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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Happy New Year!
Cheers to New Beginnings!

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and was able to enjoy it with wonderful friends and family. Well it's finally here, and you're lookin' at it...the January issue of the newly expanded *Thunder Roads Michigan Motors Lakes Trails*. What do you think? You will find that it still has our usual features each month, but also even more for you to read about—articles on popular events and interests covering our Great State of MICHIGAN!

Each month we will have your regular favorites and, dependent on the season, something new for you to read and enjoy. This has been months in the making and I am so happy to finally be able to say...here it is! I hope you enjoy it! We can't ride our motorcycles right now, so what else are we doing? We bikers do more than just ride motorcycles; we hunt, fish, we enjoy boating, snowmobiles, side-by-sides, and so much more. Our state has four seasons and something exciting to offer in each one of them—so Live It Up!

We still have a few spots open for our **5th Annual Thunder Fun Night**, so make sure to book your reservation today. Otherwise, it will fill up and you'll miss all the fun! It is easy to reserve your spot; check out all the details in this issue.

There are three ways to read *Thunder Roads Magazine* each month. First, you can pick up a copy at any Advertiser/Supporter; thanks to them, Thunder Roads is free to you each and every month. Second, you can view the publication just as if you had the hard copy in front of you, right at the website: ThunderRoadsMichigan.com. Lastly, you can order a subscription for \$35 a year and have *Thunder Roads* sent directly to your home or business each month. This convenient subscription can also be ordered at the Thunder Store at the website. And don't forget—subscriptions make great gifts!

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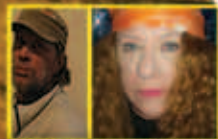
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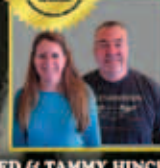
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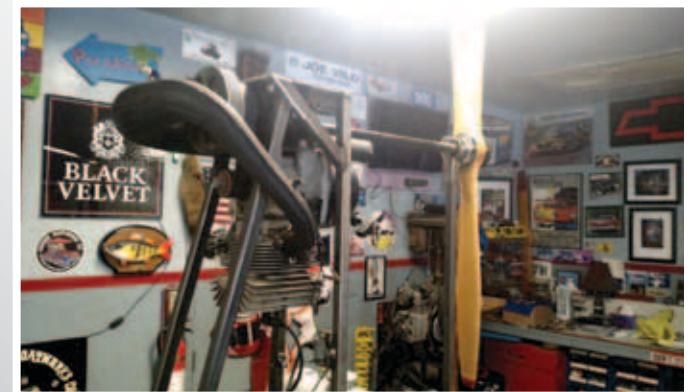
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READERS RIDES Pat Danger ~ Black Velvet on Ice



To some, Black Velvet on Ice might conjure up the image of relaxing in front of the fireplace enjoying a frosty beverage after a long day on the ice, or perhaps sitting in the local tavern, listening to how intelligent the local yokels are. Well, to this Michigan Redneck, Black Velvet on Ice is a truly thrilling ride in the world's fastest canoe.

This hard-water canoe (pun intended) is truly a one-of-a-kind vehicle. Equipped with an engine from an ultralight with a 54-inch prop, top speed is expected to be 60-70 miles per hour. For those of you that don't think that is very fast, how fast have you gone in a canoe?

So, keep your frostbitten eyes open for Black Velvet on Ice this winter as soon as the ice is thick enough to support this non-floating canoe.

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VETERANS CORNER



VA Study Shows Parasite from Vietnam May Be Killing Vets

A half-century after serving in Vietnam, hundreds of veterans have a new reason to believe they could be dying from a silent bullet. Test results show some men may have been infected by a slow-killing parasite while fighting in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

The Department of Veterans Affairs this spring commissioned a small pilot study to look into the link between liver flukes ingested through raw or undercooked fish and a rare bile duct cancer called cholangiocarcinoma. It can take decades for symptoms to appear. By then, patients are often in tremendous pain, with just a few months to live.

Of the fifty blood samples submitted, more than twenty percent came back positive or bordering positive for liver fluke antibodies, said Sung-Tae Hong, the tropical medical specialist who carried out the tests at Seoul National University in South Korea. "It was surprising," he said, stressing the preliminary results could include false positives and that the research is ongoing.

Northport VA Medical Center spokesman Christopher Goodman confirmed the New York facility collected the samples and sent them to the lab. He would not comment on the findings, but said everyone who tested positive was notified.

Gerry Wiggins, who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969, has already lost friends to the disease. He was among those who got the call. The 69-year-old, who lives in Port Jefferson Station, New York, didn't have any symptoms when he agreed to take part in the study, but hoped his participation could help save lives. He immediately scheduled further tests, discovering he had two cysts on his bile duct, which had the potential to develop into the cancer, known as cholangiocarcinoma. They have since been removed and—for now—he's doing well.

Though rarely found in Americans, the parasites infect an estimated 25 million people worldwide. Endemic in the rivers of Vietnam, the worms can easily be wiped out with a handful of pills early on, but left untreated, they can live for decades without making their hosts sick. Over time, swelling and inflammation of the bile duct can lead to cancer. Jaundice, itchy skin, weight loss and other symptoms appear only when the disease is in its final stages.

The numbers of claims submitted reached 60 in 2017, up from 41 last year. Nearly three out of four of those cases were also denied, even though the government posted a warning on its website this year saying veterans who ate raw or undercooked freshwater fish while in Vietnam might be at risk. It stopped short of urging them to get ultrasounds or other tests, saying there was currently no evidence the vets had higher infection rates than the general population.

"We are taking this seriously," said Curt Cashour, a spokesman with the Department of Veterans Affairs. "But until further research, a recommendation cannot be made either way."

Veteran Mike Baughman said his claim was granted early this year after being denied three times. He said the approval came right after his doctor wrote a letter saying his bile duct cancer was "more likely than not" caused by liver flukes from the uncooked fish he and his unit in Vietnam ate when they ran out of rations in the jungle. He now gets about \$3,100 a month and says he's relieved to know his wife will continue to receive benefits after he dies. But he remains angry that other veterans' last days are consumed by fighting the same government they went to war for as young men.

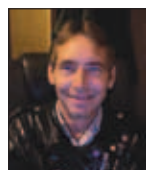
New Law Aims to Prevent Opioid Abuse in Veterans

A bill aimed at preventing opioid abuse among veterans is now law. The bill, which was signed by President Trump, directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to send prescription information to a state-controlled substance-monitoring program. The goal is to create an electronic paper trail to highlight patients who may be shopping around for pills. New Hampshire Congresswoman Annie Kuster was one of the bill's sponsors.

"Sometimes the very first signs of dependency and substance use disorder is a person going doctor to doctor or pharmacy-to-pharmacy shopping to get access to medication. Instead, we want the physician to know that this going on," said Kuster, D-New Hampshire.

Kuster says the goal of the bill is early intervention, so people can get treatment to address their substance abuse disorder.

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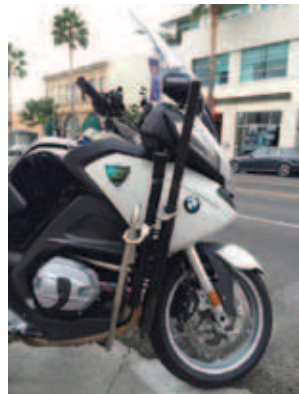
The holiday season is in full swing, and I bet you have plans to either travel and visit family or to host some weary travelers yourself. While it's tempting to rush from one destination to another, do your best to enjoy the journey and notice what you see along the way. You may be surprised at what you find, and you may end up with a neat picture to send to me.

Police Motorcycle in Beverly Hills, California

I enjoy traveling, and I get to do a fair bit of it. When I'm on the road, I try to take pictures of interesting motorcycles or motorcycle-related things. For example, the motorcycle below is one of my favorite ones yet.



I saw this bike in Beverly Hills, California. It's a BMW police motorcycle with an AR 15 mount. This motorcycle was parked with the AR 15 rifle locked into its holster mounted to the rear of the bike.



The front of the motorcycle had another holder that contained two poles or baton-like items. I couldn't clearly identify what they were. Do you know? Email me at Jason@themotorcycl lawyer.com if you do.

Police Scooter in New Orleans, Louisiana

The next bike I saw in New Orleans, and I couldn't resist taking a picture to compare to the Beverly Hills bike.



This is a police scooter. It's not as sleek or as imposing as the motorcycle in Beverly Hills, but it gets the job done. It's also probably cheaper than the motorcycle and easier to park in the crowded streets of the city.

If the officers are only driving from the police station to a nearby place in the city, like Bourbon Street, then this scooter fits the bill. It was definitely interesting to note the differences in officers' transportation between Beverly Hills and New Orleans.

John Mellencamp's Motorcycle, Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame



When I visited the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, I got to see John Mellencamp's Honda CL77 motorcycle, which he got in high school.

Jamaican Billboard Warning

I spotted this billboard in Jamaica and thought it was an interesting warning.



There is no helmet law in Jamaica, but the government doesn't shy away from sharing their position with their people and tourists.

During my stay in the country, my tour guide drove past the Harley-Davidson dealership in Ocho Rios. I commented on the dealership, and

he informed me that you can only buy T-shirts and other apparel there, but not motorcycles.

The Jamaican government does not allow motorcycles at 600cc or over to be bought or sold on the island. However, tourists are able to rent such bikes, thanks in part to Harley Davidson's tireless lobbying on the issue.

What Have You Seen?

What unique or interesting motorcycles or motorcycle-related sights have you seen on your travels? If you have fun pictures or stories, send them to me at Jason@themotorcycl lawyer.com.

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

Call Attorney Jason Waechter toll free at 1-877-BIKER LAW. Or visit www.motorcycl lawyeremichigan.com



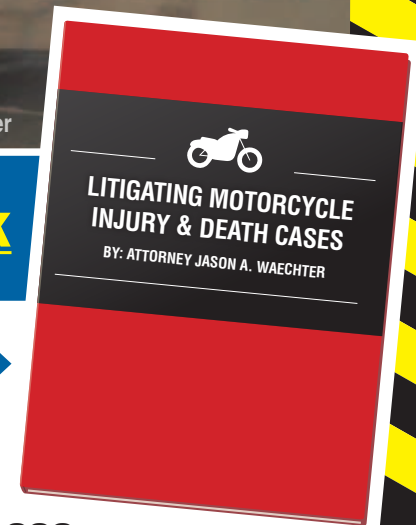
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BUCK POLE



LATE SEASON SCOUTING FOR NEXT YEARS SUCCESS

by Mark R. Crisp

Late-season scouting can be a big key to next year's success, as well as a lot of fun. Even if you have finished hunting for the year, don't stop going to the big woods just yet. Spending a few hours on a weekend traveling trails and walking ridges and even trudging through swamps can all be productive if you know what to look for. Most whitetail hunters call it quits after the season is over. They don't even think about scouting, but they should really be logging some hours. Successful hunters do late-season scouting. You should, too; you could miss out on locating the buck of a lifetime.

When venturing out in the late season—whether hunting season is still on or not—take a small pair of binoculars, a camera (preferably a disposable one, so that if you drop it in the swamp, you're not out some real bucks) and if you're really game, a video camera. You never know when that picture of a life time may come along. I found myself in just such a situation in December 2004 while retrieving a tree stand after I had filled my tags for the season. I climbed my tree and had just removed a ratchet strap and looked down. About twenty yards out in front of me was this massive 8-point. I had never seen this deer before and he had my heart pounding. I managed to remove the camera from my breast pocket and took a picture of that deer. He turned and gave me a good mug shot just as I snapped the picture. I spent the rest of December and half of January trying to figure that guy out.

In 2005, I saw him twice before bow season opened, once in velvet. I arrowed that deer October 29th in the evening, along the edge of a ravine that he was using as a funnel. He was massive and had only six points and he had broken his brow tine on the right and did not grow the one sticker he had on the right side the year before. Still, he was a huge six with 19½-inch spread and two of the points were 11 inches and one was 11½ with only two points on the right side.

As any successful deer hunter will tell you, you must put in your time in the woods to harvest deer regularly. I spend two to three times as much time scouting as I do hunting. While out on your winter excursion, look for all the obvious signs; old rubs, scrapes made in the late season, beds made in the same location on several different days.

Follow large tracks forward and back to see where they came from and where they are going. A mature buck will have a few good spots to bed that make him feel safe, and locating these areas in winter can make it easier to key in on him next



6 point harvested Ogemaw Co. October 28 th 2005. Picture taken December 26th 2004

fall. I have a spot that has produced some really nice bucks for me, and every year I find a buck using this area. After one buck is harvested or dies due to another cause, another buck will take his place. A good security spot will remain so year after year, unless a big change comes to the surrounding woods; even then, it will be there for a new buck to take over. This is true for most animals, including fish. A big bass taken from under a log will be replaced by the next biggest bass in line, due to the ideal security the log provides.

When looking for a new spot to hunt, start during the season and keep checking throughout the early winter and early spring using the same signs as mentioned above. I wait till late December here in Michigan to start, because it will give you more insight as to what may still be lurking in that neck of the woods. I have found so many good hunting spots and nice bucks this way.

I found a buck bedded in a thicket along a ridge covered with pines in late January 2000. As he left the security of the thicket, I saw he had lost one antler. As I entered the thicket, I found four beds, all of different ages, including the one he just left, lots of droppings, some rubbed saplings and his one antler with four points. Based on this antler, I figured if the other was the same, he would have had about a 15-16 inch spread, but not a lot of mass. I felt he was maybe a younger deer, but he would be more impressive next year.

Most of these tactics are not new, but then again, to some they are. Some hunters know this, but don't ever put it to use. That is a big mistake if you want to be successful on a regular basis. What have you got to lose? Spending time in the woods is better than watching TV anyway. So get out there this winter and maybe you will find that buck of a lifetime, along with some new hunting spots.



Finding beds with multiple rubs like pictured most likely means a buck uses this spot frequently. He feels safe so use that to your advantage.



Find sheds in or near a bed usually means this buck felt secure in an area he uses a lot.



The JOKERS WILD

Two blondes are sitting on the beach over in the Bahamas for New Year holiday and one says, "You know I had a really bad scare just the other day", and the other blonde looks with her big green eyes and says, "What?, what happened to you?" and the other blonde looks back at her with the big violet eyes and answers, "Well, I swallowed an ice-cube whole and I haven't pooped it out yet. I don't know if I should go to E.R. or not".

Lil' Johnny is always being teased by the other neighborhood boys for being stupid.

Their favorite joke is to offer Lil' Johnny his choice between a nickel and a dime.

Lil' Johnny always takes the nickel.

One day, after Johnny takes the nickel, his friend, Buda, takes him aside and says, "Johnny, those boys are always making fun of you. Don't you know that a dime is worth more than a nickel, even though the nickel is bigger?"

Lil' Johnny grins really big and slanted and beams up at Buda and says, "Well, if I took the dime, they'd stop playing the game, and so far I've made \$25. bucks off them idiots."

Quick question. If you answer this one question correctly that means you will be very wise throughout the entire New Year: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ENZYME AND A HORMONE? (NOW, look away and come up with the answer).

The answer is: You can't hear an enzyme.

My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain 20 pounds so I look skinnier when I go out clubbing with them.

My New Year's resolution is to read more, so I already turned the subtitles On for my new 70" t.v.

Let's be real. A New Year's resolution that you actually begin after the New Year is really just something that goes in one year and out the other.

I'm really excited. I'm looking towards the future with enthusiasm. That's why I've made the choice to start my New Year's resolutions in 2019.

A bear walks up to a sidewalk cafe counter and says to the owner, "I want a grilled..... cheese." The owner says, "What's up with the pause?" The bear says, "Hello, wtf? I'm a BEAR!"

Why don't blind people skydive? It scares the dang crap out of their dogs.

I was walking down the street right after New Year's Day, when I was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked me for a couple of dollars for his supper that night.

I took out my wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked him, "if I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of supper?" "No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied. "Will you use it to go fishing instead of buying yourself a hot mean?"

"No, I don't waste time fishing," the homeless man said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive out on these streets."

"Will you spend this money on hunting equipment?" I asked.

"Are you totally nuts!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't gone hunting in 30 some odd years!"

"Well," I said, "I'm not going to give you money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a shower and a terrific supper home cooked by my wife."

The homeless man was astounded.

"Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that and dragging me in what I'm sure is a fine home?"

I quickly replied, "Don't you worry one bit about that. It's extremely important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up drinking, fishing and hunting."

What did the Buddhist ask the foot long hot dog vendor? "Make me One with everything."

What is Red and smells like Blue Paint?

Red Paint.

So, did you hear the one about the dyslexic man who walks into a bra?

What do you get when you cross an insomniac, a dyslexic and an agnostic?

Someone who lays awake at night wondering if there actually IS a dog.???

I saw a wino standing outside the liquor store eating grapes. I shook my head and told him, "too soon, dude, too soon."

Two blondes sitting at the bar and the one says, "Wow, I received so many truly gorgeous calendars for 2018 of Countries all over the world. Did you get any calendars for Christmas?" The other blonde says, "Nah, I'm just going to use the same one I had for 2017. It's all the same months."

REDNECK ENGINEERING

HAPPY 39TH ANNIVERSARY!





TIP-UP TOWN is best described as the largest winter festival in Michigan, with families gathering from in-state and out-of-state reaching Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. For more than twenty years, this festival has been acclaimed among the top ten festivals in the nation with nearly 14,000 men, women, children, families, and friends alike, all traveling to Houghton Lake to partake in the winter fun the last two weekends in January each year. It's hard to put into words how Tip-Up Town USA has come to be the very description of winter fun and enjoyment for the whole family at Houghton Lake.

It all began in February 1951, when community-minded persons realized that Houghton Lake, which produces great ice fishing, was literally a "Community on the Ice" each winter. Two local businessmen, Bob Sweet and Bob Carmen, conceived the idea of creating a little fun on the ice to relieve the long winter months, and by which they might attract more tourism to the area during the off season.

A nationwide contest to name the "Winter Festival"—as it was then being called—drew more than 500 entries. The contest judges eventually chose "Tip-Up Town USA" as its name. Tip-Up Town USA is now a trademark of the Houghton Lake Chamber of Commerce, registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The earlier festivals were financed for the most part by the sale of advertising and listings in a program book. Starting in 1953, the sales of TUT USA badges (originally made of wood and costing fifty cents) became a tradition that has continued through to this current year. However, the wooden badges have been replaced by metal badges. The sale of these badges brings the largest revenue to finance this event. Collecting these badges and acquiring the earlier "wooden" badges had become quite a growing hobby for young and old alike. Displaying the current year's badge is necessary to participate in the event's FUN and GAMES.

A special "Medallion" is manufactured each year and hidden somewhere in the local area on public access land. A contest is held to find it, using special "Clues" given out each day until the medallion is found. A prize is given to the clever person able to decipher the clues and successfully locate the medallion.

A Grand Parade opens the festival activities on Saturday of the first weekend at 10:00 a.m. The Grand Parade travels east from the Houghton Lake Heights along M-55 and ends up at the TUT USA site, where clowns, games, contests, concessions, cavorting, demonstrations and aerial performances are part of the feverish activity.

Approximately 80,000 people turned out during the past festivals to enjoy the results of hundreds of hours of work put in by individual volunteers and various community committees.

Courtesy of houghtonlakechamber.net
For more information go to tip-up-town.com and also visit houghtonlake.com



2018 Tip-Up Town USA®

January 19th-21st & January 26th -28th
"It's a Country Western Tip-Up Town"
Purchase your badge for \$10 and get 6 days of fun!!!

Official Kick-Off is Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 6:00P.M.
Houghton Lake Playhouse

Come and meet the Queen Candidates, vote for Mayor & Marshall
Auctions on collectible Badges, Lures, & 1st 10 spots for Polar Dip
Stay for the after party from 8:00-11:00 PM \$10.00 Live Music, Food, & Fun

NEW 2018

Vintage Arts & Craft Show, Snowmobile Freestyle Event,
Bull Riding Demonstration, Helicopter Rides,
Professional Ice Craving Demonstration

OTHER EVENTS

Grand Parade * Polar Bear Dip * Carnival * Petting Zoo * Pony Rides*
Ice Fishing Contest * 5K Run * Fireworks* Games on Stage * Poker Run * & MORE!!!

Contact The Houghton Lake Chamber for more details 989-366-5644
Visit Facebook for most current updates Tip-Up Town USA



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1/3 off Bottles
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Fish Fryday
Saturday
Prime Rib

Happy Hour
M-F 2 - 6 pm

Breakfast
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13 AMAZING PLACES TO VISIT IN MICHIGAN

Michigan lies in the Great Lakes Region of the US and is also nicknamed, The Great Lakes State, The Wolverine State, The Mitten State and Water (Winter) Wonderland. Although Detroit is it's largest city, the capital is Lansing. Michigan offers a lot to its visitors and there's some stunning nature to be admired.

MACKINAC ISLAND



Mackinac Island offers a look at a historic period and a simpler way of life, before cars and buses. Visitors can take a ferry to the island and spend the day wandering through the shops of the old town, touring the island on a horse-drawn carriage, hiking, or visiting Fort Mackinac.

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK



Isle Royale lies in northwestern Lake Superior near the Canadian frontier. Shaped by Ice Age glaciers, this 432 square mile island has many lakes and streams, dense forests, and a variety of wildlife that includes wolves, foxes, moose, otters, ospreys, herring gulls, falcons, and more. This relatively unspoiled tract of country attracts those looking for a remote wilderness experience. The best way to see the park is on hiking trails and boat trips. Access to the island is by boat or seaplane.

LOST LAKE



Lost Lake is a lake in Clare County, Michigan, United States. It is 66-acre large and focal point for Boy Scout activities on the Lost Lake Scout Reservation.

MACKINAC BRIDGE



The Mackinac Bridge is a suspension bridge spanning the Straits of Mackinac to connect the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of the U.S. state of Michigan.

ROCKS, NATIONAL LAKESHORE



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore hugs the south shore of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It's known for the dramatic multicolored Pictured Rocks cliffs. Unusual sandstone formations like Miners Castle and Chapel Rock define the park's headlands.

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK



The Porcupine Mountains, or Porkies, are a group of small mountains spanning the northwestern Upper Peninsula of Michigan in Ontonagon and Gogebic counties, near the shore of Lake Superior.

DETROIT'S BELLE ISLE CONSERVATORY



The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory is a greenhouse and a botanical garden located on Belle Isle, a 982-acre island park nestled in the Detroit River between Detroit and the Canada United States border.

AUTUMN CAMEO IN CADILLAC



A rural road winds away into the distance framed by an arch of red maple leaves in Cadillac, Michigan, USA.

LIGHTHOUSE AND PIER AT GRAND HAVEN



Lighthouse and pier at Grand Haven South Pierhead Inner Light is the inner light of two lighthouses on the south pier of Grand Haven, Michigan where the Grand River enters Lake Michigan.

WINDMILL ISLAND, HOLLAND



Windmill Island is a 36 acre heritage park filled with manicured flower gardens and Dutch architecture. In May the park comes to life with 175,000 tulips, and in June the extensive gardens change to annual flowers.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR



The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor encompasses 2,800 acres. Some of the interesting old Gothic buildings include the Law Quadrangle, the Power Center for the Performing Arts, and the Natural History Museum. Key attractions on the campus include the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, with strong collections related to Mediterranean civilizations, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, and the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History.

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, LANSING



The Michigan Historical Museum tells Michigan's story from prehistoric times to the 1900's. Exhibits range from the industrial history of the state to the history of the first people.

SPRAY FALLS, NATIONAL LAKESHORE

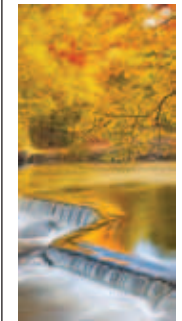


Spray Falls is the remotest, and perhaps the most impressive of the several waterfalls in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The 70' waterfall plunges over the cliffs at Pictured Rocks and lands directly in Lake Superior. The falls is right on the edge of the cliffs, and the creek has not cut back into the cliffs at all, so it is impossible to view the falls from the front unless you are on the water. The cliffs are sheer

for miles in both directions, so there is no way to get near the base of the falls without a watercraft.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

BOND FALLS STATE PARK



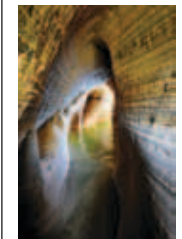
KAYAKING ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE



LAKE HURON BEACH ROCKS



MINER'S CASTLE CAVE



TWIN LAKES STATE PARK



TORCH LAKE



ST JOSEPH



LIGHTHOUSE & PIER AT GRAND HAVEN



DOWNTOWN TRAVERSE CITY



SUDOKU by Geneva



Curve Sudoku
110 River Road
Hendersonville, TN
37075

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

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

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



*As Always...
Ride safe
friends!*

Winner Last Month

*Stacey Walters
of Wisconsin*

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Welcome 2018... Happy New Year!

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TRMI EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

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Bold events indicate advertiser of Thunder Roads MI-please patronize our advertisers.

JANUARY

January 1
Happy New Year

January 5-6
Anti-Freeze Blues Festival, Ferndale

January 6
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, Deford. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

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

January 7
Winter Jam, Grand Rapids, MI.

January 8
District 14 Ice Racing State Championship Series
Owosso Motorsports Park. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

January 12-14
Plymouth Ice Festival, Plymouth.

January 12-13
Indian River Winterfest, Indian River.

January 13
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
MPX, Sebawaing. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

January 13
Wheatland Music Winter Wheat, Grand Rapids.

January 13
Your Comic Con, Plymouth.

January 13-28
North American International Auto Show, Detroit.

January 15
District 14 Ice Racing State Championship Series
Valley Trail Riders MC. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

January 19-21
Tip-Up Town USA
Houghton Lake. For more info see full page this issue.

January 19-21
Rochester Fire & Ice Festival, Rochester.

January 19-21
Hunter Ice Festival, Niles.

January 20-23
Mackinaw City Winterfest, Mackinaw City.

January 20
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, Deford. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

January 20
Reel Rock Film Tour, Ann Arbor.

January 22
District 14 Ice Racing State Championship Series
Owosso Motorsports Park. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

January 24-29
Zehnder's Snowfest, Frankenmuth.

January 26-27
Ann Arbor Folk Festival, Ann Arbor.

January 26-28
Winter Blast, Detroit.

January 26-28
Tip-Up Town USA
Houghton Lake. For more info see full page this issue.

January 26-February 3
Ferndale Blues & Music Festival, Ferndale.

January 27
TigerFest, Detroit.

January 27
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
MPX, Sebawaing. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

January 27
Coldwater Icefest, Coldwater.

January 27
12th Annual American Legion Riders Polar Bear Steak Dinner
American Legion Post 32, Livonia. \$18 pp, dinner 58 pm, everyone welcome. For more info call 734-502-7274

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).

January 28
38th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet
Lansing Center, Lansing. 10 am- 4 pm, \$6pp, 12 & under free, bikes, parts, leather, jewelry, patches & more, vendor spots available. Call 989-225-1244 for more info. See full page ad this issue).

January 29
District 14 Ice Racing State Championship Series
Valley Trail Riders MC. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

January 29-February 3
The International 500
Sault Sainte Marie. For more info see full page this issue.

FEBRUARY

February 2-3
Kalamazoo Valley Museum Storytelling Festival, Kalamazoo, MI.

February 3
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, Deford. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

February 3
Coopers Glen Music Festival, Kalamazoo.

February 3
Your Comic Con, Redford Charter Twp.

February 3
Grand Rapids Public Museum Festival, Grand Rapids.

February 8-19
Detroit Lakes Polar Fest, Detroit Lakes.

February 5
District 14 Ice Racing State Championship Series
Owosso Motorsports Park. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

February 10
5th Annual Thunder Fun Night
Bay Valley Resort, Bay City. Early check in noon, 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).

February 10
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
MPX, Sebawaing. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

February 8-11
Michigan Tech Winter Carnival, Houghton.

February 11
Winter Jam, Detroit.

February 12
District 14 Ice Racing State Championship Series
Port Huron MC. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

February 14
Happy Valentine's Day

February 16-18
Field & Stream & Outdoor Life Expo, Lansing.

February 17
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, Deford. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

February 17-19
AMA Ice Race Grand Championships
Sherman Motorsports. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

February 24
Thumb Ice Breaker Series
MPX, Sebawaing. For more info call 810-705-1317 (See full page ad this issue).

February 25
Detroit Area Motorcycle Swap Meet
Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi. 10 am- 4 pm, \$8pp, 12 & under free, bikes, parts, leather, jewelry, patches & more, vendor spots available. Call 989-225-1244 for more info.

February 26
District 14 Ice Racing State Championship Series
Valley Trail Riders MC. For more info go to d14ice.com (See full page ad this issue).

EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!

Increase your attendance by posting your event in Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan.

All Advertised Events in our Magazine will have their event Posted on the Pull-Out Calendar (specific issues) and your Event will be Highlighted in the Thunder Roads Events Calendar of the Magazine.

(Call about our Special Discounts for Ads for Charity Based Events)

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

Editor@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com

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. Thunder Roads is NOT responsible for errors or omissions.

38th Annual MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET

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Vendor Spots \$40 each, 10x10

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www.hugeswapmeet.com



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IN THE SHOP WITH RON

SMOOTHING OUT THE WRINKLES

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. As I mentioned last month, the first few articles for the new year/new format for the magazine are going to focus on sheet metal repair and refinishing procedures and techniques. This month in the shop, we are starting the sheet metal repair on a hood from a 2015 Kubota utility tractor (we work on anything here). The tractor has a front loader on it, and some bricks in the bucket got loose and one (or more) bounced off the hood.



After removing the grill, headlights, and trim from the hood, we removed the hood from the tractor. Doing it this way gives us better access to both sides of the damaged area of the hood for the sheet metal repair. It will also make for a much better paint job; less masking, no overspray on the rest of the tractor, etc. Since we can access both sides of the damage, our tools of choice will be a body repair hammer and a steel dolly.



There are basically two repair techniques when using hammer and dolly. For this article, I'll demonstrate the positioning of the hammer and dolly using a plastic spreader in place of the sheet metal, since on the actual hood, you can't see the positioning of the dolly in relationship to the hammer. Technique #1: Hammer

on dolly—which is just as it sounds. With the dolly on the underside of the hood, you strike the outside sheet metal on the hood directly on the face of the dolly.



This technique will stretch the sheet metal. Technique #2: Hammer off dolly, also as it sounds. With dolly on the underside of the hood firmly pushing up on a low spot, strike the outside sheet metal surface of the hood on a high spot off the face of the dolly. This technique is used to shrink sheet metal.



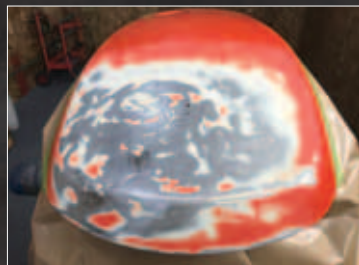
The shape of the sheet metal and personal preference will dictate the proper hammer and dolly selection. Once all of the high and low spots are smoothed out using a hammer and dolly, I like to use a sanding block with 80-grit paper to block-sand the surface to see exactly where I'm at with high and low spots.



Once I'm satisfied the sheet metal is straight, I prep the surface for plastic body filler. Plastic body filler—or "bondo," as it is commonly called—has gotten a bad rap from back in the day, and quite possibly deservedly so. In the early days, some products left a lot to

By Ron Johnson

be desired, but the quality products available now are much improved. In the early days of my career, it was recommended that the body filler be applied only to properly prepared bare metal surfaces. The products used today can be applied over fully cured, properly prepared painted surfaces. To prepare the surface for plastic filler, it must be clean and free of any type of wax, grease, oil, etc. I use a solvent-based wax and grease remover for this step. It's best to do this step before you do any sanding. Next, the existing finish needs to be well sanded in order for the filler to stick. (I prefer 80 grit). Once the surface is sanded, I use wax and grease remover again to make absolutely sure there are no contaminants on the surface.



Follow the manufacturer's instructions for mixing the plastic. It's a two-part product consisting of the filler material and a hardener. Mix well with a plastic spreader. Don't whip it; that will cause air pockets to form, which will become pinholes in the surface of the filler once it is dry and sanded, and those pinholes can be a real problem. Spread the filler on as smoothly as possible. The more smoothly you spread the filler, the less effort involved in sanding and final prep for primer.



Next month we will be finishing the filler, and going over the priming and blocking procedures to get the hood ready for final paint.

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Inspiration

They can because they think they can. ~ Virgil

Nature has given us one tongue and two ears, that we may hear twice as much as we speak. ~ Epictetus

Where life is more terrible than death, it is then the truest valor to dare to live. ~ Thomas Browne

To see what is right and not to do it, is want of courage.
~ Confucius

Interesting Facts ~ By the Numbers

The number of steps in the Eiffel Tower = 1665

The number of days the average person spends brushing their teeth in their lifetime = 38

The number of left-handed people who die per year using right-handed products = 2500

The number of visitors MySpace still gets each month (as of 2016) = 50 million

The number of straws a person put in their mouth at once to set the world record = 264

The number of noses a slug has = 4

The I-500 Celebrates 50 Years

All left turns from here!



Join thousands of drivers, sled-heads, and snowmobile enthusiasts for the professional racing excitement of the 50th Anniversary of the International 500 Snowmobile Race! Known as the GRANDDADDY of snowmobile endurance racing, the I-500 is the world's longest, fastest, toughest, and most exciting oval race event. Professional athletes from all over the US and Canada ride the monster mile in hopes of winning this prestigious race, and adding their names to the history books of snowmobile racing.

Every year, the I-500's main event is always held on the first Saturday of February. However, all the excitement of the I-500 begins a week prior to the main event. The I-500 Snowmobile Race hosts time trials, mid-week racing events, and fun activities for the whole family throughout Michigan's oldest and most beautiful city, Sault Sainte Marie! Come out and be a part of history January 29th-February 3rd, 2018.

HISTORY

The Winter Racers Dream

The I-500 Snowmobile Race was dreamed up from a 1968 Chevy Camaro that was sitting in a car dealer's window. Several businessmen from Sault Sainte Marie were admiring the fabled muscle car; all brightly emblazoned with the official marks of the professional racing circuit. Its appearance declared it would be the official pace car of the upcoming Indianapolis 500—the most legendary motorsports experience of the Midwest. As these local pioneers were all forward-thinking winter sports fanatics, the question was soon asked, "Could a snowmobile run 500 miles?" They would all find out very soon.

You see, the town of Sault Sainte Marie had never been a bustling hub in the dead of winter. In fact, there were few tourists to speak of at that time of year, and the businesses went into a sort of hibernation mode. But these local dreamers saw a better use for the snow and the ice, and the cold so common to the Upper Peninsula. They decided, in the weeks and months that followed that fateful breakfast, to forge a race loosely-based on the Indy 500, but strictly for the machines best suited for their near-arctic weather: snowmobiles. Once outlined, the idea caught among residents and other business owners like a cold flame!

The I-500 Committee was created. Land that was owned by Sault Sainte Marie was acquired for the race. The track design was put on paper by a member of the US Corp of Engineers. Work crews came in from all over the US and Canada



to complete construction. With great vision and unyielding tenacity, North America's first and only one-mile oval ice track took shape and became an iconic monument and racing reality.

Before long, time trials for the I-500 began. Riding teams from across the continent began to try their snowmobile skills, and Sault Sainte Marie was put on the motorsports map. On February 8, 1969, the first official

race day of the I-500 had finally arrived. The day was cold, but bright. By the end of the race day, a very tired Ski-Doo—with Dan Planck of Davidson at the helm—finally crossed the finish line; followed by only twenty-six other machines. They had all traveled a combined 13,891 miles; each of them completing their 500-mile quota in one day. They had done it! A new, exciting, competitive snowmobile experience had been born. And there was no turning back....

"A misconception by the general public is that we run this event on SNOW! We race on ICE!!"

We put down two (2) million gallons of water over a four- to five-week period, 24-7 to make this mile oval track. We're speaking of professional racers, racing in a pack of 38 sleds, split seconds apart, at speeds in excess of 120 mph, minimal body protection and this is known as.....PROFESSIONAL OVAL SNOWMOBILE ENDURANCE RACING!" - Ric Federau International 500 Chairman / Director / Official Spokesperson



SNOWMOBILES WANTED FOR GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS ATTEMPT ON FEBRUARY 1, 2018

(Special from American Snowmobiler)

If you have a snowmobile and the urge to help break a world record, The Sault Events has an invitation for you!

On Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most snowmobiles in a parade. Mary Jo Duvall, coordinator for The Sault Events, says the group has set its goal at 1,250 sleds, all of which must complete a full two-mile parade route to be counted for the record.

Pre-registration is required. Register your sled at www.saultstemarie.com and be a part of history! For more information and all the details, contact Mary Jo at 906-632-3366.



VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE SHOW

Check out classic blasts from races past at the I-500's 16th Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show! These mechanical marvels are presented and managed by the Top of the Lakes Snowmobile Museum of Nau-

binway, MI, and open for viewing to the public! Get an up-close-and-personal glimpse at how the legends of snow sports used to ride, starting February 1, 2018.

Information and photos courtesy of the I-500. For more information on the I-500 or for a complete schedule of events go to: I-500.com



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Dates announced for AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days: July 6-8, 2018



PICKERINGTON, Ohio — The American Motorcyclist Association has announced that next year's premier celebration of vintage motorcycling, AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days, will be July 6-8, 2018, at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, Ohio.

"AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days is one of the top motorcycling events in the country that brings motorcyclists together around racing, bike shows, history, recreational activity, and buying and selling motorcycles, parts and gear," said AMA Chief Operations Officer Jeff Massey. "If you love motorcycles, old or new, AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days has something for you, regardless of your age or experience level."

A fundraiser for the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame, AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days showcases classic motorcycles of all makes and styles, and honors the riders who made them famous.

"AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days is an annual tradition on Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course's summer calendar. It is our longest continuously running event which speaks not only to our valued partnership with the AMA but to the deep passion for motorcycling across the country," said Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course President Craig Rust. "We're proud to be working with the AMA again to bring back this great event to North Central Ohio for the 24th consecutive year."



Activities include the AMA Vintage Grand Championship, which features road racing, motocross, hare scrambles, trials and dirt-track racing. Another top attraction is North America's largest motorcycle swap meet with parts, bikes and memorabilia from all eras. Bike shows bring out examples of some of history's most beloved motorcycles. Stunt shows and demo rides of current production bikes keep attendees entertained, while seminars on numerous topics by noted motorcycling experts keep them informed.

Tickets go on sale exclusively to AMA members through the AMA on Nov. 1, and members who purchase early receive an additional \$5 savings off the early-bird pricing. Members can visit www.amavintagemotorcycledays.com or call (614) 856-1900 to order their tickets. Non-AMA members can purchase tickets through Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course starting Dec. 1 online at www.midohio.com or by calling (419) 884-4000.

AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days is a family-friendly event. Children 12 and under get in free with a ticketed adult. Free parking is also available on site.

Proceeds from AMA Vintage Motorcycle Days benefit the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame. The mission of the Hall of Fame, located on the AMA campus in Pickerington, Ohio, is to tell the stories and preserve the history of motorcycling's legends and heroes. For more information, call (614) 856-2222, or visit the Hall of Fame's website at www.motorcycliumuseum.org



Federal Highway Administration appoints Motorcyclist Advisory Council AMA's Mike Sayre to chair 10-member group

PICKERINGTON, Ohio — The Federal Highway Administration has appointed 10 members to the Motorcyclist Advisory Council, which will advise the agency director on infrastructure issues affecting motorcycle riders.

Mike Sayre, AMA government relations manager for on-highway issues, has been named chair of the council.

"This is an important step toward ensuring that motorcyclists are deeply involved in the planning and implementation of infrastructure changes and improvements and that motorcycles are considered at all stages, especially with regard to emerging technologies," said AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman. "We are elated that our own Mike Sayre is chairing this group. The Motorcyclist Advisory Council can become a powerful mechanism for promoting motorcycle safety."

Sayre said he is looking forward to the assignment.

"It's both an honor and a great responsibility to be a part of this council," Sayre said. "Every member brings a high level of expertise to the discussion. And I am confident that we will provide meaningful input to the leadership at the Federal Highway Administration."

Others appointed to two-year terms on the council include: James Baron, of the American Traffic Safety Services Association, Fredericksburg, Va.; Michael Crow, of the Kansas Asphalt Association; Fay Taylor, who is retired from the Ohio Department of Transportation; Dr. Chanyoung Lee, of the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida; Eric Line, of the Safety Programs division of the Bureau of Highway Development at the Michigan Department of Transportation; Jane Lundquist, of the Texas Department of Transportation Design Division; Dr. Share McLaughlin, of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute; Joel Provenzano, of the Florida Department of Transportation; and Dr. Craig Shankwitz, of the Western Transportation Institute, Department of Mechanical Engineering at Montana State University.

The first MAC meeting is Dec. 5 at the National Highway Institute in Arlington, Va. More information about the meeting is available in the Federal Register (www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/11/02/2017-23862/motorcyclist-advisory-council-to-the-federal-highway-administration).

The council was authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, passed in 2015.

The council's task is to coordinate with and advise the agency on such concerns as barrier design; road design, construction and maintenance practices; and the architecture and implementation of intelligent transportation system technology.

Duties of the council include advising the FHWA on how to improve roadways for motorcyclists and providing a forum for developing and communicating information from an independent perspective.

2018 AMA Ice Race Grand Championship dates announced

Event will feature oval track and grand prix race



PICKERINGTON, Ohio -- Amateur ice racers from across the country will travel to Cadillac, Mich., to compete for AMA National Championships at the 2018 AMA Ice Race Grand Championship on Feb. 2-4.

"Each year, the AMA Ice Race Grand Championship hosts the country's fastest amateur ice racers in this event that is thrilling for participants and spectators, alike," AMA Track Racing Manager Ken Saillant said. "After being unable to host last year's race due to inclement weather, we are pleased to be working with Jeremiah Sherman of Sherman Motorsports again in 2018 to provide AMA members with the best possible racing venue."

The AMA Ice Race Grand Championship features classes for riders from 4 years old to 50-plus competing on bikes that range from lightly modified off-road machines to full-on, purpose-built ice racers. Competitors modify a variety of machines to run on frozen lakes and ponds, using off-road tires, often studded with hundreds of sheet-metal-style screws.

Riders will battle for AMA National No. 1 plates in a number of classes. The top riders at the event also will compete for the AMA Ice Racer of the Year Award, given to the most impressive rider on the ice, while the youth riders will chase the honor of AMA Youth Ice Racer of the Year.

"The community is excited for the AMA Ice Race Grand Championship to make its return to the Cadillac area," Sherman said. "We will be working with the Cadillac Winter Festival in 2018. And we are hoping Mother Nature will cooperate with us for a spectacular weekend of racing."

For more information on the AMA Ice Race Grand Championship, visit www.americanmotorcyclist.com/racing/ice-racing or www.shermanmotorsports.com

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Snowmobile Survival

15 Essential Items Every Back-Country Snowmobiler Should Have at All Times

STORY AND PHOTOS BY Joshua Swanagon

I would like to preface this article by stating that I am not a snowmobiler—I don't like the cold at all, have no use for it. Truth be told, I would rather live in a state where I can ride one of my Harleys every day of the year. However, being born in Colorado and now living here in Michigan, I guess that didn't work out so well for me.

With that said, what I am is someone who has studied wilderness and urban survival for most of my life—from the Rocky Mountains to the Amazon jungle—and enjoy passing that knowledge on to others through magazine articles locally and nationally. Although I do not snowmobile, I do know how to keep myself alive in some fairly adverse conditions, which is the focus of this article.

KIT UP



The entire kit will fit in a heavy duty, 10L roll top, waterproof dry sack. If you get one with D-rings, you can create a strap and throw it over your shoulder if you have to take to foot.

The old saying goes "proper planning prevents piss poor performance."

It's kind of odd to me that people will pack the kitchen sink when they are going camping or backpacking just a couple miles from safety, but when they snowmobile miles and miles from civilization, they go with nothing more than their snowmobile suit and whatever they have in their pockets.



You can fit everything you should need in a small kit.

There is a rule of threes in wilderness survival, and it goes like this: man can only live for three minutes without air, three hours without shelter, three days without water, three weeks without food, and it only takes three hours for hypothermia to set in.

When venturing out into wilderness areas, make sure to pack a small kit with the essentials of survival. In the event something goes wrong, these items can literally be a life-saver.

The following is a list of items that are vital to survival, especially in a winter scenario. You can pack all of the following into a small, simple heavy-duty roll-top waterproof dry bag (about 10L—20L) and strap it right to your sled without being obtrusive. You can make adjustments and additions to the list, but make sure you have all of these bases covered.

1 – SMALL FIRE KIT

Fire is essential for heat, cooking/water purification, signaling, and animal deterrent.



In the fire kit you will need at least flammable cotton balls, a good lighter, ferro rod (for backup), fat wood, a small container of lighter fluid for wet wood and an Esbit stove. The first aid kit can be small and contain items for cuts and abrasions, minor infections, allergies, head/body aches, etc.

2 – SMALL STEEL COFFEE CUP

For melting snow and making a drink. You can eat snow, but it can speed up hypothermia.

3 – COLLAPSIBLE STOVE (ESBIT)

Even though you have a fire kit, it is a good idea to have a small collapsible stove, like an Esbit with the fuel tabs, just in case.

4 – COMPASS

In the event you get turned around and lose your bearings.

5 – TARP/HEAVY DUTY 3MIL CONSTRUCTION GARBAGE BAGS

For shelter building. If you pack the 3mil construction bags, take two, for good measure.

6 – PARACORD FOR SHELTER BUILDING AND OTHER USES

You can get paracord really cheap at any Army surplus store and it is a very handy item in the field. I recommend carrying no less than 25 feet.

7 – HAND/FOOT/BODY WARMERS (HOT HANDS)

These are great for keeping hypothermia at bay.



MRE's can pack small and heat up quickly in your steel cup. You can wrap your 25 feet of paracord around your 3mil shelter bags. Hot Hands are great for immediate warmth.

8 – SOME KIND OF FOOD

You can take a couple MREs or even a couple packs of ramen. They are light, pack small and cook fast. You don't need a lot, just a small amount to last a day or two.

9 – FLASHLIGHT

This one should be obvious, but I included it, just in case it isn't.

10 – SIGNALING MIRROR

Make sure to learn how to use it properly, or it will be more frustrating than helpful. They are very simple, but you have to know the trick.

11 – GOOD KNIFE

I don't recommend a \$12 knife for a survival situation. You get what you pay for. Splurge—if you find yourself in a situation where you need it to survive, you'll thank yourself that you did.

12 – SMALL, COLLAPSIBLE SAW

For procuring dry wood.

13 – FIRST AID KIT

It doesn't have to be big, but should contain the necessary items to tend to cuts and abrasions, minor infections, allergies, head/body aches, etc.

14 – FIREARM

Carry the largest caliber you are comfortable shooting safely and accurately. Remember, you are in the wilderness; there are animals, you are in their house, and you are food.

15 – SPOT GEN3 SATELLITE GPS MESSENGER

Not a must, but if you can afford it, it is a good idea for faster recovery in an emergency.



You can fit everything you should need in a small kit.

RESEARCH, PRACTICE, REPEAT

I think it goes without saying that this article wasn't written because there is an epidemic of people getting lost and dying in the back country while snowmobiling. It was written because, however rare, it does happen. Ideally you will never need the items on this list, but in the event you do, I hope you have them with you.

It should be mentioned that no amount of gear is going to get you out alive if you do not spend some time getting familiar with it. Gear can only do so much; knowledge is the real life saver. Take some time and check each thing out. Learn how to use it before heading out on your sled. Do not wait until you are stranded in the wilderness, in sub-zero temperatures, to start fumbling around trying to figure out how to build a fire with wet wood, or figure out how to build a shelter for the night. Do some research and practice, it could be your life on the line. Better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it.

Stay safe and happy sledding.



Joshua Swanagon has studied survival in both urban and wilderness environments in Colorado and Michigan for most of his life, while also adding experience in harsher terrains abroad. He utilizes his experience and years of diverse martial arts and combatives training and real world application as a self-defense/combatives instructor, published freelance writer and Field Editor for various magazines in the fields of knives, survival, self-defense and tactical subject matters.

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CROW MAN



Growing up, my dad always had Outdoor Life and Field and Stream magazines around, and I loved reading them. As a boy, I went with my dad deer/rabbit/pheasant hunting. As I grew older and turned into a hunter, I shot a lot of animals. The story I am going to tell you now is how I got my name Crow Man.

The leaves were off the trees, and that day I was hunting crows. I set up in the middle of the woods, behind a big oak tree, and I could hear crows off in the distance. I started calling them in. As I looked around the tree, I could see two of them coming toward me. When they got close enough, I pulled up my shotgun and shot both of them.

The first one I picked up and put in my game bag, but the second one was still alive. I had shot him in the wing and not his body. So I leaned my gun up against a tree and started to walk over to him. He ran a little and stopped. I raised my right leg; I was going to stomp on him—or so I thought. When my foot came down, he moved a little and I stepped on his wing instead. Before I could move my leg, he grabbed my pant leg and wouldn't let go! I was trying to kick him off, but it didn't work, so I grabbed his wing and tried to throw him off me. He decided to

latch on by biting me on the fingers. I was waving my arm up and down repeatedly and I couldn't get him to let go. I grabbed his wing again with my other hand, and he switched to my other hand, biting me again! I started running a little, waving him up and down with my arm. Somehow he let go of me and fell to the ground—but he wasn't done with me yet...

He started running toward me. I took off too, running behind a tree while trying to keep him away from me. I ran to the tree and grabbed a tree branch. He was still following behind me. I picked the branch up off the ground and swung it at him. The hit with the tree branch succeeded in stopping him from attacking me any further. He lay on the ground, silent and not moving.

I didn't pick him up right away. I sat under a tree and I stared at him, wondering what the hell just happened. It wasn't funny at the time, but the more people that have heard my story, the more they have laughed about Mr. Joe Hunter getting his ass kicked by a crow. Now I am known as Crow Man.

Crow Man holds the Michigan Grand Slam title, as he finished fall/winter 2005 with an elk.



The Michigan Grand Slam is a term that has been used informally for a long time in Michigan. It refers to the entry into the record book of the four Michigan animals that CBM recognizes as trophies by a single hunter. Those four animals are deer, bear, elk, and turkeys.

The accomplishment has always been considered so rare that it has remained informal. The added challenge of drawing a limited bear tag and particularly a bull elk tag, and to harvest animals that make the record book minimums seems insurmountable. However, it miraculously has been done by a select few.

The Commemorative Bucks of Michigan Board of Directors (CBM) have decided to establish the Michigan Grand Slam as an officially recognized category from now forward. It will be listed in chronological order of completion by the hunter, as opposed to a high score because of the combination of different scores involved.

The Michigan Grand Slam will remain the most elusive category, because of the elk. The statistical odds of drawing an elk permit—let alone an 'any elk' (bull or cow) permit and successfully harvesting a bull—that makes CBM's minimums seem unachievable. That, in addition to the drawing of a bear permit and shooting a "book" bear, plus taking a "book" turkey and deer.

The feat is tough, but as Dawn and others have shown, not statistically impossible!

GRAND SLAM ENTRIES

Richard Brandt
 Finished 4/22/2000 with a turkey

Richard P. Smith
 Finished 11/3/2000 with a turkey

Gene Fisher
 Finished 4/18/2005 with a turkey

Kevin Welch
 Finished fall/winter 2005 with an elk

Walter Frank
 Finished 9/11/2006 with a bear

Chuck Pillivant, Jr.
 Finished 9/22/2006 with a bear

Dawn Adlen-Pratt
 Finished 12/9/2009 with an elk



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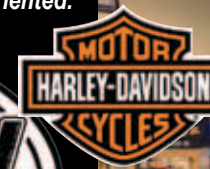
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