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Keep reading, keep riding, and remember...WHERE THERE'S BIKES THERE'S GOING TO BE THUNDER!

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ON THE COVER

15TH ANNUAL D-FROST RUN

see pages 24-25

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LETTER FROM OWNERS

The Calm Before the Storm

Looking out the proverbial window right now we can see that the storm is fast approaching. *WHERE THERE'S BIKES... THERE'S GOING TO BE THUNDER...* Everything two wheeled has begun! Bike nights, rallies, bike shows, poker runs, charity events, blessings, and all the ride destinations in between. Either way, it's all about the ride and not the destination, right? Speaking of destinations... how was Daytona for those that made it? You'll see a special Daytona Bike Week ThunderCam in this issue from all the Thunder Roads® Michigan Thunderheads who shared their photos with us! Thank you to those who shared!!

Things are happening all around us! Aly and I both agree that it has been a lot of fun getting out and seeing everyone at the swap meets over the last few months! We attended *OUR* first bike night at J&P Cycles in Taylor, MI and we got to witness a few die-hards that rode in and braved the temperatures on March 14th. A brisk 34° ride never hurt anyone, right? - Lol. We're guessing there should be better riding weather for their next Bike Night on April 11th. If you made it to the HUGE Novi Swap Meet on March 26th you probably got to see the Harley-Davidson replica bike from the movie Harley-Davidson and the Marlboro Man. **IT IS FOR SALE!** If you haven't seen it yet, you've got to follow us on Facebook for a chance to see it in person. We'll be sharing posts online letting everyone know where it's next appearance will be!

In this issue we are honored to share the history behind the D-Frost Run. A huge thanks to Phyllis McCandless for sharing how it came to be and how it has grown over the past 15 years. Thunder Roads® Michigan will be attending this event on April 22nd come rain or shine... just like they have always done!! We would love for you to join us in helping support the D-Frost Run benefiting the Penrickton Center for Blind Children.

We have been visiting biker friendly locations all over Michigan and speaking with potential sponsors. With their help, we can keep Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine free to our readers. If you are a business looking to advertise, or If you have a future event coming up that you would like to promote, please contact us at Editor@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com. All bike night and event listings are FREE! Please send them to the above email asap.



We have our fingers crossed that we can make it out to the Paragon Swap Meets in Grand Rapids and Cadillac this month.

We hope to see you out on the Thunder Roads® of Michigan!
RJ & Aly

JIM SEYMOUR INTRO



It is with great pride, and an honor that I jump aboard the Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine team! My name is Jim Seymour coming to you from Northeast Michigan. I originally hail from the Detroit area and have chosen to ride a path that comes as naturally as it possibly could. Thanks to my father, I was born into a love for everything with two, three and four wheels!

As an artist, musician, and photographer, I am hoping that my contributions and dedication will find themselves to be significant to RJ & Aly, and all the Thunderheads out there! I was an original founder of the Alpena Bike Fest, and personally we love the idea of having lent a caring hand with so many charity organizations. I have performed musically for literally dozens, maybe hundreds of bike-oriented charities and rallies. One of them being the Mackinaw City Rally in the past and in fact I'll be taking the Mackinaw City stage along with my Legacy bandmates for the rally again this June for the 3rd Annual!

I'm really looking forward to sharing my Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine adventure with all of you. It's going to be great sharing what the summer brings our way through photos, stories, and our time together! Hope to see you all out on these Michigan Thunder Roads®!



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THE MOTORCYCLE LAWYER ON THE LAW

DRIVER USING PHONE APP CAUSES MOTORCYCLIST TO LOSE LEG

As far as I can tell, the state of Michigan began keeping statistics about distracted driving accidents in 2011. That year, the Michigan State Police (MSP) started including a checkbox on the UD-10 police report form for officers to indicate whether a driver was distracted at the time of the accident.

This checkbox specifically asked officers to identify whether the driver was distracted and if so, how?

Presently the choices, as they appear on the police officer's computer are:

- Driver Distracted By
1. Not Distracted
 2. Manually Operating an Electronic Communications Device (Texting, Typing, Dialing)
 3. Talking on Hands-Free Electronic Device
 4. Talking on Hand-Held Electronic Device
 5. Other Activity, Electronic Device (Book Player, Navigation Aid)
 6. Passenger
 7. Other Activity Inside the Vehicle (Eating, Personal Hygiene)
 8. Outside the Vehicle (Includes Unspecified External Distractions)
 98. Unknown

By tracking this data over time, Michigan has been able to gain a better understanding of the prevalence and causes of distracted driving accidents in the state and develop targeted strategies to reduce their

incidence. It is important to note that while this data provides valuable insights, it may not capture all instances of driver distraction, as not all accidents are reported or may not be accurately reported.

According to the latest statistics from the Michigan State Police, distracted driving was a contributing factor in 9,882 vehicle crashes (car, truck & motorcycle) in Michigan in 2020, resulting in 70 fatalities and 2,965 injuries.

These numbers are particularly alarming for us motorcyclists, who are already at a higher risk of injury or death on the road due to our lack of protection compared to passenger vehicle occupants.

In fact, in 2020, there were 1,163 motorcycle crashes in Michigan, resulting in 87 fatalities and 1,543 injuries. Of those crashes, 115 were attributed to distracted driving, which accounted for 10% of all motorcycle crashes.

This indicates a significant need for increased awareness and education about the dangers of distracted driving, particularly for motorcyclists who are already at risk.

The law in Michigan regarding distracted driving prohibits all drivers from texting while driving using a hand-held phone. School bus drivers, truck drivers, and teens on a Level 1 or Level 2 graduated license cannot use a cell phone while driving whatsoever. (MCL 257.602b(1), (3); 257.602c(1))

Horrible case: I presently have a case where a 45-year-old woman was using an app on her cell phone to check her blood glucose level as she is diabetic. She opened the app, selected an option to check levels, reached her phone across her body to the sensor disc on her upper arm. All of this caused her to veer across the center line and strike a motorcyclist heading the opposite way. He lost his leg because of her recklessness.


It has been almost a year and charges are still pending waiting on the MSP's computer lab to analyze the phone for evidence. I will keep you posted with updates. In the meantime, watch out for these reckless drivers.

www.MotorcycleLawyerMichigan.com

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2023 Riding Season: Reaching The Northern Hemisphere.

It has been great to get a few sunny 50-degree days lately and the sounds of loud pipes and revving motors have been mentally uplifting. The rides have been shorter than most would like, but to get on 2's at the end of winter/beginning of spring gets my heart's motor oil pumping. I crossed paths with a few riders in the Southeast Michigan area and got a chance to speak with them. While they shivered with icicles hanging from their noses, the message most of them shared was "I needed to feel the power and get some wind therapy!"

End of Winter riding is a good way to prepare for the upcoming riding season too. It helps with finding out if your bike needs some TLC. Or, even you as the rider for that matter. TCLOCKS (Tires, Controls, Lights, Oil, Chassis, and Kickstand) is more important than ever at the start of the season. Also making sure the horn on the hog works. It may be time to upgrade to louder decibels (dBs) as cagers are truly not looking for bikes or bikers at the moment. Not too many people are driving around in automobiles with their windows down right now.

TCLOCK INSPECTION

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation created this mnemonic device to guide a motorcyclist's pre-ride safety check.

-  **Tires & Wheels:** Check tire pressure and treads. Make sure spokes are tight and intact.
-  **Controls:** Check levers, cables, hoses and throttles.
-  **Lights & Electrics:** Check brake lights, taillights and headlights, lenses, reflectors and battery.
-  **Oil:** Check oil and fluid levels, and ensure there are no leaks.
-  **Chassis:** Check suspension, chains, belts, fasteners, the steering head and swingarm bearings.
-  **Kickstand:** Check sidestand and centerstand for retraction.

And there is a lot of driving while distracted in today's day in age. Some people can't stand loud music, but I am splitting the fence by saying it does create awareness of a bike in the area. Lights, pipes, and music!

Preparing for the riding season is not just about the bike, it also means understanding your body is not quite ready for a long-haul run. Before I start to muscle around up to 1,000 lbs., I like to mentally prepare myself by getting plenty of rest the night before. While I cannot say I am in the gym every day, I am going the extra mile to do some pushups, walk the dog for some cardio, getting to the doctor to see where I am health wise. If you ride in a pack, your brothers and/or sisters should know if you are on medication and what to do in the time of an emergency. (i.e., who to call, if you need an EpiPen, do you take aspirin, how often do you need to eat to keep blood/sugar intact, do you need insulin injections, etc.) It wouldn't be a bad idea to take a weekend class at a local community college to perfect maneuvering your bike. It might even be fun! I know

some of you are thinking "what the hell is he talking about take a class." But allow me to be direct and state, don't let our egos dictate our ability to continuously learn how to handle our expensive piece of equipment, our pride and joy. Hell, some of us like our bikes more than our significant others at times-LOL!

I am planning for a trip to the east coast this summer as I push to close out my goal of riding in 48 states. I have 28 states under my tires so far and quite a few miles to go. I have reached out to fellow riders about the road conditions, where the state signs are, where internet signals are shotty, how much money I should anticipate to spend if I was to use the turn pike, or if I should use the trucker routes. I have seriously considered going up through Canada, come out at Niagara Falls, hit Buffalo, NY, and go straight North until I hit the state line for Maine. Grab some lobster bisque and high tail it south until I hit Delaware! I could hit several states within hours between Maine and Delaware (Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey). If I do it right, I could hit 1 country and 8 states, and others where my proverbial flag has already been placed. For those that may consider this in the future, research your carry laws.

Before I do a 1,000 plus mile trip, I want to check my seat time tolerance. So, I'm looking forward to the Mackinaw Bike Rally happening on June 9-11th. I enjoy inner-state riding equally as much as crossing state/international lines. This will be a good time to make sure your energy levels are plentiful and will be a great weekend of fun and entertainment as well. If you get stuck on the Mackinaw Bridge waiting for entry into the Upper Peninsula, that wind may give you a spanking like Papa handed out when he found out you stole the car on Saturday night after he fell asleep-LOL. In the past, my right leg seemed to be two times more muscular than my left after holding up my hog on that bridge! While it only takes roughly seven minutes to cross, the wait time could be upwards of 20 minutes; Word of advice, use the rest room one last time before you cross... no whizzing off the bridge! That may be your first and last, but you may earn a patch for it-LOL! I hope to see all you "Thunderheads" up there and let's pound that pavement in unison.



Chin up Chest out,
Smoke



Editor's Note:
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Photos courtesy
Detroit Randy

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GREAT LAKES BAGGER DRAG RACING

So, let me start by saying that when Aly and I started digging into all things two wheeled back in December of 2022 we had a vision, but December feels like years ago. It doesn't feel like it's only been four months. It's going by so quickly. From the start we have imagined squeezing our own personal adventures in somewhere between attending as many bike nights, bike runs, charity events, swap meets, and rallies. Of course, they all pretty much overlap each other. Our riding season is just too short here in Michigan and sadly, we can't go to all of them. Well, let's just say that our heads are spinning with the four different calendars we share between ourselves and the Thunder Roads® Michigan team.

In our first issue in January, we were introduced to the world of ice racing and have got to know some awesome people and places involved in the sport. Now we are getting ready for flat track, and the upcoming motocross season. Thankfully, Erin Fay has proven to be the great ambassador that we knew she would for the Motors Lakes Trails segment of Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine.

So, even though we are spreading ourselves thin... Why not throw something else in while we are at it! -lol Oof! Has anyone noticed the "We're hiring ads"? We haven't figured out how to safely clone ourselves to be in more than one place at a time.

Well, let me introduce everyone to Great Lakes Bagger Drag Racing!

I think it was about two months ago (January 29th to be exact) when Dan Garcia threw a comment into one of our social media check-in posts that went something like this... "While you're there you should talk about the large growing bagger drag racing community in Michigan". Little did Dan know that I was already creepin' on the motorcycle drag racing scene. We are always looking to bring more of Michigan's two-wheeled sports and events to share in the magazine. So, I replied to his comment that we had already seen some (awesome) videos online and asked him to send me some info. Lol- he didn't. Three weeks later I shot Dan a message saying, "let's get some conversation going about the bagger racing". Yes, those three weeks felt like only one with all the chaos in between, but Dan replied, and the door had been opened.

Admittedly, I told Dan that I really wasn't versed in the Bagger Racing scene and asked him to drop me some names and give me some suggestion on where to start. Without pausing he threw Chad Wolschlager's name out there and that he ran the Great Lakes Bagger Racing Facebook page. He told me that Chad was great and that he was the one to talk to. Dan said that Chad knew everybody, loved talking racing, and knew about all the races. Dan was right on all accounts ... especially the part about Chad liking to talk about racing! He is very passionate for the sport and has a lot of knowledge that he is excited to share, but we'll get into that in a minute.

The second bike in the photo is the fastest naturally aspirated bagger in the world. It's owned by Jason Broski.

After Dan shared Chad's contact info with me, I asked him about what and where his first race would be. He mentioned that he and some others will travel South a lot for the sport and that a bunch of the Michigan guys are headed to A1 Cash Days in



Out for repair and changes.



Dan working some last-minute repairs in time to qualify at South Georgia Motorsports Park.

North Carolina in April. Also, that he has a \$1000 grudge race against another shop out of Chicago. Not sure if I'm supposed to mention that or not- Lol. He said that there are races at Milan, 131, and other places but if you want to run with the fast guys you have to head south.

Toward the end of our conversation, he explained that he went to Georgia a lot and that most of the larger racing organizations are further down South. I warned Dan to be prepared that I will probably annoy him with a bunch of questions in the future, but I was on a mission to find Chad! Also, you can check out one of Dan's other bikes as it's featured as this month's Readers Ride.



Dan's 2018 Road King, aka Salty Dog 2



Dan Garcia at Man Cup world finals at South Georgia Motorsports Park.

When I reached out to Chad Wolschlager, I explained that I was from Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine and that we were interested in learning more about the Bagger Racing scene that he is helping grow in Michigan. Also, that I had spoken to Dan and that he had referred me to him. Chad was quick to let me know that he would love to talk and admitted that he had only been into drag racing for about a year. It was a way to stay on two wheels without the risks of riding on the streets these days. Sounds crazy, right? Drag racing is safer than riding on the roads? Well, Chad explained that after being hit on his motorcycle for the fourth time he was ready for a change. He wasn't ready to quit riding, so he started following motorcycle drag racing. He told me that AMRA runs two Bagger Classes, Street Dresser and Pro-Bagger. He said that he races in the Pro-Bagger Class and that he is the one who created and manages the Great Lakes Bagger Racing page.

Chad mentioned that he was originally from the Cass City, MI area and now lives in Battle Creek, MI with his wife and son. He



Chad's 2017 Street Glide in its Original state



2020 photo prior to becoming #707

also travels out of state to race and he and some of the other guys he races with will be jumping in on the May 19th thru the 21st race at Summit Motorsports Park in Norwalk, OH. He says there are local race events closer to home too, and that he is working on putting two smaller events together with Uby and Lapeer. It didn't take long to realize how much Chad loves Harley-Davidson motorcycles and Bagger Racing. He chuckled as he explained the camaraderie and competitive side of the racing community and how they like to express both on the Great Lakes Bagger Racing page on Facebook. He said they love badgering each other some bantering, but when it comes down to it... most of them would do anything to help the other.



Transformation into # 707 aka Beast

Chad shared that Jason Broski out of Ypsilanti, Michigan is currently the world record holder for the quickest Milwaukee Eight Bagger at 8.83 quarter mile. The spot was formally held by Marc Fricke out of Chicago and by Jeremy Williamson out of Indiana. Jeremy is the second man ever on a bagger to break the 7 second barrier! Yup, my chin dropped when I heard that too... wow!!

Here are some of the fastest Baggers in Michigan.

Michigan Bagger List - NA	
8.83	Jason Broski
8.??	Frank Wojcik Satan II
9.60	Dan Garcia SD II Road King
9.??	Frank Wojcik Satan I
??	Bo Prez
10.51	RD Miller
10.64	Chad Wolschlager
10.74	Jim Clarke
10.80	Steve Harrison
10.85	Cortez Harden
10.87	Matt Stoia
10.96	Dan Garcia SD I Street Glide
Personally ridin, no jockeys Just a fun list, no WB or CI requirements	



Chad is proud to mention that Dave Loepke of Backwoodz Performance handles his motor builds.

Then Chad asked me a question! He asked if I had ever watched motorcycles race on a drag strip before? When my answer was "Nope", he said we'll have to change that this summer! I agree 100% with that statement! Unfortunately for me, all the AMRA and AHDRA events are 3-day events. They begin on Friday nights with testing, Saturday qualifying, and then Sunday are the championship rounds. The flip side of that is most of the other events we are already committed to are on Saturdays. We just might be able to hit some of

these Sunday rounds. Especially, the ones closer to home like the monthly bike nights at Milan Dragway. One of the events that Chad sounded most excited for was the Party with Marty being held at US 131 Motorsports Park on August 26th in Martin, MI. He shared that Marty was the former owner of the AMRA and that he lives in Michigan. It sounds like the event will live up to its name based off Chads excitement and the flyer he shared with us.



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US 131 Motorsports Park. Party with Marty 2022

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In the time that I've spoken with Chad, I believe that he has apologized about 4 or 5 times to me because he said he could talk about drag racing motorcycles for hours and could keep rambling on if I let him. I really do believe him! A couple weeks ago we made plans to meet in person over breakfast and I chuckled as I remembered Dan saying "he loves to talk about bagger racing"- lol. I think he took two bites out of his breakfast



Chad Wolschlager of Great Lakes
Bagger Drag Racing and RJ

in almost two hours of sitting together. Obviously, Chad is the perfect spokesperson for the sport and he has his own vision of how he would like to see Bagger Drag Racing get to... here in Michigan and nationwide for that matter.

Chad Wolschlager of Great Lakes Bagger Racing and I.
Please contact RJ at RJ@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com if you are a fan or business that would like to help sponsor racers of the Great Lakes Bagger Racing group. Or, you would like to support future articles in Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine featuring Dan, Chad, or other racers.
RJ Calles, Owner / Publisher
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STURGIS, SD
(1/8TH MILE NO POINTS EVENT)

SEPTEMBER 8-10
CECIL COUNTY DRAGWAY
MID-ATLANTIC NITRO SHOWDOWN
RISING SUN, MD
(NATIONAL EVENT)

OCTOBER 27-29
ROCKINGHAM DRAGWAY
WORLD FINALS
ROCKINGHAM, NC
(NATIONAL EVENT)

2023 EVENT SCHEDULE



NORTH FLORIDA MOTORPLEX
FOUNTAIN FL
MARCH 17-19, 2023



ROCKINGHAM DRAGWAY
ROCKINGHAM, NC
APRIL 28-30, 2023



KUHNLE MORTOSPORTS PARK
THOMPSON, OH
JUNE 9-11, 2023



MILAN DRAGWAY
MILAN, MICHIGAN
JULY 28-30, 2023



STURGIS DRAGWAY
STURGIS, SD
AUGUST 6-8, 2023



CECIL COUNTY DRAGWAY
RISING SUN, MD
SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023



ROCKINGHAM DRAGWAY
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WOMEN ARE VETERANS TOO!!!

I started this article several times on different subjects, but after writing and rewriting I finally found what I feel I need to address.

Women are not made like a man; we are different in so many ways. We have many challenges we go through from day one, but we go on and it makes us strong. I have met many women throughout my military career, and I have had many mentors that I am proud were in my life.

Several of us Desert Storm veterans decided on its 25th anniversary to march in the New York parade. This was several years ago, but it sticks in my mind like it was yesterday. All of us veterans were dressed in the same uniform. At this point you should have realized that we were all veterans, right?! Well, not so much. We did the march, and we were all proud to have done it. Afterward while we were on the subway platform on our way back to the hotel, still all dressed in the same uniform, several people came up to the *men* in our group and thanked them for their service. Don't get me wrong, I am glad they got the recognition, but I am a woman who served in the same desert with these men. I and many other women were up towards the frontline supporting our brothers and proud to be in the military doing our jobs and supporting the USA. So, after witnessing this I made mention to my brothers "why does this happen?" They said they couldn't really give us a good answer, but that in the future when we were gathered, they would make sure to point out to people recognizing them, that we all served, and we all deserve recognition. To which they have done, and I am proud of all my brothers that do this, thank you so much.

But that is not the end of our fight to being recognized for our service. The veteran administration even to this day sometimes do not recognize women as veterans. The people we have day to day contact will say "thank your husband for his service" or "what service did your spouse serve in?" I could go on and on. In this day and time, you would think we would have done our homework and realize that women serve and are making an impact every day in the military, in the world for that matter.

So, I ask you as a person, the next time you see a woman who might be wearing a veteran hat/shirt or driving a vehicle, etc. to recognize her for *her* service. You know what it will do? It will Make her day, she will feel appreciated, and she will be grateful and proud to have served or be serving. And if someone happens to see this exchange? It might just change this ongoing stigma.

On another note, that is close to my heart:

Civilians don't understand what a soldier/airmen/marine or any military member goes through. "Unless you've walked in my boots you don't get it". Words are never so

true as those when we lose one to the 22. You are probably wondering 22? Yes, very sadly that is how many veterans we lose a day to their demons/suicide. We as veterans try to make people aware of this but mostly, we want our brothers and sisters to know that we are here for them, and we also have resources that are available to them. I have personally received those calls and helped veterans get the help they needed to move on with their life. It is very hard as a veteran to ask for help. Trust me, we are too proud to say we failed, but that mind set is what we succumb to way too many times. So please, if you see someone in trouble reach out and listen. Take notice and help each other out.

Ride Safe and Smart...Enjoy the Ride!!!

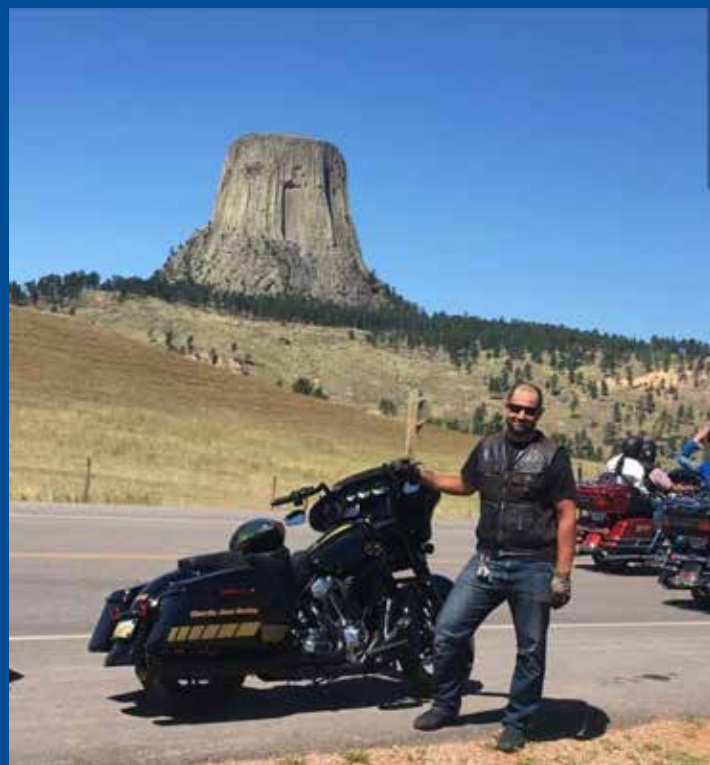


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.....READERS RIDES.....

DAN GARCIA

I was introduced to the sport of riding by my dad Dave Garcia, who is 73 and still rides! When I was 28 Years old, he let me learn to ride on his 2005 Fat Boy. After owning a few different Harleys I decided I wanted to build a high-power Harley on the M8 platform, so I picked up this 107ci Street Glide as a starting point. The bike started out as a 124ci, and soon ended up a 130ci monster. The motor, built by Jason Broski at CJ Cycle in Ypsilanti, MI now makes 185 hp/170tq on pump gas. I raced this bike for 2 years and it has also taken me through Daytona as well as Sturgis. My daughter and I enjoy riding to local bike nights with my dad and my 3 brothers who also ride. It is truly a family affair!



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HOT RODS TOPICS

Hot Rods
 MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS
 SUICIDE PREVENTION FOUNDATION

April showers bring May flowers along with the itch to get on your steel horse and go for a ride! So please inspect your machine, check your tire pressure, lights, horn, turn signals, brakes then just take a short ride around your area, get reacquainted with the balance and mechanics before you go too far and have some idiot cut in front of you or stop suddenly. Right now, motorists are not looking for motorcycles and it is a very dangerous time of the year to just get on your bike and start cruising around. I know you are all experienced riders but getting comfortable on your machine again is the right thing to do after a long winter season. Safety is imperative and no one wants to get hurt or wreck your machine because some dumb*** wasn't looking out for you. Please be careful! It won't be long before we get started with activities in May for motorcycle awareness month so, please set aside your pride and learn to ride. It's gonna be a great season to get out and enjoy being with your friends, family, clubs, and non-profits. I can't wait to hook-up and say HI to everyone. There'll be plenty of events coming up like motorcycle swap meets, first bike nights of the year and so on.

Like always, we have a lot going on. Our organization is having a bus ride to Firekeepers Casino on April 15th. This is a great fundraiser for us and a good time for all! At our next meeting we will be having a soup cook-off which is awesome. And since April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, we're collecting donations for Foster Care / Children's Protective Services. If you would like to get involved, become a member, make a donation, or want any information on other activities we have planned, please reach out to us at hotrods.motorcycle.awareness@gmail.com. May is Motorcycle Awareness Month with yard signs and City Proclamations so the public is aware that "Motorcycles are Everywhere." And always remember "The Motorcycle Lawyer" Jason Waechter is the man you need for accidents and injuries.

HOT ROD BEATON
 President / Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness and Suicide Prevention Foundation

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DIRT SEASON

Well, I think we made it!!!...The snow took its sweet time getting here but it is soon about to be melted away, the world's slowly going to start to wake up... Just a couple more short weeks and as fast as it came, ice racing will be a thing of the past for another year.... Welcome to dirt season!!

To me this means something a little bit different than just jumps and hills and kicking up some roost.....Moto season is a way of life, as a photographer not only is it my work but as a mom it is our family time, it is an outlet for our restless teenagers, it's a place for building life skills, and it is a spot for taking responsibility and earning respect!!

Our off-road season always starts the last week of March with spring break, followed by the first race in April at Bulldogs MX. After several months of downtime, training is a must for us! When the season gets close, we always scout out a motocross camp to spend some time sharpening up our skills under the direction of an experienced trainer. Moto camp is not just about physical conditioning, it is also a time for getting the bikes in order, checking our gear, and gathering sponsors to help us make it safely through the next 7-8 months. Seeing the smiles and the excitement that even the biggest of the kids get from being back out in the dirt makes my job as a photographer but also as a mom 1000% worth it!

Putting your child on a gas powered engine with a full tank of fuel and trusting in their skill enough to get them safely back to you is not for the faint of heart! It takes a different kind of faith and a unique mindset to watch your baby (no matter how old) fly 40 feet in the air over top of you, or to cheer them on while there battling it out in a pack of other bikes pushing through some of the roughest terrain that there is....Can you imagine the dedication and drive all of these riders have to have to get to this point? you don't get the skill to ride like that from a cell phone!!... These kids are insane in the most unforgiving sport but in the best kind of way!!

Motocross takes the support of the entire family and then some. Co-parenting is definitely at its finest here, and I'm not just talking about "mom and dad", I'm talking about the track, the sponsors, the friends, the acquaintances, even the competition.... This is the family that we choose to spend our weekends with throughout much of the year! This is Our Moto Family!! The kids sweat together, they bleed together, they take care of each other, and they can't wait to get on the track and whoop each other's asses!! Only to give a quick knuckle bump at the end of the race to show a bit of respect for giving it their all! This sport is giving them skills and friendships that will last a lifetime!

I am excited, and beyond honored to expand our Moto Family this season to include Aly and RJ the new owners of Thunder Roads Michigan Magazines. They are giving me a little spot to share and brag about the insane things that my kids drag me into!! I am excited to keep everyone updated! Here's to a safe, exciting, dirt season for EVERYONE!

Don't forget to check our calendar for upcoming motocross, flat track, and other racing events. Come cheer on the next generation of bikers and check out the action with Madcap Imaging and Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan!!

Erin Fay / Madcap Imaging
 Photographer/contributor to
 Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan
 To view more season photos please visit Madcap.shootproof.com

WYLD STALLIONS MOTORCYCLE BUILD

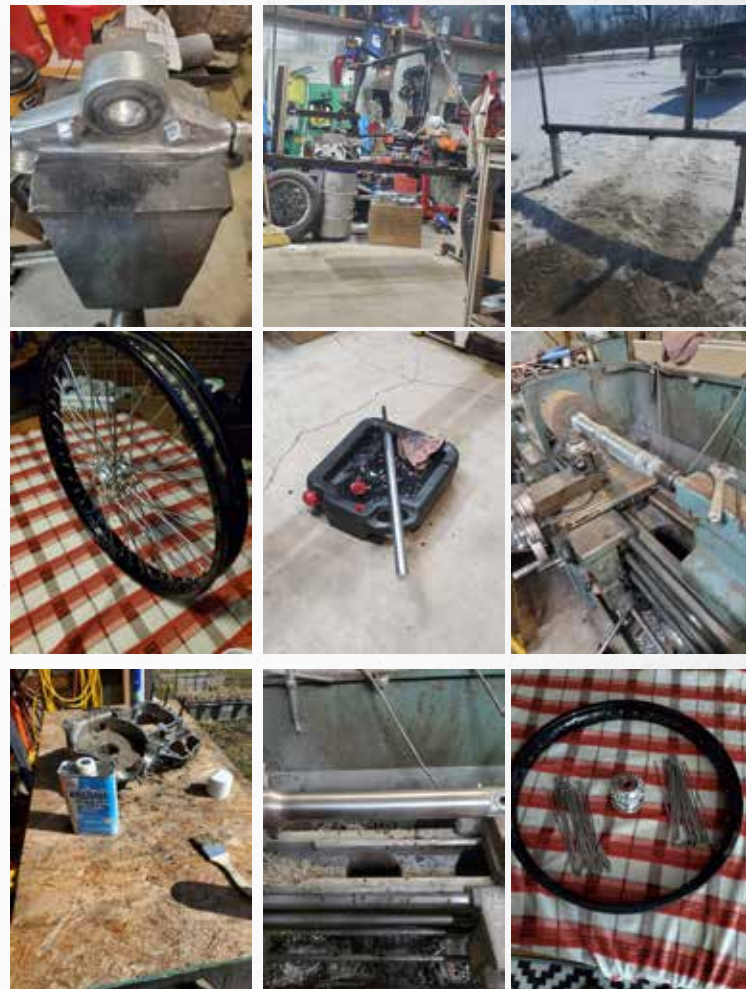
DEREK LONG: UPDATE

It's been a cold and dreary few weeks and I have been struggling to keep warm and motivated. Lately, knowing that I'll be able to ride again soon is helping to keep me moving! I have had some small accomplishments on my build steps, but no matter the size... they are still forward. I started out by lacing a front 21" spoked wheel and getting it trued. It was a challenge, but I was able to persevere. Now, both black front and rear wheels have been laced with chrome hubs and stainless spokes. After handling the challenge that the wheels gave me, I got my frame jig out of storage that was built many moons ago. When I got it to the workshop, I had to do some cleaning on it because it looked like I treated it like a lawn ornament before I was able to get a roof over it. Now, my frame is hanging on it waiting to get chopped.

Since the motor teardown was completed last update, I needed to remove the crusty flaking black paint that was on the cases to start a new. Me and the dirt bike boy started to scrub and got as far as a snail in a drag race. It just wasn't moving as fast as we needed, so we decided it was time for a chemical alternative. We went to one of the Wyld Stallions sponsors ... O, O, O'Reilly Auto Parts and picked up some stripper that worked well, but by golly it hurt the ole snoot when you got a whiff! Now that I've got them back to bare, I've decided to hold off on deciding to paint them again or leave them alone. I guess I'll leave that as a problem for future Derek.

After looking at the front fork lowers, I made the decision to do a bit of cutting and smoothing. I wanted to shave all the fender mounts, brake connectors, and the steering lock off the triple tree. So, after taking them apart and draining the fork oil, I chucked the fork lowers onto the lathe and cleaned all those pesky brake mounts and fender mounts out of the way. I finished them up by sanding them down with 1500 grit paper. Now they sit in the corner until later times. I locked down the triple trees in the vice and ate away at the tabs that were no longer needed. Next I'll do the filling and sanding before polishing can commence.

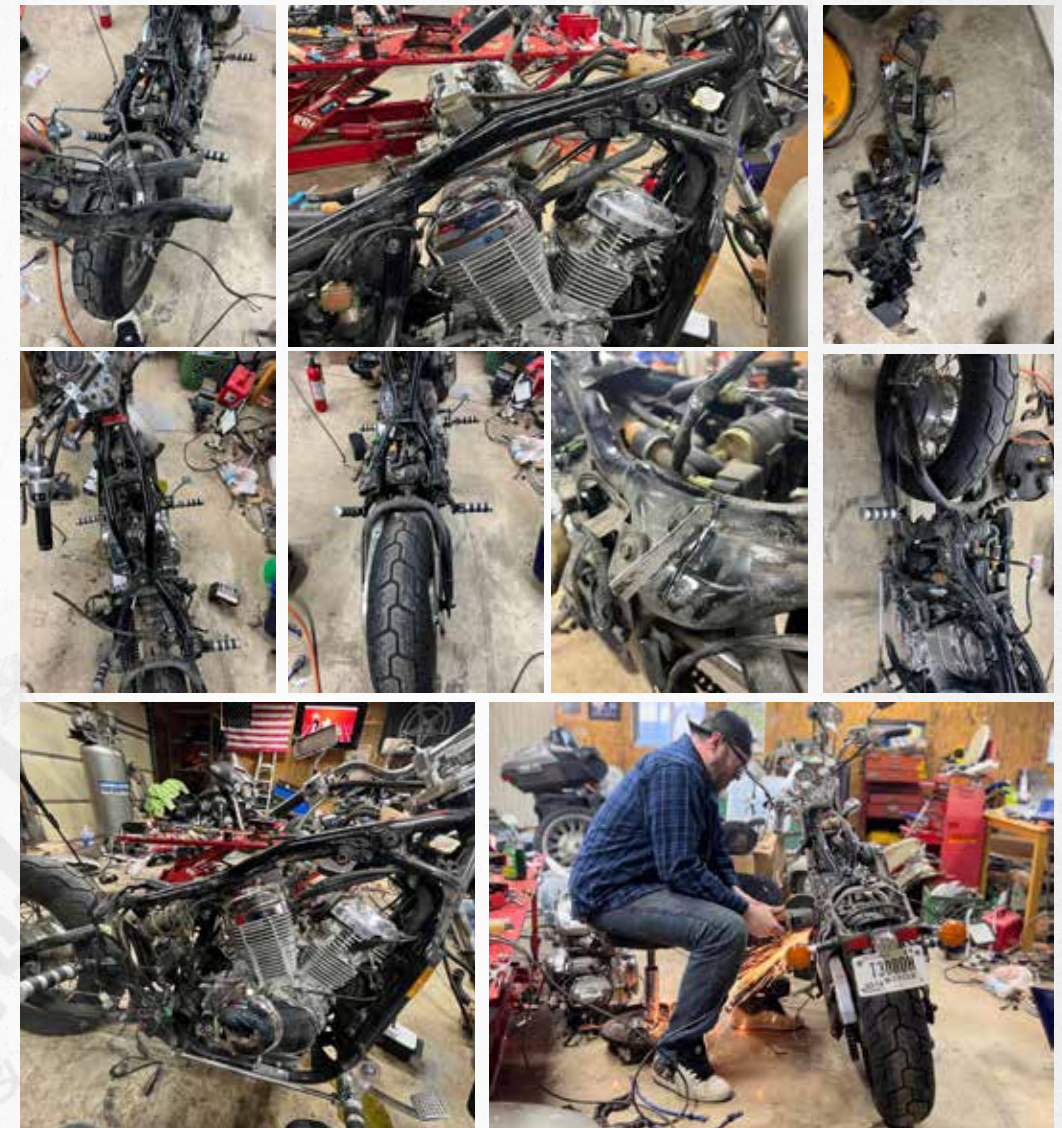
As I wrap up the ramblings of this update, I now have my new pistons and rings, but I am still waiting to get my needed motor components around before the reassembly can occur. I'm getting ready to get some steel ordered so that I can start on my rear hard tail and also get my tires mounted. Step by step, I keep moving forward. Thanks for following m Wyld adventure!



NIC CARLIN: UPDATE

After getting the bike mostly stripped down, I laid out my cut lines on the rear subframe. I started cutting the with my Harbor Freight Sawzall blades and I broke 2 of them before I could even make it through one side. So, I grabbed my grinder and threw on an Empire Abrasives cut off wheel. Once I finished slicing through the subframe, it found itself on the scrap pile.

Next, I moved up to the motor compartment and started removing all of the ugly and restrictive air box. I'll be using pod filters on my carbs to get them breathing right and to clean up the engine a bit. The next step will be making the hardtail section and welding it into place and getting the seat mounted. components around before the reassembly can occur. I'm getting ready to get some steel ordered so that I can start on my rear hard tail and also get my tires mounted. Step by step, I keep moving forward. Thanks for following m Wyld adventure!



JON WYSONG: UPDATE

So, for this check in I worked mostly on cleaning up the frame and getting it ready for the badass hardtail Michael at Voodoo Vintage made for me. I was able to get it all mounted up, but still have some cleaning up to do. I'm still trying to work out my time between my family and this bike. I'm trying not to neglect either of them. As far as the next step, I'm going to be dragging out the parts I've collected and start mocking things up to decide the direction I'm going to go.



WYLD STALLIONS MOTORCYCLE BUILD

ZACK JONES: UPDATE

After we got back from vacationing in Hawaii, we got rollin' on the gas tank fab work. Chopping the stock tank mounts was a breeze with the Black Hawk cut off wheels supplied by Empire Abrasives. Once we cleaned the frame up, I then welded in new TC Bro's bungs to mount the new tank that I got from the Novi swap last year. I welded in an old school fuel gage and cleaned everything up a bit with the Black Hawk flap disks that were also supplied by Empire Abrasives. Afterwards, my old lady painted the top of the tank for me, and started working on the sides. She painted directly over the bare metal and I'm liking the look!

I got a set of 12" bars in trade and I'm liking the look a little more than the 16's I was originally going to use. They are a little too narrow for the springer risers, so I'll have to modify them a bit. I started welding in the oil bag mounts, but my welder started laying down booger welds, so I am holding off until I can figure it out. I'm thinking that the weld together oil bag and rubber mounts from TC Bro's should look pretty rad when complete! We've aligned the rear wheel and got the wheel spacers sorted out. That's we're we are now!



TERRY SCOTT: INTRO

I am a 51-year-old from Ovid, Michigan. I have lived in the area for most of my life. I am a former Vocational Education Instructor and I've been riding and wrenching on motorcycles since I was about 5 years old.

I find it odd to talk about myself and for some odd reason some of you want to learn more, so here it goes! I am a Leo who likes to take long walks on the beach. I have a wonderful wife named Karen who puts up with my crap and we have one fur-baby, who is not so wonderful. Due to bad genes and some life decisions, I have lost the use of my left ankle and foot. So, I own a CB 750 with a custom heel toe shifter setup that allows me ride .. even with my bum left side. Some wonderful friends hooked me up with a Hondamatic so I will be able to ride a lot more this year. My main goal is to build a bike that I can safely ride by building myself a right-hand jockey shift with a left-hand clutch. My main influences are Ed Roth, Ron Finch, Rick Howard and Kenny Howard. I'm looking forward to participating in the Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Build and will be working on a 76 XS 360.

UPDATE:

I've got the bike out of long-term storage and put it on the motorcycle jack for now. I will move it over to the lift after I get it running. First things first, I want to make sure it will run before moving on. Hopefully we will find that the engine is not junk. It ran when I put it in storage many moons ago. I did mount the tank and bars that I think I am going to go with. I am waiting on some parts. I am pretty sure I will need to rebuild the carbs to get it running. Since it's on the jack it gave me an excellent chance to look it over and come up with some ideas. The plan is to stretch it 6 inches and give me a place to start for the hard tail I am going to build.

Until next time be excellent to each other.



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Bike owner: Jay Howard
Photo shoot location: Iron Horse Bar & Grill Akron, MI

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26 <div>Paragon Promotion - Grand Rapids MOTORCYCLE 2 SWAP MEET 4 Mile Showplace 1025 4 Mile NWGrand Rapids, MI 49544 www.ParagonsPromtion.com MOTOCROSS AMA District14 Racing @ Bulldogs M/C</div>	27	28 <div>J&P CYCLE 11 BIKE NIGHT 14440 Pardee Rd Taylor MI 48180 www.jpicycles.com/taylor</div>	29	30	31	1 <div>Sanford American Legion - MOVIE NIGHT Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man 2080 N. Meridian Rd. Sanford MI 48657 6pm-10pm MOTOCROSS Vintage Racing @ Bulldogs M/C April Fool's Day</div>
9 <div>Easter Sunday</div>	3	4 <div>J&P CYCLE 11 BIKE NIGHT 14440 Pardee Rd Taylor MI 48180 www.jpicycles.com/taylor</div>	5	6	7	8 <div>Paragon Promotion - Wexford Civic Center 1320 N. Mitchell St. Cadillac, MI 49601 www.ParagonsPromtion.com</div>
16 <div>Easter Sunday</div>	10	11 <div>J&P CYCLE 11 BIKE NIGHT 14440 Pardee Rd Taylor MI 48180 www.jpicycles.com/taylor</div>	12	13	14	15 <div>Golden Key Camp Fundraiser - KIDS WITH CANCER A & M Leather 18857 Middlebelt Rd. Romulus, MI 48174 Detroit Iron Mustangs Up Day BLESSING OF THE BIKES 1605 Plymouth Rd, Detroit MI Event time: 5:00 \$10 Donation</div>
23	17	18	19	20	21	22 <div>15th Annual D-Frost Run & Party Benefiting Pennickton Center for Blind Children Registration 10:30- Noon @ Morown Harley-Davidson After Party @ UAW Local 387 24250 Telegraph Rd. Flatrock, MI 48134 www.pennickton.com</div>
30	24	25	26	27	28	29 <div>AMVETS Post 1978 1st Annual BLESSING OF THE BIKES 1117 E. Bertrand Rd. Niles MI Registration 9am - Noon - Kickstands up at 12:30 \$10 per bike \$5 for passenger</div>
	1	2	3	4	5	6

D-FROST RUN - 15TH YEAR!

The D Frost Run came to be in 2009 when a close group of friends and family belonging to a Riding association known as Brother by Choice were wanting to come up with a way to give back, and to do something for the community. One of those close friends happened to be Phyllis McCandless. Phyllis was working at the time for Ford Woodhaven Stamping Plant in Woodhaven, MI. As a member of UAW Local 387 the suggestion of doing a motorcycle charity run for The Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor, MI. The center is unique. The children there are all dual disabled, so they are blind and also have another disability such as autism, cerebral palsy, or hearing loss. It can be very challenging for families to educate a child with dual disability. Penrickton offers unique and specialized programs to educate and help these families at no cost to the families. Charity events like the D-Frost Run are how the center can provide education for the families and children.



Anna, A sponsor child.



Anna, growing up.

So, this group of friends and family that were previously mentioned include Bill McCandless and his wife Phyllis, Bill's brother Matt McCandless and his wife Beth, and Bill's other brother Brian McCandless and his wife Stacy. Along with the McCandless family came a lot of their friends and their families. They all work together as a team to make this happen, that help also includes the UAW Local 387 which has donated the event space and the soft drinks for 15 years!



Brian, Stacy, \$Bill and Phyllis handing Director Kurt Sebaly the donation for Penrickton.



Fun at the D-Frost!

In 2009 the D-Frost Run began with 78 riders and donated \$4000.00! The next year the McCandless brothers and others joined the Jokers MC and started the Downriver Chapter. The Jokers came on as a sponsoring MC in 2010 and have been volunteering countless hours and dedication since then. Credit must be given to Brian McCandless for designing the D-Frost Run logo and the



D-Frost Run riders.



Matt and Beth McCandless riding the event.

D-Frost patch! It truly takes a village for this event to take place every year and not one person could do it alone. Over 15 years the event has been held rain or shine!! Yup, that even means riding in the snow on occasion.

Though Phyllis McCandless has been the chair for this event, none of it could happen without the support of its numerous and loyal volunteers. Mob Opera, for one. They deserve a great round of applause because they have been the entertainment every year for 13 years! They do it for the kids and do not charge a cent for their services.



Mob Opera on stage!



Mob Opera & \$Bill



2 Bit, \$Bill, and Fiddy.



Will VonLinsowe.

Will VonLinsowe, the lead singer for Mob Opera creates and builds a custom guitar every year and donates it to be raffled off. He truly has blessed this event and we greatly appreciate his dedication. Also, let's not forget the amazing young ladies who have worked behind the bar over the years that happily serve with a smile and collect tips, only to donate every single tip they get back to the charity. This team of lovely ladies are managed by Penny Victory, Phyllis's daughter and are helped by the smiling faces of her nieces Brittany Shelby, Skyler Mallory, and Maddie. So very many of the McCandless family and friends have stepped in over the years selling tickets, manning a dice table, and let's not forget the kitchen / food staff of Gretchen Victory and kids. All our family



A few guitars donated over the years.



know that there is always something for them to help with and they always step up to the challenge. I am blessed! There is no doubt that this is a family event for sure. All of the countless hours planning and putting everything together and working so hard to collect donations of anything and everything they can to make it amazing. The motto is "ask everyone and we will take any donation" because we can and will use it to make this happen.

In 2020, when Covid was shutting everything down, we had to postpone the run. Eventually, it led to us finally saying we would have to cancel the run that year. That decision was an especially difficult one because it was to be in honor of my husband \$Bill who had passed and helped create this wonderful event. To my surprise, our D-FROSTERS where not having it! The messages and calls started coming in and everyone agreed that "they were doing this run no matter what the government or I said"- Lol. I was overwhelmed with the love and passion the motorcycle community has for this event, and I still am. So, we scrambled, and Iron Mikes and Big Al's said they were in and that they would provide the outdoor space. The Down River Jokers opened their door and said "We will make it happen." Though it was not normal by any standard, people still road in and donated. The 2020 D-Frost Run happened in spite of covid that year and we were still able to donate \$15,000 with around 100 riders in all. It showed how much love the MC community has for the Penrickton Center for Blind Children and for the love of the D-Frost Run itself.



Brian, Stacy, Matt, Beth, and \$Bill



Bethie, \$Bill, and Rusty.



Now, with the 15th Annual D-Frost Run coming up this year I can look back proudly. We have seen how the love and giving from the heart has grown from this. It's proof that love can grow from a small idea. We couldn't have done it without our great crew of loyal sponsors. Let's give them the recognition they deserve! Iron Mikes has been a stop every single one of the previous 14 years. Motown

WWW.THUNDERROADSMICHIGAN.COM



The kitchen crew. Gretchen Victory and kids.



The guys from Mob Opera and Matt.



Harley-Davidson sponsors us with many great items to raffle as well as hosting registration for the D-Frost Run each year. Our village is full of crazy fun-loving people and it's contagious. Over the last 14 years we have given Penrickton Center over \$200,000 in donations! We've gone from 78 attending to around 800. It seems that with this event, every time a door closes another one opens. We look forward to more blessings this year and in the years to come. You just gotta love a D-Frost Run!



2022 Donation by Jokers Downriver, Phyllis, and Kurt Sebaly Director of Penrickton

Phyllis McCandless

Chairperson, D-Frost Run

To learn more about helping or donating to the 2023 D-Frost Run you can reach them via email at d_frost_run@outlook.com or you can learn more about Penrickton Center for Blind Children at www.penrickton.com



Penrickton Center for Blind Children
Provide non-profit, providing care and support to blind, multi-disabled children and their families.

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15th Annual D-Frost Run & Party Benefiting Penrickton Center for Blind Children

D-FROST RUN



Dice roll game for cash prize...



2023

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For info email Phyllis McCandless or Fiddy d_frost_run@outlook.com

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INTERNATIONAL FEMALE RIDE DAY®

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IFRD call to action - "just ride" encourages female riders to get out there and be visible. By taking part women demonstrate first-hand the vast numbers of women who ride, while simultaneously breaking down stereotypes or preconceived definitions of female riders.

INTERNATIONAL FEMALE RIDE DAY® SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023

MOTO PRESS



shout out

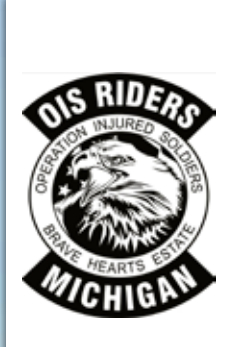
TO: TONY BONES SMOKIN' BBQ
FROM: WILLIAM MCKENZIE



Shout Out to Tony Bones Smokin' BBQ! They have an awesome food trailer that can be found around the Shiawassee County area and beyond. He caters corporate and personal events with award winning BBQ and more! He's worked hard on creating his special recipes and even makes his own BBQ sauce.
<https://tonybonessmokinbbq.com>

Want to wish someone special a Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, Congrats, etc. in a BIG WAY? Surprise them by saying it in Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine! For only \$15 you can put your personal message along with a photo in an upcoming issue of Thunder Roads® Michigan. Go to www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com and click on the shout out link!





OPERATION INJURED SOLDIERS



This year's winter has been a struggle here in lower Michigan. Between the lack of snow on the ground and not having enough cold temperatures to keep the snow we did get. Luckily, March came through for us snowmobilers! Finally, a month with some snow! The OIS Riders were able to fill Brave Hearts Estate with some eager to ride snowmobiling veterans! Everyone was anxiously waiting to get on the trails, so of course the first night we had to take a night ride just to get in as much riding as possible. We got up early the next morning and had a big home cooked breakfast before hitting the smooth trails again. We were excited for a great day filled with each other's company and some beautiful scenery. We had some cloud cover for most of the day and the cool temperatures held out all afternoon. We stopped for lunch, had some laughs, relaxed for a while then back to the trails we went. All in all, we had a great time meeting new veterans and making new friends. We all had a blast! The Veterans are looking forward to upcoming events and have already begun making plans to attend them, and of course plans to return for more time on the trails next year. Getting them out and connecting with one another is our goal. Mission accomplished!! The OIS Riders have been busy planning for the 3rd Annual Mackinaw Rally coming up in June. We are also planning for our annual fundraiser event in Lyon Township on Saturday, July 8th. This fundraiser will help cover the cost for the events that we put on for free for our veterans. We hope to see everyone there and we appreciate all the support.

Jason Middleton
Director, OIS
22645 Pontiac Trail
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(248)437-3130



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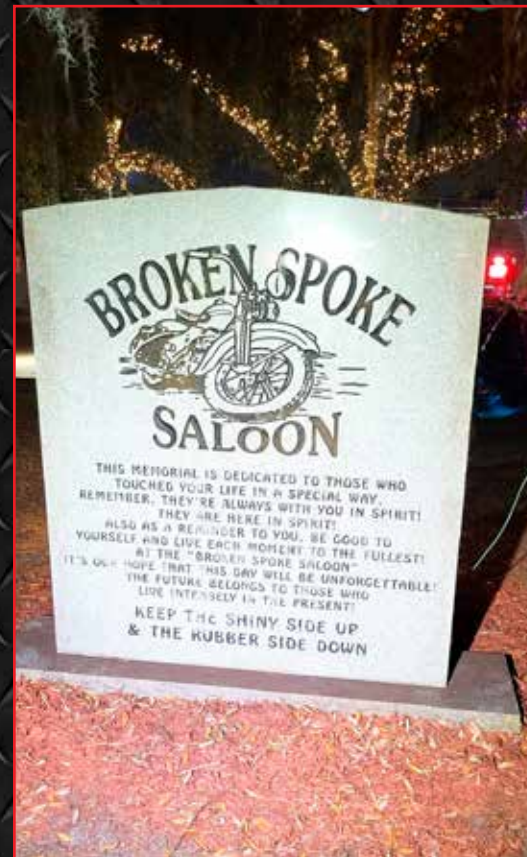
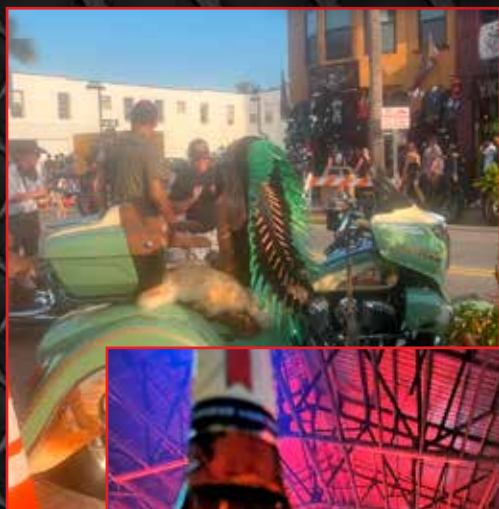
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JOKER'S WILD



WHY if we have the speed of light, what is the speed of dark?

WHY do we always stand up and look at our own chit before flushing?

WHY do cats always look at their own chit before covering it up thoroughly?

WHY do we say "after dark" when it is really "after light"?

WHY is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dish-washing liquid made with real lemons?

WHY if Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find all the words?

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

WHY isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

WHY do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections in prison?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? WHY don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

WHY if the #2 pencil the biggest seller, why is it still #2?

WHY are they called tug boats when they are obviously push boats?

WHY if con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

WHY is a carrot more orange than an orange?

WHY is it the early bird gets the worm but the 2nd mouse always gets the cheese?

WHY do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

WHY do they put hot dogs in packages of ten but buns only come in packages of eight?

(One of my all-time fave jokes and run it every 5 years or thereabouts)

Two little Georgia girls sitting on the mammoth front steps of an extremely fine Southern home and the little girl who lives in this mansion looks over at the other little girl, who was obviously poor by her dress and shoes, and points to the stables and says very superior and boasting, "You see the stables where we house no less than 30 of the finest Tennessee Walking Horses and prime Stallions from across the world?"

My Daddy owns all that stable of prime horses and someday it will be all mine.

The other girl looks and shakes her head yes and replies, "That's nice."

The first girl says, "You see that Automobile and Motorcycle Garage, where we have over 50 of the rarest and most expensive automobiles ever made and the fastest motorcycles in the world. My Daddy owns that Garage and everything within, and someday it will be all mine."

The other little girl looks real hard and long, and shakes her head yes and replies, "That's nice."

The little mansion girl is getting a tad heated and says, "You see all this land, as far as the eye can see and then some? My Daddy owns over 5,000 acres of fertile, cattle and sheep raising land, and someday it will be all mine!"

The other little girl put her hand up to her forehead like a visor and gazed long and hard at all that land and replied, "Wow!, that's nice."

The first little girl looks at the other and says, "What does your Daddy own or do?"

The other little girl replied, "My Daddy is a poor and simple man but he works long hours and is real good with horses, which is why your Daddy called him."

"We don't own fine stables or fancy garages and definitely no land except for the lot our little home is on. My Daddy did save up enough to send me to Charm School though, and I was proud to graduate 1st in my class."

The first little girl sputtered and declared, "Charm School!! and what prey tell did they teach the likes of you at Charm School?"

The other little girl turned and faced the first little girl and looked her square in the eyes and replied, "They taught me to say "That's Nice instead of F*#k You!"

HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY to MAMA THUNDER!

Forever Young @ Heart Thru Laughter & Sex..... preferably @ the same time! LOL & smooch!

EVENTS



THUNDER ROADS®
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APRIL 2023

April 1

-Sanford American Legion - Movie Night
Harley Davidson and the Marlboro Man
2080 N. Meridian Rd.
Sanford MI 48657
6pm-10pm

-Motocross

Vintage Racing @ Bulldogs M/C

April 2

-Paragon Promotion – Grand Rapids
Motorcycle Swap Meet
4 Mile Showplace
1025 4 Mile NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
www.ParagonsPromtion.com
Hours: 10-4
Admission: \$8

-Motocross

AMA District 14 Racing @ Bulldogs M/C

April 8

-Paragon Promotion -Wexford Civic Center
1320 N. Mitchell St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
www.ParagonsPromtion.com
Hours: 10-4
Admission: \$8

April 11

-J&P Cycle Bike Night
14440 Pardee Rd.
Taylor, MI 48180
www.jpcycles.com/taylor

April 15

-Golden Key Camp Fundraiser – Kids with Cancer
A & M Leather
18957 Middlebelt Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174
Admission \$20 per person
Meet time: 10:30am - Kickstands up at Noon

April 15

-Detroit Iron Mustangs Up Day
Blessing of the Bikes
16015 Plymouth Rd
Detroit MI
Event time: 5:00
\$10 Donation

April 22

-15th Annual D-Frost Run & Party Benefiting
Penrickton Center For Blind Children
Registration 10:30-Noon @ Motown Harley-Davidson
After Party @ UAW Local 387
24250 Telegraph Rd.
Flatrock, MI 48134
www.penrickton.com

April 29

-AMVETS Post 1978 1st annual Blessing of the Bikes
1117 E. Bertrand Rd.
Niles MI
Registration 9am – Noon - Kickstands up at 12:30
\$10 per bike \$5 for passenger

Bold events indicate Advertiser/Supporter of Thunder Roads MI-please patronize our advertisers.

EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE!!!

Increase your attendance by posting your event in Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan. All Advertised Events in our Magazine will have their event Posted on the Pull-Out Calendar (specific issues) and your Event will be highlighted in the Thunder Roads® Events Calendar of the Magazine.

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(Call about our Special Discounts for
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To get your event listed in Thunder Roads Magazine and on our web site, send the information to:
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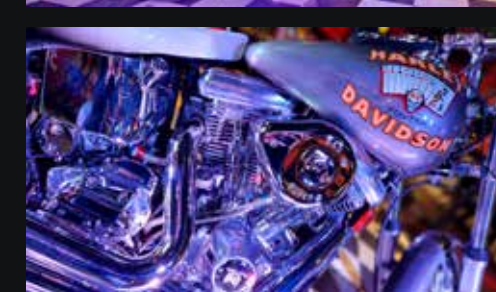
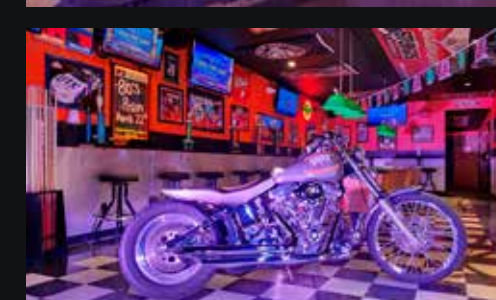
Event information must be received prior to the 10th of the month preceding the event month to be posted in the magazine. Remember to call ahead before planning to attend any event as the information/dates may change.

Thunder Roads® Michigan is not responsible for errors or omissions.



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TECH TIPS CLUTCHING AT STRAWS

By: Nate T.



the details of a clutch rebuild this month because there are way too many types of bikes out there and there just isn't time, but you're in luck.

Truth be told, it isn't that complicated, but it must be done right. It's also easier if you have the right tools and materials to start with. You're going to need a service manual (if you don't own one, get one). You may even need one of those wonderful specialty tools that you buy "to use once" and then use as a paperweight for the next decade or so. In fact, there are a few of those holding things down in my shop at this very minute. Regardless, pay your clutch some attention and it'll end up being better for you, your bike, and your pocketbook in the long run. Probably sooner than later, and I'm happy to be the guy that shares with you where to start.

Our clutches are made of springs, steel plates, and friction discs. Some need fluid to work and some don't. Some use hydraulic pressure to move them and some older bikes use old fashioned levers. All of them work about the same way as the spring squeezes the friction disk into the steel plate. Just like getting on the brakes and it causes that squeeze-a-lation (highly technical term) and locks the two together. You're not getting this for free though. Every time you let off or pull on that clutch, you're wearing stuff down little by little. Then, that wear can and will eventually create dust that kind of likes to stop up the works. Don't fret though, I promise it's gonna be alright.

To start, make sure you are changing your clutch fluid as your manual calls for it. Make sure you go all the way with this one. Make sure you've got the recommended fluid type and the right amount of it. Too much or too little is not a good thing here. I know some people like to check to make sure there's "still some in there" but changing it out tends to clear out that dust I mentioned earlier. The things inside that need to slip, slide, and roll when we need them too will thank you.

Now, comes the part you've been dreading ... the adjustment. Most people get a bit unnerved right now (dry mouth, cold sweats) ... Man or Woman up! - lol. If you've got enough in your noodle to stay up on two wheels, then you can do this! First, read about it carefully in your manual (again with the manual... this will become a dead horse). When they wrote that book, the intention was a bit more than killin'



uninvited insects in the shop or garage. Your manual will tell you how to disconnect or loosen up your clutch cable first, so it doesn't mess with what comes next. Then, it will cover the how's and whys in getting the transmission adjusted just the way you want it. Finally, you're gonna get that clutch cable back on and adjusted in such a manner that the manufacturer would even be proud.

You may have to do this a couple of times to get it just right and that's normal. You won't regret it either. You're gonna notice right away that your scooter has had some sort of attitude adjustment. It may even have that pep back in its step. Maybe you won't have to breathe into a paper bag after you've tried to park it on a hill (gravity is terribly consistent, eh?). Believe me, you'll feel the pride that comes with taking care of your two-wheeler all on your lonesome.

Until next time ... Keep it between the lines and shiny side up.

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