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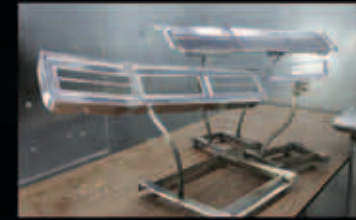
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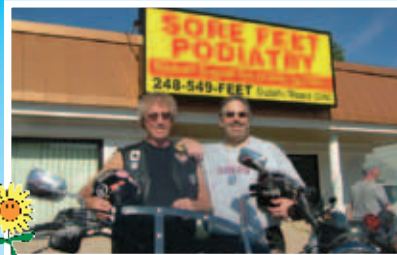
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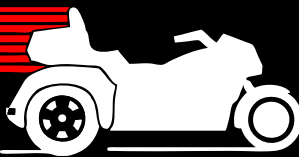


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## August? Already?

Wow, it is hard to believe that it is August. The good news is we have at least 3 more months of good riding weather left and a lot more events! I don't even want to think about winter so I am going to stop at that!

On a different note, this month marks 8 years since my father has passed away from that terrible disease- Cancer. So many people are affected by this or know someone that is. It is always hard to lose someone close to you, but it sure makes you appreciate the time you spent together and what you have in your life today! Each day, no matter one think of one person or thing you are grateful for. This will help you focus on the positives in your life. You know what they say... thoughts become things! So be grateful and more good things will come to you. Ok I know this isn't Jody Mo's Advice yet lol. Sometimes I just can't help it... must be that Psychology degree coming out.

I love how bikers are always doing something for someone, raising money for various charities or individuals. Just look at all the events - so many are for a charitable organization or for supporting our veterans. Just makes you proud to be a biker!

Don't forget to tune in every Friday at 1 pm for weekly Biker News on Z93 The Rock Station. You can listen to Lynn and I chat about the upcoming events that weekend and month as well as where you can pick up an issue of Thunder Roads.

Don't forget, we are looking for the cartoon character as seen in the Biker Friendly Directory. Last month the character was on page 22, middle picture- paying a visit to Harold Lowes bike. See if you can find him this month.

Thank you for continuing to make Thunder Roads Magazine the #1 Free to Readers Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan! Thank you to our wonderful advertisers and loyal readers for your support. So you can always make sure to get your monthly copy remember that every advertiser in Thunder Roads will have them and if you are ever unsure go to ThunderRoadsMichigan.com to view it page by page. Also, like us on Facebook to keep up to date on all the happenings.

Now for some "Mo" Advice: Find happiness in yourself and your life instead of finding the faults in others.



Jody Mohowitsch





## FACTORY FEATURE

# BMW REVAMPS THE R 1200 GS FOR 2013



### E-GAS AND CRUISE CONTROL

An electromotive throttle actuator is now used for the first time in a GS motorcycle. Here, rider commands are passed on directly by the sensor in the accelerator twist grip to the engine control system; this then regulates the throttle valve electronically. The use of the E-gas system provides a significant improvement in terms of controllability and response. What is more, the rider can adapt engine characteristics to the situation on the road by means of five modes (optional extra). It was also possible to include an electronic cruise control function (optional extra).

### ASC AND RIDING MODES AS AN OPTIONAL EXTRA: FIVE FREELY SELECTABLE MODES - "RAIN", "ROAD", "DYNAMIC", "ENDURO" AND "ENDURO PRO"

For optimum adaptation to the rider's individual needs and purpose, the new R 1200 GS now offers five freely selectable riding modes for the first time: these are an ex works option and feature three different E-gas settings and with varying engine characteristics. Linked to this is Automatic Stability Control ASC with a special enduro configuration. If this option is chosen, BMW Motorrad ABS, ASC and - if installed - the semi active suspension are all adapted to the respective profiles of these five modes

### SEMIACTIVE SUSPENSION: BMW MOTORRAD DYNAMIC ESA FOR OPTIMUM RIDING DYNAMICS IN EVERY SITUATION AS AN EX WORKS OPTION

The new semi active suspension BMW Motorrad Dynamic ESA (Electronic Suspension Adjustment) taps into a whole new range of possibilities as well as provid-



ing maximum riding safety and performance. Dynamic ESA monitors the vertical movement of front and rear wheel control as well as other parameters by means of a spring travel sensor in each position, and adapts the damping automatically to the situation depending on riding conditions and the maneuvers being carried out. Damping adjustment at front and rear is effected by means of electrically controlled regulation valves.

### NEW CHASSIS WITH TUBULAR STEEL BRIDGE FRAME AND SPECIALLY ADAPTED WHEEL/TIRE DIMENSIONS OF 120/70 R19 AT FRONT AND 170/60 R17 AT REAR AS A WORLD FIRST

The chassis of the R 1200 GS uses a completely newly developed tubular all-steel bridge frame with a bolt-on rear frame. Along with the newly designed Telelever at the front and the EVO Paralever at the rear, this has resulted in a further significant increase in torsion stiffness and hence ride stability and steering precision. Optimized handling qualities are the result of refined master geometric chassis data, and a longer swing arm provides further improved traction - especially when riding over rough terrain.

A globally unique feature of the new R 1200 GS are the tires in the sizes 120/70 R19 at the front and 170/60 R17 at the rear, specially adapted to improve performance.

*continued on next page*



It's been 9 years since BMW introduced the R 1200 GS, during which time it has clearly become one of the all-time great motorcycles. It is the world's top selling enduro and BMW's all time most popular model with over 170,000 bikes sold. For 2013, this class defining motorcycle receives an almost shocking change - adopting a liquid cooling system.

BMW is quick to point out that their system is an "Air/Liquid Cooling System". Taking a page from Formula 1 engine design, BMW has developed what they call "precision cooling". The newly updated Boxer Engine replaces the more traditional coolant oil with a glycol-water mixture which allows a higher level of heat absorption and dissipation. This liquid cooling system only circulates through the high temperature, extreme stress points. The balance of the engine is cooled by fins on the exposed cylinder heads. BMW Engineers report that the cooling ratio is 65% air to 35% liquid (glycol-water blend) - while previous versions were 78% air to 22% liquid (oil).

BMW has indicated that the move to the new design was aimed at improved noise and exhaust emissions, but industry experts believe that competition may have also driven the change. The BMW GS has faced increased challenges in terms of performance from its two main European rivals - the liquid cooled Ducati Multistrada and Triumph Explorer.

The new Boxer Twin appears to boost the GS to 125 hp from 110 and shows an increase in torque production to 92.2 lb/ft from 88.5 at 6000. The results come from an engine that maintains the same 1170cc displacement as before.

BMW has also improved throttle response and engine control through its E-Gas

electronic throttle sensor system. This ride-by-wire approach also allows for cruise control and multiple performance settings. The GS also introduces five ride mode options as well - all aimed at fine tuning the riding experience. Here is a summary of the changes, as provided by BMW.



Clean controls and improved ergonomics are key to the new GS





# FACTORY FEATURE

continued



## REVISED BRAKE SYSTEM WITH RADIALLY MOUNTED BREMBO MONOBLOC BRAKE CALIPERS AND BMW MOTORRAD INTEGRAL ABS AS STANDARD

The brake system of the R 1200 GS has been extensively revised, too. There are now radially mounted Brembo Monobloc brake calipers at the front and a larger brake disc at the rear.

In line with the BMW Motorrad principle "Safety 360°" the new GS is also fitted as standard with the BMW Motorrad ABS, here in the part integral version.

## THE FIRST MOTORCYCLE IN THE WORLD WITH LED MAIN HEADLIGHT INCLUDING INTEGRATED DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHT FOR EVEN GREATER SAFETY WHEN RIDING DURING THE DAY AND AT NIGHT AS AN EX WORKS OPTION

Even in its standard trim the new R 1200 GS has a main headlight with optimized light efficiency. In order to be seen even better during the day, BMW Motorrad also offers a daytime running light as an ex works option. For excellent road illumination and therefore even greater safety both day and night, an LED main headlight with integrated daytime running light is fitted in a motorcycle for the first time ever. It comprises innovative LED technology with a sophisticated cooling and decondensation concept.

## ELECTRICAL SYSTEM WITH NEW VEHICLE POWER SUPPLY AND MULTI-CONTROLLER FOR THE BMW MOTORRAD NAVIGATOR IV

The new R 1200 GS has the innovative new vehicle power system with altered function partitioning as already used in the 6-cylinder models K 1600 GT and GTL. As before, CAN bus (Controller Area Network) and LIN bus technology (Local Interconnect Network) enables significantly reduced wiring as compared to a conventional system. The previous central vehicle electronics has been partitioned into two separate control units.

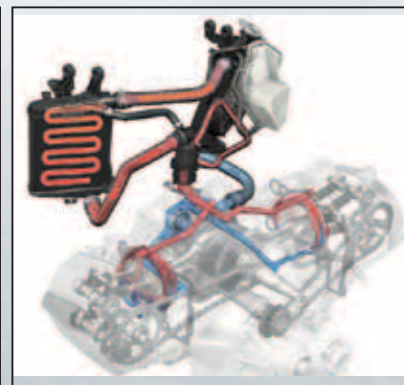
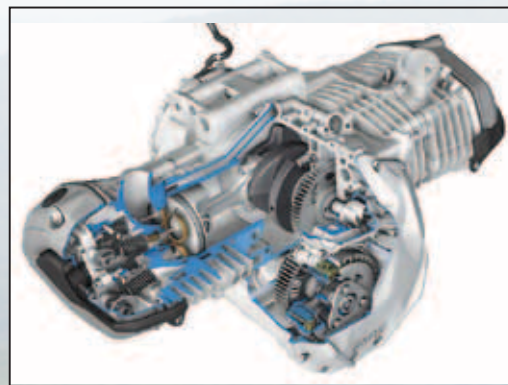
The Multi-Controller, newly available for the GS, allows fast and convenient operation of the BMW Motorrad Navigator IV. It is located on the inside of the handlebar grip. This means that selecting functions is much less distracting than pressing buttons and does not require hands to be removed from the handlebars.

## AERODYNAMICALLY OPTIMIZED WINDSHIELD WITH ONE-HAND OPERATION AND OPTIMUM ERGONOMICS

The newly developed windshield of the R 1200 GS offers further improved wind and weather protection while also reducing wind noise. Adjustment is simple: an easily accessible and ergonomically optimized selection wheel is operated using one hand.

The new R 1200 GS has extended adjustment options for optimum seating comfort. The rider's seat can now be adjusted in height and tilt angle and the passenger seat can be shifted longitudinally to obtain the ideal distance between rider and passenger. The new handlebars can easily be turned upwards and, together with the optimized knee grip in the fuel tank area, they ensure an even better standing position for off-road riding. The improved knee grip can be clearly felt when seated, too. A high and a low seat, as well as an adjustable footrest system and adjustable foot controls, round off the program of special accessories offering individual adjustment facilities.

Photos and model details courtesy of BMW Motorrad.



A subtle radiator cools a glycol-water blend that is then circulated through key, high temperature parts of the engine

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# VETERANS CORNER



## Hello Ohio!

I've learned that what I submit is also being used in Ohio's Thunder Roads, not just Michigan's version. Cool, more victims of my lunacy! If you have news or ideas for this column shoot them to [crazymactech@gmail.com](mailto:crazymactech@gmail.com)

## Blum's Landing

In a previous babbling, I talked about retreats for wounded warriors. I've learned of another called Blum's Landing near Rogers City, MI. <http://blumslanding.org/>. From their site: Terry and Janet Blumberg have built Blum's Landing in loving memory of their son Sgt. Trevor A. Blumberg, known to his fellow soldiers as "Blum". Trevor was killed September 14, 2003 in Fallujah, Iraq.

Trevor loved the outdoors, especially the woods, lakes, and rivers of Northern Michigan. He often spoke about bringing his fellow soldiers to Michigan for fishing and camping trips. This love for nature and his dedication and loyalty to his friends inspired the idea for Blum's Landing.

The Blumbergs purchased twelve acres of land on Orchard Lake near Rogers City, Michigan. Only minutes from the picturesque beaches of Lake Huron, they built a retreat home in the tranquil wooded area on Orchard Lake.

Know of such retreats in Ohio? Let me know and I'll write about them.

## Hero's Card

The Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant, MI introduced the Hero's Card. The card is only for active duty, retired and veteran members of the military and the card is free. Some of the perks for it are one complimentary first-class room per month (I assume there are date/day restrictions but I haven't had time to inquire), \$20 per week in pre-loaded Premium Pay, 50% off one concert ticket price and 20% off at the spa, and 30% off at Aurora Buffet. See Players Club for details. <http://www.soaringeaglecasino.com/herocard.htm>

## Free Michigan State Park Entry for Certain Veterans

In June, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed a pair of bills that offer free state park entries to veterans who are eligible for 100 percent disability, who were prisoners of war, or who have received the Medal of Honor.

House Bills 4297 and 4439, sponsored by state Rep. Frank Foster, waive the annual \$11 state park Recreation Passport fee for vehicle license plates issued to those military veterans. The Michigan Secretary of State indicated that, as of November 2012, there were about 8,070 specialty license plates eligible for the free recreation passport endorsement. There have been 7,642 disabled veteran plates issued, 426 former POW plates, and two specialty Medal of Honor license plates issued in Michigan.

## U.S. Made Flags on Veteran's Graves

A bill introduced in the Michigan state Senate would require flags placed on the graves of veterans by a municipality to bear the mark "Made in U.S.A."

Senate Bill 428 was introduced June 12 by state Sen. Roger Kahn, R-Saginaw Township, and is co-sponsored by state Sen. Mike Green, R-Mayville, and three other senators.

The bill would amend a 98-year-old law that set up the provision of flag holders and American flags to the graves of veterans.

As it stands now, the state law requires local governmental bodies to pay for the cost of flags and flag holders for the graves of U.S. Armed Forces veterans buried

within that body's boundaries, if they are petitioned to do so by a "recognized veterans' organization" or by five or more citizens.

The amendment would require municipalities to use flags and flag holders made in the United States, as long as price is competitive.

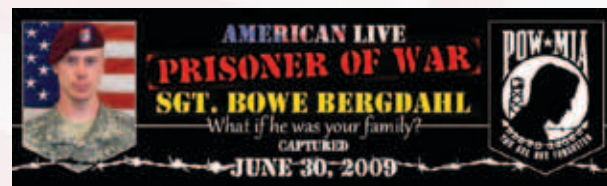
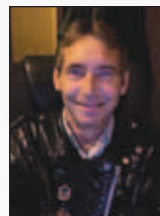
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August 10-11

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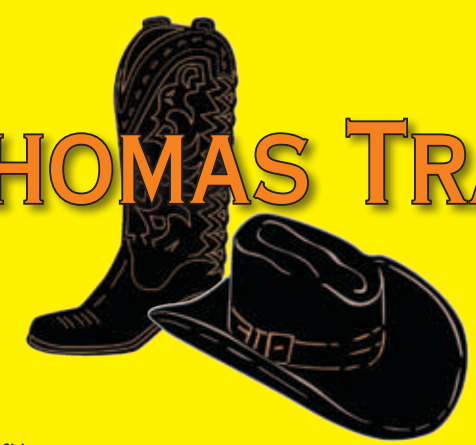
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# The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

## Michigan's Good Samaritan laws: Could you be liable for injury damages if you stop to help an injured biker?

Many people have questions about Michigan's "Good Samaritan" laws, which are actually a group of laws that protect people who choose to help others (MCL 691.1501-1507). Good Samaritan laws are very fact-dependent, and there are many nuances and exceptions to their application depending on the circumstances of a given situation. The law is constantly changing, so what is accurate now may not be accurate in the future. Still, I wanted to provide information about the basics of the Good Samaritan laws and explain how they might apply to motorcyclists and motorcycle accidents. It's important to remember that this article is limited, and while it is my opinion that liability is limited as written below, that does not mean that you cannot or will not be sued.

It's important to generally define some of the terms that are often used in these laws before we go any further. Many Michigan courts would accept that "Gross Negligence" is conduct so reckless as to demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether any injury results and "Willful and Wanton Misconduct" means that the person acts with such reckless indifference that harm will probably result.

### Accident Scene Management Classes

Most of you by now know that our law office gives back to the motorcycle community. We promote motorcycle safety, we advocate for motorcyclists' rights and we actually try to prevent motorcycle wrecks. For almost ten years now, our office has been involved in reigniting the Accident Scene Management Class in Michigan.

Debbie Parinello, who has worked in our office for the last eight years, became a licensed Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) specifically so she could teach the Accident Scene Management Class, and later became a full-fledged paramedic so she could teach the advanced class. I cover the legal portion of the class, part of which deals with Michigan's Good Samaritan laws.

A lot of people have some wrong ideas about their rights and liabilities when it comes to helping injured bikers. I always try to clarify a few of the relevant parts of this law to try to help people understand when they may or may not be liable for injury damages.

### How do Good Samaritan Laws affect licensed medical professionals?

One of Michigan's Good Samaritan laws (MCL 691.1501) deals specifically with medical professionals that have a license. Physicians, physician's assistants, or nurses rendering emergency care outside of their job duties are not liable if they cause harm when helping. However, if their actions amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct, they may be liable for the harm that they cause. For example, if a nurse is driving down the highway and sees a motorcyclist go down, she can provide medical care and not worry about being held responsible in civil court, unless their conduct was so unreasonable that it was reckless.

### Performing CPR or using a defibrillator

Another of Michigan's Good Samaritan laws (MCL 691.1504) deals with a person who voluntarily performs cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or uses an automated external defibrillator (AED) when it is not part of their job. A layperson who performs CPR or uses a defibrillator on someone who looks like they need it is not liable if they cause harm, unless your actions amount to gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct.

In other words, an individual who has no duty to do so, and who voluntarily and in good faith does CPR on another person, is not liable in a civil action for damages except for an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct. It also lists specific persons not liable in a civil action for damages, except for an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct for use of defibrillators.

To give an example, say you are riding with a friend who is rear-ended by a car and is thrown to the ground. You go to him and it appears that he is not breathing

so you do CPR on him. You will not be held liable for any damage you may have caused unless your conduct was so unreasonable that it was reckless.

### Layperson has no Immunity

It is important to understand that laypeople do not have immunity from injury liability under the Good Samaritan laws. If you are not a licensed medical professional, and you stop to help someone, you could still be liable for injury damages. However, the way the law is applied is different depending on the type of help you give.

If you perform CPR or use a defibrillator on someone whom you think needs it, that person would have to prove gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct if they were to sue you. However, if you perform a different kind of first aid treatment without a medical license, the person you helped would only have to prove regular negligence in an injury suit. In other words, they have to show that you did something "unreasonable" for a layperson to do, and what you did caused further harm.

To give an example, if you as a layperson come across a downed biker who clearly has a broken leg twisted in an unusual manner, and you attempt to set that leg, you could be held liable if you cause further damage to the biker's leg. This is because you do not have the necessary medical knowledge to set a broken leg, and the biker would have been better off if you had simply stopped to keep them as comfortable as possible until a qualified medical professional arrived on the scene.

### There is always more to the story

I don't know anyone that would not stop to try to help a fellow motorcyclist that had gone down. Good Samaritans don't normally stop and think about things like liability laws before they try to help a downed biker. In a search of the case law involving only appealed cases in Michigan, there was not a single case where the Good Samaritan was sued for helping at a vehicle accident. If you follow the information provided in the Bystander Assistance Class, in my opinion, you would not be held liable. I feel so strongly about this that, if you are sued for helping at an accident, my firm would defend you for free (restrictions apply), as long as you met certain criteria.

Remember, this is not a comprehensive review of Michigan's Good Samaritan laws, just a short summary of a few points that are often misunderstood. Our office makes an effort to reach out to motorcyclists and to provide information for the motorcycling community whenever we can. You can learn more about Michigan's Good Samaritan laws by visiting our website at [www.themotorcyclelawyer.com](http://www.themotorcyclelawyer.com). Don't forget that the laws are always changing, and it's in your best interest to stay informed.

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

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A State Trooper was patrolling late at night off the main highway. At nearly midnight, he sees a couple in a car, in lovers' lane, with the interior light brightly glowing. He carefully approaches the car to get a closer look. Then he sees a young man behind the wheel, reading a computer magazine. He immediately notices a young woman in the rear seat, filing her fingernails. Puzzled by this surprising situation, the trooper walks to the car and gently raps on the driver's window. The young man lowers his window. 'Uh, yes, Officer?' The trooper asks: 'What are you doing?' The young man says: 'Well, Officer, I'm reading a magazine.' Pointing towards the young woman in the back seat the trooper says: 'And, her, what is she doing?' The young man shrugs: 'Sir, I believe she's filing her fingernails.' Now, the trooper is totally confused. A young couple, alone, in a car, at night in a lover's lane and nothing inappropriate is happening! The trooper asks: 'What's your age, young man?' The young man says: 'I'm 22, sir.' The trooper asks: 'And her, what's her age?' The young man looks at his watch and replies: 'She'll be 18 in exactly 11 minutes.'

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire.
3. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
5. Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.
6. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
7. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
8. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
9. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day long.

11. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
12. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.
13. Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.
14. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
15. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
16. Duct tape is like 'The Force'. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.
17. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
18. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.
19. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
20. Never take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.

An Irish man went to confession in St. Patrick's Catholic Church. 'Father', he confessed, 'it has been one month since my last confession. I had sex with Nookie Green twice last month.' The priest told the sinner, 'You are forgiven. Go out and say three Hail Mary's. Soon thereafter, another Irish man entered the confessional. 'Father, it has been two months since my last confession. I've had sex with Nookie Green twice a week for the past two months.' This time, the priest questioned, 'Who is this Nookie Green?' 'A new woman in the neighborhood,' the sinner replied. 'Very well,' sighed the priest. 'Go and say ten Hail Mary's'. At mass the next morning, as the priest prepared to deliver the sermon, a tall, voluptuous, drop-dead gorgeous redheaded woman entered the Sanctuary. The eyes of every man in the church fell upon her as she slowly sashayed up the aisle and sat down right in front of the priest. Her dress was green and very short, and she wore matching, shiny emerald-green shoes. The priest and the altar boy gasped as the woman in the green dress and matching emerald-green shoes sat with her legs spread slightly apart, but just enough to realize that one could see all the way to the junction of O my goodness and O my gosh! The priest turned to the altar boy and whispered, 'Oh, sweet Lord, Is that Nookie Green?' The bug-eyed altar boy couldn't believe his ears, but managed to calmly reply, 'No Father, I think it's just a reflection from her shoes.'



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**SATURDAY AUGUST 24**  
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 Registration 9am-1pm \$20 per bike / \$25 with rider  
 1st Bike out 11am ~ Last Bike out 1pm  
 I-75 to Exit 131, East on M-57 (2 miles to Clio City Park 48420)  
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# READERS RIDES

## KELLY WAGNER

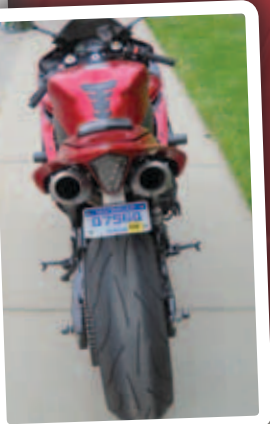
by Kelly Wagner

I PURCHASED MY YAMAHA R1 IN 2007 AT THE DEALERSHIP, BY STANDING IN THE CENTER AND SPINNING AROUND AND PICKING THE ONE THAT LOOKED THE BEST TO ME. I PURELY PICKED IT BY LOOKS. I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO RIDE IT AND I COULDN'T EVEN REACH THE GROUND. WHEN I SAT ON THE SEAT I COULD DANGLE BOTH FEET. IT WAS QUITE FUNNY! I HAD A FRIEND LOWER IT FOR ME SO I COULD LEARN TO RIDE IT. I MADE A CALL TO ANOTHER FRIEND AND HE CAME TO MY HOUSE AND TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD RIDE IT TO THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT (BY MY HOUSE), BUT I HAD TO RIDE IT BACK. SO AFTER ABOUT TWO HOURS I RODE MY BIKE BACK HOME. BY NO MEANS WAS I READY FOR THE OPEN ROAD YET! AT THIS POINT, I RODE OVER TO THE SHOP AND MET UP WITH JEROMY, WHO TOOK ME OUT AND RODE WITH ME FROM THAT POINT ON. FUNNY, WE ENDED UP DATING AND ARE MARRIED NOW.

THIS WAS THE FIRST BIKE I HAD EVER RIDDEN. I RODE A LOT WITH MY LATE FATHER AS A PASSENGER, BUT NO DIRT BIKE RIDING OR SMALLER BIKE RIDING, NO NOTHING. SCARLET (I NAMED HER WHEN I BOUGHT HER) AND I BECAME ONE. I AM GLAD I TOOK THE CLASS AND EARNED MY ENDORSEMENT. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND ANY NEW RIDER TAKE THE CLASS.

I RESPECT THE FACT THAT SHE HAS A LOT OF POWER. I FEEL MY DAD ALWAYS LOOKS DOWN AND KEEPS A CLOSE EYE ON ME. I TORE MY BIKE ALL THE WAY DOWN AND TOOK THE MOTOR OUT AND POWDER COATED THE FRAME, SWING ARM, AND SUBFRAME, ALL GLITTERY. IT'S JUST MY TWIST ON SCARLET. WE TOOK THE FORKS TO TECH CARE AND THEY CUT THE DOWN INTERNALLY TWO AND A HALF INCHES. IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE. WE HAVE SCARLET ALL BACK TOGETHER NOW AND SHE IS READY TO GO. MY HUSBAND AND I GET WEIRD LOOKS BECAUSE EVERY YEAR, OUR BIKES COME INTO THE HOUSE FOR THE WINTER. I JUST KNOW IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE BIKE HAS SO MUCH POWER AND I RESPECT THAT, WITH THAT SAID I FEEL IT MAKES ME A BETTER RIDER.

PHOTOS BY Don Clark



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# Running with the Pack?



BY Kathleen Howell  
PHOTOS Debra Wright

Whether you are a pack dog or a lone wolf, it's a good idea to educate yourself about riding in a pack. Riding with a large group of friends, or an escorted ride, can be a ton of fun. A mile of rumbling awesomeness winding through country roads in the sunshine is a pretty cool feeling, and you're right there in the middle of it, a part of it.

As awesome as it can be, however, riding with a large group is more complicated. There is more to watch for, the rider beside you, in front, behind, in addition to traffic and other obstacles. If riding with strangers, you don't know the skill level or riding habits of those around you, or in the pack (or if they've had a few too many). Coming from a lone wolf, I find it just adds stress to what should be an enjoyable ride, but, to each his own. Just some things to think about.

So before you head off into the sunset, keep in mind a few things..

**Safety checks.** As you would with any ride, check out your bike before you take off, such as tire pressure, turn signals, brake lights, etc. Remember, you're in a pack. Not only is your life in other's hands, their lives are in yours. Don't let an avoidable mechanical issue become a disaster on the road.

**Be prompt, with a full tank of gas.** A large, organized ride will just leave without you. But when riding with a decent size group of friends, be courteous, show up when you say you will, ready to go. Ever try to take twenty bikes through a gas station? What a pain in the @ss. Do it before you meet up.

**Know your hand signals, and pass them back.** Group rides are safer and smoother when everyone knows the turns in plenty of time, or if there is a dead animal up ahead to avoid. (I won't go into hand signals here, if you don't know them, learn them before you show up for a group ride!)

**Keep it together.** Not too close, but don't leave gaps. It can stretch the pack out too far, increasing the chance to not make it through a light, or, leaving an opening for a car to insert themselves into your fun.

These are just a few observations of my own, and I certainly don't claim to be an authority on riding in a pack. Just make sure you are prepared if you choose to ride with a large crowd, my point is there is more to think about than just the fun stuff. More info can be found at your local motorcycle safety class, also, if your road captains hold a meeting before the run, gather around and listen.

So, just like the ride itself, if you enjoy it, get out there and do it. Life is short. Just be smart. Keep yourself and others safe, and make lots of memories.



Kathleen Howell is an avid rider, photographer, technical communicator and grammar nazi that lives for exploring the back roads. Visit her at [kathleenhowell.com](http://kathleenhowell.com) or follow her on Twitter @howelltracks.

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- Wednesday, August 28th thru Sunday, September 1st, 2013 -

# 9th Annual

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#### Wednesday, August 28th

### DJ

Starting @ 5:00 p.m.  
Last BIKE NITE for Drawing

### Pre-Registration PARTY

5 p.m. until 11 p.m.  
Free Drawing for Overnite Stay at the  
Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant  
(Must be Present to Win)

#### Thursday, August 29th

### TOUGHMAN CAGE FIGHTING

Gates Open @ 6 p.m.

Fights @ 8 p.m.

- HOOTER GIRLS -

### Miller Lite PARTY

### Yager PARTY

Yagermeister Girls 9:30-11 p.m.

### Pussy Foot

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- 9 p.m. to Close

#### Friday, August 30th

### BUD PARTY

8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

### 1 A.M. CRUSH

Country & Rock from Bay City/Saginaw  
- 9 p.m. to Close

#### Saturday, August 31st

### Custom Bike Builders

- Saturday & Sunday -

### ROCK STAR

Motorcity, 80's Hair Band  
- 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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## COME EARLY - STAY LATE!

#### Sunday, September 1st

Sunday's Special EVENT ...

### 9th Annual CHARITY BIKE RUN

- 10 a.m. to Noon Sign-up -  
Bike Show & Red Bull Girls  
Hog ROAST at 4:30 p.m.  
RAFFLE Drawings at 6 p.m.  
Much, Much More ...

### Road Dawgs

Classic Rock - Noon - 4:30

### Jedi Mind Trip

70's and 80's Rock  
- 4:30 - 9 p.m.

### Steel Wheels

Voted Michigan's #1 Country Band  
- 9:30 p.m. to Close

## 2013 AKRON BIKE WEEK

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

### 9th ANNUAL

# CHARITY BIKE RUN

## SUNDAY, SEPT. 1ST, 2013

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Largest Labor Day  
Weekend BIKE RUN



The 9th Annual Charity Bike Run is due to roll down Main Street on **Sunday, September 1st, 2013** in Akron, Michigan. More than 1,000 bikes are expected to ride in the **Largest Labor Day Weekend Bike Run**. The Bike Run leaves from and returns to the Iron Horse Bar & Grill in Akron. Thanks to all who support events such as this, the event helped provide food & services for over 400 families and senior citizens last year in Tuscola County. Your donation will help hundreds of families and we thank you for your generosity.

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Noon | LIVE MUSIC / **ROAD DAWGS**  
3:00 p.m. | **RED BULL GIRLS**  
4:30 p.m. | LIVE MUSIC / **JEDI MIND TRIP**  
4:30 p.m. | HOG ROAST & a Ton of Food 'til gone  
4:30 p.m. | BIKE SHOW CONTEST  
5:00 p.m. | LAST BIKE IN  
6:00 p.m. | HOG Roasting Contest **WINNER Announced**  
RAFFLES  
9:30 p.m. | LIVE MUSIC / Voted Michigan's #1 Country Band - **STEEL WHEELS**

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# Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

### Inspiration

*No man was ever wise by chance.* ~ Seneca

*A loving heart is the truest wisdom.* ~ Charles Dickens

*A man's character is like his shadow, which sometimes follows and sometimes precedes him, and which is occasionally longer, occasionally shorter, than he is.* ~ Madame de la Rochejuquelein

*To live is like to love—all reason is against it and all healthy instinct for it.* ~ Samuel Butler

### Riddles

**A.** Until I am measured I am not known, yet how you miss me when I have flown.

**B.** Each morning I appear to lie at your feet, all day I will follow no matter how fast you run, yet I nearly perish in the midday sun.

**C.** I am seen in the water if seen in the sky. I am in the rainbow, a jay's feather, and lapis lazuli.

**D.** Glittering points that downward thrust, sparkling spears that never rust.

(Answers below)

### Fun Facts

**B**abe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his cap to keep him cool. He changed it every 2 innings.

All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20.

An average person laughs about 15 times a day.

**B**abies are born without knee caps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2-6 years of age.

### Weird Laws

**W**isconsin: The serving of colored oleomargarine or margarine at a public eating place as a substitute for table butter is prohibited unless it is ordered by the customer.

**V**ermont: In Montpelier, No law was violated when 42 cyclists rode through Vermont's capital naked on May 14, 2009. The Barre-Montpelier Times Argus reported that Vermont has no ban on public nudity. Disrobing in public is a crime, but the cyclists disrobed before venturing out and would not be charged.

Answers: A). time B). shadow C). blue D). icicle



by Don Clark



**J**ust want to put a little something out here for the bike community. Four of us went on a little camping trip to check out this campground we heard about that is just for motorcycles. We had such a great time and met some great people. I just

want to pass it on to everyone. Cycle Moore's is a campground just for bikers. They are in their 39th year in the same location. The campground has its own store, museum and repair shop. It has always been family owned and operated. Steven Moore is a retired racer of pro and amateur, Shirley Moore (the boss) is a lifetime member of Motor Maids and the first licensed lady mechanic at the Daytona Short Track! Shirley is also the events planner. Steven and Shirley's son Earl is also very busy there on the grounds and being a mechanic in the shop. And so once you shut your bike off, you become one of the family. The campground offers heated bathrooms with on demand hot showers, free coffee, popcorn and ice cream all day everyday. You have your choice of electric hook up or rustic camping, which is \$7 per person per night. I would also like to add that the last full weekend of September will be Cycle Moore's Birthday party, and they are offering all 3 nights FREE camping. On Saturday, a pot luck supper will be provided, Toys for Tots event and a live band. So for your next camping destination check them out. You can check out their web site at [www.cycle-moore.com](http://www.cycle-moore.com) They are located in Interlochen, Michigan.

I would like to thank Shirley, Steven and Earl for their hospitality for making us feel like family during our stay. God bless and hope to visit you soon. Thank you from Tammy, Don, Nichol and Andy.



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| 11     | 12     | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19     | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26     | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |
| 1      | 2      |         |           |          |        |          |

|  |   |  |   |                                 |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>MOSES RIDE - Museum of Moses</p>  | <p>EASYRIDERS - Fowlerville</p>   | <p>HAWG WILD - Zips HD<br/>ANNIVERSARY PARTY - Perry H-D/ Wild Bull Saloon</p> | <p>HOGS FOR DOGS - Biker Bob's HD</p>                       | <p>EASYRIDERS - Fowlerville</p> | <p>FUN RUN - Driftwood Bar &amp; Grill<br/>CUSTOMER DAY - Town &amp; Country HD<br/>AUTISM RIDE - Biker Bob's HD</p>  | <p>HARLEY'S AT DRAG - Milan Dragway<br/>BURN CAMP - Kalamazoo<br/>BURN CAMP - Paw Paw<br/>RIDE TO AIR SHOW - Biker Bob's HD</p>  |
| <p>EASYRIDERS - Fowlerville</p>  | <p>BIKE SHOW - Bomer's</p>  | <p>WHEELS FOR WARRIORS - Marshall</p>  | <p>FREEDOM FEST - Akron</p>                                 | <p>EASYRIDERS - Fowlerville</p> | <p>FREEFEST - Akron<br/>EASYRIDERS - Chillicothe OH<br/>BIKES BLUES BIKINIS - Town &amp; Country HD<br/>ANNIVERSARY PARTY - Biker Bob's HD<br/>MOTORCYCLE STAMPEDE - Pioneer OH</p> | <p>EASYRIDERS - Fowlerville<br/>CUSTOMER DAY - Fox Shawmut Hills<br/>DOG DAYS - Zips HD<br/>LYNN'S FUN RUN - Bay City</p>  |
| <p>SEPTEMBER<br/>FREEDOM FEST - Akron<br/>EASYRIDERS - Chillicothe OH<br/>MOTORCYCLE STAMPEDE - Pioneer OH</p> | <p>SEPTEMBER<br/>EASYRIDERS - Chillicothe OH<br/>MOTORCYCLE STAMPEDE - Pioneer OH</p> | <p>WHEELS FOR WARRIORS - Marshall</p>  | <p>FREEDOM FEST - Akron<br/>EASYRIDERS - Chillicothe OH</p> | <p>EASYRIDERS - Fowlerville</p> | <p>FREEFEST - Akron<br/>EASYRIDERS - Chillicothe OH<br/>BIKES BLUES BIKINIS - Town &amp; Country HD<br/>ANNIVERSARY PARTY - Biker Bob's HD<br/>MOTORCYCLE STAMPEDE - Pioneer OH</p> | <p>HOT RODS &amp; HARLEYS - Mulliken<br/>BURN CAMP - Clio<br/>ANNIVERSARY PARTY - Capitol HD<br/>CUSTOMER DAY - Tecumseh HD<br/>E.B. BIKE SHOW - Monroe<br/>MDA RIDE - Zips HD</p> |

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# Biker Preacher's Corner

Just a few days ago we celebrated our Independence Day – July 4th 2013 and this got me thinking about what "independence" truly means. We, as a nation, declared our independence from the tyranny of England. But, at the same time declared our dependence on God! What do I mean?

See, our founding fathers were Christians (no matter what the history re-writers want to think and say). Our nation was founded on God and His Holy Word, the Bible. That's why we, in our relatively short 237 years, have flourished and became the leading country in the world, the most powerful nation there ever was or will be. **Psalm 33:12 "Happy is the nation whose God is Yahweh [The Lord]."**

Our founding documents (The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution) are based on the Scriptures, upon the Word of God and He has indeed blessed us with liberty, freedom and peace – these qualities can ONLY be found in Jesus.

But, over the last 50 years or so, we've seen an evil growing in our country. An evil that wants to destroy this country by undermining our biblical foundation by those that hate God. What happens when you destroy the foundation of a building? You destroy the entire building!

The destruction of our Constitution was really brought to light way back in 1963 when prayer was outlawed in our public schools. Since then morality, decency and many other good character traits like loyalty and respect have been replaced by secular humanism and an evil notion to "do whatever feels good to you".

Today, we as a nation have turned so far from God (our Foundation) that we've almost lost our greatness, our liberty, our freedom and our peace. We've about lost what our founding fathers paid for with their very lives and fortunes. They put it all on the line so that we, now and forever, would be free! They left us a legacy of liberty. But, we've sold our birth right (that legacy), for a 'bowl of soup' and a free cell phone, all in the name of political correctness.

There is hope! But it requires a course correction – back on path. **2 Chronicles 7:14** says "and My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

The Hope is, once again, God! **1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Individually and as a nation we must humble ourselves and pray. Then He will forgive our national sin and heal our land and bring His true lasting peace and restore to us the legacy left by our founding fathers – which was and is the heart of God... Love

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay  
President/Founder of Victory Biker Church  
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# WHEELS & HEELS



1ST PLACE AMERICAN ~  
Heather with an  
Electra Glide Standard

The 5th Annual Wheels & Heels Lady Rider Motorcycle Show is now in the history books, and Sirens M/C just had to reach out and again, say "Thank YOU!" This show broke all records, raising over \$3,000 for little Riley and The Bay Area Women's Shelter!! We truly appreciate every one of you for coming out to support the show! Congratulations to those who rode home with trophies, but each of you should feel really good about contributing to the success of this event.

Jen Clor  
President ~ Sirens M/C



2ND PLACE AMERICAN ~  
Connie with a 2011 Dyna Super Glide



1ST PLACE METRIC ~  
Deb with a Yamaha Bolt



2ND PLACE METRIC ~  
Joyce with a 2012 Honda Interstate

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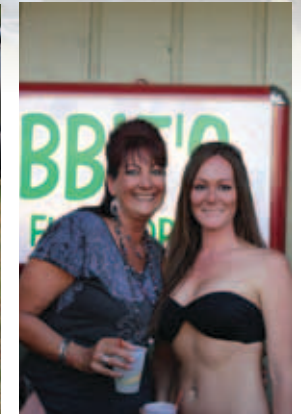


EVENT



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BY Gary Bredeweg

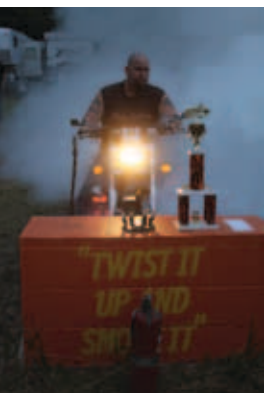


For 41 years now the Paradise MC has hosted the Blessing of the Bikes in Baldwin, Michigan, and as some can tell you, this event is one of the largest bike events across the state that you can count on happening the same weekend every year. It holds true that this is the weekend that folks around the state mark the calendar for several reasons, but the main reason would be to make sure the bike is ready to make the trip no matter what part you are coming from. With the growth of the event as it has been for many years now, it has become a long weekend vacation for some, as they make the trip to the area to set up camp or get to that lodge or cabin that they have been long been waiting for.

With vendors lined up and down the main drag for several miles in different locations, it offers the motorcycle enthusiast nearly everything under the sun that they could possibly need, from jewelry, shirts, shorts to bling and polish, it's there at an arm's reach. Now imagine this three blocks of downtown completely blocked to all traffic except bikes, trikes and things, yes, it's true, every Saturday night, a downtown pre-party to the blessing is the street closing, this is what really packs the downtown to see every kind of two or three wheel machine that travels these fine roads we call home. With the airport grounds ready early Sunday morning to start the line of riders coming from all

directions, several volunteers help direct them as they fill the lines for smooth entrance and exit to the event. You never really know how many people or bikes, for that matter, enter the grounds, but I can tell you this, when you get a chance to actually get a visual from a platform that stands about twelve feet in the air you will not believe what you see.

Jane and I for many years now have had the chance to attend this great event and, yes, our calendar is marked yearly, but this year was a little different for us, we had the chance to stay at a charity camp ground just south of town called Camp Ally. We bumped into a lot of friends that stay and also made several new ones, they offer so many things that a charity would offer and more including biker games, bike show, burn out pit, pig roast, live music and so much more and the neat thing about this is that all the proceeds to benefit Cystic Fibrosis.



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# NEWS BYTES



# NEWS BYTES

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**NCOM NEWS BYTES 10-06**  
**Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish,**  
**National Coalition of Motorcyclists**

## EMISSIONS TESTING NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR MOTORCYCLES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has dropped its requirement that Phoenix-area motorcycles undergo annual emissions inspections, the last place in the country to require such testing. The federal agency has approved a request from state environmental officials in Arizona that motorcycle tests be discontinued, effective immediately.

The request to drop the testing requirement came in response to a 2008 state law requiring the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to do an analysis of pollutants emitted by motorcycles and make a proposal to the federal agency. "Our analysis has determined that the cost and inconvenience is not providing a significant environmental benefit," said Trevor Baggio, deputy director of air quality at ADEQ.

Even though motorcycles account for 3.5% of vehicles on the area's roads, the department's analysis determined that they emit "insignificant" amounts of pollution, accounting for less than 1% of total emissions in the Phoenix metro area. Pima County (Tucson) and Maricopa County (Phoenix) were the only areas in the United States that required motorcycles to pass yearly emissions inspections at a cost of \$19 per test, and Pima County halted motorcycle testing in 2007.

Congratulations to ABATE of Arizona, the MMA of Arizona and the Arizona Confederation of Motorcycle Clubs (ACMC) for their years of stalwart efforts to relieve Grand Canyon State riders of these unnecessary costs and burdensome time wasted in long lines.

## ANTI-ABORTION MEASURE RIDES MOTORCYCLE BILL THROUGH N.C. HOUSE

In controversial political maneuvering, the Republican-controlled North Carolina House recently pushed through anti-abortion legislation, using as their vehicle a motorcycle safety bill that lawmakers had stealthily gutted and turned into a measure to further regulate abortion clinics.

Republicans introduced the legislation (S.B. 353) in the House Judiciary Committee the previous morning by attaching the abortion provisions to a motorcycle safety bill -- without first notifying either the public or their Democratic colleagues. "This bill came hurriedly through the Senate, rerouted through the House on a motorcycle," lamented state Rep. Alma Adams (D). "No input from stakeholders, no public scrutiny, no transparency, no fiscal note."

The final vote was 74-41 on July 13; the bill now heads back to the GOP-led state Senate for approval, then on to Governor Pat McCrory (R) who says he will sign the measure into law if it reaches his desk.

## GUAM ENACTS "LIMITED HELMET LAW"

Originally, Senator Tommy Morrison's bill called for universal helmet use for all motorcycle riders in the U.S. protectorate of Guam, but the revised version of his proposed helmet law makes it mandatory only for riders under the age of 18

and for those with less than 3 years riding experience.

After a lengthy public hearing and receiving input from the community, Bill No. 87 "Limited Helmet Law" passed unanimously, and also requires new riders to first complete a defensive driving/motorcycle safety education course prior to being licensed and prohibits licensees from operating a motorcycle or scooter of larger engine size than that which they take the motorcycle exam on. In order to operate a motorcycle with a larger engine, the operator must apply and test for a new license under that engine size.

## AMENDED HELMET LAW HAS POSITIVE ECONOMIC BENEFIT IN MICHIGAN

Changes last year in Michigan's mandatory helmet law have had a positive effect on motorcycle riding in Michigan, according to ABATE of Michigan. There has been an increase in motorcycle travel in Michigan since April of 2012, said ABATE in a recent press release.

"Motorcycle tourism is up. Motorcyclists across the country are coming to Michigan in droves. Very few out-of-state motorcyclists were seen in Michigan before the adult helmet requirement was modified," according to ABATE. "Cyclists from across the country are discovering the beauty of the lower and upper peninsulas of Michigan. There is an increase of out-of-state participation in Michigan motorcycle events by as much as five times during the summer of 2012."

"Our members have reported an increase in motorcycle tourism since the enactment of the rider choice law," added Scott Ellis, executive director of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association, which represents more than 1,800 restaurant, bar, party store, hotel and casino establishments across the state. "From Monroe to Muskegon to the Keweenaw Peninsula, more out-of-state motorcyclists are stopping, staying and spending money at our restaurants, hotels and attractions," he told the Midland Daily News.

Motorcycle sales also are up in Michigan, and ABATE says that 2012 was the safest riding season in 10 years for licensed motorcyclists in the state.

## MOTORCYCLE CHECKPOINTS IN NEW YORK NET NEARLY A HUNDRED TICKETS

More than 80 motorcyclists and their vehicles were checked by specially-trained State Police motorcycle inspectors near Buffalo, NY in mid-June, with two checkpoints resulting in the issuance of 92 traffic tickets for offenses that included helmet and equipment violations.

New York has been the epicenter for the Motorcycle-Only Checkpoint debate, which has resulted in four states; New Hampshire, North Carolina, Virginia and California, passing laws to prohibit law enforcement agencies from establishing motorcycle-only checkpoints.

In addition, on the federal level Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has introduced H.R. 1861 "To stop motorcycle checkpoint funding," and also contains language "to force the DOT to focus motorcycle safety efforts on crash prevention programs, not national helmet mandates."

## MOTORCYCLE CLUB SUES CITY OVER DISCRIMINATION

A local motorcycle club said it was just doing things by the book when it filed a permit to hold a BBQ fundraiser at a local park in Rio Vista, California, but the city and the police chief turned that simple request down. Now, the motorcycle club is filing suit, claiming it was discriminated against.

"No one other than us has ever tried to put in a permit," Saxon Creed MC

President Rob Anderson told News 10/KXTV. "We thought we were doing the right thing."

Last July, the club wanted to hold its fundraising pig roast at Blackwelder Park, the same park where dozens of other community events have been held. So, the group filed for a permit with the city. But, the request was declined by the police chief and the city.

The group held their pig roast this year without problems at a Veteran's Hall, right next door to the park they applied to last year.

Members of Saxon Creed MC say they feel like the request was denied because they are bikers. The group has filed a discrimination lawsuit, claiming its civil rights were violated. They're suing for \$250,000 in damages on behalf of their 15 members. "It makes me very angry," Anderson said. "This is America. We all have rights. I don't like seeing anyone's rights trampled on."

## MAN ON A MISSION

"This will be the most important thing I have ever done," says Tim King, founder and news editor of Salem-News.com, in regard to his scheduled 48-state motorcycle ride for Veterans. "I am riding 48 states this summer to educate Vets through talks and media appearances about health issues that are taking lives; we're talking about PTSD/TBI, Agent Orange and the effects of serving aboard toxic military bases."

A former Marine who has covered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Tim and his wife Bonnie received the NCOM Silver Spoke Award for Media in 2011 for advocating on behalf of motorcycle clubs and riders and their civil rights, and they have also been recognized by the Oregon Confederation of Clubs for Excellence in Journalism.

Tim is riding thousands of miles to share the information he has accumulated over his journalism career and nine specific years reporting for Salem-News.com and he's doing it by himself, so your help can make Tim's trip safer and more effective.

Tim's covering an ongoing war here at home where Veterans are fighting for their rights, and he'll be checking in with motorcycle riders who are busy defending their civil rights in regard to club membership and other issues, so he's enlisting the support of the motorcycle community to publicize and help fund his mission. Along the way he'll be writing stories and posting photos and videos of the places and people he visits, and you'll be able to track his progress at Salem-News.com and also via this dedicated Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/tim.king.146612?ref=tn\\_tnmn](http://www.facebook.com/tim.king.146612?ref=tn_tnmn).

## VERTICAL MOTORCYCLE LICENSE PLATE BILL CLEARS PA HOUSE

Legislation allowing the vertical display of registration plates on motorcycles was recently passed by the state House and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

House Bill 1060 is sponsored by state Rep. Mark Keller (R-86). "This legislation is specific to motorcycles," explained Rep. Keller. "Currently, the state vehicle code does not specify how a vehicle registration plate may be mounted. However, regulations in Title 67 of the Pennsylvania Code require horizontal mounting of vehicle registration plates and do not give the option for vertical mounting. HB 1060 would also "authorize the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to produce, upon request, registration plates for motorcycles which display the identifying characters in a vertical alignment."

"Owners of custom-made or vintage motorcycles are sometimes reluctant to mount the registration plate horizontally on the rear fender because doing so

interferes with the custom paint job or other custom work done on the cycle," according to Keller. "Many of these owners have approached ABATE of Pennsylvania, the motorcycle advocacy group, about making this legislative change, and ABATE supports my legislation."

## MORE RULES PROPOSED FOR CANADIAN RIDERS

Saskatchewan is considering more requirements for new motorcycle licensees, supervision for new riders and the possibility of mandatory gear. The ideas are among more than a dozen changes to motorcycle safety, training and insurance rules proposed by Saskatchewan Government Insurance as it looks for ways to reduce claims, save money and quell the roar of angry riders.

One suggestion is for potential riders to pass a basic skills test or complete a motorcycle training program before they're issued a learner's license. New riders who don't take the training courses could see an additional \$500 a year fee or be restricted on the size of the bike they use.

Helmets and eye protection are currently the law in Saskatchewan and similar rules apply across the country, but no other jurisdiction in Canada has mandatory rules for wearing gloves, ankle-covering boots or clothing that cover arms and legs, according to SGI.

The review was launched earlier this year after a proposed rate increase which would have seen insurance costs for motorcycles go up by an average of 73% to cover a \$9 million gap between what SGI takes in from motorcyclists in fees versus what is paid out for collisions.

The public has until the end of July to comment on the proposals and SGI is to report to the government in the fall. The goal is to have the new rules in place for next year's riding season.

## MOTORCYCLE BAN LIFTED IN PAKISTAN

After five years, Pakistani authorities have lifted ban on motorcycle riding in Bajaur tribal region. The ban on motorcycle riding was imposed in 2008 when the Taliban stepped up their activities in the region, and the ban was aimed at controlling insurgency and preventing targeted killings because motorcycles were being used for attacks against anti-Taliban forces.

The announcement about lifting the ban was made by Brig Ghulam Haidar, a sector army commander, during his speech through the security forces-run FM radio channel (Radio Aman FM 88). "The lifting of ban on motorcycle riding is a gift for the tribesmen on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan. This good news may enhance happiness of Ramadan," he said.

Brig Ghulam said that imposing the ban on motorcycle riding was a difficult decision but it was taken only in the larger interest of people of the tribal agency.

## QUOTABLE QUOTE

*"Success is not final, failure not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."*  
~ Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British Prime Minister and inspirational WWII leader

**NCOM**  
National Coalition of Motorcyclists



# THUNDER CAM



# TRM EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

## AUGUST

August 1-3  
Michigan Chopper Fest \*\*\* NOTE: THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED\*\*\*  
US 131 Motorsports Park, Martin, MI. Bike builders, camping, drags & grudge match racing. Gates open July 31st. More info contact Davidson Express 269-694-9579 or go to [www.davidson-express.com](http://www.davidson-express.com)

August 1-3  
GWRRA Michigan Rally and Convention  
Midland County Fairgrounds, Midland, MI. For more info call 812-579-6500

August 3  
Northhaven Resort Biker Bash Weekend  
Brooklyn, MI. Motorcycle rally, clothing optional, poker run, on-site camping. More info email [velmaatnorthaven@aol.com](mailto:velmaatnorthaven@aol.com) or call 517-592-6170.

August 3  
Free Breakfast at Grand Rapids HD  
Grand Rapids HD, Hudsonville, MI. Cool bikes and hot free breakfast 9 am 'til gone. Call 616-896-0111 for more info.

August 3  
9th Annual Ride for Autism  
Biker Bobs' H-D, Taylor, MI. More info go to [www.bikerbobshd.com](http://www.bikerbobshd.com) (See full page ad this issue).

August 3  
1st Annual Brad's Ride, SSG Brad Eifert Memorial Poker Run  
Jean Anderson VFW Post 7309, Mason, MI. Reg. 10am. \$15 per person, \$20 per couple. Proceeds to benefit Military PTSD Counseling Room at the VFW Post. 50/50 and other prizes. Contact Brooke Lipka 517-977-5175 [lipka@yahoo.com](mailto:lipka@yahoo.com) for additional info

August 3  
1st Annual Charity Fun Run  
Driftwood Bar & Grill, Newaygo, MI. Call 231-652-2686 for more info (See ad this issue).

August 3  
5th Annual SGT. Christopher P. Messer Memorial Run  
Dundee Veterans Memorial Hall, Dundee, MI. Regis. 11am, ride at 1 pm, \$20 bike, \$10 rider, free food, raffle, 50/50, proceeds to Fallen & Wounded Soldiers Fund. Contact Bubba Rick at 734-587-2129 or [rckm4him@yahoo.com](mailto:rckm4him@yahoo.com)

August 3  
Customer Appreciation Day  
Town & Country HD, Cement City, MI. Go to [www.cementcityharley.com](http://www.cementcityharley.com) for more info (See full page ad this issue).

August 3  
Bill Roemer Jr. Benefit Run  
Iron Horse Bar, Akron, MI. Regis 10 am-noon, \$10 rider, \$15 with passenger. 100 mile scenic ride, 50/50 and silent auction.

August 3  
3rd Annual Children's Miracle Network Poker Run  
NTC Church, Burton, MI. Regis. 9 am, blessing at 10 am, ride starts 10:30 am, \$25 rider, \$10 extra for passenger. More info contact 810-262-9399

August 3  
2nd Annual Life Cycles Benefit Ride  
Gaylord New Life Pregnancy Resource Center, Gaylord, MI. Regis. 10 am, ride leaves at 10:30 am, \$15 rider, \$5 passenger. 120 mile scenic ride. Rain date August 10th. More info call 989-732-1626

August 3  
Mary's Dream-Living without Fear Ride  
711 W. Pickard Ave, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Regis. 9 am, kick stands up at 11 am, \$25 per bike, 50 mile police escorted ride. For more info call 906-287-0987 or go to [www.marysdream2008.org](http://www.marysdream2008.org)

August 3  
Sturgis Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Hamilton H-D, Sturgis, MI. For more info call 269-651-3424

August 4  
2nd Annual Kevin "Moses" Memorial Ride  
Museum of Moses, Vogel Center, MI. 11am. UPS 98.5 Michael J will be live, no fees, all donations to the museum, hamburgers, hot dogs and home-made ice cream, prizes and raffle for 110th Anniversary collectibles. For more info contact Karla 231-825-2219.

August 5-11  
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Sturgis, SD.

August 9-10  
Del Shannon Car Show  
Coopersville, MI. Car enthusiasts, motorcyclist and general public. More info at 616-947-2055.

August 10  
Harley's at the Dragway  
Milan Dragway, MI. 3pm - 12am, (See full page ad this issue).

August 10  
2nd Annual Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy  
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. 9-4 pm, Regis for poker ride at 9 am, \$15 per person, children free, ride starts at 10:30, prizes, \$1000 gift card, raffles & more. For more info email [macombaware@gmail.com](mailto:macombaware@gmail.com) or call Sherri 586-530-0285

August 10  
Poker Run Benefit- Michigan Motorcycle Riders Pac Fund  
Avenue Billiards, 2410 Michigan Avenue, Jackson, MI. Regis. 10 am  
First Bike Out 11:00 am Last Bike in by 4:30 pm, cost \$15/bike \$20 w/rider. Cash prizes to best 3 poker hands, DJ, door prizes & dinner after ride  
Sponsor ABATE 13 (no contact number provided)

August 10  
Love Ride for Kids with Cancer  
Midland Eagles, Midland, MI. Observation ride, music, silent auction, last bike out at 11 am, dinner at 4 pm. For more info call 586-719-7085

August 10  
9th Annual Wounded America Run  
Motor City H-D, Farmington Hills, MI. Escorted ride to Michigan International Speedway, check-in 10:30 am- noon, silent/live auctions, all bikes welcome, \$15 donation per person, lunch, live band. More info contact Motor City H-D.

August 10  
Escort the kids to Great Lakes Burn Camp - Meet at Wings Stadium, Kalamazoo, MI. Regis 10 am-12:30 pm, ride starts at 1 pm. Prizes, 50/50, food. More info call Bill 517-206-1115 (See ad this issue).

August 10  
Come ride with your local Fire Department - Paw Paw Car Pool off exit 60 and I-94. Regis. Starts 8:45 am ride leaves at 9:30 am. Benefits kids at Great Lakes Burn Camp. For more info call Tom (See ad this issue).

August 10  
Coopersville Motorcycle Show  
Coopersville Entertainment Tent, Coopersville, MI. Regis. Noon- 2 pm, voting noon- 5 pm, \$10 per entry. For more info email [jnnurmi@hotmail.com](mailto:jnnurmi@hotmail.com)

August 10  
Macomb Aware Ride  
Wolverine H-D, Clinton Township, MI. Regis 9 am, ride at 10:30 am, \$15 per person. For more info go to [www.wolverinehd.com](http://www.wolverinehd.com) or call 586-530-0285

August 10  
Ride to the Thunder over Michigan Air Show - Biker Bobs' H-D, Taylor, MI. More info go to [www.bikerbobshd.com](http://www.bikerbobshd.com) (See full page ad this issue).

August 10-11  
Thunder Over Michigan Air Show  
Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, MI. 9 am air show grounds open, air show 12- 4pm, F-100 Super Sabre, Vietnam homecoming, WWII reenactment, kids zone play area, tickets & more info available at [www.yankeearmuseum.org](http://www.yankeearmuseum.org)



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## ABATE OF MICHIGAN

*"By far the most dangerous foe we have to fight is apathy - indifference from whatever cause, not from a lack of knowledge, but from carelessness, from absorption in other pursuits, from a contempt bred of self satisfaction"*

~ William Osler

As I rode into work on the expressway this Saturday morning, I counted the bikes heading north, taking note of who wore helmets and who did not. There were a lot of bikes. Slightly more riding free than with helmets. It did not seem to matter the make of motorcycle ridden, and in groups there were those with and those without. Each person making their own choice. It made me happy.

Then I wondered how many riding free were Abate members. I wondered how many understood the totality of the 40 year fight to modify Michigan's helmet law for choice. Then I wondered how many were enjoying the proceeds of all our years of effort, our dollars invested, and our commitment to the cause of freedom, without ever having contributed? Then I started to get mad. Then I let it go. It does not matter to me if anyone other than myself fights the fight, pays the dues, or makes the effort. I only have to live with myself.

*"The only kind of dignity which is genuine is that which is not diminished by the indifference of others."*

~ Dag Hammarskjold

Now, that being said, I do realize that me, myself, and I, would never have gotten the helmet law changed. It was the collaborative effort of a lot of like minded non-politicians who came together, donated, worked, and committed to a cause. And knowing that, it is my duty to do everything I can to incite those who are apathetic to the cause to stand up and be counted. To, if nothing else, join Abate. That modest membership fee is needed to keep what we all enjoy, and much more. I am not beneath laying a guilt trip on you if necessary. Like, you ride a \$20,000.00 motorcycle without a helmet, but your too cheap to spend \$25 bucks to support the organization that got your right to make that choice back?

But I don't think being cheap has anything to do with it. To join Abate requires defeating an internal emotional hurdle that many would just as soon avoid, or ignore. It is engaging in political activism. It is stressful to take a stand against the government. It's a step out of the comfort zone.

Let me see if I can lighten the load a bit. There are some definite misunderstandings out there about Abate.

First of all, Abate of Michigan is NOT a club in any way, shape, or form. It has absolutely no requirements for anyone to become a member. Having paid for your membership, you will get a membership card based upon your voting district. You will receive monthly Michigan Rider magazines with a ton of motorcyclist information and related activities. Beyond that your obligated to do nothing, or be as involved as you choose.

Do not judge the entire organization by the actions of any one member. We are as diverse as the population of Michigan. Many M/C Club members are Abate members because M/C Club members are bikers. The majority of Abate members are just non-affiliated bikers. A large percentage of Abate members are Veterans. Another large percentage are Christian Riders.

Abate of Michigan is a grass roots political organization representing bikers of all types. The bottom line being we will protect our right to ride, and ride as is our right to.

*"No one cares. Apathy is a disease and some days I long for it."*

~ Zoe Trope

I can relate. Its easiest to put the fight on the shelf and forget about it. Sometimes I wish I could.

Bottom line? Freedom isn't free. Abate of Michigan cannot operate without money. Your annual membership dues largely funds our efforts. If nothing else, overcome the hurdle, shake off the apathy, join Abate and be a political activist if only in that way. Ride free, and with the dignity of knowing you are part of the reason why you can

Rusty



**Rusty Bongard**

Communications Director, ABATE of Michigan  
Asst. State Rep. MRF  
Co-Director B.O.L.T. of Michigan  
V.P. SWMC

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Weekend Pass - Includes Camping (Fri or Sat-Sun)  
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Must Have Weekend Wristband To Enter Campground

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# BSA Chopper

Owner Builder: Kurt Boulter

Engine: 1971 BSA 650 Lightning -  
Rebuild PT Customs: Kevin McDonald

Exhaust: Bill Darnell

Frame: Aman Softail - Customized-Hardtailed  
by Bill Darnel & Kurt Boulter

Oil Tank: Bill Darnel

Paint: Kurt Boulter

Leather Seat: Kurt Boulter

## Starting Point



**Birmingham  
Small Arms**



What started as a tv inspired bobber project for my upcoming 50th, soon turned to a 70's era Chopper revival. With the help of my buddy Bill, we began the project 5 years ago. We soon learned the 12" extended front was terrifying just in the pole barn and the Ahman frame softail was not functional. The frame was sandblasted and all motor mounts removed. Fab work included all new motor mounts and removal of softail. Bill's new plasma cutter was put to use. Hardtail rear end, motor mounts, seat pan, head light brackets all were cut, ground and welded into place. Custom 2 into 1 exhaust was fabbed from j-pipe pieces and ceramic coated. PT Customs replaced all the missing engine parts and rebuilt top and bottom. Engine and exhaust have a killer sound. Oil tank kit caused a little delay in build but is shiny and cool. Leather seat tooling brings in the Birmingham Small Arms logo as a tribute to the engine manufacture BSA. Head light and rear fender were donated by my buddy Bob. A lot of time and sweat went into this I would like to thank all who contributed their critiquing and help. It's a riot to ride!!!

Dream it, build it, ride it,  
and build another one!!!

**KURT BOULTER**



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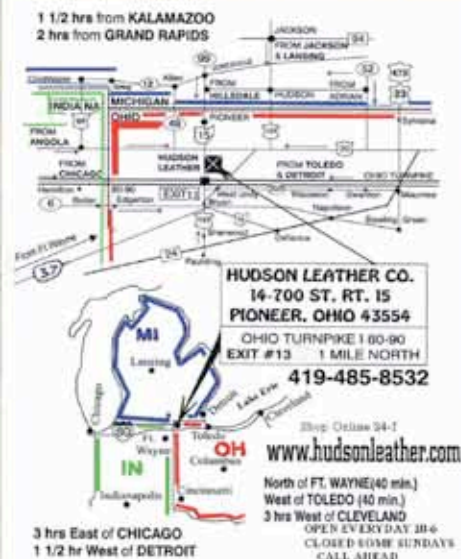
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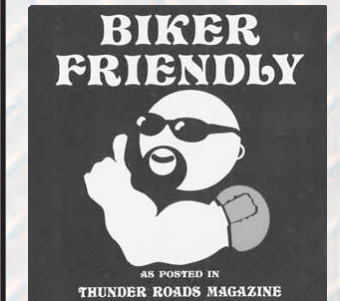
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# PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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Rack and Pull Industries features *The Rack and the Straight Shooter*. Allen Cagle is the Founder and President of Rack and Pull Industries, and he has designed and patented the only equipment in the world that can efficiently and effectively measure a motorcycle for frame damage and/or suspension misalignments in just minutes.

This equipment is designed for professional motorcycle repair technicians only. If you own a motorcycle dealership or independent shop and you want to grow your business and increase sales and become more profitable then contact [www.RackandPull.com](http://www.RackandPull.com) and ask about *The Rack and the Straight Shooter*! *The Straight Shooter* is the only "live" laser measuring system for motorcycles. It can be used in conjunction with *The Rack* or stand alone by itself to check for frame damage or misaligned suspension components.

*The Straight Shooter* is a must have tool if a shop does collision repair. The insurance industry in California is already aware of the Straight Shooter and they know it can validate a bent or straight frame. This will remove any guess work for an insurance adjuster and shop owner. I'm sure the insurance companies will appreciate dealing with a shop that can show proof that a bike has frame damage or not! *The Straight Shooter* is a triangulation measuring system with various targets that when used with *The Rack*, you can actually see the frame being straightened back to factory specifications. *The Straight Shooter* also works as a standalone with a bike on a jack or lift. It can help a technician locate the cause of a high speed wobble, directional pull, shake or shimmy. *The Straight Shooter* measuring system can actually help locate a misaligned, bent or worn out suspension component.

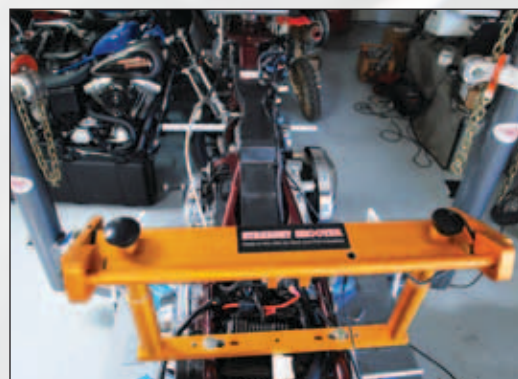
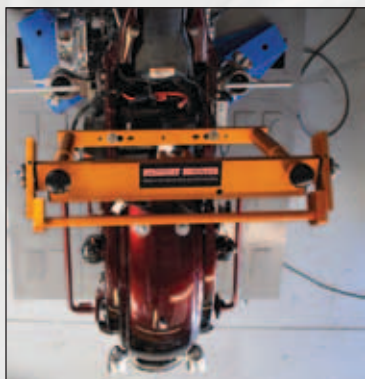
*The Rack* is the only ride up motorcycle frame straightener in the world, and it can also be used as a service rack. It has a rear drop panel that easily unlocks and slides off, so a technician can remove the rear wheel. If the motorcycle is too damaged to ride up the ramp, which it probably will be because 90 % of all wrecked bikes have front end damage, then you can use the winch and dolly system to effortlessly mount the damaged bike on the frame rack for repairs. It has two moveable pulling towers that can pull from any direction needed and has ten tons of pulling capabilities per tower. *The Rack* has a multitude of tooling and universal mounting brackets to mount any motorcycle for frame repairs without causing anymore damage to the finish of the frame. The front of the motorcycle frame can be repaired without removing the engine or any other drive train components. You don't have to remove the rear swing arm, rear wheel and fender. Since the bike doesn't get stripped to the frame, the possibility of breaking clips and seals on wiring connectors that can cause problems down the road are eliminated. According to the insurance industry there is an average of 52 days to



replace a frame. I've seen it take more than two months on several occasions. Avoid this time consuming process and start making time and money by using *The Rack*. You could repair a frame in just hours! There is a power up kit for every motorcycle these days. Some Harleys have 80 horse power and 95 foot pounds of torque when they're stock. After a little work they go to 125 horse power with 135 foot pounds of torque. My point is all this horse power and torque is great! But it accelerates the wear and tear on suspension mounts, bushings and bearings, and that causes wobbles, pulls, shakes and shimmies.

Now as a shop owner you have the opportunity to offer a suspension alignment with a service or when you install new tires on a bike, and as a customer, you can finally ask for one. You get an alignment when you install new tires on your car or truck right? Why wouldn't you get an alignment on your motorcycle? Hell! You only have two wheels! How important is it to you to make sure they're properly aligned? Mike Fahey, owner/operator of Grumpy's Motorcycles, located at 797 San Bruno Ave East in San Bruno is the first shop to own *The Straight Shooter*. Call Grumpy's if your motorcycle has any ride quality or handling issues and let him and *The Straight Shooter* find the problem for you. Customers feel better leaving Grumpy's knowing they didn't have to pay two hours labor for diagnostics, there was no guess work. *The Straight Shooter* can show exactly where the problem is.

Article and photo contributed by Allen Cagle of Rack and Pull Industries.  
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# SOOOO..... YOU WANT TO RIDE THE TAIL OF THE DRAGON?



BY JOEY LOVOIE

Some call it US 129...some call it The Dragon...whatever you want to call it, it is about as close to heaven on earth as I have ever been. I rode it for the first time in 2004 and have been back every year since then. There is a certain kind of magic up in those mountains. The eleven mile stretch of road known worldwide for its 318 curves (resembling a dragon's tail- hence the name) makes for a ride that is exhilarating, awe inspiring, and humbling all at the same time. Some of the sharpest curves have been given names over the years...Gravity Cavity, Beginner's End, and Brake or Bust Bend just to name a few.

Those names have not been given lightly. Make no mistake about it, the Dragon is a dangerous road. Fatalities are a fact of life up there. The biggest mistakes I've witnessed fall into the "common sense" category. I've seen even well experienced riders lose their sensibilities while embarking on the amazingly exciting, yet still perilous journey that is known as riding the Tail of the Dragon. I've put together a small list of reminders for those of you that wish to take on the challenge of US 129.

1. Wear your protective gear! As tempting as it is to let that fresh mountain air envelope you, doing so without the proper clothing might make it the last air that you breathe. When I ride, I wear long pants, leather jacket, full face D.O.T. approved helmet, boots, and gloves. I have wrecked on the Dragon before, but thanks to my protective clothing, I walked away unscathed.

2. The speed limits are set at the posted speeds for a reason! This is not to say that you have to act as if you were driving Miss Daisy, but you do need to be aware that the speed limits set for those curves are there for your protection and the protection of others on the road. A lot of the curves up there are called tight or "technical" curves. Follow the speed limit because if you go around them any faster than recommended, the only three options you have are either going off the side of a mountain, running into a mountain, or blowing the curve- going outside your driving area and into oncoming traffic.
3. Know your bike and your skill set and ride within the limitations of both. There are some motorcycle rental places in that area that will gladly take your money and let you rent a bike to ride the Dragon. If that is an option you choose, I highly recommend renting the bike for a long enough period of time that you know how it performs and handles before you take it on the Dragon. Contrary to popular belief, sport bikes are not made for speed. They are made for handling.
4. Be courteous! US 129 is a public road - not a private racetrack. There are other motorcyclists, cars, and trucks that travel it daily. There has always been some discontent between the sport bike riders and the cruisers when it comes to the Dragon. I've ridden it both ways and can see the validity in both of their stands on the subject. Bottom line is just to be courteous to everyone else on the road. If you're on a sport bike, don't pass folks when there's a double yellow line and don't fly by them so fast that you put

yourself and them at risk. If you're on a cruiser, don't ride the middle of the road just to slow the sport bike behind you down. Pull to the side and let them pass. You're not going to teach anyone respect or the proper way to ride by putting both your lives at risk.

5. I've ridden the Dragon solo and I've ridden it with a group. If you're riding solo, keep in mind that there is no cell phone service up in that stretch of the mountains. If you get hurt out there, you're stuck until someone sees you, then goes back down the mountain to get cell service and call for help, and until help makes its way up the mountain to your location. So be extra careful and aware of your surroundings! If you are riding with a group, make sure to have a designated meet up spot in case anyone in the group gets separated. Also be sure to still pay close attention to your surroundings at all times. It's easy to get caught up in just "following the leader" or looking at all the amazing scenery, but if you do that and the leader goes down, there's a strong likelihood that you will go down as well.
6. Make sure your bike and all your gear is legal! You will be stopped for not wearing the proper helmet, having an expired or missing tag, not having your tag mounted in the proper place, etc. Those tickets are highly expensive! If you normally wear a novelty helmet, it is much more cost effective to stop along the way and buy a D.O.T. approved helmet rather than risk the cost of a ticket.

Another thing to be aware of is that there are several professional photographers that are out there every day taking pictures of

riders as they go by. Don't let yourself get distracted by them. Maintain your lane and keep your eyes on the road. They make sure to stay out of the way of traffic and are situated off the road, but they can inadvertently startle you if you're not paying attention when you're riding and happen to come up on them. Just be aware that they are out there. They are there to capture that moment of you being on the Dragon. You can purchase the pictures from them if you would like. Their business cards are at the local gift shops.

One of the last things I'd like to mention is the Tree of Shame at Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort. It is a tree with a collection of various parts that have been left by people who have wrecked on the Dragon. Some have been left by loved ones of those who have died while riding the Dragon. It serves as a reality check of what can happen when you take on the challenge of riding those curves.

And finally, it is a local legend that it is bad luck if you purchase a sticker to put on your helmet, bike, vehicle or anywhere else BEFORE you ride the Dragon. Even if you're not superstitious by nature, why chance it? Ride it first, then buy your sticker!

Ok, enough of the warnings! Time to move on to some fun stuff!

I've been asked several times which I prefer riding in the mountains - my sport bike or my Harley. It's a completely different experience and I enjoy both immensely. The thrill of the sport bike is always great...I started my motorcycling hobby

continued...



on sport bikes. Since having a Harley though, I've learned to appreciate the scenery a little more. It's breathtakingly beautiful up there. Both bikes have provided me with the "wind therapy" that makes every trip to the Dragon worthwhile.

I love the whole region up there. It is a truly motorcycle friendly area. The local businesses thrive on the motorcycle community's visits to their area from all over the world to ride up there. Be sure to stop in and support them. You will always find friendly faces, great food, and folks willing to sit around a campfire at night swapping stories.

When I go on vacation to the Dragon, I usually go first to an area in Georgia (referred to as the Georgia Loop by the locals) and ride Blood Mountain, which is in between Blairsville, GA and Dahlonega, GA. Dahlonega is a tourist town and is actually the site of the first American gold rush in the country. It's a wonderful area with quaint shops, antiques, great little restaurants, and some of the best local wines you'll find anywhere. On more recent trips though, I started staying in Blairsville because it's not quite so touristy and has a real old town feel to it. I usually stay at Seasons Inn and highly recommend it if you make your way up there. The owners are very motorcycle friendly; the rooms are always clean and nice; the rates are very reasonable; and they provide nice little extras- such as rags to clean your bike. A great place to eat while in town is at the Hole in the Wall restaurant. Very unique place with great food.

Once I've ridden Blood Mountain, I usually head on up to Deal's Gap, which usually takes me about an hour and a half. I always stop at Wheeler's Performance shop and say hi and talk to a person I consider one of the best and friendliest motorcycle mechanics in that whole area! Folks, he is the man to see for all your motorcycle needs! Now for lodging, there are a lot of places to stay in that area, but for the best rates and the best access, I normally stay at Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort at the Dragon. The rates are very reasonable and it's an interesting place to sit back and just watch the traffic when you're not out riding. In the peak season there are hundreds of people a day coming

in and out and you get to talk to people from all over the world. Because of its location situated right at the beginning of the Tail of the Dragon, it serves as a central hub for all things going on.

Right across the street from the resort is an independent Tail of the Dragon Gift Shop that has an expansive collection of souvenirs, t-shirts, and maps. The map at the top of this article is courtesy of the owners, Ron and Nancy.

Because of how convenient and popular the Deal's Gap Motorcycle Resort is, they book up fast. If you want to stay there, you need to call months in advance to get a reservation. If they are booked or if you just prefer a more rustic type accommodation, I highly recommend the Punkin Center Motorcycle Resort run by two very good friends of mine, Jody and Sherry Montgomery. It is comprised of individual cabins with clean beds and hot showers, but no cable TV. There is a kitchen/bar where you can go have a beer or soft drink and watch TV if you would like. When I have stayed there in the past though, I have preferred to just disconnect from the outside world and enjoy the beauty of the surroundings. If you are staying there, you've got to try the pizza. It is handmade and out of this world! Mr. Jody and Ms. Sherry are great people who will sit down with you and talk to you about anything under the sun. If you're in the area, stop in and say hello!

I just can't say enough about the natural beauty of the area, the friendliness of everyone you'll encounter, or the thrill that you will get from riding the Dragon. I fell in love with it on my first trip in 2004, and it has been my choice destination for all my vacations since then. If you haven't been, make plans to go. As long as you use your common sense while riding, you won't regret it!

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# Tech Tips By Steve Barn Find Bargain or Money Muncher

**Wow!** Now that was some great warm weather, huh? Sorry, all you cold weather freaks, this boy likes it hot, although my shop peeps are not too fond of me, not on the lack of air conditioning right now so I am going to need you all to come down and spend a crap ton of money so I can get them air... Smiles! I do hope you have had a great start on summer and logging in many miles of motorcycle fun, seeing wonderful sites and maybe attending a few events, too!

The venerable barn find everyone dreams of, finding that great deal or rare bike they have always wanted in some hidden location behind an old tarp or forgotten barn, but WAIT! Is it a true "deal" or is it a going to munch all your funds and leave you in a worse place than if you had just gone out and bought a well maintained bike? I will say there are many great finds out there and it just so happens a customer just brought one in, so let's go through his bike together and see if he made a wise purchase. Once you go visit your new found treasure take a look at the general condition, find the true mileage, ask will it start or at least will the engine manually turn over, look at the paint, mirrors, grips, seat, tires, chain or belt, look for rust and damage and once you are convinced it may be worth repairing it then put the cash down, take her home and take it step by step, putting as little money into it as you can making sure it will run and be safe. I would not go ordering a whole bunch of stuff until you are for sure she is a real diamond in the rough.

A customer of ours brought us a 1995 Sportster that he paid \$900 for, it has very low mileage but it has been sitting for over 10 years. It is sporting good paint and no real damage other than a ripped seat, otherwise cosmetically looks nice, now to see if the mechanical side is going to be a money muncher or not.



1995 Harley Sportster barn find!

## AIR INTAKE

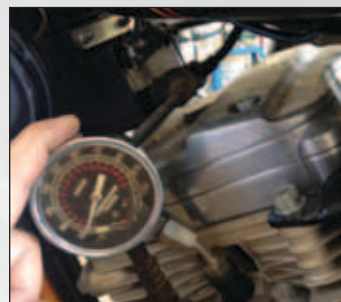
First thing is to remove the airbox or air cleaner, little rodents love the air intake system and in almost 100% of long term stored bikes (even in ones stored over the winter) you will find a nest of some sort. It is vital you clean this before you turn the engine over or you will suck all kinds of garbage into your carb and engine. They will most likely eat your paper filter up so you will be into the price of an air filter, so our first item to purchase is an air filter, which we will set the price at \$25.



Mice nesting inside the air cleaner

## ENGINE

Now that you have cleaned the air intake system out, and you know you will not suck in all kinds of nasty debris into the engine, it's time to see if it rotates freely and has compression. Take the spark plugs out and spray some PB Blaster or some sort of penetrating oil into the cylinders before trying to rotate everything; this will help break and rust that may have formed. After it has set a while you can attempt to rotate the engine, do this carefully with the crankshaft nut or put the bike in gear and use the rear tire preferably so you can control how fast and how much it will rotate. If all rotates smoothly then you can do a compression test. If you have a kick start bike you can go straight to the compression start, if it is electric start you may want to get the electrical temporarily working instead of trying to use the back tire to rotate everything. There are a couple of choices of compression testers, one is a simple push in style and the other screws into the spark plug hole, both work fine for what we are doing, however the screw in type is best. Our bike turned over easily and had 155lbs of compression which was great. Next we took a look at the oil as it was drained and it looks good for old oil. After a few more tests, we will replace the oil and filter, run it for a bit, drain and replace it again with another new filter just to make sure all that old crap is out of our barn burner! Another \$34.50 for oil, and filter. Second oil change was Amsoil and it ran another \$43.78.



Push in style compression tester

## TRANSMISSION AND CLUTCH

It is almost impossible to tell if these are working properly until you get it running. Pull the clutch in and out to see if the cable is free, push the sifter down and see if it engages roll the bike back and forth while it is in gear to hear for anything odd, shift it up and down the gears ... that is about all you can do.

## TIRES, BELTS, CHAINS, SPROCKETS

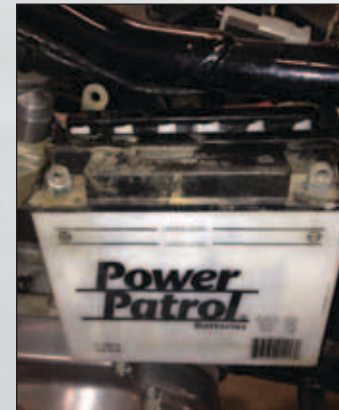
Take a look at the tires not only for wear but for weather checking and dry rot, our bike miraculously had great rubber that had no sign of dry rot, however I did recommend changing the tires soon just due to age. A rear belt can be an expensive proposition, the labor is a bit much, plus a belt can go over \$200, so keep that in mind. Chains are easier to replace but still can be expensive especially if it is a nice O-ring 530, those can get above \$200 too. Remember to look at the front and rear sprockets, most change out the rear sprocket but neglect the front.

## ELECTRICAL

You will have to get a battery eventually, hopefully you are lucky enough to have a spare shop battery to test the system, this helps with the budget because if the system is bad or the engine is not where you want it to be you don't have the price of a new battery into the bike yet. Our battery was bad and we replaced it with a Deka battery. I do not like using the el-cheapo batteries, I tried to help some budget minded customers and had some el-cheapos at the shop for a bit but the batteries fail quickly and the terminals are crap... So we only use Deka and Odyssey batteries now. Our bike needed a battery so we installed a new one after checking and cleaning the battery cables and making sure the battery case was clean and the pad was in good shape, ours was in great shape. After a

good charge, we pushed the button and, voila! the starter worked great! We did a test on the rest of the electrical and all worked great, turn signals, brake lights, horn, high/low beam and the charging system all passed with flying colors.

We put the old spark plugs in the wire and tested for spark, our bike was good to go there so we gapped and installed new spark plugs. Battery and plugs total \$112.50



One nasty battery!

## FUEL SYSTEM

Next is to make sure your fuel system is ready to go, first take a look at the fuel tank and all rubber hoses, if you're lucky it will be full of fuel, if that's the case it should be relatively clean inside and just need the old fuel dumped out and the tank flushed. Worst case scenario you have to replace the tank ... in-between scenario is you have to have it etched and resealed. Our tank was full of fuel so we dumped it out, inspected and cleaned it and put it back on the bike. This bike is a carbureted model so we will be taking the carburetor off, take it apart, dunk it in carb cleaner and rebuild it using new gaskets, float needle, accelerator pump, intake to carb seal and a few other miscellaneous seals. You can buy a one gallon can of carb cleaner from your local parts store, it comes with a nifty tray to dunk your stuff down into the solution and retrieve it with ease. This stuff is far friendlier to your hands and parts than the old "good" stuff but this means it take a bit longer to work, you can bank on it taking about 1-3 days depending how bad your carburetor(s) is/are. This is a good time to think about jetting, will you be upgrading the pipes and air cleaner? Then put bigger jets in, this sporty had a 40 Pilot and a 170 main, however today we left this bike alone due to the owner wanted to keep the bike completely stock for now. Later we may put pipes, air cleaner, seat and a different style handle bars on, and that's when we will re-jet it. If you have an injected bike, I pray your injectors are free and not gummed up, also your fuel pump may need attention and you should change the fuel filter out just for a precaution. Our parts for this section are \$43.00 for a carb kit and fuel to clean out the tank and refill.



Carburetor Cleaner

## BRAKES

Take a look at all your braking components, brake pads, calipers, rotors, hoses, master cylinders and such, change out what looks damaged or in disrepair. You will need to at minimum flush the brake fluid out and replace with new, when you do this make sure you use the correct fluid as recommended by the manufacturer. Also take care when you do this, it can be done three different ways. You can simply do it by gravity with lots of patience, open a brake bleeder and let it drain out as you replace the old with new as it drains ... NEVER let the master cylinder reservoir become dry! When you do this it will allow air to enter the system and then you will have spongy brakes that will need to be bled. The next option is to vacuum bleed them, quicker and the tool is pretty cheap, the tool simply puts a vacuum on the system drawing the bad fluid into a cup out of the bleeder on the brake caliper, once you see the fluid change color to its nice clean state, stop. REMEMBER to NEVER let the master cylinder run out of fluid... if it does happen don't freak, simply keep going until the system is clean then bleed the air out of the brake system. The last way is to use a reverse bleeding tool; this is a more expensive tool, but sure has helped me out on a few occasions. It hooks up on your brake caliper the same as the vacuum bleeder does, but does the reverse as the vacuum bleeder, it pushes fluid through the system back up through the master cylinder, you will never get air in the system this way, that is, if you use the tool correctly ... yup I have made mistakes.



Reverse and Vacuum Bleeders

## CABLES AND HOSES

Take a look at all hoses for cracking or wear, if it is old and has been sitting for a long while you will have to change them all out. Cables are your next item to check, make sure the throttle works freely and the clutch cable, if so equipped, is free also.

The rest is cosmetic, I suppose, how clean do you want it, are you restoring it or are you buying it to make a buck or for a daily rider, this will depend on how much you want to put into it to make it look pretty. Also look at parts pricing, is it an odd model that parts are next to impossible to find? Is it popular and EBAY has everything for it? Maybe call a used parts place and ask them how easy parts are to find for it. Good things to know before you pick it up.

Oh, what did our customer have into his bike? Well, he spent a grand total of \$1486.00. He spent \$900 on the bike and \$586 on parts and labor with us and has one sweet low cost Sporty!

Thanks everyone for reading and special thanks for you who have come in to say hello, I really do enjoy it!

God Bless you all and ride as much as you can!



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# DOOMTOWN CHOPPERS



BY POOCH

(Fourth in a series, about some of the world-class, state-based motorcycle builders we have in Michigan)

When I first met Chris Phillips, owner of **Doomtown Choppers**, I was impressed by his "business card", or I guess lack of it. He had none. So he did what any real man/Marine does, he "improvised, adapted and overcame". He found what he had in his pockets and made it work. What he gave me was [www.doomtownchoppers@comcast.net](mailto:www.doomtownchoppers@comcast.net) and a phone number, hand-written on the back of a 1/8" drill bit package. Yup, brand new, still in its original packaging. A very nice, nitride-tipped, high-quality drill bit. It was probably, an \$8 business card. I figured, hey, this guy is serious about getting his name out. First impressions are big where I come from, and this guy had impressed the hell outta me! This was at a Bike Show at the old **Boomer's** in Waterford, sometime in the summer of 2008. Since then, Chris and **Doomtown Choppers** have come a long way, metaphorically speaking. Geographically speaking, he's hardly moved at all.

Although as a kid, Chris had always loved motorcycles and BMX bicycles, he started off helping Bud, his father paint cars. So while dreaming about the wild choppers of the 70's, and all the fun stuff that went with them, he helped his Dad. After serving in the United States Marine Corps, (Thank you for your service, Sir!), Chris re-joined civilian life. For 5 years, Chris was a hydraulic systems maintenance specialist on CH46 helicopters. Now, he was almost ready to start chasing his dream of creating custom motorcycles. All it would take now was a couple road trips for motivation, a little trip to Milwaukee for the Harley-Davidson 100th Year Anniversary/Extravaganza. Add to that, the fact that Chris was unable to pick out his own motorcycle from the sea of bikes there. Another trip in late 2004 to the



Smoke Out in North Carolina was to see the cool choppers that were currently being built. And as they say, "that sealed the deal".

In late 2004, **Doomtown Choppers** was born in Michigan's thumb region, Port Huron to be exact. While Chris prefers to build bikes, "low and long" he will build any style. And when asked about his favorite build, he says with a smile "my next one". But me, personally, I think he may have some attachments to a certain 2003 Softail and a 1975 Yamaha XS650. At **Doomtown Choppers**, they always strive to "build people's dreams". For example, a Honda Shadow that was recently massaged into one bad-ass Bobber, **Doomtown Shadow** is a sweet looking bike. Check out their Facebook page. (810) 531-0174

While building complete bikes, from fabrication, paint, wiring and leather work, Chris has and can do it all. Now days, he prefers to stick to just the fabrication/welding side of it. And to say Chris is a good welder is a major understatement. He's helped Ron Finch build **Captivator** and **Outsider** as well as doing some great work on a bike for a mutual friend of ours, MD. He's currently working on an old Panhead for Englishman, (from **The Horse Backstreet Choppers**), reworking a one off mini chopper for actor and little person, Marty Klebba, from the **Pirates of the Caribbean** movies. This thing is WAY COOL at over 9 feet long. And also a drag bike for Chuck over at QC Coatings, a 1973 CB750, and a hard tail Sportster for Turner Cycle. As you can see, there is always a variety of projects going on in **Doomtown**.

Along the USMC, Chris acknowledges the influences of a few other builders, for his work ethic and highly-motivated style of bike building. Billy Lane, Indian Larry,



Gary Maurer, Ron Harris, 'Fabricator Kevin' as well as Ron Finch, who gave him some of the best advice to date. "Stay small as long as you can". This has worked out very well so far. Although he has had many opportunities to relocate into a big shop, Chris prefers to keep it small and work from a smaller one. "Quality trumps quantity every time", says Chris. I have to agree. And he's also quick to point out that without the total support of his wife, Mandy and two daughters, Kaelin and Darian none of it would have been possible.

As for upcoming events, Chris, along with the other **Chopin' Block** builders will be at The Broken Spoke in Sturgis, Daytona and of course, the Gibraltar Trade Center. **Doomtown Shadow** will be in the August Issue of **The Horse**. If you run into Chris, don't be surprised if he seems a little quiet compared to a lot of other builders. He's really not, but still prefers to let his work speak for itself. **Doomtown Choppers**, "Building a ride out of Doomtown, one Bike at a time".



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