, is pride and does not accomplish what God has called us all to do, love the lost and lead them to Christ.

1 John 4:20 says "If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen."

I hope you're picking up what I'm putting down here... This disunity and dishonor is doing nothing to carry out what Jesus said we are to do... "I assure you: **The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.**" **John 14:12.**

Also, as I've written about before, this is not being in unity as we're called to be as **John 17:21** shows us "May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me."

Listen, Jesus is coming and we've got a lot of work to do. People need Jesus! Not another religion and for those that have not heard me preach on this, God is not in religion! He is only found in relationship and that is only through and by Christ Jesus.

So, brothers and sisters in Christ, let's look past our petty differences and focus on the main fact that **Jesus is Lord.** Let's love one another as Christ loved us first and together go love the unlovable, letting the light of Christ shine through us all.

Much love and respect,

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay
 Senior Pastor, National President & Victory Biker Church International
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CENTRALPNEUMATIC **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE \$296** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

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CENTRALPNEUMATIC **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE 79%** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

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PITTSBURGH **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE 47%** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

18 PIECE SAE AND METRIC T-HANDLE BALL END HEX KEY SET
ITEM 63167 63166/96645 shown

\$12.99 **\$17.99** comp at \$24.97

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PITTSBURGH MOTORCYCLE **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE \$750** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

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ITEM 69904 68892 shown

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WARRIOR **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE 83%** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

29 PIECE TITANIUM NITRIDE COATED HIGH SPEED STEEL DRILL BIT SET
ITEM 62281/61637 shown

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HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE \$140** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

1195 LB. CAPACITY 4 FT. x 8 FT. FOLDABLE HEAVY DUTY TRAILER
ITEM 62648/62666 90154 shown

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CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE \$204** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

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PITTSBURGH **SUPER COUPON** **SAVE \$299** **Customer Rating** ★★★★★

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At Harbor Freight Tools, the "comp at" price means that the same item or a similar functioning item was advertised for sale at or above the "comp at" price by another retailer in the U.S. within the past 180 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "comp at" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

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