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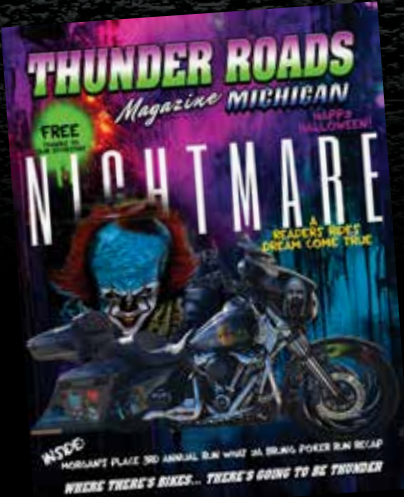
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LETTER FROM THE OWNERS

As the season winds down and the last echoes of engines fade into the crisp Michigan air, we at Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine® want to take a moment to reflect, to pause, and to say thank you.

**To our readers:** You are the soul of this magazine. Whether you're flipping through pages at a local diner, sharing stories at a rally, or riding down the open road with our latest issue tucked in your saddlebag, your passion fuels everything we do. Your loyalty, feedback, and enthusiasm remind us why we started this journey in the first place.

**To our advertisers:** Your support keeps the wheels turning. You've believed in our mission, trusted our reach, and helped us spotlight the businesses and events that make Michigan's motorcycle community so vibrant. We're proud to ride alongside you.

**To our followers:** Every like, share, and comment is a spark that keeps our community alive. You've helped us grow beyond the printed pages each month into conversations, connections, and a movement that celebrates freedom, camaraderie, and the thrill of the ride.

**And to our staff:** You are the heartbeat of Thunder Roads Michigan®. From late-night deadlines to early morning event setups, your dedication, creativity, and grit make this magazine more than just ink on paper. You make it personal. You make it powerful.

This season has been one of unforgettable rides, meaningful encounters, and shared stories. Thank you for being part of it. We can't wait to see what the next chapter brings.

A Personal Reflection

In a time when headlines flash faster than we can process and opinions are shared louder than facts, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the noise. The political climate online and in the news can feel like a whirlwind of division, outrage, and confusion. But here's a gentle reminder: not everything we read is truth. Not every post is fact. And not every voice is speaking from a place of clarity or compassion.

Let's take a breath. Let's pause before we react. Let's remember that behind every belief is a human being. Some are older, some younger, but still they are someone shaped by experiences, values, and hopes. We don't have to agree to coexist. We don't have to see eye to eye to show respect.

Violence, hatred, and blind allegiance to any narrative only deepen the divide. Instead, let's encourage each other to seek truth from both sides and from all angles. Let's be curious, not combative. Let's be informed, not inflamed.

And above all, let's love our neighbors. Even when it's hard. Especially when it's hard.

We're not puppets. We're people. And we have the power to choose compassion over anger, understanding over assumption, and unity over division. We encourage you to turn it ALL off and get outside. Protect your peace. Go do something. Disconnect yourself from your television and phone. Give it a break. Give yourself a mental break and get some fresh air. You deserve it.



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# CHAPLAIN CHARLIE’S CORNER: SOMETIMES WE HIT “PAUSE”

**BY CHAPLAIN CHARLIE**

It was an ordinary evening at the Sanford American Legion, where I had come to attend an American Legion Riders event. The place carried that familiar mix of laughter, camaraderie, and the smell of coffee lingering in the air.

As I was walking through the event hall, I noticed two ladies hard at work. They weren't there for our Riders gathering—they were preparing the room for the next day's burger night. Tables had to be shifted, chairs stacked and unstacked, and the whole space arranged just right before the grill fired up tomorrow.

Now, I don't know about you, but I have a hard time walking past someone working without jumping in. Something in me just won't allow it. I thought: *I can't let them handle all this alone.* So I joined them—grabbing tables, stacking chairs, hauling things around until the hall was ready for the next night's crowd.

It felt good in the moment. Helping out always does. But the next morning, that's when life changed.

**The Pain That Presses “Pause”**

I woke up the next day with my right shoulder aching deep near the blade, my arm tingling like it had fallen asleep, and shooting pains running down into my hand. My index finger was completely numb—like someone had pulled the plug.

Now, every biker knows our bodies carry wear and tear. Long rides, wrenching on bikes, and years of wind and weather leave their marks. But this wasn't just muscle soreness. This was different. My body was sounding an alarm: *Stop. Something's wrong.*

I ended up in the ER, and before I knew it, I was staying overnight for tests. The verdict? A nerve problem in my neck. Suddenly, lifting tables and chairs wasn't even possible. Riding my trike? Out of the question.

And just like that, life hit the “pause” button.

**The Frustration of the Pause**

For those of us who ride, the rhythm of the road is part of who we are. There's freedom in the rumble of the Harley, therapy in the miles rolling by, and a kind of quiet prayer in the wind pressing against your shoulders. It resets the soul.

So, when the ride gets taken away—not by winter, not by choice, but by your own body—it stings. It feels unfair, like someone has stolen your lifeline.

But faith reminds us of something deeper: in God's hands, even an unwanted pause can serve a purpose.

**God’s Perfect Timing**

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us: *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”*

Looking back, I can see God's timing even in this interruption. This problem showed up right as wedding season—the busiest stretch of my year—was wrapping up. If it had struck a month earlier, I would've been in real trouble. But here it was, arriving at a time when I actually had room to slow down, meet with doctors, and focus on healing.

That's not luck. That's God's hand at work.

What feels like a roadblock to us often turns out to be a pit stop in God's plan. He knows the road ahead better than we do.

**A Lesson from the Shop**

Think of it like wrenching in the garage. None of us would hit the highway knowing our brakes are shot, our tires are bald, or our oil's running low. You could try to push through, but disaster is just around the bend.

The wise rider pauses. Fixes the problem. Then rides out safe and strong.

God deals with us the same way. Sometimes He flashes the warning lights. Sometimes, He takes away the keys. Not as punishment—but as protection.

**What the Pause Teaches**

This “pause” has already been teaching me a few things I think we all need to remember:

**We're not invincible.** Psalm 39:4 says: *“Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is.”* Every ride is a gift. Each day is borrowed time.

**Pride gets us in trouble.** I thought I was helping by moving those tables, but if I'm honest, pride was pushing me too. I didn't want to look lazy while others worked. Sometimes wisdom means saying no, not yes.

**Slowing down opens your eyes.** When you're forced to stop, you notice what you usually ride past—family, friendships, even your own need for God's grace.

**The Takeaway**

So here I am, sidelined for a while. My trike's parked, my right arm isn't cooperating, and my plans look a lot different than what I wanted. But God is still good.

Pauses aren't the end of the ride. They're part of it. Every long haul has fuel stops, detours, and breaks on the shoulder to check the map. Life is no different. God knows when we need those breaks.

**This Month’s Next Step**

Maybe you're in a pause yourself—health issues, job stress, family struggles, or just plain burnout. Don't waste it. Don't resent it. Ask God: *What do You want me to see in this season?*

Use the time to rest, repair, and refocus. Call someone you haven't checked in on. Open your Bible and let His promises settle in. And when the pause ends, you'll ride out stronger, steadier, and maybe even more grateful for every mile.


**Closing**

I miss the wind. I miss the miles. But I trust the One who knows the road ahead. For now, I'll sit in the shop, let Him do the maintenance, and be ready when He says, “Fire it up.”



Until then—  
**Ride safe. Be kind. Grace on.**

*Chaplain Charlie*  
**Chaplain Dean Titus (Charlie)**  
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### BIKE NIGHT FUN





## NIGHTMARE

OWNER: RONNIE JOE CHRISTENSEN OF STANTON, MI

BIKE: 2018 FLHXS STREET GLIDE SPECIAL

SCREAMIN' EAGLE STAGE IV

CUSTOM PAINT BY CHAD KIDDER OF SINISTER PAINT

For the October issue we felt it fitting to have chosen Ronnie's bike "Nightmare" to be the Readers Ride with Halloween and all. It crept its way in and fit the pages like the Crypt Keepers cackle for all you boys and ghouls, like Freddy K's glove, Jason V's machete in the palm of his hand, like... well, you get the idea. Check it out! ~ RJ

### RONNIE

I started riding motorcycles when I was a eighteen and like many, I started off on sport bikes with my buddies. The last one I owned was a Honda CBR 900 which was stupid fast and even though I didn't make the switch to Harley's until this one, I never shook the need for speed. I was hooked when a friend of mine let me ride his Harley. Being in my 50's may have been a factor with comfort but again, I still like to go fast. *Nightmare* was my first H-D motorcycle, and I now own a Breakout that I keep down in Florida.

I travel for work, and my job takes me all over the place, but having a place in Florida is how I found the 2018 Street Glide Special. I bought it brand new with 600 miles on it. One of the first things I did was had the Screamin' Eagle Stage IV done to it by Harley. I got tired of being left at stop signs. Once I got the tuning worked out with a guy out of Owosso, I knew I wanted it to stand out from the other million black Harley's out there, so I met up with Chad Kidder at Sinister Paint. He does some of the best work out there and once we discussed some ideas I had, I told him he had my permission to do what he wanted from there. I like horror movies but had only one request; No skulls. My wife



hates skulls. I no longer had the same bike as everyone else, he killed it! FYI, I ride this bike everywhere. It's no trailer queen. My wife also rides along with me when she can. I've ridden it to Sturgis, Florida a few times, the Tail of the Dragon, and through other states to get there. I just got back from Missouri from a trip with friends. I'd say my favorite place I've ridden so far is Connecticut. It was beautiful and I would love to go back!

Like I said, I ride the bike. Since the start of 600 miles from when I got it, I'm now over 40,000 miles. Right now, it's in the shop to have a fork seal leak fixed that happened along the way home from Missouri. I'm hoping to have it back soon so that I can still make a trip up



to the Tunnel of Trees this fall. If the bike is ready, my son and I may try to sneak back down to the Dragon soon. Next year, Colorado is on our bucket list.

A LOT of things have been done on the bike. I've switched out the bags after being painted to a different set, (still have the old ones) had some Arlen Ness accessories added, and had the front and rear wheels changed on top of the motor and paint work. Only thing left to do is the stereo system. I love showing off my bike and people love seeing it when I do. I've entered it into a handful of bike shows including the Thunder Roads Michigan Bike Show in July at Friday Night Bikes in Lapeer where I took first place for my category. I've had some good feedback and have been fortunate to take home some awesome trophies. One being more recent and that is so tall that it barely fits in my garage.







# MEMORY LANE,

BY RANGER RICK

It seems like just yesterday I was riding the fastest motorcycle money could buy. Today, that speed is just hanging on. Bikes twice as fast are now the normal. Where did the time and adventures go? I used to wonder how much trouble I'd be in if I just didn't go to work. What if I were to just play hooky and go riding all day? No place special. Just that way.

Riding back home to the farm was just what I did. Seven and a half hours into the wind, westward, was no big deal. No one thought anything about it. Everyone just figured I'd be back, weekend after weekend. There was adventure around every corner. My dad just shook his head. "That's just the way that boy is, I guess." He always thought I should slow down, find an uptown girl, marry, and have kids. I couldn't do that. I was too selfish with my time. I just wanted adventure. Fun. Excitement. Challenge. Never a moment was spent thinking about "what if." I did that for a long time. Lost a wife and lost my boy along the way. Like an arrow in my heart, it would hurt from time to time. So, I'd push back the pain and go ride some more.

Along the way, somehow, a good woman got attached to me. Boy, I didn't see that coming. I thought for a time I might stop riding, but riding is like a drug. Once you start, you never really stop. Oh, you might change direction a time or two. Ride with a club or a group for a while. But you're just riding. They've all gone home, but you're still riding. You're riding in a way that's most natural to you, brought on by years of thrilling adventure. Alone. You're still riding alone. You could be with fifty others, but you? You're still riding alone. Just as always.

Now your father is long gone. You wanted to be just like him. He rode, so you rode. Now you find yourself much older. All the friends you've ridden with are but memories: Don, Johnny, Steve, and Tommy. They're all gone. What happened to them? I heard a couple got married and settled down. Where they all went, I don't remember. A couple died. I heard about it when I got home again.

Tonight, I rode to the clubhouse for a meeting. Once the meeting was over, I just left. Some were talking about a ride on Saturday. Don't they ever check the weather? There won't be any ride on Saturday. It's going to rain.

It got cold riding home tonight. That was another reason to leave right after the meeting. The weather is getting cooler. It was actually cold on the last ten miles. There I was,

riding home, knowing soon I could warm up. I've got to go to the leather shop tomorrow. That will be another place to ride. Right now, I've got to get home. My wife and dog are waiting for me. Riding home. Riding alone again. The old man is riding home alone. Behind is only memories. I remember.

That was a long time ago.

I might be riding slower.

The ride seems longer.



## DID YOU HEAR?

Last night, the old man died. He must have been in his mid-80's,

"Really? What did he die of?"

"Don't know exactly. They said he just pulled his bike into the barn, went in his house, laid down, and died in bed."

"Wow, that's too bad. I just saw him..."

Which way do you want to go?

"Let's just go that way..."



## Why ABATE Still Matters: Fighting for Bikers, Building Brotherhood

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

If you ride, you're part of something bigger. Something louder. Something that does not back down. But just riding is not enough. There are people working every damn day to protect your right to do it freely. That's where ABATE comes in.

ABATE of Michigan is more than a patch or political group. It is the front line of defense when it comes to your rights as a motorcyclist. From helmet choice to lane-sharing laws to fighting insurance discrimination, they're in the trenches doing the work that most people do not even realize is being done.

### So, what is ABATE?

ABATE stands for American Bikers Aiming Toward Education. (Some grey beards still call it A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments) They fight for motorcyclist rights and provide rider education. They educate the public and the politicians. They advocate for laws that protect us, not restrict us. They push back when government overreach tries to clip our throttle. And they do it all with boots on the ground and hands on the throttle.

### Why You Should Give a Damn

You may think, "I'm just one rider, what difference can I make?" Here is the truth. Without organizations like ABATE, our rights will slowly vanish. Bit by bit. Law by law. If you're not part of the solution, you're sitting on the sidelines watching your freedom disappear.

Joining ABATE means you are backing the fight. You are throwing in with a community that rides hard and refuses to be told how to live. This is not about politics. This is about personal freedom, and nobody protects that better than bikers who give a damn.

### The Brotherhood

ABATE of Michigan is more than paperwork and politics. It is real people, with real grit, coming together for a cause. You'll find Vietnam vets, young riders, old-school club guys, and weekend warriors all under one tent. That kind of unity is rare. That kind of power is unstoppable. When you join ABATE, you are not just signing up for a newsletter. You are stepping into a community that looks out for each other and shows up when it matters.

### Membership Benefits

Here is what you get when you join ABATE of Michigan:

- A voice in Lansing. Real representation at the Capitol.
- Updates on state and national biker laws and legislation.
- Events, rallies, and rides that bring the community together.
- Access to rider safety programs and classes.
- Discounts at supporting businesses across the state.
- Most importantly, the pride of knowing you are part of something that matters.

### How to Join

It is stupid simple. Go to [www.abateofmichigan.org](http://www.abateofmichigan.org). Hit the "Join" button. Fill it out. Pay your dues. That's it. One move and you are on the team.

Want to take it a step further? Get involved with your local region. Go to a meeting. Shake some hands. Hear the stories. Share yours. That's where the brotherhood lives.

ABATE has your back. Question is, do you have theirs?

At Ride with Purpose, we believe in standing shoulder to shoulder with the people who fight for what we believe in. If you ride free, it is because someone fought for that freedom. Now it is your turn.

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

No one else is going to fight for us. So we fight for ourselves.





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# YEAH, OR MEH?

## Nelson Rigg NR300 Route 1 Travel Bag BY BIG E

When it comes to long trips on a touring bike, having the right luggage can make or break your ride. For my nine-day Tennessee adventure, I picked up the Nelson Rigg NR300 Route 1 Travel Bag, designed for Harley-Davidson Touring bikes (or really any touring setup). I originally bought this bag anticipating some two-up traveling, but ended up running it solo — and that gave me some interesting insight into how it performs.



### Room for Days

The first thing I noticed was how spacious this bag is. I had no trouble packing everything I needed for the trip, with room to spare. If you're the type to overpack, or just like having a little extra space, this bag delivers.

### On the Road

Mounted up, the NR300 was easy to secure. The included straps worked great, and Nelson Rigg even added elastic holders to keep the extra strap ends tucked away — a small but thoughtful detail. Riding one-up, I did notice some drag from the wind tugging on the bag. My guess is that with a passenger, the airflow would be different and that issue would be reduced. Not a dealbreaker, but worth mentioning if you usually ride solo.

### Rain or Shine

One of my favorite features was the included rainfly. It's not only well-made, but it attaches directly to the bag and actually works with the rack straps to stay locked in place. That's a smart design. My only gripe? The openings for



securing the rainfly could be a little bigger. It takes some effort to connect everything just right — but once it's on, it's solid. Add in the ability to lock the bag itself, and you get an extra layer of

security when you're parked.

### Bang for the Buck

Here's the kicker — I found this bag on Amazon at a great price. For what you get, I honestly think this is one of the most underrated trunk bags out there. Nelson Rigg packed in a ton of features, gave it a practical design, and kept it affordable compared to some of the bigger-name brands.

### ✓ Pros & ✗ Cons at a Glance

#### Pros:

- ✓ Spacious interior with plenty of packing room
- ✓ Easy to secure with smart strap management
- ✓ Rainfly integrates with the rack straps and stays put
- ✓ Lockable for extra security
- ✓ Excellent price-to-feature ratio

#### Cons:

- ✗ Rainfly openings could be larger for easier attachment
- ✗ Can create noticeable wind drag when riding solo

### Gear Score: 8.5/10

Solid choice for anyone looking for luggage that balances price, features, and practicality.

### Verdict: Yeah!

Want to see more? Check out the full walk-through and install video on my YouTube channel Mid Michigan Biker: [https://youtu.be/r06L7\\_3s28g](https://youtu.be/r06L7_3s28g)



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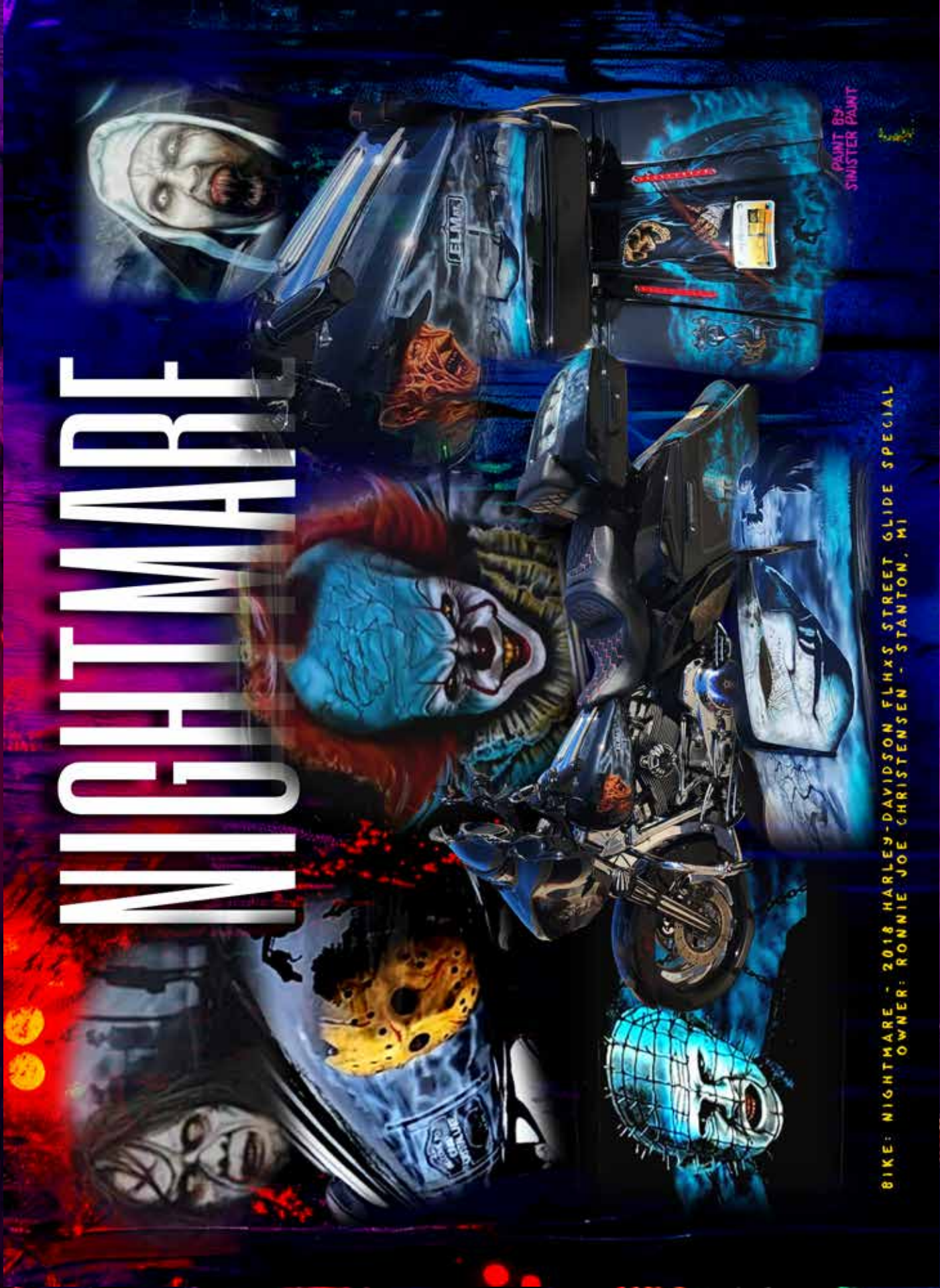
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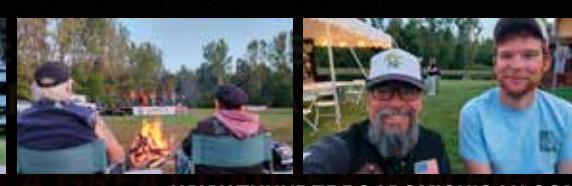
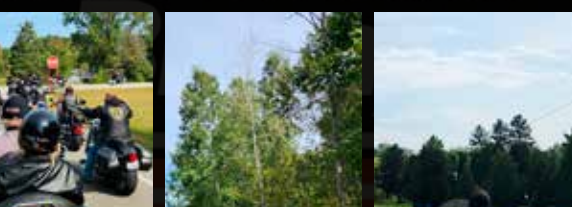
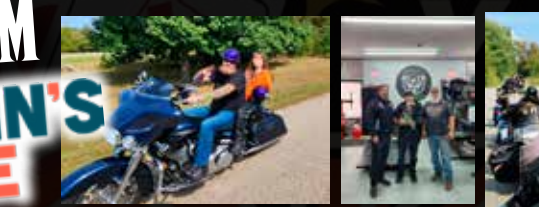




# OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
2ND ANNUAL BIKERS FOR BOOBS RUN THE WHISKY JAR P.R.M.C. 80TH ANNUAL TURKEY RUN TURKEY RUN 2025 BURBA'S TRI-CITY CYCLES	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
KALAMAZOO MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET					TRUNK OR TREAT AT CENTRAL MOTORSPORTS	BETER'S HALLOWEEN BASH TRUNK OR TREAT & TEST & TUNE
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
					HAPPY HALLOWEEN IRON HORSE BAR & GRILL	HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY IRON HORSE BAR & GRILL
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						VETERANS DAY EVENT HOLESNOT H-D





# ABATE UPDATE

## Bike Raffle Weekend & Bike Draw: A True Show of Brotherhood!

**W**hat a weekend! I honestly wasn't sure what to expect. The forecast called for rain, cold temperatures, and more rain... Not exactly what you hope for when you're gearing up for a big event like this. But, as always, ABATE members proved that nothing can keep us down! Huge thanks to everyone who braved the chilly weather and still showed up to support the cause. You all are the heart and soul of what makes these events so special.

We rolled in on Wednesday to set things up, but Mother Nature had other plans. Winds, rain, and I swear I saw some sleet... You know, the kind of weather that makes you question your life choices! But, of course, we made the best of it cuddled up in the camper with the heater on full blast, hoping Thursday would give us a break. And while it wasn't perfect, the sun did peek through, and we started seeing more familiar faces showing up. That definitely lifted my spirits!

By Friday, the weather was still a bit cold, but the camaraderie and energy were off the charts. More campers, more motorcycles, and despite the chill, everyone was in good spirits! Big shoutout to the DJ for keeping the vibes high, and the food vendors for fueling us through the day. It's not easy setting up in those conditions, but it's amazing what we can accomplish when we come together. Special thanks to Kim and Bob for the awesome product displays! They definitely made things feel a bit warmer and brighter! If you didn't check out their setup, make sure you do at the next ABATE seminar!



Saturday, the weather tried to dampen our spirits with a few sprinkles, but of course, we rolled with it. The bike show might've had a smaller turnout than we hoped, but the trophies? Absolutely stunning! Huge thanks to Tom and Dreama for making the trip all the way from Kentucky to help out with nearly every aspect of the event. Your support is what makes this all work. And let's not forget the bike games! Shiny Bob from Region 15 absolutely killed it. He pulled off an amazing event, all while showing just how much heart we put into these gatherings.

The Top Gun Challenge, as always, kept things interesting with a few raindrops making it even more of a challenge. Thanks to Tiny for running that one like a pro, and to the front desk crew and all the volunteers and board members who kept everything running smoothly. The silent and live auctions were a blast, and congratulations to John G from Region 7 for winning the bike draw! Sounded like he chose the Indian over the Harley! The band was the perfect way to end the night with dancing, laughing, and sharing great memories until the late hours.



ABATE of Michigan 2025 bike draw winner: John Gornowicz

A big thank you to the Clare County Fairgrounds for hosting us! The location was absolutely perfect, and I know my region loved it. It's locations like this that make all the difference in creating a welcoming environment for the riding community.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible committee behind the scenes. So, THANK YOU, each and every one of you, for your hard work and dedication. I had a blast, and I'm already looking forward to doing it all over again next year!

### Save the Date!

Looking ahead, we've got Seminar 2026 on the calendar to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Mark your calendars for January 23 & 24, 2026 at the Four Points Hotel in Saginaw. We're planning some exciting sessions, so if you've got ideas for breakout sessions, I'd love to hear them!

Follow ABATE of Michigan on Facebook and also make

sure to follow your Regions social media to keep up to date with what's happening in your area.!

Stay warm, ride safe, and let's keep pushing for more freedom and fun on two wheels!

**Thanks again,**  
**Merry S. Garrett**  
**Proud lifetime member of**  
**ABATE**

**Board Member, State Events**  
**Chair, RC Region 6 (covering**  
**Gladwin, Midland, Bay City**  
**and Arenac counties)**



RJ from Thunder Roads Michigan and I on the bike raffle night.



# VETERANS CORNER



Michigan has a strong community of veterans and riders who support them, especially in the fall when charity rides and memorial events are common. Here's how you can combine both:

## Fall Rides That Support Veterans in Michigan

### 1. Patriot Ride

- Multiple locations, often SE Michigan
- A fundraising ride to support veteran organizations like Fisher House, Wounded Warrior Project, and local shelters.
- Usually happens in early fall. Includes a police escort, flag ceremonies, and food.

### 2. Ride for the Red (American Red Cross - Service to the Armed Forces)

- Varies by year - often Grand Rapids or Lansing area
- Supports emergency assistance for military families and veterans.
- Family-friendly and often tied to community events or car shows.

### 3. Michigan VFW or American Legion Charity Rides

- Held by local posts across the state
- Many VFW and American Legion posts host poker runs and scenic rides to raise funds for veteran support.
- Call or check Facebook pages of local posts to find dates (especially in fall).

### 4. Run for the Fallen / POW-MIA Awareness Rides

- Upper and Northern Michigan
- Honors Michigan's fallen service members and raises awareness for MIA/POWs.
- Usually includes memorial stops and veteran speakers.

## Other Ways to Support While Riding

- **Donate per mile:** Some riders pledge a certain amount per mile to a veteran charity during a fall ride.
- **Wear patches or display flags:** Many groups appreciate visible support like POW-MIA flags or "Support Our Veterans" gear.
- **Ride with veteran groups:** Some veteran MCs (like American Legion Riders) welcome civilians to ride in solidarity during public events.
- **Stop at veteran-owned businesses:** Especially in small Michigan towns—many have veteran-owned diners, shops, or repair garages.

## Sample Fall Ride Plan: "Ride for Vets" Tour

### Best Fall Motorcycle Routes in Michigan:

#### 1. Tunnel of Trees (M-119)

- Harbor Springs to Cross Village
- ~20 miles
- Hugging the Lake Michigan shoreline, this narrow, winding road is lined with dense trees that blaze with fall color.
- **Must-stop:** Legs Inn in Cross Village for Polish food and killer views.

#### 2. US-2 - Upper Peninsula

- St. Ignace to Manistique or beyond
- ~90+ miles
- Combines forest and sweeping Lake Michigan views. Smooth pavement and very light traffic.
- **Stop at:** Cut River Bridge overlook.

#### 3. M-22 Scenic Route

- Manistee → Frankfort → Sleeping Bear Dunes → Traverse City
- ~116 miles (or longer if you explore side routes)
- Rolling hills, shorelines, wineries, and small towns. Insanely beautiful in the fall.
- Detour: Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive in Sleeping Bear.

#### 4. Huron National Forest Loop

- Start from Oscoda or Mio
- Loop through forests, lakes, and quiet towns. The tree canopy here

is breathtaking in October.

- Great for riders who like less traffic and more nature.

### 5. Black River National Forest Scenic Byway

- Near Ironwood (Western UP)
- Waterfalls, tall pines, and some elevation changes. Very remote, but stunning.
- Combine with a visit to Lake of the Clouds in Porcupine Mountains.

## Fall Riding Tips

- Dress in layers: Temps can swing 30°F from morning to afternoon.
- Watch for wet leaves: Especially in corners—slippery like ice.
- Fill up early: Gas stations in the UP and rural areas may be far apart or closed.
- Bring a clear visor or sunglasses: Low sun angles and glare can be tricky.
- Avoid dusk: Deer are very active in the fall.

## Best Time to Go

Region	Peak Color	Notes
Upper Peninsula	Sept 25 - Oct 5	Cooler, fewer bugs Tunnel of
Northern Lower Peninsula	Oct 1 - 15 Trees peak	
Southern MI	Oct 10 - 20	Good for short trips near Detroit, Grand Rapids, etc.

- Add a donation or flag tribute along the ride.
- Coordinate with a local charity or post to make it more official.



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

# shout out

## THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN MAGAZINE® BIKE NIGHT TEAM,

We want to take a moment to say — from the bottom of our hearts — thank you to our incredible Bike Night Team, Ben Weirauch, Chloe Monville, Eric Kruer, Jen Dembrowski, Sam Talbot, and Shane Talbot .

We held six Bike Nights this year (well, five and a rainy one!), and you showed up for every single one. Rain or shine, you brought your energy, your time, and your dedication. From organizing games, selling merchandise and raffle tickets, to setting up, tearing down, and just being there with great attitudes — you helped create something truly special.

Even on the night the skies opened up, you still came out, made the best of it, and turned it into a night full of laughs and memories. That kind of heart is what makes this team and this community so amazing.

We're truly grateful for each one of you and the effort you put in at every level. You helped turn these nights into something special, and we couldn't have done it without you.

We also want to extend a huge thank you to our amazing sponsors — your support was the backbone of this season's success. Whether you contributed financially, donated raffle prizes, helped promote the events, or simply believed in what we were doing, your involvement made a real impact. Your generosity helped us create an unforgettable experience for our riders and community, and we are deeply thankful.

We're proud to partner with businesses and individuals who share our passion for riding and building strong local connections.

Looking forward to many more rides and good times ahead!

RJ & Aly

# shout out

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Northern California

This phenomenal, one of our beacon editions, has been printing for (15) years & they're ready to hang up their publisher's helmets and just start attending out of state rallies and cruising America and literally having no agenda or printing deadlines, and by God, they certainly have earned it.

Terry & Stan Hill are the most amazing people and have published 180 issues of the most beautiful covers and thought provoking articles, people and places to eat, to ride, to drink, all veterans events, & to just kick back and do your thang. y'all are going to be missed tremendously.

They promise to still be a vital part of the bike community and that makes me smile. To know them is to love them and thank you so very much for your integrity and loyalty to the brand and all that you fit under that umbrella, you two were surely a blessing. Thank you from all our souls to both of yours.

Love, Mama Thunder

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## HOT RODS TOPICS



October...Fall is just around the corner! It feels like just a few months ago we were eagerly anticipating the riding season and all the fun it brings, and now we're trying to make the most of the remaining time as the season starts to wrap up. Here's hoping Michigan has a lovely Indian summer in store for us.

Fall also marks the beginning of deer hunting season, rut season, and the time when farmers are harvesting their fields. Deer are on the move, so be extra cautious during those early morning rides, at dusk, and on those two-lane roads where deer like to hang out. Remember to slow down, keep an eye on the sides of the road, and if you spot a deer, do your best to avoid swerving.

We're heading to Wiard's Orchard in Ypsilanti on October 5th for their Community Awareness Weekend and fall festivities to promote motorcycle awareness and suicide prevention. And what's fall without a hayride? Big thanks to Jim and Elaine for organizing one on October 18th. Plus, don't forget about our Casino Bus Trip coming up in November!

By the time this is published, our 5th Annual Car & Bike Show will have already happened, but we still want to give a huge shout-out to RJ and Aly for their amazing support in promoting the event and helping us spread the word about our mission to make a difference. We truly appreciate both of you!

I believe that staying busy is the best remedy, so always remember to be kind and considerate. It really makes a difference.

Stay safe,

**HOT ROD BEATON**

President / Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness and Suicide Prevention Foundation



# BE AWARE

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## STORM CHASERS DRINK RECIPE

# BEETLE JUICE

- 1 OZ VODKA
- 2 OZ ORANGE JUICE
- 1 OZ BLUE CURACAO
- 1 OZ MIDORI
- 25 OZ LEMON LIME SODA
- 1 OZ RASPBERRY LIQUEUR

1. Rim a tall glass with black sugar, and fill it with ice.
2. Pour in vodka, Midori, and orange juice. Stir gently.
3. Use the back of a spoon to slowly layer in blue curacao and raspberry liqueur to create a colorful gradient.
4. Top with a splash of lemon-lime soda, and garnish with an orange twist and spooky candy skewer.



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# JOKER'S WILD

Three vampires walk into a bar.  
The waitress comes up to them and asks them what they'll have? The first vampire says, (Transylvanian accent required) "I'll have a glass of O Positive."  
The second vampire says, "I'll have a glass of O Negative." The third vampire says, "I'm the designated driver."  
I'll just have a glass of plasma."  
The waitress turns toward the bartender and yells, "Gimme' two bloods and one blood lite!"

One dark night Bubba & Buck were walking home after a party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery, just for laughs. Right in the middle of the cemetery they were startled by a tap-tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows. Trembling with fear, they found an old man with a hammer and chisel, chipping away at one of the headstones. "Holy cow, Mister," Bubba said, after catching his breath, "You scared the crap outa' us, we thought you was a real-time, ghost! What the hell are you doing working here so late at night?"  
"Those idiots!" the old man grumbled.  
"They misspelled my damn name!"

I really want to get my hands in some nice, rich soil and grow something, but have looked everywhere and can not find Taco seeds.

Me using paper plates has zero to do with being poor. I just don't like washing dishes. If I could, I'd use paper pots too.

Splenda Daddy = A man who strives to be a Sugar Daddy but just doesn't have the money to pull it off.

If you get a loan at a bank, you'll be paying on it for 30 years. If you rob a bank, hide the money really good, you'll be out in 10 years. Follow me for more financial advice.

Looking into Essential Oils cause everyone is raving about them. Which one is it that calms other people down? Chloroform? It's Chloroform isn't it?

Hubby farts and lets out a big sigh of relief. His wife just shakes her head. Hubby says, "Hey, will you let me enjoy the fact that farting is literally the only gas that I can now afford?"

Teacher: Lil' Joey, it's Halloween month, can you use the word "gruesome" in a sentence?  
Lil' Joey: "Yes ma'am, I used to be shorter but then I gruesome."

A little known fact only by me; every time that my children don't answer their phone when I'm needing to reach them, I take a \$100. out of their inheritance account and put it in my nursing home account.

The Math teacher asked Lil' Joey, "How many feet are there in a yard?"  
Lil' Joey didn't miss a beat and replied, "Now that will depend on how many people are standing in the yard."

The Teacher saw that Lil' Joey and Lil' Bennie were laughing at the back of the class, so she calls out to them exactly why are they disrupting the class yet again and what it so funny?  
Lil' Joey says, "Bennie was making fun of my girlfriend about her teeth." Teacher asks "and what is funny about this girl's teeth, Lil' Bennie?"  
Lil' Bennie yells out, she's missing quite a few on top and bottom so I told Lil' Joey that his girl had "summer teeth", summer here and summer missing."

When I dunk my cookies in my milk, I always think of you and hold them under until not a single bubble appears. jsyk

All these years and Folgers had it wrong all along, the best part of waking up is going back to bed after you pee.

Pulled out a nose hair today to see how bad it hurt .... judging by the reaction of the guy asleep next to me on the bus, it hurt like hell.

I saw a Fortune Teller the other day. She told me I would come into some money. Last night I banged a girl named Penny. Is that spooky or what?

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN BOOS & GHOULS !!





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### October 5

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bikers for Boobs Run  
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- High Standard Automotive  
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- P.H.M.C. 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Run  
Port Huron M/C  
3376 Griswold Rd.  
Port Huron, MI  
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- Turkey Run 2025  
Bubba's Tri-City Cycle's  
Crump Fox Club  
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### October 11

- Beeter's BREW-B-Q Special  
Beeter's Brew Pub  
902 E Pine St.  
Sebewaing, MI  
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- Fall Event  
Holeshot Harley-Davidson  
4741 E. Pickard St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI  
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- Scooter's  
"Broomsticks & Bad Decisions"  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual SAD Witches Event  
Scooter's Bar & Grill  
6004 Torrey Rd.  
Flint, MI  
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### October 19

- Kalamazoo, MI  
Motorcycle Swap Meet  
Wings Event Center  
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Kalamazoo, MI  
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### October 24

- Trunk or Treat at Central  
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905 Corporate Drive  
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### October 25

- Beeter's Halloween Bash  
Beeter's Brew Pub  
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- Trunk or Treat & Test & Tune  
Port Huron M/C  
3376 Griswold Rd.  
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### November 1

- Halloween Costume Party  
Iron Horse Bar & Grill  
3592 Main St.  
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### November 8

- Veterans Day Event  
Holeshot Harley-Davidson  
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