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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From The Owners 3

OIS Riders 5

Bullet Points 6

Riding with Brendan 7

Sturgis or Bust! 8

Ranger Rick 11

ABATE 12

Veterans Corner 14

64th Annual Indoor Motorcycle Ice Race 15

Charlie Chaplain's Corner 16

Center Calendar 18

Thunder Cam 20

Hot Rods Topics 24

Jason THE Motorcycle Lawyer 26

Storm Chasers Drink Recipe 28

Joker's Wild 29

Events 31

Sudoku 32

Biker Friendly Directory 34



ON THE COVER

64TH ANNUAL INDOOR MOTORCYCLE RACE

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LETTER FROM THE OWNERS

The January edition of Thunder Roads Michigan always holds a special place in our hearts. It marks the very first issue we published as the magazine's owners back in January 2023, kicking off a brand-new adventure for Aly and me. This issue serves as a reminder of our beginnings and the milestones we've reached as we approach our third year. While we're still figuring things out and have plenty of journeys ahead, we can hardly believe how far we've come. Aly and I exchanged wide-eyed glances when I mentioned, "it's going to be 2025." I initially whispered it, but the disbelief grew louder with each repetition.

Can you believe it's going to be 2025?!

Another reason the January issue is so meaningful to us is that it marked some pivotal moments for the magazine's vision. We are incredibly thankful to those who took a chance on us and continue to support our journey. We made significant progress in 2024, and we're eager to see where our vision and enthusiasm will take us in 2025. The January cover also holds a special tradition for us, reminding us of one of our greatest blessings—our friend Erin Fay. Erin, you've been with us since the very start and have played a vital role in our growth. We truly appreciate everything you've done and continue to do. Thank you for sharing your passion, your life, and your world of motocross, flat track, and ice racing with us and our readers. Colton and I (RJ) had an amazing time attending the Flint Indoor Ice Race and experiencing it for the first time!

Thinking of our beginnings, we couldn't go without mentioning John B. aka Smoke. Smoke was the very first person to introduce himself at the Saddle Switch party at Ryders Bar & Grill where we first celebrated being the new owners of TRM. That might not seem to be all that important, but it is. Without knowing each other from Adam he made the voyage all the way up from the Detroit area to Midland, MI to introduce himself and offer his help. We are so happy he did. Thank you Smoke for all that you do and keeping it 100 all the time. No guess work with you. We got lucky when you chose us.

As we strive to keep elevating Michigan's #1 Motorcycle Magazine and look back on the lessons learned from previous years, we invite you to discover fresh inspiration with us in 2025. Let's unite in growth and support of one another, no matter how big or small the gesture. But first, before we dive into 2025, Aly and I are excited to pack our bags for a well-deserved vacation in Hawaii this month!

Embrace your blessings, and Happy New Year!

RJ & Aly



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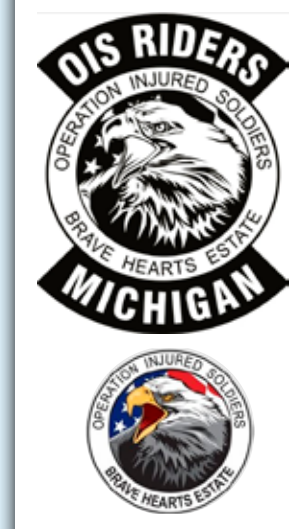
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Happy New Year, everyone! The Christmas season was truly wonderful, and the Operation Injured Soldiers Tree of Giving was a remarkable success. We organized two fantastic events, one in South Lyon and another in Harbor Springs. In total, 90 children enjoyed a bowling party complete with food and pizza alongside their families. Each child had the chance to meet Santa and received a lovely bag of gifts from him. The families were also given gift cards, gas cards, and all the ingredients needed for a delightful Christmas dinner, plus a pie for dessert. A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors and donors from across Michigan who made this possible; seeing the smiles on everyone's faces was priceless. Additionally, Operation Injured Soldiers hosted an open house at Brave Hearts Estate, which turned out to be a festive occasion that informed many about our mission. As winter arrives, we're excited for snowmobiling and ice fishing! The OIS Riders have several events planned, and we hope for favorable weather. Reflecting on 2024, it was a fantastic year for our charity. We are immensely grateful to our generous sponsors and donors, as well as our amazing volunteers; without their support, our success wouldn't be possible. Looking ahead, we're eager to fill our 2025 calendar with more events!

Jason Middleton
 Director, OIS Riders
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BULLET POINTS

BY GREG DENAY, AKA JOHNNY

Stabby and I would like to wish all the Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine readers a Happy New Year! We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas as well. I apologize for skipping last month's issue. I have been crazy busy lately.

With that being said, allow me to give you some technical information. I'm going to start this one out with a disclaimer: I do not condone violence in any way. My goal in this article is to provide an informative opinion on firearm malfunction, training, and unfortunately criminal use of a firearm.

I'm sure by now most of you have seen the horrendous footage of the assassination of the United Healthcare CEO. If you did, you'll notice that the shooter had to rack the firearm after every shot. Why is that? Well, in my opinion, after watching the video multiple times, he was using a "standard" pistol (think of a Glock or something similar). He also had a suppressor attached to it.

In case you don't know, a suppressor is not a silencer. It does not make the firearm "silent"; it merely suppresses the noise of a gunshot. It is not anything like you would hear in a James Bond movie. The sole purpose of why the suppressor was invented and made, is to protect your hearing. In fact, in the U.K., where it is very difficult to buy a firearm, suppressors are encouraged for that very same reason.

Now, why did this guy's gun malfunction? If you know anything about semi-automatic pistols and suppressors you already know the answer. Obviously, this guy didn't, and his gun failed because he didn't use a booster. For those who don't know, a booster is a component part that goes inside of a suppressor to counteract the weight that the suppressor adds to the front of the gun, allowing the gun to function properly.

Without the booster, the added weight prevents the gun slide from sliding. Which means that the gun can't eject the spent casing or load a new round. Without the booster, it essentially makes your gun a

single shot firearm. That may sound very to the point but stick with me here.

From what I can tell from the video, the shooter appeared to have the suppressor threaded directly into the barrel of the gun without a booster. That would explain why after every shot he had to rack the slide. The gun kept jamming due to the spent casing not ejecting because of the weight of the suppressor.

In the video he appeared to be shocked that the malfunction happened. To me and probably most gun owners, that says he wasn't the "type" to regularly test or practice everything out beforehand. That leads me to believe that he really didn't know much about guns and his intent wasn't matched to the numerous other legal gun owners out there. This is important, why? Because we should all know, as law abiding and safe gun owners, to constantly test and clean your weapons properly means you understand the right and responsibility of owning one.

Again, I do not condone what this shooter did. I am merely giving my opinion on why I think the weapon malfunctioned and perhaps to show how gun owners are individually different people - with free will, but a gun is always a gun. A gun can't make any action without the control of the person behind it.

So, hit the range, vote accordingly, and have a Happy New Year!



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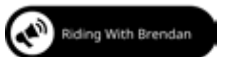
HAPPY NEW YEAR

As I write this, Christmas is still a couple of weeks away, but by the time you read this, 2024 will be in the rearview mirror, and we'll be gearing up for the 2025 season. Everyone at Thunder Roads® Michigan hopes you had an amazing holiday! Got any New Year's resolutions or exciting trips lined up?

2024 was quite the year! I was sifting through my photos and memories, and I couldn't help but smile. Between Riding With Brendan, Thunder Roads Michigan, and hanging out with Michigan Biker Law, I feel pretty lucky to hit so many events across our awesome state. While I love them all, a few really stand out. One of my biggest highlights was seeing the Riding With Brendan banner on the main stage at Muskegon's Rebel Road Rally. Huge thanks to Kyleen from the Child Abuse Council of Muskegon County and Connie from Michigan Biker Law for making that happen! We'd love to hear about your favorite events and what you're most excited for in 2025.

Recently, a few of us debated when the "Bike Season" actually kicks off. Some think it starts when the bars have their bike nights, but in my area, the MCs host a night every week, so it feels like bike nights are year-round. The general agreement seems to be that Baldwin's Blessing of the Bikes marks the unofficial start. Of course, we'll be riding before that, but as far as events go, that's the big one. I can't wait for the upcoming season! Keep an eye out for Riding With Brendan and Thunder Roads® Michigan at all your favorite events!

Brendan Farren
Host of, Riding
With Brendan



STURGIS OR BUST!

Aly and I have yet to make it to Sturgis, as you might have heard if you've read the Letter From The Owners in the past or tuned into some of our favorite podcasts. Personally, I (RJ) have tried to plan trips there with friends at least twice, but both times, things fell through as the dates approached. The last time I made a serious attempt was back in 2014 for the 75th Anniversary, and now, over a decade later, I'm gearing up for the 80th—it's "Sturgis or Bust!"

We're just starting to make plans, but we've teamed up with our friends Jim and Scott from Bikes, Babes & Booze. We figured that by telling them we're going; they'll help keep us accountable. Over the years, I've had countless chats with folks who have attended, and they've shared some fantastic tips on what to do (and what to avoid—ha!). The common advice? "If you really want to enjoy it... go riding!" So, starting with this January's issue, I'll be sharing my first story inspired by a conversation with someone we trust to know the ins and outs. Each month leading up to August, we'll feature a new story from different riders. How's that for some motivation?

STURGIS OR BUST!

Daniel H. of Traverse City, MI

Let me introduce you to Daniel, who we affectionately call Dan or "Danpleasant." If you ever have the pleasure of meeting him, you'll quickly see why we do. We first crossed paths with Dan at the Ovid Blessing of The Bikers in May 2023, and since then, we've enjoyed some rides together, exchanged destination stories, and had a blast at various Michigan rallies and events. He truly seems to be everywhere!



When I came up with the idea for Sturgis Or Bust, I reached out to Dan to see if he'd be open to us sharing some of our past chats, and before I knew it, a flood of photos came in! Although Dan isn't the most talkative person, he boasts an impressive collection of poker

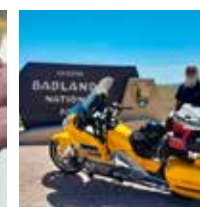
chips, maps, patches, and memories captured in photos from his travels. We honestly can't think of anyone who rides as much as Dan does in a year. In 2024, he nearly hit 30,000 miles, clocking in at 29,200, and he was hoping for a few more days in December to reach that milestone. He estimates that he averages around 25,000 miles each year.



Q&A

Me: How many times have you been to Sturgis Dan and when was your first?

Dan: My first time there was in 2019 when I rode out the 1984 Honda V65 Magna I owned at the time. You should have seen it by the time I got back! I had it loaded to the max and had covered everything on the back of it with a Weber grill cover that came to me like tumbleweed in the wind. Since then, I've been there a total of 6 times so far and looking to go again this year for the 85th.



Me: How have you spent most of your time there and what have you found that are "must do's"?

Dan: I stay at the Ride N Rest in between the Buffalo Chip and Full Throttle. I have checked out some of the entertainment stages in the past, but as far as what I enjoy the most. It's riding.



Me: Can you name your favorite rides or routes that you have come to love while out for Sturgis Rally?

Dan: Iron Mountain Road and Needles Highway come to mind, but a hell of a great ride is Beartooth Pass which is

CONTINUED...



400 miles one way and then back again. They are all really good rides! Oh, the Badlands, Devils Tower, Spearfish Canyon and all the other ones you see advertised! Can't forget the Monuments!

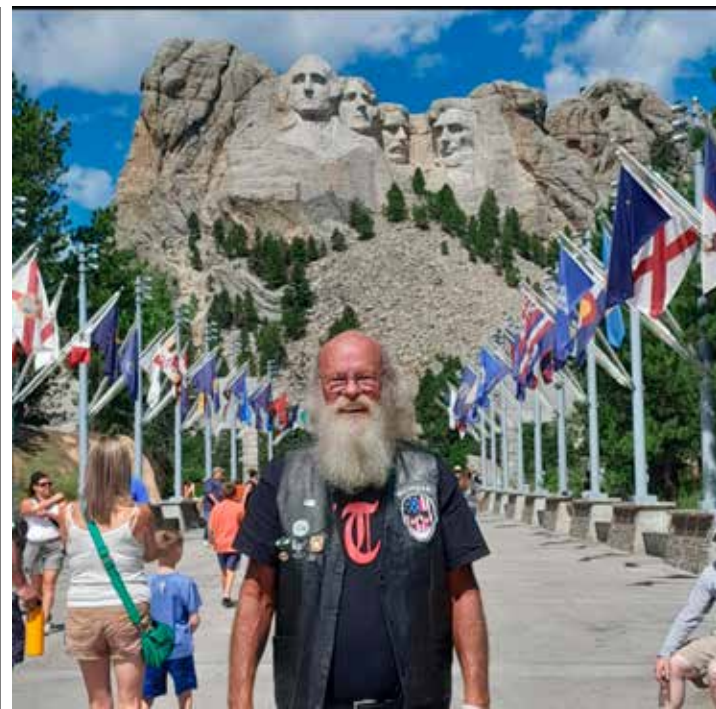
Me: For someone that hasn't been to Sturgis before and plans to "ride their own", what would you say the average cost expectancy is for someone who is saving up for the trip?

Dan: Here are some numbers I have come up with from the last few years where I tried to track my spending. The usual three things I plan or expect to spend money on. It looks like I spent about \$1,400 to \$1,600.00 for my trip.

- Gas \$484 avg.
- Food \$194 avg.
- Night (motel or camp) \$344 avg.
- Extra (novelties like patches and shirts) \$365 avg.

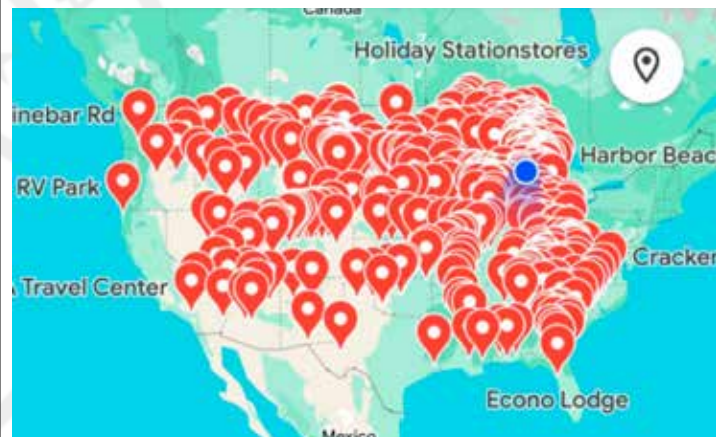
Me: Wow, that seems kinda cheap!

Dan: I told you I do it cheap! Most people that go spend that on their campsite or trailer spot.



Me: What are you riding out this year?

Dan: I've taken out that Magna, moved up to a 2001 yellow 1800 Goldwing, and now plan to get my 2010 1800 Goldwing out to Sturgis that is also yellow! I've owned a few other bikes in my time before that.



Me: Any suggestions other than that?

Dan: Don't go! Once go, you're going to get hooked!

Now, we know that Dan isn't your typical "motorcycle enthusiast" and that Aly and I know that those numbers aren't realistic for one of us let alone both of us going. So, how does your budget compare? I'm guessing just by the map he shared of pins; he didn't name all of his favorite routes.

Look for another "Sturgis Or Bust!" story in the February issue of Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine!

~RJ



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By now, you know everything worked out for Christmas and Santa made his annual run. However, many of you may not know what almost canceled Christmas. It seems there was a problem with a pre-season flight. Here's what we know...

With a little snow on the ground, Santa decided to try a practice run.

The rumor I heard going around the north pole was Rudolph was refusing to go. Something about it being too cold and he didn't want to get his feet wet. Apparently, his complaint once a year was enough, and he has always felt used because of his red shiny nose.

Basically, I think he was just holding out for overtime pay.

Let's just say the practice run had a little hiccup and all of the north pole was waiting together to see what Christmas day might bring. The sleigh was supposed to be tied up until the 20th in the body shop and we all know how that goes. Santa said he was just glad no one was hurt beyond what anyone couldn't recover from. Meanwhile, the Reindeer Union is demanding compensation for injuries attained from the incident. Something about wrongful lighting and not declaring a flight plan before takeoff. Santa mumbled that the plane didn't have proper lighting, but a couple of the reindeer saw Santa drinking before their flight. Accounting for Santa having a red nose and all. Santa said he always takes a nip on a cold night. Dancer and Prancer said that it doesn't change the fact that the shiny red nose is supposed to be up front, not behind or asleep in the sleigh! The union is supposedly going to sort it out.

I'm glad he got here with my lump of coal. I'm tired of hauling in wood to keep warm.

Happy New Year Everyone!
Ranger Rick



HAPPY NEW YEAR THUNDER ROADS® MICHIGAN!

As we enter the new year, it's essential to consider what lies ahead for all of us. For motorcyclists and their supporters, significant issues are unfolding in Lansing, MI, and ABATE is ready to advocate for our rights. However, we need your involvement—every motorcyclist and their families must reach out to their representatives, visit the ABATE website, and take a stand against government actions that affect us all.

I've addressed some of these matters in previous articles, but it's time to emphasize the urgency. We fought hard for helmet choice, and now there's a push to reinstate mandatory helmet laws. You can choose to wear a helmet, but don't impose that choice on us! Keep an eye on what's happening in Lansing.

Our rights regarding insurance have also been compromised. We want the option to adjust our insurance to cover our bikes and medical needs, but the insurance industry has us constrained. In fact, bicycles and pedestrians seem to have more rights than we do. Some may argue that their insurance is different, but many agents are unaware of the broader issues. I encourage you to visit the ABATE website or attend a meeting. Joining is your decision, but our goal is to raise awareness for you and your loved ones.

Now, let's talk about the noise ordinance—this is outrageous. Police will have the authority to measure your bike's noise levels. It's astonishing that lawn mowers and trucks can be louder without consequence! The first offense will result in a fine, the second will incur a higher fine, and the third could lead to felony charges. We must stand together against this. They are targeting us specifically, and we cannot let that happen. I mean REALLY??!!

Now going after our second amendment rights. Read and know.

IMMEDIATE ACTION IS REQUESTED!

NRA members and, Second Amendment supporters, anti-gun legislators are aggressively pushing several bills that threaten our Second Amendment rights here in Michigan. Now is the time to add your voice to this battle, as these bills can be scheduled with little notice in the final days of the session. Click the multiple "Take Action" buttons below to urge the committees to

OPPOSE these unconstitutional bills. Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Bills are eligible for hearings but have not been scheduled at the time of this posting. Senate Bill 1086: Creates a "Do Not Sell" list for firearms that temporarily and indefinitely suspends an individual's Second Amendment rights. Although joining the list is voluntary, removal from it is exceedingly difficult. Senate Bills 1149& 1150: Propose severe restrictions on "home-built" firearms and the raw materials used to make them. Senate Bill 942: Seeks to ban bump stocks, making them illegal to own, sell, or possess in Michigan—imposing stricter regulations than those governing machine guns. This comes despite the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the federal ban on bump stocks earlier this year.

Senate Bill 1134: Introduces regulations on firearm color and bans so-called "deceptively colored" firearms targeting firearms with a camouflage pattern.

Senate Bill 1135: Prohibits the sale of imitation firearms in Michigan, with limited exceptions.

These are just some of the many things we as a whole should be paying attention to.

Get on the Michigan government site look up who you need to talk to. Or go on the ABATE site to get more info. Or get ahold of me I'll send you to someone that has the answers. We have the names and phone numbers of those that support motorcycles



New Faces In New Places

It has been four and a half weeks since election day and the last race for Congress has been called. The final breakdown of the U.S. Senate will be 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats. The U.S. House of Representatives will also have a slim margin, with 220 Republicans and 215 Democrats. Complicating these margins, in 2025 two (2) Republican Senators and three (3) House Republicans will be leaving to assume positions in the Trump Administration. Those five seats will be filled with appointments by Governors in the case of the Senate and special elections for the House seats.

In total, starting January 3, 2025, there will be 10 new members of the Senate and 63 new members of the House of Representatives. That means a lot of new faces in and around Capitol Hill. We have a lot of work to do introducing the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) and our legislative priorities to these new lawmakers!

You can help us meet these new legislators by joining us in Washington, D.C. for Bikers Inside the Beltway on May 19 and 20, 2025. In January the MRF website will have updates on registration and travel details. We need bikers to show up, be seen and be heard!



Merry Garrett
ABATE Board Member
Regional Coordinator
of Region 6

OGEMAW COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

LIVE MUSIC VENDORS FIELD EVENTS & MORE

BIKE BASH
JUNE 20-21, 2025

<p>FRIDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HOT PEPPER EATING CONTEST LOUD PIPE CONTEST AUDIO COMPETITION LIVE MUSIC AT NIGHT 	<p>SATURDAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLESSING OF THE BIKES FIELD EVENTS BIKE SHOW LIVE MUSIC AT NIGHT 	<p>PLUS!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TATTOO STATION TATTOO CONTEST MOTORCYCLE STUNT SHOWS
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VETERANS CORNER



A Christmas Hope To: North Carolina Veterans From: Michigan

As we know Hurricane Helene did quite a number on North Carolina along with a few other states (Georgia & Tennessee), I have been actively arranging and delivering supplies to a wonderful veterans group named Combat Female Veterans Families United, which is based out of Greensboro, NC. Michigan has answered the call a few times already. The Strength in Numbers organization has helped so much in organizing it from their end and I have been at the receiving end here in NC. I can't give enough praise to Strength in Numbers; they do incredible work for veterans. Even with all their efforts for Michigan veterans around Davison and nearby areas, they took the initiative to collect donations for North Carolina veterans this Christmas. They spread the word, and the folks in Michigan really came through. I'm proud to be connected with both of these fantastic groups. The first batch of donations was delivered in October 2024, marking the start of a great partnership between two veterans' organizations focused on supporting our veterans. The second round of donations came from Georgia and the American Legion in South Carolina in November, which I personally delivered to the hardest-hit areas in North Carolina. Let me tell you, the photos don't even come close to showing the true extent of the damage. If it weren't for the kindness of Americans donating their time, items, and effort, the toll from Hurricane Helene would have been even worse. I witnessed the destruction firsthand, and the impact will be felt for years. Asheville, NC, and its surrounding areas will be under a water advisory for quite a while. The support keeps rolling in thanks to the generosity of the American people, who are not only donating supplies but also their time and energy. Trailers are being provided to help folks move out of tents as the cold weather sets in, but unfortunately, some are still living in tents. Many families have lost everything and are struggling without income due to business closures. To bounce back, they've started pop-up markets. Strength in Numbers reached out for help in late November, and they did an amazing job getting everything organized and delivered to the organization in North Carolina. Huge thanks to Renee Verbeke and her supporters for their incredible efforts; my heart is truly touched by all you've done. I also want to give a shoutout to Joel Trombley for



braving terrible road conditions to deliver the donations to us. When we unloaded everything, we were just blown away. I can't express enough gratitude to everyone who contributed to this wonderful act of kindness. So, thank you to Strength in Numbers, Essential Necessities, all the supporters of Strength in Numbers, Davison American Legion & Auxiliary, Davison VFW 4087 Auxiliary, Armada AMVETS 93 including the

auxiliary & Riders and Sons of AMVETS, Steel Horse Ranch, and a special thanks to Patrick Bell and Tammy Kutcher, especially Joel Trombley for making that drive to Greensboro, NC. The veterans in North Carolina are truly grateful for your support, and I'm proud to be part of these fantastic organizations. Wishing you all a blessed and happy 2025. Let's spread kindness and remember that veterans appreciate even the smallest gestures during the holidays, like a smile or a simple thank you for their service.



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

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64th Annual Indoor Motorcycle Ice Race



On December 7th, 2024, Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine made its way to the 64th Annual Indoor Motorcycle Race put on by the Flint Motorcycle Club. While we've gotten to know the race and its tradition of raising funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Genesee County, this was our first time attending.

And when I say "first time," I mean it was the first time for my son Colton, along with Jim and Scott from Bikes, Babes, and Booze, and me. I'm not sure if any of the previous owners ever made it to the races over the years, but anyway, it was a fresh experience for us, and we definitely plan to catch every race in the future.

We got to soak in the atmosphere from the stands and only left our seats once during a break between heats. Like I mentioned, we've become familiar with the races over the last couple of years, but it was really cool to see some of the familiar names and numbers in action. A big shoutout to MadCap Imaging, the event's main photographer, for connecting us back to our first issue. We've previously interviewed one of the FMC members about the race's history and featured #79 Jayson Bloss. Although we didn't get to meet any of the members or volunteers this year, I have to say I was cheering for #79, even though he had no idea we were there.

There were tons of races, and the little ones on their PW bikes brought us even more joy than Santa and the Grinch fighting for Christmas spirit. So many familiar faces at the race and it helped break the cabin fever blues.

We hope you enjoy the January Thunder Cams and apologize for not being able to share all the photos from that night. We grabbed what we could from MadCap Imaging online and can't wait for the 65th Annual in 2025, where we hope to meet the organizers and racers face-to-face.

~ RJ

64th Annual INDOOR MOTORCYCLE ICE RACE

The Flint Motorcycle Club hosts indoor racing with proceeds benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 2024
Dort Financial Center
Doors open at 6:00 | Race starts at 7:00

ICE RACE TICKET INFO:
Adults \$20
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CHARLIE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:

A NEW YEAR ON THE OPEN ROAD: RIDING TOWARD FRESH STARTS AND BIG GOALS

Ah, the smell of a new year is in the air—or is that antifreeze from your buddy's bike? Either way, January always gets me thinking about new beginnings, fresh starts, and all the dreams we've been putting off. Whether you ride a Harley, an Indian, or even one of those fancy sport bikes that look like a rocket on wheels, the new year is the perfect time to rev the engine of your life and get rolling toward your goals.

Now, before we go any further, let's bring a little Bible into the conversation—because if you're like me, you know the Good Book's got a lot of wisdom to drop. One of my favorite verses when it comes to fresh starts is Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

If that doesn't sound like a guy talking to riders, I don't know what does. New paths through the wilderness? Streams in the wasteland? That's some serious metaphorical fuel for anyone looking to hit the road in 2025 with a fresh perspective.

Kicking the Kickstart on 2025 Goals

Let's be honest, New Year's resolutions often go the way of that fancy chrome piece you swore you were going to install on your Harley last spring. But just like taking care of your ride, setting realistic goals for yourself doesn't have to be overwhelming. Start small. Maybe it's as simple as getting back to the basics—like checking your oil more often. (Yeah, you know who you are.)

For us Midwestern riders, January can feel like one long snowstorm of inactivity. Bikes are in the garage, dreams are on pause, and your leather jacket smells suspiciously like last year's chili cook-off. But this downtime is actually perfect for mapping out your "ride of life" for the coming year. Where do you want to go? Who do you want to bring along for the journey? And what's your destination?

Goals for the New Year: Both On and Off the Bike

1. Hit the Open Road More

Life's short, and so is summer in Michigan, so make a commitment to ride more often. Even if it's a short trip to a neighboring town, those little adventures can recharge your spirit. After all, sometimes God speaks the loudest when the only noise around is the rumble of your engine.

2. Mend Fences

Not just the ones your neighbor's cows knocked over, but the emotional fences in your life. Have you been holding a grudge against someone? Maybe it's time to let that go and extend some forgiveness. After all, Jesus said in Matthew 6:14, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Forgiveness is freeing—just like riding without a destination.

3. Try Something New

Whether it's finally learning to do your own oil changes or tackling that bucket list trip to Sturgis, make this the year you step out of your comfort zone. (And no, stepping out of your comfort zone does not mean wearing shorts and sandals on your bike. Please don't be that person.)

4. Pay It Forward

We bikers are a tight-knit group, and nothing says "community" like lending a hand. Volunteer with your local Legion, host a charity ride, or simply check in on a fellow rider who's been down on their luck. Acts of kindness are like premium fuel—they keep you running smoother and farther.

Midwestern Wisdom (and Humor)

Now, I know what some of you are thinking: "Dean, that all sounds good, but I don't need another sermon; I need real-life advice." Well, here it is—straight from the land of cornfields, casseroles, and questionable winter driving habits:

- Life is like riding in Michigan. Some days, the sun is shining, and everything feels perfect. Other days, you hit a pothole the size of Lake Huron. But no matter what, you keep riding.
- Don't take yourself too seriously. Nobody likes the guy who thinks his bike—and his life—are perfect. Be the kind of rider who waves to everyone, even the scooter folks.
- Lastly, remember that every day you wake up is a chance to start fresh. Sure, you might have spilled your coffee or stepped in dog poop before breakfast, but God's mercies are new every morning. Lamentations 3:22-23 says, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Thunder Roads and the Road Ahead

As we roll into 2025, let's commit to making it a year of growth, adventure, and faith. Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine has always been about celebrating the biker lifestyle while sharing the stories that inspire us. This year, let's be those stories. Let's be the ones who chase our dreams, love our neighbors, and ride with purpose.

So, here's to a new year filled with open roads, fresh opportunities, and the kind of laughter that makes your stomach hurt. And when in doubt, remember this: If God can make streams in the wasteland, He can certainly handle whatever mess you're facing.

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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64TH ANNUAL INDOOR MOTORCYCLE ICE RACE
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JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 ABATE OF MICHIGAN 2025 SEMINAR	20 <small>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</small>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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2025 SEMINAR**

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HOT RODS TOPICS **HotRods**



January is such an exhilarating time of year as we map out our plans and reflect on the organizations we've supported in our community that assist Americans lacking the financial means or resources to get the help they need. While we've sadly lost some members, the commitment of their families to our cause keeps their memories alive and vibrant.

It was truly wonderful to help feed 31 families at a low-income housing property. Providing a Thanksgiving meal for both adults and children and witnessing their heartfelt gratitude was incredibly rewarding. A big thank you to all the local businesses that made this possible!

Visiting the Penrickton Center for Blind Children and playing Santa Claus was a memorable experience. Seeing the joy on their faces, even if just for a moment, was priceless. A special thanks to the Lions Club Organization for their hard work with family adoptions.

The Ida parade was quite the adventure, with strong winds and chilly temperatures, especially for our four members who rode motorcycles in the parade. The wind-chill was in the twenties, making it a real challenge! We also made our presence known in the Milan Parade with our traveling "Be Aware Motorcycles Are Everywhere" road sign.

Our Christmas party on December 14th was a highlight, where we had the honor of donating thousands of dollars to the organizations aligned with our mission statement.

This year has been filled with fun poker runs, social events, and impactful suicide bench presentations, all topped off with wonderful dinners. It's been an amazing experience! We're also thrilled to have our Awareness Champion, Amos, leading motorcycle awareness classes in local high school driver's education programs. Her commitment is truly motivating.

We've had a variety of exciting events, and we're fortunate to have remarkable members who are both generous and compassionate. None of our activities would be possible without their support. We are especially grateful to our key supporters like THE Motorcycle Lawyer-Jason Waechter, Operating Engineers Local 324, The Vincent Law Firm, Forbidden Wheels, Eternal Knights, Farmer Underwood, Dynamic Drains, Mullins Auto Store, and many more. Thank you for your donations that help us make a positive impact in our community!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish you all Happy New Year!

God bless all Americans!

HOT ROD BEATON

President / Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness and Suicide Prevention Foundation



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MICHIGAN'S #1 MOTORCYCLE MAGAZINE

Gaught Ya Lookin!

THE MOTORCYCLE LAWYER ON THE LAW

SOMETIMES YOU NEED A CRIMINAL LAWYER

You know us: The Motorcycle Lawyersm with 32 years of experience representing injured bikers. We specialize in motorcycle injury and wrongful death cases and have won millions for Michigan bikers. But over the years, whenever clients reached out with criminal matters—or when a criminal charge popped up alongside their injury case—I'd have to refer them out or bring in a criminal lawyer from outside our firm. That was until we added a powerhouse to the team.

We proudly welcomed the newest member of our team, Litigator/Attorney Aaron Martinez, in 2023. In addition to bringing his personal injury experience to the team, he is also leading the criminal defense practice in our office. Aaron is available to handle all misdemeanors and felony cases throughout the state of Michigan, in either the state or federal courts. The Motorcycle Lawyersm team is now accepting criminal defense cases.



Litigator/Attorney Aaron Martinez pictured to the right of Attorney Jason Waechter

“My parents knew before anyone else that I'd be a lawyer.”

Aaron is a trial lawyer with more than 10 years of experience in providing high-quality legal & legislative services, as well as political consulting & media strategy. You may remember him from his part in the \$27.5 million jury verdict from last year, where he handled the trial technology and the direct examination of a family witness. Get to know more about him below.

Aaron, what made you want to become a lawyer?

My parents knew before anyone else that I'd be a lawyer. There was nothing that was off limits for my negotiations as a kid. To me, being a lawyer is about helping people through perhaps the most challenging times of their lives. I know that if someone is reaching out to me, it's because they need someone in their corner who is willing to help them without judgment. Whether my clients are facing an injury or a criminal charge, my focus is on trying to leave my clients in a better position than when they hired me.

What are some of your most significant legal accomplishments?

I am blessed that in my career, I have been able to obtain results for my clients in over 50 different courts in every corner of the state of Michigan. From Monroe to Marquette, I've spent a lot of time getting to know the areas where my clients live so that I can best advocate for them. No matter where I practice the formula is always the same – prepare, prepare, prepare. I helped obtain a not guilty verdict for an out of state truck driver in Mid-Michigan, and about a week later I received a Jerry Garcia tie in the mail with a note that said, “I hope every time you wear this, you are saving someone else's life in the same way you saved mine.” Moments like that make it all worth it to me.

“To me, being a lawyer is about helping people through perhaps the most challenging times of their lives.”

I take pride in trying to pay it forward to others. I am a published author on Michigan's legalization laws, and I have worked to pass laws in Michigan which equip paramedics and first responders with overdose treatments. We have saved hundreds of thousands of lives in our state since passing that legislation in 2014.

Outside of practicing law, what do you enjoy doing in your free time?

When I'm not practicing law, I'm spending my time with my wife April and our son August. My time is typically spent making sure our dog is not eating our son's toys and that our son is not eating our dog's toys. When I have that under control, my wife and I love exploring the Michigan outdoors, listening to live music, and catching the big wins by **THE** Detroit Lions.



Litigator/Attorney Aaron Martinez

“I hope every time you wear this, you are saving someone else's life in the same way you saved mine.” Moments like that make it all worth it to me.”

At The Motorcycle Lawyersm, we specialize in personal injury accident cases involving motorcycles. It's in our name. We also cover car, truck, or boat accidents, dog bites, and other serious personal injury cases. Now, Aaron is available at our office to handle all misdemeanors and felony cases throughout the state of Michigan, in either the state or federal courts, in addition to personal injury cases. Go with the attorneys you trust and call 877-BIKER-LAW today or visit motorcyclelawyermichigan.com for a free case analysis or legal advice.

**As always, keep the rubber side down,
Jason—THE Motorcycle Lawyer**



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Attorney Jason Waechter is nationally known as THE Motorcycle Lawyersm. His Michigan law firm specializes in handling motorcycle accident cases. He has secured multiple million-dollar settlements, verdicts, and awards for his clients over the past 26 years. Call attorney Waechter for free advice or free case evaluation at:
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STORM CHASERS DRINK RECIPE

MIDNIGHT KISS

- 3 OZ VODKA
- 1 OZ BLUE CURACAO
- 2 TSP FRESH SQUEEZED LEMON
- 6 OZ CHAMPAGNE OR SPARKLING MOSCATO
- 2 MARASCHINO CHERRIES

Instructions:

1. Fill a cocktail shaker with ice.
2. Add vodka, blue curacao, and lemon juice.
3. Shake until very cold and strain into chilled champagne flutes.
4. Fill the flutes the rest of the way with champagne.
5. Drop the maraschino cherry in the bottom glass as a garnish.

Tips:

This drink is best served very cold. Make sure the glasses are chilled. Keep the vodka in the freezer. Use sparkling Moscato for a sweeter drink. Use a shaker filled with ice to chill the cocktail mixture.



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JOKER'S WILD



A husband died. A few years later the wife died. As she gets to the Heaven she saw her husband and runs up to him with tears in her eyes. "Darling, oh how I've missed you!" The husband extends his arms, stopping her from embracing him and says very gently, "Whoa up there now missy, the contract was 'until death!'."

A married Irishman went into the Confessional and said to his Priest, "I almost had a one night stand." The Priest leans in and asks, "What do you mean by almost?" "Well", replies the Irishman, "we got undressed and rubbed together, but then I just stopped and came to my senses." The Priest chimes in, "Oh, rubbing together is the same as putting it in." You are not to look that woman in the face ever again and for your penance, say five Hail Mary's and put \$50 in the Poor Box."

The Irishman left the Confessional, said his prayers and then walked over to the Poor Box. He paused for a moment and then started to leave. The Priest, who was watching, quickly ran over to him saying, "I saw that. You didn't put any money in the Poor Box!" The Irishman tilted his head, looked directly at the Priest and said, "Yes Father, this is true, but I definitely rubbed the \$50 bill on the box, and as you just told me, your exact words; "that is the same as putting it in."

Earl and Vern are sitting at their local bar and Vern declares that "I'm not ending my year mad at anyone, so they can just stay in their lane and I'll stay in mine and we're all good." Earl says, "That is really good news to hear and that makes you a better man Vern, so that \$400 that I owe you will just be wiped clean and we're both good, right?" Vern looks sideways at Earl and says, "Now you're just trying to piss me off. I said I "wasn't going to end the year mad", but if you don't pay me the \$400 you owe me, then come January 1st, I am crossing over into your lane and running you off the road unless my \$400 is paid."

Here's Wishing A Truly Grrrrreat Kick-Ass 2025, From ALL of Us At the Thunder Roads Magazine Network to ALL of You Fun Loving Bikers!

How come we choose from just (2) people to run for President, yet we choose from over 50 to run for Miss America?

Do Not annoy me at anytime during the month of January, because if you do, I'm giving your cell number to every child I see and telling them that if they're not 100% happy with everything they received for Christmas, then your number is the magical Hotline for Santa.

Just remember, it used to be that calories didn't count until the beginning of January, that has now been changed until February 1st because "they" said that we were doing away with Daylight Savings Time and "they" lied, so we're making our own rules from here on out.

"Hey, ya' feel like doing something?" "Nah, I was literally just going to hit Zon and see if there's anything that can keep me amused. Why, whatcha got in mind?" "Just found out my ex-hubby is in Cabo with his new gf and he promised me like 20 times we would go there and never did. I was gonna' go over to his place, crank up the heat to about 90 and leave a dead possum on his couch." "O.K. then, lemme grab my jacket!"

To all you people with LED headlights, I'm super stoked that you're able to see the hair on a raccoon's azzhole from a mile away, but you are blinding all oncoming trafficALL!!

Me: No more, your dog food bag says 1 cup. Dog: The Oreo box surely doesn't say 16 Oreos Trish, but here we are

Jesus invited prostitutes to dine with him and he's the light of the world, I invite a few to the family New Year's Party and yet again, I've "made things awkward."

Cleanse smart, not hard, in "smudging" your homes for the New Year, place Sage Sticks in holder and place holder on your Roomba.

I like to find comfort, solace and renewed belief in the fact that no one is an atheist 30 seconds before an orgasm.

Joker's Wild composed by: Toni McCoy Shearon | thunderroadsfounder@gmail.com



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EVENTS



JANUARY 2025

January 4

- 51st Annual Detroit Swap Meet
Suburban Collection Showplace
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Novi, MI
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Check out
Facebook for details

January 5

- 51st Annual Detroit Swap Meet
Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI
8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Check out
Facebook for details

January 11

- Big Bend Racing
513 Conrad Rd.
Standish, MI
Check out
Facebook for details

January 12

- AMA District 14 Ice Racing
State Championship Ice Race Series
Owosso MotorSports Park
2504 W. M21
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Facebook for details

January 17

- ABATE of Michigan 2025 Seminar
Gateway Hotel & Convention Center
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January 18

- ABATE of Michigan 2025 Seminar
Gateway Hotel & Convention Center
5353 Gateway Centre Blvd.
Flint, MI
See ad for reservation details

January 19

- ABATE of Michigan 2025 Seminar
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- AMA District 14

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January 25

- Big Bend Racing
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January 26

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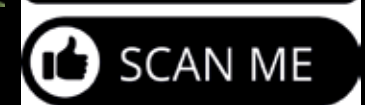
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