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62nd Annual Flint MC Club Ice Races
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STAFF

THUNDER ROADS®



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MICHIGAN MAGAZINE

STATE OWNERS / PUBLISHERS
RJ & ALY

PO BOX 1782, Midland, MI 48641-1782

RJ Cell: 989-948-4644

Email: RJ@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com

Email: Aly@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Meredith Hancock / ART DIRECTOR / THUNDER PUBLISHING

WEBSITE DESIGN

William McKenzie

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jason Waechter, Brian "Bman" Mckay,

Sharon K. Harvey "Red", Rick Wyatt,

RJ Calles, Erin Fay-MadCap Imaging,

Billy D, Jason Middleton, John Aka Smoke

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Contact:
rj@thunderroadsmichigan.com

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Toni McCoy Shearon & Brian Shearon

Thunder Publishing, LLC Offices: 615-792-0040

e-mail:thunderroadsfounder@gmail.com

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ERIN FAY *Intro*

Thunder Roads® Michigan! If you didn't read that loud enough, go back and read it again, lol. My name's Erin Fay, and I am so excited to introduce myself as one of the newest additions to the Thunder Roads Michigan family!! I feel like the timing couldn't be better with RJ and Aly taking over things in 2023. It's going to be so much fun sharing this new beginning with them and beginning a new one for myself as-well. As a main contributor for TRM's Motors Lakes Trails segment, it will give me the chance to show Michigan the extreme division of the off-road addict! I'm excited to show my love for photography with everyone and to challenge myself with writing an article here and there.

In this last December, I was called back by the Flint Motorcycle Club as the official photographer for the 62nd Annual Indoor Ice Races at Dort Financial Center. The race as always was a huge event that benefited Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint and Genesee County. The event was a major success, bringing together all the generations of the community to support an amazing cause! You can check out some of my photos from that event and past events at MadCap.ShootProof.com. 2023 is going to be epic and I cannot wait to get back out there and share the fun with you in Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine. See ya out there!



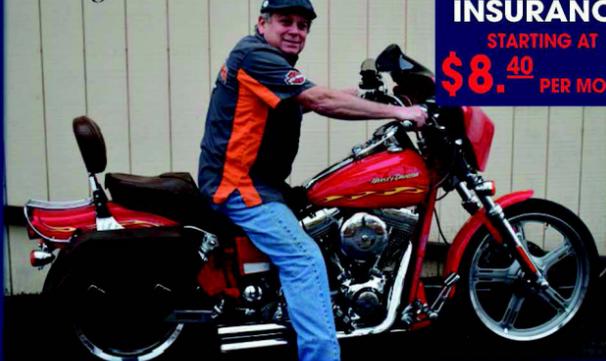
Erin Fay

Erin@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com
Owner of MadCap Imaging
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Biker Preacher's Corner

To continue with The Sermon on the Mount that the Lord Jesus preached and which the Apostle Matthew preserved for us. I'm going to continue with the 5th of the Beatitudes **Matthew 5:7.**

Matthew 5:7 "The merciful are blessed, for they will be shown mercy."

Now a **merciful person** is defined as — a person who shows leniency, compassion, or forgiveness; especially towards someone who has offended them.

So, we could say — The merciful are those who relate to others with a forgiving and compassionate spirit. Knowing that the Lord God will show mercy to the merciful.

Let me ask you a couple questions:

You want people to be merciful toward you right? Show mercy first.

What is the opposite of a merciful person? A merciless person shows no pity or mercy. They're unforgiving, unkind and tend to be self-righteous, judgmental, are always right in their own eyes and are always offended.

Proverbs 11:17 "A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings disaster on himself."

Ya see, the man who shows mercy edifies his own soul, it's like this... you feel really good when you help someone in need. But the unmerciful, the peevish, the fretful and vengeful, the unforgiving, the self-righteous destroy their own flesh and tend to be always sick in their body - **Because they are not merciful.**

Listen, a merciful person is one who acts with **faithful love.** They look out for others. Yet, the cruel person is merciless and unfaithful, having no concern for others. The merciless create situations where others always fail yet they themselves are made out to be the righteous (victimized) one.

Let me show you what I'm talking about...

Matthew 18:33-35 (HCSB) 33 Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you? 34 And his master got angry and handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed. 35 So My heavenly Father will also do to you if each of you does not forgive his brother from his heart."

Ya see — The parable's point is now really clear. Since God has shown us believers such great mercy by pardoning (forgiving) our sins, we should in turn forgive the sins of others from our heart.

So here is **The Promise:**

Blessed are the merciful. If you want to be blessed, you need to wage war against bondage to religious and secular trivia. Devote your life to the weightier matters of the Lord's teaching — justice, mercy, faith, love, and hope.

Let me leave you with this:

Ø **Christ is not and will not be an add-on to your life. He is your life, or he is nothing in your life.**

Be a merciful person and let Christ Jesus be supreme in your life so that His mercies, which are new every morning, may fill your heart, mind and life with His love.

Much Love & Respect,

Apostle Brian "BMAN" McKay

Senior Pastor, International President & Founder

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LETTER FROM THE OWNERS JANUARY 2023

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Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine, LLC

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Well, here we are, bringing in the new year with our very first issue on the stands! We hope that you find a little something new each month, as we continue to build on our vision of what Thunder Roads Michigan can be. We have some fresh ideas and some not so new tricks up our sleeves. We're focusing on getting back to the basics, while keeping our minds open.

There are a lot of exciting things coming our way in the next few issues. Make sure to stay tuned!



Fall color tour — Porcupine Mountains 2022

Have something you want to share? Have input? Do you have an event planned? Need to get the word out? Let's talk shop!

We're growing! Are you, or do you know someone who is a great source for the biker, or the off-road community? Do you do more than ride a street bike, like offroad trail riding, or racing? We don't care what you ride, but you must walk it like you talk it. No faking it allowed here. Are you approachable, know your stuff? Good with a camera? Love to get out on your bike or SXS and participate in events? Drop us a line or give us a call. Let's talk!

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Make sure to check out our new website @ThunderRoadsMichigan.com and to follow us on Facebook. Exciting changes are happening that will ensure YOU, the biker community, have a much stronger representation in Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine!

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OUTRAGE! ABOUT TIME!

Reactions roll in as Harley-Davidson ends production of the Evo Sportster

Courtesy of Lance Oliver Nov 21, 2022

End of an era! That's the stupidest decision ever and you'll go down in flames! About time you guys got with the times!

That sort of summarizes the range of reactions, from reflection to criticism to praise, that flowed this weekend in reaction to Harley-Davidson's announcement on social media that the last Evolution-powered Sportster had rolled off the assembly line in the H-D plant in York, Pennsylvania. The reactions should come as no surprise. When you've been building Sportsters with essentially the same engine — updated now and then, and produced in various displacements, but always looking about the same from the outside — since 1986, people tend to get attached to it. Or really tired of it. Or nostalgic about the idea of it no longer being around.

The Sportster line dates back to 1957, but huge changes arrived in the 1986 model year, when the Ironhead engine was replaced by the new, alloy, Evolution engine, which ran cooler, quieter, and more reliably, and had hydraulic valves for reduced maintenance. That first year, you could get a Sportster in either 883 cc or 1,100 cc displacements. The 883 version cost just \$3,995 and in 1987 Harley-Davidson offered a "Ride Free" promotion that guaranteed Sportster owners they'd get \$3,995 in trade-in value for up to two years if they later traded in the 883 on a bigger Harley.

The Evo Sportsters got a five-speed transmission and belt final drive in the 1990s and fuel injection and rubber mounting for the engine in the 2000s. Many versions were produced by the factory, from an XL1200C Custom with 21-inch front wheel and cruiser style to the XL1200S Sport with upgraded suspension. There were SuperLow versions, Roadster versions, and Anniversary editions. And that's just what came out of the factory. The real variety started exploding when Sportsters got into owners' hands.



Evo Sportster | End of an Era



The last air-cooled Sportster rolled out of the H-D assembly plant. Signed by all the factory workers that helped build it.

Photos: Courtesy of H-D



BULLET POINTS

LET'S BE READY NEXT YEAR

BY RICK WYATT



Well with deer season 2022 in the rearview mirror let's take stock of what we have learned. First, I hope that I don't have a final quarter year like the last couple of months have been. Got my hip done, that was good; twisted the crap out of it when we were blessed with a few inches of fresh snow over icy pavement a few weeks back, that hurt like hell for several days. The wife was sick for several weeks; she already has chronic respiratory illness but the new flu like malady set in and homesteaded for what seemed like forever. The icing on the cake was when we lost my big baby Layla, our 12-year-old Great Dane, we could not bear to see her suffer any longer. Thank God 2023 is on the horizon!

Back to deer season, with the new year how about you start planning deer season 2023 and use the lead time to make some quality decisions. I know I have recommended in this article on more than one occasion that when it comes to firearms, whether for hunting or competition, always look for the best quality you can afford. I give the same advice to customers in the store, especially the younger ones. You will never regret waiting a little longer and buying better quality up front if you plan to have it for a lifetime. This advice is relevant for firearms, optics, miscellaneous gear (knives, range finders, binoculars, compasses, fire starters, etc.) and maybe just as important as your gun, suitable hunting attire.

Quickly, we do live in the land of crappy weather, Michigan, and we all know how miserable the weather wench can make us. I know that most hunters now have semi-permanent blinds or pop-up shelters that help protect them from the elements but remember you still must walk to your blind or stand, and how your clothing responds to the weather goes a long way to determining how comfortable you will be once you are in your stand. Weatherproof gear is great, but if you don't realize that your rain proof parka and bibs that keep you dry from a driving rain, will also cause you to perspire and soak your long johns that will then in turn make you miserable as you're sweat evaporates and chills you to the bone. Good boots are a must in Michigan and in the field, but just as important are the socks you wear with them because good socks will wick moisture away from your skin and allow the insulation in the boots to do its job and help keep your feet warm; so will an insulated surface to put your feet on while sitting in the blind. There are tons of miracle fabrics that will help you stay toasty in foul weather but remember that pure wool has worked well for centuries.

Some of you are wondering where I am going with this and why I would even suggest that you start preparing for a season that doesn't

begin in earnest until mid-November and the answer is easy, economics. It doesn't make any difference if you are looking for yourself, or setting up for a new hunter, planning is going to save you money in the long run. We are almost to the time of year when it is advantageous to consider replacing or acquiring a new firearm. There is a growing void in the firearms world and that chasm has more to do with quality and reliability than price. A good gun is going to set you back a few bucks, but you may be surprised to learn that an outstanding gun might not be that much more expensive, possibly negligible if you plan and take advantage of a good lay-away program. Some of the first names in the straight wall cartridge seem to be suffering functional problems because they are being thrown together and feed issues seem to abound. There are some outstanding firearms such as the Bergara that are a pretty penny more but function flawlessly. Splitting the difference between good and outstanding is the CVA Cascade which is more expensive than the original rifles in this class (even their higher end offerings), but you can see and feel the difference in the quality when you handle one. Both the Bergara and Cascade tout sub-MOA accuracy at 100 yards and in the final analysis isn't that what ultimately puts meat in the freezer?

Approach your search for an optic with the same careful reasoning and you will find that spending a little more is probably going to save money in the long run. Leupold has been the leader in straight wall cartridge optics for the last couple of years because of their BDC (bullet drop compensator) turrets. They are very good scopes without a doubt, but Vortex builds a scope for straight wall cartridges that is considerably less expensive than the Leupold (it does not have the BDC turrets) but with proper practice anybody can learn to compensate for differences in distance, especially if you are using a range finder which is what makes the Leupold so effective. Both have lifetime warranties and I know if you contact Vortex about a problem you are having, they will replace the unit and turnaround time is negligible.

Let me show you the apples and oranges, if you start now with a little planning, you can put together an outstanding straight wall cartridge deer rifle using the Beraga as the platform and mounting a Leupold BDC style scope for about \$1500.00, putting 20% down have a monthly payment on your layaway under \$200.00. Or you can build a CVA Cascade the the Vortex scope for under \$1100 and have an even smaller payment, either way the more you put down the more affordable the firearm becomes, and you have a tool you can use and be proud of for the rest of your life.



62ND ANNUAL FLINT INDOOR MOTORCYCLE ICE RACE FLINT MOTORCYCLE CLUB:

Proceeds benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint and Genesee County

How do you choose a cover photo? Especially as the new owners of Thunder Roads® Michigan? Well, I'll tell ya. I'm sure you've heard the saying "a picture tells a thousand words", right? This just so happens to be a perfect example of that saying, but we'll come back to that.

On December 3rd, 2022, the Flint Motorcycle Club made history, *again*. They did this by kicking off the 1st District 14 ice race of the season, *again!* We say that because this Michigan race has a serious back story. Originally, way before my time and many others around us, a challenge was made, and somebody was just crazy enough to accept it. For as long as we can think back, if it had legs, wheels, wings, or a motor someone just had to see how fast they could go. There's bragging rights there! Not to mention the whole "to the victor go the spoils" thing... lol.

So, back in the early 1950's that's exactly what happened.



FLINT MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Ice racing wasn't exactly new to the area, but Potter Lake was quickly growing a community of ice racing followers. The local people enjoyed having something to do during the cold winter months, but of course the excitement came from everyone



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gathering and cheering on their friends, families, and neighbors taking their motorcycles on the ice. Some got their thrills spectating, but the real thrill seekers raced in the same jackets, boots, and gloves they wore

to shovel their driveways for gear. Have you seen a helmet from those days? Oof! It took some serious ice cubes to be a thrill seeker of that sort!

Now, when this took off on Potter Lake near Davison, MI, we cannot fail to honor and mention some important people to the FMC and their racing beginnings. Like Dick Pearson, who was a member of Flint Motorcycle Club in the 1950's. It was Dick who made the original connection between FMC and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Boulis. Not only was Bob Boulis President of the Flint Motorcycle Club for quite some time, but his wife Ethel is the one that fought to bring the race indoors to the IMA Sports Arena. That's 41 years indoors alone. Some might remember the building being called the Perani Arena, and now it's the Dort Financial Center. It's here in Flint, Michigan that 41 of the past 63 years of Flint Motorcycle Club racing continues today. This event is always held on the first Saturday of December and professional racers from across the U.S. have made the journey just to be a part of it. It goes without saying, but everyone knows that *this* is the race that kicks off the ice racing season. The Flint Motorcycle Club ice races date back before the Super Bowl... think about that!

A HUGE start to the planning and organizing of the race begins with speaking with Kelly Jo. She is the go-to person with any questions regarding anything about the event, and



KENNY WARD

it is important to all those involved that she gets the recognition she highly deserves! From what I'm told they ALL put in A LOT of long hours to make this happen, and it doesn't sound like they plan to change a thing. Thinking about how FMC has been there from the beginning and how they have dedicated the last 63 years to racing (62 minus having to skip 2020) is one thing, BUT they have been raising proceeds benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint

and Genesee County the whole time!! A true testament to the heart of a biker, their club, and families. When race day happens, it's ALL hands-on deck. Everyone is there.

"The truth is, this race wouldn't be what it is without our sponsors, racers and their families, the spectators in the stands, the amazing operations team, or the Dort Financial Event Center and their team". ~ Justin Chappell aka Recall

Back to "a picture is worth a thousand words" and what the front cover photo expresses to us. It touches on the history of Flint Motorcycle Club, Dort Financial Center, the race, the Big Brothers Big Sisters, and all the people involved past and present. With love, the race was dedicated to Kenny Ward, an FMC brother who is GBNF. Sadly, he passed away before he could witness it one last time. The #23 on the rider staring down everything in front of him... is us. So, you see, this is more than a race, or picture. As we get ready and get set for 2023, Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine has our eyes focused and our hand on the throttle. We'll see you at the checkered flag in December.

~ RJ

Special thanks to:
Recall, FMC VP, and the Flint Motorcycle Club.
Special K, FMC -Event Organizer
Erin Fay, Official Photographer of FMC,
D14 / Thunder Roads® Michigan



INSIDE STORY #79

The word was out that Thunder Roads Michigan was reporting on the 62nd Annual Flint Motorcycle Club ice races, and that we should interview # 79 Jayson Bloss, so we reached out. Here's what we learned, and we are sure there are probably a handful of riders who can relate.

In April of 2021 (just a year and 8 months ago) Jayson was out practicing for a pro flat track race coming up in Kentucky, when he unfortunately ended up having a bad accident. While he did tell us about his accident, we wanted to focus on his love for racing and his comeback.

After introducing myself on the phone, I could tell he was waiting for me to go right to his accident, but I didn't. Me being me... lol... told him that our call should only take 3 or 4 hours and asked if that was cool... lol. I chuckled at his reluctant pause which kind of broke the ice. Sorry, Jayson!

I fired some quick introductory questions at him and then gave him a chance to tell his story. I could tell that he was proud of his racing career over the years, as he should be. He's been doing it since he was 4 and remembered moving up the ranks and bikes to where he is now. He



mentioned that he has been racing in the Flint Motorcycle Club races for 12 years now and that he had even taken the Pro Class in 2018. Still, there was that tone in his voice that I unfortunately could relate to.

It does something to your confidence. It can quickly remind you of the risk you take. I never got over it myself. Kudos to Jayson!

When his family was told that he had a 15% chance of living, being in a coma for five days, being laid up in the hospital for two and a half weeks, THEN four months of slow recovery at home! What does he do?? He works through the nerves and comes back in December and takes home some greenbacks at the Flint Motorcycle Club ice races. Yup, he won the Dash for Cash. That's what's up!



When asking Jayson about anything else he'd like us to mention, he said that he was very appreciative of his family and the support they have given him. Especially from both of his grandpa's, his parents, and his girlfriend. Oh, and that his next race was the World Championship Motorcycle Ice Racing Series on December 30th in Moline IL.

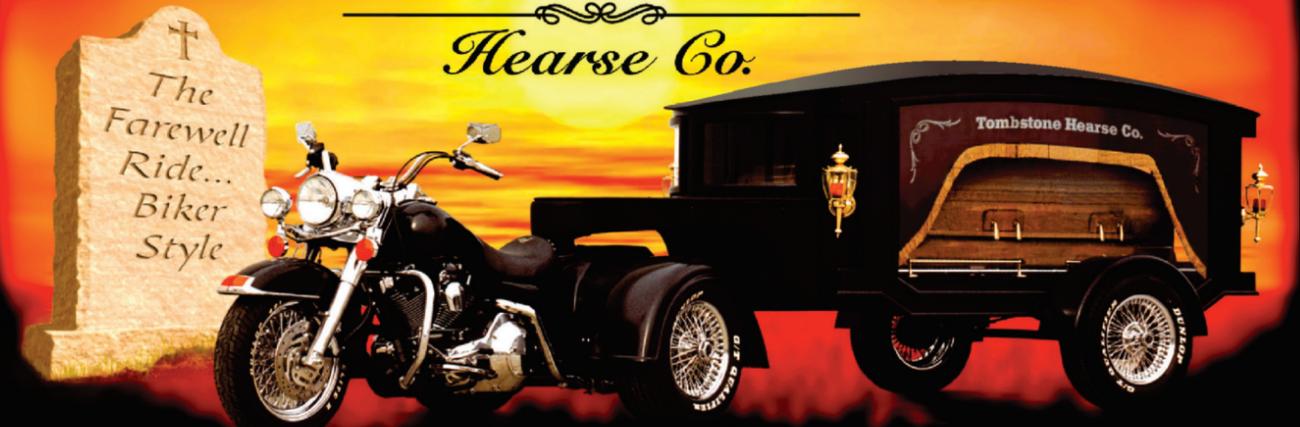
From all of us Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine, Good luck Jayson!



From left to right: Sponsor, Michael Nord Sr., Jayson, and Michael Nord Jr.
Photo: Courtesy of MadCap Imaging

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Smoke N' GearZ

Appreciating The Season and Looking forward to 2023

As we look out of Michigan and Midwest windows, you may be asking yourself, why do I still live here with this short ass riding season-LOL. Well as a matter of fact, we are kind of lucky to have four seasons, and a lot of people would love to be in our shoes. This is the time to recuperate and save up funds to change those dream rides into the journeys of "next year".



Smoke - Mackinaw

As we have traveled down many highways, whether local or nationally, we have all met new brothers and sisters along the way. Some of us solo and others in packs with their fellow members of their brotherhood/sisterhood. Either way, when you pull out of your driveway the goal is to have fun and make it back home safe each time.

Some time ago, a close friend of mine challenged me to find someone with the same enthusiasm for riding as me and to share their story. I accepted that challenge and set out to find this unknown rider. On this mission, I've stumbled across many interesting people from all walks of life. Then in 2019 I met my fellow brother, Wildcard. I was south of the Michigan border in his neck of the woods pounding the pavement, when we crossed paths at a random gas station. We hit it off immediately. That day, Wildcard told me he was a retired US military vet and that he was out riding with his Military MC band of brothers. From that day, he and I would randomly call one another to see how things were going and we would talk about where our weekend journeys would lead. In 2021 a brother from my brotherhood had a blowout in Wildcards area. Within minutes after I contacted him to see if he could help, an Eagle out of Illinois was safely secured. As the saying goes, "no man left behind," Wildcard did not disappoint.

A short time later, Sargent Chuck, aka "Wildcard" took a trip across country to California. I had successfully made the same voyage back in 2019, and our bond was strengthened even more as we were able to talk various times along his route and share our similar stories of the road.

Wildcard once told me that at the age of three, he remembers his father's friend owning a 1947 Harley-Davidson Knucklehead; a pretty-rare Hog in its own right. In 1978 Chuck was given his first motorcycle, a Yamaha YZ125. He was thirteen years old, and wouldn't you know? That was the beginning of his adoration for two wheeled riding. Wildcard has owned several different manufactured motorcycles, but his "go to" is the Harley-Davidson brand. His first ever Harley purchase was a 1984 Super Glide from Texas. His last four purchases have also been HD, with the most recent addition a red 2016 Street Glide. In 2023 his goal is to ride more, meet more of his club members nationwide, and learn more history from other clubs along the way.

It's just so cool to see everyone enjoying the sport/lifestyle that I myself have a passion for. So, to all the new riders and the riders of yester-years, I encourage you to keep riding with the understanding that we live to the fullest, but our families by blood and Michelin rubber are expecting us to return home the same way we left. Maybe just a little crazier- lol.

Whatever it is you ride, a chopper, a dirt bike, trike, rice burner, café' racer, cruiser, pit bike, electric, or touring, just remember to keep that shiny side up. Respect the machine or it will show you why you should. We lost a few good brothers and sisters in 2022. So, please take a moment and raise your throttle hands up. It always brings me to reality when I see a Rest in Peace patch on someone's cut. Or someone's top rocker "Black Tapped." So, as we go into 2023, I will take a moment to say the "Rider's Prayer". As the cold days pass, I know the warm weather will be here just in



Smoke & Wildcard



Wildcard HD

time before cabin fever drives me ape sh#. In closing, we at TRM hope to cross paths with y'all on the 94 corridor, 75 North-to-South route, on the 96 crossway, or any other Michigan/national lanes. Despite race, creed, religion, or what manufacturer you ride, chuck the deuces when you see your fellow riders out there.



Chin up Chest out,
- **Smoke**

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JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4	5	6	7 Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club - Winter Race Series 7394 Bevens Rd. DeFord, MI Sign up at 2PM
8 District 14 AMA Ice Race @ Owosso Motorsports Park WWW.D14ICE.COM	9	10	11	12	13	14 Big Bend Racing 513 Conrad Rd. Standish, MI 48658
15 District 14 AMA Ice Race @ Leisure Lake Campground WWW.D14ICE.COM	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	17	18 Harley-Davidson 2023 New Model Launch Event www.HarleyDavidson.com	19	20	21 Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club - Winter Race Series 7394 Bevens Rd. DeFord, MI Race time: 2PM
22 District 14 AMA Ice Race @ Valley Trail Riders MC WWW.D14ICE.COM	23	24	25	26	27	28 Big Bend Racing 513 Conrad Rd. Standish, MI 48658
29 District 14 AMA Ice Race @ Port Huron MC WWW.D14ICE.COM Flint Motorcycle Swap Meet Dort Financial Center (exit 139 off I-69) www.ParagonsPromtion.com	30	31	1	2	3	4

THE MOTORCYCLE LAWYER ON THE LAW

ANSWERS TO A FEW FAQ'S I'VE BEEN GETTING

How Long Do You Have to File a Police Report After a Motorcycle Accident?

After a Michigan motorcycle accident, or any motor vehicle accident for that matter, you have a duty to make a police report 'immediately,' if there is a death, an injury or property damage of over \$1,000.

'Immediately' is not defined in the statute. I have polled different police officers and the answer I often get is: within 30 days. The answer for insurance purposes is found in your vehicle's insurance policy and may be different for each insurance company.

For example, if you are involved in a hit-and-run, many policies say you must make a police report within 24 hours and report it to your insurance company within 30 days. If you do not, they may be able to deny the claim from that incident.

Here is the Michigan statute (law) related to this issue:

MCL 257.622 Report of accidents resulting in death, personal injury, or property damage; forms; analysis; use; retention.

The driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident that injures or kills any person, or that damages property to an apparent extent totaling \$1,000.00 or more, shall immediately report that accident at the nearest or most convenient police station, or to the nearest or most convenient police officer. The officer receiving the report, or his or her commanding officer, shall immediately forward each report to the director of the department of state police on forms prescribed by the director of the department of state police officer.

What is the current assessment amount by the MCCA?

The Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association (MCCA) assesses all auto insurance companies operating in Michigan to cover catastrophic medical claims occurring in Michigan because of motor vehicle accidents. Insurance companies generally pass those assessments on to their auto insurance policyholders.

When the no-fault law changed in 2020 to PIP Medical Choice, only the car and truck drivers that chose unlimited PIP medical were required to pay an assessment. The assessment was reduced because there are way fewer claims since many people are not choosing unlimited for PIP Medical. The 2022-2023 assessment is \$86 per vehicle.

Motorcyclists can't buy no-fault on their motorcycles, we only get no-fault benefits when a car or truck is involved in the crash, not if we wreck because of gravel, a pothole, a deer, a road defect or another motorcycle, but do have to pay the MCCA \$86 assessment!



Have you received card above at events or from dealerships? With it, you are my Rider VIP. You know our specialty is representing injured motorcyclists and their families after a wreck. Call our 24 hour injury hotline **877-Biker-Law** for a free case evaluation, legal representation, and free legal advice. We work no-win, no-fee.



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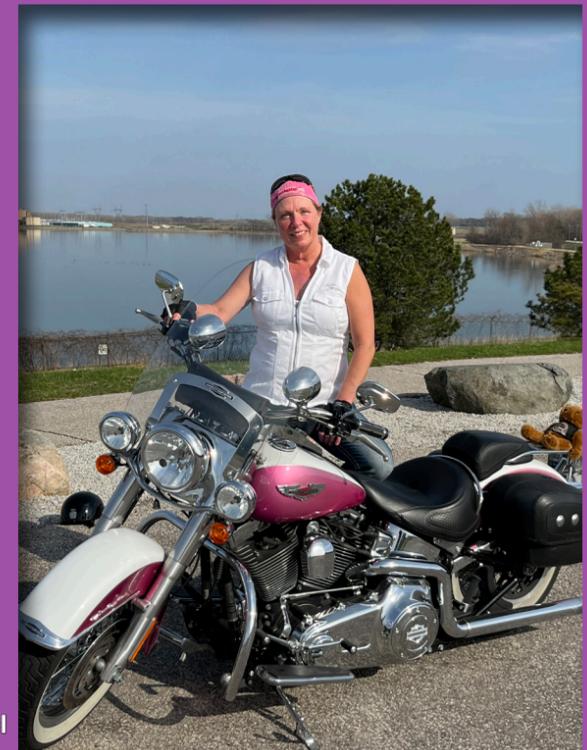
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READERS RIDES

WENDY OWENS MIDLAND, MI

This is my 2009 Harley-Davidson Softail Deluxe I purchased in Nebraska in September of 2021. It was love at first sight! This was my 1st full season on her. I took a solo trip up the east side of Michigan to go to the 2nd Annual Mackinaw Rally in Mackinaw City. I have made several day trips around Michigan. Averaging around 300 miles a day. Took a long weekend ride with my riding partner and had an amazing Upper Peninsula adventure. This is my third Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

The first 2 were pearl white Low Riders named, White Knight & Rebound. I love the freedom and independence I feel when I ride! I've even rode from Bay City, Michigan to Sturgis in 2015. I call my pink Deluxe Cinderella. In the near future I hope to ride Route 66.



VETERANS CORNER



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Congratulations! We've made it through Christmas and our New Year celebrations, now may we remember the truly important things from 2022 and the years past. The things that made us who we are today. As veterans we don't dislike the holidays, but they do take their toll on a lot of us. We try so hard to keep it together but during this time we sometimes say or do things we probably shouldn't. We can't always take back or change what's happened, but we can learn and/or get help. We can look at the negative aspects in our lives and either fix it or eliminate it from our lives altogether. As a veteran I have had to make some hard decisions in life. Those choices are never easy, but I must do what's best for me so that I can survive and move on. As we begin 2023 let's take time to find some peace in our lives.

There are always ways to get help: call a friend, another veteran, find a group to join and talk to, get some counseling, go to the VA, then there is always 988. It is up to us as Veterans to look out for each other. I know this all too well. I would like everyone who is reading this to make a promise, not a New Year's resolution but a promise. A promise that this year you will reach out and help our fellow veterans. Even if it's just to listen!

There are so many groups and organizations that are looking for volunteers to assist our veterans, all you need to do is look. Donate your time or assist in any way possible. 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, a ride to an appointment, or someone they can trust to call and just LISTEN.

The satisfaction that comes with helping a veteran is tremendous. It can grant them great contentment and joy and create wonderful memories for you and

them both, trust me I know. Let's remember to love our neighbors and share our blessings with those in need. We as veterans truly appreciate everything you do for us. We may not ask for help, but when we get it we greatly appreciate it.

May the joy of the season Bless your lives and homes. Happy New Year to you and your families.



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BRAVE HEARTS ESTATE

Pellston, MI

Sound familiar?

Perhaps it might if you've been to one of the previous Mackinaw Rallies in Mackinaw City. Yup, you guessed it... the Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau is at it again! The 3rd Annual Mackinaw Rally is set for June 9th through the 11th in 2023!

The stage is being set to host one of the largest biker gatherings of the season with proceeds going to the Brave Hearts Estate in Pellston, MI.

I had the opportunity to speak with Paula Brown, one of the caretakers at the estate, and we discussed how it came to exist, what they provide, and how it keeps itself going. She mentioned that she and her husband Mike were part of a dedicated team of volunteers that stayed on the property for days at a time, even though their home isn't too far away. These teams of volunteers go out of their way to make this getaway a special place for our country's wounded and combat action heroes. A full-time caretaker /manager is on site 24/7 to support vets and their families.

It's important to note that without fundraising, grants, and donations this would not be possible. So, when a veteran weather alone, or with their family come to stay at the Brave Hearts Estate, it doesn't cost them a single cent. Zip, zero, nothing. All thanks to the support of local



community organizations and volunteers like the Rotary Club of Little Travers Bay Sunset, who help provide volunteers for events held at the estate. Also, it was mentioned that a lot of help has come from the Northwest Michigan QDMA with donations and their ongoing support.

The Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau feels as strongly about supporting the well being of our U.S. military veterans as the communities surrounding them. That's why they have chosen to hold the 3rd Annual Mackinaw Rally supporting Brave Hearts Estate.

Our veterans are our family members, friends, and neighbors.

"Brave Hearts Estate knows that it is important to help our disabled heroes get back to doing sports and hobbies they enjoyed before being deployed. Our role is to provide events and places where disabled veterans from all wars can enjoy the camaraderie of others."

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information regarding a stay at the Brave Hearts Estate, you can visit them online and learn more at www.injuredsoldiers.com

Editors note: Make sure to check out a related article by Jason Middleton of the OIS Riders in this issue.



Operation Injured Soldiers

My name is Jason Middleton, and I am a Board Member for Operation Injured Soldiers, and the Director of the OIS Riders. OIS (Operation Injured Soldiers) is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization founded in 2005 and located in South Lyon, MI.

OIS provides recreational opportunities (free of charge) to wounded U.S. Military Veterans of all eras as a "Thank You" for their service.

We (OIS) have different directors in place that manage their divisions. Directors manage and organize recreational events in each division. These events focus on providing aid to veterans that are recovering from physical and emotional injuries sustained during conflict deployment. As a charity, our major source of operating capital comes from fundraising events held statewide, and donations from supporting individuals and businesses. We are proud to say that 93% of every dollar donated, OIS puts into one or more of the veteran programs.

A few examples of recreational events we provide could be a hunting or fishing excursion, a ball game, or a hockey game. It can be any activity where veterans can have fun and engage with other veterans. It can also be something more physical. This is one of the reasons why we created the OIS Riders.

While volunteering for OIS, I have been a part of



many fundraising events over the years. Still, there was a feeling of need for a division that could organize and run large fundraising events. Events where veterans could get together and do things like ride motorcycles, go snowmobiling, and ride ATV's. So, that is where the OIS Riders began. We are made up of veterans and non-veterans who share a passion to ride. We use our passion of riding to help raise money for Operation Injured Soldiers. When the OIS Riders are not planning or working on events



for veterans, we help support other motorcycle fundraising events, or ride out for a dinner together. Anything to just get out with one another and ride.

Operation Injured Soldiers was donated an estate by a veteran on Veterans Day 2014. The estate that was donated is now known as Brave Hearts Estate and is located in Pellston, Michigan. Brave Hearts Estate is a retreat for veterans and their families. It is a place where they can enjoy home cooked meals, bed and breakfast style lodging, and is completely free of charge. In the summer, they are open Thursday – Sunday. During the winter months they are open Friday - Sunday. Brave Hearts

Estate is also a location where OIS Riders have created and held motorcycle events up North.

For more information on the OIS Riders and Brave Hearts Estate, visit www.injuredsoldiers.org. or email info@injuredsoldiers.org

Jason Middleton
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EVENTS



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and Get Involved!**

January 2023

January 7

**Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club -
Winter Race Series**
7394 Bevans Rd.
DeFord, MI
Sign up at 2PM

January 8

District 14 AMA Ice Race
@ Owasso Motorsports Park
WWW.D14ICE.COM

January 14

Big Bend Racing
513 Conrad Rd.
Standish, MI 48658

January 15

District 14 AMA Ice Race
@ Leisure Lake Campground
WWW.D14ICE.COM

January 18

Harley-Davidson
2023 New Model Launch Event
www.HarleyDavidson.com

January 21

**Lucky Thumb Motorcycle Club -
Winter Race Series**
7394 Bevans Rd.
DeFord, MI
Race time: 2PM

January 22

District 14 AMA Ice Race
@ Valley Trail Riders MC
WWW.D14ICE.COM

January 28
Big Bend Racing
513 Conrad Rd.
Standish, MI 48658

January 29
District 14 AMA Ice Race
@ Port Huron MC
WWW.D14ICE.COM

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JOKER'S WILD



It was the New Year and Bubba decided he really wanted to go to town and see the new Avatar - The Way of Water, so he headed out to town and approached the ticket box, where the ticket agent politely asked, "Sir, what's that on your shoulder?" Bubba replied, "That there is my pet rooster, Red, wherever I go, Red goes."

"Sir, I'm so sorry we can't allow animals into the theater except for seeing-eye dogs." responded the ticket agent. Bubba went around the corner and stuffed Red down his bibs, returned to the ticket booth, got him a ticket and went inside the theater.

The theater was naturally packed but he sat down next to two older women sisters named Mildred and Marge. The movie started and Red began to squirm. Bubba unbuttoned his fly so Red could stick his head out and get some air.

"Marge", whispered Mildred. "What?" said Marge, "You need to hush and watch this movie!"

Mildred said, "I think this old guy next to me is a pervert!" "What makes you say that?" asked Marge. Mildred replies, "Well, he undid his bibs zipper and he has his 'thing' hangin' out!"

"Oh, hells bells Mildred, don't start a fuss over that, at our age we've seen em' all."

Mildred looked over at Bubba and back at Marge and exclaimed, "Yeah, well I thought that too, but this one is literally eating my popcorn!"

An older lady, Mildred, was headed to church for the first New Year's Service and was running late as couldn't find her hearing aid.

She was late and the church was packed so she sat in the back, next to a sweet looking teenager. The Pastor began his sermon. He asked of his congregation, "Everyone who has committed the sin of adultery, stand up."

Mildred was wondering why everybody went quiet so suddenly and asked the nice teenager what the Pastor just said.

The teenager told Mildred that the Pastor asked whomever wanted mints to stand up. Mildred's mouth was dry and that sounded good so she stood right up.

The Pastor was shocked, he yelled out loud to know why Mildred had stood up?

Mildred looked around and saw she was the only one standing and looked at the nice teenager and he just shrugged his shoulders at her.

Mildred looked right at the Pastor and said loudly, "I may be old and toothless, but that doesn't mean I don't enjoy sucking on one from time to time."

Merle pointed to two old drunks sitting across the bar from and told his friend, "Look there, that's us in 10 years!" His friend looked at him and said, "That's a mirror, dipshit."

So Vern was in Wally-World and he saw a group of about 15 employees headed towards the back of the store, so he just fell in line with them and they all proceeded to the Break Room, where the

Store Manager was there and was asking for everyone's attention. He suddenly stopped and stared directly at Vern and asked, "Sir, I know every single employee at my store, so may I ask what you're doing here at this meeting?"

Vern looked around at everyone quiet and looking right at him and casually replied, "I shop here probably eight times a month and Always use the self check-out, so when I saw everyone headed to the Break Room I just figured that this was where I might be able to pick-up my W-2 for all the work I've put in last year. Am I right?"

Two office worker gals are sitting in the local bar and they both are buzzing right along when the one blurts out, "I'm so sick of men, I declare All Men Are The Same!! to which Earl, the old drunk at the end of the bar that was there every day, all day and night, yelled out, "Well, who the hell told you to try them All?"

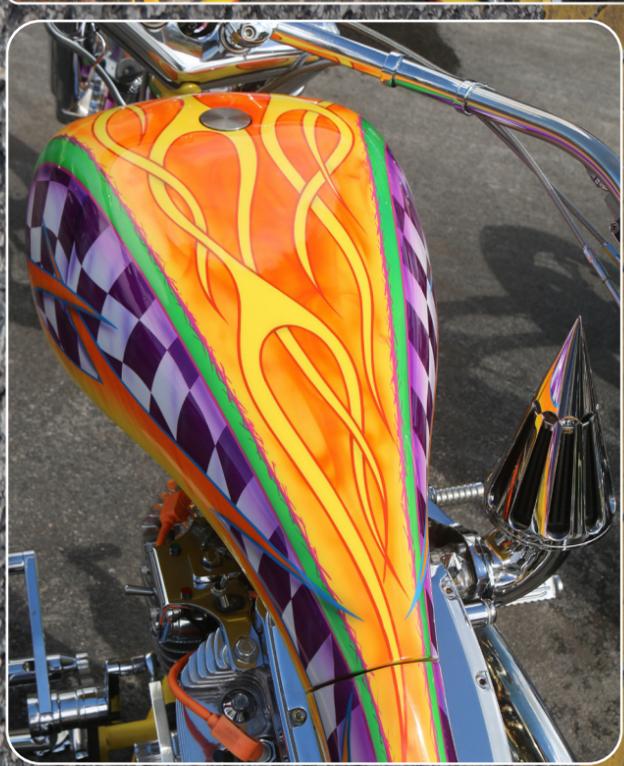
A woman and a man who had met at the hotel bar for the New Year Toast, had just finished having sex and she sarcastically said, "I had no idea you'd have such a small organ." The guy laughs and replies, "I had no idea I'd be playing in such a large Cathedral."

It was a sad and disappointing day when I discovered the Universal Remote Control I had received for Christmas did not, in fact, control the Universe Not Even Remotely.

Two blondes are sitting on the beach in Florida for their New Year's vaca, and the one blonde said to the other, "Hey, did you get everything on your Wish List this year for Christmas, I sure didn't!" The other blonde looked at her, smiled and slowly replied, "Oh yeah, no doubt, I was so damn good that Santa came twice!"

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2023 BIKERS

May all your dreams and wishes come true for this brand new, shiny year. We love y'all buku - Make it a great one!



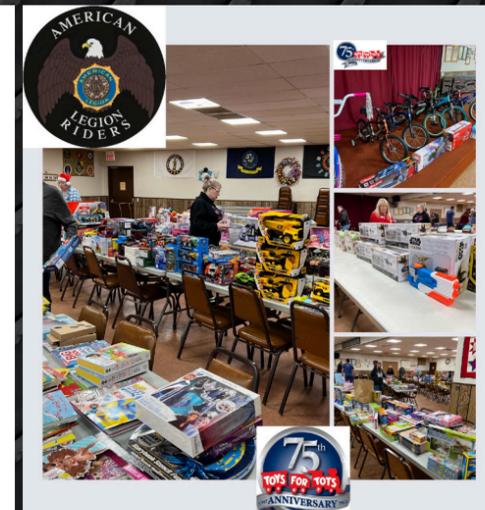
shout out



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Sanford American Legion Riders Director Shane Talbot with the Toys for Kidz collection Friday at the Sanford American Legion Hall. Hall said the collection more than doubled from 2021.
Teresa Nims/Daily News



FORD Field Detroit, MI

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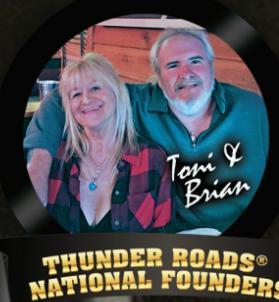
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