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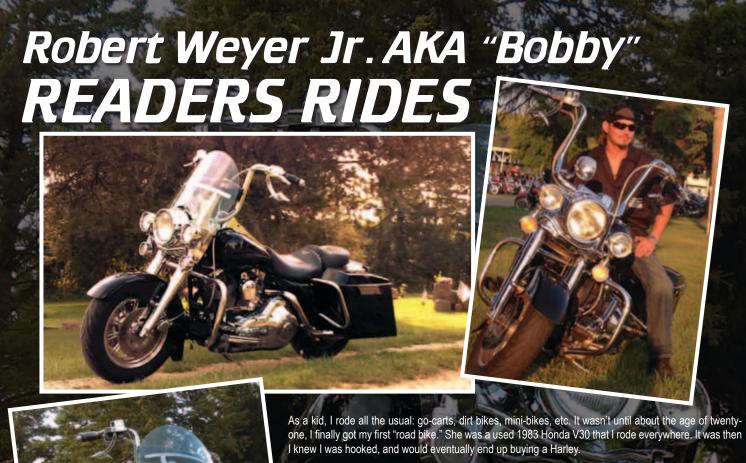
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In July 2012, my dad died suddenly from a stroke. He was my hero, and I was devastated. Losing him hit me really hard. In order for me to try to somehow make sense out of all of it, I knew I needed to use my part of the money from his life insurance to do something enduring, life-changing, and in remembrance of him.

That's when I bought my 1999 Harley Road King. It had quite a few miles, but lots of upgrades, and lots of potential. Naturally, I set out to make even more improvements myself, since I am a mechanic by trade. Currently, as she sits, it's an 88-cubic-inch V-Twin Stage 3 Big Bore Kit, with Edelbrock heads, Baker Six-Speed trans, with Barnett Racing clutches. Four-inch stretched saddlebags, air-ride, 16"x 1 1/4" Gangster ape-hanger bars, too much chrome to list, remote-controlled blue LED lighting, and dressed to the nines in Tuxedo Black. The vanity license plate, of course, bears Dad's and my last name.

We've spent quite a few miles together in the last five years. Some of my favorite memories were riding the race course at Waterford Hills, and sharing the honor of escorting the "Wall that Heals," the traveling version of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, alongside a couple hundred veterans on a closed stretch of I-96. Together we've won a few Bike Night trophies at local shows, and in 2013, I took first place—and the plaque—for Detroit Bike Week's "Mr. Hot Body Contest." Then in 2016, after finally getting my Thunder Roads Ride Card, my card number was the lucky one drawn as the winner of

the Trip to Biketoberfest in Daytona Beach, sponsored by Thunder Roads Magazine, and Jason Waechter "The Motorcycle Lawyer". What a party!

Through all of our travels and adventures together, I know my dad is always with me and watching over me. Oftentimes, when the girlfriend and I are out riding, we stop at his grave to pay him a visit, and just say "thanks."







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#### THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN

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#### Happy Thanksgiving!

When presented with a future change, I think one of the hardest tasks is remaining involved in the now, the present, and this moment. Right now, I am so focused on the exciting changes coming to Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan, beginning with the January 2018 issue, that I am struggling with being patient and keeping my attention on the last two issues before the expansion

Let me explain in more detail what is to come. Starting January 2018, Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan will become Thunder Roads Michigan Motors Lakes Trails. The magazine will still have motorcycle content each and every month, but we will also be focusing on what else is happening in Michigan, relative to each season.

Each month we will be talking about more than just motorcycles. Every biker I know also enjoys either hunting, fishing, has a hot rod, owns a boat, snowmobiles, or all of the above, and the list goes on. We are Michigan! We are bikers, hunters, and enthusiasts of many different interests. So basically, we are going to spice this magazine up in a BIG. BIG WAY!

Let me speak from the heart right now. When I put together last month's issue and this month's issue and the page count was down (which is based on advertiser input) it saddened me. In life, sometimes we have to adapt and be open to change in order to continue to be successful.

It was time for a change for this magazine, time to take a step back and ask, "What should I be doing so this magazine is the greatest free magazine in Michigan, so everyone wants to pick it up, so more advertisers want to be a part of it, so that it is soooo amazing that it grows beyond what even the greatest past issue was?"

The obvious answer? Making it more about the many year-round interests that make Michigan a great state and what we all do to enjoy the four seasons. I hope you will join me in the excitement and spread the word to possible places that may be interested in coming on-board. Share your stories with me regarding some of these topics, as it could be a feature in the magazine!

Be sure to like Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan on Facebook to keep up-todate with the exciting updates or 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

Thank you, Veterans, for your service!

Please thank a veteran for their service every chance you get.

Now for some "Mo" Advice (Thanks, Toni) Think you are having a bad day? There are people that would

give anything for your bad day!



Jody Mohowitsch

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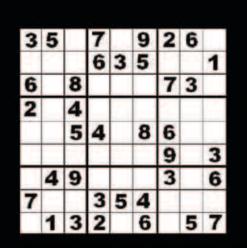
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Each Puzzle has 9 boxes. Each box has 9 squares. Write numbers 1-9 in the squares without repeating the same number from side to side, top to bottum or within the same box.



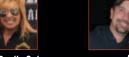
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Bikes on the Bricks 2017 was a picture-perfect weekend, with record attendance and warm sunny skiesa welcoming sight for the event! Everyone was geared up and ready to take on the weekend-long festivities, starting it off on Friday evening in downtown Flint with the hilarious mini-bike races on the flat lot. Onlookers cheered and applauded their favorite mini-bike and rider of choice. The riders ranged in age from children to adults, and they definitely warmed the crowd up for the main attractions. This year attendees could have a beverage, listen to the bands and watch the flat lot entertainment, all at the same time.

Tim Dyson of the FMX Stunt Show was an incredible high-energy, ramp-jumping sight to see. He flew in the air with his motorcycle—and sometimes without—just like a super-hero! Back for another dose of our event was One Wheel Revolution with his Harley wheelies, burnouts, and drifting. Everyone cheered him on while he reared his bagger up on its back tire and rode through fire. These acts sure lit up the flat lot, and both of them were very entertaining, with multiple shows all weekend long.

This year, over seventy active Uniformed Police Officers from Canada and throughout the United States sharpened their motor skills and competed against each other while enjoying the camaraderie. They genuinely look forward to this event every year-getting reacquainted with their officer friends from years past and meeting new brothers in blue. A few of the bike-mounted police officers also led the police-escorted ride, starting from Vehicle City Harley-Davidson to downtown Flint on Saturday morning. Bikers were plentiful as they packed into three separate parking lots while Mother Nature shared her warmth and sunny skies.

Our Rockabilly Pin-Up Girl contest was lively with beautiful woman dressed nostalgically with lots of positive energy and big smiles. They incorporated seven adorable, adoptable dogs from the Genesee County Animal Control into their event; within thirty minutes, five of the seven dogs were adopted to wonderful forever homes! I think we will see more of that goodness at our event in the future.

Thank you, Security Credit Union, for being our Presenting sponsor again this year, as well as all our other awesome sponsors, vendors and volunteers. We appreciate all that you do to support our event. Please mark your calendars for September 7-9, 2018. We want to see you all again next year!







#### VETERANS CORNER









#### Grand Valley State Receives \$1.3M Grant to Help Veterans Earn Degrees

Grand Valley State University received a \$1.3 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide West Michigan veterans free academic support services to help them complete a degree. The grant will establish a TRIO Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program to assist veterans in preparing for entry in and completion of a program of postsecondary education.

Over the five years, the grant is expected to serve 125 pre-college, low-income, first-generation veterans per year from Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan counties. GVSU will receive \$263,000 annually over the grant period.

Veterans Upward Bound is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring, and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs.

GVSU officials say the college access and degree completion services tailored to veterans will include advising and mentoring programs, instructor-led computer courses, course materials, and supplies.

#### U.S. Probes High-Pressure Mortgage Sales Targeting Veterans

The U.S. is investigating lenders for allegedly pressuring veterans and members of the military into unneeded mortgage refinances—unsavory conduct that not only leads to higher consumer costs, but has consequences for one of the world's largest bond markets.

The probe is being conducted by Ginnie Mae, a government-owned corporation whose purpose is to make mortgages more affordable. It does so by guaranteeing repayment on \$2 trillion of mortgage bonds, even if borrowers default on the underlying loans. Ginnie-backed securities support several federal housing initiatives, including programs in which loans are made through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The concern is that some lenders are improperly pushing veterans and service members to refinance loans that have been wrapped into Ginnie securities. Lenders are hounding consumers to refinance loans over and over again in a short period of time, according to Ginnie Acting President Michael Bright. The practice, known as churning, generates high fees for lenders, but can leave service members with larger loan balances.

When banks make loans through Veterans Affairs, they offer terms that aren't available to most borrowers. These include no requirement for a down payment and the addition of closing costs to loan balances, so borrowers don't have to pay them at the time of the sale.

But the loans are also prime targets for churning. Unlike financing provided through other government programs, lenders issuing loans through Veterans Affairs don't have a strong obligation to ensure that borrowers experience a real benefit when they refinance. Some lenders are persuading service members to refinance loans at rates that barely reduce their mortgage payment, while misleading them about potential consequences.

Ginnie Mae found some lenders who called veterans and offered a refinance that would allow them to draw cash out of their homes and pay off other debts, such as credit-card balances. However, the rate given could be a half percentage point above the current market price. Then several months later, the lender or a competitor would call the veteran back and offer another refinance at the market rate, earning another round of fees for the refinance.

#### **New Owners Using Gaylord Bowling Center to Help Veterans**

A group of veterans in Gaylord has found a way to give back to the community while also giving the local VFW chapter a new home. The Gaylord Bowling Center was up for auction when five veterans got together to buy it a couple of months ago. The group has plans to offer much more than just bowling to the community.

While volunteers from Chemical Bank in Gaylord worked on painting the lounge, VFW members helped clear out the room that will serve as a temporary VFW post in Gaylord while they work on getting a new building.

"We're going to try to orient everything in the place towards veterans and the military services so that the community knows that we are what we say and we're going to do," said Ron LeBourdais, commander of the Gaylord VFW post.

The new owners have started a non-profit called Veterans Education Training and Support Incorporated. They plan to both hire veterans to work at the bowling center and have internships that teach business.

"What we try to do is to give veterans jobs, train veterans," LeBourdais said. 
"There's various skills that they can learn in a bowling alley that may lead them to jobs in the future." The Center plans to use its profits to help veterans and open a new VFW post in Gaylord.

#### David McCallister "Possum"

Retired AF MSgt computer tech. Norad Cheyenne Mt CO, Misawa AB Japan, Boerfink MTK Germany, RAF Croughton England, Tinker AFB OK



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# The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW WHAT HAPPENS IF A MOTORCYCLIST IS HIT BY A RIDESHARING DRIVER?

Ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft are everywhere these days. It's become a common practice for people to hail a ride by using their smartphones, instead of standing on the corner waving down a taxi.

Despite their increased convenience, there was a problem. These ridesharing companies spread across the country so quickly that many states scrambled to make legislation for them. Companies like Uber and Lyft don't operate taxis, and they're not classified as limo drivers, so states needed to create new laws that covered topics like insurance coverage in the event of a crash.

For the most part, the states have finally caught up, which means that if you find yourself in a collision with an Uber or Lyft driver, you have some insurance protection.

The first thing you need to do after the incident is look for the Uber sign or other company sign in the windshield of the car. Once you've verified that the car is part of a ridesharing company, turn your attention to the passengers in the car.

This is crucial. If the driver of the car was transporting passengers at the time of the wreck, insurance coverage is one million dollars for a motorcyclist. If the driver isn't carrying passengers, insurance coverage drops to \$50,000.

If there are passengers in the car, get their information and take photos of them. Gather any proof you can that the driver was hauling passengers and driving for the company at the time of the collision.

When the police arrive on the scene, ask them to verify that there were people in the car and that the driver was on the clock.

In Michigan, if an Uber driver is involved in your wreck, you get no-fault benefits.

No fault benefits include filing a no-fault claim with the appropriate insurance company to pay for no-fault benefits. These benefits may include lost wages, medical expenses for life, payment for household chores, medical transportation expenses, and medical attendant care.

However, if you're the driver of an uninsured motorcycle, then you don't get no-fault benefits, so make sure your insurance is up-to-date.

If you're a passenger in an Uber vehicle at the time of an accident, give your information to the police. You want to be listed as a passenger on the police report. If you are shook up or hurting after the collision, let the police know.

Don't try to be stoic in the wake of a wreck. You're putting your health and safety at risk. If you're in pain, tell the police and insist on a police report.

You should also take a screenshot of your ride information immediately after the wreck, or be sure that you can easily get to your ride information. Use confirmation of ride payment if nothing else.

If you find yourself in a collision with a ridesharing car, either as a motorcyclist or as a passenger in the car itself, be sure to document everything as best you can. There is insurance protection available, but you must provide a compelling case to prove that you were present at the time of the collision.

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.

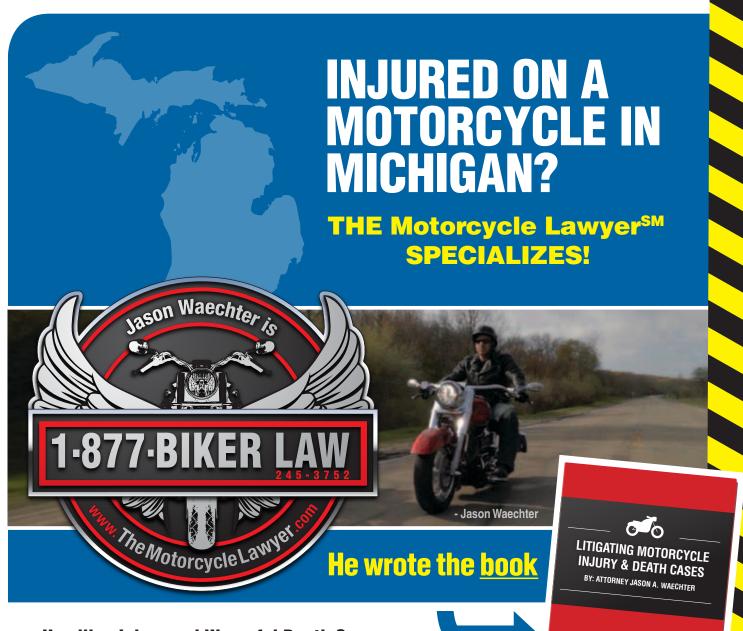
Waechter has collected millions of dollars in settlements, awards and verdicts for his motorcycle clients over the past 20 years. A portion of each case settled goes to educational resources for bikers, funds to help bikers while their cases are being litigated and our motorcycle accident prevention campaign.

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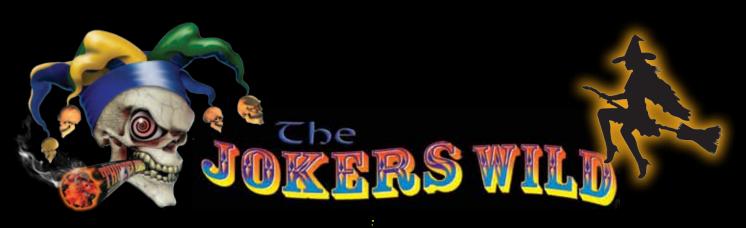
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A mechanic was removing a cylinder-head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop.

The cardiologist was there waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his bike when the mechanic shouted across the garage "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?"

The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and said, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish, it works just like new.

So how come I make \$39,675 a year, a pretty small salary and you get the really big bucks (500 mil a year + bonuses & perks) when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The cardiologist paused, smiled and leaned over, then whispered to the mechanic.....

"Try doing it with the engine running."

This bill collector had been calling Rhino for several months and he eventually had to block him. But one day he called from a different number and Rhino answered the phone and the collector said:

"Do you know as of today your outstanding bill is one year old?" Rhino said, "Really? Tell it Happy Birthday!" and hung up.

How come we choose from just two people to run for President but over fifty for Miss America?

When I was young we used to go 'skinny dipping.'
Now I just 'chunky dunk.'

WHY are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

WHY if flying is supposedly so safe, do they call the airport the terminal?

WHY is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

What's blue and covered with feathers? A turkey hiding from a hunter holding its' breath.

What do you get when you cross a turkey w an octopus? Finally, enough drumsticks!

How can you tell when a Gold Wing rider is having an affair? His helmet doesn't match the passengers.

A biker stops by the local Harley Shop to have his bike fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home. On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and an anvil. He stopped by the feed store/livestock dealer and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store he now had a problem: how to carry all of his purchases home.

While he is scratching his head he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, "Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?" The biker said, "Well, as a matter of fact, I live at 1616 Mockingbird Lane. I would walk you home but I can't carry this lot." The old lady suggested, "Why don't you put the anvil in the bucket, carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in the other hand?" "Why thank you very much," he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home.

On the way he says, "Let's take my shortcut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time." The little old lady looked him over cautiously then said, "I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and ravish me?" The biker said, "Holy smokes lady! I am carrying a bucket, an anvil, two chickens and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?" The lady replied, "Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the anvil on top of the bucket and I'll hold the chickens."

Two turkeys are standing in their pen shootin' the chit when one says "what's up w/ Ed? I saw that Farmer guy chase him all around and then put him up under his arm and walk off with him. The other turkey says, "I think he's going to the dentist. Heard Farmer say something about stuffing his cavity."

A woman is feeling totally in her "Zen" state of mind and says; "I love you"

Her husband says "is that the wine talking?" She seriously replies, "I was talking to my wine".

(Hey, old broads get horny too!)

A blonde and a brunette are in a car and the brunette mentions that Thanksgiving falls on a Friday next year. The blonde replies; "Wow, I hope it's not Friday the 13th."

Two potatoes are standing on a corner. How do you tell which one is the prostitute? Easy. It's the one with the tat that reads: Idaho



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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. This issue is part I of II and next issue we will have even more gift suggestions for you. So get out there and start shopping!









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\*Also fits 2006 Dyna Price is \$249. PN 177-67K





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# MICHIGAN

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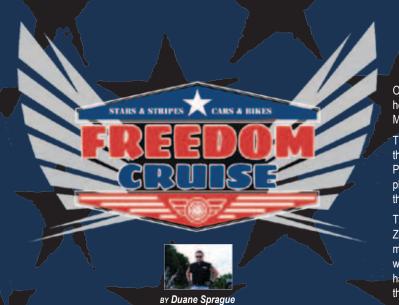






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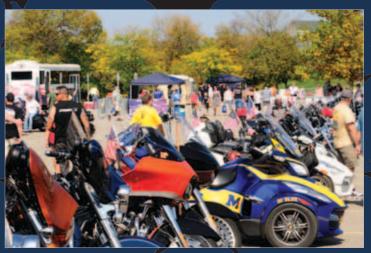
Over 300 motorcycles and 200 classic cars endured the ninety-degree heat to participate in the 4th Annual Freedom Cruise to Honor West Michigan's Fallen Heroes on Saturday, September 23rd.

The event kicked off in downtown Sparta with a little live music. Then the participants escorted a portrait of the American Fallen Soldiers Project to Fifth Third Ball Park in Grand Rapids, where live music, plenty of food, and a car and bike show entertained participants until the portrait presentation.

The portrait presentation commenced at 6:00 p.m. by the Landing Zone, an organization to remember, honor, and celebrate our community's Veterans and their families. This year's honorary recipient was West Michigan native Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Price. A beautiful hand-painted portrait was presented to Daniel's parents to conclude the day's events.









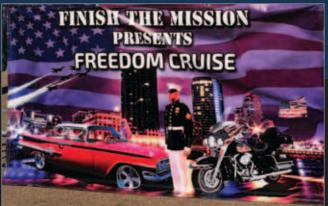
















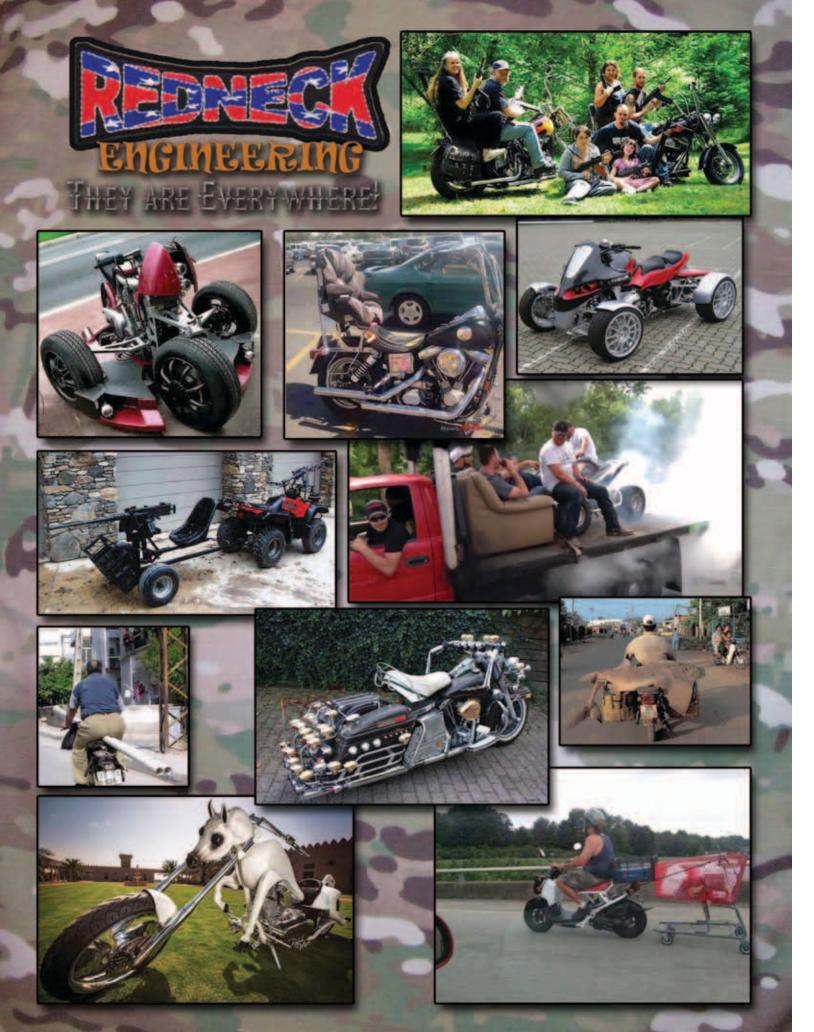












# Biker Preacher's

As November is Thanksgiving month, we always seem to think of Thanksgiving dinners with family and friends, which are always so wonderful! But, I'm thinking about what the Thanksgiving Holiday is really all about. It's a time to remember and to be thankful for all the good stuff that has happened through the year and to be thankful for the blessings and benefits that we have received from God and for all that He has done for us.

Psalm 103:2 says <sup>2</sup>My soul, praise the Lord, and do not forget all His

Ya see, there are wonderful benefits in knowing God, as Psalm 103:3-5 continues to outline for us. "He forgives all your sin, He heals all your diseases, He redeems your life from the Pit [Hell], He crowns you with faithful love and compassion, He satisfies you with goodness and your youth is renewed like the eagle." Oh man, there's so much to be thankful for!!! God has such a wonderful benefit package for us and He LOVES YOU

You might be wondering how you can take advantage of this Good News. If is only by having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Ya see, Jesus said in John 14:6 (HCSB) ... "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." So, to make it clear, Jesus is the only way to God. The choice, however, is yours to make.

Listen, my friends, Jesus is the best gift we-mankind-has ever been given. The Son of God came to pay for our (mankind's) sin, debt, and guilt. He died, rose again, and is now seated with Father God in Heaven, praying for you. All you and I need to do is accept His free gift of salvation and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Psalm 100:4 goes on to say "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name."

Ya see, every day we all have opportunities to be thankful or to complain. When has complaining about anything helped the situation? NEVER! Complaining only makes things worse, but when we're thankful in all things, just as 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us "Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This is when things change... when we praise God for ALL things.

So, this Thanksgiving season, look back at the year and be thankful for ALL the blessings that God has blessed you with. Even in those tough times, be thankful because if you will trust Him, God will make a way for you and if you don't know Jesus yet, ask Jesus to forgive you and be your Lord and Savior

So from my family to you and yours—Happy Thanksgiving!

Much love and respect.

#### Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay

Senior Pastor, National President & Founder Victory Biker Church International apostlebman@victorybikerchurch.org www.victorybikerchurch.org















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#### **ABATE**

Hello Everyone,

Just got back from a 2600-mile vacation and couldn't ask for better weather, except when we got to South Carolina, Myrtle Beach. There, the riptide was so strong from Hurricane Maria, we could not go swimming; definitely red-flag days! Oh well, ain't crazy about going into the ocean and getting bit by a shark or stung by a jellyfish.

While on the road, it seems like you will always run into bikers, whether it's at a gas station or a pub. It's always a pleasure to talk about bikes, or where to ride, or get the best hamburger in town. While in Virginia, I had the pleasure of spending some time with a Hells Angel and getting to know him was a real eye-opener. He was educated, military, and a Good Samaritan. He knew all about ABATE and wants an ABATE shirt—Size 3X. I told him that was extra! Be aware that wherever you go, you will always be welcomed if you are polite, considerate, and a good listener. You wouldn't believe just how much all bikers have in common like safety, awareness, and legislation. Don't be afraid to go to a biker's clubhouse and have a beer, like I did with the Scorpions of Monroe. They are all good people and some are ABATE members. While Denise and I were in the Orange Harley Davidson dealer in Virginia, we ran into Bikers for Trump. Just down-to-earth good-hearted bikers.

While traveling off the beaten path, you get the best scenery there is in this great country, but you have to be very careful of the mountains and twisted roads. Don't take for granted it's easy. You have to be aware of hidden driveways and sharp turns. Please pay attention to the speed limits on curves. You can get that momentum going too fast and cross over the double lines and not see a car coming from the other direction. I know. I came close once! That didn't happen again! Riding the expressway, you can clock some miles and you have to be aware of trucks. Especially when you get in their "No Zone". Like Mike from Region 18 said, "Some bikers will just come up from behind you and then try to go around you and they can be changing lanes as well." He said, "Just make sure you look into their mirrors and they will know that you are there." Please be careful!

I would like to give a shout out to A & M Leather in Romulus for helping save lives by selling "Look Twice—Save A Life—Motorcycles Are Everywhere" signs!

On the legislative side of ABATE, it's kind of quiet. Legislators just got back from summer break, and we are working on projects like car driver awareness of motorcycles. Governor Snyder signed the bill, but the Secretary of State office has a glitch with the computer system, which is outdated—go figure! We all need to stay active and keep up with legislation. There are many groups out there that would like to see us drop off politically and take away your rights.

There is a need for experience motorcyclists to teach motorcycle safety classes. If you are interested, call Schoolcraft College at 734-462-4448 or call Vince at 248-684-6576 for a 2018 application. You get paid to teach.

Please say a prayer or think of those poor souls in Las Vegas. What an awful, senseless tragedy.

Upcoming events for ABATE Regions are:

- November 4th: Casino Trip, Region 14. George 734-323-1827
- November 7th: Chili Cook-Off / Meeting, Region 7. Tim 989-670-9976
- November 18th: Bowling for Motorcycle Rights, Region 15. Tony 313-613-4703

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

Hot Rod

State Awareness Director

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# Jody Mos THUNE E

#### Inspiration

No amount of manifest absurdity...could deter those who wanted to believe from believing. ~ Bernard Levin

If the creator had a purpose in equipping us with a neck, he surely meant us to stick it out. ~ Arthur Koestler

In a progressive country, change is constant; change is inevitable. ~ Benjamin Disraeli

Character is that which can do without success.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

#### Interesting Facts

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt"

Goethe couldn't stand the sound of barking dogs and could only write if he had an apple rotting in the drawer of his desk.

It was discovered on a space mission that a frog can throw up. The frog throws up its stomach first, so the stomach is dangling out of its mouth. Then the frog uses its forearms to dig out all of the stomach's contents and then swallows the stomach back down again.

It was once against the law to have a pet dog in a city in Iceland.

It was once against the law to slam your car door in a city in Switzerland.

It's against the law to burp, or sneeze in a certain church in Omaha, Nebraska.

You can only smell 1/20th as well as a dog.

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# Bullet Points

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#### **VACATION?**



BY RICK WYATT

One of the things I enjoy about vacation is the : and nobody wants to be associated with "denial of Garmin GPS may not have a soul, but she has a be in the same boat! wicked sense of humor that guided us north from : the La Brea Tar Pits right through the heart of old L.A. instead of east to the closest freeway.

are suffering through a nationwide mental-health • ting member of Congress is directly proportional to : the amount of "bacon" a politician is able to bring being made of the flag. home. Nobody wants to vote against Santa Claus, but those of us who have kids know all too well that after Santa leaves, the adults find the bills in their stockings.

Case in point: I was talking to a couple of Californians who are about my age, and we got onto the subject of taxes. The Golden State already has a 13.5% state income tax: they also have statesponsored single-payer healthcare, "free" college for everybody, welfare for non-citizens, and some of the most generous state worker/retiree benefits anywhere. Turns out the current tax rate isn't nearly enough to pay the bills and cover healthcare, college, welfare, and state worker costs, too, so the books are juggled and bills not paid to the tune of over \$300 billion in a headlong race over a fiscal cliff. Turns out that the powers-that-be in Sacramento do have an end-game plan; they are counting on Washington bailing them out because, as they see it. California is "too big to fail"

plethora of things that can be learned simply by benefits" to the poor and elderly. People are rightly watching and listening as we travel the highways : concerned that the current administration might not : and byways of America. For nearly three weeks, : be open to bailing out state-level fiscal irresponsibilmy only contact with the news was catching the : ity, and more states than California are in financial local weather forecast for wherever we happened idire straits because of Santa Claus spending. It takes to be (thank you, Sirius Radio!) and picking up: a special kind of arrogance to expect a bailout in lieu bits and pieces of conversations from the people of the alternative—cutting benefits and raising taxes around us. Some of the many things I learned are to cover fiscal malfeasance—that would likely drive that laptops don't bounce, Triumph motorcycles: that 13.5% tax rate to 30% or higher. Thousands of are very popular on the coast, RAM trucks are : Californians approaching retirement age are looking more popular than Ford and Chevy in the working : to escape the coming apocalypse to the vast majority : west, and people are people, no matter where you : of states that have learned to live within their means. find them. One extremely valuable lesson was that Thank God Jennifer Granholm is gone, or we might

Another issue I heard a lot was Colin Kaepernick: and his pseudo-protest. I have friends and brothers whose names are on the "Wall" and a couple still list-Back to people are people—wherever we went, it : ed as POW/MIA. I remember being spit on by protestwas obvious that people are fed up with the cur- : ers and heckled and called names for doing my duty rent political climate and the wanker-spankers : and how bad it hurt down deep inside, but I learned to that electors seem to keep putting in office. If the ! live with it. Recently I was approached by a lady who definition of insanity is doing the same thing over : saw that I was wearing my "The Few, The Proud" hat and over while expecting a different result, then we and she thanked me for my service. As we talked, it came out that she was a Gold Star Mother who had crisis. The degree of difficulty in unseating a sit- : lost a son in Irag, and with tears filling her eyes, she told me how bad it hurts to see the mockery that is

> Talk about feeling like I got kicked in the gut; the root: of today's protests lays at the feet of those who disrespected and spat on us five decades ago, and I:

























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## IN THE SHOP WITH RON

BY Ron Johnson

Hope everyone has been enjoying this beautiful riding season. The weather in our area this year has been exceptional. Unfortunately, as the saying goes, All Good Things Must Come to an End rings especially true for riding season here in Michi-

This article seems somewhat difficult to write—not for lack of material, but because it's the 4th day of October and the high temperature is expected to top 85 degrees. By the time you read this (Nov. issue), I'm guessing the weather will be quite different.

This month in the shop we are getting our bikes prepped for off-season storage. On a normal year (if there is such a thing in our great state) our bikes will be stored/parked for roughly three months. If you plan on taking advantage of unseasonably warm days during the winter months, these procedures will also apply. Anytime bikes will be parked for approximately three weeks or more, this as possible. Cold air settles near the floor is what I do with our bikes.

First, I like to have the bikes clean and dry. Dirt, debris, and accumulated road grime will absorb and retain moisture, and can lead to corrosion. I also prefer to wax all surfaces—painted, chrome, powder coat, polished metal, even glass. Next is the fuel

system. I like to have the tank full of quality fuel, and add the proper amount of a good fuel stabilizer. Once I have added the stabilizer, I run the bikes for several minutes to allow the stabilizer to get completely through the system. I don't recommend disconnecting the fuel line (fuel-injected) or turning off the petcock (carbureted) and allowing the bike to run until fuel lines etc. are empty. My opinion is the fuel system is best protected with good quality properly stabilized fuel throughout the system. Empty fuel lines/carburetor bowl can allow condensation to form inside, and can cause corrosion in the carb. or fuel injectors. I don't fog/ pour oil into the cylinders of our bikes I just don't feel it's necessary for short term (3-4 months) storage.

Next on the list: batteries. SAFETY FIRST AND ALWAYS when working with or around batteries. NEVER connect or disconnect a battery charger when the charger is plugged in. Charging batteries produces hydrogen gas, which is explosive. Avoid any possibilities of sparks around the battery.

If you plan on storing your bike in an unheated area, I recommend removing the battery and taking it in somewhere warm, like a basement or heated workshop. If your storage area is heated, unhook the negative cable and hook up charger/maintainer. I like to store bikes up off the floor as much and can cause condensation to form. If you don't have a lift or jack to get your bike off the ground, a piece of 2x6 under the tires will help. A box fan on low or medium will keep air moving and help keep condensation from forming.

Then comes leather. I like to remove the

seat, leather bags, fork or handlebar bags, and treat them with leather conditioner and store them in the house. If you have bags or a tour pack on your bike and plan on leaving them on, go through them and take out anything that might be attractive to mice or other rodents. Believe me, if you leave it, they will find it.

I also cover exhaust system openings. Mice will live and nest in the pipes, if given the opportunity. Just remember to remove the covers in spring. I cover our bikes with a breathable fabric, such as old flannel sheets (I thought they were old, honest!). Don't use plastic; it will cause condensation, especially in an unheated storage area.

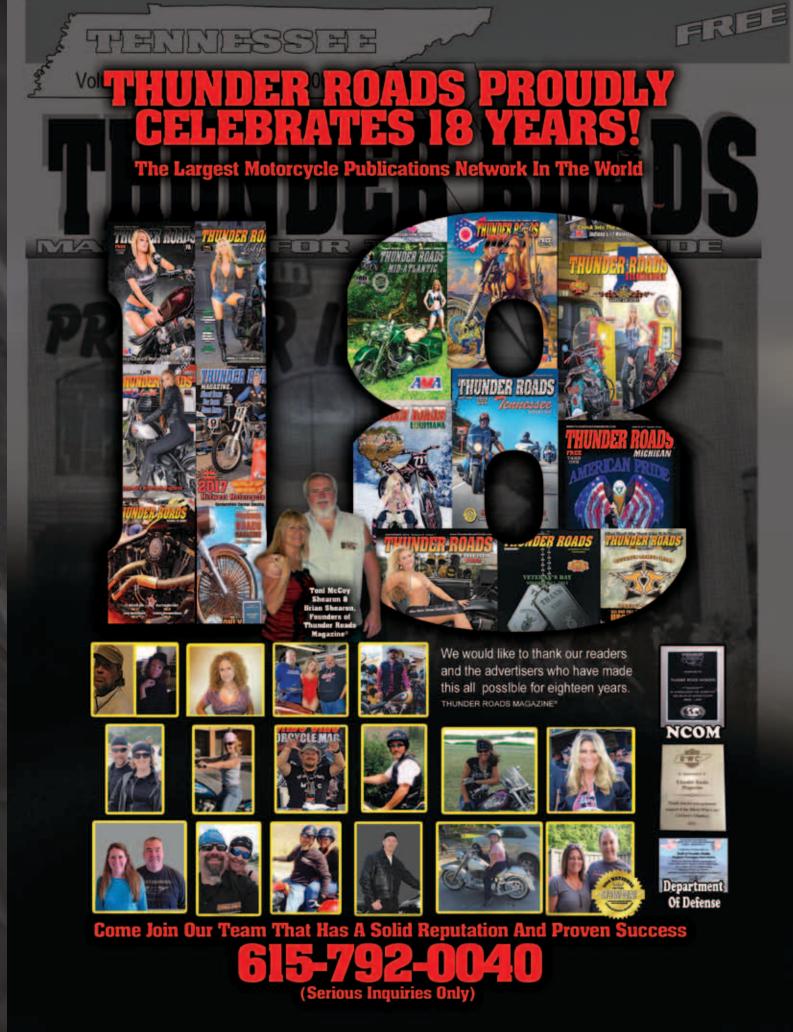
I like to do fluid changes and any necessary service procedures in the spring, so everything is fresh for the upcoming riding season. If you're within miles of needing an oil change, you may want to do it before you put your bike away. Over time, oil breaks down and absorbs contaminates: not a good idea to leave it unchanged for extended periods of downtime.

A little time and effort now at the end of the season will help insure a safe and troublefree riding season next spring.

RIDE SAFE RIDE OFTEN WE SHARE YOUR PASSION

Ron



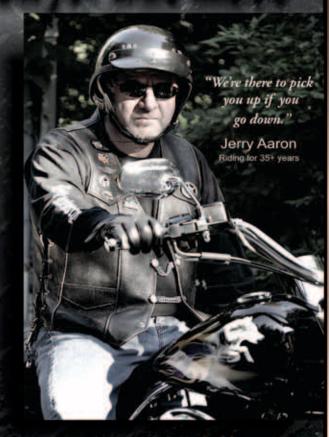


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