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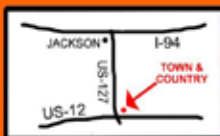
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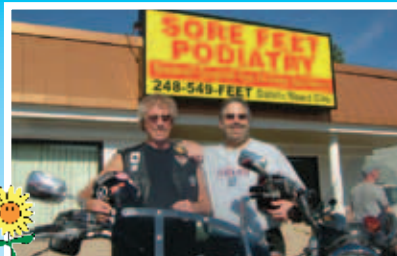
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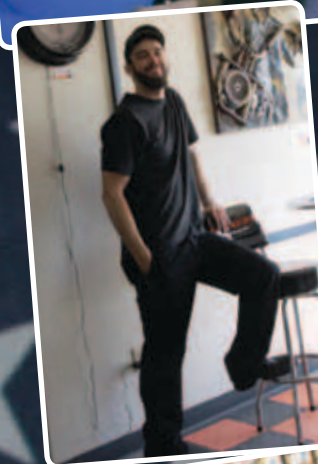
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ON THE COVER

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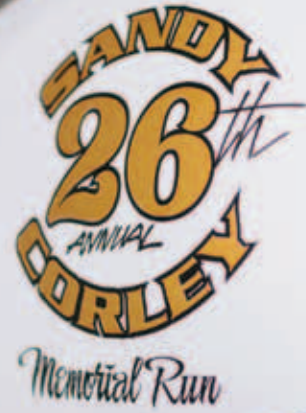
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It's Officially Time!

We've all been waiting for it, just like we've been waiting for warmer weather here in Michigan...The Michigan Thunder Run Ride n' Win Contest! To get registered just stop by any of the registration stops (listed in this issue, with their hours) and get your FREE Ride Card. Once you have your card, get on your cycle and show your card at ANY of the stops listed (registration, ride stops & event stops). Visit as many or as few stops as you would like, but the more you ride, the more opportunities you will have to win! We have A LOT of cool prizes that both our sponsors and stops will be giving away EACH MONTH! Everyone loves FREE stuff and what an exciting way to win! So read more in this issue and GET OUT AND RIDE!

We are rocking 92 pages this issue... and that means there is A LOT of events happening, interesting articles, fun bike nights, and biker friendly business's that are here for you! What's great about our ads is that you WANT to read them, they tell you what's happening and where. It is because of them that Thunder Roads Michigan is FREE (there's that word again we like) each and every month and why it's the #1 Motorcycle Magazine in our great state. So please be sure when you are looking for that motorcycle, great restaurant or whatever it may be to patronize OUR advertisers and tell them thank you for supporting Thunder Roads Michigan.

Last month the Biker Friendly character was on page 77, in the Thunderwear ad. Have you gotten your Thunderwear yet? Love that word, funny! Well if you haven't, then check out our Thunder Store by going to www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com. If you order a t-shirt or hoodie make sure to email me a picture and you might be featured showing your support in one of our Thunder Cams! See if you can find the Biker Friendly character this month.

Get out and Ride and go get your FREE Ride Card!

Now for some "Mo" Advice:

Do you live in the past and worry about tomorrow? Or do you enjoy the moment, stop and smell the flowers, make time for yourself and be in the NOW? Stop thinking about the road not taken and pave over the one you took!



Jody Mohowitsch



JUNE 2014 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN 7

READERS RIDES

Michelle Kersting



By Michelle Kersting ~ PHOTOS BY Gary Bredeweg

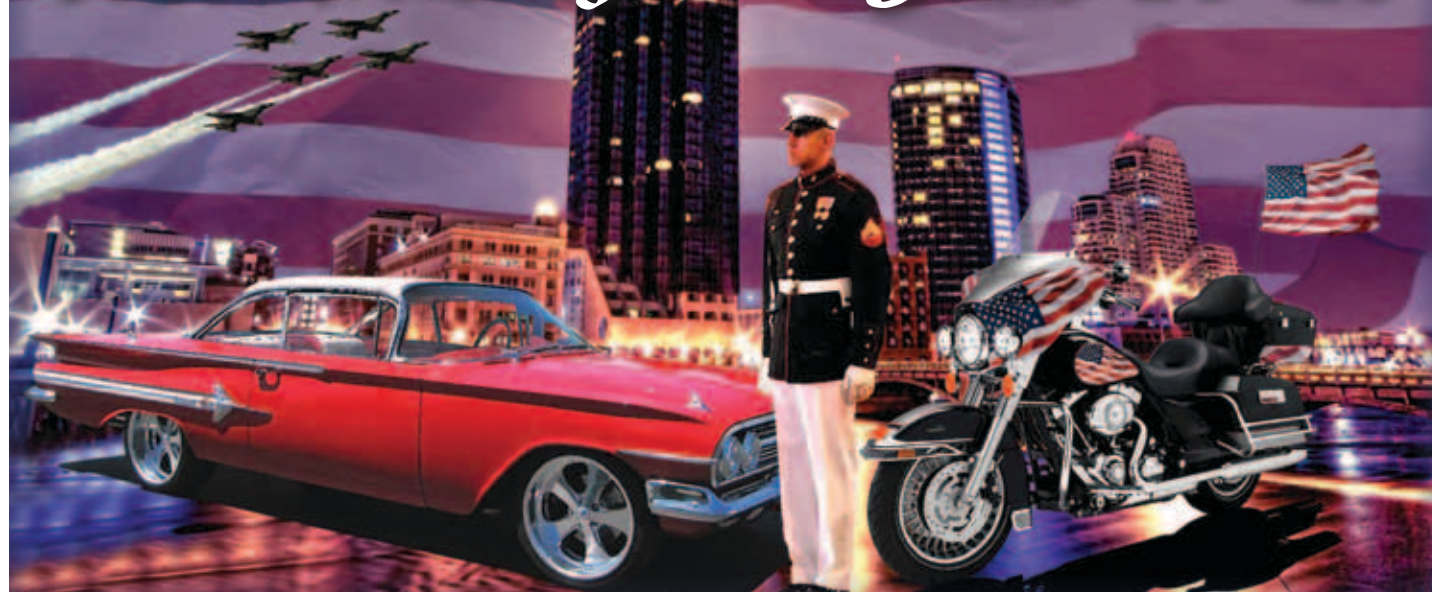
At a young age I had a lot of interest in motorcycles, starting with dirt bikes then like many moving to road bikes. I was certain that someday I was going to have me a "Harley." In 2006, I got one. It was a 2003 sportster 1200cc with a special lowering kit. Due to the fact that I am only five foot tall, I was in need of it being a little closer to the ground for me to handle. After having this bike just a short time I had the opportunity

to move up to my present bike which is a 2006 Deluxe, we added a lowering kit to both the front and rear suspension so it would be suited for my size. After riding this bike for several years, I was in need of some sort of change. I was not thinking along the lines of a different motorcycle, this one was fitted just for me. I was thinking more of a custom paint job. My first thoughts of custom paint was using Harley-Davidson colors of black, orange and silver, to give it the change I was looking for but yet keeping the integrity of the H-D look. But after seeing a breast cancer ribbon stencil, the thought had come to mind of how this horrible disease has touched so many members of my family and friends including a scare of my own that turned out to be a false alarm. I then decided that I was going to do a breast cancer ribbon tribute, done in black, pink and silver.

I am thankful to my husband Joel and Sunset Auto Body for creating the paint design that I was looking for. Their design has also given me the chance to win a few awards with this bike....



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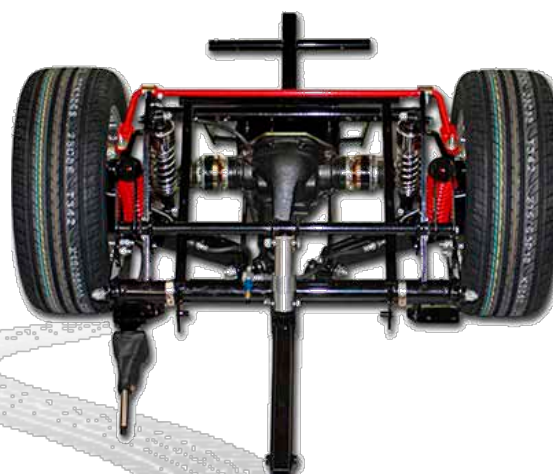
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Greetings fellow cabin fever inmates! Hope you are able to get out on your scoots now that the temperatures have finally warmed up. And since it's warm maybe you can ride nekkid! Or have nekkid therapy!

Naked PTSD Therapy

Every year, millions of people in the United States are diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, but for some a doctor's office just isn't enough.

Surrounded by memories of the battlefield, Vietnam veteran Max Sanchez says his time in the Army — "Four years, six months, three days" — is something he'll never forget. "I can't change what happened. There were things that were good there and there were things that were bad."

And while Sanchez has been to a therapist to help to treat his PTSD, he says that doesn't always work, so he found a different way.

According to Sanchez, he's a part of a group of veterans who live at the Fountains at Paradise Lakes, a clothing-optional housing complex, where they find peace by going bare.

"I forget about the whole world," said Sanchez. Dr. Kevin Kip, of the University of South Florida's College of Nursing, said people have different ways of dealing with stressful situations.

Information from a traumatic experience...the images get stored incorrectly in the brain and if you don't have a therapy to help essentially store it properly, it will be chronic, disabling ... you'll have nightmares, flashbacks," he said.

Kip said he has treated hundreds of veterans with PTSD, and says he supports out-of-the-box therapies.

"I'm always open to new therapies," he said. "Anything that is stress reducing is beneficial.

But it's an out-of-the-clothes therapy, that's helping veterans like Sanchez and some of his veteran neighbors.

VA Scandals, Falsifying Records, Some Died Waiting

The head of the American Legion called for Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki and other top VA officials to resign over a series of scandals that have rocked the agency.

The American Legion cited a litany of complaints against the VA, citing everything from the agency's infamous backlog to controversial bonuses. But a handful of recent scandals appeared to factor heavily.

Most recent was a report that a Colorado clinic allegedly falsified documents to make it seem like patients were being seen in a timely fashion.

The findings were contained in a report by the VA Office of Medical Inspector. USA Today first reported on the findings, and the VA confirmed the review.

The investigation reportedly found that clerks at the Fort Collins clinic were coached on manipulating records so it appeared patients were being seen within the desired timeframe of 14 days -- even though many were waiting months. The report found that staff who did not go along with this were placed on a "bad boy list."

The development follows accusations that VA officials at a Phoenix facility kept a secret list of patients waiting for appointments to hide treatment delays. In that case, up to 40 patients allegedly may have died because of delays.

In light of those accusations, three executives at the Veterans hospital in Phoenix were placed last week on administrative leave amid an investigation.

Phoenix VA officials have denied any knowledge of a secret list and said they had found no evidence of patient deaths due to delayed care.

The claims are the latest to come to light as VA hospitals around the country

struggle to handle the huge volume of patients who need medical attention, including aging vets from World War II, Korea and Vietnam and a newer influx from wars over the last decade. In the past year, VA facilities in South Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Washington State have been linked to delays in patient care or poor oversight.

In the Colorado case, a VA spokesman said the medical center did not find "any intentional violation" of policy by managers or schedulers.

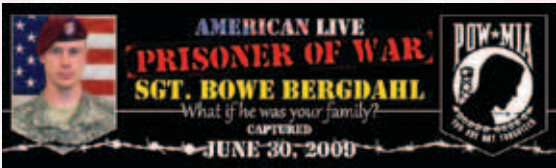
The VA said unclear guidelines led to "confusion" in the clinic. "Extensive training with supervisors and employees occurred immediately and continues. In addition, weekly audits are conducted to ensure scheduling is being done appropriately with the proper supervision," the spokesman said.

Shinseki has ordered a "face-to-face audit" at all Department of Veterans Affairs clinics, a spokeswoman told CNN. Early that day, the House Veterans Affairs Committee voted to subpoena Shinseki in the wake of accusations that his department is responsible for deadly delays in health care at some of its hospitals.

The Shinseki subpoena will cover e-mails that allegedly discussed the destruction of a secret list, first reported by CNN, of Veterans waiting for care at a Phoenix VA hospital.

The House panel agreed to issue the subpoena in a verbal vote Thursday morning. Shinseki will testify May 15 before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

David McCallister "Possum"
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Bore & Stroke	84 x 90 mm
Cubic Capacity	499 cc
Compression	8.5:1
Fuel System	Electronic Fuel Injection
Ignition	Digital Electronic Ignition

Performance	
Max Power	27.2 BHP @5250 rpm
Max Torque	41.3 Nm @ 4000 rpm

Transmission	
Primary Drive	Duplex Chain
Final Drive	Chain
Clutch	Wet Multiplate
Gearbox	Constant Mesh 5-Speed

Dimensions	
Curb Weight	412 lbs
Dimensions	85in x 32in x 42in
Wheelbase	54 in
Fuel tank capacity	3.2 gallons
Front Tire	90 x 90 - 18 in
Rear Tire	110 x 80 - 18 in





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Giving Back (Literally!) For the Sake of Safety

I've written a few times about my commitment to giving back to the biker community and trying to prevent motorcycle crashes. I do it because it's the right thing to do, and because I ride... so I get it. I know the feeling of freedom that comes from riding, and I also know the devastation that a crash can cause to the motorcyclist and their family. I became a lawyer so I could help people; giving back to the community and trying to prevent crashes is just another way to do that.

Last month, I had a unique opportunity to give back to the biker community by donating one of my own bikes to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) via their Schoolcraft College location in Livonia. The MSF is a national not-for-profit organization that promotes motorcycling safety by providing rider training, licensing, and public awareness campaigns. Their mission is "To make motorcycling safer and more enjoyable by ensuring access to lifelong quality education and training for current and prospective riders, and by advocating a safer riding environment." I know this program and especially this location provide quality training to new motorcyclists, because it's where I did my Rider Safety Course many years ago.

Taking and passing a certified rider safety course is an important component of getting a motorcycle endorsement, which you need to ride legally in Michigan. If you take and pass a certified course, you can skip the Secretary of State Riding Skills Test. The Schoolcraft location in Livonia offers four different Rider Safety classes: Basic Rider, 3-Wheel Basic Rider, Returning Rider Basic Rider, and Advanced Rider.

The first three courses are geared towards riders who are unlicensed, including new riders and those who have motorcycling experience but who no longer have a valid CY endorsement and haven't ridden in a while. In all but the Basic Rider course, students must provide their own properly titled, registered, and plated motorcycle or 3-wheel motorcycle. The 3-Wheel Basic Rider course teaches students the basic turning, shifting, and braking skills they need to safely operate a 3-wheeled motorcycle. In Michigan, if you do your certified rider safety course on a 3-wheeled bike, your CY endorsement only allows you to operate 3-wheeled bikes legally.

Unlike the other three, the Advanced Rider course is designed for riders who are experienced and already have a CY endorsement. In the Advanced Rider course, the focus is on enhancing basic skills, crash avoidance, and improving braking and cornering.

I learned about the need for student training motorcycles from Debbie Parinello, our firm's resident paramedic and Accident Scene Management class instructor, who also sits on the Governor's Mo-

torcycle Safety Advisory Team. She told me that the need for bikes kept coming up at their meetings, and right away I knew I had the perfect bike to help out: my Suzuki TU 250X. I'd barely put any miles on it, and I know it's a pretty maneuverable and reliable bike. MSF uses the same make and model in their fleet of training bikes, so it was kind of a no-brainer.

My team and I had hoped to arrange a special event surrounding the bike donation, so we could highlight the great work that MSF and Schoolcraft are doing as one of the busiest motorcycle safety training centers in the State. However, when we got in touch with Vince Consiglio, Rider Coach and coordinator for the Detroit Metro Motorcycle Safety Consortium, and Kristen Schopieray, Motorcycle Safety Program Manager at Schoolcraft, we found out they needed the bike immediately for their next group of students. So without much fanfare, I headed over to Schoolcraft to meet their team and sign over the bike.

I always encourage motorcyclists to "get endorsed, get insured, and spread the word" about motorcycle safety and awareness. I hope that supporting MSF and Schoolcraft College's Motorcycle Safety Program will translate into more motorcycle endorsements, more safety-conscious bikers, and fewer crashes in the future.

Source(s):
Motorcycle Safety Foundation Mission:
www.msf-usa.org/AboutMSF.aspx#faq-about

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



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'Mom, may I take the dog for a walk around the block?'

Mom replies, 'No, because she is in heat.'

"What's that mean?" asked little Suzie.

'Go ask your father. I think he's in the garage.'

Little Suzie goes to the garage and says, 'Dad, may I take Belle for a walk around the block? I asked Mom, but she said Belle was in heat, and to come to ask you.'

Dad said, 'Bring Belle over here.' He took a rag, soaked it with turpentine, and scrubbed the dog's backside with it to disguise the scent, and said 'OK, you can go now, but keep Belle on the leash and only go one time round the block.'

The little girl left and returned a few minutes later with no Belle on the leash.

Totally surprised, Dad asked, 'Where's Belle?'

Little Suzie said, 'She ran out of gas about halfway down the block, so another dog is pushing her home.'

A flat-chested young lady read an article in a magazine that stated Dr. Bumbutu in Africa could enlarge your breast without surgery.

So she decided to go to Dr. Bumbutu to see if he could help her.

Dr. Bumbutu advised her, 'Every day after your shower, rub your chest and say, 'Scooby doobie doobies, I want bigger boobies!' She did this faithfully for several months, and to her utter amazement she grew a terrific D-cup rack!

One morning she was running late, got on the bus, and in a panic realized she had forgotten her morning ritual. Frightened she might lose her lovely boobs if she didn't recite the ritualistic rhyme, she stood right there in the middle aisle of the bus, closed her eyes and said, 'Scooby doobie doobies, I want bigger boobies.'

A guy sitting nearby looked at her and asked 'Oh! Are you a patient of Dr. Bumbutu's?'

'Yes I am.. How did you know?'

He winked and whispered, 'Hickory dickory dock...'

When little Tony Soprano returned home from elementary school, in his youth, he told his Dad he got an F in math. "Why?" asks the father? "The teacher asked 'How much is 2 x 3', I said "6", replies Tony. "But that's right!" says his dad. "Yeah, but then she asked me "How much is 3 x 2?" "What's the f***ing difference?" asks the father. "That's what I said!", little Tony yells.

FLAWLESS MALE LOGIC:

Woman: Do you drink beer? Man: Yes

Woman: How many beers a day?

Man: Usually about 3

Woman: How much do you pay per beer?

Man: \$5.00 which includes a tip

Woman: And how long have you been drinking?

Man: Approx. 20 years

Woman: So a beer costs \$5 and you have 3 beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would be approximately \$5,400. correct?

Man: Yes, sounds correct

Woman: If in 1 year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation, the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000, correct?

Man: Again, sounds correct

Woman: Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought a Ferrari?

Man: Do you drink beer?

Woman: No, I do not.

Man: Then where the hell is your Ferrari?

* Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person REALLY died, right?

* I totally disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Budweiser than Kay.

* We truly need sarcasm emoticons; the "finger", the "mooning", the "bite me", the "kiss this".....

A biker took a couple of tokes off a joint and left a bar parking lot, unaware that a cop was staking the parking lot out looking for drunk drivers. A quarter mile down the road, the cop pulled the biker over. He walked up to him and said "Hey son, just how high are you?" the biker replied, "No, no, no officer, you are supposed to say; "Hi, how are you?".

"You'll be fine," the doctor said after finishing the young woman's surgery. But, she asked, "How long will it be before I am able to have a normal sex life again doctor?"

The surgeon seemed to pause and his face reddened as a small tear ran down his cheek from the corner of his eye. The girl was alarmed.

"What's the matter Doctor? I will be all right, won't I?" (a little bit nervous) He replied, "Yes, you'll be fine. It's just that no one has ever asked me that after having their tonsils out."

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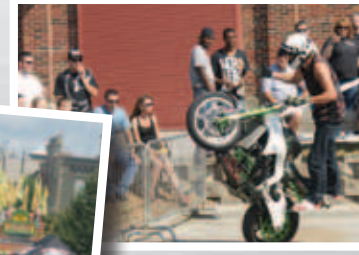
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Registration 9 am ~ Ride leaves at 11 am
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For more info contact
Randy at 269-270-8487



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SATURDAY AUGUST 9TH Escort the Kids to Great Lakes Burn Camp

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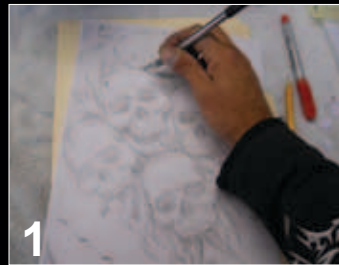
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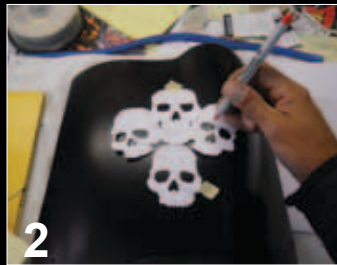
A QUICK PILE OF SKULLZ

A friend of mine needed something quick on a wind shear for a customer of his. He already had the skull theme going on his bike so it was the obvious thing to do. Being a quick one, I wanted to keep the artwork simple and not too elaborate. Besides, it can get cheesy if you incorporate too many different elements into the bike. Pick a strong theme and go with it.

I am starting with a part that has been painted with base coat and clear coat then wet sanded with 600 grit sandpaper. Before any art can be done I coat the part with a spray on liquid masking material and allow it to dry. This puts a rubbery skin on the part that I can mark and cut. A paper masking will also work depending on the curves of the part being painted.



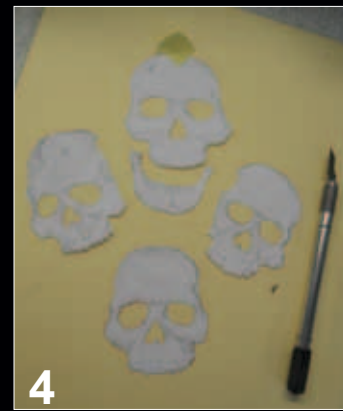
1 I draw a cool pile of skullz design and close cut it out of a Xerox copy using my exacto knife. I prefer a #16 blade. You can use good reference for image accuracy.



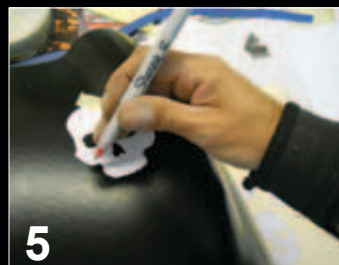
2 When your paper pattern is cut out, place it on the part and tape it in place and trace it down using a fine sharpie marker.



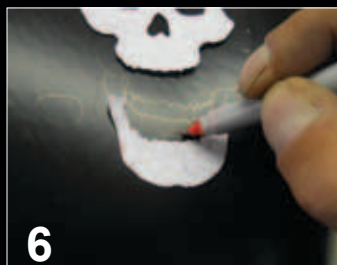
3 On black parts use red because the lines show up as a gold color that you can see easily.



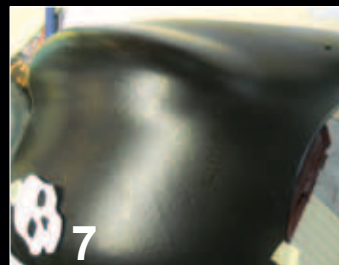
4 Continue to cut the paper pattern into separate skull shapes including the bottom jaw as a separate shape. blade. You can use good reference for image accuracy.



5 Now tape the individual skullz in place and trace the remainder of their outlines.



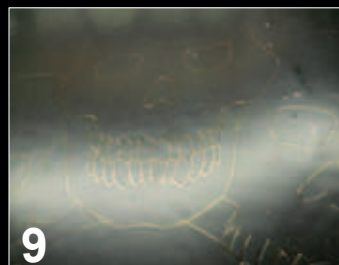
6 You can cut out the teeth as a large piece and then trace the shape or you can free hand them as I am doing in this picture.



7 Here you can see all of the teeth have been drawn in.



8 Now carefully hand cut all of the lines on the part. Be careful not to cut too hard you only have to cut through the masking.



9 Here you can see the cut lines and the marker guide lines after all of the cuts have been completed.



10 Now you are ready to move on to the paint process. The part is black so this becomes a light to dark, front to back process. Begin by removing the masking that is in the most foreground of the image or is the whitest. This is a front top tooth on each skull.



11 You can work all 4 skulls at the same time. Start with a paint mix of 70% clear to 30%



white. This will act as a tone and can be built up in intensity with multiple coats. Accent the edges of the tooth and allow for some tones of light and dark using the existing masking to establish your hard edges.

This project took only 4 or 5 hours to complete. Not too bad for a quickie. I have spoken with Chris since this project has been completed. His customer was thrilled with his skullz.

This part was painted at Classic and Exotic Service Inc. by John Harrow. For more information on custom airbrushing and pin stripes contact John at 248-269-9346 / www.classicandexotic.com, www.johnharrow.com



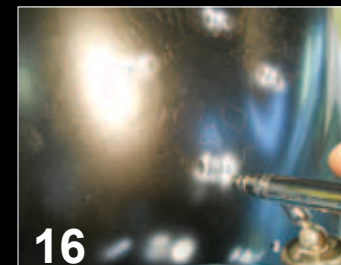
13 Using the light to dark theory continue to the next layer back or the piece that needs the existing masking in place to establish its hard edge. This is the next tooth on either side of the one just painted.



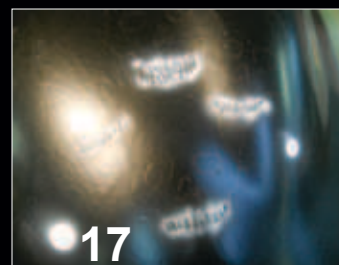
14 Airbrush the teeth allowing tone variation from light to dark using the existing masking to establish the hard edges.



15 Continue removing pieces of masking in progression from lightest to darkest. This is the next tooth over on each side as well as the 1st tooth on the bottom jaw. The tooth below the teeth that have been painted. You will need the existing masking to establish your hard edges.



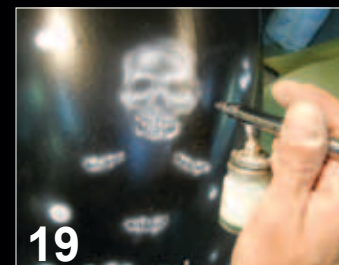
16 Continue airbrushing the teeth in the same fashion as the first teeth.



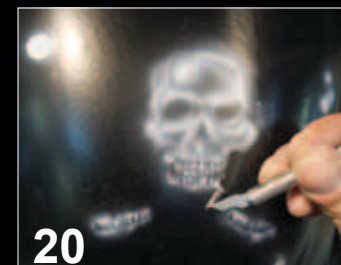
17 Airbrush the row of teeth in progression, light to dark, front to back.



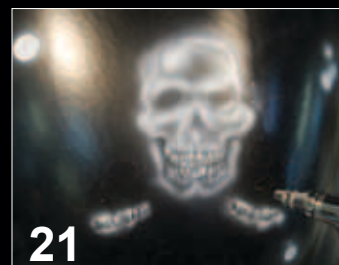
18 Continue to the next closest piece to the foreground. This is the top skull. You will need the other skulls in place to establish the hard edges of the skull.



19 Next airbrush in some tones of light and dark being sure to spray along the edges of masking as needed. You can use reference of a skull for a guide to your light and dark tones.



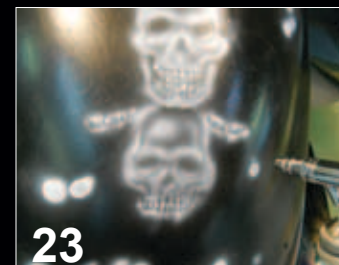
20 The next piece in progression is the bottom jaw which you can carefully remove using your exacto knife.



21 Airbrush the tones for the bottom jaw.



22 Remove the masking for the bottom skull. The next layer down.



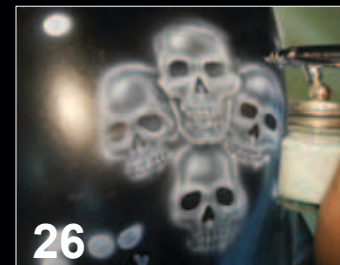
23 Airbrush the tones on the skull. Allow for shadow tones from the skull that is on top.



24 Remove the next skull and airbrush its tones.



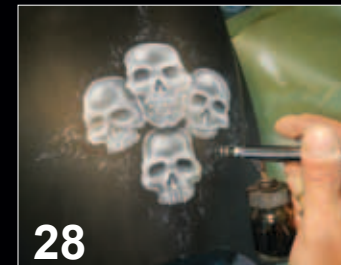
25 Continue to the last skull and airbrush it as you did the others.



26 Here I have removed the last pieces of the skulls masking, the eye sockets and nose opening. Airbrush some light tones in the openings for dimension.



27 Next, remove the remaining masking material from the part.



28 Here I have airbrushed an interesting border around the skulls using a manufactured texture mask. For a final touch mix a shadow tone of 70% clear to 30% black and use the airbrush to spray in some additional tones to further establish your light and dark areas.



29

After a quick signature, I sign all of the good ones, I spray a quick coat of base clear to seal down all of the airbrushing and add a protective layer for transit. Normally I would clean the part and spray 3 coats of automotive clear coat to finish the paint process but this project is for my friend Chris who happens to be a painter. He will finish it out.

SKULLZ

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THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN is proud to announce that The 2014 Thunder Run Ride n' Win has officially started! It is a summer-long (June-October) riding challenge hitting the coolest riding destinations and events across the state – The 2014 Michigan Thunder Run! This is a riding challenge like no-other and features great prizes every month!

The Way it Works

Go to one of the registration stops listed in this issue and get your FREE ride card. When you register you will be asked to provide your name, address, phone and e-mail. These are necessary so you can be contacted in the event you are a prize winner, etc. Don't worry your information will only be used by Thunder Roads Michigan for this purpose. After you get your card (looks like a credit card), you will see you have a unique number, this number is assigned to only you! Check out the list of registration and ride stops and go check-in throughout the month as you choose. A registration stop is also a ride stop so just because you may not have got your ride card there you can now go there to check-in. After you register for your card you are off and running. You can hit as many or as few ride stops each month as you choose. The list will change from month to month with some new stops being added each month.

Once a Rider has registered at the stop - their Card number is then entered into the drawing for that stop. Thunder Roads Michigan will then select rider checks-ins randomly each month from across the state for special prizes and incentives.

Prizes are developed by both Thunder Roads Michigan and our sponsors - allowing for some exciting options. They may include stays at exciting stops, riding gear or accessories, gift certificates, cash, and even the opportunity to win a premium sound package!

The beauty and simplicity of this program is that anyone can win with any check-in, but your chances of winning are increased by the amount you ride! The dedicated rider trekking across the state has a greater chance of accumulating prizes - but the couple that can only get out a few days a month to ride can also win! Every check-in counts as an entry in the "drawing" - so if you hit 40 stops in a month, you have twice as many chances of winning as someone that only hits 20. The more you ride - the more opportunities you will have to win! That's the whole idea - to encourage everyone to get out and ride!

State and Stop Prizes

Every month the TRMI staff will randomly select winners from the check-ins. Some prizes will be specific to the particular stop - and usually sponsored by that stop. For instance, a leather shop may award a custom leather vest to someone visiting their store during the month of June. That would be a prize specific to that stop and only riders checking in at that location would be eligible for that prize. Other prizes will be state wide, with everyone checking in at any location eligible to win!

continued on next page

Just a few of our many SPONSORS & PRIZES to be given away each month!



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A PREMIUM SOUND PACKAGE
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THREE DAYS GRACE- July 18th
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PLUS OTHER CONCERT TICKETS MONTHLY!



CONCERT & EVENT TICKETS

Check each month for new prizes, additional sponsors & more stops!



The Winners

If your check-in is drawn, Thunder Roads Michigan will post your card number both online (Thunder Roads Michigan Facebook and ThunderRoadsMichigan.com) and in the magazine. Riders will then have at least 45 days to "claim" their prizes. For state-wide prizes, winners will often have the opportunity to select from a number of prize options. For instance, a rider might have the option of winning a **Rally Package** that includes accommodations and extras for attending the particular Rally. If that rider isn't able to take advantage of that prize - they might opt for a **Premium Leather Jacket** instead.

- Riders are able to win multiple prizes - based upon the drawing of their check-in.
- Some prize drawings are specific to only check-ins for the particular month - while others prizes are drawn from check-in's season long.
- ALL CHECK-INS remain in the system for end of the season prizes!
- Riders are able to check-in once a week at a stop (Monday-Sunday), for a maximum of 4 check-in's per month (not counting bonuses)

BONUS Check-ins!

The 2014 Michigan Thunder Run is supported by our sponsors, so we want to encourage everyone to support them in turn. For that reason, we will issue a BONUS CHECK-IN to riders spending \$10 or more at the stop. The bonus criteria may be adjusted at some stops to accommodate riders or particulars of that stop. Specifics of each stop will be listed each month in Thunder Roads Michigan as part of the Stop Listing.



IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE!

1. Get your Michigan Ride Card.
2. Check out this month's ride stops.
3. Ride out to these stops and show them your card.
4. And then you win cool prizes, including cold hard CASH!

Thunder Roads Michigan will also be registering riders for Ride Cards at specific events throughout the year as we distribute magazines. You will find that list as well each month in the magazine (June-October). In most cases, we will be offering special incentives both for those registering for the cards and those checking in with their previously issued cards at these stops.

Thunder Roads Michigan will also be working with charities and various non-profit events to include them in the Run schedule as well. This will be an easy means of encouraging participation and attracting riders from outside the local communities. In many cases, we will have specific prize drawings for those at these events.

The Ride Cards will allow participants to easily and safely check in at all stops. Some Thunder Roads Michigan Sponsors will also be offering discounts to readers that present the cards. Thunder Roads will be listing special discounts and offers in the magazine throughout the year as an added value to readers and means of encouraging our partners to offer these extra savings.



PLEASE NOTE: Once you have received your MICHIGAN RIDE CARD, you will not be asked to provide personal information or emails at any location for check-in. *You simply enter your ride card number!*

Just Get Out and RIDE!



For more information on sponsorship, please email us at MichiganThunderRunRide@gmail.com

Of course one of the key components in this whole program, second only to the riders themselves, is the stops. The Thunder Roads Michigan team has spent a lot of time collecting nominations and researching stops for the Run; but there are undoubtedly plenty of more stops out there. If you have a venue or event that you would like to get involved in the run, please don't hesitate to let us know about it. If it's your place, we will get in touch shortly with more information on the run and what's involved. If you are recommending a spot for someone else – we will reach out to them and let them know they have been nominated. If you can suggest a contact person, that can help expedite the process. You can send information to MichiganThunderRunRide@gmail.com

The RIDE kicks off June 1st!

As we mentioned, this is a dynamic event – intended to be tweaked and developed over time. If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns – please don't hesitate to let us know. You can email us at MichiganThunderRunRide@gmail.com



We want to keep things exciting for you – the readers and riders on the run. We're bikers and it's all about the ride. We want to help create fun experiences for you and share some cool spots in our state. And we want to discover new spots as well, which is why we are encouraging everyone to nominate their favorite riding destinations. We have designed this run to entertain and challenge our readers – as well as promote our partners.

As with the magazine itself, the Michigan Thunder Run is presented through the support of our sponsors and partners all across the state. We have secured several key sponsorships already, but opportunities remain. If your business would like to get involved, this is a great way to promote yourself all across the state in a positive manner. Even if your organization is not a riding destination you might become a sponsor for the tremendous promotional value it offers through the constant media attention it will receive. Obviously this will be a heavy focus within the magazine but we are also working with radio and other media outlets to help spread awareness of the run. Sponsors are able to tap into this network and enjoy great exposure.

We also have a number of unique opportunities for branding - including being featured on contest motorcycles, jackets, shirts, and other opportunities. The exact number and nature of these options will be determined as details are finalized and as the promotion develops over the summer. Sponsors will ALWAYS have first priority in these placements.



JUNE STOPS SCHEDULE



STOP	TYPE OF STOP	ADDRESS & PHONE	HOURS	SPECIALS	NOTES
46 Bar	Ride Stop	3015 E. Apple Ave Muskegon, MI 49442 231-747-7810	Mon-Fri 7am-2am Sat 10am-2am	1 lucky winner wins a \$10 gift card	Thursday Night- Bikes, Burgers & Beers
ABC Harley-Davidson®	Ride Stop	4405 Highland Rd Waterford, MI 48328 248-674-3175	Sun Noon-Midnight Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5 Sun 11-3	1 lucky winner will receive a \$25 gift card	"Love what we do, ride what we sell, stand behind our service and throw a great party!"
Beaverton Tavern	Ride Stop	102 W. Brown St. Beaverton, MI 989-435-2094	Sun- Noon-10pm Mon-Thurs 11am-10pm Fri & Sat 11am-1am	1 lucky person will win a free small "Best" Nacho or Burrito of their choice.	Voted Mid-Michigan's Best Nachos & Burritos. A great destination ride.
BMW of Grand Rapids	Ride Stop	5995 South Division Grand Rapids, MI 49548 616-530-6900	Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-3 Closed Sun	Prize TBD	Family owned, friendly & knowledgeable staff.
Boondox	Registration & Ride Stop	2535 28th St SE Grand Rapids, MI 49512 616-575-9250	Mon & Wedns 9-8 Tues, Thurs Fri 9-6 Sat 10-4, closed Sun	Free oil change to 1 lucky person or vouchure for later date.	The good ole boys bike shop. Stop in and get a root beer & see for your self!
Brighton Harley-Davidson®	Ride Stop	5942 Whitmore Lake Rd Brighton, MI, 48116 810-225-2915	Mon-Fri 10-7 Sat- 10-5 Sun- 11-4	1 lucky winner will receive a \$25 gift card	100% staffed by rider's & stocked with everything you need & want.
Central Motor Sports	Ride Stop	905 Corporate Dr Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 989-773-6025	Mon-Fri 10-6 Sat 9-3 Closed Sun	1 lucky winner will receive a \$25 gift card	"Michigan's Powersports Headquarters Specializing in Trike Conversions, Side Cars & Trailers"
C & K Corner Store	Ride Stop	8892 Van Cleve Rd. Vassar, MI 48768 989-871-3120	Sun-Thurs 7am-9pm Fri & Sat 7am-10pm	Show your card here and 1 lucky person will win a Budweiser mirror	Hersey's hand-dipped ice cream, pizza, cold beer & more
Cornwell's Turkeyville	Ride Stop	18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd Marshall, MI 49068 269-781-4293	Everyday 11am-8pm	1 lucky winner will receive their choice of a T-shirt or \$10 gift card	Bike Night Wednesday's 6:30- 9pm
Doc's Sports Retreat	Ride Stop	19265 Victor Parkway Livonia, MI 48152 734-542-8162	Mon-Sat 11am-2am Sun Noon- 2am	1 lucky winner that stops here will receive a \$100 gift card at the end of the season.	Thursday Bike Nights 6pm- Food & Drink Specials, Bikini Bike Wash & Give-a-ways!
Driftwood	Ride Stop	7456 S. Croton Hardy Dr Newaygo, MI 49337 231-652-2686	Sun-Thurs Noon-10pm Fri- Noon- 2am Sat 11am- 2am	1 lucky winner will receive a \$20 gift card	Bands on the deck every weekend overlooking the lake!
Fox Shawmut	Ride Stop	2807 Lake Michigan Dr Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-453-5467	Closed Mon Tues- Fri 9-7 Sat 9-5	1 lucky winner will receive a \$25 gift card	Stop in and use your Thunder Roads Coupon for 15% off apparel (see ad).
Hamilton Harley-Davidson®	Ride Stop	68951 White School Rd Sturgis, MI 49091 269-651-3424	9-6pm M-F 9-3 Sat Closed Sun	20% off Installed Tires	A great place to ride to. Family owned and operated.
Hawgsville Saloon	Ride Stop	365 N. Main St. WaterVliet, MI 49098 269-201-7120	Closed Mon & Tues Wedn & Thurs 4 -2 am Fri , Sat & Sun Noon-2 am	1 lucky winner will receive a \$25 gift card	Ladies Bike Night 6 pm- 1 am & Karaoke on Thursday's- prizes
Iron Horse Bar & Grill	Ride Stop	3592 Main St. Akron, MI 48701 989-691-5761	Open 7 days a week 11am-2am	1 lucky winner will receive a FREE T-shirt or long sleeve shirt of your choice.	Bike Nights Wednesdays- specials & happy hour. The thumbs largest biker bar.
McNasty's Saloon	Ride Stop	19300 Waltz Rd. New Boston, MI 734-753-4900	Tues- Sat 10am-2am Sun- Noon-Midnight Mon- 10am-midnight	Show your card here for an extra chance to win a FREE 1/2 lb Burger & fry.	Great burgers, family owned with a Cheers atmosphere. Try their deep-fried pickle spears!
MC Supply	Ride Stop	2310 Michigan 37 (M-37) Hastings MI 49058 269-945-2782	Mon- Fri 9-6 Sat 9-1 Closed Sundays	1 lucky person that stops here will receive a \$50 in-store gift card!	Hometown provider of PowerSports & Power Equipment to meet your needs as well as your wants.
Motor City HD®	Registration & Ride Stop	34900 Grand River Ave, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 248-473-7433	Mon-Fri 10-7 Sat- 10-5 Sun- 11-4	1 lucky person that registers here will receive a \$25 gift card	A Detroit original with 3 floors of everything Harley!
Museum of "Moses"	Ride Stop	9979 S. 8 mile rd (vogel center) McBain, MI 49657 231-825-2219	Open daily 9:30am-9pm. Sun 9:30-7pm	Cool prizes for lucky winners	A mere fraction of 1 man's collection of vintage Harley's & much more.
My Alibi	Ride Stop	2185 S. Meridian Rd Midland, MI 48640 989-835-3573	Mon-Sat 11am-2am Sun-Noon-Midnight	1 lucky woman & 1 lucky man that stops here will win a My Alibi T-shirt or tanktop of choice	A great ride out there! Bike Night Thursday's 6pm- Burnout Pit, Biker Specials & Live Music
Sandy's HD®	Registration & Ride Stop	11940 Maple Island Rd Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-3020	Mon-Fri- 8-5:30 Sat- 8- 3	1 lucky person that registers here will receive a \$25 gift card	Family owned & operated for over 38 years. Stop in and experience the difference!
Shiawassee Harley-Davidson®	Registration & Ride Stop	11901 N. Beyer Rd. Birch Run, MI 48415 989-624-4400	Mon-Wedns 9-6 Thurs 9-7, Fri 9-6 Sat 9-4, Sun 10-3	1 lucky person that registers here will receive a \$50 gift card	Friendly & knowledgeable staff. A great destination ride.
Silver Bullet	Ride Stop	5121 South Division Wyoming, MI 49548 616-249-1911	Mon-Fri 10am-9pm Sat 10am-6pm Closed Sun	1 lucky person that stops here will win a FREE Range Pass.	West Michigan's "Top Gun".
Stevens' Cycle Sales Inc. - Bay City	Registration & Ride Stop	3636 S. Huron Rd. Bay City, MI 48706 989-684-9872	Mon & Thurs 9-7 Tues, Wedns & Fri 9-6 Sat 9-5, Sun 11-3	1 lucky person that registers here will receive a t-shirt & hat of your choice! (not to exceed \$30)	Family owned & operated.
Stevens Sports Center- Midland	Registration & Ride Stop	1911 E. Airport Rd Midland, MI 48642 989-631-6450	Mon-Wedns 9-6 Thurs 9-7, Fri 9-6, Sat 9-3 Closed Sun	1 lucky person that registers here will receive a t-shirt & hat of your choice! (not to exceed \$30)	Friendly & knowledgeable staff.
Stingers Bar & Grill	Ride Stop	49110 Grand River Ave Wixom, MI 48393 248-449-9667	Mon 11 am- 2 am Tues- Sun 8 am- 2 am	1 lucky person that stops here will receive a \$15 gift card.	Thursdays - Bike Nights, Bike Wash & Pole Dancers. Sundays Destination Rides
Tecumseh Harley- Davidson®	Ride Stop	8080 Matthews HWY Tecumseh, MI 49286 517-423-3333	Sun 11-4, Closed Mon Tue-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-4	1 lucky person that stops here will receive a \$25 gift card.	Fun events. knowledgeable & friendly staff.
Thomas Trading Post	Ride Stop	2292 Eastman Rd Midland, MI 48642 989-631-1104	Mon- Fri 9:30-8 Sat 9:30-5, Sun 12-5 Open 7 days a week	Great prizes for a lucky winner leather jackets, assecories, & more	Boots,men & womens jackets, leather bags & more
Town & Country Harley-Davidson®	Ride Stop	US-12 & 127 Cement City, MI 49233 517-547-3333	Sun 11-4, Mon 10-6 Closed Tues, Wedns-Fri 10-6 Sat 10-4	1 lucky person that stops here will receive a \$25 gift card.	Celebrating over 40 years. Visit Artisan Wells Sports Tavern next door while you're here.
Trackside	Ride Stop	9714 Saginaw St Reese MI 48757 989-868-3599	open Sunday 12-12 Mon, Tues, Wed 10-12 Thur, Fri, Sat 10-2am	1 lucky winner wins a \$10 gift card	Bike Night Tuesday's Come check it out!
Walldorff Brewpub & Bistro	Ride Stop	105 E. State St Hastings, MI 269-945-4400	Mon-Thurs 11am- midnight, Fri-Sat 11am-1:30 AM	1 lucky person that stops here will receive a \$25 gift card.	Award winning ales, fantastic food & friendly staff make the Walldorff THE place to be in Barry County!
Wolverine Harley-Davidson®	Registration & Ride Stop	44660 N. Gratiot Ave. Clinton Twp. MI 48036 586-463-7700	Sun - 11-3 Mon-Fri - 10-6 Sat - 10-4	2 lucky people that register here will receive a T-shirt & hat or WHD Bucks	A Michigan Must See- Bikes, Friends & Good Times!



JUNE OFFICIAL EVENT STOPS SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Time	Event Name	Address	Event Type
June 12th	Thursday	2:00 PM	Sandy Corley Memorial	Sandy's Harley-Davidson® Fremont, MI	Stop in to Sandy's HD®on your way over to the Double JJ Resort for The Sandy Corley Memorial Run
June 14th	Saturday	11:00 AM	Harley Fest	Freedom Hill Sterling Heights, MI	Music featuring Jackyl Meet & Greet w Jesse James Dupree
June 14th	Saturday	11:00 AM	Real Steel Weekend	Detroit World Outreach Redford, MI	Blessing of the bikes, bike show & ride.
June 14th	Saturday	Noon	Red Arrow Riders	VFW Post 1527 Portage, MI	Help send WWII Veterans on an Honor Flight to their memorial
June 19th	Thursday	6:30 PM	Thunder Thursdays	FirstMerit Event Park Saginaw, MI	Concert featuring Bobaflex, Romantic Rebels & The Distorted Waltz
June 21st	Saturday	2:30 PM- 4:00 PM	Michigan Military Memorial Wall	Centershot Gun Range Dorr, MI	Ride to escort the wall, gun raffles, auction, bike show & more.
June 28th	Saturday	2:00 PM	Freedom Cruise	Fifth Third Ball Park Village of Sparta	Support area Veteran's & meet the stars of History Channel & More!

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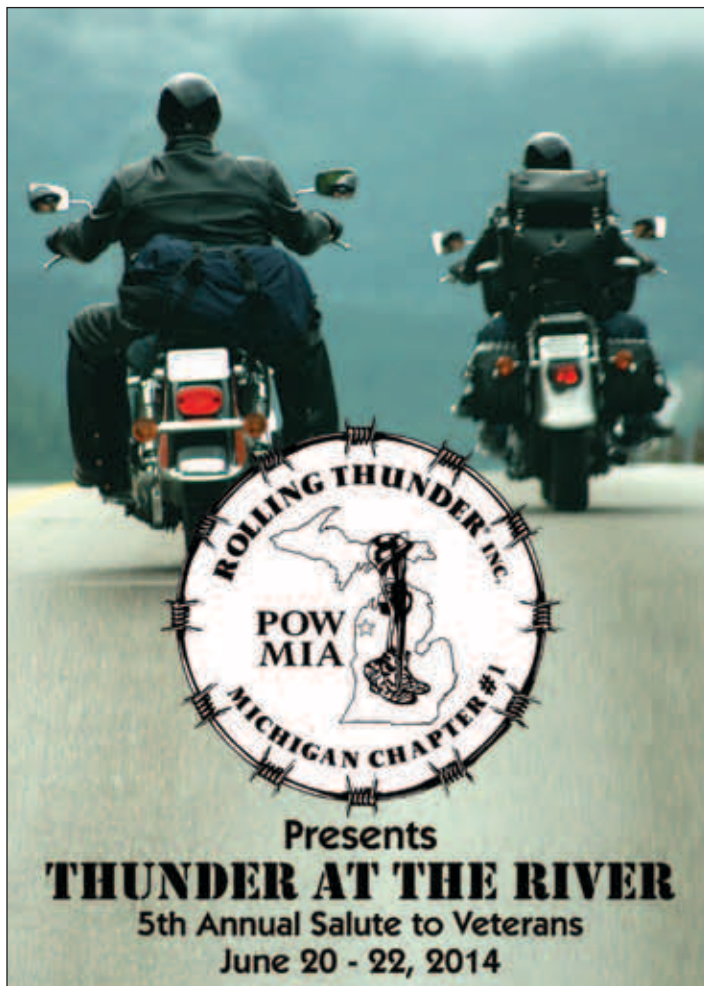
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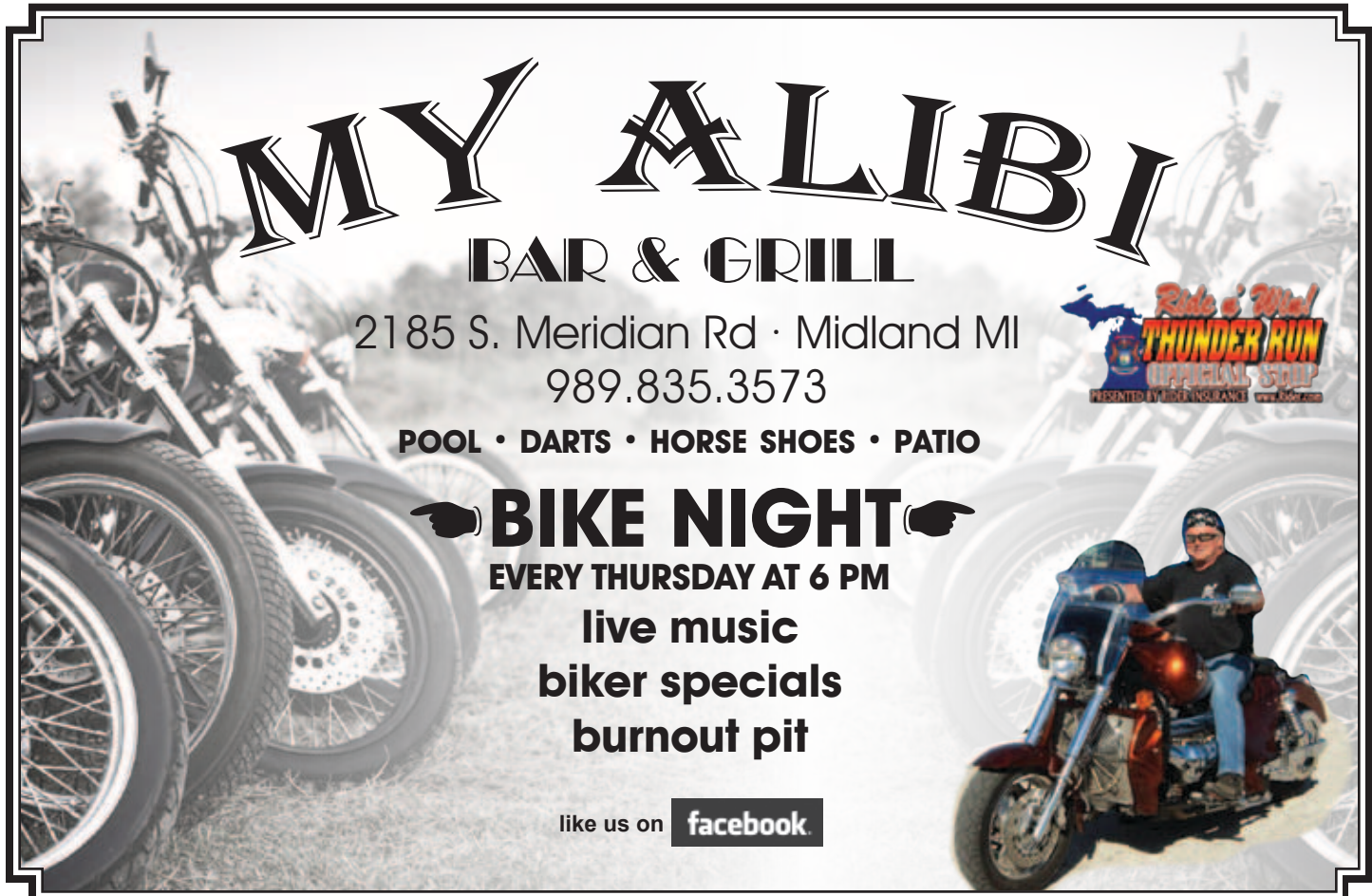
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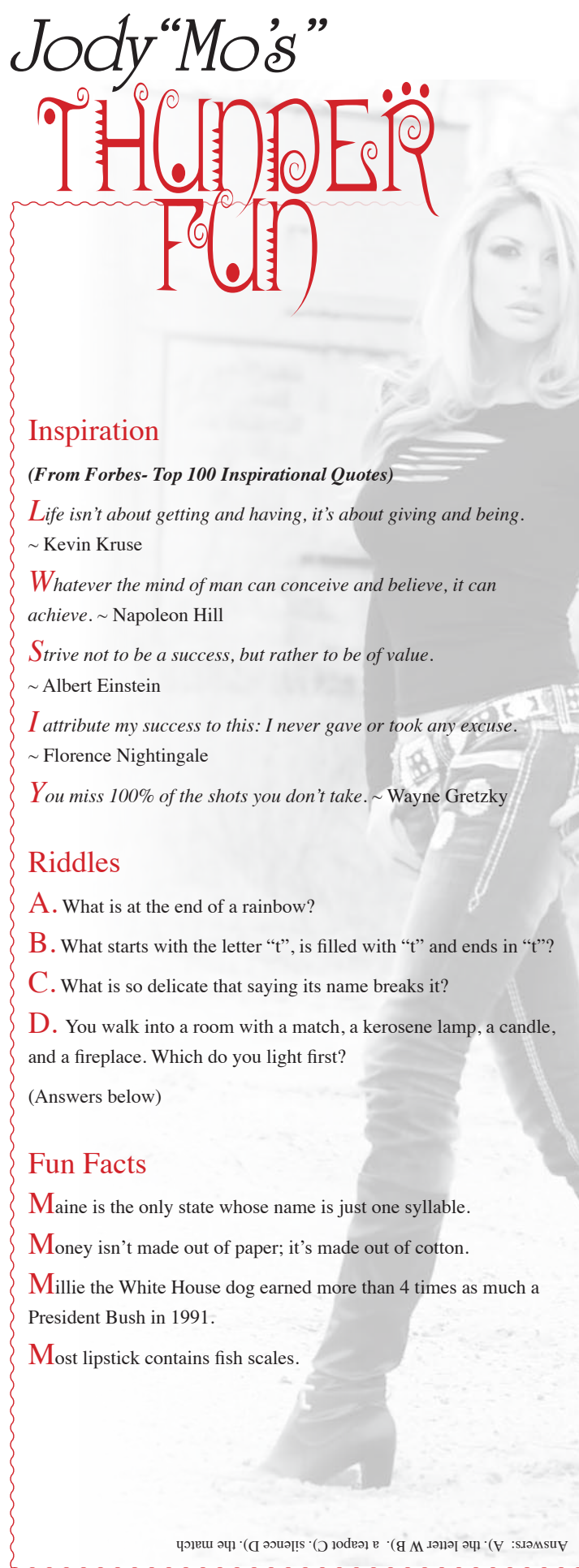
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Inspiration

(From Forbes- Top 100 Inspirational Quotes)

Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being.
~ Kevin Kruse

Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve. ~ Napoleon Hill

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.
~ Albert Einstein

I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse.
~ Florence Nightingale

You miss 100% of the shots you don't take. ~ Wayne Gretzky

Riddles

A. What is at the end of a rainbow?
B. What starts with the letter "t", is filled with "t" and ends in "t"?
C. What is so delicate that saying its name breaks it?
D. You walk into a room with a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. Which do you light first?

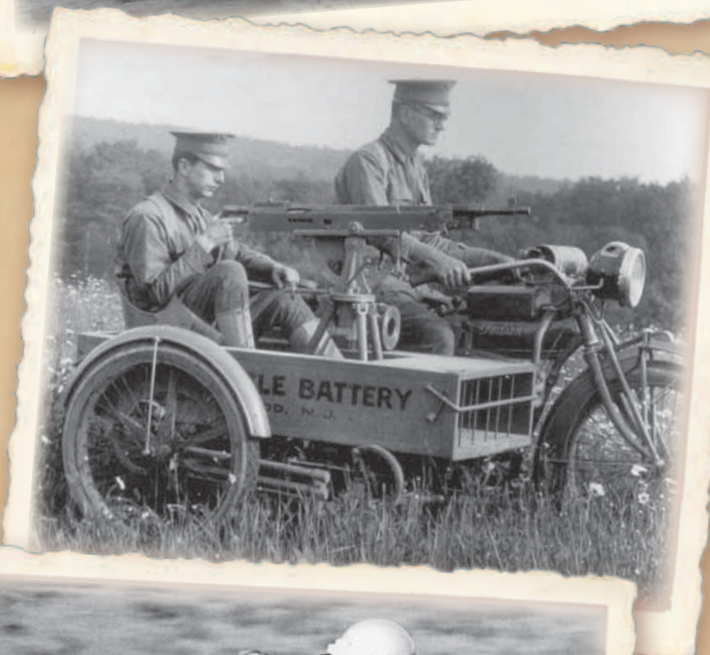
(Answers below)

Fun Facts

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
Money isn't made out of paper; it's made out of cotton.
Millie the White House dog earned more than 4 times as much a President Bush in 1991.
Most lipstick contains fish scales.

Answers: A). the letter W B). a leap C). silence D). the match

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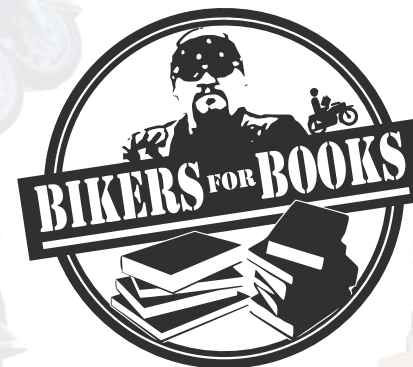


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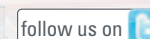
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Biker Preacher's Corner

This time every year, like the winter season, we hear people say "it's flu season... I'm going to get sick, better get stocked up on medicine" or "it's hay fever season better get a decongestant!" The problem with this, though understandable, is that in doing this we are speaking these things into existence. The Bible tells us in **Proverbs 18:21 "Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."** To give you Apostle BMAN's paraphrase "We get what we say." So when we speak life we get life, when we speak death we get death.

You might be thinking what the heck is he talking about, right? Ya see, we (mankind) were "fearfully and wonderfully created". In fact, the bible says that we were created in the image of God. **Genesis 1:26 says "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."** When God created all of creation, He spoke everything into being and we were created in His image. So, we too are creators, creating not just with our hands but with our words, speaking into existence in our lives and the lives of others around us.

Another way of looking at this is to think that our words are seeds. When spoken, they are planted into the soil of our lives and will bear fruit, in due time. **Galatians 6:7 says "...whatever a man sows he will also reap."** So, what are you planting in your life? What are you planting in your family and friends lives?

If you've lost your job and are suffering with some overwhelming financial issues, remember God said He would take care of us... **Philippians 4:19 "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."** So, speak this verse in faith over your situation and trust God for His provision and then continue to speak life.

If you are suffering physically (with sickness and disease), mentally (with depression or anxiety) or emotionally (loneliness, sadness, etc.) know that God loves you and bore your sin, sickness and diseases when He hung on the cross. **1 Peter 2:24 "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; you have been healed by His wounds."** He paid the price for you!

Remember, speak life! God Loves you and so do I!!

God Bless - Much Love & Respect,

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay
Senior Pastor, National President
& Founder of Victory Biker Church
12190 Miller Rd., Lennon, MI 48449
apostlebman@victorybikerchurch.org
www.victorybikerchurch.org



2014 HONDA VALKYRIE

After a ten year absence, Honda presents the all-new 2014 Valkyrie – a modern “muscle” cruiser propelled by an 1832cc, liquid-cooled, horizontally opposed six-cylinder, SOHC engine with PGM-FI. This is the same monster engine that powers the Gold Wing and Gold Wing F6B – stripped down to the bare essentials to give it a curb weight of 750 pounds. That’s more than 150 pounds less than the Gold Wing.

To enhance the performance characteristics, Honda mounted the engine low into the Valkyrie’s twin-spar aluminum frame. This gives the bike a low center of gravity – the effect of which is amplified by a low seat height of only 28.8 inches. The result is a surprisingly comfortable and well balanced ride for a bike of this size.

Honda also ramped up the stopping power of the Valkyrie with 310mm cross-drilled rotors (14mm larger in diameter) and Nissin four-piston calipers. The rear gets an even larger 316mm disc/caliper combo. Another difference from the Gold Wing is that the Valkyrie gets an independent front and rear braking system as opposed to the linked-brake system found on the Wing. Although not standard, ABS is available as an option.

The modern, sporty fenders, the unique fuel tank design, the fat exhaust pipes and the stylish fairing are all working together to form a very special visual effect. Other modern touches include a LED headlight, taillight, turn signals and its multi-function digital LCD dash. The Valkyrie also features aluminum passenger grabrails and a passenger seat that can be removed to give the bike a more streamlined look.

At the winter shows, the Valkyrie drew a lot of attention and has many reconsidering Honda’s position in the power cruiser market.



Specifications

Engine Type	Liquid-cooled horizontally opposed six-cylinder
Displacement	1832cc
Bore and Stroke	74mm x 71mm
Compression Ratio	9.8:1
Valve Train	SOHC; two valves per cylinder
Induction	PGM-FI, Programmed Fuel Injection
Ignition	Computer-controlled digital with 3-D mapping
Transmission	Five-speed
Final Drive	Shaft
Rake (Caster Angle)	29° 50'
Trail	114mm (4.5 inches)
Wheelbase	67.2 inches
Seat Height	28.8 inches
Curb Weight	750 pounds. Includes all standard equipment, required fluids and a full tank of fuel—ready to ride
Fuel Capacity	6.1 gallons
Available Colors	Blue Metallic, Black, Dark Red Metallic
Factory Warranty	Three Years, Transferable unlimited-mileage limited warranty; extended coverage available with a Honda Protection Plan

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 OBW Sandusky OH STARTS MAY 30	2 OBW Sandusky OH	3 OBW Sandusky OH	4 OBW Sandusky OH	5 OBW Sandusky OH	6 OBW Sandusky OH	7 OBW Sandusky OH WOMEN'S RUN Town & Country HD PROJECT RED, WHITE & BLUE Boondox MS HEADLIGHT RUN Grand Rapids BENEFIT & BLESSING Excell Cycles 70'S PARTY - ABC HD
8 OBW Sandusky OH HARLEY HEROES - ABC HD	9	10	11	12 SANDY CORELY Double JJ Resort	13 SANDY CORELY Double JJ Resort	14 SANDY CORELY Double JJ Resort BLESSING - Victory Biker Church CARE HOUSE - Wolverine HD
15 FATHERS DAY	16	17	18	19 THROTTL FEST - Chicago IL  SANDY'S HD	20 THROTTL FEST - Chicago IL THUNDER AT RIVER - Manistee RODEO - Ray C's HD	21 THROTTL FEST - Chicago IL THUNDER AT RIVER - Manistee RODEO - Ray C's HD WORKSHOP - ABC HD GARAGE PARTY Town & County HD NOZZLEMEN - Brighton HD  MI MILITARY MEMORIAL - Dorr
22 THROTTL FEST - Chicago IL THUNDER AT RIVER - Manistee RODEO - Ray C's HD	23	24 MDA RUN - AM Leather	25 FREEDOM CRUISE Fifth Third Ball Park	26 FREEDOM CRUISE Fifth Third Ball Park	27 FREEDOM CRUISE Fifth Third Ball Park 2 HELP VETS - Lazy K Ranch STURGIS FEST - Sturgis, MI	28 FREEDOM CRUISE Fifth Third Ball Park 2 HELP VETS - Lazy K Ranch STURGIS FEST - Sturgis, MI  FREEDOM CRUISE Fifth Third Ball Park
29 FREEDOM CRUISE Fifth Third Ball Park GREAT LAKES BURN CAMP Texas Corral RIDE FOR FREEDOM Wolverine HD	30	1	2	3	4	5

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K.I.S.S. IN THE KITCHEN

KEEP IT SIMPLE SWEETIE



I HAVE CHOSEN THIS NAME FOR OUR MONTHLY RECIPE PAGE, AS THAT WAS WHAT MY MOTHER, REST HER SOUL, ALWAYS USED TO SAY WHEN I WOULD ASSIST HER IN THE KITCHEN. MOM WAS AN AVID SUPPORTER OF THE K.I.S.S. (KEEP IT SIMPLE SWEETIE) METHOD OF COOKING. I NOW, MORE THAN EVER, TRULY APPRECIATE HER PHILOSOPHY OF ALWAYS TAKING SHORTCUTS WHERE YOU CAN, AS LONG AS YOUR ULTIMATE OUTCOME IS THAT OF DOWN HOME, LABOR OF LOVE COOKING.

K.I.S.S. page composed & edited by: Toni McCoy Shearon of Tennessee aka "MaMa Thunder" of Thunder Roads Tennessee

BACKYARD GRILL TIPS:

During Spring & Summer, we use our grill for almost every supper. Here's some time proven tips that truly make a difference.

SIMPLE, MEAT MARINADE: AT LEAST 5 GENERATIONS STRONG!

Always let your meat be room temperature. Cold meat does not absorb a marinade easily. But light your grill and let it get good & hot. I've used this marinade my entire life for steak and it's literally been used for 5 generations back that my Mom could recall.....and it's so incredibly simple:

Take room temp. steaks and squeeze mustard all on one side; rub it in good, making sure to get the sides. Then, drizzle Worcestershire Sauce all over top of the mustard. This is when you add any spices you want; salt & pepper (we add this again slightly when actually grilling too), garlic powder if you like it. Now, just let it sit for only 5 minutes. That's it. That simple. There's something in the ingredients of the mustard (which has been around over 100 years) & the Worcestershire Sauce (which has been around over 100 years) that when combined, make up for a perfect meat tenderizer. You do not taste the mustard one single bit after grilling but the flavor you do get is truly amazing. Make sure that you "let your meat rest" when you take it off the grill or anytime you cook meat. I add a sprinkle of parsley, just for freshness. Just give it a solid 5 minutes and those juices get sucked back into the meat. Don't ever put your meat on a cardboard paper plate as those just absorb all your juices. Use an actual plate or the coated stock paper plates.

GET CREATIVE WITH GRILL BUNDLES!

Anything you can cook on top of your stove, you can put in a grill bundle; Just use the high-quality heavy aluminum foil. Place on low heat on grill and let go long and slow. Gives you time for a few beers.

Brown Rice, Shrimp & Snap Peas and a pat of butter

Sear your **Kielbasa** off quick, slice in 1 inch pieces then place in a bundle of sliced thin **onions & peppers, thin sliced potatoes** & a pat of butter.

Take **Frozen X-Large Shrimp** from any major grocery store and the quartered size of **frozen corn on cob pieces**, double up alum. foil,

making a bowl shape with high sides, add ingredients and sprinkle McCormick's **Caribbean Seasoning**, roll up your bundle nice and tight and let it go for about 15 minutes over medium heat. **Phenomenal!**

Grill off **Pork Chops** really quick on high heat, turn heat down to low. Add your fave veggie; **frozen peas or frozen squash**. We like to add a can of **sliced apples**, a couple pinches of cinnamon and a pat of butter. Wrap tight, let it go for 15 mins. over med. heat. Delish! Then we do our veggie off to the side; (be sure and spray your grill with non-stick butter or olive oil before laying veggies down) **big slices of squash**; cut lengthwise, big thick **slices of onion, long slices of eggplant, whole carrots** cut in half and placed flat down, **whole ears of corn on the cob still in the husk**. Just pull down your husks gently, slather butter all over the ear of corn; salt & pepper and gently push the husks back up in place and grill over low heat. After about 10 minutes, pull down the husks again and let the corn get some good grill marks. Serve with husks back up. Crazy Good!

The thing is to just think outside of your kitchen. If you can cook it inside, you can cook it on your grill.

Even **pasta** bundles on the grill.

I am a BIG lover of grilling fruit and then drizzling a sauce, honey or ice cream over top. Grilled fruit is amazing because when it's caramelized on the grill, it enhances all its' pure flavors:

GRILLED BANANNAS: Cut bananas length-wise and on a low grill that's been sprayed with butter, lay them down, sprinkle with a mixture of brown sugar & cinnamon, flip, remove and drizzle with either melted Hershey's chocolate sauce or hot melted caramel sauce (both in the ice-cream aisle at any grocery).

GRILLED PEACHES: I use whole, fresh peaches, cut down the middle, remove pit, leave on just enough to get grill marks, sprinkle with cinnamon & sugar mix, remove, drizzle with heated marshmallow sauce.

GRILLED PINEAPPLE: Cut the pre-cut ones' from your Deli in the tall plastic container. These are big, thick-cut pieces. Sprinkle w/ cinnamon & sugar mix; get good grill marks, remove and add a couple small scoops of quality Vanilla Bean ice-cream.

JUST GET CREATIVE & HAVE FUN!

LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE... & APPRECIATE FOOD.

TO ALL OUR BRAVE, PROUD TROOPS... YOU'RE IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS DAILY. God Speed You Home.

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TECH TIPS TIRE BASICS

contributed by TRO



How to Choose the Best Tires for Your Motorcycle

Whether replacing a set of worn motorcycle tires or upgrading to better tires, motorcycle owners must realize the importance of buying the best tires for the type of vehicle and riding experience desired. Whether driving off-road or on the street, buying the right tire improves the ride quality for riders and their passengers.

When shopping for the right tires, learn about the types of motorcycle tires available, including track, sport, off-road, cruising, and touring tires from leading brands such as Bridgestone, Dunlop, Michelin, and Pirelli. Also find out which size fits your motorcycle needs and become familiar with the different motorcycle tire size numbering systems. Knowing what to look for when shopping for motorcycle tires can lead to both financial and time savings, not to mention protection for you and your passengers.

Types of Motorcycle Tires

When choosing the best tires for a motorcycle, owners must first determine the type of tire that fits the driving situation. The table below details the different types of motorcycle tires available.

Tire Type	Description
Race Tires	Allow for cornering at tight angles; extreme acceleration from a standing position; speed when coming out of turns; durable on the track use
Sport Tires	Made for fast action on the road; radial pattern gives better road grip; offer better handling in dry and wet conditions; more durable than race tires
Off-Road Tires	Best for off-road use; tires typically sport a knobby design; these tire types are secured with rim locks to prevent the tire from spinning on the rim in rough terrain
Cruising Tires	Offer superior grip on a variety of different road surfaces; improved grip for wet weather use; improved stability control
Touring Tires	These type of tires offer long distance use in all weather conditions; stable tire offering excellent driver control

Make sure they are the correct type of tires for the motorcycle model before making a purchase. Also inspect them thoroughly to make sure they meet proper tire standards. Finally, make sure that any tires purchased match up. For instance, do not mix and match a belted tire with a radial tire.

Motorcycle Tire Sizes

When determining motorcycle tire size, owners should pay attention to the five-part size number. This number is comprised of the width, aspect ratio, speed rating, tire construction, and the rim diameter, in that order. The sections below give more information on each of these areas.

Motorcycle Tire Width

The first number in a motorcycle tire size represents the width of the tire. The width of a motorcycle tire is the measurement, in a straight line, from the outside of one sidewall to the outside of the other sidewall.

Motorcycle Tire Aspect Ratio

The tire aspect ratio represents the motorcycle tire's cross section profile in relation to its height. The number on the tire represents the percentage of the height to the tire's width. This ratio is represented as the second number, after the tire width, on the tire size number.

Motorcycle Tire Speed Rating

The motorcycle speed rating represents the maximum speed at which riders can drive the motorcycle with a maximum load and the tires at the maximum listed inflation pressure. The maximum load and inflation pressures are also found on the sidewalls listed separately. The third entry on the tire size number is a letter that represents the speed rating. The following table contains the various speed ratings and their corresponding speeds in miles per hour, or MPH.

Code Letter	Maximum MPH
J	62
K	68
L	75
M	81
N	87
P	93
Q	99
R	106
S	112
T	118
U	124
H	130
V220	137
V230	143
V/ V240	149
V250	155
V260	161
W/ V270	168
V280	174
V290	180
Y/ V300	186
Z	149+

Z-rated tires have no recognized upper speed. They are listed

as 149+ MPH to represent this lack of a threshold.

Motorcycle Tire Construction

The fourth number/letter in the tire size represents the tire construction. The letter B stands for belted tires,, and the letter R stands for radial tires.. Belted tires contain a fiberglass, Kevlar, or aramid fiber belt that gives the tire added strength and increased load capacity. Shoppers should pay attention though since not all belted tires have the B designation. If unsure about what type of tire is being bought, ask the seller for more information.

Radial tires have a longer life than belted tires, as well as better steering control, but they make for poor off-road tires and have reduced grip at slow speeds. Radial tires do have belts, but only to add stiffness to the tire. Commonly constructed of steel, polyester, or aramid fibers, the belts in a radial tire reinforce the tread region.

Motorcycle Tire Rim Diameter

The tire rim diameter is the measurement of the rim or wheel upon which the tire sits. Measured in inches, the tire diameter can be found by measuring from the inside of the rim lip on one side of the rim to the inside of the rim lip on the other side of the rim.

The Different Motorcycle Tire Size Numbering Systems

Four systems comprise the available motorcycle tire size measuring systems which are largely dependent on bike type and manufacturer. The table below lists the four different tire size numbering systems.

Tire Size Numbering System	Description
Metric	The most common tire measuring system; considered the most descriptive; found on almost every motorcycle type
Alpha	Most often used for touring motorcycle tires; the B designation, which indicates a belted tire, can appear after the speed rating
Standard Inch	Found in older motorcycles; these types of tires do not include an aspect ratio; these are bias-ply and not belted
Low Profile Inch	Also referred to as the 82 Percent Series Size System, due to the aspect ratio being 82 percent when not specified; manufacturers no longer using this tire size system

vs.Tubeless Motorcycle Tires

Tubeless tires have become a safety feature on motorcycles. They retain less heat, there is no chance that they will pop when punctured, possibly causing a wreck, and tubeless tires tend to stay connected to the rim.

Tires with tubes have one main advantage: they are easier to repair on the fly. If a tire with a tube is punctured during a trail ride, it is relatively easy to pull off the tire and patch the tube, then put the tire back on the rim. Tubeless tires, on the other hand, usually require garage equipment to repair. This is why so many off road tires use tubes.

Riders who use tires with tubes need to be sure that the tire pressure is correct. This is one of the most important safety measures to take with this kind of tire.



Motorcycle Tires Need Replacement?

Motorcycle tires show some of the same signs of wear as automobile tires, particularly when the tread is becoming sufficiently worn to merit replacement. Signs to watch for include:

- Exposed steel belts, cords, or fabric layers
- Wear bars even with tread height
- Tread worn enough that Lincoln's head isn't concealed at all when a penny is stood in a tread groove
- Cut or punctured sidewall
- Sidewall severely cracked from age or dry rot

Uneven tire wear may indicate that a tire is defective, the rim is bent, the bike's frame is damaged, or the wheel is out of alignment or out of balance. Any of these require a trip to the mechanic. They will not only interfere with steering today; they will accelerate wear and tear on the bike over the coming months.

Are the Current Tires Doing What Is Desired?

If the current tires have performed well in terms of tread life, road grip, and weather, a rider might choose to replace them with exactly the same make and model.

At the same time, given the constant innovation in motorcycle tires, there may be upgrades that would improve performance in some way important to a specific rider at the time tires are due to be replaced. One or another manufacturer is likely to have come up with tires that are just a bit better for high mileage touring, multi-season driving, high-speed racing, sharp cornering, driving in all weather conditions, or driving off road. So it may be worth checking out the newest tires to see if any of the improvement will benefit the way a particular bike will be used.

d Rear Tires Are Not Interchangeable

The rear tire is designed for acceleration and carries most of the weight of the bike, rider, and any saddlebags on a touring bike. The front tire is designed to handle up to 80 percent of the braking and the actual turning motion during turns. The rear tire only takes a leaning motion in turns. Because of their different tasks, the two tires are engineered differently. Motorcycle tires should not be rotated as one would automobile tires.



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TRMMI EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

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

JUNE

May 30- June 8 Ohio Bike Week Sandusky, OH. Live entertainment on multiple stages all 10 days, bike show, stunt shows, daily rides, vendors & more. (See ad this issue).

June 1
Blessed in Hell- The Blessing of the Bikes Hell Creek Ranch, Pinckney, MI. Gates open 10:30 am, \$10 per bike, bike show, live band, vendors, contests & more. For more info call Cody 313-407-4671 or Dave 734-834-7694

June 1
Biker Blessing & Group Ride
First Reformed Church of Portage, Portage, MI. Regis. 11:00 am – noon, blessing at noon, ride leaves at 12:30 PM. Free lunch after the ride back at First Reformed Church. All bikers welcome! For more info call 269-327-3694 or email firstchurch@frcportage.org

June 7 Women's Run at T & C Town & Country HD, Cement City, MI. Ladies only. Proceeds benefit breast cancer research. For more info call 517-547-3333 (See full page ad inside front cover).

June 7
16th Annual Chick Run Association RIDE
Dwight Lydell Park, Comstock Park, MI. All women motorcycle run, sign up 8:45am - 9:45am, leaves 10 am sharp, \$15 per rider. For more info call Deb 616-822-5749 or go to www.chickrunassociation.com

June 7 Project Red, White & Blue 4th Annual Charity Ride sponsored by Boondox Motorsports American Legion Post 102, Rockford, MI. Regis at 9 am, kickstands up at 11 am, \$20 rider, \$30 with passenger. Supports our local Hero's & Vets. For more info go to www.projectrwb.us (See ad this issue).

June 7
2nd Annual Anything Goes Auto Show
Sault Sainte Marie, MI. Show for bikes, cars & trucks. 10 am- 4 pm. For more info call 906-203-8107

June 7
4th Annual Bikers Against Breast Cancer Headlight Run
Teazers Bar & Grill, Grand Rapids, MI. Regis 10am-11:30am, ride departs at noon sharp. \$20pp includes dinner & a chance to win a 2 night stay in Mackinaw City at the Lamplighters Motel, 5-8 after ride party. For more info contact Steve Melton 616-890-4082, Terri Tyler 616-914-0211

June 7
Open House & Charity Poker Run
Gildner's HD, West Branch, MI. For local claws & paws, food, discounts & more. For details go to www.gildnershd.com

June 7
American Legion Post #29 Poker Run
3200 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI. Regis begins at 11 am, first bike out noon, last bike in 5 pm. \$15 pp, cars welcome, cash prizes for top two hands. camping avail. 50/50, food following ride. All proceeds go to veterans charities.

June 7
1st Annual Warthogs MC - Howell Chapter Chapter 15 Memorial Poker Run
Brighton Harley-Davidson, Brighton, MI. First bike out 10 am, last out at noon, \$20 for the rider & \$15 for a passenger. Ride is approx 85 miles. Proceeds benefit memorial scholarship for future FFs and LEOs. Food & beverage to follow (included in price). For more info e-mail ZDHamilton1@gmail.com.

June 7 Benefit for Michigan Humane Society & Bike Blessing Excell Cycle's, S. Lyon, MI. Regis 10 am, kickstands up 11 am, \$10 pp, live Band, 2 hour ride, pig roast & more. For more info call 248-677-6413.

June 7
70's Party
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 10am-5am, free food, best 70's outfit contest, giveaways. For more info call 248-674-3175 or go to www.AbcHarleyDavidson.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 7
Michigan Riders Memorial Wall Charity Party
10520 Iosco Rd, Fowlerville, MI. \$10 donation, starts 4pm- it ends, music, food, free camping, & more. Presented by Knight of the Road M/C Fowlerville, MI.

June 8
State Park Motorcycle Run
Draw a card from at least 5 different state park locations then play your hand to win. Rain Date: June 15th. \$5 Recreation passport required to enter state parks. For map or more info go to www.michigan.gov/dnrcalendar after April 1st.

June 8
19th Annual Vintage Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet
Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI. 8 am- 6pm, \$10 pp, children 11 & under free, vintage sidecar rides, demo rides, demos, museum & more. For more info contact Vicki via email at v.van@mei.net or call 269-671-5089

June 8
John Rodick Memorial Observation Run
Jet Lounge, 401 N. Groesbeck Hwy, Mt. Clemens, MI. 11 am check-in, back to post at 6 pm, \$15 per poker hand, rain or shine, all bikes & cars welcome. For more info call Mike 586-610-9812 or call Tim at 586-808-2580 or email director@americanlegionriders4mi.com

June 8 Harley Heroes Ride ABC HD, Waterford, MI. Regis 10am-10:45am, ride 11am-12:30pm, \$20 includes gift, scenic ride route, lunch, live entertainment, all proceeds donated to the disabled American Veterans. For more info call 248-674-3175 or email info@abcharleydavidson.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 12
6th Annual Wheels & Heels- Siren's M/C Bike Show
Midland Street, Bay City, MI. Regis 5 pm-7 pm, trophies at 8pm, \$10 donation, only ladies ride-in bike show & fundraiser, live music, trophies & more.

June 12-14
26th Annual Sandy Corley Memorial Run
Double JJ Resort, Rothbury, MI. Live entertainment, auctions, prizes, primitive camping & much more. Get your tickets

early and save. For more info call 231-924-3020 or email hotadstrm@yahoo.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 14 Harley Fest Freedom Hill, Sterling Heights, MI. 10 am, featuring Jesse James Dupree of Jackyl and in concert, meet & greet & more. For more info go to www.freedom-hill.net (See full page ad this issue).

June 14
4th Annual Cops on a Run Benefit for MLEOM
2233 Burdette St, Ferndale, MI. Regis. 8 am, kickstands up 10 am, police escorted, \$25 rider, \$25 passenger & \$20 after party. For more info call 313-930-3853 or go to www.copsonarun.com

June 14
Central Lake's "Show off your Ride" Classic Car, Motorcycle, Truck & Show in memory of Alan Childs.
Central Lake Chamber Cabin 2587 N. M-88 Hwy, Central Lake, MI. \$5 Early regis before June 7th, \$10 day of show, regis at 8 am. Show begins at 10 am. For more info call Nick at (231) 676-3495 or for vendor space call Patty 231-676-4457 or go to www.central-lake.com

June 14
Habitat for Humanity Blessing of the Bikers
Downtown Saint Johns, MI. 9:30 regis for bike show. Bikers games, 50/50, noon blessing and 12:30 charity ride. For more info call 989-227-1771

June 14 Real Steel Weekend & 17th Annual Blessing of the Bikers Detroit World Outreach, Redford, MI. Bike show, blessing & ride. For more info go to www.dwo.org or Facebook RealSteel Weekend (See ad this issue).

June 14
Unity Biker Blessing
Victory Biker Church, Lennon, MI. Regis 10 am- 11:30 am, \$5 food, \$1 drinks, kickstands up at 3 pm, 60 mile ride, 2 live bands, guest speaker, bike show, pic with your bike, prizes, & more. For more info info@victorybikerchurch.org

June 14
Red Arrow Ride for Talons Out Honor Flight
VFW Red Arrow Post 1527, Kalamazoo,

MI. Regis 10 am, kickstands up at 1 pm, \$15 bike, \$20 double, pig roast, entertainment, camping avail, prizes & more. Public welcome. For more info (See ad this issue).

June 14-15
AHRMA Road Racing- Grattan Raceway
Grattan Raceway, Belding, MI. For more info call 616-691-7221

June 14 Care House Ride Wolverine HD, Clinton Township MI. Ride from Wolverine HD to Harley Fest. For more info call 586-463-7700 or go to wolverinehd.com (See full page this issue).

June 15
13th Annual Cadillac Moose Car & Motorcycle Show
Cadillac Moose Lodge #531, Cadillac, MI. 7 am - 4 pm, vehicle regis 7 am- 11 am, pre-regis before 15th \$10, day of show \$12, breakfast, lunch, trophies & cash prizes. For more info email ldge531@mooseunits.org or call 231-775-7629

June 14-22
Laconia Motorcycle Week

June 19 Thunder Thursdays FirstMerit Bank Event Park, Saginaw, MI. (Across from the Dow Event Center). Bobaflex, Romantic Rebel & Distorted Waltz. Summer concert series with live music. Starts at 6:30 pm, \$5 riders parking in venue, \$8 general public. More info to come (See full page ad this issue).

June 21 Boom Audio Workshop ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 12-2pm rsvp call 248-674-3175 or go to www.AbcHarleyDavidson.com (see full ad this issue)

June 19-22 Throttle Fest Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem Ave, Chicago, IL. Saturday 7 am Support Our Troops Ride, Saturday night Jackyl night, and Sunday 9 am Ride For Dime Motorcycle Run. For more info go to www.throttlefestchicago.com (See add this issue).

June 20-22 5th Annual Thunder at the River Manistee, MI. Event honors our US Military. Bike show, vendors, beer, Hooter girl bike wash, great food & more. For more info call John 231-477-5162 or go to www.thunderattheriver.com (See ad this issue).

June 20-22 10th Annual Ray C's Rodeo Friday-Sunday Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. Horsepower shootout, bike show, live music, pig roast, bike show, bike run, 3 full days of family fun. For more info go to www.raycsh-d.com or call 810-664-9261 (See full page ad this issue).

June 21
Women's Garage Party at T & C Town & Country HD, Cement City, MI. Ladies only event for new and soon to be riders. For more info call 517-547-3333 (See full page ad inside front cover).

WWW.THUNDERROADSMICHIGAN.COM

June 21
2nd Annual Ride to Remember in Memory of Mike & Melissa Jucius
Lapeer VFW post 4139, Lapeer, MI. Regis. 10am-Noon, approx. 100 mile ride with 4 stops, \$10 pp includes dinner. All bikes, cars, etc. welcome. Proceeds to local charities. For more info call Tim 810-358-8342

June 21 Nozzlemen Brighton HD, Brighton, MI. Regis 10:30-noon, \$20 bike, \$30 w rider. For more info go to www.nozzlemenmc.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 21 Michigan Military Memorial Wall Ride Centershot Gun Range, Dorr, MI. Regis 8 am- 10 am, kickstands up at 10 am, gun raffles, live auction, bike show & much more! \$25 per rider, \$15 passenger. \$15 non-riders. Come honor & pay respect to Michigan's Fallen Heros. For more info contact Chad 616-502-3199 or Janet 616-502-3068 (See ad this issue).

June 21
Walk for Cornerstone
Detroit Zoo, Detroit, MI. Begins at 8:30am, \$20 per walker, free parking & zoo admin, rain or shine. 100% proceeds benefits Kids attending Cornerstone Schools. For more info go to cornerstoneschools.org or call 1-800-343-0951

June 21
Bikers Fighting Blindness Poker Run
Estey Moose Lodge, Rhodes, MI. Regis 10:30 am – noon, \$15 pp includes dinner, prizes, free weekend camping, burn out pit & live music by Point Blank. For more info call Brenda 989-233-7327 or email brendas-fatboy@hotmail.com

June 21
5th Annual Thunder on the Grand Seats & Saddle Tour
DMBC Club House, Pottsville, MI. \$10 at the door. Bike show, bikini bike wash, battle of the bands, poker run, custom seats & saddle competition, hypnotist show, pyro show, vendors, SRP playing 9pm - 2 am. Doors open 8 am. For more info contact Loreen at 517-282-9846 or www.thunderonthegrand.com

June 21-22
24th Annual Summerfest Car & Motorcycle Show
Hillsdale County Fairgrounds, Hillsdale, MI. Sat 8 am- 4 pm, Sun 9 am- 3 pm. For more info or to regis your bike visit www.hillsdale-countychamber.com or call 517-439-4341

June 21-23
Hell to Paradise
This 3 day Ride event starts in Hell Michigan the morning of Saturday the 21 of June riding to Mackinaw City on the first leg of the ride, the second leg Sunday looping through the U.P. Paradise , the Falls, Ship wreck museum, H-58. 2 night in Mackinaw City (each responsible for your own lodging) with a great party Saturday night. For more info <http://www.bikernot.com/Event/110271>

June 24
MDA Run
AM Leather, Romulus, MI. Kickstands up at 9 am. For more info follow us on Facebook (See ad this issue).

June 25-29 Freedom Cruise Fifth Third Ball Park, Village of Sparta, Custom Car & Bike Shows, Gilmore Car Museum, visit with History Channels stars from Counting Cars, American Restoration & Were The Fagawi's MC. Incredible entertainment. For complete info go to www.freedomcruise.net (See full page ad this issue).

June 27-28
Bikers for Vets Poker Run
5280 N. Clare Ave, Harrison, MI. Regis 9:30 am- 10:30 am, live music, dj's, drinks, food, & more. For more info call 989-539-1713 or go to www.2helpvets.com

June 27-29
Hartford Bike Fest
Hartford, MI. Special guests Quiet Riot and Matt Austin. Car & Bike Show & IWF Pro Wrestling. For more info go to www.hartfordbikfest.com

June 27-28 2 Help Vets Presents Fight for Vets Lazy K Ranch Clare ave Harrison MI. Free admin, live entertainment, food, drinks, poker run, 50/50, auctions, camping. For more info call 989-539-1713 or go to www.2helpvets.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 27-28 Sturgis Fest Michigan 2014 Hamilton HD Sturgis MI. Live music, bike ride, car show, beer and food vendors, fireworks. For more info call 269-651-3424 or go to www.hamiltonharley-davidson.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 28
Thank a Veteran Ride
Vehicle City HD HOG Chapter, 2400 Austins Parkway, Flint, MI. Regis 9 am- 1 pm, \$20 rider, \$10 passenger, rain or shine, self-guided ride, food, music & more. Proceeds to local Veteran charities. For more info go to www.vehiclecityhog.org

June 29 Texas Corrals Great Lakes Burn Camp Ride Texas Corral, Kalamazoo, MI. Live music, food & drinks. For more info call 269-344-8590 (See full page ad this issue).

June 29 Ride for Freedom- Support our Veterans Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. 9am continental breakfast, ride departs at 11:30 am rain or shine, returns to Freedom Hill for food, drinks, music & tour of Michigan Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial. For more info, prices & to register contact Pat at 586-246-0876 or at 2talldaniels@gmail.com

JULY

July 5
Bike & Classic Car Show
Hawgsville Saloon, Watervliet, MI. All proceeds go to Michigan Veterans. For more info call 269-201-7120 (See ad this issue).

July 5
AMA Pro Motorcross
RedBud MX, Buchanan, MI. For more info call 386-492-1014 or visit www.amapracing.com

July 5 4th Annual Thunder on the Lakeshore Lake Street Cadillac MI. Live music, bike show, prizes, chicken bbq, beer tent. For more info go to www.cadillacmichigan.com (See ad this issue).

July 5 Turtle Races Beaverton Tavern, Beaverton, MI. Regis 8pm-9pm, races begins at 9pm, must be 21 to attend. The dumbest thing you will ever admit to attending, but the most fun! For more info contact BT 989-435-2094

July 9
Escort for Vietnam traveling wall.
Prudenville, MI. Knights of Columbus on Hwy 55 west of 75
Escort is 9.5 miles to Houghton Lake Roscommon Township Hall on Knapp road. Line-up is 2pm, kickstands up at 3. Escort is free.
P.O.C. is clerk@roscommontownship.com

July 9-14 30th Annual Ogemaw Hills Bike Week Ogemaw Co Fairgrounds, West Branch, MI. Live concerts, big bands, flat track races, bike games, corral party & more. For more info go to www.ogemawhills-bikeweek.com (See cover and full page ad this issue).

July 11-12 12th Annual Wheels of Thunder Michigan Ave, Downtown Jackson, MI. 11th 3 pm-10 pm & 12th- 10 am-10 pm. Battle of the Bands, Saturday Poker Run, food, vendors, local stores & restaurants open, custom bike builders, we honor the Men, Women, & Veterans from our Armed Forces, & more. For more info go to www.TheWheelsOfThunder.com in Memory of the WOT Founder, Joe Michner (See ad this issue).

July 12
Freedom Run Memorial Ride
Houghton Lake, MI. K-Mart lot, Kick stand up at 10am
Ride is aprox 1 1/2 hours to local Historical sites honoring our Military. Ride is free and will end at the Vietnam traveling wall. P.O.C. is clerk@roscommontownship.com

July 12
Mary's Dream H58 Fun Run
Elks Lodge in Newberry, MI. Starts at 9 am, proceeds to benefit the Diane Peppler Resource Center and others across the state. Poker run format, no bike- cars welcome. For more info go to www.marysdream2008.org

July 12 8th Annual Lyon Ride- Operation Injured Soldiers James Atchison Park, New Hudson, MI. Regis 11 am- noon, kickstands up at noon, \$20 per rider or passenger, includes ride, t-shirt & luncheon. For more info call 248-437-1144 or email info@injuredsoldiers.org (See ad this issue).

continued on next page

July 12
STAR Chapter 249's Anniversary Bash
St. Helens Power Sports, St Helens, MI. 10
am- 2:30, Stands up at noon, ride to last
about 1- 1 1/2 hours, lunch from 1:30 - 2:30,
\$10 donation per bike. For more info call
231-429-9244.

July 12-13
13th Annual Niles Burn Run
Downtown Niles, MI. 10 am- 10 pm, bike
show, food, bands & more. Ride on the
13th- regis 9 am, leaves at 11 am, \$20
bike, \$30 with rider if regis by June 24th.
For more info go to www.nilesburnrun.com (See full page ad this issue).

July 17
Thunder Thursdays
First Merit Bank Event Park, Saginaw,
MI. (Across from the Dow Event Center).
Summer concert series with live music.
Starts at 6:30 pm, \$5 riders parking in
venue, \$8 general public. More info to
come (See full page ad this issue).

July 17-20
Muskegon Bike Time
Muskegon, MI. Live music, extreme
custom bike show, burn out pit, stunt
shows, vendors & more. For more info
go to www.muskegonbiketetime.com (See
full page ad this issue).

July 19
Great Lakes Burn Camp Fundraiser
Axemen MC club house 8480, South St.
Detroit, MI. 1pm, live music, food 3pm,
\$15 donation. (See full page ad this
issue).

July 25-26
Downtown Cheboygan Music & Motorcycle
Festival
Main St, Cheboygan, MI. Music, food,
beverage tent, poker run & more. For more
info call Kirsten 231-627-9931

July 26
Thunder Through the Northwoods
Caberfae Peaks Ski & Golf Resort, Cadil-
lac, MI. Regis 9:30- noon, kickstands up
at noon, \$30 per bike (passenger incl),
free t-shirt, dinner included, 115 mile
ride, if bad weather silent auction, dinner
& music rain or shine. For more info go
to www.cadillacmichigan.com or email
cadillacbikeshow@gmail.com (See ad
this issue).

July 26
Shiawassee HD Ride in Bike Show
Shiawassee Sports Center, Birch Run,
MI. Regis 9 am - noon, judging in 3
classes: Stock, Custom, and Vintage/An-
tique plus a People's Choice Award. Live
Auction, hot dog & beverage stand. For
more info call Shiawassee Sports Center
989-624-4400

July 27
Shiawassee Michigan H.O.G. Chapter
#3271 14th Annual Mystery Ride
Shiawassee Sports Center, Birch Run,
MI. Regis 10 am- noon, \$15 pp includes
scenic 100 mile self-guided ride, excel-
lent buffet dinner, lots of door prizes,
awards, a "big pot" 50/50 drawing. For
more info call Dee at 810-922-7571 or
Steve at 810-931-3195

July 26-27
Barons M/C Summerfest 2014 Two-Day
Event
Downtown village of Gaines & Barons M/C
Clubhouse. Free admis, village street
blocked off, everyone welcome both days.
July 26- Family Fun 10 am, car & tractor
show, dunk tank, bounce house, fire truck
displays, fire safety & more.
July 27- Motorcycle Mania, 1 pm, motor-
cycle parking only, bike show, New York
Strip dinner \$10, live music & more. For
more info call Rob 810-223-3327 or email
robfrench1978@gmail.com

AUGUST

August 2
2nd Annual Driftwood Charity Fun Ride
Driftwood Bar & Grill, Newaygo, MI.
Regis 10 am, starts 11 am, \$10pp. For
more info call 231-652-2686 or email
driftwoodbarandgrill@gmail.com

August 3
3rd Annual Kevin "MOSES" Memorial
Ride
9979 S 8 Mile Rd, Vogel Center, MI. Ar-
rive by 11am to register, ride leaves 1pm
sharp, Michael J from WUPS 98.5 FM is
here live. Burgers, hot dogs, homemade
ice cream & more. Numerous prize
drawings--50/50 drawing. All proceeds
benefit Museum of Moses. For more info
go to www.museumofmoses.com or call
231-825-2219

August 4-10
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

August 9
Escort the Kids to Great Lakes Burn
Camp
Meet at Wings Stadium, Kalamazoo
MI. Regis 10am-12:30pm, Ride Leaves
1pm. Prizes, Food, 50/50. For more info
contact Bill 517-206-1115 (see full pg ad
this issue).

August 9
8th Annual Ride Against Domestic Violence
Ewart County Fairgrounds, Mt. Pleasant,
MI. Regis at 9 am, Kick stands up at 11 am
sharp, 50 mile police escorted ride. \$25
per bike. For more info email marys-dream2008@yahoo.com and go to www.marysdream2008.org

August 9
6th Annual Going to Hell and Back
Screams Ice Cream Store, Hell, MI. 11am-
4pm, proceeds to military families. For more
info go to www.mfuofmichigan.com

August 9
10th Annual Wounded America Run
Biker Bobs HD, Taylor, MI. 10:30 am- noon,
\$15 pp, ride track for \$10.

August 14-16
2014 Michigan State Hog Rally- The
Great Lakes Rally
Birch Run Expo Center, Birch Run, MI.
HOG members only. Pre-register by
June 26th for best rate & gifts. Riding,
live music, bike games, bike shows,
prizes, food & more. For more info call
Gary 989-860-8022

August 15
28th Annual Midnight Ride
Departing from Meijer on 10 mile rd,
Rockford, MI. Departs at Midnight on
Friday heading to St. Ignace for bike show,
museum, parade & more. For ride sched-
ule, route, stops, all specifics go to www.jdrwestmichigan.com or call Harry & Marcia
at 616-363-2159

August 15-16
Lady Biker Day Bike Run
Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls, MI.
Friday night beach party, Saturday night
BBQ, silent auction & 50/50 & poker run.
For more info contact drjohnson03@yahoo.com

August 15-17
Hog Daze Motorcycle Rally
Marion, Indiana. Great bands, charity
ride, old school bike night & burlesque.
For more info go to showmegrantcounty.com (see ad this issue).

August 16
2nd Annual MDA Ride 4 the Cure
Zips 45th Parrallel HD, Gaylord MI. Regis
11am, kickstands up 1pm. If pre regis
by July 18th cost only \$25 per rider, \$35
per couple, escorted ride, pig roast,
auctions. To regis call 517-706-0348 or
go to www2.mda.org/mdaride2014 (see
ad this issue)

August 21
Thunder Thursdays
First Merit Bank Event Park, Saginaw,
MI. (Across from the Dow Event Center).
Summer concert series with live music.
Starts at 6:30 pm, \$5 riders parking in
venue, \$8 general public. More info to
come (See full page ad this issue).

August 28- September 1
Milwaukee Rally 2014

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
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To get your event listed in Thunder Roads
Magazine and on our website, send the
information to

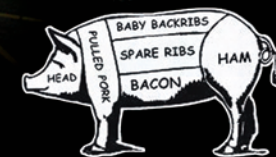
Editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com
Event information must be received prior to
the 10th of the month preceding the event
month to be posted in the magazine.

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.

RAIN OR SHINE EVERY FRIDAY AT THE OUTDOOR PAVILION!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RIDE TO COME AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!
FRIDAY BIKE NIGHT

FULL BAR!
BAR OPENS AT 5 PM

NEW!
SIZZLIN' BBQ



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FACT OR FICTION?

Vintage Motorcycle Brands

CREDIT How Stuff Works

Many Americans are obsessed with vintage motorcycles. Ask 10 enthusiasts which brands are the best and you just might get 10 different answers. Take a spin at our motorcycle quiz to see what you know about these vintage bikes and the companies that make them.

1. T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia, was a Harley-Davidson aficionado.
2. Honda had a successful ad campaign featuring the tag line, "You Meet the Nicest People on a Honda."
3. At the turn of the last century, there were only two motorcycle manufacturers in America.
4. The Harley-Davidson Company was launched in 1953.
5. The value of a vintage motorcycle is determined exclusively by its age.
6. Vintage bikes are generally considered those made before 1974.
7. The Sears & Roebuck Catalog once sold motorcycles.
8. No British-made vintage motorcycles are highly sought after.
9. Philip Conrad Vincent, the founder of Vincent-HRD, studied at Oxford.
10. Steve McQueen, James Dean and Bob Dylan all rode Triumph motorcycles.
11. Cafe racing describes a type of racing that involves drinking coffee while riding.
12. Flathead and Knucklehead are models made by Honda.
13. T.E. Lawrence named many of his Brough Superior motorcycles after Queen Victoria.
14. Elvis Presley rode only Hondas.
15. BMW motorcycles are known by many fans as "the thinking man's motorcycle."
16. Moto Guzzi motorcycles have been in production for 100 years.
17. Japanese-made bikes in the 1970s put pressure on other companies to improve their motorcycles' reliability.
18. Before it made motorcycles, Kawasaki made furniture.
19. It's impossible to buy a vintage motorcycle for less than \$100,000.
20. At the time of their release, some Brough Superior motorcycles cost as much as a house.

ANSWERS

1. FICTION: Lawrence was definitely a motorcycle aficionado, but was the owner of numerous Brough Superiors and was driving one in the crash that killed him.
2. FACT: It's those Honda ads that are credited with widening the popularity of motorcycling.
3. FICTION: There were hundreds of motorcycle makers at the beginning of the 20 century, although many simply slapped motors on bicycles.
4. FICTION: The company was started 50 years earlier in 1903 by two brothers and a friend.
5. FICTION: Many factors contribute to the value of a bike, including its condition, the number originally made and whether anybody famous rode one.
6. FICTION: There's no set age that makes a bike vintage. In fact some experts believe Japanese models made in the 1980s can be considered vintage.
7. FACT: During its 100 years in existence, the Sears & Roebuck Catalog sold motorcycles at various times.
8. FICTION: Many motorcycles made in the United Kingdom are valuable and sought after, including those by companies like Brough Superior and Triumph.
9. FICTION: Vincent actually studied mechanical engineering at Cambridge.
10. FACT: All three superstars rode the British brand, giving an invaluable boost to the motorcycle's image.
11. FICTION: Popular in the 1960s and 1970s, cafe racing involved racing for the duration of a song.
12. FICTION: Both are popular motorcycles made by Harley-Davidson.
13. FICTION: Lawrence named his bikes George I, George II etc., up through George VII, the bike he was riding during his fatal accident.
14. FICTION: Presley rode Hondas, Harleys and many other types of motorcycles.
15. FACT: Devotees of the German brand praise the company for the bikes' elegant engineering and simple maintenance.
16. FICTION: The company is on its way to 100. It celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2011.
17. FACT: In the years before Japanese companies made a big splash in the motorcycle business, many riders had to spend as much time fixing their bikes as they did riding them.
18. FICTION: The Japanese company made just about everything but furniture, including ships, jets and heavy machinery before it got into the motorcycle business.
19. FICTION: Vintage bikes can cost as little as \$100 to \$200 or as much as \$1 million depending on several factors.
20. FACT: Known as the Rolls Royce of motorcycles, Brough Superiors were made for affluent people who could spend on a bike what others would spend on a place to live.

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ABATE OF MICHIGAN

OBSERVATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND ADVICE

By virtue of my job I have had the unique experience of being somewhat of a silent observer in Michigan's State Capitol for 19 years. I have seen governors come and go; numerous legislators come and go, lobbyists, news reporters, and office staff. I have been at so many political rallies for so many causes I am sure I cannot remember them all. Most in an official capacity and several as an annual participant.

I would like to share some observations, conclusions and advice for what it may be worth.

In the years prior to term limits there were a tremendous number of senior elected members of the house and senate. These guys had "weight". They had the power to effect the operations of government in a substantive manner. I think they individually had more gravitas in influencing legislation than most do now. Good or bad.

Since term limits and so many frequent changes of legislators it's clear that these elected people are not "special", "exceptional", or different than any of us for the most part. They come from all backgrounds, have little or a lot of education, and come in like high school freshmen. They have enthusiasm. That hit's the political machine, and their schooling begins.

The political machine as I see it is just the meat grinder that is turned by the constant presence of the same groups of attendees every day. What comes out of the grinder depends on what goes in, who gets to decide what goes in, and who has the best grip on the handle. Predominantly that consists of the Governor, The Speaker of the house, the Senate leader, and Lobbyists.

Having influence amongst that particular group of power mongers first requires understanding the process, and second building the coalition's amongst your peers to become valuable to them in completing their agenda's. This means tradeoffs. A group of likeminded reps use their votes to pass the power mongers bills to have their issues accepted as grinder content and hopefully eventually passed.

Lobbyists have perhaps the most influence in the grinder's content. They do not have term limits, and many are former legislators with complete training on how the process works. They are backed by either big money, or a lot of members, and often were very involved in assisting the elections of those who will support their interests. And they are always there.

I am just skimming the surface here; someday I may have to write a book. But the conclusion I want to impress upon folks is how important each of us participation in this circus is. These people we elect control our lives, money, taxes, and future in a major way. It may seem like we have little individual influence. Not necessarily so. We all have to go meet the potential candidates for office before the election. Run them through our own personal meat grinder and get to really know them.

Abate is an excellent example. We seriously vet all potential candidates. We have them come speak at our meetings, and take questions. We are a citizen lobbyist group and we have a long history of being very involved. We make sure we have access to the power mongers and we influence what goes or does not go into the grinder. What we have done as a political lobbying group would never have been accomplished by an individual.

I am going to tell you there are legislators in Lansing I wouldn't give a pack of matches too. They defy comprehension as to how they got elected. There are some very conscientious legislators too, that are well vetted and truly are there to work for the constituents of their districts.

Don't vote based on campaign ads. Ever. Don't vote based on party affiliation. Ever. If you can afford to belong to a lobbying group that represents your rights or beliefs, join. Lobbying is not going away, and the best defense is a good offense.

And finally, if you're a motorcyclist please Join Abate. ~ Rusty



Rusty Bongard
Communications Director, ABATE of Michigan
State Rep. MRF
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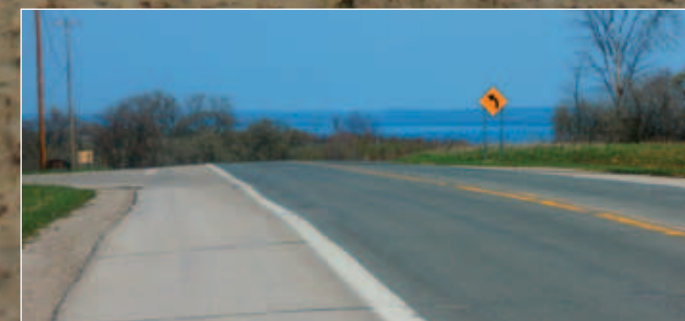
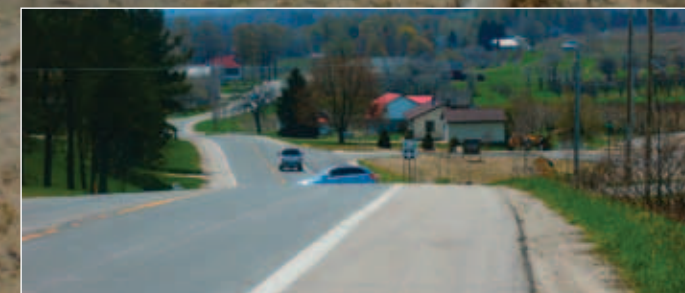
by Mark Douglas

Last month we showed you the vineyard ride around Leelanau Peninsula, leaving from Central Lake, heading south down through Traverse City, and up and around M-22 back down to Empire. Instead of going through Traverse on M-72/US-31, just before downtown you will come to M-37N. This time we are taking M-37 north the 18 miles to the top of Mission Peninsula. This beautiful route has many vineyards. Multiple wineries are open during the summer months, offering tours and winetasting.

While this ride is short there are many interesting side roads that will take you to places like Old Mission Village. This is a nice run to the east and is really worth seeing. Another great stop is at the north end of M-37 in Old Mission State Park. The road ends at the Mission Point lighthouse. You can tour the lighthouse and checkout all the history behind it, which in itself is worth the run, especially if you are into that kind of thing.

Heading back south, turn right on to Bowers Harbor Rd, this will take you to Peninsula Rd, where you will turn left to go back down the west side of the peninsula. This road hugs the shore all the way back to Traverse City, with a couple restaurants on the way, and beautiful scenery, including some pretty nice views of Powers & Fox Island, and The Leelanau Peninsula.

If you do the peninsula route the way we show you here, you're not going to go much more than 50 miles, so it may be considered a side trip on a longer tour, such as The Leelanau Vineyard Route. Whichever way you decide, it's a definite must do while riding in this beautiful area.



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Group Riding

Quick Tips from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation

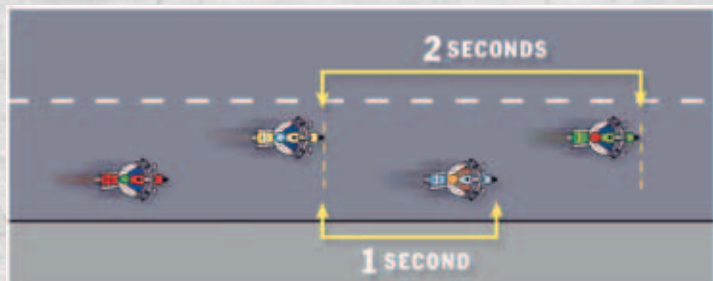
Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but for many, riding as a group – whether with friends on a Sunday morning ride or with an organized motorcycle rally – is the epitome of the motorcycling experience. Here are some tips to help ensure a fun and safe group ride:

Arrive prepared. Arrive on time with a full gas tank.

Hold a riders' meeting. Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals (see diagrams on next page). Assign a lead and sweep (tail) rider. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures. The leader should assess everyone's riding skills and the group's riding style.

Keep the group to a manageable size, ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, each with a lead and sweep rider.

Ride prepared. At least one rider in each group should pack a cell phone, first-aid kit, and full tool kit, so the group is prepared for any problem that they might encounter.



Ride in formation. The staggered riding formation (see diagram below) allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.



Avoid side-by-side formations, as they reduce the space cushion. If you suddenly needed to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so. You don't want handlebars to get entangled.

Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror. If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so they may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.

If you're separated from the group, don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up. **For mechanical or medical problems,** use a cell phone to call for assistance as the situation warrants.



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WOUNDED AMERICA



BY Debra Wright



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For 2014 the 10th year for the Wounded America Event two soldier ambassadors were able to be selected.

SGT Michelle Rudzitis
 PFC Marissa Strock

As always, we now honor these two severely wounded soldiers with holding the event to benefit their recovery.

Each soldier has their story which is our nightmares. SGT Michelle Rudzitis endured getting hit by a roadside bomb in a Humvee. Driver died and 2 other were badly injured. Michelle lost her left leg and her right is badly damaged. She is now healing from her physical and mental injuries.

PFC Marissa Strock, who was also wounded from a bomb that threw her from her Humvee. There were three others with her that were killed. Marissa lost both of her legs. She too is healing from her physical and mental injuries.

All these soldiers go to war and live for months and years in a world unknown to us. They're trained to survive and we all pray that they do. But, when they come home after a long period of war, fitting back into our normal way of living is a big adjustment.

With the Wounded America Event a handful will be helped. It can be a start and a continuing effort we can do to help.

Proceeds benefit Marissa and Michelle's recovery.

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Biker Bobs Harley Davidson Dealership is open to visit for parts, motor clothes, accessories, or just buy a bike! After all this there is still more to the day. The road captains lead the riders to Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI. The track is open to take riders on the track. The road captains give outrides on the track to the Veterans and their family.



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One thing about bikers, they are very charitable! They host and support more events than any other organization and give more to those in need whether it be for the kids, veterans, people with illness or have fallen on hard times, you can be assured bikers will be there to support. With that being said, Thunder Roads of Michigan is proud to introduce someone that lives her life helping others, Stacie (Mohowitsch) Zotkovich. Congratulations Stacie, on your recent crowning as Mrs. Michigan United States 2014.

A dedicated wife, mother, and working professional, Stacie finds strength in her favorite quote, "Obstacles are what you see when you lose sight of your goals." Stacie states, "Over the course of my life, I have been able to impact people on a daily basis, most often through my community service work and experience as an elementary school teacher for underprivileged children. However, the Mrs. United States title would afford me the opportunity to impact lives at a greater level, specifically the lives of women. All women have a story and have been impacted by loss, challenges, or some other form of adversity. As Mrs. United States, my purpose would be to help women realize we are all united by similar experiences of pain, and through this, we can achieve greatness by supporting each other."

We are proud of you Stacie and wish you Good Luck in the final competition to be held in Las Vegas for Mrs. United States!

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Bullet Points

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You asked for it, and we have answers! We field many questions about carrying pistols, whether openly or concealed. Most of these questions come up in every class.

If I have my Concealed Pistol License (CPL), that means I have to carry concealed, right?

With your CPL, you may carry openly or concealed. There is no requirement that you maintain concealment with your CPL.

What is open carry? Is it allowed in Michigan?

Open carry is not defined in Michigan law. There are no laws for or against open carry, therefore it is legal in Michigan. Open carry means carrying the gun so that it is seen. Without a CPL, you have to be careful that it never becomes concealed. With a CPL, you may switch between the two methods at will.

If I print (showing outline of gun under clothing), isn't that considered brandishing? What if my gun accidentally becomes visible?

Several years ago, an opinion by the Attorney General for the State of Michigan was published. This opinion defined "brandishing." Now, between that opinion, and the fact that open carry is becoming more widespread, there is no need to worry about printing or your gun becoming visible. In order for you to be considered brandishing your firearm, you must be threatening someone with it.

Why do people open carry? Isn't that dangerous?

Open carry is often politically motivated. Thanks to the many open carry groups in Michigan, the laws and the enforcement of

the laws are becoming streamlined. The opinion on brandishing was likely one effect of open carry. The Michigan State Police Legal Update 86 answers a lot of the questions for police about carry, particularly open carry, that weren't always answered consistently in the past. The MSP Legal Updates are an awesome resource for non-officers, though they were designed to be guides for officers in the completion of their duties.

Open carry also serves to bring notice to the fact that people carry firearms, and to help show other people that it's normal to see someone with a gun on their hip, and that the person carrying poses no threat to others. Obviously, there are certain risks that go along with open carry, and it's possible that you may end up having a chat with police, as they respond to a call by someone who is afraid of you with your gun.

Open carry makes your gun more visible to everyone, and this includes criminals. This may mean that the criminal chooses another target, or it could inadvertently escalate the situation before it even begins. Your gun is more readily accessible, should you need to defend your life with it, but you have also lost the element of surprise.

Whether you decide to carry openly, or concealed, be sure you think about the advantages and disadvantages of both. If you'd like to get involved with open carry, Michigan Open Carry is an excellent group, and they've been around for years. They will often have open carry gatherings, like at parks and some restaurants, which are open to any who wish to attend.

If you do choose to carry openly, I strongly recommend the use of a retention holster. This will help prevent anyone from taking your own gun from you. Be sure to train with any holster you use, as you need to be familiar with how your holster works. When you need it, you need to be able to access your gun without fumbling. Training with your holster, and the firearm you will be carrying, may someday save your life.

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Looks like we have warm weather!

YES YES YES! Spring was a bit late and so was the usual mad rush of bikes but sure enough they came ... YES! One fairly common maintenance issue popped its nasty head this spring and we found it on two bikes so far ... compensator sprocket problems! Since it seems to be a bit of a trend in the industry with Harley right now I thought we would talk about these buggers. The first bike in the shop with the problem was a 2005 Dyna with a well-built engine ... and I mean nice! If you run into this bike on the road watch out, it is fast and it has an abundance of torque. The other problem child was a 2008 Road King that had noise in the primary and some wild starter kickback (a problem with the newer Harleys) and it had trouble starting once and a while when hot also.

What is a compensator sprocket anyway? Basically it was designed to take up some of the power inconsistencies in the V-Twin engine to make your life a little smoother. It is located under the primary cover and attached to the main shaft of the engine in front of the rotor/stator assembly (FIG 1). It is the front sprocket in the primary chain assembly and the back sprocket is attached to the clutch hub in the rear. This whole primary chain/sprocket assembly's job is to take the engine power and transfers it to the transmission which in turn shoves that power to the rear tire via a chain or belt. They have not been too much of a problem in the older bikes as long as you're not a drag racer, then most of those guys went to a compensator eliminating sprocket. With that being said you riders are putting some serious miles on your bikes in no time with little maintenance. Compared to the older bikes too so my guess is if you rode those older bikes like you are riding today's bike's we would probably see some issues.

So how do you know if your compensator is bad or going bad? Symptoms may be: 1. Getting a kickback in your starter when trying to start 2. May make it hard to start when warm 3. Clunky shifting, hard shifting or trouble finding neutral 4. And lastly, noise and or vibration from the primary case, sometimes a whining sometimes a ticking or growling.



FIG 1 2006-2009 Dyna and 2007-2009 FLH primary.

Compensator problems are well known in the newer bikes; the stock compensators just are not taking the bigger engine torque being put out today, Harley came up with a Screaming Eagle Compensator patch a while ago for \$250.00. However, they never admitted there was a problem, and then they had a problem with that kit so they did some re-engineering and now a new kit is available. This kit will cost you \$299.00 (FIG 2), then \$50.00 for some adhesive to glue in an oil deflector supplied in kit that attaches to your primary cover, oh and another \$105.00 for a new rotor because Harley says the new fix will not work with your stock rotor... Oh yeah you will also need a 70 Torx bit for the new compensator bolt too, but hey! You get to keep your stator and stock primary cover so that's some good news! Sorry but there is no real data on the new Screaming Eagle Compensator Sprocket kit yet, just because the old kit didn't work as expected I am not going to be a negative nedd ... Let's be positive and say they have it worked out now. **A little fun fact** ... Harley has made three changes to the compensator since 2000 with the newest change made in 2014(FIG 3). **Tech Tip** ... do you see that automatic primary adjuster in FIG 1? It is the nylon shoe thingy in between the compensator and the clutch assembly. This was Harleys answer to make the bike a little more maintenance free and take out some of the primary chain noise. The problem is that it can over tighten and it does not have the ability to back off its tension, which makes a recipe for bearing failure, vibration and noise, well crap that was everything it was supposed to take care of. Haydon Enterprises has a fix for the FLH's and actually it makes their style tensioner for most all big twins and sportsters, look em up they have been around for a long time (FIG 4)



FIG 2 New Screaming Eagle Compensator Kit PN 42200064A



FIG 3 The new 2014 Compensator with yellow arrow pointing out all the changed components from 2013.



FIG 4 Haydon primary chain adjuster

OK, **back on point!** There are others options to fix the compensator problem, one comes from BDL (FIG 5) and one from Vulcan Engineering Company (FIG 6) and they are around \$200.00. Neither of these compensators needs the rotor replaced and no further modifications needed. The Vulcan is a straight forward compensator eliminator solid two gear sprocket; no moving parts no buffering capabilities. The BDL has no springs but does have compensating abilities; they are limited compared to stock. The BDL and Vulcan versions boast a lot less weight hanging out there off the main shaft, long life and no wear out problems compared to the stock and screaming eagle versions, but it's not a perfect world. Both the Vulcan and the BDL may add some vibration, most likely if your compensator is on the outs and making all kinds of primary case noise, if you choose this route you should get a quite bike with less vibration than what you had.



FIG 5 BDL 32 tooth compensator sprocket



FIG 6 Vulcan Engineering Compensator Eliminator Sprocket

The compensator problem is for stock and non-stock bikes alike, it simply is not able to take the newer 88"-96"-103" motor output, there are several choices for you to correct the issue though and that is always nice! **Another tidbit** ... all you throttle hounds keep in mind as you build your bike and gain all that wonderful HP and Torque there are things inside your bike that were not meant to take all that and those parts will tend to break or wear out quicker and remember as you fix one thing the next weaker link will break or wear out, the harder you ride the more you have to build that machine to take that habit Brothers and Sisters! Here is another little **tech tip**, when you take the primary all apart take a very good look at your clutch assembly and all its components, **including the clutch hub splines!**

Please email me questions, concerns or corrections anytime! Please stop in and say hello this summer and look for our summer and fall party's to be announced soon ... if you have a Facebook account follow us there for the latest in pictures and events! God Bless all you people, you are FANTASTIC!

Steve



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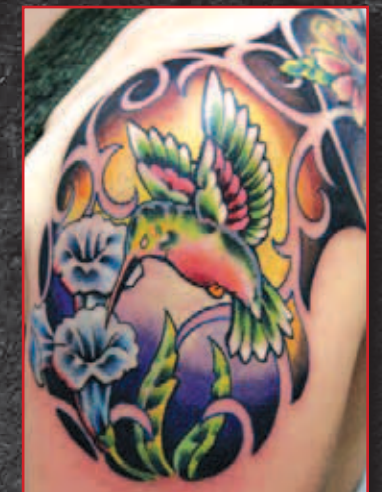
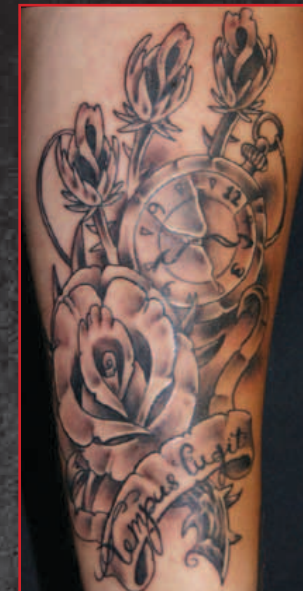
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