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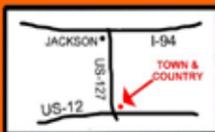
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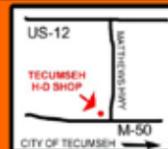
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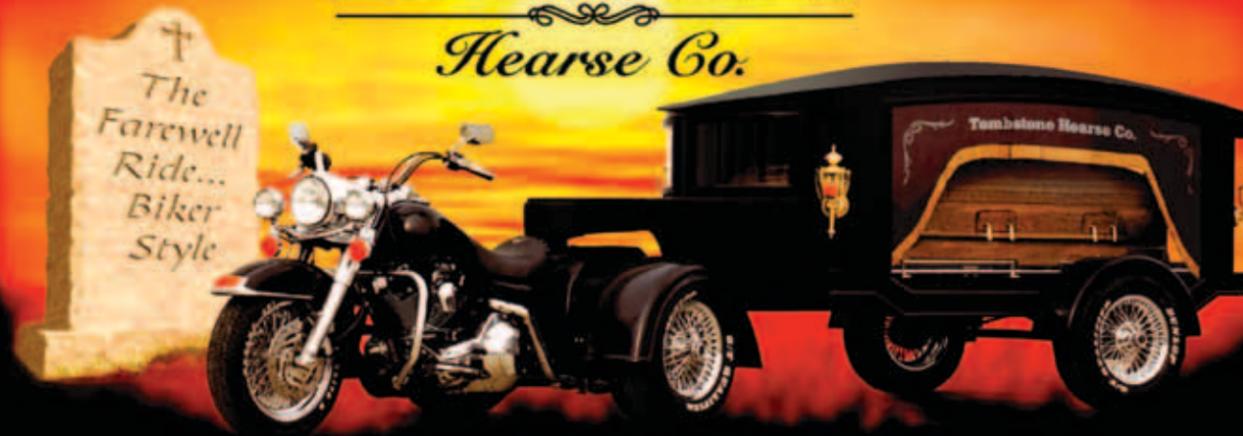
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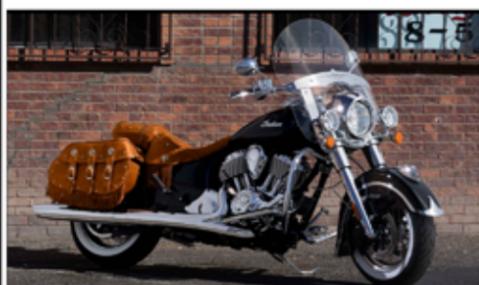
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## Happy Holidays!

Can you believe it is already December? Next month will be 2014!! Time sure does fly! Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Hopefully you have and are not waiting until Christmas Eve to do it! That always cracks me up when folks wait and it's like a last minute panic. Our advertisers have some GREAT SPECIALS and OFFERS so make sure to take advantage of those DEALS! Because of them, Thunder Roads is the #1 Free Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan and provided FREE to you each and every month! EVERY MONTH!! Also, I am offering a holiday special on Thunder Roads T-shirts and hoodies (sweatshirts), which you will find on page 48. Make sure to e-mail me a photo of you and your friends showing your support in your T-shirt or hoodie. You may find it in an upcoming issue of Thunder Roads in Thunder Cam!

In this issue we reflect back to the fall events, learn something new from Tech Tip Steve, and as always look to see if we made Thunder Cam! You just never know, some pictures show up right away and some may be months later. We hope you enjoy this issue and every issue of Thunder Roads! Thank you for your loyal support.

Make sure to check out our Facebook and like us to keep up with the latest happenings. Also, you can always view current and recent past issues of Thunder Roads on our website. Just go to www.thunderroadsmichigan.com.

Last month the biker friendly character was on page 45 with Rusty. Check out the Biker Friendly Directory to see the character you are looking for (much smaller version) and see if you can find him this month!

*I hope everyone has a  
Joyous Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Now for some "Mo" Advice:

Don't let your "Hope Light" burn out. We can all get caught up in what my Uncle Neal calls "Stinken Thinken". When a series of things start going bad we may tend to start thinking negative thoughts. "Oh I will never find that Mr. or Ms. Right", "I will never get that job", or "I am so unlucky". What you think about in your life you attract! Remember "THOUGHTS BECOME THINGS"! So if you are thinking negative, change it to positive and within a couple of weeks you will see the positive things manifest in your life. If you want that job, relationship or happy life -then picture it! Daydream about what it looks like and believe you are worthy enough to receive it and the right person, the right job or whatever you are hoping for will come. Quit that "Stinken Thinken" and substitute it with POSITIVE THOUGHTS!



Jody Mohowitsch



# Lewiston FALL COLOR RUN 2013

By Jacqui Spicuzza



It all started nine years ago in September when a group of friends decided to road trip it on bikes up north. What ended up being a great weekend of riding, camaraderie, laughs and I'm sure a few beers turned into a successful and huge fall color run every year since then!

I was warmly invited back in June and was so excited about the trip I booked my room immediately and invited a few friends to join in on the fun! We eagerly waited for Friday September 27th to get here! Our journey started out late Friday morning with 18 or so bikes meeting in Davison where we rode up through Bay City... a couple of stops along the way we ended up in Lewiston late afternoon. We were blessed with the most beautiful warm fall afternoon and I would guess the colors were about 20 percent turned.

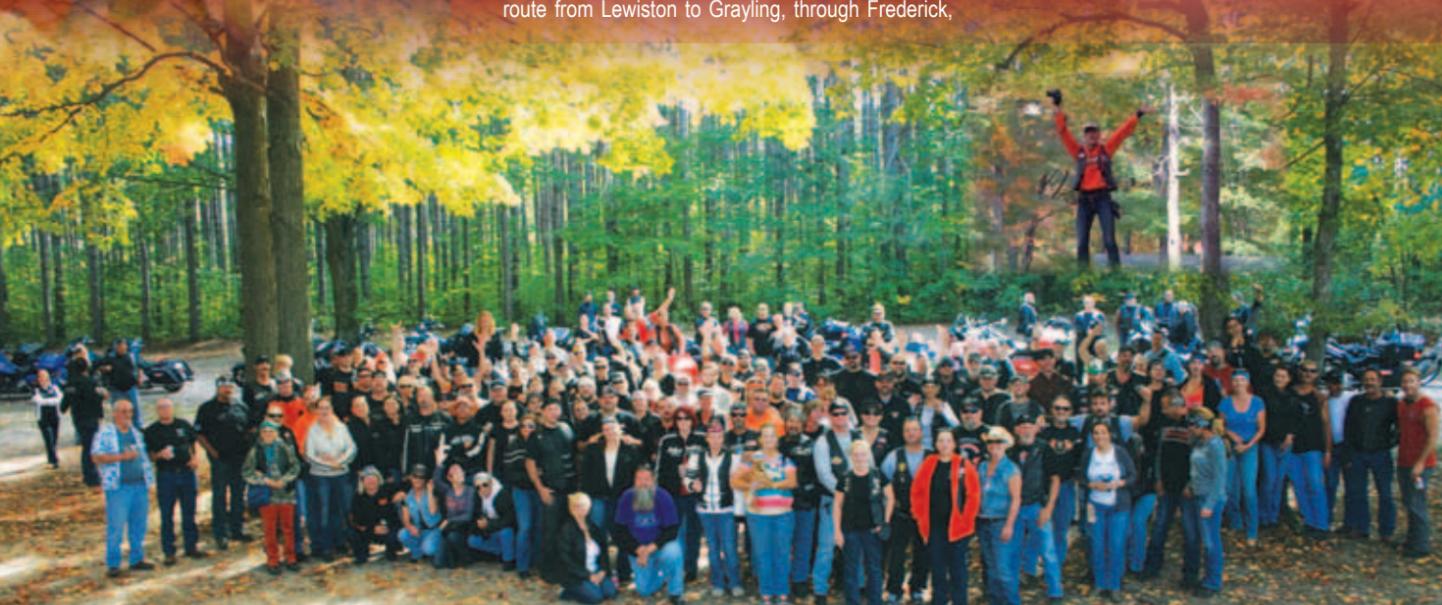
The Lewiston Bar and Hotel was the central meeting place for the weekend, and after unloading our gear at our respective accommodations we met back up there for dinner, drinks and live entertainment!

Saturday morning was the official run and we woke up to perfect riding weather! The route changes every year, and this time it was a very well planned 110 mile route from Lewiston to Grayling, through Frederick,

Kalkaska, and Mancelona. Don Sheldon works with the Michigan Dressers to coordinate the road captains and blockers, and they did a great job! We had a gas/lunch stop at the well-known Swamp Bar II, then from there a beautiful winding ride to a roadside park. All 138 of us parked our rides under a forest of trees where there was the perfect 2 track for us all to pull easily in and out of. With a lot of cooperation and patience, we pulled a ton of riders/passengers together for a group picture that included me "getting the shot" from atop of a Chevy Tahoe (definitely a first for me)!

At the end of the day there was a home style cooked dinner waiting for us, raffles, 50/50 and more live music!

The weekend couldn't have been better weather-wise, location-wise, but also the fact that it was so well organized and safely run. Don Wyatt and Bubba started a great trend, Frank and Dave definitely delivered on their promise for a ton of fun. It takes a lot of work to help bring it together, thank you all for welcoming so many of us! Next year's 10th anniversary is on my calendar and I'd highly recommend it for anyone looking to enjoy Michigan in the fall... on two wheels!!!



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# VETERANS CORNER



## Grand Rapids non-profit to build house in six days, gives it to a veteran for free

When homebuilder Rich Bloem bought a vacant lot in Southeast Grand Rapids in April, the plan - construct a home and make a profit - was the same he's always formulated over his 21 years in the business.

That changed as Bloem, the owner of True North Homes, said he had an epiphany that led him to do something drastically different.

Bloem created Homes of Hope, a nonprofit organization that he said will lead a build that will transform the barren lot into a completed residence in six days.

The house will go to a veteran for free, a two-story, 1,322-square-foot home with four bedrooms and two baths. An unfinished basement offers another 816-square-feet that could add a fifth bedroom and a full bath.

The completed home, to be named "Home for a Hero," will be LEED-certified and constructed from structural building panels. Solar panels will be utilized, and Bloem wants the house to be as environmentally and financially sustainable as possible.

"The home will actually net-meter backwards, so the utility company will send a check to the occupants," he said. "Their costs will be very minimal."

Bloem said Homes of Hope will partner with Volunteers of America (voa.org) to begin the selection for the veteran who will receive the completed house.

The volunteers will break ground May 2014 and the six days of construction are scheduled to take place in June. After completion, Bloem hopes to present the veteran with his or her new home on July 4.

## Veteran wants to donate goats to Afghans

Rick Burns didn't put the war behind him. The bravery of the Iraqi people and the hunger in the eyes of Afghans wouldn't let him.

Burns is an unheralded sort of war veteran. He didn't fire guns or disarm bombs, but worked as an Army civil affairs officer to understand and help citizens caught up in the terror. When he came home after three tours, he had a plan to continue helping in a very low way. He wants to give them farm goats.

Karadah will give two goats to each of 15 families in Khairabad, Afghanistan, who will collect their milk, make yogurt and pass on the goats' offspring to another needy family, who will do the same.

The goat project still needs \$4,000 toward its goal of \$10,000 to get the animals to the families. Burns won't let it rest until it's done. He said he can't change everything, but he can do this small thing.

## Vietnam soldier gets knife back, 40 years later

Former Army platoon Sgt. Loyd Cates of Smithville, Texas, kept a hunting knife clean and sharpened for more than 40 years after it was left behind in Vietnam by an injured former Hamtramck soldier.

"I don't know why, but I felt that someday I would see him again," Cates said of Sgt. Frank Cybulski. "I was going to hold onto it."

The knife this week finally was returned to Cybulski. The knife was a gift from Cybulski's parents, sent to him after he left for war and asked them to send him a hunting knife.

Cybulski, who was 20, had it with him when he and Cates, then 21, were on patrol in southern Vietnam with around 30 other members of the 199th Infantry Brigade the morning of Jan. 14, 1970. North Vietnamese soldiers detonated a mine, "and then there was (another) explosion," Cates, 65, said.

Cybulski was evacuated to a hospital in Long Binh, and then sent home. Cates retrieved Cybulski's knife, hoping one day to give it back.

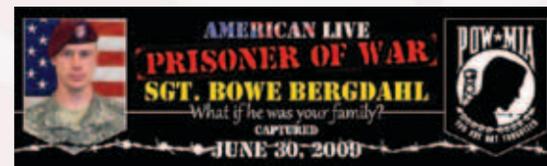
When the two finally spoke over the phone early this month, it was as if no time had passed. Cybulski and Cates said they hope to reunite in May at the 199th's reunion in New Orleans.

As for the knife, Cybulski said he wants to carve the number 754 into its handle — the number of men from the brigade who died in the war. "I can't forget those guys," he said. "Never."

He plans to visit the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. "My grandson just turned 2-years-old, and it's very important to me to walk that wall and touch it with him," Cybulski said. "I want to place that knife at the wall in Washington and leave it there."

### David McCallister "Possum"

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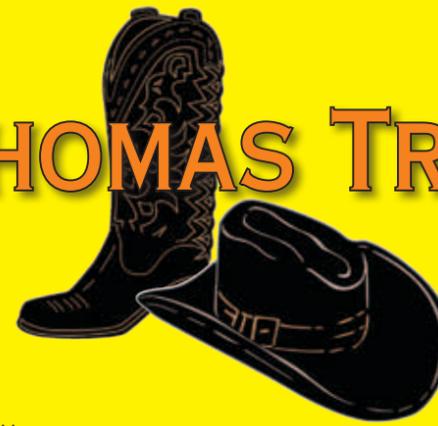


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# The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

## Michigan motorcyclists are being punished for avoiding collisions with motor vehicles

### Motorcyclists punished for avoiding collisions with cars

Back in September, I talked about a case involving a motorcyclist who was shafted out of no-fault benefits by the Michigan Court of Appeals, and saddled with over \$100K in medical bills. The case, Detroit Medical Center v Progressive Michigan Insurance Company et al (Ct App #304622, July 23, 2013), had to do with a motorcyclist who ended up laying his bike down in the process of avoiding a crash with a motor vehicle.

A little no-fault background is necessary to understand all this. In order for a motorcyclist to be entitled to no-fault benefits, including all medical bills paid for life, wage loss, household chores, and mileage to and from the doctors, a car, truck, van, SUV, or other "motor vehicle" must be involved in the crash.

The Court stated that "...the motorcyclist's subjective, erroneous perceived need to react to the motor vehicle," was the cause of the crash, placing fault on him and denying him no-fault insurance benefits I think he deserved. Basically, they said the motor vehicle needed to be closer and the threat to the motorcyclist more imminent. I did not represent the motorcyclist and was not involved in this case. There have been several other cases over the past few years of Michigan courts shafting motorcyclists based on how "involved" (or not) a motor vehicle is in the crash. These court cases are changing the decisions of no-fault adjusters in a way that I think is unfair to motorcyclists.

### Real vs. perceived danger

Is there a difference between real and perceived danger? According to the Michigan Court of Appeals, there is. When the Court of Appeals reversed the decision in Detroit Medical Center v Progressive Michigan Insurance Company et al (Ct App #304622, July 23, 2013), they did so because the panel felt that "...for the motor vehicle to be considered 'involved' in the accident, the operation of the motor vehicle must have created an actual need for the motorcyclist to take evasive action."

What I can't figure out is how the Court could determine that the biker was mistaken about the need to take evasive action. No rider is going to dump his bike, risking damage, injury, or death, on a whim. The only time that a motorcyclist would purposefully dump his bike is if he felt that it was the only way to avoid a more serious situation, like a crash with a motor vehicle.

In Grange Insurance Company of Michigan v Bozung et al (Ct App #304557, June 6, 2013), we see a similar story. Mr. Bozung was riding a motorcycle when he came suddenly upon stopped traffic at an intersection. Bozung dropped his bike rather than collide with the motor vehicle ahead of him, which was insured by Grange Insurance Company of Michigan (Grange). The Trial Court decided in his favor, but the Court of Appeals reversed this decision, siding instead with Grange. Conflicting witness accounts, and the inability by the Court to establish whether the motor vehicle was parked as opposed to stopped ultimately shafted Bozung out of no-fault benefits, since they felt they could not say for sure if the motor vehicle was sufficiently "involved" in the crash for him to qualify.

Braverman v auto Owners (Ct App #306492, August 20, 2013) involved a female rider who was killed when she laid her bike down to avoid colliding with a tractor trailer. The Court used similar logic in this case as in the others I have mentioned, stating that the motor vehicle, in this case the tractor trailer, was not actively involved in the crash. However, Braverman's case was remanded for trial because the Court was not able to establish conclusively whether the truck was properly lighted; without lights, the Court felt the truck might have actively contributed to the crash.

### An impossible choice

What bothers me most about these decisions and others like them is that if there had been contact between the motorcycle and the motor vehicle, the Courts wouldn't even look at who was at fault, and they certainly wouldn't be worried about whether the danger of the situation was "real" or "perceived."

It seems to me the way these cases have been decided forces motorcyclists to make an almost impossible choice. They can either choose to dump the bike, avoiding the collision, but likely not avoiding injury, and risk potentially not qualifying for no-fault benefits because there was no contact between them and the motor vehicle. On the other hand, they can allow a collision to happen, risking their lives, and almost guaranteeing more serious injuries, in order to be sure the courts will allow them to collect no-fault benefits.

If anything, I think the Courts should be encouraging motorcyclists to ride safely and do whatever they can to avoid a collision, but that may no longer be the case. If the Court of Appeals continues this analysis in these cases and deny motorcyclists no-fault benefits for trying to avoid a crash, I think they are adding insult to injury, literally.

**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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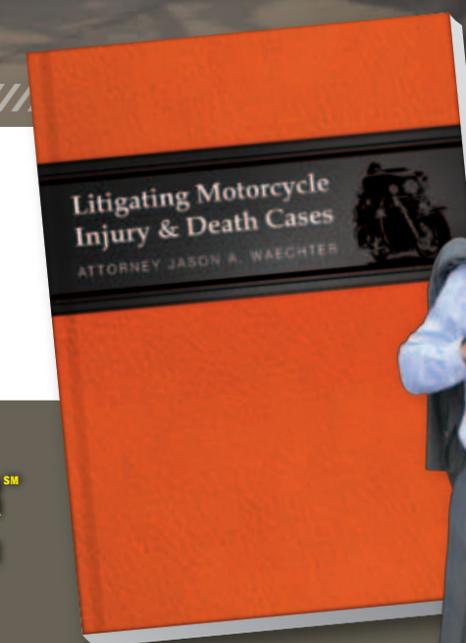
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This woman who owned a local Sports Pub bitched and complained every morning when she'd have to clean the men's urinals as there was piss all over the floor in front of them, rather than them hitting the mark and making it in the urinal. She knew there was something going on rather than just drunken pissing. So, she posted the following sign:  
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It worked like a charm.

Things That Make You Go WTF?

- WHY? do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
- WHY? do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a Diet Coke.
- WHY? do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.
- WHY? do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
- WHY? do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
- WHY? do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.
- EVER WONDER.....
- WHY does the sun lighten our hair, but darken our skin?
- WHY can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- WHY don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?
- WHY is 'abbreviated' such a long word?
- WHY is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?
- WHY is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- WHY is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- WHY is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
- WHY isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?
- WHY didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- WHY do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? WHY don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?!
- WHY don't sheep shrink when it rains?
- WHY are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- WHY If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
- HELL YES IT IS!
- WHY If flying is so safe, do they call the airport the terminal?

One of the inventors of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle, Arthur Davidson, died and went to Heaven. At the gates, Saint Peter told Arthur. 'Since you've been such a good man and your motorcycles have changed the world, your reward is, you can hang out with anyone you want to in Heaven.' Arthur thought about it for a minute and then said, 'I want to hang out with God.' Saint Peter took Arthur to the Throne Room, and introduced him to God. God recognized Arthur and commented, 'Okay, so you were the one who invented the Harley-Davidson motorcycle?' Arthur said, 'Yes, I'm one of them...' God commented: 'Well, what's the big deal in inventing something that's pretty un-stable, makes noise and pollution and can't run without a road?' Arthur was a bit embarrassed, but finally spoke, 'Excuse me, but aren't you the inventor of Woman?' God said, 'Ah, yes.' One of my most prized and praised accomplishments. 'Well,' said Arthur, 'professional to professional, you have some major design flaws in your invention! God was intrigued; "elaborate, please".

1. There's too much inconsistency in the front-end suspension
2. It chatters constantly at high speeds
3. Most rear ends are too soft and wobble about too much
4. The intake is placed way too close to the exhaust
5. The maintenance costs are literally outrageous!!!

'Hmmm, you may have some good points there,' replied God, 'hold on.' God went to his Celestial Galaxy computer, typed in a few words and waited for the results. The computer printed out a slip of paper and God read it. 'Well, it may be true that my invention is flawed,' God said to Arthur, 'but according to these numbers, more men are riding my invention than yours'.

A young, little N.Y. girl was sitting proudly on her brand new bike she got for Christmas when a horse policeman rode up next to her and said "you really need reflector-lights and a horn on your new bike, don't you think? The little girl looked up and innocently replied, "I think your boss should think about getting you a horse with the dick underneath the animal instead of on top of it."

Merry Christmas



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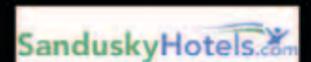
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# Ride in the Wind

## A Special Request

BY Debra Wright



Angie grew up in Dearborn, Michigan with her family. A tomboy you would have to say about her back in the 1940s to 1950s. Angie is fearless and a dare-devil! She has that urge to just go for it all. She and her family vacationed in the Upper Peninsula a lot of their summers and at age 14 she met Steve, her now husband. Steve and Angie have been married 50 years this year. After Angie graduated from Edsel Ford High School and married, she worked at Dearborn Machinery Movers, White Star Trucking, National Transit, and Oakwood Family Health and she and Steve hunted, took helicopter rides, snow-mobiled, rode 4-wheelers, dirt bikes, they owned Yamahas, Hondas, Suzukis, and Kawasakis - whatever adventure came their way they did it with joy together. She was taught how to shoot a gun from a Woodhaven Officer and became a very great shot. Keep reading, there is a point to all this you will see.



Angie became a mom of 3 kids - a daughter heavily into school sports and 2 sons heavily into hockey. Both sports require lots of traveling and parents time with the kids and their teams. Steve was a truck driver but, made sure he was as much involved with the kids.

Angie never lost her edge for excitement. Steve, I'd say met the perfect woman! Steve remembers a time when Angie took off on a friend's mini bike and as she went up and over a hill out of sight from Steve, he remembered seeing the bike go airborne than Angie's feet and legs then the bike once more! By the time he got over to her on the other side of the hill, there she was on her feet covered in dirt, she was up and smiling and said "That was fun!" Steve just smiled and thought to himself "That's my Angie."



Now this is why I had to tell you all about Angie: She now lives in an elder care assisted living home because of her failing health. The staff just loves her and they have a lot of laughs together. She still hasn't lost her wild side. After being there almost 2 years they have gotten to know the family and put out a request. The request came to Gary 'Wildman' from the Axemen M/C Detroit and AM Leather. He called his Axemen brothers and with help from his wife Debbie and some staff and friends the request was complete.

Angie wanted to ride in the wind one more time. Steve now owns a Harley Road King and she isn't able to ride on the back anymore. So on a Thursday evening a group of riders' men and women met at Angie's home and Lil Joe that owns a Harley Ultra with a side car.

Steve brought her favorite leather jacket and helmet and the ride was ready to take her on another journey. She hopped in the side car and was ready to roll! We rode to Elizabeth Park stopped for a short break and rode back. Angie was content and had smiles the whole ride. This was an awesome ride to give back to a senior that has given to others. There were tears of joy and smiles from the whole group.

Thank you a thousand times to Gary 'Wildman' and his brother Axemen M/C Detroit, the riders and the staff of where Angie lives for making this happen. Please keep Steve and Angie and their family in your prayers to wish them well.



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# BIKES ON THE BRICKS

## 2013

By Debra Wright



Now the 7th year of this super must go to event. Some of you still haven't even heard of this or have heard of it and not yet attended. This is a much attend event to plan for 2014!

Officers come and participate from around the U.S. and Canada. About 70 plus police officers come and ride the competition course for just some good fun and test their skills.

These motor officers are on the roads day after day protecting us on their motorcycles. They have to also protect themselves being on a two wheeled motors and do their job.

The hours that these officers put in to practice and sharpen their skills to handle the difficult maneuvers and obstacles makes them better riders to perfect the motor with no or little errors.

Bikes on the Bricks give these officers a chance to show off and share what they can do and they should do. It is also a chance for them to enjoy themselves, laugh and meet other officers from all over with doing what they all love to do.

These exercises they have to do with their motors in a timed competition without hitting any cones makes you just stare in amazement.

Friday of the event is practice day for the officers as well as getting to know each other or seeing fellow officers from the last year's event. Saturday is the opening of the whole event; vendors start setting up early in the morning to be ready for the crowd to appear. Vehicle City has an escorted ride to the event to downtown Flint. There are 3 classes of competition: Skills - Novice, Skills - Expert and Skills - Retired. This makes it fair for the ones that have not done this skilled competition from previous years than the ones that have been doing this for years and then the officers that have served their time but are still riders and enjoy the title. The officers compete on the motors they work on in their city. There is also a bonus competition called: Last Man Standing. This drill is between two officers facing each other at first and then riding in circles and around cones to meet up and try to make the other officer touch down with his feet or whole bike while on your bike. This is fun to watch and cheer the officer you pick to win. Lights and sirens are sometimes used at the end of each round for the winner with a shake of the hand as well.

You can see the bystander's faces while they watch the officers on the courses with surprised looks and sighs of relief or cheers.

During the breaks you can see the Circle of Death stunt show that tests the force of gravity, visit vendors with an assortment of merchandise and go and eat at the local restaurants and pubs all in walking distance. Downtown Flint comes alive



from morning to night. After the sun goes down, the bands come alive and play where you can relax and enjoy the music under the stars.

On Sunday the finals are held as well as the streets are still all set up from the night before. This year the rain came a bit early and the competition was made to finish a little earlier than wanted. The pavement was slick and it just wasn't worth any officer to get hurt during this event. After watching these officers all weekend as a rider myself you appreciate and respect all the officers and the time they put into all this. You can see the passion in the job and riding which they all do so well.

We want to congratulate all the placed winners in the competition and the motorcycle show of 2013. If you go to the website the winners are posted for all to see.

On a sad note, we lost a truly good man and officer. Detroit Police Officer Rodney Jones also named 'Hot Rod'. Rodney collapsed on Saturday after the competition was over and the officers were just practicing. At 49 years old, and a Detroit officer for 29 years, a well respected man, a husband and a father. Some of the quotes of Rodney from friends and co-workers are: "an all around good guy", "a tremendous man and officer", "an upfront guy saying what was on his mind", "a great public servant and a brother to all", "Detroit fire department as well as Detroit Police department lost a good man", "a jokester but always there for you 24/7".

Sunday morning there was an opening ceremony which included a memorial in honor of Rodney Jones with his brother and sister officers, his wife and son along with his Harley signed by all the officers that worked with him.

He did what he loved and passed away as he was doing it. It is always sad with anyone that passes but to find something uplifting knowing how happy Rodney was that weekend sharing it with fellow officers and having a heck of a great day.

Many prayers go out to his family.

The Bikes on the Bricks board and committee would like to thank our presenting sponsor, Vehicle City Harley Davidson and all of our sponsors and vendors for another successful event. We also greatly appreciate everyone that attended and continues to support our event with their attendance. We enjoy bringing the only police motor skills competition in the state of Michigan to Flint and hope to for many more years to come.



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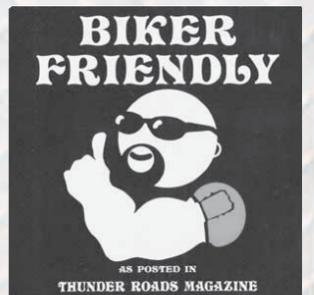
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**I hope** you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving! I love thanksgiving, for my family it is a time to gather, eat and listen to stories of some greatness and some sadness too, but all of it brings us closer together... Unless of course I fall asleep after all the yummy goodness and miss all the talk.

Every Harley tech out there can tell you a story or two about today's discussion about a little trouble point on the fuel injection system. Let's say you have a bike that seems to run well, then it just dies, or it will run for about 3 minutes then dies. Also, this little problem can make the bike spit, sputter and backfire or have a power problem and so forth. What could it be? Well it COULD be one or both of the plastic fuel lines inside the fuel tank that supply your glorious fuel injection system with the mighty petroleum. One of these lines go from the fuel pump to the fuel filter and the other goes from the fuel pressure regulator to the supply fitting on the bottom of your tank. These lines are prone to failure and are not easy, but not horribly difficult to change. Now I am not going to go into a step by step "how to" but I will give you a few pointers and the first is to figure out if the problem is actually inside the tank, whether it be a bad regulator, fuel pump, fuel line(s) or clogged filter, well, that is to be figured out later. I will say sometimes a person with good hearing can hear the hissing or pinhole leak when the fuel is low enough ... I can say I have never "heard" this ... but I am very hard of hearing so there ya go.

Fuel pressure check is where you start. Before going crazy tearing into things find out what your fuel pressure is, on a Harley it should be between 55-62 PSI. If your pressure is too low for whatever reason, you can have spitting, sputtering and hesitation, loss of power and possibly a no start situation. To do this you need a fuel injection pressure tester, if you happen to have a friend that has a fuel injection pressure tester with the connectors for your specific Harley, you're in luck. If not, you can pay a shop to test it for you or go purchase your own, they range from close to \$500 for a Jims kit all the way down to the Harbor Freight basic one for around \$20. The ones from Lang and Jims have the correct fittings for Harley, the others you will need to invest some extra time to find and a little cash to buy the fittings make them work. The flip side is if you buy an automotive one you now have the fittings to check your car too.



Fig 1 - Lang fuel pressure test kit for Harley Davidson

You have tested your bike fuel pressure and it is around let's say 25psi and you think you can hear something inside the tank. The next step is to take the fuel canopy off. The fuel pump, filter and regulator are all attached to the canopy. This is easy as long as someone has told you that this assembly is spring loaded so you can get it out of the tank relatively easy, if not, you may try to force it and have disassembly of parts that were not intended for disassembly. Drain the fuel tank, remove the console and lay on rear of bike upon a shop rag. Then take off the 10 canopy bolts, the assembly will only come out a little bit, then you have to take the supply line off of the fuel pressure regulator and use a screwdriver or thin long punch and push on the top fuel pump assembly as you slide it out of the tank. This will open the spring loaded hinge and allow it to be removed... see, easy! Now it's off, you have inspected it and you found a pinhole in the supply line hose. Harley sells a new supply (Fig 3) hose with a new check valve supply fitting with new o-ring supplied, however I would not stop there, since this is less than stellar fun and most of us would not rather go into our fuel tank for repair regularly I would replace the old fuel filter too (Fig 4). The new filter should come with a new hose and clamp also ... now you have both pesky lines replaced. One other note, you will need a tool for clamping the stepless style hose clamps used to hold all your new lines on.

Do everything in reverse, replace the canopy gasket and inspect the ten canopy screws for the sealing devices, if they look crappy, replace all the screws ... we don't want fuel leaks! Connect the fuel pressure tester again and see what you have for pressure ... 55-62psi? YES! Wonderful job, now put all the rest back in place, clean everything up and take her for a nice long test ride.

I hope this helps you diagnose a common problem that isn't a real budget buster, if you do decide to tackle this yourself, get your repair manual out and do it step by step according to Harley and in less than a half a day you will be up and running!

As always please feel free to write me about tech problems with almost any make or model bike or let me know of topics you wish to read about or stop by the shop and say hello!

May all of you have the greatest Christmas ever!!!!

May God Bless all you Fantastic People with joy and prosperity!

**Steve**

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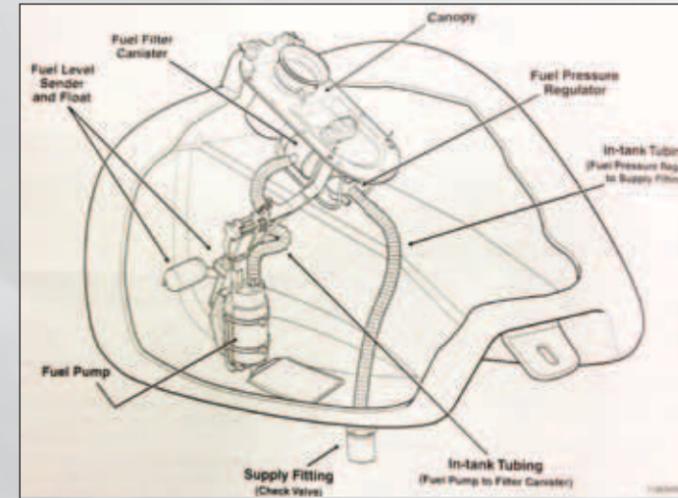


Fig 2 - Fuel Tank Assembly



Fig 3 - New Supply line and fitting



Fig 4 - Old fuel filter and hose



Fig 5 - Canopy assembly with new fuel filter and line installed



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*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*  
 ~ John Quincy Adams

*First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.* ~ Epictetus

*Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great.* ~ Orison Swett Marden

*Sometimes when things are falling apart, they may actually be falling into place.* ~ Unknown

**Riddles**

- A. I always send you in the right direction, I'm arrayed in black and white, Ignore me and lose my protection, No more than two words are in sight. What am I?
  - B. I have an eye but cannot see. I'm faster than any man alive and have no limbs. What am I?
  - C. Right now everyone in the world, no matter where they are, is doing the exactly same thing. What is it?
  - D. If I can, I can, If I can't, I freeze. What am I?
- (Answers below)

**Fun Facts**

7% of Americans don't know the first 9 words of the American anthem, but know the first 7 of the Canadian anthem.

About 3000 years ago, most Egyptians died by the time they were 30.

All porcupines float in water.

A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.

**Biker Poems**

*Went for a ride on my bike one day, I had to go I just couldn't stay. I looked to the sky and saw a ray of sunshine on my face. I was going at my own pace, taking up my own space. I was in my happy place. I think I will go for a ride today.* ~ Two Wheels Fred

Someone preserving food.  
 Answers: A). one way street sign B). A tornado or a hurricane C). Getting older D).



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MENTION YOU SAW OUR AD IN THUNDER ROADS

# ONE MANS STORY DEFEATING CHALLENGES



By Debra Wright



Growing up in Detroit, Michigan during the late 60s to the late 70s was an experience. Robert Cairns was always doing what boys do growing up, school most of the time, hanging out and riding anything with a motor! His mom said, "Robert grew up saying he wanted to ride motorcycles and join a club".

Living in the Brightmoor neighborhood of Detroit, that is what Robert saw - a lot of bikers, and looked up to the guys that rode in groups. He was a bit on the wild side and wasn't afraid of trying it all. His mom, Anna Cairns raised Robert and his younger sister as best as she could being a single mother, they call her Mama Red.



Robert worked in management at a couple different jobs and starting his dream by owning a motorcycle, riding as much as he could. He was now called Big Red, with red hair and a husky frame. In June of 1997, leaving a clubhouse like he usually did, coming up to Southfield Road from 8 Mile Rd., a car came very fast towards him. There was nothing Robert could do but endure the hit. A young male driving a Delta 88, T-boned him, and in that instant, Robert's life changed. He lost his left leg from above the knee. He remembered a female named Connie coming to his rescue by tying her belt around his leg to stop the bleeding and during all this Robert was awake and remembers it all. He was rushed to the hospital and there all the bad news starting pouring in. The doctors telling him you will never ride again. You will have to learn how to do normal tasks all over again. You're limited on your job and you will never ride again. Anything that was told to him was more negative than positive.

He met an awesome doctor out of Beaumont Hospital, Dr. Martin Tamler, that he owes his life to, plus Kurt Schlsu, Director of Prosthetics with Wright and Phillipis. Without these two people, he says he could have never made it. He overcame all the obstacles and did in fact ride again 8 months to the day - on the same bike that he experienced the accident on. They both proved to everyone that we can overcome and do it if we want to. Since the accident, Robert has gone through his ups and downs. Getting to the weight of 414 pounds, having to self-medicate himself and losing his job. His friends stood by him and once Robert decided to change his life for the better, it still was hard but, he still conquered a lot. He was told he couldn't get a CDL, yet he got a CDL. He is now a bus driver and passed all the necessary tests needed become safely certified.

He has met others that have lost limbs and shared stories and became friends with many. He started being a motivational speaker and counselor on his own. He has a passion to help others overcome their tragedies of losing limbs and learning how to do everything all over again. Chores in your own household, dressing, driving, and falling a lot but able to pick yourself up and move forward.

Robert's goal is to someday be a sponsor of a quality company that represents common people with prosthetics. Doing it from his heart is a good thing but doesn't pay the bills. To have a job that you love and have a passion for is his goal to get to. He is living his dream as a kid riding being in a club with great friends and brothers.



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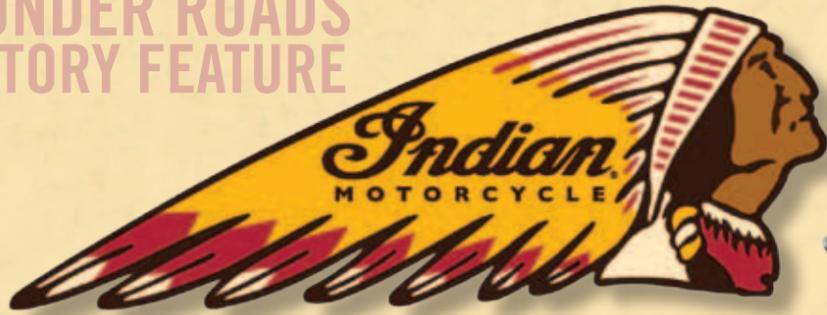
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# THUNDER ROADS FACTORY FEATURE



**I**ndian Motorcycle®, America's first motorcycle company, today announced the highly anticipated details for the all-new 2014 Indian® Chief® family of motorcycles. Before thousands of motorcycling fans at the site of the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum and Hall of Fame in downtown Sturgis at 9 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, Indian Motorcycle unveiled the three models that comprise the Indian Chief line up. The reveal ceremony and party signaled an inflection point in motorcycling history with the renewal of America's oldest and most legendary brand.

## 2014 INDIAN CHIEF CLASSIC (starting MSRP: \$18,999)

The new Indian Chief Classic is a pure, powerful cruiser forged from key heritage design elements yet wrapped in advanced design, engineering and technology. It features iconic styling like valanced fenders, rich genuine leather saddle, classic tank-mounted instrumentation, tear-drop fuel tank design, and sculpted and lighted front fender war bonnet. The 2014 Indian Chief Classic comes standard with a host of premium features including endless chrome, keyless ignition, ABS, cruise control, throttle-by-wire, true dual exhaust, high quality chrome laced spoke wheels, brake caliper covers, cast aluminum frame with integrated air intake, and much more.

The Indian Chief Classic, like all 2014 Indian Chief models, is powered by the all-new, clean sheet design Thunder Stroke™ 111 engine. Offering 111 cubic inches of pavement pounding power and 119 ft-lbs of torque, this class-leading power plant draws powerful design cues from heritage Indian Motorcycle engines merged with brilliant engineering and advanced technologies. The Thunder Stroke 111 is a 49-degree, air-cooled V-twin with 6-speed overdrive transmission, and features unmatched premium exterior finishes and touches. It offers owners the peace-of-mind that comes from over two million miles of on-road and test-lab verification and Polaris Industries' sixty years of engineering prowess.



## 2014 INDIAN CHIEF VINTAGE (starting MSRP: \$20,999)

The new Indian Chief Vintage is a soft bagger that takes iconic Indian Motorcycle styling to a whole new level with handcrafted detail and a signature heritage aesthetic. The Indian Chief Vintage offers top-quality quick release soft-sided leather bags, leather fringe, chrome fender tips, vintage chrome badging on the front fender and a quick-release windshield for easy installation or removal. It includes the same premium standard features as the Indian Chief Classic, and sports the same iconic design elements like valanced fenders, laced wheels, whitewall tires, tank-mounted instrument cluster and extensive chrome finishes throughout. It is also powered by the new Thunder Stroke 111 engine.

## 2014 INDIAN CHIEFTAIN (starting MSRP: \$22,999)

The first Indian Motorcycle of its kind, the 2014 Indian Chieftain maintains the legendary Indian Chief styling, while taking this progressive machine to new heights with advanced features and premium comfort. Unlike any Indian Motorcycle ever made, the Chieftain features a fairing with integrated driving lights, and its power windshield is



an industry-first for a fork-mounted fairing. Standard features include hard saddlebags featuring remote locks and quick-release anchors, a high-output audio system featuring integrated Bluetooth® smartphone connectivity, and a tire pressure monitoring system.

*"When we acquired Indian Motorcycle two and a half years ago we set out to capture the heart, soul and legendary heritage of this iconic American brand and then infuse it with unparalleled design, engineering and state-of-the-art technology," said Scott Wine, CEO of Indian Motorcycle parent company Polaris Industries Inc. "On Saturday night we revealed three stunning new Indian Chief models that represent the results of our journey and the future of this brand. It was a triumphant day for all of us, and I know motorcycling fans around the world proudly join us in celebrating Indian Motorcycle and the realization that choice in American motorcycles is here to stay."*

## THE FIRST 1901

To pay tribute to Indian Motorcycle's past the first 1901 Indian Chiefs to roll off of Indian's assembly line in Spirit Lake, IA will be identified with a limited-edition badge. Numbered between one and 1901, these rare bikes will reflect the year of Indian's inception by Oscar Hedstrom and George Hendee in Springfield, MA. "We have been very conscientious about honoring Indian Motorcycle's storied history while establishing a foundation for what's yet to come," said Polaris Vice President of Motorcycles, Steve Menneto. "The lucky few who purchase these limited number bikes will truly own a piece of history, concurrently representing Indian's rich past and its limitless future." More information is available at Indian Motorcycle dealers across the country.

## AVAILABILITY

Indian Motorcycle is adding dealerships across the US and globally, and is on plan to have 125-140 North American and 70 international dealers by year end. The full line of 2014 Indian Chief models are available for order now and will arrive in dealerships in September, along with an extensive array of apparel, parts and accessories. Indian Motorcycle demo rides will be available at dealer events across the country starting later in August. Visit [www.indianmotorcycle.com](http://www.indianmotorcycle.com) to check out the

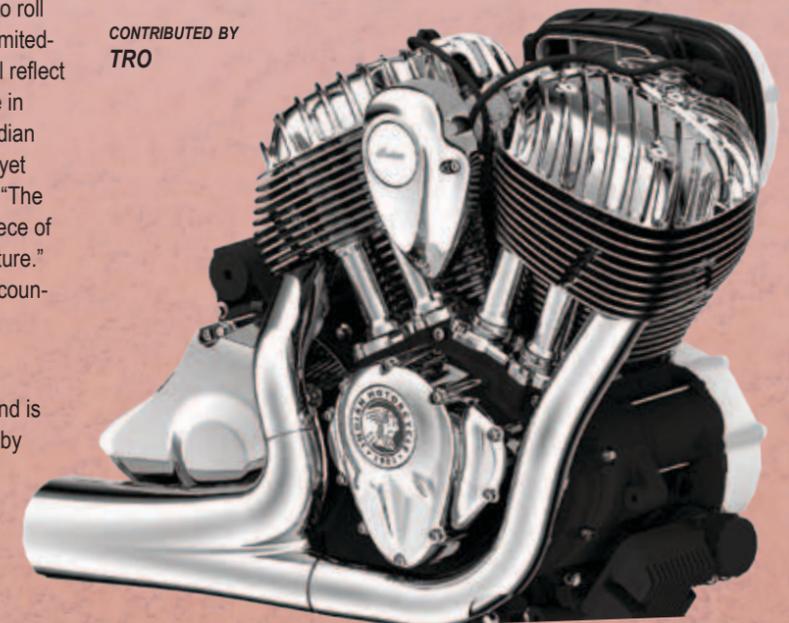
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## ABOUT INDIAN MOTORCYCLE®

Indian Motorcycle, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Polaris Industries Inc. (NYSE: PII), is America's first motorcycle company. Founded in 1901, Indian Motorcycle has won the hearts of motorcyclists around the world and earned distinction as one of America's most legendary and iconic brands through unrivaled racing dominance, engineering prowess and countless innovations and industry firsts. Today that heritage and passion is reignited under new brand stewardship. To learn more, please visit [www.indianmotorcycle.com](http://www.indianmotorcycle.com).

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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



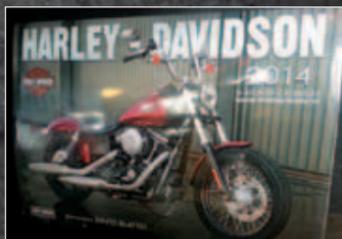
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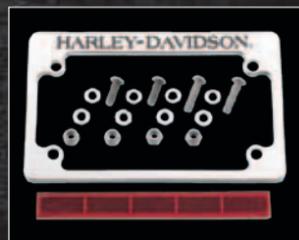
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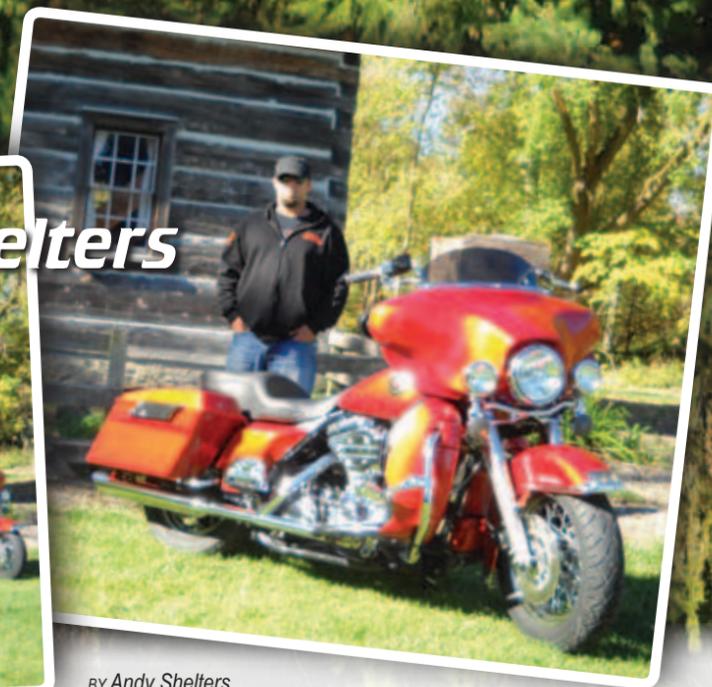
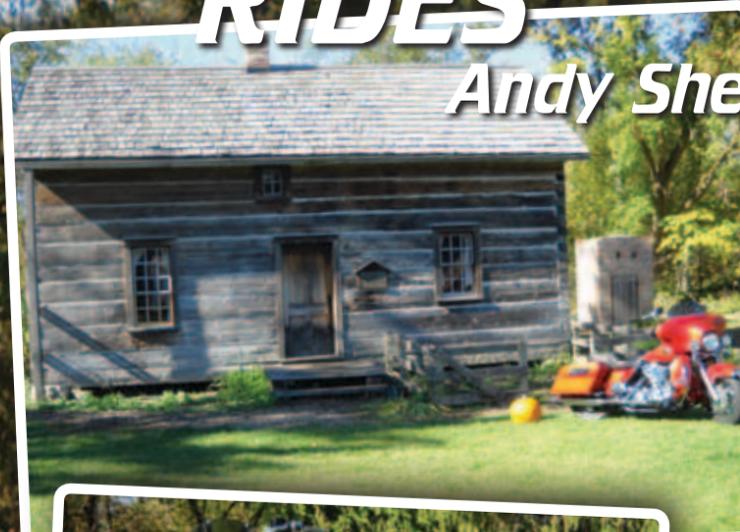
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# READERS RIDES

## Andy Shelters



By Andy Shelters

As riding season is winding down, my work is just starting with my bike. I haven't rode in a couple of years because my 1977 Sportster wasn't very "rider friendly" for long trips, so this spring my wife and I decided it was time for a different and touring kind of bike – the comfortable kind!

In March I purchased this 1999 Sunset Orange Ultra Classic. This summer, my focus was mainly on riding and enjoying my new bike, but now that the riding season is about to end I have a new focus and vision to make the bike my own, with several projects and alterations to do this winter.

As it sits now, it's a stock 88 cubic inch fuel injected motor with a little over 53,000 miles. So far I have added the Kuryakyn air cleaner, 14 inch Paul Yaffe bagger bars with braided steel lines and cables, fairing mount mirrors, detachable tour pack, Wild Bill's orange LED underglow lights and a lot of miscellaneous parts.

Some of my winter projects will be stretching the saddle bags and adding a 21 inch front wheel. I also may even have to put a bit more displacements in the engine! I would also like to thank Don Clark for choosing my (work in progress) for the Readers Rides, and also thanks to Jody Mohowitsch for doing such a great job with Thunder Roads!!!

And as I always say, keep the rubber down!!

PHOTOS BY Don Clark



# TRM EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

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*Don't wait until December 24th to take advantage of these great deals!*

*\*\*Don't forget to email your events to editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com*

## DECEMBER

**December 1**  
Skidoo & Yamaha Open House  
Stevens' Cycle Sales, Bay City, MI.  
Fri 9 am- 7pm, Sat 8-5 pm, Sun 31st  
11- 3pm. For more info go to [www.stevenscycle.com](http://www.stevenscycle.com) (See Centerfold 2 page spread this issue).

**December 7**  
Toys for Kids  
Shiawassee HD, Birch Run, MI.  
Noon- 1 pm. Go to [www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com](http://www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com) for more info or call 989-624-4400 (See ad this issue).

**December 7**  
6th Annual Holiday Fashion Show  
Grand Rapids HD, Hudsonville, MI.  
Starts at 1 pm. Come out to see the fashion line, free brunch at 2 pm.  
For more info go to [www.grandrapidsharley.com](http://www.grandrapidsharley.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 7-8**  
Christmas Motorcycle Swap Meet & Expo  
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens, MI. Sat & Sun 10 am- 6 pm,  
Sell new/used motorcycles, bike parts & accessories, leather gear, biker apparel, jewelry & more!

**Admission: \$5.00/person per day.**  
Vendor Reservations call Angela  
586-465-6440 (See ad this issue).

**December 8**  
Rock for Tots Charity Event  
Stingers Bar & Grill, Wixom, MI.  
Live Bands from 1:30-6pm, bring an unwrapped toy or a \$ donation. For more info call 248-449-9667 or go to [stingersbarwixom.com](http://stingersbarwixom.com)

**December 12**  
Ladies Night  
Capitol HD, Dimondale, MI. 5pm-8pm. For more info go to [www.capitolhd.com](http://www.capitolhd.com) or call 517-646-2345 (See ad this issue).

**December 12**  
Ladies Shoppers Night  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. For more info go to [www.raycsh-d.com](http://www.raycsh-d.com) or call 810-664-9261 (See ad this issue).

**December 14**  
Engine Performance Workshop/  
Free Wings  
Grand Rapids HD, Hudsonville, MI.  
Starts at 12 Noon. For more info go to [www.grandrapidsharley.com](http://www.grandrapidsharley.com) (For more details see full page ad this issue).

**December 14**  
Free Photos with Santa  
Hot Rod HD, Muskegon, MI. 11 am- 2 pm. For more info go to [www.hotrodhd.com](http://www.hotrodhd.com)

**December 15**  
Grand Rapids Event  
Grand Rapids HD, Hudsonville, MI.  
11am - 3 pm. Free gift wrapping & Free desserts. For more info go to [www.grandrapidsharley.com](http://www.grandrapidsharley.com) (For more details see full page ad this issue).

**December 19**  
Men's Shoppers Night  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. For more info go to [www.raycsh-d.com](http://www.raycsh-d.com) or call 810-664-9261 (See ad this issue).

**December 20**  
Talk to the Tech & Hibernations Clinic  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Get the most from your Harley motorcycle with extra horsepower. For more info go to [www.raycsh-d.com](http://www.raycsh-d.com) or call 810-664-9261 (See ad this issue).

**December 21**  
Grand Rapids H.O.G. Membership Drive  
Grand Rapids HD, Hudsonville, MI.  
11am - 3 pm. Free gift wrapping, Free photos with Santa & Free desserts. For more info go to [www.grandrapidsharley.com](http://www.grandrapidsharley.com) (For more details see full page ad this issue).

**December 22**  
Grand Rapids Event  
Grand Rapids HD, Hudsonville, MI.  
11am - 3 pm. Free gift wrapping & Free desserts. For more info go to [www.grandrapidsharley.com](http://www.grandrapidsharley.com) (For more details see full page ad this issue).

## 2014 JANUARY

**January 3-5**  
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**January 11-12**  
26th Annual Michigan Motorcycle Show  
Birch Run Expo Center, Birch Run, MI. For more info go to [mibike-show.com](http://mibike-show.com) (See ad this issue)

**January 17-19**  
30th Annual Chicago Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet  
Pheasant Run Resort & Convention Center. For more info go to [www.paragonspromotion.com](http://www.paragonspromotion.com) (See ad this issue).

**January 26**  
Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Lansing Center, Lansing, MI. 11 am-4 pm. \$9 Adults, \$2 kids. For more info go to [motorcycleswap.com](http://motorcycleswap.com) (See ad this issue).

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To get your event listed in Thunder Roads Magazine and on our website, 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. Thunder Roads is Not responsible for errors or omissions.

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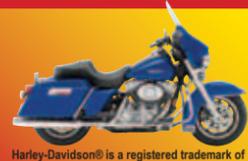
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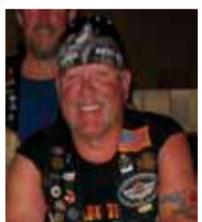
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# Biker Preacher's Corner

When we hear the word December, we immediately think of Christmas, don't we? We think of Christmas parties, presents and more. But Christmas really isn't about all that... It's really about the one "gift". The gift that so many overlook and that's the gift that God has already given to all mankind – His Son Christ Jesus, the risen Savior. Jesus is the reason for the season!!! Jesus is the greatest gift ever given... He is the gift that keeps on giving and never loses its power, love and peace.

Matthew 1:21-23 says <sup>21</sup> "She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated God is with us." MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Romans 5:8 describes God's love for us like this <sup>8</sup> "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!"

Ya see, The Lord Jesus – The Son of God, creator of all creation – left His throne of Glory and came down here some 2000 years ago. He was born in the flesh (just like us), was tempted (just like us), but NEVER sinned. He died a brutal death upon a cross of shame, the son of God - an innocent man, paying the price for ALL our sins – a price we could never have paid – no matter how good we have been. Now, that is love!

Many say, "How could a loving god send people to Hell? But the facts are this God doesn't!! He paid the ultimate price, the only price that could be paid, so that you and I could know Him and NOT go to Hell. It's our choice my friends; our choice to receive Jesus or not – it's our choice to go to Heaven or Hell.

This is not a religious thing, it's a relationship thing... Listen, God is good and His Love and Mercy endures forever!!! GOD LOVES YOU BIKER!!!

Will you choose Jesus, God's gift of salvation, this Christmas season? Will you accept God's loving gift of salvation – His Son Jesus Christ? God loves you so much and wants to know you and wants you to know Him.

You might be thinking... yeah I want this. But, how do you accept Jesus – God's Christmas present? It's as easy as saying "God, I believe and receive your son Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and ask you to forgive me of my sins", In Jesus Name, AMEN!

If you've just accepted Jesus, please contact me. I'm here for you... all the way.

Much Love & Respect,

**Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay**  
National President & Founder of Victory Biker Church  
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## ABATE OF MICHIGAN UGLY SCARY ISSUE

Part II continued from last month's issue...

Two weeks ago, I attended the Logging Congress in Escanaba. I was looking for a new chainsaw, and had heard that Stihl was now building a saw that was E-20 capable. Sounded good to me, I wanted more info. First guy I talked to at the Stihl booth got right up in arms about what he thought was the dumbest question he'd had all day. More controversial than wolves in the U.P. apparently. And, I thought I did a remarkable job keeping my cool. All I wanted to know was what model of saw it was. Luckily for me, an older rep from the company came over and got the other rep to leave. The new dude said that they had a saw that was actually good for up to E-25. It carried a \$1000 price tag- but it was a \$990 saw before they added the \$10 worth of parts it took to make it capable of handling E 25. That's right, kids - \$10 more in parts will cure most issues.

Here's another interesting chain saw thing I learned last spring: there's a logger in Missouri who's running two identical chain saws. Bought the same day, go to the woods and do identical things. Saw #1 is running Recreational 90 (ethanol free), saw #2 is running E-85. Identical oil used; only difference is that saw #2 has been re-jetted for ethanol. Plan is to run them until they both die, and tear them apart.

The performance of the E85 saw from a HP and torque perspective is obviously better, but longevity and cost to operate is what's being measured. Here's where myself and ABATE differ - I've been asked to write my congressman to demand that E15 not be allowed to be sold. Bullshit. ABATE and the rest of us should be demanding that manufacturers get on board with giving us fuel systems that don't have issues handling ethanol. If anyone thinks that ethanol is going away because ABATE or the AMA says it should, I've got a bridge to sell you. Some would say that I'm simply suggesting that we all bend over and just take it: quite the contrary, I'm baffled as to why it's still an issue with manufacturers to give us trouble free fuel systems when the technology is readily available.

Up until I had to quit because of a bad back and neck, my family and I were racing vintage snowmobiles. All of them needed a touch higher octane (tighter squish from stock), so we needed race fuel. My local fuel supplier stocks a lot of Sunoco race fuels, 104 with 20% ethanol being one of them.

We were running that fuel (as were a lot of our competitors) through single, twin, and triple cylinder air cooled motors that were built in the 60s and 70s. We were using Tillotson or Mikuni carbs, depending on the class the sled was in. We happened to be running sprint races, but I know many running that particular fuel in vintage Enduro races with the same motors we used. It's possible to use ethanol in older motors. We did it successfully. Others have done it successfully. I'm mechanically retarded, and even I was able to bungle through a simple process to make an old motor run 1500 rpm more than it was intended to run, with an old overweight unskilled jockey running the throttle, all the while NEVER having any sort of fuel issues doing so. Having a real tough time getting behind either oil companies or lazy manufacturers telling us it can't be done."

Well there you go. Pat, I believe, is a life member of ABATE and he has earned the right in my eyes to present his side of the argument. The trick is finding the truth; the treat has been getting a Yoopers version of it.

Here is a link to a large resource of information supporting ethanol.  
[www.ethanolrfa.org/sites/rfa/index.php/news/entry/access-to-over-230-ethanol-studies-and-reports-on-ethanolrfa.org/](http://www.ethanolrfa.org/sites/rfa/index.php/news/entry/access-to-over-230-ethanol-studies-and-reports-on-ethanolrfa.org/)

*Rusty*



**Rusty Bongard**  
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# Bullet Points

## ARMED CITIZENS AN ANSWER TO TERRORISM?

The head of INTERPOL says they might be. *By Jeff Knox ~ TRO Contributor*

The head of the international police organization INTERPOL created a minor stir recently when he suggested that armed civilians might be a more realistic answer to the evolving trend of terrorists attacking "soft targets" like shopping malls, schools, and public events, than trying to "harden" those areas with more physical barriers and police officers. While the comments have been picked up by some conservative media and the rights movement, they have been roundly ignored by the traditional media, not just in the US, but worldwide. You can bet that his comments won't be ignored by the statist authorities at the UN and the White House though. I think it is very likely that this very prominent, popular, and effective law enforcement official will soon find himself under fire for all sorts of seemingly unrelated matters, and in a relatively short time, be looking for a new job. It is simply not politically acceptable for anyone within the "circle of trust" to be trusting of the common people. Taking a public position in favor of armed civilians over expansion of police presence and powers is unlikely to go unpunished.

In an interview with ABC News, which was reported on ABC's web site, but, so far as I have been able to find, not aired on the television network, Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble said that in free societies, governments have only two viable options for addressing attacks on civilians: "One is to say we want an armed citizenry; you can see the reason for that," he said alluding to the positive impact of a few civilian gun owners during the assault and siege on the Westgate Mall in Kenya last month. "Another is to say the enclaves are so secure that in order to get into the soft target you're going to have to pass through extraordinary security." Security that he indicated would be unfeasibly prohibitive in costs of both money and liberty.

During a press conference at the opening of the 82nd body, Noble commented that the Westgate Mall attack was an example of how terrorism is evolving as security evolves. As security has become more stringent at high-profile, potential terrorist targets like airports, major commerce centers, and embassies, terrorists have been shifting toward "soft targets" like schools, theaters, and shopping malls. This isn't really so much a new trend, as a progression. History is rife with examples of terrorists and "resistance fighters" shifting from hardened military and government targets to "soft" civilian targets as a means of attracting more attention, and wreaking more havoc. History shows the same trend among demented mass murderers who want to go out as infamous celebrities by running up the most gut-wrenching body-counts.

Both the terrorists and the lunatics have similar objectives - to make the biggest headlines possible by creating the most emotional impact. Not long ago, the easiest way to do that was to hijack or plant a bomb on an airplane. The natural vulnerability of a few hundred, unarmed people in an oversized aluminum can hurtling through the sky at 600 miles an hour was an obvious

choice because just a little damage to the aircraft or the pilots would almost guarantee the deaths of everyone on board. Increased security has reduced the odds of success though, so terrorists have shifted their focus. The attack in Mumbai, India a few years ago demonstrated the effectiveness of a small-scale, military-style assault on an unarmed population. The Kenya attack used Mumbai as its blueprint. Unlike the 9-11 attacks, an assault like Mumbai and Westgate requires little training, skill or preparation. All it takes is people willing to do the deed, and some easily acquired armaments.

INTERPOL chief Noble pointed out that al Qaeda had recently issued a call for "brothers to strike soft targets, to do it in small groups." As he said, it puts police in a difficult position. "How do you protect soft targets? That's really the challenge. You can't have armed police forces everywhere." In a private interview with ABC Noble expanded on the theme. "Ask yourself: If that was Denver, Colorado, if that was Texas, would those guys have been able to spend hours, days, shooting people randomly?" Noble told ABC. "What I'm saying is it makes police around the world question their views on gun control. It makes citizens question their views on gun control. You have to ask yourself, 'Is an armed citizenry more necessary now than it was in the past with an evolving threat of terrorism?' This is something that has to be discussed."

"For me it's a profound question," he continued. "People are quick to say 'gun control, people shouldn't be armed,' etc., etc. I think they have to ask themselves: 'Where would you have wanted to be? In a city where there was gun control and no citizens armed if you're in a Westgate mall, or in a place like Denver or Texas?'" Valid questions which I'm sure most reporters will continue to ignore or dance around.

In the conclusion of their report, ABC took a dig at Noble's comments by pointing out that the gun control debate in the US had recently been ignited by mass shootings, including one in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, just outside of Denver. What the report failed to note is that the movie theater where the massacre took place was posted "No Guns." Not only that, the demented murderer passed by at least two other theaters that were closer to his home, but which were not posted "Gun Free Zones." Perhaps that was coincidence or there is some other explanation, but on the face of it, it suggests that Noble is on to something.

It is frankly astonishing to me that Noble has taken this position publicly. I hope he will pursue this line of reasoning and that he can hold onto his position at INTERPOL long enough for his philosophy to spread through the agency and into police agencies they deal with. When victims become first-responders, criminals will become more cautious. ABC and the media can dismiss these ideas, but I'm not expecting terrorists to storm the Phoenix Cabela's store any time soon.

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