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ON THE COVER

**WYLD STALLIONS
 MOTORCYCLE BUILD
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LETTER FROM THE OWNERS

Seasons of Change

Like most of us, when I hear those words, I think of winter, spring, summer, and fall. And as Michiganders we base so much of our lives and our activities around what we see through our windows. A lot of times we struggle with the old "It looks bad out, should I risk it?" Yep, we usually do because we are Michiganders and just like our seasons change, so can the daily forecast. We are almost forced to live in the moment and be adventurous! Well, most of us -lol. Trust me, there are moments where it really is too hot, cold, or wet. But man, those can make for some great memories too! No, I'm not a meteorologist who constantly loves to talk about the weather, but here in Michigan it seems like it's almost a way of saying hello to one another. We greet each other with idioms like, "Burr...", "Is it wet enough for ya?" or the occasional "Whew, it feels good in here."

Metaphorically, think about someone saying, "April showers bring May flowers" and what we see through the windows of our eyes. It can remind us that with the seasons of change, we all deal with our own level of day-to-day challenges mixed in with highs and lows and that tomorrow brings a new day. For us, looking back over the past 12 months and reflecting on how far we've come, it is astounding. We overcame some major struggles in our first four seasons combined, but WE MADE IT! Let's accept the new challenges we face, and not forget to enjoy the moments in between. Riding season is here!

~ RJ



INTRO:

JIM SHIBLEY AKA, GREMLIN

How's it going everyone! My

name is Jim and I'm excited to be the latest addition to the Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine team. I've been around the motorcycle scene for a while and like many of you out there, I grew up riding dirt bikes in my younger years. It wasn't until after I graduated from High School that I bought my first Harley. I currently own a 2021 Road King and average about 12,000 miles a year. Along with riding around Michigan, I try to take a couple out of state trips each too. Including Canada. If you haven't already, make sure you take a ride up to the U.P. for the day and head over to the Soo Locks and venture into Canada if you can. The scenery becomes mountainous pretty quickly, and you'll feel you're a million miles from home.



In-between riding my bike, I'll be working on sharing where the road takes me with the readers of Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine. I'll also share a little of my own wrench work that I do on my own bikes, and the occasional favor for a friend. It's a good way to make a little extra cash to support my lifestyle and it's nice to use some of the knowledge I gained working for Detroit Harley-Davidson's parts department. I'd say that working at a Harley dealer was one of best jobs I've ever had, because I was able to talk to motorcycles and riding with like-minded people all day. When I'm not riding the bike, I like to hunt and fish and for the last four years I've enjoyed being a deer, turkey, and coyote hunting guide.

I'm really looking forward to contributing to Michigan's #1 Motorcycle Magazine and being part of the Thunder Roads® Magazine family. I'm looking forward to the 2024 riding season and meeting all the awesome Thunder Heads out there at this year's Thunder Roads® Michigan events and to see some cool ass bikes.

2ND ANNUAL

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DAYTONA-2024

So... knowing about my annual trip to Daytona, Thunder Roads Michigan asked me if I would mind writing a few words on my experience. I'm not gonna lie.... With dirt season getting an early kick off and all the Michigan tracks opening for an early season it's been hard to think of Daytona bike week as being anything more than a distraction to me - lol.

For the last several years, I have gone to Daytona to work for the first event of the year, Daytona Bike Week. As much as I love motorcycles, when you're not going to play, it doesn't matter much if you're in Florida or Michigan, it's just not as exciting as it sounds. Yes, I'm there, but not to play.... Do u know how many motorcycles I have to clean and move throughout the day while I'm working the event?! And the consumers I have to help.... some are great!!.....some are not! All the standing and managing crowds and swarms of people, at the end of the day I am just done!!

I remember the first year I attended, I was that eager, overly anxious tourist trying to get everything in that I possibly could! It being a new event for me, I wanted to see and experience as much as possible!! But, working 12-hour days before, after, and through the whole event quickly led to burning out. Although I'm grateful, I've just not been as excited as I used to be about the adventures I get to go on. I have to make the point and share that the last couple years at Daytona were extra special in a way I did not anticipate!!

My passion for motorcycles, that I thought was fizzling out on me, has been completely reignited! Not only do I get to reunite every year with an amazing group of people who have become family over the years, but I had the chance to take my oldest son to work with me! Not only does he share the eager excited feelings of being surrounded by some of



the fastest hottest rides around, but how cool is it to be able to introduce your baby to something you yourself have had a passion for your entire life!

Not only is Daytona Bike Week the first big rally of the year but is also the kickoff to so many on and off-road competitions. It is host to the first AFT pro race, first amateur Flat Track race, as well as Sprint car racing, Arenacross, Hillclimb and then of course the King of the Bagger races at the speedway. Along with Supercross and so much more!

With all this racing going on within only a few miles of us Devin, my son, took full advantage of it! He got a chance to cheer on friends from home who were there to compete in the ATF pro races and watch and meet the pros who were performing at the level that he is reaching for. He got a chance to meet some big names and to kick it with some celebrities, being 20 years younger than me he didn't mind the long days of work that made this opportunity obtainable for him.



I want to give a huge shout out to my work family who took my son under their wings. We all took turns going with him to events to help make sure he got in as much as he could in the time allotted.

Now that my son is at that age, where he just doesn't wanna hang out with mom on a regular basis anymore, I love knowing that he looks forward to these events. Which in turn makes me excited to be there too. I love the phone calls leading up to the trip, and I love the time and adventures I get to spend and share with him! I even loved the 18-hour drive. We had so much time to catch up with each other! But most of all, I love that my son brought back a passion I thought I had lost! I am grateful to be able to share my adventures with one of my most favorite people on this earth! I am completely geeked for our next adventure!

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

All Images provided by Erin Fay/Madcap Imaging and Emma Robar/Shutterworks Photography
Additional images from the Port Huron SXS Race can be found at Shutterworks.shootproof.com



007

Owned by Katrina D.
Muskegon, MI



I've always been envious of Motorcyclists. The way they look on their machine, the carefree attitude they always seem to display. It's always been a dream of mine to ride my own, unfortunately I was always told I couldn't or shouldn't. I've ridden as a passenger with "exes" that had motorcycles, but never had control of my own. Being "taken" for most of my life it was a choice I could not make. Now, being single for the last four years and with the sudden passing of my father in April of 2021, I decided to do things I've always wanted to. Riding my own being one of them.

I think what "flipped my switch" was Bike Time in Muskegon last year. I was being an innocent bystander when a dude on a bike pointed at me then gestured to the back of his bike. I didn't hesitate. I rode with him and his MC for a while and there was a chick riding her own bike. I wanted to be her!

A coworker of mine had bought himself a bike and was encouraging me to do the same, every day. He was "helping me" search and finally found one that I couldn't say no to. A 2000 Honda Nighthawk 250. Beautiful bike. It happened to be a Detroit Police training bike with the officer's badge number still on the tank! I have this badge number tattooed on the inside of my throttle wrist and decided to name MY bike, Clarice! The keys that came with the bike also had a dog license with one number higher so a K9? I haven't found an answer for that one yet. It doesn't seem long ago that I drove down to Detroit to pick up Clarice on July 28, 2023, but I found myself outgrowing her pretty quickly. So, I've decided she will be given to my daughter to learn to ride when she is ready to do so. And I'll remember to share some of the things that I have been told that stuck with me; like, "Ride like you are invisible and everyone is out to get you." "Don't ride faster than your guardian angel can fly." "You're going to drop your bike, don't be so hard on yourself, but learn to pick it up yourself."

Clarice is fun, but not as much fun as my new 007! I named my 2010 Harley-Davidson Nightster 007 in memory of my father and to keep his memory alive. He was a huge James Bond fan. So, when I introduce people to my bike, I get to speak and think about my father. I found 007 about 4 a.m. on my third shift work break when I was scanning the HD Dealerships all around Michigan. He was at the Harley-Davidson Dealership in Battle Creek. I got off work at 7am, called my guy and said, "let's go get me this bike!" He was super supportive, and we drove to Battle Creek with the trailer and waited for them to open! As soon I could, I told them I wanted the bike. It wasn't cleaned up or ready yet, but they took me to the back so I could check it out. I sat on it, started it and tears of pure joy started to well up in my eyes! After they got him cleaned up, we trailered him home on December 12th, 2023. He sat in my garage where I could start him up and push him around a bit. I felt super intimidated and felt like maybe I had made a mistake since it is a lot of bike for someone who is 5'4 110 pounds. I didn't get a chance to take a ride on it until Christmas Eve, and when I did, it was the best Christmas Eve ever!! The sound, the feel, there is nothing else like it!

Then came the snow, again. I have never felt so tortured in my life. I had this amazing machine that I couldn't ride. I don't know if watching movies and videos made it better or worse. Thankfully, there have been

a few warm days scattered through the last couple months, but it's not enough. If the temperature is 40 degrees or above, I try to ride. I'm pretty sure I will invest in heated gear for this winter. C'mon spring! Until then, my spring plans and future adventures, Oh boy. I'm lucky to have a guy in my life who has a 2010 Road Glide and who isn't bothered by me riding my own. We plan on attending Blessing of The Bikes in Baldwin, Bike Time in Muskegon, and trips to Columbus, Ohio to see my adult children. We would also like to visit the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee, WI. Eventually, camping trips to the Upper Peninsula, Tail of The Dragon and Daytona Bike Week would be nice.

Whatever I'm doing, I'm going to enjoy it to the fullest. I've become that cool biker chick that I've always envied! After my Dad passed, I realized that we really don't know when our time is up. So, do the things you want to do and say the things you want to say. Happy and safe riding to all!

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CANADA'S GEORGIAN BAY & U.P. ROAD TRIP: NO PASSPORTS REQUIRED

BY JAMES SHIBLEY

Planning for a motorcycle trip that covers more than 1,200 miles in four days is a lot of fun. If you're like me, you talk about the trip months in advance and you have a basic idea of what's in store, but a good travel plan is truly made with beers around a table with good friends. It's exciting to share the same passion of planning to ride Harley's or any motorcycle for that matter. Then sharing the days ride when you've reached a destination along the way, not necessarily the night-to-night stay. It's just the day's end. It doesn't need to be fancy. If it has running water, I'm good. Oh, and no bed bugs. Decide on an ending point, call around, book a hotel or campground and it's done.

A lot of the times the question will come up "What do I pack?" Then followed by how to pack it (ease of accessibility based on its importance), how old are the bikes that are going on the trip, tools to bring in case mechanical problems arise, repairs shops along the way, if you're crossing any international borders, and of course what cool stops are along the way.

The original plan for our trip was to meet up in Port Huron, MI, cross the United States Border into Canada, then ride up to Tobermory, Ontario and take a ferry boat across to Manitoulin Island for the night. The next day, ride up to Sault Ste Marie, cross the border again and explore the Upper Peninsula of Michigan ending in Marquette. Well two nights before we were leaving, my group found out that the ferry from Tobermory to Manitoulin Island was booked up for the Canadian holiday weekend. Apparently, you need to book ahead to ensure your spot on the ferry and the boat ride across to the island was more than \$100 American. So much for our plan. We took a vote to either go up through the Upper Peninsula through Sault Ste Marie to Manitoulin Island or the longer route around Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Everyone voted for the longer route.

Day 1: KSU's were up at 8:00am in Port Huron, tanks were full, and we ALL were anticipating the worst at the Canadian border crossing into Sarnia, Ontario. Not because we had anything illegal on us but because we were going into a different country as a group of bikers. My biggest concern was if the Canadian Border Patrol was going to make us take unpack all our stuff on our bikes. That's just a pain in the ass! All I had was my Enhanced Driver's License, no passport or birth certificate. I had never crossed the border with just my driver's license before,

so that was stuck in the back of my mind. To my surprise the border crossing was stress free, just basic questions like where I was going and if I had any weapons with me. They say, 90% of what people stress about the border never amounts to anything! We hit the cash exchange, and we were on our way east to Toronto, then north. Sarnia to Toronto went by quickly. The only bad thing to say about that ride was that it stunk like garbage and pig shit most of the way. I have no idea why, but it did. We hit an hour worth of traffic on the northern outskirts of Toronto but that was expected. We stopped for fuel every 150-200 miles and it's better to use your debit or credit card for fuel because it's quicker when you are traveling. Plus, your bank should do the currency exchange automatically. Just make sure you take the necessary steps with your bank, so they don't question your card usage outside of the country.

Just north of Toronto riding parallel with the Georgian Bay the landscape changed into beautiful rock formations. This was the point on the ride where our vacation away from life finally began. Riding 70mph on an expressway or freeway only gives you a glimpse of the wilderness you're passing (I should be using kilometers, but I like the mph better). At those speeds you do the best you can to take in all the sites worth remembering and store them away. You want to stop and take pictures, but you still have six or more hours to ride. Some want to get from point A to B as fast as possible. Not me. I understand there are places to get to and you go along with what the group does.

It was time to eat and Parry Sound, Ontario was the stop. I've heard good things about Parry Sound, and they say there's like 30,000 Islands in that area. We filled our gas tanks and picked Turtle Jacks restaurant to eat lunch at. It was right across from an inlet of Georgian Bay and the staff was

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friendly and food was good. I had the jalapeno burger with a side of poutine. If you are not familiar, it's a Canadian dish of french fries, brown gravy, and cheese curds. While we were eating, a train made its way across this awesome bridge, and I snapped a picture and sent it to my son who loves trains. Everyone laughed at me for taking the picture, but then asked me to send it to them. I would have liked to stay in Parry Sound overnight or even a couple hours to take it in but after lunch we were back on the road.

We threw our rain gear on before leaving, but it made no difference! The storm we rolled into was nasty! There were tornado advisories and some small hail as we found ourselves in the middle of nowhere. There wasn't any place to take cover, so we turned on our hazard lights and slowed to about 15 mph riding single file. We were all soaked no matter the brand of rain gear we had. After about 45 minutes the rain clouds cleared, and we were back to our normal pace. At about 6:30pm we stopped for more gas in Espanola, which is a small town north of Lake Huron about one hour from Manitoulin Island. In Espanola and the sounding area there's a large Native American population and a lot of authentic Native American gift shops with items with meaning and very well made. When I go back (with more money) there are awesome handmade fur trapper winter hats that I must own one day, hopefully sooner than later.

Riding through the La Cloche Mountain Range in-between Espanola and Manitoulin Island was awesome. I had no clue what the mountains were called until I looked them up but the scenery on that ride was unbelievable. I wasn't expecting to see that much beauty in that region of Ontario. The ride on Hwy 6, at least for me, was the most memorable on the whole trip.

Our final destination for day one was in sight. We pulled up to the My Friends Inn on Manitoulin Island and before we



got off our bikes, we were greeted by the owners, and they had ice cold beers in hand waiting for us. This was too cool; I knew right away we had chosen the right place to stay for the night. The rooms were clean, and the beds were comfortable. Their hospitality took me by surprise and the owners made us feel like family. The only downside to the whole Island was that everything closes early. We rushed to get a quick bite to eat at the local golf course restaurant before they closed at 9pm.

Day 2: Bright and early, we were back on our bikes with clear skies ahead. We rode Hwy 6 back to Espanola which was great. Gassed up and off to the border crossing at Sault Ste Marie then onward to Marquette, MI. We took our time taking in the scenery. When we arrived at the border crossing at Sault Ste Marie it kind of felt like my adventure was over just because I was heading back into my home state of Michigan. The border crossing again went smoothly. \$4.00 in and \$4.00 out! One thing I forgot to mention is that to get into Canada, they only took card for payment, but to come back to the United States was either cash or card. Crossing the Soo Locks was a cool sight. You could see the change in water level looking down from the bridge. Once we hit Michigan, the mountainous terrain was gone for the most part. I was surprised all over again by the differences in landscape. The Upper Peninsula is very impressive, with its thick wilderness as far as the eyes can see. Riding to Marquette was a pretty straight shot. Every opening we rode past I thought "I bet there's going to be a moose or a bear in view", but there wasn't. It's just so vast, there are too many places for these animals to hide. Some people get lucky and see a moose, bear or even wolf up here but not me, not this time. When M-94 merges with M-28 going into Munising,

CONTINUED....

Lake Superior was in our site. Munising is one of my favorite cities in Michigan, if you want to call it one. It's a great place to stay because you're on Lake Superior and not too far away from anything you want to do in the U.P. Riding the M-28 into Marquette was a little chilly for a summer day with the wind off the lake but worth the slight chill. Something about riding a coastline is just mesmerizing but knowing that it's in the state where I live made it even better. When we arrived at the Holiday Inn in Marquette I went straight to the hot tub and pool, but not for long. It was time to see the town and



meet up with some friends. Marquette is a college town with a lot of cool bars and breweries. The scenery was different from the trees and rocks we were used to seeing, but I'm not complaining. Being in a college town I dressed my best in a Harley T-shirt that didn't have holes, no dead bug or road grim on it, and jeans without rips or stains. We had fun seeing the town and the people in it that night. I hit the pillow hard and woke up to sun and a good ride ahead.

Day 3: We gathered in the morning at Bald Eagle Harley-Davidson. I found a new T-shirt to buy, and we were back on our bikes. The ride was good with a lot of winding roads through the U.P wilderness. We had no destination that day, just ride and have fun. I was able to see a bald eagle flying overhead and one single whitetail deer. A couple hours later we stopped for lunch and decided to ride to the Marquette Lighthouse. The lighthouse was a great opportunity to take some pictures of one of my favorite lighthouses in Michigan (it's hard taking pictures when riding from point A to B the whole time). Next, we decided to ride to Presque Isle Park, which was about 5 minutes from where we were. It's a very rocky shoreline with small cliffs and rock formations all around. The park is defiantly worth seeing. We mostly stayed on the north shoreline with the park being a peninsula. If you're on the shoreline of the park, no matter where,



it's a beautiful sight overlooking Lake Superior. After the park we hit a couple hot spots around town. My favorite was Blackrocks Brewery. It has a very nice outdoor setting with a stage and tiki bar, beers tasted great too. My favorite was the Hiawatha Ale, which is an apricot wheat ale.

After the long weekend I hit the pillow hard once again but didn't forget to set the alarm to wake up for the longer than planned ride home.

Day 4: The last day. It started off at 8am and the plan was to take my time, stop in Mackinaw City for an hour or two, stop in Vanderbilt to see some family, and then head back home to Lapeer. The ride was great. I stopped on the shoreline of Lake Michigan with the Mackinaw Bridge in the distance to take a picture of my beloved Road King, which has no windshield and will never have one. 99% of the time I wear a half helmet with eye protection. For road trips I do bring a full-face with me, but only put it on when it storms. Crossing the bridge coming home was nice, there was no wind, and you could see for miles. I took a moment to check the weather, and from about Grayling down past home was calling for heavy rain. I decided not to stop and site-see, except for lunch somewhere down I-75 and then head straight home. I had to work the next morning and unfortunately couldn't take another day off. I took I-75 down to the Roscommon exit and got gas and a sub. After, I called the wife and the first thing she said was "ARE YOU OK?" I said "Yeah, why?" She said that it was storming bad and was supposed to last until nightfall. I unpacked my rain gear once again, strapped on my full-face helmet and started the journey home. No more than 10 minutes after hitting I-75 the rain started. Light at first then quickly became a downpour. From Roscommon to my house should have taken me about two hours, but it ended up taking four hours because of the storm.



Another eight hour day on the bike with four hours riding through a storm makes for a long day, but I'm not complaining. Everyone in our group made it back home safe without any issues with our bikes. In total, I had over 1,500 miles on my TRIP meter when I started it from home in Lapeer. All in all, the road trip was a fantastic success and would ride it again in a heartbeat just to get that fur winter hat.

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Rider Spotlight on Flat Track Racer Leo Anthony

Leo Anthony Sr.

December 15th, 1916 - April 18th, 1998

Leo Anthony was born in Port Huron, Michigan, the son of Joseph and Helen Anthony. Leo had five sisters and he was a lifelong resident of Port Huron. He would start racing flat track in 1934 and start racing professionally in 1937. Anthony wasted little time in showing his skills as he went out and finished second to Lester Hillbish at the Springfield mile in his first year as a professional. In those days the Springfield Mile determined who was the Grand National Champion, so taking second at that time would be the equivalent of finishing second in the point series of modern times. Leo would become a Harley-Davidson factory rider and he would go on to win three National Races and a number of regional races.

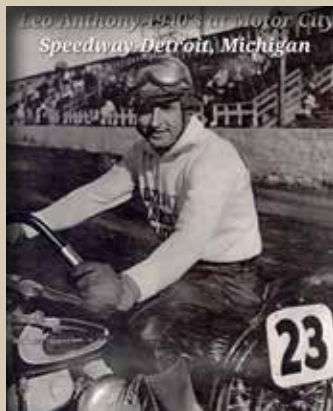


Betty Anthony (1940's) on her Harley-Davidson

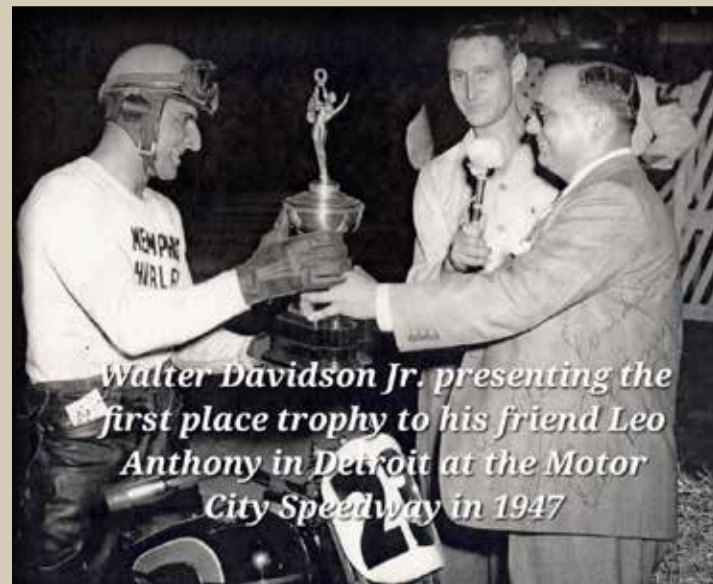
On February 8th, 1941, Leo would go on to marry the love of his life Betty and they would remain married until her death on May 23rd, 1991. Leo had two boys and two girls. Both of his boys raced flat track, ice raced, and rode street bikes. Two of his grandsons would also go on to race flat track, ice race, and ride street bikes as well. Three generations of

National Champions and successful motorcycle racers. Betty was named by the AMA as one of the top ten most beautiful women of the AMA. She was known to be a skilled motorcycle rider in her own right and could be seen driving her daughters around town on a Harley-Davidson with a sidecar.

During the Second World War, Anthony was called on to go out to Texas to be a civilian contractor that would train the military troops on how to ride Harley-Davidsons and work on them as well. That didn't happen though as Anthony was involved in a serious accident while riding his motorcycle out to Texas. The accident happened in the St. Louis area and the gentleman that owned the Harley-Davidson Dealership there actually took Anthony



Leo Anthony #23 at Motor City Speedway, Detroit, Michigan

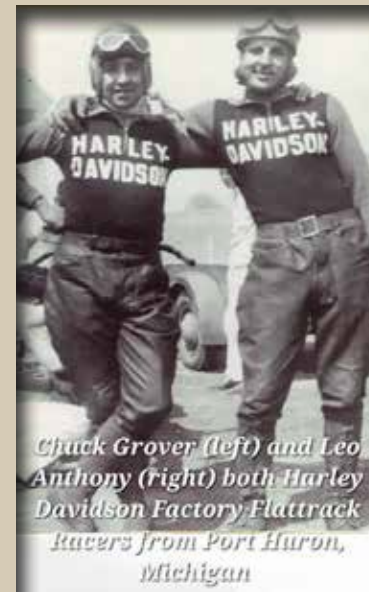


Walter Davidson Jr. presenting the first place trophy to his friend Leo Anthony in Detroit at the Motor City Speedway in 1947

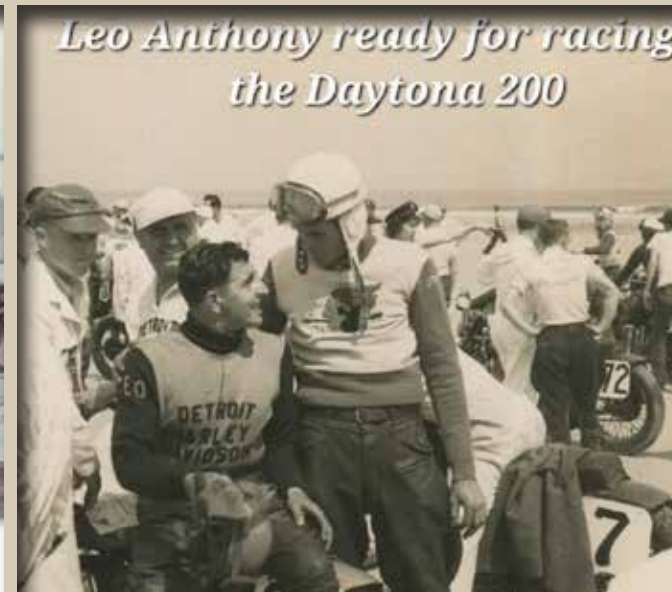
Leo Anthony #23 makes the cover of *Enthusiast Magazine* 1946



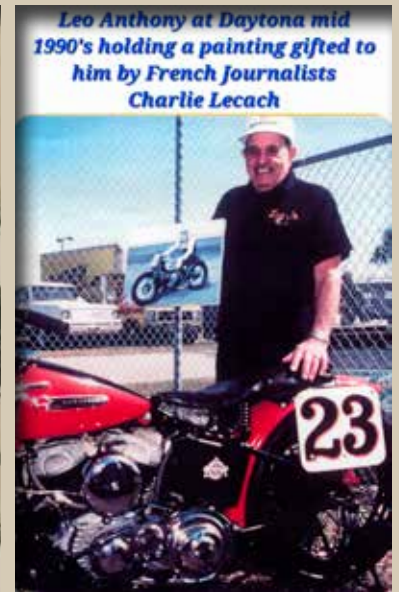
into his home for two months while he was healing up. He would end up just going back home to Betty instead of continuing on to Texas. There was no National Flat track racing during the war. After the Second World War ended, the national flat track races would resume. Leo got back into racing and was still on the Harley factory racing team. Anthony would have a great year of racing in 1947 especially. Anthony won national races two weeks in a row and then went on to finish on the podium in both the Springfield Mile and the Milwaukee Mile. A young Willie G. Davidson was in attendance at the Milwaukee Mile to see one of his racing heroes (Anthony) take second. Willie G. would later go on to tell Leo Anthony Jr. that he was thrilled to see his favorite racer (Leo Anthony Sr.) flying in Milwaukee back in those days. Anthony would go on to win one more national race in 1948 at the Spencer, Iowa



Chuck Grover (left) and Leo Anthony (right) both Harley Davidson Factory Flattrack Racers from Port Huron, Michigan



Leo Anthony ready for racing the Daytona 200



Leo Anthony at Daytona mid 1990's holding a painting gifted to him by French Journalists Charlie Lecach

National. He was a force to be reckoned with through 1950 up until he retired.

Anthony was friends with several of the Davidsons and both Walter Davidson Jr. and Willie G. Davidson were fans of Leo's homemade spaghetti. Willie G. would call Leo in his later years to chat with Leo and sometimes Larry Gilbert (owner of the Port Huron Harley-Davidson Dealer) would check on Leo. Dale Walksler of Dale's Wheels Through Time Museum was also an acquaintance of Leo Anthony. Anthony was known to go to Daytona and hang out with a lot of the older racers right up to his last years.

Leo Anthony Sr. is recognized in the American Motorcyclist Association Hall of Fame having been inducted in 1998. He was also inducted into the Michigan Motorsports Hall of Fame and his pictures and name can be seen in both the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee and Dales Wheels Through Time Museum in Maggie Valley, North Carolina as well as still gracing the pages of magazines and internet sites for motorcycling. In his retirement years Anthony owned a Harley-Davidson Dealership for about 6 years, owned a few bars over the years, and owned a Yamaha Dealership for a few years. Anthony was also a founding member of the Port Huron Motorcycle Club, enjoyed ice racing, street riding, and remained a member of the motorcycle club for the rest of his life.

Story by: Stan Prapotnik

Sources from:

Port Huron Motorcycle Club

Leo Anthony Jr.

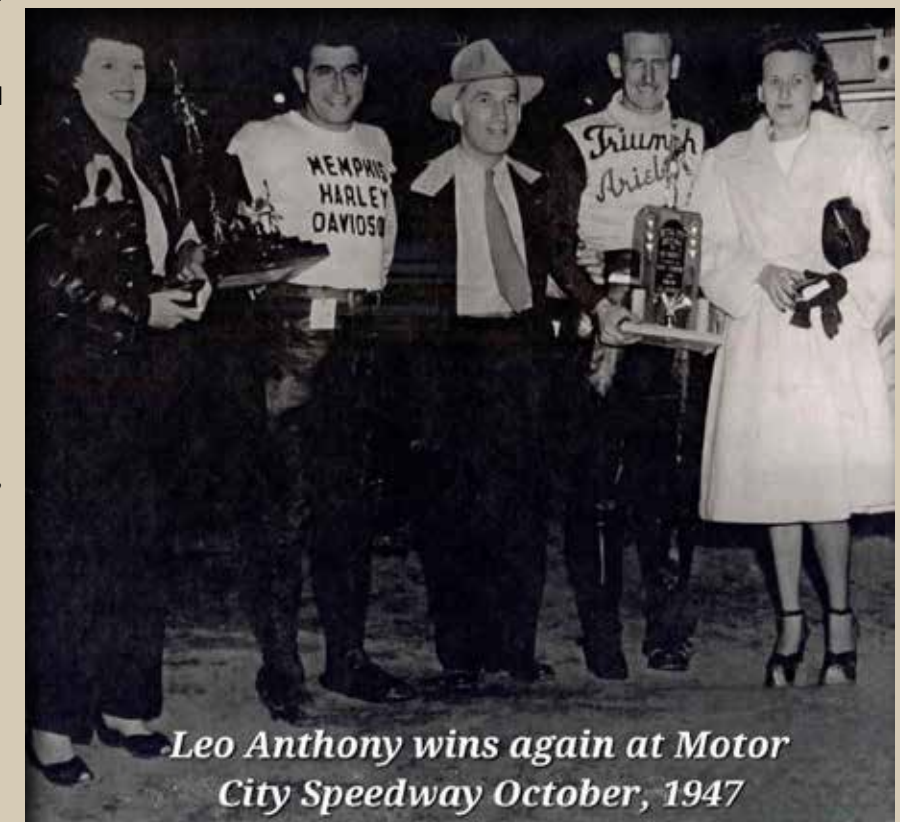
Angela Lewandowski

AMA Hall Of Fame

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LEO ANTHONY 1947 ON BLACK RIVER



Leo Anthony wins again at Motor City Speedway October, 1947

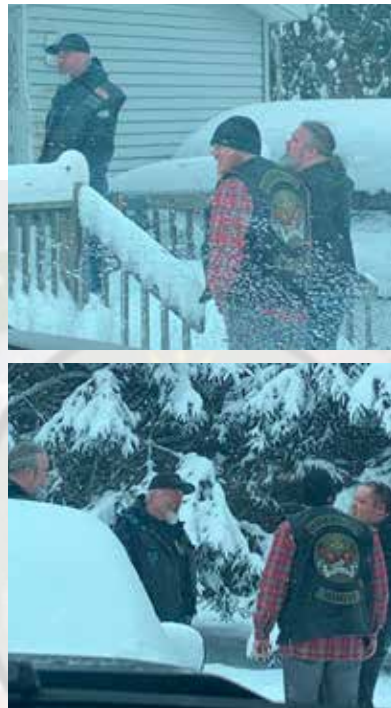
Venison For Veterans Warrior's Oath VMC

Big Rapids



Back on 14 DEC 23 Warrior's Oath of Big Rapids set out to do what they do, and that's to focus their combined energy and efforts of their VMC to help as many brothers and sisters as they can, and in any way possible. In this instance, the members of the Veteran Motorcycle Club were getting ready for their 2nd Annual Venison for Veterans campaign with the help of another local Army veteran who owns a processing facility in the area. It was Lou DeLines, who they call a brother that originally reached out to WOVMC the year prior and asked if they could help him seek local (and surrounding areas) veterans in need who could use and would enjoy freshly processed venison that is donated. Well, it wasn't hard to do the first year and they knew they would have to do it again. The first year they were able to process 8 full deer for 8 veterans and this year that number almost doubled to 14. At first, they thought they weren't going to be able to provide enough venison for the names on the list, but with the help of local farmers that need was met. Each of the 14 veterans on the list received an entire processed deer, each. It was in January that Warrior's Oath VMC delivered on their never-ending promise to take care of other veterans that otherwise may slip through the cracks of other veteran organizations out there. 'A Warrior's Oath Is Forever.'

Unfortunately, this is something that most veterans can relate to and is what motivates the WOVMC members. It's a qualifier in a way to show that you want to help veterans in need daily. It's a necessity. It's a mindset. They are



welcoming other veterans who might want to be part of their VMC, but you must follow the same channels of prospecting to show you're of the likeminded, and of course have a great will to serve your veteran brother or sister. And that is how this all came to be. A WOVMC prospect named Clint, aka Tank, sent us a message asking if we were interested in sharing a story of how they partnered up with Delines Deer Processing to feed veteran families in need? How could we say no to that!? Well, not long after he reached out, they had already delivered the venison by the time the President of WOVMC, Johnny D and I were able to connect over the phone. Now it's April and we are more than happy to share their efforts, and the fact that on top of taking care of other veterans that day, they topped it off by celebrating their SA's Birthday AND watched him and his bride Angela tie the knot. Congratulations!

In my short conversation with their President Johnny D, it was cool to hear the vision and excitement he has for growing WOVMC. With only existing for about 5 years, their latest chapter opened just a few weeks ago in Plymouth, Indiana. Even with his chapter in Big Rapids only being started about three and a half years ago, it's clear that they aren't new to this as most of the members have been part of many of the other largely recognized veteran clubs. Johnny D mentioned that he alone has been involved with similar veteran organizations for over 30 years and many other members could say the same. They are working on growing through the proper channels and keeping their commitment and focus on finding veterans that really need help. Filling



that void where most veteran organizations don't have the programs needed. They bring light to the fact that "A lot of veterans struggle every year and after all they gave, a little help goes a long way in helping them."

It was said that they could not thank the surrounding communities enough for always being there and that their support is very appreciated. It's helped them focus on different missions surrounding them. From working with the One of Many VMC and helping raise \$8,000 to buy a reliable vehicle for someone in need, to many other things they have

done and have plans to do. Check out the Warriors Oath of Big Rapids Facebook page and give them a like, but most importantly, get involved and help them succeed in their mission to continuously take care of our own.

While ending my conversation with Johnny D, I asked him if there was anything he wanted to make sure to mention and he asked that we share that Warrior's Oath VMC will be at the Airport during the Baldwin Blessing and that if you would like to find out more about joining or how you can help their mission... stop by and say hello.

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THE MOTORCYCLE LAWYER ON THE LAW

Jason Speaks at Recent Motorcycle Accident Summit

The National Trial Lawyers organization, in March of 2024, put on a seminar for personal injuries lawyers across America. It took place in Savannah, Georgia and I was invited to speak at it. They asked me to teach other attorneys some of the deposition techniques I've developed over the past 30 years specific for motorcycle injury and wrongful death cases. The seminar had hundreds of lawyers, motorcycle influencers, motorcycle and legal experts and all kinds of vendors.



Watch Motorcycle Airbag Vest Explode

One of my favorite parts of the seminar was when a technician performed a demonstration of a wearable airbag vest for motorcyclists. It was manufactured by Alpinestars and is tailored for riding. He had a lawyer wear the vest on stage. The technician held the remote ignition device and described the explosive charge that would take place within the vest. The audience's anticipation grew and grew... finally the count down: three, two, one BAM! Women screamed followed by a lot of nervous and relieved laughter from the crowd.



To watch this cool demonstration and see just how fast the vest inflated go to this link: www.motorcyclelawyermichigan.com/AirbagVest

Alpinestars was established in 1963 and for the past 20 years have developed the innovation of airbag technology specifically for riding. There are multiple options available for purchase and only recently, in my opinion, they are somewhat affordable—about \$750. Here are some examples:

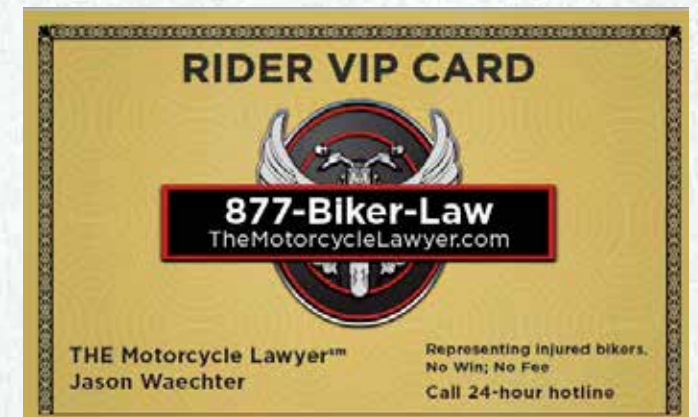
Tech-Air10: An airbag suit designed to protect riders whose goal is to ride fast. This suit is a slim wearable Airbag system. It covers the rider's shoulders, chest, back, and hips. The built in lithium battery has a life span of 24 hours. It is designed for track and road use and can be used for race and street riding modes. Tech-Air10 provides the most coverage for riders.

Tech-Air Race: Designed for full upper body protection for track day and performance riders. Once fully inflated, it protects the back, kidneys, chest, and shoulders. The battery lasts 25 hours when fully charged. The firmware offers a street setting for non-racing use on the road.

Adam Sandoval was there too. Adam is a world record motorcyclist, philanthropist, YouTuber, and social media influencer. He gave the attendees tips on using social media with motorcyclists and encouraged us all to be philanthropic toward the motorcycle community. Sandoval's personal philanthropic work is inspiring. In 2014 he created the ScootinAmerica, a two-year trip to raise money for the US military. He visited every Harley-Davidson dealership in the lower 48 states. He rode cross-country six times and logged over 80,000 miles, visited almost 700 Harley-Davidson dealers while raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for our nation's heroes. To learn more about Adam Sandoval visit Adamsandoval.com.

Riding season is upon us. When getting ready to ride I remind you to get that motorcycle endorsement, insure your motorcycle with Uninsured /Underinsured motorist coverage, choose the no-fault Unlimited PIP Medical on your cars and trucks, and watch out for all the distracted drivers out there. Keep the rubber side down---

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CHARLIE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:

SPRING AWAKENING: EMBRACING THE SEASON OF RIDE

Greetings Fellow Riders,

As winter's icy grip thaws and the gentle warmth of spring envelops our days, we're reminded of the timeless wisdom penned in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." This sacred verse stirs a unique anticipation within every motorcycle enthusiast for the season of ride.

Spring brings with it a season of rejuvenation, not just for the earth but also for the adventurous spirit that lies dormant within us during the colder months. It's a time that whispers of new beginnings and fresh journeys, echoing the divine rhythm of life where each moment carries its own significance and beauty. For us riders, it signifies the long-awaited moment to awaken our motorcycles from their winter slumber to revel in the exhilaration of the open road beneath our wheels, and to bask in the liberating joy that riding bestows.

A Time to Plant and a Time to Pluck Up

Just as there exists "a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted," spring is our opportune moment to set new goals and embark on adventures that fill our souls with excitement and happiness. Each ride serves as a seed of experience sown into the fabric of our lives, blossoming into memories that nourish and sustain us. Whether we traverse the scenic routes we've longed to explore or journey down familiar roads that bear witness to our life's voyage, every mile traveled speaks to the essence of our journey.

A Time to Weep and a Time to Laugh

Life, like the changing seasons, is a tapestry woven with contrasting threads. "A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;" reminds us that our journey is adorned with moments of both challenge and triumph. The trials encountered in navigating life's uncertain paths are akin to riding through a tempest. Yet, the joy that follows upon overcoming these trials is unmatched—much like the euphoria of riding beneath clear skies after a storm, feeling the sun's warmth caressing our faces and the wind tousling our hair.

A Time to Embrace and a Time to Refrain from Embracing

In our lives and on our rides, there come moments when we embrace the company of fellow riders, sharing the road, laughter, and camaraderie.

Ecclesiastes reveals that there's "a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing." Spring beckons us to reconnect with friends, partake in rallies, or simply relish a solitary ride, contemplating our personal odyssey and the pathways yet unexplored.

A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven

Above all, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 imparts the profound truth that there exists a divine timing for every occurrence—a season for every endeavor under the heavens. This spring, let us embrace the season of riding with open hearts and adventurous spirits. Let's make it a time for exploration, laughter, healing, and growth. Our motorcycles transcend mere machines; they serve as vessels propelling us through life's journey, facilitating the discovery of joy amidst the voyage, strength amidst adversity, and peace amidst moments of stillness.

As we prepare for this riding season, let's do so with gratitude for the open roads that lie ahead, for the beauty of the world unfolding around us, and for the companions who ride alongside us. Let us ride with the understanding that within every turn and every mile, there exists a purpose and an opportune moment for every experience under heaven.

In closing, I encourage you to embrace this season of renewal and liberation. Let the words of Ecclesiastes inspire you to cherish each moment, to live fully, and to ride with a heart brimming with hope and eyes wide open to the beauty of this extraordinary journey we call life.

Ride safely, ride joyfully, and remember, in every season under heaven, there's a perfect time to ride.

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)
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VETERANS CORNER



PREPARING FOR 2024 RIDING SEASON

Welcome spring! I hope the warmer weather has everyone's spirits up, but as always if you find yourself feeling down, please don't hesitate to reach out, we are always here for you. With all the weirdly warm weather this year, a lot of you have already been out riding. I hope that you took the time to do your routine maintenance checks before your first ride. I'm so ready! I want to remind everyone before they go start up their bike that there are a few things that are just good practice before you do. First off, if you have been storing your bike, check for small animals or debris that may have gotten in somewhere they shouldn't have. If you didn't treat your fuel with a fuel stabilizer it might be a good idea to drain it, especially if you didn't fill it before parking it. Change the oil and check all fluids! Inspect the battery and check the electrical system. Examine the controls. Clean, check and lubricate the chain, if belt driven ensure the belt is adjusted properly. Check brake pads and levers. Check tire tread and tire pressure. Inspect the spark plugs, let the engine run for a few minutes and listen for strange noises. Check for loose bolts such as motor mounts, swingarm, axle, steering head fasteners, wheel balance and suspension. Also check the air pressure in the shocks for a more comfortable ride. Performing a quick preventative maintenance on your motorcycle will keep you ready to ride safely, you can enjoy your ride and be safe out there.

Women Rider's and Veteran's United

Although it's now April, March is the month that we recognize women riders, and if you haven't noticed, more and more women are riding their own rides. As a veteran I find that being able to get on my bike and ride is such wonderful therapy, sometimes even better than a therapist! There are several women's motorcycle clubs out there and I would like to mention a few so that the women riding out there know that they don't have to ride alone, if they choose not to.

The Motor Maids – established in 1940 is one of the oldest and largest women's riding clubs. They have a Website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter www.motormaidsinc.org

Caramel Curves – founded in 2005 in New Orleans, this club is known for their styles, clothes, and bikes. They plan a three-day annual national trip for female bikers to enjoy long distance adventures with other women. They are on Facebook and Instagram. www.facebook.com/Caramelcurves

Hell's Belles MC/RC – founded in 2010, this is an old, exclusive, and cool women's club. Originally from the UK, they are a riding club that values sisterhood and embolden women who are drawn to two/three-wheel therapy and the open road, they have a Website, Facebook, and Instagram. www.hellsbellesrc.com

Leather & Lace MC – established 1983 in Florida, Leather & Lace is a long running motorcycle club. This club wears black & pink colors and their logo features two angelic women with gold & brown wings. This group aims to normalize the female rider and empower women in the

motorcycle world. They have a Website, Facebook & Instagram www.leatherandlacemc.com

Femme Fatales – established 2011 is an independent and law-abiding women's motorcycle club. This club's purpose is to encourage women to be unique and let their personalities shine. Currently this group is spread throughout the United States and Canada. They have a Website, Facebook, & Instagram. www.femmefataleswmc.com

Sisters Eternal Women's MC – This is one of the most well-known clubs in the United States. The American Motorcycle Association acknowledges this club as a neutrally chartered club. They have a Facebook & Twitter www.facebook.com/SistersEternalWMC

Today, women's motorcycle clubs can be found all over the United States and all over the world. The mission of most women's clubs is to empower female riders. If you have a passion to ride and are considering joining a motorcycle club, these clubs will allow you to gain confidence, empowerment, and freedom. There are also veteran groups you can look into joining, like the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA), your local VFW Riders, and American Legion Riders. These groups are for women and men. I would like to strongly

suggest that if you are considering riding your own ride, I say go for it! I consider it one of the best decisions I ever made and have found it to be both challenging and empowering. I will always recommend that you take a course and get your cycle endorsement before you start riding. Ride safe this spring and look twice for those who don't...



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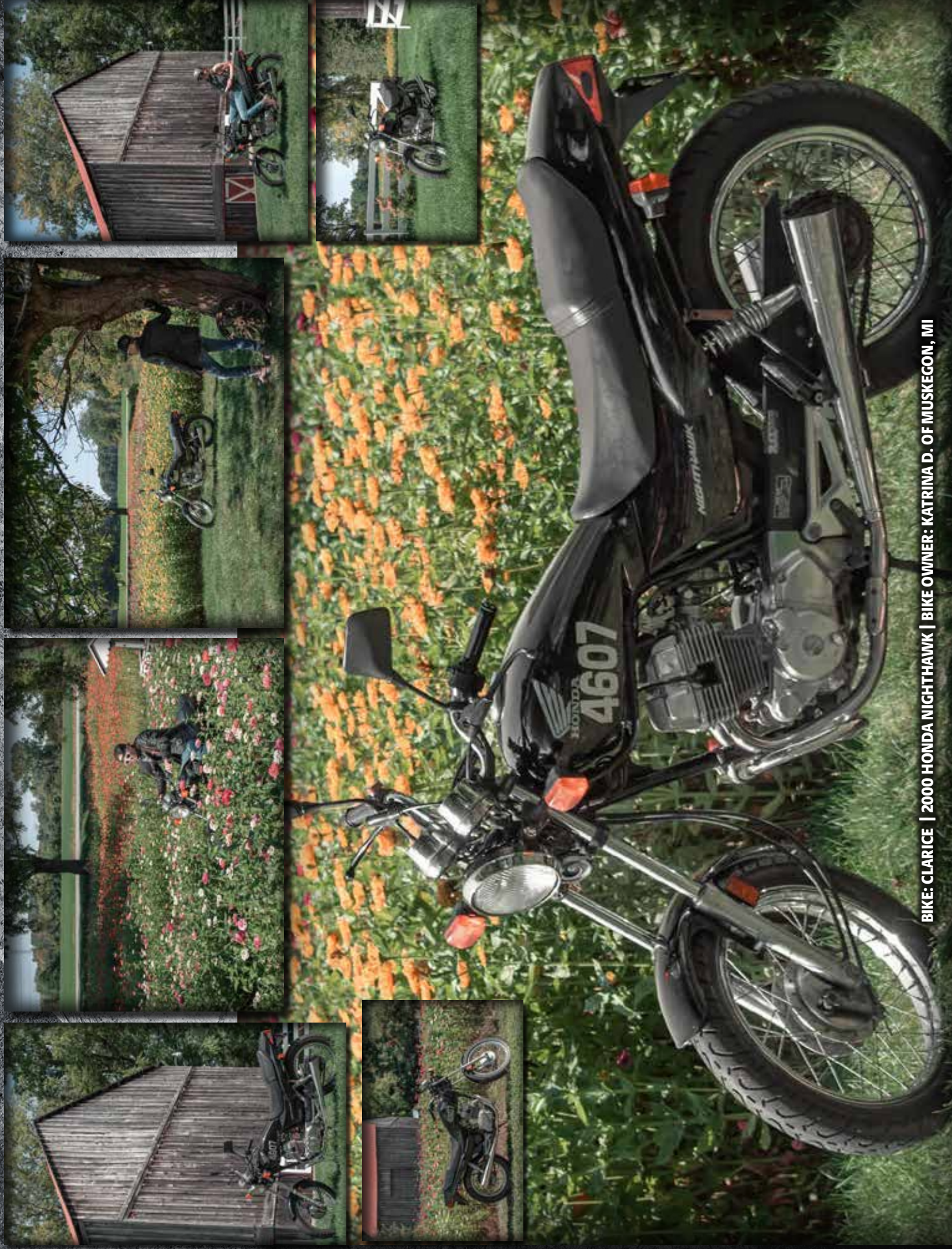
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**BIG SHOUT OUT
TO JASON & PAM
WAECHTER**

The Motorcycle Lawyer and his team really know how to throw a party! Thunder Roads Michigan was lucky enough to be on the guest list along with some very familiar faces and friends of the motorcycle community. We had a great time jammin' to Memphis Jones, "The best band from BB King's Blues Club in Memphis Tennessee", at the Magic Bag in Ferndale, MI. Jason, you, and your team rock! Thank you for throwing one hell of a good time for all of us to enjoy together.



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BIKE: CLARICE | 2000 HONDA NIGHTHAWK | BIKE OWNER: KATRINA D. OF MUSKEGON, MI

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	APRIL FOOL'S DAY					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
HEATHER ORDIWAY BENEFIT DINNER	15	16	17	18	19	BUNNY RUN RAY C'S HARLEY- DAVIDSON OF LAPEER 20
14	22	23	24	25	26	PORT HURON MOTORCYCLE CLUB ST. CLAIR HUMANE SOCIETY
21	28	29	30			27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
					HARLEY- DAVIDSON DEMO TRUCK VEHICLE CITY HARLEY-DAVIDSON	2ND ANNUAL HOUGHTON LAKE BLESSING OF THE BIKES PORT HURON MOTORCYCLE CLUB 300 FT DIRT DRAGS TEST-N-TUNE HARLEY-DAVIDSON DEMO TRUCK VEHICLE CITY HARLEY-DAVIDSON

2024 WYLD STALLIONS MOTORCYCLE BUILD COMPETITION BUILDER UPDATES



UPDATE ZACK JONES GAINES, MICHIGAN

Update time! We have been moving forward mocking up the overall look of the project with a few new parts and pieces. Tanya is making paint theme decisions as we speak!

Can't find a sprocket cover with kick for a 76 Ironhead, so that's been a pain so far. Maybe we will get lucky with some affirmations since I'm writing this before the Detroit swap?! Other than that, things are progressing. We took the trip down for Daytona Bike Week and caught a few chopper shows for some inspiration. See y'all soon!



UPDATE NIC CARLIN ANGOLA INDIANA

Progress has been pretty slow on the build so far, but hey... I finally have a bike to build. It's a 2000 Sportster and it only took me about 6 months to find the right one! The only thing I have done is remove the tins and windshield. Most of my free time has been spent getting my other bikes ready for spring. Next step is to get it up on the lift and hopefully getting the hardtail on it. The tins are for sale if anyone's looking for a set with a chameleon paint job for their Sporty. After getting a sneak peek at some of the other guys builds, I think I need to get the lead out of my ass and make some real progress on this thing.



lead out of my ass and make some real progress on this thing.

UPDATE DEREK LONG OWOSSO MICHIGAN

As far as my building of motorcycles time is concerned, it has been scarce, but the time spent collecting parts and getting organized has been more plentiful. I feel behind already, but I need to go into this year's build with the right angle of attack, so I'll have a better flow throughout. That way of thinking also made me find time to get my work area clean and clear of scrap and better organized. Since the last update I have gotten my wheels (square spoke invaders) and the new rear tire acquired. I also in a turn of events, found a nice 3-piece girder front end that needs pieced back together to make it into one. So, I will now no longer be building my own from scratch like I had originally planned! Oh, and I got the chance to catch up with the guys from Bikes, Babes, & Booze with Jim & Scott and got to talk about the Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Build! Check them out at www.crbradio.com and take a listen to the show!!!

We also celebrated my son's 18th birthday since the last update, and it means a lot to me. Especially since younger me would have bet against my future adulting slash parenting skills would probably turn out. I sure showed him, jerk-lol! Now that I've made it through some beginning struggles, I'm going to lock myself in the garage and not emerge 'till I have something to put forth. So, till then, I will thank you for following along and bid you adieu!



UPDATE TERRY SCOTT TERRY SCOTT



I've been putting in the time and working on the frame of my bike and have got the major work done on it. The big thing I have been doing is coming up with a design and plan for the bike. One big thing I learned from doing the build contest last year was I need to go into this with a set design/idea. I wasted a lot of time by not having a set path. An example of this was I wasted a month on building the hard tail for my bike by changing the design and material I used a bunch of times to end up with a finished product I was not happy with because of the time wasted. So, beginning with the frame, I gave it a custom downtube and used a piece of 1"x1.5" solid stock that I milled a 5/8" slot on both sides and then drilled a bunch of holes in it to lighten it up some. I've also goosenecked it 4.5" with a new backbone and gave it a custom gusset to help support it all. I also put a new neck on it while I was at it.

I do have a few important things left to do on the frame, such as tank mounts and the seat mount. I also have to make the front engine mount but as far as I am concerned the major framework is done.

So far, I think it is going pretty well! As always be safe, be cool, and be excellent to each other.



UPDATE CHRIS DAVIDSEN GOSHEN INDIANA



It's been a busy few weeks in my shop. Built two bikes to sell since the last update. Both Honda Shadow's. An 86' and a 96', but I've been working on the competition bike also. I've stripped the bike down and have ordered the tank I want to use on it. The rear fender has been cut and the carbs had to come off to be cleaned. I've changed the handlebars again, welded up some bunny ears for it, and fitted a new headlight. On top of that, I painted the front forks and fabricated them to fit a wider shorter front tire, chopped my exhaust, and wrapped them in black exhaust wrap.



UPDATE JON WYSONG FENWICK MI



Another month down and another update to share. This past month has seemed to fly by with concerts, stand-up comedy shows, and wedding preparations taking up most of my free time. Thankfully my wonderful fiancé has been taking care of most of the wedding planning! Still, I was able to get some work done in the shop on top of all that. I got my transmission mounts welded in and some more clean up done on the frame.



The old four speed got some time dumped into cleaning it up making it presentable. Now, it's on to getting the rear wheel in place so I can move on to the rear fender. I'm planning to rebuild some 39mm forks I picked up, but unfortunately my lathe is down at the moment and if I don't find one to use, it's an angle grinder and no front brakes - lol. I have a long list of things that need to be done as most of us probably do in this bike build competition. Along with an ever-shrinking amount of time to do them in. So, I better quit writing this and get my ass back to work.

2024 WYLD STALLIONS MOTORCYCLE BUILD COMPETITION BUILDER UPDATES



**UPDATE
FRANK
GRIMES**
DEFIANCE OHIO

The past few weeks I haven't really managed to accomplish much. So far, I have been able to get the gas tank and oil tank mounted, the exhaust built, and decided to modify the clutch hub a bit to make it a little fancier. The taillights have arrived, but so far, I have only been able to pull them out of the box and look at them. Everything seemed to be going well until I ended up having to switch shifts at work a few weeks ago. The change to second shift has really been a challenge to keep things on schedule and balancing time with family and everything else. At the moment, I'm close to a standstill in the shop.



**UPDATE
JOSH BRUST**
SEDALIA MISSOURI

In the past month we have made some decent progress with getting my frame hard tailed, our sissy bar built, exhaust built, fender mounted, and the battery box in place. Believe it or not, we even got the engine installed and ready for wiring. I've had lots of ups and downs this month, but I have not let my demons beat me! This build has helped me through some rough weeks and nights and enforced that "it's what it's all about". Adapt and overcome! We may not be rich, but we can fab and build from anything. That's the beauty of building your own motorcycle! We are off to a good start right now and almost ready to pull back apart and paint!



**UPDATE
MACK
BLANK**
FOWLERVILLE MI

I made less progress this time around than I was hoping for. I was able to get my bike sitting on its wheels again, and the exhaust and handlebars built. Other than that, I still have a mile long list of things to do. As expected, this early in the game. Still, I feel I'm off to a good start. Week 1 of the build I was out of town, so I was only able to get my bike stripped down to start cutting the frame, week 2 was a different story. I was able to get the framework about 75% complete on the hard tail conversion, and gas tank mount also built. I'm aiming to have the frame build completed so that I can start building my fender. That's right, I plan to hand form a fender from a flat piece of metal. I've done it a few times before so I'd like to think I can handle it. In between working on my build, I have been working on other bikes in my garage, and spending time with my family. Taking the time to find new comic books with my stepdaughter for her to read was a great time, and I was even able to give my brother a hand getting his new car. All the while, I'm getting my personal bike ready for riding season and building another bike to sell to continue funding of my build for the competition. To help even more, I've also taken the time to go through some old boxes of parts to get ready for the Novi swap meet where I'll be a vendor for the first time.



**UPDATE
WILLIAM
JAQUES**
BLANCHARD MI



Well, my name is Devin and I go by William and I'm 30 years old. My wife's name is Rebecca, and we have a daughter named Amina, who is three. We have another daughter on the way in April and have already named her Emma Jean. Family life and time have been keeping me from really settling into this build in the short time I have had. I'm coming in as a late entry to the competition and so far, I've gotten the bike from completely frozen and unresponsive to power, to running. My wife has grown to never be surprised by the projects (junk) I bring home and somehow never phases her anymore! To share some humorous backstory, I had one dirtbike when I was a kid, and it was a 1970s 80cc Suzuki and I dropped the air filter bolt into the intake and thought I ruined the bike - lol. I never had another bike till I was in my 20s. It was a 70's ts100 and I rebuilt that one. I'm self-taught when it comes to fixing anything larger than a single cylinder lawn mower engine. In the past four years I have bought, repaired, or completely restored at least 10 Japanese bikes of various makes and models. I built the 77 frame for the 81 KZ 440 I ride now in a 16 x 8 shed with dirt floors. I built that too! For the build competition, I'm building an 81 Yamaha 850 Special. So far, I got it to run on starter fluid and it sounded good so began with the tear down! The frame won't be 100% custom, but it will not resemble stock either. Not sure what style of bike it will resemble as until farther into the build!! Stay tuned. I'm currently working on tracing wires, a faulty solenoid, and switches. Since I have heard it run, I am satisfied that it's a worthy candidate for restoration and customization. Wires, wires, wires!!! Next steps will be the disassembling of the bike to frame and cleaning all the individual parts. Including sealing the inside of gas tank and rebuilding the completely frozen carbs. Then on to paint prep!!



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HOT RODS TOPICS

April showers bring May flowers! Along with that comes decent weather and hopefully, improved riding conditions. As the degrees continue to rise, we'll all be looking to get out, throttle down, and start reset our mileage for this year's riding season! Remember, although we've been lucky to get out early, make sure to check your tire pressure! Before I got on my bike, the very first thing I checked was the tire pressure, and yes - they were low. The last thing you need is low tire pressure to put your machine into a wobble which could cause an unwanted accident!

I want to send out a well-deserved congratulations to Jason Waechter for his incredible work down in Georgia. Jason was invited to present advanced deposition techniques at the Motorcycle Lawyer Summit in Savana, Georgia. We're lucky to have him on our side fighting for all motorcyclists!

Hot Rods is working toward our annual April fundraising event for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. All donations are greatly appreciated. We will be collecting items for the Foster Care Childrens Protective Services in Lenawee County during our April 9th. This meeting is going to be held at The American Legion Post 268 in Milan, MI at 4:00pm. You can call Joe @ 517-920-1490 or Laurie @ 517-423-6543 for more information or to get a list of requested items of need.

April 13th is our casino bus trip to Firekeepers casino, and it is fast approaching. This is one bus you would love to be on! Don't miss out! Reach out to George or Barb Bennett at 734-323-1827 if you're interested.

And it's time to start thinking about May and Motorcycle Awareness Month. One thing you can do is go to your local communities and townships to get a Proclamation for your community. Please call Amy (Amos) Bachorek at 734-777-0971, our new Awareness Champion, to get help with a proclamation or share your ideas.

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

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

APRIL IS
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month

Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness and Suicide Prevention Foundation are collecting goods for Foster Care / Children's Protective Services

Requested items this year are:

- Full size lotions, shampoos & conditioners
- Full size body washes or bars of soap
- Woman's hygiene & tampons, Deodorant
 - Toothbrushes & toothpaste
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 - Socks and underwear for all ages
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ABATE OF MICHIGAN – Q&A WITH NEW PRESIDENT GARY KOPTA

1. Position, Name, and Region?

ABATE of MICHIGAN President, Gary Kopta, Region 10, Saginaw, MI.

2. How long have you been an ABATE member?

Joined in 2008 became life member 2009

3. What convinced you to join ABATE?

My wife and I went on a trip to Indiana with some friends and they kept telling me how they couldn't wait to get across the border into Indiana so we could take off our helmets. I had been raised on dirt bikes and always wore a helmet, so I thought they were crazy. That is until we crossed the border and we stopped and took them off and I realized how nice it was to ride without a helmet. I sure didn't want to come back to Michigan and to have to put it back on. When I heard about ABATE, I was up at Muskegon bike week and saw a booth of ABATE members, so I joined right there, and the rest is history.

4. What is something you/we could do to help or improve our efforts with the message of ABATE?

I would like to get the younger generation more involved.

5. What is the best event you have ever attended even if it's not ABATE related?

I really don't have a favorite event. I enjoy them all, but I am looking forward to attending my first "Bikers In The Beltway" because I have never been to D.C.

6. What do you ride and who is your favorite riding mate?

Harley Davidson Electra Glide Ultra Limited and my favorite riding mate would be my wife, Debbie.

7. Where and when are your meetings held?

My region meeting is the first Sunday of the month and it rotates every other month between Hemlock and Elwell.

8. Your opinion on the insurance BS in a few short words? - Swearing allowed ha-ha!

It's borderline discrimination. How can a motorcyclist be stuck with an insurance choice made by someone else? We should be able to use what we are paying for!

9. What do you like best about ABATE?

I like the camaraderie. When you walk into an event, and you see a bunch of ABATE shirts in attendance you know you're with family.

10. How can we get more members especially the younger crew?

I have created an additional committee to go along with the rest of the committees, I called it the family committee. I am hoping to have some family events throughout the year and maybe we can get the younger generations more involved.

11. Why did you decide to run for president?

While I was treasurer, I developed a lot of respect for Vince. I have seen the things he's accomplished and when he decided to step down, I thought I could step in and slightly tweak some of the things he was already doing. I felt I had a good relationship with the other officers and the board, and I think together with everyone's help we can accomplish great things. That includes not only board but the membership also.

12. How long were you treasurer?

I started in February 2018 and finished at the seminar in January 2024.

13. In your opinion, what are three things we/ABATE needs to work on?

Communication on all levels. Meaning communication between officers all the way down to communication with the membership. We always need to increase membership. We need to get all regions up and running. This is a very important election year with all the talk of autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles, and everything else the politicians are trying to do. We need as many people as possible to vote for the candidates that support our beliefs. I don't care if they are republicans or democrats.



ABATE President,
Gary Kopta

Thank you, Gary, for taking the time to speak with us!

At the very first Board meeting that Gary chaired, his first words were communication. I'm proud to say we are all working to do our part and that includes our previous President Vince's help along the way, together we will keep our promise to every single motorcyclist; To do everything we can to keep ABATE fighting for our rights. But never forget, YOU do NOT have to ride to support ABATE, you just have to believe in motorcyclists' rights. Join today, go to our new and improved web site! Thank you, Silla, and Woody, for the hard work on that. We've got this!!!!

Spring is here folks! Here are some places offering motorcycle safety courses around the state and as you know, rider education is one of the top three priorities of ABATE.

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Most motorcycles accidents involve unlicensed operators. So, if you are not endorsed, please reference anyone of the class providers. If I can do it, so can you! Call and do your research. Classes range from \$50 and up. If you would like help navigating the process, my email is merrysgarrett@yahoo.com. I'll help anyway I can.

If you aren't following your local ABATE or the Thunder Roads® Magazine of Michigan Facebook page, please do! It's a great way to stay on top of what is going on in Michigan and ways to support both. Like, the chance to win your choice of a brand new Indian or Harley-Davidson motorcycle!

Ride safe and with the joy of the wind in your hair and the sun on your face.

Till next time, peace!
Merry



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BULLET POINTS

BY GREG DENAY, AKA JOHNNY

Sorry, no witty intro. I'm just jumping right into it. The whistleblower group, Empower Oversight, is warning that the Biden administration is preparing an "unconstitutional" power grab to regulate private gun sales by requiring a background check.

In a letter sent on January 31, 2024 to Attorney General Merrick Garland, Empower Oversight said it had learned from two sources that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) was directed by the White House to make the change and "has drafted a 1,300 page document in support of a rule that would effectively ban private sales of firearms from one citizen to another by requiring background checks for every sale."

A 1986 law was passed that explicitly forbids background checks for gun sales between private citizens. Empower Oversight said it believes that only Congress can make such a change because of that law.

The letter states, "Such an expansive rule that treats all citizens the same as Federal Firearms Licensees would circumvent the separation of powers in the constitution, which grants 'all legislative powers' to Congress while requiring that the President 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed.'"

The letter also states, "To the extent such a rule prevents the private sale of firearms, it would also clearly violate the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, which declares that 'the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.'"

President Joe Biden signed an executive order in March, (2023) requiring the Federal Government to "clarify the definition of who is engaged in the business of dealing in firearms, and thus required to become Federal Firearms Licensees in order to increase compliance with the federal background check requirement for firearm sales." The President also admitted that his goal was to "move us as close as we can to universal background checks."

The ATF has submitted a rulemaking proposal that I've been keeping tabs on since September of 2023. So have a lot of other Second Amendment advocates, because it raised some big alarms with us. It appears that the administration was seeking to require any private citizen who sells even a single firearm online to register as a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL).

In 1986 the McClure-Volkmer Bill was enacted as part of the Firearms Owners' Protection Act (FOPA). FOPA made

clear that the "business" of selling firearms "shall not include a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby, or who sells all or part of his personal collection of firearms."

On June 25, 2022, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) was signed into law. Section 12002 of the BSCA broadened the definition of "engaged in business" to all people who intend to "predominantly earn a profit" from wholesale or retail dealing in firearms by eliminating the requirement that a person's "principal objective" of purchasing and reselling firearms must include both "livelihood and profit."

The statute now states that, as applied to a dealer in firearms, the term "engaged in business" means "a person who devotes time, attention, and labor to dealing in firearms as a regular course of trade or business to predominantly earn a profit through the repetitive purchase and resale of firearms." However, the BSCA definition does not include "a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby, or who sells all or part of his personal collection of firearms."

According to the proposed rule by the ATF, because of the internet, gun shows, flea markets, and other similar events, they want to change the definition of "dealer" to clarify that "firearms dealing may occur wherever, or through whatever medium, qualifying activities may be conducted. This includes at any domestic or international public or private marketplace or premises."

Some nonexclusive examples from the proposed rule include "a gun show or event, flea market, auction house, gun range or club, at one's home, by mail order, over the internet, through the use of other electronic means (e.g., an online broker, online auction, text messaging service, social media raffle, or website), or at any other domestic or international public or private marketplace or premises."

Basically, these examples are letting you know that in order to buy or sell firearms, under this proposed rule, anywhere but a brick-and-mortar store, the government wants you to be licensed. This way they can track all of your guns. This is why I always say... vote accordingly! So, if you're like me and oppose this possible rule change, let your elected officials know. Until next time, enjoy spring, summer will be here soon. Be safe everyone!

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Well needless to say, snowmobile season wasn't too good to us this year, but trying to look at the bright side of things, motorcycle riding season is hopefully soon upon us. With the warmer weather we had in March, some of us have been able to sneak in a ride on those random warm days. The OIS Riders calendars are starting to get full. We are getting our fundraising events planned and locked down for our schedule. We are looking forward to supporting Rolling Thunder for the 2024 Ride for Freedom Nationwide on May 26, 2024. West MI Chapter and East MI Chapter will be leaving two separate locations and meeting at the State Capital for the ceremony that takes place at 12:30. For more information on this you can go to our FB page. The Michigan Hot Rod Association through the South Lyon Spark Plugs Auto Club has chosen Operations Injured Soldiers to be the beneficiary of the auction proceeds at their banquet this year, and the OIS Riders will be working and helping at this event. The New Hudson Inn is going to host the 18th Annual Lyon Ride again this year on July 20, 2024. This will be a fun event for everyone, with a poker run, food, entertainment, and raffle prizes. We are still in the planning stages of these events, so stay tuned for more information. If you would like to sponsor or donate to the Lyon Ride, please contact Jason Middleton. All proceeds from these fundraisers go directly to Operation Injured Soldiers, whose goal is to get veterans back outdoors doing the things they love with other veterans. All the funds that are donated make it possible for Operation Injured Soldiers to offer activities free of charge to any veteran that wants to participate. Recreational Therapy is a wonderful way for veterans to relax and build comradery with one another. Summer clean-up is approaching for us as well, getting Brave Hearts Estate ready for the spring and summer events is quite a chore. Sprucing up the grounds and the estate definitely takes some time. Hopefully we will be able to sneak in a ride, weather permitting.

Jason Middleton
 Director, OIS Riders
 Board Member,
 Operation Injured Soldiers
 22645 Pontiac Trail
 South Lyon, MI 48178
 (248)437-3130

ROLLING THUNDER
 2024 RIDE FOR FREEDOM NATIONWIDE

WEST MI (CHAPTERS 1 & 4)
 SATURDAY MAY 25, 2024 - BIKE NIGHT & CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
 LOCATION: SANDY'S HARLEY DAVIDSON / TIME: 3PM -7PM
 SUNDAY MAY 26, 2024, RIDE FOR FREEDOM
 • KSU 8 AM - AMERICAN LEGION BOAT & CANOE 401 N. PARK ST N.E. GRAND RAPIDS, MI. SHORT STOP AT THE BELDING WAR MEMORIAL
 • KSU 10:00AM MEET UP WITH CHAPTER 5 @ FULL THROTTLE
 KSU 11:30 TO THE STATE CAPITAL

EAST MI (CHAPTERS 5)
 SATURDAY MAY 25, 2024 - 10 AM - 4 PM - FLAG RAISING CEREMONY & PRE-RIDE EVENTS MOTOR CITY HARLEY, 24800 HAGGERTY RD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48335
 SUNDAY MAY 26, 2024, RIDE FOR FREEDOM
 - REGISTRATION STARTS @ 6:30 AM @ MOTOR CITY HARLEY, 24800 HAGGERTY RD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48335
 - KSU 8:30 AM TO VG'S IN HOWELL
 KSU 9:45 AM MEET UP WITH CHAPTERS 1 & 4 @ FULL THROTTLE
 KSU - 11:30 AM TO THE STATE CAPITAL

CEREMONY @ STATE CAPITAL
 12:30 PM - TRIBUTE TO POW/MIA'S WITH FOOD, MUSIC, VENDORS & SPEAKERS.

Michigan Chapter Contacts:
 Chapter 1 - Bo John Bravabull - ndnsiouxperman@gmail.com 231-920-3379
 Chapter 4 - Marvin Dunbar - marvharley@gmail.com, 231-215-4411
 Chapter 5 - Duane O'Parka - Rtmc5.president@gmail.com, 248-505-5953

24TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE BIKERS MAY 5TH, 2024



HOME OF THE BLESSING

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Charity Ride for Youth Haven Ranch

Ride in Bike Show registered by 12:00

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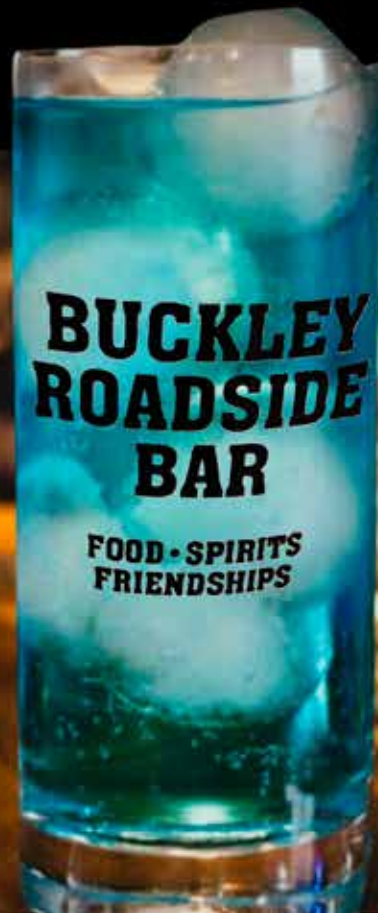
STORM CHASERS DRINK RECIPE

LONG RIDING DAYZ

- 3/4 OZ VODKA
- 3/4 OZ BLUE CURACAO
- 3/4 OZ TEQUILA
- 1 DASH SOUR MIX
- 3/4 OZ RUM
- 2 OZ LEMON-LIME FLAVORED SODA
- 3/4 OZ GIN
- 1 SLICE FRESH LEMON OR LIME

NEW SPIN ON A LONG ISLAND ICED TEA

1. Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Combine vodka, tequila, rum, gin, Blue Curacao, sour mix, and lemon-lime soda in the cocktail shaker. Shake vigorously.
2. Pour the contents of the shaker over ice in a tall bar glass and garnish with a slice of lemon or lime.



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JOKER'S WILD

A woman from New York was driving thru a remote part of Arizona when her car broke down. An American Indian on horseback came along and offered her a ride to the nearest town. He held out his hand and let her get situated riding behind him on his horse, and off they rode. The ride was uneventful, except that every few minutes the Indian would let out an extremely loud YeeeeeeeHawwww!! so loud in fact that it echoed from the surrounding hills and canyon walls. When they arrived in town, he let her off at the local service station, yelled one final YeeeeeeeHawwww!!, and rode off. "What did you do to get that Indian so excited?" asked the service station owner. "Nothing at all," replied the woman. "I merely sat behind him on the horse, put my arms around his waist and held onto the saddle horn so I wouldn't fall off." The station owner looked at her, shook his head and said, "Ma'am, Indians don't use saddles." YeeeeeeeHawwww!!

Friend: So what are you up to today?
 Me: Drinking & pole dancing.
 Friend: Oh, so coffee and mopping the floor.
 Me: Yep, hot mom chit.

With a very seductive voice a wife asked her husband "Have you ever seen \$20 all crumpled up?" "No" said her husband, wondering where this was going.

She gave him a sexy little smile, unbuttoned the top three buttons of her blouse and slowly reached down in her cleavage created by a soft, silky pushup bra and pulled out a crumpled twenty dollar bill. He took the crumpled bill from her and smiled approvingly.

She then asked "Have you ever seen \$100 all crumpled up?" "No I have not" he said, an anxious tone in his voice.

She gave him another sexy little smile, pulled up her skirt, seductively reached into her tight sheer panties and pulled out a crumpled \$100 bill.

He took the crumpled bill and started breathing a little quicker with anticipation.

"Now" she said "Have you ever seen \$50,000 all crumpled up?" "No way!!" he shouted, becoming even more aroused and excited, to which she purred and replied

"Go look in the garage."

Sometimes I sit and ponder the fact that there are actual human beings out there, who walk among us, that don't like cheese....like no kind of cheese at all. Not that they have serious diet constrictions and can not eat it due to health reasons, Noooo!, it's the fact that they just do not like cheese. wth???

Before all our smartphones, when there was the time change to 'spring forward', it was so cool to show up to work an hour late and blame it on the alarm clock - Ahh, good times when it was old skool.

I know my dog loves me, but if I had a squeaker in me, he would gut me like a fish.

Bubba and Leroy are at their watering hole and Leroy says, "So you're saying after 20 years of marriage, your wife still thinks that you're sexy?" Bubba replies, "Yes! I walk around naked on the weekends cause the kids moved out, but every time I pass her she looks me up and down and says, "What an ass!"

Me and the wife were on a road trip and she needed to pee (again) and saw a sign for the next exit, that read: 'Welcome To Peckers Cutoff' and underneath it read: Population 2. We looked at each other and our eyes got really big and I felt my foot puttin' the pedal to the metal, and we aint talked no more about that, but I can't get it out of my head.

I don't know who is writing the sayings that go into the fortune cookies these days, but mine just said: Find a man who strokes your hair and tells you how soft it is and doesn't even mention or care that's it's on your legs.

My 6 year old was sitting on the couch and she looked sad and I asked her what's the matter and she said "I was just wondering if Jelly Fish are sad that there isn't any Peanut Butter Fish." And now, I can't get it out of my head.

Male bees die after mating. That's basically their life. Honey. Nut. Cheerio.

Exercise makes you look better naked. So does Tequila.

EVENTS



EVENTS



April 2024

April 6

-Bulldogs M/C
Vintage Racing
9113 Belsay Rd
Millington, MI
Check out Facebook for details

April 7

- Bulldogs M/C MX
AMA D-14 Motocross
9113 Belsay Rd
Millington, MI
8:00am-5:00pm
Check out Facebook for details

**-Heather Ordiway Benefit Dinner
Immanuel Lutheran Church
320 Bradley St.
Mount Pleasant, MI
1:00pm-3:30pm
Suggested Donation \$10 Per
Person
See ad for details**

April 13

-Red Bud MX
AMA D-14 Motocross
13638 N Red Bud Trl.
Buchanan, MI
Check out Facebook for details

April 14

-Motown Hog Chapter
Motorcycle Swap Meet
American Legion Hall Post 200
11800 Michael St.
Taylor, MI
12:30pm-4:00pm
Check out Facebook for details

- Red Bud MX
AMA D-14 Motocross
13638 N Red Bud Trl.
Buchanan, MI
Check out Facebook for details

April 20

-16th Annual Defrost Run
Register 10:30-Noon @ Motown
Harley-Davidson
After party @ UAW Local 387
24250 Telegraph Rd.
Flatrock, MI
Check out Facebook for details

-Big Air MX
AMA D-14 Motocross
1262 Spring Dr.
Newaygo, MI
www.bigairmotocross.com

**-Bunny Run
Ray C's Harley-Davidson of
Lapeer
Hog Chapter #2286
1491 S. Lapeer Rd.
Lapeer, MI
10:00am @ Ray C's KSU 10:30am
11:30am @ Local 598 Hall KSU Noon
Check out Facebook for details**

-Log Road MX
AMA D-14 Motocross
222 Log Rd.
Bronson, MI
www.logroadmx.com

**-Port Huron Motorcycle Club
St. Clair Humane Society
SxS Road Ride
3376 Griswold Rd.
Port Huron, MI
810-982-4894 for details**

-Downtown Jackson's 2nd Annual
Blessing of the Bikes
Commonwealth Commerce
Center
209 E. Washington Ave.
Jackson, MI
12:00pm - 4:00pm
517-917-7315 for details

April 21

- Big Air MX
AMA D-14 Motocross
1262 Spring Dr.
Newaygo, MI
www.bigairmotocross.com

-Log Road MX
AMA D-14 Motocross
222 Log Rd.
Bronson, MI
www.logroadmx.com

April 27

-Blessing of the Bikes
Angelz of Grace Michigan
Marine Corps League Downriver
Detachment
1526 Fort St.
Lincoln Park, MI
Arrive @ 1:00pm - Blessing @
2:00pm
www.downrivermarines.net/
blessing-of-the-bikes

-Dutch Sport Park Mx
AMA D-14 Motocross
13566 County Road 665
Bloomingdale, MI
www.dutchsportparkmx.com

-Macomb Gun Show
Lakeside Mall-Sears Building
14100 Lakeside Cr.
Sterling Heights, MI
Admission \$10 - Free Parking
9:00am-5:00pm

-Portland Trail Riders
Vintage Racing
11999 Sandborn Rd.
Portland, MI
www.portlandtrailriders.com

April 28

-4th Annual Blessing of the Bikes
Mt. Clemens American Legion
Post 4
401 N. Groesbeck Ave.
Mt. Clemens, MI
10:00am-4:00pm Blessing @
1:00pm
Check out Facebook for details

-BattleCreek M/C
Hare Scrambles
21758 Waubascon Rd.
Battle Creek, MI
www.battlecreekmotorcycleclub.com

-Dutch Sport Park Mx
AMA D-14 Motocross
13566 County Road 665
Bloomingdale, MI
www.dutchsportparkmx.com

-Freeland Walleye Festival Car,
Bike, and Truck show
McDonald Ford
6790 Midland Rd.
Freeland, MI
Trophies Awarded @ 2:00pm

-Macomb Gun Show
Lakeside Mall-Sears Building
14100 Lakeside Cr.
Sterling Heights, MI
Admission \$10 - Free Parking
9:00am-3:00pm

-Portland Trail Riders
AMA D-14 Motocross
11999 Sandborn Rd.
Portland, MI
www.portlandtrailriders.com

KICKSTART TO NEXT MONTH!

May 3

**-Harley-Davidson Demo Truck
Vehicle City Harley-Davidson
2400 Austins Pkwy.
Flint, MI
Check out Facebook for
details**

May 4

**-2nd Annual Houghton Lake
Blessing of the Bikes
The Chamber of Commerce
1625 W. Houghton Lake Dr.
Houghton Lake, MI
See ad for details**

**-Harley-Davidson Demo Truck
Vehicle City Harley-Davidson
2400 Austins Pkwy.
Flint, MI
Check out Facebook for
details**

**-Port Huron Motorcycle Club
300 Ft Dirt Drags Test-n-tune
3376 Griswold Rd.
Port Huron, MI
12:00pm-6:00pm
Check out Facebook for details**

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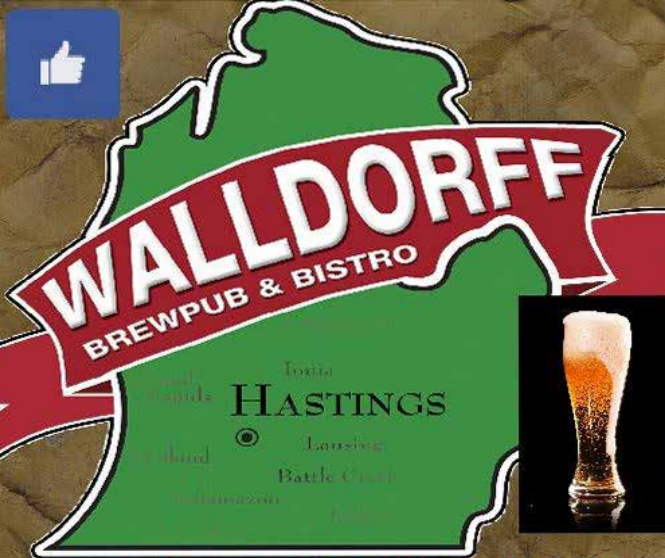
Event information must be received prior to
the 10th of the month preceding the event
month to be posted in the magazine.


Remember to call ahead before planning
to attend any event as the information/
dates may change. Thunder Roads®
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Just For Fun





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BIKE NIGHTS

(See Directory for Address)

TUESDAYS

- Ryders Bar & Grill - Midland
(Starting April 23rd)
- The Other Side Bar & Grill - Freeland
(TBD)
- Trackside Food & Spirits - Reese
(Ride in Specials)

WEDNESDAYS

- Ghost Town Saloon - Elwell
(Starting May 22nd)
- Iron Horse Bar & Grill - Akron
(Ride in Specials)
- Scooter's Bar & Grill - Flint
(Starting May 1st)

THURSDAYS

- Auburn Hotel & Tavern - Auburn
(Starting May 23rd)
- Beeter's Brew Pub - Sebawaing
(Ride in Specials)
- Buckley Roadside Bar - Buckley (TBD)
- Lee Bar & Grill - Midland
(Kickoff April 25th)

FRIDAYS

- Parisville Saloon - Parisville
(Starting May 31st)

SUNDAYS

- Chicky's Paradise Saloon - Almont
(Starting May 5th)
- Otter Lake Bar - Otter Lake (TBD)

(These Bike Nights are supporters/advertisers of Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine)

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TwistedIllusionsLighting@gmail.com

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Bike Night Every Other Friday
Starting May 5th 6PM-9PM

MOTORCYCLE ORGANIZATIONS

ABATE OF MICHIGAN
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www.AbateofMichigan.org
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269-435-2058

Hot Rod's Motorcycle Awareness & Suicide Prevention Foundation
Email: HotRodBeaton@gmail.com
419-349-8075

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2 Wheel Tavern
13984 S. Straits Hwy.
Wolverine, MI 49799
231-525-8388
www.2WheelTavern.com
Bike Night Wednesday

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101 W. Midland Rd.
Auburn, MI 48611
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6422 Pingree Rd.
Elwell, MI 48832
989-463-4693
Bike Night Wednesday

Greka's Tavern
326 S. 1st St.
Rogers City, MI 49779
989-734-9029
Live Music Weekends

Iron Horse Bar & Grill
3592 Main St.
Akron, MI 48701
989-691-5791
Wednesday Ride in Specials

Lee Bar & Grill
430 W. Isabella Rd.
Midland, MI 48640
989-436-1176
Bike Night Thursday

Otter Lake Bar
5845 Genesee Ave.
Otter Lake, MI 48464
810-793-7797
Bike Night Tuesday

Parisville Saloon
5495 Priemer Rd.
Parisville, MI 48470
989-912-0803
Beer and Shot Bar

Remus Tavern
118 W. Wheatland (corner of M-20 & M-66)
Remus, MI 49340
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Scooter's Bar & Grill
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Bike Night Wednesday

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