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ON THE COVER
 PHOTO: Davide Photography (davidephoto@gmail.com)
 MODEL: Michelle Fionda
 ART DIRECTOR: Roxy Kurze
 MAKEUP: Kris Minneweather
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Jody Mohowitsch
 P.O. Box 1782, Midland, MI 48641-1782
 Office 989-486-8464 / Cell 989-615-5757 / Fax 866-678-2423
 Jody@thunderroadsmichigan.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Barbara L. Garner / ART DIRECTOR

ADVERTISING SALES / DISTRIBUTION

Port Huron / Mt Clemens & Surrounding Areas
 Tom & Dawn Burg / 810-533-9246

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Kalamazoo / Benton Harbor & Surrounding Areas
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 Kirk & Jean Quenby 517-763-8118 / 517-763-8408
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Canton / Royal Oak / Ferndale & Downriver
 Kathleen Howell 734-956-0648 / Kathleen@thunderroadsmichigan.com

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 Don Clark 989-450-1107 / Don@thunderroadsmichigan.com

Gladwin / West Branch / Manistee / Ludington
 LuAnn Wagner 989-948-8663 / LuAnn@thunderroadsmichigan.com

Traverse City

Kent "Pooch" 248-875-3154 / pooch@thunderroadsmichigan.com

Bay City / Saginaw / Midland / Mt. Pleasant
 Eric Mohowitsch 989-615-9848 / Eric@thunderroadsmichigan.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kathleen Howell, Jason Waechter, David McCallister "Possum", Gary Bredeweg,
 Don Clark, Debra Wright, Jackie Killeen, Steve Hollon, Rusty Bongard,
 Davide Anderson and Sam T'ang

National Founders

Toni McCoy Shearon & Brian Shearon
 1528 Matlock Drive / Chapmansboro, TN 37035
 Thunder Publishing, LLC Offices: 615-792-0040
 e-mail:thunderroadsfounders@yahoo.com / www.thunderroadsmagazine.com

Happy Valentine's Day!

It's February and another month closer to spring! I hope you have made it out to some of the swap meets that have been going on. They are still going on, so make sure you do! There are lots of things to do this month so check out the calendar of events in this issue and on the website so you don't miss a thing.

If you have a motorcycle event going on this year, get your information to us so it can be listed in the magazine and on the website. The events are already rolling in and plans are being made so don't hesitate. As the riding season approaches, you will find even more pages featuring all the events going on. There is no other FREE to reader motorcycle magazine that covers your events, covers the state of Michigan or provides you with the features and articles you want like Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan.

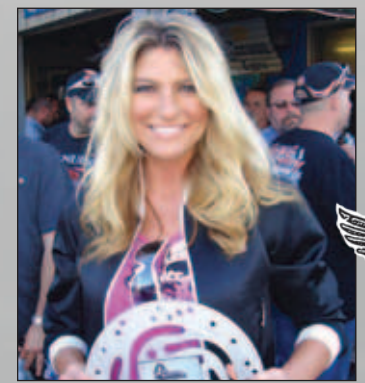
In this issue, you will find some wonderful articles showing love and compassion for beautiful little kids with terminal illnesses, great advice from Jason and useful tech tips by Steve. Plus, the pull-out calendar is back! You have to advertise to get your event in the pull-out calendar, so get in touch with us! Also, please be sure to patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw them in Thunder Roads. The only way it is free is because of their support so please be sure to support them as well.

Last month the TRM wheel was on page 29 (on my belt). Can you find it this month? Don't forget to check us out on Facebook and give us a thumbs up if you like!

Thank you for continuing to make Thunder Roads Magazine the #1 Free to Readers Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan!

Now for some "Mo" Advice:

In thoughts of Valentine's Day.... Love can lift you up, break you down, make you happy or break your heart. Without it, something seems to be missing. With it, there are risks. But it is always better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all. Cherish the ones you love.



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STURGIS Bound



BY
Kathleen Howell

Ridden to Sturgis, South Dakota? Planning on going? I wanted to share this story for several reasons, one because it's February 2013 and our Sturgis countdown is underway. Not a day will pass for the next six months that we won't dream about our annual road trip. Secondly, because so many people talk about riding to Sturgis like it's a faraway dream, a near impossible bucket list item that maybe, hopefully, they will have the chance to do someday. Some are amazed at the distance we cover in two days, 675 miles the first and 650 the next. The 2013 Sturgis Rally will be my eighth visit, and the fifth year that I've ridden my own bike. Pick a year and just go. The experience is one you'll never forget and you'll likely go back every chance you get. We've been fortunate to be able to take two weeks in recent years past, rather than one, and it's the epitome of our year. There is so much to see, you won't do it all in one trip. Another reason you'll return. J

In our case, the trip is about 1300 miles each way. It sounds far, but keep in mind that your ride will be sectioned into stretches as far as your gas tank will get you, in our case, approximately 200 miles. It goes quick, and next thing you know, you're stopping again to gas up, eat, and use the facilities, all opportunities to stretch your legs. The ride out is nice because as you move from Eastern to Central, to eventually the Mountain time zone, you gain time. From I-94 east out of Metro Detroit, we pick up 80/90 outside Chicago, and eventually I-80 across Iowa. Our halfway mark is Walnut, Iowa, at the far west end of the state. We stay at the same hotel, and last year I was lucky enough to scoop up the last copy of Thunder Roads Iowa from a local bar next door! Hehehe. Tired, sore, sunburned, and beyond excited, our trip continues to 29 north into South Dakota and eventually I-90, a long, windy last leg of our trip. Crossing the Missouri River in Chamberlain is when we really feel like we're getting close, the landscape changes from flat fields and prairie to vast, sculpted hills and buttes. The wind can be fierce, with nothing out there to block it, and there are also few overpasses to find shelter from the rain. We stay in Spearfish, South Dakota, Exit 14 off I-90, and our excitement builds as we click down the miles.

The trip is affordable because we camp, and carry everything on our bikes. If you can't carry much, UPS will be your best friend. Many accommodations during rally week will receive and possibly ship back your boxes of gear. (Keep the important stuff with you though!) Everything we need fits fine on our two tour bikes; tent, tarps, air mattress, clothes. We take enough clothes for one week and do laundry at the campground halfway through, (minus a few shirts, to make room for Rally wear!). We're okay with camping, we've got all we need with the amenities offered by the campground (showers, beer, ice, laundry) in addition to all the restaurants and gas stations right outside the park. Two weeks of rustic camping is about the price of one night in a hotel during rally week. Another reason I'm perfectly fine with my tent.

Unlike probably most riders, we really don't go to Sturgis for the party. Not that we don't enjoy a good biker event, but the riding country out here is INCREDIBLE. We come here to spend every minute we can exploring the gorgeous scenery of the Black Hills, Wyoming and Montana, and being in that indescribable Zen moment that every real rider knows, as the wind blows back your hair and the sun bakes your skin. (You're smiling, aren't you?) Yes, it's pretty cool to ride down Main St. in Sturgis in the sunshine surrounded by thousands of bikes. It's exhilarating to be in the middle of the mother of all biker parties with girls in bikinis and the burnout pits, enjoying a cold one. But our souls are led elsewhere. The Badlands, Spearfish Canyon, Custer State Park, even just the open highway where the Black Hills line the horizon for miles and the landscape is so massive that you feel like a flea on an elephant's ass. This is why we come.



If you can swing it, go. Months turn into years and we're not getting younger. Who knows what next year holds. Hope to see you in August!



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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

Insurance Attorney Advises New Law May Allow Denial of Claims of Michigan Unhelmeted Motorcyclists

At a recent seminar for no-fault attorneys and insurance adjusters, a leading attorney who represents Michigan No-Fault insurance companies advised that the new helmet law may allow an insurance company to argue that they might be able to deny the claims of motorcyclists not wearing helmets.

Most Michigan bikers know that the new law lessens helmet restrictions, allowing motorcycle operators to ride without a helmet under the following restrictions:

- They are 21 years of age or older;
- AND have at least \$20,000 of "first-party medical benefits";
- AND have had a motorcycle endorsement for more than two years (or pass a motorcycle safety course).

What some may not know is that if you are the operator and owner (on the title) of an uninsured* motorcycle when you are in a wreck with a motor vehicle, you are not entitled to Michigan No-Fault benefits. This is significant because if uninsured, you will be out payment of all medical bills for life, up to three years of wage loss**, payment of household chores, mileage to and from the doctors and attendant care. Most significantly, you could be stuck with hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills.

At the seminar referenced above, the insurance attorney encouraged claims adjusters and defense attorneys to make the argument that, if a Michigan motorcyclist is not wearing a helmet and doesn't have the specific \$20,000 of "first-party medical benefits," then they are not "insured" under the No-Fault law and the insurance company is off the hook from paying No-Fault benefits!

Since the new law passed, I personally have reviewed many insurance policies of motorcyclists who wish to ride without a helmet AND THOUGHT THEY BOUGHT THE REQUIRED \$20,000 of "first-party medical benefits." Most of the policies I reviewed did not have the right medical coverage! The most frequent reason being: The particular insurance company did not offer it, so they were sold something else. Another was the insurance was purchased on-line and the specific medical coverage was not part of the choices. The last frequent reason I saw was that the agent who sold the policy was not knowledgeable about this issue.

Rule #1: Always have insurance on your motorcycle. All that is required is the basic 20/40 policy. If you don't have it on the motorcycle you own, you don't get No-Fault benefits.

Rule #2: If you ride without a helmet, make sure you follow the requirements listed above EXACTLY.

Caveat 1: If you ride without a helmet, beware that even if you have motorcycle insurance and you attempted to buy the newly required medical benefits coverage, you may have ended up with something else. AS A RESULT, THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY MAY TRY TO DENY YOUR CLAIMS.

Caveat 2: If you ride without a helmet and you are in a wreck, the defense attorney may argue that you were negligent for not wearing a helmet. Perhaps the most surprising of all is Michigan's 50% Rule-- if you are found to be more

than 50% negligent, you are NOT entitled to non-economic (pain and suffering) damages.

So, maybe you were only going 5mph over the speed limit and you were not wearing a helmet when a car driver turns left in front of you. They might say, "I just could not see him, motorcycles are hard to see." If a jury wrongly adds up the "unreasonableness" of all involved and you are assigned 51% - you get nothing for all the injury they caused!

Author's Analysis: I think these defense arguments are a bunch of bull and it would be slimy for an insurance company to attempt to deny claims based on these arguments. The law that talks about an uninsured motorcyclist being excluded from No-Fault benefits refers to not having the required Bodily Injury coverage. To argue and ultimately deny benefits to an unhelmeted motorcyclist who has Bodily Injury coverage, but not the \$20,000 of "first-party medical benefits" is a huge stretch. I think denying a No-Fault claim for this reason would be disingenuous and it would ultimately fail. The problem is that it may take months or years to get it straightened out and irreparable harm may have occurred to the motorcyclist because of the denial. Also, even if the opportunity presents itself to the insurance company, I think it is unlikely that this will be commonly attempted.

* This attorney points to specific laws that say: "Uninsured" means: "maintain security for payment of benefits under personal protection insurance, property protection insurance, and residual liability insurance." Or "shall provide security against loss resulting from liability imposed by law for property damage, bodily injury, or death suffered by a person arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of that motorcycle."

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

Call Attorney Jason Waechter toll free at 1-877-BIKER LAW. Or visit www.motorcyclelawyermichigan.com



VETERANS CORNER



Local Veterans Resources

The first thought that will come to mind to veterans needing assistance is Veteran's Affairs. I'm sure most of you probably cringe at the thought of having to determine how to approach such a large government agency.

You don't have to go it alone. Almost every county in Michigan has a veteran's affairs officer. They are there to help you, and they are a good first place to make inquiries. They can help you with VA paperwork and questions you may have. The veteran's affairs officer (VAO) is also aware of many other agencies, U.S., state, and local that they can put you in contact with.

The first thing you need to have is your DD-214 discharge form. That is your key to getting the ball rolling. The VAO knows how to interpret your DD-214 to determine what benefits you may be entitled to. You can find the contact information for your VAO at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/Public_Directory_402228_7.pdf

Another resource the VAO can put you in contact with is your local VFW or American Legion. The first thing that probably comes to mind for the average citizen is that the VFW or Legion is where "all the old guys go to drink cheap beers." While that may be true, these organizations are much more than that. They are your fellow veterans who have been through similar experiences as yours and exist to help their fellow veteran.

The VFW and American Legion posts have an officer called the "Service Officer." That position is strictly dedicated to helping veterans. They too can help you fill out VA and state paperwork. In some cases they are aware of new VA benefit programs and changes before the VAO knows about it.

The posts also have a service officer account, whose funds are strictly to help veterans who are struggling financially. Each post sets their own limit as to the maximum amount they will give for a veteran. In many cases, such as in my community, the local VFW and Legion service officers communicate with each other for instances where a veteran needs financial assistance over the post's set individual amount limit. For example, if a veteran needs \$400 for heating fuel. One post may set their limit per case at \$200. So they frequently will contact the service officer at the other organization, and they may come up with a solution where both of the organizations provide \$200. The posts do not require that you be a member for assistance.

Each post has their own policies on the maximum amount, and the number of times they will help an individual veteran. I am not, nor have I ever been a Service Officer, so what I have said is not set in stone. However, I have been a Legion member for quite a few years and that is generally how it works.

The posts also have a chaplain. The chaplains are a great resource to use when you need a listening ear during the difficult times of your life. They have "been there, done that", and are a great asset to help fellow veterans.

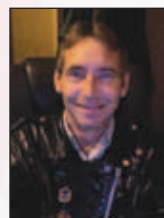
Another organization that your VAO can put you in contact with is Forgotten Eagles, and their website is forgotteneagles.org. Their members are not required to be veterans, and their mission is also helping veterans. They too have a Service Officer, and they frequently work with the posts for financial assistance cases.

Here is just one of the many examples of how the different organizations combine forces to help veterans. A veteran's mobile home was completely destroyed in a fire. A member of the Forgotten Eagles donated an old mobile home and they put it on his property so he had a place to live. When asked what other help he needed, his response was "a chain saw." The man made his living cutting and selling firewood, and his chain saw was destroyed in the fire. Forgotten Eagles passed on that information to my Legion post. We were able to get a new Stihl chain saw at the retailer's cost (thank you Doug's Small Engines!), and gave that to the veteran. The smile on his face could not be wiped off. He had a place to live, a means to earn an income, and that was all he asked.

Many colleges and universities are also starting up veteran's offices to help you navigate the paperwork and procedures for using the G.I. bill.

If you need help, get to your VAO and consider the other resources above.

David McCallister "Possum"
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A woman awakes during the night to find that her husband was not in their bed.

She puts on her robe and goes down stairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee in front him. He appears deep in thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes a tear from his eye and takes a sip of coffee.

"What's the matter, dear?" she whispers as she steps into the room. "Why are you down here at this time of night?"

The husband looks up, "Do you remember 20 years ago when we were dating, and you were only 17?" he asks solemnly.

The wife is touched thinking her husband is so caring and sensitive. "Yes, I do," she replies.

The husband pauses. The words are not coming easily. "Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car?"

"Yes, I remember," says the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him.

The husband continues..."Do you remember when he shoved a shotgun in my face and said, "Either you marry my daughter, or I will send you to jail for 20 years".

"I remember that too", she replies softly.

He wipes another tear from his cheek and says...

"I would have gotten out today!"

Insert a WHY? at the front of every sentence...

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

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

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

do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten but buns only come in packages of eight?

does the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

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

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

is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

do we always stand up and look at our bowel movement before flushing?

do cats always look at their bowel movement before covering it up thoroughly?

is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'? Gives pause for thought.

is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

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

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

isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

didn't Noah swat those two damn mosquitoes hitching a free ride?

do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

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

don't sheep shrink when it rains?

are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

if con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

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

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY BIKERS!

Remember....

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- Ron Finch

- Jason Waechter

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A SUMMER WITH THE march of dimes



BY Gary Bredeweg

A few of us around west Michigan remember the start of last year when Lamar Construction unveiled the March of Dimes raffle bike built by Paul Jr. Designs. The Lamar team has always had a huge passion for the MOD and what it has done for folks all across the country, not to mention how much they have affected a lot of families here in our own great state of Michigan. Lamar has held several charities for the MOD each and every year including walks and benefits adding up to thousands of dollars donated every year, but this has got to be one of the biggest.

With the completion of this bike back in February of 2012, Lamar hosted an unveiling party with special guests from the entire PJD team as the bike rolled out for the public to set their eyes on for the very first time. The goal was to hit the road and travel to as many events and gatherings across the state as it possibly could, giving everyone the chance to purchase that one winning ticket. The bike was set up at several different events across the state, including swap meets, bike shows, car shows, baseball games, hockey games, concerts and several other venues that attracted large crowds, insuring that this prize was to be seen by everyone.

MOD also held several events across the state, one of them here in west Michigan held at US 131 Motorsports Park (formerly Martin Dragway) known as "Bikers for Babies". This year for the first time, there were several locations set up as satellite rides across west Michigan,

giving riders the chance to hook up with friends and other riders as a pre-ride to the event. Hundreds of riders gathered at the track from all over our great state for the guided ride through the scenic area and then back to the track again. Several vendors and race car drivers were still on display from the previous night's race, making it the perfect setting for motorcycle and car enthusiasts alike.

When we talk about the night the winning ticket was drawn, it was another awesome event that the MOD has been doing for several years and that is the Signature Chef's Dinner. This event surely holds its own, I really did not understand exactly what this was until I had the chance to attend. The Signature Chef's Dinner is where several exclusive restaurants across west Michigan show huge amounts of support to the MOD by auctioning off dinners for a certain number of people that you may have in your party to be prepared in your home or other specific location. You can purchase dinners to serve anywhere from five guest to thirty-five, and trust me these dinners were nothing I could touch with my check book, that's for sure, but the cause was in the thoughts of every individual that was doing the bidding.

As the auction came to a close, the patrons of this event knew the moment was near to pull that winning ticket from the spinning bin full of raffle tickets. Carl Blauwkamp, the owner of Lamar Construction in Hudsonville was the lucky one to draw that winning ticket. The winning ticket was purchased by Henry and Ruthanne from southern Alabama, who were in town visiting their son in the Port Huron area. Henry and Ruthanne received the bike from the Lamar team, they are not sure what they are going to do with this special prize yet, but being their age this was a once in a life time experience.



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| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 IMS / Novi | 2 IMS / Novi GROUNDHOG DAY |
| 3 IMS / Novi Peotone Show / IL | 4 | 5 | 6 Jdubs / Riverview | 7 | 8 | 9 Wolverine H-D / Clinton Twp |
| 10 | 11 | 12 MARDI GRAS | 13 | 14 VALENTINE'S DAY | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Giant Swap / Novi | 18 Stevens Bike Night / Bay City PRESIDENT'S DAY | 19 | 20 Malarkey's / Southgate | 21 | 22 | 23 Biker Bob's H-D / Taylor |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Stevens Bike Night/ Bay City Biker Bob's H-D / Taylor | 1 | 2 |

"MIKE THE BIKE"

READERS RIDES



Well, many know me as "Mike the Bike", but I have always been into sports, just a born competitor, I guess. You name it; football, baseball to track in high school, hard to believe I was also a pole vaulter. In my four years in the Navy I played flag football and fast pitch softball. I was on the ships U.S.S Lake Champlain (CVS-39) that retrieved the Gemini 5 spacecraft in 1965 about 200 miles North of the Bermuda after riding out a hurricane. Then we transferred to Maine where I was shipped over to Sigonella, Sicily while there I got to see Mt. Etna erupt. I have also been to Puerto Rico, Mexico, Key West, Azore Islands, Virgin Islands (trust me no virgins there), but my biggest passion was for motorcycles.

Two weeks into my first job out of the Navy (in 1970) I bought a 1946 250 BSA and I was off to the races. I then made the mistake of going and watching an ice race. Two weeks later I had a hack bolted onto the side of my BSA and began my 33 years of ice racing. I won the Dist. 14 in 1994, state championships and the national championship in 1994, 1995 and 1996 Triple Crown. My last three years on the ice was 98, 99, and 2000, with my daughter Karen as my passenger. She is now a judge in Clare County.

In 1974 I bought an 850 Norton that I rode for 16 years and 70,000 miles. In 2000, I bought a 1200 BMW and rode that for 90,000 miles in 10 years. I also had a 1000 Goldwing, 2001 Kawasaki Drifter and then I had to have a hip replacement and had breast cancer. After a couple of times falling over and dropping my bike I decided to buy a 2005, 1700 Yamaha with a sidecar in 2010 and put 10,000 miles on it each summer. I even found a sidecar rig for my riding partner Floyd aka "Bubba's dad" (of Bubba's Tri-City Cycle). Floyd is 88 years old and says I know I can ride till I am 90 years old now and I hope he does!

Looking forward to seeing all of you this upcoming riding season at the local poker runs out of Bubba's, the Spud Run in Munger at the Tool Shed, and Camp Fishtails runs. Thanks to Don Clark of Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan for taking the time and interest in my story.

Mike the Bike

PHOTOS BY Don Clark



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Inspiration

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by our standing in our own sunshine. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Everything that happens to us leaves some trace behind; everything contributes imperceptibly to make us what we are. ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Life is like a library owned by the author. In it are a few books which he wrote himself, but most of them were written for him. ~ Harry Emerson Fosdick

No longer forward nor behind, I look in hope and fear; but grateful take the good I find, the best of now and here. ~ John G. Whittier

Riddles

A. There was a green house. Inside the green house there was a white house. Inside the white house there was a red house. Inside the red house there were lots of babies. What is it?

B. I know a word of letters three. Add two, and fewer there will be. What's the word?

C. I give you a group of three. One is sitting down, and will never get up. The second eats as much as is given to him, yet is always hungry. The third goes away and never returns

D. All about, but cannot be seen. Can be captured, cannot be held. No throat, but can be heard. What am I?

Fun Facts

1,525,000,000 miles of telephone wire are strung across the U.S.

160 cars can drive side by side on the Monumental Axis in Brazil, the world's widest road.

166,875,000,000 pieces of mail are delivered each year in the U.S.

5% of Canadians don't know the first 7 words of the Canadian anthem, but know the first 9 of the American anthem.

Weird Laws

Alabama: State code allows only 5 minutes for one to vote.

California: In Los Angeles, It is not legal to bathe two babies at the same time in the same tub.

Connecticut: A person who commits any unnatural and lascivious act with another person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree. It is illegal for unmarried couples to commit lewd acts and live together

Iowa: In Ottumwa, It is illegal for any man, within the corporate city limits, to wink at any female with whom he is "unacquainted."

Answers: A). A watermelon B). Few C). Stove D). The wind



NEWS BYTES

THE AIM/NCOM MOTORCYCLE E-NEWS SERVICE is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), and is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. For more information, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit us on our website at <http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com>

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

CONGRESS GIVES TAX BREAK TO ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE BUYERS

Tax hikes and spending cuts dominated holiday headlines as the federal government teetered on the edge of the Fiscal Cliff, but the legislative package passed on New Year's Day to resolve the issue, dubbed the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, included several tax credit extensions that didn't generate as much media interest – including one for electric motorcycles.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden (D) sponsored the amendment extending the EV tax credit, which covers 10% of the cost of a qualified electric vehicle, up to \$2,500. Vehicles must be a two- or three-wheeled plug-in electric designed "primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways" and "capable of achieving a speed of 45 miles per hour or greater."

Electric-powered two wheelers have been without a federal purchase incentive since the end of 2011, when the original tax break expired that was part of the \$800 billion stimulus package passed in 2009.

A coalition of EV motorcycle companies, through Plug-In America, lobbied Congress to extend the tax credits, which are also retroactive and apply for electric motorcycles or EV chargers purchased in 2012 as well.

Wyden argues that extending the tax credit will help generate jobs in the growing electric motorcycle industry. "The electric motorcycle industry is poised to create tens of thousands of U.S. jobs over the next five years, led by companies like Oregon's Brammo," said Wyden. "This amendment helps promote the development of a promising U.S. industry and support the transition to a low-carbon American economy."

E-CYCLES PROJECTED TO OUTSELL PLUG-IN CARS

According to two new Pike Research reports, electric scooters and motorcycle sales are going to eclipse that of plug-in vehicles by the end of this decade.

In one report from Pike Research which looks at electric motorcycles and scooters, the study predicts that "annual sales of e-motorcycles and e-scooters will reach 18.6 million by 2018."

Pike Research points primarily to industries such as delivery companies, police and security forces, and even taxi services in some locations as the prime mover for the increase in sales of electric motorcycles and scooters.

Another recently released Pike Research report predicted that annual worldwide sales of electric vehicles will reach 3.8 million by 2020. This includes plug-in electric vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles selling in the Asia Pacific, North America, and Western Europe.

"Sales of EVs have not lived up to automakers' expectations and politicians' proclamations, but the market is expanding steadily as fuel prices remain high and consumers increasingly seek alternatives to internal combustion engines," says senior research analyst Dave Hurst. "Indeed, sales of plug-in EVs will grow at a compound annual growth rate of nearly 40% over the remainder of the decade, while the overall auto market will expand by only two percent a year."

Taken together, the two Pike Research reports indicate that two-wheel EV sales will outperform electric four-wheelers by a margin of 5-1 by the end of the decade. Currently, China is the biggest market for the sale of these electric vehicles, accounting for 81% of the global electric motorcycle and scooter market.

EPA TO DROP FOUR GALLON MINIMUM GAS PURCHASES

Ethanol-laden gasoline is known to cause engine damage, and many manufacturers warn that using the product will invalidate warranties, so when the EPA approved E15 (fuel blend containing 15% ethanol) it raised concerns amongst motorcyclists, off-roaders, snowmobilers, boaters and others who use vehicles and equipment driven by small gas-powered motors...none of which are approved for its use.

The EPA's response was to require a minimum four gallon purchase, the misguided rationale being that it would dilute any residual E15 remaining in a gas pump's lines. Again, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency came under fire, with powersports and automotive groups pushing back against the federal agency's push for the grain alcohol-blended biofuel.

Apparently realizing that a viable solution to the problem needs to be conceived, the EPA is abandoning its four-gallon minimum on blender pumps that dispense both E10 and E15 from the same pump, and instead the government body says it will likely require gas stations to label shared pumps, as well as offer a dedicated E10 pump/hose for non-approved vehicles.

In the meantime, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has denied a rehearing on the EPA decision to put E15 on the market. The federal appellate court decision is a setback for the oil-and-gas industry, which opposes the use of E15 and a federal biofuel blending mandate that requires refiners to blend 36 billion gallons of biofuels into traditional transportation fuels by 2022.

NEW YEAR, NEW LAWS

The new year puts new laws on the books across the country, with state and local governments ringing in 2013 with a mix of new laws ranging from the innovative to the odd; one in Kansas City says households can't have more than four cats, while a town in Massachusetts is banning businesses from selling plastic bottles. In Florida, drivers can once again flash their headlights to warn others of upcoming speed traps, which was previously outlawed. Meanwhile, driverless cars in California got the green light to hit the public roads, but one of Illinois' 150 new laws prohibits motorcycle riders from popping wheelies -- Public Act 97-743 imposes a fine of \$1,000 on anyone who pops a wheelie on a motorcycle while speeding.

WOMAN FIRED OVER HUSBAND BEING IN A MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Her husband's membership in a motorcycle club has cost the job of a human resources technician with the city of Kingman in northwest Arizona, according to a Phoenix lawyer who is representing the woman in her bid for reinstatement.

The city served 11-year employee Melissa Summerson a notice of intent the day after Christmas and terminated her employment Dec. 28, attorney David Kresin told the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "She was terminated for the stated reason of her husband's membership in a family motorcycle club - the Desert Roadriders," he said, adding that the dismissal violates her constitutional right to freedom of association. "There's no allegation that Ms. Summerson personally did anything wrong in her job or engaged in any conduct personally that violated any of the city's rules, and we believe there's no cause for termination as she's been an outstanding employee with a great record for her entire employment."

CRIMINALS MORE PRONE TO CRASH THEIR MOTORCYCLES

Motorcyclists who have criminal records are twice as likely to get into accidents on the road than their law-abiding peers, a new Swedish study has found.



NEWS BYTES

The findings come from an examination of more than 5,000 motorcycle accidents carried out by Karolinska Institute epidemiologist Michael Fored.

He went through statistics and looked at motorcycle riders who have a license and then cross-referenced the names with the criminal register.

"If you've been convicted of a crime before, we see at least double the risk that you'll get into a serious accident," Fored told the TT news agency.

Among non-offenders, there are 4.1 accidents per 1,000 license-holders annually. However, that figure jumped up to 27.7 when looking at drivers who had at least two criminal convictions.

Fored shared his findings at the Transportforum conference in Linköping, Sweden. "Maybe we should educate people who break the traffic laws," suggests Fored.

EUROPE SET TO MANDATE ABS FOR MOTORCYCLES

A Europe-wide proposal to mandate anti-lock braking systems (ABS) for motorcycles bigger than 125cc manufactured from 2016 onwards was overwhelmingly approved by the European Parliament by a vote of 643-16. Although the measure is still working its way through the EU legislative process and must still be adopted by individual member nations of the European Union, it is expected to be adopted soon.

A European Union Commission presented the ABS requirement for new framework regulation for motorcycles, and calculates that the proposal would reduce the number of fatal motorcycle accidents by more than 5,000 over a 10-year period.

Although the first anti-lock braking system was installed on a motorcycle in 1988, only 16% of all newly manufactured motorcycles in Europe were equipped with ABS, and by comparison car manufacturers have made ABS standard equipment since 2004 which has contributed to an estimated 49% overall decline in fatal car accidents in the EU. Experts regard anti-lock braking as a huge boost to safety, pointing to a Swedish highway study that showed that 38% of all motorcycle accidents involve personal injury and 48% of all serious and fatal accidents could have been prevented with ABS.

In the U.S., the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has considered requiring ABS on new motorcycles sold in America, and will likely take up the issue in the near future.

INDONESIAN WOMEN BANNED FROM STRADDLING MOTORCYCLES

In an effort to establish Sharia law, Indonesia's northwestern province Aceh has enacted a controversial new law banning women from sitting on motorcycles with their legs apart. Aiming "to save people's morals & behaviors," under the new regulation "women are allowed to sit 'side-saddle' because passengers who sit side-saddle rarely fell off while when you see a woman straddle a motorcycle she looks like a man..."

Despite opposition from human rights activists who are calling for a reversal of the Sharia-type law; "We're going ahead with the ban. There's no resistance here," said Dasni Yuzar, secretary of the city administration.

"The government is only preserving morals. Women must not straddle motorbikes because it provokes the male drivers," declared Aceh Mayor Suaidi Yahya, who proposed the law. However, he also added that women were allowed to straddle motorbikes if they were driving, as long as they were dressed in a "Muslim way."

Al Yasa' Abubakar, a professor at the State Islamic Institute Ar-Raniry in Banda Aceh, explained that no such prohibition exists in Islam. While Yuzar agreed it was "not explicitly" written in the Koran that women should not straddle bikes, he said "by sitting astride, women dishonor themselves. They show their body curves almost transparently. They're riding with men who are not related by blood or marriage. Their front body part is in contact with the men's back. This is forbidden in Islam."

According to Tunggul Prawestri, a women's activist based in Jakarta, "Almost every bylaw that was based on Sharia law targets the female body as a political battle ground in Aceh. Women become the easiest target, because as soon as women rights activists protest we are deemed anti-Muslim or anti-Sharia."

Spread across a chain of thousands of islands between Asia and Australia, Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population and Southeast Asia's biggest economy, a huge market that all motorcycle manufacturers, including Harley-Davidson, dream to dominate one day.

AUSTRALIAN TOP COP VOWS TO BAN BIKIES FROM PUBS

Declaring that outlaw bikies "...are not the type of people who should be running licensed premises," Chief Commissioner Ken Lay has vowed to ban bikers from pubs and clubs across Victoria. "The legislation is designed to ensure that doesn't occur," he told the Herald Sun newspaper of his plan to move "bikies" out of venue ownership, operation and security.

Earlier this year, police swooped on bikies in a series of raids and seized 120 guns after ruling them not fit people to have the weapons under the Firearms Act.

Meanwhile, police are telling licensees not to allow patched-up bikies entry, so some Melbourne strip clubs, bars and nightclubs are refusing entry based on a "dress code standard," and some have even banned motorcycles from parking outside.

Inspector Paul Ross, of licensing enforcement, said police "advised" licensees "it's probably better if they don't allow outlaw motorcycle gang members inside ... wearing colors."

One operator, who is enforcing the ban, said police asked him and others to sign an agreement that the dress code standard relating to bikies was upheld.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"When two opposite points of view are expressed with equal intensity, the truth does not necessarily lie exactly halfway between them. It is possible for one side to be simply wrong."

~ Richard Dawkins (b. 1941), English biologist and author

NCOM
National Coalition of Motorcyclists

Flight to the NORTH POLE



By Debra Wright

In early December The Silverliners Club, who are former flight attendants for Eastern Airlines, hosted their annual Fantasy Flight to the North Pole, to visit the one and only Santa Claus.

Forty-one children ages 2 - 8 years old with life threatening illnesses from local area hospitals gathered with their families and arrived at the airport for this adventure.

We met at the Westin to sign in and every child received a goody bag, a name tag, and a pillow embroidered with Fantasy Flight 2012 to have and hold as a remembrance of this day. As we all waited to board the plane, mascots from Tigers, Pistons, and Lions were there entertaining the kids, playing ball that Hooper brought and encouraging laughter amongst the kids.

When the call was made to board the plane, the kids, all dressed up in their holiday outfits looking so nice hurried through security to get their seats on the plane with their families following them trying to keep up.

All the kids, once seated, were told by the Captain to keep the window shades down because of how bright it is at the North Pole. The plane, ready for take-off, jetted down the runway and taxied to the special gate to meet Santa. While on the plane, lunch was served and Christmas songs sang with our Shine Circus Clowns doing their thing as clowns do!

The Captain announced we have landed and you could hear one of the kids yell "We're at the North Pole!". The plane pulled into the gate and everyone lined up to exit. There he was, the guy in the red suit, waiting for the kids as they got off. The kids, one by one, ran to Santa and gave him a big hug with not a dry eye watching.

We all gathered in a banquet room to have a party with Santa, clowns, a magician, and gifts and to see Santa with hot cocoa and cookies to be enjoyed.

The kids had face painting and other activities while waiting to see Santa. Each child got to sit on his lap and chat with him about special lists they had or to tell them about themselves. When finished waving goodbye to Santa they had a

bundle of gifts in a pile made bigger than themselves, and needed help to gather them and get ready to open.

This day for me will be an annual event. To see how these kids were so happy and to know they were stricken with an illness they have no control of was just heart wrenching. Giving them a day of adventure and a dream come true was beautiful.

A very thankful day because of Santa, Bill Neelsen and The Silverliners Club, to Delta and Westin employees and all the volunteers for helping make this day happen.

This event takes all year to plan and Bill Neelsen Sr. (the man in the red suit) is what Santa is all about. He is employed by the airport and works hard to get sponsorships, donations and gifts for all these kids. It is a yearly tradition for him and the Silverliners at Christmas time to get this event together.

"I like to see how the kids react and how happy they are." Neelsen said.

Planning this event takes all year, so if you'd like to help this cause, email the Silverliners at lapkat866@sbcglobal.net or visit their website at www.silverliners.org

Bill is available as well, (aka Santa) at 1-734-403-1689



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BY JACKIE KILLEEN



Dawn Madden certainly one of a kind. If you were fortunate enough to know Dawn you would have to agree that she was a pretty amazing woman. Dawn rarely missed an event or a girl's ride! She had been riding for over 5 years and had no fear of jumping on her bike and heading to an event or going to meet up with friends for a ride of their own. There was something about this woman that left an impact on everyone she came in contact with. Dawn had friends. I can easily say she had hundreds of friends. In talking with a few of them, I heard words like happy, carefree, independent, amazing, helpful and big-hearted to describe Dawn! Her dear friend Susi commented that "She was always full of spunk, I loved Dawn so much, she was a sister to me!"

One thing on Dawn's bucket list was making the long ride to Sturgis, SD. Her good friend Joan had no problem helping her fulfill this dream in 2012! Upon the return both ladies decided they would "spend forever wiping the smile" from their faces. It was Dawn's first trip to the big

rally and she had the time of her life. Dawn was very familiar with Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan. She spent many hours helping deliver magazines to venues and events. Dawn enjoyed mingling and promoting the magazine. Being unknown to us at the time, we never had an opportunity to acknowledge Dawn for her exceptional behind the scenes work! Many venues still talk of Dawn and what she brought to the bike community!

Dawn had purchased a beautiful green 2011 Heritage Softail with factory custom paint. The color certainly made her easier to spot in a crowd. Businesses and individuals hosted rides this past fall in honor of our dear friend. Appropriately so, green balloons filled the air with a moment of silence in Blackhawk, while green



t-shirts were available at the Roadhouse. Being one of the safest riders around, Dawn's loss was not only a terrible shock to the bike world and community but an unacceptable loss to her family and friends. A huge salute to you Dawn Madden! Ride the clouds my friend, until we meet again!!

TRM EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

FEBRUARY

**February 1-3
Progressive International
Motorcycle Show Michigan
Suburban Collection, Novi, MI.
For more info:
www.motorcycleshows.com/Novi
(See Cover and ad this issue).**

**February 3
2013 Peotone (ILLINOIS) Show
29th Peotone(IL) Motorcycle Show &
Parts Expo (Indoor Event)
Buy-Sell-Trade, Bikes, Parts Leather,
Food, Beer, 10-4 pm,
www.paragonspromotion.com
(See ad this issue)**

**February 6
Biker Night
J Dubs, Riverview, MI. (See Biker
Bob's H-D full page ad this issue).**

**February 9
Biker Valentine Chili Cook-off
Eagles Hall on Wisconsin Ave,
Gaylord, MI. 6:30 pm, all you can eat
\$15, beer & mixers (bring your own
liquor), music. Open to everyone 21 &
up. More info at www.abateofmichigan.
org or call 989-732-3699**

**February 9
Mardi Gras Celebration
Wolverine H-D, Clinton Township,
MI. Cajun food, door prizes, and dj.
(See ad this issue).**

**February 9
Nuclear Cowboyz
The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn
Hills, MI. Tickets \$17.50- \$125. FMX
tour of freestyle motocross. For more
info contact 630-566-6100 or www.
nuclearcowboyz.com**

**February 10
Motor City Chapter 2363 Ladies of
Harley 16th Annual Chili Cook-off
Joy Manor, Westland, MI. 1-4 pm,
Open event, \$8 per person, to enter
the cook-off contact Laura at LOH@
motorcityhog.com**

**February 10
17th Annual Bowling for Dollars
Continental Lanes, Roseville, MI. Regis**

**12-1 pm. \$7 Child/ \$12 Adult. Contact
586-306-7146 for more info.**

**February 16
Indoor Garage Sale & Swap Meet
Garden City Lodge Moose Club, Noon-
6pm, more info contact Sharyn 313-550-
1125 or Colleen 734-788-2084**

**February 17
Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet
Suburban Collection Showplace,
Novi, MI. 11 am-4 pm. Contact www.
motorcycleswap.com for more info
(See ad this issue).**

**February 20
Biker Night
Malarkey's, Southfield, MI. (See Biker
Bob's H-D full page ad this issue).**

**February 23
Customer Appreciation Day & Parts
Seminar
Biker Bob's H-D, Taylor, MI. (See full
page ad this issue).**

**February 28
Stevens' Cycle Sales First Bike Night
of the year
Stevens Cycle Sales, Bay City, MI. 5-8
pm, more info at www.stevenscycle.
com (See full page ad this issue).**

**February 28
Biker Bob's H-D Spring Fashion Show
Biker Bob's H-D, Taylor, MI. 7- 9 pm
(See full page ad this issue).**

MARCH

**March 2-3
Gibraltar Trade Center Motorcycle
Swap Meet & Expo
Taylor, MI. Sat 12-7 pm & Sun 12-6 pm.
Fantastic Bargains (See ad this issue).**

**March 8
Men's/Women's Garage Party
Sandy's Harley-Davidson, Fremont,
MI. 6-8pm. Go to www.sandysharley-
davidson.com for more info.**

**March 10
Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet
Cleveland, OH. I-X Center, One I-X
Center Drive. Adults \$9, Kids \$2. (See
ad this issue).**

**March 17
2013, Kalamazoo (Michigan) Wings
Stadium Show
40th Annual Kalamazoo (MI)
Motorcycle Swap Meet & Parts Expo
in Wings Stadium, 10am- 4pm, Buy-
Sell-Trade, Bikes, Parts Leather, Food,
Beer, www.paragonspromotion.com**

**March 23
Michigan Dressers Spring Bash
Athena Hall Roseville, MI. 7 pm- 1 am,
live band, dinner, beer, pop, & raffles.
Facebook Michigan Dressers MC in
Fraser, MI.**

**March 23-34
6th Annual Custom Motorcycle Show
& Expo
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens,
MI. Sat 10-8 & Sun 10-6 (See ad this
issue).**

**March 24
Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet
Grand Rapids Deltaplex, 11 am- 4 pm,
Contact www.motorcycleswap.com for
more info.**

**March 30
10th Annual Cadillac Motorcycle Swap
Meet & Expo
Wexford County Civic Center, Cadillac,
MI. 10 am- 4 pm, Adults \$6, Buy-Sell-
Trade, Bikes, Parts Leather, Food,
Beer, www.paragonspromotion.com**

APRIL

**April 5-6
24th Annual Pigfest
Mid-Michigan Motorcyclist & Ramada
Lansing Hotel, Lansing, MI. Must pre-
register. Overnight accommodations avail.
Pool party, raffles, music, & cash bar. For
more info contact 517-316-1337 or www.
harleyrider.net**

**April 13
ABATE Region 20 Annual Awareness
Party
Union City Field, Flint, MI. Charity
benefiting "Look Twice, Save a
Life". \$10 person, more info at www.
abatemichregion20.com**

**April 14
Novi Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet
The Suburban Collection Showplace,
Novi, MI. More info at 800-968-4242**

**April 21
Tri-Cities Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet
Birch Run Expo Center, Birch Run, MI.
11-4pm. More info at 800-968-4242**

**April 21
Motor City Chapter 2368 Ladies of Harley
Indoor Swap Meet & Garage Sale
Joy Manor, Westland, MI. 10 am- 4 pm,
contact Laura at loh@motorcityhog.com
for more info.**

**April 28
Blessing of the Bikes and Bike Show
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens,
MI. 10 am- 2:30 pm. More info contact
pastortroyns@yahoo.com**

MAY

**May 4
2nd Annual Hastings Motorcycle Swap
Meet
Barry County Expo Center, Hastings,
MI. 10 am- 4 pm, Contact www.
paragonspromotion.com for more info.**

**May 5
Walneck's Motorcycle Swap Meet & Bike
Show
Monroe Co. Fairgrounds, MI, 8 am-3 pm,
www.walneckswap.com or 630-985-2097**

**May 11
29th Peotone Motorcycle Show & Parts
Expo (Indoor & Outdoor Event)
Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone,
IL. 10 am- 4 pm, Contact www.
paragonspromotion.com for more info.**

**May 11
33rd Annual Midland Motorcycle / Classic
Car Swap Meet & Show
Midland County Fairgrounds, Midland,
MI. \$ 7 Adult, 12 & under free. More
info contact 989-835-8486 or cspeaker@
charter.net**

**May 11
1st Annual Somerset Beach Blessing of
the Bikes
Somerset Beach Campground, Somerset
Center, MI. Reg at 10 am, blessing at**

**noon, \$5 person. More info contact John
269-808-7512 or docjohn85@yahoo.com**

**May 16
2013 Tecumseh Classic Car, Bike &
Bicycle Show Series
United Bank & Trust Hickman Financial
Center parking lot, Tecumseh, MI. Check
in at Gregory's Barber Shop from 5:30-
7pm, more info at 517-424-6555 / 517-
424-6003 or email kwelch@tecumseh.
mi.us**

**May 17
Harley's at the Dragway
Milan Dragway, MI. 4 pm- 12 am (See
full page ad this issue).**

**May 17-19
Paragon Rocks the Blessing at 41st
Annual Blessing of Bikes Festival
Baldwin, MI. Vendors, food fest,
camping. Gates open at 9 am,
\$5 donation per bike. More than
40,000 bikers attend. Contact www.
paragonspromotion.com for more info.**

**May 18
St. Stans Blessing of the Wheels
Motorcycle & Car Show
Bay City, MI. Blessing at noon. More info
at 989-894-0832 or www.baycitystans.
com**

**May 18
Sandy's Harley-Davidson Spring Open
House
Fremont, MI. 8 am-3pm, go to www.
sandysharley-davidson.com for more info**

**May 19
4th Annual Antique Motorcycle Swap
Meet & Bike Show
Centreville, MI. Wolverine Chapter**

**May 25-26
25th Annual Spring Valpo-Fest
Motorcycle-Car Show & Swap Meet
Porter County Expo Center, Valparaiso,
IN. 9 am- 4 pm. Contact www.
paragonspromotion.com for more info.**

JUNE

**June 1-2
Blessed in Hell Sponsored by Abate of
Michigan Region 14
Hell Creek Ranch, 10866 Cedar Lake
Road near Pinckney. Swap meet, bike
show, music, & vendors. Admis \$10.00
per bike. For more information call (313)
407-4671.**

**June 7-9
Great Lakes Harley Round-up
Interlochen, MI, motorcycle rally, More
info at http://www.cycle-moore.com/
motorcycleshopcampground.php?page_
location=roundup**

**June 8
The 18th Annual Vintage Motorcycle Ride
Hickory Corners, MI. Free Ride. Regis
9-10 am. Ride at 10 am. For more info
contact 770-427-4820**

**June 14-16
Sandy Corally Run
Double J Ranch, Rothbury, MI. For more
info go to www.sandysharley-davidson.
com**

**June 15
Cops on a Run a benefit for the Michigan
Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
Poker Run begins 2233 Burdette St,
Ferndale, MI. 8 am- 10 pm. Police
escorted, \$25 rider, \$25 passenger, more
info contact 313-930-3853 or facebook
page ww.facebook.com/copsonarun**

**June 15-16
AHRMA Road Racing
Grattan Raceway Park, Belding, MI.
Vintage racing. More info 615-420-6435
or http://dev.ahrma.org**

**June 15-17
Blaney Park Rendezvous
Blaney Park, Mueller Township, MI.
More info 906-586-3477 or www.
blaneyparkrendezvous.com/index.htm**

**June 20
2013 Tecumseh Classic Car, Bike &
Bicycle Show Series
United Bank & Trust Hickman Financial
Center parking lot, Tecumseh, MI. Check
in at Gregory's Barber Shop from 5:30-
7pm, More info at 517-424-6555 / 517-
424-6003 or email kwelch@tecumseh.
mi.us**

**June 21
Harley's at the Dragway
Milan Dragway, MI. 4 pm - 12 am, (See
full page ad this issue).**

**June 23
ABATE Reg 12 Annual Poker Run
Eagles, Lawton, MI. Great prizes, sign up
at 11, Kickstands up at NOON
For more info contact Jackie 269-330-
1542**

**June 26-29
SturgisFest 2013
Downtown Sturgis, MI, Motorcycle Rally,
More info at www.sturgisfestmi.com**

**June 27-29
Thunder on the Grand
Barry Expo Fair Grounds, Hastings,
MI. 100% of \$ raised goes to American
Cancer Society. More info at www.
thunderonthegrand.com or 517-282-9846**

JULY

**July 6
AMA Motocross- Red Bud National
Red Bud Trail, Buchanan, MI. More info
at -media@mxsportsproracing.com**

**July 9-14
Rivertown Bike Week Expo
DeltaPlex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI.
Benefits Wounded Warrior Project.
More info 616-437-0973 or www.
rivertownbikeweek.com**

**July 12-13
Wheels of Thunder
Grass Lake, MI. Battle of the bands,
vendors, custom bike builders, poker
run, stunt riders, free admission, Contact
Joe for more info 517-474-6222 or
smokenjoe63@yahoo.com**

**July 14
28th Peotone (Illinois) Motorcycle
Show & Parts Expo (Indoor/Outdoor)
Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone,
IL. 10 am- 4pm, more info www.
paragonspromotion.com.**

**July 14-21
Ogemaw Hills Bike Week
Ogemaw County Fairground, West
Branch, MI. More info 989-896-6429 or
www.ogemahillsbikeweek.com**

**July 18
2013 Tecumseh Classic Car, Bike &
Bicycle Show Series
United Bank & Trust Hickman Financial
Center parking lot, Tecumseh, MI. Check
in at Gregory's Barber Shop from 5:30-
7pm, More info at 517-424-6555 / 517-
424-6003 or email kwelch@tecumseh.
mi.us**

**July 18-21
7th Annual Muskegon Bike Time
Downtown Muskegon, MI. More info at
317-236-6515 or www.muskegonbiketime.
com**

**July 19
Harley's at the Dragway
Milan Dragway, MI. 4 pm - 12 am, (See
full page ad this issue).**

**July 25-27
Michigan State HOG Rally
Alpena, MI. Music, activities, & vendors.
More info at 517-930-1509**

**July 26-28
Detroit Bike Week
Commerce Township, MI More info at
www.detroitbikeweek.com**

AUGUST

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

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

**August 10-11
WERA Sportsman Series Motorcycle
Racing
Grattan Raceway Park, Belding, MI.
More info 770-720-5010**

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

**August 14-18
The Americas 911 Ride
Days Inn, Manistee, MI. Regis fee \$150
Rider/ \$40 passenger, includes stops in
Somerset, Pennsylvania, Washington DC
& New York City. More info 231-398-3611
or http://americas911ride.org**

**August 15
2013 Tecumseh Classic Car, Bike &
Bicycle Show Series
United Bank & Trust Hickman Financial
Center parking lot, Tecumseh, MI. Check
in at Gregory's Barber Shop from 5:30-
7pm, more info at 517-424-6555 / 517-
424-6003 or email kwelch@tecumseh.
mi.us**

**August 17
Ribbon Ride for Autism Awareness Poker
Run
Big D's Trikes & Bikes, Palmyra, MI.
Reg 9-11. Rain or Shine, \$20 Rider/\$10
passenger. More info at 517-215-3887
or millie @autismhopeoflenawee.org
or facebook Autism HOPE of Lenawee
Motorcycle Run**

**August 22-25
Porcupine Bash 2013
Otter Lake Campground, Chatham, MI.
Destination rides, games, food, camping.
More info at 906-439-5111 or www.
porcupinebash.com**

**August 25
Michigan Dual Sport/Ride for Kids
Ann Arbor, MI. Sponsored by Pediatric
Brain Tumor Foundation. More info 800-
253-6530 or email pbtfus@pbtfus.org**

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planning to attend any event as the
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The first thing most of you riders out there want after you buy that stock bike is better throttle response and MORE POWER! All right, brothers and sisters, let's make a plan! The first part of your plan should be to ask yourself is how much improvement would you like to make in the long run, basically just how much money are you willing to spend? Once you figure that out, out you can do your research on your own on what you like and see if they are all compatible, or your local shop can guide you on what to purchase. You don't have to buy it all in one huge purchase if you don't wish to, and with a few minutes of planning and good advice from a friend or shop, you won't buy things twice. Most of you have heard of the terms stage 1, stage 2, and stage 3 and so on, this is basically taking your big picture performance gains and chopping it up into multiple purchases. It's easier on the pocketbook and if at any time you are happy with the gains you have made, no worries, you can stop at any stage. This month I would like to talk about the stage 1 upgrade which takes a sluggish government EPA snail of a bike and wakes it right up into a very well-mannered motorcycle, one the manufacturer wish they could produce. This upgrade gives the engine more air and fuel in and lets all that exhaust out faster which in turn puts a bit of pep in your step!

Stage One is a term used by a few manufacturers and aftermarket suppliers that may have a few more or less items that I consider to be a stage one, however it is usually comprised of a high flow air cleaner, performance exhaust or slip on mufflers and some sort of fuel adjustment like carb re-jetting or EFI manipulation.

AIR CLEANER

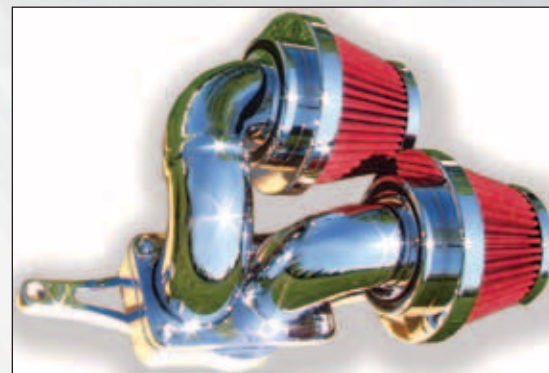
This can be as cheap as installing a better element, like a K&N, to an entire new air cleaner assembly made by Wimmer or Precision Billet, etc. Or you can do something in between those two choices by putting a better flowing backing plate in with a high flow element that uses the stock cover, ones by Arlin Ness or Doherty Machine Power Pacc work very well. The idea is to get as much air crammed into that engine as possible, because with more air in we can put more fuel in, which makes more POWER!



Precision Billet Air Cleaner



Doherty Machine Power Pacc



Wimmer Intake Exhaust

With more air coming in, you will need to let more air out to make it all work. The wrong exhaust could do harm to your performance gains if you get one that flows too much, ie., drag pipes, or leave the stock restrictive exhaust on after spending all the money on a new air cleaner. There are all kinds of types, 2 into 1, 2 into 2, pipes with crossovers built in and pipes with adjustable baffles and for you 4 and 6 cylinder riders you have 4 into 2, 4 into 4, 6 into 2, 6 into 6.., you get the point. In my humble opinion choosing an exhaust is a matter of what you like the looks and sound of. You can go with a set of slip-ons if you plan on staying with stage one or if you plan on future upgrades you may get an entire new system with great flowing head pipes. Some make more power than others but realistically for the street we are only talking a little horsepower/torque difference, so pick the ones you like that flow great and sound good to you. My favorites are the Rinehart classic duals and the S&S power tune duals, but I ride a dresser so your choices will be much different if you are riding a V-Max or Hayabusa. My custom bikes have one off systems made by my good friend Gary, owner of Kustoms, Inc. in Grand Ledge. If you're interested, he will make about anything you can dream up.



S & S Power Tune Duals head pipe for Harley



Rinehart Classic Duals

FUEL

Now you can get more air in and out, the only thing missing is more fuel to make that wonderful power you quest for. I have talked at length in past articles about fuel systems how they work and what to do to make them perform so for this article I'll just summarize. For carburetors that means re-jetting and maybe some other upgrades depending on what carb you are running. This can take a bit of time, and it can be a little easier for you if you buy a kit that has good directions and all the included items. Dynojet offers many of these kits for a variety of motorcycles. If it is your first attempt, be patient and seek a bit of advice, especially if you are diving into four carburetors on your favorite crotch rocket. There is nothing more aggravating than digging for those carbs more than once! Don't believe me? Come by the shop and ask Matt. If you are injected you have a few options, for Harley riders that want to stay at stage one you might consider HD's download or "re-mapping" of the ECU, but the bad part of that is if you decide to upgrade later they will charge you again and these only go so far, so if you go to stage three or further you will want to go a different direction.

Then there are the piggyback systems like Dynojet Power Commander, Cobra, or Vance and Hines Fuelpac that fools your ECU and allows more fuel to get into the bike when you need it. These work OK but again they may take some fidgeting to get it right. They have a tendency to over fuel your bike if programmed wrong, which leads to poor fuel economy and heavy carbon deposit on the pistons. Or you can replace the OEM unit with an entire new Electronic Control Unit (ECU) like the ones Zipper

Performance provides, a good system if you want to take a non-oxygen sensor bike and get into a self-tuning system. The best way (again in my opinion) is to get re-mapping software like Techno Research, Master Tune, or the Race Tuner from Harley and have a professional tuner have at it.



Dynojet's "Jet kit" for carburetors

Next month it's STAGE TWO ...

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE LIFT AND DURATION, BABY!

Hope you got some riding in during the spring weather in January, we did and we loved it! God Bless all of you great people out there, take care and keep smiling!



Steve Hollon
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HELMETS STATISTICS AND FREEDOM

Well, an entire riding season has passed in Michigan with motorcyclists for the most part having the "freedom" to decide whether to wear a helmet or not. I have collected the monthly statistics relating to motorcycle crashes, fatalities, and incapacitating injuries from the OHSP (Office Of Highway Safety Planning), a division of the Michigan State Police. As far as I am concerned, the whole falderal has been much ado about nothing. But don't think that will stop the entities with a horse in the race from beating it even after it's dead.

"Statistics are used much like a drunk uses a lamppost: for support, not illumination."
-Vin Scully

While I am a member of ABATE of Michigan, I do have my own opinion regarding the helmet law and it is not based on statistics. I will explain what I mean by that later. First, my thoughts on the collection of the statistics and their meaning as I read them.

What I see is that essentially nothing really changed for better or worse with the change of the helmet law. There are those who will present the numbers in ways that support their position (AKA "spin"). But statistics are only as good as the consideration for variables that reflect upon the outcomes. For instance, "Are the number of motorcyclists from out of state considered as they relate to total motorcycle registrations?" The word is from the motorcycle business community that record numbers of out of state motorcyclists were in the state riding this past summer. Are the numbers from all the various law enforcement agencies being sent to OHSP consistently being turned in from one year to the next? I can't help but imagine more attention to this issue was warranted from across the state this year with the helmet law modification. With a minute variable being omitted or added in the computation from year to year, the legitimacy of minor changes in results should essentially be nullified as having much meaning. And the presented changes are minor.

"Facts are stubborn, but statistics are more pliable." - Mark Twain

The "fact" of the matter is this; "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The founders, as evidenced by the Constitution, The Declaration, The Bill of Rights, The Articles of Confederation, The Federalist papers and a host of other documents clearly establishes their intent was never a democracy where the rights of individuals are second to the wishes of a majority. It was always the protection of the rights of individuals.

That being the case, a majority of insurance agents, brain injury advocates, or just plain opinionated citizens who believe helmets should be mandated for individuals carries no weight over the right of the individual. If we do not own and have sole authority over anything else in this world, is our own body not excluded? Property rights, in the original sense, have been increasingly squashed into non-existence. Restore the republic! I never heard a veteran express his desire to fight for democracy, totalitarianism, or a political party. It is always freedom. And that's a fact.



Rusty Bongard
Communications Director, ABATE of Michigan
Asst. State Rep. MRF
Co-Director B.O.L.T. of Michigan
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THUNDER ROADS NETWORK PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2012



Please welcome us in naming 2012's Publisher of the Year..... THUNDER ROADS VIRGINIA! KELLY WERRELL-COLLINS.....Yay! Way to go Kelly! I know how late you work on your mag every night and we've even had chats at 1am in the morning during "crunch time". You have overcome so many obstacles while going into your 8th year now. Wow! You have persevered and we have watched you struggle to build something that you one day want your children to inherit and take over and thank God you now have Randy to be your life partner and you both combine the mag and the bar and that's a very cool yet hard-ass labor of love. But your magazine, that is your primary baby, Kelly, and we are so very proud of the way you have always professionally conducted your business and have come up with such strategic marketing tactics. You are most definitely a force onto yourself to be reckoned with and we are ALL proud to have you on our team.....TEAM THUNDER!

Let's all give Kelly an "atta' girl" and way to go, girl, way to f'in go! WoouoooooHooooooo!!!! Very proud of you, Kelly. Love ya' chicka'. Now, go have a drink on us. Literally. Go now.

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