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December 2023 Volume 19 Issue 9

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IN THIS ISSUE:

ABATE OF MICHIGAN

Q&A WITH ABATE PRESIDENT

VINCE CONSIGLIO

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MOTORCYCLE
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AN OPEN INVITE INTO
THEIR HISTORY

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



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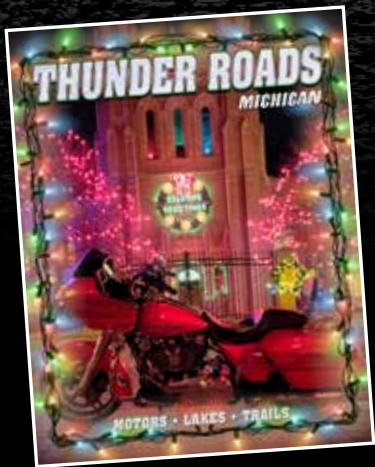
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ON THE COVER

BIKE OWNER: BEN WEIRAUCH,
AKA “THAT BEARDED GUY”
YEAR: 2017
MAKE: HARLEY-DAVIDSON
MODEL: FLTRXS
COLOR: LAGUNA ORANGE

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MICHIGAN MAGAZINE

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LETTER FROM OWNERS

Times are hard for many young individuals, business owners, single parent families, married families, all families in general, our veterans, and the elderly. A lot of people are struggling, and that doesn’t always mean financially. It can be loneliness that they are struggling with, and that feeling is the absolute worst thing anyone could feel. If there is a gift worth giving, it’s your time. We encourage you to stop, take a day or two and find a local food kitchen and volunteer. Pick a local organization that helps get unexpected gifts to unfortunate children. Donate a gift or help deliver them when the time comes. I promise you won’t have to look very hard or go very far. I know it will make a difference and here’s my story as to why I believe it to be true. Maybe some of you out there will be able to relate and there is no shame in it. If you can’t relate there is no shame in that either.

As kids growing up, we didn’t know we were poor... (insert record scratching noise) Wait! Yes, YES, WE DID! – lol We lived in subsidized housing, we had no car, we had to walk or take the bus everywhere, we grocery shopped once a month with paper food stamps (I can still remember their texture in my fingertips), we stood in line to get free “generic” food when we ran low, we never had the trendiest clothes, eating at a restaurant may have happened once a year, and income was most definitely dictating our lifestyle. Yeah, we got bullied for being poor at school so yeah, we knew. Still, we were raised to be respectful and to be tough. Being raised by a single mother and by Sunday school, we were taught to turn the other cheek and the occasional neighborhood bully would have to be taught not to mess with those Calles kids. Yeah, we got that from mom. Nobody messed with mom. So, even though we knew we were poor we were taken care of. We had clean clothes, there was food on the table, and we had a roof over our heads.

Now, going back to donating and volunteering, I can remember the weeks and long days leading up to Christmas very well. Going on Christmas break from school, going places and seeing presents under trees. Taking the time to circle what we were wishing for in the JC Penney and Sears Christmas catalogs and leaving them in plain sight for everyone to see. Yes, we really did that. They were called “wish books” for a reason, right? Honestly, we weren’t really raised to believe in Santa, but we knew that you had to be good if you were expecting a gift during Christmas and somehow, we knew Christmas was coming. We knew we would wake up to the smell of a large breakfast cooking and a present to open in the morning. You see, Christmas always found a way because of our immediate family, our church families, and places like the Salvation Army. I can clearly remember coming around the corner one Christmas Eve to see the boys in blue standing there, holding large black garbage bags open in our kitchen with my mom. At first, I thought something was wrong as my eyes widened, but they were the ones frozen as my mom told me to go back to bed. I can remember my mom saying I think they will like these as I turned and walked away. Morning couldn’t come fast enough!

Now, I’ve shared some other “how poor we were” stories with my kids and not to make them feel guilty, but to feel blessed to look back. Most of the time it is to make a joke with my youngest to make lighthearted conversation, but my oldest kids that are out of the house on their own are most likely feeling the pinch now in their own way. Especially, my oldest daughter and soon to be stepson who now have children of their own. So, give and continue to give. Arguably we are getting ready to celebrate the final holiday of the year. For us, it’s Christmas. For others it could be something a little different, but most end up with the same outcome if they are lucky. Spending time with loved ones, family, and friends. And remembering our loved ones we’ve lost. According to the great “Google” there are 14 religious holidays listed for the month of December. So, whatever your reason for the season is, we hope that it’s the best one yet.

~ RJ

Thank you, mom... we love you.

Merry Christmas everyone!!



VETERANS CORNER



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MY BROTHERS & SISTERS

As we come upon the Holidays there are many of you that have put your motorcycles away for the winter months, others are going to do some projects on their bikes, which is great and will keep you busy during this cold weather season. The next 5 months will be trying for some of our veterans but especially during the holidays. It is a time we need to look out for each other. If you know a brother or sister veteran that is in need of help don't hesitate to call and see how they are doing "Buddy Check" weekly. There are so many organizations in and around Michigan that can provide assistance, please don't be too proud to ask. So as the year comes to an end and we engage in the Christmas and New Year celebrations, may we remember the truly important things that made us who we are today and every day, a veteran, a brother, or sister of arms, we are here for you. As veterans it's not that we don't dislike the holidays, but they do take their tolls on a lot of us. We try so hard to keep it together, but during this time we sometimes say or do things we could come to regret. We can't always take back or change what happened, but we can learn and/or get help. We can look at what the negative is in our lives and either fix it or eliminate it from our lives. As a veteran I have had to make some hard decisions in life. It's never easy but it was what was best for me so that I could survive and move on. As the new year approaches and we prepare for 2024 let's take time to find some peace in our lives. Know that there are resources to help each one of us, and if you need help, contact me or any of the organizations I have referred to in my many articles throughout the years. I truly care, and my heart goes out to all my veteran brothers and sisters who struggle during the holidays. There are so many ways to get help as a veteran, call a friend, a family member, or another veteran, find a group to listen and share with, get some counseling, go to the VA, go to a VFW or Legion, hang out with your fellow brothers and sisters, you can always call 988. Volunteer with a group or organization to keep you engaged during these months without your motorcycle therapy. It is up to us as veterans to look out for each other. I know this all too well, and I would like each and every one reading this to make a promise, not a New Year resolution, but a promise that this year you will reach out and help out our veterans. Even if it's just to listen! There are so many groups out there that could use your help in assisting our veterans, and there are so many ways to volunteer or provide assistance. With the next few months here in Michigan being cold and snowy,

there are many veterans that will need food, shelter, warm clothes, gift cards for gas or electricity, or a ride to an appointment, or someone they can trust to call and just LISTEN. The memories and the joy you will give to them will be tremendous, trust me, I know. I decided several years ago to start writing this article because there are so many veterans who need to know that we are here for you, in the good times and bad. May we remember to love our neighbors and share our blessings with the less privileged. We as veterans truly appreciate everything this great nation has to offer, and we are proud to have served for you and fought for you. And we as Americans need to take time to also appreciate the freedoms we have because of the men and women that have served this country. Let's Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. (Psalms 100). May the joy of the season Bless your lives and homes.



SHARON K. HARVEY
(RET) TSGT, USA/USAF
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THE LAST SUMMER RIDE OF RANGER RICK AND PONY, HIS INDIAN MOTORCYCLE

It was late in the day on Tuesday when I received a call from my former employer and friend of 40 plus years. Rick? Hey John, what's up? John had a stroke in the spring and was still recovering but doing better. He ran a promotion company and promoted a statewide Gun Show circuit with a show every weekend throughout the state. It slows down a little in the summer and now that the leaves are falling off the trees, people's minds begin to wander toward thoughts of hunting season. The attendance was starting to pick up at the gun shows, and he needed my help.

I had retired from John's retail store over seven years prior, and after fifteen years of teaching people about guns, I had enough and needed a break. John had been a very good friend, long before working in his store. When John bought the shows from the former owner, he turned to me and asked if I would work with him and find new locations around the state for him to put on gun shows. Not only did I do that, but I also helped set them up, worked security, and helped with parking. Everything and anything. Now my friend is calling for help. He's a friend in need. I can't let him down. Don't worry a bit, John. I'll be there, no problem at all. Thanks for the call. I'm looking forward to spending time with you and your wife.

Then came Friday, the first day of the show, and set up time for many of the dealers and vendors begins much earlier in the morning. I checked my weather app before I left in the morning, and there wasn't supposed to rain until after eight that evening. The show was over at seven, so there should be plenty of time to get home before the rain. It was my last chance to ride my motorcycle before the end of the summer riding season. So, I decided I'd ride to meet John at the arena. Friday went slow, mostly people coming in early to set up for the weekend. It had been sunny and clear most of the day, but then around five o'clock it started getting cloudy. I checked the weather app again, and it showed rain starting in twenty minutes! But at seven, it was supposed to have a break in the rain. I thought good, I'll outrun it going home. Nope. The weatherman lied again. It was raining when I left the show and the rain got harder the farther I rode and I just kept getting wetter and colder. My windshield was wet, and so were my glasses, which made for double the trouble trying to see the road. Then, there were those sonoveabitchin drivers

coming behind me with their damn bright lights on reflecting in my mirrors! Add the lights of oncoming cars and trucks until they passed me, and I couldn't see a thing but a white glare. Then there are those who have automatic dimmers on their cars and trucks. They are not sensitive enough to pick up on a motorcycle. So, every time I was met by another car or truck I was blinded for a while and just kept getting wetter by the mile. My jeans were soaked through to my skin from the hard rain coming down, and I found myself wishing I had worn my chaps. I'll be home soon I kept thinking, and that slow and steady should help keep me under control and get me home safe. Cars and trucks were passing me on my left, their spray flying at me, slapping the front of my leather coat. So, I just went slow and easy. Fortunately, the road wasn't too slippery because it had been raining for a while. Most of the road grease and oil had been washed from the steady pouring rain, but the water was deep in places. From time to time, I could see the rain in the glare of oncoming headlights. Oh, to be out of the rain, and it was getting darker!

I motivated myself knowing that after I dried the bike off, I'd get a hot shower, and all would be well again. I traveled this road a lot, but I couldn't see the imperfections in the road or the deep-water puddles because of the darkness and falling rain. The adventure was on until I got closer to home. I pulled off onto my dirt road, and it wasn't very wet at all. I had been wondering if I was going to be able to make it up the steep muddy hill in the dark and rain, but now, no problem. The old Indian just pulled up the hill with definite determination.

Once I made it home, I was so glad to be out of the storm, I started laughing my ass off at having lived through another adventure. What a night. I hate being in the rain. I hate riding in the rain. Sucks. I was thinking while riding home about the people driving in their cars and trucks seeing me riding my bike in the pouring rain and feeling sorry for me. I wondered if their words began with "That poor guy" and ended with some sort of head shake or a smile. Yep, not some dumb kid. Me. An adult acting like a kid... and I'd do it again. I'd take my chances all over again! It makes you feel alive and glad you're still riding in the wind.

73 going on 23 looking for more adventure. - Lol

CHARLIE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: RIDING INTO THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Greetings to the free-spirited riders of the open road,
As the roar of engines fades and the chill of winter sweeps in, I'd like to invite you to journey with me into the heart of a season that binds us all, regardless of our rides or roads. Christmas, celebrated universally across the vast expanse of our great nation, the USA, and deeply rooted in Christian beliefs, beckons with open arms to each one of us, including the leather-clad riders astride their Harley-Davidson and other gleaming street bikes.

The message of hope, positivity, and the transformative power of faith speaks not merely to those seated in church pews but every one of us who seeks solace, connection, and a higher purpose. Much like the way the wind feels against your face as you cruise down a highway, the message of Christmas is both exhilarating and peaceful, speaking to the deepest corners of our hearts.

In the Christian tradition, Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior sent to redeem humanity from its struggles and sins. It's a story of divine love, sacrifice, and unshakeable hope. Born in a humble manger, Jesus' arrival wasn't heralded by grand parades or royal decrees but by the soft glow of a star, guiding wise men and humble shepherds alike. This modest beginning carries a profound message for all of us: Greatness can emerge from simplicity, and salvation can be found in unexpected places.

And isn't that the essence of our rides? Each journey, no matter how long or short, brings its lessons, memories, and revelations. Much like the Christmas star that guided the Magi, it's the inner compass of faith, hope, and love that directs our paths, both on the road and in life.

Now, while the Christian belief in Christmas centers on the divine gift of salvation, the USA's holiday celebration embraces these spiritual truths and blends them with traditions that unite families, communities, and entire cities. Streets illuminated with twinkling lights, homes adorned with wreaths and stockings, and the sound of carols echoing in the chilly air - these are not just festive markers but symbols of unity, joy, and the spirit of giving.

Consider the bikers' brotherhood. The unspoken bond that forms when you ride side by side, the shared stories around campfires, and the mutual respect that's as unyielding as the steel of your bikes. This camaraderie mirrors the essence of Christmas. It's about reaching out, lifting up, and forging connections that withstand the test of time and terrain.

For bikers, the road is both a sanctuary and a teacher. It teaches resilience in the face of challenges, humility in the presence of nature's grandeur, and gratitude for life's simplest joys. This festive season, as we reflect on the birth of Christ and the love he represents, let's also take a moment to acknowledge the lessons from our journeys and the bonds that bind our biker family.

In conclusion, as we gear up for Christmas, I urge you to ride into the heart of its message. Beyond the gifts, feasts, and festivities, may you find a deeper connection with the divine, with your fellow riders, and with the timeless spirit of love, hope, and grace. For in the end, it's not the destination but the journey and the companions by our side that truly define the essence of Christmas.

Until our next journey in Chaplain's Corner, ride safe, and may God's blessings guide you on every road you choose.



**Yours in faith and fellowship,
Chaplain Charlie!**

**Chaplain Dean Titus (Charlie)
Sanford American
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READERS RIDES SKODEN Mike M. - Sterling Heights, MI

It's a rider, not a show pony - but won its class in the one and only show I put it in. Bought it with brown leather and fringe, and only 2,000 miles on it in December 2021. It has 24,000 on it now. It has been ridden in the rain, snow, 115-degree sun, and on ice in mountains in Oregon, Washington, California, Utah, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee.



2016 Indian Chief Vintage

I originally bought the bike in Oregon and the add-ons are from all over the country. Parts come from Oregon, Washington, California, Utah, West Virginia, Florida, and Michigan. Some the accessories include CFR pipes, Freedom true dual head pipes, Indian Performance Intake, hard bags from an Indian Springfield, 1 1/2-inch lowering kit in the rear with a Roadmaster Fox Adjustable shock, full chrome package on the engine, arrowhead footpads and grips, Custom Dynamics front/ rear signal set, Pathfinder LED headlamp/highway lights, Freedom recurved 14in shield, KST Kustoms 14" Apes. Multiple seats, including a Saddlemen step up and a Dirty Bird solo, and switch back and forth for wherever I'm headed.



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THE MOTORCYCLE LAWYER ON THE LAW

5 THINGS A MICHIGAN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT VICTIM NEEDS TO KNOW

ORV LAWS

Many motorcyclists also enjoy operating off-road vehicles (ORV). Here are some highlights of Michigan's off-road vehicle laws:

An ORV is a motor-driven, recreational vehicle capable of driving on different terrains not limited to roadways and trails. Examples include:

- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- Motorcycles or related 2-wheel, 3-wheel, and 4-wheel vehicles

Before an off-road vehicle (ORV) may be operated on any property, the operator is responsible for ensuring that the vehicle and its riders have the required equipment. There are some exceptions to when certain protective equipment is legally required.

Helmets & Eyewear Required for ORV Use:

All ORV operators and passengers must wear a US Department of Transportation approved crash helmet and protective eyewear except when:

The ORV has a roof and proper safety belts, or...

The ORV is operated on a state license game bird hunting preservation at a speed of 10 mph or less or...

The ORV is towing a fishing shanty or supply shed over the frozen surface of public waters at a speed not greater than 10 mph or...

The ORV operator is at least 16 years old and is the guests or family member of the owner of the property where the ORV is being operated.

ORV operators 16 or 17 years of age must wear a helmet unless the parent has given consent for the operator to ride without a helmet.

Michigan law gives street legal motorcycle operators the option of not wearing a helmet when operating on roadways. This law does not apply to ORVs, and helmets are still legally required to be worn by operators and passengers on ORVs.

Operator Age Restrictions for ORVs

Restrictions are in effect on the operation of ORVs by children under the age of 16, including a safety education requirement. There also are specific obligations that fall under the parents or legal guardians of ORV riders under the age of 16 and upon the owners ORVs.

For Three Wheeled ATVs:

No one under the age of 16 may operate a three-wheel ATV.

For Operation of Four Wheel ATVs:

No one under the age of 10 may operate a four-wheel ATV except on private land while performing farm related work operations.

Children 10 and 11 years old may operate a four-wheel ATV only when all of the following conditions are met:

- the ATV is being operated on land owned by the child's parent or guardian
- The operator is under the direct visual supervision of the parent or guardian

- The operator possesses a valid ORV safety certificate
- Children 12 to 15 years old may operate a four-wheel ATV only when both of the following conditions are met:
- The operator is under the direct visual supervision of an adult
- The operator possesses a valid ORV safety certificate

Direct Visual Supervision: means having direct observation with the unaided, or normally corrected eye, and being close enough to come to the immediate aid of the youthful ORV operator.

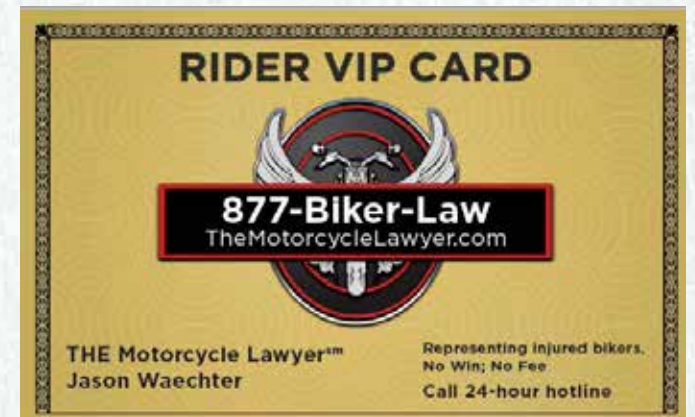
ORV Safety Education Requirements

Anyone under 16 years old is required to possess a valid safety training certificate when operating an ORV.

To obtain a safety certificate, the operator must take an ORV safety education course and pass the certification exam.

The operator must carry the safety certificate with them when operating any ORV.

Over the years we have successfully handled a number of personal injury cases where people were injured while operating an ORV and struck by a motor vehicle.



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Looking at 2023 in the Rear View Mirror

“Objects are much closer than they appear” is what I take away from 2023. It has been an amazing year and I’m happy to say that my riding season was completed with not much left on the table. We rode hard and left it all on the highway with no regrets. Personally, ending the season with just over 6800 miles was halfway decent. More importantly, 12 straight issues of Smoke N GearZ articles is completed; a humble thank you to the Thunder Roads Michigan® (TRM) Family and our readership.

Learning a few things the hard way can be so enlightening. My grandfather used to say, a hard head makes a soft ass. If you are an experienced rider that has a totally different meaning. But the rebuttal is, get a seat that is comfortable for the distance-LMAO-pun intended. Starting the year with a ride in Hawaii and ending the year with 60 degrees in the middle of November doesn’t seem so bad, but the night gets young early now. By 5:30pm, also known as Zero-dark thirty, it is already cold outside with many distracted drivers. Therefore, I revert to a statement I have made before, loud pipes, lights, and music are safety factors. Be seen, be heard.

An excellent segway, I got into a discussion whether music is a safety item or a distraction with the Prez of Motor City Dirty Birds. I believe we both walked away hearing each other’s thought process. To his vantage point, music can be a distraction to the rider. When the rider’s bike is shaking windows of vehicles around him/her during transit, can that really be considered safe? Due to music being up, sirens cannot be heard, there is a possibility of a tragic outcome. At the same time, when music volume is moderately up and the rider can also hear the melodies of the environment, it’s the safer way of travel. If good tunes is a must to the rider, consider Bluetooth technology through the helmet while ground pounding. Keeping in mind, music is a mood- and mind-altering substance. (Big

Mo, civilian) Therefore, I am in agreement, loud music should be for parking lot pimpin’; not for long hauls or inner city pipin’.

On another note, starting next year, Thunder Roads Michigan® is doing a segment called “Where’s Waldo?”. If you can be the 1st to “pinpoint” the location, send TRM an email and you could win a fill-up/\$25.00 gift card from a T/A, Buc-ee’s, Pilot, Flying J, Speedway, Shell, BP, Exxon/Mobil etc. (Whichever is available at that time) It may be a picture of a mural, landmark, or architecture.

Recommended email format for the contest; Subject Line: Where’s Waldo?, Month of Issue, your name, phone number, and picture of you showcasing a TRM magazine).

In conclusion to this article, this season, and starting into the not-so-distant future, we wish you, your families, by blood, by Colors, and by motor oil A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! If you or someone you know would like to be interviewed about their two-wheeled



excursions, maybe even three-wheeled, reach out to us; editor@thunderroadsmichigan.com

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History of the Port Huron Motorcycle Club

A group of motorcyclists from the Port Huron area got together on January 16th, 1946 at Dick Beane's Harley-Davidson Shop and Gas Station at 24th and Griswold Streets, and decided to start a motorcycle club. It was decided that the initiation fee for each member would be \$1.00, and an executive board was set up. By the second meeting on the 23rd of January, from a list of 8 suggested names, the group decided that the club's name would be the Sunset Riders of Port Huron. By the next meeting on January 30th, the group had voted to change the name of the club to the Blue Water Riders of Port Huron. The club had decided right from the beginning to get involved in the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and by February 13th already had a charter number with AMA as #727. On March 13th the club voted in its new officers with Jiggs DeBell as the President of the club. Finally, on April 9th, 1947 the club was renamed as the Port Huron Motorcycle Club. After holding the club meetings at more than 12 different locations, the club finally purchased the property at 3376 Griswold Street on November 9th, 1949 where the club still remains today. The club officially became incorporated on November 21st, 1949. Although the club was considered to have started by many in 1948 (because that's when they started the paperwork to become incorporated) making this the 75th Anniversary, they are actually in the 77th year as an AMA Chartered Club.

In the early years, the club had generated income from

raffles and promoted sporting events with motorcycle competitions. Throughout the history of the club, they have hosted hill climbs, dirt track racing, treasure hunts, scramble events, ice races, mud runs, enduro events, trials competitions, road runs, poker runs, bike rodeos, sod drags, dirt drags, and more. One event that has been a constant is the Annual Turkey Run which ran in 1946 and is believed to have run every year since.

The Port Huron Motorcycle Club has had members that are/were National Champions, International Champions, State Champions, District Champions, and Club Champions, in many different types of motorcycle competitions on both the amateur and professional levels. The club has even had a few factory sponsored professional racers and at least one Hall of Fame Racer.

In addition to many of the traditional events, the club has expanded in different directions in more recent years including 4 wheelers and side by sides. They are currently running all sorts of vehicles at the dirt drags and have now added a dirt style scramble course for side by sides that can be used for different types of small vehicles.

If you ever have the chance to attend an event at the P.H.M.C. you will surely want to check out the clubhouse. The clubhouse walls have plaques, shadow boxes, memorabilia, and dozens and dozens of pictures that show the history of the club and its members that date back almost 100 years. Many of the visitors to the club feel as though they are in a



museum. Although the club has always been a small family like group of people, they have hosted races over the years that have had numerous hall-of-famers and champions that have competed in the club run events.

The club was started by motorcycle enthusiasts for motorcycle enthusiasts to host off-road competitions and they have always been involved in charity and charity events. That was and is a tradition that continues to this day. To give the readers an idea, the club held an Easter Egg Hunt this year, helped numerous injured riders and families in need, will hold a trunk-or-treat for children in the community, donated to several charities and good causes, are collecting toys for Toys For Tots, collecting gloves and mittens for battered children and needy children, and will adopt at least one needy family for Christmas. The club has several military veterans and always has had some veterans in the membership. This year the club donated \$7,000 to the St. Clair County Veterans Honor Guard to help towards the purchase of a new van to help get them safely to the funeral services that they honor.

The club membership numbers have really dwindled over the last five years but are currently rising rapidly again. The membership numbers at this time are 48 active club members and 19 Honorary Lifetime Members. An Honorary Lifetime member is a member that has paid dues and been an active member for at least 20 years. Many of the lifetime members have belonged for 35 - 50+ years. Once a member becomes an Honorary Lifetime Member, they are no longer required to pay dues and they are only required to attend 4 meetings per year. These are the men and women who have helped pave the way for the current and future members of the club.

Please come visit the Port Huron Motorcycle Club, we'd love to have you!

By: Member, Stan Prapotnik
Port Huron Motorcycle Club

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Port Huron Motorcycle Club The Club Trophy



Leo Anthony on
Black River - 1947



Marve Taite, riding a Vincent Black
Shadow motorcycle in 1952.



Jake
Heering,
on an
Indian
Scout in
1949.



The Port Huron Motorcycle Club started in January of 1946 and non-studded ice racing was a big part of the club activities from the very beginning. In 1947 the club members decided to have a club championship which would consist of participating members racing a 500cc open non-studded sidecar class. This type of racing had been a big thing in Port Huron, Michigan dating back to the early and mid-1930's.

The first club championship was won by Holly Allen. When the championship started in 1947 it was just the one sidecar class that they would compete in, but by 1952 they started having a solo non-studded class to compete in as well. In 1970, the club switched up the solo class and made it the 0-250cc non-studded solo class. Jerry Eveningred who had won the solo class at least once before this would go on to win on a 250cc bike 4 years in a row.

In 1972 the club also introduced a third class into the mix with the 351-500cc non-studded sidecar class which would be won by Jerry Eveningred in its first year of running. Between the years of 1947 and 1978 the club would have multiple winners for all the classes. I don't know at this time when the club decided to have a trophy to keep track of the club champions, but Jerry Eveningred made a 30-inch-tall trophy with an aeronautical cylinder and cylinder head on it with a rectangular wooden base that had a metal plate on each of the 4 sides that would have the year and the name of the champions engraved on it. This "Club Trophy" has been on display in the Port Huron Motorcycle Clubhouse for as long as any of the surviving members of the club can remember. The names on the plaques are like a who's who of the club's history with names like Leo Anthony, Marve Taite, Leo Anthony Jr., Earl Campbell, Max Cook, Wally Hutchinson and many more.

Stan Prapotnik
PHMC

~ Stan is a member of the Port Huron Motorcycle Club and really enjoys researching the history of motorcycle racing here in Michigan and sharing it with others. Thank you for Stan for sharing a small piece of days gone by with us! -RJ



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3	4	5	6	7	8 	9
10	11	12	13 BIKER CHRISTMAS SCOOTER'S BAR & GRILL	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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HOT RODS TOPICS



December. A couple of weeks ago we had a Board Meeting and we discussed and decided what benefactors and organizations that we would be donating to. We appreciate them all being there to help those in need. Some of them are Aid in Milan, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, American Legion Post 268, Catherine Cobb Safe House, Compassion Ministry of Milan, Ele's Place, Gabby's Ladder, Hope Clinic, Ike and Ella Fund, Clara's Closet, Six Feet Over, Dire Needs for Veterans, as well as some other charities – VA Fisher House, Lenawee Foster Care / Children Protective Services, Toys for Milan, and Christmas Family Adoptions. Our organization's members work very hard to raise funding for those in need and this is our favorite part, giving back. We also attended the Fireman's Open House, Lowe's Safety Event in Woodhaven, Milan City Fair, Dundee Mayfly Festival and Iron Saints Thanksgiving Dinner. If you are interested in helping, please contact us through Facebook or by reaching out to us at Hotrods.motorcycle.awareness@gmail.com. Jump in, have some fun and help us for the good of the community! Another project we've been working on is donating "You Are NOT Alone" benches to local schools including Milan, Dundee, Monroe Public Schools, and Monroe County Community College. We'd love to have you join us!

As I'm writing this today on Veterans Day, I would like to say to all who have served in our great nation a big THANK YOU for all your sacrifices and don't forget about the spouses who were there for you when you needed them!

Merry Christmas everyone, especially RJ and Aly for what you do for the biking community. Thanks to ABATE for all the work you do to protect the bikers' rights and God Bless America. We are so damn lucky to live in the USA!

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ABATE OF MICHIGAN

BY MERRY GARRETT

It's a beautiful fall crisp day today and I do love the fall season, but I would much rather have summer last a little longer. Christmas is around the corner and the frenzy of trying to find that perfect gift for our honeys is about to start... so if you've got a wish list speak up! Or you'll get what you get- Lol. Anything motorcycle related is good RIGHT???

If you are looking to get your Motorcycle endorsement this spring, please consider a local college. Typically, classes are inexpensive, and they provide a great structured course. Just make sure to book early, classes fill up quickly! Michigan is also looking for folks to teach these courses, but no matter how long or how well you ride, you still need to take an instructor course to apply for this position. We are never too old to learn.

Our Abate President, Vince Consiglio, is retiring this January. We will miss the presence he brought to the Abate organization, but he will stay on as a mentor to the new president and to help make the transition of an organization this large as smooth as possible. We have some hard workers who will step up and take on whatever they can to help. I had the privilege of interviewing Vince and I wanted to share this interview with every motorcyclist that can be reached. Not a lot of people know just what ABATE does for you and for your rights as a motorcyclist. So, with no further ado here's my interview. I asked ten questions.

- **Question 1 - Name, Region, Area?**

- **Answer:** Vince Consiglio, Region 19, Detroit Metro

- **Question 2 - How long have you been an Abate member?**

- **Answer:** I joined in 1975, member 170 (we started at 100), I ran for the board at the 1st annual membership meeting in December of 1975.

- **Question 3 - What convinced you to join Abate?**

- **Answer:** I had already been to court for riding w/o a helmet several times. I met a guy in Ann Arbor who told me about the city charter, and they had the old wording about the helmet law saying you had to carry it. I spent hours looking for it in the U of M law library and 20 minutes before the hearing, I found it. The officer testified and then the judge asked me what I was thinking, I responded with the number of the charter rule, and he dismissed the ticket. I rode free in Ann Arbor for the rest of the summer of 1974. In the spring the Washtenaw County Sheriff was waiting for me inside of the Ann Arbor city limit. It went down something like this: "Son, I have heard about you. You are breaking the state law, and we don't like it. Next time I see you, if you aren't wearing a helmet, we will tow your motorcycle; I mean drag your motorcycle to the impound lot. Are we clear??" I knew I had to fight the law at the state level. I had already ridden to Las Vegas, and California twice w/o a helmet most of the time. Then I heard about ABATE, I sent in my money ASAP. The 1st Annual Meeting was in Westland, and I rode down there in a mild snowstorm with my neighbor from Ann Arbor in the side car in 1975 and was elected to the Board of Directors.

- **Question 4 - What is one thing you (we) could do to make Abate better?**

- **Answer:** Remind folks that if they don't like something, or have an idea that gets shot down, don't quit, and don't give up. Be a part of the solution not the problem.

- **Question 5 - What is the best event you have ever attended, even if it's not Abate related?**

- **Answer:** Harley-Davidson Parade in Milwaukee, giving high fives while riding in the parade.
- **Question 6 - What do you ride and who is your favorite riding mate?**
- **Answer:** Harley-Davidson Road King, my youngest son.
- **Question 7 - Where are your meetings held, day and time.**
- **Answer:** Board meetings are held across the state every 2-3 months, regional meeting at a bar in Oakland County
- **Question 8 - What is your opinion on the insurance BS in a few short words. (Swearing allowed lol)**
- **Answer:** We are the only state in the United States that is stuck with the car driver's insurance coverage choice for medical coverage. It is a crime! Car drivers cause the accidents, and the motorcyclist gets stuck with their coverage!!!
- **Question 9 - What do you like best about ABATE.**
- **Answer:** The people and their love for riding motorcycles.
- **Question 10 - How can we recruit more members, especially the younger crew.**
- **Answer:** Stress the riding part of ABATE and our history. They are the future. If they let motorcycling die, we are screwed!! Stress, "Let Those who Ride Decide" it's not just a motto it's a way of Life. Freedom isn't FREE. Talk is cheap. Action takes effort, it takes knowledge, and it takes skill.

Thanks for letting me get on the soap box Vince, Vince has been a motorcycle safety trainer for many years, he is on the transportation committee for the state, and has also been inducted into both the Sturgis Motorcycle Hall of Fame and the Motorcycle Riders Foundation. You deserve your retirement, Vince! Thank you for all you have done for every single motorcyclist in Michigan and in the surrounding states.

In the coming months I will be sharing interviews with the regional coordinators from around the state to let you know where and when you can attend a meeting or join one of the greatest organizations that help to protect you and your bike.

Don't forget if you have questions contact me at merrysgarrett@hotmail.com or go on the abate web page www.abateofmichigan.org

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Madcap Imaging along with Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan would like to give a HUGE shout out to LaBaron's Powersports on getting the go ahead to begin construction on their new Motocross Track! Construction was halted last spring because of some red tape from the county and township over zoning, residents, and restrictions. What was supposed to be a grand opening of a new track turned into months and months of exhausting meetings and paperwork.... WELL Persistence pays off!!! For nearly a year now LaBaron's has been passionately fighting and defending the idea of building a new motocross track in the Brown City / Marlette Michigan area. I am proud to say that with the backing of the local residents who not only showed up to make a physical presence but who also took the floor to speak on behalf of the community and the sport, and the dedication and determination of the entire LaBaron's staff.... Come spring 2024 LaBaron's Powersports Store will not only have parts, supplies, and maintenance but a full motocross track all in one spot!! Your new one stop shop!! Located at 7105 Enterprise Drive, not far from Vandyke Rd. in Marlette, Michigan. 2024 is sure to bring an exciting summer to the area and we are super excited to follow the build and of course do what we love to do the most!! Shine some light on the world of moto!! Congratulations from Madcap Imaging and Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan!! We are all super excited for your win!

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BULLET POINTS

BY GREG DENAY, AKA JOHNNY



Well, it's that time of year again. Christmas? Well, yes, but I was referring to more restrictions and more hoops to jump through just to be able to purchase a firearm. It used to be simple to buy a nice rifle or shotgun. You would go out to your favorite gun shop, find what you are looking for and buy it. Well, my friends, that is all about to change starting next year.

All of you legal handgun owners know what you have to go through to purchase a handgun. You go to your favorite Federally Licensed Firearm Dealer (FFL), you pick out what you want, fill out form 4473, FFL does a query from the FBI through NICS (National Instant Background Check System), if all is good from them, you purchase said handgun, sign the registration, and take it to your local sheriff's office so that they can submit it to the state police. The process is a bit more streamlined as a CPL holder, minus the 8-hour class you must take to get the CPL, then, your name, address, date of birth, driver's license number, and if applicable, your CPL number and expiration date are now all on a list.

"Well gee Johnny, I thought you were talking about rifles and shotguns?" I am now. Starting in early 2024 all firearm sales will be treated legally the same as handgun sales. You will have to go through the same processes to purchase a Henry lever action as you would a Glock 43. The same background checks, the same paperwork, the same trips to the county clerk's office, and so on. But there's more.

Senate bills 76, 77, and 78 "Universal Background Checks" are, in my opinion, an abomination. They were passed into law in April of this year and, in a nutshell (pun intended), takes the handgun purchasing law and applies it to (antiques excluded) all "firearms, gas ejecting devices, and electro-muscular disruption devices". AKA, guns, pepper spray, and tasers.

Senate bill 76 reads "Except as otherwise provided in this act, a person shall not: Purchase or acquire a firearm that is not a pistol without a license as prescribed in this section," What this means is starting in early 2024, you will need a purchase permit or a CPL to purchase not only a handgun but also long guns from both dealers and private sellers. However, a person buying a long gun who acquired a background check by an FFL not more than five days prior to the purchase is exempt from the permit requirement.

You read that right! Even from private sales. The law also includes gifts and heirs. So, gifting your 18-year-old son Johnny your trusty old Winchester rifle in your will, or selling your spare Glock to your neighbor; sorry guys, I need to see that background check or purchase permit. Another change to a private sale regarding pistols is that currently, the seller would fill out the paperwork and the purchaser would have 10 days to submit the paperwork to their local police. Now, the seller not only fills everything out, but they have 10 days to submit the paperwork to their local police department. The only thing the buyer must do, regarding paperwork, is sign it.

"You mentioned something you about a list. What's that about?" Well, the government is prohibited from keeping and maintaining a list of gun owners. But there are workarounds, like handgun registrations. And shortly, not just handguns, but all firearms. According to Giffords Law Center, "Michigan requires the Department of State Police to maintain a computerized database of individuals who apply for a concealed handgun license." Also, "The county clerk must retain a copy of each concealed handgun license application as an official record until one year after the expiration of the license, at which time the county clerk may destroy the record (but shall maintain a name index of the record in the database)". Sounds like a list to me, but I'll leave that assumption up to you.

Until next time, Merry Christmas, God Bless, and vote accordingly.

WILD and THREE

I really, really love Christmas. There is something about this time of year that makes me melt like a snowman on a hot day. Candlelight, evergreen boughs, parties, singing Christmas carols, wassailing, wrapping presents, sending Christmas cards, trimming the tree, decorating Christmas cookies—AWESOME!

I decorate our home from the floor to the rafters, and I drive Big Guy crazy by insisting that our Christmas tree be bigger and brighter each year than it was the year before. And the cooking—forget about it. I'm the only person I know besides Martha Stewart who paints Christmas cookies with paintbrushes and puts the little silver ball decorations on with tweezers.

I know Big Guy isn't all that crazy about the decorating I talk him into, but he handles it with his usual good humor. I go out of my way to spoil him, and I always find that ONE PERFECT gift for him every year. If he mentions some obscure item related to riding or camping or his workshop in September, he will likely find it under the tree in December. Even so, he is still difficult to shop for—mainly because he is as determined to discover my gift stash as I am to keep it hidden and make him wait until Christmas Eve to open them.

One year, I decided to wrap his packages and put them out in plain sight under the tree. I figured he wouldn't go crazy searching if it was clearly visible. Not a good idea; he shook and prodded those boxes so many times that I went crazy.

As a result of that experiment, I developed "defensive camouflage wrapping" or "DCW." DCW involves multiple layering of boxes around the gift and the addition of heavy/noisy items to the internal layers, such as jingle bells, pebbles, and the occasional brick. This served to thwart the accuracy of his guessing games, but the shaking and the prodding accelerated proportionately.

The year after that, I decided to eliminate his focus on a particular gift by wrapping all the family gifts and omitting the "to/from" tags. He retaliated by shaking everything so robustly that I finally had to label Big Guy's gifts to keep the other gifts in one piece.

Last year, I was convinced that I had the best gift ever for him. He wanted to upgrade to a new full-face Harley-Davidson brand helmet in size 5X. We had been looking all year long at every vendor event but hadn't been able to find anything that fit properly.

Three days before Christmas, he walked into the house carrying a bag from our favorite HD dealer. "Look what I found, honey!" Beaming proudly, he opened the bag and pulled out a square full-face helmet box labeled 5XL. I think he may have said something else, but my teeth were grinding so loudly that I couldn't hear him.

Despite the annual gift aggravation from Big Guy, I still look forward to the holiday season each year. It's an opportunity to slow down, take stock, and give thanks for what we have—our health, each other, great friends, and family that we love in the only place we want to be.

Happy holidays!



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Erin Fay: Madcap Imaging



In all the time I've been writing, I've never actually had to write about myself. To put MYSELF in the spotlight is the most intimidating thing I've ever had to do! Those of you that are around me on a daily or weekly basis have probably picked up on the fact that although I have true passion for the extreme, my health is lacking to say the least! I can't find a good way to separate just a piece of

who I am to wow you with, and unfortunately my battle with my health governs the amount of photography and other work or fun I get to participate in.... But bear with me here! Because I've found a team that not only accepts this but is always there to back me up!

Am I a professional photographer? I don't know A hobbyist? for sure! but professional?? I've never seen myself that way.... I know I'm socially awkward, I don't carry on conversations very well or very long. I love to follow my kids around with my camera, (to whom I give all the credit for starting this whole photography thing) and the one who likes to be in the shadows. I like to remain unseen, while I capture moments not everyone gets to witness. Hiding behind my camera has



given me the perfect outlet to stay involved, but also to be able to stay in my own little antisocial bubble when I'm not feeling well, and that is perfectly acceptable to everyone around me. I never dreamed this little hobby of mine would do much except get me out of the house or maybe take me to a moto race.... But here we are in year 4 of Madcap Imaging and getting super close to a full year with Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan! So professional..... Maybe!



December marks an exciting time for not only myself but for the districts off road world. With ice racing soon to be in full swing, we finally get to get out of the house and go listen to some studded-out, steel horses tearing up the lakes and trails, and after a couple months of being stuffed in the house it is a time of smiles, laughing, and some much-needed time with our track families! I've enjoyed photographing ice racing for quite a few years now. Not only am I a die-hard fan and a local Moto Mom, but when my health allows, I'm also a dedicated photographer to the local district and outlaw racing series going on around our area.

The first Saturday of December is it.... The kickoff to ice season!! The Flint Motorcycle Club, just like so many years before, will host the first ice race of the season. It's the 63rd Annual Indoor Motorcycle Ice Race at the Dort Financial Center in Flint Michigan!! And this year it's gonna be extra special!! With all the work and planning that goes into the race it will not only be an amazing event for an amazing cause, but it will also mark my 1st full year with Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan!! A very



welcome distraction to my chaotic life! You see it was in December one year ago that I received an inquiry about some photography I had done for the 62nd Annual Flint Motorcycle Club Indoor Motorcycle Ice race, and that inquiry turned into a working relationship with RJ and Aly who had just become the new owners of Thunder Roads® Michigan, and guess who's work they chose to put on the cover of their very first issue!!



You know, I was told about 25 years ago that my body was not built to be this active, and they were probably right!! But can you imagine? I'm 15 years old, recovering from my first of many surgeries, and determined to go back into an active lifestyle because I love it! I really-really love it!!! And my Dr tells me to slow down? Change my dreams? NOT THIS GIRL!! It pissed me off! And had the opposite effect

of what was intended.... Skip ahead 25 years, that little girl grew up on two wheels with a grudge for the medical world! Constantly seeking to capture anything fast, loud, or full of dirt!! With December kicking off ice season and the winter off-road world about to get very busy, I'd like to re-introduce myself to you. My name is Erin Fay and whenever possible my life revolves around motorcycles.... and photography!! And I am super proud to be a part of Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan!!

Happy Anniversary RJ and Aly and cheers to a full year with Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan!! And many more to come!!

Story by Erin Fay/Madcap Imaging Contributor/Photographer to Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan

Photo Credit to Madcap Imaging & Shutterworks Photography





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JOKER'S WILD

Was at WallyWorld earlier this morning

A woman was picking up and looking at every frozen turkey in the display case and mumbling to herself, "not big enough, nope, not big enough", to every single one she picked up.

She yelled over to a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

He replied back with a sincere, straight face, "No, ma'am, they're dead."

A blonde chick has a flat on the interstate. She pulls off to the shoulder, gets out, pops the trunk and takes out 2 full-size cardboard men, stands them up facing traffic and is amazed how lifelike they appear. They're both wearing trench coats pulled back and exposing their nude bodies, and are very muscular and well endowed.

As expected and the reason she purchased the stand ups to begin with; traffic started backing up, horns blaring and people cussing and wasn't long before a State Trooper pulls up and walks up to her trunk, "What's going on here?", "My car has a flat tire," she calmly replied. "Well, what the hell are those obscene cardboard men doing here by the road?" She looks directly at the State Trooper and again, calmly replies, "Hellooooo, those are my emergency flashers!!"

Granddaughter calls her Granny asking if she could loan her \$1,600 to pay her rent and that she had a couple of bartending jobs coming up for the holidays and could pay her back by mid January.

Granny said to let her do some calculating and she'd call her back.

Then Granny called her other granddaughter and asked if the request was legit?

The other granddaughter said, "No, she wants to bail her boyfriend out of jail so they can be under the same roof for New Years Eve."

Granny kinda' knew there was another reason so she calls the granddaughter and tells her to come get the money. A couple of hours later Granny gets a call from the County Jail where her granddaughter was screaming and crying and asking Why? would she give her counterfeit money? Granny just smiled into the phone and said ever so sweetly, "Well darlin', it was so you and your boyfriend could be under the same roof for New Year's Eve!"

Things that still make ya' go Hmmm? as we close out 2023 -- Why does Tarzan never have a beard or stache' when he lives in the jungle without a razor to be found? Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are about dead?

Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough money in the account to pay them?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check for themselves when you say the paint is wet?

Whose idea was it to put an 'S' in the word lisp?

What is the speed of darkness?

How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out that luggage needed wheels?

Why do toasters have a setting so high that it can burn the toast to a horrible crisp that no human being would ever eat?

Why does the vast majority of people push the elevator button several times when it does not make it arrive any faster?

If Quizzes are quizzical, would that make Tests testicles?

Saw this guy running around the parking lot of a Bike Nite and yelling at everyone to look at his new back tat he got in jail, that read: Remember My Name (all in caps really big across his shoulders) and then underneath it read: Cause you'll be screamin' it later!

My question is: Why is this written on your back?

If you see someone wearing camouflage, make sure to walk right into them so they know that it's working.

Humble enough to know I'm replaceable.
Cocky enough to know it's going to be a downgrade.

Newsman reported, "An entire shipment of Viagra has been stolen, Police are looking for a gang of hardened criminals."

If you don't want the truth don't ask me...If you want it sugarcoated, go eat a donut.

Guest: You actually let your dog on the furniture?
Me: I'd let my dog borrow the car if needed it.

For your New Year's resolution; Stop worrying about what other people think. Seriously, have you met other people? They're awful.

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December 2

-63rd Annual Indoor
Motorcycle Ice Race
The Flint Motorcycle Club
@ Dort Financial Center
9244 E. Farrand Rd.
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Doors open @ 6:00pm
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more details

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- Riding with Brendan Presents:
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December 10

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December 13

-Biker Christmas
Scooter's Bar & Grill
6004 Torrey Rd.
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December 31

-New Years Eve Bash
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