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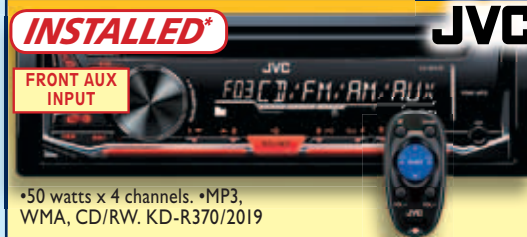
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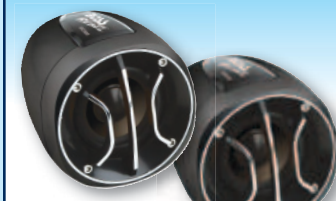


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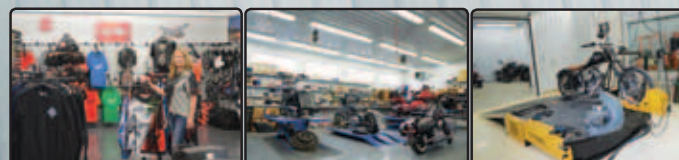
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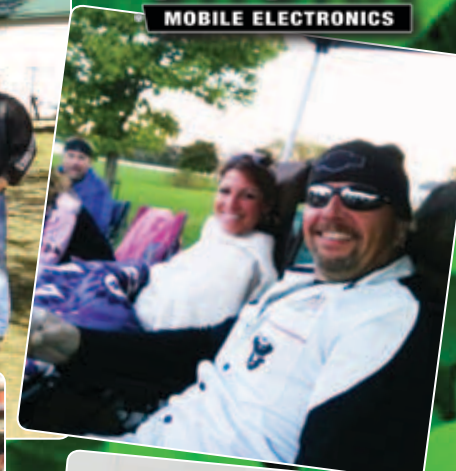
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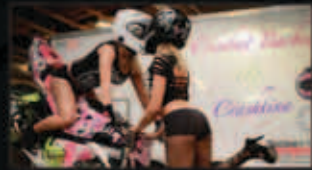
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Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

It's almost spring!



This is such a hard time of the year for us bikers. We sit and wait for the warm weather to be upon us again so we can head to our favorite bike night, attend our favorite rally/event or just ride anywhere! The good news is that winter is almost over and the warmer weather will soon be here! Meanwhile, let's make the best of it!

Also, very soon we will be kicking off the 3rd Annual Michigan Thunder Run Ride n' Win summer long contest again. Read all about that in this issue and be ready for that to start May 1st. You still have some time to get that custom paint job or upgrade some chrome before spring comes, so get it done! Be sure to mark your calendars for April 2nd & 3rd to attend the Detroit International Bike-O-Rama (see cover and details on page 6 in this issue). We have Part VIII in the series of the History of a Motorcycle in this issue, veterans corner, ABATE and I have some fun St. Patrick's Day Facts for you listed in Jody Mo's Thunder Fun so check those out too.

Thank you to all the monthly contributors to TRMI and our wonderful advertisers~ for you are all what helps make and keep Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan the #1 FREE Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan!

Last month the Biker Friendly character was on page 23, in the picture with Tom. 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.



Now for some "Mo" Advice:

The one's that believe it's just "luck" do not realize that it isn't.

Jody Mohowitsch



MICHIGAN

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MARCH 2016 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN 7

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8 MARCH 2016 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN



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TRIM EVENTS CALENDAR 2016

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

Bike Nights listed ONLY on ads in each issue.

MARCH

March 2
First Responder Appreciation
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 5:30-7pm, free
food & drinks till gone, current & former
first responders get free passes to HD
Riding Academy. For more info call 269-
329-3450 (See ad this issue).

March 3
HD First Responders Event
Tecumseh HD, Tecumseh, MI. 5 - 7 pm, our
way of thanking current and former Military,
Police, Fire & EMS Personnel, free food &
drink, door prizes, all first responders can
learn to ride for free. For more info go to
tecumsehhd.com

March 12
Vegas Party
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 11 am- 3 pm,
free food, door prizes & entertainment.
For more info go to abcharleydavidson.com (See inside front cover this issue).

March 17
St. Patrick's Day Event
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 11 am-5pm, wear
green or orange to dealership for chance
to win \$100 gift card. For more info call
269-329-3450 (See ad this issue).

March 18-19
Pig Fest
Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference
Center, Lansing, MI. \$35 pp, entertain-
ment, 50/50, door prizes & more. For
more info go to harleyrider.net (See ad
this issue).

March 19
Collection Kits/Trim Workshop
Biker Bob's HD, Taylor, MI. 2 pm. To
RSVP for your spot call 734-947-4647.
For more info go to bikerbobshd.com
(See 2 page ad spread this issue).

March 19
New Model Event
Motorcity Motorcycles, Bloomfield Hills,
MI. Join us in celebrating full line of
2016 Indian & Victory Motorcycles. For
more info go to ridemotorcity.com (See
ad this issue).

March 19
Monster Energy AMA Supercross
Ford Field, Detroit, MI. \$15 admis, doors
open 12:30 pm, race starts at 6:30 pm. For
more info go to supercrosslive.com/tickets

March 19
1st Annual Sentinel Knights Benefit Dinner
Diamond Back Club House, Pottsville, MI.
Noon- 6 pm, \$15 pp, \$20 couple, 5-12 yrs.
\$5 & under 5 free, \$5 off with dry can food
donation, live music, movies for kids, color-
ing contest, face painting & more. For more
info call Sherrie 517-414-8721

March 19-20
9th Annual Custom Motorcycle Show &
Expo
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens, MI.
Sat 10-8, Sun 10-6, \$7, 12 & under free
with adult, bike show, dealers, equip-
ment, leather, apparel, accessories, bi-
kini contest & more. For more info go to
gibraltartrade.com (See full page ad
this issue).

March 20
43rd Annual Kalamazoo Motorcycle
Swap Meet
3600 Vanrick Dr. Kalamazoo, MI. 10 am-
4 pm, \$9 pp, Bikes, parts, leather, food &
beer. For more info go to [paragonpro-
motion.com](http://paragonpro-
motion.com) (See ad this issue).

March 26
Heat the Streets Party
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 11 am- 3 pm,
burnout pit, free food, live music &
chance to win a 2016 Street Glide. For
more info go to abcharleydavidson.com
(See inside front cover this issue).

March 26
13th Annual Cadillac (MI) Motorcycle
Swap Meet
Wexford Civic Center, Cadillac, MI. 10
am- 4 pm, \$7 pp, 12 & under free, Buy-
Sell-Trade, Bikes, parts leather, food,
beer. For more info call 1-800-800-6034
or go to www.cadillacswap.com (See ad
this issue).

APRIL

April 2-3
Detroit International Bikeorama
Cobo Center, Detroit, MI. Ultimate build
competition \$10k, prizes, trophies, ven-
dors, massive swap meet, bikini contest,
bike giveaway & more. For more info or
vendor info go to detroitbikeorama.com
(See cover & full page ad this issue).

April 3
36th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet
Lansing Center, Lansing, MI. 10 am-
4pm, \$6 pp, 12 & under free, buy- sell-
trade; parts, leather, jewelry, patches,
accessories & more. For more info go to
hugesswapmeets.com

April 10
36th Annual Grand Rapids Motorcycle
Swap Meet
DeltaPlex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI. 10
am - 4 pm, buy-sell-trade, bikes, parts
leather, food, beer. For more info go to
grandrapidsmotorcycleswap.com (See
ad this issue).

April 16-17
Motorcycle Show & Expo
Gibraltar Trade Center, Mt. Clemens, MI.
Sat & Sun 10 am-6pm, \$5 pp, 12 & under
free, new/used bikes, parts, accessories,
leather goods, bike apparel & more. For
more info call 586-465-6440 (See full
page ad this issue).

April 24
Birch Run Motorcycle Swap Meet
11600 N. Beyer Rd. Birch Run, MI. 10am-
4pm, \$6 & free parking, over 400 vendors
with motorcycles, parts, accessories. Ven-
dor spots only \$40.00 for used parts ven-
dors. For more Info call Bubba 989-893-
5187 or email bubba@bubbastricitycycle.com

April 24-26
Spring Open House & 1 year Anniversary
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. Test rides, new
product demos, free food. For more info
go to raycsh-d.com (See ad this issue).

MAY

May 1
32nd Annual Peotone (IL) Motorcycle
Swap Meet.
Will Co. Fairgrounds, Peotone, IL. 10
am- 4pm, \$7 pp, early bird 7 am- 10 am
\$10 pp, Bikes, parts, leather, food & beer.
For more info go to paragonspromotion.com (See ad this issue).

May 1
17th Annual Blessing of the Bikers
Church of the Living Word, Ovid, MI.
Ride in Bike Show regis by noon, hog
roast all you can eat \$5, 50/50, prizes,

charity ride. For more info go to cotlw.org (See ad this issue).

May 7
4th Annual Allegan Blessing of the Bikes &
Classic Cars
Blessed Sacrament Church, 110 N. Cedar
St, Allegan, MI. 8am- 2pm, \$5 pp, food,
vendors on site, Featuring Marge's Custom
Sewing & Big Moe's BBQ, Proceeds go to
Operation Injured Soldier, Safe Harbor Chil-
dren's Advocacy Center. Music, games,
silent Auction with Blessing at 12:00

May 7
"Moses" Bib Bash & JoAn's 80th & Stu's
83rd Birthdays
Museum of "Moses", McBain (Vogel
Center), MI. 10 am- 2 pm, hot dogs, cot-
ton candy, vendors, short ride (weather
permitting to follow), wear your bib over-
alls, 50/50, prizes & more. For more info
call 231-825-2219

LOOKING FARTHER AHEAD

*Mark Your Calendars for June 9-11 for
the 28th Annual Sandy Corley Memorial
Run, The Double JJ Resort, Rothbury,
MI. For more info or vendor info go to
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Remember to call ahead before planning to attend
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MARCH 2016 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN 9

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READERS RIDES

Max



Max took his first motorcycle ride in the spring of 2010 when he was just 9 months old.

He instantly fell in love and any opportunity he could get he wanted to ride on the tank with his daddy. It used to be a joke that we couldn't leave on the bikes without first taking Max around the neighborhood otherwise he'd throw a fit and cry at the door.

He went on his first charity ride for Toys for Tots when he was 2 yrs. old. He ended up falling asleep, resting his little helmet in the speedometer of his daddy's Soft Tail Deuce. One foot on the horn, one foot on the air cleaner. We would always laugh because when we came to a stop sign, Max would let his feet hang. When his dad would take off, he pull his feet right back up just like dad.



and he'll constantly throw an "I love you" sign.

In 2014, he asked Santa for his own motorcycle (much to our surprise). With the help of some friends Santa was able to grant that request. The chopper sat in our living room for 3 months since he wasn't able to ride it with all the snow. He would just pretend. The first time he went out on the bike at a local park we were surprised to see what a pro he was. It's in his blood & off he went.



Around his 6th birthday (June 2015) he began telling us his birthday wish was to ride his motorcycle with his dad. Max's birthday fell on a Tuesday and just so happened to be bike night at Castaways. Max didn't know we had secretly brought his bike to Castaways and when he made the wish; his dad took him to the parking lot and let him ride right alongside of him into bike night. The rest is very public history.....

He still rides his own bike on private property and area parks, but you will most likely see Max on the back of his dad's bike all summer long. When he is 16 years old his dad plans to pass along that Deuce to Max to continue riding right alongside his dad.

PHOTOS BILLY D



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CMU Program Helps Veterans

Gaining a degree can be a difficult proposition for a soldier, whether he or she is currently in the service or have their military days behind them.

Central Michigan University's Veterans' Resource Center gained a gold-level ranking for being "veteran friendly" from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency last year. Director Duane Kleinhardt said since most staff members are veterans themselves, they can relate to incoming students with similar situations.

CMU has long been supporting students who devoted their time, bodies, minds and more for the defense of their country. Empathy towards those who had similar experiences can be a big part of that, Kleinhardt said. "We want it to be a safe place where [veterans] can talk to someone who has walked in their boots and are going through the same trials and tribulations," Kleinhardt said.

He regularly meets with students, saying the 6 to 8 students he spoke to on a Friday was a slow day. Kleinhardt, who served in both the Navy and the Army, said he wants to use technological resources such as video conferences to make students taking CMU courses on military bases feel more connected to the university.

The VRC also assists active military - including National Guard and Reserve – and spouses and dependents of veterans and active military members.

Dan Maloney, manager of U.S. West Operations at Central Michigan University's Global Campus, oversees CMU's representatives on different U.S. military bases throughout the United States, including Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California and Pope Field in North Carolina, with vetted, qualified instructors to teach the classes. He said U.S. West makes efforts to help soldiers find a program of study that works for them.

Habitat For Humanity Looking For Veterans Who Need Home Repair

Marion Graff leads an interesting life. He's 93 years old and has lived in the same Grand Rapids home since 1953. Graff is also a World War II veteran who served as a Navy sailor.

"We were on the frontline 211 days," Graff recalled.

These days, he said he still keeps busy. However, there's only so much he can do around the house on his own when it comes to maintenance. He said some of the home's features have been falling apart.

"I had an older door. It was in there for probably 30, 40 years," he pointed out. "It wasn't closing real good."

So a friend told him about Habitat for Humanity of Kent County's "Veterans Repair Program". The program helps veterans weatherize and/or beautify their homes. It's been around three years.

Program director Michael Hyacinthe said, "World War II veterans, Vietnam-era veterans, veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, those who actually own their homes, but their homes are aging. However, many of these individuals are disabled. So their income is very limited."

Habitat has a partnership with Home Depot, providing repair services for qualified service members at a greatly reduced cost. He said Graff's total bill was

\$15,000. So the veteran paid just \$4,500. Home Depot covered the rest. Among the repairs, Graff got a new, efficient toilet, several old windows replaced, as well as new doors. "It's done, and it's gonna be warmer. I know it's gonna be warmer," Graff said.

He said he's already been asked about the program. After looking at his heat bill, the World War II veteran has nothing but good things to say. "It's already made a difference in the billing," Graff said.

If you're interested in finding out more about the program. You can call Habitat for Humanity of Kent County at 616-588-5259 or go to <http://www.habitatkent.org/what-we-do/repair-beautification>

Verlander Surprises Veterans With Holiday Gifts

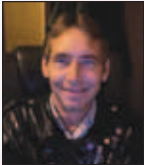
Justin Verlander's Wins for Warriors Foundation provided an early holiday gift — a surprise trip to Disney World — to the families of three veterans.

The Tigers pitcher unveiled the gift in a video message to veterans Justin Weis, Adam Gottis, Michael Roberts and their families following the 1000 Christmas Salutes event at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Roseville Meijer also joined the effort, providing gifts for the children of the families. "We know that veterans need time to re-charge and re-connect with their families — and we wanted to make sure they could do that without any of life's day-to-day distractions," said Sandy Hudson, the foundation's executive director. "We truly hope they enjoy their time at Disney World and come back refreshed and ready for the year ahead."

Launched in 2013 by Verlander, the foundation advocates for post-9/11 veterans and their families. The organization has supported veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq with mental health disorders, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury and depression. In its two years, the foundation has granted more than \$650,000 to projects supporting the mental health and well-being of veterans.

David McCallister "Possum"
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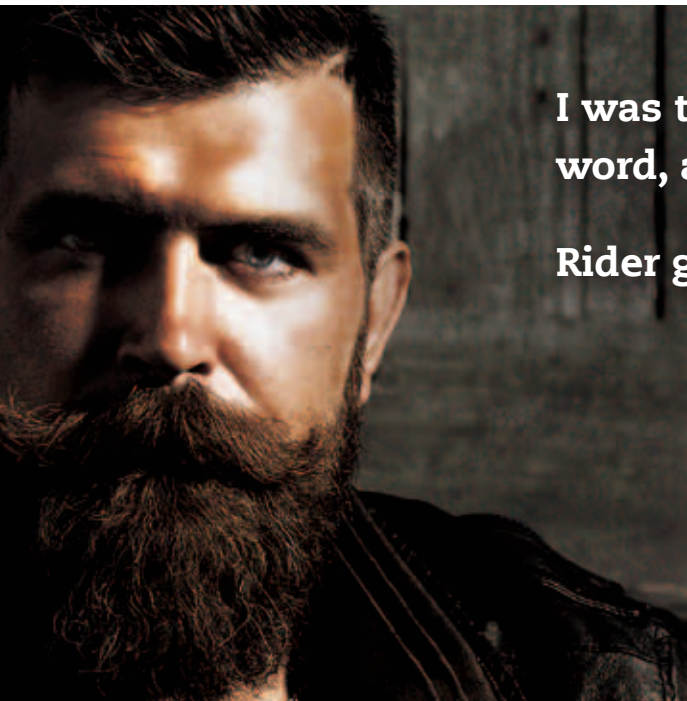
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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

Jason's Top Five Things Every Driver Should Know about Michigan's Point System

We're in the home stretch, folks... just about two weeks left until the clocks "spring forward" and we really notice the days getting longer again. It's still a little early to be talking about getting our motorcycles ready for the season, so I thought I'd go over five key points in Michigan's driver's license Point System.

#1 If you get assigned points for a traffic violation, those points stay on your record for two years... period. There is a law in place that prevents the Secretary of State from removing points early or "setting aside" points after a conviction. Many attorneys argue that this is why it's so important to fight every ticket you get, as opposed to waiting until you're close to twelve points; if you lose your case, you could get pushed over the 12-point line, which could result in your license being restricted, suspended, or revoked.

#2 There is a "process of escalation" when it comes to Points. The Secretary of State will contact you by mail to advise you that you have more points than the average driver once you get four points over a two-year period. When you get to eight points, the Secretary of State will contact you again to warn you that your license could be suspended if you continue to break the law. Finally, if you get to the twelve-point mark, you will be ordered to meet with someone from the Secretary of State to review your driving record and take several driving related tests, which could include a written exam, road test, vision test, or others.

#3 Different types of offenses* are assigned different point values upon conviction. The most serious violations, including vehicular manslaughter and reckless driving, have a six-point value. Driving while "visibly" impaired, drag racing, or failing to yield to an emergency vehicle can get you four points. If you're convicted of careless driving, or disobeying a signal or stop sign, you could get three points. Finally, two-point violations include speeding up to 10 mph over the limit, or driving with an open container (of alcohol).

#4 Accumulating Points doesn't just affect your driver's license, it could also affect your insurance rates. Insurance companies may use your points against you and raise your rates or cancel your policy.

#5 If you get an alcohol conviction on your snowmobile or off-road vehicle, the points associated with your conviction will end up on your driver's license. That means even if you weren't driving your vehicle or motorcycle, you could still have your license restricted,

suspended, or revoked if you accumulate enough points during your recreational activities.

Obviously, every case is different and with all the nuances within the law, I can't cover every aspect of the points system in a single article. You can contact your Secretary of State office or visit their website for more information. As always, I invite readers to share their stories or ask their questions in any of the following ways: Send an email to writer@lawyerforlife.com; Join the conversation on Facebook (facebook.com/TheMotorcycleLawyer); Tweet at us ([Twitter.com/CycleLawyer1](https://twitter.com/CycleLawyer1)) or visit our website at www.TheMotorcycleLawyer.com.

COMING SOON: May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, and my team and I are looking for stories and photos from your "best ride ever". Recommend your favorite routes, best hole-in-the-wall spots to stop, and share photos with us. We want to know what makes YOUR favorite ride the BEST ride. Contact us any of the ways listed above to share your story.

**This list DOES NOT include all types of driving violations. For the most up-to-date, comprehensive information about driving violations and the Points System, please contact the Secretary of State's office.*

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.

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A car load of Irish Nuns is sitting at a traffic light in downtown Dublin, when a bunch of rowdy drunks pull up alongside of them. "Hey, show us yer titties, ya' bloody penguins!" shouts one of the drunks. Quite shocked, Mother Superior turns to Sister Mary Immaculata and says, "I don't think they know who we are; show them your cross." Sister Mary Immaculata rolls down her window and shouts, "Piss off, ya' fookin' little wankers before I come over there and rip yer balls off and shove em' in yer fookin' filthy mouth". Sister Mary Immaculata then rolls up her window, looks back at Mother Superior, quite innocently, and asks, "Did that sound cross enough?"

George Phillips, an elderly man from Walled Lake, Michigan, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things. He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" He said "No, but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me." Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy, you should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available". George said, "Okay." He hung up the phone and waited 3 minutes. Then he phoned the police again. "Hello, I just called you a few minutes ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot and killed them both; the dogs are eating them right now," and he hung up. Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed. One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!" *True Story. Don't mess with old people. They've been around, they know stuff.

Five surgeons from big cities are discussing who makes the best patients to operate on. The first surgeon, from New York, says, "I like to see accountants on my operating table because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered." The second, from Chicago, responds, "Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside them is color coded." The third surgeon, from Dallas, says, "No, I really think librarians are the best, everything inside them is in alphabetical order." The fourth surgeon, from Los Angeles chimes in: "You know, I like construction workers. Those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over." But the fifth surgeon, from Washington, DC, shut them all up when he observed: "You're all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, no balls, no brains, and no spine. Plus, the head and the ass are interchangeable."

An old farmer drove to a neighbor's and knocked at the door. A boy, about 9, opened the door. The farmer asked, "Is your Dad home?" The boy replied, "No sir, he isn't; he went to town." The farmer said, "Well, is your Mother here?" The boy said, "No sir, she went to town with Dad." The farmer said, "How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?" The boy said, "No sir, He went with Mom and Dad." The rancher stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, and mumbling to him-self. The boy said, "Is there anything I can do for you? I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give Dad a message." "Well," said the rancher uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter, Suzie, pregnant." The boy thought for a moment, "You would have to talk to Dad about that. I know he charges \$500 for the bull and \$150. for the hog, but I don't know how much he charges for Howard."

FRIENDSHIP AMONG WOMEN

A woman didn't come home one night. The next morning she told her husband that she had slept over at a friend's house. The man called his wife's 10 best friends. None of them knew anything about it.

FRIENDSHIP AMONG MEN

A man didn't come home one night. The next morning he told his wife that he had slept over at a friend's house. The woman called her husband's 10 best friends. Eight confirmed that he had slept over, and two said he was still there.

How do you make 5 pounds of fat look good?
Put a nipple on it.

Learn From Your Parents Mistakes.....
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What was the original point & click interface?
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Happy St. Patty's Day, Bikers!

2016 Spring Motorcycle Swap Meet Dates



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Sun Mar 20 *Wings Stadium/Event Center*
43rd Annual Kalamazoo (MI) Motorcycle Swap Meet ,

Sun April 10 *Delta Plex*
36th Annual Grand Rapids MI Motorcycle Swap Meet

Sun May 1st *Will Co Faitgrounds*
32nd Annual Peotone (IL) Motorcycle Swap Meet

Sun May 29th *Porter Co Expo Center*
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THUNDER ROADS® 2015 COVER OF THE YEAR

"First off, a big THANK YOU to everyone. This is a really cool story how this cover came about. We wanted to do a story on one of our advertisers, Knucklehead Bend. One of the owners, Dan Johns, gave us all of the needed information and lined up a photographer for the photos to go with his story. Dan told us, "I know everyone thinks their daughter is beautiful, but I really do have a beautiful daughter." He showed us photos and we agreed, she is absolutely beautiful! Dan arranged with us to put his daughter, Natasha Johns Schmidt, on the cover as a surprise birthday present. Natasha thought she was modeling for the inside story (which you can read on our website, www.thunderroadsin.com) and had no idea she was going to be on the cover. She was very excited to do the shoot, however, she is a teacher, realtor, Zumba instructor, owns a party rental company and a horse ranch as well as being a mother to a 4 y/o and a wife to her husband, Jon Schmidt. Dan said it was a challenge to get her to do this on time as well as keep it a secret, but he was able to accomplish that with the help of her husband. When Dan gave Natasha the June issue he said, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABY!" You can imagine how surprised and happy she was. Thanks again, Connie Barker and Matt Gelinske, Owners/Publishers, Thunder Roads Indiana



2015 THUNDER ROADS® CONTRIBUTING PUBLISHERS

Vernon and I are very happy to be named Contributing Publishers of the year for 2015. The idea for the History of Motorcycles series stemmed from one of our frequent conversations about why people do the things they do. While driving along one day my mind wandered to the why aspect of the world, as it often does, and I asked Vernon if he knew who had actually been the first person to create the first motorcycle. Was it a bicycle with an engine? Why in the world would someone even think to make a bicycle go faster than the average set of legs could propel the two wheeled contraption in the first place? He just smiled at me and said, Well, why don't you figure that out? And, the series was born...out of curiosity and a constant thirst for knowledge. I thank Vernon for allowing me to spend the time necessary to create each installment in the series, and the confidence in my writing to share it with the network. We are both overwhelmed by the enormous response to the series and grateful for this recognition. Thank you all for sharing in my journey of inquisitiveness. Melanie & Vernon Schwarte Thunder Roads Magazine of Iowa



K.I.S.S. IN THE KITCHEN

Composed & edited by: Toni McCoy Shearon aka
"Thunder MaMa" of Thunder Roads National Founders' Office.

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.

LUCK OF THE IRISH HEARTY STEW

- 1-1/2 to 2 lbs. of Boneless Sirloin Steak Meat; cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 Tbls. of All Purpose Flour
- 2 -3 Tbls. butter or margarine
- 1 Large Yellow Onion; chopped in big chunks
- 1 Can of Beef Stock and 1 Carton or Box of Beef Stock
- 1 Can of Stewed Tomatoes; un-drained
- 1 Envelope of Good Seasons Garlic & Herb Dressing Mix
- 1 lb. of red potatoes, jackets left on, cut into 3/4 inch chunks
- 2 Handfuls of pre-packaged baby carrots
- 1 Cup of Frozen Peas
- 1 Cup of either Frozen Corn or Frozen Broccoli, or both
- 2 Tbls. Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/2 Palm-full of Thyme
- 2 Tbls. Pearl Barley (in spice aisle any grocery)
- 1 Heaping Tbls. of Parsley
- 1 Bay Leaf
- 4 Beef Boullion Cubes; dissolved in 1 cup hot water

Melt 1/4 stick of butter or 2 tablespoons of margarine over medium heat. Dredge your meat chunks thoroughly through flour and then dredge again. Place into melted butter in a Dutch Oven and let brown up good on all sides. Remove to side plate. Now, on medium-high heat, sprinkle approx. 3 heaping tablespoons of all-purpose flour into same pot. Keep working it around and around for about a minute or so to cook off the flour taste. Next, add your dissolved beef boullion cubes hot water mixture and again, let it all get mixed in well. Keep that wooden spoon moving! Next, add the (1) can of beef stock and keep an eye on it as it will thicken up quickly. Turn heat down to medium-low. Add the box of beef stock now. Add back in the beef chunks, potatoes, tomatoes, dressing mix, onion chunks, Worcestershire, thyme, barley, parsley and bay leaf. Cook covered for 45 minutes. The last 15 minutes, remove bay leaf and if needed, if stock too thick, add 1 cup of hot water. This will dilute the beef flavor so only add it if truly necessary. Now add in all your frozen veggies and a large pat of butter or 1 Tbl. of margarine, whichever. Take cover off and let go until frozen carrots are tender throughout. Serve in big soup bowls along with a cold apple/walnut & pear salad mixed in creamed mayonnaise and chopped Romaine lettuce. Serve hot crusty bread and take some room temp. margarine or butter and throw in a palm-full of basil and spread on thick slices of hot bread.

Aye! Now this Irish Stew truly is magically delicious!

ONION PIE.....VIDALIA STYLE

- 3 Cups of thinly sliced Vidalia Onions
- 1/2 Stick of Melted Butter
- 1 Pre-made Pie Shell
- 2 Eggs; beaten
- 3 Tbls. All-Purpose Flour
- 1/2 Cup Half & Half
- 1 Small Tub (8 oz.) of Sour Cream
- 1 Tub (8 oz.) Philly Cream Cheese (room temp.)
- 10 Slices of Hickory Smoked Bacon cooked crisp
- 1 Pkg. of pre-sliced mushrooms
- 1-1/2 cups of Grier cheese (get from Deli counter)
- Salt & Pepper to Taste

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Melt butter down in a skillet and add onions and mushrooms and saute' until lightly browned. Place your pie pan on a sheet pan in case any drips over. Line bottom of pie crust with sauteed onions and mushrooms. In a small bowl beat up the two eggs and the flour together until smooth. Gradually add the half & half, cream cheese, sour cream and salt & pepper to taste. Mix well and pour all over the onions in the pie shell. Crumble bacon all over the top of pie and distribute evenly. Bake for 25 minutes and the last five, slide oven rack out and top generously with Grier cheese and let bake for 5 more minutes. Let cool 5 mins. before cutting.

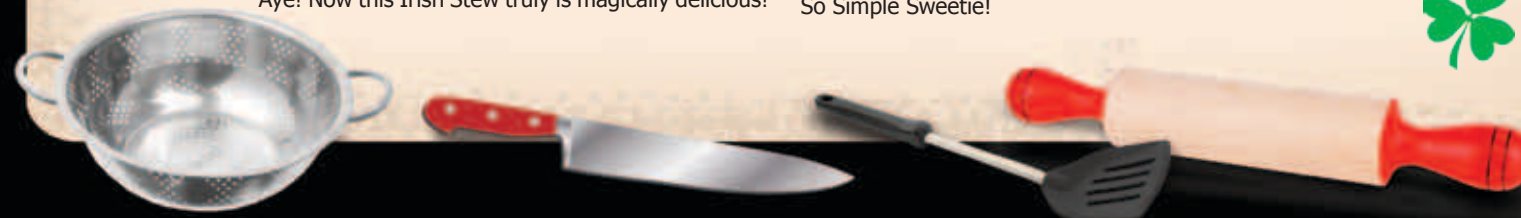
OH SO LUCKY! IRISH GREEN CUPCAKES with GREEN BUTTERCREAM FROSTING

1 Pkg. of White Cake Mix
Follow package directions, only add GREEN food coloring to the mix as dark as you prefer. Bake as directed. If baking directly in cupcake tins be sure and spray bottom & sides generously. If baking in cupcake papers, only fill 3/4 full. Cool thoroughly.

Buy 2 cans of Betty Crocker Buttercream frosting and again add food coloring to the desired green that you want. Frost cupcakes generously. Take a butter knife and dab at the frosting to make stiff peaks after you're done frosting. Looks very pro.

*Tip: Take frosting and place it in a plastic ketchup bottle like you see in Diners, and stick it a 1/2 inch into the side of your cupcake and squirt to have a creamy filling surprise when you bite into cupcake.

So Simple Sweetie!



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2016 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST

Get Ready! The 3rd Annual
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Contest will be kicking off
MAY 1ST



Starting in the May issue you will find all the details!
Then all you need to do to get started is

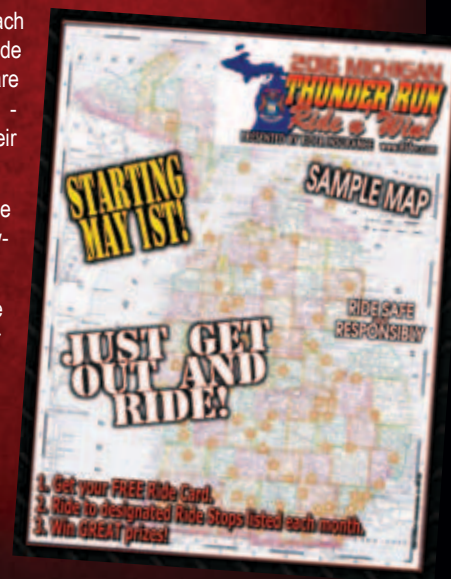
1. Go to any Registration stop listed on the map with a red star or on The Stops pages (actual map will be provided in the May issue). If you already have your card from last year or the year before, you do not need to register again. The Ride Cards do not expire so hold on to it. The information that you provide when you sign-up for your FREE Ride Card only goes to me and will NOT be used for any other purpose than this contest. You will not have to provide any other personal information again after this. You will be handed your FREE Ride Card right then. It has a unique number on it- take note because that is YOURS and ONLY YOURS.
2. Once you have your Ride Card go to any or all of the stops listed this month and show them your card! Registration stops are also ride stops. There are also event stops each month. That stop will write your unique Ride Card number down. Let them know if you spend over \$10 there because your Ride Card number will get counted twice!
3. Check the following months issue to see if your Ride Card number is listed as a winner. You must check this each month as Thunder Roads staff will not contact you and let you know you won. If your Ride Card number is listed as a winner email MichiganThunderRun@gmail.com to claim your prize. In the email provide your name, address, phone number & Ride Card number. Again, the information only goes to us at Thunder Roads. Please note: You only have 45 days to claim your prize from the 1st the month it is listed in the magazine.



Make sure to pick-up your copy each month of Thunder Roads to see that month's Ride Stops and also to see if your Ride Card is listed as a winner!

FEW FACTS

- Winners are randomly picked from each Registration/Ride Stop, Ride Stop & Event Stop each month.
- The more places you check-in the greater your chances are of winning a prize from that stop or one of our sponsors prizes!
- If you spend \$10 or more at any of the Registration/Ride Stops or Ride Stops your Ride Card number gets counted twice! Please note: The reason why this contest is FREE to you the rider is because our sponsors and stops. So we want to encourage everyone to support them in return. That is why we count your Ride Card number twice if you spend \$10 or more.
- You can check-in 1 time each week at each Registration/Ride Stop & Ride Stops. Riders are able to win multiple prizes - based upon the drawing of their check-in.
- 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!



2016 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



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
3. Ride out to these stops and show them your card.
4. And then you win cool prizes, including cold hard CASH!

Thunder Roads Michigan will also be registering riders for Ride Cards at specific events throughout the year as we distribute magazines. Key events; such as Harley Fest, Bikes on the Bricks or Bike Nights will have special booth for Ride Card registrations. We will list these events each month on the Event Stops page in the magazine. In most cases, we will be offering special incentives to those checking in with their previously issued Ride Card at these stops.

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

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

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

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!

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. We have designed this run to entertain and challenge our readers – as well as promote our partners. If your business would like to be a stop or be a sponsor, please email us at MichiganThunderRunRide@gmail.com



RIDING OUT OF STATE? IF YOU RIDE TO PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO, INDIANA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND OR WASHINGTON DC MAKE SURE TO PICK UP A COPY OF THUNDER ROADS IN EACH STATE AND LOOK FOR A REGISTRATION STOP NEAR YOU TO REGISTER FOR THAT STATES RIDE CARD. THEN CHECK-IN AT ANY STOP LISTED IN THAT STATES ISSUE. YOU COULD WIN PRIZES IN EACH STATE!



LET'S RIDE!

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

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Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

Fun Facts about Saint Patrick's Day

WE SHOULD REALLY WEAR BLUE

Saint Patrick himself would have to deal with pinching on his feast day. His color was "Saint Patrick's blue," a light shade. The color green only became associated with the big day after it was linked to the Irish independence movement in the late 18th century.

SAINT PATRICK WAS BRITISH

Although he made his mark by introducing Christianity to Ireland in the year 432, Patrick wasn't Irish himself. He was born to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales in the late fourth century.

THERE'S A REASON FOR THE SHAMROCKS

How did the shamrock become associated with Saint Patrick? According to Irish legend, the saint used the three-leafed plant as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.

COLD WEATHER HELPED SAINT PATRICK'S LEGEND

In Irish lore, Saint Patrick gets credit for driving all the snakes out of Ireland. Modern scientists suggest that the job might not have been too hard – according to the fossil record, Ireland has never been home to any snakes. Through the Ice Age, Ireland was too cold to host any reptiles, and the surrounding seas have staved off serpentine invaders ever since. Modern scholars think the "snakes" Saint Patrick drove away were likely metaphorical.

THERE'S NO CORN IN THAT BEEF

Corned beef and cabbage, a traditional Saint Patrick's Day staple, doesn't have anything to do with the grain corn. Instead, it's a nod to the large grains of salt that were historically used to cure meats, which were also known as "corns."

IT COULD HAVE BEEN SAINT MAEWYN'S DAY

According to Irish legend, Saint Patrick wasn't originally called Patrick. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, but he changed his name to Patricius after becoming a priest.

THERE ARE NO FEMALE LEPRECHAUNS

Don't be fooled by any holiday decorations showing lady leprechauns. In traditional Irish folk tales, there are no female leprechauns, only nattily attired little guys.

BUT THE LEPRECHAUN ECONOMY IS THRIVING

Another little-known fact from Irish lore: Leprechauns earned that gold they're guarding. According to legend, leprechauns spend their days making and mending shoes. It's hard work, so you can't blame them for being territorial about their pots of gold.

THE LINGO MAKES SENSE

You can't attend a Saint Patrick's Day event without hearing a cry of "Erin go Bragh." What's the phrase mean? It's a corruption of the Irish *Éirinn go Brách*, which means roughly "Ireland Forever."

SUDOKU by Geneva



Curve Sudoku
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37075

		9	2	8		7		
		8			7			
2		1				8	4	9
	4			9				3
6			7	4	8			5
8			2				1	
3	8	7				1		2
			8			9		
	4		7	6	3			

		4	2			8		
	1		6			3		
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2	1					4	8	
			6		5	7		
6			7					
1	7		5	8		3	4	
9		1		7	6			

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

*As Always...
Ride safe
friends!*

Winner Last Month

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of Louisiana

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ABATE - Legislative Agenda for 2016

There will be no increase on motorcycle plates thanks to ABATE!

Legislation that ABATE **SUPPORTS** includes:

- HB-4853** introduced by **Rep. Tedder (43rd Dist.)** to raise the tuition for state sponsored (Public Sector) riders training from \$25 to \$50. The tuition was set in the early '80's and hasn't changed since. This is causing sponsors to drop the classes and student "no-shows". Passed the House and assigned to Senate Trans. Comm. It will be voted on the 2nd week of Jan. 2016.
- HB-4854** introduced by **Rep. Tedder** provides a "waiver" for the State's written test for students who pass an approved Motorcycle Safety Class. Passed and assigned with **HB-4853**.
- SB-404** was introduced by **Sen. Joe Hune (22nd Dist.)** to make an "exemption" to liability claims for APPROVED sponsors of motorcycle rider training classes such as Community Colleges and Dealer sponsored classes. Will be worked on in late January 2016.
- HB-4651** was introduced by **Rep. Plawecki (11th Dist.)**. It will increase the fine for unlicensed riders to match those for car drivers ("up to" a \$500 fine). House Criminal Justice Comm.
- HB-4905** introduced by **Rep. Jacobson (46th Dist.)** would earmark 25% of unendorsed riders fines to the motorcycle riders fund. It is tied to **HB-4651**. House Criminal Justice Comm.
- SB-496** introduced by **Sen. Jones** could impose POSSIBLE jail time for unendorsed riders to match penalties for car drivers.

Legislation that ABATE **DOES NOT** support includes the following:

- SB-527 - HELMET BILL** introduced by **Sen. Warren and Hood** REVERSES our present helmet law in favor of a mandatory usage law.

WHAT WE ARE WATCHING:

- **Roll-call tapes:** Proposals from the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) to "encourage" cycle endorsements with a "roll call" tape for police agencies. This tape would "profile" motorcyclists with a "checklist" of reasons to pull them over to check for cycle endorsements RATHER THAN enforce existing endorsement requirements.
- **The wrong message:** "Look Twice to Save a Life" program which is nationally recognized versus "Ride Safe to Ride Again" which has been supported by the GTSAC "leadership" is vague and targets riders instead of car drivers.
- **Wasting your tax dollars:** \$342,000 (9,000 @ \$38 each) plus shipping and handling at about \$10 each (estimated) EACH YEAR FOR THREE YEARS has been allocated by the GTSAC to GIVE AWAY "Hi-Viz" vests to riders who pass a state sponsored rider's training class (which costs \$25). The objective is for these bureaucrats to "change the culture" (their words) of motorcycling so you want to wear this stuff.

~ Rusty



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

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Aiden

Is a pug/corgi mix boy that is a bit on the shy side. He will take some patience and time but the reward will be an amazing companion and friend.



Aiden



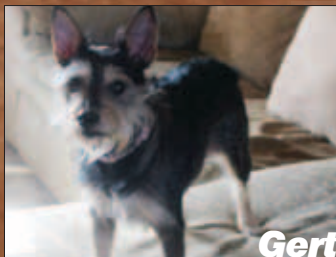
Boris

Boris

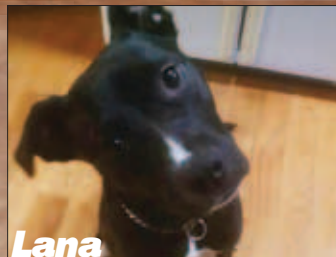
Boris is a sweet gentle soul that is looking for a hospice home. He has medical issues that have shortened his life to 2 years max. Do you have room in your heart to give this guy a loving, safe and comfortable home?

Gert

Is an 8 year old girl that has only been with one family until she came to STAR. This senior girl is looking for someone that will be there for her. She is a low key cuddle buddy waiting for you.



Gert



Lana

Lana

Lana is a young lab mix girl that is ready to lavish you with kisses and cuddles. She will be a great companion to any active family.

Lenni

My name is Lenni and I am an approximately 1 year old pit/terrier mix. My hobbies include snuggling, playing outside and chewing on my toys. I was found abandoned out in the cold and given another chance at finding a family who really loves me. I am also crate and house trained. I am good with dogs, cats and children and love to give kisses to anyone that will take them.



Lenni



Lizzy

Lizzy

Is a 5 year old Puggle that was an owner surrender. She is getting used to life with-out her family, but is settling into her foster home. What she needs is a forever home.

Remy

Is a young girl that would be a great addition to any family or if you are looking for an active companion this is your girl.



Remy



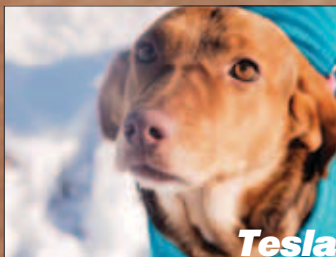
Sally Mae

Sally Mae

Is an independent gal that is great with kids, but is a bit pickier about her doggie friends. She doesn't need a lot of attention but is happy to hang out with you and relax.

Tesla

Is a year old lab/hound mix that is as sweet as she looks. She will make a wonderful family companion.



Tesla



Wendell

Wendell

I love all other dogs, cats and all humans I have ever met! I like to play and can entertain myself by playing with a toy or ball. When it is time to settle down, I have no problem with that either! I love to snuggle up to my people and take a nap. I am crate trained and very quiet in my crate. I am almost house broken too and even know how to sit. I am very food motivated and I want to please my people!

Saving Tails Animal Rescue (STAR) is proud to announce that they are a Pets for Patriots partner. We will be featuring a Pet for Patriots - Pet of the Month on our website: savingtailsanimalrescue.org

If you are a veteran you will receive 50% off the adoption fee.

To find out more about this wonderful program, you can go to petsforpatriots.org STAR thanks all the men and woman who are serving or have served our country.



Biker Preacher's Corner

Wow! It's March already!! I'm getting the itch to ride big time – won't be long now!!

As I thought about what to write this month, The Lord took my mind to the upcoming election cycle here in America and how big a deal it really is for us, as Americans. Ya see, God created America with a purpose - to be a blessing to the World. Not just financially, but more importantly spiritually – we were and have been the nation that sends missionaries all over the world to tell people about God's great Love for all mankind – Jesus Christ.

America was consecrated to God right at the very beginning. But, oh how we have deviated from God's design and plan for us, as a nation and a people. We've traded the holy for the unholy, we've traded righteousness for the un-righteous "do whatever feels good" and now, for the last 15 years we've been reaping what we have sown.

The Bible says in **Proverbs 29:2** "When the righteous flourish, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, people groan."

How we have been groaning under the fake leadership of the current administration, who has sold so many a bill of lies, who has sold us to the highest bidder, who has destroyed common decency, and commonsense, who has started racial conflicts and has utterly destroyed our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The real issue is that we have gotten what we deserve! America turned her back on God back in 1962 when the Supreme Court kicked God out of our schools. Now today the schools are war zones and are in utter shambles as well as our country. But, there is hope and a direction for us – We need God in America again!

Ya see, the only way out of this mess, that we have created, is for us as Americans is to do what The Bible says in **2 Chronicles 7:14** "and My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

So, the first thing we need to do is repent (which is to change direction - back to God and away from selfish sinful desires), then We The People MUST GO VOTE and vote rightly.

Here are the important dates to remember:

Michigan Presidential Preference Primary Election is March 8, 2016
Michigan State Primary Election is August 2, 2016
Michigan General Election is November 8, 2016

So on March 8th GO VOTE, on August 2nd GO VOTE and on November 8th GO VOTE and if you don't know who to vote for – send me an email and I'll be happy to help you work through the issues to identify who to vote for.

Let me leave you with this... Vote Biblically Correct NOT politically correct.

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay
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WEST SIDE STORY

Greetings All
& Welcome
to our monthly
article in
Thunder
Roads
Michigan.

BY Tom Shields



Well we have made it to March!! Riding weather is going to be quickly upon us. I have to say the time seems to have passed quickly this winter. Guess that comes from staying pretty busy.

As you set out on those first few runs of the new season, remember safety first!! Old man winter takes a toll on our roads so even regular traveled routes from past rides can have a few new "bumps" in them. Besides the appearance of new and challenging pot holes, you also have to be extremely aware of the roads surface condition. Sand used throughout the winter to assist in traction for our four wheeled vehicles can become a traction issue for our bikes if you are not expecting it. This is especially true at intersections along back roads or less traveled paths. Always take these areas with caution, surveying your path ahead, especially any areas you will be stopping or turning on.

Of course a couple good spring rains can help in cleaning those types of issues up. But the rains can also present a challenge, in fact in the early spring riding time, watching the weather is extremely important. It can change quickly from a rather pleasant sunny day to rain or worse yet snow, with little warning. Always check out the weather report before heading out and with today's smart phones and such, check it regularly as you travel. We have been caught in a couple good rain storms and cold weather in the past, not a pleasant experience. But if you are prepared you can "weather" through it just fine and still have great ride memories.

With the weather getting better and warmer days ahead, more and more activities will be available to enjoy, here are some items this month on the west side to check out:

The Michigan Irish Music Festival is presenting its annual St. Patrick's Party Celebration March 11 and 12 at the Fricano Event Center in downtown Muskegon! The party will feature live music both nights, Irish fare and drink. In addition, Irish dancers will perform and a silent auction will be held each night. Doors open at 5:30pm with music starting at 6:00pm. For more information, visit michigan-irish.org or their Facebook page.

The Lakeshore Museum Center invites you to view the exhibit, "A Bridge Between: Whitehall and Montague." Artifacts and photographs tell the story of the early days of Montague and Whitehall when the cities got their start during the lumbering industry. Hours are weekdays from 9:30am to 4:30pm and Saturdays from Noon to 4:00pm. Admission is free. For more information, visit lakeshore-museum.org

Well that's it for now!! Safe riding, get out and enjoy!

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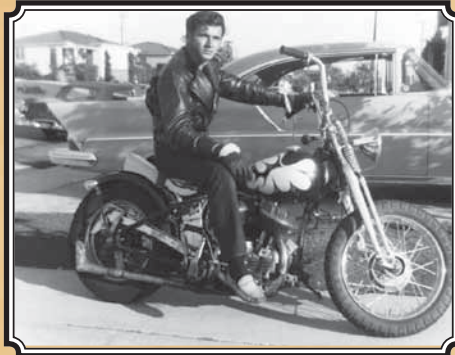
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HISTORY OF MOTORCYCLES:

Part 8

Following the Second Great War, things in the motorcycle world were changing faster than Katy Perry's hair color. Across the pond, the BSA group purchased Triumph in 1951 and quickly became the world's largest motorcycle producer. The German NSU was the largest manufacturer from 1955 to 1959, only to be beat out of first place by Honda in 1960. Norton had its own developments, with the manufacturing of the twin cylinder Dominator with a featherbed frame – lightweight and strong this café racer was the ride of choice by numerous world champion racers. Back home in the states, Indian ceased all operations and production in 1950. Five years later, Brockhouse Engineering purchased the rights to the Indian Motorcycle name and sold imported Royal Enfield models branded as Indian models until 1960. While others struggled, Harley-Davidson kept on keepin' on and in 1952 released the side valve K model. This model featured an integrated engine and transmission to compete with sportier motorcycles coming out of Great Britain. In 1957 Harley delegated the K model the "Sportster"...it boasted a 55 cubic inch overhead valve engine, and within 1 year of its debut had become known as the first of the "super-bikes". The following year Harley introduced the first hydraulic rear brake and new rear suspension on Big Twin models, and the all new Duo-Glide.

Post war background aside...what were our Veterans doing now that the war was over and they were back on American soil? Well they did what any one would do when out of sorts...they found a replacement for the comradery they had found during the war. That replacement came in the form of motorcycle riders grouped



loosely into organized clubs...unbeknownst to them; these veterans had just changed history in the United States. The "biker" came into being, a new social institution had been forever introduced into American society...and we thank you for that.

Last month I mentioned the overwhelming amount of surplus bikes that remained after the war...cheap and plentiful, people started snatching them up. Now, these groups that were gathering together (bikers if you will) must have had some time on their hands, because they weren't content with just changing social history once...Oh no my friends...these guys wanted far more. Now, having ridden European bikes during the war, they realized that Harley-Davidson made some dependable machines, but they just couldn't compete speed wise with what they had ridden during the war. So, naturally, they took these surplus bikes home and decided to modify them. These bikes were stripped down...ammunition racks, windshields, and scabbards discarded. Fenders were shortened or in some cases removed. Some left the paint alone, some chose to alter the standard olive green. What resulted in the end was the start of a new era, one that would change the world of motorcycles for generations to come. And so history was made again...probably in some dude's garage...the bobber is born. While the bobber will reign for most of the decade, there is yet another change on the horizon...the bobber's flashy cousin...the chopper comes to visit near the end of the fifties.



You may be asking, what exactly is a bobber? Is it the same as a chopper? Well, the answer is No...While a chopper could indeed also be a bobber; they are not one in the same. Webster's time is upon us...A bobber is defined as a stripped, stock motorcycle with a "bobbed" or shortened fender and only essential motorcycle parts remaining. It is minimalistic and has had as much weight shed as possible to increase speed and performance. On the other end of the spectrum lies the chopper...The chopper has also had non-essential items removed, but it has a major difference...the frame is not stock, it has been "chopped" and modified from its original factory state and the rake of the front fork has also been modified in order to move the front tire further from the bike.

Now while the bobber maintained its minimalistic approach and focus on function and speed, the chopper presents riders with the option of being fast, as well as eye catching. When building choppers first became a "thing" most people didn't really know exactly what they were doing. Bikers would gather in garages and/or shops, enlisting the help of friends in order to modify their frames and lighten their bikes. Gas tanks, headlights, and blinkers were made smaller. Some bikers removed their batteries and replaced them with magnetos to further reduce weight. Standard front tires were replaced with narrower tires, and handlebars were modified to be taller to compensate for the rake of the front fork (ape hangers). Bikers noticed immediately how much different it was to ride a motorcycle with these modifications, but did that stop anyone from pushing the envelope and creating bigger and better choppers



in the future? Of course not...I've never met a biker who would back down from a challenge, and this was no different.

I affectionately referred to the chopper as the "flashy cousin" of the bobber....but let's be honest here. The Chopper is more like an attention whore, and being in the limelight seems only fitting for such a diva. Choppers are unique, they are individualistic, and they deserve their own article. The chopper era took the United States by storm, and produced some pretty amazing names in the biker world. So, although I have been told that I shouldn't encourage egocentrism...I am going to give in, just this once and spend next month looking at all that is chopper, and the extremes the chopper culture went to in the 1960's.

Melanie Schwarte
~ Thunder Roads Magazine of Iowa



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Bullet Points

PRACTICE



BY RICK WYATT

My name is Rick Wyatt and I am an employee of Total Firearms in Mason, Mi. I became a firearms instructor in the late 1970's with the Michigan Department of Corrections and I am currently certified to provide training for individuals seeking their Michigan CPL. I was recently asked to pen "Bullet Points" and since this is my first article out of the box I want to hit on a subject I preach in the classroom, and that is practice. I am an adamant believer that if you are going to carry, either open or concealed, you have an obligation to practice every chance you get. I know why people say they don't practice, usually time and/or expense, but if you carry neither is acceptable because of the possible consequences of discharging your firearm.

Right up front let me stress that all practice is good practice and dry fire practice is both effective and cost efficient. Contrary to popular belief, dry fire does not harm most modern firearms (rim fire excepted), but if you have any reservations about dropping the firing pin on an empty chamber use snap caps or dummy rounds to protect your firearm. Safety has to be your first concern when you are handling firearms so always make doubly sure your gun is completely empty before you start a dry fire drill. And then practice in a room other than the one where you keep your guns and ammunition and ensuring that your gun is always pointed in a safe direction during practice goes a long way to ensure safety.

The purpose of dry fire is to reinforce shooting fundamentals; opportunities to work on grip, breathing, aiming, trigger control and follow through. If you properly work a dry fire drill just 20 minutes twice a week you will see a marked improvement in your shooting ability. Some of you are probably wondering where you are going to find twenty minutes anywhere in your schedule, and to that I reply that there twenty minutes of commercials in every hour of television so place a target near the TV and dry fire during the commercials.



Keeping a coin balanced on the front sight blade is an excellent gauge of how smooth your trigger stroke is.

The secret to a good dry fire drill is staying in control and not rushing to see how many shots you can get off during a given period of time. You are striving for consistency and you always start with a good stance, cycle the slide (if you are using an auto loader) to set the firing pin, take in a full breath and slowly let half of it out as you bring the firearm to eye level, pick up sight alignment and sight picture, place your finger on the trigger and steadily increase rearward pressure until the firing pin/hammer is released, then hold your sight picture for a slow count of ten before you lower the gun. Your primary focus should always be on your front sight and it should not jump when the firing pin falls. If your sights jump it is because you are pulling the trigger making the gun go off rather than gently squeezing or stroking it and letting it go off. To work on trigger control balance a coin on the front sight blade before you go to your sights and see if you can keep it there when the firing pin falls. The ability to keep the coin balanced shot after shot indicates you are developing a good smooth trigger stroke and are well on your way to becoming an excellent shot.

Dry fire is good, but you still need live fire practice to properly gauge your ability and insure that your firearm is in proper working condition. Just like dry fire the secret to a good live fire practice session is not seeing how quickly you can put x-number rounds down range. Rather it is about staying in control and critiquing every shot before you take the next one. Don't worry about speed; shooting fast, before you are ready, just gets frustratingly expensive quicker. Remember that the first rule of "double tap" is that the first shot has to be good before you pull the trigger the second time. You will learn a lot more by taking an hour to shoot one box of ammo than you will ever learn shooting up two or three boxes of ammo in that same hour. Always remember that range staff can be a valuable resource, especially if you find yourself struggling, and most important --- HAVE FUN!

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