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INSIDE!

STURGIS  
OR BUST!  
CONTINUES...



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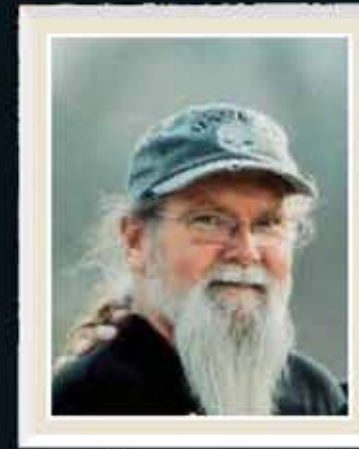
- FRIDAY:
- HOT PEPPER EATING CONTEST
  - LOUD PIPE CONTEST
  - AUDIO COMPETITION
  - LIVE MUSIC AT NIGHT

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- FIELD EVENTS
  - BIKE SHOW
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BIKE NIGHTS  
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2025  
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Scan For Bike Night Dates & Locations



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- SAGINAW OLD TOWN JUNCTION  
JULY 10, 2025 - SAGINAW, MI
- GARRETT'S PRESSURE CRACK  
JULY 30, 2025 - PRUDENVILLE, MI
- SANFORD AMERICAN LEGION  
AUGUST 25, 2025 - SANFORD, MI
- HOLESHOT HARLEY-DAVIDSON  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 - MT PLEASANT, MI

2025  
BIKE NIGHTS

THUNDER ROADS®  
MICHIGAN  
Magazine

Raffle Tickets Only Available At Scheduled TRM Bike Nights.

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THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN MAGAZINE

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RAFFLE TICKET

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

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ON THE  
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THUNDER  
ROADS®  
MICHIGAN  
2025 BIKE  
NIGHTS HOW  
TO ENTER  
TO WIN!

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LETTER FROM THE OWNERS

Spring in Michigan has been a bit of a challenge and toyed with our emotions, but it’s finally here. The arrival of warmer weather and blooming scenery marks the beginning of an exhilarating time for motorcyclists all across Michigan and the U.S. Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine is revving up and ready to hit the road, and we can’t wait to see you at all the summer events lined up this season!



May is Motorcycle Awareness Month, and it’s crucial to share this message with non-riders as well. Promoting safety and caution on the roads is vital so that everyone can return home safely to their loved ones.

The 2025 Thunder Roads Michigan Bike Nights kick off at Buckley Roadside Bar on May 29th. We invite you to join us for a night filled with fun and camaraderie. This event is also your first opportunity to buy tickets for the 2013 Harley-Davidson Breakout, which we’ll be raffling off on September 11th at Holeshoot H-D in Mt Pleasant, MI.



Stay tuned for more chances to win at the upcoming 2025 TRM Bike Nights! Let’s celebrate the joy of riding, the excitement of the open road, and the shared love for motorcycles that unites us all. This summer’s events are set to be unforgettable, and we can’t wait to see you there.

RJ & Aly



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**MICHIGAN**  
*Magazine*

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MAY 4TH, 2025**



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# CHAPLAIN CHARLIE'S CORNER: "JOY FOR THE RIDE"

By Chaplain Charlie,

**J**oy. It's one of those words we toss around a lot—especially during the seasons changing or when a baby's born—but how often do we actually stop to ask ourselves what it really means? More importantly, how often do we *feel* it? Not just fleeting happiness, but real, soul-deep, heart-thumping, goosebump-inducing joy?

As riders, we know a thing or two about chasing freedom. The wind in our face, the roar of the engine beneath us, and the endless road ahead—that's our kind of church. And sometimes, in those sacred miles, we catch a glimpse of something bigger than ourselves. Something eternal. Something joyful.

But here's the truth: joy doesn't come from a full tank of gas or a perfect twisty road. Those things make us happy, sure—but real joy? That's something deeper. It doesn't depend on good weather, smooth pavement, or even good times. It's something we can carry with us through the storms too.

Let me take you to the source. The apostle Paul says in **Philippians 4:4 (NIV)**:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Now hang on—Paul wasn't writing this from a beach resort or the seat of a Harley. He wrote this from *prison*. Shackled, isolated, mistreated. Yet somehow, in the middle of that mess, Paul found reason to shout for joy. And not just once—he said it twice! "Rejoice in the Lord always. I'll say it again: Rejoice!"

Now, if Paul could find joy in a jail cell, then surely, we can find it in our lives—no matter what's going on. But that kind of joy doesn't come from external stuff. It comes from knowing something unshakable. Something eternal. Something that doesn't wear out, break down, or need to be polished on Sunday mornings.

That something—is Jesus.

Joy is a spiritual gift. It's one of the "fruits of the Spirit" listed in **Galatians 5:22-23**:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Notice it doesn't say the *results of hard work* or the *rewards of a good life*. It says "fruit of the Spirit." That means joy grows naturally when we stay connected to God. Just like fruit grows on a healthy tree, joy grows in a healthy soul.

But here's the kicker—joy is a choice too. We *choose* to focus on God's goodness. We *choose* to be grateful. We *choose* to see the silver lining, even when it's hidden under a thundercloud. And let me tell you, sometimes that's not easy.

I've been through seasons where joy felt like a million miles away. When I quit drinking last year, I didn't just give up a bad habit—I laid down a way of life. At first, it felt like something was missing. But then something incredible happened. As the fog cleared, I started to see colors more vividly, hear music more clearly, and feel God's presence more deeply. That, my friends, was joy coming back into my life. Not because everything was perfect—but because *I was finally present*.

One of my favorite verses is **Psalms 16:11**:

"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

That's it right there. Joy isn't something we chase—it's something we *receive* when we spend time in the presence of God. That might look like prayer, reading the Bible, or just taking a quiet ride and talking to the Lord between the lines. However you do it, when you connect with God, joy follows.

But let's get practical. How can we bring more joy into our lives—even *when things are tough*?

## Practice Gratitude

Even on the hardest days, there's something to be thankful for. A warm cup of coffee. A friend who checks in. A sunrise over the road. Gratitude is the ignition switch for joy.

## Shift Your Focus

If you focus only on what's wrong, you'll feel drained. But if you start looking for what's right—even if it's small—you'll start to feel joy sneak in like sunlight through a crack.

## Stay Connected

We weren't meant to do this life alone. Ride with people who lift you up. Talk with people who pray with you. Serve others, and let them serve you when you need it.

## Make Room for God

This one's big. Joy flows when God is at the center. When you start your day with Him—whether it's a prayer, a verse, or a moment of silence—you set the tone for everything else.

## Remember the Why

When life gets heavy, remind yourself: you're not just here to exist. You were created with a purpose. And part of that purpose is to live with joy—not fake happiness, but real, soul-satisfying joy that comes from walking with the Creator.

So here's my challenge to you this month: Don't just chase joy. *Choose it*. Find it in the ride. Find it in the rain. Find it in the quiet moments when God whispers that you are loved, that you matter, and that your story isn't over yet.

Joy isn't about the absence of hardship. It's about the presence of hope. And we've got that hope in abundance.

So fire up your bike, lift your eyes, and ride with joy in your heart. Not because everything is perfect—but because you know the One who is.

Until next time, keep the rubber side down, the shiny side up, and your heart tuned to the joy only God can give.

Blessings on the ride,  
**Chaplain Charlie**

*Chaplain  
Charlie!*

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# COVER FEATURE!



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  - BLACKED OUT MOTOR

BIKE OWNER, TODD "THOR" ROBINSON







# STURGIS OR BUST!

BY RJ, PUBLISHER OF THUNDER ROADS® MICHIGAN

**W**ell, we are officially into the second half of the Sturgis Or Bust! stories leading up to Aly and I creating our own story to tell in in August. It's our 5<sup>th</sup> chapter in and we're gearing up for an insanely busy 2025 season for Thunder Roads® Michigan. We'll soon be wishing for more ride time with our schedule, but I know that we are going to get in plenty when we shoot up north and chase the sunset heading west in August. In September, we'll share our own experiences after we return from the 85<sup>th</sup> Sturgis or aka The Black Hills Rally. I've got the idea to take notes each day in order to keep on track of our follow up story, but we'll see how that goes with our heads being on a continuous swivel as we try to take it all in. We cannot wait!!

In this chapter, we had the pleasure of speaking with Cori L. whose perspective of Sturgis reflects her and her husband Paul's purpose of fueling their business with the dream of keeping it from feeling anything like work. It's something that Aly and I work very hard to do ourselves and we understand the constant challenges it presents. Cori and her husband Paul own Cuzins Cycle in West Branch, MI. This will be their third time heading to Sturgis and like most things they do, they include their children.

I first met Paul back in the fall of 2020. It was just a year after they had opened their new shop in their hometown of West Branch, MI. The shop I was working at then closed the doors and he was looking for anything and everything that wasn't bolted down that he could rehome at his place. Can't say I blame him, and something tells me that he hasn't changed at all. In the last couple of years, we're glad to say we've got to know them both a bit better and travel in a lot of the same seasonal circles. Let's just say we admire their work life and will try to mimic it any chance we get.



## STURGIS OR BUST! Cori L. of West Branch, MI.

**Me:** Well, well... I'll have to apologize for me being on "RJ time" and for how many times I said that I would call and couldn't. So, we got a little phone tag going until today. However, it did give me time to snoop through your photos online and check out your past trips to Sturgis! Correct me if I'm wrong but it looks like this year will be your third year out there and you have a thing going with five-year spans. 2015, 2020, and here in 2025. Is that on purpose?

**Cori-** Yes, in 2015 we decided that it was something we agreed that we would like to go back every five years. We absolutely love it!

**Me:** In your 2020 photos there are some familiar faces and some not. Who's the dark-haired gentleman and lady in the pics? Yeah, me being nosy – lol.

**Cori-** Yeah, the dark-haired guy is my dad Wendell, and the gray-haired lady is my mom, Linda. (Sorry in advance ma, she said it not me!)



**Me:** So, by looking at your photos you guys have made Sturgis a family trend.

**Cori-** Yes, I think my dad is the only "dark haired guy" and bikes are a family affair. I have pictures of myself from when I was probably a year old and all of us kids riding around the yard with my dad. When Paul and I started to talk about going to Sturgis that year with my sister Chris and my mom and dad. It was basically if she's coming, so is James and the kids. We ended up staying at a VRBO in Custer and it was amazing!

**Cori-** Do you remember the stories coming out after Sturgis of a biker trying to pet a baby cow? There was video going around of her ending up getting hooked by her belt (in true Cori fashion out of nowhere – lol) and getting her pants ripped off? **Me,** YUP! So that was two days after we went through that same area so it's funny because it was probably the same baby cow that is in some of the photos in our albums. When we went through there it was getting a little late and we were on our Groms. I had Wyatt, who was 10



at the time, behind me and Paul had our other son Blake behind him. As we came up, everyone stopped because there were buffalo everywhere. I was in the front leading when we stopped, and they kept getting closer and closer. We are like, what do we do? I'm in the lead and I don't know why. The buffalo keep coming closer

and closer and it's not like we can just back up because there was getting to be more and more vehicles behind us, and I don't know what to do. As soon as I thought they had got a little further over, I was afraid that they would turn back around so I just went through! People were yelling "You shouldn't do that; they can come after you!" I was just thinking yeah, but they are coming after me already! **Me:** What does a buffalo even way? Like 2000 pounds? More? **Cori-** Probably! And some of those pictures were taken by Wyatt! He had the phone and was still taking pictures so that was kind of scary.

CONTINUED...







**Me-** There's a neat black and white photo of the kids in the slammer in the old western days. Is that from Sturgis?

**Cori-** HA! Best babysitter ever. That was from our Sturgis trip, and we found this in one of the cute little towns that we stumbled upon. There are a lot of places to stop and check out like that.

**Me:** I also see that you guys took the whole family pic there too. I really like the one of Paul pointing the double barrel at the camera. Cool!

**Me:** So, for that trip you stayed in Custer, and you mentioned that you were only about a mile from the national park. How far were you from the Rally?

**Cori-** Yeah, the VRBO was on a farm about a mile and half into the park, so it was still a bit of a good drive to get into Sturgis and some of the other towns to do stuff. But it was cool because we wanted to be a little farther away because we had kids, and we still got to do everything we wanted to do.

**Me-** Where did you guys stay the first time you went

**Cori-** We stayed in a place called Icebox Canyon. It was named properly because it was chilly when we would leave, and we would be dying of heat exhaustion as we got away from it. It was off Spearfish Canyon Rd. It felt like everything was about an hour from Sturgis, but you can go any direction to all of the surrounding towns and it's absolutely beautiful! We rode 14A, which is a beautiful, beautiful road, and you'll see some pictures from 2015 when we did that trip with our friends; Paul's cousin Casey (Buck) and his wife Kryssie. That's where the four of us came up with this idea to call the business "Cuzins". It's why we named it what it is. On that trip we got some of the most beautiful pictures and we definitely took way more photos than we did in 2020. This year I'm thinking

we will probably take even less photos this year because photos don't do it justice. You take the photo because you want to capture the experience, but they never do them justice. For example, there is a picture of Wyatt pointing at the buffalo and it looks like he's in front of a green screen! It looks unreal but it's not even close to what it was like at the moment. I don't know if I told you this before but go ride! Take it in. Go to the little towns like Deadwood and Lead. Take the ride because those little towns are happening. There are a lot of outdoor places to sit and watch the bikes line up and people watch. It's like a bike week at each one. There's bikes everywhere you go.

**Cori-** It's funny looking back at the photos as we are talking about them. Quite a few of them are screen shots of videos I was taking with my phone holder on my Softail. It takes me back to thinking that we were always into bikes but how it really opened up our eyes to how big the bike world is. Like all the different people and all the different bikes, we saw. It was so cool seeing different things. It's kinda the other part of what got us talking about the future back then and the shop we now have. It got us to talk about how cool it would be and that it would be the best job! Working around bikes and selling things that came along with it. Here we are!

**Me:** That takes us to your trip this year. You guys mentioned that this year will be even more different than the past two because you are actually going out to Sturgis to do what put the idea in your head originally. Sell stuff! You're going to be vendors out there and setting up, right? Is there spot that you know where you will be? Vendor ally per se?

**Cori-** Yes, we are! It will be our first time doing it there and there is a guy that has been doing it for years that is helping us plan



for it. I believe it's called the Sturgis Buffalo Chip Motorcycle Parts Swap Meet. That's where we are setting up. It's free to enter and it's considered Camp Zero. It's not like it is downtown with the vendors there. It's more parts and hard to find parts. We are going out early on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July and hoping to be out there by the 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll be taking the motor home but still stay a couple nights along the way. We'll stay for the whole time and probably be heading back the Monday after. It will probably equal out to be about three weeks of work and play for us. Perfect!

**Me:** So, are you guys planning on taking the kids this time?

**Cori-** Oh, no. This time it will just be Paul, I, our friend Timmy and probably another person to go out there to work. We are leaving early in order to get some riding in. Paul will drive the motor home and I'll be driving the truck. We'll each have a co-pilot with us to help out and talk to.

**Me:** What's up with Groms? I see you guys on them all the time!

**Cori-** We might be taking them with us again this year, but we still take the big bikes too. We just find them so easy to get around on! They are light and easy to bop around on.

**Me:** If there is anything about Sturgis that you dislike or would share that isn't something you enjoy about it? What is your least favorite part if there is such a thing?

**Cori-** The travel out there! Once you're there it's all great. It's what you make of it. Sturgis is whatever you want it to be. It depends on whether you are into scenic rides, gambling, the nightlife, drinking, or concerts. It can be different for anyone.



We'll do riding days like Needles, but we will try to get out at night too. We'll check out who's playing and where to hit up. The Buffalo Chip at least once. We would like to have a day / evening downtown Sturgis too. I feel the time you have can depend on the band and people you are around. Like the time we seen Brantley Gilbert. It was the best concert I've ever seen because of the atmosphere and the people. He definitely fed off the crowd, and it was a lot of fun. Everybody is cool there. You can sit down and have a conversation with complete stranger and a lot of times your are going to have something in common.

**Me:** What kind of trouble have you ran into while there? If any? It seems like a few past interviews had some funny story or a lesson learned. Like putting your feet down and coming to a complete stop at intersections.

**Cori-** DEAD SILENCE! - LOL Well, what happens in Sturgis....ha! Kidding aside, the police are just doing their jobs. Oh, yeah. It never happened to me, but we heard more than once that you should never leave your helmet sitting on your bike. Put it away in a bag, trunk or secure it. Otherwise, there is a very good chance it won't be there when you get back! Don't leave it on your handlebars and that probably goes for anything. Don't leave it out. The police aren't paying attention to your bike sitting there. That's the last thing they are going to be worried about watching.

**Me:** It's a small world out there and we find it's not that uncommon to randomly bump into somebody you know so far from home. We can't promise but it would be great to

CONTINUED...







find you guys while we are there. We are still working out our stay, but you never know.

**Cori-** It would be. You should send some Thunder Roads Michigan stuff with us because people out there would really like to see something from here.

Oh! You asked if there was anything I wouldn't recommend, and this might sound a little unpatriotic but going into the actual Mt Rushmore park area I don't think it's worth it. You can get your pictures from different areas and still have the time to get your riding in. I have more fun driving by and seeing it than dealing with all the crowds and time it takes. There are so many waterfalls and places to check out if you spend the time riding around.

**Me:** What is something that is on the top of this year's list to do or to do again? What are you looking forward to doing the most?

**Cori-** Well, I can't wait to ride Needles again, but finding something we haven't done would be it. We'll try to find a local person who may recommend something new. They know all the spots and cool rides and most of them love telling you about them. The ones that don't are probably the



ones that leave to avoid the two-week party in front of their houses.

**Me:** So, what are your recommended items for anyone reading that plans to head out to Sturgis in the future?

**Cori-** Take a full-faced helmet! You will be glad you did with the winds and sand, plus the temperature changes. Also, take more underwear than you think you'll need -lol. Swamp butt is real! Dress in layers and shed off layers as you need to, and you can put them back on as you need to. And like someone said in one of your past interviews... drink lot's of water!

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# ABATE UPDATE

**M**other Nature has certainly kept us on our toes this past month, from ice storms in Grayling and Gaylord to rain, rain, go away in Monroe. Hopefully, Mother Nature will get back on her meds and let the sun shine through.

On Sunday, April 13th, Region 6 held a meeting, and I'm excited to share what we have planned for the upcoming months:

1. **May 3** - Join us for the Blessing of the Bikes in Houghton Lake, MI.
2. **May 11** - Celebrate Mother's Day with us at Bubba's Swap Meet and Bike Show at the Midland County Fairgrounds. We'll need volunteers for the booth and goate.
3. **May 17** - Don't miss our Region 6 Awareness Run, with kickstands up at 12:30, starting from Bailey's Bar & Grill in Bay City.
4. **May 24 & 25** - It's Bubba's Memorial Weekend Classic at Bubba's Tri-City Cycle. We'll need help on both days. Please, come out and help set up our booth to sell bike tickets and signs. We're hoping to attract new members!

Our May meeting will be on May 17th before the Region 6 Awareness Run at Bailey's Bar & Grill.

June is shaping up to be another busy month for us. We'll be hosting the Field Meet on the first weekend of June at a new location with fresh ideas. Region 6 will once again organize the bike show. If you're interested in volunteering for a three- or four-hour shift to help make it a success, please reach out to me—my number is in the Rider. Remember, our meeting will be on May 17th since we'll be at the field meet on our usual meeting date. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, Abate Region 6, for updates.

We have bike tickets to sell. Grab a few and sell to family, friends, or anyone who wants to win a brand-new Harley-Davidson or Indian Motorcycle.

We also have pre-sale tickets for the Field Meet and Bike Raffle Weekend. Both happening in Harrison, MI, at the Clare County Fairgrounds. \$50 a couple, \$30 single. Don't forget the field meet is for members only, but folks can sign up at the door.

- Bike raffle is open to the public same discounts.
- Prices at the door - \$60 a couple, \$35 single!!!
- New New New Top Gun Challenge obstacle course with your bike. Woot Woot!!

Also, please watch for the flyer for the Freedom Rally. This is a very important event to let Lansing see that we stand together. I'll share the flyer on Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan Facebook page.

We are taking proclamations to townships and county buildings. If you would like to take a letter and the

proclamation, let Cricket or I know, and we will hook you up. May is Motorcycle Awareness Month. Let's get some new Members, let's get some Signs out there, and let's make this the best summer yet.

Peace and sunshine are coming to a region near you

ABATE is working and working to make sure our rights are properly secure. Please know ABATE and the MRF is there for every motorcyclist.

Want to join or just see what we have happening? go to our webpage and check it out. Need info? Send me an e-mail at [merrysgarrett@yahoo.com](mailto:merrysgarrett@yahoo.com) or go to our Facebook page ABATE Region 6.



**Merry Garrett**  
RC, Region 6

[Merrysgarrett@yahoo.com](mailto:Merrysgarrett@yahoo.com)  
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## 2025 NATIONWIDE RIDE FOR FREEDOM

BRINGING ATTENTION AND AWARENESS TO THE POW/MIA'S, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

**WEST MI (CHAPTERS 1 & 4)**

**SATURDAY MAY 24, 2025 - FLAG RETIREMENT & PLAQUE PRESENTATION**  
LOCATION: SANDY'S HARLEY DAVIDSON / TIME: 3PM -7PM

**SUNDAY MAY 25, 2025, 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 10:00 AM MEET UP WITH CHAPTER 5 @ FULL THROTTLE
- LEAVING 11:30AM. RIDE TO THE STATE CAPITAL.

**EAST MI (CHAPTERS 5)**

**SATURDAY MAY 24, 2025 - 10 AM - 4 PM - FLAG RAISING CEREMONY & PRE-RIDE EVENTS MOTOR CITY HARLEY, 24800 HAGGERTY RD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48335**

**SUNDAY MAY 25, 2025, 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

Michigan Chapter Contacts:

Chapter 1 - Bo John Bravebull - ndnsiouxperman@gmail.com	231-920-3379
Chapter 4 - Marvin Dunbar - marvharley@gmail.com	231-215-4411
Chapter 5 - April Long - aprillongrtchapter5@gmail.com	734-751-8605





# Erik's Memorial Awareness Ride and Scholarship Fund

WRITTEN BY ROB NORTON, AKA "BIG YETI" HOST OF RIDE WITH PURPOSE

**W**hen the first ride was organized, it didn't come from a place of convenience or free time. It was built on heartbreak, grit, and the unwavering love of a mother who refused to let her son's death be in vain.

Karen Robinson was a paramedic and firefighter — always on call, always ready. The kind of person who runs toward chaos while the world backs away. In her early years, she rode, too. But when her then-husband made reckless choices with her on the back and two kids at home, she gave up the bike. Because being a mother came first.

Fast-forward to 1999. Her son Erik, who was just 19, bought his first bike — a rocket that lit up his world. He did everything right: got his endorsement, rode smart, bought his gear. He dreamed of racing. He even bought a bike for his wife so they could ride together.

He took on the Tail of the Dragon. Walked away from a wreck with just soreness and a burn. Kept riding. Kept loving the road.

Then came August 2012. Erik flew home from a job out of town. Took his bike to dinner. On the way home, a car turned in front of him — not just him, but the car next to him too. The driver later said, "Did I hit something? I didn't see anyone." Words that still echo like a gut-punch.

Karen heard the call on her radio. Turned the volume down.

She never got to say goodbye.

Erik didn't make it. But his heart didn't

stop. It beat on — literally — through the lives he saved as an organ donor.

Ten months later, Karen decided to do something. Something loud. Something real. Something that would shake people awake. Look Twice. Save a Life. That became the mission. With ABATE and local law enforcement backing her, she put together a ride. Then came the signs — official, township-approved road signs — demanding that drivers pay attention and think.

From that, Erik's Memorial Awareness Ride was born. Year after year, the ride grew. It became more than a ride. It became a movement.

But she didn't stop there. In 2024, she launched



something even bigger: Erik's Memorial Awareness Ride and Scholarship Fund — built not just to honor a son, but to educate, empower, and protect the next generation of riders. Officially a 501(c)(3) nonprofit as of January 2025.

This year's ride is the first under that nonprofit banner.

This isn't just a ride. It's a call to action. A battle cry for every biker lost too soon. A promise that Erik — and so many like him — will never be forgotten.

Scan the QR Code in the ad below to learn more about the incredible non-profit or to donate to their cause please visit their Facebook page and their website.

**Eriks Memorial Awareness Ride and Scholarship Fund**

[www.eriksride.org](http://www.eriksride.org)

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Starts at 10am

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**JULY 26 - TEST-N-TUNE**

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**OCTOBER 25 - TEST-N-TUNE & TRUNK OR TREAT**

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# MAY 2025

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27  25TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE BIKERS OVID, MI  MS'D WITH THE WRONG MF'R SCOOTER'S BAR & GRILL	28  CINCO DE MAYO	29  NATIONAL POLICE WEEK HOLESOT HARLEY-DAVIDSON	30  7	1  8	2  9	3 HOUGHTON LAKE BLESSING OF THE BIKES NATIONAL FEMALE RIDE DAY 2025 - DETROIT  TRES DE MAYO HOLESOT HARLEY-DAVIDSON  MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION RAY C'S  RIDE LIKE A MOTHER MOTHER'S DAY EVENT HOLESOT HARLEY-DAVIDSON  TEST-N-TUNE PORT HURON MC
11 MIDLAND MOTHER'S DAY SWAP MEET & BIKE SHOW MOTHER'S DAY	12  19	13  20	14  21	15  22	16  23	17  24
18  BUBBA'S 24TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND CLASSIC ROLLING THUNDER ANNUAL RIDE FOR FREEDOM TEST-N-TUNE SWAP MEET PORT HURON MC	19  26 MEMORIAL DAY	20  27	21  28	22  29 THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN BIKE NIGHTS 2025 FIRST BIKE NIGHT BUCKLEY ROADSIDE BAR	23  30	24 BLESSING OF THE BIKES RAY C'S BUBBA'S 24TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND CLASSIC MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION! HOLESOT HARLEY-DAVIDSON  ROLLING THUNDER ANNUAL RIDE FOR FREEDOM  31 SPRING FLING ABATE REGION 10 GHOST TOWN SALOON BROKEN SOULS TIKI HUT RUN RYDERS BAR & GRILL CBMF BENEFIT FOR HOMER AFFOLDER PARK MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS DAYS AT THE STEEL HORSE RANCH



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**WHEN: MOTHERS DAY**

May 11, 2025

Admission: \$5.00

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**SIGN-UP**

10:00-1:00pm



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# Thunder Roads Michigan Readers Ride

Larry Shelagowski  
Midland, Michigan

3-21-2025

Hi

I am a 74 year old biker.

I have been riding for about 64 years.

I have enjoyed your magazine for several years.

I know that from time to time you are looking for motorcycles to photograph.

This is a 1954 KH model (not stock) many people think that it is a Sportster but it is not.

Back in 70's I bought, sold and traded motorcycle parts with Dennis Mohawick (MD).

There are several parts on this motorcycle.

Respectfully

I would like my pictures back thank you

Larry Shelagowski

midland, Michigan

Volume 22 Issue 2

May  
2025



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## ZIPS 45th PARALLEL

### HOURS

Tuesday  
10:00AM - 5:00PM  
Wednesday  
10:00AM - 5:00PM  
Thursday  
10:00AM - 5:00PM  
Friday  
10:00AM - 5:00PM  
Saturday  
10:00AM - 4:00PM  
CLOSED  
Sunday & Monday

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## ***Gear Up for the Riding Season:***

**A**s the chill of winter fades and spring opens the road once again, many Veterans across the country are dusting off their motorcycles and preparing for another riding season. For many of us, riding isn't just a hobby—it's therapy, freedom, and a return to the brotherhood we valued during service. But before you hit the highway, take a moment to make sure you're truly ready—mind, body, and machine.

Reconnect with Your Ride - Even if you're an experienced rider, it's smart to reacquaint yourself with your bike after it's been parked all winter. Check your tires for cracks or flat spots, test the brakes, change the oil, and inspect all lights and signals. If it's been a while since your last tune-up, consider taking your bike to a trusted mechanic for a spring inspection.

## Gear That Protects, Not Just Impresses

Looking sharp is great—but safety comes first. Make sure your helmet meets DOT standards (or better, SNELL or ECE), and check for signs of wear or damage. Invest in riding gear with armor padding, abrasion resistance, and visibility. If you're riding long distances, comfort becomes part of safety, too.

Sharpen Your Skills - Even seasoned riders can benefit from a refresher. Look into local motorcycle safety courses—many offer advanced riding skills tailored for Veterans or experienced riders. These courses help fine-tune your reflexes and boost your confidence in high-traffic or emergency situations.

## Ride with Awareness

Spring means more vehicles, more road hazards, and more unpredictable conditions. Potholes, gravel, and wet roads can be especially dangerous early in the season. Always scan ahead, ride defensively, and never assume other drivers can see you.

Stay Connected - Whether you ride solo or in a group, keep your emergency contacts updated and carry ID with any medical conditions clearly stated. Apps and devices like GPS trackers or ride-share apps can be a safety net if you're traveling far from home.

## A Special Note on Mental Health

For many Veterans, riding is more than transportation—it's healing. The open road offers solitude, reflection, and a break from the noise. But if you're dealing with anxiety, depression, or PTSD, don't go it alone. Reach out to your local VA or Vet Center. There's strength in talking—and there are people who understand.

This riding season, make safety and self-care your mission. Prepare your bike, wear your gear, and stay sharp out there. The road is calling—and you've earned the ride.



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

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**Saturday, June 28th** Ingham Co. Fairgrounds  
700 E. Ash St Mason, MI 48854

# MOTORCYCLE SHOW

PRE-REGISTER before 6/21/2025 and get a FREE MOE Gift bag

10am - 4pm

Entry fee: \$20 (includes rider & passenger)

Show participant gate will open from 7am - 9am, enter from Gate #1 (Ash St.)

Must stay for entire event. Awards at 3:30pm

*If not entering as a show participant, there is motorcycle parking near the Ash St. entrance*

Numerous award categories including: Sponsor's choice, Kid's choice, People's choice & Teen's Choice awards

Rain or Shine event. It will be held in either the Pavilion or the Indoor Arena

Registration also includes entry into the MOE prize drawings

Appreciation dash plaques for all entries



For More Information: [masonoutdoorexpo.com](http://masonoutdoorexpo.com) Email: [info@masonoutdoorexpo.com](mailto:info@masonoutdoorexpo.com)



**NEW to 2025! The MOE Off-Road Show with a Variety of Vendors featuring:**  
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# 3RD ANNUAL HOUGHTON LAKE BLESSING OF THE BIKES



**MAY 3RD, 2025**

## LOCATION:

**HOUGHTON LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
1625 W HOUGHTON LAKE DR.  
HOUGHTON LAKE, MI 48629

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10 AM  
WITH FREE 11AM COFFEE & DONUTS

FLAG RAISING - BLESSING - PRIZES  
12 PM - 12:30

30 MILE RIDE AROUND THE LAKE AND BACK  
KICKSTANDS UP 12:45

AFTER PARTY, MUSIC, PRIZES, 50/50 RAFFLE,  
FOOD TRUCK & VENDORS

ONE FREE DOOR PRIZE TICKET  
WITH A \$10.00 DONATION  
\*PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES

## EVENT CONTACT:

HOUGHTON LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE @ 989-366-5644

OR CONTACT TED @ 586-216-4971

EMAIL: [WHISKERS58@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WHISKERS58@GMAIL.COM)

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# HOT RODS TOPICS



## May: Motorcycle Awareness Month!

**H**ot Rods group is actively doing our part to make riding a motorcycle as safe as possible by getting involved. We're helping bring awareness to driver education students on how to share the road with motorcyclists and our passion of riding. Helping them understand the culture, way of life, the wind therapy we seek, and how much we enjoy coming together to support a worthwhile benefit.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be at the Dundee Welcome Center on US-23 Mile Marker 8 Rest Area holding up signs and again on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Milan at the parking lot by Kroger's. We'll have our road signs for sale at \$10 and we can use the help getting the word out. Purchasing a sign helps support the cause and brings awareness to the public. **"Be Aware Motorcycles Are Everywhere"**.

Next on Hot Rods agenda is our bike blessing on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Faith Community Church in Belleville, MI. Don Basham and Amos Bachorek are putting the event together. We're meeting at Loves Travel Stop in Milan with KSU at 11am. And

we're looking forward to the Moose Riders out of Sylvania, OH joining us! Individual bike blessings will be given by Pastor Doug Valentine who really does care for bikers because he rides a motorcycle as well!

We're wrapping up our donation drive for the Lenawee Foster Care / Children's Protective Services Department in Adrian because April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. We've been collecting items for two months now and nothing touches your heart more than helping foster children. Thanks to everyone for their generosity and support!

We will be at Manchester High School on April 21<sup>st</sup> donating two benches for their mental health program and we'll start lining up our next high schools for their benches as we can afford them. If you would like to donate to support our Foundation, please reach out to us at hotrods.motorcycle.awareness@gmail.com.

Always remember, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week just by calling 988.

I want to thank Aly and RJ at Thunder Roads® Michigan for the full-page ad last month highlighting Brighton Schools. You two are doing your part and the donation is awesome. THANK YOU!

God bless all of you. Ride free and proud – you deserve it!

Stay safe,

**HOT ROD BEATON**

President / Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness  
and Suicide Prevention Foundation

**BLESSING**

May To Road Rise to Meet You, May  
The Wind be Always At Your Back

**REGISTRATION**  
10:00AM

**LOCATION:**  
LOVES TRAVEL STOP  
14137 PLANK RD  
MILAN, MI 48160

**KSU 11AM**

**GROUP RIDE TO  
FAITH COMMUNITY  
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BELLEVILLE MI**

**SUMPTER &  
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(734) 697-6704

Pastor Doug Valentine  
Officiating Blessing @ 12  
Noon

**MAY 17, 2025  
RIDE &  
BLESSING OF  
THE BIKES**

Open to the Public and All Makes, All Models Welcome!

**BE AWARE**

**MOTORCYCLES**

**ARE**

**EVERYWHERE**

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## STORM CHASERS DRINK RECIPE ROCKIN' ROYAL PEACH

- 1 OZ PEACH SCHNAPPS
- 2 OZ. CROWN ROYAL PEACH
- ½ OZ CRANBERRY JUICE
- ½ OZ PINEAPPLE JUICE
- 2OZ SPRITE



1. PUT ALL INGREDIENTS IN A SHAKER FILLED WITH ICE
2. SHAKE UNTIL CHILLED
3. POUR INTO A HURRICANE GLASS OVER ICE
4. GARNISH WITH A PEACH SLICE



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WRONG MFR  
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REGISTRATION: 9:30 - 11AM

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# JOKER'S WILD

My girlfriend asked me if I was having sex behind her back? We ended up in a huge fight because I replied, "Hell yeah I have, why? who did you think it was and was while you were so into it?"

This very attractive woman and very attractive man, both in their mid 50's, are sitting at the bar having a drink after work and the woman drops a line with, "I have a lovely condo on the 7th floor of this same building if you'd like to go up and have some privacy and a drink there." The man smiles and replies in a gentle manner, "I'm 57 years of age, I literally have to hit my penis with a club to feel anything from it. Sex with me these days is akin to thumbing marshmallows into the anus of a cat." The woman smiled and gently replied, "It's been a while for me as well, but I do have a bag of marshmallows and I do possess an anus."

"They say one in ten people want a sex toy for Christmas, and that's a lie, isn't it? You open presents in front of your family! Who's there going, 'What did you get there Nana? A butt plug? Look here, I got the exact same thing!'"

A couple who were all hot and ready were about to go to funky town, when the guy gets a phone call and laughing, he answers, "I can't talk now, I'm going into a tunnel."

"My Mom was getting in her car to go shopping and I had been bugging her for a new scooter bike and she told me the best time to ask my Dad for anything was during sex. Kinda' thought that was a strange reply, so decided I'd just ask him straight out and he'd appreciate the direct honesty. So I waited about an hour and then burst in through the bedroom door saying, 'Can I have a new bike?' My Dad was very upset, the woman who lived next door laying in bed with him was surprisingly nice about it. I ended up getting the bike though!"

What's the difference between a tire and 365 used condoms?  
One's a Goodyear. The other's a Great year!

What did one saggy boob say to the other saggy boob?  
"If we don't get some support, people will think we're nuts."

Want to hear a joke about my penis?  
Never mind. It's too long.

Things have really changed, back in the day, the only time we started Panic Buying was when the Bartender shouted "Last Call".

A few cows were smoking a joint and playing cards. That's right, the steaks were pretty high.

Found my 1st gray pubic hair today .... Usually I wouldn't mind, but it was in my Big Mac.

A young couple are having a serious discussion and the wife says in a high pitched voice, "You spent our entire life savings on dogs?!", and the husband replies, "They're golden retrievers, they actually retrieve gold, I did it for our future!"

Just because you have a beard it does not make you a man. Last time I checked, vaginas can grow hair too.

Don't nobody wake up faster than mfr who didn't mean to spend the night.

Sex is like a gas station, sometimes you get full service, sometimes you gotta' ask for service, and sometimes you have to be satisfied with self-service.

Saw this on a Public Post - A woman that can cause drama and stop a wedding this Saturday is needed. Payment is 2k.  
The very 1st reply was: Make it 3k and I'll bring 2 kids that resemble the groom.

When you think that there's just no hope left in this world, remember the historical fact that all the lobsters in the mammoth tank in the Titanic restaurant were all returned to the sea.

When dealing with certain people, remember this: Unlike the stomach, the brain does not alert you when it is empty.

Remember my Grandma once said, "Sometimes dear, you have to hug the people you don't like so you know how big to dig the hole in your backyard."

I slapped a guy during sex last night because he moaned the wrong name.  
Then I remembered that I had given him a fake name.  
Sorry bro, my bad.

Happy Mother's Day to You Bad-Ass Biker Women!

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





MAY 2025

**May 3**  
- FREE Kids Bike Giveaway  
Lapeer Eagle's  
3565 Davison Rd.  
Lapeer, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**- Houghton Lake Blessing of the Bikes**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**  
**Houghton Lake Chamber of Commerce**  
**1625 W. Houghton Lake Dr.**  
**Houghton Lake, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**- National Female Ride Day 2025 - Detroit**  
**Dick Scott's Freedom Powersports**  
**29577 Five Mile Rd.**  
**Livonia, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**- Tres De Mayo**  
**Holeshot Harley-Davidson**  
**4741 E. Pickard St.**  
**Mt. Pleasant, MI**  
**Motorcycles, Tacos, & Margaritas!**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**May 4**  
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Swap Meet  
Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds  
751 S. Almont Ave.  
Imlay City, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Bikers**  
**Church of the Living Word**  
**1100 N. Ovid Rd.**  
**Ovid, MI**  
**www.COTLW.org**

- 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Run  
Muskegon Motorcycle Club  
5803 Lake Harbor Rd.  
Muskegon, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**- MS'D with the Wrong MF'R**  
**Bike Run 2025**  
**Scooter's Bar & Grill**  
**6004 Torrey Rd.**  
**Flint, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**May 10**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blessing of the Bikes  
Macomb Powersports  
46301 Gratiot Ave.  
Chesterfield Township, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- American Legion Riders Post 22  
Bike Run  
2200 S. Niagara St.  
Saginaw, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**- Mother's Day Celebration**  
**Ray C's**  
**1491 S. Lapeer Rd.**  
**Lapeer, MI**  
**www.raycsh-d.com**

- Motorcycle Madness in Michigan  
Volume 1  
Northern District Fair  
1320 ½ n. Mitchell St.  
Cadillac, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- National Flat Track  
Wexford County Fairgrounds  
1318-, 1420 N. Mitchell St.  
Cadillac, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Ride for Tom Eastman  
Brown City Area Fire Department  
4090 Main St.  
Brown City, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**-Ride Like a Mother - Mother's Day Event**  
**Holeshot Harley-Davidson**  
**4741 E. Pickard St.**  
**Mt. Pleasant, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

- Sentinel Knights Riders  
Against Child Abuse Poker Run  
Charlotte Moose Lodge  
1809 Lansing Rd  
Charlotte, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**-Test-N-Tune**  
**Port Huron Motorcycle Club**  
**3376 Griswald Rd.**  
**Port Huron, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for Details**

**May 11**  
**- Midland Mother's Day Swap**  
**Meet & Bike Show**  
**Midland County Fairgrounds**  
**6905 Eastman Avenue**  
**Midland, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

- Motorcycle Madness in Michigan  
Volume 1  
Northern District Fair  
1320 ½ n. Mitchell St.  
Cadillac, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- National Flat Track  
Wexford County Fairgrounds  
1318-, 1420 N. Mitchell St.  
Cadillac, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**May 13**  
- ABATE of Michigan  
Pizza & Pop  
House Office Building  
Downtown Lansing, MI  
Mackinaw Room  
More Info: Ed Bear 231-907-0710

**- National Police Week**  
**Holeshot Harley-Davidson**  
**4741 E. Pickard St.**  
**Mt. Pleasant, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**May 15**  
**- National Peace Officers Day & Police Week**  
**Holeshot Harley-Davidson**  
**4741 E. Pickard St.**  
**Mt. Pleasant, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**May 16**  
-53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baldwin Blessing of the Bikes  
Baldwin, MI  
www.lakecountymichigan.com

**May 17**  
-53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baldwin Blessing of the Bikes  
Baldwin, MI  
www.lakecountymichigan.com

-ABATE of Michigan  
Region 6 Awareness Run  
Bailey's Bar & Grill  
304 Salzburg Ave.  
Bay City, MI  
KSU 12:30  
Check out Facebook for details

**- Brighton ALR Post 235**  
**Blessing of the Bikes**  
**American Spirit Centre**  
**10590 Grand River Ave.**  
**Brighton, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

-Eriks Memorial Awareness Ride  
J&S Hamburg  
1083 W South Airport Rd.  
Traverse City, MI  
www.Eriksride.org

**May 18**  
-53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baldwin Blessing of the Bikes  
Baldwin, MI  
www.lakecountymichigan.com

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blessing of the Bikes  
7318 Huron Ave.  
Lexington, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**May 24**  
- 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Veteran's Tribute Ride  
Riverside Auto  
N3696 US-2  
Iron Mountain, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**- Blessing of the Bikes**  
**Ray C's**  
**1491 S. Lapeer Rd.**  
**Lapeer, MI**  
**www.raycsh-d.com**

**- Bubba's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial**  
**Weekend Classic**  
**804 S. Huron Rd.**  
**Linwood, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**- Memorial Day Celebration!**  
**Holeshot Harley-Davidson**  
**4741 E. Pickard St.**  
**Mt. Pleasant, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**-Rolling Thunder Annual Ride for Freedom**  
**Pre-Ride events held at**  
**- Sandy's Harley-Davidson**  
**11940 N. Maple Island Road**  
**Fremont, MI**  
**- Motor City Harley-Davidson**  
**24800 Haggerty Rd.**  
**Farmington Hills, MI**  
**See Ad for details**

**May 25**  
**- Bubba's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial**  
**Weekend Classic**  
**804 S. Huron Rd.**  
**Linwood, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**-Rolling Thunder Annual Ride for Freedom**  
**Rides Leaving From**  
**- American Legion Boat & Canoe**  
**401 N. Park St**  
**N.E. Grand Rapids, MI**  
**- Motor City Harley-Davidson**  
**24800 Haggerty Rd.**  
**Farmington Hills, MI**  
**See Ad for details**

**-Test-N-Tune & Swap Meet**  
**Port Huron Motorcycle Club**  
**3376 Griswald Rd.**  
**Port Huron, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**May 29**  
**- 2025 Thunder Roads Michigan**  
**Bike Nights!**  
**1<sup>st</sup> TRM Bike Night of the Season**  
**Buckley Roadside Bar**  
**116 W. Wexford Ave.**  
**Buckley, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**May 31**  
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Show  
Royal Oak Eagles Riders'  
Madison Heights FOE  
604 W. Eleven Mile  
Madison Heights, MI  
Registration begins @ Noon  
More Info: 586-863-8238 Jackie Hurn  
Or 248-635-2622 Laura Doland

**-17<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling**  
**Abate Region 10**  
**Ghost Town Saloon**  
**6422 Pinegree Rd.**  
**Elwell, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

**- Broken Souls Tiki Hut Run**  
**Ryders Bar & Grill**  
**2650 W. Midland Rd.**  
**Midland, MI**  
**Check out Facebook for details**

-Cardinal Wishes Bike Run  
Otter Lake Bar  
5845 Genesee Ave.  
Otter Lake, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

**- GBNF Benefit for Homer**  
**Indiana Barbarians MC**  
**Town of Geneva Affolder Park**  
**895 E. Line St.**  
**Geneva, IN**  
**See Ad for details**

**- Motorcycle Awareness Days**  
**at the Ranch**  
**Steel Horse Ranch**  
**1965 Mertz Rd.**  
**Caro, MI**  
**11am-5pm**

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To get your event listed in Thunder Roads® Magazine and on our web site, send the information to: Editor@ThunderRoadsMichigan.com.

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

Remember to call ahead before planning to attend any event as the information/dates may change. Thunder Roads® Michigan is Not responsible for errors or omissions.



# Just For Fun

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MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

530 - 830

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(See Directory for Address)

## TUESDAYS

Buckwild Saloon - Fostoria  
Ryders Bar & Grill - Midland  
Tool Shed Pub & Grub - Munger  
Trackside Food & Spirits - Reese

## WEDNESDAYS

Ghost Town Saloon - Elwell  
Iron Horse Bar & Grill - Akron  
Scooter's Bar & Grill - Flint

## THURSDAYS

Auburn Hotel & Tavern - Auburn  
Beeter's Brew Pub - Sebewaing  
Buckley Roadside Bar - Buckley  
The Otherside - Freeland

## FRIDAYS

Lapeer Bikes on Nepessing St. - Lapeer

## SATURDAYS

A&W - 3rd Saturday of the Month -  
Midland

## SUNDAYS

Chicky's Paradise Saloon - Almont  
The Whiskey Jar - Brown City

(These Bike Nights are supporters/advertisers  
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