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MARCH 2015 Volume 11 Issue 5

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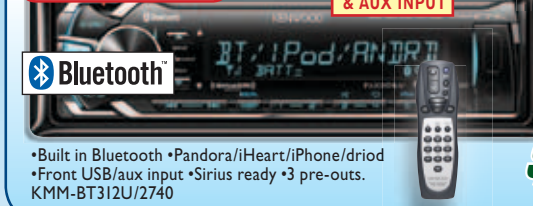
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COVER

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MODEL Mindi Brown
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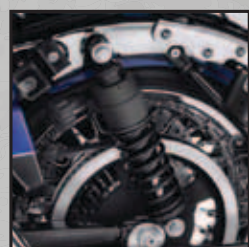
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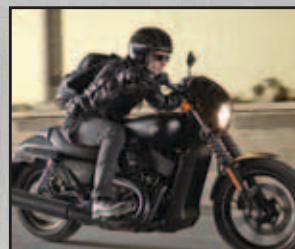
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Dust off your bikes...it's almost spring!

We're all suffering from PMS (Parked Motorcycle Syndrome), but thankfully spring is right around the corner. As I sit here writing this I am excited that in a few weeks I will be able to soon feel the warm air on my face at Daytona Bike Week. It will be a quick trip, but worth the couple days to be able to go for a ride once again. Something even more exciting is our cover this month! A very special thank you goes out to Herman Moore for gracing our cover and allowing us to photograph his sweet bike. You can read all about Herman and his ride in this issue. Also, something else very exciting is... the pull-out calendar is back this month! That means that the events are piling in so be sure to check those out!

Also, be sure to have a safe and fun St. Patrick's Day! Enjoy all the goodies that go along with the holiday like green beer and corned beef and cabbage! We are three months into the New Year, are you sticking with your resolutions? You can do it! Speaking of a New Year... we are getting ready to line up the stops for this year's Thunder Run Ride n' Win summer long contest. Read all about that in this issue too!



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 22 on the beautiful Geneva's wrist. 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:

*All that you need is in your soul
Always trust your gut, you will know
Burn rubber down the path that you must go
Find peace in your choices, let the good times roll.*



Jody Mohowitsch



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is Always up to Date and online at Wolverinehd.com**



The Legend

Detroit Lions Gridiron Heroes

Herman Moore	WR
Virginia	Years with the Lions: 1991-2001
Pro Bowls: 4 (1995-98)	Seasons: 11
Height: 6-4	Weight: 218

WR **Herman Moore** was the Lions' first-round draft pick in 1991 from Virginia and went on to shatter virtually all of Detroit's receiving records. He played in 145 games during 11 seasons (1991-2001) in Honolulu Blue and Silver. A four-time NFL Pro Bowl selection, the Lions' record book has Moore resting on top of Lions' career, season and single-game receiving marks.

He holds Detroit's records for career receptions (670), receiving yards (9,174) and touchdown catches (62). In 1995 he was selected the Lions' MVP on offense after breaking club marks in both catches (also a NFL record of 123) and yards (1,686) while scoring 14 touchdowns. His finest single-game performance came on December 4, 1995 against the Chicago Bears when he had a club record 14 catches for 183 yards, the fifth best total in Detroit history.

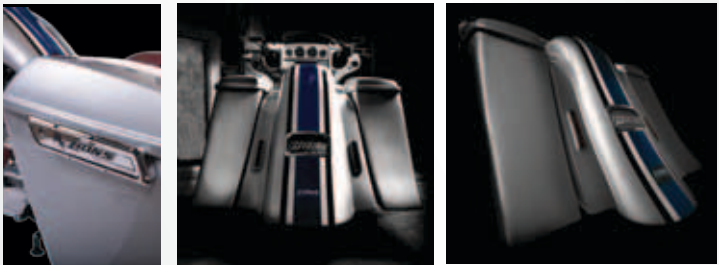


PHOTO COURTESY OF The Detroit Lions

He also was the last Lion to catch three TD passes in a game (October 29, 1995 vs. the Packers) until Roy Williams matched the total during the 2005 season. One of Moore's and his teammates' more memorable games came on November 23, 1995 - in a classic Thanksgiving Day with the Minnesota Vikings. Moore (127 yards) and fellow receivers Brett Perriman (153) and Johnnie Morton (102) all eclipsed the 100-yard receiving mark, Barry Sanders rushed for 138 yards, and Scott Mitchell passed for 410 yards in a 44-38 Lions' shootout victory.

Moore was a member of Lions' squads who earned six playoff appearances in the 1990s (1991, 1993-95, 1997 and 1999). He was also a member of two teams that won the NFC Central division (1991 and 1993), and was on the 1991 team that played for the 1992 NFC Championship.

Information provided by
www.detroitlions.com/team/history/gridiron-heroes/hermanmoore.html



Hot Rods & Handlebars is a Battle Creek Michigan based company started in 2000. We were approached by Herman Moore, a former Detroit lions all-pro- wide receiver, to build a motorcycle for him. We met through a mutual business partner and it took off from there. Herman has been a great friend and avid supporter of the motorcycle industry. The Detroit Lions bagger started as a 2014 Harley-Davidson Street Glide from Perry's Harley-Davidson. From there the bike was disassembled at our shop in Battle Creek and that is where the build began. This bike was built to symbolize the Detroit lions brand and be used as not only a fun ride for Herman but also a marketing tool for the Detroit lions brand and our Hot Rods & Handlebars brand name. It is a piece of artwork the way it was crafted to mimic the Detroit Lions football helmet, and fit the professional football theme all the way down to the real football leather seat. The bike was built start to finish in around four months. Our crew at Hot Rods & Handlebars really knocked it out of the park. Starting with Dan Thompson- (Owner/Operator/fabricator), who has been building custom cars, trucks, and motorcycles for 30 years. Our Head fabricator Joe Barney- (Fabricator/welder) also played a huge role in the fabrication of parts throughout the build process of the bagger. Rob Thompson- (Sales manager) was in charge of keeping track and ordering of all of the parts for the Detroit lions and promotion of the build. Art Solis (airbrusher/bodyman) and Drew Barlund (painter/bodyman)- really knocked the paint out of the park with the clean and classy paintjob on this build. A lot of hours were spent on making sure all of the gaps were perfect, which is what we strive on. As an end result we had a long and low, thing of beauty. When we initially unveiled the bike to Herman we could tell he was hooked right off the bat. He loved the way the bike came out and how well it fit his image and style. A few weeks after the bike was finished we unveiled the bike to the public at a Detroit lions home game this season. The public had a great reaction to the motorcycle and we were able to have Herman come down for a few hours and meet with the public, sign autographs, and get pictures with fans with the bike we built. Check out our website at WWW.hotrodsandhandlebars.com to stay current on what we are doing at the shop.

The Legend

SPECIFICATIONS

Owner: **Herman Moore**

Year/Make/Model: 2014 Harley-Davidson Street Glide FLHX

Builder: Hot Rods & Handlebars

Build Time: 4 months

Front Wheel: 26" Renegade Whistler

Rear Wheel: 18" Renegade Whistler

Bags: TOL Designs 8" Stretch

Rear Fender: TOL Designs 8" Stretch

Front Fender: B'Cool Aluminum 26"

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Paint: Drew Barlund & Art Solis

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SJP
S. Graves Photography

Seth, a photojournalist by trade, has had the opportunity to photograph everything from professional sports to gubernatorial elections and has been published throughout the United States. According to Seth, this assignment was easily one of his favorites and looks forward to working with bike lovers throughout Southwest Michigan.

If you are interested in having your bike photographed, please email sgravesphoto@gmail.com or visit his website at www.sgravesphoto.com and contact him through the website. Please make sure to tell him you saw his photos in Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan.

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VETERANS CORNER

Greetings veterans! I hope your PMS (Parked Motorcycle Syndrome) isn't too bad.

Bill to address veterans' suicide heads to Obama

The Senate unanimously approved a bill named for Clay Hunt, a 26-year-old Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who killed himself in 2011. The bill comes in response to suicides that on average claim the lives of 22 military veterans every day. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama strongly supports the bill and will sign it.

The measure would require the Pentagon and Veterans Affairs Department to submit to independent reviews of their suicide prevention programs and offers financial incentives to psychiatrists and other mental health professionals who agree to work for the VA. It also would help military members as they transition from active duty to veteran status.

John Stroud, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, said the bill strengthens and expands the mental health programs and services available to service members and veterans. Even so, the VFW is concerned that some service members are being kicked out of the military for pre-existing mental health problems without first being properly diagnosed or treated, "meaning they could easily be denied critical VA care and benefits after they are discharged," Stroud said.

Stroud and other veterans groups urged Congress to continue to work on the issue. The bill orders the Veterans Affairs Department to find money for suicide-prevention programs within its \$160 billion budget.

Iraq veterans in legislature want to protect PTSD dogs

He did two tours in Iraq, but it wasn't until he came home that Sen. David Knezek lost a buddy from his unit that committed suicide. The transition home is too hard for some veterans, Knezek said, and we're not doing enough to help. As one of only two Iraq veterans in the Michigan legislature, Knezek hopes to change that by making it easier for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to get well-trained service dogs and all the protections that go along with them.

A first-term senator on the Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee, Knezek wants to standardize the training and licensing for PTSD service dogs. He also wants to change Michigan law to provide the same protections for veterans who use service dogs for PTSD and traumatic brain injury as any other person who uses a dog because of a physical disability.

"We came across a number of stories across the country dealing with veterans who utilize service dogs on college campuses, in different businesses, in restaurants, and unfortunately a number of them were being asked to leave," said Knezek, a former Marine. "Folks look at the veteran with the dog, and they don't see any missing limbs, don't see them having any difficulty hearing. They very clearly have the ability to see. So folks think that veterans are being disingenuous with the use of these service dogs."

"What we have found throughout our research is... there are umpteen number of statutes dealing with service animals," he said. "There is a significant lack of definition for what it is these dogs can and cannot provide, a complete lack of standardization as it relates to the licensing process, the training, and how that dog

visibly is showing to other people it is a working service dog. We quickly realized this was going to be a greater undertaking than what we originally envisioned."

Texas center offering innovative treatment for veterans with traumatic brain injuries

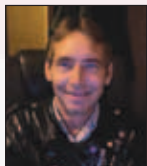
The Carrick Brain Centers treats both civilians and veterans, but does not accept insurance. Veterans' treatments and expenses are covered under research contracts or private donations, while civilians pay out of pocket for treatment. No prior diagnosis is needed for post-9/11 veterans seeking treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and TBI.

Patients are enrolled for two weeks and undergo three treatments per day which include mental health counseling and physical workouts with a local UFC champion. There are also fishing and camping trips offered for weekend activities.

The therapies focus on rewiring the brain in order to restore functionality to different areas of the brain. Each patient is offered a customized treatment plan which includes vision exercises, diet guidelines, supplements or hormones. The Carrick center also offers its patented Off Vertical Axis Rotational Device (OVAR) therapy, which provides neurological rehabilitation.

OVAR rotates the patient in a precisely controlled manner. The specific angle, roll and speed of the rotations are targeting the patient's vestibular system which controls balance, spatial orientation and movement. The movement stimulates the vestibular system to encourage neural activity in parts of the brain that have been affected by illness or injury. The rotations are pre-determined by diagnostic testing on the patient. "If you can't stimulate that [injured] part of the brain, other parts won't work as well."

David McCallister "Possum"
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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

Pushing for Motorcycle Awareness and Safety

We're almost there, folks. The days are finally getting longer and it's finally safe to start thinking about the motorcycle season ahead. Before I talk about prepping your bike for the riding season (next month!), I wanted to talk about a new law that I think is a great step towards improving motorcycling safety. I also wanted to suggest some simple but concrete ways we can all promote motorcycle awareness and safety every day.

This spring, the Nathan Bower Act takes effect and will influence Michigan's newest drivers. The new law (also called Nathan's Law and HB 5438) mandates that driver education classroom instruction "shall include information concerning the laws pertaining to bicycles and motorcycles and shall emphasize awareness of their operation on the streets, roads, and highways." In other words, Nathan's Law ensures that new drivers are being taught right from the beginning that they need to be aware of and watch carefully for motorcycles while they are driving. I think this new law is a sign that legislators are taking motorcycle awareness and safety seriously.

The Nathan Bower Act is one small positive to come out of a terrible tragedy. Nathan Bower was only 19 years old when he struck and killed by a motor vehicle driver when he was riding on his motorcycle just a few miles from home. His family and friends were devastated by his loss and determined to find a way to help reduce the number of riders killed in crashes. In interviews, Nathan's parents and other supporters of the law stated that they wanted to try to save others from the pain and loss of a motorcycle crash. The law was passed on what would have been Nathan's birthday.

I firmly believe that as riders, there is only so much we can do to prevent motorcycle – motor vehicle crashes, and after that it's up to the drivers. However, I also believe that as members of the biker community, we have a responsibility to actively promote motorcycle awareness and safety to everyone. We need to try to build on the buzz created by the passing of Nathan's Law, and try to be as dedicated to promoting motorcycle safety as Bower's family and friends have been.

Promoting motorcycle awareness and safety can be as simple getting a bumper sticker for your car (and your spouse's car, and your kid's cars, and your friend's cars... etc). You only have to do it once, but every time you drive your car you're calling attention to the fact that motorists need to Watch for Motorcycles. (If you don't want to buy a bumper

sticker, my office can set you up for free... contact us via our website.) You can also post messages, pictures, videos, and other promotional material on your Facebook, Twitter, and other social media pages. My team and I are committed to creating and sharing quality motorcycle awareness materials via social media, as part of our commitment to giving back to the biker community; add us to see them! If you're not big on social media, even putting a sign in your window or on your lawn could help remind drivers to be aware.

I've said it before, but joining a local motorcycle group is a great way to support motorcycle awareness activities in your area. Even if you can't commit time to attend chapter events, you could always make a donation to a group like the Motorcycle Safety Foundation or your local ABATE chapter. Even simpler, start teaching your kids when they're little to Watch for Motorcycles by playing the Count Motorcycles game, or slug-bike, or some other game that encourages them to always be on the lookout for bikes.

Whatever you do, make a commitment to spread the word about motorcycle awareness and safety this year. Do it for yourself and your riding buddies, your families, and everyone out there on two wheels. Nathan's Law is a great start... let's keep the momentum going.

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.motorcyclawyerinmichigan.com



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Recently overlooked at the GMA ceremonies, these songs were appreciated by anyone who's been there.....

12. I Hate Every Bone in Her Body But Mine.
11. It's Hard to Kiss the Lips At Night That Chewed Your Ass All Day.
10. If the Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know It's Me.
9. I Liked You Better Before I Got to Know You.
8. I Still Miss You Baby, But My Aim's Gettin' Better.
7. I Wouldn't Take Her to a Dog Fight 'Cause I'm Afraid She'd Win.
6. I'll Marry You Tomorrow, But Let's Honeymoon Tonight.
5. I'm So Miserable Without You, It's Like You're Still Here.
4. If I Had Shot You When I First Wanted To, I'd Be Out Of Prison By Now.
3. My Wife Ran Off With My Best Friend and I Sure Do Miss Him.
2. She Got the Ring and I Got the Finger.

*** And the number 1 Country Song is:

1. I Ain't Never Gone to Bed With Ugly Women But I've Sure Woke Up With a Few.

As a young minister, I was asked by a funeral director to hold a graveside service for a homeless man, with no family or friends, who had died while traveling through the area. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery way back in the country, and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there. As I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost; and being a typical man did not stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late. I saw the backhoe and the crew, who was eating lunch, but the hearse was nowhere in sight. I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and stepped to the side of the open grave, where I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them long, but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch! I poured out my heart and soul. As I preached the workers began to say "Amen," "Praise the Lord," and "Glory," I preached, and I preached, like I'd never preached before: from Genesis all the way to Revelations. I closed the lengthy service with a prayer and walked to my car. I felt I had done my duty for the homeless man and that the crew would leave with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication, in spite of my tardiness. As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another, "I ain't never seen anything like this before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Panhead was at the mall the other day eating at the food court. He noticed a teenager sitting next to him. The teenager had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, yellow, orange, and blue. Panhead kept staring at him. The teenager would look over and find Panhead staring at him, every time. When the teenager had enough, he sarcastically asked, "What's the matter old man, never done anything wild in your life?" Panhead did not bat an eye in his response, "Got really drunk once and had sex with a parrot. I was just wondering if you were the end result of that painful encounter."

Why Do Men Snore When They Lie On Their Backs?

Because their balls fall over their butt-holes and they vapor lock.

A crusty old lady dies and goes to heaven. She's chatting it up with St. Peter

at the Pearly Gates when all of a sudden she hears the most awful, blood curdling screams.

"Don't worry about that," says St. Peter, "It's only someone having the holes put into her shoulder blades for wings." The old lady looks a little uncomfortable but carries on with the conversation. Ten minutes later, there are more blood curdling screams. "Oh my God," says the old lady, "now what is happening?" "Not to worry," says St. Peter, "She's just having her head drilled to fit the halo." "I can't do this," says the old lady, "I'm going to hell." You can't go there," says St. Peter. "You'll be raped and taken advantage of." "Maybe so, says the old lady, but I've already got the holes for that"

A guy falls asleep on the beach for several hours and gets a horrible sunburn. He goes to the hospital and is promptly admitted after being diagnosed with second degree burns. With his skin already starting to blister and seeing the severe pain he is in, the doctor prescribes an IV with saline, electrolytes, a sedative, and a Viagra pill every four hours. The nurse, who is rather astounded, asks, "What good will Viagra do him, Doctor? The Doctor calmly replies, "It'll keep the sheets off his legs."

One winter morning a husband and wife in northern Minnesota were listening to the radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snowplows can get through." So the good wife went out and moved her car. A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snowplows can get through." The good wife went out and moved her car again. The next week they are again having breakfast, when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today. You must park..." Then the electric power went out. The good wife was very upset, and with a worried look on her face she said, "Honey, I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snowplows can get through?" With the love and understanding in his voice that only men who are married to blondes exhibit, the husband gently replied, "Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time?"

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose in to other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the towns' only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told George (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny... he said nothing. Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house... walked home... and left it there all night long.

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BY
Debra Wright

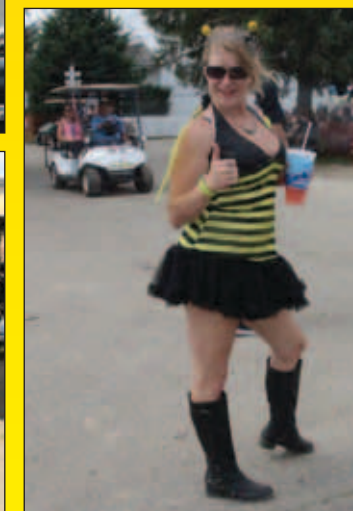
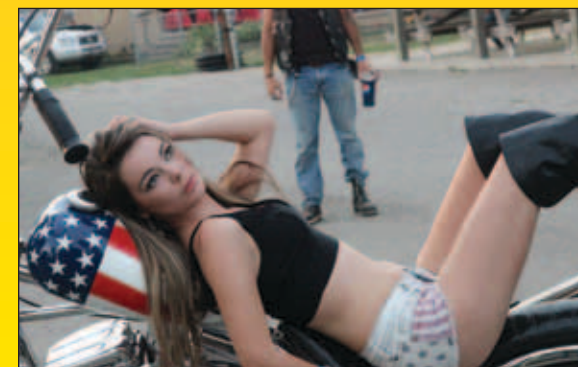
Spring is just around the corner. That means as you all know...Get your motorcycles out!! Events, Rallies, Rides, and Bike Nights are getting ready for 2015 riding season. With all that said, the Easyriders Rodeo is also just about to start opening their tour. The 2014 Easyriders tour was a dedication for John Green. He was the smiling face behind hundreds of Easyriders Bike shows and Motorcycle Rodeos. Since 1989, John started with Easyriders as a truck driver and worked his way up to president of the Events Division. He passed in May of 2014 with his family by his side from a long and tough fight with cancer. He is and always will be known for his great success with every Easyriders event. If you want to know more about John Green just google his name and the wonderful readings go on from there.

Every state that hosts a Rodeo has its own uniqueness to it. If you have never attended an Easyriders Rodeo – please plan to. There is camping offered as well as day passes to each venue. During the day you will see or can even be a contestant in biker games, no not on your bike but maybe on a motorized bar stool, or something to do with being behind a tractor!!! Special guests are always scheduled and you can usually get pictures and autographs with them as well. Food and beverages are available all day and an assortment of vendors set-up for you to shop. Bike shows and bands are always a big hit! Now if you camp you will get yet another grand experience. Bring whatever you may to decorate your space and sit back and have a blast!! Enjoy the Motorcycle Parade in the evening in the campground.

As you attend the Easyriders Rodeo, keep in mind the history and nostalgic of many years behind this. Keep the kids at home as this is a 21 and older crowd. Keep an open mind, have fun and a great experience.

To get all the information about the dates and times please visit them online at 2015 Easyriders Rodeo Tour and also check our upcoming issues for advertisements.

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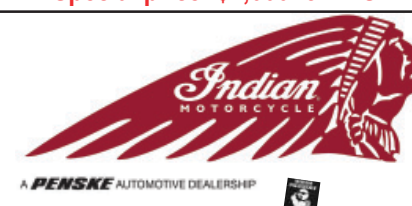
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Tech Tips By Steve

Harley® Goes High-Tech... Kinda

Sure hope you all are getting through winter OK! I have taken a few fun cold rides to keep my sanity but I am so ready for spring and some serious HEAT!

I have numerous questions and calls on wiring, mostly to do with LED turn signals/headlights and internal handlebar wiring, some stereo conversions too, and YES you can update your stereo and use your stock handlebar controls! (Pre 2014 is easy) New for Harley is the introduction of the cam-bus electric system which started in the electrical systems on the 2011 Softail Harleys and in 2014 for the rest of the Harley fleet, why do you care? Well this is a huge change for how the electronics communicate throughout the bike and if you plan on replacing electrical items on your bike make sure they are 100% compatible with the new system. Using the wrong stuff and the wrong installation on this new system can cause some major league problems. DO NOT try to tap into any wiring on the new system... bad bad things will ensue.

What is this new cam-bus style electrical system?

I don't want to get too deep into this but it is a subject you should at least be aware of especially if you have or want to get a newer bike. Can-bus is nothing new, it has been around since the eighties and was invented by Bosch, "Can" stands for Controller Area Network and the Bus is a common interconnection area point and a digital bus allows multiple packets of information from different sources to travel down one path simultaneously. Can-Bus allows most of the various computers and peripherals to talk or communicate with each other in both a simplified and complex manner. This means that nearly every electrical device on your bike could be connected to the Can-bus system which continuously and rapidly monitors everything via a computer. The system can also monitor current flow, voltage, etc. If you tried to tap into the electrical system for an extra electrical gadget Can-bus might "complain" and the Can-Bus computer thinks that the bike has a problem. It might even record the problem and give you a visual signal that all was not well. If the load was bad enough the bike might not start or not able to be ridden.

The problem that arises from Can-Bus is that the electrical system is to some degree no longer relatively easy to modify with changes, or add-ons, etc. Just adding an electrical outlet jack for a phone charger might cause problems. Typically the owners' answer to this is to wire accessory goodies directly to the battery, via a separately added fuse or fused panel. In cases where an electrical part or piece of equipment needs to be controlled by the motorcycle electrical system then the part must be connected through a special isolator that separates the two functions and hides the electrical flow from the Can-Bus system.

Your Harleys engine is controlled by the ECM (Engine Control Module) and the overall motorcycle from the headlight, the speakers and the taillights are now controlled by the BCM (Body Control Module) via can-bus communication, which basically also, just like your car, monitors the system for problems and lets you know about them. To give a "for instance" of the changes ... in 2010 a Softail has 11 fuses and 2 relays. A 2011 has 3 fuses 0 relays and 1 BCM (Body Control Module) and 33 large gauge wires were removed from the harness, so you can see it is helpful in many ways, however if you use good accessories and install them wisely or have a good shop help you there is no cause for alarm. Fig 1 is a Softail Body Control Module, looks similar to a TSSM (turn signal security module).



Fig 1 BCM-Body Control Module

OK enough of all that poppycock, now onto things I can understand, Basic wiring and how it is connected.

Connectors are probably the most discussed thing in our shop with customers. "How do I get these things apart?" There are a few different ones on a Harley, for example on a 2007 Harley Ultra you have Deutsch, Molex, Pickard, Delphi (fig3), Multilock (fig4), and Autofuse (fig2) connectors. The ones most taken apart for custom work are the Molex and the Deutsch so I will tackle those two connectors only.



Fig 2 Autofuse Connector



Fig 3 Delphi Connector



Fig 4 Multilock Connector

Out of all of these connectors the Deutsch style is my favorite by far, they are sturdy weather proof and easy to manage. The downside is they are big and bulky and to do the connections 100% correct you have to buy a \$250-400 tool to crimp the solid style ends, however there are some modified Deutsch male and female ends (stamped style) that can be crimped with a less expensive tool. You can see in Fig 5 from right to left- (left) regular crimpers/strippers \$25 (center) Universal Crimp tool \$72 (right) Deutsch solid terminal crimper \$250-\$400. The universal crimper will crimp the stamped style Deutsch connector but it takes some finessing. They also have a Deutsch/Molex crimper that's around 200 bills but I don't have one to show ya....sorry.

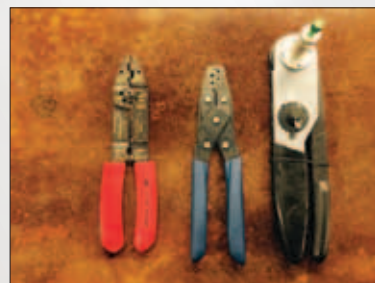


Fig 5

WIRING FUN!

Deutsch

To take the Deutsch connector apart you need no special tools, simply pry the orange top off with a thin screwdriver on the male connector and use needle nose pliers to remove the green wedge lock on the female connector, then on each wire use the small screwdriver to slide back the locking tab inside the connector and pull on the wire...bam disassembled! To reassemble simply slide the wires inside the connector until it snaps in and give it a little tug to make sure it locks, then put the rest of the wires in the same way, make sure they are all sitting inside the connector correctly then slide the wedge lock in which will click and lock all the wires into the connector so they cannot be pulled out, make sure the rubber sealing ring is on (male side only) and your done... easy day my friends.



Fig 6 Male and Female Deutsch Connectors

Molex

The Molex connector is a little harder to take apart, easier with the removal tool but with a needle or a paperclip and some patience you can get them apart with ease. Fig 7



Fig 7 Molex Connector

First pull the secondary lock up but not completely off using needle nose pliers on the female side and a small screwdriver on the male connector, then use the Molex tool or a paperclip to release the primary lock inside the connector and pull on the wire, continue until you have the wires out. Caution!!!! Avoid completely removing secondary lock, particularly on the socket housing side. Removal will allow the terminals to rotate inside the chambers, which prevents reinstallation of the secondary lock. If you do make this mistake no worries just remove all terminals from the connector housing before reinstalling the secondary lock, then reinstall the connectors. Not a huge deal and yes I have made the mistake ... I am not perfect by any means, but I tell ya what, once I learn the hard way I never forget...well at least most of the time.

Crimp on connectors

I do not like to use these but there are places where there is no other choice. However you can do it in such a manner that they won't be a worry later like in the picture below on this ole shovelhead. Fig 8

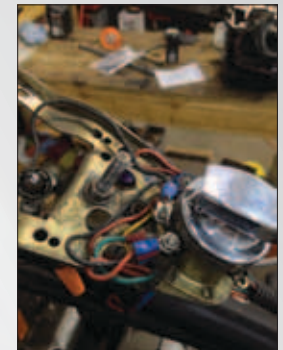


Fig 8 Ever see this? Oh my this is trouble!

I like to use uninsulated crimp connectors personally but if all I have is insulated ones I simply pull the insulation off. I crimp the wire onto the connector then use a dab of solder to make sure it will never pull apart then shrink wrap the connector to give it a nice seal, I have had great success. You can use black shrink wrap for most everything and to add some coolness you can use red on your power wires. In Fig 9 you will also see a yellow crimp connector to the right, these connectors are a little pricy but have a thick shrink wrap already on them, they work awesome, and you even can get them with dielectric grease already in the connector. Simply crimp then heat the tip and it seals perfectly.

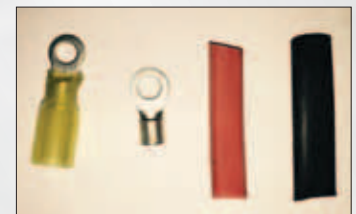


Fig 9

Posilock

The Posilock is one of the coolest things that have come out on the market in a long time... it makes custom connections so easy! They come in all kinds of sizes and styles, even waterproof ones. Simply unscrew the tip slide the wire in and screw the tip back on and BAM you have a perfect connection. Much better than any butt connector and the real beauty of these is you can take them apart and reuse the connection as many times as you like.



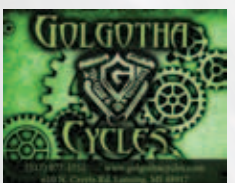
Fig 10 Posilock

That's as much space as I have this month so I have to say good bye till next month! Spring is coming soon great people; get those bikes ready to ride!

God Bless you all!

Steve

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	9	10	11	12	13	14 KICKSTART PARTY ABC HD
15 KALAMAZOO SWAP Wings Stadium	16	17 ST PATTY'S DAY 	18	19	20	21 SUSPENSION WORKSHOP ABC HD CUSTOM BIKE SHOW Gibraltar Mt. Clemens
22 CUSTOM BIKE SHOW Gibraltar Mt. Clemens GR SWAP MEET Delta Plex Arena	23	24	25	26	27	28 BACON & BIKES ABC HD OPEN HOUSE Macomb PS
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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Jalapeno Eating Contest | Motorcycle Kickstart Contest

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MARCH

March 6-8
Detroit Auto Rama
Cobo Hall, Detroit, MI.

March 7
Saving Private Horsepower Workshop
Grand Rapids HD, Hudsonville, MI. Starts
at noon. For more info go to www.grandr-
apidsharley.com

March 14
Spring Kickstart Party
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 11 am- 3 pm,
free food, jalapeno eating contest, mo-
torcycle kickstart contest, win up to \$500
in gift cards. For more info go to www.
abcharleydavidson.com (See full page
ad this issue).

March 15
42nd Annual Kalamazoo Motorcycle
Swap Meet
Wings Stadium, Kalamazoo, MI. 10
am-4pm, new & used motorcycle parts,
bikes, leather, novelties, food & beer
available. \$8 pp, 12 & under free. For
more info go to www.kalamazooswap.
com (See ad this issue).

March 21
Suspension Workshop
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. noon- 1:30
pm, RSVP to info@abcharleydavidson.
com, get lowdown, VIP seating to lunch
& learn, 1 attendee wins \$100 giftcard
from ABC HD. For more info go to www.
abcharleydavidson.com (See full page
ad this issue).

March 21
Monster Energy Supercross
Ford Field, Detroit, MI. Event starts at 6:30
pm, various pricing. Go to www.fordfield.
com for tickets.

March 21-22
8th Annual Gibraltar Custom Motorcycle
Show & Expo
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens, MI.
\$7 pp, 12 & under free. Sat 10am-8pm,
Sun 10am-6pm. Motorcycle parts,

accessories, apparel, leather goods
& more. For more info go to www.
gibraltartrade.com (See full page ad this
issue).

March 22
Grand Rapids Motorcycle Swap Meet
Delta Plex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI. 10
am-4 pm, \$8 pp, new & used motorcycle
parts, bikes, leather, novelties, food &
beer available. \$8 pp, 12 & under free.
For more info See ad this issue.

March 28
Bacon & Bikes
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 11 am-3 pm,
RSVP to info@abcharleydavidson.
com, free food & door prizes, ride in
Bike Show. For more info go to www.
abcharleydavidson.com (See full page
ad this issue).

March 28
Open House
Macomb Powersports, Chesterfield,
MI. 10 am- 4 pm, specials throughout
the store, giveaways & prizes, food &
refreshments. For more info call 586-
949-4000 (See full page ad this issue).

APRIL

April 4
12th Annual Cadillac Motorcycle Swap
Meet
Wexford County Civic Center, Cadillac,
MI. 10 am-4 pm, \$7 pp, 12 & under free.
For more info go to www.cadillacswap.
com (See ad this issue).

April 4
Spring Comedy Kick Start Dinner Show
American Legion Riders Post 32, Livonia
MI. Advance tickets \$30 pp (no ticket sales
at the door), doors open 6 pm for cocktails
& dinner, showtime 7:30 pm. For more info
& tickets call 734-858-7956

April 18
7th Annual D-Frost Run & Party Benefiting
Penrickton Center for Blind Children
UAW Local 387 Hall, Flat Rock, MI. Regis
10 am- noon, last bike in at 5 pm, \$20 pp
incl patch, prizes, dinner & after party, \$10
pp incl dinner & after party, \$5 incl after
ride party only. For more info go to
www.penrickton.com

April 19
Birch Run Motorcycle Swap Meet
Birch Run Expo Center, Birch Run, MI. 10
am- 4 pm, \$6 pp. For more info & vendor
spots call 989-893-5187 or email
bubba@bubbastricitycycle.com

April 25
Riders for Wranglers Poker Run
Redford Jaycees (The Corral), Redford,
MI. \$25 single, \$35 double, 9 am check-in,
10 am hit the trail, 5 pm BBQ at the Corral,
continental breakfast, snacks, drinks,
entertainment, art auction & more. Benefit
to save the Lazy B's Ranch. Register at
www.ridersforwranglers.eventbrite.com

April 26
10th Annual North Shore Blessing of
the Bikes
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens,
MI. Regis 11 am, blessing & bike show 2
pm, music, prizes, food, vendors &
activities for kids. For more info email
pastor.randy.ns@gmail.com (See ad
this issue).

MAY

May 3
16th Annual Blessing of the Bikers
Church of the Living Word, Ovid, MI.
\$5 pp all you can eat hog roast, charity
ride, bike show, 50/50 & prizes, no pets.
For more info go to www.cotlw.org (See
ad this issue).

May 9
15th Annual Jackson Blessing of the Bikes
1st Church of the Nazarene, Jackson, MI.
Noon, blessing at 1:30 pm.
door prizes, food, donation drawing, music,
fellowship, ride-in bike show (\$5 to enter).
Personal bike blessings are available for
anyone, everyone welcome, rain or shine.
NO attitudes or alcohol allowed. For more
info call Gary at 517-531-3481

May 9
3rd Annual Allegan Blessing of the Bikes &
Classic Cars:
Blessed Sacrament Church, Allegan
MI. \$5 pp, 10 & under free, proceeds to:
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Children's Advocacy Center & Blessed
Sacrament Church. Hosted by Knights on
Bikes of Michigan, Knights of Columbus
and Blessed Sacrament Church.

May 10
35th Annual Mother's Day Swap Meet &
Bike Show
Midland Co. Fairgrounds, Midland, MI. Re-
gis 10 am-1 pm, event 10 am- 4 pm, \$5 pp,
12 & under free. For more info & vendor
spots call 989-893-5187 or email bubba@
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May 16
Awareness Ride & Scavenger Hunt
VFW Post 3943, Newport (Monroe), MI.
\$10 pp, scavenger hunt ride, bike blessing,
dinner, bike show, horseshoes, music, flea
market, live & silent auction, shoe shine
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For more info call Mary 734-652-9739

May 17
6th Annual Antique Motorcycle Swap Meet
& Vintage Motorcycle Show
St. Joseph Co. Fairgrounds, Centreville,
MI. 9 am- 4 pm, \$5 adults, under 16 yrs
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Biker Preacher's Corner

Hello again, my brothers and sisters!! Here it is the beginning of March - the first day of spring is on the 20th and I, like most of you, hope to be back in the wind about that time!

This month, I'm going to be a little more transparent with you all and let you know what's been going on in my life and family over the last month or so. On January 31st, my 97 year old father passed away, (went home as we say) he passed quietly and peacefully surrounded by family. Ya see, my dad had a long and rich life; yes he went through good times and bad times just like the rest of us, but his faith and relationship with The Lord, Jesus Christ, sustained him through it all.

Dad was a World War II veteran (serving in the 5th Army), a husband to the most wonderful woman (Wanda) and mother anyone could ever have (mom passed away June of 2008), he was carpenter by trade and mom and dad raised 4 sons and 1 daughter, which I am the youngest son.

The biggest thing about my dad that I want you all to know is that he lived out his walk with the Lord every day, not just on Sunday. He set an example of faithfulness, loyalty and honor and living in such a way brought glory to the Lord God; and when it was his time to go, we didn't mourn his passing but celebrated his life and his going home.

Dad lived a life of quiet godly integrity even though he didn't have much, in fact I whimsically suggest the song Simple Man from Lynyrd Skynyrd for his funeral, but what he did have, Jesus, he left a mighty Godly heritage and legacy for his children, and our children and their children... that we, too, would know the Lord Jesus. Many in my family, like myself, are in ministry of some sort and carrying on his legacy - a legacy for Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 says 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. 7 Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (HCSB)

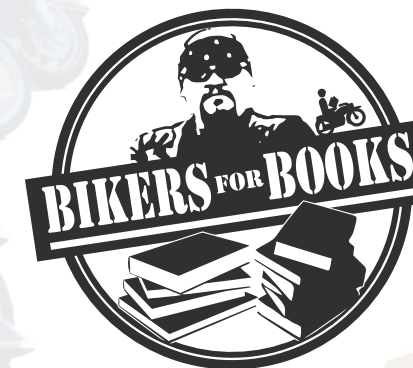
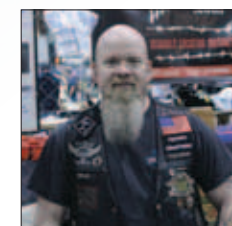
This was mom and dad; they fulfilled this scripture perfectly not just in words but in quiet deeds of love to their family, friends and neighbors. They lived Jesus out loud! My desire and hope is to live by their example for all to see Christ Jesus in me.

Thank you for letting me talk about my dad!!

Much Love & Respect,

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay

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Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

Inspiration

(From Forbes- Top 100 Inspirational Quotes)

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me. ~ Erma Bombeck

Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him.

~ Booker T. Washington

Certain things catch your eye, but pursue only those that capture the heart. ~ Ancient Indian Proverb

Believe you can and you're halfway there. ~ Theodore Roosevelt

Riddles

A. Sometimes I'm a sphere, Sometimes I'm a banana, and sometimes I'm not there at all. What am I?

B. If you look at my face you won't see 13 in any place. What am I?

C. You'll see me when the sun is high and also late at night, I'm in the songs of holidays, when the snow is white, Kings and Queens and royalty, are all found in me, I'm the largest of them all, with just one you see, Step by step with pounding feet, I'm tribes of angry men, I'm above your hands right now, for help or to go again, You'll use me in the kitchen, or add a little more, I'll be in the years to come, and the days of yore. What am I?

(Answers below)

Fun Facts

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

Dogs and cats consume almost \$7 billion worth of pet food a year.

It takes a lobster approximately 7 years to grow to be one pound.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Answers: A). The Moon B). A Clock Face C). Twelve (12)



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MARCH 20TH - 22ND
Mt. Clemens Motorcycle Show
GIBALTAR TRADE CENTER

APRIL 2015
APRIL 4TH
Cadillac Motorcycle Swap Meet
CADILLAC, MI

APRIL 19TH
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APRIL 26TH
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ABATE OF MICHIGAN

Baby-boomer bikers like to wear all black garb: black leather jackets and chaps, black boots, black novelty helmets - if they bother to wear a helmet at all. Serving the same purpose as gang colors, the dark apparel identifies to others that those who wear it belong to a particular subset of motorcyclists commonly referred to as “bikers.”

How's that statement make you feel? If like me, it kind of sticks in your craw, you might be interested in knowing that this is the attitude of some Michigan folks with the fervent intent of bypassing your rights and forcing their ideas of what's appropriate on you through law.

This year, the 25 dollar basic rider courses that are financed by you via fees on your motorcycle registrations, are going to give each individual who passes the course a 38 dollar reflective vest. The vests being financed through a federal grant received to address our safety. Yeah, something close to like 200 thousand dollars' worth of reflective vests to be handed out. Do you think it was “bikers” who came up with this “brilliance” as the best bang for OUR bucks to keep us safe? These NannyCrats, as history would have it, tend to look at what Europe is doing regarding vehicle safety and then implement their own version of it. Hi-Viz is mandated in several European countries, so don't be surprised when the mandatory Hi Viz clothing bill hit's the Michigan legislature.

So while several hundred thousand dollars' worth of reflective vests lay on the floor of garages and basements around the state, likely unused for riding purposes, we will be bombarded with advertising to get us to vote yes on increased taxes to fix the damn roads? Granted a couple hundred thousand for roads won't fix much, but it likely would contribute more to our safety than those vests ever will.

I don't know if I am a baby-boomer and really don't care. I am a “biker”. I wear what I have always worn without any interest in how it “identifies” me to others. I do not, nor ever have I belonged to a “gang”. I do believe the saying, “Harley riders are a dime a dozen, Bikers are a dying breed”, is true although I don't limit it to Harley riders. And I know I am not alone.

We, “bikers” pay taxes. We work hard. Many of us are veterans. We contribute generously to our brothers, sisters, and communities. We have respect for the Constitution, our Flag, our Military members, Honor, and each other. In return all we expect is to be left alone to live our lives as we choose without infringement of our rights. Unfortunately, that does not happen without a watchman at the door. American Bikers Against Totalitarian Actions - ABATE of Michigan, is our watchman.

In the course of my employment I have been present in the state Capitol for the past 20 Michigan State of the State addresses. These have become rather prestigious events to attend and only a very select number of lobbyists, VIP's, and public guests are allowed entry. It was with great pride that I observed no less than 5 black clothed ABATE of Michigan “bikers” in attendance, all with the ABATE “colors” prominently displayed on their backs, and surrounded by legislators. I cannot express how meaningful that is in terms of grass roots relevance. It is demonstrative of the seriousness we “bikers” have in tending to our lives.

To be clear, we do not represent any “subsets”. We are not a club. We do not stereotype or diminish any biker based on club, affiliation, race, sex, beliefs, political party, or brand of motorcycle. We welcome and represent ALL Michigan Bikers and fight to preserve the freedoms of the road.

~ Rusty



Rusty Bongard
Communications Director,
ABATE of Michigan
Asst. State Rep. MRF
Co-Director B.O.L.T. of Michigan
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THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN

is proud to announce that this summer, we will be introducing a state-wide, summer-long riding challenge hitting the coolest riding destinations and events across the state – The 2015 Michigan Thunder Run! This is a riding challenge like no-other and features great prizes every month!

The Way it Works

Each month *Thunder Roads Michigan* will announce a list of Thunder Run Stops each month. These stops are selected based upon the recommendations of our readers and confirmed by our editors. Riders can then hit these locations and present their Rider Cards in order to register at each stop.

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 motorcycle!



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





The Winners

If your check-in is drawn, **Thunder Roads Michigan** will post your card number both online 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 2015 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. Get the list of stops each month from your Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine's website (ThunderRoadsMichigan.com), or Facebook.
3. Ride out to these stops and show them your card.
4. And then you win cool prizes, including cold hard CASH!

The first step will be for riders to register for their **Thunder Roads Michigan Ride Cards**. A number of select locations will serve as Registration Centers. Riders can easily register at these points – free of charge. They will then receive their Ride Cards.

Thunder Roads Michigan will also be registering riders for Ride Cards at specific events throughout the year as we distribute magazines. Key events, such as Bikes on the Bricks or Bike Nights will have special booth for Ride Card registrations. 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 Michigan** 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!**

One key aspect of the MTR is that we will be limiting the number of stops to a reasonable amount each month. We are NOT simply adding anyone willing to write a check. We will be considering stops recommended by our readers and editors, and we will only select those that offer a legitimate interest to riders – making them worth the ride to visit. We are not hosting the run as simply a means of supporting the magazine, but as a fun way to promote partners and cool destinations all across the state.

This is not simply a "Chinese fire drill" or mad-dash across the state. This is a Ride program. It is meant to be a means for readers to discover new riding destinations and enjoy the ride there. In fact, we have designed the program to encourage folks to break out of their local routes and trek to the furthest corners of the state.

Just Get Out and RIDE!



One of the really exciting aspects of the program is that the Michigan Thunder Run can be modified and added to throughout the summer – if not the entire year. We will be adding and dropping stops each month. Readers will be able to nominate stops, we'll investigate them, and if we agree that it's a suitable stop – they'll be invited to join the run. Some stops will only run a few months – and possibly not consecutive. A cool winery in Traverse City might be a stop early in the season, and then we bring them back during the harvest season! We can also modify the run if it turns out that something just isn't working.

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. Again this is not simply a sales tool for us or meant to subsidize the magazine! We have designed this run to entertain and challenge our readers – as well as promote our partners.

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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.

Sponsors will also have the opportunity to team up with **Thunder Roads Michigan** to help promote various charity events across the state. The Michigan Thunder Run is a great vehicle to help promote non-profit events in communities all across the state. With the support of regional and state-wide sponsors – **Thunder Roads Michigan** can help promote these community events to a larger audience. **Thunder Roads Michigan** is involved in countless charitable events all across the state already – but with the support of our sponsors, we will be able to assist even more. Partners can assist in the sponsorship of specific events, areas of concern (such as breast cancer, child abuse, or animal shelters), or other specific areas.

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 2015 Michigan Thunder Run will begin in June, with all necessary information and additional details in each month's issue of **Thunder Roads Michigan**. We will also have a complete listing on our website – ThunderRoadsMichigan.com and our Facebook pages. We will include a listing of registration stops – including a wide variety of events in June; including Bike Nights, Bike Blessings, and rides.

The RIDE kicks off in May!

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



MARCH 2015 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN 39





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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.

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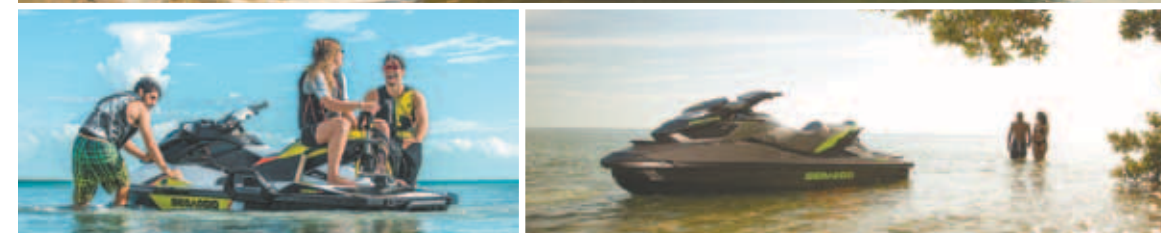
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SEA-DOO



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I received a copy of a customer letter that was written to Thumb Motorcycle Chrome about a job well done! They have been a loyal advertiser and supporter of Thunder Roads Michigan. It's always a pleasure when customers share their positive experiences with me so that I can in turn share with you that our advertisers are indeed the best! So when you are looking for that biker friendly business, look no further than Thunder Roads Michigan to find exactly the place to go and person to see to do the job right! I encourage anyone else to please send me your letters so I can let our readers know about the positive experience you received with one of our advertisers. Thanks so much. Now here is the letter:

Hey Charles,

I just wanted to take a minute to tell you just how I feel about the job you and your crew did for me. Let me start by saying, the bike I bought in 2005 is a celebration of the 25 years I spent as a full-time firefighter. The Harley-Davidson Ultra Classic firefighter special edition was a lifetime in coming. When I was a 10-year-old boy my father had a friend who had a "giant" blue Electra Glide and he took me for a ride. I said then, that I would one day, own a bike like that. And 47 years later that dream came true.

Needless to say, like all bike owners, I am very particular about whom I will allow to work on it. Performing routine maintenance, changing tires, and fixing minor problems is one thing... Taking the entire motorcycle apart and rebuilding it into something entirely different is a whole different ballgame.

It was with great trepidation I left my "baby" with you and your crew and waited as the days slowly passed. I was like a kid at Christmas when the phone rang and you said it was all done.

I can't tell you the thrill I felt when I witnessed the finished product. That day was October 4, 2014. Your company has surpassed my greatest expectations, what a beautiful job. Everyone in your company is extremely professional and all treated a very expensive machine as if it was their own, and for that I can't thank you enough. The accessories you recommended, the little things you did that made my "new trike" a true firefighter edition makes me very proud to show it off. It's this kind of extra effort and attention to detail that sets your company apart.

I'm looking forward to working with you in the future and I highly recommend Thumb Motorcycle Chrome to anyone looking for the best!

See you on the road,
Craig's MacPherson



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Bullet Points

LONG GUNS FOR SELF-DEFENSE: THE AR-15 (aka The Modern Sporting Rifle)



The semi-automatic AR-15 is the most popular rifle in the United States. There are several reasons for this. One is that following every major conflict that the U.S. has fought, the veterans of that conflict have sought to acquire firearms similar to those they used to fight with. Following World War I, there was a great move in the U.S. to adopt the bolt-action rifle. Prior to that time, the lever-

action rifle was the most common variety encountered in the fields and woods during hunting seasons. Following World War II, there was significantly increased interest in semi-automatic rifles. And, following the Vietnam War and the conflicts in the Middle East it is only natural to expect interest in the AR-15 rifle to grow as millions of veterans returned to civilian life.

A second reason is the flexibility that the AR-platform offers. Unlike earlier guns, the AR rifles can be easily modified by the owner without having to resort to the use of a trained gunsmith to perform the work. Probably the greatest flexibility is a result of using an adjustable stock and the variety of sights that can be used on the gun. The adjustable stock means that it can be easily adapted to shooters of different sizes. In the past when non-adjustable stocks were the norm, each shooter basically had to have their own dedicated rifle or they had to adapt their shooting fundamentals (grip and stance) to enable them to use the unmodified gun. Obviously this does not contribute to good marksmanship like “fitting” the gun to the shooter would.

In addition to the adjustable stock, the pistol grip and location of the other “controls” on the AR-15 make it very ergonomic for the user. Since they don’t have to concentrate on the controls, they can focus their attention on shooting.

The .223/5.56mm cartridge also contributes to the popularity. The rifle is easy for just about anyone to shoot as it does not produce “punishing” recoil when fired. As a result, it is popular among shooters of smaller stature—women and children. But, you are not limited to the .223/5.56mm. You can change calibers easily with the AR-style rifle by simply replacing the “upper” assembly with one in the caliber of your choice—provided it will fit within the AR’s “form-factor”. You may or may not be able to use the same magazines for the new caliber’s ammunition as you can for the original caliber.

Still another factor in the popularity of the AR-15 is probably related to politics. When gun control advocates say they want to ban something, that just serves to increase the popularity of that item as people rush to buy them while they still can. And, once they have them, owners have discovered that the AR-15 is a fun gun to shoot.

Because there are so many of them in the hands of American citizens, it is only natural that they be considered for use in self-defense. Given that it was originally used as a military weapon, the utility for self-defense seems to be assumed. However, some configurations of the AR-15 are more suited to self-defense than others. Those in the carbine configuration with the collapsible butt-stock and shorter barrels seem most appropriate for self-defense as they are easier to maneuver in the narrow confines of hallways and rooms. The caliber is a proven man-stopper. The lack of recoil makes it easier to make accurate follow-up shots if needed. The light-weight bullets do not over penetrate and thus are of less concern in crowded urban environments.

Having a detachable magazine makes the AR-15 rifle easy to reload. Magazines come in 5, 10, 20, 30-round capacity, and some with even larger capacities. (Note, in Ohio you are limited to using nothing larger than a 30-round magazine for a total capacity in your firearm of 31 rounds of ammunition.) The 30-round magazine is the standard for the AR-15 platform.

However, the AR-15 is not something that is easily adaptable for “concealed carry”. It is a little too large for that role, although it works well as a “home defense” firearm.

So, should you consider the AR-platform to fulfill your self-defense needs? It certainly does if you are not concerned about “concealed carry” when you are out in public. With millions of Americans already having one, it should be an easy choice. Plus, it has one other advantage. Unlike most handguns, an AR-15 rifle is adaptable for multiple uses—hunting, predator control, etc., not just self-defense. Just another example of the gun’s flexibility.

by Gary Evans ~ NRA-Certified Instructor and Range Safety Officer.

US Court Rules Residency Requirements for Pistol Buys is Unconstitutional

February, 11, 2015

A federal district court in Texas ruled residency requirements for pistol purchases is unconstitutional, directly challenging Attorney General Eric Holder who has argued the federal ban on handguns outside of a person’s state of residence doesn’t violate the second amendment.

In the case, federally licensed firearms dealer Frederic Russell Mance Jr. of Texas and gun buyers Tracey and Andrew Hanson sued Mr. Holder and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Director B. Todd Jones claiming the federal ban on the sale of handguns outside of one’s state stops the formation of a national handgun market.

The Hansons, who live in Washington, visited Mr. Mance’s Texas store in June and were unable to buy handguns because of the ban. The ban effectively “reduces competition, raises prices and limits consumer choices,” their joint lawsuit, which was filed in July, alleged.

Mr. Holder and the Department of Justice aimed to dismiss the suit, claiming the plaintiffs had no standing, and were dealt no harm. Mr. Holder also argued, the Second Amendment is “silent” as to the ability to sell or buy handguns “in any particular forum” and that courts have “repeatedly declined” to rule that right is protected.

“Here, the court’s inquiry can end at step one because the challenged laws do not impose any burden, let alone a substantial burden, on conduct historically protected by the Second Amendment,” Mr. Holder’s motion said.

However, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, disagreed.

“Court finds that defendants’ motion to dismiss should be and is hereby denied,” it said in a brief filed Wednesday. “Defendants argue Mance has suffered no injury...As stated above, Mance was unable to consummate the sale of handguns to the Hansons...the loss of sale is clearly an injury to Mance in his own right.”

The court’s decision is “huge breaking news,” said Matthew Bergstrom, a managing attorney at Arsenal Attorneys, a second-amendment law firm, in an email. “So a Texan could now walk into a Virginia gun dealer and buy a pistol. Huge decision.”

He added a stay and appeal from the Department of Justice is likely.

by Kelly Riddell ~The Washington Times

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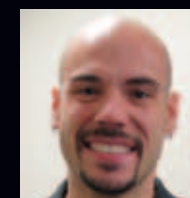
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