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DECEMBER 2016 Volume 14 Issue 1

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BUYING GUIDE



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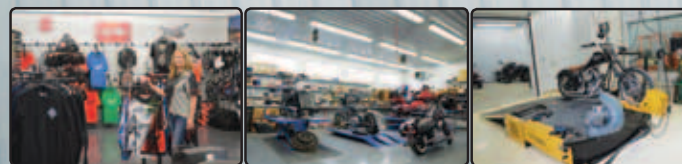
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IN THE SHOP WITH RON

By Ron Johnson

A Little NEW For The (Not So) OLD

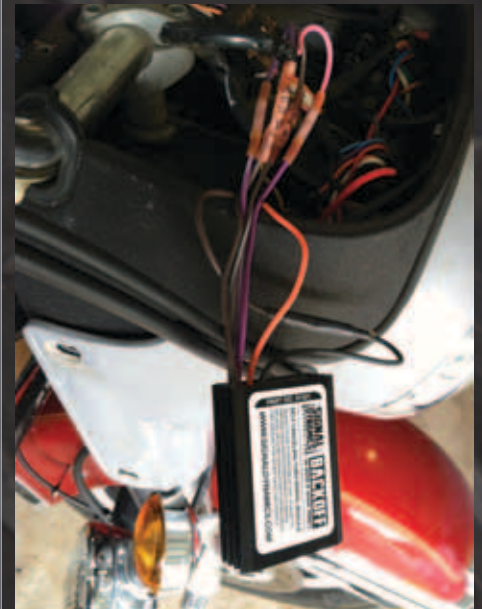


This particular motorcycle had two flasher units (1 for turn signal, 1 for 4-way/hazards), a toggle switch to operate the 4-ways and the usual right and left handle bar switches for the turn signals. The upgraded module will replace all, except we will use the original handle bar turn signal switches. The new module requires a 12 volt DC power and a ground. By removing the old flasher units, and toggle switch for the 4-ways, it made wiring a breeze. To correctly install new module, you will need to locate the wire from the right handle bar turn signal switch, the wire from the left handle bar turn signal switch, also the wire that feeds the right front and rear turn signal lamp and the wire that feeds the left front and rear turn signal lamp. A service manual specific to the motorcycle that you are working on is invaluable here.

The wiring diagram is spot on in the one I used (Clymer) right down to the color coding. The product we used had very easy to follow instructions, a total of only 6 wires to connect. Very briefly, 12 volt DC power to module, I chose a power supply that required the ignition switch to be on. A ground, several good ground locations inside the instrument panel housing. From right and left handle bar switches, to correct wires on module. From correct wires on module to right front and rear turn signal and left front and rear turn signal. Use your service manual, check, double check and re-check to make sure you have identified the correct wires on the motorcycle.



I like to hook everything up temporarily and test for full function before making final connections. Be careful with temporary connections, make sure they don't short out against each other or a ground. For final connections I like to use butt connectors with shrink tube attached these also have a sealing compound to help fight corrosion.



As you can see in this picture (black wire from module) after shrinking the butt connector, I like to use another section of shrink tube (black) over the entire connection just to be safe. The module also comes with a self-adhesive backing and can be easily attached to the inside of the instrument panel housing. Reinstall dash and fairing and you're back on the road. In my opinion, safer and less distracted.

As always, if you have any questions on this or any other project, please don't hesitate to call. More than happy to help if I can.

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Ron



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Happy Holidays!

It is hard to believe that it's already December and yet another year has gone by! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as well. It won't be long and we will all be riding again. Meanwhile, let's make the best of our Michigan winter and hop on a sled, go skiing or ice fishing. If you need some work done on your ride, now is the time to do it. This is the best time of year to get your bike painted, upgraded or whatever needs fixing before the spring when the procrastinators are wanting their bike done yesterday!

Something that has become a tradition, The 4th Annual Thunder Fun Night is quickly approaching as well. Read all about it on page 5. Don't wait to book your spot as we have limited space and it's an event that YOU Won't Want to Miss! To reserve your spot, simply go to ThunderRoadsMichigan.com and click on Store, then Thunder Store, then Thunder Fun Night and check out via PayPal. Plus, while you are there grab some Thunderwear...anyone wearing Thunderwear on Thunder Fun Night February 18th, will receive a special extra gift!!! We are planning on 3 full party buses, but again, they fill up fast so don't wait, reserve today! I look forward to this event each year. If you are looking for some FUN, then this is the event for you! Book your spot, then mark your calendar for February 18th, 2017. This is the LAST MONTH we will be offering FREE SHIPPING on Thunderwear so be sure to take advantage of it.

We are excited to present the Holiday Gift Buying Guide, which is a useful tool in providing ideas for those hard to buy for people in your life. So be sure to check that out along with the story on the 10th Annual Bikes on the Bricks event, which is an incredible event.

Please patronize our advertisers and tell them too, thank you for supporting Thunder Roads and making it the #1 Free Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan

Last month the Biker Friendly character was on page 5, in the Thunder Fun Night ad. See if you can find him this month. See much larger version found in the Biker Friendly Directory (BFD).



Now for some "Mo" Advice:

Sometimes the hardest thing to do is nothing.



Jody Mohowitsch



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2014 STREET GLIDE

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We started off with a brand new stock '14 Harley Street Glide, and stripped it down to frame and engine. Then we modified the neck and trees with a Misfit Industries rake kit, to accommodate the new 26 inch front wheel. Arlen Ness smooth legs and big brake caliper finished off the clean look up front. Next, we installed a custom Hot Rods and Handlebars stretched tank and dash kit, to keep with the smooth flowing lines, which leads us into the seat. The huge stock seat wasn't going to compliment the smooth flowing lines of the build, so we addressed that with a custom seat, starting from the seat pan and working our way up to the custom leather and suede seat cover. The custom rear section of the bike was a TOL Designs Dual Radius bags and fender set up. Now that the entire body was looking lean and mean, we had to turn our attention to the details, such as the tail lights and engine covers and accessories. We used Custom Dynamics dual color plasma rods to handle the run, stop, and turn functions of the tail lights. We

decked out the floor boards, grips, and engine accessories with matching contrast cut goodies to bring it all together. Everything was done in house, including the paint, airbrushing, wiring, and upholstery. In the near future, it's scheduled for a massive audio upgrade. Looking back, we were able to turn this mild Street Glide into a smooth, sleek, lean custom machine and had a blast doing it!

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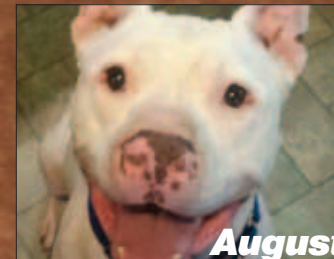
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August

Ok, let's talk. I'm a low-key sweet guy that has been trying to be patient for you to come get me. I'd love to provide you with all my love and loyalty, you just have to make the first move.



August



Bo

Bo

My name is Bo and I've been waiting a while for my family. I'm only about a year old and just LOVE to get petted. I'm on the bigger side and have some really soft long fur. I'm a bit on the goofy side too and there is a lifetime of companionship awaiting you right here.

Chachi

They say that great things come in small packages. They don't get too much smaller than me at only about 5 lbs. Could you use a good deal of great and a lot of love in your life?



Chachi



Cruz

Cruz

So I was in the shelter and they tell me that I was hours away from leaving this world. Now, I have a second chance at life. I'd really love to find someone to share that life with, is that you?

Finnegan

Hello, I'm a flat coat retriever and I'm looking for someone to spend my life with. I am heartworm positive, but once treated I can live a happy normal healthy life. Do you have some room for good looking in your life?



Finnegan



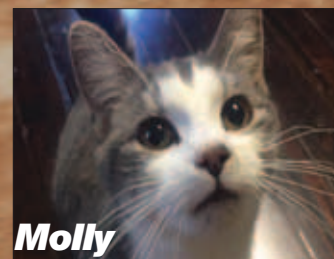
Franklin

Franklin

This shepherd mix boy would like to know why you are taking so long to come. I'm good with kids, and other dogs. I may need a bit of patience to help me come out of my shell, but the reward is lots of kisses.

Molly

I'm about 7 months old and found myself in a situation where they were kicking me and it hurt. Now I'm safe and I'm hoping that someone will want to make me part of their family.



Molly



Norman

Norman

My name is Norman and I'm new to STAR. You have to admit that I am a handsome fella. I'd love a chance to meet you and see if we could set up something for a lifetime relationship.

Quince

All my siblings have been adopted and I sit here waiting for my family. I'm unique because my tail goes across my back. I'm a bit independent, but feel that if you put in the time with me, I'd be there for you.



Quince



Ryder

Ryder

I'm a lab/plott hound mix guy that is wondering why my family hasn't come for me yet. I am good with kids and other dogs, and there is a lot of love in this boy. What do you say?

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



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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.

VETERANS CORNER



Veteran's treatment court to start in Kalamazoo County in 2017

A veteran's treatment will start in Kalamazoo County next year.

The specialized court — meant to handle criminal cases involving military veterans and to help them address issues that may have led them into the justice system — will start in March 2017, Kalamazoo County Circuit Court Judge Pamela Lightvoet said.

Lightvoet said the court will start with five veterans using a \$35,000 grant the county received, and plans to expand the program as more funding becomes available. She said the fully funded program would cost \$80,000 to \$85,000. Officials involved plan to apply for more grants and reach out to the community for more funding once the program starts. "This has been a long process planning this program," Lightvoet said.

It is a means to help veterans who face criminal penalties as they deal with issues related to military service such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, drug or alcohol dependence, or brain injuries suffered in the line of duty.

Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting has said the program would offer veterans access to services including mentoring, mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment. "This treatment and support can help veterans avoid incarceration and save taxpayers substantial resources".

Lightvoet said a key factor of the courts is having veterans in the community serve as mentors. Local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs staff will be involved to make sure veterans are able to get services that are available through the VA, Lightvoet said.

Lightvoet said she knows of two or three cases just in her court that could qualify for the veteran's treatment court in Kalamazoo County. She said participation length in the court is similar to other courts, and would last around 18 months at a minimum.

Gov. Snyder signs bill requiring frequent reports on veteran's homes

The conditions at Michigan's two veterans' homes will be evaluated more frequently thanks to new legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. On Wednesday, Oct. 26, Snyder signed a bill requiring quarterly reports that highlight staffing levels, patient complaints, and average response time to complaints, timeliness of medication distribution, and the number of recent resident deaths at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. "Our state's veterans deserve the highest standards of care available, and this bill helps ensure that the conditions of veterans' homes are evaluated and reported on more consistently and effectively," Snyder said in a press release.

Reports were previously submitted separately and with varying deadlines. This legislation, which comes after a stinging report of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans earlier this year, makes those reports uniform.

The February audit of the Grand Rapids home by the Michigan Auditor General chronicled improper patient care, false claims by staff on checks of patients, and failures to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect. Inadequate staffing levels and patient complaints not being forwarded to the director of nursing were also documented in the report.

Reports evaluating the state's veterans housing will be due Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct. 1 of each year. The bill requires reports be sent from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, its successor agency, or the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to Snyder, the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs, and the Senate and House Appropriations subcommittees.

Korean War veteran laid to rest more than 60 years after he went missing

After Private First Class Milton Bullis went missing in action in North Korea more than 50 years ago, it was a part of his brother that helped bring him home. A memorial service was held October at Great Lakes National Cemetery for the Detroit native that was taken as a prisoner of war amid the Korea War while serving as a medic during the conflict.

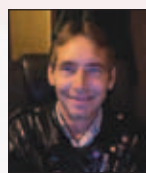
It wasn't until Donald L. Bullis Sr.'s DNA was used by a recovery team in the mid-2000s that his brother's remains were found.

Milton Bullis was a member of the Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, and 2nd Infantry Division when he was sent to Korea in November 1950, after North Korea invaded South Korea in June 1950.

Chuck Erickson, Milton's nephew, had a chance to meet a few soldiers at the service that told him his uncle saved three Native American soldiers on the battlefield. "He was already a hero," Erickson said. Now, he's a superhero."

The company lost nearly half of its men days into a delaying action headed south to Kunu-ri and when ordered to withdraw, Milton Bullis was not found. He was declared missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950.

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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

FINDING NEW ROADS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016 AND A LOOK AT THE ROAD AHEAD

This is it... the last article of 2016. One last chance to talk about motorcycling in Michigan before a new year is upon us. This time of year always brings mixed emotions with it; it's a time of celebration, of taking stock, of setting goals, and reminiscing about the year that is winding down right before our eyes. With that in mind, here are three of 2016's highlights for my team and I, and a final reminder about how important it is to get involved in promoting motorcycle awareness.

Highlight #1: Winning the "unwinnable" case. Back in May, I wrote about our trial victory on a case many attorneys said was "unwinnable". My client was riding his motorcycle when a minivan driver, who seemed to be stopped in the lane ahead of him, suddenly attempted to turn around without looking. The motorcyclist was badly injured when the minivan slammed into him, yet the negligent driver hired a four-attorney defense team and tried to argue that my client was more than 50% at fault for the crash. If they had won, the defense would not have been required to pay non-economic damages; these cover long-term effects of the crash, like scarring and disfigurement, loss of enjoyment of life, and pain and suffering.

Their argument was that my client was negligent, mostly because he was not wearing a helmet. I filed a motion to block this argument, but it was denied. So, I explained to the judge and jury that my client met all the legal requirements for riding without a helmet: he was over 21 years old, had his CY endorsement, was riding a registered and insured motorcycle, and was carrying the required \$20K in additional medical coverage. Then I asked them a question: how could the defense claim that my client was negligent when he went to such great efforts to ensure he was riding legally? Then I pointed out that, even if my client had been wearing a helmet, it wouldn't have prevented the crash or most of his injuries; however, if the driver had been Motorcycle-Aware and done a shoulder, mirror, and blind spot check, the crash may not have happened at all. While this was a major win for my client and my team, it highlighted how much work still needs to be done, both to get drivers to be more Motorcycle Aware, and to get people to recognize that riding without a helmet is not negligent in and of itself.

Highlight #2: Making the list(s). My team and I are proud of the work we do, because it means we get to help injured motorcyclists and their families. Earlier this fall, I learned that I had once again been nominated to the Super Lawyers list. Briefly, Super Lawyers rates attorneys across the nation in over 70 areas of practice. Attorneys must have attained a high level of professional achievement and be widely recognized by their peers to be nominated; only about five percent of lawyers in each state get nominated. Then, I found out I had also been named to the Best Lawyers@ list. As per their website, Best Lawyers@ has become the "definitive guide to legal excellence." It is a tremendous honor to be named to both of these lists, and I am humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to do what I do.

Recently, I was pleased to learn of yet another accolade: my team and I have been included once again on the Best Law Firms list! To be included on the Best Law firms list, a firm must be "recognized for professional excellence" and receive "persistently impressive ratings from clients and peers". My team consistently goes above and beyond in order to ensure that our clients and their families are well-informed and cared for at every step of the legal process. They don't work on cases, they work with people; I am extremely proud of their work, and grateful to have such a strong team supporting me.

Highlight #3: Finding new roads. In January, my article was dedicated to motorcycle tourism, which kicked off a year-long conversation with fans and followers about some of the best rides in the United States (and even Canada!). This conversation has migrated across magazine articles, social media posts, and it even prompted me to try a few new routes this

riding season. You may have seen last month's article where I talked about my favorite road trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.). Riding along Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore into Marquette, then onward through Houghton and Copper Harbour, I really got to appreciate the beauty of the U.P. in a new way, and I highly recommend a road trip out there next riding season if you've never done it (or even if you have). If you visit my website (MotorcycleLawyerMichigan.com), I also have blog posts and other pages dedicated to "great rides" across the USA, all submitted by readers and fans over the years.

What's great about my job and the motorcycle community I serve is I get to meet a lot of like-minded people who love to ride. I get to learn from their experiences, and I get to share these experiences with others. "Finding new roads" isn't just about finding the best rides in America, it's also about finding the best information, tips, strategies, and more to share and help make the community stronger.

It's always a little bittersweet to look back on the year that has passed. On the one hand, my team and I have much to celebrate this year; we worked so hard and helped so many injured motorcyclists and their families, and we are very proud of what we have accomplished. But on the other hand, our phones keep ringing, because motorcyclists are still being injured every single day by negligent vehicle drivers. So, while we do want to celebrate the victories, they make up only part of the story. The other part is that there is so much more work to do in promoting motorcycle awareness and safety, and that responsibility belongs to all of Michigan's motorcyclists.

For the last time in 2016, I am asking all readers to get involved in spreading the word that "Motorcycles are Everywhere." As I suggested in my June article, get engaged: join up with a local motorcycle club or advocacy group, and post often about motorcycle awareness on social media. If you LIKE our Facebook page (Facebook.com/TheMotorcycleLawyer), you'll have access to shareable motorcycle awareness posters and information, as well as all kinds of other motorcycle content. Become a part of the growing community on social media whose goal is to minimize or eliminate motorcycle crashes, injuries, and deaths. At the very least, send an email to reception@lawyerforlife.com to get a free bumper sticker, so you can remind other drivers year-round to Watch for Motorcycles.

Finally, from all of us at the Law Offices of Jason Waechter, Happy New Year! We wish you a safe and happy off-season, and hope that the 2017 motorcycling season here in Michigan will be the best one yet!

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

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The JOKERS WILD

A husband and wife who worked for the circus went to an adoption agency. Social workers there raised doubts about their suitability. The couple produced photos of their 50-foot motor home, which was clean, well maintained and equipped with a beautiful bedroom for the child. The social workers raised concerns about the education a child would receive while in the couple's care. "We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills." The social workers expressed concern about a child being raised in a circus environment. "Our nanny is a certified expert in pediatric care, welfare, and diet. In addition, there are 17 other children who travel with their circus parents." The social workers were finally satisfied. They asked, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?" "It doesn't really matter, as long as the kid fits into the cannon."

The WalSmart Manager liked hiring Vets, but he had a particular problem with the oldest Vet he had ever hired and assigned as a door greeter. The old guy (as the Manager came to refer to him as) was beyond reproach at customer service, could tell all the customers where everything in the store was located, every customer gave the Old Guy the highest score possible on every survey, BUT! The old guy was 15 minutes late every morning. As he had hired many Veterans the Manager knew he would need to counsel the old guy. He called him back into the Manger Office and posed the problem. He knew the old guy had done at least 30 years in the Navy and this 15 minutes late every day stuff wouldn't be tolerated no matter how good the old guy performed his duties. After the old guy explained that the 15 minutes in the morning was a work in progress, the Manager wanted to know what it was that the Navy people would say to him if he was 15 minutes late! The old guy deliberated over the WalSmart Manger's direct question, pondered his measured response, then spoke softly. Usually if I was delayed 15 minutes in the mourning the Navy people I meet would ask; "Would you like coffee Admiral?"

A guy is at work one day when his buddy notices he is wearing an earring. The man walks up to him and says, "I didn't know you were into earrings." "Don't make such a big deal, it's only an earring," he growls back. "So how long have you been wearing one?" "Ever since my wife found it in my truck."

A store that sells new husbands has opened for Christmas where a woman may go to choose a husband. Among the instructions at the entrance is a description of how the store operates:

You may visit this store ONLY ONCE! There are six floors and the value of the products increase as the shopper ascends the flights. The shopper may choose any item from a particular floor, or may choose to go up to the next floor, but you cannot go back down except to exit the building! So, a woman goes to The Husband Store to find a husband. On the first floor the sign on the door reads:
Floor 1 - These men Have Jobs
She is intrigued, but continues to the second floor, where the sign reads:
Floor 2 - These men Have Jobs and Love Kids.
'That's nice,' she thinks, 'but I want more.'
So she continues upward. The third floor sign reads:
Floor 3 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, and are Extremely Good Looking.
'Wow,' she thinks, but feels compelled to keep going.
She goes to the fourth floor and the sign reads:
Floor 4 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Good Looking and Help With Housework.
'Oh, mercy me!' she exclaims, 'I can hardly stand it!'
Still, she goes to the fifth floor and the sign reads:
Floor 5 - These men Have Jobs, Love Kids, are Drop-dead Gorgeous, Help with Housework, and Have a Strong Romantic Streak & Sexual Prowess.
She is so tempted to stay, but she goes to the sixth floor, where the sign reads:
Floor 6 - You are visitor 37,456,512 to this floor.
There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping at The Husband Store.
Attention: To avoid gender bias charges, the store's owner opened The Wife Store just across the street.
The first floor has Wives That Love Sex.
The second floor has wives that Love Sex, Have Money of Their Own and Prefer Beer Over Expensive Mixed Drinks.
The third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors have never been visited. Proving men truly aren't that hard to please, after all. Who knew?

4:30 am, Christmas Eve, a wife drifted off to sleep waiting on hubby after annual party. She heard his car, she rushed to see him park crookedly in the driveway. He got to the first step, slipped again & again, laughing. The woman threw the door open, glared at her husband lying in the snow, and yelled "DRUNK AGAIN!!" to which hubby looked up and slurred; "Really? Wow...Me too!"

Merry Christmas



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December 3
Perry HD Event
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 10 am-1 pm, Free gift wrapping, free snack & free refreshments. For more info go to perry-harleydavidson.com (See ad this issue).

December 3-4
Toys for Tots
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 3rd 10 am- 4 pm, 4th 11 am- 3 pm. The US Marine Corps will be on-site both days (3rd & 4th), bring unwrapped new toy or a monetary donation to ABC HD, free pictures with Santa both days & a Christmas Buffet. For more info go to abcharleydavidson.com (See inside front cover this issue).

December 11
Holiday Open House
Perry HD, Portage, MI. 10 am - 1 pm, Free gift wrapping, free snack & free refreshments. For more info go to perry-harleydavidson.com (See ad this issue).

December 16
Talk to Tech
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 6 pm- 7 pm, customization workshop, food, drinks. For more info go to raycsh-d.com (See ad this issue).

December 16
Men's Only Shopping Night
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. 4 pm- 7 pm, wings, drinks. For more info go to raycsh-d.com (See ad this issue).

December 17
Ugly Sweater Party
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. Regis by 1:30 pm. Wear your ugly sweater, winner gets \$100, also free pics with Santa avail all day. For more info go to abcharleydavidson.com (See inside front cover this issue).

December 17
Holiday Open House
Motorcity Motorcycles, Bloomfield Hills, MI. Food, refreshments, check-out the Indian & Victory motorcycles. For more info go to ridemotorcity.com (See ad this issue).

December 24
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READY TO ROLL

By Debra Wright



Enough talking about it – Just Do It!!

Eight of us ladies met up for a 3 day riding trip. We left early Saturday morning and headed to Manistee MI. But, of course being in Michigan, the first 125 miles was in the rain. We were prepared with rain gear, so we kept on riding. We were in no rush, just enjoying the ride and stopping when we needed to do what you do, you know. After making it safely, we checked in and unpacked. We were ready for some hot tub/pool action and female bonding.



On Sunday, we fueled our bikes and bodies at a great place to eat called House of Flavors and picked up two more girlfriends and off we went to ride the Leelanau loop.



These are roads that twist and bend around wooded hillsides, past lakes, and bays of clear turquoise and deep blues, through towering dunes and small towns with rural "Up North" charm. The small towns offer restaurants, pubs, shopping, wineries, and Michigan brewed beer.

There are a variety of routes you can start with and take; it just depends on what you want to see and do and how long you have to ride on that day or 2 days. Starting off through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, we stopped to climb the dunes - just remember once you go down to the water you have to climb back up the sand hill. The view is breathtaking. After that we headed out, making stops along the way if we saw something of interest to stop and explore. Each town has something special to offer. As we rode from town to town, we had lots of giggles and took pictures. Some elderly ladies stopped from their slow paced walk as we rode by, just to smile wave their arms up in the air, hooting and hollering in joy to say you go ladies. Others we heard say, "Hey they're all girls!" We smiled and rode on by with warm hearts.



for some more female bonding and lots of laughs. This is a destination that I highly recommend for everyone to explore, especially since there are so many little towns to meet an assortment venue.

On Monday, we said good bye to our two gals from Manistee and hit the road to home. The ride back was dry and sunny, which on days like this you just want to keep on riding.

Thank You Ladies! Sheryl, Cindy, Lisa, Jeannie, Kim, Candy, Brandy and our Manistee gals Susie and J Iris. Can't wait till next year's trip! It's not how many miles we traveled it's the many miles we did travel



We did stop in Northport at the Northport Brewery and tasted some beer from Grand Rapids. There was a taco truck parked in the back lot, which served an assortment of made-to-order tacos to enjoy with your beer.

Our ride was great, but there's still so much more to explore, which we will save for another trip. So, we headed back to Manistee

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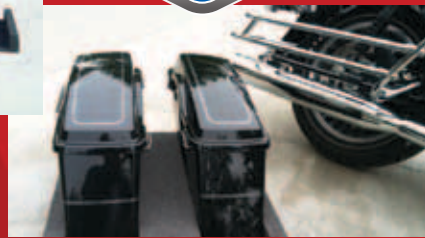
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2016 Holiday Gift Buying Guide



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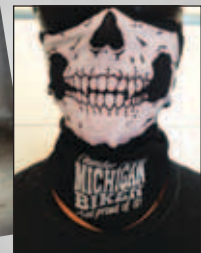


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Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anyone else expects of you. Never excuse yourself. ~ Henry Ward

Biker Poem

~ Written By Chuck (A loyal Thunder Roads Michigan reader)

Questions come into our minds
 As we go through our lives;
 How best to gain peace within
 And avoid the world's strife?

The purpose of the Universe
 Occurs to me sometimes;
 What should I strive for now?
 How best to spend my time?

If these questions pile up too much
 They could drive you crazy!
 You must let them go,
 But that's not always easy.

For me, I fire up the bike
 And head out for a ride
 And let these questions blow away,
 No longer kept inside.

With the rumble of the engine
 There between my knees
 The mysteries are blown away
 By the welcome pleasant breeze.

But one question still remains
 As I gaze up to the sky:
 Where did Jody hide the picture
 Of that Biker Friendly guy?

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Merry Christmas everyone!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Much love and respect,
Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay
Senior Pastor, National President & Founder
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10TH ANNUAL BIKES on The BRICKS



By Paula Schemm



PHOTOS BY
Debra Wright & Billy D

Anticipation had started to grow at the beginning of the year as we had contemplated bringing in a movie star for our event. As time progressed, we gained momentum and by spring we had booked Erik Estrada (Ponch) from "Chips" fame. He was sincerely excited about his trip to Flint and attending our event. Erik was indeed a great fit and was greeted with open arms and swarms of fans from police officers to men, women and children of all ages. He was extremely personable and made everyone feel important that came in contact with him. A little six year old boy idolized Ponch and had watched "Chips" reruns religiously. His parents had contacted Erik's booking agent and learned that Erik was planning a trip to MI. Erik was notified and he brought a special box from LA filled with DVD's, a pair of sunglasses and a California patrol hat. The boys dream was to become a police motor officer like Ponch. Erik was also admired and adored by an 84 year old woman that attended our event riding on the back of her grandsons Harley. She brought her very own poster from 1977 and had Erik sign it with love. It made her day as well as the big smooch on her cheek from him. Erik also had the pleasure of judging the first annual Rock a Billy Pin-Up Girl contest this year. The contestants were very excited to have Ponch judging them on style and poise.

The flat lot in downtown Flint was busting at the seams with entertainment. The Urias Family Globe of Death was back once again by popular demand and dazzled the crowd with their daredevil motorcycle stunt show. The Urius family was the first Globe of Death act to feature 3 motorcycles and the first to feature 3 motorcycles and a lady standing in the center. It was definitely a crowd pleaser. Rhett Rotton Wall of Death was another act that we invited to our event this year. He runs on adrenaline and the love of a crowd, a daredevil showman in the Evil Knievel tradition. He thrilled the spectators as he spiraled up the wall and rode the top rim of the wall grabbing dollar bills from the crowd as they cheered him on. Also, for the first time ever, Harley Davidson was on hand this year with 2 semi-trucks filled with 20 brand new 2017 Harley Davidsons in which were available to demo ride. It was a beautiful sight to see.

The police motor skills competition is always a favorite by the crowds. We had over 65 police officers spanning from Canada and the United States competing against each other for the title of last man standing. It is inevitably the most watched and favored contest for the crowd and the police officers.

Wow.... Happy 10th Anniversary Bikes on the Bricks! Thank you to all of our sponsors, vendors, and bands that played in our beer tent. We appreciate all that you do to support this event. Our board and committee members truly pulled out all the stops and brought this event to downtown Flint like we had never done before. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year, September 8-10 as the planning has already begun.



It is great when readers share ideas and photos of their bikes or in this case their man cave! Thanks Joey for sharing your story and the pictures, it rocks!

THE ULTIMATE MAN CAVE

By Joey Tolbert
Monroe, MI.

by Billy D

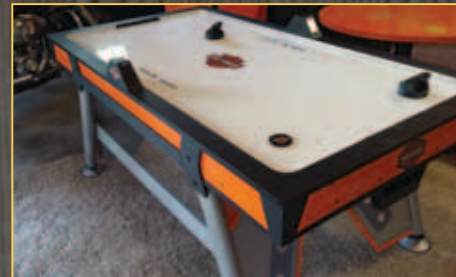
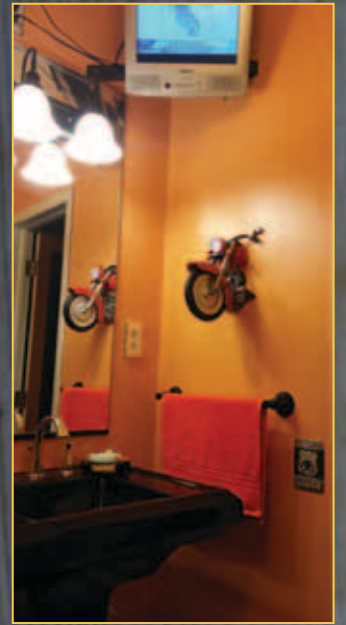
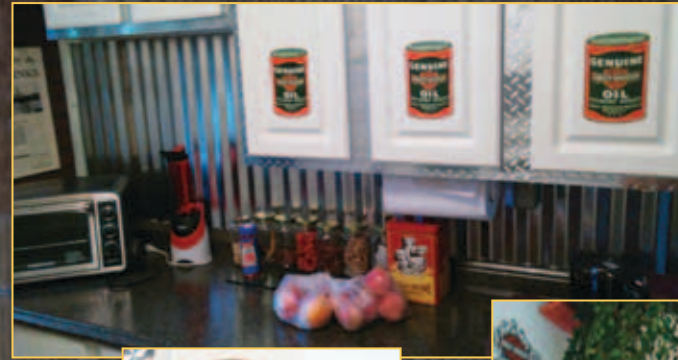


This is my attached garage. I bought a 2001 Ultra Classic and couldn't get it in my living room. Being single, I decided to build a living room around the bike, which allows me to comfortably live in the garage all summer. I built the bar from an old 1900's radio I had found in the trash, along with a coffee table with a missing leg. Then from scratch: I made cabinet doors by framing metal screen and painting flames, installed a diamond back splash and mirrors. Then I built the bar from metal roofing and a wood top with liquid plastic top coat. I custom made a bubble gum machine, juke box, scale and candy gas pump. I made a one of a kind coffee table, turning it into a Harley dealership under glass. I hand painted the bar and shield on the wall and then painted the room Harley colors. I installed a bathroom and after painting the bathroom and spraying flames on the wall, I installed a modern fireplace and top of the line toilet and pedestal sink in black. I used an extra guitar to make a toilet seat and then took a mirror medicine cabinet and installed clear glass to hold a collection of Harley pickups and bikes. The bathroom also has a flat screen TV and a 4 ft. tall fish tank that changes colors.



Now, onto the kitchen. How to make it "manly"? I used vinyl diamond plate to wrap the cabinets and left the doors white, but glued Harley oil can images on them. I took dip dots from all over the world and using a small clamp, recessed them into a knob sprayed black and dipped them into clear plastic. Using the same tin roofing as the bar, I installed the back splash. I screened in the garage opening using sliding door screens from the local Habitat. Two are on hinges that allow me to ride the bike out. They can stay all year round as 2 inch foam fits perfectly between the screens and the closed door.

There's nothing better than when there's a good rain storm; than rolling out the awning, keeping the door open, while watching a ball game and having a cold one! This is a project that has taken 4 years and changes and gets better every day. So if you're ever out this way, stop in for a drink, smile and some good ole B.S.



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'TIS COMING ON CHRISTMAS

BY RICK WYATT



Well the election is over (thank God), but as I am writing this I don't know the final results yet, since it's the beginning of November. So, on to the subject of Christmas. I would be remiss if I didn't make some suggestions to help you round out your gift list. As far as I am concerned, guns are always a great gift, and ammunition makes a suitable stocking stuffer. You can add to this list, range memberships and training programs such as "hunter safety" or "CPL" classes as appropriate. Or there is always archery and fishing equipment for the well-rounded sportsman (or woman), and keep in mind that any of these ideas can become part of a family activity. If you are looking for something motorcycle related, Gary and Cliff at "Ride Like a Pro" (ridelikomeapro-gl.com) put on an outstanding low speed maneuvering program for a reasonable price. And of course, leather or chrome always make fine gifts for scooter freaks.

Christmas is a time for family and family centered gifts that make memories to last a lifetime. Family based vacations are always great for creating lasting impressions and can be built around time available and family budget. One of my greatest regrets is that for many years, I put my job(s) ahead of family time, because of a misguided sense of loyalty to my employer. Unfortunately, it turned out on too many occasions that loyalty only flowed one direction and now I know that I owe my family much more than I will ever owe an employer. And the budget thing, I never liked big name motels and some of the best travel meals were cold cuts for sandwiches and sodas from a cooler in the trunk. Yeah, it wasn't fancy, but it sure made for some fun and interesting times! Here is something you need to think about; a few years ago I lost my son long before his time and have since lived with a lion's share of regrets, but offsetting those regrets are fond memories especially of some of the places we went and things we did.

We have done Disney and the plastic fantastic make believe vacation destinations that eventually start to feel as hollow as they leave your wallet on the way out the gate. We live in a nation that God has blessed with natural wonders beyond compare. Words and pictures are fine, but they will never be the same as witnessing with all of our senses actual places and events paragraphs and photographs can never adequately describe. Have you ever seen sunrise at Monument Valley, I have and to be honest I don't have the vocabulary to express its majesty.



Countless breathtaking wonders, both natural and man-made, and truly American events are there for us that none of the fantasy themed venues will ever be able to hold a candle to in comparison. Man-made, try Washington DC with its monuments and museums, but don't leave without witnessing the solemn dedication to honor and duty of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknowns, of the pomp and ceremony of a dress parade at the Marine Barracks. This destination is an easy 4-5 day getaway with plenty of time left to make a slight detour to see Gettysburg, the site of the most decisive battle of the Civil War. Other east of the Mississippi destinations can be as close as northern Kentucky and the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, the Steven Foster mansion, and Mammoth Cave National Park. Move your travel range out as far as New Orleans and in between you find places

like Nashville (home of country music), Memphis (home of the blues) Chattanooga (Rock City's seven state vista and civil war battlefield), Charleston (colonial slave market and museum), Gatlinburg and the Great Smokey Mountain National Park and Cherokee Reservation, and the notorious Andersonville civil war prisoner camp. With a little planning and the help of Map Quest any of these destinations and hundreds more can be seen in a week or less.



Headed west? Sturgis is a two day drive and the gateway to the Black Hills, Deadwood, and Mount Rushmore; add one more day west and you find yourself in Cody Wyoming. Cody, the home of the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Cody stampede (nightly rodeo in June and July) is a place where it is not uncommon to find elk and mule deer wandering around town or a buffalo wandering beside the highway. A couple of hours north of Cody is the Little Bighorn, and just an hour west is the first jewel of national park system, Yellowstone. For those of you who have never been there, she is an alluring temptress who will seduce you with her wiles, captivate you with her beauty, and break your heart when you have to leave and then call to you in the wind.

Within a full day's drive south of Yellowstone are four more enchanting national parks with Monument Valley, spiritual center of the Navajo people, sitting on the Utah/Arizona border and Grand Canyon a half day further west. These destinations are may require more time and money, but the rewards are certainly worth it. Speaking of costs; a Disney ticket is about \$100 per day per person while national park passes are a fraction of that, but when was the last time anybody ever had to stop and in the Magic Kingdom to let the wild horses cross the road?



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