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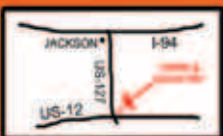
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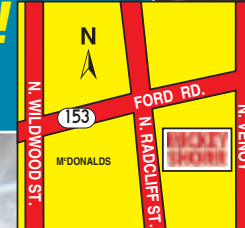
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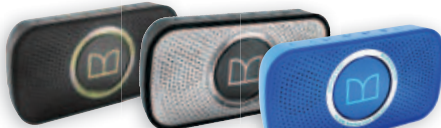
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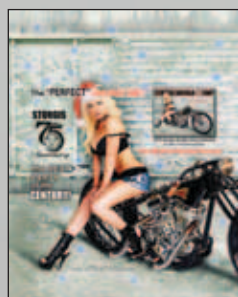


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## ON THE COVER

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 PHOTOGRAPHER Sam T'ang Productions  
 BIKE Chop DeVille  
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**Happy Holidays!**

Well another year has almost come and gone, hard to believe isn't it? As I look back over the year I am baffled that it is already December! It seems like just yesterday we were able to ride our scooters heading to our favorite bike night or event. Brings a little tear to my eye that winter is upon us already! That's the great state we live in and we know this happens every year. So let's try and find a positive; maybe it's time to buy a sled! At least there is fun inside events still happening. So be sure to check them out! Make sure to clear your calendar on February 7th for our 2nd Annual Thunder Fun Night (See ad this issue) and be sure to make your reservation early! This is a night of meeting new people, letting loose from the everyday grind and just having some good ol' fashion fun! So if you like having excessive amounts of fun, laughing a whole bunch, maybe dancing a bit or winning great prizes... you better reserve your spot today, because this will fill up fast!

In this issue we have some exciting articles like our Holiday Gift Buying Guide, which is designed to help you find that perfect gift for that hard to buy person in your life and a new game of Sudoku provided by the beautiful and talented Geneva. Also, our advertisers are having some wonderful specials & deals this month; take a look at each ad to see exactly what fantastic deals are going on!

Thank you to our fine advertisers for their support and for making Thunder Roads Michigan the #1 Free Motorcycle Magazine in the state. Please be sure to patronize our advertisers when you are looking for any biker friendly business.

Last month the Biker Friendly character was on page 27. See if you can find him this month (larger version found in the Biker Friendly Directory). Be sure to like Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan on Facebook as I randomly post contests to win prizes and you wouldn't want to miss that!

**Now for some "Mo" Advice:**

*The best revenge is massive success. ~ Frank Sinatra*

*Is it not about turning lemons into lemonade, believing in yourself and not letting a person or something get the best of you? So my advice for you is to recognize that all the people that have ever said or did something to YOU that hurt you and left a scar are not worth your time and energy! Now you have just been given ultimate motivation to make them- eat your dust! Always kill them with kindness and live the greatest, happiest and fullest life! Fake it till' you make it and NEVER let em' see you sweat! Besides, you know what they say, "Karma's a B...bleeep!"*



*Jody Mohowitsch*



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# READERS RIDES

Don Robb



Bike was built by AR Bagger Ian Armstrong and myself  
Paint by Razrart Ray Armstrong  
Photos by Don Kates Shooter Images

The bike started as an extremely clean 2007 Harley Road King with a 96 motor with a 6 speed trans with 8500 miles on it. In 2014, we started with an idea. We started hand-laying fiberglass to build every body panel on the bike. We went with a low and long look to create the old school muscle look with front and rear air ride with 2 holding tanks and a 180x18 front wheel and 180x16 rear. All of this bike gauges, stereo system, air ride and built in diagnostics system are run by an Ipad mini. The stereo system includes 1-10 inch subwoofer, 4- 6x9's and 2- 3 1/2 inch speakers ran from a 1000 watt 5 channel amp all Polk Competition Series AM and speakers bike motor. The wheels and front end are completely chrome. All internal wiring for a clean look with a hydraulic clutch. This bike is currently for sale. Please contact donrobb21@yahoo.com for details \$35,000



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# VETERANS CORNER



Hello frozen Michigan! It looks like we won't get above freezing here for at least another week! I hope your bike is tucked away good for winter hibernation and our reader hunters got a deer.

## Veterans Affairs Medical Center Answers to Service Members' Concerns

A town hall meeting was held for Northern Michigan veterans concerned about their medical care. Doctors from the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center met with veterans in Traverse City as a part of a series of meetings taking place across the state. While many issues stood out, one of the main topics was rural access.

While the state of Michigan is ranked low, nation-wide, for veteran benefits and care, the staff of the VA Medical Center are looking to improve it. They opened the floor to veterans today to hear their concerns.

Veterans got the chance to have their questions answered in a town-hall style meeting at the American Legion post in Traverse City. The idea of the get-together is for leaders from the VA Medical Center to hear ways they can better medical care for veterans.

"I think the meeting went really well for us today," said Chris Blasy, Chief of Staff at Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw. "We were able to get some information from people who have some suggestions on opportunities for us to improve."

Issues ranged from under-staffed clinics to the Affordable Care Act. One issue, though, rose above the others. "In Northern Michigan, there's some challenges as far as transportation," Blasy said. "We do have opportunities to improve our ability to get some of our disabled veterans to their services."

Veterans like Neal Horning said the problem is very real. "We have people from up here who go to Detroit," Horning said. "Now you take a guy that's mid-70's or 80's and he's got to make a trip like that in a DAV van. To me, that's not right."

The Q-and-A session proved to be beneficial for both veterans and the meeting's organizers with both sides viewing it in a positive light. "We're always looking for opportunities and ways to improve and we have to think in terms of different ways to solve the issues," Blasy said. "We got a long way to go, but long as we keep going the right way, the right direction, which I think they are, we'll be doing just fine," Horning said.

The Veterans Medical Clinic plans to hold more meetings like this so they can get to the bottom of problems faster.

## 'Dogs of War:' A&E makes reality show about veterans struggling with PTSD

When Jim Stanek returned from his deployment with the 1st Infantry Division of the Army with a traumatic brain injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, he saw first-hand in therapy the impact service dogs can have on veterans. But when he and his wife, Lindsey, tried to get him a service dog, they faced long waiting lists and price tags of up to \$60,000.

"We decided to take it upon ourselves to try and address the issue head on," Lindsey Stanek told FOX411. So they founded Paws and Stripes, an organization that trains rescue dogs and veterans to work together so the shelter animals can be service dogs for their veteran owners. The program is funded by donations and is free for the veterans.

Now, their efforts are being brought into the spotlight as part of a new series on A&E titled "Dogs of War." The show premiered on Veterans Day

The veterans are paired with dogs and the two go through an extensive nine-to-12-month training program so they can learn how to best help each other.

"Every episode we focus on one veteran going through the program," he explained. "I have the honor of mentoring our veterans as they go through the process."

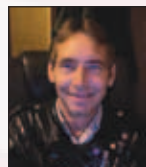
They've had a lot of success since they first launched their organization, Lindsey Stanek added.

"We have graduated over 50 service dogs, we have rescued more than 60 and we've provided mental health [help] to about 85 veterans," she said.

"A&E has really stepped up to the plate and was really willing to tackle the problem our veterans face -- and especially to put it on TV. The show is going to be an emotional roller-coaster," he predicted. "[The show is] just a glimpse of what it's like when you're a veteran living with it."

Lindsey Stanek added that she hopes the series will be appreciated by family members of veterans who may feel like no one fully understands what they go through. She said the show will show viewers what life is like for a veteran struggling with PTSD and other injuries.

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# The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

## Looking Back at Some of the Highlights of 2014

I recently got a Certificate of Appreciation in the mail from the Detroit-Metro Regional Consortium (the Consortium). Earlier this year, I had a unique opportunity to give back to the biker community by donating one of my personal motorcycles - a Suzuki TU 250X with barely any miles on it - to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). The bike is now being used for rider training at Schoolcraft College as part of their Motorcycle Safety Program.

The Consortium offers "hands-on, comprehensive motorcycle training... taught by professional, certified instructors," as per their website. When Debbie Parinello, a member of my staff, mentioned the Consortium's need for training bikes, I didn't hesitate; I'm always looking for concrete ways to give back, and this one was a no-brainer, especially since I did my own motorcycle safety training course at the same location many years ago.

Getting the certificate and letter of thanks in the mail got me thinking about some of the other positives from 2014, and I thought I would use this opportunity to summarize some of the highlights we've seen for motorcyclists in Michigan as well as for our firm.

Overall, 2014 was a good year for my team and I in terms of giving back to the biker community. In February, we launched our new Biker Card, which helps motorcyclists in two ways: First, it allows bikers to easily carry first aid information that could potentially save a life in the event of a crash. We've handed out hundreds of these cards this year, and we are glad that so many Michigan motorcyclists will have this potentially life-saving information with them if they need it. Second, our Biker Card gets the cardholder discounts and freebies at over 100 Michigan vendors, which we hope will encourage riders to try new products, services, and restaurants while they're out enjoying the open road. We also had many, many requests for our "Watch for Motorcycles" bumper stickers, especially during Motorcycle Awareness Month in May. Our goal is to get as many bumper stickers as possible onto cars across America in order to remind drivers that motorcycles are everywhere.

Also in May, House Bill No. 4781 was passed. This Bill amends the section of Michigan's vehicle code (MCL 257.306) that deals with the Temporary Instruction Permits (TIPs) for motorcyclists. TIPs were designed to give new motorcyclists the chance to practice riding before taking their rider skills test, but some people were applying for a new TIP every year instead of getting their full CY endorsement, which is a requirement to ride legally on Michigan's roads. Starting January 1, 2015, the new law limits the number of TIPs granted to riders to just two in every ten-year period. That's more than enough time to practice for a Skills Test if the rider doesn't want to take a certified Rider Safety Course (Note: I always recommend that new riders take a certified Rider Training Course). Ultimately, limiting TIPs is a good way to encourage more motorcyclists to get their CY endorsement.

This fall, "Nathan's Law" (House Bill No. 5438) was passed into law. The new law is named for Nathan Bower, a young rider who was killed in a motorcycle-vehicle crash back in 2009. It mandates that driver education programs must "include information concern-

ing the laws pertaining to bicycles and motorcycles and shall emphasize awareness of their operation on the streets, roads, and highways of this state." In other words, motorcycle awareness is finally a mandatory part of driver education programs, a win for motorcycle safety advocates. Obviously there is still much to do in terms of promoting motorcycle awareness and safety among motor vehicle drivers, but teaching young drivers to "Watch for Motorcycles" from the beginning is certainly a step in the right direction.

Finally, in November my team and I were pleased to announce that we have been named one of America's "Best Law Firms", according to U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers®. We offer clients the highest value of service possible; with free consultations, our no-win, no-fee policy, our commitment to giving back to the biker community, and all the free information we provide via our website and magazine articles like this one. I also found out this fall that I have once again been named to Michigan's Super Lawyers list. I am honored to be one of only five percent of Michigan attorneys named to the list of 2014 Michigan Super Lawyers. I'm also very proud of my team, because they have helped make our firm one of the "Best Law Firms" for injured motorcyclists.

Now that I've looked back at 2014, it's time to start looking forward: My hope for the coming year is to see an overall reduction in motorcycle crashes, injuries, and fatalities. I hope we continue to see positive legislation that will promote motorcycle awareness and safety without restricting riders' freedoms. I hope my team and I can continue to give back to the biker community by helping injured motorcyclists and their families and by doing our best to prevent crashes by promoting motorcycle awareness. Finally, I wish all motorcyclists a long and safe riding season in 2015.

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

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In line at the company cafeteria, Bubba says to Ernie behind him, 'My elbow hurts like hell. I guess I'd better see a doctor.'

'Listen, you don't have to spend that kind of money, Ernie replies.

'There's a diagnostic computer down at Smart-Mart. Just give it a urine sample and the computer will tell you what's wrong and what to do about it. It takes ten seconds and only costs ten bucks. Helluva' lot cheaper than a doctor.'

So, Bubba deposits a urine sample in a small jar and takes it to Smart-Mart. He deposits ten dollars, and the computer lights up and asks for the urine sample. He pours the sample into the slot and waits.

Ten seconds later, the computer ejects a printout:

'You have tennis elbow. Soak your arm in warm water and avoid heavy activity. It will improve in two weeks. Thank you for shopping @ Smart-Mart.' That evening, while thinking how amazing this new technology was, Bubba began wondering if the computer could be fooled.

He mixed some tap water, a stool sample from his dog, urine samples from his wife and daughter, and a sperm sample for good measure.

Bubba hurries back to Smart-Mart, eager to check the results. He deposits ten dollars, pours in his concoction, and awaits the results.

The computer prints the following:

1. Your tap water is too hard. Get a water softener. (Aisle 9)
  2. Your dog has ringworm. Bathe him with anti-fungal shampoo. (Aisle 7)
  3. Your daughter has a cocaine habit. Get her into rehab. Talk to your Family Physician.
  - 4 Your wife is pregnant. Twins. They aren't yours. Get a lawyer.
  5. If you don't stop playing with yourself, your elbow will never get better!
- Merry Christmas and Thank You for Shopping at Smart-Mart.

A little old lady was walking down the street dragging two large plastic garbage bags behind her.

One of the bags was ripped and every once in awhile a \$20 bill fell out onto the sidewalk.

Noticing this, a policeman stopped her, and said, "Ma'am, there are \$20 bills falling out of that bag."

"Oh, really? Darn it!" said the little old lady. "I'd better go back and see if I can find them. Thanks for telling me, Officer."

"Well, now, not so fast," said the cop. "Where did you get all that money? You didn't steal it, did you?"

"Oh, no, no", said the old lady. "You see, my back yard is right next to a Golf course. A lot of Golfers come and pee through a knot hole in my fence, right into my garden. It used to really tick me off. Kills the flowers, you know. Then I thought, 'why not make the best of it?' So, now, I stand behind the fence by the knot hole, real quiet, with my hedge clippers. Every time some guy

sticks his pecker through my fence, I surprise him, grab hold of it and say, 'O.K., buddy! Give me \$20 or off it comes!'

"Well, that seems only fair," said the cop, laughing. "OK. Good luck! Oh, by the way, what's in the other bag?"

"Well.....not everybody pays."

Old people used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "Enjoy it while you can, You're next."

They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

A golfer is in a Christmas Charity Tournament with a friend, who is ahead by a couple of strokes. "Boy, I'd give anything to sink this putt," the golfer mumbles to himself.

Just then, a stranger walks up beside him and whispers, "Would you be willing to give up one-fourth of your sex life?"

Thinking the man is crazy and his answer will be meaningless, the golfer also feels that maybe this is a good omen, so he says, "Sure," and sinks the putt.

Two holes later, he mumbles to himself again, "Gee, I sure would like to get an eagle on this one."

The same stranger is at his side again and whispers, "Would it be worth giving up another fourth of your sex life?"

Shrugging, the golfer replies, "Okay." And he makes an eagle.

On the final hole, the golfer needs another eagle to win.

Without waiting for him to say anything, the stranger quickly moves to his side and says, "Would winning this match be worth giving up the rest of your sex life?"

The golfer is in the zone and most assuredly wants the win. "Definitely," the golfer replies, and he makes the eagle.

As the golfer is walking to the club house, the stranger walks alongside him and says, "I haven't really been fair with you because you don't know who I am. I'm Satan, and from this day forward you will have no sex life."

"Ahh, top of the day to you," the golfer replies,

"I'm Father O'Malley. Merry Christmas to ya' then".

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Being spanked and taking naps.

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# K.I.S.S. IN THE KITCHEN

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*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 aka "MaMa Thunder" of Thunder Roads National Founders' Office.*

#### **BRIOCHE ENCRUSTED CHRISTMAS HAM**

(French meaning for "rich bread covering")

*\*inspired by Mario Batali on abc's The Chew, but modified by MaMa Thunder; for simplicity.*

Make sure ham has set out a full hour at room temp. & on a big platter.

- 1 7 to 10 Pound Boneless, Smoked Ham
- 1 Tube of Pre-done Pastry Dough
- 1 Bottle of powdered Clove Seasoning
- 1 Can of your fave juice that you feel pairs best w/ Ham; Pear juice, Apple Cider, Mango, Pineapple.....whatevva'.
- 1 Tbls. of powdered Cinnamon
- 1 Smaller Bottle of Apricot Preserves (quality brand)
- 1/2 Level teaspoon of Red Pepper Flakes
- 2 Beaten Eggs
- 1/2 Stick of Real Butter; melted by microwave
- 1 Heavy Aluminum, Square shaped, throw away, "turkey or big-ass ham" pan. Buy cheap @ WallyWorld.

Mix up your clove powder and cinnamon powder together.

Score the ham. This means you make shallow cuts in a criss-cross pattern, all over entire top and sides of ham. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

After you've scored your ham, pour your juice preference all over ham and make sure it's down in all the little checkerboard crevices you've scored. Now take your clove & cinnamon mix and put some in your hands and sprinkle all over ham, making sure you get some down in every single crevice. If you need more, make up another batch of it; only takes a sec. Now, just let it set while you prepare the dough.

Now, you can go to The Chew and make your own authentic Brioche dough if you're skilled in "scratch" pie crusts, etc., but throw some flour down on your counter, pop open tube of dough and lay it out, throw some flour on your rolling pin and just start rolling out until it's big enough to cover the entire ham (just eyeball it), but don't get dough so thin it will split open the sec you start to cover ham with it.

Pour your Apricot Preserve into a small bowl and mix in your Red Pepper Flakes. Gently smear this all over top & sides of ham. Remove from platter and dry the bottom of ham good so not leaking. Place ham in middle of rolled-out dough. Very Gently bring all 4 sides up to the top and just take the dough and twist into a little knot on top and pat down. Take Egg Wash (combined melted butter & beaten eggs) and brush All Over entire dough, even underneath. Place on rack that is placed in aluminum pan. As soon as you put it in the oven, turn oven down to 350 degrees. Bake for 2 hours. If it looks like it's getting too brown towards the end, then make an aluminum foil V-tent and tent the ham so that it comes out golden brown and not dark brown.

Remove from oven, brush all over with melted butter & must cool for full 15 minutes. If possible when cutting, use a serrated electric knife. If not electric, use a very sharp serrated knife. Make up another batch of Apricot Preserves w/ Red Pepper flakes only melt down on stove top and use as a gravy. **Perfection!**

#### **SUPER E-Z "Gourmet" GARLIC MASHED TATERS**

- 1 Tub of Bob Evans Creamy Mashed Potatoes
- 1 Tub of Bob Evans Sour Cream n' Chive Potatoes
- 1 Small Tub of Premium brand Sour Cream
- 1 Small Tub of Premium brand Whipped Philly Cream Cheese (room temp)
- 1 Medium Garlic Bulb; cut off ends, place in alum. foil, seal tight, cook in 425 oven for 40 minutes and then mush it down blend into potato mixture.
- 1 Pound of Gourmet Cheese; your favorite; Gruyere (pronounced Grew-yair), Real Mozzarella (from Deli), Real Parmigiano Reggiano, Crumbled Bleu Cheese, Fontina or Pecorino, all excellent for this dish.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Take a large casserole dish and spray with quality butter spray or wipe down with Premium EVOO (Extra Virgin Olive Oil.) Blend your 2 potatoes together in one bowl while mixing in the sour cream & the whipped cream cheese. Add a dash of Nutmeg and salt & pepper to taste. Spoon potatoes in 1st, then a layer of cheese of choice, then more potato mix, cheese, potatoes, cheese; all the way up to the top and you should end up with cheese on top of all your layers. Bake for 30 minutes until golden brown and bubbly. Remove from oven and sprinkle Chives all over top. Serve asap. E-Z Divine!

#### **SIMPLE CLASSIC BAKED BRIE w/ PRESERVES**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. 1 Pound of Brie Cheese

- 1 Tube of Pastry Dough; flour counter & gently lay out. Take a pizza wheel cut 3 even lines straight down and 2 lines across to form perfect squares.
- 1 Jar of Your Favorite Preserves; add nutmeg or cinnamon or even a little spice; spice & sweet is good.

Use pastry dough still chilled; easier to handle. Lay on floured counter like a triangle. Whip your Brie up fluffy. Take a teaspoon and plop a dollop of Preserves then a dollop of Brie on top; smooch to even out. Fold triangle over; wet edges w/ warm water just a tad, take fork and run all along both sides to seam it up. Brush w/ egg wash, bake golden brown, brush w butter when you take it out, & sprinkle w/ confectioners' sugar.....sugar. Serve piping hot w/ whipped cream.

Merry Christmas Bikers  
from our Family to Yours



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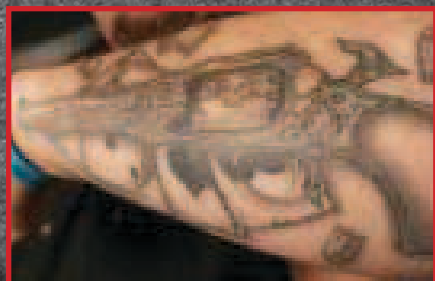
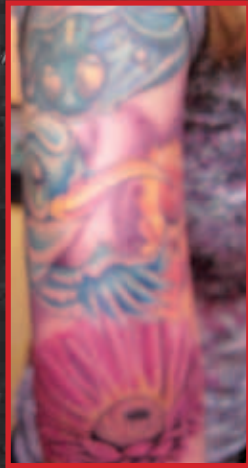
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# Bikes on the Bricks 2014



BY Paula Schemm



PHOTOS Billy D

What started out on a brisk 30 degree windy Saturday on October 27th eight years ago, with 100 spectators and a bike show with 25 bikes has grown exponentially to a three day event. Bikes on the Bricks has become a favored family friendly event for young and old and has evolved into a main stay of events for downtown Flint.

The event's popularity is due largely to the presence of three spectator friendly offerings: the skills competition, the police escorted ride and the motorcycle show. Add to that music, vendors, great food, a fashion show, and a motorcycle stunt show and one thing becomes clear: There's not another event quite like it. The police officers are truly amazing to watch as they test their maneuvering abilities and compete against each other. We are the only certified police competition within the state of Michigan and this year we had 82 officers in which was the largest group thus far. They traveled from Canada and several different states including New York City, NY. There certainly wasn't a shortage of testosterone on the flat lot! Despite the colder temperatures and gray skies on Saturday morning, we had 300 riders leave from our presenting sponsor, Vehicle City Harley Davidson® on the police escorted ride and were brought into downtown just in time for the sun to shine that afternoon. Josh Bourne, a former Kettering University graduate, was a crowd pleaser with his stunt show and will definitely be back entertaining us again in the future.

We have already put the gears in motion for 2015 and appreciate all of our sponsors, vendors and of course the motorcycle enthusiasts that continue to attend our event. Bikes on the Bricks could not be possible if it were not for the hard working Board and Committee members that volunteer countless hours of their time organizing, planning and traveling the state of Michigan to other events creating awareness. We are also excited to give back to our community with the proceeds from the police escorted ride. In the past we have donated to the Old News Boys of Flint, Hurley Hospital, and the Young Marines just to name a few. We will be announcing this year's recipients soon so keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest information and be sure to mark your calendars for September 11th-13th 2015. See you there!!







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## The last couple of months we have been talking about making some horsepower and torque with a supercharger,

well with that kind of power upgrade you will be transferring higher pressures to other parts of your bike, like your drivetrain. Depending on how abusive you are with the new found power you have will depend on how much you will need to beef up your drivetrain. If you are nice to things most of it can survive 100 ft. lbs. of torque and maybe a bit more, personally I would be saving for a clutch for starters after you start modifying that ride of yours. Whether it is a supercharger or a big bore kit with nice cam and tuning, Metric or Harley, they both need some beefing up when you start putting out some major horsepower and torque.

So you have done a bit of modifying and now when you give it some fuel you feel like your bike is slipping a bit, just does not feel like it is grabbing like it had before. Most likely you are getting some clutch slippage. Before I get into a clutch replacement, let me go over what clutches are made of and how they work.

## What does that contraption do and how?

The clutches responsibility is to disengage and engage the transmission from and to the engine, basically putting the bike in neutral. It does this on a motorcycle when the rider pulls in the clutch lever; this motion is transferred down to the clutch pack by a cable or hydraulic power which in turn opens a gap in the clutch pack disengaging the transmission. When you let the lever go it allows the spring pressure to close the gap engaging the clutch and off you go! Whoa a little info is missing huh ... OK let's look at a typical basket style clutch used on Metrics and Harleys alike. A simple explanation is the clutch fiber plates are connected to the outer basket via tabs, which is connected to the engine and the steel plates are connected to the inner hub via tabs or splines and this is connected to the transmission. If you have the clutch lever pulled there is a gap between the fiber and steel plates so the inner and outer parts can spin freely of each other and will do so until you release the lever, which in turn lets the springs apply pressure to the pressure plate, which applies pressure to the fiber and steel plates locking it all together and zoom off we go!

## What are the parts of a motorcycle clutch?

Motorcycles clutches come in a variety of configurations; the most common are the wet multi-plate, dry multi-plate and an automotive style dry plate used primarily on BMW and Moto Guzzi. The basic

components of a wet and dry multi-plate clutch are; fiber plates, steel plates, an inner hub (clutch center) and clutch shell (outer basket), diaphragm spring or multiple coil springs, and a pressure plate. (Fig 1-2)

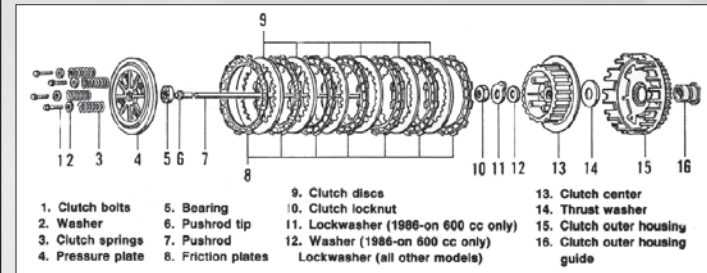


Fig 1 Harley Clutch (early coil spring style)

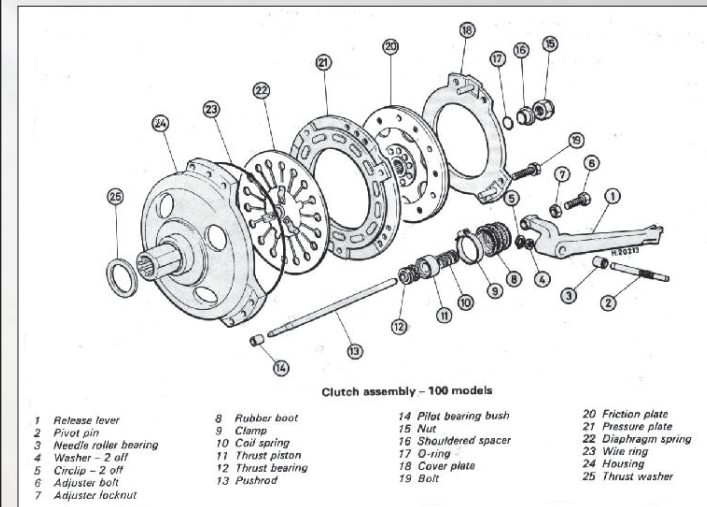


Fig 2 BMW Clutch

The wet clutch is exactly as it sounds; it is immersed in a light bath of oil which makes for smooth quiet operation. Dry clutches are made up of the same primary components as the wet but there is no oil present, these dry clutches work well but are prone to noise when the clutch is disengaged and can be a bit grabby too.

Lock-up clutches are not new but with new engineering they are getting popular with the everyday rider. You can do this two ways, you can just replace the pressure plate with a lock up style or replace the entire clutch with stronger springs, more plates and the lockup pressure plate which most high torque and horsepower riders are doing now AND some will fit under your stock cover without a spacer! The lock up clutch is a very simple device, you have four to six pivoting arms, as engine speed increases the arms 'swing out' under centrifugal force and push against the pressure plate - gripping the clutch pack tighter as the RPM's increase locking the clutch plates tight. They do not affect every day riding or clutch lever pull (as long as you do not opt for the stronger springs).

That brings us to the Install of a new Barnett lock-up style clutch on a 2008 Road King. (Fig 3)



Fig 3 Barnett lock up clutch (fits under stock cover)

After securing the bike to the lift we drain the primary oil, as the oil is draining you can loosen the clutch cable adjuster on the front frame down tube. (Note: to make the rubber cover come off and go back over the adjuster easily spray a little WD-40 or penetrating oil inside the rubber cover Fig 4) then remove the derby and primary covers. Now, slowly and evenly, in a star sequence, remove the six bolts holding the diaphragm spring. Remove the retainer, diaphragm spring and pressure plate from the clutch hub. Note: old clutch adjusting bolt and plate will not be reused. Then remove the friction and steel plates from the hub. This bike has 9 friction plates and 8 steel plates AND there is a single small friction plate in the back with 2 damper springs, so far soooooo easy!

Soak New fiber plates for about 2-3 minutes in primary oil, then start with the flat steel seat ring, then the dished steel spring then the small fiber plate, steel plate, fiber plate, steel plate, fiber plate and so on until you get to the last steel plate. The kit comes with three spring kits, 1-42 lbs. 1-58 lbs. 1-82 lbs. pick the one you want depending on how much initial clutch grabbing pressure you want ... remember the stronger the spring the harder the clutch lever is to pull back ... we picked the 58lbs. springs and slipped them into the pressure plate and then put the lock up head on with the 6 bolts, tightened to bottom and then 5 ft. lbs. ... Clutch Installed!!! (Fig 5)

Last steps are to put the primary cover back on with a new gasket, add oil, adjust clutch at the clutch hub not at the slack adjuster on the frame down tube which should be loose still. To adjust this style clutch properly use your allen wrench and tighten adjuster bolt just so you feel a slight resistance then loosen it \_ turn and secure it with the lock nut. After that you can take out your cable play with the adjuster on the left down-tube, remember you do not want this too tight because it will prematurely wear out your throw-out bearing and cause other problems too. 1/16 to 1/8" free play at lever is recommended by Harley. Move the clutch lever in and out a few times and recheck your cable free play ... good? If so then slap that derby cover on and BAM you are done my friend ... Go ride! OH

YEAH ... give it a bit of a nice break in period, the dang clutch was expensive ya know.

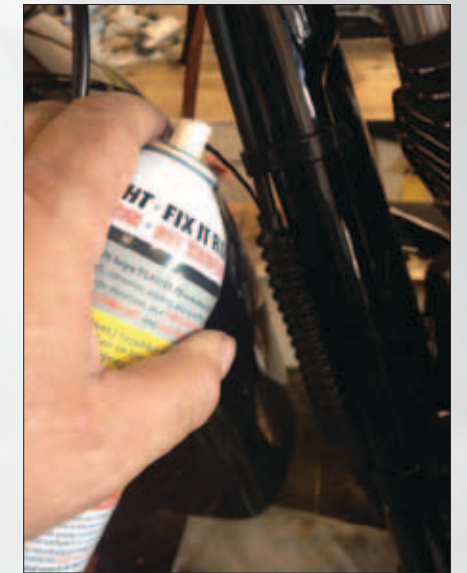


Fig 4 Clutch adjustment rubber cover removal



Fig 5 Lock-Up Clutch installed!! Wheelie Time!!!!

Always remember to consult your owner's manual and new parts directions for complete instructions.

Keep Warm and Have a **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

God bless you all

Steve

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## Inspiration

(From Forbes- Top 100 Inspirational Quotes)

Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily. ~ Zig Ziglar

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage. ~ Anais Nin

If you hear a voice within you say "you cannot paint," then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced. ~ Vincent Van Gogh

## Riddles

**A.** I died and came back to life. My blood is not easily able to go through my body. My favorite pet is a fish. Who am I?

**B.** Captain Mark is the captain of the ship. The captain of the ship is Captain Mark. The ship has plenty of space. What is the name of the ship?

**C.** What day will you never see again?

(Answers below)

## Fun Facts

Baby robins eat 14 feet of earthworms every day.

Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

Most cows give more milk when they listen to music.

The first toilet ever seen on television was on "Leave it to Beaver."

Answers: A.) A shark B.) The Space Shuttle Endeavour, captained by Mark Kelly C.) Yesterday



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Thunder Roads Michigan?

**THUNDER ROADS**  
MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN

Photo: Robert  
Tribal Observer of the  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Cover Design by Mike Smith

**NYE 2015  
BLOWOUT  
BASH!**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 | ENTERTAINMENT HALL  
\$60 PER PERSON, \$100 PER COUPLE | DOORS OPEN AT 8PM

**6 WINNERS OF \$2,015 IN CASH!  
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DJ | DANCING | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | FUN GAMES &  
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Tickets available at Soaring Eagle &  
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Entertainment subject to change or cancellation

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2nd Annual

**THUNDER  
FUN NIGHT**

**Attention Bikers!**

This event is for YOU! Saturday, Feb 7th  
Come hang out with Jody Mo & Team Thunder  
and have some fun!!! Package Deal Includes:  
Saturday Night Stay at the Midland Resort,  
Buffet Dinner, Drink Ticket, Breakfast,  
Party Bus Transportation/ Gratuity, Live Music,  
Great Food, Giveaways & Raffle Drawings.  
Early Check-in at Noon and Late Check-out at 2 pm.  
Bring along your *Ride n' Win* card for extra great prizes!  
BYOB for Party Bus. EVERYONE OVER 21 WELCOME!

**1 Person Pkg \$120**  
**2 Person Pkg \$180**  
**3 Person Pkg \$240**  
**4 Person Pkg \$280**

**MIDLAND  
RESORT AND  
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Payment Due by Jan 28th  
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Contact Jody  
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*Silver Sand Party Bus, Inc.*







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2014 RENEGADE 500 ↑

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2013 OUTLANDER 1000 DPS ↑

RETAIL \$ 11,499

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↑ RETAIL \$ 15,799 ↑

↑ RETAIL \$ 16,695 ↑

SALE PRICE INCLUDES ALL REBATES. SALE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE TAX, TITLE, REGISTRATION OR DOC FEES. SALE GOOD UNTIL 12/31/2014

**2014 COMMANDER 1000 XT**

ON SALE FOR \$ 14,695

Coupon Valid Nov. 29 - Dec. 24, 2014

**10% OFF**

On Your purchase of \$100 or more

\$100 purchase is before sales tax and on in-stock accessories ONLY. Excludes special ordered accessories and all hard parts in-stock or ordered. Limit ONE coupon per person.

Coupon Valid Nov. 29 - Dec. 24, 2014

**20% OFF**

On Your purchase of \$200 or more

\$200 purchase is before sales tax and on in-stock accessories ONLY. Excludes special ordered accessories and all hard parts in-stock or ordered. Limit ONE coupon per person.

Coupon Valid Nov. 29 - Dec. 24, 2014

**30% OFF**

On Your purchase of \$300 or more

\$300 purchase is before sales tax and on in-stock accessories ONLY. Excludes special ordered accessories and all hard parts in-stock or ordered. Limit ONE coupon per person.



3636 S HURON RD, BAY CITY, MI 48706

**Giveaway**

**1ST PRIZE \$200.00 GIFT CARD**

**2ND PRIZE \$100.00 GIFT CARD**

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Must be 18 years or older to enter. Limit one (1) entry per person. Drawing will end on

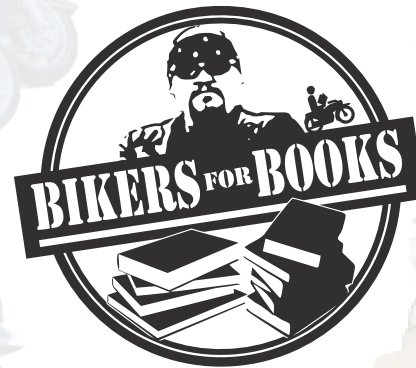
**ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN !!!**

**DRAWING DECEMBER 14TH**

FIRST NAME\* \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME\* \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\* \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



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is a Network of Bikers and other Reading Enthusiasts working together in an effort to raise Reading Awareness and reinforce the Positive Benefits of Reading in our Youth.

**B4B** plans to achieve this goal by employing two main objectives:

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# Biker Preacher's Corner

**Merry Christmas!!!** When it comes to Christmas we think of gift buying, gift giving, parties and family 'git-togethers'. But, the most important gift, the one that really matters is the gift that so many overlook and that's the gift that God has already given to all mankind – His Son Christ Jesus, the risen Savior. Jesus is the reason for the season! Jesus is the greatest gift ever given... He is the gift that keeps on giving and never loses its power.

Matthew 1:21-23 says 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us." MERRY CHRISTMAS World!!!

Ya see, the Lord Jesus – The Son of God, creator of all – left His throne of Glory and came down here some 2000 years ago. He was born in the flesh (just like us), was tempted (just like us), but NEVER sinned. He died a brutal death upon a cross of shame, the son of God - an innocent man, paying the price for ALL our sins – a price we could never have paid – no matter how good we have been. Now, that is love!

John 3:16 (HCSB) 16 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

Many have said, "How could a loving god send people to hell? But the facts are that God doesn't!! He paid the ultimate price, the only price that could be paid, so that you and I could know Him and NOT go into eternal separation from Himself. Ya see, it's our choice my friends; our choice to receive Jesus or not – it's our choice to go to heaven or hell.

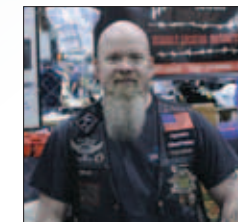
This is not a religious thing; it's a relationship thing... Listen, God is good and His Love and Mercy endures forever! GOD LOVES YOU, BIKER!!!

Will you choose Jesus, God's gift of salvation, this Christmas season? Will you accept God's loving gift of salvation – His Son Jesus Christ? God loves you so much and wants to know you and wants you to know Him.

You might be thinking... yeah I want this. But, how do you accept Jesus – God's Christmas present to me? It's as easy as saying "God, I believe and receive your son Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and ask you to forgive me of my sins", In Jesus Name, AMEN!

If you've just accepted Jesus, please contact me. I'm here for you... all the way.

**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





**SOUPER SATURDAYS**  
Enter to WIN a 55" TV | FREE Homemade Soup  
Every Sat. Through Jan. 31st

YOUR CHANCE TO

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**\$50,000**  
(\$40,000 Gift Card\* & \$10,000 Cash)

**CRACK THE SAFE DEC. 10<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>**



**FREE PICTURES W/ SANTA**  
Dec. 6th-7th & 13th  
FREE Food

**TOYS FOR TOTS** Dec. 6th-7th  
Christmas Buffet, Free Entertainment &  
FREE Pictures with Santa

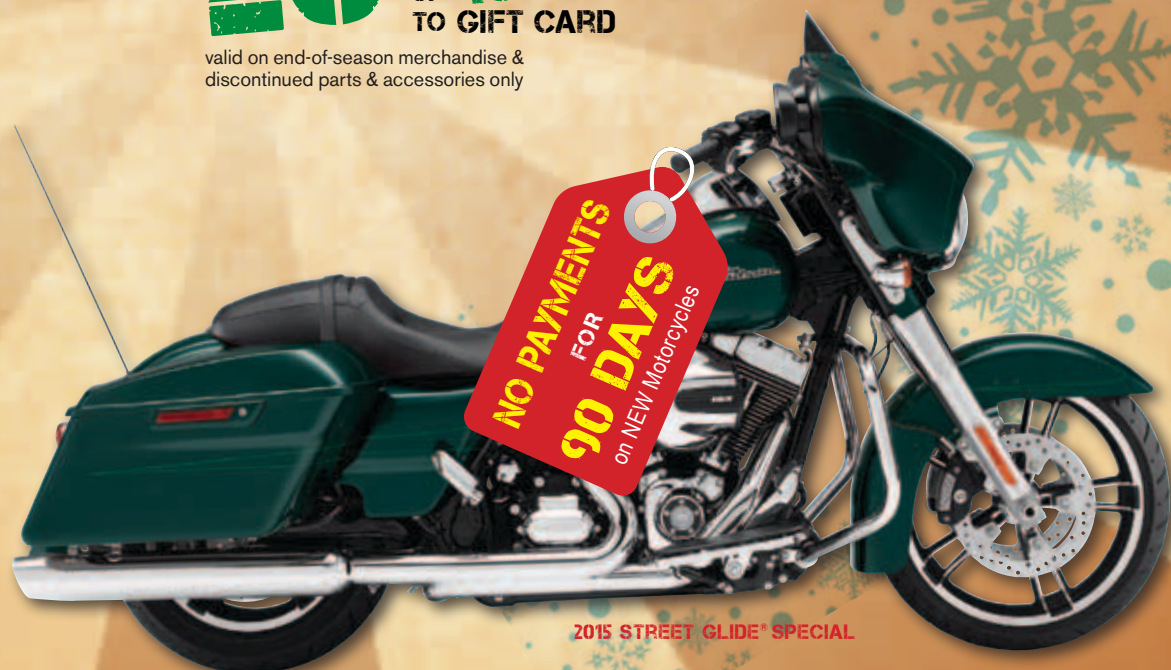
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& **\$100 UP TO GIFT CARD**

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Valid December 1st - December 24th.



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# TRM EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

Don't forget to email your events to [editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com](mailto:editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com)

## DECEMBER

**December 6**  
Toys for Kids  
Shiawassee Sports Center, Birch Run, MI. Call 989-624-4400 for more info. (See ad this issue).

**December 6**  
Trinity Riders Christmas Party  
Our Lady of Peace, 607 E. South Union St, Bay City, MI. 6pm- 11pm, dinner, silent auction, dj.

**December 6**  
Performance Workshop  
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 10 am, lunch provided. For more info go to [www.perryharley-davidson.com](http://www.perryharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 6**  
Motown HOG Annual Polar Bear Run  
Biker Bob's HD, Taylor, MI. Regis 10 am-11:30 am, last bike in at 3 pm, \$10 pp or \$5 pp & 2 cans of food. For more info go to [www.bikerbobshd.com](http://www.bikerbobshd.com)

**December 6-7**  
Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mount Clemens, MI. Motorcycle parts, accessories, apparel & more. Vendor spaces available. For more info call 586-465-6440 (See ad this issue).

**December 6-7**  
Toys for Tots  
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. Christmas buffet, free entertainment & free pictures with Santa. For more info go to [www.abcharleydavidson.com](http://www.abcharleydavidson.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 7**  
Rock for Tots Charity Event  
Stingers Bar & Grill, Wixom, MI. Live bands from 1 pm- 5:30 pm and later, bring an unwrapped toy or a \$ donations.

**December 10**  
Ladies' Night  
Shiawassee HD, Birch Run, MI. 6 pm- 8pm, food, drinks, giveaways & more. For more info go to [www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com](http://www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 10**  
Holiday Shopping Event  
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 5:30- 8 pm, food, drinks, & gift ideas. For more info go to [www.perryharley-davidson.com](http://www.perryharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 11**  
Men's Night  
Shiawassee HD, Birch Run, MI. 6 pm- 8pm, food, drinks, giveaways & more. For more info go to [www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com](http://www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 12**  
Kid's Craft Night  
Sandy's HD, Fremont, MI. 5:30 pm-7:30 pm, let us entertain the kid's at Sandy's while you shop. For more info go to [www.sandysharley-davidson.com](http://www.sandysharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 12**  
Ladies Shopping Night  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30 pm- 8 pm. For more info go to [www.raycsh-d.com](http://www.raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 12**  
Men's Night Out  
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. 6 pm- 9 pm. For more info go to [www.wolverinehd.com](http://www.wolverinehd.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 13**  
Pictures with Santa  
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. Noon- 4 pm & LOH Gift wrapping. For more info go to [www.wolverinehd.com](http://www.wolverinehd.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 13**  
Free Photos with Santa  
Shiawassee HD, Birch Run, MI. Noon- 3pm. For more info go to [www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com](http://www.shiawasseeharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 13**  
Free Pictures with Santa  
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. Free food & free pictures with Santa. For more info go to [www.abcharleydavidson.com](http://www.abcharleydavidson.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 14**  
Pictures with Santa  
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. 11 am- 3 pm & LOH Gift wrapping. For more info go to [www.wolverinehd.com](http://www.wolverinehd.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 19**  
Men's Shopping Night / Performance Workshop  
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 5:30 pm- 7 pm, RSVP early. For more info go to [www.raycsh-d.com](http://www.raycsh-d.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 20**  
Pictures with Santa  
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. Noon- 4 pm & LOH Gift wrapping. For more info go to [www.wolverinehd.com](http://www.wolverinehd.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 20**  
Photos with Santa  
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 10 am- 2 pm, Christmas cookies, hot chocolate & coloring contest. For more info go to [www.perryharley-davidson.com](http://www.perryharley-davidson.com) (See ad this issue).

**December 21**  
Pictures with Santa  
Wolverine HD, Clinton Township, MI. 11 am- 3 pm & LOH Gift wrapping. For more info go to [www.wolverinehd.com](http://www.wolverinehd.com) (See full page ad this issue).

**December 31**  
NYE 2015 Blowout Bash  
Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Entertainment Hall, doors open at 8 pm, \$60 pp, \$100 per couple, 6 winners of \$2015 in CASH, plus other great prizes. DJ, dancing, live entertainment, games, party favors, cash bar & more. For more info go to [ETIX.com](http://ETIX.com) (See ad this issue).

## 2015 JANUARY

**January 16-18**  
31st Annual Chicago Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet  
Pheasant Run Resort & Convention Center, St. Charles, IL. Sons of Anarchy Members live appearance, custom bike show & more. For more info go to [www.chicagomotorcycleswap.com](http://www.chicagomotorcycleswap.com) (See ad this issue).

**January 16-18**  
AMSOIL Arenacross  
Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids, MI. For more info & tickets call 1-800-745-3000

## FEBRUARY

**February 7**  
2nd Annual Thunder Fun Night  
Midland Resort, Midland, MI. Reserve your spot for this fun night, package deal includes overnight stay, party bus, dinner, breakfast, 1 free drink & prizes. For more info contact Jody Mo 989-615-5757 or email [Jody@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com](mailto:Jody@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com) (See full page ad this issue).

### EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!

Increase your attendance by posting your event in

Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan

All Advertised Events in our Magazine will have their event Posted on the Pull Out Calendar (when admissible) and your Event will be Highlighted in the Thunder Roads Events Calendar of the Magazine.

Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan Your Michigan Biker Connection (Call about our Special Discounts for Charity Events)

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

[Editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com](mailto:Editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com)  
Event information must be received prior to the 10th of the month preceding the event month to be posted in the magazine.

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



# 2014 Holiday Gift Buying Guide

Here it is! It's your guide to not having to sit and rack your brain for hours trying to figure out what to get that certain someone. When it comes to holiday shopping there are 2 categories of folks. Those that start their holiday shopping early and those that procrastinate and are out in the madness on Christmas Eve. My advice to you is... don't wait! There are lots of great specials & deals going on throughout the month. This is designed to help you find ideas for those hard to buy friends, family or loved ones. We have put together a gift buying guide for you so you don't have to endure the night before Christmas madness; here are some great gifts that you may or may not have thought about getting for whoever is on your holiday list this year! Also, please look throughout this issue of Thunder Roads and you will also find special Holiday Coupons and Specials. 'Tis the Season! Have you been Naughty or Nice? Santa's watching!

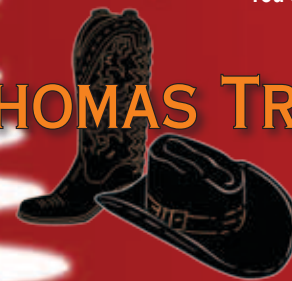


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### 2015 STURGIS BUFFALO CHIP CALENDAR

The Official Calendar of the Chip features 12 sexy models on some of the hottest custom motorcycles from around the country. The 2015 edition is packed with a year's worth of beautiful girls and badass bikes photographed by former Playboy Photographer, Sam T'ang. Get the gift that lasts all year at [www.BuffaloChipCalendar.net](http://www.BuffaloChipCalendar.net) for \$15.99 plus shipping & handling.

SUBSCRIPTIONS MAKE A GREAT GIFT!  
ONLY \$35 FOR 1 YEAR!  
SEE FORM IN THE BIKER FRIENDLY DIRECTORY IN THIS ISSUE



HOLIDAY SPECIAL  
Spend \$50 or More & Receive Free Shipping!  
(See Ad This Issue For Thunderwear Pricing)

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	XXXL: \$32
	XXXXL: \$35
	+ S/H & TAX
T-SHIRTS	S-XL: \$15
	XXL: \$17
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	+ S/H & TAX

For mail order include \$5 per shirt for tax & handling. Four or more shirts \$3 per shirt. Include check or money order payable to: Thunder Roads Michigan. Send to: Thunder Roads Michigan, PO Box 1782, Midland, MI 48641-1782. For credit card / pay pal sales go to [www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com](http://www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com) and place your secure order today at the Thunder Store! NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES

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Christmas Gift Ideas!

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# 2014 Holiday Gift Buying Guide continued



The 12 DAYS of Christmas at MOTORCITY MOTORCYCLES!

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248-920-2000



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 <b>15% OFF INDIAN</b> leather accessories	12 <b>15% OFF VICTORY</b> chrome accessories	13 <b>15% OFF INDIAN</b> casual wear shirts, sweaters & hats
14	15 <b>15% OFF VICTORY</b> all casual wear	16 <b>15% OFF INDIAN</b> all chrome accessories	17 <b>15% OFF KLIM</b> mid layering gear	18 <b>15% OFF VICTORY</b> all jackets	19 <b>15% OFF INDIAN</b> all jackets	20 <b>15% OFF INDIAN VICTORY</b> all oil kits
21	22 <b>15% OFF</b> all helmets	23 <b>15% OFF</b> all gloves	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> CLOSE 2 PM <b>20% OFF</b> all in store items except motorcycles	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

# SAVE BLACK FRIDAY FOR THE MALL...



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USED BIKE INVENTORY BLOWOUT & FULL RETAIL TRADE-IN ON 2015 MODELS



DECEMBER 13TH JEWELRY & WATCHES



DECEMBER 20TH PURSES & WALLET

FREE GIFT WITH PURCHASE OF \$300.00 OR MORE!!



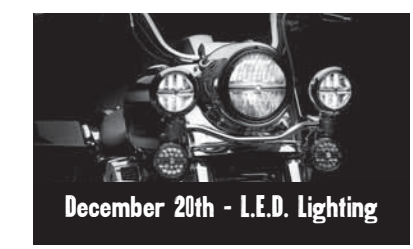
November 29 - BOOM! Audio



December 6th - Windshields



December 13th - Screamin' Eagle



December 20th - L.E.D. Lighting

EVERY SATURDAY IN DECEMBER BEFORE XMAS!!



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FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA Saturday, December 13th (No Purchase necessary) Come in that day - all Harley Davidson® picture frames regularly priced \$25.95 will be six dollars off, only \$19.95 Great gift idea for anyone! Selection may vary



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# SUDOKU

By Geneva

Send Entry to:  
Curve Sudoku  
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37075

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Winner Last Month  
**Rhonda Spears**  
of Wisconsin  
CONGRATULATIONS!

Each puzzle has 9 boxes. Each box has 9 squares. Write numbers 1-9 in the squares without repeating the same number from side to side, top to bottom or within the same box.

Hey friends, Please visit my website for  
Music, Video's, Tour Dates & Updates!  
Thanks for participating in my  
Thunder Roads Game page!  
As Always... Ride Safe Friends!  
[www.GenevaBand.com](http://www.GenevaBand.com)



Appear for the little devil in you!

FIND US AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS  
DECEMBER 2014  
DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup>  
**Motorcycle Swap**  
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photo by Jacque Tiegs

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# BIKES BLUES AND BBQ WAS HUGE

"T" Collier ~ EDITOR TRM OK/AR PHOTOS Douglas Henderson

This rally has grown to a huge rally! Not only were there an approximate 400,000 attendees, it's spread out over many miles and many locations and venues. That's one of the original things about it! But BBQ hangs its hat on the fact that it is the largest charity rally in the nation. Now that's something to brag about! Since 2000, the rally has donated over \$600,000 to local charities of NorthWest Arkansas area. Not only are funds raised through monies collected at the rally, but the rally may not be possible without the local charities "working" the rally from set up to striking the location, donated space to promote their charities, breakfast locations, their own events and more. It's truly an amazing thing to see from start to finish. We got to see more and be more involved in the process this year as we were the proud publisher's of the first ever Official BBQ Rally Guide and on-line GPS locator. Read it on-line at [www.bbqrallyguide.com](http://www.bbqrallyguide.com). It was quite an honor and went over very well.

As for the rally, we had a blast in the National Thunder Roads Magazine Booth as our National Founders brought in Thunder Pete for the big show. Thank

you to all who stopped in to say Hello to us at Baum Motorcycle Village on the South side of Fayetteville. It was great to see folks from all over the United States stopping in to grab up magazines from over 22 states! There were some who were thrilled to have the latest copy of their next riding destination state. In addition to the TRM booth, "The Baum" area was filled with big vendor trucks, food trucks, product representatives, demo rides, helicopter rides and more. Many looking for motorcycle upgrades, products, etc, were able to find all they needed there.

Dickson Street is where it all started or so the legend goes. This is simply a stretch of city roadway which goes way down a long hill with about a 50 degree slope and back up the other side. Highlights of this venue are the Parade of Power Saturday afternoon which passed by the crowded sidewalks and the exhilaration of the extreme downhill and uphill grade. The vendor booths packed the nearby parking lots. The bars were filled with laughter and music. The Barbeque Trailers and the Main Stage with bands daily in the Beer Garden at the "hollar" as we call it or bottom of the hill! One of "T"'s favorite things about this rally is the Stokes Air "Battle of the Bikes" presented by Nabholz Construction where YOU pick the winner! She had a great time sharing the mic a bit with Laramie the wild and crazy MC of this bike show. It's by all means the best bike show in the Nation! Check out video of a few rounds on our [Facebook.com/thunderroadsmagazineokar](https://www.facebook.com/thunderroadsmagazineokar) during BBQ.

"T" and friends were housed at Washington County Fairgrounds Saloon and Campgrounds in Fayetteville this year. This is the official campground of the rally. Some of the craziest fun goes on in the Fairgrounds! For the biggest gathering of bar-b-q, the fairgrounds hosts the Bar-b-q cook off! Yummy! They also had the hilarious Hambone Express Pig Races, exhilarating Helicopter Rides, Lawn Mower Pulls, a Karaoke Contest and more. This is the place for a little wilder escapade to the rally, but yet still family friendly.

Pig Trail Harley-Davidson, in Rogers AR played a large part in pulling some of the record crowd to a second location. Large vendors of motorcycle products, apparel, builders, food and more filled the parking lot of Pig Trail Harley-Davidson. Entertainment, Free Bikini Bike Wash, Beer Garden, Bud Girls, Live Music were but a small portion of what could be found there. We were honored to meet Michele Smith of Two Wheel Thunder! "T" also got the opportunity to host the Steel Horse Sisterhood reception at this location on Thursday afternoon. It was great to see and meet sisters from across the U.S.

After some serious level 5 rides on the nearby highways and byways such as the Pig Trail Scenic ride, Hwy 23, Hwy 21, Hwy 16, Hwy 45 and the list goes on and on, we had done it all! The roads brought the riders to the rally and the rally brought the fun to the roads! All in all, this year's 15th anniversary rally was the best one yet! If you've not attended this rally, please do so in the future. Next year will be held on September 23-26, 2015. We will see you there!

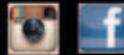




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# Bullet Points

## MAKING A LIST...

Courtesy of Wolverine Shooting Sports, Inc. ~ Dani Sparks



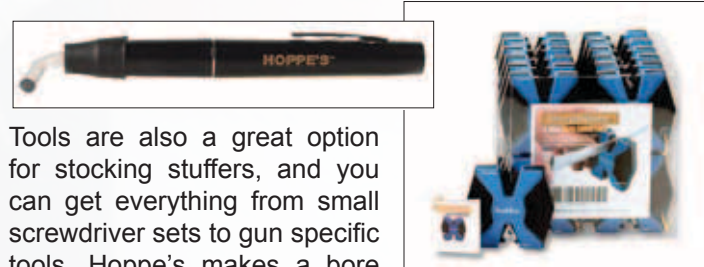
The gun world is more than just guns and ammo, believe it or not! There are all sorts of unknown treasures that make great stocking stuffers, and don't have to break your wallet! However, if you find yourself in need of one, Browning logo leather wallets come in several designs for both men and women. In fact, you can find the Browning logo on a wide variety of accessories, from key chains to pendants, and all the outdoor gear you could imagine.



Speaking of outdoor gear, Magpul makes cases for more than just guns; they make a variety of cases for Apple and Samsung products in colors from black to bright orange. Pelican also makes some hard cases designed to protect your electronics from the elements. For a bit more money, you can buy a Pelican case built for laptops, which is waterproof up to three feet! As an added perk, Pelican guarantees its products for life.



There are also a lot of apparel options from a variety of manufacturers, from Glock to Browning, Beretta to Magpul. You can get everything from t-shirts to hats, gloves, and scarfs, and Blackhawk makes some great Kevlar gloves if you're looking to spend a little more on a gift.



Tools are also a great option for stocking stuffers, and you can get everything from small screwdriver sets to gun specific tools. Hoppe's makes a bore light for fewer than ten dollars that makes cleaning and inspecting the bore a breeze! Knife sharpeners are also great little gifts, and a keychain knife sharpener will run you about five or six dollars.



Cleaning supplies are something that everyone needs, but if you don't know what kind of cleaner your loved one prefers, you may scratch that off the list of options. Instead, consider something like cleaning patches or a new double ended nylon brush, which are things that every shooter can use! If you happen to know the caliber of their pistol, Kleen-Bore makes some amazing and inexpensive pocket sized pistol cleaning kits that are great for a quick clean.

When in doubt, pay a visit to your local range and see what kinds of ideas they may have for you. If nothing else, you can always buy a gift certificate. Then your shooter can buy range time, ammunition, or even use it toward the purchase of a new gun!

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## ABATE OF MICHIGAN MICHIGAN HELMET LAW REVIEW 2014

I am fortunate to have access to the OHSP collection of motorcycle crash data as it comes in over the course of each year. The Office of Highway Safety Planning, a division of the Michigan State Police, collects the statistics regarding motorcycle crashes from all police departments across the state. I have been collecting the statistics over the last several years since the helmet law was modified to return choice to bikers who don't want to wear a skid lid when they ride.

Here are the results over the last 5 years with the last 3 being since choice was returned. Keep in mind these are the annual statistics within the time frame stated. The final results for each year are not officially released until February or March of the following year. However the final statistics have never shown any meaningful difference in the ratio of fatalities and incapacitating injuries for either helmeted or

un-helmeted crash victims. A couple of things of note are first, from year to year the total number of crashes has not changed from one year to the next significantly from mandatory helmet years and choice years. Weather plays the biggest factor in any fluctuation of total crashes. Early riding weather and late summers put more folks out on the road for longer periods resulting in more crashes. Second is that helmeted rider fatalities and incapacitating injuries mirror un-helmeted crashes. Nowhere is there any indication that wearing a helmet decreases the number of total fatalities and incapacitating injuries since the law changed.

Essentially, NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

Below are the raw numbers, no spin, no motives, and no agenda. Make of them what they are.

9/24/2014

### Motorcycle Helmet Statistics

This report compares the date range of 1/1 to 9/23 for the years 2010 - 2014

2010		Total Motorcycle Crashes		2,870		Total Motorcyclists Involved		3,277	
	Fatalities	Percentage of Fatalities	Percent of motorcyclists		Incapacitating Injury	Percentage of A Injuries	Percent of motorcyclists		
<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>109</b>		<b>3.33%</b>	<b>Incapacitating Injury</b>	<b>545</b>		<b>16.63%</b>		
Helmet Worn	98	89.91%	2.99%	Helmet Worn	483	88.62%	14.74%		
Helmet Not Worn	4	3.67%	0.12%	Helmet Not Worn	17	3.12%	0.52%		
Helmet Use Unknown	7	6.42%	0.21%	Helmet Use Unknown	5	0.92%	0.15%		
Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	Other	40	7.34%	1.22%		

2011		Total Motorcycle Crashes		2,688		Total Motorcyclists Involved		3,039	
	Fatalities	Percentage of Fatalities	Percent of motorcyclists		Incapacitating Injury	Percentage of A Injuries	Percent of motorcyclists		
<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>98</b>		<b>3.22%</b>	<b>Incapacitating Injury</b>	<b>500</b>		<b>16.45%</b>		
Helmet Worn	88	89.80%	2.90%	Helmet Worn	449	89.80%	14.77%		
Helmet Not Worn	4	4.08%	0.13%	Helmet Not Worn	23	4.60%	0.76%		
Helmet Use Unknown	6	6.12%	0.20%	Helmet Use Unknown	8	1.60%	0.26%		
Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	Other	20	4.00%	0.66%		

2012		Total Motorcycle Crashes		3,073		Total Motorcyclists Involved		3,465	
	Fatalities	Percentage of Fatalities	Percent of motorcyclists		Incapacitating Injury	Percentage of A Injuries	Percent of motorcyclists		
<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>115</b>		<b>3.32%</b>	<b>Incapacitating Injury</b>	<b>574</b>		<b>16.57%</b>		
Helmet Worn	61	53.04%	1.76%	Helmet Worn	381	66.38%	11.00%		
Helmet Not Worn	48	41.74%	1.39%	Helmet Not Worn	174	30.31%	5.02%		
Helmet Use Unknown	6	5.22%	0.17%	Helmet Use Unknown	10	1.74%	0.29%		
Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	Other	9	1.57%	0.26%		

\*Note - Motorcyclists includes the driver and any passengers on the motorcycle unit.

Regardless of the statistics there are folks in Lansing who are committed to the re-introduction of a mandatory helmet law. Senator Rebecca Warren has a bill to do just that languishing in committee right now. Folks if you like freedom you have to fight for it. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Rusty



**Rusty Bongard**  
Communications Director,  
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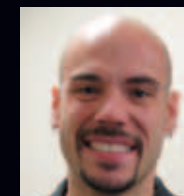
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