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COVER

OWNERS Mike Frederick & Bruce Bosley

PHOTO James Katt

LOCATION Discount Towing, Midland MI

BIKE OWNERS Bruce Bosley, Bob Butters, Sarah Oswald, Pat & Sandy Streng, Charles Peters

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jason Waechter, Brian "Bman" Mckay, Stacie Rene', Sharon K. Harvey "Red", Ben Schanz,

Hot Rod Beaton, Geneva, Rick Wyatt, Ron Johnson, Jim Schulz, R.H. Swan, Earl Lackie, Barb Wilson, TRIA

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STAFF THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN

STATE OWNER / PUBLISHER

Jody Mohowitsch

P.O. Box 1782, Midland, MI 48641-1782

Office 989-486-8464 / Cell 989-615-5757 / Fax 866-678-2423

Jody@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Barbara L. Garner / ART DIRECTOR

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Barb Wilson

WEBSITE DESIGN

William McKenzie

ADVERTISING SALES / DISTRIBUTION

Bay City / Akron / Caro

"Billy D" 989-598-0644

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Alyssa Locke 616-724-9960

Alyssa@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com

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Toni McCoy Shearon & Brian Shearon
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Thunder Publishing, LLC Offices: 615-792-0040
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LETTER FROM THE OWNER

Ron Finch!

I am very excited about this special edition of Thunder Roads featuring Ron Finch. My friend Denise and I made a trip to his shop and had a fun day of taking pics, hearing stories, and looking at Ron's many many amazing creations from motorcycles to art, both indoors and out. When we arrived Ruth (Ron's wife) had an amazing homemade lunch prepared for us. We felt right at home immediately, surrounded by their generous hospitality.

I nearly had a heart attack when I walked into the bathroom and was greeted by a very large stuffed animal serpent in the bathtub! When you're not expecting to see a serpent, it tends to catch you off guard. What a great day and fun time we had! Sending out a special thank-you again to Ron, Ruth, and daughter Caryn.

Both Ron Finch and Vince Consiglio (President of ABATE of Michigan) are going to be inducted into the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame in August. Next month we will be interviewing and featuring Vince for all of the hard work he has done for ABATE, which directly affects us as Michigan motorcyclists.

The 6th Annual Michigan Thunder Run Ride 'n Win Contest has officially begun! Dust off those Ride Cards or sign up for a new one, but get out there and start checking in at the stops that are listed in this issue. We have some new stops this year for you to check out, along with some of our favorite places from past years. Just make sure you get your Free Ride Card and participate. There is no catch, folks—you have a chance of winning prizes at each stop and you can check in every week! If you know a biker-friendly establishment or have a suggestion for one, please email me at Editor@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com and we will check it out.

Be sure to like Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan on Facebook to keep up-to-date with the latest happenings. Also, if you haven't checked out our Thunder Store, make sure to do so by going to www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com. If you order a T-shirt or hoodie, email me a picture and you might be featured in a future issue showing your support in one of our Thunder Cams!

Want to join our team and become a representative for Thunder Roads Michigan? I am looking for part-time seasonal sales representatives all over Michigan. Contact me and I will fill you in on the details.

When you pick up a copy each month, please remember our advertisers when you are looking to get a cool jacket, have a great meal, get your motorcycle tweaked or need some legal assistance; you know they have good taste and we recommend them! Thank you to all of our loyal advertisers—we appreciate you! Thank you, readers, for your support and making *Thunder Roads Magazine* #1!

Now for some "Mo" Advice:

Better to be the head of a chicken than the tail of a bull.

Jody Mohowitsch
"Jody Mo"

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JUNE 2019 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN 3



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The Positive Shift




Beating Self-Doubt!

As you go throughout your day, when is the last time you stopped to think...what's my next chapter? If not, why not? If so, what's your plan? Is it your own personal self-doubt and negative thoughts that are prohibiting you from moving forward?

It doesn't matter what your age is or where you are in life. A lot of us wake up every morning and aren't sure where we're going in life or what's next. The world is constantly changing and giving us challenges—especially when we are comparing ourselves to each other, living up to others expectations and putting unnecessary pressure on yourself. Stop looking around, comparing yourself to everyone else and get a new goal or chapter figured out

Let's make it easy and focus on two things. When you are self-doubting yourself or holding back from fear, start using Cancel, Clear, Delete (CCD). Those three words should be used when you're doubting yourself, having negative thoughts or feel wishy-washy. Say the CCD three times over and over. Then say a mantra you can easily remember. Here's one to get you started: Every day in every way, I am better, better and BETTER!

If you use these two simple steps every time you have self-doubt or a negative thought, it will change your mindset. If you have to say the CCD and Mantra 100 times a day to retrain your mind, that's totally fine.

Why do this, you ask? It's simple; the CCD and Mantra gets you to stop the negative thought and self-doubt because you are saying the CCD and Mantra. It gives you time to refocus and get your mind back on track.

Now, shift gears, go for your goals and use the Positive Shift of the CCD and Mantra to move you forward!

Until then...Don't Coast in Neutral, Positive Shift Ahead!

~ Stacie René www.positiveshiftahead.com



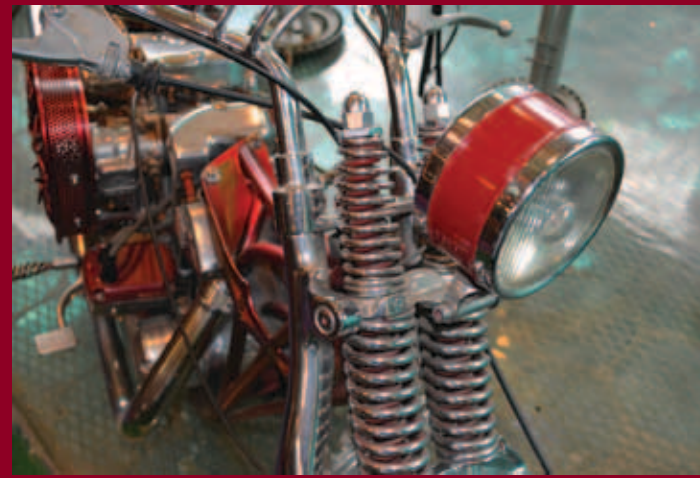
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Ron Finch's Aorta



Aorta



The Aorta is the main artery that carries blood to the heart. Ron Finch has named his 1970 Ironhead Sportster after that vein. The rods that make up the frame appear to be arteries that flow toward the motor or the heart of the motorcycle. The frame is actually two parts, held together by the engine, a concept that was conceived by Finch and referred to by him as his "suitcase motorcycle." It could be disassembled into three parts and carried in a suitcase!

The rear fender houses the gas tank and is molded with flame tips and a "frenched" license plate. The oil tank is an aluminum cylindrical tank that was used in the 1950s. It has been modified to clear the one-off custom straight pipe exhaust.

The front end is an old Harley JD Springer. The handlebars are custom-made to eliminate the risers and stimulate a tiny windshield. The headlight was purchased by Ron at an antique auction—the history is unknown.

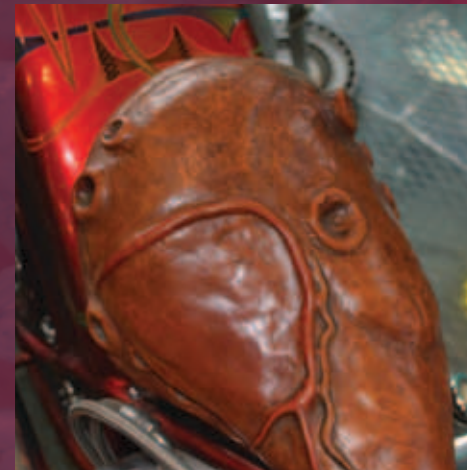


The 1000 cubic-inch engine has polished cases, a Joe Hunt Magneto, S&S carb and Sifton cam. The air cleaner was hand-formed in the shape of a heart with arteries made of metal rods.

Leatherman of Flint, Michigan molded the leather seat in the shape of a human heart. The battery is encased in leather that

has been dyed and molded to match the seat, and the grips are braided in leather.

Ron Finch finished this beauty in the spring of 1982, one year after his serious motorcycle accident when he was rear-ended by a drunk driver at 50 mph. He suffered a crushed pelvis and a broken hip socket; doctors predicted that he would never walk again. Ron was walking and riding within three months!



BIKE NIGHTS

TUESDAY

- *Track Side Food & Spirits ~ REESE*
- *Hi-Way Inn ~ MANISTEE*

WEDNESDAY

- *River Rock Bar & Grill ~ ST. LOUIS*
- *702 Bar & Grill ~ MIDLAND*
- *Sholty's Bar ~ LANSING*
- *Zone 18 Bar & Grill ~ PRUDENVILLE*
- *The Rusty Nail ~ CARSON CITY*
- *Baldwin Bowling Center ~ BALDWIN*
- *Riverdale Tavern ~ RIVERDALE*
- *Shot n Shell Bar ~ ESSEXVILLE*
- *Iron Horse ~ AKRON*

THURSDAY

- *Stingers Bar & Grill ~ WIXOM*
- *Office Lounge & Grill ~ OSCODA*
- *Thee Office Pub & Cookery ~ ROMEO*
- *Ghost Town Saloon ~ ELWELL*
- *Rocco's Bar & Grill ~ ESSEXVILLE*

FRIDAY

- *Davison Eagles ~ DAVISON*
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(These Bike Nights are supporters / advertisers of Thunder Roads Magazine of MI)

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SATURDAY

- *Knoll View Golf ~ Au Gres (4-9 PM)*
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SUNDAY

- *Decker's Lounge ~ MIDLAND (ALL DAY)*
- *Woody's Bancroft Tavern ~ BANCROFT*
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- *Stingers Bar & Grill ~ WIXOM*
(2 WHEEL WEEKENDS)



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I'm sitting here contemplating how I can reach out to the biker community and how much work it takes to deal with all the ups and downs that come with the different situations that arise across the beautiful state of Michigan. I'm listening to the Lynyrd Skynyrd song, "Up on Cripple Creek," and right after that comes "Whiskey Man" by Molly Hatchet, it hit me like a ton of bricks. You just keep truckin' and deal with all the crap that comes your way. You are not always right and listening goes a long way. There are some very intelligent bikers that you will come across when you are out and about, going to events and volunteering, participating, and being part of so many things that suit your fancy. Just look at all the great places and areas covered by Thunder Roads Michigan and it just might make you wanna crank up that throttle and head out because we all need to get our heads clear and you would be surprised at who you might run into. It will just make your day! Put "Got No Shame" from Brother Cane on the radio and off you go.

ABATE has a very important event coming up on June 5th at noon. Like our President Vince Consiglio says: "If you are concerned about motorcycle insurance, motorcycle-only checkpoints, rider education, AWARENESS, keeping your helmet choice options or any motorcycle issues, then plan to be there" on the Capitol steps in Lansing. You can impress upon your State Representative that we ride and will vote in the election year! Hell Yeah!

During the upcoming months, you will see ABATE at swap meets and county parks with their exhibit booths. Please get a yard sign, bumper sticker, or wrist band. It will help us out a lot.

We have our ABATE Field Meet coming up on June 7th, 8th, and 9th at the Sturgeon Valley Campground in Wolverine, MI. If you would like to come and participate, you can join ABATE at the gate and hang out with some outstanding people who stick-up and fight for bikers' rights. Whether you are a club member or independent, we appreciate everyone and you don't have to own a bike. You may have had a friend or relative who got hurt on a motorcycle and you want to help us—please join. The more the merrier! Just like Hank Williams Jr. says: "A Country Boy Can Survive."

God bless everyone and be respectful of everyone you encounter in your life. You will be paid back tenfold for kindness.

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

Hot Rod Beaton

ABATE State Awareness Director



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VETERANS CORNER



Welcome to another month of the Veteran's Corner. The weather is finally broken and it is warming up. Which means it's time to ride...there are a lot of brothers and sisters who ride. With that in mind, this article is focusing on all of you out there that would like to ride or even volunteer to help other veterans. There are several motorcycle groups that veterans can get in touch with to ride or participate in with your brothers- and sisters-in-arms. I would like to introduce to some so you can find a place where you feel comfortable and still have some great camaraderie that most of us desperately yearn for.

FIRST, A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT VETERANS AND MOTORCYCLE CLUBS.

Veterans and motorcycles. It's hardly a stretch to imagine the two together, thundering down the open road, soaking up sunshine, reveling in freedom, open to new adventures... And if you add just a few more riders to the scenario, you've got camaraderie, support, a shared sense of purpose...maybe even a kind of family. Which is what you had when you were in the military. At least that's what the members of the earliest post-WWII motorcycle clubs found.

Many fresh-from-the-war vets found that transitioning back into the American status quo was more difficult (and perhaps more boring) than they had imagined. Some could only find true understanding and appreciation in the company of other vets. Factor in the fact that Army surplus motorbikes were going for peanuts, and you've got an "outlaw" motorcycle club. It should be noted that the original "outlaw" tag wasn't necessarily because the first groups engaged in criminal activity, but because they refused to operate under the umbrella of the American Motorcycle Association, which at that time was the largest official motorcycle club in the US. Since then, the term "Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG)" has taken on a much more literal meaning. While nearly all of today's military-only clubs operate within the bounds of the law, there are a couple who have managed to blur the lines a bit. And, if we're to believe some reports, actual OMGs don't suffer from a shortage of veteran members. I have had the opportunity to meet some members from the following organizations and found the camaraderie and purpose of belonging along with helping out other veterans quite helpful to be able to reconnect with something they felt they have lost. So, whether you are active, guard, reserve, retired, or just a veteran, please take a moment to look into these groups. They may be just what you need.

The American Infidels: americaninfidelsvmc.com

As a national organization, American Infidels VMC can be found promoting the American Way and veteran organizations across the country. We host our own fundraisers, motorcycle rides, and parties as well as attend pro-veteran, pro-military, and pro-American functions.

Michigan American Legion Riders: michiganlegion.org/riders

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans' homes, severely wounded servicemembers, and scholarships. Since 2006, riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of US military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association: www.combatvet.us

Our mission follows: To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activity associated with veterans. To create and maintain camaraderie among combat veterans from all US branches of service and its allies. To support veteran organizations. To raise awareness for the plight of POWs, MIAs, and their families. To conduct association functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, as well as the association's auxiliary members. To encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riding as a constructive sport among members of the public, press, and law enforcement agencies.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association of Michigan is comprised of four chapters based on geographical region:

CHAPTER 35-1 encompasses the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the northern region of the Lower Peninsula.

CHAPTER 35-2 encompasses the central area of the Lower Peninsula.

CHAPTER 35-3 is based in the SE part of Michigan from the Thumb Area south & east of I-75.

CHAPTER 35-4 encompasses the western area of the Lower Peninsula

Patriot Guard Riders: www.patriotguard.org

OUR MISSION

The Patriot Guard Riders is a 100% volunteer, federally registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring fallen military heroes, first responders, and honorably discharged veterans.

OUR VISION

The Patriot Guard Riders are a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security, including fallen military heroes, first responders and honorably discharged veterans. If you share this respect, please join us.

We don't care what you ride or if you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're a hawk or a dove. It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is; you don't even have to ride. The only prerequisite is respect.

Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives:

Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.

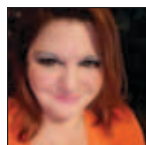
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We accomplish the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.

To those of you who are currently serving and fighting for the freedoms of others, at home and abroad, please know that we are backing you. We honor and support you with every mission we carry out, and we are praying for a safe return home for all.

So, as you are out riding and you see a vest or patch with a veteran affiliation, please take time to get to know them and ask about their group. It just might be what you been looking for.

Hope you all had a wonderful Memorial Weekend and looking forward to writing about my trip to Washington DC for the Memorial Day Parade.



SHARON K. HARVEY
(RET) TSGT, USA/USAF
"REDHEART"

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THE MOTORCYCLE LAWYER ON THE LAW

Motorcyclist vs. Distracted Driver

Three Proposed New Laws



With the prevalent use of cell phones on a constant basis in our country, even while operating a motor vehicle, there has been a correlated increase in vehicle crashes caused by distracted drivers using their cell phones. Over the years, millennials have become some of the biggest texting-while-driving offenders, also using their cell phones to talk and scrolling through social media while behind the wheel.

According to The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there were over 3,000 people killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2017, and 72 of those were in Michigan. Young drivers (16-24 years old) have been observed using handheld

electronic devices at higher rates than older drivers for over a decade and, in Michigan alone, drivers under the age of 20 accounted for 20-percent of all motor vehicle crashes where a cell phone was being used. Obviously, when a motorcyclist is the victim of such a crash, they are more susceptible to significant injuries and fatality.

Police Reports Now Have 'Distracted Driving' Section

In 2010, Michigan law was implemented prohibiting texting while driving. In 2015, it was found that Michigan state leaders were having difficulty defining how many crashes are actually caused by distracted driving. This led to the 2016 revision of Form UD-10, the standard traffic accident form completed by law enforcement for every crash. The form now includes a section which prompts the officer to ask questions regarding distractions. Officials believe this will greatly impact the accuracy of the reported numbers but are bracing for those numbers to climb. Meanwhile, more legislation is on the horizon which points to more change.

Three "Distracted Driving" Bills Currently Proposed

The staggering statistics I've shared may just be why Michigan legislators have proposed **three** bills this year regarding the use of electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. The bills (HB 4181, 4198 and 4199) have been referred to the House Transportation Committee, with hearings to be scheduled soon. I've summarized each one, below.

- **BILL 4181:** In a most basic analysis, it revises the prohibitions and penalties regarding a driver's use of electronic devices while driving. This new bill proposes the inclusion of most all "mobile electronic devices," not just cell phones. Therefore, it would be against the law to use a tablet, laptop computer, texting device, etc. The bill also prohibits operating a vehicle while wearing music headphones, using social media and viewing, recording or transmitting video on a device. After three violations, a court could suspend an individual's driver's license for up to 90 days.
- **BILL 4198:** This bill prohibits texting, emailing, using social media while driving. It would also prohibit anyone under 18 years old from *any* cell phone use while driving.
- **BILL 4199:** This bill merely ups the fine for operating a vehicle while texting from \$100 to \$250 first offense, from \$200 to \$500 for second.

A source of mine within the Michigan government is of the opinion that a version of one of these bills would likely become law, considering the current governor's stance and commitment on the issue of distracted driving.

In the meantime, we don't have to wait for legislation to make change. As you no doubt spread the word about watching for motorcycles, start including some thoughts about distracted driving. Make changes to your own habits and lead by example. And, as always, ride safe.

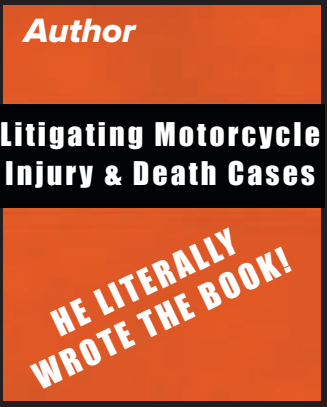
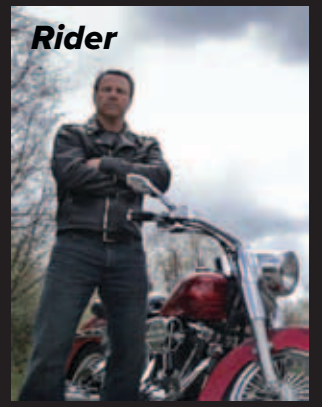


Attorney Jason A. Waechter is a Michigan attorney specializing in the areas of motorcycle and motor vehicle injury litigation, as well as Michigan's Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law. Mr. Waechter has collected millions of dollars in settlements, awards and verdicts for his motorcycle clients over the past 25 years. A portion of each case settled goes to education 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.motorcyclawyerinmichigan.com.

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The JOKERS WILD

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In A Laundromat -

Automatic Washing Machines: Please Remove All Your Clothes When The Light Goes Out

In An Office -

Will The Person Who Took The Step Ladder Yesterday Please Bring It Back Or Further Steps Will Be Taken

Outside A 2nd Hand Shop -

We Exchange Anything...Bicycles, Stoves, Skate Boards, Etc. Why Not Bring Your Wife Along & Get A Wonderful Bargain?

Notice In Health Food Shop Window -

Closed Due To Entire Staff Being Sick

Seen During A Conference -

For Anyone Who Has Children & Doesn't Know It, There Is A Day Care On The 1st Floor

Notice In A Farmer's Field -

The Farmer Allows Walkers To Cross The Field For Free, But The Bull Charges

Message On A Leaflet -

If You Can Not Read, This Leaflet Will Tell You How To Get Free Lessons

On A Repair Shop Door -

We Can Repair Anything. (Please Knock Hard On The Door - The Bell Is Currently Broke)

These Headlines Were In Various Local Papers:

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife

Hospitals Are Sued By 7 Foot Doctors

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Astronaut Takes Blame For Gas In Spacecraft

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

It would be cool to petition to have Barbara Walters on the New Year's ball drop next year just so she can proclaim, 'I'm Barbara Walters and this is 2020.'

A Singles Ad that appeared in the Atlanta Journal:

Single black female seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl that loves to party and adores long walks in the woods, camping, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, fishing, and cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Also loves candlelight dinners and will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Call: xxx-xxx-xxxx and ask for Daisy.

Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society about an 8 week old black Labrador Retriever.

I was visiting my daughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

'This is the 21st century, Mom....we don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad.'

I can tell you this....that dang fly never knew what him!

How to please a woman:

Love Her

Die for her

Take her to dinner several times a week

Buy her jewelry

Actually listen to what she has to say

How to please a man:

Show up naked

Bring beer

So Lil' Johnny comes home with a note from the teacher and gives it to his Mom to read. She reads it and looks at Lil' Johnny in the most shocked way that he'd ever seen. He says, "Mom, I don't know what that note says but honestly, the Teacher has been in 5th grade for 16 years so there's gotta' be some kinda' issue going on there don't you think?"



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Wall of Death

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Trophy Girl Contest

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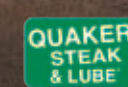
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June 7-9

FOWLerville MICHIGAN

Fowlerville Fairgrounds
August 16-18

CHILLICOthe OHIO

Ross County Fairgrounds
August 29-September 2



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2019 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



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More Sponsors!
More Chances
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PLUS GREAT PRIZES GIVEN AT EACH STOP!!!



1 NIGHT STAY EACH MONTH

Valid after Labor Day thru Mid-June
*based on resort availability



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T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, HATS, BANDANAS, COOZIES & SUBSCRIPTIONS!!

2019 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



The 6th Annual



HERE'S THE DETAILS

1. Go to any stop listed on "The Stops" pages with a Ride Card image by it- they have Ride Cards, where other stops do not. If you already have your card from a previous year, you DO NOT need to register again. The Ride Cards DO NOT EXPIRE so hold on to it. The information that you provide when you sign-up for your FREE Ride Card only goes to me and will NOT be used for any other purpose than this contest. You will not have to provide any other personal information again after this. You will be handed your FREE Ride Card right then. It has a unique number on it- take note because that is YOURS and ONLY YOURS.
2. Once you have your Ride Card go to any or all of the stops listed this month and show them your card! There are also event stops each month that you can check in at. Each Stop you hit will write your unique Ride Card number down. Let them know if you spent over \$10 there, because your Ride Card number will get counted twice!
3. Then pick up the following months issue to see if your Ride Card number is listed as a winner. You must check this each month as Thunder Roads staff WILL NOT CONTACT YOU and let you know you won. If your Ride Card number is listed as a winner then follow the simple instructions listed on the WINNERS page to claim your prize. Please note: You only have 45 days to claim your prize from the 1st the month it is listed in the magazine.

**Make sure to pick-up your copy each month of Thunder Roads or visit the website ThunderRoadsMichigan.com or check Facebook: Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan to see to see if your Ride Card # is listed as a winner from stops you made the previous month! (You will need to show them your Ride Card # along with the winning Ride Card # list to claim your prize).*

FEW FACTS

- Winners are randomly picked from each Registration/Ride Stops, Ride Stops & Event Stops each month.
- The more places you check-in the greater your chances are of winning a prize from that stop, multiple prizes and/or one of our sponsors prizes!
- If you spend \$10 or more at any Stop your Ride Card number gets counted twice! Please note: *The reason why this contest is FREE to you is because of our sponsors and stops. So we want to encourage everyone to support them in return. That is why we count your Ride Card number twice if you spend \$10 or more.*
- You can check-in 1 time each week at each Stop.
- Riders are able to win multiple prizes - based upon the drawing of their check-in.
- Some prize drawings are specific to only check-ins for the particular month - while others prizes are drawn from check-in's all summer Ride n' Win season long.

IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE!

1. Get Your Own Unique Michigan Ride Card (It Does Not Expire).
2. Get the list of Stops each month from Thunder Roads Magazine or the website.
3. Ride out to these stops and show them your Ride Card.
4. And then you could win cool prizes, including **COLD HARD CASH!**

Just Get Out & RIDE!



2019 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST

JUNE 2019 STOPS MAP



ALL STOPS



REG. FOR FREE RIDE CARD



RIDE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLY

Check Next Month's Issue To See If You Won!



2019 MICHIGAN THUNDER RUN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST

THE STOPS

For the month of June check-in at any of these stops (up to 1 time per week) and you could win the prize at that stop. Don't have a Ride card? You can sign-up for your FREE Ride Card at any of the stops listed with a Ride Card next to it (Ride Cards from previous years are still good as they DO NOT EXPIRE). Then check-in at ANY STOP with your Ride Card to win that prize. Make sure to pick up the next month's issue (or view the magazine online at www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com) or Facebook: Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan to see if your Ride Card number is listed as a winner from this month's stops. Sponsor prizes are randomly picked from event stops and the stops listed below. **Special Inside Tip... some stops get many check-ins and some stops only get a couple of people that check-in each month, which means you have an excellent chance of winning!**

702 Bar & Grill (1)

702 S. Jefferson Ave, Midland, MI 48640. (989) 835-2851 Hours: M-F 10:30 am-2:30 am, Sat & Sun Noon-2:30 am. 1 person wins a \$25 Gift Card each month. *Bike Nights Wednesday 6 pm-9 pm \$3 burgers, \$6.50 pitchers, Th Karaoke, Fri/Sat live bands.*

After Dark Fantasies (2)

152 E. Saginaw Rd Suite 1, Sanford, MI 48657. (989) 687-9669 Hours: Sun 11-6 pm, M-Th 10 am-9 pm, Fri/Sat 10 am-10 pm. 2 winners each month of a \$50 mystery gift bag. *Biker 20% discount - mention Thunder Roads, loyalty rewards, small business with the best customer service, friendly & knowledgeable.*

Bad River Bar & Grill (3)

103 N. Saginaw St, Saint Charles, MI 48655. (989) 865-6500 Hours: M-Sat 11 am-2 am, Sun Noon-Midnight. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. Great food, daily drink specials, great service & a great ride from anywhere in Michigan!

Baldwin Bowling Center (A)

708 Michigan Ave, Baldwin, MI 49304. (231) 745-4403 Hours: 11 am-11 pm daily. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Bike night Wednesday, great food, biker owned, outdoor patio.*

Decker's Lounge (4)

402 E. Ellsworth, Midland, MI 48640. (989) 835-7592 Hours: M-Sat 11 am-2 am, Sun Noon-Midnight. 1 person wins \$20 Gift Card each month. *Bike Day Sunday - All Day! \$5 deluxe burgers/ \$4 Rebel Yell, Wednesday steak night only \$6.50, Great Burgers, outdoor patio.*

Ghost Town Saloon (B)

6422 Pingree Rd, Elwell, MI 48832. (989) 463-4693 Hours: M-Th 11 am-10 pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-1 am, Sun Noon-8 pm. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Bike Nights Thursday 6 pm-10 pm. Outdoor patio, great food, corn hole, horseshoe pits.*

Great Lakes Harley-Davidson (C)

3850 S. Huron Rd (M-13), Bay City, MI 48706. (989) 686-0400 Hours: M-10 am-7 pm, T-F 10 am-6 pm, Sat 10-3, Sun closed. 1 person wins a \$25 gift card each month. *Great selection of new/used bikes & accessories- located in the heart of the tri-cities. (See ad this issue)*

Hell Saloon (D)

4095 Patterson Lake Rd, Pinckney (Hell), MI 48169. 734-648-0669 Hours: Open daily at 11 am, T, W, Th until midnight, Fri & Sat until 2 am, Sun & Mon until 10 pm. 1 person wins an awesome Hell Saloon T-shirt. *Great atmosphere, Hell themed fun, bike, horse, kayak & "whip" friendly! Sun live music 2-6, Fri & Sat bands 9pm-1 am.*

Hi-Way Inn (E)

715 Kosciusko St, Manistee, MI 49660. (231) 398-9188 Hours: M-Sat 11-2 am, Sun Noon-midnight. 1 person wins a \$15 Gift Card each month. *Bike Nights Tuesday 5-9 pm/Chicken Tacos \$1/Free Pool/Open Mic, Happy*

Hour M-Th 11-7 pm, Th Beef Tacos \$1. It's 5:00 Somewhere, Ice Cold Beer.

Iron Horse Bar & Grill (H)

3592 Main St, Akron, MI 48701. (989) 691-5761 Hours: Everyday 11am-2am. 1 person wins all you can eat wings each month. *Bike Night Wednesdays- specials, happy hour, thumbs largest biker bar. (See ad this issue).*

Knoll View Golf (I)

1020 E. Huron (US-23), Omer, MI 48749. (989) 876-4653 Hours: Daily 8 am-9 pm. 1 person wins \$20 gift card each month. *Bike Nights Saturday 4 pm-9pm \$2 domestics, patio seating, drink & food specials, biker owned, draft beer, bikers welcome anytime.*

McNastys Saloon (G)

19300 Waltz Rd, New Boston, MI 48164. (734) 753-4900 Hours: M 10am-10pm, T-Sat 10 am-2 am, Sun noon-10pm. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Great food, Great People, Great Times! Family owned with a Cheers atmosphere, try their fried pickle spears! A nice ride from anywhere.*

Midland Brewing Company (5)

5011 N. Saginaw Rd, Midland, MI 48642. (989) 259-7210 Hours: Sun 11-8 pm, M-Th 11-10 pm, Fri/Sat 11-11 pm. 1 person wins a \$25 gift card each month. *Best patio in town, cornhole, firepit, great food & beer.*

Remus Tavern (H)

118 W. Wheatland Ave, Remus, MI 49340. (989) 967-8304 Hours: Every Day 8:30 am-11 pm. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Full menu with great food; burritos, burgers, lake perch, daily drink specials, & breakfast.*

Riverdale Tavern (6)

6681 NW Lumberjack Rd, Riverdale, MI 48877. (989) 833-7042 Hours: Mon-Sat 8 am-10 pm, Sun Noon-8pm. 1 person wins a \$10 gift card each month. *Bike Night Wednesdays, outdoor area, 50 cent wings, monster 1/2 lb footlongs- dress your dog.*

River Rock Bar & Grill (7)

210 N. Mill St, St. Louis, MI 48880. (989) 681-2851 Hours: M-W 7am-10pm, Th 7 am- midnight, Fri/Sat 7am-2am, Sun 7am-9pm. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Bike Night Wednesdays with Food & Drink Specials, Bike Parking front or back patio area, great food, cold beer.*

Rocco's Bar & Grill (8)

692 West Center, Essexville, MI 48732. (989) 778-1399 Hours: M/T 10:30 am-8 pm, W/Th 10:30 am-11 pm, Fri/Sat 10:30 am-2:30 am, Sun Noon-8 pm. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Bike Night Thursdays -half lb burger/dom beer for \$6.50, Fish fry Fri perch/ cod 4-9 pm, grilled steak dinners Sat 4-9 pm, Karaoke Fri/Sat*

Shiawassee Harley-Davidson (I)

11901 N. Beyer Rd, Birch Run, MI 48415. (989) 624-4400 Hours: M-F 9-6, Sat 9-4, Sun 10-3. 1 person

wins a \$25 gift card each month. We are Michigan's All American dealer, easy on/off I-75 Birch Run exit.

Shohty's Bar (J)

1819 S. Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48910. (517) 372-3559 Hours: Sun-Th 11 am- Midnight, Fri & Sat 11 am-2 am. 50 cents off drinks if you ride in. *Bike Nights Wednesday, Karaoke Tues 8 pm- midnight, Awesome Patio, cheapest drinks in town, ice cold beer.*

Shot n Shell Bar (9)

201 Woodside Ave, Essexville, MI 48732. (989) 894-4290 Hours: Sun noon-2 am, M-Sat 10 am-2 am. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Bike Nights Wednesday & free pool, great food, outdoor seating with entertainment on weekends in summer.*

Stables Martini & Cigar Bar (a)

804 E. Midland St, Bay City, MI 48706. (989) 891-0100 Hours: T- Sun 4 pm-? 1 person wins \$20 gift card. *Cigars, food, music nightly, outdoor patio, pool table.*

The Blue Bar & Restaurant (b)

1981 N. Winn Rd, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. (989) 644-8301 Hours: 3 pm- close daily. 1 person wins a \$10 gift card each month. *Great food, great ride from anywhere.*

The Rusty Nail (d)

10002 Carson City Rd (M57), Carson City, MI 48811. (989) 584-3313 Hours: Daily 6 am-9 pm or later. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Bike Night Wednesday \$2 domestic beer all day & night, outdoor patio, great food.*

Wet Spot Bar (aka Beach House) (e)

198 N. Shore Dr. Crystal, MI 48891. (989) 235-4969 Hours: Sun noon-11 pm, M-Th 11:30 am-11 pm, Fri/Sat 11:30 am-2 am. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Great food, outdoor patio*

Wil-Lew Lounge (g)

3005 E. Midland Rd, Bay City, MI 48706. (989) 684-9109 Hours: M-Fri 11 am-?, Sat/Sun 7 am-?. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card. *Patio, Great food, Taco Tues, Wedns 50 cent Wings/Trivia, Music Th-Sat 8 pm/ Sun 6 pm-10 pm*

Woody's Bancroft Tavern (K)

119 Warren St, Bancroft, MI 48414. (989) 634-5455 Hours: M-Sat 11 am-close, Sun Noon-10 pm. 1 person wins a \$25 gift card each month. *Bike Day Sundays Noon- 1/2 Lb Burger & Fries with Domestic Draft \$10*

Zone 18 Bar & Grill (L)

700 East Houghton Lake Dr, Prudenville, MI 48651. (989) 366-7750 Hours: M-Th 11 am- Midnight, Fri & Sat 11 am-1 am, Sun Noon- Midnight. 1 person wins a \$20 gift card each month. *Bike Nights Wednesday, 75 cent wings, Long Island Ice Tea specials.*



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO A BURN CAMP FOR KIDS OPERATED BY THE GREAT LAKES BURN CAMP

SATURDAY JUNE 8TH

Flint Axemen ~ MI 6 Fun Run

Meet at SCOOTERS BAR & GRILL
6004 Torrey Rd. Flint, MI
Registration 10am ~ All Bikes out by Noon
Donations Only
For more info call **Halsey at 517-861-0457**
or **Dan at 248-227-8055**

SATURDAY JUNE 15TH

Nozzlemen M/C Ride

Starts at Brighton HD & Ends at New Hudson Inn
Registration 3pm ~ Ride leaves 4:30pm
\$20 Bike / \$30 with Rider or \$50 Ride with
Food, Music & 50/50 Raffle Drawing.
For more info call **Michael Moore 734-386-9292**

SATURDAY JUNE 29TH

2nd Annual BKMC 37 Burn Run

Registration / Ride Starts at the
Richland Township Fire Station
8755 3rd Ave, Vestaburg, MI
Registration 10am, Kickstands up 11am
Food, Drinks, Music
For more info go to **www.brotherskeepersmc.com**

SATURDAY JULY 13TH

3rd Annual Nozzlemen M/C Chapter 4 Poker Run

Starts / Ends at Uncle Lyles
108 Tecumseh St, Dundee, MI
Register 11am - 1pm
All Welcome, Food, 50/50, Prizes & More
Pre-Register by 6/29 \$25 Driver, \$40 Rider/Passenger
or day of event \$30/\$50
For more info call **Dave (Pappy) 734-735-7831**

SUNDAY JULY 14TH

Red Knights Firefighters M/C Poker Run

Meet at WOLVERINE HD
44660 N. Gratiot Ave
Clinton Twp, MI 48036
Regis 11 am- 12:30 pm, \$15 per bike/ \$10 rider
Food, Door Prizes, 50/50, Music & More
For more info call **Chris 586-557-0892**
Facebook: **Red Knights Firefighters M/C MI 5 Events**

SATURDAY & SUNDAY JULY 20TH & 21ST

18th Annual Niles Burn Run

SATURDAY 9am-10pm BIKE / CAR SHOW & MUSIC
Join us **SATURDAY**
at RIVERFRONT PARK 10am-11pm
BIKE SHOW ~ FOOD ~ LIVE BANDS ~ VENDORS RIDE ON SUNDAY
Police, Fire & EMS Escorted
Registration 9am ~ Ride Leaves at Noon
\$20 Bike / \$30 with Rider IF PRE-REGISTERED BY JUNE 24TH
AFTER THEN \$25 Bike / \$35 with Rider
For more info
Visit website **www.nilesburnrun.com**
or **Facebook** or **Twitter**

SUNDAY, SUNDAY, SUNDAY AUGUST 4TH

Escort Kids to Camp Great Lakes Burn Camp

Meet at WINGS STADIUM
3600 Vanrick Drive (Sprinkle Road), Kalamazoo MI
Registration 10am-12:30pm ~ Ride Leaves 1pm
PRIZES ~ FOOD ~ 50/50
For more info call **Bill 517-206-1115**

NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT



Hello, and thanks for stopping by.

Politics is not everyone's favorite subject, but it is something that affects every one of us.

It has affected me so much that I am running for office, because I see career politicians doing nothing but juggling their vote to monetary gain. Let's get back to the way our Constitution was designed to be used by the average middle-class person—like me and you—to step up and use some common sense and do what's right for the good of all people.

Okay, enough podium pounding...

I would like to give you my thoughts about subjects as I write my columns for Thunder Roads. Since it is spring and we are all getting our bikes out—remember that “cages” are still not used to seeing us. Even worse are the people on cell phones. Anyone holding an electronic device (cell phone) statistically has given up 70-80 % of their concentration. A better choice is a vehicle that has a built-in phone, or even using earbuds with a hands-free option; the distraction rate drops to 20-30 %. I have seen people on I-75 using tablets and laptops, along with their phones, while driving!

One of the first laws I would like to get passed is No Hand-Held Electronic Devices while the vehicle is in motion. To me, that is common sense.

I would appreciate any and all comments—positive or negative—and any topics you would like to know my thoughts on. To learn more about me, please go to my website below.

Remember to thank a veteran; your freedom to read this and my freedom to write it are because of their sacrifice.

As always, BE SAFE!

Earl Lackie

EarlLackieforcongress.com

lackieforcongress@gmail.com

P.S. We are looking for volunteers. Right now, we need signature gatherers for the 5th Congressional District. Thank you.

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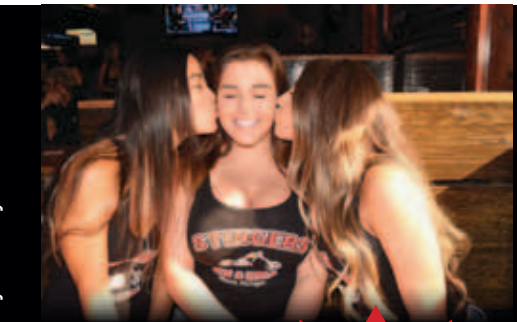


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NO-FAULT NO-FEE...

If you were struck by an automobile, you are entitled to Michigan No-Fault Benefits, including lifetime medical benefits, wage loss and attendant care. These benefits are payable regardless of fault and if you are seriously injured, you may not even need a lawyer to get your benefits. So why would you pay a lawyer a fee to collect what is rightfully yours? We will guide you through the claims process, BUT...unless we have to file a lawsuit...we will never charge an injured biker a fee to help them collect the no-fault benefits they deserve. Other lawyers take 33% of their client's no-fault benefits, even when the insurance company is cooperating. We think that's flat out WRONG! If your lawyer is taking a cut of your no-fault benefits every month, call us. WE CAN HELP!



**WE CARE,
BECAUSE WE RIDE
TOO!**

RESULTS MATTER:

- \$5.1 Million for Closed Head Injury
- \$1.2 Million for Seriously Injured Passenger
- \$1.2 Million for Closed Head Injury
- \$1.1 Million (Policy Limit) for Head Injury To Child Passenger
- \$365,000 for Fractured Leg And Pelvis
- \$250,000 (Policy Limit) for Fractured Ankle
- \$100,000 (Policy Limit) for Fractured Elbow
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June 2019

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 BLESSED IN HELL Hell Creek Ranch	3	4	5	6	7 EASYRIDERS RODEO Bloomsburg Fairgrounds PA	8 EASYRIDERS RODEO Bloomsburg Fairgrounds PA FUN RUN (GLBC) Scooters Bar & Grill VINTAGE BIKE SHOW & SWAP MEET Gilmore Car Museum
9 EASYRIDERS RODEO Bloomsburg Fairgrounds PA VINTAGE BIKE SHOW & SWAP MEET Gilmore Car Museum	10	11 LADIES MOTORCYCLE SHOW Mug Shotz Bar & Grill	12	13	14 FLAG DAY 	15 NOZZLEMEN M/C RIDE Brighton HD JUST ONE MORE FOR TY Downtown Gladwin MOTORCYCLE RACES Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club
16 FATHER'S DAY  MOTORCYCLE RACES Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club	17	18	19	20	21 SUMMER SOLSTICE	22 STREET PARTY Great Lakes H-D TEAM CANDY RIDE River Rock Bar RODEO Ray C's HD
23 RODEO Ray C's HD	24	25	26	27	28	29 BURN RUN (GLBC) Richland Twp Fire Station, Vestaburg
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



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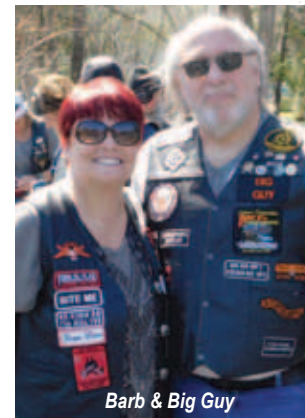
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Wild and Three



Barb & Big Guy

Big Guy and I are loving the time we're spending on our Tri-Glide. Rain or shine, being on the roads of mid-Michigan and feeling the wind rush past your face, the warm sun on your shoulders, and the tunes blasting out of the radio has a near-mystical way of erasing stress. Can't explain it; just know there isn't anything like it. Hey, you're all riders...I know you understand.

Also wanted to send a big shout-out and a thank-you to my official sponsors for this column: Midland Eagle Riders Aerie #2110. If you are looking for new friends to share the road with, these folks do some great things for the community. Some of you may know them as the sponsor of the Denise Dehn Memorial Ride (formerly the LUV Ride) in August. Over the last thirteen years, they have donated thousands of dollars to help kids suffering from cancer. This year, the ride will be held on Saturday, August 10. Watch this column for more details.

In 2018, I was SUPER fortunate to be hired by the city of Sturgis, South Dakota as the official blogger for their web page: sturgismotorcycleryally.com/blog If you check out the web page, my blogs from last year are still posted (!!). Ten days in Sturgis—what a fantastic trip! More about Sturgis later...but I did learn an amazing lesson; one that made me rethink every single thing I'd ever heard about big bad scary bikers.

Remember, I'm a "newbie;" last year was my inaugural season riding behind the man I slept with after I married my husband. I was learning about important things like road rules, safety, courtesy and respect.

The first night at Full Throttle Saloon, Big Guy lost his wallet. I panicked...well, actually, I lost my freakin' mind. Lots of tears and panicky phone calls to our credit card companies later, Big Guy suggested we check the FTS Lost & Found. (Yeah, right...like anyone would have turned in a wallet stuffed with cash and credit cards.) To humor him, we took a walk up to the Pappy Hoel Campground HQ and asked if anyone had turned anything in.

To my jaw-dropping surprise, after verifying our identity, we were handed Big Guy's wallet. Nothing was missing. For the second time that evening, I lost my freakin' mind.

Turns out the same thing happened to one of our H.O.G. chapter members during their stay in Milwaukee over the 115th anniversary bash in late August. When they got home, they found a FedEx package waiting for them, containing her wallet and all its contents...right down to grocery receipts and business cards! The kind person who found it even paid for over-night FedEx service.

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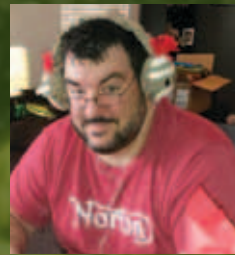
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THE GREATEST CATCH



BY Ben Schanz

pan fish with it, and although it was not as majestic as catching trout, I was still catching fish. Those fish proved to be quite fun on fly. I took it along more and more and almost forgot about the trout altogether.

In my late twenties, I had a revelation. I had felt it before, but I was far too young to appreciate what it was. It took moving from Michigan to Florida for me to figure it out. I was as far away from home as I had ever been, with a job that paid next to nothing. I was under financial stress, I was homesick and really wondering if my move was the right one. The only thing that I could do to feel close to home was to step out into the backyard and fish in the retention pond behind the house. (Fun fact—people in Florida call ponds lakes.) When I was fishing, a certain peacefulness washed over me. It was as if with each cast a little piece of doubt, worry or fear was cast out with it. With each retrieve, I cranked in confidence, strength, and clarity. Catching a fish was a bonus.

Let's face it, life can be pretty stressful. The day-to-day grind can be quite taxing. Fishing became a way to clear the slate and find my center. It helped me forget about all those little things that crawled under my skin and made me worry, or made me angry and replaced them with calm. At that point, whether or not I caught anything was unimportant. It became more about the fisherman and less about the fish.

The first weekend of May, I was able to share a great weekend with my younger brother John and a great friend, Charles. We camped and fished at Cooke Dam Pond near Glennie, MI. Cooke Dam pond is an impoundment formed by the damming of the Au Sable River. My brother has a new duck boat that he has outfitted for fishing when waterfowl season is

closed. We boated in to our campsite and for the first time since we were quite young, got to spend some time on the water together. We caught a few fish over the two days we were there. John caught a few more fish than I did but that didn't even bother me.

Growing up, when I focused all my outdoor activities on fishing, he focused his on hunting. With that said, he does not have a lot of time with a rod and reel in his hands. Because of that, I got to witness my brother accomplish a couple milestones that weekend. He caught his first largemouth and smallmouth bass. He caught his first Northern pike. Being able to witness those moments is far more valuable to me than catching fish of my own. With that said, witnessing the beauty of the sun rising over a lake blanketed in fog is far more satisfying than a fish at the end of the line, regardless of how big it is.

There were times on the boat with my brother where I just put the fishing rods down and admired the splendor of the place where we were. I took pictures of turtles sunning themselves on a stump. I took pictures of Charles fishing off in the fog, barely visible. I took pictures of trees growing from stumps long dead. Those experiences are more what I am after now, not so much the fish. I'll still toss out a line in hopes that I catch something. If I don't, I know that with each cast, I am casting off any worry, doubt, and fear that may be hiding inside. If I am not catching fish, I am catching memories and mental keepsakes that will last far longer than the sight of a fish swim away after being released. That, as it turns out, is the greatest catch of all! Go fishing, people—but this time, stop, take a second, and appreciate the things that might often be overlooked. Thanks for reading.



I love fishing and I have been fortunate enough to fish in some pretty amazing places. From learning to fly fish on the Au Sable River in Northern Michigan to offshore fishing in the Atlantic off the coast of South Florida, I have caught all sorts of fish. I've landed ten-inch Brook Trout in the Au Sable River on fly and four-foot mahi-mahi in the Atlantic Ocean on a ten-inch rigged Ballyhoo. I don't remember if it was my dad or my Uncle Dan who took me fishing for the first time, but I've been hooked ever since.

I remember vividly the learning process when my Uncle Bill taught me how to fly fish. He made me false cast in the yard of the cabin for a whole day before he took me down to the river to try my newfound skill on the water. It didn't take long before I caught my first Brookie. I had caught them before on Mepps but that first fish on fly seemed prettier than the others. Each fish caught on fly thereafter seemed better than the one before. Fly fishing is still my favorite way to fish. It is the closest I can ever feel to nature. The way you need to read the river, cast your fly and mend your line—all to convince a finicky trout that your fake fly is actually real—is quite spiritual. I am not a religious guy, but if being knee-deep in the Au Sable with a fly rod in your hand isn't heaven, I don't know what is.

After my Uncle Bill and Aunt Marilyn sold the cabin on the river, those beautiful little Brookies were replaced with bass and pan fish. I began bass fishing in a pond owned by friends of the family. I would use my regular rods and reels because I felt as if using the fly rod for them was wasting a great skill, sort of like Hemingway teaching middle-school English. Eventually I did take the fly rod out there and caught bass and



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Biker Preacher's Corner

I was thinking about debt this morning...we all have it, don't we? Many in the world today are buried in debt. We're in debt for our homes, our bikes, our cars, credit card debt, medical debt, and the list goes on and on.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone were to pay all our debts off for us? Oh man, that would be wonderful—it would take the weight of the world off our shoulders, wouldn't it?

Well, there is one debt that most people don't even know about—in fact, this debt no one can pay—no matter how good we are, no amount of charity rides and contributions could ever pay for. That debt is our sin-debt. There is only one person that can pay all of mankind's sin-debts off—once and for all.

This person would have to be holy, perfect, and without sin. He'd have to live among us, be tempted like we are, yet not fall for it and be sinless. He'd then have to die and then rise from the dead. Who could I be describing? Jesus Christ—the Son of God Almighty! He paid your debt. It is God's perfect love gift to all mankind!

Let me ask you something...can you experience a gift without receiving it first? NO!

Jesus said that He came to save the lost. Today, like all of history, there are a lot of lost people—reaping the penalty of their sin—which is death according to Romans 6:23.

There's one line from The Lord Jesus' model prayer in Matthew, Chapter 6 that I want to draw on here...

Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

This is a two-sided coin—one side is to repent (this is not lip-service, but to turn away from and consider abhorrent) of any and all sin in our lives. The other side of the coin is to forgive those who have done you wrong (sinned against you).

Just as we need to be forgiven—having our sin debt paid in full. We are expected to forgive—to release others who have hurt us.

Will you receive God's glorious gift of love today? Will you place your faith in Christ Jesus who paid your sin-debt for you and ask Him to be your Lord and Savior today?

God, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe Your Son Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior, forever more. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you prayed that prayer with me—please contact me! I want to rejoice with you and encourage you in your new relationship with God—in Christ Jesus!

Much love and respect,

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay
Senior Pastor, National President & Founder
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JUNE 2019 THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE MICHIGAN 35

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An Interview with Ron Finch

THUNDER ROADS
MICHIGAN SPECIAL
FEATURE



BBB: Who inspired you to do art?

RF: I looked at other art, but I did my own thing. I had my own ideas. Back then, there were only a few of us that were building; Arlen Ness, Sugar Bear, and Ron Perewitz and I were about the same age. Choppers were everywhere back then and I found myself in the right place at the right time.

BBB: Where was your first shop located?

RF: I worked out of a 1 1/2 car garage at a house in Madison Heights. Painting with no exhaust fan meant I had to open the door often to let all the fumes and overspray literally roll out the door. It's a wonder I didn't blow myself up in the winter with my oil heater running at full blast with all of those chemical and paint fumes. This led the neighbor across the street to constantly call the cops—which I became friends with. As they pulled in the driveway, I would sit in their car and BS with them about bikes or whatever and listen to music until the calls



became so frequent that they just stopped showing up.

BBB: Have there been several shops over the years before getting to where you are now?

RF: Well, before the Madison Heights house, I was in business with a partner. It was F&M Go-Kart/Motorcycle Shop in Warren. I would sleep in a 9x12 room that had a hot plate and a half bathroom. That experience taught me to never have a partner. We just had different thoughts; he wasn't a bad guy.

BBB: How long has it been since you stopped building custom motorcycles and turned your attention more or less to the metal art pieces that now dominate your museum and landscape?

It was a dreary day outside when I visited Ron Finch at his home studio in Pontiac, Michigan. The former shop—originally located on University Drive—is now a Home Depot, but many of the iconic pieces of that original shop made it into the new studio; namely, the glass from the factory in Ohio that shut down can be found all over the property. Ron was able to pick up the scrap pieces for \$17.50/ton.

As the rain cascaded down, the dim light outside still cast a green glow inside the shop, due to the aforementioned glass embedded in the walls of the shop. "Rooster" by Alice in Chains was playing as I snapped pictures throughout the museum.

BBB: What year was it that you built your first custom motorcycle?

RF: It was 1965, built from a BSA, called Kaleidocycle; 45° raked front end from a 1939 Norton that was extended to about 20 over. It was the first build to make it into a national magazine. It was also asymmetrical, whereas both sides were not the same both in design and paint scheme. It was also the first time anyone had laced a Harley-Davidson rim to a BSA hub, creating a fat-tire look which was unheard of at the time. Sadly, that bike was sold to a museum in Toledo, Ohio as I didn't have the space to store it in the old shop prior to moving here, with the promise that when I wanted it back I could get it for the same price as it was sold. The man didn't keep his promise and I'm out the first build I ever created that received national attention.



continued on next page



An Interview with Ron Finch

continued from previous page

THUNDER ROADS
MICHIGAN SPECIAL
FEATURE



You can view more photos of Ron's creations at finchscustoms.com



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RF: It's been about the last 15 to 20 years now that I've been doing the metal art. I was still doing motorcycles, just not as much, mainly because people are just not into the high-end builds anymore, which is nice because now I get to ride more! I actually took in a job yesterday on a Shovelhead that will have quite a few modifications and of course the paint job will be cool.

BBB: We know, of course, that you handle all of the custom metal work and paint, but what about the engines and drive trains? Do you do that work as well?

RF: I've always sent all of that out. I've used several different people over the years. My Shovelhead, for instance, was done by Accurate Engineering. DeMasters is now in its 3rd generation of family builders in Roseville; now that Herm is retired, his son has taken over.

BBB: How did you meet your wife Ruth?

RF: We met at Autorama; she was with a friend. We started dating, eventually got married and had two children together, Gail and Sara. Caryn and Mark were children from my first wife, but she wasn't doing a very good job. I was one of the first males in the state of Michigan to get custody of my kids.

BBB: Do your kids all share the same passion you have for motorcycles?

RF: Caryn, Mark, and Gail all do. Sara could care less, though.

BBB: Have any of your kids taken up the art or bike-building?

RF: No, none of them, not bikes or art. Maybe when they get older, they might decide that it's worth a try.



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Bullet Points

GOING OLD SCHOOL

BY RICK WYATT

When it comes to handguns, I grew up on revolvers. There were semi-autos out there (many of them coming from military service or brought back from war by our dads, uncles, and neighbors) but usually, if someone had a handgun, it was a revolver. There was a good selection of manufacturers turning out fairly decent products such as Herters, H&R, Ivers Johnson, etc. as well as some European imports based on Colt and Smith & Wesson designs. These guns sold primarily on price point, which was usually somewhere between half and two thirds of an actual Colt, Smith, or Ruger and available in the most popular calibers of the time. It wasn't uncommon to see break tops in the smaller calibers such as .22, .32, and .38 (both long and short) and available in hardware stores as well as big retailers like Sears and Montgomery Wards for both store and catalogue sales.

My first revolver was a Ruger Single Six .22 followed by a Ruger Super Single Six (same gun with adjustable sights and interchangeable cylinders (.22/.22mag) and a Ruger Bearcat. All three of these were single action with an ejection rod to expel empty casings one at a time. They were small-caliber cowboy action revolvers. When I went to work for the DOC, we (and much of law enforcement) carried Smith model 15's; a quantum step forward from the fixed sight narrow hammer spur model 10s they replaced. Some agencies that didn't suffer budget problems issued Colts Official Police .38s. If they wanted adjustable sights and were flush with taxpayer bucks sprung for the prettier upgrade, the Colt Diamondback. When the police became targets in the late 60s and early 70s, many law enforcement agencies started issuing .357 magnums. Smith actually developed the .357 back in the 1930s because the FBI was demanding a more powerful handgun for field agents. When local law enforcement became targets of opportunity once again, they developed the Model 19 Combat Magnum and Colt introduced the Python. The upgrade was like going from dating your sister to dating the neighbor down the block—qualification scores improved because these were quality machines with primo trigger pull out of the box and they were pretty guns that you were not ashamed to be seen with in public. But the days of police revolvers were waning because the bad guns started carrying Uzis, M-16s, and other assorted full-auto weapons with much larger magazine capacities than the five- or six-shot revolvers issued to police.

With officer-involved shooting incidents on the rise, one of the characteristics of revolvers became a big safety issue. Most police-issue revolvers, and the vast majority of those sold in the civilian market, were hammer guns capable of both single-action and double-action firing. What single-action means is that the trigger has one function, to release the pre-cocked hammer to discharge the firearm. In 1877, Colt developed a working double-action revolver where the trigger had two functions; the first function was to pull the hammer back, building tension in the trigger spring, and second, to release the hammer and discharge the firearm. Double-action has a long relatively stiff trigger pull where you can feel the tension of the hammer spring loading up before the hammer is released versus single-action where the hammer is pre-cocked and requires much less trigger pressure to fire the gun. Single-action is not a good option for self-defense or home protection because of the high likelihood of an accidental discharge if you get startled or stumble, but on the range, it will greatly enhance your precision practice.

One advantage of practicing with a revolver is that it forces you to slow down because you are spending more time reloading, and you are not getting that painful "loading thumb" from pushing rounds down in a magazine. Just like any other firearm, you get what you pay for; if you go shopping on the "turd rack," you are not going to be happy in the long run. Heritage builds a decent single-action rimfire revolver for around \$200, but you will probably have to special-order the model with adjustable sights because most of their guns have cowboy-action-style rear sights. If I were buying, I would step up to the Ruger single-action series with adjustable sights. That gun is twice the price of the Heritage, but if you handle both of them, you will recognize why. For larger caliber revolvers, the best advice I can give is to handle them, dry-fire them and feel the trigger pull for smoothness and consistency shot after shot. Unfortunately none of the new revolvers are of the same quality as the older Smiths and Colts, but if you find an old Smith & Wesson Model 19, or Model 29 (Dirty Harry's gun) or a K38 Masterpiece or a Colt Diamondback, or Python or Anaconda for a reasonable price, you have found a treasure!



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IN THE SHOP WITH RON

By Ron Johnson

SPRINGS OUT

I hope everyone has been able to take advantage of the few riding days we've had so far this season. It seems spring is a bit reluctant to make a definitive appearance this year. The Michigan winters do wreak havoc on our roads; the constant freeze-and-thaw conditions intermixed with rain and snow makes a great environment for potholes.

This month in the shop, in an effort to smooth out our riding season, we will be installing a mono-tube conversion kit in the front forks of a 2005 Road King Custom. With this upgrade, we will be removing the stock front fork springs and damper rod and replacing them with a gas charged mono-tube insert and a different spring set up.



The next step is to loosen both cap screws and pinch bolts, but do not remove. Now



The original forks used oil to dampen the ride. The new set up will use basically a gas-charged shock instead, but will require a small amount of oil to keep the moving parts lubricated. First, we need to get the bike positioned and secure so we can remove the brake calipers, front fender, and front wheel. For this, I like to have the bike on a lift, use two jacks (one front & one rear). Raise the bike high enough so you have room to remove the forks from the triple trees. Make sure to use tie down straps to secure. (pic#2)

drain the oil from both fork legs. While the oil is draining, remove the 6mm dampener rod bolt from the very bottom of the fork lower. While holding the fork lower with one hand, remove cap screw and carefully slide the fork tube from the triple tree. Make sure the tube is as clean as possible where it

slides through triple tree.

Now with the fork lower resting on a padded surface, CAREFULLY remove the fork tube cap, keep a firm downward pressure on the cap while removing, there is a fair amount of pressure on this cap from the spring inside the tube. Now we can remove the old fork springs and dampener rod. If your forks are in good shape, you can remove old internal parts (left) and install new mono-tube (right) and reassemble.



On this project—due to age, mileage, etc.—we went ahead and replaced the bushings, seals, and retaining rings. Either way, make sure everything is surgically clean before reassembly. On this motorcycle, it originally required 11oz. of fork oil; the new set up requires only 5oz. Make sure you use the correct amount of oil as recommended by the mono-tube kit mfg. Too much oil will not allow suspension to fully compress, causing severe handling issues and possible loss of control. Reassemble and double/triple check everything.

Hopefully, with the springs out, things will be a bit smoother.

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Ron



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Bike Nights are listed in their ads & on Bike Nights Page.

JUNE

June 1
WACU Motorcycle Charity Ride & Bike Blessing
Old St. Patrick Church, Ann Arbor, MI. 9:30 am, \$10 min for drivers & passengers alike. For more info call Steve 734-660-7172

June 2
Blessed in Hell
Hell Creek Ranch, Pinckney/Hell, MI. gates open 10:30 am sharp, \$10 per bike, 4 blessings, ride in bike show, over 20 vendors, food vendors, live band. For more info go to Hellcreekranch.com (See ad this issue).

June 7-9
Easyriders Rodeo Tour
Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, Bloomsburg, PA. Rodeo competition, wall of death, wet t-shirt contest, bike show, vendors, live music, food, camping & more. For more info go to easyridersevents.com (See full page ad this issue).

June 8
Flint Axemen MI 6 Fun Run (GLBC)
Scooters Bar & Grill, Flint, MI. Regis 10 am, bikes out by noon, donations only. For more info call Dan 248-227-8055 (See GLBC full page ad this issue).

June 8
1st Annual Howell Eagle Riders Charity Ride
141 Schroeder Park Dr, Howell, MI. Regis 10- 11 am, \$20pp, scavenger photo hunt, big cash prizes to 3 winners. For more info Facebook; Howell Eagle Riders 3607

June 8-9
24th Annual Vintage Motorcycle Show / 2 Day Swap Meet

Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI. Sat swap only, Sun show & swap. To regis or for more info go to gilmorecarmuseum.org (See ad this issue).

June 11
Wheels & Heels Ladies Motorcycle Show
Mug Shotz Bar & Grill, Clio, MI. Regis 5 pm- 7 pm, \$10 p/bike, must be driven by lady, first 25 get a goody bag, raffles, 50/50, winners announced at 8 pm, trophies awarded.

June 14-16
2nd Annual Michihistrigan Rendezvous
Michihistrigan Bar & Grill, Gould City, MI. cabins, campground, bar & restaurant, live music, raffles, vendors & more. For more info call 906-477-6983

June 15
Nozzlemen M/C Ride
Brighton HD, Brighton, MI. Regis 3 pm, ride leaves 4:30 pm, \$20 bike, \$30 with rider, or \$50 ride with food, music, 50/50. For more info call Michael 734-386-9292 (See GLBC full page ad this issue).

June 15
Just One More for Ty
Downtown Gladwin, MI. Motorcycle parade starts at noon, ends at Sage Township Hall 1831 Pratt Lake Rd, Gladwin, MI. All bikes welcome, fish fry & luncheon/drinks at Sage Hall. For more info call/text Lacey 989-329-5612 (See ad this issue).

June 15
Justin Beutel Memorial Run
American Legion Post 443, Sanford, MI. Regis 11 am, kickstands up noon, dinner 5 pm, music, silent auction, event goes to 9 pm. For more info go

to Justin Beutel Memorial Run on Facebook.

June 15
Ride with the Eagles Benefit Ride
F.O.E. 3565 Davison Rd, Lapeer, MI. Regis 8:30- 10:30 am, kickstands up 10:30 am, \$15 per driver, \$10 passenger, any wheeled vehicle welcome, food, prizes and more. For more info call Steve 810-793-7300

June 15 & 16
Lucky Thumb M/C Motorcycle Races
Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, Deford, MI. 15th- Short track 3/5/7 pm, 16th- TT Scrambles 8am/10am/12 pm. For more info go to luckythumbmotorcycleclub.com (See ad this issue).

June 22
19th Annual Great Lakes H-D Street Party
Great Lakes H-D, Bay City, MI. Noon- 6 pm, entertainment, adult beverages & more. For more info call 989-686-0400 (See ad this issue).

June 22
3rd Annual Team Candy Benefit Ride
River Rock Bar, St. Louis, MI. Regis 10 am, breakfast avail 7 am, \$10 per rider/non-rider, kickstands up 11 am, rain or shine, entertainment, auction, food & more. For more info call/text Lenny 989-763-1113

June 22-23
15th Annual Ray C's HD Rodeo
Ray C's HD, Lapeer, MI. all weekend live music, bounce house, hog dogs & more, Sat- live music, pig roast, bike show. Sun- Poker Run. For more info call 810-664-9261.

June 22
Annual Charity Ride & Membership Drive
American Legion Post 182, Hubbardston, MI. Regis 11 am, kickstands up noon, \$20 donation rider, \$10 passenger, 50/50, food. For more info call 989-763-6482

JULY

July 12, 13, 14, 27 & 28
Lucky Thumb M/C Motorcycle Races
Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, Deford, MI. For more info go to luckythumbmotorcycleclub.com (For details see ad this issue).

July 13
3rd Annual Nozzlemen M/C Chapter 4
Poker Run Starts / Ends at Uncle Lyles 108 Tecumseh St, Dundee, MI Regis 11am - 1pm All Welcome, Food, 50/50, Prizes & More
Pre-Register by 6/29 \$25 Driver, \$40 Rider/Passenger or day of event \$30/\$50 For more info call Dave (Pappy) 734-735-7831 (See GLBC full page ad this issue).

July 13
Operation Injured Soldiers
Lyon Ride & Classic Car Show
James Atchison Memorial Park, New Hudson, MI. Regis 11-noon, kickstands up 12:30, \$20 pp, includes ride, food, event t-shirt. For more info or to pre-register go to injuredsoldiers.org (See add this issue)

July 13
Garden Party & Studio Tour
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TRMI EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

tiac, MI. Must purchase tickets in advance, \$10pp, includes beverages & apps, tour of Ron Finch's custom motorcycles & Metlalive art. To purchase tickets go to orionartcenter.org/studio-classes

July 13
1st Annual Horseshoe Tourney & Memorial Ride
Roadside Bar, Pinconning, MI. Regis 10 am- noon, cash bar, all bikes back by 5 pm, hosted by Abate of MI region 6.

July 14
Red Knights Firefighters M/C Poker Run
Meet at Wolverine HD 44660 N. Gratiot Ave Clinton Twp, MI 48036 Regis 11 am- 12:30 pm, \$15 per bike/ \$10 rider Food, Door Prizes, 50/50, Music & More For more info call Chris 586-557-0892 Facebook: Red Knights Firefighters M/C MI 5 Events (See GLBC full page ad this issue).

July 20- 21
18th Annual Niles Burn Run
Riverfront Park 9am-10pm
Bike / Car Show & Music, Food, Live Bands, vendors Ride on sunday Police, Fire & EMS Escorted Regis 9am, Leaves at Noon \$20 Bike / \$30 with Rider if pre-registered by june 24th After then \$25 Bike / \$35 with Rider For more info Visit website www.nilesburnrun.com or Facebook or Twitter (See GLBC full page ad this issue).

July 26 & 27
Rockin Rivertown Ride & Music Festival
Downtown Cheboygan, MI. Music, poker run, Rolling Thunder parade, bike show. For more info go to cheboyganmusicfest.com (See ad this issue).

July 29
2nd Annual BKMC 37 Burn Run
Registration / Ride Starts

at the Richland Township Fire Station 8755 3rd Ave, Vestaburg, MI. Regis 10am, Kickstands up 11am Food, Drinks, Music For more info go to www.brotherskeepersmc.com (See GLBC full page ad this issue).

AUGUST

August 3
Ink Out Abuse Motorcycle Rally
Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Mount Pleasant, MI. Regis 10 am- 11am in front parking lot, blessing 11 am, kickstands up 11:30 am, Pre-regis by 7/22 & get \$5 & free t-shirt, day of event \$25 single, \$35 double, includes breakfast, lunch & dinner apps, 77 mile scenic ride, all bikes welcome, rain or shine, vehicles welcome in case of rain, live music, raffles, prizes & more. For more info/vendor space call Brad 989-317-8791 (See full page ad this issue).

August 4
Escort Kids to Camp Great Lakes Burn Camp Meet at Wings Stadium 3600 Vanrick Drive (Sprinkle Road), Kalamazoo MI Registration 10am-12:30pm ~ Ride Leaves 1pm Prizes ~ Food ~ 50/50 For more info call Bill 517-206-1115 (See GLBC full page ad this issue).

August 16-18
Easyriders Rodeo Tour
Fowlerville Fairgrounds, Fowlerville, MI. Rodeo competition, wall of death, wet t-shirt contest, bike show, vendors, live music, food, camping & more. For more info go to easyridersevents.com (See full page ad this issue).

August 24 & 25
Lucky Thumb M/C Motorcycle Races
Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club, Deford, MI. For more

info go to luckythumbmotorcycleclub.com (For details see ad this issue).

August 29-September 2
Easyriders Rodeo Tour
Ross County Fairgrounds, Chillicothe, OH. Rodeo competition, wall of death, wet t-shirt contest, bike show, vendors, live music, food, camping & more. For more info go to easyridersevents.com (See full page ad this issue).

SEPTEMBER

September 6-8
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