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LETTER FROM THE OWNER

*Meanwhile, Spring in Michigan...*

Wow we sure were put through the tests of winter, weren’t we? It is the third week of April and as I write this letter I look out my office window and there is SNOW on the ground! Now, that is enough already! It is time for some warm weather and time to ride! I hope by the time you read this we are all doing just that.

We are getting closer and closer to the kickoff to the Ride ‘n Win Summer-Long Contest...this is the 5th year; wow, time flies! We are lining up some great Ride Stops for you to check out and I can’t wait to start giving away prizes again!

Remember, these prizes are all free to you, the readers and supporters of Thunder Roads. If you know a place that would make a great Ride Stop, please have them reach out to me or their local sales representative, because they will be happy they did! It is fun for all involved. Don’t forget, if you have a Ride Card already, then you are good to go for this year. Read all about it in this issue.

I want to remind everyone that Thunder Roads is supported by advertisers, so if you like reading it each month, please be sure to patronize our supporters. If you know someone that should advertise in the magazine, please share your copy and show them page three; they can reach out to their local sales representative or me.

Be sure to like Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan on Facebook to keep up-to-date with exciting updates and latest happenings. Once again, please patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw them in Thunder Roads, because, thanks to them, we are the #1 Free Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan—and growing!

Thank you to all of our loyal advertisers—we appreciate you!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend. This is not about just having time off and grilling out that weekend...please DO NOT FORGET to honor those that died fighting for our freedoms and are sadly no longer with us. Do something patriotic; think of some way to show and pay your respects for those who lost their lives serving in our country’s armed forces.

Also, May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, put your ABATE yard signs out to remind drivers to look twice, save a life!

Now for some “Mo” Advice:

*Those who walk in other’s tracks leave no footprints.*

*Jody Mohowitsch*  
*“Jody Mo”*





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The Positive Shift

RIGHTLY FOCUSED

The success of anything you do begins with focus. You have to understand what you want and go for it, and stop thinking about the things that you don't want. Focusing is an act of will, which actually rules your wants. Think about it this way: YOU attract all the parts that work together simply by using the power of your focus and what you truly want.

Only you can create success for yourself. The more you think about your thoughts and your positive actions, you're creating success. What I mean is... the more you attract like thoughts and actions, the more success you are bringing into your life. Anytime you want to break the habits of failure, all you have to do is to hold your focus on the positive thoughts and actions that create success. Yes, it is difficult at first, as you will be drawn back by your old way of thoughts and actions. Focusing on the negative causes a lack of focus and failure of positive things to manifest.

The lack of focus is the reason for failure. When you are procrastinating, hesitating, dragging and stopping, it is because you are focusing on the stuff that takes your mind away from the "WANT" you are trying to achieve. Focusing on problems causes lack of focus on the solution. STOP IT! If you want to achieve the fastest maximum results, keep your mind positive and focus on your wants.

How fast your success comes depends on how much you focus in the right direction versus how much you focus in the wrong direction. Focusing in the wrong direction is what causes doubt, fear, and worry. No one has time for that! When you allow yourself to be distracted by other things in your mind, you will attract less power to do the work that will make you successful. Therefore, it is important to cut yourself loose from unhelpful things as much as possible so that you free yourself to focus fully on optimal success.

Focus on your WANTS and stop focusing on the DON'T-WANTS in your life. You have to have faith to focus on what you want. Most people want things, but let fear or doubt get in the way. This inner dialogue can sound like: I don't want this to happen, I don't want that to happen, and so on. Losing focus is easy. It's a good reminder to keep the positivity of what we want!

To experience success, you must be and think success. You must embody the qualities of success. Success is simply the result of things being accomplished. Start thinking positively, initiate your thoughts, and focus on your wants! The journey toward success will help you develop focus, courage, wisdom, will, faith, flexibility and perseverance. Enjoy the benefits of focusing and being positive!

You can't live a POSITIVE life with a negative mind.

Until then...Don't Coast in Neutral, Positive Shift Ahead

~ Stacie René

President and Founder of The Positive Shift LLC  
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 SAT 7/21 – Short Track (4/6/8) • SUN 7/22 – TT Scrambles (8/10/12)

**AUGUST 11 & 12**  
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*Meanwhile, SPRING in MICHIGAN...*



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food truck  
Ice Cream

Beer Tent 4p to 10p

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# REVIEWS

"After it All"  
"Highmoon"  
"Ya Eat Yet"  
food truck

Pig Roast  
Beer Tent 12p to 10p  
Hot Dogs & Ice Cream  
Horsepower Shootout  
(Cash Prizes)  
Awards & More

AMONG

"3rd Degree Burns"  
Live Music  
Porker Run  
"YaEatYet"  
food truck

Hot Dogs  
Ice Cream  
Bounce House





# VETERANS CORNER



## Remains of Michigan man killed at Pearl Harbor identified

An Upper Peninsula man says his brother's remains from World War II have been positively identified and will be buried in Michigan. Lowell Valley of Ontonagon was serving aboard the USS Oklahoma when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. Bob Valley of Gladstone says he was informed in January that his brother's remains have been identified.

Valley, who's in his 80s, tells The Daily Mining Gazette that he "always thought there was a possibility," but he didn't think it would happen in his lifetime.

Valley says his brother's remains will be buried at a Catholic cemetery in Ontonagon in June or July. The Mining Gazette says at least three people from the Upper Peninsula served on the Oklahoma.

## House Bill 5695

HB 5695 was introduced on March 7. It is intended to create a medical providers' loan repayment program and to provide for educational loan assistance under certain circumstances.

## New Bill Looks to Expand Veteran Services in Michigan

A new bill in Lansing could greatly expand Veteran services across the state. The Michigan House voted overwhelmingly to create the county veteran service fund. It would provide counties money to start a veteran's department or expand their current department.

Ken Spiegel served in both the Marines and the Army. He says having a Veteran's Office in Clare County has made a tremendous difference in his life. "If you need to know if your ID card is any good, they can tell you. Or if you need to know do I have a disability, do I have a right to claim that disability, it's all there, and they have that information," said Spiegel.

But not all Veterans are as fortunate as Ken, and have to drive out of their home county just to talk to someone about getting Veteran's services. "A lot of the counties don't have an office, and you can only rely on guys like myself who have dealt with most of it. If they can't get their questions answered, they come around to our different posts and ask their questions," noted Spiegel.

A bill in Lansing is looking to change that by giving counties money to start or expand Veteran's service offices. It would provide a \$25,000 base grant and a per veteran allotment. "This is essential for those counties that have no one in those counties to provide that veteran service contact which is so desperately needed. Regardless of where a veteran lives in this state they should be able to have the same services," said Renee Haley, Director of Veteran Services for Clare County.

State Representative Jason Wentworth of Clare helped sponsor the legislation. "It was the number one issue reoccurring across the state as I traveled around. It's that access portion that's important," said Wentworth. The bill is now in the state Senate.

## New Michigan law loosens veteran clubs' liquor restrictions

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation to allow veterans affiliated with

a private club or fraternal organization to drink alcohol at more places than just their own group's club.

Snyder's office announced the signing of the measure. Michigan legislators earlier voted to discard a provision in the state's liquor code that said members of veteran organizations can only purchase alcohol from their local chapter's club.

The new law waives the constraints at private clubs such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Supporters of the change said out-of-towners deserve to fully enjoy libations with fellow veterans and that the previous law was outdated.

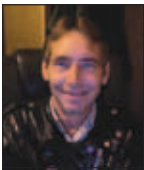
## \$100,000+ secured for new Bay City veterans activity center

A little more than a month after launching a campaign to open a building where veterans can develop new skills, obtain counseling and enjoy each other's company, the Bay Veterans Foundation has secured more than \$100,000 and has a purchase agreement on some real estate for the venture.

To date, the foundation, led by Keith Markstrom, has raised \$108,000 for the veteran's activity center and makerspace. It also has an agreement to purchase the building at 1009 N. Madison Ave., where the Wings and Things bird store is currently located. The sale is pending environmental studies and raising enough money. Markstrom said the foundation needs \$150,000 to close on the building -- \$140,000 for the property and another \$10,000 for insurance and other incidentals related to the sale.

Of the money raised to date, \$75,000 came from Bay County's Soldiers and Sailors Relief Commission, which is funded through a countywide millage. The commission typically helps veterans when they're short on utility and rent bills.

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## GETTING READY TO RIDE

Helping bikers in Michigan prepare for the 2018 riding season.

The trees are budding, the temps are rising and motorcycle riders everywhere are experiencing that familiar 'itch' – it's about that time, friends. As we move into the 2018 riding season, I thought it important to highlight some of the key elements to starting the season off on the safe side.

### PREP YOUR BIKE

Start with a full circle check on the bike, making sure to test all lights and turn signals. Look for corrosion, cracks or other damage to your battery, and be sure it's fully charged. If you did not change the oil and filter before storing your bike for the winter months, now would be the time.

It was a cold one, so be sure to inspect your tires carefully before going for a ride. Extreme cold can cause cracks, flat spots, and other damage, especially if you did not put any insulation between the ground and your tires. Tires that are under-inflated can make it difficult to corner the bike, cause excessive wear, and use up more gas while riding. Too little pressure can overheat the tire, causing it to burst, while riding on tires that are over-inflated increases the chance of the tire being punctured by debris on the road. Most tires will have a PSI (pounds per square inch) range printed right on them. The Motorcycle Safety Group advises riders to keep their tires near the upper end of that range. Get yourself an accurate tire gauge and always check tire pressure before you ride.

After a long, cold winter, your bike isn't the only thing that needs warming up, so don't forget to check your brakes to make sure they're working properly. Ease into full riding by practicing your braking and maneuvers in a safe location, such as a parking lot, before taking it to the streets.

### PREP YOURSELF

As The Motorcycle Lawyer, I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have proper insurance on your bike. I always tell people that insurance is protection, and you can never be over-insured.

In Michigan, the bare minimum insurance for motorcyclists is to have bodily injury coverage. Without it, you're not riding legal. It is also the motorcyclist's choice whether they wear a helmet. If you plan to ride without, however, you and any passenger over the age of 21 who plans to ride without a helmet need to have at least \$20K in First Party Medical Benefits coverage.

### OTHER COVERAGE TO CONSIDER:

- Medical or Health Insurance Policy, aka "The Backup Plan"
- Uninsured and under-insured motorist coverage would compensate you for your injuries if the negligent driver has no insurance or too little insurance.
- Collision coverage would pay to fix your bike if it is damaged in a crash.
- Accessories coverage will cover repair or replacement costs if you have any custom work or accessories on your bike.

### STAY INFORMED

Unfortunately, motorcycle season and construction season occur at the same time. If you see indications of construction work, keep a careful lookout for dirt and gravel in the road that could make you lose traction and dump the bike. Sometimes, you'll see during construction that the top layer of the road

is stripped, exposing deep grooves that can send a motorcycle off course. Roadwork can often present dangerous hazards for a motorcyclist.

Even in nice weather, there can be many hazardous surfaces that motorcyclists should take note of. Street marking tape, typically marking a crosswalk or used for writing on the road, can be slippery, especially for a motorcycle. Manhole covers, potholes and debris can also cause problems. Motorcyclists should be careful using the middle of a lane, especially near intersections where oil from cars and trucks may have dripped. Assume that any foreign liquid on the road is oil and avoid it.

### SPREAD THE WORD

Ultimately, it starts with you, the rider. You are responsible for making sure you and your machine are road-ready but, at the end of the day, a large part of rider safety also includes ensuring that car and truck drivers are aware of motorcycles and understand how to share the road. Without driver awareness, it's almost impossible for motorcyclists to ride safely.

In my opinion, every motorcyclist in Michigan needs to be actively involved in promoting motorcycle awareness. Motorcycle awareness campaigns don't work if nobody hears about them. So, talk to the non-riders in your life about what it means for you to ride, and the precautions you take to ensure a safe ride for yourself. Help them understand they need to do the same. Here are some easy talking points for friends and family members:

- LOOK TWICE. Motorcyclists are everywhere, but they are harder to see than larger vehicles.
- Most motorcycle-car crashes happen at intersections, when a car turns left directly in front of a biker.
- Motorcycles are not quiet machines. Turn the music down so you will be more likely to hear them.

Bumper stickers and lawn signs are a great, easy way to help get the message out to motor vehicle drivers. Find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TheMotorcycleLawyer>) to get motorcycle safety images and information to share with all your social media friends.

Ride safe and enjoy these first days of the riding season.

**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.

Call Attorney Jason Waechter toll free at 1-877-BIKER LAW.  
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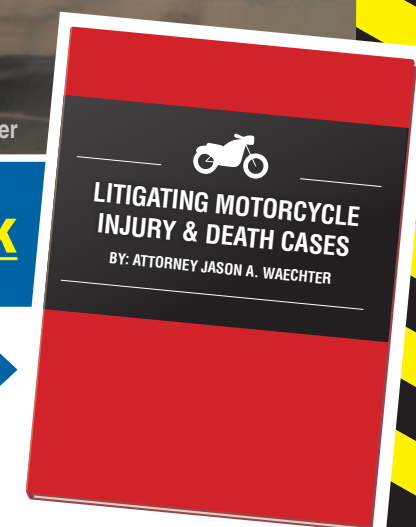
# INJURED ON A MOTORCYCLE IN MICHIGAN?

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Bubba walked into his local watering hole with a purple and black shiner and Earl, his best friend asked, "what have you got into now?" and Bubba replied, "all I know is I was in an elevator. This woman steps in with triple D's and I couldn't help from staring at them of course, and then she said, "Would you please press one?" and so I did". "I don't remember much after that." The bad news is I accidentally took the wrong medication today. The good news is I'm now protected from heartworms and fleas for the next three months.

Walter took his wife Ethel to the State Fair every year, and every time he would say to her, "Ethel, you know that I'd love to go for a ride in that helicopter." But Ethel would always reply, "I know that Walter, but that helicopter ride is 50 dollars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars."

Finally, they went to the Fair, and Walter said to Ethel, "Ethel, you know I'm 87 years old now. If I don't ride that helicopter this year, I may never get another chance." Once again Ethel replied, "Walter, you know that helicopter is 50 dollars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars."

This time the helicopter pilot overheard the couple's conversation and said, "Listen folks, I'll make a deal with you. I'll take both of you for a ride; if you can both stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word I won't charge you! But if you say just one word, it's 50 dollars."

Walter and Ethel agreed and up they went in the helicopter. The pilot performed all kinds of fancy moves and tricks, but not a word was said by either Walter or Ethel. The pilot did his death-defying tricks over and over again, but still there wasn't so much as one word said. When they finally landed, the pilot yelled back to Walter and said, "Wow! I've got to hand it to you. I did everything I could to get you to scream or shout out, but you didn't. I'm really impressed!" Walter replied, "Well to be honest I almost said something when Ethel fell out, but you know, 50 dollars is 50 dollars!"

Earl and Bubba are sitting in their same favorite watering hole and Bubba asks "If you're going to make a parachute jump how high you reckon you should be?" Earl lazily replies, "I'd say about 3 days of steady drinking should bout' do it".

A cowboy named Bud was overseeing his herd in a remote mountainous pasture in Montana when suddenly a brand-new 2015 BMW advanced toward him out of a cloud of dust. The driver, a young man named Cliff in a Brioni® suit, Gucci® shoes, RayBan® sunglasses and YSL® tie, leaned out the window and asked the cowboy, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?"

Bud looks at the man, who obviously is a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, "Sure, why not?" The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell® notebook computer, connects it to his Apple iPhone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop® and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany.

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Apple iPad® that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL® database through an ODBC connected Excel® spreadsheet with email on his Galaxy S5® and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet® printer, turns to the cowboy and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," says Bud.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

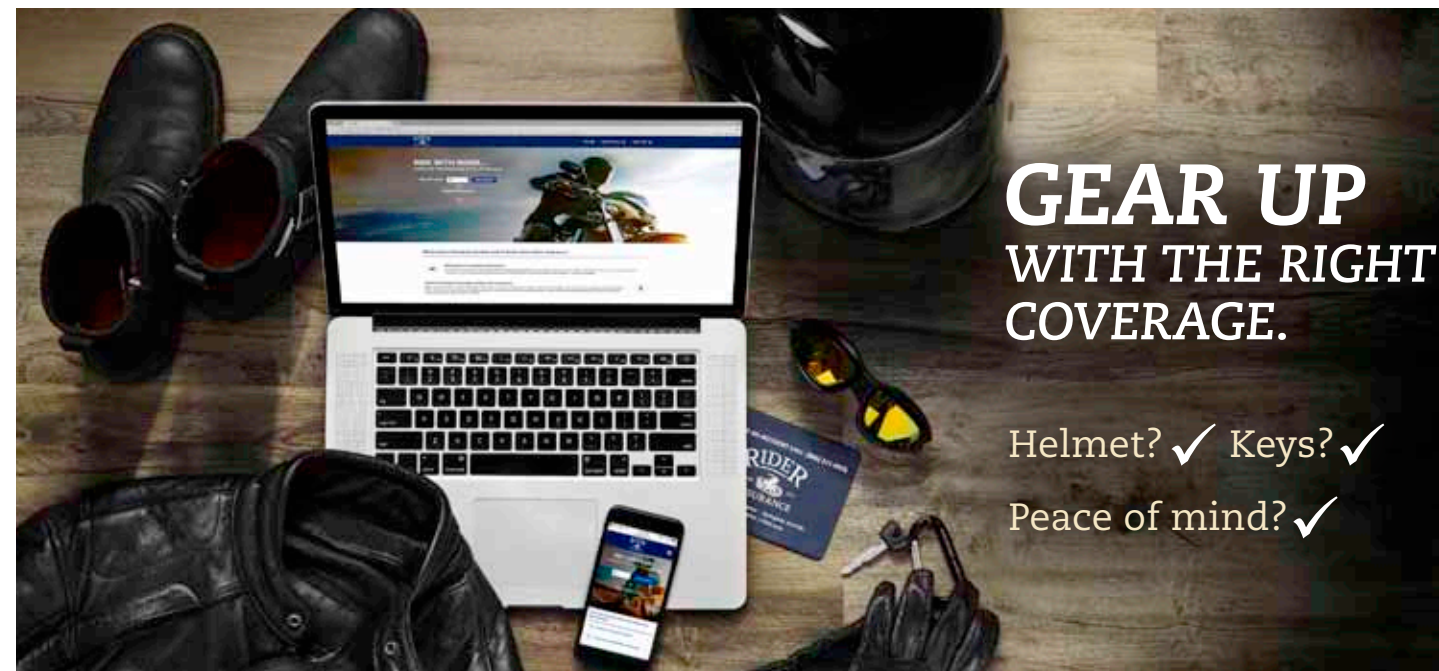
Then Bud says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a United States Congressman", says Bud.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answered the cowboy. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of dollars worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know jack-chit about how working people make a living or about cows, for that matter. This is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dang dog, ya' fool."



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# Alyssa's Adventures in the Mitten



by Alyssa Locke

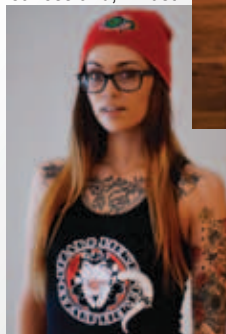
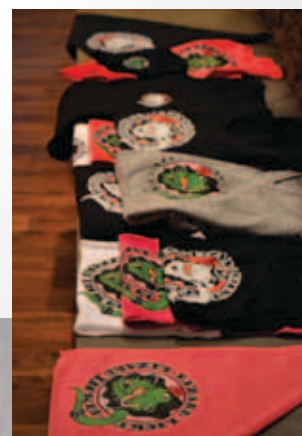
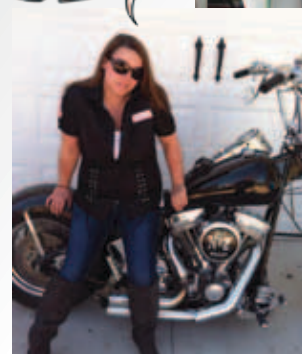
## LIZARD LICKED LLC

Good people doing good things...

In this month's issue, I want to tell you about Mary Colby. Mary is the Founder and Owner of Lizard Licked LLC, a clothing and accessory company mostly geared towards motorcycle enthusiasts. Mary is also

my friend. You may have already seen her at events selling her merchandise. In 2013, Mary and her family suffered a house fire and lost everything. While that was a terrible tragedy in itself, it was during the time they were living in a hotel room that she found a lump in her breast. Shortly after that, Mary was diagnosed with breast cancer. After having a double mastectomy, she decided it was time to pursue a dream—designing her own purses. She could never find the “right” purse, or enough bling (I can relate—ha!) or style she was looking for. It was the same year that Lizard Licked LLC was born. The name means “whatever life throws at you, you’ve got it licked” and she loves lizards. You can see her logo reflects that! She started with purses and now does an entire line of men’s and women’s clothing and soon will be starting a line for kids. Wanting to give back, Mary donates a portion of her proceeds to “Angels of Hope.” It is a Michigan-based company made up of strictly volunteers. They help people with cancer pay their bills. She researched until she found the organization with the right fit for her. She also sponsors MMA fighter Jamahal “Sweet Dreams” Hill. Mary always incorporates the pink ribbon on her merchandise and is grateful to be a cancer survivor. Mary has two children and three grandchildren. Her motto is “You gotta be fearless” and believe me, she is fearless and, I must say, “badass.” Mary travels around the U.S. selling her merchandise, mostly at bike events. She loves Daytona and wanted to make sure I included one of her favorite pics of a cool guy she met there. You will see her this spring in Baldwin and this summer in Muskegon; stop by and say hi to her and tell her you’ve read her story. But most of all give her your support by purchasing something! You can also order online. Check her out at [www.lizardlicked.com](http://www.lizardlicked.com) and on FB at Lizard Licked. Give her page a “Like”.

Until the next adventure...ride on, readers!



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# Don't Pass the Gas

Story by Joshua Swanagon, Photos by Joshua Swanagon & DP



A couple of years ago, I was faced with a medical issue that got me taking a good hard look at my bucket list.

Being a knife designer with TOPS Knives in Idaho, I have been wanting to go out to the factory and visit the team. But being a very busy editor and writer—along with a regular day job—it has been very hard for me to make that trip. So, as I lay in the hospital bed after my second surgery, I decided that there was no better time than now, and I couldn't think of a better way to get there, than to ride. After speaking with my good friend DP, the plans were set to hop on the bikes the end of July 2017 – because we figured this would be the best way to hit Sturgis and the factory in the same trip – and hit the road.



*My bike on the left, DP's bike on the right (his trailer is just behind my bike) and the Grand Tetons in the background.*

## The Long Stretch

As I am sure most of you are aware, the trip out west is fairly boring for the first leg. So, to make sure that it wasn't a total snooze-fest, we decided to leave Michigan through the U.P., which was a great idea, until it wasn't. DP needed a new tire for his bike, so our first destination was Ironwood, where he had got his last set of tires. Unfortunately, even leaving at 8:30 in the morning, we didn't get to Ironwood until about 1:00 a.m. Which might not have been all bad; the U.P. is a beautiful place, but on a motorcycle in the dark, it is one big pucker-fest.

But, as you can tell by the writing of this article, we managed to make it through unscathed. Although it was a little touch-and-go there for a bit—I was certain I was going to blow an O-ring.

## Into Bike Week

As I mentioned, we planned our trip so that we would pass through Sturgis during Bike Week, both on the way to and from Idaho. We wound up getting a room in Wall, South Dakota, which was a nice little town, and the Wall Drug Store was kind of cool. While there, we did get to meet a couple of very nice State Troopers from out of town—it would have been nice to have known they were State Troopers before we opened our mouths, but they were good-natured, and out of their jurisdiction.



*Standing with my bike at Rapid City Harley-Davidson.*

The next morning, we got up, packed and headed for Sturgis, with a quick stop at Rapid City Harley-Davidson to see what festivities they had going on. Having not been to Sturgis since the 50th in 1990, I was a little underwhelmed by the lack of people and the fact that there were cars lining Main Street. The vendors were there. The banners were up. Where were all the people? I finally stopped a gentleman and asked him what was up, and he informed me that it didn't technically start for a couple days. Son of a...

Okay, slight date miscalculation on my part. I think I read something wrong.

Anyway, we still got to hang out and get a good bite to eat at the Knuckle Saloon, so it wasn't a total bust. And there were other early arrivers as well.

## Oh, The Sights You'll See

After spending some time in Sturgis checking out the different sites, like the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame, we got back on the road to our next stop: Basin, Wyoming.

On our way to Basin, we took I-90 to 16, which ran us right through Bighorn National



*Standing with my bike in Bighorn National Forest.*



*Our bikes on the side of the road in Bighorn National Forest.*

Forest, which is a small section of Rockies, before you really reach the Rockies (although it is still considered part of the Rocky Mountain Range). Suddenly, DP turns into a little pull-off on the side of the road. I asked him what was up and he told me he really wanted to go get in this river. Having grown up in Colorado, I love good rivers and don't get to see too many rivers like this anymore.

So, after I had given him a few safety tips—because rivers like this are a little different and more dangerous than here in Michigan—DP headed into the water. It was at that moment that I realized I had forgotten to tell him another important thing about

the rivers out here, they are VERY cold; ice cold. He got over the initial shock of it quickly enough, though.



*DP in a river in the Grand Canyon; no wait, Yellowstone; no, this river.*

As he stood in the river, taking in the splendor of it all he glanced at me with a look on his face that told me he was really glad he came on this trip, and said "I have never been in a river in the Grand Canyon." I felt so bad when I had to tell him that the Grand Canyon was in Arizona. "Fine," he replied, "I have never been in a river in Yellowstone." Okay, now I feel like he is going to think I am just messing with him when I notify him that we are not in Yellowstone yet. "All right! I have never been in this river!" he retorted. Too true, DP, too true, and you enjoy every minute of it—you can at least say you have been in a river in the Rockies.

## Don't Pass the Gas

With respect for space, I am excluding details of the Idaho stay, because—aside from an amusing tale of a much-taller-than-me DP having to ride bitch on my bike due to a flat tire on his (but that is a story for another time) and the great time at the TOPS Knives factory—there really wasn't anything about that stay that pertained to this story.

Fast-forward to our trip back. Heading for Casper, Wyoming, we stopped at a small gas station in a little town called Kinnear for a quick break. Before heading out we consulted the oracle for the best route, took a look at our gas tanks—which were three quarters of the way full, plenty enough to get us to the next gas station—and headed off.

I guess we must have figured with all of the towns between us and our destination, there had to be gas at one of them. But as we came up to these towns, we found that they were really just one or two houses that some kook figured was enough to declare a town. That was okay, because there was

a bigger dot on the map just up ahead; it had to have some sort of establishment. We were right; it had a small store that looked like it had been shut down in the 50s, with the old, rusty gas pumps still sitting out front, completely out of commission. But that didn't stop the old timer from sitting out on the porch, watching the traffic (us) go by with desperate looks on our faces, as we realized that not much farther up the road just might be the end of our journey. I can't be sure, but I would guess this is what passed for entertainment in these parts.



*Cool rest stop in South Dakota.*

Sure enough, twenty-five miles from our destination, we ran out of gas. As we sat on the side of the road, a nasty storm that we had been watching decided to move in. One solid gust of wind, blew both of our bikes over, into the ditch! We hurried as fast as we could to get both bikes back on two wheels and called roadside assistance for gas. Fortunately, we had the cooler strapped to DP's trailer, so we took that time to refresh ourselves as we waited and discussed the new road rule to never pass a gas station in these parts again.

## Hard Riding and Time Making

The rest of the trip home had plenty more sights, fun and memories—from Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial,



*DP on the left, me on the right, great men behind us.*

to another stop in Sturgis, finishing with a visit to the Harley-Davidson Museum in Mil-



*Harley-Davidson Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

waukee and a ferry ride home across Lake Michigan. But the trip home was a little more about getting home to our families and our lives. It was more of a hard riding and time-making situation, especially since we were losing time coming back east.

If asked if I would do this trip again, my answer would be a resounding yes. If asked if I would ever do it with DP again, I can't think of a better road mate.

But I think next time we will pay a little more attention to our gas gauges.

Stay safe out there.



*That's 1,362 miles worth of bugs.*





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# MY FIASCO Springtime Fly-Tying

It's May, oh my Gosh, IT'S MAY! Whether you are a child or an adult, if you live in a northern state the excitement of sustained warm weather is unexplainable. I'm stowing away my winter gear and getting ready to spend every minute possible in the sunshine. Everyone who fishes—whether using conventional tackle or fly gear—knows trout season has started, bluegills are coming in to spawn and bass season will be starting soon. Having tied up some dry flies (that may or may not look like some kind of alien spawn) I am excited to get out and see if there are any trout that are hungry enough to take a bite. I've gotten my fly rod rigged up and have been waiting to hear that some bugs are hatching and trout are rising.

Then the weekend is here and we're heading to one of my favorite spots on earth. We get to the river and I all but run to the water. Standing in the stream, I take a minute and breathe in the scent and life of the river. My heart pounds, my palms get sweaty, my body readies itself for a moment of excitement that you have to experience to understand. Wading upstream to a spot where a log lies in the water creating a riffle that lies in the shade of a beautiful cedar tree, I tie on a fly I tied and am amazed at the perfection that I have created. I make the perfect cast and the fly lands beautifully at the head of the riffle and floats flawlessly, next to the log. Mid-drift, there is a large splash and the largest brook trout (at least 20") I've ever seen grabs my fly and swims upstream with more power than I could have imagined. I set the hook and pull back down stream only to have the trout turn and swim towards me, he leaps over a log, turns and...I wake up, I become aware of a soft bed beneath me, Dan O looking at me in bewilderment, and our dogs are running around our bedroom, obviously disturbed. Apparently, I was casting in my sleep. Kicking and yelling excitedly. Dan O is not impressed at three a.m. but since he gets my excitement, I don't get kicked out of bed. After all, it is his fault since he bought me a new rod to use on those little brook trout that have been waiting for me all winter.

After getting the dogs settled down, we get a little more sleep before heading to the stream for real. This is the real deal as I get my new rod out and head to the stream. As in my dream I take a minute and enjoy the feeling of standing in a beautiful river. I cast my fly out and since I have a new rod, it's not a great cast, but the fly lands on the water and floats downstream. A trout rises to my fly, I set the hook, and my fly almost hits my face. I cast again, this time the fly hits me in the back of the head, and hooks my hat, which is one of many reasons I wear one! I get the fly untangled from my hat and realize I have, not one, but several knots in my line. After trying to untangle



the "sweater" for a good fifteen minutes, I cut my line and re-tie everything back on. I keep casting while working my way upstream, since I've only had one take, I decide to change flies, I pick one out that I tied, and, I'll be honest, I'm not sure what I was supposed to be tying but this looks a lot like a ball of hair, I'm just hoping it will float.

Casting this new fly into a spot that looks particularly "fishy," I am ready to jump up and down when a fish rises and sips it in. I set the hook and the fight is on. After a minute or two I bring a feisty 6" brook trout to the net. These beautiful small brook trout are what makes fly fishing addicting to me. As I let the fish recover, I admire the beautiful reds, oranges, greens, and blues of this fish. This is what makes nearly losing an eye, spending frustrated hours untangling gear, getting hooked, (although hopefully not too often), and trekking through tick-infested forests worth it.

Whatever it is that you have been waiting all winter to experience—get out there and do it. Too many times we get caught up in life and only get to dream about the experiences that make us feel alive. Whether



you've been dreaming about fishing, camping, canoeing, or riding the trails or roads, summer in Michigan has something for everyone. Pick your poison, get out there, and enjoy your fiasco.



by Mary Ostahowski



# 2018 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



**Get Ready! The 5th Annual**

**Michigan Thunder Run Ride n' Win Contest will be in the June Issue!**

**Make Sure To Pick Up Your Copy For A Complete List Of Ride Stops! OR GO TO [www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com](http://www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com)**



**NEW THIS YEAR... RIDE, DRIVE & WIN!**

*All vehicles welcome to participate, ride a bike, drive a vehicle, boat, etc. NO LIMITS.*



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

1. Go to any stop listed on "The Stops" pages with a Ride Card image by it- they have Ride Cards, where other stops do not. If you already have your card from a previous year, 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! There are also event stops each month that you can check in at. Each Stop you hit will write your unique Ride Card number down. Let them know if you spent over \$10 there, because your Ride Card number will get counted twice!
3. Then pick up 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 then follow the simple instructions listed on the WINNERS page to claim your prize. 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 (July- October issues) of Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan to see if your Ride Card # is listed as a winner from stops you made the previous month!**



## FEW FACTS

- Winners are randomly picked from each Registration/Ride Stops, Ride Stops & Event Stops each month.
- The more places you check-in the greater your chances are of winning a prize from that stop, multiple prizes and/or one of our sponsors prizes!
- If you spend \$10 or more at any Stop your Ride Card number gets counted twice! Please note: *The reason why this contest is FREE to you is because of 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 Stop.
- 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 all summer Ride n' Win season long.



# 2018 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



PRESENTING SPONSOR



It's really that simple!

4. Get Your Own Unique Michigan Ride Card (It Does Not Expire).
5. Get the list of Stops each month from Thunder Roads Magazine or the website.
6. Ride out to these stops and show them your Ride Card.
1. And then you could win cool prizes, including **COLD HARD CASH!**

**Just Get Out & RIDE!**

**EARLY BIRD RIDE CARD SIGN-UP Come By & Sign-Up For Your FREE Thunder Roads Ride Card &/Or Check-In!**



SEE DETAILS PAGE 27







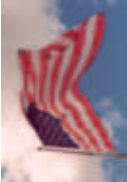


# May 2018

MODEL Brianna Lynn / BIKE OWNER Travis Patterson / PHOTO Dusty Austin ~ www.DustyAustin.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

## MAY is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

						 CINCO DE MAYO
6 THE ITCHIN RUN PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT AM Leather  BLESSING Church of the Living Word	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19  BLESSING / EARLY RIDE CARD SIGN-UP Merriman Road Baptist Church  POKER RUN Tecumseh HD  MOTORCYCLE RIDE Cabela's, Dundee OPEN HOUSE/ CUSTOMER DAY TTBAD
20 BLESSING BIKES & MUSCLE CARS Faith Christian	21	22	23	24 OHIO BIKE WEEK Sandusky, OH	25 OHIO BIKE WEEK Sandusky, OH	26 OHIO BIKE WEEK Sandusky, OH
27 OHIO BIKE WEEK Sandusky, OH	28 MEMORIAL DAY  OHIO BIKE WEEK Sandusky, OH	29	30	31 BAD AXE BIKE EVENT Huron County Fairgrounds	1 BAD AXE BIKE EVENT Huron County Fairgrounds	2 BAD AXE BIKE EVENT Huron County Fairgrounds



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## ANNUAL SPRING OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY MAY 19TH (BLESSING OF THE BIKES WEEKEND)



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ARMED FORCES DAY May 19 2018  
American Flag Raising Ceremony 12 Noon  
PRESENTED BY  
The Forgotten Eagles & Newaygo VFW and Ionia Young Marines.  
The MICHIGAN MILITARY MEMORIAL WALL will be here.  
Join us to honor and pay respects to Michigan Fallen Soliders.



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## Saturday ~ May 19, 2018

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# READERS ROOM

~ Nick Bieber of Nick's Pro Powersports

PHOTOS BY Debra Wright



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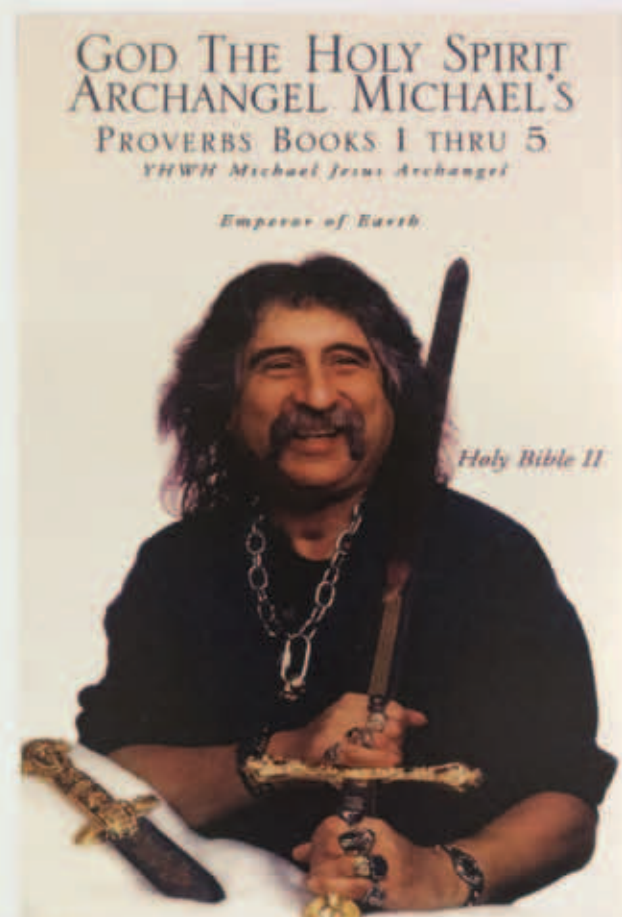




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### Hell, Michigan

### June 3, 2018

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# Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

## Inspiration

*Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

*What hunger is in relation to food, zest is in relation to life.*

~ Bertrand Russell

*Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him.* ~ Aldous Huxley

*Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.* ~ Vernon Law

*The greatest of faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none.*  
~ Thomas Carlyle

## Biker Sayings

*When life gets complicated... I RIDE.*

*Does this bike make my ass look fast?*

*Riding a bike is like an art, something you do because you feel something inside.* ~ Valentino Rossi

*Live, laugh and love... and if that doesn't work, load, aim and fire.*

*Straight roads do not make skillful drivers.*

*No matter how bad your day is your bike will always make you feel better.*



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## MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

It's time for ABATE members to do what we do best and protect all bikers by getting the word out to the public. "Look Twice-Save A Life-Motorcycles Are Everywhere!" If you can, find a business or area of heavy traffic—please ask for permission and put a sign there. Hopefully we can cut down on near-misses and fatal crashes in your area. Vince sent out information from the Michigan State Police: High Crash Intersection Report involving motorcycles. Check it out and maybe you could put a sign in one of those areas and make a difference! If you contact the Traffic Crash Reporting Unit at 517-241-1699, you can find an area where you can help.

I'm looking forward to the April 28th event we're having statewide at different locations. Plans are to have a table with signs all around it regarding "Look Twice-Save A Life" and handmade signs letting the general public be aware of motorcycles. Can't wait to see all the pictures taken. Please have fun and be careful!

Our Region will be going to the Milan City Council getting a proclamation designating the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. The LED sign on the fire department will be flashing "Look Twice-Save A Life" all month long. If you can't find a "Look Twice-Save A Life Motorcycles Are Everywhere" sign, try going to your local Harley shop or leather shop, like A&M Leather on Middlebelt. They are in your local Thunder Roads magazine and they will be willing to help you get a sign and maybe even help you get some awesome deals on some of the best leather goods available made in the USA.

Don't forget to help guide someone on how to get their endorsement. All the information is in the Rider or call Vince.

There are many events coming-up. Take part and enjoy good friends and good times!

May 5th Region 5: Spring Bash / Membership—Ron 231-375-9553

May 5th Regions 10 & 21: Membership Drive – Kim 989-750-8172

May 5th Region 14: Blessing of the Bikes – George 734-323-1927

May 17th Region 3: Bike Night at Kritters Rapid City – Wally 231-350-1622

May 19th Region 3: Awareness Ride Kritters – Mark 321-409-8933

May 19th Region 5: Bob Roger's Memorial Run – Ron 231-375-9553

May 19th Region 13: Jonesville Riverfest – George 734-425-0428

May 19th & 20th Region 18: Flea Market

May 20th Region 11: Horseshoes at Adair Bar – Cowboy 586-746-4765

May 26th Region 7: Dillinger Run – Tim 989-670-9976

May the road rise to meet you and the wind always be at your back!

**Hot Rod**

State Awareness Director



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# TRMI EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

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Bike Nights are listed in their ads.  
Bold events indicate Advertiser/Supporter of Thunder Roads MI-please patronize our advertisers.

MAY	
May 5 Thunder Across the Thumb Tuscola Area Airport, Spiers Rd, line up at 10:30 am, ride leaves 11:30 am, to honor military men & women, ends at Sandusky airport, police escorted, all vehicles welcome. For more info call Bill 989-823-2554	May 19 Foundation 14 Annual Poker Run Tecumseh HD, Tecumseh, MI. Check out Tecumseh's Facebook page for more details or call 517-423-3333 (See full page ad inside back cover this issue).
May 6 The Itchin Run – Photo Scavenger Hunt AM Leather, 18957 Middlebelt rd, Romu- lus, MI. \$20 per vehicle, \$10 passenger, Regis 10- noon, end 2- 3 pm Penrickton center for blind children, prizes, raffles, music, \$5 donation, bring camera, all vehicles welcome. For more info call Joey 734-550-6485	May 19 14th Annual Holiday Camp Benefit Motorcycle Ride Cabela's, Dundee, MI. Regis 10 am, ride leaves 12:30, ends at The Point Pub & Grub, \$25 solo, \$10 passenger, door prizes, raffles & more. For more info call John 734-637-0294
May 6 19th Annual Blessing of the Bikers Church of the Living Word, Ovid, MI. Hog Roast all you can eat \$5, charity ride, ride in bike show register by noon, 50/50, prizes. For more info 989-834- 5950	May 19 3rd Annual Open House/ Customer Ap- preciation Day TTBAD, 5912 Mulliken Rd, Charlotte, MI 48813. 1 pm - 2, food, drinks, fun, weather permitting Homespun a high energy new/old country/classic rock band performing in evening. Everyone welcome. For more info call 517-983- 9327
May 6 Rally at Battle Alley Downtown Holly, MI. vendors, lo- cal food, blessing, bike show, door prizes, 50/50. For more info go to <a href="http://theriverchurch.cc">theriverchurch.cc</a>	May 19 Spring Open House & Flag Ceremony Sandy's H-D, Fremont, MI. Flag ceremony noon. For more info call 231-924-3020 (See ad this issue).
May 12 6th Annual Allegan Blessing of the Bikes & Classic Cars Blessed Sacrament Church, Al- legan, MI. 8 am- 2pm, \$5 dollar Entrance Fee (children under 10 free), live music, prizes, auction, 50/50, food, vendors. For more info call Bob 269-806-3883	May 19 Stevens' Cycle Charity Golf Classic Green Hills Golf Course, Pinconning, MI. 8 am shotgun start, 18 hole, 4 person scramble, \$90 pp, \$360 per team, dinner after golf, big prizes compliments of Stevens'. To reserve your spot call 989-684-9872
May 13 38th Annual Mother's Day Swap Meet & Bike Show Midland County Fairgrounds, Mid- land, MI. \$5, under 12 free, 10 am- 4 pm, ride in bike show 10-3, regis 10-1. For more info or to book your spot call 989-697-5525	May 19 WACU Motorcycle Charity Ride & Bike Blessing Old St. Patrick Church, Ann Arbor, MI. \$10 min for drivers /passen- gers. 9:30 am, rain or shine, raffie prizes. For more info call Steve 734-660-7172
May 18-20 Inaugural Great Lakes Big Rig Challenge Onaway Speedway.	May 20 9th Annual Antique Motorcycle Swap Meet & Vintage Motorcycle Show St. Joseph Co Fairgrounds, Cent- reville, MI. 9 am- 4 pm, \$5 admin, 16 & under free, rain or shine, food vendors. For more info call Mary 269-254-3793
May 19 10th Annual Biker Blessing Merriman Road Baptist Church, Garden City, MI. Regis 10 am, blessing 2 pm, ride 3 pm, free food, bike wash, music, bike show, vendors, door prizes and EARLY BIRD RIDE CARD sign-up & check-in for prize giveaway at event. For more info go to <a href="http://mrbcfairthriders.com">mrbcfairthriders.com</a> (See ad this issue)	May 20 10th Annual Blessing of the Bikes Agape Apostolic Church, 11117 Whittaker Rd, Milan, MI. Rain or shine, gates open 1 pm, event 1 pm- 4 pm, bike show, sermon 3:30, blessing 4 pm, food, door prizes & more.

May 20 Blessing of the Bikes & Muscle Cars Faith Christian, 25201 W. Outer Dr, Melvindale, MI. Noon- 5pm, special speaker Steve Upshur, prizes, live music, vendors, giveaways, & more. (See ad this issue).	May 24-28 Ohio Bike Week Sandusky, OH. Midwest's larg- est motorcycle event. For all the details go to <a href="http://ohiobikeweek.com">ohiobikeweek.com</a> (See full page ad this issue).
May 26-27 Bubba's 18th Annual Memorial Weekend Classic Bubba's Tri-City Cycle's, Linwood, MI. For more info call 989-697- 5525	May 31-June 2 Bad Axe Bike Event Huron County Fairgrounds, live music, vendors, camping, bike show, biker games & more. For more info call 989-550-4570 (See ad this issue).
JUNE	
June 1 Rev It Up Ride 2018 A Statewide motorcycle ride to benefit Moose Charities & Special Olympics of Michigan, regis starts at 4 PM-contact Greg McCarty at 810-653-0088 for informa- tion <a href="http://www.firstgiving.com/event/somicivic/2018-rev-it-up">www.firstgiving.com/event/ somicivic/2018-rev-it-up</a>	June 2 Toni n' Trish House Memorial Ride Bubba's Tri-City Cycle, Linwood, MI. 10 am line up, leaves at noon, ends at Willew for dinner, bands. For more info call 989-697-5525
June 2 Blessing of the Bikes American Spirit Centre/Brighton VFW, Brighton, MI. 9- 2 pm, \$10 per bike, breakfast \$8, music.	June 2 The Remedy Ride Midland Eagles, 2934 E. Monroe, Midland, MI. Regis 9:30 am, kick- stands up 11 am, dinner 4:30 pm, live auction, music, \$15 rider, \$25 with passenger, \$10 dinner only. For more info call Coco 989-687- 5267
June 3 Blessed in Hell Hell Creek Ranch, Hell, MI. Blessings, ride in bike show, vendors, live music, \$10 per bike, gates open 10:30 am. For more info go to <a href="http://hellcreekranch.com">hellcreekranch.com</a> (See ad this issue).	June 9-10 23rd Annual Vintage Motorcycle Show & 2 Day Swap Meet Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI. 9 am -4 pm, rain or shine, Sat swap only, Sat & Sun Show & Swap. For more info go to <a href="http://GilmoreCarMuseum.org">GilmoreCarMuseum.org</a> (See ad this issue).
June 13 10th Annual Wheels & Heels Lady Rider Motorcycle Show Scooters Bar & Grill, Flint, MI. Regis 5-7 pm, trophies 8 pm, \$10 donation with gift bags for first 25 ladies to enter, must ride in to enter, raffles, 50/50, rain date 20th. For more info go to <a href="http://facebook.com/sirensmotorcycle-clubmichiganevents">facebook.com/sirensmotorcycle- clubmichiganevents</a> (See ad this issue).	June 16 18th Annual Street Party Great Lakes HD, Bay City, MI. noon- 6pm, adult beverages, entertainment. For more info go to <a href="http://greatlakeshd.com">greatlakeshd.com</a> (See ad this issue)
June 16-17 Lucky Thumb M/C Races 7394 Bevens Rd, Deford, MI 48729, 16th- short track (3/5/7), 17th TT Scrambles (8/10/12). For more info go to <a href="http://luckythumbmo-&lt;br/&gt;torcycle.com">luckythumbmo- torcycle.com</a> (See ad this issue).	June 16-17 Lucky Thumb M/C Races 7394 Bevens Rd, Deford, MI 48729, 16th- short track (3/5/7), 17th TT Scrambles (8/10/12). For more info go to <a href="http://luckythumbmo-&lt;br/&gt;torcycle.com">luckythumbmo- torcycle.com</a> (See ad this issue).
EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!	
Increase your attendance by posting your event in Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan. All Advertised Events in our Magazine will have their event Posted on the Pull-Out Calendar (specific issues) and your Event will be Highlighted in the Thunder Roads Events Calendar of the Magazine. (Call about our Special Discounts for Ads for Charity Based Events) To get your event listed in Thunder Roads Magazine and on our web site, send the information to: Editor@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com Event information must be received prior to the 10th of the month preceding the event month to be posted in the magazine. Remember to call ahead before planning to attend any event as the information/dates may change. Thunder Roads is NOT responsible for errors or omissions.	

# HUDSON LEATHER

Presents 23rd Annual

## MEMORIAL WEEKEND MAY 25-28, 2018

### MOTORCYCLE RALLY & BLESSING

**BIKE SHOW SATURDAY**

**MAY 26th**

**1-4 pm**

Awards for  
**VINTAGE, METRIC, CUSTOM, CRUISER**  
Must be present 1-4 pm  
**ALL MAKES and MODELS WELCOME**

**MOTORCYCLE BLESSING:**  
**SUNDAY MAY 27th 1pm**

**Vendors:**  
**Bowersock Pinstriping, Event T-Shirts**  
**Hills Performance Choppers, BOOBS**  
**Lions Club, CMA, Triple D Concessions**

**10% off Purchases May 25-28th, 2018**  
Bring this Coupon with you  
Not Valid with any other offer  
**EXCLUDES CLOSEOUTS PATCHES & SEWING**

**LOCATION: HUDSON LEATHER OUTLET**  
**ON HWY 15 PIONEER, OH**  
**1 MILE N OF EXIT 13 ON TURNPIKE 60-90**  
**WEST OF TOLEDO, NORTH OF FT WAYNE**

**EVENT HOURS**  
**9AM-7PM FRI, SAT, SUN**  
**9AM-5PM MON**

**LIVE BANDS:**  
**SAT MAY 26TH: ONE DRINK AWAY**  
**SUN MAY 27TH: HOT "N" NASTY**  
**MON MAY 28TH: REBEL ROOTS**

**4 Days of Motorcycles, Music, Food & Charity Fundraising**  
**Follow the updates on Website and Facebook**

Motels 1 mile South of Rally Site:  
Quality Inn - 419-485-5555  
Holiday Inn 419 485-0008

**HudsonLeather.com**  
**419-485-8531**

Camp Grounds:  
Funny Farm 419 737-2467  
Lazy River 419-485-4411 (1 mile)



# IN THE SHOP WITH RON

## SPRING CLEANING

Spring is here, although it doesn't feel like it outside. The warmer riding weather will be here soon, hopefully by the time you read this. Nothing quite like the first ride of spring, bike serviced and clean sunshine and blue sky—it doesn't get any better!

This month in the shop, we're going to go over the product and procedures I use to do a complete and thorough spring detail job.

First, let's consider the surfaces we'll be dealing with. As far as motorcycles and most vehicles are concerned, there are five types of surfaces to consider:

#1) Painted surfaces. That's pretty obvious but it can be either base coat/clear coat, single stage, satin finish, flat finish, wrinkle finish etc.

#2) Chrome

#3) Metal surfaces that aren't chrome. This could be something like magnesium, aluminum, or stainless steel; these metals may or may not have some form of a protective coating/clear coat on them to help maintain their original finish.

#4) Leather

#5) Rubber

There are many different products for each type of surface. Rubbing compound, polish compound, glazes, waxes, detail sprays etc.



There are also abrasive compounds and non-abrasive compounds. For the purpose of this article, I will walk you through step-by-step my procedure and attempt to explain as we go.

First on my list is a clean surface/vehicle. As far as motorcycles are concerned I personally don't do the traditional soap-and-water wash routine unless it is absolutely necessary. The only times I would consider soap and water necessary is maybe the bike had an excessive amount of road grime, etc. or in the event of a mechanical failure an oil or fluid managed to get all over everything. Assuming we don't need to wash, I clean the en-



tire motorcycle (except the leather) with a detailing spray or cleaner.

I prefer to use two microfiber cloths folded into four sections. One cloth I saturate with detail spray (wet one) and the other one I leave dry.

I start with the painted surfaces and wipe with the wet one to remove dirt, grime, etc., turning frequently and dry the surface with the dry cloth. Next, I'll do everything else except the wheels, working from the top down. I save the wheels for last as they're usually the dirtiest; brake dust, road grime, bugs, etc.

Next, I dress the tires with a rubber dressing/cleaning product. Be careful what you use—some products can cause excessive drying of the rubber leading to possible weather-checking or cracking of the side walls. If the tires are extremely dirty or have white walls that need attention, I will wash with a white wall/tire cleaner and rinse with water. Let tires dry before applying tire dressing.

Next, I decide what surfaces, if any, need polishing and to what degree. Again, I start with the painted surfaces (excluding satin, flat, powder coat). A heavily oxidized painted surface or one with minor scratches may need a mildly abrasive rubbing compound, whereas for a well-maintained finish that needs a thorough cleaning and brightening, a non-abrasive polishing compound works well. In either case, I like to use a small battery-powered polisher with the correct pad for the compound being used and the surface being polished.



I apply the compound or polish to the pad and manually work the product into the pad before starting the polisher. Start slow or you will sling compound into places that, believe me, you won't want to clean. Anytime I use a compound, I follow up with a machine glazing compound using the same polisher and technique with the correct pad. The glazing process helps remove any residue left from the compound/polishing process.

Next, I do all the chrome. In most instances I use a non-abrasive chrome polish and polish by hand. Extremely dull chrome may require an abrasive polish. Be careful: too aggressive a polish or too much polishing will actually dull the chrome.

Next, I do all other metal surfaces. If it's a coated metal surface, I treat it the same way as a painted surface. If it's a polished metal surface, I use a metal polish specific to the metal being polished on a microfiber cloth. As with chrome, too aggressive of a polish or polishing can dull the surface. Once everything is polished and cleaned, I use a good quality paste wax and wax everything except the leather, rub-

ber, satin, flat or powder coat. You read that correctly: I said everything shiny; painted surfaces, chrome, polished metal, coated or not. I let the wax haze up until it's completely dry and then buff with a soft cloth, turning frequently. During this process, I start from the bottom and work up, saving the painted surfaces for last.

Last but not least, I treat the leather. I use a leather conditioner on a shop rag.



Wipe it liberally on the leather and allow to dry, then lightly buff with a soft cloth. After this process, I can usually just maintain the finishes with a detail spray for the rest of the season. So, let's get the spring cleaning done and go riding.



As always,  
RIDE SAFE RIDE OFTEN  
WE SHARE YOUR PASSION  
**Ron**

### PARTY REMINDER!!!!

TTBAD Customs will be having our  
3RD ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/  
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

On Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 1:00 pm until ?

5912 Mulliken Road, Charlotte, MI 48813

Food, Drinks, Fun. Weather Permitting-  
HOMESPUN a high energy new and old  
country/classic rock band will be performing  
in the evening.

Everyone Welcome!

Hope to see you there.

Ron & Patty

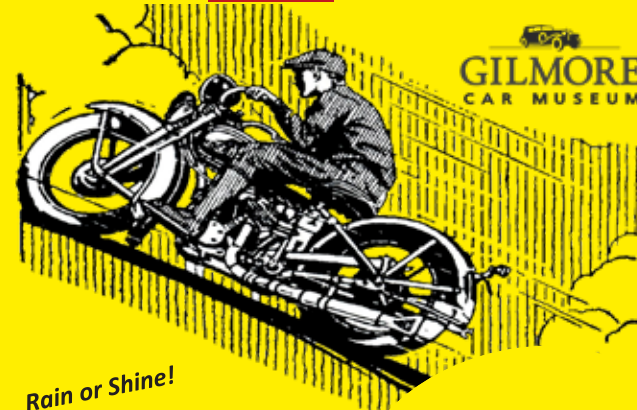


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Rain or Shine!

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9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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# Bullet Points

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## THE TIME IS FIVE TO WORRY

BY RICK WYATT



My original intent was to write a fun article for the May issue geared to the expanded circle of readers Thunder Roads is reaching out to. But the events of the last several weeks have pushed my buttons in such a way as to evoke emotions I have not felt since I was a child. Most of you weren't alive to witness the images of Nikita Khrushchev hammering a shoe on the table at the UN and screaming "we will bury you" in response to allegations of imperialistic gestures by the Soviets in eastern Europe. World events of September 1960 stripped raw my illusion of life in what I thought was a safe bastion for childhood innocence; and for the first time I feared powers—both seen and unseen—that threatened our way of life. And just like the photos and films of Khrushchev's antics have been photoshopped to present a more favorable image of an absolute tyrant, current events are being masked, polished and lacquered to create a facade of normalcy we common people are not intended to see behind.



The Valentine's Day shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School was truly a national tragedy, but responsibility cannot be laid at the feet of the Second Amendment or the NRA. Instead, what we witnessed was the epic failure of school/community policy, local law enforcement practices and the fatal bureaucracy within the FBI. Ongoing behavior of a criminal nature by the shooter were overlooked and not reported to police by school officials, so as not to become an obstacle to HIS future. Repeated domestic violence calls to the shooter's home by local police, including incidents involving firearms, never resulted in arrest, gun confiscation, or criminal referral to protect HIS rights and future. Multiple reports to the FBI of the shooter's overt domestic terroristic posts on social media either were not taken seriously or never actually passed through the layers of bureaucracy to an actual working field agent. Yet somehow it is our fault as gun owners and NRA members that entities beyond our control ignored proven safe-

guards and allowed a future mass murderer to purchase HIS instrument of death and destruction and the very systems that failed are demanding that our constitutional rights be modified or rescinded.

The façade—the new face of gun control—are children shamelessly being used as cover for a political agenda that could never sustain momentum on its own. But youthful faces, touted by media as new voices of reason, recite the same tired rhetoric we have heard for years. However, now it can't be challenged because it comes from the mouths of children.

Well, horse hockey, I grew up in a world where children were to be seen and not heard. I raised mine with the understanding that if they choose to mingle words and deeds in the adult world, they should expect to face adult consequences. Frankly, I am more than fed up with the self-important, misinformed, foul-mouthed, snot-nosed, pseudo-intellectual idiot who is demanding that firearms he can't even define be outlawed. Equally repulsive is the wannabe-social revolutionary malcontent who proudly wears her Cuban flag-adorned jacket to public events as she decries the Constitution as being out of date and in need of revision or outright repeal. The one thing they both have in common is being products of an abusively corrupt education system.

Back to the beginning and the fear evoked by Nikita Khrushchev and the promise to bury us...I suspect old Nikita knew then that the US educational system was being undermined from within by communist sympathizers who had hidden out in academia during WWII and Korea. Generations of Americans were raised to believe in our exceptionalism, or so we thought, until Barak Obama burst that bubble with his infamous world apology tour. We are seeing the fruit of a tree completely corrupted by anti-American sentiment, which took permanent root when Jimmy Carter nationalized education in 1979. And unless we sell out to wholesale change in American education, I fear our exceptional way of life will not survive more than another couple of generations.



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## Messed-Up Rack

Once again, I was sitting in the deer stand on a beautiful fall morning when a small buck walked out of the woods. He had a really bad limp. I was sitting there, thinking to myself that maybe I should take him out.

I waited too long, and then he was out of my range. He limped over the hill and I climbed off my deer stand. I walked toward the hill and stopped to look over to see

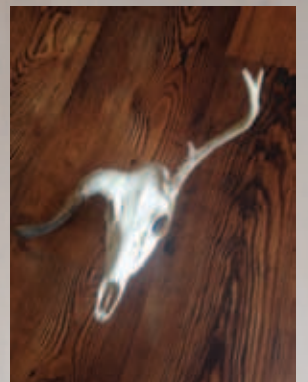
if I could see the deer. I couldn't see him anywhere, so I gave up and went back to my stand.

About twenty minutes later, I had another decision to make as I sat up there. A really nice eight-point buck walks out of the woods, but there is another deer with him. This buck's rack was messed up; three on the left side and there was one on the right and they were all in velvet.

I have to make a decision—which one to shoot? I decided to take out the deer with the messed-up rack, which I thought was cool. To me, it's not always the size of the rack, it's the hunting experience.

My other Michigan tag, I arrowed an eleven-point buck, which scored over 140 inches B.C. – and that is now in the Michigan Record Book. That is another story for me to tell later.

*"Get outdoors if you can; it's a great place to be. This is Michigan! It doesn't get any better than this."*



Crow Man holds the Michigan Grand Slam title, as he finished fall/winter 2005 with an elk.



The Michigan Grand Slam is the title given for having the state record of the four Michigan animals that CBM recognizes as trophies by a single hunter. Those four animals are deer, bear, elk, and turkeys. The accomplishment has always been considered so rare. The added challenge of drawing a limited bear tag and particularly a bull elk tag, and to harvest animals that make the record book minimums seems insurmountable. However, it miraculously has been done by a select few. Crow Man is of that select few.



# SUDOKU

By Geneva

SEND ENTRY TO:

CURVE SUDOKU  
110 RIVER ROAD  
HENDERSONVILLE, TN  
37075

3	9			2			6
	5			8	6		
2							3
	3		7				
		1		6		8	
				1		9	
4							7
			4	3			5
8			6				3

2			1	4	5		
5	4						
		9		8	2		4
		1		9		6	8
	7			2			3
8	5		3		4		
1		8	7		3		
						9	7
			4	5	9		2

1	2			7		5	6
5		7	9	3	2		8
				1			
	1		2	4			5
3	8					4	2
7			8	5		1	
		7					
8		4	2	3	7		1
3	4		1			2	8

3	5		7		9	2	6
			6	3	5		1
6		8				7	3
2		4					
		5	4		8	6	
						9	3
	4	9				3	6
7			3	5	4		
	1	3	2		6		5

2					7		4	5
		5	2			7	1	
		6	5				2	9
			6					4
5	1	4	3		9	2	6	7
9					2			
6	4				1	5		
	5	2			4	1		
3	8		7					2

	1				6		2	8
	6		1			3	5	9
2				5	9	1		4
3			6			8		5
		9	3		5	4		
1	7			4				2
5		6	7	9				1
4	2	8			1		7	
7	9		2					8

Each Puzzle has 9 boxes. Each box has 9 squares. Write numbers 1-9 in the squares without repeating the same number from side to side, top to bottom or within the same box.

Winner Last Month



**Congratulations!**



Winner announced in  
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