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Magazine MICHIGAN

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10 AM - 12 PM: RIDE IN BIKE SHOW REGISTRATION AT THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN BOOTH. \*FREE TO ENTER SHOW.

12 PM - 2 PM: BIKE SHOW AND VOTING IN MAIN EVENT AREA. AWARDS ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER VOTING.



OGEMAW COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
WEST BRANCH, MI

## THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2026

- 6 pm - 9 pm : Open Mic Night in the Wangler Pavilion. Free entry for tonight ONLY. Hosted by J.R. Cook and Mind Magik Tattoo.
- 9pm - Midnight Karaoke

## FRIDAY JUNE 19, 2026

- 9am - 10:30 pm: Registration at the Fairgrounds. Public Welcome, We ID, \$35 entry fee per person. Entry fee good for entire weekend. Golf Cart registration, \$25 each.
- 9 am - 10:30: Poker Run Registration
- 11 am: Blessing of the Bikes by CMA under Bike Show Tent.
- 12 pm: Dave Miner Memorial Scavenger Hunt / Poker Run KSU@Noon
- 3 pm - 6 pm: Show Your Chrome, Downtown West Branch
- 6:30 pm: Audio Show hosted by Insomnia Bagger Audio in Main Event Area.
- 7:30 pm: Loud Pipe Competition hosted by 508 Fab, Machining & V-Twin Performance in Main Event Area. \*Free to enter competition.
- 8 pm: Entertainment in the Griffin Barn. Sunset Blvd

## SATURDAY JUNE 20, 2026

- 9 am - 9 pm: Registration at the Fairgrounds. Public Welcome, We ID, \$35 entry fee per person. Entry fee good for entire weekend. Golf Cart registration, \$25 each.
- 10 am - 12 pm: Ride in Bike Show registration at Thunder Roads Michigan Booth. \*Free to enter show.
- 10 am - 5 pm: Tattoo Contest registration and judging. Sponsored by Mind Magik Tattoo. Winners will be posted at Mind Magik Tattoo Booth and announced in between entertainment.
- 11:30 am: VCR Stunt Show in Main Event Area.
- 12 pm - 2 pm: Ride in Bike Show and voting under Bike Show Tent. Winners announced immediately after show.
- 2 pm - 3 pm: Fuzzy's Field Events registration in Main Event Area. Sponsored by Gildner's Harley-Davidson.
- 2 pm: VCR Stunt Show in Main Event Area.
- 3 pm: Event Registration for the Hot Pepper Eating Contest at the Wangler Pavilion.
- 5 pm: Hot Pepper Eating Contest
- 8 pm: Entertainment in the Griffin Barn. Mandi Layne & The Lost Highway

\*Raffle ticket drawing will take place during the live entertainment in the Griffin Barn.

**\*\*Front gate registration closes at 9 pm on Friday and Saturday nights. Admittance to the grounds will only be permitted to those who already have a wristband\*\***

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## IN MEMORIAM OF KEN "FUZZY" GILDNER

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# MICHIGAN Magazine

## THUNDER ROADS® MICHIGAN MAGAZINE

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## LETTER FROM THE OWNERS

**W**elcome to the June issue of Thunder Roads Michigan! We are absolutely blown away by the incredible response to the Ride n' Win contest this year. Since relaunching the registration sign-ups in April, the numbers have been off the charts. It is amazing to see so many of you getting involved and gearing up for what is going to be an unforgettable riding season. Michigan Rally season is officially upon us, and the energy across the state is electric! As much as we love being out on the road with all of you, bringing this magazine together sometimes keeps us tied to the desk. Unfortunately, we had to miss the Baldwin Blessing this year to ensure we hit our print deadline for this very June issue. It is always tough to miss such a staple event in our community, but getting these pages into your hands on time is a priority we don't take lightly.

The good news is that our calendars are packed for the rest of the season. We absolutely cannot wait to see everyone at all the future events and all the bike nights we can squeeze in. Plus, all of the rides we have lined up this year. Getting out there and sharing the road with you is exactly why we do what we do.

Before I sign off, I need to take a personal point of privilege to send a huge Happy Birthday to Aly! I want to thank her from the bottom of my heart for everything she does for me, the magazine, for the



community, and for all of us together. I promise to make your monumental birthday an incredibly memorable one my love, but the details of our getaway to have to remain a closely guarded secret! If you see her out and about... please wish her a happy birthday! Summer is here. More miles, more smiles!!!

Ride safe,  
 ~RJ

Blue Water Eagle Riders #3702  
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## CHAPLAIN CHARLIE'S CORNER:

# "THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE ROAD"

BY CHAPLAIN CHARLIE

There's a bond that forms on two wheels that's hard to explain to anyone who's never lived it.

It's not just about the bikes. It's not even just about the rides. It's about something deeper, something built over miles, over shared experiences, over laughter, and sometimes over things that hit you a little harder as the years go by.

Lately, I've had an old friend on my mind. His name was Danny Davis.

Danny and I go way back, before licenses, before responsibility, before life had a way of speeding things up. I'm talking minibikes and dirt bikes, riding around like a couple of kids who thought we had the world figured out. Those were simple days, but they built something that stuck.

When we turned sixteen, we both stepped it up and got road bikes. And like a couple of determined (and maybe slightly stubborn) young riders, we decided we needed to do things right, we signed up for motorcycle certification classes over at Delta College.

Now here's the part that still makes me smile...

We rode our motorcycles to the motorcycle certification class. But we didn't exactly want the instructor to know that, so we parked on the far side of campus and walked in like we had just casually shown up. Looking back, that probably wasn't the smartest move, but it was pure us. Determined, a little rebellious, and completely committed to the ride.

Those days weren't about being impressive. They were about being together. Life, as it tends to do, eventually took us in different directions. Maybe ten years after high school, maybe even a little less, we lost touch. We didn't ride together anymore. Didn't really hang out. Like a lot of friendships from our younger years, time and life just created distance.

But here's the part that's been on my heart lately...

Even though we didn't stay in touch, I never stopped considering Danny one of my closest friends from that season of my life. Isn't that something?

We tend to think brotherhood only counts if it's current, if we're still talking, still riding, still seeing each other regularly. But sometimes the deepest bonds are the ones that were built in a specific chapter... and they last long after that chapter ends. Danny was one of those friendships for me.

One memory stands out as clear as yesterday. We were riding out in the Bullock Creek area in Midland Township, beautiful stretch of road, the kind you don't forget. Out of nowhere, a seagull shot up from the ditch alongside the road and hit Danny square in the chest.

Now, I'll be honest, I was young, and my first reaction wasn't concern. I thought it was hilarious. We both pulled over, made sure he was okay, and once we realized he was fine, we laughed about it. Really laughed. The kind of laugh that only comes when you're young and riding with someone who feels more like a brother than just a friend.

That's the thing about the brotherhood of riding. It's not built on perfection. It's built on shared moments, some serious, some ridiculous, all meaningful.

Danny passed away earlier this year. It wasn't anything related to riding, just health issues that caught up far too soon.

And like a lot of you reading this, I've found myself thinking back on those early days more than usual. The rides, the laughs, the stories, and the brotherhood.

The Bible speaks to that kind of connection more than people might realize. In Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, it says, "Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

That's not just about life in general, that's the road, too. How many times have you seen a rider pulled over and someone else stops? No questions asked. No hesitation. Just... brotherhood.

In Proverbs 27:17, we're told, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Every ride, every conversation at a gas stop, every shared mile, it shapes us. The people we ride with make us better, stronger, wiser... sometimes just by being there.

And one of my favorites, John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

That kind of love isn't always about the dramatic moments. Sometimes it's in the quiet loyalty, the kind that doesn't disappear just because life pulled you in different directions.

That's what Danny and I had. And I know I'm not the only one who's been blessed with that kind of friendship on the road.

Here's the truth, we don't always realize how important those relationships are while we're living them. We think there will always be another ride, another summer, another chance to tell that same old story again. And then one day, we're left with the memories. Good ones. Strong ones. The kind that sticks with you every time you fire up the engine.

So, if there's anything I'd encourage you to do this month, it's this: lean into the brotherhood. Don't just ride, connect. Show up to the bike nights. Shake hands. Tell stories. Meet someone new.

And if you've been around the Michigan riding scene for any length of time, you already know one of the best places to do that is through **Thunder Roads Michigan**. Their bike nights and events all across the state aren't just about showing off bikes, they're about building that connection, that community, that brotherhood we all need more of.

Because at the end of the day, it's not the chrome, the horsepower, or even the miles that matter most. It's the people. It's the ones who rode beside you when life was simple... and the ones who ride beside you now.

Danny may not be riding these roads anymore, but those miles we shared? Those laughs? That brotherhood? That stays. And every time I head out on the road, in some small way, he's still riding with me.

Until our next journey in Chaplain's Corner, ride safe, and may God's blessings guide you on every road you choose.

Yours in faith and fellowship,  
**Chaplain Charlie**  
*Chaplain Charlie*  
**Chaplain Dean Titus (Charlie)**  
**Sanford American**  
**Legion Riders #443**



**SEPTEMBER 11-12-13, 2026**  
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- Mini-Bike Races

**SAT., SEPT. 12TH**

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**June 6th, 2026 • Saginaw, MI**

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- All bikes on the road by noon
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- All bikes welcome

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# SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

## OWOSSO VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE DAYS

WINNER CHOSEN BY PEOPLES CHOICE!

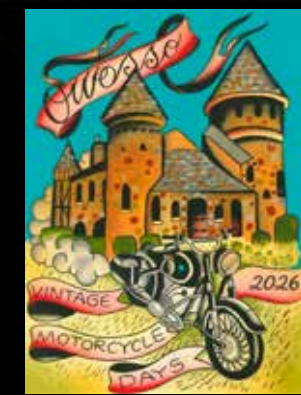
SEASON IV

WYLD STALLIONS MOTORCYCLE BUILD

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FOLLOW THE BUILD ON FACEBOOK!



# WYLD STALLIONS MOTORCYCLE BUILD 2026 SEASON 4

BY RJ, PUBLISHER OF THUNDER ROADS® MICHIGAN

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Welcome to the 2026 Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Build Competition! With deadlines that blow past us like we are standing still we missed getting updates from the builders in the April issue, but we are back on track and edging closer to the finale in August. Judging by the photos in this month's issue and short stories from the builders, it's going to come down to the wire once again. Some may not even finish in time. Who will succeed and show up for the chance to be crowned winner of the Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Build this year?... That's up to you! Join us on August 29th at Owosso Vintage Motorcycle Days for the WSMB Show and come ready to vote for your favorite bike!

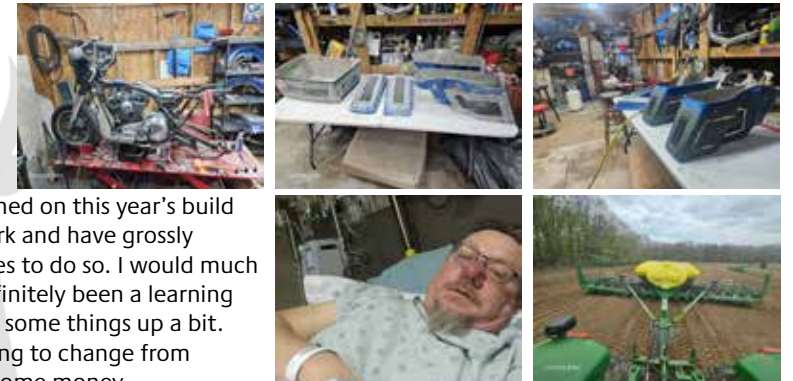


Best of luck to all and Godspeed to all the builders. We can't wait to welcome you to Owosso for another unforgettable finale of the Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Build Competition!

~ RJ



## FARMING BIKER RETURNING BUILDER FENTON MI



MORNIN, not a lot has been accomplished on this year's build so far. I have started all the fiberglass work and have grossly underestimated the length of time it takes to do so. I would much rather weld and grind on steel. It has definitely been a learning experience. I have also decided to switch some things up a bit. Due to the fact we have a lot of medical bills rolling in. I am going to change from powder coating a lot of parts, to painting them myself to save some money.

I started to get into my busy time of the year, and I've fallen behind even further. On top of the build and farming, I had to do a few day stint in the hospital because I came down with pancreatitis. Ya, for me... I will say that is very painful. I did however manage to get all my paint ordered, so I finally decided on colors. I got that going for me. I need to finish the mockup stage in order to move on to painting before it gets too late. I have not touched my build in over a month since being in the hospital and being home to recover. That whole adventure lasted long enough to roll me into planting season. In fact, I am writing this from the cab of a tractor! As soon as planting is complete, I plan on hitting the build hard to make up for the lost time and to get it done. Yes, I do feel I am behind on this year's build, but I'll see you in August at the Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Build finale.

## JAYBIRD

RETURNING 2025 WSMB WINNER  
LOST SOULS CUSTOMZ  
PITTSBURGH PA



Well, it's been a crazy. I raced down at Sons of Speed with my prototype all aluminum construction frame, first of its kind. I placed 3rd officially but in my heart, it was a win. The bike ran amazingly fast as all get up and pulled hard. I was in 1st place for most of the race,

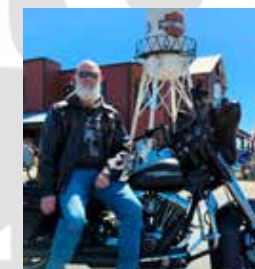
but more experienced riders got me in the last 50 feet. A few minor issues warrant a design change on the frame, but I survived. I placed good and the frame stayed in one piece. The motor I built in two days was a wild success. I plan to improve and maximize the potential of my designs, come back even stronger, throw some paint on her, and slowly but surely make my way into Wyld Stallions again for my 2nd year. All good things this update... besides blowing a motor on the dyno- lol, but I'm looking forward to this year's successes and for what the other builders come up with.

Since the race, I've been relaxing softly building my second bike of the year for The Race of Gentlemen aka TROG. I decided to fly out to Arizona and buy a 1937 Chevy truck that allowed me to switch hobbies outside of motorcycles, relax, and have an epic adventure against insane odds. I met up with a friend who is also buying a truck in AZ and were gunna tow the 37 back with his truck on a 2500-mile adventure. Overall, I'm just enjoying life and having fun working hard when I'm home. In the mix of things, I'm planning for my wedding in July; it's quite a beautiful life I'm living. As I type this, I'm getting ready to go on a bike ride in the mountains of Arizona and plan to finish the day fishing in the evening. Still, I'm looking forward to getting home and to begin working on my 1937 double whammies; the truck and bike build are both 1937's. What an epic adventure this year has been so far and I can wait to see what else is in store for me! That being said, I built a motorcycle! See the finished product downtown Owosso, MI August 29th at the Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Show and Build Finale! In conjunction with Owosso Vintage Motorcycle Days Show! See you there and make your vote count!



## CHARLES STEPHENS NEWCASTLE IN

I'm Charles Stephens, a custom motorcycle builder based in Newcastle, Indiana. I've been building bikes for over five years, specializing in hand-built choppers and custom metal fabrication. There's nothing better than watching raw metal transform into a running, living machine. Over the years I've built XS650, KZ440, and KZ400 choppers, along with Harley Sportsters and Honda Shadow baggers — but choppers are where my heart truly is. I'm drawn to their raw lines, minimalist style, and the freedom they represent. 2026 marks my first-year building for Wyld Stallions, and I'm excited to push my work to a higher, more professional level and bring my vision to a bigger stage. This year's build will be an Evolution-powered chopper with a bright, bold color palette and a skinny, old-school stance. I love the sound and character of the Evo motor — it delivers modern reliability while keeping that classic chopper soul. My goal is simple: build a bike that is clean, honest, and full of personality — a build that looks good, sounds right, and feels alive.very loud paint job with custom powder coating. I'm planning to have the wheels, and frame powder coated by Pirate Powder Coating. As well as some of the other parts. They did a great job on last year's build for me, and I'll be using them again this time around. I will also be changing the stereo to a more modern one. The cassette deck in it now SUCKS. I will be stepping out of my comfort zone on this build and trying to do a fair amount of fiberglass work on it. I have never messed with fiberglass before. So just as soon I become YouTube Certified I can start fiber glassing my butt off. We have another tough year of talented competitors participating and I will be giving it my all in hopes of bringing home the big W.



## JEFF HITTLE SWARTZ CREEK MI

I've got the cases painted black and the bottom end of engine and the top is back together. I fell a little behind due to my daughter being in the hospital for over a week, but I was able to get the top end of engine built and painted and got to tackle the carburetor and wiring.

Luckily with the warmer weather we had, it allowed me to get to the painting of the cam cover and primary cover. Engine is getting closer to firing up and the bike is now wired with the exception of headlight. Super happy with using a Gremlin Wiring kit as it substantially reduced all the wires in the harness for a cleaner look and repositioning the coil to the top of the motor mount with shorter spark plug wires helped even more.





# BRETT PICKETT JACKSON MI W/ JAY HETFIELD HOLT MI



Turns out, building a chopper is humbling. I have rediscovered how awful my decision making is! I want every style all at once. Do I go full west coast classic long and skinny like I've always envisioned riding along the PCH or stay true to my midwestern roots and keeping it short and stubby, just like the good Lord made me! Could I blend them?? Throughout history, they've had many names for washed up skateboarders who worked in breweries. Poser or Hipster, still have that same ol' timeless bite to 'em! So, there I was...STUCK! and in complete denial of the fact. With guidance from my Chopular Sensei, Jay Hetfield, I started just getting out of the way and simply let this bike build itself. Which leads right into my second helping of humbling. So far, every piece of this build has been donated by friends, (Jason included...yes, we're technically friends). This aspect alone has been my biggest flex and the driving force behind keeping the stoke alive when I would feel completely out of my element. Sportsters have always felt a bit cramped, so this was my chance to make one fit more like its bigger twins. I decided that we're going to go with a 6" stretch and keeping it mild up front with a 3" over front end. Next decisions are... SEAT: springer, fender mount, or a vintage King/Queen. BARS: T Bars or Mini apes w/ pull back risers. FOOT CONTROLS: Mid or forward

Sisco Hayes donated a dusty springer seat so Sir Hetfield whipped out a sissy bar and cut a seat mount/hinge rig off that plasma table so fast he could have went streaking thru the quad and into the gymnasium! We have been sweating the shit out of the stretch since we welded it up, but within a week we secured the pullback risers from Corby F.N. Howk! UtahTucky, threw in a brand-new log oil tank that we had to relief cut, then we capped 'er off with a Ribbed Fer Rear Pleasure Fender supplied by Master Sensei Tanny Watson and BAM! The Chopular Gods featuring John F'n Denver sun shined down on our GD shoulders and we pulled off a roller! Counting down the days until the show. It's already been a long year the last few months between work, family, house, cars, kids, sports, getting old; but Jason and I have started to see the light at the end of this single downtube tunnel! We could not be happier with the stance. Any idea I've had or direction I've wanted to lean into, Jason, nails it! This Dude will just write it down, draw it up, fab it out and then it's just a part of the bike within the same hour. The biggest concern now is whether I'm gonna leave it raw metal or go with custom paint from Corby Howk (or my daughter Ruby June). This week are fitting the mounts, then wiring, and firing it up! Donated parts list Thank You's so far: Bob Pickett. Charles Adkins. Andrew "Carp" Carpenter. Cabe F'n Churchill. Tanny Watson. Lance Ziegler. Corby F'n Howk. Tyler Sisco. Logan Churchill. Mikey Loyer. Tommy Andalon. Tucker Brunson. Mike Romm. Ogma Brewing. Oh, and Jay Motha F'n Hetfield!



# NIC CARLIN RETURNING BUILDER CO-HOST WYLDSTALLIONSMB PODCAST ANGOLA IN



It didn't take long to realize that I was further behind than I have been in previous years and working on a bike that I am not very familiar with... so it's been another exciting challenge. Along with trying to make progress on the bike, we have been working hard on building the Facebook page and YouTube channel by attending different shows in the area and trying to help spread the word of Wyld Stallions. Bike update Progress is moving sloooooowwwwwww on my build bike. Life has been kicking my ass lately leaving very little free time. I finally got the tear down completed and that is where the progress had stopped for a while. With that said I got my hardtail in from Voodoo Vintage Fabrication. Next step is to start cutting up the frame and getting everything in place to weld it all back together. I was able to score a spare motor a month or so back that will be dropping in place of the worn-out motor currently in the bike. Once I get all that done it's only a matter of paint, powder coat, bars, electrical, tins, and probably 20 other things I'm forgetting. Easy peasy, right? We're gonna push through and make it to the show in August. See you there.



# MATT LARUE DEFIANCE OH



So, there seems to be a theme to bike building and balancing home and work life. Day to day projects trump the bike build unfortunately. And time has been going way too fast. It's been hard to keep track of what day it is. Thankfully, I have been able to acquire most of the parts I need to get the bike to run. I also placed the order for my custom-built front end. Shout out to Mondo at Denver's Choppers for this wonderful opportunity to have him build an amazing springer for me. On the other hand, I still haven't gotten around to finish welding up my frame because I keep getting sidetracked with finding parts and that fun thing called work, that's everyone's favorite thing to do right? I did find the time to get everything mocked for spacing and now I can make my top motor mount. Hopefully this upcoming month I can get back at it to get the frame finished so it can go off to get powder coated from non-other than Pirates Powder Coating. As soon as it gets back, I should be able to start my final assembly. I have been able to get 90% of everything I need for this build to run. I am still waiting on my front end and I will need a set of tires and paintwork to be complete at that point. Hopefully, with my timeline, we can make sure we get the bike completed.



# BRIAN SALTY BADGER ANGOLA ID



My vision is starting to take shape after the month of April's procrastinations. I got a killer gas tank from White Line Creations (Instagram@white\_line\_creations) out of North Carolina for the build. Got it test fitted and laid down some dimes down on the backbone to attach it to the neck and engine mounts...If the taxman left me any change that it is. I got stuck in the mockup phase trying to get the frame set while waiting on wheels to come in so things can get rolling toward setting the rake, trail and ride height. Motor went on the bench for an overhaul then my mind went to a Divorster - my wife's idea. She made mention of it after late nights in the shop. Glad she's finally got on board! Either way it's gonna get done divorced or not. All joking aside, I head to bed before the sun goes down to stare at the ceiling and think about the build. I imagine finishing and showing up to the finale and still my mind takes me to the side of the road when it breaks, walking to the gas station when it runs out of gas and pushing it to ride in Bike Shows because it wants to do chopper things. If you see me on the road, feel free to stop and look for random parts I lost or where I set my glasses. See you in August at Owasso Vintage Motorcycle Days!



# SHELLEY GRIMES DEFIANCE OH



The beginning of my build has been filled with a lot of figure out and wait. My frame and a few other parts went out to Pirate Powder Coating while my motor went to Hills Performance for a once over. Finding my paint in the meantime made me feel like I had a productive start, just not physical progress at first. Now things are moving very fast even with some parts being back ordered. Pirate Powder Coating can gold leaf parts! They did a few of mine and they are amazing. I have the rear tire temporarily on and hope to make it to paint soon. Sometimes things seem to be stuck in motion, but the guys have been great about answering questions and helping when I need them. My seat I ordered was delivered and I hope it's as comfortable as it looks. Nothing but progress from here on out until August.



# MARTY GRIMES

## DEFIANCE OH

The first month things are still in the design phase for the bike. The motor came along nicely, but it ended up needing a little more than I hoped. The rotating assembly needed completely rebuilt and cylinders needed bored. It's out to .040 over now so it should run well. Ordering more general parts always seems to slow down progress, however still moving forward. Still working on the other bike in the mix, hopefully that will be finished soon. Was able to get paint finished and further assembly work and continue to make parts and get them ready to go to Pirate's. Speedometer bracket turned out pretty good. Motor is ready for assembly. Had to go up to .040 over on jugs, all new shafts, rods, cam, bearings. So ended up having to get a little deeper in than I expected. Should be a nice stroker motor when finished. Lately, I'm having to spend too much time being an adult. Seems like everything needs worked on all at once. That being said I was able to finish up my other chopper and working a few bugs out. My Wyld Stallion build, however, may take a turn from the original plan. We found a Finch springer, Finch tail lights, and a Little John gas tank. Although it won't be as long as I planned, I think it could really be a cool bike with a lot of period parts. Still trying to work out the math. So really there has been movement on it just not much physically. The motor is ready to assemble, may need to touch up one of the valves. I got tires and wheels for it this month also. Here are pictures of the bike I just finished.

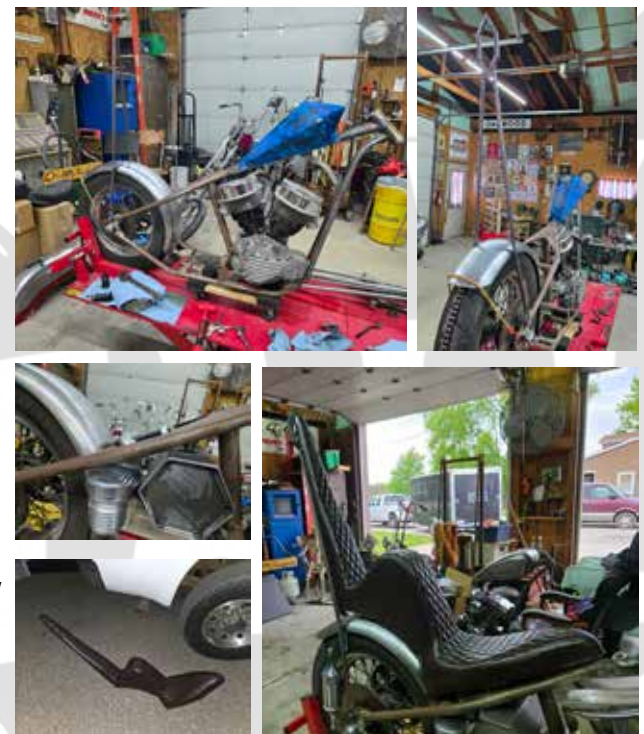


# FRANK GRIMES

RETURNING 2024 WSMB WINNER

## DEFIANCE OH

The beginning months were a bit slow for me. With changing jobs and hitting up a few shows, I was still able to get a little bit done. I got the oil tank and filter set up mounted where I want them, and I'm very pleased with how it looks! The big highlight at the start was hitting up the Mama Tried Bike Show, as well as the Harley museum. I got to see some really cool bikes and hang out with some really cool people! Since then, I continued my slow steady progress. I will say I'm really liking how the bike is starting to take shape! Over the past months I have got my battery mount made and bolted on, I feel like I will probably revisit this particular part later to try to dress it up a little bit. The battery tucked up under the seat just like I had hoped, where it's pretty well hidden. I also got the Ron Finch taillights mounted. That part was quite challenging... I wasn't able to mount them where I originally had planned, but I am happy with how it looks with the third location option. I have also started to figure out the stretching out the front end. With the weather getting warmer, it has been a little harder to spend time in the shop with all the springtime adult responsibilities, like mowing the yard and fixing things around the house that have been put off because, well, it was just cold outside! This past month things took a bit of a turn on the build bike, and as a result I will have to redo some things that I already had done. When I get the chance, I do like to incorporate some "chopper history" into my builds, and this bike is no exception. With the 70s prism tank and the Ron Finch taillights, even the old Fury girder frontend. I thought I had my seat and sissy bar all figured out and good to go, but while dad and I were walking around at the Imlay City swap meet, I stumbled across an old seat.... Not just any seat, it was the perfect seat! A vintage 70s, bomber brown king queen seat. I got it home and set it on the frame, and bam, it fit perfectly! So even though it cost me a setback, and redoing things, I'm really excited about it, and I really think it will just flow with the rest of the bike. I can't wait to see what everyone brings to the show in August, as well as watching everyone's ideas come to life!



# DEREK LONG

RETURNING BUILDER - WSMB  
CREATOR LONGS SPEED  
CO. - OWOSSO VINTAGE  
MOTORCYCLE DAYS  
OWOSSO MI

It took me longer this year to shake the frost off and really kick myself into gear on the build. This year has been so far about building the Wyld Stallions presence and exposure which we have made some good progress on (I think). And all while doing that I have been trying to get some personal boxes checked for my personal business etc. I have put a lot of thought into this build changing the idea of everything once or thrice. So, I wanted to make sure before major surgery happens that it's the path needed and I'm not chasing the wrong route (that's happened more than ideal). So, we move forward with the 10 over springer (will be looking for Pirate Powder Coating to be handling this soon...just choosing the correct shade) and procured another frame and transmission and decided to do the chopping on that and not the boxy FXR frame. Found the rear rim so wheels are figured and I've taken said newly procured frame and cut a notch in it raking it to 42 degrees. So more of a mental hurdle to say I've progressed on but less physical and I'm hoping that flips very shortly, the mind is a hard place to be at times but was hopefully necessary for the next chapters upcoming. The road to August has led to multiple "Irons in the fire" almost where it's leaving me burnt due to the fire under my ass to accomplish these objectives but also feeling burnt-out not knowing which direction to point myself. Getting on two-wheels lately has been good for me and helped me at getting out of my own way and the new outlook is easier with the help of the sun. It's been great to get out and shake the cobwebs. The bike is still coming along, still more planning than movement, but I have always stuck to the statement that sometimes the best offense is a detailed and planned defense, in this case planning over cutting without clear direction. Although, I have raked and windowed the neck and reattached to the front down tubes. We have pulled the motor out of the other bike and are looking at the correct layout of the motor and trans into the frame before I cast lines for the backbone. Then it's off to tying into the rear axle plates... more to come on this After originally removing the neck for some surgery raking the neck to 42 Degrees it was then windowed and cleaned and reattached 3 inches higher than originally. Also was able to tie in the backbone of the frame and was able to use the original frame castings, tying it all back together. Also picked up a nice period correct king queen seat that I feel will tie into this overall design pulling it all together. Make sure you watch this thing come together and see the finished product Downtown Owosso, MI August, 29 Wyld Stallions Motorcycle Show and Build Finale!, In conjunction with Owosso Vintage Motorcycle Days Show! "Come one come all and vote for your favorite Build, and take a stroll seeing Custom Vintage, and Proper Vintage all in one. And let's shut the town down with Thunder all around. Until next time, "Be Excellent to Each Other." P.s.. Watch our Live Facebook/YouTube wyldstallionsmotorcyclebuild And follow our builds and upcoming events, @facebook/wyldstallionsmotorcyclebuild @Instagram/wyldstallionsmotorcyclebuild @youtube-wyldstallionsmotorcyclebuild



FOLLOW THE BUILD ON FACEBOOK!



# VETERANS CORNER



## Rolling into June with Purpose and Pride...

June opens the door to Michigan's best riding weather, long daylight, warm pavement, and the kind of fresh air that reminds every Veteran rider why two or Three wheels feel like freedom. For Michigan Veterans, this month isn't just about good riding conditions. It's about connection, purpose, and carrying forward the values we lived in uniform.

### Summer Roads, Veteran Discipline

Michigan riders know June can be deceptive. Blue skies in the morning can turn into lake-effect rain and slick roads by evening. Veteran riders have a built-in advantage: discipline, preparation, and situational awareness.

**Before any June ride, whether it's a short local loop or a multi-day Upper Peninsula run, a quick pre-check matters:**

- Tire pressure for warm-weather riding
- Battery strength after spring temperature swings
- Fresh fluids and topped-off coolant
- Functional riding gear (don't stash the gloves or boots just because it's warm)

Mission mindset still pays off. A prepared rider isn't lucky, they're intentional.

### June Is Community Month for Veteran Riders

All across Michigan, June kicks off bike nights, charity rides, and Veterans meetups. For many of us, this isn't just recreation, it's camaraderie. Veteran riders understand each other without needing to say a word. The road becomes a reunion, a therapy session, and a support network all in one.

Whether you ride with a local group, a statewide Veterans' club, or solo, June is the perfect time to reconnect with your tribe.

### Heat, Hydration, and Health, Don't Ignore the Basics

You can power through discomfort in uniform, but on a motorcycle, ignoring your body is a risk. Michigan's June temperatures might feel mild compared to the South, but dehydration can sneak up fast.

#### Quick reminders for summer riding:

- Hydrate every stop, not just "when you feel thirsty"
  - Take breaks before fatigue hits
  - Keep sunscreen in your saddlebags
  - Wear ventilated gear instead of ditching protection
- Riding smart is not about looking tough, it's about staying alive.

### June Roads Are Veteran Roads

Whether you cruise the shoreline along M-22, cut through farm country, or head toward the UP, every Michigan road in June tells a story. For many Veterans, riding brings clarity, focus, and peace that's hard to find anywhere else.

June is the month to enjoy it fully, honoring the freedom we protected, remembering those who no longer ride beside us, and carrying their memory every mile.

### Final Thought

To every Michigan Veteran rider: June is your season. Ride often, ride prepared, and ride with pride. The road is calling, answer it with the same strength and purpose you lived in uniform.



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

SHARON K HARVEY, USAF  
(RETIRED)  
STORMY

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THE THUMBS BEST BIKE DESTINATIONS

# BIKE BASH 2026 IN MEMORIAM OF KEN "FUZZY" GILDNER (1939-2025) WHAT A RIDE!

BY RJ CALLES

Does the question, "Are you going to West Branch this year?" sound familiar? Or how about, "You going to Ogemaw?" If those ring a bell, chances are you remember when it was known as the H.O.G. Rendezvous Rally. There is a rich history woven into those roads, and it all dates back to the 1980s.



It started around 1984, spearheaded by the Michigan Harley-Davidson Dealers Association just one year after the national Harley Owners Group was officially launched. It was the very first Michigan State H.O.G. Rally. It can easily be said that it was the one that started them all. In its glory days, this massive motorcycle festival grew to draw crowds of over 8,000 bikers. Not bad for its time and for something that began as a one-day "Meet in the City" event in West Branch!

The rally thrived for years before relocating to Ionia in the 2000s where it faded away until it was canceled entirely by 2008. Since then, there are now other H.O.G. rallies throughout the state, but nothing in comparison to the parties that were held in West Branch! When the Rendezvous left for Ionia, Ogemaw County wasn't about to let the rumble die and the Ogemaw Hills Bike Rally (often just called "Bike Week") was born. The very next year the event helped protect the massive economic boost the biker tourism brought to the town. Business owners and locals immediately volunteered to launch the Ogemaw Hills Bike Rally. After a gritty start and a whole lot of persistence, it eventually evolved into the largest independent biker festival in Michigan. Through all the name changes and growing pains, one pillar of the community remained a constant: Gildner's Harley-Davidson, owned by Ken "Fuzzy"



Gildner, his wife Joyce, and their children.

Today, as the Ogemaw County Agricultural Society breathes new life into the tradition with the 4th annual Bike Bash, Fuzzy's spirit is front and center. Before his passing in January 2025, we were so glad to hear from his family that Fuzzy was thrilled to see the event returning, and that he even made it out to the first two. Gildner's H-D remains a proud sponsor of the June festivities, and Bike

Bash is keeping his memory alive by naming their outdoor activities "Fuzzy's Field Events", which are a fitting tribute to the legendary games he hosted for years at the dealership's open houses.

Fuzzy was there from the beginning, but his roots in the Michigan riding community go much deeper. Many might not know that Fuzzy was a prominent event organizer and community coordinator for the historic Jack Pine motorcycle runs that passed through West Branch for over 40 years. He played a vital role in organizing the checkpoints and making the town a major midway rest point for the grueling 500-to-800-mile endurance loop. He provided technical support, parts, and deep commercial backing to the riders passing through Ogemaw County. He was also an avid and enthusiastic ice racer throughout the 1980s. This relentless dedication stemmed from his sheer passion for riding and his commitment to his hometown and by founding Gildner's Cycle Shop in 1963 and transitioning it to Gildner's Harley-



Davidson in 1980.

Recently, I had the pleasure of catching up with Kendra Gildner-Ireland, who reiterated just how deeply involved her father was in the West Branch Rally, the Jack Pine runs, and the ice racing scene. She recalled being a preteen at the fairgrounds with her family, and we shared a chuckle when she realized those "Bike Week" memories were made nearly 40 years ago.

As she pulled photos of Fuzzy from "the back" and laid them on the counter, the unstoppable smiles and memories took over. While pointing out faces in the photos she knew some instantly, others were lost to time. She flipped through them as she emphasized what a fantastic group of people they were and how much those events meant to West Branch. She fondly remembered her mother, Joyce, holding down the fort at the shop while her father was out driving a school bus to make ends meet. It's a true family legacy; Kendra and all of her sisters ride or still ride as passengers, a natural byproduct of growing up in a motorcycle business.

The Gildner family's commitment to lifting up their



community continues today. Kendra shared that following Fuzzy's passing; the family established the annual Ken "Fuzzy" Gildner Scholarship. It awards two local students each year, with the stipulation that the applicants are currently employed and plan to enroll in a trade school. It's a beautiful reflection of what real community support looks like.

We hope to see all of you at Bike Bash at the Ogemaw County Fairgrounds this summer, and we invite you to join us on June 6th to celebrate Fuzzy's Annual Birthday Bash and Open House at Gildner's Harley-Davidson. We'll be

doing our best to live life to the fullest in Fuzzy's memory, just as it's on his photo on the wall at Gildner's Harley-Davidson; as author Hunter S. Thompson so perfectly put it:

*"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming 'Wow! What a Ride!'"*



# 2026 MICHIGAN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST



## 2026 RIDE N' WIN CONTEST SPONSORS



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# 2026 MICHIGAN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST

## HERE'S THE DETAILS!



### 1. GET YOUR CARD

Find a Registration Ride Stop - They are listed on "THE STOPS" page(s) with a RIDE CARD IMAGE along with the OFFICIAL RIDE-STOP STAMP by their name and on their ad in the magazine. If you already have a card from a previous contest year, you MUST GET A NEW ONE. The information that you provide when you sign up for your FREE Ride Card is solely used by Thunder Roads® Michigan and will NOT be used for any purpose other than this contest. You will be handed your FREE Ride n' Win Card right then. It has a unique number registered to your name.

### 2. CHECK IN!



Once you have your card with your unique Ride n' Win number, you can start checking in. Go to any or all the stops listed with the Ride n' Win Stamp and check in! There are also Event Stops each month where you can check in. Each Official Ride Stop where you check in gets you entered to win a monthly prize. Spend over \$10 there, and your Ride Card number will get counted twice and double your chance of winning!

### 3. MONTHLY PRIZE WINNERS

If you are a lucky winner, you will be notified by text and email via the information you provided when you received your card. The winning numbers will also be published on the WINNERS page in Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine each month. If you are notified or see your Ride Card number on the WINNERS page in the Magazine, head to the establishment to pick up your prize for that month. \*\* You will need to show them your Ride Card number to claim your prize at their location. Please note: You only have 45 days to claim your prize once you are notified.

### FEW FACTS

- Winners are randomly picked from each Registration/Ride Stops, Ride Stops, and Event Stops each month.
- The more places you check in, the greater your chances are of winning a prize from that location, and grand prize giveaways at the end of the season.

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- If you spend \$10 or more at any Ride Stop, your Ride Card number gets counted twice! Please note: This contest is FREE because of our amazing Sponsors. Please support them in return.
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- Each check-in and bonus check-in will get you entered to win:
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  - A Custom Dynamic under glow kit complete with Bluetooth and Break Alert provided by Twisted Illusions Lighting.
  - The 2005 Harley-Davidson Softail Deuce courtesy of Steel Horse Ranch at the end of the season party!
  - Plus, more grand prizes to be announced!

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3. Ride to any of the Ride n' Win stops and use your smartphone and check in!
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Just Get Out & Ride!



# 2026 MICHIGAN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST

## 2026 STOPS MAP

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# 2026 MICHIGAN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST

## THE REGISTRATION STOPS

Each month check-in at any of these stops (up to 1 time per week) and you could win their monthly prize at that location. Don't have a Ride card? Sign-up for a **FREE** Ride Card at any of the stops listed below with a Ride Card next to it.

Make sure to pick up next months issue (or view the magazine online at [www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com](http://www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com)) or on Facebook: Thunder Roads Magazine of Michigan to see if your Ride Card number is listed as a winner. Sponsor prizes are randomly picked each month.

*Special inside tip...* Some stops get many check-in's and some stops only get a couple of people that check-in each month, which means you have an excellent chance of winning!

### A. Bald Eagle Harley-Davidson

4473 US 2 & 41  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
(906) 228-5330  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate



### B. D&K Bar & Grill

2919 N US HWY 131  
Elmira, MI, 49730  
(231) 546-3342  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate



### C. Michigan Biker Law

37699 Six Mile Rd.  
Ste 250, MI 48152  
(800) 642-4537  
1-800-MI-BIKER  
Prize - T-Shirt  
Follow For Event Schedule



### D. Steel Horse Ranch

1965 Mertz Rd.  
Caro, MI 48723  
(989) 683-4130  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate  
\*Main Prize Sponsor!



MAKE SURE TO CALL AHEAD FOR BUSINESS HOURS

FOLLOW THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN ON FACEBOOK FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE RIDE STOP LOCATIONS & MONTHLY WINNER UPDATES.

### E. Traction Powersports

4714 James Savage Road  
Midland, MI 48642  
(989) 486-1550  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate  
\*Main Prize Sponsor!



### F. US Route 23

5738 F-41  
Oscoda, MI 48750  
(989) 569-5623  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate



# 2026 MICHIGAN RIDE N' WIN CONTEST

MAKE SURE TO CALL AHEAD FOR BUSINESS HOURS

## THE STOPS

MAKE SURE TO CALL AHEAD FOR BUSINESS HOURS

**1. A&W Restaurant**  
1514 Washington St,  
Midland, MI 48640  
(989) 832-3811  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**2. Beeters Brew Pub**  
902 E Pine St  
Sebewaing, MI 48759  
(989) 883-2170  
Prize - T-Shirt

**3. Breakshot Bar & Grill**  
122 E. Huron Ave.  
Vassar, MI 48768  
(989) 882-9060  
Prize - T-Shirt

**4. Bubbas Tri-City Cycle**  
804 S Huron Rd,  
Linwood, MI 48634  
(989) 697-5525  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**5. Bryce's Michihistrigan Bar  
Campground and Cabins**  
W17838 US Highway 2  
Gould City, MI 49838  
(906) 477-6983  
Prize - Bryce's T-Shirt

**6. Cheers Pub Lapeer**  
440 N Saginaw St  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
(810) 667-3170  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**7. Colwood Bar**  
4990 Colwood Rd,  
Unionville, MI 48767  
(989) 550-9359  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate  
Or a T-Shirt

**8. Gas Alley Bar & Grill**  
10945 Dixie Hwy,  
Birch Run, MI 48413  
(989) 624-9778  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**9. Insomnia Bagger Audio**  
158 Peck  
Battle Creek, MI 49014  
(269) 224-8119  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate  
\*Major Prize Sponsor!

**10. Iron Horse Bar & Grill**  
3592 Main St,  
Akron, MI 48701  
(989) 691-5761  
Prize - T-Shirt

**11. Rathskeller Food & Spirits**  
600 East Midland St.  
Bay City, MI 48706  
(989) 892-0621  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**12. Saginaw Old Town  
Junction**  
410 Mackinaw St  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
(989) 401-4066  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**13. Shotmakers Sports Bar**  
49 East Main Street  
Harrisville, MI 48740  
(989) 724-7247  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**14. Sporty's Wing Shack  
& Smokehouse**  
4502 N Huron Rd  
Pinconning, MI 48650  
(989) 879-6050  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate

**15. Twisted Illusions  
Lighting**  
(By Appointment)  
Saginaw, MI  
(989) 280-1439  
Prize - \$25 Gift Certificate  
\*Major Prize Sponsor!

**16. 19BANK16**  
4985 Colwood Rd.  
Unionville, MI 48767  
Note: Weekends Only  
Doors Up at Noon  
Prize: T-Shirt



**Watch for the Official  
Ride n' Win Signs for  
Check-In locations.**

FOLLOW THUNDER ROADS MAGAZINE OF MICHIGAN ON FACEBOOK FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE RIDE STOP LOCATIONS & MONTHLY WINNER UPDATES.

● BLUE WATER EAGLE RIDERS 3702 ●

# MIKE HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL RUN

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SATURDAY SIGN UP @ 10 AM  
JUNE 20TH KICKSTANDS UP @ NOON  
BUY IN POKER HAND AND 50/50

\$15 DRIVER - \$5 PASSENGER  
FOOD INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION

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1939-2025



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# JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
BUBBA'S BACKYARD MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET 7		9	10	11	12	13
FISHING TOURNAMENT Shotmakers Sports Bar Harrisonville	15	16	17	18	19	20
14	22	23	24	25	26	27
FATHER'S DAY	29	30	1	2	3	4
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

**FISHING TOURNAMENT**  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
Harrisonville

**FISHING TOURNAMENT**  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
Harrisonville

**ANNUAL ABATE FIELD MEET** 12  
**BLESSING OF THE BIKES / BIKE NIGHT**  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
Harrisonville

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**FATHER'S DAY**

**BATTLE CANCER POKER RUN** 20  
8TH ANNUAL JUSTIN BUETEL MEMORIAL RUN  
**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
MIKE HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL RUN  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**MICHIGAN RENDEZVOUS**  
**BIKE BASH 2026!!**

**FATHER'S DAY**

**POKER RUN / BIKE NIGHT** 27  
Shotmakers Sports Bar Harrisonville  
**MASON OUTDOOR EXPO**  
INGHAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
PORT HURON M/C  
HARLEY VS THE WORLD  
DIRT DRAG  
OPEN TWINS

**THUNDER ROADS® MICHIGAN 2026 BIKE NIGHTS**

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**THUNDER ROADS® MICHIGAN 2026 BIKE NIGHTS**

**THUNDER ROADS® MICHIGAN 2026 BIKE NIGHTS**

**FATHER'S DAY**

**MORGAN'S PLACE**

4th Annual **Run What Ya Brung**

**POKER RUN**

50/50 GRAND PRIZE

SILENT AUCTION

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**SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**

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CHECK IN: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

@ STEEL HORSE RANCH  
1965 MERTZ RD. CARO, MI

- STOP 1: IRON HORSE BAR & GRIL - AKRON, MI
- STOP 2: KINGSWOOD OUTFIELD - KINGSTON, MI
- STOP 3: THE WHISKEY JAR - BROWN CITY, MI
- STOP 4: BUCKWILD SALOON - FOSTORIA, MI
- FINAL STOP: MORGAN'S PLACE - MILLINGTON, MI

**PLAN TO STAY THE NIGHT!**  
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Send check or money order payable to  
Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine  
PO Box 1782  
Midland, MI 48641-1782



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

★ SANFORD AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 443 ★

# Presents The 20TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR RUN

RIDE FOR A CAUSE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



SATURDAY  
AUGUST  
15TH  
2026

BENEFITING



Covenant Healthcare provides a teddy bear or stuffed animal to each of Covenant Kids. This event helps them accomplish this.

### RUN SCHEDULE

- REGISTRATION at Sanford American Legion 1 PM
- KSU (KICK STANDS UP) 3 PM
- ARRIVE AT COVENANT 4 PM



## BACK TO THE LEGION FOR ANNIVERSARY PARTY!

- LIVE MUSIC 6-10PM
- PIG ROAST, COLESLAW, BAKED BEANS, AND A ROLL
- \$20 PER PERSON

ALL PROFITS WILL BE USED TO  
**PURCHASE BEARS**  
for  
**COVENANT KIDS**



DROP OFF A NEW BEAR OR STUFFED ANIMAL TO THE SANFORD AMERICAN LEGION 2080 N MERIDIAN RD, SANFORD, MI

A DONATION OF A BEAR/STUFFED ANIMAL OR CASH DONATION IS ACCEPTED.

PER COVENANT'S REQUEST ALL BEARS HAVE TO BE BROUGHT IN A VEHICLE AND CANNOT BE TRANSPORTED ON BIKES THIS YEAR.



# MICHIGAN Magazine



POOL & DARTS  
 KITCHEN OPEN LATE  
 5AM BREAKFAST EVERYDAY  
 SATURDAY STEAK NIGHT  
 WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT



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 CASS CITY, MI 48726  
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 ROOM**  
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 OCCASION

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 T's Tees & Things  
*Slick Surfaces*  
 Arizona Classics

# OPERATION: IRON THUNDER

SAVE THE DATE  
**SEPTEMBER 19TH,  
 2026**

★ **OWOSSO, MICHIGAN** ★



**\$25 PER RIDER  
 \$5 PASSENGER**

★ ALL VEHICLES WELCOME  
 WILL BE PLACED IN REAR OF RIDE FOR SAFETY

★ 50/50 RAFFLE

BENEFITTING KIDS TO RIDE  
 THE *North Pole*  
**EXPRESS**  
 IN DECEMBER

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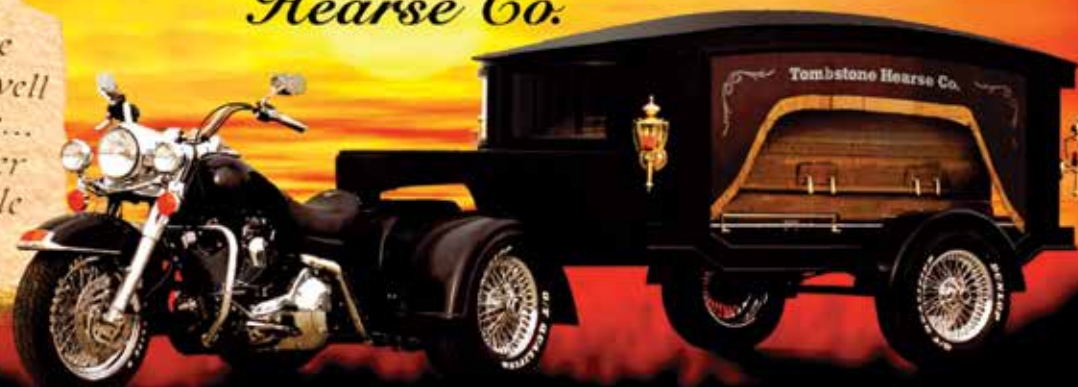
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FOR SPONSORSHIPS OR TO VOLUNTEER  
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## 2026 AWARENESS RIDE

**JULY 31ST & AUGUST 1ST**

**FRIDAY**  
BIKE SHOW  
and  
MEET & GREET

**SATURDAY**  
JAY JAY  
MEMORIAL RIDE

**LOCATION:**  
THE IRON PIG SMOKEHOUSE  
4029 OLD 27 S  
GAYLORD, MI 49735

in Loving Memory of  
Jimm "Jay Jay" Jackson



BRINGING  
AWARENESS TO  
DISTRACTED  
DRIVING



**8:00 AM**  
Ride Registration Opens

**9:30 AM**  
Kick Stands Up

**5:00 PM**  
Ride Returns

Music by:  
**DARRELL BOGER**

**6PM- BIKE SHOW  
REGISTRATION**

**7:30 - WINNERS  
ANNOUNCED**

Music by:  
**DRIVING DAWN**

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR 2026  
RIDE SPONSORS**

**\$30 PER RIDER  
\$45 W/ PASSENGER  
(INCLUDES DINNER)**

FOR PRE-REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT: [www.DysunMichigan.com](http://www.DysunMichigan.com) FIND THE EVENT ON FACEBOOK!



# 19 BANK 16

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ THE BANK COLWOOD MICHIGAN



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## CANCER POKER RUN

**Saturday  
June 20, 2026**

Buy shirts now from our website [battlecancerbc.org](http://battlecancerbc.org)!

Proceeds to Benefit Battle Cancer Community Alliance!  
Funds Raised Help Cancer Survivors in Calhoun County!  
Contact: Dr. Kinzel @ 606-422-5036

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**REGISTRATION:** 9:00 am  
**KICK STANDS UP:** Noon  
**START:** Battle Creek Harley Dealership  
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Side by Side, Jeep & Muscle Car  
\$10 for each additional rider

- Ends at the "Base Bar & Grill" in Battle Creek
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## A HEARTFELT "SHOUT OUT!" TO ZIP'S 45TH PARALLEL HARLEY-DAVIDSON®

Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine would like to extend a sincere and personal thank you to Zip's 45th Parallel Harley-Davidson in Gaylord, Michigan. It's during the toughest days on the road that you truly learn who you can count on, and Zip's was there.

On May 4, 2026, we set out from the Tri-City area toward Elmira to promote the 2026 Ride n' Win Contest. We set out on the 400-mile journey marked by Mother Nature's usual fun-filled changes we get here in Michigan. We battled relentless crosswinds all the way up and most of the way back south. Including temperature swings, and rain squalls so intense they felt like riding through a tornado. Seeing construction signs on I-75 flapping so hard they touched the ground was a first for us—it was truly a wild ride.

The weather was challenging enough, but the situation turned critical just after we exited the expressway. While stopping at a light, Ty realized he had zero rear brakes. A quick look down revealed the derby cover had vanished entirely, leaving fluid everywhere.

Knowing we had just passed Zip's 45th Parallel H-D—but also knowing they were closed on Mondays—we took a chance. I reached out to Paul Desi, the General Manager. Without hesitation, Paul picked up the phone and jumped into action. He didn't just offer advice; he showed up personally with the Zip's trailer, hauled us to the store, and spent the time searching for the necessary parts to get us roadworthy again.

Thanks to Paul's incredible dedication and "above and beyond" spirit, we were able to complete our mission and make it to our destination at D&K Bar and Grill in Elmira and back home.

A massive thank you to Paul and Zips 45th Parallel Harley-Davidson for being there when we needed it most. You kept the wheels turning!  
~ RJ

Thunder Roads Michigan Magazine

Want to wish someone special a Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, Congrats, etc. in a BIG WAY? Surprise them by saying it in Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine! For only \$15 you can put your personal message along with a photo in an upcoming issue of Thunder Roads® Michigan.



Go to [www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com](http://www.ThunderRoadsMichigan.com) and click on the shout out link!

**Zip's 45th Parallel Harley-Davidson**

**SAGINAW OLD TOWN JUNCTION**  
RESTAURANT • TAVERN

LARGEST OUTDOOR DECK!  
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Happy Hour 2-6pm DAILY

**BUCK WILD SALOON**  
**BIKE NIGHT**  
**TUESDAYS**  
**FOSTORIA, MI**

BIKE OF THE NIGHT  
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**BIKE NIGHT MENU** | **DRINK SPECIALS**

**BIKE OF THE NIGHT PRIZES** | **WEEKLY CONTESTS & LIVE MUSIC**

**GILDNER'S HARLEY-DAVIDSON**

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MICHIGAN'S BIGGEST MOTORCYCLE RALLY

# REBEL ROAD

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**MUSKEGON**

**FREE CONCERTS**  
**COLD BEER**  
**CAMPING**  
**VENDORS**  
**BIKE SHOW & AUDIO**  
**COMPETITION**

**QR CODE**

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 RIDE FREE. STOP THE ABUSE.

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All event proceeds benefit the Child Abuse Council of Muskegon County.

KICKOFF TO WEDNESDAY  
**BIKE NIGHTS**  
**MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**530 - 830**

FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS  
 DJ - BIKE GAMES

**GHOST TOWN**  
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**Ride n' Win**  
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THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN MAGAZINE IS LOOKING FOR LOCAL SALES & EVENT REPRESENTATIVES THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN

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## 2026 SCHEDULE

- JUNE 6 – TBD
- JUNE 27 – HARLEY VS THE WORLD DIRT DRAG-OPEN TWINS
- JULY 11 – ROAD RUN
- JULY 25 – TEST N TUNE DIRT DRAG
- AUGUST 22 – TEST N TUNE DIRT DRAG
- SEPTEMBER 5 – STEERING WHEEL SHOOTOUT
- SEPTEMBER 26 – HARLEY VS THE WORLD DIRT DRAG
- OCOBER 4 – 81ST ANNUL TURKEY RUN
- OCTOBER 24 – TEST N TUNE & TRUNK OR TREAT

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48060

Contact Dean at 810-357-6630  
Email: PortHuronMC@gmail.com

## HotRods HOT RODS TOPICS

Once again, we've stepped up and delivered suicide prevention benches to three more schools: Clinton High School, Whitmore Lake High School, and New Bedford Academy in Temperance. That brings us to a total of 20 schools to date, and we already have more planned. May was Mental Health Awareness Month, and these benches continue to lead our Foundation's mission to do everything we can to help our youth know that they are NOT alone and that there are always ways to get help. The Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, simply by dialing 988.

We're also looking forward to the warmth and sunshine that summer brings. In the coming months, you'll find us participating in the Memorial Day Parade, the Milan Fair, and the Mayfly Festival in Dundee, where we'll be hosting a fun, family-friendly game or activity. Our new Chief Road Captain, Bud Blackburn, will also be planning dinner rides beginning in early June, as soon as the weather allows us to get out there without freezing our butts off!

We've also been busy securing proclamations for Motorcycle Awareness, and Amos continues the incredible work of teaching students in driver's education classes. So far, she has educated 1,173 students! We'll also be at the Monroe Welcome Center on May 17th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., helping spread the important message: "Be Aware, Motorcycles Are Everywhere." Let's keep that message alive throughout the riding season and encourage everyone to stay alert and share the road safely.

Other summer events we'll be supporting include the Adrian Car Show and Camp Liberty, which provides assistance to veterans in need. And don't forget our 6th Annual Car & Bike Show on September 12th, we hope to see you there!

Be sure to check us out on Facebook, and feel free to join us at any of our events or stop by one of our meetings, held on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 44 Wabash Rd., if you'd like to get involved. We've been fortunate to help many organizations and schools, and none of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our incredible members. Their commitment is remarkable and truly deserves recognition.

Most importantly, please remember to take care of your own health and well-being. Stay healthy the best you can because God loves you and everyone around you needs you well!

Stay safe,  
**HOT ROD**

Jason Waechter TheMotorcycleLawyer.com 1-877-BIKER-LAW



STORM CHASERS DRINK RECIPE

# WHITE CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY RUSSIAN

- 2 OZ WHITE CHOCOLATE LIQUEUR
- 1 OZ STRAWBERRY LIQUEUR
- 4 OZ HEAVY CREAM
- FRESH STRAWBERRIES

Instructions

1. Puree a couple of strawberries into the bottom of a glass
2. Add the White Chocolate Liqueur and the Strawberry Liqueur
3. Stir the mixture
4. Add Ice
5. Top with Heavy Cream
6. Garnish with white chocolate shavings and a strawberry



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 5 PM-CLOSE  
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 5 PM-CLOSE

# JOKER'S WILD



Women don't buy \$500 purses to impress men - they're impressing each other.  
 Never in my life have i heard a man say, "Bro, she may have been fugly, but did you catch a look at her purse?"

So hubby was playing one of his combat games with "The Troops", that's what I call them, and I'm getting ready to blow the leaves off the back deck and he yells out, "Hey baby, my laundry is kinda' piling up, ya' think you could throw a load in?"  
 I dumped all his clothes on the closet floor and grabbed the tall-boy laundry basket that had large cut-out diamond shapes all over it and put it under the shower head and turned the water on.  
 Took a short video of the shower water pouring into the laundry basket and water pouring out of the diamond shapes and texted: "I'm cleaning the laundry basket, when it fills up then maybe I can get around to actually doing your laundry."  
 Short videos are SO much fun!

Cop pulled me over and I'd just left the office after putting in 10 hours and all I wanted was to pop a cold one and lay in the hammock.  
 Cop: "Your eyes are red, have you been drinking?"  
 Me: I laughed and replied, Your eyes look glazed, have you been eating donuts?"  
 We laughed and laughed.  
 I wonder if any of the cells have hammocks?

Fifty-one years ago, Bodie McCoy, a North Carolina mountain man, was drafted by the Army. On his 1st day in basic training, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon the Army Barber shaved of all his hair. On his 2nd day, the Army issued Bodie a toothbrush. That afternoon the Army Dentist yanked seven of Bodie's teeth. On the 3rd day, the Army Doctor issued him a jock strap. The Army has been looking for Bodie for 51 years now.

Hubby: What temp. should I set the wash on?  
 Wife: What does it say on the T-shirt?  
 Hubby: Pink Floyd

Me to my Daughter: "I would take a bullet for you."  
 My Daughter: "Mom, your mouth is probably the reason we'd be shot at."  
 Me: "Whatevva, it still counts!"

If you come across a snake skin it means the snake shed it to grow bigger. Same thing if you come across my clothes at Curiosity Consignment of Ashland City, TN.

"You're acting weird. "Ok, well first off, I'm not acting."

You didn't hear this from me but if you fill your gas tank for \$125 and leave without paying, the fine is only \$75.

Mark my words; One day she will block you with the same hand she used to put it back in when it slipped out. tbt

My people skills are just fine, it's my tolerance for idiots that needs work.

If the dog is bothering you, I can give you a treat and put you outside.

If I was a bird, I know who I'd chit on and the list is actually quite long.

This weekend, I've decided to do a Juice Cleanse. And by Juice, I mean Beer.

I have selective hearing. I'm sorry not sorry, but you were not selected.

Why are hallways in Psych hospitals called just "hallways"? Shouldn't they be called Psycho Paths?

Just truckin' down the road and stopped at red light and the pick-up in front of me has this super bright neon blue on black bumper sticker that reads: Divorced And Sure Nuff Ready For Intercourse

People think they won when I go silent. Shhhhhh ..... calm down twat waffle, Ima still tryin to figure out if you're worth a felony.

Joker's Wild composed by: Toni McCoy Shearon | [thunderroadsfounder@gmail.com](mailto:thunderroadsfounder@gmail.com)

# EVENTS



THUNDER ROADS<sup>®</sup>  
MICHIGAN  
Magazine

# EVENTS



THUNDER ROADS<sup>®</sup>  
MICHIGAN  
Magazine

## JUNE 2026

June 5  
- Fishing Tournament  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
49 East Main St.  
Harrisville, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 6  
- Fishing Tournament  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
49 East Main St.  
Harrisville, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Port Huron M/C  
TBD  
3376 Griswold Rd.  
Port Huron, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Saginaw Blessing of the Bikes  
And Beemer Memorial Run  
Moose 85-Saginaw  
2220 Midland St.  
Saginaw, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 7  
- Bubba's Backyard Motorcycle  
Swap Meet  
804 S Huron Rd.  
Linwood, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Fishing Tournament  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
49 East Main St.  
Harrisville, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

-Steel Patriots Charity Poker Run  
Lapeer Eagles 2427  
3565 Davison Rd.  
Lapeer, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 12  
- Annual ABATE Field Meet  
418 Fairlane St.  
Harrison, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Blessing of the Bikes  
Bike Night  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
49 East Main St.  
Harrisville, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 18  
- Bike Bash 2026!!  
2300 Riffle River Trail  
West Branch, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Michigan Legacy Ride 2026  
American Legion Riders Post 53  
Check out Facebook for details

- Michihistrigan Rendezvous  
Byce's Michihistrigan  
Campground  
W17838 US Highway 2  
Gould City, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 19  
- Bike Bash 2026!!  
2300 Riffle River Trail  
West Branch, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Michigan Legacy Ride 2026  
American Legion Riders Post 53  
Check out Facebook for details

- Michihistrigan Rendezvous  
Byce's Michihistrigan  
Campground  
W17838 US Highway 2  
Gould City, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 20

- Battle Cancer  
Cancer Poker Run  
Battle Creek Harley-Davidson  
5738 Beckley Road  
Battle Creek, MI  
For More Info:  
BATTLECANCERBC.ORG

- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Justin Buetel  
Memorial Run  
American Legion Riders Post 443  
2080 N. Meridian Rd.  
Sanford, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Bike Bash 2026!!  
2300 Riffle River Trail  
West Branch, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Durand Eagles  
Car & Motorcycle Show  
5240 S New Lothrop Rd.  
Durand, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Gunner's Revving  
For Remembrance  
Scooter's Bar & Grill  
6004 Torry Rd.  
Flint, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Michigan Legacy Ride 2026  
American Legion Riders Post 53  
Check out Facebook for details

- Michihistrigan Rendezvous  
Byce's Michihistrigan  
Campground  
W17838 US Highway 2  
Gould City, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Mike Hutchinson  
Memorial Run  
Fraternal Order of Eagles 3702  
2645 Howard Street  
Port Huron, MI  
See ad in Magazine for details

- Tribesmen M/C  
Summer Bash  
914 Garfield Rd.  
Fostoria, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 26  
- Thunder Roads Michigan  
2026 Bike Nights  
Vehicle City H-D Bike Night  
2400 Austin Pkwy.  
Flint, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

June 27  
- Poker Run / Bike Night  
Shotmakers Sports Bar  
49 East Main St.  
Harrisville, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Mason Outdoor Expo  
Ingham County Fairgrounds  
700 E Ash St.  
Mason, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Port Huron M/C  
Harley vs The World Dirt Drag  
Open Twins  
3376 Griswold Rd.  
Port Huron, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Bike Run  
Shiawassee Conservation  
Association  
26<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Run  
4247 N. M-52  
Owosso, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

## JULY 2026

July 11  
- 4<sup>th</sup> BANK for BOOBS  
The Bank Colwood Michigan  
4985 Colwood Rd.  
Unionville, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- American Muscle Cruise  
Motorcycle & Auto Show  
Birch Run Speedway  
10945 Dixie Hwy  
Birch Run, MI  
Check our Facebook for details

- Mission 22/Mission  
22 Service Dogs  
American Legion Riders Post 443  
2080 N. Meridian Rd.  
Sanford, MI  
Check our Facebook for details

- Port Huron M/C  
Road Run  
3376 Griswold Rd.  
Port Huron, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

- Female Biker Day  
Steel Horse Ranch  
1965 Mertz Rd.  
Caro, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

July 12  
- 10 Year Anniversary  
The Bank Colwood Michigan  
4985 Colwood Rd.  
Unionville, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

July 16  
- Rebel Road  
Downtown Muskegon  
Check out Facebook for details

July 17  
- Rebel Road  
Downtown Muskegon  
Check out Facebook for details

July 18  
- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Emily Knox  
Scholarship Fund Run  
Fraternal Order of Eagles 3702  
2645 Howard Street  
Port Huron, MI  
See ad in Magazine for details

- Rebel Road  
Downtown Muskegon  
Check out Facebook for details

July 19  
- Rebel Road  
Downtown Muskegon  
Check out Facebook for details

July 25  
- Port Huron M/C  
Test & Tune  
3376 Griswold Rd.  
Port Huron, MI  
Check out Facebook for details

July 31  
- Thunder Roads Michigan  
2026 Bike Nights  
Vehicle City H-D Bike Night  
2400 Austin Pkwy.  
Flint, MI

Check out Facebook for details  
*Bold events indicate Advertiser/  
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your Event  
will be highlighted in the  
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Calendar  
of the Magazine.

## Thunder Roads Magazine<sup>®</sup> of Michigan - Your Michigan Biker Connection

## (Call about our Special Discounts for Ads for Charity Based Events)

To get your event listed in  
Thunder Roads Magazine  
and on our website, send  
the information to: Editor@  
ThunderRoadsMichigan.com.  
Event information must be  
received prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> 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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- WEDNESDAY'S**
- Ghost Town Saloon - Elwell
  - Iron Horse Bar & Grill - Akron
  - The Post Restaurant & Bar - Cass City
- THURSDAY'S**
- Beeter's Brew Pub - Sebawaing
  - Circle Bar - Bay City
  - Gas Alley - Birch Run
  - Tool Shed Pub & Grub - Munger
  - The Otherside Bar & Grill - Freeland
  - The Pines Sports Bar & Bowling Center - Cadillac
- FRIDAY'S**
- Shotmakers - Harrisville
  - Vehicle City Harley-Davidson - Last Friday of the Month - Flint
- SATURDAY'S**
- A&W - 3rd Saturday of the Month - Midland
  - D&K Bar and Grill - Elmira
  - The Alibi Bar & Grill - Ionia
- SUNDAY'S**
- CHEERS PUB LAPEER - LAPEER
- (These Bike Nights are supporters/advertisers of Thunder Roads® Michigan Magazine)

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# BIKE NIGHTS ARE BACK!

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IS BRINGING BIKE NIGHT BACK TO THE BRICKS!

BIKE NIGHTS ARE THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH THIS SUMMER AT VEHICLE CITY H-D!



SCHEDULE:  
 FRIDAY - MAY 29, 2026  
 FRIDAY - JUNE 26, 2026  
 FRIDAY - JULY 31, 2026  
 FRIDAY - AUGUST 28, 2026  
 FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 11, 2026, BIKE NIGHT FINALE AND BIKE RAFFLE

\$2 BEER IN THE HOG PEN  
 GAMES W/PRIZES • FOOD TRUCKS  
 MUSIC • DOOR PRIZES • VENDOR AREA  
 BIKE WASH  
 BIKE OF THE NIGHT AWARD  
 GET YOUR BIKE RAFFLE TICKETS

THUNDER ROADS MICHIGAN WILL CHOOSE THE WINNER OF THE 2026 BIKE NIGHT RAFFLE AT THE FINAL BIKE NIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 AT VEHICLE CITY HARLEY-DAVIDSON OF FLINT!

\$20 RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE RIGHT NOW INSIDE THE VCHD MOTORCLOTHES DEPARTMENT.  
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FIELD EVENTS & MORE

LIVE MUSIC

VENDORS

BIKE SHOW HOSTED BY



# BIKE BASH

JUNE 19-21, 2026

WEEKEND MUSIC LINE UP

### FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT



### SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT



- FRIDAY:
- DAVE MINER MEMORIAL POKER RUN
  - LOUD PIPE CONTEST
  - AUDIO COMPETITION
  - LIVE MUSIC AT NIGHT

- SATURDAY:
- BLESSING OF THE BIKES
  - BIKE SHOW
  - FUZZY'S FIELD EVENTS
  - LIVE MUSIC AT NIGHT
  - HOT PEPPER EATING CONTEST

- PLUS!
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
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