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Jody Mohowitsch  
P.O. Box 1782, Midland, MI 48641-1782  
Cell 989-615-5757 / Fax 866-678-2423  
Jody@thunderroadsmichigan.com

#### LAYOUT & DESIGN

Barbara L. Garner / ART DIRECTOR

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#### National Founders

Toni McCoy Shearon & Brian Shearon  
1528 Matlock Drive / Chapmansboro, TN 37035  
Thunder Publishing, LLC Offices: 615-792-0040  
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## Happy New Year!

Well it's a new year and I have my resolutions - how about you? One of my goals is to continue to make every issue a must read whether your favorite page is Thunder Cam, events listings, articles, advertisers' deals and specials or whichever it may be. We are all chomping at the bit to get riding again, but meanwhile it's great to get out to those swap meets and grab those items that put a smile on your face - we all love that feeling when it comes to our ride. Hope to see you out at the swap meets!

In this issue, you will find the infamous Tech Tips by Steve, great legal expertise from Jason and some wonderful articles on nobility. If you have a great story to share, a cool ride or just have a suggestion, please share.

Don't forget to find the tiny TRM wheel with wings logo (see larger version below) that is hidden somewhere in this issue. In the December issue the TRM logo was on page 13 Readers Rides (on Lisa's sleeve in the bottom left picture).

Have a smart phone? Download the Thunder Roads App - it's free! If you are an advertiser with TRM and would like to add your business info, events, etc., just let me know and I can assign you a token id.

Also, I wanted to give credit to Don Weimer Jr. - Weimer Original Designs in Battle Creek, MI for the Hustler bike featured on the December 2012 cover. Thanks Don!

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

Now for some "Mo" Advice:

*It's a New Year- if it hasn't worked, do things differently. If it does work- don't fix something that isn't broken. Most of all, be happy and enjoy the ride!*

Jody Mohowitsch



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# TWO WHEELS FOR WARRIORS



BY JACKIE KILLEEN

PHOTOS BY Jackie Killeen & Tim Nicewander

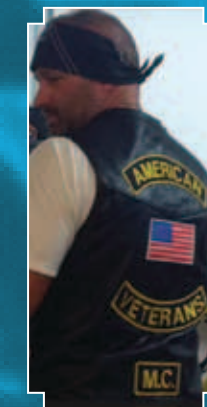
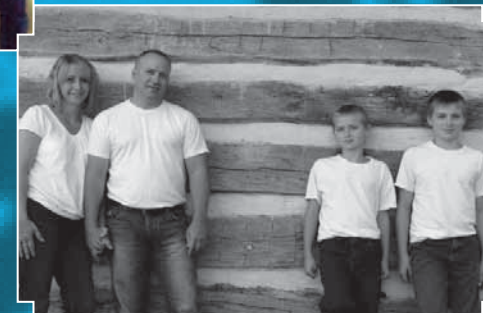
Retired Sergeant Bradley Vandenberg just isn't complete without going above and beyond for others. Over the past 3 years, he has kept the electricity on, fed the hungry and kept a roof over other families heads. Bradley spends most of his time planning and sponsoring poker runs and fundraisers to help the less fortunate. He isn't looking for recognition or even acknowledgement on the help he's offered. It seems the smiles he puts on a face is more than enough to keep his efforts in full swing. That desire alone started him thinking...

Bradley's former Staff Sergeant Justin Madore has struggled after more than 9 combat related surgeries. Doctors informed him that he should no longer ride! Can you imagine hearing those words? This led Bradley to a decision: Madore would be the recipient of a bike custom built for him and his companion Cody. Cody is a canine trained to help their owner deal with P.T.S.D (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). These canines are trained by K9s for Warriors in Ponte Vedra, Florida. Madore's case is severe and he has also been diagnosed with Thyroid Cancer. Bradley then began his ventures recruiting builders, sponsors and hosting fundraisers to support his dream.

Another recipient is Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Pepper, also injured during deployment. His dedicated years of service left him with a back injury causing a loss of feeling in both legs. He has been diagnosed with P.T.S.D. and MS. He has lost feeling in six fingers and his 25 year career as a Master Electrician came to an end. Pepper now volunteers his time coaching 4th - 6th grade football and assisting other vets as well as escorting for deploying or returning troops.

Founded by Retired Sergeant Bradley Vandenberg, the Two Wheels for Warriors is intended to keep fellow vets on two wheels. Many of our servicemen are injured and traumatized. Everyday life can be a struggle and limits are placed on their former abilities. The dream of helping these soldiers is overwhelming and consumes Bradley's every waking moment! For more information or to help with donations in any form, bikes, parts, funds, etc., contact Bradley at 269-366-8676 or mail to Men's Auxilliary, VFW Post 1527, 1920 Kilgore Service Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49002.

Happy New Year to all.



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**TONY CHURCOTT  
AKA BIG DOG**

**READERS  
RIDES**

Well, my love for choppers started as a young boy. I remember back in 2004 seeing a model of a chopper in the store of our hometown and I just had to have it. I told myself that someday I would own a real one like this. To no surprise, in 2011 I bought my first bike and it happened to be a Big Dog Pitbull. I was looking on eBay one Thursday night when I found this bike. I called a buddy and told him about the bike and needless to say, we were on the road the next day. We drove 1200 miles to the far side of Pennsylvania to capture, and bring my DOG home (thanks again, Mike!). I have since turned this bike into my pride and joy. It has taken lots of polishing and caressing to bring her back to the animal she once was. I then proceeded to use every option I could find to make her my one of a kind. Special thanks to my employer, (Mistequary Group, LTD) for some custom one of a kind pieces, also to Shawn Williamson, owner of TST Powder Coating here in Vassar for the powder coating of some parts and a lot of assembly on the bike. And a BIG thanks to my fiancé, Laura, for allowing me to spend so much time and money on my bike. One more added thanks to Don Clark of Thunder Roads for taking interest in my bike and story to submit this article and pictures. Hope everyone has a safe holiday season, and I hope to see you all in the upcoming year out on the road!

*Sincerely: Tony Churcott AKA Big Dog*

PHOTOS BY Don Clark

# VETERANS CORNER



## Dental Awareness Campaign Seeks to Reach Thousands of Veterans Statewide

8 November 2012

Michigan's nearly 700,000 veterans may soon benefit from the partnering of the Michigan Dental Association Foundation, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. This partnering will help bring about awareness of possible dental assistance for Michigan Veterans.

Dentists who are members of the Michigan Dental Association distribute informational cards to Veterans in their offices advising where to go to seek further information regarding VA health care and the Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund. Wartime Veterans and their families may be the recipients of approved grants to help get them back on their feet after temporary financial hardships, awarded by the Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund.

This act of providing the informational cards by the member dentists of the MDA is a way to help make sure the Veterans receive the information pertaining to health and possible assistance programs the Veterans need and deserve.

Having two of the nations top Veterans Administration Medical Facilities right here in the state of Michigan, and the 11th largest population of Veterans in the country, but for some reason Michigan Veterans' are less likely to seek out health care at a VA facility than fellow Veterans. This may be due to the fact many Veterans are not aware how to access their VA health care or not aware the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund is available to assist them financially.

Dental benefits are not an automatic part of VA health for most Veterans. Be sure to check with your dentist to see if they are a participant in this program and attempt to learn as much as you can to benefit you and your family.

Oral care and dental treatment are closely related to physical health, in particular diabetes. So Vets you need to be getting those dental check ups (and the informational cards) and seeking the treatment and care You have earned through your years of service to this great country.

## VA Releases New PSA Targeting Women Veterans

26 November 2012 Washington, DC

A new Public Service Announcement (PSA) directed towards women Veterans has been developed and released by the Department of Veterans Affairs to advise them that they have come to the "The Right Place" when seeking care or treatment from a VA Health Facility. VA administrators want to send a clear message to women Veterans that they have earned the right to high quality health care benefits and that they have come to the right place to receive those benefits.

The number of women Veterans seeking VA health care is increasing, doubling in the last decade and will be doubling again in the near future.

Many women who serve(d) our great country do not identify as Veterans and many women Veterans are unaware of the high quality of women's health

care that is available through the VA health care program. The VA wants to make sure that all Veteran women are aware that this service is available to them and that they are making use of it. Currently women comprise 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces and today's active military consist of 15 percent women.

## VA Registers "GI Bill" as a Trademark

3 December 2012 Washington, DC

The "GI Bill" is now officially registered and owned by the Veterans Administration, after having been registered with the U.S. patent and Trademark office, the VA is the sole owner of the title.

The VA will continue to support Veterans in the pursuit their education, a right which they earned by serving.

In the near future, the VA will issue terms of use for "GI Bill". For more information about GI Bill programs, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

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### Veteran's Corner Sponsored By:



# MICHIGAN RIDERS MEMORIAL WALL



By Debra Wright



Members of the Knights of the Road M/C – In the city of Fowlerville, neighbors and local business owners donated time, resources, and their expertise in making this wall a reality.

This Memorial Wall is a place to remember all the fallen motorcycle riders from Michigan. Names of any Michigan motorcycle riders can be engraved by request into the

granite of the wall to be viewed and remembered by all, for all time. This wall is the first of its kind and will resemble the smaller version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C.

The Knights built the granite memorial wall on their own to pay homage to all fallen brothers. The wall sits at Elliott and Losco Roads in Fowlerville. It is open to the public to be viewed, complete with spotlights and manicured landscaping. The cost to have a name engraved on the Memorial wall is \$75.00, and it will list the persons name and dates of birth and death. For more information, visit [www.michiganridersmemorial.com](http://www.michiganridersmemorial.com). There you will find a form to fill out for the Knights to review and follow through with.

Words from the Knights of the Road to all of us:

Like you, we are riders and enthusiasts of the roads that our wonderful state has to offer. From all walks of life we come together in the brotherhood that is only found on the open road; friends, fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers – riders, all of them. Regardless of their cause of death the Michigan Riders Memorial is where we can come together and honor ones we have lost.







A lady is throwing a party for her granddaughter and had gone all out – a caterer, band and a clown. Just before the party started, two bikers showed up looking for a donation for one of their charities. Feeling sorry for the bikers, the woman told them that she would give them a donation if they would help chop some wood for her out back. Gratefully, they headed to the rear of the house.

The guests arrived and all was going well. The children were having a wonderful time. But the clown hadn't shown up. After 30 minutes, the clown finally called to report that he was stuck in traffic and would probably not make the party at all.

The woman was very disappointed and unsuccessfully tried to entertain the children herself. She happened to look out the window and saw one of the bikers doing cartwheels across the lawn. She watched in awe as he swung from tree branches, did mid-air flips and jumped high in the air.

She went up to the other biker and said, "What your friend is doing is absolutely marvelous. I have never seen such a thing. Do you think your friend would consider repeating this performance for the children at the party? I will pay him \$50."

The other biker says, "Well, I dunno' lady. Let me ask him. 'Hey bubba! For \$50, would you chop off another toe?'"

**The actions** and legislation passage via several states brought this to mind:

It all makes sense now. Gay marriage & marijuana being legalized on the exact same day.

Leviticus 20:13- "If a man lays with another man he should be stoned."

We were just interpreting it wrong all this time. Who Knew?

**WHY?** do drugstores make the sick or elderly walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions filled, while smokers can buy cigarettes at the very front, right next to the door?

WHY? isn't there mouse flavored cat food?

WHY? is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

**IN HIS INFINITE WISDOM**.....

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God, in his infinite wisdom, granted the man's wish.

he next morning, sure enough, the man awoke as a woman. He arose, cooked breakfast for his mate, awakened the kids, set out their school clothes, fed them breakfast, packed their lunches, drove them to school, came home and vacuumed the entire house; upstairs and downstairs, took the cat to the vet, and stopped at the bank to make a deposit, but ended up having to go inside, went grocery shopping, loaded up 12 bags of groceries and then drove home to put away all the groceries, paid all the bills and balanced the checkbook. Drove to the Post Office; cleaned the cat's litter box and bathed the dog. Then it was already 1 P.M. and he hurried to make the beds, do the laundry, dust, and sweep and mop the kitchen floor and sweep off the front porch and use the leaf blower and blow off the back deck and refill the bird-feeder.

At 3:30 drove to the school to pick up the kids and got into an argument with the daughter on the way home, which was added stress. He never dealt with the kids on this emotional level before; it was very strange to him. It made him question everything.

At 4:00 he set out milk and cookies and got the kids organized to do their homework, then actually got to sit down for a minute on the couch and watch t.v. while folding 3 baskets full of laundry and then running around to various rooms putting folded clothes in various dressers and hanging up shirts, pants, etc. At 4:30 he began washing vegetables for salad, breaded the pork chops and snapped fresh beans for supper. Cooked the supper. After supper, he cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded even more laundry, bathed the kids, read them all stories and put them to bed.

At 9 P.M. he was exhausted and, though his daily chores weren't finished, he went to bed where he was expected to make love, which he managed to actually stay awake through but then passed out; comatose.

The next morning, he awoke and immediately knelt by the bed and said: "Lord, I don't know what I was thinking. I was so wrong to envy my wife's being able to stay home all day. Please, oh Lord please, let us trade back, I beg of you." The Lord, in his infinite wisdom, replied: "My son, I feel you have learned your lesson and I will be happy to change things back to the way they were.

You'll just have to wait nine months, though.

Apparently, you got pregnant last night."

**HAPPY NEW YEAR BIKERS.....**



- Ron Finch

- Jason Waechter

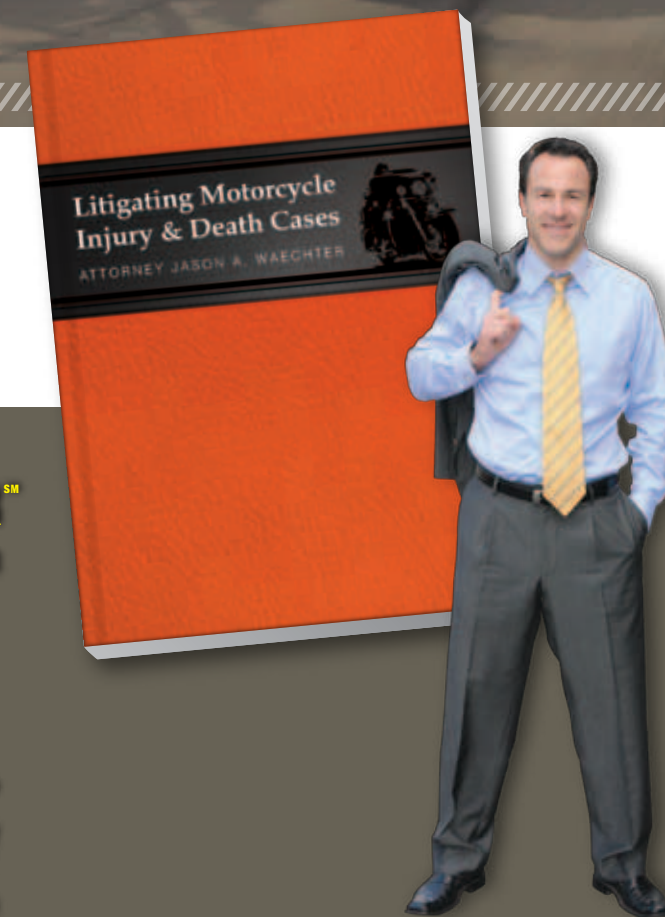
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A Michigan lawyer who rides, gets results, has 5 offices & does good for the motorcycle community. Jason is a member of HOG, ABATE & AMA.

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# 53RD ANNUAL FLINT MOTORCYCLE CLUB Big Brothers Big Sisters Indoor Motorcycle Ice Race



By Kathleen Howell

As we crossed the parking lot to the arena, the race had already begun, and we could hear the roar of the bikes as we approached the building. Once inside, the heavenly aroma of exhaust and two stroke oil hit us and we exchanged a smile. We were here again, at our yearly, must attend event – the Flint Motorcycle Club 53rd Annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Indoor Motorcycle Ice Race, held at the Perani Arena in Flint.

Today's mild weather made it not feel like the first Saturday in December. In years past, we'd slipped and slid our way down I-75 and I-69 to the arena and back, the falling snow glowing in our headlights. Tonight felt like a summer evening in comparison, an extension of our riding season.

We found our seats between turns one and two, and settled in to watch the heat races, from small kids about the size of their helmets to adult racers. As the bikes sped past, their tires bounced over the deep grooves that were being cut into the ice with each race. Hay bales wrapped in plastic lined the turns and were eventually obliterated by the passing bikes. After a while, it was comical to watch them speed by with hay stuck in their fenders. I grabbed my camera from the seat next to me, dropping my pen into the sticky abyss beneath the bleachers. &#x26; Thank God for Evernote and my smart phone.

Intermission came, and there was a hazy cloud hanging over the ice as Patsy Lou, the Zamboni, made her appearance and glossed over the track for the next round. It was then that Santa himself (actually, Flint MC VP Gary Dubay) came roaring out onto the arena on a four wheeler followed by the Grinch! They raced around the track several times before launching t-shirts into the crowd of screaming fans.

It was at this time that Rita Stanley from Big Brothers/Big Sisters addressed the crowd, thanking the



fans, the sponsors, and all who pulled together this event to benefit their program. Santa returned to his sleigh to pose for pictures with visiting kids, and soon we were back to racing, hearing the deep rumble of the four strokes and the distinctive riiiiinnngdingding of the two strokes. Our noses and fingertips started to feel the chill in the arena, the winners of each heat returned to center ice for a photo and the festivities came to a close.

It was great to see a motorcycle race when we are already counting the days until spring, but it was even better to see so many families watching it together. Mark your calendar for next year! Check out [www.flintmotorcycleclub.com](http://www.flintmotorcycleclub.com) for more information.



# SMALL TOWN "GOLD DIGGER"



BY JACKIE KILLEEN



Scott Meisterheim of Otsego, MI, chose to follow his desire to mine for gold. He knew someone in Alaska and set off in search of his fortune. His minimal experience with snorkeling and scuba diving was in no way helpful with the challenges he would face upon his arrival. He had no idea he would end up on the TV series, Bering Sea Gold until the camera crew showed up. There is now little to no time for himself or relationships. Since the media has already given the story on "How did you get there?" I want to get to the heart of Scott Meisterheim and what he does.

Divers dredge for gold at the bottom of the sea. An average dive for the crew can be 8-12 feet and as far down as thirty. These men put in many long hour days. They have to work when the weather permits. Wearing a white glove placed in front of your face, "If you can't see it, we can't go". If the waves are too high or conditions are too dangerous, they cannot work. When asked his thoughts on some views of the show including "drama, moaning and bitching", Scott replied "Well, it is reality TV". He isn't always cranky but his character will lead us to believe otherwise. That's TV. Remember Nelly Olsen on Little House on the Prairie? Folks would see her in public and kick her shins because of her role on the show.

Hard work and persistence has gained Scott his very own super, sweet rig. Anchor Management! Mentioning the "bad people" he "borrowed money from" caused Scott to chuckle as he shakes his head. There is nothing "bad" about these people! I'm sure we'll hear more rumors with each new season. Hang in there Scott!

Scott is described by one of his life-long best friends, Patty, as "kind and gentle, nothing like his character and a loyal and good person" despite his reputation as harsh, grumpy and salty! This reputation seems to come from his "tell it like it is" attitude. He says "you either like me or you don't", he didn't go there to make friends. Scott's goal as with many others is to find gold and lots of it!

In the very near future Scott is planning to have a web site with products for sale. He will use the proceeds to help with his child support and 10% will be donated to an organization such as the Wounded Warriors. He believes there is not enough to help the men and women who have defended this country!

He's making his dream of digging for gold a reality! Known by many viewers as "Capt. Scott", Season 2 begins January 4th, 2013. Look for Scott on Facebook to keep up with the new website and the show, Scott Bering Sea Gold! I will keep you updated on Scott's findings!



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## The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW "It Depends" Is Usually the Answer

A while back I wrote an article for this magazine entitled "Motorcyclists Often Get Shafted." In it, I explained how motorcyclists are treated differently under Michigan law than operators of cars. For example, after a crash, a motorcyclist cannot get his deductible reimbursed from the at-fault car driver. Actually that's generally speaking; the more accurate answer is, "It depends."

There are usually exceptions to the laws that apply to motorcyclists. Nuances exist because Michigan's No-Fault law is very fact specific, often not logical, and works differently if a motorcycle is not the vehicle involved.

All of the following statements are true and are printed here in an attempt to educate you on the law and expose these nuances. Reading all of my statements on the topic together may give you an insight as to the specific difference.

### Damage to Motorcycle

- A motorcyclist cannot get his collision deductible reimbursed by an insured car driver (or his insurance company) that rear ends him on the road.
- A motorcyclist can get his collision deductible reimbursed by an uninsured car driver that rear ends him on the road.
- A motorcyclist can get his collision deductible reimbursed by the insurance company of the car that ran over his motorcycle when it was parked between the lines at a shopping center.
- A motorcyclist with no collision coverage can force the insurance company of the car that ran over the motorcycle to pay for all the damage when it was parked between the lines at a shopping center.
- An uninsured car driver who causes a wreck is responsible for the collision damage to the motorcycle.
- A car driver can get his deductible reimbursed by a negligent car driver. A motorcyclist cannot get his deductible reimbursed from a negligent car driver.
- The insurance company for the driver of a motorcycle that hits another motorcycle is responsible for the collision damage to the bike that was struck.
- If a drunk driver of a car, who has insurance, loses control and hits a motorcycle on the road, the insurance company on the car does not have to pay for any damage to the motorcycle.
- No-Fault Benefits
- The owner and operator of an uninsured motorcycle is NOT entitled to Michigan No-Fault benefits when rear ended by an insured, drunk truck driver.

- A passenger of a motorcycle is always entitled to No-Fault benefits so long as a car, truck, van, SUV, or similar motor vehicle is involved in the crash.
- Contact with a motor vehicle is NOT required for a motorcyclist to qualify for, or obtain, Michigan No-Fault benefits.
- An operator of a motorcycle that is owned by his friend but is uninsured is entitled to No-Fault benefits when a car hits him.
- An insured motorcyclist that rear ends a car is entitled to No-Fault benefits from that car's insurance company.
- An insured motorcyclist who wrecks from going wide and hitting a tree is NOT entitled to No-Fault benefits.
- A motorcyclist that gets hit by another motorcyclist is NOT entitled to No-Fault benefits.
- The insurance company on the policy of the motorcycle never pays the No-Fault Benefits of the biker (it may pay some medical bills if certain coverage was purchased).
- The owner and operator of an uninsured motorcycle is hit by a semi-truck and incurs \$95,000 in medical bills—the motorcyclist is NOT entitled to No-Fault benefits and is stuck with the bills. The bills do not have to be paid by the semi truck's driver, owner or insurance company.

Confused? It is because the facts significantly affect the outcome when applying Michigan law in a motorcycle related crash. For further explanations, read the FAQs or watch the short videos on [www.motorcyclelawyermichigan.com](http://www.motorcyclelawyermichigan.com)

Have a great New Year!

Jason

### 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](http://www.motorcyclelawyermichigan.com)



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# TRM EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

## JANUARY

January 11-13  
38th Annual ABATE of Michigan Seminar and Membership Meeting America's Best Value Inn, Saginaw, MI. For more info Contact 906-359-4533 or [www.abateofmichigan.org](http://www.abateofmichigan.org).

January 18-20  
AMA Arenacross  
Grand Rapids, Showtimes 18th/19th 7 pm, 20th Noon, Tickets \$15-\$35, for more info contact [www.arenacross.com](http://www.arenacross.com)

January 18-20  
29th Annual Chicago Motorcycle Show & Parts Expo Pheasant Run Resort & Convention Center, St. Charles, IL, Food, Beer, Live Bands, Friday 1PM - 7 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 7 PM Sunday 10AM - 4 PM, [www.paragonspromotion.com](http://www.paragonspromotion.com) (See ad this issue).

January 19-20  
25th Annual Michigan Motorcycle Show  
Birch Run Expo Center, Hot bands & Cold beer, (See ad this issue).

January 25  
Great Lakes Harley-Davidson Black Tie Pre-Owned Event  
Great Lakes HD, Bay City, MI. 6 pm- 10 pm, Hors d'oeuvres & Refreshments, (See ad this issue).

January 27  
Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet  
The Lansing Center, Lansing, MI, 11-4pm, Adults \$9, Kids \$2, (See ad this issue).

## FEBRUARY

February 1-3  
Progressive International Motorcycle Show Michigan Suburban Collection, Novi, MI. For more info: [www.motorcycleshows.com/Novi](http://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](http://www.paragonspromotion.com) (See 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](http://www.abateofmichigan.org) or call 989-732-3699

February 10  
17th Annual Bowling for Dollars  
Continental Lanes, Roseville, MI. Regis 12-1 pm. \$7 Child/ \$12 Adult. For more info Contact 586-306-7146

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

February 28  
Stevens' Cycle Sales First Bike Night of the year  
Bay City, MI, [www.stevenscycle.com](http://www.stevenscycle.com) (See 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 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](http://www.paragonspromotion.com)

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](http://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](http://www.paragonspromotion.com)

## APRIL

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

## MAY

May 4  
2nd Annual Hastings Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Barry County Expo Center, Hastings, MI. 10 am- 4 pm, Contact [www.paragonspromotion.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.paragonspromotion.com) for more info.

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](http://www.paragonspromotion.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](http://www.paragonspromotion.com) for more info.

## JUNE

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](http://www.cycle-moore.com/motorcycleshopcampground.php?page_location=roundup)

June 26-29  
SturgisFest 2013  
Motorcycle Rally  
Downtown Sturgis, MI, More info at [www.sturgisfestmi.com](http://www.sturgisfestmi.com)

June 27-29  
Thunder on the Grand  
Barry Expo Fair Grounds, Hastings, MI. More info at [www.thunderonthegrand.com](http://www.thunderonthegrand.com)

## EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!

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To get your event listed in Thunder Roads Magazine and on our website, send the information to [Editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com](mailto:Editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com) Event information must be received prior to the 10th of the month preceding the event month to be posted in the magazine.

Remember to call ahead before planning to attend any event as the information/dates may change. Thunder Roads is Not responsible for errors or omissions.



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# THUNDER FUN

## Inspiration

*Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. ~ Unknown*

*A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him. ~ David Brinkley*

*Let us believe neither half of the good people tell us of ourselves, nor half of the evil they say of others. ~ J. Petit Senn*

*The less people speak of their greatness, the more we think of it. ~ Lord Bacon*

## Riddles

**A.** Lighter than what I am made of, more of me is hidden than is seen. What am I?

**B.** My life can be measured in hours, I serve by being devoured. Thin, I am quick. Fat, I am slow. Wind is my foe. What am I?

**C.** Two in a corner, 1 in a room, 0 in a house, but 1 in a shelter. What am I?

**D.** It cannot be seen, it weighs nothing, but when put into a barrel, it makes it lighter. What is it? (Answers to riddles below)

## Fun Facts

A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A monkey was once tried and convicted for smoking a cigarette in South Bend, Indiana.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

56,000,000 people go to Major League baseball each year.

## Weird Laws

Topeka, Kansas: Servers are forbidden to serve wine in teacups.

Nebraska: It is not legal for a tavern owner to serve beer unless a nice kettle of soup is also brewing.

Reno, Nevada: It is unlawful for any person to carry on, conduct or maintain any marathon dancing or marathon walking.

New York: A license must be purchased before hanging clothes on a clothesline.

Answers: A.) Iceberg B.) A candle C.) The letter "r" D.) A hole



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# A Veterans Christmas



by Gary Bredeweg

PHOTOS BY Gary Bredeweg & Nina Jo Wallace

It all started in the small farm town of Fremont, MI, with the passing of a dear friend and veteran. When Jack Morse passed away, a group of friends felt the need to keep his memory alive. Jack spent a lot of his time in the community helping with all different types of charities, and sometimes just being there to lend that helping hand. This group of friends, also known as Friends of Jack, got together to plan something that would set their event off somewhat differently than the other events. They decided to kick off the summer with a ride in May that would cover four large west Michigan counties; Muskegon, Newaygo, Lake and Oceana, with the ride holding the usual poker run, door prizes, auction, food and music. But it wouldn't stop there, they would spend the summer months doing different things around the community to raise money for one large donation.

Due to state and federal cuts, Friends of Jack spent the monies raised through the summer to continue the annual bingo and Christmas party, and the Grand Rapids Home for Vets. This party has been one of the things that our veterans have looked forward to for the entire year as the season approaches. In 2011, Emmalee, a student at Fremont High School and also the youngest member of Friends of Jack, had her first chance to join the group at the party, spending the day with our vets as they enjoy this special day. One vet made a comment that the gift bag he received was missing the one thing he looked forward to getting the most, and that was a simple pair of socks. This set Emmalee's sights high as she was going to add but another fund she set out to accomplish herself. Her goal in 2012 was get and ride her own Harley Davidson motorcycle and become a more active member in the group and collect 1000 pairs of sock to put in the gift bags,

with the help of several area businesses like Blind Squirrel Bar and Grill, Sandy's Harley Davidson, Fremont Area Chamber, Forgotten Eagles of Michigan Chapter 5, and as far away as Cadillac with a donation from the Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau. She also had the opportunity to speak on stage at the Gerber Baby Food Festival in Fremont.



The Jack Morse Ride was able to make a huge contribution to the Vets home of \$3000.00 this year to continue the annual party and support other needs, and also, Emmalee exceeded her goal of \$1000.00 to bring in 1053 pairs of new socks and has set her goal for 2013 year to 2000 pairs. I had the privilege to spend some time with this group this year to see the passion they have into making this a continued event for years to come. If you would like to make a sock donation to the event you can contact me [gary@thunderroadsmichigan.com](mailto:gary@thunderroadsmichigan.com) for more information.



# Tech Tips By Steve

**Ok**, time for a little metric action, no, Sailor boy, you're not in the Philippines on shore leave. One of the simplest things to do to your bike to gain horsepower and torque is to install a good exhaust and air intake system. Today I'll cover an air cleaner upgrade which gets more air flowing into the engine by installing a less restrictive high flow air cleaner system. More air in means we can put more fuel in and that means more power! Now, there are all kinds of easy air cleaner kits out there for you Harley riders, but few for the metric riders and I will assure you that some of these are not as easy to install as the Harley ones either. However, with some patience, persistence and reading skills you can get your metric breathing like it should in about a half a day or less. NOTE: Once you install a great breathing air cleaner and a less restrictive exhaust you will have to put more fuel to the bike via re-jetting the carb(s) or upgrading your fuel injection so you don't lean it out making that bike run hotter and possibly burn a hole in your pistons.



Joe Jones' 2009 Yamaha Raider sitting in the Golgotha showroom waiting for upgrades

This article will be covering the air intake system on a Yamaha Raider, specifically a 2009. How in the heck did I get here? Well, Joe Jones came into the shop with a challenge for me, he wanted to upgrade his air intake system to complement his new exhaust. He handed me a kit and said, "Here, you figure this kit out." and of course I said "No problem, it should be an easy day, Joe!" Joe left and I opened the kit and instantly got a headache as I read through the directions, my first thought was to pawn this off to my main master mechanic, Marty, but he would have killed me, so I just took it on the chin and proceeded to tackle it that night.. Easy day... remember Steve? The air cleaner is a Baron Big Air Kit Stealth for the Yamaha 06-13 Roadliner, 06-13 Stratoliner and 08-13 Raider and has a Parts Unlimited part number of 1010-0759 and lists for around \$250.00. (Fig 1)



FIG 1 Baron Big Air Kit Stealth

I won't bore you with a play by play, I'll just show you a few pictures and highlights so you can make a decision whether you want to take this on yourself or let the shop you bought the kit from install it for you. I always start something like this by taking the negative cable off the battery, yes I said the negative side, please. Then I proceed to the directions, oh my ... remember that headache? Once I got my bearings on what

to do when I took the fuel tank off and got a good look at the fun that was in store for me that night. Fig 2



Fig 2 Fuel tank off ready for disassembly

Ok, not too bad, I just started disconnecting the wiring harness on top of the airbox, setting everything aside (the harness and connectors were all neatly color coded so you could not mess it up, well, unless you are color blind), then I removed airbox, air cleaner and some other misc. parts, after it is all removed you have what you see in Fig 3. So far, so good, now for more interpretation of those blasted directions, luckily for me the directions have many pictures and if you take a look online you can download a color PDF version with much clearer text and pictures on Barons website.



Fig 3 The disassembled bike

Now, just pop on the cool new high flow washable air cleaners (Fig 4), install the kits new crankcase breathers, install the supplied bracket so all the wiring and air sensors are securely fitted, slide the fuel tank on and you are done with stage one. Completed kit in Fig 5 looks very clean and at first glance looks similar to the original bike, one big difference however ... take a look at Barons supplied dyno results.



Fig 4 New air cleaners installed



Fig 5 Finished Kit

This kit has two stages, Joe decided to stay with stage one, which leaves his coils and fuel pressure return valve in the stock location. Stage two of this kit puts the coils and a few other do-dads under the fuel tank so you can remove the plastic covers that hides the coils and other things including some of that fancy engine. If you decide to do stage two you will have a little ugly leftover unless you replace some OEM bolts with chrome bolts and make or buy covers hiding the engine mounts and some other things that cannot be moved. Baron makes a set cover plates that are clean that will cover the remaining ugly for about \$140.00. Parts Unlimited part number of 0520-0931. See Fig 6 Stock cover and Fig 7 Baron cover.



Fig 6 Stock Raider side cover



Fig 7 Baron Custom Raider cover letting some sunshine through

## DYNO RUN OF A 4TH GEAR ROLL-ON

Peak Horsepower Comparative by RPM								
	RPM	HP	Ft/lbs Torque	HP Gain	% Gain	Torque Gain	% Gain	Acceleration Time
All Stock	4700	83.25	90.99					5.35
Modified	4700	95.68	106.94	+12.43 HP	14.93%	15.95	17.53%	4.77
Modified	5000	96.13	100.97	+12.88 HP	<b>15.47%</b>	9.98	10.97%	5.18

Peak Torque Comparative by RPM							
	RPM	HP	Ft/lbs Torque	HP Gain	% Gain	Torque Gain	% Gain
All Stock	2100	42.85	107.13				
Modified	2100	43.47	108.70	+0.62 HP	1.45%	1.57	1.47%
Modified	3400	76.41	118.64	+33.56 HP	<b>78.32%</b>	11.51	<b>10.74%</b>

Idle to 5000 Acceleration Time Comparative							
	RPM	HP	Ft/lbs Torque	HP Gain	% Gain	Acceleration Time	
All Stock	5000	82.16	86.30			5.84	
Modified	5000	96.13	100.97	+13.97 HP	<b>11.3%</b>	5.18	

Performance numbers posted above are for reference and illustration only they are not a guarantee. Gains will vary based on bike, conditions, equipment and tuning, Barron Custom Accessories.

*Thank you for reading ... Each day of winter passing gets us closer to everyday warm riding! God bless you all and keep a big smile on, great people.*

Steve Hollon

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