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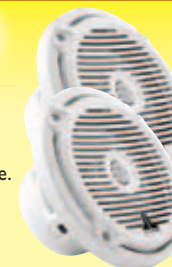


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From The Owner.....3

The Positive Shift.....4

Fantasy Flight to the North Pole.....5

Splitting Hares.....7

IMS Chicago Show.....8

Veterans Corner.....10

Jason the Lawyer.....12

Jokers Wild.....14

What's in a name?.....16

Event Calendar.....18

My Fiasco.....20

Jody Mo's Thunder Fun.....21

Alyssa's Adventures in the Mitten.....22

Biker Preacher's Corner.....23

AMA Report.....24

History of Four-Wheel Drive.....26

ABATE.....27

Bullet Points.....28

Crow Man.....29

Michigan Friendly Directory.....30

Sudoku by Geneva.....32

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LETTER FROM THE OWNER


Happy St. Patrick's Day!

As I write this letter and look outside, there is still snow on the ground (it's mid-February) and like many, I am counting down the days until spring. I have felt cabin fever this winter more than usual and am eager to get the scooter out and ride! We never know what the weather is going to be like in March; there could still be snow on the ground or it could be seventy degrees out. One just never knows—but as they say, if you don't like it, wait five minutes as it could change.

Our 5th Annual Thunder Fun Night was a big success and so much fun, as it always is! Next month, be sure to pick up a copy of *Thunder Roads* as we will be rubbing it in with all the photos of how much fun we had! Thank you so much for all that helped make this event a success and to everyone that attended.

In this issue, the ladies have seemed to have taken over. In the last six years, I have never had so many lady contributors as we do this month! It is pretty cool, I think, and hope you will enjoy their stories as much as I did.

I want to remind everyone that *Thunder Roads* is supported by advertisers, so if you like reading it each month, please be sure to patronize our supporters! If you know someone that should advertise in the magazine (remember, advertisers also receive the magazines when they advertise) please share your copy and show them page three; they can reach out to their local sales representative or myself.

 Be sure to like *Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan* on Facebook to keep up-to-date with exciting updates and latest happenings. Once again, 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!

Thank you to all of our loyal advertisers—we appreciate you!

Now for some "Mo" Advice

This, too, shall pass. It is in the darkest of hours, the loneliness of times, when you can't seem to see any light at the end of the tunnel, if you keep moving, fighting off the urge to stay there and keep taking those steps forward, you will eventually step out of the darkness and into the light.

Jody Mohowitsch
"Jody Mo"



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The Positive Shift

Being in Control of Your Emotions

To live a better and happier life, you must take charge of the natural instinctive state of your mind arising from circumstances, moods or relationships with others. Controlling your emotions doesn't mean ignoring them; it means you recognize and take rightful action on them. You must be in-charge of your emotions day to day. If you truly desire unlimited happiness, controlling your emotions is a necessity. A clear mind is more able to control emotions. Unclutter your mind.

Yes, obstacles come up in life. With the lack of job security, unfaithful partners, stubborn children, nagging coworkers, and societal unrest, it can be easy to allow your emotions to run amok. An uncontrolled state of mind can make a bad situation worse.

Every emotion begins with a thought. If you learn to control your thoughts, you can rule your emotions. While it does take practice, you can be in firm control of the particular feelings which characterize the state of your mind, such as hate, horror, anger, fear, happiness, or love.

Think about all of your success after a hardship. All the struggles you had, and yet you overcame them. Years and years of past learning experiences is what developed you and your strength. You are smarter because of those difficult times.

Without learning those lessons and hardships, you wouldn't be where you are now. We learn about emotions to be able to help our friends and family get through some of the toughest times. Understanding negative emotions and what we would call "cruel" people in the past will help you deal with the different personalities you may encounter with bosses, coworkers, teachers, partners, and friends throughout life.

When you are filled with self-doubt, you may not understand how to fight for yourself. Don't let yourself be controlled by other's negativity. Be proud of who you are and stand-up for yourself.

Don't let fear hold you back. If you continue to live in a world of insecurities, you are missing out on so much of the beauty of life. Living means taking risks and going beyond your comfort zone.

You can't live a POSITIVE life with a negative mind.
 Until then...Don't Coast in Neutral, Positive Shift Ahead!

~ Stacie
 Stacie Zotkovich
 President and Founder of The Positive Shift LLC

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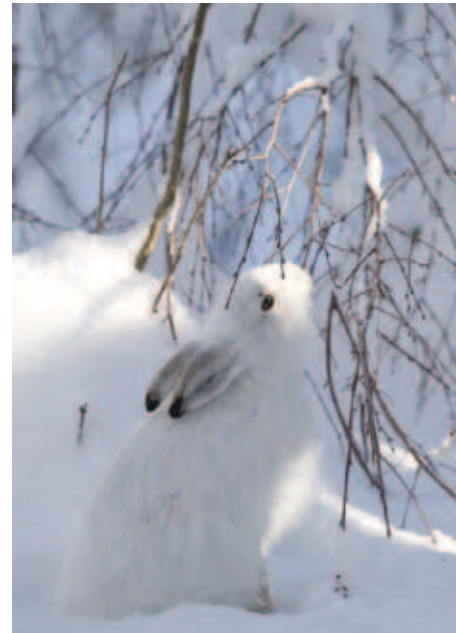


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splitting hares in the snow

by MARK R. CRISP



Hunting in winter here in Michigan is a lot of fun. Deer hunting usually gets all the attention, with all the new ways to hunt late-season deer.

Not mentioned much these days is the very enjoyable season for young and old alike: RABBIT hunting, yes, rabbit hunting. Most hunters have somewhat given up this time-honored tradition; I myself grew up hunting rabbits all the time. I couldn't wait till the weekend to hit the woods, swamps, and brushy areas in search of our furry friends.

Here in our great state, we have unlimited opportunities to hunt both cottontails and snowshoes (also called the varying hare, or snowshoe rabbit) depending on your geographical location. We enjoy a long season here in Michigan: September 15 to March 31.

Rabbits of both species eat similar things. In summer, they feed on plants such as grass, ferns and leaves; in winter, they eat twigs, the bark from trees, and buds from flowers and plants. This makes fallen trees (like poplar, for example) very good places to find rabbits, as they love the bark from the upper limbs.

Even if you don't have the ability to hunt in your area, hop in your vehicle. Most of the time, it's only a short drive to find a great spot. Rabbits are found everywhere, even in towns and cities.

Cottontail rabbits dwell almost anywhere, but are more predominate in the southern half of the state. They can be found in brush piles, junkyards, farm lots and fields, pine groves, hedgerows and almost any brushy area. They dig burrows under almost anything.

Snowshoe hares are usually found in the northern Lower and Upper Peninsula. Unlike their counterparts they set up in old stumps, under pine boughs, burrow little nooks in the snow and hide under brush. They favor habitats with dense shrub layers and occupy diverse habitats, including mature conifers. For camouflage, the rabbit's fur turns white during the winter and rusty brown during the summer. Snowshoes get their name from their large rear feet, which resemble snow shoes. This trait allows them the ability to stay on top of the snow while traveling and escaping prey.

The methods for harvesting these tasty critters are as diversified as they are plentiful. Shotguns and .22s are the most widely used, but some of use like a challenge and use bows. Some people swear by 20-gauge shotguns, mainly because of their ease to carry for long days afield. Twelve-gauge works just as well and will reach out if you need to. I always liked 7.5 or 6 shot.

If you choose to use a bow, most use traditional long-bows or recurves. You can use your compound, but I recommend you crank it down a little for easier and faster draws. I try to catch the rabbits while they are sitting. It isn't normally recommended to shoot at a running rabbit with your bow.

Some swear the only way to hunt rabbits is with dogs. Many of us say that's rabbit pellets. Dogs are great when hunting brush piles, hedgerows, and other such cover, as the dogs will go right in and force the rabbits out into the open for a shot. The rest of the time, a single hunter can stalk them very well. This is my method, and I have limited more times than I can count.

Following their tracks is easy, and most rabbits don't venture far from their safe haven. They generally run in circular patterns. So, if you are hunting with friends, someone can set up in an area to watch the runs and tracks, and the other can follow the fresh set. If the rabbit does not circle back, one hunter can follow the track while the other spreads out and parallels the hunter following the track. While hunting sitting or holed-up snowshoes don't just look for the rabbit, look for their eyes. Yes, I said eyes; their black eyes give them away in a snowy terrain!



Looking for something to do on that wintery day once football and the Super Bowl are done? Grab your gear and hit the snow-covered fields and woodlots near you for some tasty rabbits, and make some hot rabbit stew to stay warm. I can smell it cooking on the stove already...



PROGRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE SHOWS®

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Big Guy and I attended the 2018 Progressive International Motorcycle Show, and it was well worth the trip. The event was held in the Christensen Event Center in Rosemont, IL. It featured vendor displays from manufacturers such as Victory, Aprilia, Honda, BSA, Indian, BMW, Kawasaki, Yamaha, Triumph, Suzuki, Slingshot, KTM, Royal Enfield, Vanderhall, and—of course—Harley-Davidson.

Lots of vintage bikes were on display as well, including the Chicago Norton Owner Motorcycle Club and the Chicago BMW Owners Club. We even saw a few Vespas and Cushman scooters dating from the early sixties. This was a family event, so a Kid Zone area allowed the ten-and-under crowd to race each other around an oval track on small battery-powered motorcycles and four-wheelers. A separate arena area was set up for an on-site stunt show by exhibition riders—the crowds loved it!

This event didn't disappoint when it came to destination riding and bike tourism. An entire row of the vendor accessory area provided information on motorcycle trips to Isle of Man, the UK, Mongolia, Colombia, Africa, South America, and the ever-popular favorites for the US: Laconia, Sturgis, and Daytona. Additional locations with biker-specific trips were the Ohio Windy 9, the Dragon's Tail, the Lake Superior Circle Tour, and Pacific Coast Highway. Guides were there from Alaska and Canada, the East Coast, the West Coast, and all points in between.

Of course there were accessories vendors, selling leathers, electronic accessories, helmets, patches, clothing, cleaning supplies, and vest patches. At least three booths were set up selling snack food and Goose Island Beer, a local microbrew.

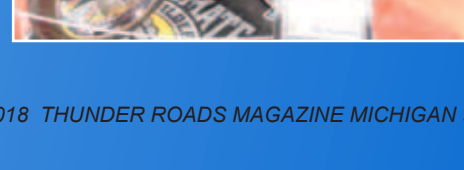
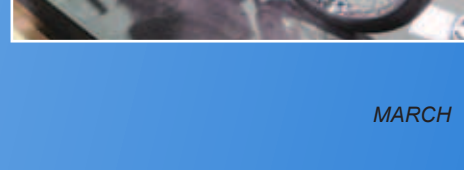
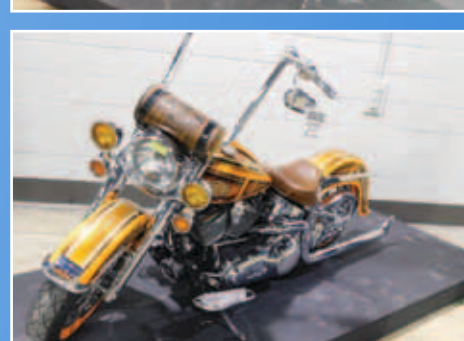
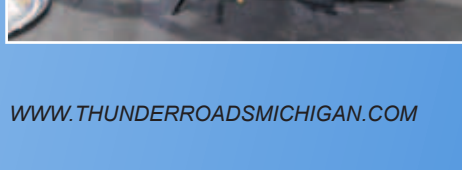
Exhibition bikes were also on display, covering five classes of bikes: Custom Street, Modified Retro, Modified Harley, Freestyle, and Freestyle Retro. Imagination is truly limitless, and that was certainly the case at this show.



Best of all, I got to meet and spend time with Lisa Browner. Lisa is the CEO of Full Throttle Living.com and she rode a Harley across the U.S. in 2015 with a friend for company. This was done to inspire women to push their limits and increase their involvement with motorcycling, and also done to honor Effie Hotchkiss's similar journey in 1915.



by Barb Wilson



Barb with Jerry Cole

VETERANS CORNER



Continuing from last month the many veteran-related bills introduced in Lansing:

Senate Bill (SB) 422 would create a home sale program for disabled veterans. It would be available to veterans who have a sixty-percent or greater disability and are not employed. It is pending in the Senate Local Government Committee.

SB 75 would require state veterans' facilities to notify lawmaker when a constituent at a state veterans' facility dies. The bill is pending before the full Senate.

Governor Snyder already signed into law SB 248. It creates a new World War I Centennial Commission within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to commemorate the centennial of World War I. It's now Public Act 97 of 2017.

House Bill (HB) 4817 would ensure that veterans, their attorneys, or their authorized representatives could request medical records for free. Companies can charge most other people twenty dollars (\$20) per request and additional money for each page of any copies. The bill is pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

HB 4785 and 4796 would require the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program that provides funds to veterans to obtain service dogs. People obtaining dog licenses could choose to donate ten dollars (\$10) to the cause. These both are pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

HB 4872 would add "military status" to the list of things it's illegal to discriminate against people for within the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. It's pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

HB 4858 provides that, if a state or local government hires a veteran, it would be required to treat his or her military experience as relevant professional experience when determining his or her salary. It passed the House and is pending in the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security Committee.

HB 4836 would require the Secretary of State to provide a sticker or decal to active military members whose licenses expired while they were on active military service.

HB 4826 would establish a grant program to provide support service for veterans, including things like job training, mental health and drug treatment. It is pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

HB 4699 would allow totally disabled veterans to pay five dollars (\$5.00) for specialty plates supporting fund-raising or organizations instead of typically a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee. It's pending in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

HB 4319 would allow the spouse of a deceased, totally disabled veteran to continue using the veteran's special registration plate and to renew it when it expires. It passed the House and is pending in the Senate Transportation Committee.

HB 4673 would expand the number of registration plates a disabled veteran could get from one to five. It is pending in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

SB 502 would allow partially disabled veterans to qualify for disabled veteran registration plates, and is pending in the Senate Transportation Committee.

SB 268 would create a fund-raising vehicle registration plate to recognize women veterans. It is pending in the Senate Transportation Committee.

SB 434 would amend the definition of veterans' facilities to be served by the Michigan Veterans' Facility Ombudsman. The definition would be widened to include facilities established for the care of veterans after the bill's effective date. It passed the Senate and is pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The governor signed into law SB 438. It worked with two other Senate bills, 435 and 437, to require drug treatment and DWI/sobriety courts, mental health courts and veterans' treatment courts, to be certified by the Supreme Court Administrator's Office. Without the certification, those courts could not perform certain functions or receive funding.

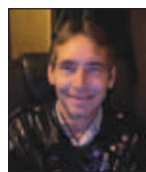
HB 4825 would establish the Veterans Count Michigan Fund. It would require the Secretary of State to give people the option of making a \$2 donation to the fund. It would go toward raising awareness and money for Michigan veterans in need. The bill is pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

HB 4824 would require the state to conduct a study on existing mental health and suicide prevention programs available to veterans and members of the armed forces and report back to the legislature. The bill is pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Under HB 4380 and 4381, totally disabled veterans wouldn't need to purchase the \$11 recreation passport people use to get into state parks. A similar HB 4784 would exempt all veterans from the recreation passport fee. The bill is pending in the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

HB 4628 would designate M-66 beginning at the intersection with highway M-55 in Lake City extending north to the intersection with highway M-72 in Kalkaska as the "Veterans Highway." It passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate Transportation Committee.

David McCallister "Possum"
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The Motorcycle Lawyer on THE LAW

What Does Insurance and the Law Say About Motorcycle Theft?

It's a lovely day, and you've ridden your motorcycle out to lunch with friends. When you come out, you can't wait to go for a ride. As you approach your parking spot, you notice something odd. It's empty.

Your bike is gone—and with it, your pleasant afternoon. Here's what you need to know about motorcycle theft, insurance, and the law.

MOTORCYCLE THEFT STATISTICS

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), motorcycle theft increased two percent in 2016, bringing the total of incidents that year to 46,467. However, the overall trend is still positive. Thefts are down thirty percent from 2006, when they totaled 66,774.

Certain states and cities saw a concentration of motorcycle thefts in 2016. The top five states in which motorcycle thefts occurred were California, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Of the top five cities that saw the highest number of motorcycle thefts in 2016, three were in California. From highest number of thefts to lowest, the top five cities hit hardest were New York City, San Diego, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The NICB report also noted that August and July saw the highest number of thefts, while February had the lowest.

As far as makes go, the top five makes stolen in 2016 were American Honda Motor Co., Yamaha Motor Corporation, American Suzuki Motor Corporation, Kawasaki Motors Corp., and Harley-Davidson Inc.

MOTORCYCLE THEFT IN MICHIGAN

In Michigan, the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn Metropolitan Area saw 13,712 motorcycle thefts in 2016. The Kalamazoo-Portage area saw 461 thefts, and the Lansing-East Lansing area saw 578 thefts.

Section 750.413 of the Michigan Penal Code states: "Any person who shall, willfully and without authority, take possession of and drive or take away, and any person who shall assist in or be a party to such taking possession, driving or taking away of any motor vehicle, belonging to another, shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years."

Unlike the No-Fault Law, Section 750.413 considers motorcycles as motor vehicles.

INSURANCE AND THEFT

If you have comprehensive insurance, you should be covered in the case of theft. Comprehensive coverage takes care of damage to a vehicle not caused by an accident, so things like natural disasters, vandalism, and theft fall into this category.

Be sure you contact your insurance company and check what kind of coverage your insurance policy includes. It's always good to know what's covered and what isn't.

If you discover that your motorcycle has been stolen, let the police know immediately so they can start a report. You'll also need to let your insurance company know what's happened and file a claim with them.

Before your insurance company approves your claim, you'll likely have to wait for a certain time period to give the police a chance to recover the bike.

DON'T BE A VICTIM

There are some steps you can take to decrease your chances of being the victim of a motorcycle theft. Start using several layers of security on your bike to make it more difficult for thieves to steal it.

Start by locking your steering and covering your bike with a non-descript cover. The idea with the cover is to not draw attention to your bike. If it's under a bulky cover, it's less likely to get stolen.

You can also use high-quality disc locks and a strong chain and anchor to dissuade criminals. Finally, an alarm system can also be a good way to scare off would-be thieves.

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

Call Attorney Jason Waechter toll free at 1-877-BIKER LAW.

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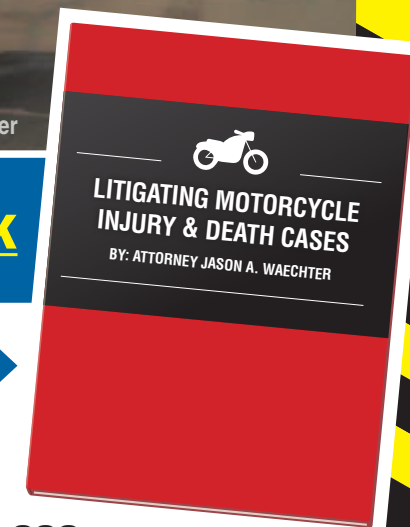


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A couple are sitting in their living room, sipping wine on St. Patty's Day. Out of the blue, the wife says, "I love you so very, very much!" "Is that you or the wine talking?" jokes the husband. "It's me," says the wife, "Talking to the wine."

"Happy Anniversary Mom and Dad," gushed Sean, son No. 1. "Sorry I'm running late. I had an emergency at the hospital with a patient, you know how it is, and I didn't have time to get you a gift." "Not to worry," said the father. "Important thing is we're all together today."

Conor, Son No. 2 arrived. "You and Mom look great. Dad, I just flew in from Montreal between depositions and didn't have time to shop for you."

"It's nothing," said the father. "We're glad you were able to come." Just then the daughter, Emma, arrived "Hello and happy anniversary! Sorry, but my boss is sending me out of town and I was really busy packing so I didn't have time to get you two anything."

After they had finished dessert, the father said, "There's something your mother and I have wanted to tell you for a long time. You see, we were really poor and very busy, but we managed to send each of you to college."

Through the years your mother and I knew we loved each other very much, but we just never found the time to get married." The three children gasped and said, "WHAT? You mean we're bastards?"

"Yup," said the father, "Cheap-ass ones' too".

An Irish man and woman were married for many years. Whenever there was a confrontation, yelling could be heard deep into the night. The old man would shout, "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!"

Neighbors feared him. The old man liked the fact that he was feared. Then one evening, he died when he was 89. After the burial, her neighbors, concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?"

The wife said, "Let him dig. I had him buried upside down, and I know for a fact he won't ask for directions."

Ya' know, I consider myself to be a positive kind of person but swear there are days when people just irritate the hell out of me and it's then that I come to the realization that some people couldn't be nice even if a Unicorn shoved a Fairy Wand up their ass while Judy Garland stood there singing Somewhere Over The Rainbow.

Brenda O'Malley is home making dinner, as usual, when Tim Finnegan arrives at her door. "Brenda, may I come in?" he asks. "I've Somethin to tell ya". "Of course you can come in, you're always welcome, Tim. But where's my husband?" "That's what I'm here to be telling ya, Brenda. There was an accident down at the Guinness brewery..." "Oh, God no!" cries Brenda. "Please don't tell me." "I must, Brenda Your husband Shamus is dead and gone. I'm sorry." Finally, she looked up at Tim.. "How did it happen, Tim?" "It was terrible, Brenda. He fell into a vat of Guinness Stout and drowned." "Oh my dear Jesus! But you must tell me the truth, Tim. Did he at least go quickly?" "Well, Brenda.... No. In fact, he got out three times to pee."

A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church, enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing. The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention but the drunk continues to sit there. Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall. The drunk mumbles, "ain't no use knockin, there's no paper on this side either!"

What Leprechauns do for kicks:
 Step 1: Go to the Pet Shop
 Step 2: Buy Bird Seeds
 Step 3: Ask Cashier how long it will take for birds to grow?
 Step 4: Watch reaction



Just got a piece of Lucky Charms cereal stuck between my toes walking through the kitchen. Clearly my dog isn't doing his part of the chores around here.


This year, in 2018, Easter and April Fool's are on the same day. So, have yourself some fun while you sit back with a shot of Bailey's in your coffee. Tell the kids to hunt all over the backyard for eggs you didn't even hide! Hey now, times like this are magically delicious.

Happy St Patrick's Day 

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What Is In A Name?

PART 1 OF A SERIES

by Stephen R. Phillips

Seventy years and very few know.

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of Bulldog Riders Motorcycle Club, Inc. of Millington, MI. Now, isn't that a mouthful? Well, how about these: Bulldog Riders, Bulldogs, Bulldog MC, Bulldog MX, The Dogs, The Southwick of Michigan, or just Dogs. To eighty-four members and seventeen life members, we may simply call it The Club, The Track, or any of the previous mentioned names. Those are just names and that is it. Bulldog Riders MC is more than any name it might be called; it runs much deeper than that. Bulldogs is a feeling, a dedication, a passion for the sport of motorcycling and especially motocross (MX).

How did the club get a name like Bulldog Riders, anyway? Please bear with me while I take you on a journey of one of the oldest clubs and MX tracks in Michigan.

While researching our Bulldog history one day in my office, I looked up the original incorporation documents. I was reading them just as an old friend stopped in to say hello. It was Johnny Ishmael.

I got up from my desk, hugged him, and asked, "Are you any relation to a William Ishmael?" He replied enthusiastically, "Well, yes. That was my father." What an interesting afternoon we had there in my office. Fortunately for the Bulldog Riders MC—his mother Awanda was still living. She provided me with much of the history, and most importantly, the year we were established.

Our articles of incorporation state: "To promote better motorcycling for social, educational, and personal enjoyment. Also for the holding of regular meetings of the club, for the promotion of field events, endurance runs, and group riding, and to do such things as will better the sport of motorcycling."

Back in 1948, a handful of friends who shared a passion for motorcycles decided to form a motorcycle club. The club was fledging, and they did not have much in the way of finances. Because of this, they would meet monthly in each other's homes.



The charter members were: Steve and Arlene Hess, William and Awanda Ishmael, Glen and Mrs. Hamilton, Manford and Mrs. Neuman, Sr., Gordon and Mrs. Harvey, Gerald and Lee Faiver, George and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Angel, Mr. and Mrs. Doty, Harry Clark, and Ken Monroe.

On May 6th, 1950, William and Awanda Ishmael, Glen Hamilton, Manford Newman, Gordon Harvey, and George Smith bought a small parcel of land. It was approximately nineteen acres, situated on North Belsay Road in Millington, Michigan. Until this time, Bulldog Riders had been holding motorcycle events at various locations. But now they could hold events on land that they actually owned.

On February 1st, 1951, the group signed the articles of incorporation for the name Bulldog Riders Motorcycle Club. In 1952, the club wanted to join the AMA, in order to hold AMA-sanctioned competitive events. Unfortunately, they were one member shy of having the required amount of members to join at that time. In order to qualify for membership, they decided to put down Carman Ishmael's name—the daughter of William and Awanda. She was five or six years old at the time.

During this time period, motocross had not yet migrated to the United States. We were calling these events "scrambles." The members and their racing guests were riding big four stroke-thumping singles, like Triumphs, BSAs, Ducatis, and the like.



On June 4th, 1957, the group quitclaimed the land to the corporation at a declared value of \$200. They built the first clubhouse in the southwest corner of the property.



Remember, this was a time without today's technology, when people had to make phone calls or come together to communicate. I spoke to Tony Proffer after a Michigan Vintage MX series race in 2016. She is the daughter of life members Ted and Grace Proffer. Her comment to me was she felt closer to the families of Bulldogs than she did some of her own aunts and uncles. This was not meant in a negative or disparaging way. The club did a lot of activities together. Not just at the club grounds riding, meeting, watching movies, and having potluck dinners, but also on trips to places like Cedar Point, Daytona Bike Week, and the like.

Continued next month



TRMI EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

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MARCH

March 1
Cottage & Lakefront Living Show, Novi

showcases, & more. For more info go to OfficialBikeWeek.com

March 1 - 4
Outdoorama, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

**March 10
Bike Give-Away Event
Town & Country Sports Center, Cement City, MI. 11am - 2pm. Free food avail 11am - 1pm. Enter the drawing for free & must be present at 2pm when the winner is announced to win the bike! Bike TBD. For more info call 517-547-3333 (See full page ad inside back cover this issue).**

March 2
Women's Lifestyle Expo, Kalamazoo

March 2-4
Autorama, Detroit

March 10
Trails In Motion Film Festival, Farmington.

March 2-4
Motor City Tattoo Expo, Detroit.

March 3
Michigan Arts & Crafts Show, Laurel Park Place

March 11
Detroit St. Patrick's Parade

**March 4
District 14 Ice Racing
Owosso Motorsports Park, Owosso, MI. For more info go to d14ice.com**

March 15 - 18
Novi Boat Show
Suburban Collection, Novi

March 8 - 11
Port Huron Camper & RV Show
Blue Water Convention Center, Port Huron

March 16 - 18
Hunting and Fishing Expo, Traverse City Civic Center

March 16-18
Boyne Mountain Carnival Weekend, Boyne Falls

March 9
West Michigan Women's Expo, Grand Rapids

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 9
Muskegon Home, Garden & DIY Show, Muskegon

March 17
Boyne Highlands Crazy Daze, Harbor Springs

March 9-10
Boyne Highlands Brew-Ski Festival, Harbor Springs

March 17
Nub's Nob Mardi Gras, Harbor Springs.

March 10
Michigan Crafters Marketplace, Livonia

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

March 10
Small Business Fair, Rochester Hills

March 20-25
Ann Arbor Film Festival, Ann Arbor

March 10-11
Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Macomb Community College, Warren

March 21
Business Expo, Boyne City

March 11
Dearborn Women's Expo, Dearborn

**March 23
Victory Biker Church Custom Motorcycle Raffle
Victory Biker Church, Lennon, MI. \$10 donation, giveaway at 1 pm. For more info go to victorybikerchurch.org**

**March 9-18
77th Annual Daytona Beach Bike Week
Daytona Beach, Florida. 10 days of festivals, concerts, cruises,**

March 23
Cottage & Lakefront Living Show, Grand Rapids

March 23 - 25
Northwest Michigan Camper & RV Show, Grand Traverse County Civic Center, Traverse City

March 23 - 26
Port Huron Camper & RV Show, Blue Water Convention Center, Port Huron

March 24
Ultimate Indoor Garage Sale, Kalamazoo

March 24-25
Hot Rod & Racing, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi, MI. \$20 pp. For more info go to www.hotrodtracingexpo.com

March 25
Detroit Greek Independence Day, Detroit,

**March 31
34th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet
Wexford Civic Center, Chicago, IL. Bikes, parts, leather, food, beer & more. For more info call 800-800-6034 (See ad this issue).**

APRIL

April 1
Easter & April Fools Day

April 6
Traverse City Boat Show, GT County Civic Center

April 10
Banff Mountain Film Festival, Traverse City

April 11-15
Freep Film Festival, Detroit

April 12
Banff Mountain Film Festival, Grand Rapids

April 13-14
Banff Mountain Film Festival, Midland

April 14
The Color Run, Kalamazoo

**April 15
38th Annual Motorcycle Swap Meet
Delta Plex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI. Bikes, parts, leather, food, beer & more. For more info call 800-800-6034 (See ad this issue).**

April 15
Banff Mountain Film Festival, Ann Arbor

April 17
Tax Day

April 20 - 21
Northern Michigan Outdoor Expo
Otsego County Sportsplex, Gaylord

April 21
Your Comic Con, Ypsilanti

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

April 27
Detroit Gin & Vodka Festival, Detroit

SAVE THE DATE

**July 26-28
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Event information must be received prior to the 10th of the month preceding the event month to be posted in the magazine.

Remember to call ahead before planning to attend any event as the information/dates may change. Thunder Roads is NOT responsible for errors or omissions.



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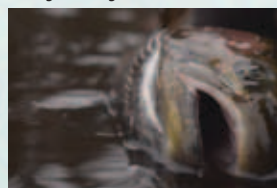
MY FIASCO

Winter Fly-Fishing Adventure

I've always liked to think of myself as an adventurous person and—lucky me—I was born and raised in the Great Lakes State. Where can you find more opportunities for adventure than Michigan? My personal favorite winter activities involve flowing rivers and cold days spent with a fishing rod and camera in hand. Michigan offers some of the best winter fishing opportunities in the US. The type of fishing varies from drilling a hole in the ice to running a jet boat down some of the coolest rivers in existence (being a Michigander may cause me to be a little prejudiced).



by Mary Ostahowski



The first-time winter fly-fishing was suggested to me, I thought my boyfriend was a nutcase. In fact, I remember turning to Dan O. with a look of utter disgust and saying, "Why would you go stand in ice water to catch fish?" Then, when he said many times they don't catch anything at all, I was completely baffled. Fortunately, I am a sucker for a beautiful picture and decided even if I didn't think standing in ice water was for me, hiking, exploring, photography, and the joy of nature was worth it. Dan O. agreed to take me and teach me about fishing, and I agreed to try not to whine when I got too cold.

tion, you may use one or two flies. Using two flies means losing twice as much if you do get snagged on a log or the other bank when your cast goes awry.

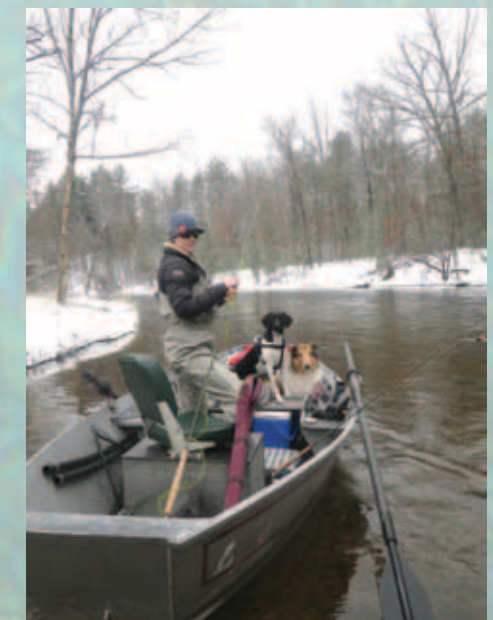
The second and my favorite method of winter fly-fishing is swinging for steelhead, which originated on the West coast and has been gaining popularity in Michigan for the last decade or so. I watched Dan O. learn to fish using this method and fell in love with the beautiful casts. I begged him to teach me this method since I tend to get bored and frustrated with bobber/indicator fishing. Initially, I underestimated how much of a challenge learning to swing for steelhead would be. It can be one of the most unproductive and frustrating types of fishing that exists, but it can also be one of the most rewarding.

My adventure begins with me standing in waist-deep freezing water. I make a cast, let it swing through the hole, take a step downstream, and make another cast. As my fly swings through the deepest part of the river, I feel every nuance of the current. I'm playing music on my phone and getting lost in the rhythm of the music and the current running by me. I cast again, step down again, and try to get a little better cast on the next one. As I continue this rhythm and feel the current through my rod, I am amazed at the power of the river and the gentle pull of the current on my streamer. Suddenly, my rod is almost ripped from my hands; my heart jumps into my throat. I pull up and back on my rod and feel a powerful shake, followed by an aggressive pull of the line. I pull back some more and I feel all the tension release. In a split second, the fish is gone and I am breathless, speechless, and addicted.

Since we suffer from this same addiction, Dan O and I can be found on a river most any weekend the temps are above freezing. If you have ever seen a crazy chick with a fly rod jumping up and down and yelling excitedly about catching a six-inch fish, it was probably me. The greatest thing about fly-fishing is



that there is always more to learn, a new challenge to be met, and another adventure to be had. This is "my fiasco", and it's not always pretty—but it is always an adventure.



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Inspiration

Curiosity is a willing, a proud, an eager confession of ignorance. ~ S. Rubinstein

We triumph without glory when we conquer without danger.
 ~ Pierre Corneille

Desire is the very essence of man. ~ Benedictus de Spinoza

I have not yet begun to fight. ~ John Paul Jones

Facts about Sharks

One of coolest facts about shark is that they never run out of teeth. If any one of them is gone, another came forward from the rows and became backup teeth.

Sharks have very keen sense of hearing. It is proved by researchers that they can hear low pitch sound better below the range of human hearing.

The cartilage of shark is in use for the cure of cancer. But the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved cartilage as a treatment of cancer.

A shark can see through in the cloudy water because of its particular membrane present in its eye called tapetum lucidum. This feature helps a shark to prey in murky water.

It is very alarming fact about sharks; some sharks eat their unborn siblings. They eat them because they are looking for nutrition to maintain their survival.

Alyssa's Adventures in the Mitten

by Alyssa Locke

CADILLAC

Hi everyone! I will be exploring and traveling to places all around the state to show you amazing and fun things to attend or do, highlighting awesome stops along the way, and sometimes spotlighting people doing great things.

This month's trip brought us to the beautiful Cadillac area to attend the North American Snow Festival Sno-X. Although Mother Nature didn't cooperate for the



AMA Ice Race activities at Mitchell State Park (rescheduled for February 24), the conditions were good for the Sno-X Event, held at the Wexford Center. This event is always the first weekend of February. Five thousand yards of snow were trucked in to build the track. What a fun event to watch! Racers of all ages took part in this event, consisting of 120s, Pro class, and a trail sled class. All the riders were amazing, and the crowd was entertained all afternoon. Temperatures were a little frigid, at 19 degrees.

As the day wore on, it was a beautiful snow globe-like snow feel, delivering about five inches of fresh powder. We found a great place for a late lunch called Clam Lake Beer Co. It is in a remodeled/updated historic building in the downtown area. The menu included a ton of craft beer choices from all around Michigan, wine and spirits, and a huge variety of food choices. The view of the lake from the back room was amazing, and the service was top notch. Our waitress was super fun, food was great and served to us fast. If you're in Cadillac any time of the year, be sure to stop in there. On our way home, we saw many ice fishermen and snowmobiles. Cadillac is definitely a destination for outdoor fun.

If you have suggestions of places you'd like me to visit, you can email me at Alyssa@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com.

Until the next adventure...ride on, readers!



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Biker Preacher's Corner

Hello, my brothers and sisters! Here it is, the beginning of March. There's less than a month until the first day of spring and my hope is that by the time you're reading this, many of us are already back in the saddle.

With our favorite season of the year—riding season—just around the corner, there is an almost tangible sense of expectancy and excitement in the air. Many of us have been suffering through this long, cold, snowy winter from P.M.S. – Parked Motorcycle Syndrome. But, the wait is almost over, my friends...Praise God!

With all this expectation in the air I'm reminded of **Philippians 1:20** which says: **"My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death."**

Listen, there is a lot of peace in knowing that our sins (moral mishaps, hang-ups, etc.) are forgiven. We've all done it...things we're not proud of, feel guilty for and even condemned. But, the truth is, when we call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and repent for these sins, God, in His ever-loving faithfulness, washes all the sin away (1 John 1:9: **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**) and this gives us great peace, hope, boldness and the expectation that we are in right standing with God because of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

But, it gets even better as He not only washes away our sin, but washes away all the guilt and condemnation that comes with sin—praise God!

Listen, what I'm saying here is that the enemy likes to use our memories of sins of the past to beat us up, even after God has forgiven us. It's like a movie playing in our heads that keeps playing and re-playing all those bad things we ever did over and over and over again. This is called condemnation and it's an attempt to get us to give up on our relationship with God. The awesome thing is that God can and will destroy that movie, and set you free from that mess and give you peace. Peace of mind and peace of heart!

Once this happens, you will feel a positive expectation for life, joy unspeakable and hope everlasting...all because God has forgiven you! I encourage you now, as the late Larry Norman once sang about in one of his earliest songs: "Why don't you look into Jesus? He's got the answers."

Pray this: God, I know that you are real and I believe that Jesus is your son, He died and rose again, for me. I accept and confess Jesus as my Lord and Savior today and I thank you for forgiving me and washing me clean. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Much love and respect,

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay
Senior Pastor, National President & Founder
Victory Biker Church International & Sons of Victory MC/M
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American Motorcyclist Association honors 2017 champions ~ Athletes of the Year, Sportsman of the Year among those recognized



COLUMBUS, Ohio — The American Motorcyclist Association recognized its greatest champions and hardest-working organizers from the 2017 season on Jan. 20 during the AMA Championship Banquet at the Hilton Downtown Columbus in Columbus, Ohio.

"The AMA and our chartered clubs and promoters represent the most expansive sanctioned motorsports activity in the world," said AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman. "The riders, racers and families in this room are the people who bring the passion, talent and dedication to make that possible."

"The AMA is more than an event sanctioning body," Dingman continued. "We are the leading advocacy organization for motorcycling and ATV riding in America. We support all forms of motorcycling -- from organized events to casual riding. We protect the freedoms of motorcyclists and ATV riders from overreaching laws. We negotiate deals and discounts for our members. Through the AMA Motorcycle Hall of Fame, we preserve the history of the sport. And when I say 'we,' I mean all of us -- including the AMA members in this room tonight."

The evening's program was emceed by Laurette Nicoll and Kevin Kelly.

Cody Webb of Royal Oaks, Calif., was recognized as the AMA Athlete of the Year from National Championship Series competition.

Webb earned the national No. 1 plate in the AMA Endurocross National Championship Series and the Extreme Enduro Pro class at the AMA Tennessee Knockout Extreme Enduro Grand Championship. He has won Tennessee Knockout five straight years.

In addition to his competition successes, Webb mentors younger riders.

"I was fortunate to be able to invite some of the up-and-coming riders in the sport to visit my home for a while," he said. "We rode together. And I think we learned from each other. It's a way to help keep this sport growing."

Attending the ceremony was Rose Hayden, the mother of 2006 MotoGP World Champion Nicky Hayden, who tragically passed away in 2017. The Executive Committee of the AMA Board of Directors passed a resolution last year to name the prestigious AMA Horizon Awards after Nicky.

AMA Horizon Awards are presented to up-and-coming amateur racers in motocross, road racing and dirt track who demonstrate they have the talent, dedication and poise to excel in the professional ranks.

Nicky Hayden won the first AMA Horizon Award ever presented -- the 1997 AMA Dirt Track Horizon Award.

Mrs. Hayden presented the Nicky Hayden AMA Road Race Horizon Award to Joseph Blasius of Northville, Mich., and the Nicky Hayden AMA Dirt Track Horizon Award to Hunter Brooks of Escalon, Calif.

The 2017 AMA Athlete of the Year from Grand Championship events was Justin Cooper, AMA Motocross Horizon Award Winner and AMA Amateur National Motocross Champion. Cooper was unable to attend the banquet, but shared his gratitude in a video acceptance speech.

Tayla Jones, who moved to North Carolina from Australia last year, was announced as the AMA Female Racer of the Year. She was the 2017 WXC Champion from the AMSOIL AMA Grand National Cross Country Series, the Women's Pro Overall Champion from the AMA Full Gas Sprint Enduro Championship Series, and the Women's Elite Champion from the AMA National Enduro Championship Series.

"I couldn't have had a better year, really," Jones said. "It's been my dream since I was a little kid to race in America."

The 2017 AMA Vet Racer of the Year was Destry Abbott, who dominated his class in the 2017 AMA Endurocross National Championship Series. Abbott was unable to attend the banquet, but sent an acceptance video.

The 2017 AMA Youth Racer of the Year was Ty Masterpool, who is the Supermini 1 (12-15) Champion and Supermini 2 (13-16) Champion from the Rocky Mountain ATV/MC AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship. Ty was not able to attend the ceremony.

Top-three finishers were recognized from six regional championships and 21 national championships, representing all disciplines of AMA-sanctioned competition.

In addition to the competition awards, in many years the AMA recognizes the AMA Sportsman of the Year. AMA Sportsmen of the Year may be ambassadors, competitors, promoters or others who go above and beyond to elevate the sport or demonstrate exceptional fairness or selflessness in AMA-sanctioned activity.

The 2017 AMA Sportsman of the Year was Jody Barry. At the Daytona 200 in March, a fellow rider crashed and was trapped under his burning motorcycle. Barry stopped, lifted the crashed bike and freed the rider.

"I had gone down, too, and I was going to get my bike when I saw him waving at me," said Barry, who was the 2016 recipient of the AMA Horizon Award in road racing. "I saw that his bike was on fire and he was stuck there, so I had to lift up the bike a little bit and drag him a little bit to get him free."

Sponsors and supporters of the 2017 AMA Championship Banquet included Brush Hero, Motion Pro, Maxima, Rocky Mountain ATV MC, IMS, Bridgestone, My Laps, Riders of Kawasaki, Feld Entertainment, Spot LLC, Iron Pony, Mechanics Wear and Ask Powersports.

Other award winners announced at the banquet were:

AMA Motocross Organizer of the Year
2X Promotions

AMA Off-Road Organizer of the Year
North American Trials Council

AMA Track Racing Organizer of the Year
WERA Motorcycle Roadracing

AMA ATV Organizer of the Year
Western New York Off-Road Association

AMA Recreational Road Riding Organizer of the Year
Greater Akron M/C

AMA Recreational Off-Road Organizer of the Year
Penguins Motorcycle Club at Cal Poly

AMA Club of the Year
Christian Motorcyclists Association

AMA Media Award
Brian J. Nelson of Flagstaff, Ariz.



2018 AMA PRO HILLCLIMB SCHEDULE RELEASED

The Devil's Staircase returns for its 69th as the Series Finale!



DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. -- AMA Pro Hillclimb is pleased to announce its 2018 event schedule, which includes 10 events, four more than in 2017, and two new venues.

This unique form of motorsport, which dates to the early part of the 20th century (Harley-Davidson literature from 1910 mentions Motor Company hill climb victories), and was immortalized in the late Bruce Brown's On Any Sunday motorcycle documentary, has advanced quite a bit in the last two decades. Attendance is up, and the machinery being used in the Extreme and Unlimited classes is as radical as it comes -- with 300-plus-horsepower, multi-cylinder nitro-burning engines and wildly extended swingarms offering up crazed rides to the top of these steep and jump-laden hills.

The season kicks off on June 3 with the first of three events at the legendary White Rose Motorcycle Club hill climb in Spring Grove, PA. Two more events occur there, a night race on July 28 and a daytime fall event on September 23. The new venues include a Laconia hill climb event on June 13 during the massive Laconia Bike Week festivities (300,000-plus attend the weeklong celebration), and an August 11 event at the famed motocross facility at Millville, MN (the facility held hillclimbs through the 1970s until 1982).

Returning events include the June 10 and September 30 hill climbs at Bushkill Valley Motorcycle Club park in Freemansburg, PA, the August 5 event on Mount Garfield in Muskegon, MI, a September 15 event at Middle Tennessee Dragway in Buffalo Valley, TN, and the 2018 series finale on October 14 at the famed Devil's Staircase hill in Oregonia, Ohio.



2018 Schedule

June 3: White Rose Motorcycle Club, Spring Grove, PA

June 10: Bushkill Valley, Freemansburg, PA

June 13: Laconia Bike Week, Laconia, NH

July 28: White Rose Motorcycle Club (evening race), Jefferson, PA

August 5: Muskegon Motorcycle Club, Michigan, MI

August 11: Spring Creek MX Park: Millville, MN

September 15: Middle Tennessee Dragway, Buffalo Valley, TN

September 23: White Rose Motorcycle Club, Jefferson, PA

September 30: Bushkill Valley, Freemansburg, PA

October 14: Dayton MC Club/Devil's Staircase, Oregonia, OH

"2018 is looking to be a great year for American hill climbing," says series manager Rob Redmann. "We're running ten races this year, with two new venues, so it's going to be plenty exciting for fans and riders alike."

The action at any AMA Pro Hillclimb event is always hot and heavy, and given the history and difficulty of the hills on the schedule -- and the wild machines that navigate them -- fans and their families are sure to enjoy themselves. There are also VertiCross events this year at all events, which feature four bikes running the hills at once, side by side. It's hugely exciting, and fans love it.

HISTORY OF FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE

PART II OF A SERIES

Continued from last month

FERGUSON THE PIONEER



The 2CV "Sahara" was designed to meet the 1950's passion for African roads

The story of Harry Ferguson, a man who was probably ahead of his time, is interesting. Starting in 1950, the wealthy tractor manufacturer undertook the task of convincing the motor industry of the advantages of all-wheel drive for road cars, in terms of both safety and efficiency. However, if any manufacturer was impressed by his arguments, they did nothing to show it in terms of action.

Harry Ferguson Research built prototypes of a sedan with four-wheel drive and all-independent suspension—the engine was mounted in a sub-frame at the front, the transmission was semi-automatic, and the brakes were equipped with Dunlop's Maxaret anti-skid system.

A Mustang fitted with Ferguson "All-Wheel Control" and a Capri that followed it almost convinced Ford. Chrysler took out a license for production in the USA, and a transverse-engined Austin 1800 impressed BMC. The Ferguson system could have won at Indianapolis, but was banned by USAC before it could have a chance to make its mark.

In 1965, Jensen went into production with the Interceptor FF, a car relying heavily on Ferguson technology, using an uneven torque split of 63-percent rear and 37-percent front. However, of the 5000 or so Interceptors sold between 1966 and 1971, less than 400 were FF versions. The vehicle's downfall was its high price, lack of forceful marketing and promotion, and the failing of its Maxaret brakes.

With its name changed to FF (Ferguson Formula) Developments in 1972, the small British firm built two prototypes for Fiat on the base of a 130 and a 128. There was no immediate reaction from the Italian giant, but ten years later they used the principal of the epicyclic differential for both the Lancia Delta Turbo 4 x 4 and the Panda 4 x 4.

In 1979, AMC adopted the Ferguson system for use in its Eagle for the American market. In the meantime, Ferguson had perfected its Viscous Control system, which used a viscous coupling to achieve a progressive self-locking effect, and which was used in the rear-wheel drive Sunbeam Lotus Rally cars as a self-locking differential.

Unfortunately, AMC decided to revert to the less-sophisticated Quadra-Trac for its Jeeps and part-time 4x4 road cars, but then along came Peugeot. In the 205 Turbo, the differentials operated normally and had no effect on steering or road-holding. In the event of a lack of traction, the silicone-faced discs of the Ferguson coupling automatically locked almost completely, although there was a degree of slip similar to that which takes place in a hydraulic torque-converter. In order to cover all eventualities, Peugeot also used a conventional ZF limited-slip differential in the rear and made provision for a similar fitting at the front.



The Peugeot 205 Turbo 16, purpose-built brilliance.

All this mechanical complexity was designed to extract the maximum from a car weighing around 2000 pounds and propelled by an engine that developed more than 300 horsepower in competition trim. It served to show that there was almost no limit to the search for perfection in a four-wheel drive configuration, and consequently almost no limit to the costs involved.

The Advantages of a 4 Wheel Drive System on A Road Car - Not So Obvious at First

It took three years from the announcement of the Quattro before a serious motoring magazine—Germany's Auto Motor und Sport—carried out comparative tests that showed that four-wheel drive gave no advantage in terms of road-holding—on wet, dry, or snow-covered surfaces—no protection against aquaplaning or loss of control on black ice, and no reduction in braking distances. But four-wheel drive did improve grip—the ability to move away from rest and accelerate—phenomenally, because the engine's torque is split into four smaller units rather than two big ones and is fed through four tires rather than just two. The advantage is most noticeable on snow or wet surfaces, and even more so with a powerful engine.

An additional advantage is that under certain conditions, a 4x4 car also enjoys advantages in braking. The conditions are obtained when the two axles are locked. Ideally, the rear differential should also be locked, and in this configuration, no one wheel can lock before any of the others, a situation which compromises the stability of the car and its decelerative qualities. Until more recent advances in four-wheel drive systems, it was still possible that all four wheels would lock at the same time. This was a state of affairs that could arise only too easily when descending a snow-covered slope—exactly the occasion many people saw as the justification for purchase of a four-wheel drive car.

Again, we turn to the design of the Quattro to discover just how the Audi engineers developed such a brilliant system. With their design, the two driven axles shared the burdens of propelling and controlling the car, instead of having one overworked while the other had nothing to do, and this facility was coupled to great powers of acceleration. The driver could put the power on in the middle of a corner, well over the limit and much earlier than any other type of car previously built, and experience neither sliding nor unbalance.

Beyond the Road

It was during the early 1980s that the 4WD again became popular, signifying a lifestyle that could take the owner almost anywhere, even if the opportunities were limited in the world of concrete and freeways. They became popular in America, Europe and Australia, and it seemed as if all the major manufacturers wanted to have one in their lineup. At first, this allowed a niche for the smaller Japanese players, such as Suzuki with their popular LJ80 and Daihatsu with their F20 and subsequent Rocky. Along with the Land Rover, the true off-road vehicle was found to be lacking in such qualities as comfort, performance, road holding in the wet, and fuel consumption when it was primarily used on the road.

But things were about to change—the AMC Eagle and the Subaru Leone combined a light 4x4 chassis with family-car comfort, the Subaru even featuring a liquid crystal display instrument panel. Interested by the possibilities of the class, Toyota joined in with the Tercel 4x4 and they were followed by Renault, Fiat, and Alfa Romeo. These experiments in taking the family car off the beaten track had only two characteristics—they had four-wheel drive and they were looking for a market that nobody had defined.

ABATE of MICHIGAN

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Good Lord! It's snowing so hard outside I wish I had a snowmobile to get around on. It would be the perfect time to go from two wheels to one wide track with skis, dressed for ten-degree weather and a couple of destinations for a good ol' time!

Now down to business. We Michiganders have to worry about new bills being introduced in Lansing—HB 5517 and HB 5523, which could be catastrophic to us. These would repeal the no-fault benefits that all of us have. I'm no lawyer, but it sure does seem to me that something's up and it ain't good for bikers.

The seminar is over and Awareness did very good with getting supplies to all the Awareness Coordinators in each Region. Signs are a very hot item. A lot of Regions got the CD from CBS Radio and are getting with their local radio stations for the general public to hear. Let's hope that it will help save lives in one way or another by just letting the public hear about motorcycle awareness. I sure appreciate all that these volunteers do. Their hard work teaching and going to these schools to teach students motorcycle awareness is appreciated.

There is a lot of renewed excitement in Region 5. They are putting together school assembly exposure programs for motorcycle awareness and I can't wait to see how it turns out.

One last thing: I was going to attend the Region 6 meeting this Sunday, but the weather is just too unpredictable. I wanted to see Lil Ice Man who is working very hard with legislation and now awareness, and Bea and Gerry are helping him by working together. They are a good example of what hard work and cooperation can do.

I was given a handmade wood-carved plaque from Region 20 at the Seminar and it says "Save a Biker—Open your eyes and get off your Damn Phone". The plaque will be auctioned off for awareness, so stay tuned! Thank you for the great donation.

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

Hot Rod

State Awareness Director



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Bullet Points



WHEN SIZE MATTERS

BY RICK WYATT



By the time you are reading this, I will have celebrated another anniversary of my arrival on this earth, and yes, dirt and I did arrive simultaneously. In my view, growing older may be mandatory, but growing up is still optional; and the next fool who tells me to act my age is liable to get a size 12 square in their ass. On the other hand, being well seasoned has taught me that buying one's own birthday present ensures that the color and size are always right. This year a new black Harley Ultra meets both criteria, but because I sometimes can't trust my left hip and knee (hard life and occupational choices, not age) I have gone to a third wheel. But in the wind is in the wind, and hopefully I will be visiting many of the places and events I read about in this magazine. Thank you, Town and Country HD!

Now down to business: what kind of protection are you carrying when you are cruising on your scoot? No, I ain't talking about that thing you carry in your wallet, hoping to get lucky. Shortly after I started writing this column, I wrote about concealed carry on your motorcycle and I focused primarily on 9mm firearms. My Glock 43 is still one of my favorites because of its weight, balance, accuracy, and ease of concealment. However, sometimes a smaller, more compact bullet-launcher is more practical; and a .380 auto may fill the bill.

The 9mm Kurtz (or "short," as it is called in Europe) was the brain-child of John Browning. In 1909, he was attempting to build an auto-loader based on .38 caliber revolver ammo, but trial and error proved that rimmed cartridges and auto pistols do not mix. This led to the development of .38 ACP (which performed poorly, but would eventually lead to the modern .38 Super) and eventually the modern .380 ACP. Its compact size and short cyclic action have made the .380 a popular caliber for generations, best known as the first choice of James Bond (Walther PPK), but also credited with starting WWI when one was used to assassinate Archduke Ferdinand and his wife in June of 1914. The round is not intended for long-range marksmanship, but in close quarters self-defense utilizing modern personal protection ammunition, a .380 can be a life-saving asset. The biggest drawback with a .380 is the cost—30-40% more than 9mm weapons.

There are many good quality .380s in the market. Unfortunately, there are just as many that fall into the category of "I wouldn't want to bet my life on it." When you shop the micro-pistol market, you have a high end populated by Kimbers, Sigs, and Colts, which run \$600 and up; and a low end at \$250 or less.

In the middle of the price range, I find three firearms I would have no qualms about recommending to a shooter looking to go micro for concealed carry. One of the most highly touted is the S&W Bodyguard which is an adequate gun for its \$300-\$375 price. The one thing I dislike most about the BG .380 is it is a double action only with a horrendously long trigger pull, which can affect accuracy.

Next on my list is the Glock 42, which is a little larger in both price and size than the others. The close-to-\$500 price tag gets you the peace of mind of Glock reliability. Like all Glocks, the 42 is striker fire, which gives it a much shorter trigger pull than the Smith. Like most of its kin off the shelf, the trigger feels a bit to the heavy side. (Not to change the subject, but you really need to pull the trigger on the new Glock 19X.)

The micro that is really starting to grow on me is the new Ruger LCP II. Unlike the original double-action-only LCP, the slide sets the hammer on the LCP II as it cycles, resulting in a much shorter and crisper trigger action. Unlike the first LCPs, the new generation locks open on an empty magazine. To keep things safe, Ruger also employs a Glock-style safety trigger to help prevent accidental discharge.

All three of these pistols are easily carried in a pocket holster (to keep the gun in an upright position with the trigger covered) in your vest, jacket, pants or chaps pocket without advertising to the world you are carrying a gun. All are available with laser options for those who feel the need to shoot with a crutch, and none of them will break the bank if you are serious about concealed carry for protection.



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THE CRAZY COYOTE

After deer season, I like to do some predator hunting. I use a mouth call which sounds like a rabbit in distress, but also have an electronic caller that mimics several calls of different kinds of animals.

Attracting coyotes is very challenging.

The day was in February and it was cold outside.

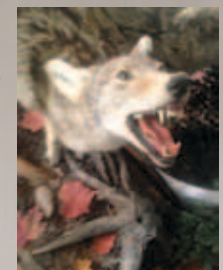
At the crack of dawn, I was sitting on the edge of a hardwoods with a clearing around four hundred yards. I used my mouth call for a bit and then stopped. I saw movement inside the woods. Not one, but two coyotes came out and stood on the edge of the opening to the woods. I needed them to get closer because I had my shotgun with me instead of my rifle.

I called again and they began coming toward me, side by side. They stopped about a hundred yards away and looked at each other. Right from that spot, they split—one coming right at me, and the other one moving around behind me. I had my gun up and ready for the one walking up toward me. He stopped and I shot him. He went down.

I looked for the other coyote, but he took off. I got up and walked over to the coyote and kicked him in the behind to make sure he was dead—but he wasn't! He reared up at me with his mouth open and growling, an unbelievable sound I will never forget. He was just inches away from biting me. I reacted fast, took the butt of my gun and hit him in the head, to put him on the ground.

When he hit the ground, he took off like a rocket. I swung my gun around and shot, and he went rolling. Not taking chances, I kept my gun pointed right at him, but this time, he was done.

What a rush.



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



The Michigan Grand Slam is the title given for having the state record 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. 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. Crow Man is of that select few.

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Sturgis, MI. 49091 / 269-651-2464

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Cycle Insurance Headquarters
Grand Rapids, MI
616-827-0816 / www.viwins.com

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PARTY STORES & MORE

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Deli-Pizzeria-Bait Shop

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