

DECEMBER 2017 Volume 15 Issue 1

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ON THE COVER

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 BIKE 1970 Triumph Tiger
 OWNER Timothy Benson

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READERS RIDES

"BUFFALO" Dale Murgas

Editor's Note: Buffalo was also featured on Good Morning America along with Bikes on the Bricks and Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan- how exciting that was to see!



They call me Buffalo, and this is my trike. It is a 1958 Harley Davidson servi-car. It has a 45 flathead motor, left-hand shifter, a foot clutch, and a three-speed with reverse. IT'S NICE!

When I saw her for the first time, it was just a running and working frame, tank, and rear-end. The front end was junk, and there wasn't much of a seat. It was in pretty bad shape. But I just had to have it. You know how that feels—the feeling that it was just meant to be?

So, in 1993, I brought it from a bump-and-paint shop just down the road from me. A few bucks later and A LOT of heart and soul, my late-night project became a reality. Eventually she had her own identity. I call her Bell. She was born in the barn like I was. (But that's a story for another time).

Her transformation started out slow, as there was a lot that needed to be changed. In 1995, money and time were tight, and I needed to put her away for a while, as she wasn't getting the time and attention she deserved. She spent eighteen years up in the hayloft of my barn before I had time to work on her again.

In 2013, I started working on her again, and, thanks to God, I finished this time. I took an old whiskey barrel and turned it into a seat, then lined it with an old buffalo hide I tanned in the early 1980s. I have enough room inside the barrel for my tools, a coat, and even a first-aid kit. The buffalo on the front fender came from my grandkids. I fabricated the rear fender to match the front fender, but made it three inches wider. The suspension was assembled from parts on my scrap pile. The bumpers are leaf springs from an old 1950s truck. The shocks I got from an old bike that I used to ride; I liked them and felt they were a nice fit. I came across my seat completely by accident. It was tooled by a leather man in Flint, MI. I pulled up to his place on my trike, he looked at me and he said, "It looks like you need a seat; I made this one for you." He pulled it off the wall and that was that. NO BULL!

I choose red oxide primer for the paint because it just seemed like the perfect fit to me. Once everything started coming together, I just went with it. I wanted simple and cool, old-school style. So, what would I choose for the perfect front end? The 45 springer front end...what else?

I love to get feedback from the people as I go by. I love all the local contests and bike shows. They are a blast when I enter, and the trophies are adding up. I was influenced to build Bell by my love of the land, the buffalo—and Harleys, of course! Bell was built with heart, soul, and lots of hours of love. There is definitely no other bike out there like her.



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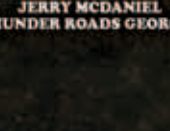
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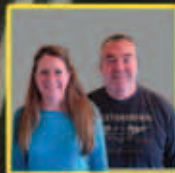
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THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN

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Toni McCoy Shearon & Brian Shearon
1528 Matlock Drive / Chapmansboro, TN 37035
Thunder Publishing, LLC Offices: 615-792-0040
e-mail:thunderroadsfounders@yahoo.com / www.thunderroadsmagazine.com

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Merry Christmas!

I just can't believe it is December already—where on earth did the year go? Is it just me, or do they seem to fly by faster and faster? I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and was able to enjoy it with friends, family, or both.

I hope you are getting into the holiday spirit. In this issue, you will find some great gift ideas for that hard-to-buy-for person in your life...or maybe even yourself.

I am really excited about the expansion of the magazine next month to *Thunder Roads Motors Lakes Trails*. I am hoping that you all are, too! I will not be taking anything away, but only adding to the magazine. We will still talk about motorcycles, regardless of the season, but we will also have some added features on what else is happening in our great state, according to the season.

I hope you will share in my excitement and help spread the word about this. You can view the publication each month online, or pick it up at any advertiser. *Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan* has always been free and supported by the advertisers. The more advertisers, the more content we can include, and thus a larger publication each month. Please like us on Facebook and check out our website www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com.

I am also looking forward to the 5th Annual Thunder Fun Night! Check out all the details in this issue, but don't wait to book your spot because it will fill up quickly and space is limited! YOU Will Not Want to Miss This! 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 10th will receive a special extra gift!!! If you are looking for some FUN, then this is the event for you! Book your spot, and then mark your calendar for February 10th, 2018. Also, this is the LAST MONTH we will be offering FREE SHIPPING on Thunderwear, so be sure to take advantage of it. Thunderwear and Subscriptions make GREAT Christmas presents!!!

Again, be sure to like *Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan* on Facebook to keep up-to-date with the exciting updates and latest happenings. Please patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw them in *Thunder Roads*, because, thanks to them, we are the #1 Free Motorcycle Magazine in Michigan...and growing to become Michigan's #1 Free Magazine. Thank you to all of our loyal advertisers—we appreciate you! Thank you also to all the representatives and contributors to this publication!

Lastly, thank you to our readers—Merry Christmas to you all!



Now for some "Mo" Advice

The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.

Jody Mohowitsch
"Jody Mo"



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2018 Motorcycle Swap Meets

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Sun Jan 7, Barry Expo Center
6th Annual **Hastings (MI)**
Motorcycle Swap Meet

Jan 27-28, Pheasant Run Resort
34th Annual **CHICAGO**
Motorcycle Swap Meet & SHOW

Sun Mar 18 Wings Event Ctr
45th Annual **Kalamazoo (MI)**
Motorcycle Swap Meet



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For complete event listing check our website ParagonsPromotion.com

TRMM EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

Don't forget to email your events to editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com
Bold events indicate advertiser of Thunder Roads MI-please patronize our advertisers.

DECEMBER

***See ABATE article this issue for a list of each ABATE Regions Christmas Party

December 2
Santa comes to GLHD
Great Lakes HD, Bay City, MI.
10:30 am- 2 pm. Come get a picture with Santa. For more info go to www.greatlakeshd.com (See ad this issue).

December 2
19th Annual Polar Bear Run (Motown HOG Chapter #2357)
MotorCity HD, Farmington Hills, MI. Regis 10 am- Noon, \$15 pp or \$10 with 3 cans of food, prizes, all bikes welcome. For more info call Rich 248-635-6942

December 2
Polar Bear Run (Motorcity HOG Chapter #2368)
Biker Bobs HD, Taylor, MI. Regis 10 am- Noon, \$10 pp or \$5 with 2 cans of food, beverage specials, prizes, cold, rain, snow – no problem. For more info go to motownhog.com

December 2 & 3
Toys for Tots
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 2nd- 10 am- 4 pm, 3rd- 11 am- 3 pm. For more info go to www.abcharleydavidson.com (See full page ad this issue).

December 9
Santa comes to GLHD
Great Lakes HD, Bay City, MI.
10:30 am- 2 pm. Come get a

picture with Santa. For more info go to www.greatlakeshd.com (See ad this issue).

December 16
Santa comes to GLHD
Great Lakes HD, Bay City, MI.
10:30 am- 2 pm. Come get a picture with Santa. For more info go to www.greatlakeshd.com (See ad this issue).

December 23
Santa comes to GLHD
Great Lakes HD, Bay City, MI.
10:30 am- 2 pm. Come get a picture with Santa. For more info go to www.greatlakeshd.com (See ad this issue).

December 23
Ugly Sweater Holiday Party
ABC HD, Waterford, MI. 11 am- 3 pm. For more info go to www.abcharleydavidson.com (See full page ad this issue).

December 25
Merry Christmas

JANUARY

January 1
Happy New Year

January 7
6th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet
Barry Expo Center, Hastings, MI. Bikes, parts, leather, food, beer & more. For more info call 800-800-6034 (See ad this issue).

January 27-28
34th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet & Show
Pheasant Run Resort, Chicago, IL. Bikes, parts, leather, food, beer & more. For more info call 800-800-6034 (See ad this issue).

FEBRUARY

February 14
Happy Valentine's Day

February 18
5th Annual Thunder Fun Night
Bay Valley Resort, Bay City, MI. Early check in available at noon, receive a goody bag at check-in, must meet in the lobby at 5 pm, must already be registered to attend. For more info & to reserve your spot go to ThunderRoadsMichigan.com > click on store> click on Thunder Store > Thunder Fun Night. For questions call Jody Mo 989-615-5757 (See all event details online at ThunderRoadsMichigan.com).

SAVE THE DATE

March 9-18
77th Annual Daytona Beach Bike Week
Daytona Beach, Florida. 10 days of festivals, concerts, cruises, showcases, & more. For more info go to OfficialBikeWeek.com (See ad this issue).

March 18
45th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet
Wings Event Center, Kalamazoo, MI. Bikes, parts, leather, food, beer & more. For more info call 800-800-6034 (See ad this issue).

April 22
Birch Run Swap Meet
Birch Run Expo Center, Birch Run, MI. 10 am- 4 pm.

July 26-28
30th Annual Sandy Corley Memorial Run
Double JJ Resort, Rothbury, MI. 3 Nights of Live Entertainment. For more info go to www.sandycorley.com (See ad this issue).

EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!

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

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Event information must be received prior to the 10th of the month preceding the event month to be posted in the magazine. Remember to call ahead before planning to attend any event as the information/dates may change.

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By Geneva

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	7	3				9		

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.

Winner Last Month



Jennifer Szukala
of Michigan
Congratulations!

Merry Christmas
and As Always...
Ride Safe Friends!



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VETERANS CORNER



New Website Launches, Hoping to Connect More Veterans in Northern Michigan

A Michigan veteran organization is hoping its new website will help connect them to even more people in northern Michigan.

Project Cherry Tree was established last year and is an advocate for veterans' support issues in northern Michigan. They just launched their new website, which has lots of resources available for veterans, and also keeps people up to date with what they're doing. They're hoping the new site will help link people together.

"Working with our legislators and then working with those here locally will help make lasting impacts on those services and changes in those services that will benefit the nearly 68,000 veterans here in northern Michigan," said executive director Steven Chowen. Chowen says the new website was possible with funding from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and help from volunteers.

Their website is at <http://www.projectcherrytree.org>

No More Jail Time in GR Vets Home Abuse Case

A former caregiver who was convicted of abusing a dementia patient at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans has been sentenced.

Laurie Lyn Botbyl was sentenced to 56 hours on a work crew and ordered to pay fines and costs. She was also sentenced to one day in jail with credit for one day served, which means she will not spend any more time behind bars.

Police said surveillance video from March 27, 2016 showed Botbyl push a veteran—who had dementia and was in a wheelchair—into a desk as others watched and did nothing.

Botbyl lost her job after the incident. She was an employee of J2S, a much-criticized private firm that used to provide caregivers at the Veterans Home. She was charged in February 2017 and convicted of misdemeanor fourth-degree vulnerable adult abuse in August.

WWII Soldier Buried as Unknown Overseas Comes Home to Michigan on Veterans Day

Family, friends and community members will gather this Veterans Day to honor an American hero who had been lost for more than seventy-five years.

It was Dec. 5, 1942 when Army Technician 4th Grade Peter (Mason) Counter was killed during a lethal firefight with Japanese forces near Soputa in present-day Papua, New Guinea. Following the battle, the 24-year-old man from Northern Michigan was hastily buried in an isolated grave north of the village, near the Sananada Track. His remains went unidentified for decades.

On Saturday, November 11, 2017, Counter's relatives will hold the ceremony he never received at Chagnon Funeral Home in Onaway, the city of less than 1,000 people where he was born on Jan. 25, 1918.

The remains of an unidentified American soldier, tentatively associated with Company C, 126th Infantry Regiment of the 32nd Infantry Division, were interred at the U.S. Temporary Cemetery #2 at Soputa.

In 1943, the remains, designated "Unknown X-10" were reinterred at Temporary Cemetery #1 at Soputa, then interred at U.S. Armed Forces Finschhafen #2, and redesignated "Unknown X-171."

In 1947, the American Graves Registration service exhumed approximately 11,000 graves, including X-171, which was re-designated to X-2693. The remains were shipped to the Central Identification Point at the Manila Mausoleum in the Philippines.

X-2693 could not be identified and those remains were interred at Fort McKinley, now the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. His identity would remain a mystery for decades.

In 2012, through genealogy research, the Army contacted Counter's niece, Lavina Kollias, and asked her to submit a DNA sample.

DPAA received authorization to reexamine the remains in November, 2016. Unknown X-2693 was disinterred Nov. 4, 2016 and sent to the laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska for analysis.

Through forensic analysis using DNA, dental records, and circumstantial evidence, Counter's identity was confirmed on Aug. 2, nearly six years after initial contact with the family was made.

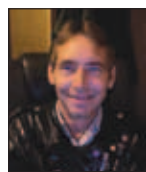
Counter returned home on November 8, his casket shrouded in an American flag, as military personnel removed his remains from an airplane.

John and Vivian Counter, the parents who sent their son to war, won't be at the service. Counter's two brothers, Glenn W. and John "Lee," and two sisters, Dorothy Counter and Lavina Dzieglawski, won't be present, either; they're all gone now. But a slew of his nieces and nephews will be.

Counter will be given full military honors on the Veterans Day occasion, which will begin at 11 a.m. with visitation and continue with the full ceremony at 1 p.m. He will also be honored during a ceremony at Onaway High School on Thursday.

He will then finally be laid to rest at Elmwood Cemetery, 21475 M-68 Highway, in Onaway, alongside his parents; brother, Glenn; sister, Dorothy; his grandparents, Sarah and Levi Rivers; and his uncle, Oakley Rivers.

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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY PERSONAL EFFECTS AFTER A WRECK?

One of the most common questions I get after a wreck is "What about my damaged jeans, sunglasses, and helmet? Who pays for them?"

In Michigan, it depends. If the at-fault driver has insurance, then you can't sue him for these damages. You have to look at your own insurance coverage to determine whether or not you'll be compensated for your personal items.

Many insurance policies don't cover damage to personal effects, while some cover only safety gear, such as helmets. To really understand what your insurance policy covers, you need to read the contract in its entirety.

When you read your policy, look for indications that your personal effects are covered in the case of damage. If you can't find anything about insuring your personal items, call your insurer and find out where your policy stands.

Some insurance coverages that may apply to situations like this include:

Accessories Coverage

The term "accessory" may vary in definition between insurance companies, but a good rule of thumb is that a motorcycle accessory is anything that was not on the bike when it left the factory. Motorcycle accessories can include things like:

- Saddlebags (the bags themselves, not the contents)
- Fairings
- Windshields
- Light bars
- Helmets
- Riding apparel

Safety Gear Coverage

Safety apparel often includes your helmet, leather clothes, boots, and gloves. If you have safety gear coverage, then your insurance policy may cover these items in the case of an accident.

Personal Property Coverage

This type of coverage includes just about all of your personal belongings that you carry on your bike. Personal property coverage would come into play if these items are damaged, stolen, or lost. Items that fall under the personal property category can include phones, camping gear, or hunting gear.

What Does Personal Items Insurance Look Like?

There are a limited number of coverage types specifically for personal effects on motorcycles. Here are two different policies to give you an idea of what may be available to you:

The American Modern Insurance Company policy states: "Accessories: When you purchase full coverage, equipment you add to the bike that did not come from the manufacturer (as identified by the VIN) is covered separately, up to \$3,000. You can buy up to \$15,000 in coverage."

"Safety apparel: Our full-coverage policies provide \$1,000 coverage on approved clothing and helmets if damaged in an accident (\$400 limit per helmet). There is no deductible for the helmet."

Progressive offers a Carried Contents insurance coverage, and states, "Carried Contents coverage will pay for insured's owned personal property (such as hunting gear or camping gear) that is damaged, destroyed or stolen while using the insured vehicle. Coverage is subject to a \$250 deductible."

Ask Before a Wreck

Ideally, you need to know what your insurance policy covers before loss or damage occurs. However, if you don't know what your policy covers and you've experienced the loss or damage of personal items, make a claim to your insurance company and ask them to cover the damage.

While the Carried Contents coverage seems superfluous—especially with a deductible of \$250—I do recommend buying accessories coverage if you customized your bike. In most cases, insurance policies won't cover those customizations.

If you're not clear on what your insurance policy covers, ask. It's always better to know your coverage than to get a nasty surprise after you've incurred loss or damage.

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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2017 Holiday Gift Buying Guide



When it comes to holiday shopping there are 2 categories of folks. Those that start their holiday shopping early and those that procrastinate and are out in the madness on Christmas Eve. To help you find ideas for those hard to buy friends, family or loved ones we have put together a gift buying guide for you. I am usually done with my shopping at least a week or more before Christmas. I am not bragging, but I will say it is a great feeling. So take my advice this year and don't wait till Christmas Eve, get on out there and start shopping now! On Christmas Eve when you are snuggled up, relaxing at home, smiling because your shopping is already done, drinking a cup of coco or something with Irish Cream, you will thank me!



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PN 177-67K



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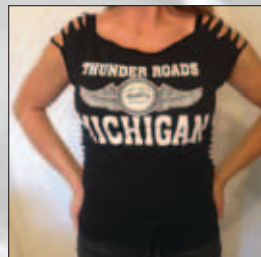
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The JOKERS WILD

A 72 year old guy takes this beautiful 24 year old young woman out to Christmas Eve dinner. They had a great time at dinner and are walking through the mall and he spots a jewelry store and they walk inside. He tells the Rep working there that this is one very special lady and he would like to buy her a very special ring. So the Rep shows him a very nice ring that cost \$5,000. The older guy said no she is very, very special and needs a very, very special ring. So the Rep goes to another case and he pulls out a ring and said "I have this ring but it cost \$40,000". The older guy says "let's see it". The young ladies eyes light up when she puts it on her hand and she is smiling ear to ear. The older guy says "that is perfect we'll take it". He explained he only had a check and that it was 8pm so Rep couldn't call the bank to verify the funds. "Can you take my check and hold the ring until Monday? Once the bank opens you cash the check and then call us and we will come pick up the ring". The Rep says "great I will hold it until Monday". Well Monday morning the Rep calls the bank only to find out the old guy doesn't have enough to cash a \$400. check let alone a \$40,000. one. So the jeweler calls the old guy yelling to him but about the check. The old guy just said, "hold on, let me tell you about my wet n' wild weekend"!!!!

A Police Officer pulls over a speeding car on Christmas Eve. The officer says, "I clocked you at 80 miles per hour, sir." The driver says, "Goodness, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60; perhaps your radar gun needs calibrating." Not looking up from her knitting the wife says: 'Now don't be silly, dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control'.

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once?" The wife smiles demurely and says, "Well dear you should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did or your speed would have been higher."

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Woman, can't you keep your mouth shut, ever?" The officer frowns and says, 'And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine'. The driver says, 'Yeah, well, you see, officer, I had it on, but I took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket'.

The wife says, "Now, dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving."

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket, the driver turns to his wife and barks, "Will you just shut the hell up?" The

officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you this way, Ma'am?" The wife looks at the officer with eyes round and innocent and replies; "Only when he's been drinking way too much."

On the farm lived a chicken and a horse, both of whom loved to play together. One day the two were playing when the horse fell into a bog and began to sink. Scared for his life, the horse whinnied for the chicken to go get the farmer for help! Off the chicken ran, back to the farm. Arriving at the farm, he searched and searched for the farmer, but to no avail, for the farmer had gone to town with the only tractor. Running around, the chicken spied the farmer's new Harley. Finding the keys in the ignition, the chicken sped off with a length of rope hoping he still had time to save his friend's life. After tying the other end to the rear bumper of the farmer's bike, the chicken then drove slowly forward and, with the aid of the powerful bike, rescued the horse! Happy and proud, the chicken rode the Harley back to the farmhouse, and the farmer was none the wiser when he returned. The friendship between the two animals was cemented: Best Buddies, Best Pals. A few weeks later, the chicken fell into a mud pit, and soon, he too, began to sink and cried out to the horse to save his life! The horse thought a moment, walked over, and straddled the large puddle. Looking underneath, he told the chicken to grab his hangy-down thingy and he would then lift him out of the pit. The chicken got a good grip, and the horse pulled him up and out, saving his life. The moral of the story? (yep, you betcha', there is a moral!) "When You're Hung Like A Horse, You Don't Need A Harley To Pick Up Chicks".

Lil' Johnny was really antsy and wanting to leave for Christmas break. The Teacher was asking questions and all who answered correctly were allowed to leave early. The room was emptying quickly and Lil' Johnny was getting really antsy and really mad. The teacher asked another question and little Amy, Marie and Sally all raised their hands and knew the answer. The Teacher let them all go early. Little Johnny was truly pissed off. He mumbled "damn, I wish these bitches would keep their mouths shut". The teacher whirled around and said, "Who said that?" Lil' Johnny yelled out "Harvey Weinstein", and flew out the door.

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Biker Preacher's Corner

"For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas everyone! When it comes to Christmas, we always seem to think of gifts, don't we? However, the most important gift—the only one that really matters—is the gift so many overlook and that's the gift that God has already given to all of mankind; His Son, Christ Jesus, the risen Savior. Jesus is the reason for the season! In fact, 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 says "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

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

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

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

You might be thinking...yeah, I want this. But, how do you accept Jesus—God's Christmas present to us all? 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. I am truly sorry for what I have done.", 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,
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ABATE

Today is November 5th; I am thinking about Thanksgiving coming up and I completely forgot to say something about the holiday in the last issue of **Thunder Roads**. SORRY! Not only do I want to talk about being thankful for everything, but Christmas is right around the corner.

ABATE was at the Novi Showplace for the motorcycle swap meet, and we had many bikers come by and talk about what is going on with them in their biker world. I got the chance to see Debbra Wright, who was taking pictures and talking about **Thunder Roads** and all the events coming up. You can tell fellow bikers really are thankful for what they have and how much it means to us to be around each other, because we do create friendships when we get together at events.

ABATE just had a casino trip to FireKeepers, and what a great time! The weather was bad outside, but hot times were inside. ABATE just recently had a color-run to enjoy the fall colors, and there are chili-cookoffs and bonfires happening everywhere. This month will be full of events for Veterans and parades, so if you get a chance to help a Veteran, please do so. They devoted their lives to help make this country a safe place to live, and we all can be thankful for their service.

Christmas is approaching very fast; parties will be happening in the first weeks of December. You will probably need your snowmobile to get around instead of your bike. I always enjoy playing Santa Claus; just a joyous time to be around families, with all the children checking to see if my beard is real and pulling on my wig to see if it's actually my hair. ABATE members statewide are very generous with their time and donations to needy families, so if you are not a member and would like to be a part of a non-profit political action group to protect the rights of all motorcyclists, please go to a meeting in your region and see if it is for you!

Recently there was a vote for Insurance Reform in the State of Michigan. ABATE got more involved after we were informed by the ABATE Attorney Dondi from Buckfire & Buckfire, P.C., that all motorcyclists would be denied proper medical coverage after a certain amount was used up. We all know that an accident can be very costly to bikers; thankfully, this reform was voted down. Let's hope that our Legislators can come up with an improved plan for the next vote, to make it better for everyone.

Let's say our prayers and send positive thoughts to those who lost their lives in the latest shooting in Texas. Be thankful for what you have, and enjoy your holidays because they are special. Go out of your way to make life a little more joyous for someone, and make yourself feel good inside by doing some good.

Just in case you didn't know, Thunder Roads is expanding to **Thunder Roads Michigan, Motors-Lakes-Trails**. How cool! Can't wait to check it out!

Here are some events coming up in December that you may want to attend:

- December 2: Region 3 Christmas Party – Kritters, Wally 231-350-1622
- December 2: Region 15 11th Annual Gutsy's Blue Balls Run – Wildrare 734-934-6169
- December 3: Region 5 Christmas Party
- December 9: Region 6 Christmas Party
- December 9: Region 7 Christmas Party – Marlene 810-712-1600
- December 9: Region 14 Christmas Party – George 734-323-1827
- December 9: Region 18 Christmas Party
- December 10: Region 11 Christmas Party / Chili Cook-off, Broomstick Tournament @ Total Sports – Tiny 586-306-7146

There is a need for motorcycle safety coaches. If you are interested, please call Vince at 248-684-6576.

May the road rise to meet you and the wind always be at your back,

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Jody "Mo's" THUNDER FUN

Inspiration

Talent develops in quiet; character in the torrent of the world.
~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The strongest principle of growth lies in the human choice.
~ George Eliot

Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

The confidence we have in ourselves engenders the greatest part of that which we have in others. ~ La Rochefoucauld

Interesting Facts

The state of Florida is bigger than England.

The three best-known western names in China: Jesus Christ, Richard Nixon, and Elvis Presley.

The placement of a donkey's eyes in its' head enables it to see all four feet at all times.

The name Wendy was made up for the book "Peter Pan."

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Bullet Points



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WILLFUL IGNORANCE

BY RICK WYATT



On the night of October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire from the thirty-second floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas, strafing the crowd attending a country music festival in an open-air venue. When the hail of bullets finally ended, the shooter, Stephen Paddock, had claimed 59 lives (including his own) and injured an additional 546—not including the untold numbers who will suffer symptoms of PTSD in the aftermath. My hat is off to the local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies that worked tirelessly to assemble the facts surrounding this tragedy, even though Mandalay Bay and its parent corporation, on more than one occasion, gave conflicting accounts to investigators.

Here we are, a month later, and the professionals are still unable to offer an explanation as to why a highly successful retired real-estate investor would perpetrate such an evil act; maybe it is a simple case that he was out-and-out bat-shit crazy and had been for a long time. But, once again, an unfortunate incident was used to fuel a gun-grabbing agenda.

This might sound sick, but I admire Paddock's taste in guns. The AR-15s I saw in the pictures run about \$2K with the triple-stack hundred-round magazines, and the AR-10s are easily pushing \$3K. The manufacturer of these firearms has an outstanding reputation in the industry

for building a precision product with tight tolerances and quality fit and finish—but this is where my gun envy ends. From there, Paddock drives over the cliff. Adding bump stocks to these guns may have been self-defeating for the carnage he had envisioned, because the heat buildup from simulated full auto-fire was the probable reason police found more than one of them jammed and cast aside. Even ARs built for full auto-fire will "malfunction" due to the heat generated by sustained cyclic fire. I would bet dollars to donuts that Paddock ruined the guns he used. In that regard, he joins other homicidal crazies, James Holmes (Aurora, Colorado shooter who killed twelve and wounded seventy in a crowded theater), and Jared Loughner (Tucson, Arizona shopping-center shooter who murdered six, including a federal judge, and wounded eleven, one of whom was Rep. Gabby Giffords), whose killing sprees were cut short because they didn't understand the limitations of either their firearms or the accessories they used.

In every instance of a mass shooting, the anti-gun crowd can be found on broadcast media pontificating the righteousness of their demands for more restrictive gun legislation, up to and including repealing the Second Amendment. After Las Vegas, Hillary Clinton was one of the quickest to the microphone and declared war on high-powered assault rifles, machine guns, silenc-

ers, high-capacity magazines and the NRA. Her sentiments were echoed by wanna-be gun-grabbers across the nation.

In truth, all the noise they make proves the common denominator in the anti-gun movement; the adherents only have two moving parts—their mouths and their asses—and those are interchangeable. Typical "out-of-their-ass talk" would be banning assault weapons, which nobody seems to be able to define. They don't know the difference between a machine gun and a full-auto-capable firearm; firearm report can be suppressed, but not silenced; and extended magazines tend to reduce body counts. The NRA and other such organizations are all that stand between us and an overreaching government, ever since Bill Clinton and Janet Reno declared war on common people, with actions like Ruby Ridge and the Branch Davidian in Waco.

All the carnage in Las Vegas was over in twenty minutes, but the way I see it, the violence in South Chicago and many other large cities is a Mandalay Bay massacre in slow motion, and no gun control measure is ever going to stop it.

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IN THE SHOP WITH RON

By Ron Johnson

RACK YOU PACK

This month in the shop, we will be installing a luggage rack on the tour pack of a 2007 H-D Ultra Classic. It's an easy upgrade and it gives you a little more room to carry gear.

The procedure is pretty straightforward, but there are a couple of things to consider:

1. If your trunk has an under-the-lid organizer, you will have to remove it to install the luggage rack, and then reinstall the organizer.

2. If you have a spoiler on your trunk lid (or plan on installing one later) the rack will have to be mounted in a way so as to not interfere with the spoiler. The luggage rack kit we're using has a template included, so if you don't have a spoiler and plan on adding one later, you can mount the rack in its proper position and easily mount the spoiler at a later time.

On this bike, the owner has no intention of adding a spoiler, so we're just going to mount the rack on the lid in a centered front-to-rear and side-to-side position. This luggage rack kit comes with all necessary mounting hardware, including four black rubber grommets—one for each leg of the rack—to go between the rack and the painted surface of the lid. With the grommets on the legs of the rack, position the rack on the lid and make sure it is centered from front to rear and also from side to side. We have a little more freedom on this project because we are not going to be adding a spoiler.

Look at the luggage rack from all angles, to be sure it's where you want it. Using a china marker or wax pencil, mark one of the legs (we used the right rear) to use as a reference point.



Now we can set the rack aside for a minute. Next, using the reference mark on the lid, put down masking tape on either side of recessed area of lid at equal distances the length of the lid. Place the luggage rack on the tape (with grommets in place) and make sure it is centered front to rear and side to side. Make sure it's exactly where you want it.



Once the rack is positioned, if you have someone to help, have one person hold the rack firmly in position while the other person carefully draws the outline of each leg with a pencil on the masking tape.



Now find the center of each circle you drew on the masking tape. Be very careful—there is no room for error here; if the holes aren't centered, the mounting screws won't line up with the rack. The rack we're using has the option of adding a high-mount brake light/taillight, and the left rear (clutch side) mounting bolt is larger than the other three and is hollow in the center to allow routing of the wiring.

Drill a 1/8-inch pilot hole in the center of each circle you drew. The left rear hole needs to be 5/16-inch diameter and the other three holes need to be 1/4-inch diameter. Before drilling any holes, I like to open the trunk and lay a towel down inside to catch any shavings that may fall inside. Drill gently, or when the drill breaks through the surface of the lid it will be dragged down quickly and if you're not careful, you

will scratch the painted surface of the lid. Remove the masking tape.

Now, with the grommets on the legs, carefully set the rack on the lid. I like to use a little silicone sealant between the grommets and the legs, and between the grommets and the painted surface of the lid. Use sealant sparingly; too much will cause the sealant to squeeze out and make a mess.

Start the bolts from the underside of the lid and tighten in a cross pattern—each bolt a little at a time—until tight.



The bolts in this kit are new and have a lock patch on them; if you're installing a used rack or reusing bolts, use a dab of Loctite on each one. Remember, the left rear bolt is larger and hollow to accommodate wiring for lights.

There are some exciting changes coming to this magazine in the very near future. In an effort to keep things interesting for this article, starting with the January 2018 issue, we have some cool painting and bodywork projects planned, along with some custom painting projects.

Please stay tuned; it should be a lot of fun.

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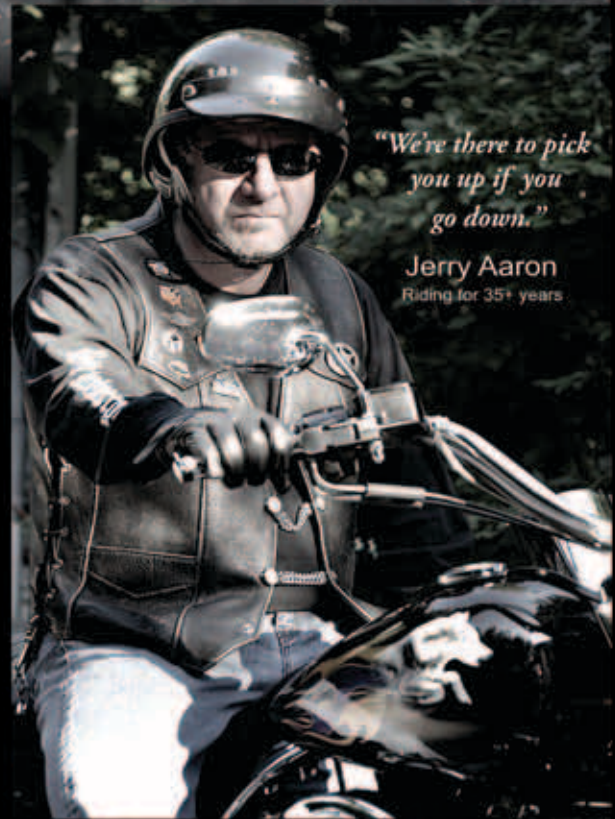


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