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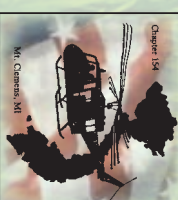
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COVER

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THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN

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April Showers Bring May...Riding, Right?

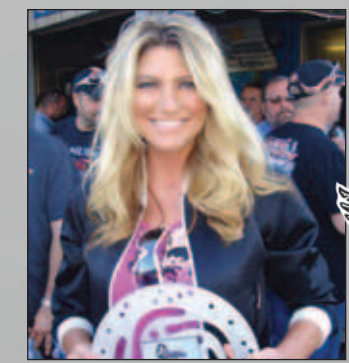
The one good thing about all of the rain we have been getting is it washes the salt off the roads. I hope that by the time this issue is before you that the rain has finally stopped so we can get to riding on those clean, salt free roads. I am looking forward to this riding season! There are so many events going on. There is no way anyone could be bored or looking for something to do! If they are, they must not be picking up the monthly issue of Thunder Roads!

In this issue, you will find those pictures I promised you from Daytona Bike Week. Also, during my trip down there I was able to get some fun shots on J.R.'s custom Road Glide. Boy, did that scare the bejesus out of me when he not only started the bike up when I was sitting on it, but had 5 ft. flames that shot out of the exhaust (all with his key fob so I had no idea). Everyone, including me laughed our tails off about it. Also, you will see throughout this issue all those events that are going to be going on that I talked about. This month, our factory feature is the impressive Can-Am Spyder. Wow, what a cool bike that is! Plus, you could win one courtesy of the Saganing Eagles Landing Casino. How cool is that? See the details in this issue of how you could be the lucky one to ride away on a Spyder. Also, see what's happening at the Soaring Eagle Casino this issue. You could win a motorcycle or \$10,000. Look for that ad as well. We are so lucky to have all of our wonderful advertisers. I would personally recommend each and every one of them! They all are so wonderful to work with and we appreciate them for supporting Thunder Roads Magazine! Let's make sure they are our first choice when we are looking for that Spyder, leather jacket, lawyer or whatever it is. We have it just about all covered in Thunder Roads. Bikers are loyal and support fellow bikers... yes we do!!

So because so many people are buying and wearing those Thunder Roads T-shirts and hoodies, I have decided to hide a different logo in this issue. The wing and wheel logo was showing up everywhere in past issues so I have changed the logo to the biker friendly character (see page 59 for what image to look for). Last month the TRM logo was on page 29, bottom middle picture. You will see like I was saying there is another one on Debra to the left.

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

Now for some "Mo" Advice: Today is the most important day! You can't change yesterday. You can't control what tomorrow may bring. That's all you can control is how you feel and what you are doing this very day. So seize the moment!



Jody Mohowitsch



can-am
SPYDER



FACTORY FEATURE **CAN-AM SPYDER**

RIDER REVIEW by Mike Novak



The Can Am Spyder has always looked like something fun to ride from the commercials. That is why going to Bike Week was perfect. All the manufacturers bring the new models to get you, the rider, on their product in hopes you will buy. After we went through the sign in process, video on operating it and taking a closed course test, it was time to take it out.

The first thing I noticed was the shifting being different than other motorcycles. You simply twist the throttle and click through the gears on the left side with your thumb. No clutch, no letting off the throttle. They want you to keep those RPMs up and don't let up as you shift. As you slow down, it downshifts automatically. Braking is just one pedal as and it slows all 3 wheels at the same time. They made this vehicle so smooth so that anyone can get on it and enjoy riding it. You're out there to enjoy the ride plain and simple.

The touring model I was on had a very smooth ride, plus, it had all the bells and whistles. You can raise and lower the windshield as you ride, listen to music, adjust heated grips and more options we weren't informed of when we went. As we started out of the parking lot you notice how quick it responds to how hard you twist the throttle as you click through the gears. Turning is easy as there is no leaning required. You just turn the handle bars the direction you want to go. It handled the highway speeds as easy as it did lower speeds on the streets downtown. Overall a very positive experience and something to consider if you've never ridden one. For this rider it was a lot of fun to ride.

CAN-AM SPYDER RT

When it comes to adventurous travel, why pile in a minivan or pay for an uncomfortable berth in a cross-country train or bus? Where's the enjoyment or freedom in that? A far more alluring way to journey down the open road is aboard the seat on one of the Can-Am® Spyder® RT roadsters. This highly innovative and stylish touring three-wheel roadster is made to explore. It confidentially and sophisticatedly revolutionizes travel by combining the open-air freedom of a motorcycle and the peace of mind of a luxury car.

The Can-Am Spyder RT roadster is more capable of short or long getaways thanks to the bevy of upgrades and revisions to the chassis, braking system, suspension, better heat shielding and more. For 2013, the Spyder RT roadster features a transmission option and a standard AM/FM radio with passenger controls and iPod integration cable. All these important improvements, along with the model's proven Rotax engine performance, innovative architecture and unmatched handling, make the Spyder RT roadster the answer for those looking to escape and explore in style.

From its electronically adjustable rear air-control suspension to its passenger accommodations and stellar fit-and-finish, the Can-Am Spyder RT-S roadster makes long journeys very enjoyable. This touring model received selected updates and important front suspension changes for an improved riding experience. The Spyder RT-S is available in four attractive color schemes, including a new Circuit Yellow Metallic color. The highly attractive Quantum Blue Metallic, Viper Red and Pure Magnesium Metallic also return for 2013.

CAN-AM SPYDER RS

The new and improved Can-Am® Spyder® RS roadster line represents the machine for the rider who has a passion for sporty adventure, and the eagerness to go forth and conquer the open road. From its performance-oriented, three-wheel, open-air configuration to its attractive design and aggressive stance, the Spyder RS roadster from BRP is a legitimate head turner, even when standing still.

All Can-Am Spyder RS roadsters are loaded with machismo thanks to its proven 100 horsepower Rotax® 998cc V-twin engine. The powerplant, which has great torque and shortens roads with a twist of the throttle, is mated to the two available five-speed transmissions. The electronic five-speed (plus reverse) SE5™ transmission, which is controlled by the left hand (thumb and forefinger) and requires no clutching, is optional standard SM5 (manual) five-speed transmission also includes reverse.

The Spyder RS roadster is eye-catching and more than capable of making a sporty impression, however, the Spyder RS-S takes performance and styling to the next level. Featuring all the updates the Spyder RS got for 2013, the "S" package has even more to offer. From its updated twin-blade-spoke front wheels, contraststitched seat, two-tone coloration, painted front spoiler and A-arm covers, and exclusive graphics the Spyder RS-S roadster is dressed for success on the open road. Available with either the SM5 or SE5 transmissions with reverse. And, with a newly-designed front fender, not only is the styling more attractive for 2013, the design also helps the Spyder RS-S improve vehicle aerodynamics.

CAN-AM SPYDER ST

Brand new for 2013 is the Can-Am® Spyder® ST roadster lineup. Representing the right blend of comfort and sportiness to set it apart from the two other roadster lines, the Spyder ST is as comfortable and nimble for a quick jaunt to the grocery store, as it is on a spirited ride on a favorite country lane, or a week-long getaway up the coast. A new chassis, combined with sport-touring rider ergonomics make the Spyder ST the only chose for three-wheeled sport touring.

The Spyder ST-S roadster takes all the standard features of the Spyder ST and adds several enhancements and color options for an even sportier look and touring performance. The front fenders feature LED lighting for increased visibility and a design that aids in aerodynamic performance. A sleek Carbon Black finish is added to several parts including the front wheels, handlebars, footrest, rear sprocket, exhaust and shock springs. Painted upper A-arms and front spoiler covers add a stylish edge. Driver footboards come standard on the SE5 models. Electronic cruise control is standard.



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VETERANS CORNER



Across the United States, "retreats" have opened up to help wounded warriors and their families adjust to life back in the U.S. and "wind down" from the war. There are probably more in Michigan, but I am going to tell you about two that I know of.

A very generous individual donated Wilwin Lodge to the American Legion, department of Michigan. Wilwin Lodge is located in the Upper Peninsula northwest of Trout Lake. From their web site: <http://www.wilwin.org>, Wilwin is on property that once hosted a large lumbering operation, complete with a mill, railroad spurs and it's own village. It is now a peaceful retreat deep in the north woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The lodge sleeps up to 15 people in a total of 6 bedrooms. With a 2 story atrium and dual stone fireplaces, it's a stunning building. The property consists of nearly 600 wooded acres, a total of 5 buildings, including the lodge and Soldier's retreat, and nearly 10 miles of well-maintained trails.

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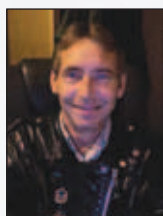
Individuals who are interested in staying at Wilwin can fill out the application located at http://www.michiganlegion.org/pdfs/wilwin_application.pdf

A recent retreat in progress is Camp Santo. Camp Santo is run by Jim Santo and is located near Shepherd, near the Isabella county line. Jim recently obtained 501c3 status for Camp Santo. The camp consists of 20 acres that are wooded with a river running through it. The "bunkhouse" is a work in progress.

Jim is a combat Vietnam vet, and the camp's focus is for combat vets to be able to relax and talk with someone who has "been there, done that", communicate with someone who has shared similar experiences. Another use Jim has for the camp is for a veteran who needs a place to stay for a couple of days.

The camp's website is not operational yet, but in the near future will be at <http://www.campsanto.com>. Individuals interested in the facility can call Jim at 989-828-4651.

David McCallister "Possum"
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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

Location of the Wire Highway Barriers

In the last issue of this magazine, my column was titled, "Wire Highway Barriers: Cheese Graters for Motorcyclists". As you may recall from the article, wire highway barriers are also called median cable guard rails. They are comprised of cable rope made of steel wire that is mounted on posts that are driven into the ground.

The idea is that the wire barriers prevent a vehicle that has left the roadway from striking another vehicle and creating a more dangerous situation. The barrier stops or reduces the speed of the impacting vehicle. It is usually installed in the grass between opposite traveling express ways.

Michigan increased its use of wire highway barriers in 2008 in large as part of federal monies that were given for certain projects. A major reason this type of barrier is used is because it is the most cost-effective safety barrier available at almost a third of the price of the regular steel guardrail we are used to seeing.

Impact to motorcycles: Certainly motorcyclists benefit from other vehicles being stopped from crossing the median and hitting them—the motorcyclist. But obviously the concern is that these wires present a more serious risk of severe injury and even death to a motorcyclist. Some motorcyclists refer to these wire rope barriers as "widow makers." I have heard talk that if a motorcyclist hits one of these barriers there would be a 'cheese-grater' effect.

This writer's research found that the State of Michigan has outweighed the cost of non-motorcycle vehicle benefit against potential motorcyclists harm. It decided against the motorcyclists — more wire barriers are being installed. They are on the rise.

The most requested information from the calls and e-mails I received after my last article circulated was the location of the wire rope barriers here in Michigan. Therefore, I've compiled a list below. Some stretches of state roadways in MDOTs Southwest Region that have had cable barriers installed include:

- I-94 from Michigan/Indiana state line to Maudlin Road, north of New Buffalo (2009-10).

- I-94 from US-12 to the I-94 Business Loop in Stevensville (Lakeshore Drive) (2009-10).

- I-94 from Park Road in Benton Township to the Kalamazoo/Van Buren County line (2009).

- I-94 from Kalamazoo/Van Buren county line to 12th Street (2009-10).

- US-131 from West B. Avenue south of Plainwell to 146th Avenue north of Moline (2009-10).

- I-94 from 40th Street east of Galesburg to Old US-27 in Marshall (2010).

- I-196 from 71st Street north to 118th Avenue (2009-10).

- I-196 from 118th Street north to 130th Avenue (2010-11).

Should a motorcyclist wish to complain about the use of these wire barriers in Michigan you may call the Michigan Department Transportation (MDOT) at 517-373-2090.

Attorney Jason A. Waechter is a Michigan attorney

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

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A man died in a horrible fire. The mortician thought it was Bubba, but the body was so badly burned that somebody would need to make a positive identification. That task fell to Bubba's two friends, Joe and Wally.

Joe: "He's burnt pretty bad, all right. Roll him over." Joe looked at the dead man's buttocks and said, "Nope, that ain't Bubba."

Thinking the incident strange, the mortician straightened up the body and said nothing. He brought in Wally.

Wally: "Wow, he's burnt to a crisp. Roll him over." Again, "Nope, that ain't Bubba."

Mortician: "How can you tell?"

Wally: "Bubba had two assholes."

Mortician: "What? How could he have two assholes?"

Wally: "Everybody knew Bubba had two assholes. Whenever the three of us would go into town you'd hear people say, 'Here comes Bubba with the two assholes!'"

A sexually active, middle-aged woman, informed her plastic surgeon that she wanted her vaginal lips reduced in size because, over the years, they had become loose and floppy.

Out of embarrassment, she insisted that the surgery be kept a secret and, of course, the surgeon agreed.

Awakening from the anesthesia after surgery, she found 3 red roses carefully placed beside her on the bed.

Outraged, she immediately called in the Surgeon.

"I thought I specifically asked you not to tell anyone about my operation!"

The Surgeon told her he had carried out her wish for confidentiality and that the first rose was from him.

"I felt compassion for you, because you went through this all by yourself."

"The second rose is from my Nurse."

She assisted me in the surgery and understood perfectly, as she had the same procedure done some years ago.

The woman had calmed down considerably and was actually feeling grateful for all these caring people.

"And what about the third rose?" she inquired.

"Oh, that's from a man upstairs in the Burn Unit - he wanted to thank you for his new ears."

I'm reaching out on behalf of a buddy of mine who needs some help! His wife told him to go out & get some of those pills that would help him get an erection.

When he came back, he handed her some diet pills. Anyway, he's looking for a place to live.

A woman goes to the Doctor, worried about her husband's temper. The Doctor asks: "What's the problem?"

The woman says: "Doctor, I don't know what to do. Every day my husband seems to lose his temper for no reason, and it scares me."

The Doctor says: "I have a cure for that. When it seems that your husband is getting angry, just take a glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until he either leaves the room or goes to bed and falls asleep."

Two weeks later the woman comes back to the doctor, looking fresh and reborn.

The woman says: "Doctor that was a brilliant idea! Every time my husband started losing it, I swished with water. I swished and swished, and he calmed right down! How does a glass of water do that?"

The Doctor says: "The water itself does nothing. It's keeping your mouth shut for long periods of time that does the trick...."

Ralph and Edna were both patients in a mental hospital.

One day while they were walking past the hospital swimming pool, Ralph suddenly jumped into the deep end.

He sank to the bottom of the pool and stayed there.

Edna promptly jumped in to save him. She swam to the bottom and pulled him out.

When the Head Nurse Director became aware of Edna's heroic act she immediately ordered her to be discharged from the hospital, as she now considered her to be mentally stable.

When she went to tell Edna the news she said, 'Edna, I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're being discharged, since you were able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of the person you love...

I have concluded that your act displays sound mindedness.

The bad news is, Ralph hung himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you saved him. I am so saddened, but he's dead.'

Edna replied, 'He didn't hang himself, I put him there to dry. How soon can I go home?'

LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE, BIKERS!

SOAR AWAY ON A



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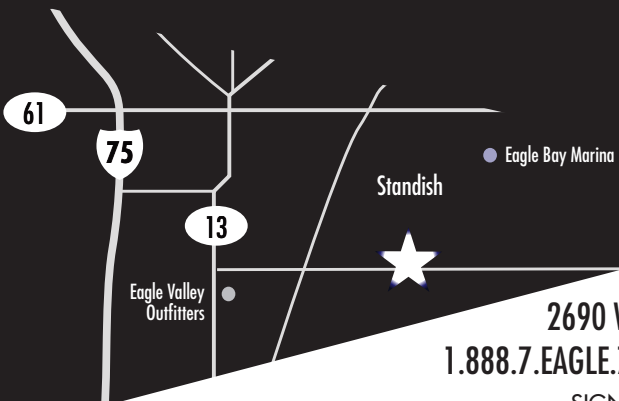
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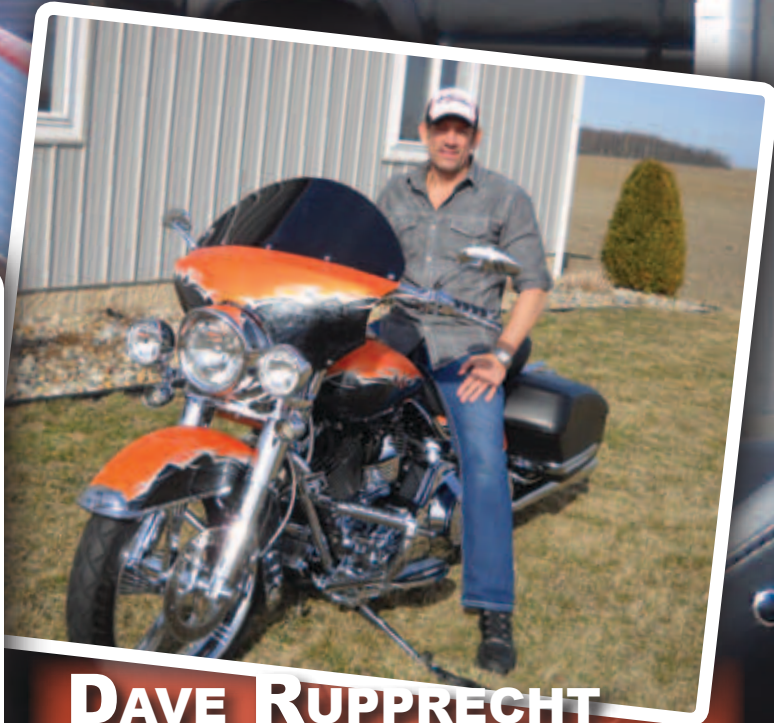
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READERS RIDES



DAVE RUPPRECHT

Spring is here, time to get back on the road! I have been in love with motorcycles since I was old enough to know what they were. I have owned many different bikes in my life. I currently own my 2nd Harley Davidson which is a 2001 Road King Classic, with a lot of hard work, time, and money, I love how this bike has turned out. It has an 88inch fuel injected motor, Basani exhaust, Sundowner studded seat, Screaming Eagle bags and touring pack, custom Dron fairing with Tangelo Pearl and marble paint by Jim Fogle owner of Dirty White Boyz Custom Cycle Art, a 21"RC component front wheel w/single rotor, a ton of chrome and many other options as well. Every bike out there is unique in its own way! I would also like to thank Don Clark for highlighting and choosing my bike for this month's feature of Readers Rides! I hope everyone had a good winter, and wanting to wish everyone a safe and fun filled summer on two wheels!!

PHOTOS BY Don Clark



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Road Trip Essentials



by Kathleen Howell

By the time you read this, I hope the temps are warmer, dandelions litter the landscape, and summer is starting to make its appearance. Where will the roads take you this year? Our bikes are ready to go, patiently waiting for that first long ride of the season. Some necessity, some luxury, here are 10 things I make sure to pack for each road trip.

1. Tools. Wrenches, spark plugs, zip ties, tire gauge, tire repair kit, flashlight. Check your manual if needed, but make sure you have the right stuff for your bike.
2. Clear Glasses. You'll leave with sunglasses on, but if all goes well, you'll ride back in the dark. Even safety glasses work fine as long as they adequately cover your eyes.
3. Warm Gear. Jacket, chaps, gloves, etc. Does your helmet have detachable earflaps? Bring them. Rain gear also, if there is a chance in the forecast.
4. Sunscreen / Lip Balm. I've come back fried up crispy crunchy more times than I can count. You don't notice until the end of the day how much sun you've gotten. Even on overcast days. And NOTHING is worse than chapped lips in the wind.
5. Cargo Net. You never know what you might find at a barn sale.
6. Camera and Journal. I'm never without my camera and journal, as this is what I do. I love to document and share our adventures and I jot notes at every stop.

7. Flip flops. Learned this from a friend several years ago. Guys will likely not care too much about this, but it's SO nice to kick those boots off on a hot summer day and let your toes cool off.
8. iPod or MP3 player. Tucks nicely in a windshield bag. If you have speakers, great. If not, use one earbud so outside noise isn't completely blocked out.

9. Blanket or Throw. In case you find a nice grassy spot or a place without picnic tables or benches.

And lastly?

10. You. You're taking the trip to get away, to explore, to enjoy this day that you've been blessed with. Summer is short in southeast Michigan. Soak up every minute. Notice the sights, the smells, savor every detail. Leave work at work, leave worries behind for today. A good ride is great therapy, but don't ride if you're distracted or upset.

Go somewhere new, make some memories. And if you can't get a group of friends together, just go. You want to really experience freedom? Take a ride by yourself. Just make sure to let someone know your intended route. The timing won't always be right for everyone, and if you always wait on everyone else, you'll never get anywhere.

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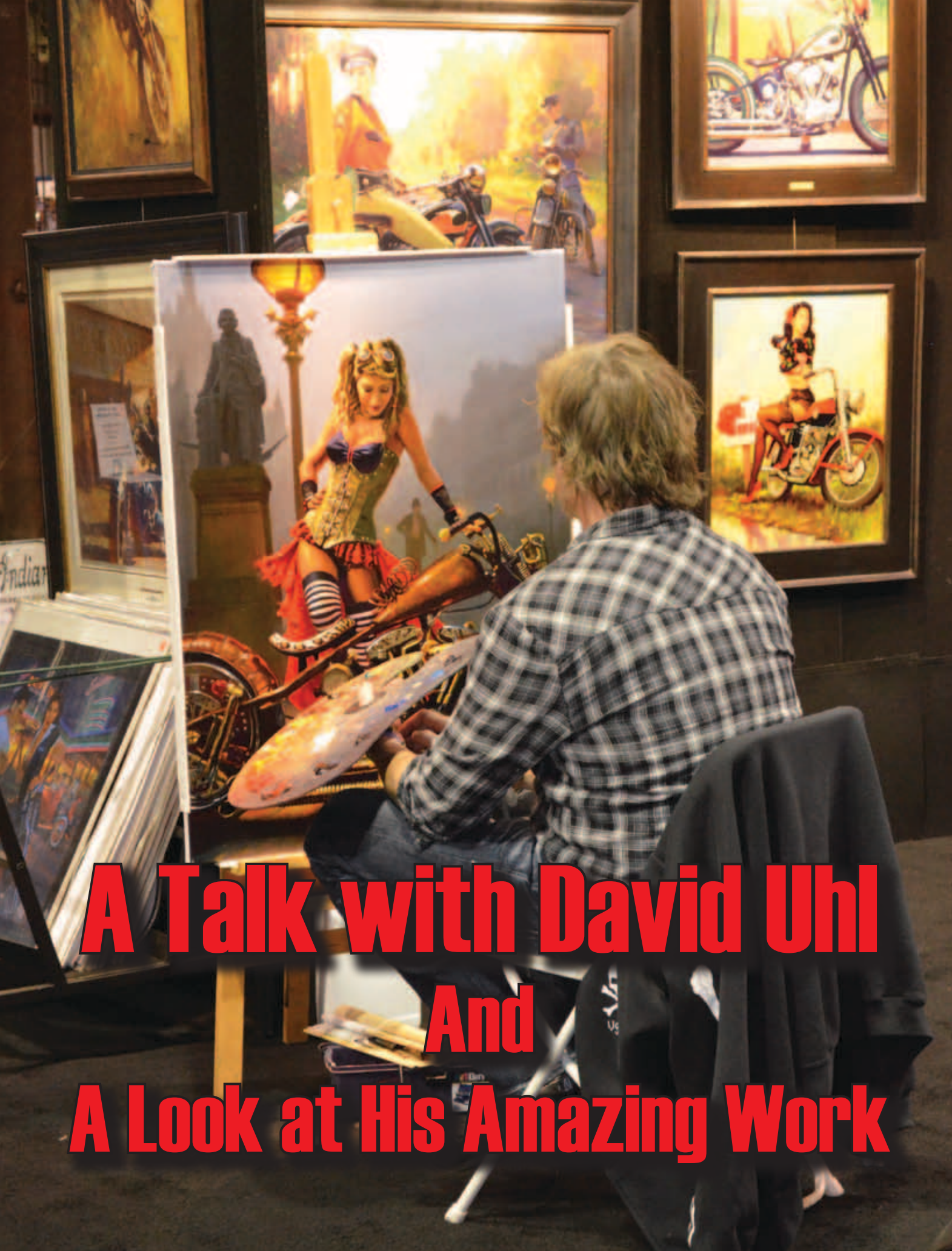
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A Talk with David Uhl And A Look at His Amazing Work



BY HILLBILLY, THUNDER ROADS MD-DE-DC

When I first got to the Timonium Bike Show, I did what every self-respecting biker does I went looking for bikes and babes. I don't really remember seeing David Uhl's large booth right there in the middle of it all. I passed by a couple of times and never really paid much attention to it. I've always stayed away from most art things, because to be honest I am the worst artist of all time. I'm sure you all know someone like me, the guy that can't even draw stick people. I guess I've always been jealous of people that could draw or paint so effortlessly. I didn't realize just how jealous I was about to be.

On one of my trips around the show I looked into his booth and the next thing I knew I was standing in front of one of the pictures. I couldn't believe how great these paintings were. The more I looked around I really liked what I was seeing, and it didn't take long to see that I wasn't the only one. The booth was full of bikers young and old, male and female. The paintings were just amazing. I knew I had to talk to David Uhl if I could get the chance. As I watched him finishing a new painting, I decided to ask if he would mind talking with me and sharing his story with Thunder Roads Magazine MD-DE-DC. He accepted the offer, and after talking with him I gained a great respect for him and had to share his works with our readers.

David started painting motorcycles in 1998. Before that he was an international illustrator. He did ball point pen drawings as a style that became really popular. He did everything from Apple computers, IBM, Newsweek, and Time. He also did all the Brookstone ads and worked with Fed Ex for six years. In 1998 he decided he didn't want to illustrate any longer and wanted to try his hand at painting.

When we talked about the paintings, I asked about the reception he's gotten from the biker community. He summed it up in one word "Incredible". He always figured he would get a good response because of the subject of his paintings. He paints mainly antique motorcycles like pan heads, knuckles, and flat heads. It's all the things bikers love and a recipe for success. I also usually have a cute girl or woman painted with respect and class. He finds women like the paintings as much as the men do because of that.

If you happen to go to a show and find out David is there displaying and selling his art, find something you like and buy it early. He tells me he sells out at most of the shows. So if you were thinking about getting a Uhl painting, don't be hesitant to pull the trigger or you may just miss the chance to own one of these amazing works of art.

His studios are located in Golden Colorado. David usually does attend Daytona Bike week, Sturgis, and he also goes to the Arizona Bike shows. He came to the East Coast because he was invited to the New York bike show. So he decided to do Timonium and then onto Indiana before going to Daytona. Which worked out good for us and we got a chance to see his work up close.

For the next year and a half he's going to do some painting of the history of wine making. He said it was going to be "some pretty serious art". He also said he would keep doing the motorcycle paintings during this time. Which I was glad to hear.

Thunder Roads is going to feature David's work in upcoming monthly editions as it becomes available. Tell us what you think and we will pass it on to David. In the meantime if you're interested in obtaining some great motorcycle art for your collection you can go to www.uhlstudios.com or contact Greg Rhodes at 303-913-4840. Be sure to tell them that Thunder Roads MD-DE-DC sent you.

EVENT

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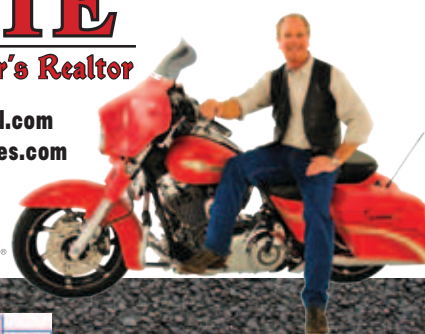
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Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

Inspiration

Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight. ~ Benjamin Franklin

You must look into other people as well as at them. ~ Lord Chesterfield

Arguing with a fool proves there are two. ~ Doris M. Smith

A fair reputation is a plant, delicate in its nature, and by no means rapid in its growth. It will not shoot up in a night like the gourd of the prophet; but, like that gourd, it may perish in a night.

~ Jeremy Taylor

Fate is character. ~ William Winter

Riddles

A. What English word has three consecutive double letters?

B. I am always hungry, I must always be fed. The finger I touch will soon turn red. What am I?

C. When young, I am sweet in the sun. When middle-aged, I make you gay. When old, I am valued more than ever.

D. If you break me I do not stop working, if you touch me I may be snared, if you lose me nothing will matter.

(Answers below)

Fun Facts

A company in Taiwan makes dinnerware out of wheat, so you can eat your plate.

A cow produces 200 times more gas a day than a person.

A hard working adult sweats up to 4 gallons per day. Most of the sweat evaporates before a person realizes it's there.

A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.

Weird Laws

Colorado: Water laws prohibit the use of rain barrels or any methods to catch rain for use. They claim the rain has already been legally allocated to the state and individual may not capture and use water to which he/she does not have a right.

A United States federal law makes it illegal to issue a fake Weather Bureau forecast.

South Carolina: There's no place for fun... It is unlawful for a minor under the age of eighteen to play a pinball machine

Answers: A) Bookkeeper B) Fire C) Wine D) Your heart

**THUNDER ROADS
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MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND**



PHOTOGRAPHER Iron Cowboy ~ TRO
MODEL Jody "Mo" Mohowitsch ~ TRM
BIKE OWNER J.R. Perez
BIKE CUSTOM BUILT BY
Matt Shay ~ Audiowerks Custom Cycles

May 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5 THUNDER ACROSS THUMB-CARO BIKE BLESSING-OVID	6	7	8	9 ESTROGEN EXTRAVAGANZA-SHIAWASSEE	10	11 SOARING EAGLE-CASINO SHOW & EXPO-PEOTONE, IL SWAP MEET & SHOW-MIDLAND BIKE BLESSING-TECUMSEH LADIES DAY-ZIPS CUSTOMER DAY-BIKER BOBS
12	13	14	15	16 GARAGE PARTY-RAY C'S	17 GARAGE PARTY-WOLVERINE DRAG RACING-MILAN DRAGWAY BIKE BLESSING-BALDWIN	18 BIKE BLESSING-BALDWIN SOARING EAGLE-CASINO OPEN HOUSE-SANDYS ROAD CAPTAIN-WOLVERINE DEMO DAYS-SHIAWASSEE
19 BIKE BLESSING-BALDWIN DEMO DAYS-SHIAWASSEE	20	21	22	23 OUTER VIBE-GRAND RAPIDS GARAGE PARTY-BIKER BOBS	24 OPEN HOUSE-PIONEER, OH	25 OPEN HOUSE-PIONEER, OH SOARING EAGLE-CASINO DILLINGER RIDE-LEWISVILLE BIKE BLESSING-ZIPS- GAYLORD ASH KICKEN-WOLVERINE HERO DAY-BIKER BOBS SHOW & SWAP-VALPARAISO, IN
26 OPEN HOUSE-PIONEER, OH SHOW & SWAP-VALPARAISO, IN VETS CONCERT-COLEMAN	27 MEMORIAL DAY OPEN HOUSE-PIONEER, OH	28	29	30 HARLEY HEROS-RAY C'S	31 HARLEY HEROS-RAY C'S FEAR SPYDER-RAY C'S	1 HARLEY HEROS-RAY C'S FEAR SPYDER-RAY C'S 2 FEAR SPYDER-RAY C'S



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THUNDER MAIL



To Jody (Publisher):

Hi Jody, being an avid reader of your magazine, I have wondered why there aren't more various veterans' organizations and what they do for veterans. I was past president of Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 in Michigan that is a national organization based in Washington DC. It is a POW MIA Veterans group. I was also co-founder and past President of the Forgotten Eagles of Michigan as well, until I had heart problems and had to resign. This group was also a POW MIA awareness group, but for the veterans in Michigan. These groups give needy vets and their families things to help them such as gas cards, money cars, furnaces, propane fuel, etc. They visit VA hospitals up to 3 times a year with cook-outs, bingos, and Thanksgiving dinners and just to visit with our vets. I am a Navy vet (8 Years) Korean and Vietnam Rolling Thunder has a ride to the wall in DC on Memorial weekend. I have been there 3 times. It is a very emotional time to be at the wall. They have over 500,000 bikes sometimes more. Forgotten Eagles does events all year to raise money for the vets (i.e. Sandy Corley, Blessing of the Bikes in Detroit, Ride around Michigan (RAM), plus raffles, poker runs, etc.)



Recently I went on a new run with Project Red White and Blue out of Boondox Motorsports in Grand Rapids put on by Troy Rubie aka "Smooth". It is for policemen, fireman and veterans with stops at the VA hospital and VFW posts. The next one will be September 15th starting at Boondox.

Now, to my point, I have been riding Harleys since 1952. I presently ride a 2003 100th Anniversary Special Edition Wide Glide. Yes, I still even ride after my open heart and six surgeries on my legs. Not bad for almost 77 years old. Although, I have worked with vet groups for years I did it from the heart and never expected anything in return. Last December, Project Red White and Blue came from Grand Rapids and presented me with a 1998 Chevy Tahoe. I had a 1990 van than was almost rusted out. I could see the road go by and the transmission was on the way out. Being now on a limited income, I couldn't afford to get a different vehicle. It was a total surprise and brought tears to my eyes. I think these veterans groups should get more recognition. This is why I am writing this letter to you as it is probably the most read magazine in Michigan. Thanks for your time Jody, by the way we have met, at Bobby's Birthday Bash last year.



Sincerely yours,

Keith Leeman aka "Budman"

Dear Budman,

Thank you for your letter and for being a loyal reader. What a wonderful story you shared. It is so nice to hear good things happening to good people. I wanted to respond to your letter, because honoring our veterans is something that is very near and dear to me. My father was a Vietnam Veteran. He served 2 tours in the Army 1st cavalry. Unfortunately, we lost him to cancer almost 8 years ago.

I also have friends and relatives that currently serve in the armed forces as well. We are lucky to be able to live in a country that gives us such freedoms. This does not come free, it comes with a cost. This is something none of us should ever take for granted.

We have many events that honor our Veterans and I am proud to be able to either list them in our free events section or support them with their advertising efforts by offering them a charity discount. I think as the summer approaches us you will see more and more events coming in that are for charitable causes. Each month David McCallister 'Possum' provides great information for our veterans as well in the Veterans Corner, which is usually on page 12 each month. We also work with the Forgotten Eagles (see page 1 -they are hosting a Veterans Memorial concert) as well as Rolling Thunder and other veterans organizations.

Thank you again for your support and sharing your story. I wish you many blessings and appreciate you taking the time to honor America's Heroes.

Sincerely,

Jody

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Biker Preacher's Corner

One early summer day, a rider decided to attend a weekend rally that was a several hour ride from his home. As he rode, he started to coach himself on all the things he WASN'T going to do and made up his mind that he was just going to enjoy the weekend riding, relaxing and laughing with his friends.

He found himself back in the saddle riding home, Sunday afternoon, but this time he wasn't coaching or even congratulating himself for behaving, but rather beating himself up, because he did everything he said he wouldn't do. He yelled out, "Where can I get peace?" With such agony in his voice he said, "I've tried everything else but nothing satisfies me! Nothing fills the void in my soul, nothing brings me peace!" Then the Lord Jesus spoke ever so gently to him, "I love you biker; I have what you're looking for, try me."

Romans 5:8 says,
"But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!"

My dear friends, while we were still trying to fill the lonely hole and emptiness in our hearts, which only God can fill - God made the way - He bought us peace. Jesus paid the price for ALL of us by laying it all on the line. He took the punishment that should have been ours. His blood was spilled so that we wouldn't have to pay the price for our sin, and so that we could be restored to a rightful relationship with God.

John 15:13
"No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends."

God loves you, brothers and sisters, no matter where you've gone, what you've done or said - He loves you and stands ready, willing and able to bring that peace that your heart so longs for, the peace of forgiveness and the peace of knowing that sin, guilt and shame have been washed away by the blood of the risen savior, Jesus.

Try Jesus today; He's just a prayer away my friends - He's got what you're longing for... true joy and peace. His love is out of this world!

God loves you biker and so do I!

Much Love & Respect,

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay
President/Founder of Victory Biker Church
12190 Miller Rd Lennon, MI 48449
pastorbman@victorybikerchurch.org
www.victorybikerchurch.org

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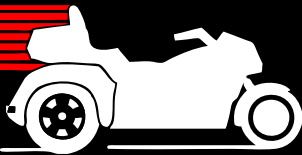


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DAYTONA BIKE WEEK

THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN HITS THE WORLD'S LARGEST MOTORCYCLE EVENT!

Let The Good Times Roll



By Jody "Mo" Mohowitsch
PHOTOS BY
Iron Cowboy
Jody Mo
Mike Novak & Bill Moore

The excitement builds as the days get closer. I have my bike loaded in a trailer and I am southbound to the warmer weather and one of the greatest motorcycle rallies of all. It's always fun to ride down to Florida, but this time of year one wouldn't want to take a chance in returning to 12 feet of snow or quite frankly 20 degree weather. Thankfully, I am picking up Thunder Roads Ohio owner, Iron Cowboy to join in the adventure on the way. So now we can split shifts in driving.

After a long journey we are finally here! It's funny how the windows start rolling down and the smiles arrive when you see palm trees, feel that warm air and hear that rumble sound of all the motorcycles. No matter how tired you are from the drive, that always gives you a second wind. Once we get the bikes unloaded and meet up with more friends from my home town, we are ready to take a cruise and get right to it. It's always a guaranteed good time at Bike Week, but it's even more fun when you go with a group of good friends! The great thing about Daytona Bike Week is there is no shortage of bikers, bars, entertainment or people watching for all to enjoy.

So here's an odd occurrence: Last minute, I decided to leave a day early, because the fun was distracting me... ha ha. No really, I had a lot of work to do. Well, the day after I left my hotel caught on fire! I must say it sure is funny how following your intuition can be a good thing... well most of the time.

So here are some pictures compliments of all of us that were able to get away for a bit and experience Bike Week yet again for all of its glory.

continued on next page



DAYTONA BIKE WEEK



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TRM EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

MAY

May 4
Ride into Summer
Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Certified Hot Club Members may have a chance to win a brand new motorcycle or \$10,000 cash. Hourly drawings from 7pm-10pm. (See full page ad this issue for more details).

May 4
2nd Annual Hastings Motorcycle Swap Meet
Barry County Expo Center, Hastings, MI 10am - 4pm, visit www.paragon-spromotion.com for more info. (See ad this issue).

May 4
VBC Unity Biker Blessing
Victory Biker Church, Lenton, MI. 10am - 2pm. Reg. 10am - 11am, \$5 Food, \$1 Drink, activities, entertainment, blessing by Pastor BMAN, guided 50-60 mile ride. Kickstands up at 2pm. For more info visit www.victorybikerchurch.org or call 810-247-6332

May 4
2nd Annual Ride with the Eagles Benefit Run
Walled Lake Eagles, Dice Run benefiting ALS/ Lou Gehrig's disease, Reg. begins 9:30am - 11:30am, \$20 per bike, \$15 passenger, cars welcome. For more info email hamgravy@comcast.net or call Bill 248-722-2930

May 4
3rd Annual Don't be Tardy for the Party
Fireman's Park, Ida, MI. Blessing of the Bikes, Hog Roast, Music. \$10 per person, ABATE Region 18. Reg. 11am, Ride 1pm - 5pm. For more info contact Mark 734-777-7530 or see www.abateregion18.org

May 4
3rd Annual Spring Swap Meet
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. Turn your bike or old parts into cash! See wolverinehd.com for more info (See inside front cover for more info).

May 4
6th Annual Ray Rios Spring Memorial Ride
Midland American Legion, Midland, MI. Check in 11am - Noon, depart at noon, 4:30pm - 7pm dinner, proceeds benefits Aleda E. Lutz V.A. Medical Center, \$20 per

person, \$30 per couple (includes dinner), for more info contact Jim & Leticia 989-631-8595

May 4
Benefit Bub's Ride- 73 Foundation
Village Hide-a-Way, Vicksburg, MI. Reg. 9:30am - 11:30am, Noon departure, \$20 per bike, \$5 non-rider, includes pig roast, all bikes welcome. For more info visit www.bubs73foundation.org

May 4
Women's Garage Party
Capitol HD, Dimondale, MI. Noon. RSVP to 517-646-2345 (See ad this issue).

May 4
Tecumseh HD Open House
Tecumseh, MI. Try the cash vault, see more details at www.tecumsehhd.com (See full page ad this issue).

May 4
Town & Country HD Open House
Cement City, MI. Try the cash vault, see more details at www.tecumsehhd.com (See full page ad this issue).

May 4-5
Thunder Across the Thumb
Caro, MI. In Honor of our Serving & Fallen Soldiers. Bike Show, police escorted ride, food and all welcome. For more info call Bill 989-823-2554 or go to www.thumbmotorcyclechrome.com

May 4-5
WERA Sportsman Series
Grattan Raceway Park, Belding, MI. For more info at 770-720-5010 or wera@wera.com

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

May 5
Motorcycle Scavenger Hunt
Zukey Lake Tavern, Pinckney, MI. Reg. 11am - 12:30pm, \$25 bike, bring phone/camera to take pics on hunt, Ron Finch will draw winners, \$250 door prize, other prizes, rain or shine, cars too. For more info contact Smackin' Jack 313-702-4115

May 5
14th Annual Church of the Living Word's Blessing of the Bikers
Ovid, MI. Arrival 9:30am - 10:30am, Service 10:30am - 11:30am, Hog Roast at 11:30am, \$5 all you can eat, bike show at noon, blessing at 1:30pm, charity ride at 2pm. More info at www.cotlw.org or call 989-834-5950 (See ad this issue).

May 5
Muskegon Motorcycle Club Spring Run
Mt. Garfield, MI. 10:30am departure, for more info visit www.mmc.com

May 5
Rally at Battle Alley- Holly Vintage Motorcycle Rally & HIM Blessing of the Bikes
Downtown Historic Holly, MI. 9am - 3pm, Free Bike Show, 9:30am - 3pm. Registration, 9:30am - Noon, Biker Service & Blessing 12:30pm. Trophies awarded at 2:30pm. Vendors, Food, Music, Drawings for Prizes all day! Must be present to win. For more info call 248-328-0490 or email belinda@h-i-m.org

May 9
Estrogen Extravaganza
Shiawassee HD, Birch Run, MI. Go to www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com for more info (See ad this issue).

May 10-19
Myrtle Beach Bike Week, Myrtle Beach, SC.

May 11
Ride into Summer
Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Certified Hot Club Members may have a chance to win a brand new motorcycle or \$10,000 cash. Hourly drawings from 7pm-10pm. See full page ad this issue for more details.

May 11
29th Peotone Motorcycle Show & Parts Expo (Indoor & Outdoor Event)
Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL 10am- 4pm, 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 10am, blessing at noon, \$5 per person. More info contact John 269-808-7512 or docjohn85@yahoo.com

May 11
Annual Blessing of the Bikes
First Church of the Nazarene, Jackson, MI. Starts at 11am, blessing at 1pm. No Alcohol allowed, MI Veterans Traveling Wall, prizes, bike show. For more info call 517-782-7084

May 11
10th Annual Blessing of the Bikes hosted by Lords Legion
Tecumseh H-D, Tecumseh, MI. Bikes in at 9am, blessing at 11am, more info contact Dan 517-759-2001 (See full page ad this issue).

May 11
Ladies Day
Zips 45th Parallel HD, Gaylord, MI. 9am - 5pm, give-away goodies for the ladies, hors d' oeuvres. Go to www.zips45thhd.com for more info (See ad this issue).

May 11
Customer Appreciation Day
Biker Bobs HD, Taylor, MI. See www.bikerbobshd.com for more info (See full page ad this issue).

May 12
Mother's Day Freedom Rally. Sponsored by ABATE of MI Region 15. PJ's Lager House, Detroit, MI 3 blks east of old Tiger Stadium, all you can eat breakfast 9am - Noon for \$8. Rally & guest speakers at noon, ride to follow down Michigan Ave. to Hines Park. Email mof2gtot@yahoo.com for more info.

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 5:30pm - 7pm, more info at 517-424-6555 / 517-424-6003 or email kwelch@tecumseh.mi.us

continued on next page

May 16
Ray C's H-D 7th Annual Garage Party
Ray C's H-D, Lapeer, MI. 5:30pm - 8pm,
More info at www.raycsh-d.com (See ad this issue).

May 16-19
Blessing of the Bikes - Camp ALLY for CF Baldwin, MI. Benefits Cystic Fibrosis, on-site camping, bike games and pig roast. See www.blessingofthebikesbaldwin.com for more info.

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

May 17
Wolverine HD Garage Party
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI.
See wolverinehd.com for more info (See inside front cover for more info).

May 17
13th Annual Pride Ride
Lansing, MI. A motorcycle safety awareness ride to remind all to Look Twice & Save a Life. Free, police escorted motorcycle ride and show. Reg. 8am - 9am. Line up 9:30am, ride 10am sharp. For more info contact Barb at baroercrc@aol.com, or Linda at turtlehatch@att.net or 517 694-7914

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

May 18
Ride into Summer
Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Certified Hot Club Members may have a chance to win a brand new motorcycle or \$10,000 cash. Hourly drawings from 7pm - 10pm. (See full page ad this issue for more details).

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. 9am - 3pm, honoring our veterans, demo rides. Go to www.sandysharley-davidson.com for more info (See ad this issue).

May 18
ABATE of Michigan Awareness Ride/Fund Raiser
Kritter's Hideaway, Rapid City, MI
Breakfast 10am, blessing noon with ride to follow. Food, fun, 50/50 & silent auction.

May 18
Rest in Peace Run, hosted by Abate of MI Region 7. Starts at Noon from Evergreen Park--Ride in Memory of Deceased Region

7 Members--Donations Accepted to help pay for R.I.P. Memorial--989-673-4743.

May 18
5th Annual Biker Blessing & Memorial Cancer Ride
Merriman Road Baptist Church, Garden City, MI. 9am opens, blessing at noon, free music, food, bike wash & entertainment, vendors & space, win a 40" flat panel HD TV. For more info visit to www.mrbcfathriders.webs.com or www.facebook.com/mrbcfathriders Memorial Cancer Ride to follow Blessing. Cost is \$20 - \$25 w/ passenger.

May 18
Road Captain
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI.
Motorcycle skills competition. See wolverinehd.com for more info (See inside front cover for more info).

May 18
4th Annual Michigan National Armed Forces Day Freedom Ride
Police Escorted Ride Starts At American Legion Hall, Flint, MI. Regis. 2:30pm - 4pm, Kick Stands Up at 4pm, \$15 per motorcycle / \$20 - 2 up, proceeds go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, raffles, 50/50, Door Prizes. For more info email leonardwaltershhd@yahoo.com - or - thehighop@aol.com

May 18-19
Demo Days
Shiawassee HD, Birch Run, MI. Demo rides, food & refreshments, blessing at 1pm on sat, ride the new "Eliminator" Dyno Simulator. Go to www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com (See ad this issue).

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

May 22nd
Memorial/Poker Run \$10/ Bike, \$20 for 2 up, Reg. at 11am, Ride 12:30pm
500 W. Chicago Dr, Sturgis, MI. BBQ, 50/50, 21 Gun Salute, Best & Worst Hand, ALL Proceeds to Sturgis Toy Run and Veterans Fund

May 23
Grand Rapids H-D Bike Night
Grand Rapids H-D, MI. Music by The Outer Vibe, (See full page ad this issue) or go to www.grandrapidscharley.com

May 23
Ladies Only Garage Party
Biker Bobs HD, Taylor, MI. See www.bikerbobshd.com for more info (See full page ad this issue).

May 23
MRF Fund Night (Motorcycle Riders Foundation) Hosted by Abate of MI Region 7. Held at Farmers Tavern, Ruth, MI 3pm - 9pm, Spaghetti Dinner, and all the fixins 9:00. Fun & Games, 50/50s, live auction. Test your skills on the Virtual Reality Run for \$5.00. All proceeds go to help support the MRF! more info www.abateofmichigan-7.org--989-864-3714

May 24-27
18th Annual Hudson Leather Appreciation Open House
Memorial Day weekend rally, Pioneer, OH. Bike show, free event, live bands, more info see www.hudsonleather.com (See full page ad this issue).

May 25
Ride into Summer
Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Certified Hot Club Members may have a chance to win a brand new motorcycle or \$10,000 cash. Hourly drawings from 7pm-10pm. (See full page ad this issue for more details).

May 25
10th Annual Dillinger Ride
The Inn Between Saloon, Port Hope (Lewisville), MI. Sign up 11am, starts noon, dinner, raffles, rain or shine. All proceeds go to hospice. More info (See ad this issue).

May 25
Hale Eagle Riders 4217 Chicken Charity Cookout
Hale Eagles 4217, Hale MI. BBQ or naked chicken, prizes & raffles. For more info contact Joe 989-728-4283.

May 25
Memorial Day Bike Blessing
Zips 45th Parallel HD, Gaylord, MI. Go to www.zips45thhd.com for more info (See ad this issue).

May 25
ASH Kickin Saturday
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. See wolverinehd.com for more info (See inside front cover for more info).

May 25
Hero Day
Biker Bob's HD, Taylor, MI. Honoring all active & retired military, police, firefighters & EMT's. Grilling hamburgers & hot dogs, live band. See www.bikerbobshd.com for more info. (See full page ad this issue).

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

May 26
Val & Susie's Veterans Poker Run
Reg. 10am - 12pm at American Legion in South Haven, all proceeds go to Veteran Families at Christmas, \$10.00 person. For more info call Twisted Twin Custom Motorcycles 269-637-3395 or contact our Facebook Page.

May 26
Coleman Veterans Memorial Concert
John Michael Montgomery performs with many special guests, tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at gate. Children under 8 free with paid adult. Proceeds benefit completion/maintenance of Coleman Veterans Memorial. (For ticket info and additional info see full page ad this issue).

May 30-June 1
Harley Heroes
Ray C's H-D, Lapeer, MI. Held during regular business hours. Visit www.raycsh-d.com for more info.

May 30-June 3rd
20th Annual Evergreen Park Benefit.
Sponsored by Abate of Michigan Region 7, Bands, Showers, Girls, Games, Bike Show, Vendors. \$20 per bike, \$20.00 per vehicle inside Park & \$30.00 for RVs. Golf Carts only for Handicap--more info at www.abateofmichigan-7.org or call 1-989-673-4743.

May 31-June 2
Fear Spyder the Spyder- Arachnophobia
Ray C's Extreme Store, Lapeer, MI. Demo rides, prizes, pig roast, hot dog wagon. Visit www.raycs.com for more info (See ad this issue).

May 31- June 9
Ohio Bike Week, Sandusky, OH.

JUNE

June 1
Capitol H-D Spring Open House
Dimondale, MI. 10am- 3pm. For more info go to www.capitolhd.com or call 517-646-2345

June 1
C&S H-D Mt. Pleasant, MI Open House & Central Michigan HOG Chapter Bike Raffle
drawing, for details and raffle tickets call 989-772-5513 (See ad this issue).

June 1
Miller Run
Town & Country, Cement City, MI. Go to www.tecumsehhd.com

June 1
9th Annual Spring Biker Bash
2 Orange Harleys, Lawton, MI. 11am-6pm, Reg. 11am - noon, ride leaves at noon, bike show 2pm - 4pm, food, music, parts & accessories. More info call 269-624-4574 (See ad this issue).

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

June 2
13th Annual Ride for a Reason
Biker Bob's H-D, Taylor, MI. Police escorted ride, get discount on advanced tickets. Go to www.bikerbobshd.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 7
Soar away on a Spyder
Saganing Eagles Landing Casino, Standish, MI. Win a Can-Am Spyder, Premium Play & a Shell Gas Card. Be there from 4-9pm (See full page ad this issue for details).

June 7-8
Car Show /Blessing of the Bikers Real Steel Weekend
16th Annual Blessing, Detroit World Outreach, Redford, MI. 8th 10- 3pm Bike Show, Blessing 2:30pm, Ride 3pm. More info 2013realsteel@gmail.com (See ad this issue).

June 7-8
All Day Demo Rides
Dick Scott's Classic Motorcycles, Livonia, MI. Friday 11am - 5pm, Saturday 11am - 4pm. Demo 2013 Victory Motorcycles. See www.classicmotorcyclesdetroit.com for more info (See ad this issue).

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 8-9
1st Annual Vintage Motorcycle Ride & Show
Hickory Corners, MI. Free Ride. Reg. 9am - 10am. Ride at 10am. Show on the 9th, 9am- 4pm. For more info contact 770-427-4820 or 269-671-5089.

June 8
Womens Run
Town & Country, Cement City, MI. Go to www.tecumsehhd.com

June 8
Toni & Trish Memorial Run
Willev Lounge, Bay City, MI Starts at noon and goes till 2am. Bands, Beer & Bikes. For more info contact Willev Lounge or Bubba's Tri-City Cycles.

June 8
Yard Party
Knights of the Road, Detroit, MI. Public welcome (over 18), Professional BBQ cooks, music, \$1 entry, food & drink separate. For more info contact vision@wideopenwest.com

June 8
Laconia Bike Week, Laconia, NH.

June 13-15
25th Annual Sandy Corley Memorial Run
Double JJ Resort, Rothbury, MI. Live music, bike show, auction & bike events. Get your tickets early. For more info go to www.sandycorley.com (See Cover and full page ad this issue).

June 14
Soar away on a Spyder
Saganing Eagles Landing Casino, Standish, MI. Win a Can-Am Spyder, Premium Play & a Shell Gas Card. Be there from 4-9pm (See full page ad this issue for details).

June 15
Cops on a Run - a benefit for the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Poker Run begins 2233 Burdette St, Ferndale, MI. 8am - 10pm. Police escorted, \$25 rider, \$25 passenger, for more info

contact 313-930-3853 or facebook page www.facebook.com/copsonarun

June 15
Gildner's H-D 50th Anniversary Party
Gildner's H-D, West Branch, MI. 9am - 5pm, women only bike show, field events, music, food & games. Go to www.gildnershd.com for more info. (See ad this issue).

June 15
Harley Fest
Freedom Hill Amphitheatre & County Park, Sterling Heights, MI. More info see www.freedomhill.net (See full page ad this issue).

June 15
Michigan Sons of Liberty Riders - Cheboygan Meet & Greet
1257 Mackinaw Ave, Cheboygan, MI. For more info call Mark 616-916-6154 or e-mail petzoldmark@yahoo.com

June 15
1st Annual Warriors Ride- The Red Arrow Riders
VFW Red Arrow Post 1527, Kalamazoo, MI. \$10 Bike, \$15 with passenger, Reg. 11am, kickstands up at 1pm, pig roast, live music. More info call 269-349-7218 or email redarrowriders@yahoo.com

June 15-16
AHRMA Road Racing
Grattan Raceway Park, Belding, MI
Vintage racing. For more info call 615-420-6435 or <http://dev.ahrma.org>

June 15-17
Blaney Park Rendevous
Blaney Park, Mueller Township, MI For more info call 906-586-3477 or www.blaneyparkrendevous.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 5:30pm - 7pm, for more info call 517-424-6555 / 517-424-6003 or email kwelch@tecumseh.mi.us

June 20
Grand Rapids H-D Bike Night
Grand Rapids H-D, MI. Music by Last Train Out, (See full page ad this issue) or go to www.grandrapidscharley.com

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

June 21
Soar away on a Spyder
Saganing Eagles Landing Casino, Standish, MI. Win a Can-Am Spyder, Premium Play & a Shell Gas Card. Be there from 4-9pm (See full page ad this issue for details).

June 21-23
8th Annual Ray C's Rodeo
Ray C's H-D, Lapeer, MI Poker Run

Ride on 23rd, Visit www.raycsh-d.com for more info (See ad this issue).

June 22
Legend Quest Bike Run and Bike Show
AJ's on 142nd Avenue in Dorr, MI Regis 9am - 10am. All you can eat breakfast buffet. \$20.00 per bike and \$10.00 for passenger. Royal Caribbean Cruise to be given to a Veteran on the run. More info contact Chad at 616-502-3199 or Janet at 616-502-3068 or madchiller6972@yahoo.com

June 22
10th Annual Blessing of the Bikes
Mio Church of God, Mio, MI. Reg. 10am, games 11am, blessing 12:45pm, free lunch, ride at 2pm. No alcohol please. For more info visit ww.miochog.org

June 22
Scavenger Hunt Run
Tecumseh, MI. See more details at www.tecumsehhd.com

June 22
Annual Caseville Chamber Hog Run
Duftys Blue Water Inn, Caseville, MI. Reg. 10am, 11am departure, 85 mile poker run, pulled pork, prizes. More info contact 989-856-3400 or 989-963-4778.

June 22-23
Thunder at the River- 4th Annual Salute to Veterans
Sponsored by Little River Casino, blessing, bike show, MI Vietnam Memorial Wall, food, poker run & more. Go to www.thunderattheriver.com for more info

June 23
Poker Run
Ray C's H-D, Lapeer, MI Visit www.raycsh-d.com for more info.

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

June 23
Shields Summer Fest Motorcycle Show- Knight of Columbus Shields Men's Club, Miller Rd. Pre-Reg. at Clor Cycle. Benefits VA Hospital. Trophies, 50/50, \$10 donation or bring clothes, socks, etc. to donate. More info call Clor Cycle 989-781-2636

June 23
HIM Biker Day
The River Church / HIM HQ, Holly, MI. Reg. 9am, gathering at 10:30am, free T-Shirt for 1st 500 riders, free reg. at 9am, free open and novice arm wrestling contest with trophies. Special Guest: Dennis Rogers is a retired arm-wrestling champion and current Grandmaster, free motorcycle show, free bike games, free hog Roast. For more info call 248.328.0490 or email belinda@h-i-m.org

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

June 28
Soar away on a Spyder
Saganing Eagles Landing Casino, Standish, MI. Win a Can-Am Spyder, Premium Play & a Shell Gas Card. Be there from 4-9pm (See full page ad this issue for details).

June 28-29
Thunder on the Grand
Barry Expo Fair Grounds, Hastings, MI. 100% of proceeds goes to 3 children's foundations related to Cancer. Bands, vendors, all kinds of events & activities. More info at www.thunderonthegrand.com or 517-282-9846 (See ad this issue).

June 29
2nd Annual Manton Bike Cruise & Rodeo
Manton City Park, Manton, MI. 1pm - Midnight, \$15 to register your bike, live band, bike rodeo, bike cruise, food, games and beer tent. \$200 for best burnout. More info contact Jerry 231-492-3832 or 231-824-3996 or www.facebook.com/labordayfestival

June 29
40th Anniversary Party
Town & Country, Cement City, MI. Live music and more! Go to www.tecumsehhd.com

June 30
Jack Morse Ride
Fremont Moose, MI. 9am breakfast, 11am departure, for more info contact Dave 231-329-4063

JULY

See Next issue

EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!

Increase your attendance by posting your event in Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan

All Advertised Events in our Magazine will have their event Posted on the Pull Out Calendar (when admissible) and your Event will be Highlighted in the Thunder Roads Events Calendar of the Magazine and an EVENT Tab will be added to the page with your ad. Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan Your Michigan Biker Connection (Call about our Special Discounts for Charity Events)

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

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

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ABATE OF MICHIGAN

NO-FAULT CHANGES TO VIOLATE BIKERS RIGHT OF WAY

The Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association is an insurance fund that provides for drivers who are catastrophically injured in an auto accident.

Notice that's "drivers" not riders. As it stands at the moment the only way a biker can collect from the MCCA is if there is an automobile involved. Yeah, you are required by law to pay into the fund for each auto AND motorcycle you insure, but don't expect to collect if you hit a deer on your bike, or crash your bike solo.

The MCCA is made up of representatives from the insurance companies. They supposedly have about \$13.7 billion in the MCCA reserves. Nobody knows for sure because the MCCA is not required to comply with the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Did I mention the fund is run by a bunch of private company insurance members? Kind of cool to have gotten legislation passed to make your product mandatory for everyone to purchase and allows you to set the price as you see fit, huh? Then top it off with legislation allowing your books to be kept private. What a gig!

Maybe I'm being too rough on them, that board of insurance company members may not even have profit margins on their list of priorities. Maybe we can trust them to only have our best interests in mind, only charging us in accordance with the most fiscally efficient standards possible. Yeah, right.

These guys hate motorcyclists. Why, you may wonder, when the only time they have to cover our costs is when an automobile is involved? Well, that's about half of all motorcycle crashes. And when car meets motorcycle bad things happen to riders, and expensive long term catastrophic medical care is often involved.

These Insurance Czars are making big money off the MCCA grift on our insurance policies. I think we pay around \$175 as a portion of our auto insurance policy for every auto and motorcycle we travel the roads with right now. That portion was \$5.60 in 2000. WTF? They claim the increases are because of increasing payout costs they have each year. Is that the truth? Once again no one knows, and they ain't telling or opening the books. Each year, legislation is introduced in Lansing to make them validate their claims. Each year the top dogs in Lansing make sure those bills never see daylight. Hmmmmm. WTF, but I repeat myself.

So, lets get to the point here as concerns us bikers.

Right now your motorcycle insurance policy covers you until a trigger amount of around \$500,000 dollars is reached. Then MCCA picks up the costs for the rest of your life. Yeah, it's only if a car is involved, but that's a 50% possibility if not higher.

The Insurance Czars have introduced a plan for legislation that would put a Cap on your motorcycle no-fault insurance coverage of \$250,000 dollars. That means you could never hit the trigger number, and never receive MCCA benefits, EVEN IF A DISTRACTED, DRUNK DRIVING, CAR DRIVER INTENTIONALLY HITS YOU!

Get this clear in your head. You will be required to pay into the MCCA fund for every motorcycle you insure, but you will never get a dime out of it. Period. Your insurance policy will not cover you beyond \$250,000 dollars. That's it. Crash, your fault or not, you are capped at a \$250,000 no-fault recovery.

If you're an automobile operator there is no cap, and regardless of whether you're a drunk driver, a crack head, or having sex while driving and talking on your cell phone, you will receive un-capped coverage and unlimited lifetime care and benefits from the MCCA.

If you're not involved in your government, don't think they are not involved in you. Support Abate of Michigan. If you ride, you need representation in Lansing. Do not leave this kind of legislation to the lobbying of Rich Corporate Insurance Lobbies. We have rights. We have a right to travel in or on the vehicle of our choice. We have a right to the same benefits we pay for as any other vehicle operator.



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

THUNDER ON THE GRAND SEATS & SADDLE TOUR 2013

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Friday, June 28th
 Gates Open @ 9am
 11 am Meet & Greet Mayor of fun & Arthur Beamer
 4 - 6:30 pm: Comedy Skits
 7:30 pm: Mud! Run

Saturday, June 29th
 Gates Open @ 9am
 11 am Motorcycle Show
 Seats & Saddle Competition
 Diva Bike Show
 Garage 101 Motorcycle Parts Sculpture Contest
 12 - 9 pm: Beer & Wine Tasting
 1 pm: Biker Games Rodeo
 1st O Wrestling
 Golf Cart Races
 8 pm: Last Nations RODEO
 9:30 pm: SHIP ROCKS

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRICES:
 Weekend Pass in Advance \$20
 Weekend Pass at Gate \$25
 Day Pass (Per Day) \$15

CAMPING:
 Weekend Primitive Camping FREE
 Weekend RV Primitive Camping \$50
 Tent Camping with Electric and Water \$65
 RV Camping with Electric and Water \$75

1 Day RV Primitive tent with Electric \$30
 RV Camping, Primitive \$40
 Golf Carts Welcome

ADDITIONAL INFO:
 Vendors, Flea Market, Antiques
 Swap Meet, Pool, Slippery Slide,
 Dunk Tank, Bunking Hut & DJ Music

For More Info Contact Loren Wichem: 517.382.9846 or www.thunderonthegrand.com



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Fire and Ice



BY J.R. Perez
PHOTOS BY Iron Cowboy ~TRO
MODEL Jody "Mo" Mohowitsch



Back in 2010, I started out with a bone stock 2010 Harley-Davidson Road Glide, black in color, and I did not care for it much but I knew I wanted a Road Glide.

I got in touch with a good friend of mine, Matt Shay from Audiowerks Custom Cycles. He had done some work before for me on other bikes that I had and did a great job but this one was going to be a little more detailed. I told Matt my ideas, he loved them and added a few of his own. I wanted it to be white because at the time I would never see a white Road Glide, but plain white would not work for me so I wanted to add something besides skulls and flames so he added the crosses and chains which I think came out great.

Since Matt is an audio expert, I said to him "Let's go nuts on the stereo!" and he knew just what to do! He put 4 6 x 9s in the bags and another set in the lowers then put in a set of 6 1/2 in the dash, all Hertz high energy with a Kenwood Double deck in the dash with 2 Ark audio Amps.

When he first turned it on we could not believe this was coming out of a bike! I was blown away, it's louder than most cars. It's by far the loudest bike to come out of his shop. Matt cut and raked the frame for the front 26 inch wheel that I have to say looks amazing. He then stretched the tank, the bags and the rear fender, covered the seat to match then had Todd Cycles make a set a bars that look great on the bike.

After it was all said and done I was very happy with the outcome! As I was telling Matt so, he told me he had a little surprise for me - I was blown away again to see he had installed a remote start with flame thrower he thought it would be a nice touch.... I thought so too!!



SPECIFICATIONS

OWNER: J.R Perez

BRAND NAME: Harley Davidson

MODEL: Road Glide

YEAR: 2010

BUILDER: Matt Shay - Audiowerks Custom Cycles

BUILD TIME: 3 Months

PAINT/GRAPHICS: Audiowerks Custom Cycles

FRONT WHEEL: 26' Renegade Yukon

REAR WHEEL: Stock 16" HD

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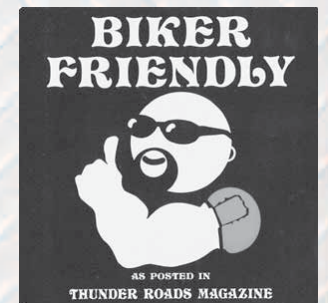
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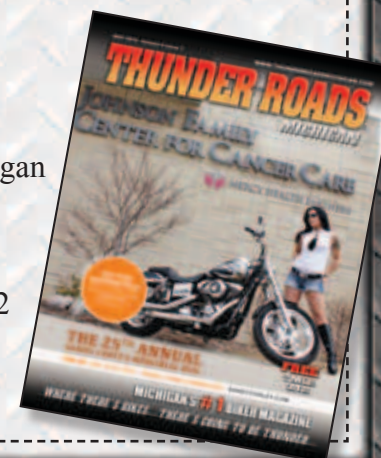
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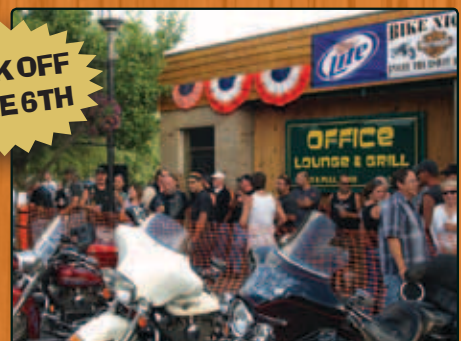
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BY POOCH / PHOTOS BY Austin Copenhaver

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

I'd like to introduce you to some very good friends of mine, Ronnie "Chop Doc" Harris and his beautiful wife "Nurse" Brenda. They are living proof you can make it on your own. Contrary to what the President would try to tell us. Chop Docs Choppers and I go back a ways. I'd like to think we've both found our niche' in this biking thing. Over the years, we've had some real good times and some good laughs... "Thanks for them credits, Buck" lol. And, I hope we continue having fun and making memories for a long time to come.

But let's get the story started. I think it was the summer of '07. As one of my first assignments as the FNG here at **Thunder Roads Magazine-Michigan**, I was sent out to Boomer-Rama. Although not a huge show there was plenty going on, especially for the rookie that I was. And right smack dab in the middle of this show, was this display from **Chop Docs Choppers**. With just a handful of bikes w/matching helmets and some other parts, something caught my eye. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Ron has always enjoyed working on cars and later, motorcycles. In fact, he quit working on cars because he was "...tired of the car people". We all know that car folks are not the same as us Bikers. We seem to look at our vehicles and our attitudes much differently. He inherited his body-working talents from his father, Ron Sr., who taught young Ron the intricacies of working with fiberglass while repairing Corvettes. And we all know if you can work with the 'glass well, you can smooth out anything. Ron thanks his Dad for instilling the work ethic he has today. Says Ron, "he was always riding my ass to be a perfectionist in everything I do." His Dad's favorite saying was "do it the right way, or no way". Apparently, Ron paid attention to his father's advice. He also gained much

wisdom from his grandfather Loren, who was a mechanic at Roy's H-D in Pontiac, many years ago. Ron also thanks Clay Cobb and TG Speed for helping him break into the business. And a special Thank You to Ron Finch, the 'Chop Father', who as Ron says, "...blazed a path for us all to follow".

He started out in a 2-car garage behind his house. Ron only worked on his days off as a body/paint tech at a local GM dealer. That's how Ron started to build his kind of unique, old school bikes. But what was originally planned as a slow transformation into a full-time builder was thrown into hurry up mode when the dealership closed. So Ron and Brenda went into building a full-time bike building business. Since then, he's been featured in a myriad of Biker Magazines, including Iron Works, Hot Bike, American Cycle, American Bagger, The Horse Back Street Choppers, Cycle Source and of course **Thunder Roads Magazine-Michigan**.

Currently, Ron works with some other Michigan/Ohio based builders, traveling the country as part of the **"Chop-IN Block"**-www.chop-inblock.com/index.html Check them out, in Daytona and elsewhere, at The Broken Spoke. He also has a custom line of paint from **Kandy King** (check them out on Face Book) another Michigan-based business, not to mention a line of parts from Hang 'Em High and Super Fly bars, fuel tank sight gauge, seat pans, the Shocker suspension seat kits, passenger pegs and chain tensioners. Hell, he even has a line of wheels made by Ride Wright. This guy is capable of doing some wild things with the steel and paint. From the days of paying his own way to get into a show, to being invited and requested to appear at all major bike events. But he still makes time to give back, donating time and materials to some very charitable organizations. The Wartster (LEO Charity), Old Soldier (Wounded Veterans) and Biker Resurrection (injured biker to ride again) builds, just to name a few.

Some of Ron's other bikes are, Sweet Lou, Pabst (Blue Balls) Bike, Detroit Hustler, Ol' Buzzard, Shoob



DeVille, Low Life Lincoln, Pat's Star Fish (#75), Old Skool Shop Bike(Light Blue Bike), Heavy Hitter, Bone Crusher.

This summer for Chop Doc's looks very good. With appearances all over Michigan and the country: Thunder on the Grand June 28-29, Hot Rods & Harley's Aug 23-24, Mulliken Aug 23,24, Ogemaw Hills July 19-21, Ohio Bike Week May 31-June9, Smoke-Out, Las Vegas Bike Fest, Sturgis. Be sure to check out one or more of these events. Check out Chop Docs page, too. <http://chopdocschoppers.com/> Ron is also working on Kevin Bean're's new Million Mile Bike. You can follow the build on <http://www.everythingbeanre.com/>, <http://www.cyclesource.com/> as well as Bean're's FaceBook page.

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How to Prevent (and if that doesn't work... Repair) Cross Threaded Fasteners!

Cross-threading is more than just an annoyance - cross-threading a fastener can cause serious, expensive damage to your motorcycle! Cross thread something like a spark plug into the soft aluminum head (very easy to do!) and you will be in for a world of hurt trying to fix it. Even cross-threading everyday fasteners like ordinary nuts and bolts can do damage.

What is cross-threading? It means the threads on the male part of a rotating fastener aren't correctly lined up with the female part of the fastener. It's usually caused when one of the parts of the fastener is slightly tilted when it is tightened. Instead of the lands and grooves of the threads lining up and sliding along one another, the threads cut across one another, causing damage. The more it's forced, the more damage occurs, to the point where the fastener becomes "stripped" - the threads are so damaged, that the fastener will no longer tighten correctly.

(Stripping a fastener can also occur when it is tightened beyond design limits, causing the threads to break - this is why you should use a torque wrench!)

Spark plugs are infamous for cross-threading. The fork tube covers (wide, thin threads) are also easily cross-threaded. The larger in diameter the fastener, and the finer the threads, the more susceptible the fastener is to cross-threading. Not to say that coarse (wide, more distant) threaded fasteners can't be cross-threaded! You can even cross-thread the lid on a peanut butter jar if you try hard enough!

You can detect a cross-threaded fastener usually because it "binds" as you turn it. Normally fasteners should rotate freely until they are fully tight. If the fastener starts to bind, or give resistance when it is only partway in, gently back it out, adjust the angle, and try again.

If the bolt is torqued in even though you feel resistance, meaning it is cross-threaded, it will shave away metal on both the male and female parts of the fastener, weakening the threads:



If the fastener is torqued very tight while cross-threaded, the threads can fail completely, destroying the bolt, the nut, or both:



How to prevent cross-threading

So...how do you prevent this? Diligence and attention is always a good way. However, there is a very simple technique which I have used for many, many years. I don't know that anyone taught it to me, I suspect I just figured it out on my own. However, it works on every threaded fastener, and I use it every single time I screw any fastener into place, even bottle caps and jar lids! It works every time.

The secret: Screw the fastener in place BACKWARD. That's right, turn the fastener backwards instead of forward. If you normally twist the bolt clockwise to tighten it, instead twist it counter-clockwise. Do this until you hear/feel it click. This is the end of the male thread going past the end of the female thread. Once you feel this, you know the threads are perfectly aligned, and you can tighten the fastener normally.



Taps (the long thin pieces) are used to cut threads in holes, and dies (the roundish pieces) are used to cut threads on rods. They are made of very hard, high-strength carbon steel.

Normally taps and dies are used to cut threads in things that aren't already threaded - (i.e. you can drill a hole in some metal, then use a tap to create threads in the hole.) Or you can take a metal rod, and use a die to make it into a threaded rod. However, they are also good for repairing damaged threads.

You will need

- Tap and die of the correct size and thread pitch (this is important! Using the wrong size or pitch will destroy your fastener even more!)
- Tapping lubricant

Use the lubricant to lubricate the tap, die, bolt, hole, everything. Not using lubricant is a good way to destroy your tap/die and quickly destroy the threads in the piece you are trying to repair.

Gently insert the tap into the hole or the nut, and make sure the threads are lined up correctly. This is not the time to cross-thread again, because the tap will very easily cut across the existing threads! Gently twist the tap in and let the threads guide it. As it encounters damaged threads, you will feel a very gentle resistance. It's ok to keep pushing through.



For the other end, you want to thread the die onto the end of the bolt, again being very careful not to cross-thread it as you twist it on. The same procedure goes as for the tap - let the threads guide it into place, and push it through gentle resistance to repair the threads.



When you've moved past the damage, gently turn it backwards until it comes free.

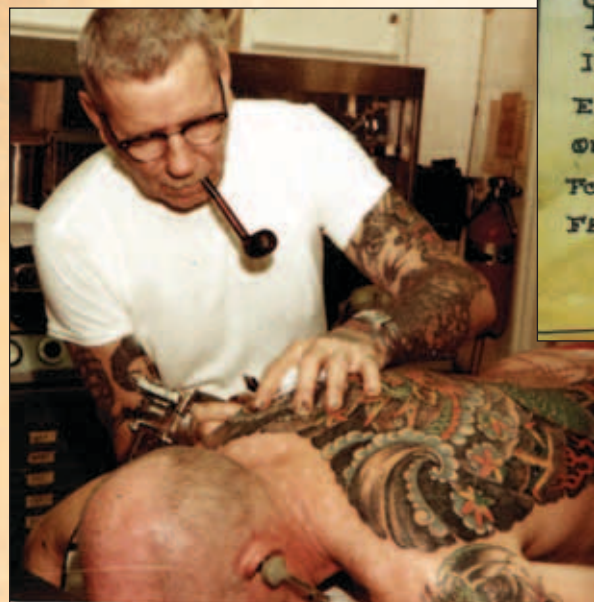
A quick warning: It's entirely possible that you will cut damaged metal threads away from the fastener with the tap or die as you twist it. Particularly on spark plug holes, you don't want this metal falling into the engine! Use plenty of tapping lubricant, and every time you push through any resistance, back the tap out and clean any metal off before reapplying lubricant and starting again.

Note from the Editor -

This article was contributed by our friends at Goldwingdocs.com. This is a great website with an incredible forum for riders. While it's certainly aimed at Honda - Goldwing riders, it has a wealth of information. We are huge fans of the website.

SAILOR JERRY

SAILOR JERRY
TM



NOBODY IS ASKING YOU!...
IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU HAVE BALLS
ENOUGH TO WEAR A TATTOO, DON'T GET
ONE, BUT DON'T TRY TO MAKE EXCUSES
FOR YOURSELF, BY KNOCKING THE
FELLOW WHO DOES!
THANK YOU...
Sailor Jerry

By Iron Cowboy TRO



this endeavor was, never lost his edge-or his sailor roots. A strongly opinionated libertarian and genius level prankster, Jerry was the definition of a social chameleon. Whether reciting poetry on his radio program "Old Ironsides" or tattooing, Jerry lived life to the fullest-with a bigger than life persona more akin to the sailors of yesteryear.

"Good work ain't cheap. Cheap work ain't good."

~ Norman "Sailor Jerry" Collins

A Sailor Jerry tattoo was characterized by bold unwavering lines with a refined use of color and amazing detail (the riggings in his clipper ship tattoos were nautically accurate). His one-of-a-kind work combined America design and traditions with Asiatic color and sensibilities. His visionary style is revered to this day.

Collins entrusted his artwork to his two protégés, Ed Hardy and Mike Malone, both of whom have become prominent figures in their own right. Hardy, who turned down an MFT scholarship to Yale in order to pursue tattooing, is known for his artistic sophistication and large-scale tattoos. In fact, many fans of Ed Hardy and his work, don't realize that the real inspiration for his work came from his mentor - Sailor Jerry. Malone, who designed under the name "Rollo Banks", and was known for his conceptual boldness and distinctive designs, died in 2007.



If you don't know who Sailor Jerry is, you don't know tattoos. Norman "Sailor Jerry" Collins (1911-1973) is considered the foremost American tattoo artist of his time, and defined the craft in two eras: BSJ and ASJ (before and after Sailor Jerry). Arguably, he did more for the ancient art of tattoo than most any other single person.

You see, there aren't many men like Norman "Sailor Jerry" Collins around anymore. The father of old-school tattooing, Sailor Jerry was a true classic in every sense of the word. A tough old sea dog with a shrewd intellect, Jerry stood up for himself and stood by his work earning him a legacy that is still felt today.

It was clear from an early age that Norman was destined to leave his mark. Born on the west coast in 1911, Collins soon gained the moniker "Jerry" after his father noticed a similar disposition between the young troublemaker and the family's cantankerous mule. By his teens, "Jerry" was hand-poking Pelikan ink tattoos as he ventured around the country hopping freight trains. At 19, he arrived in Chicago, cutting his tattoo chops in the infamous arcades of State Street. Shortly afterwards, Sailor Jerry enlisted in the US Navy. It was during his travels at sea that he was exposed to the art and imagery of Southeast Asia. Artistically, his influence stems from his union of the roguish attitude of the American sailor with the mysticism and technical prowess of the Far East. He maintained a close correspondence with Japanese tattoo masters throughout his career.

Sailor Jerry regarded tattoos as the ultimate rebellion against "the Squares". His legendary sense of humor is oft reflected in his work-- but he was never one to compromise his professionalism or take his craft and responsibilities lightly.

Finishing his naval stint in the late 20s, Collins decided to settle in the then "remote" island of Oahu, Hawaii. In some ways, his timing could not have been better (or worse, depending on who you ask!). This "last outpost" would soon become the stomping ground for over a million soldiers and sailors, all of whom were ready to live life to the fullest-usually contained within a 48-hour Honolulu shore leave! And so, for the next 40 years, Sailor Jerry had a constant canvas of carousing military men to obsessively perfect his deftly crafted, boldly lined, style that incorporated both American designs and traditions with Asiatic coloring and sensibilities. His one-of-a-kind tattoos and flash would eventually find their way into the highly secretive world of Japanese tattoo masters known as "Horis." Thus, Jerry became one of the first American tattoo artists to correspond directly with these masters, trading colors, designs and techniques. Yet Jerry, as high-minded and noble as

Key Classic Tattoo Components for Sailor Jerry:

Nautical Star ~

These generally represented the North Star, which historically had been used to navigate. The symbolism alludes to keeping a sailor on course, heading home.



The Anchor ~

For a sailor, the anchor represents stability and security. Often times you will see an anchor emblazoned with "Mom" or the name of a loved one. The idea is that these are the people that keep them grounded. Over the years, anchors have become increasingly popular within the tattoo culture - and the symbolism remains the same.

Swallow ~

In addition to indicating that a sailor had sailed 5000 miles, swallows are also associated with the idea of return. This "return" symbolism is rooted in two ideas. The first was the swallow's famous migration pattern, always returning home to San Juan Capistrano. Second, it was believed that if a sailor dies at sea, birds carry his soul home to heaven.

Pig and Rooster ~

The superstition behind this has to do with the wooden cages where roosters and pigs were kept in on ships. When ships wrecked, the lightweight wooden frames became personal flotation devices, giving them a surprising survival rate. A sailor hoping for good luck would get a rooster on top of the right foot and a pig on top of the left.

The Golden Dragon ~

During Sailor Jerry's day, Asia was a distant exotic place - so sailors who served at an Asian station memorialized it on their skin with the symbol of a dragon. Dragons also marked the crossing of the International Date Line and other Asiatic crossings. Non-sailors like dragons for their Chinese meaning of strength and luck.

Hearts ~

A sailor staring down a long stint at sea-including the possibility of not returning home-often wanted a heart to keep his loved ones close. Sometimes these hearts were just images. Other times, they read "Mom" or featured the name of a special girl. Hearts still remain one of the most popular tattoos for both sailors and civilians.



PROPER CARE OF YOUR NEW TATTOO

1. AFTER FIRST HOUR, BANDAID MAY BE REMOVED AND TATTOOED AREA WASHED DOWN THOROUGHLY WITH SOAP AND WATER. DO NOT REBANDAID TATTOO.
2. KEEP TATTOO CLEAN AND DRY. DO NOT USE GREASY SUBSTANCES ON TATTOOS AT ANY TIME, BUT WET THEM DOWN FREQUENTLY WITH BACTINE, LISTERINE, OR SIMILAR ANTISEPTIC SOLUTION.
3. DO NOT SCRATCH OR PICK OFF SCABS, TO DO SO WILL INVITE SERIOUS INFECTION AND WILL FORM SCARS.
4. DO NOT GO SWIMMING UNTIL ALL SCABS ARE OFF, AND KEEP TATTOO CLEAN AND DRY FOR AT LEAST ONE WEEK.
5. AFTER ALL SCABS ARE OFF, A LITTLE VASELINE RUBBED INTO THE SKIN WILL SOFTEN IT, AND THEREBY MORE RAPIDLY TAKE THE NEW SHINE OFF, AND ALLOW THE TATTOO INK TO SETTLE TO IT'S PROPER PLACE IN THE UNDER LAYER OF THE SKIN.
6. YOUR ARTIST HAS DONE HIS BEST TO BUILD YOU A GOOD TATTOO, BUT REMEMBER IT TAKES BOTH OF US TO MAKE THE FINAL JOB AS PERFECT AS IT SHOULD BE.
7. DROP AROUND WHEN YOU CAN AND HAVE YOUR TATTOO CHECK THE WORK AS IT HEALS AND BE SURE TO SIGN THE RECORD BOOK IN THE SHOP WHERE YOU GOT YOUR WORK DONE. THIS PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE TATTOOER WHO WORKED ON YOU AND INSURES YOU OF GETTING CLEAN WORK, OR ELSE.....
Sailor Jerry

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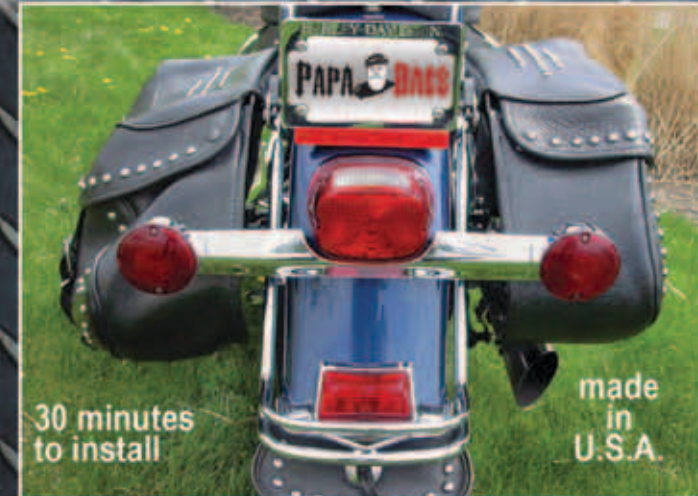
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A black and white photograph of a biker wearing a helmet, sunglasses, and a leather vest, riding a motorcycle. The background is dark with some red, flame-like patterns.

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