

# ROAD RASH

MAGAZINE © 2005

**Biker Chick  
Stephanie**  
pg. 24

**February '07**

**Chattanooga Area  
Motorcycle Events**

**FREE**

**Check Out  
Who's In The  
Hot Seat:**  
pg. 42

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**Tom the Bomb...**  
**RAMBLINGS**  
**From the**  
**Top Dawg**

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# ONE OF OUR OWN

## Legend Series

Sharon Wade

by Rock

### Wall of Death

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REM - Covers, b-sides - 1998

Let me ride on the wall of death  
one more time  
Let me ride on the wall of death  
one more time  
You can waste your time on the  
other rides  
But this is the nearest to being

alive

Let me take my chances on the Wall of Death  
You can go with the crazy people in the crooked house  
You can fly away on the rocket or spin in the mouse  
The tunnel of love might amuse you  
And Noah's Ark might confuse you but  
Let me take my chances on the Wall of Death  
On the Wall of Death  
On the Wall of Death  
It's the nearest to being free  
Well you're going nowhere when you ride on the carousel  
And maybe you're strong, but what's the use of ringing a bell  
The switchback will make you crazy  
Beware of the bearded lady  
Oh let me take my chances on the Wall of Death  
You are going nowhere when you ride on the carousel  
And maybe you're strong, but what's the use of ringing a bell  
The switchback will make you crazy  
Beware of the bearded lady  
Let me take my chances  
Let me take my chances  
Let me take my chances



When I first saw Sharon Rymer in 1966, little did I know that our paths would cross again some 40 years later. It was the fall of 1966 and like most male teenagers I was drawn as by an invisible force to two areas of the Olson Shows midway, the Wall of Death and Club Lido (the girlie show). The Olson Shows stopped in Chattanooga every fall and set up at Warner Park. This particular year there was a pretty young lady dressed in gold lame' pants, a black sequined top, and white motorcycle boots riding the rollers, attracting customers. The barker shouted "See Sharon Rymer from Cleveland, Tennessee ride the wall of death. As I had in years before, I bought my ticket and ascended the tall steps to watch these daredevils defy gravity and woo the crowd. The deafening sound, the speed, the smells, it was always exciting and a real bargain for a single dollar bill.

I met Sharon Rymer Wade electronically in 2004 after she sent me a semi terse email about something I had written in one of my "Rock's Road" articles. In another part of my article I had mentioned the Wall of Death and the Olson Shows. As she closed her email, she informed me that she had ridden the Wall in Chattanooga in 1966 and 1967. My mind raced back as I remembered the young lady that rode the wall that



Ralph, Sharon, barker Lou & dog, Trixie



Sharon, puppy Hugo, & young rider Frank Robinson



**Sharon holding bill as Ralph goes for a grab**



**Sharon at 90 degrees vertical**

year. How cool is this, I thought. I finally met Sharon in person at Dr Dave's Christmas party one year and I've wanted to tell her story ever since. Now, I've got my chance.

Sharon Harper grew up in Cleveland, Tennessee. Being the only daughter of a gas distributor who had no sons, Sharon was raised a tomboy. She rode horses and did the things with her father that are usually reserved for sons. Although she was close to her strict family, Sharon had a wild, independent streak which would run afoul of her parents in her teenage years. She would walk down to the local hangout and get the "hoods" on motorcycles to give her rides on the back of their bikes. She was hooked for life once she experienced the thrill and freedom of having the wind in her face and the thundering sound of Harley-Davidsons. She got married at 16, and had a son, Rusty at 19. Her marriage was an unhappy one, but her family didn't believe in divorce, so she was unable to divorce her husband.

Sharon was dealing with her unhappy marriage when she took Rusty to the traveling carnival at Cleveland's Village Mall in May of 1965. While Rusty was riding the kiddie rides she met Ralph Ritter and Jody Rogers who were riders on the Wall of Death. Being in need of another female rider they offered this pretty cow girl an escape from Cleveland and her marriage problems. She could think of nothing else after she returned home. The next day she and her best friend went back as the Olson Shows was breaking down to travel to their next town. The riders told Sharon to join them in Oak Ridge if she decided to run away. They would be in Oak Ridge for five days. Four days later, at age 22, Sharon packed her 1965 Mustang, left her son Rusty with her mother and secretly headed to Oak Ridge to join the carnival. She knew her family would come looking for her and she warned Ralph and Jody about this when she met them in Oak Ridge. The two riders and runaway Sharon decided to leave Olson and join the Royal American Shows, the world's largest carnival, which was currently in Memphis and heading for a tour of Canada in the next few weeks. While on the way to Canada, at a stop in Davenport, Iowa, her parent's private investigator found Sharon and her parents showed up on the midway. Her embarrassed mother stayed in the car and wouldn't watch Sharon perform, but her dad did watch one of

her shows before they returned to Cleveland without Sharon. They were unhappy indeed that their daughter was traveling with a carnival, but she was over 21 and they had no power to stop her. Sharon was going to do what Sharon was going to do. Period.

In Iowa, Ralph had started Sharon riding the go-cart on the flat circular floor at the bottom of the motor drome. After a few passes she took her cart up onto the first of the three levels. Ralph was yelling for her to stop as she proceeded up to the second level. She had complete confidence, knowing that she could ride this wall. She had no problem with dizziness like most novice riders. She didn't hit the vertical part of the wall that day, but that was short lived. Sharon found a Frederick's of Hollywood where she purchased a pair of gold lame pants and a black sequined top. She found a pair of white Harley-Davidson boots which finished off her riding costume. Within a week, she started riding one of the rigid frame Hondas on the wall in unison with Jody. Two dames racing around the wall at the same time was a real crowd pleaser. Ralph was the trick rider and the one that snatched the bills being held over the top edge of the drome by the spectators. This money, the "ding" was held by the trio to cover any medical costs due to accidents. It was virtually impossible for drone riders to get insurance. At the end of the season, the balance of the "ding" would be split between the riders as a bonus.

Royal American Shows toured Canada throughout the summer of 1965. Sharon performed as many as 35 shows per day. Unlike the Olson Shows that traveled by truck, Royal American traveled by train. Sharon waited tables in the dining car while traveling from city to city. Canada was a booming success. Eager customers would line the tracks as the carnival rolled into town. It was also very lucrative for Ralph and Sharon. Their two thirds share amounted to over \$14,000 for just one week's work. Sounds great until you realize just how many shows and hours it took to make that kind of money. Not to mention the risk.

At the end of the 1965 season Ralph was called by Rod Link, the owner of the Olson Shows, and offered the opportunity to run Olson's Wall of Death for the 1966 season.

**Continued on Page 29**



# Rock's Two Cents

I hope some of you guys attended our Ultimate Cycles/Road Rash Magazine New Year's Eve Bash with The Tim & Reece Band at the Bourbon Street Music Bar on 23rd Street. We got a late start planning this year's party, but be looking for

our advertisement in this November's issue. We'll give you plenty of notice this year, before you make plans to go to some non biker party. It's always better hanging with bikers. We hope that this party will become a huge annual event. The Villager Lodge offered special room packages for those who wanted to party without having to drive home. The lodge has been totally renovated and it's a very classy, yet comfortable place to eat or just hang out at the bar. Villager is also the home of the Bourbon Street Music Bars and the Town and Country East Restaurant. The Bourbon Street Music Bar has a bike night every Friday night. When I mentioned 23rd Street to someone they acted like I was talking about East LA. Come on big bad bikers, surely you're not afraid of 23rd Street! It's right off interstate 24 and it's very convenient from either side of town. The guys at Villager have good security and besides, the area is not nearly as bad as some people make it out to be. Grow some and come give it a try.

My wife Julie and I rode over to the Town and Country East at the Villager to give it a try. I was impressed with the restaurant. She had the queen's filet mignon and I tried the 12 oz ribeye. The food was great as was the atmosphere.

I got a real treat the other night when I answered my phone. A real nice lady, about my mother's age (late 80s) gave me a call saying that she had read my article on Joe Pate. It just so happens that Mrs. Polene Parrott was Mary Joe Pate's best friend. She thanked me and said she enjoyed the article. It was a real pleasure talking with you Mrs Parrott. She also said that her son, Jack Jenkins is an avid motorcycle rider. Thanks to you both for reading. Polly may well be the oldest reader of Road Rash Magazine. If anyone knows of a older reader, drop me an email.

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# TEARS ON BLACK LEATHER

## Brothers and Sisters Down or Gone

Longtime Atlanta and Chattanooga skater James Eric Carr, 33, died of injuries suffered in a motorcycle wreck on New Year's night at approximately 7:11 p.m. at the intersection of Ringgold Road and Donaldson Road in East Ridge.

East Ridge Police units arrived to find a serious accident between a gray Nissan pickup truck and a motorcycle. Preliminary reports indicate that the pickup was pulling onto Ringgold Road and was struck in the side by the motorcycle. The impact caused the pickup truck to flip and roll over at least one time. Eric was apparently killed upon impact.

Eric grew up in the Atlanta area. He moved to Chattanooga about three years ago, but made frequent road trips to Huntsville, Nashville and Atlanta for adult skating sessions, where he earned the nickname "Speed." He invested in his first motorcycle in '06, and loved his bike almost as much as his skates. Eric's greatest joy in life was being a father to his two children.

Monday January 10th. I had the privilege of joining in with the Patriot Guard as we rode escort in the funeral procession of a true hero.

Sgt. James Michael Sullivan was serving his second tour in Iraq when an I.E.D. blew up alongside the Humvee he was in killing him. Sgt. Sullivan did not have to be there, he volunteered to take the place of one of his

buddies who was not feeling good. He did not even have to be in Iraq he had been wounded during his first tour but refused the Purple Heart and instead he wrote his family saying "this is the right thing for me to do".

Among the hundreds of mourners at the church were his wife Michele and his son James Michael Sullivan Jr. who came into this world the day after his father left it, he will be a living legacy to his father. I felt both humble and proud to be allowed to ride as part of the approx. 150 bikes that were in the procession (some estimates were as high as 200 bikes). The funeral procession was well over one mile long as it went along some 20mi. from the church in Soddy Daisy to the National Cemetery in Chattanooga. All along the entire route were people, most with flags, many saluting some with signs saying God Bless You etc. Traffic on Highway 153 was completely shut down and people filled the northbound side of the roadway and continued on Amnicola Highway and on to the cemetery.

Tennessee has another name to join the likes of Alvin York in its Hall of Fame, the name of Sgt. John Michael Sullivan a true patriot and hero, may God Bless and keep you and your family.

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# Joe Cool's Biker Health



**For** those avid Road Rash readers, you may remember during the spring of 2005 when I wrote several articles about my chronic knee problems and the subsequent knee replacement that took place at Memorial Hospital. Since then all is well and my knee condition has improved. However, I have another chronic complaint that some of our readers may relate to.

My most recent chronic complaint is from a condition called Lateral Epicondylitis, more commonly known as "Tennis Elbow". Exactly what causes tennis elbow is unknown, but it is thought to be due to small tears of the tendons that attach the muscles of the forearm to the arm bone at the elbow joint. The muscle group involved, the wrist extensors, function to cock the wrist back. Specifically, the extensor carpi radialis brevis, has been implicated in causing the symptoms of tennis elbow. What are the symptoms of tennis elbow? People with the tennis elbow syndrome experience pain on the outside of the elbow that is worsened by grasping and or lifting objects and cocking back the wrist.

The condition is considered to be an over use injury. Throughout my life I have been very active in sports. While in high school I played football and baseball. After graduation I continued to participate in active sports (sitting in the recliner

and watching someone else play the game never did it for me). Racquetball, golf, softball, bowling, and weight lifting have been my primary activities for most of my life. All these activities put a great deal of stress on my right elbow. Now, I find it very painful and difficult to continue to participate in my favorite activities. What really gets me, it hurts my arm to ride my motorcycle.

What have I done to help this chronic painful condition? I went to a doctor, who could not do much. This type of condition where the muscle and connective tissue is affected by inflammation, some steroid medication can be administered. However the best course of action is rest, anti-inflammatory medicine (Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen), ice therapy, and later, physical therapy to strengthen the wrist extensor muscles. A forearm brace that stabilizes the extensor muscle and keeps it from continued aggravation has been helpful during rehab, when I want to try playing my favorite sport activities, as well as, when I want to ride my scooter on down the highway.

I hope I have been able to help our readers who may be suffering from the same elbow problems. I do not wish this kind of discomfort for anyone else. So, if any of my signs and symptoms are familiar to you, please seek medical assistance and try the therapy regime that has helped me get back on my feet or should I say, back on my elbow? Take care of your self, because if you won't, who will ?

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# HERE'S THE RUB

Be honest, what would you rather be doing right now, riding or reading this article? Why riding of course, and so I am at the serious disadvantage... unless I appeal to the common joy of motorcycles that we share. Riding is best, but if you can't be riding, reading or thinking about riding is the next best thing!

Many good rides or best weather seem to fall on Sundays and I have, on occasion, been forced to defend my riding the Harley rather than properly sitting in the pew next to my wife. I have stumbled on what I have found to be the best defense for just such occasions: "It is better to be riding my motorcycle and thinking about God than it is to be sitting in Church and thinking about riding my motorcycle!"

Feel free to borrow the justification, as it is not really mine; I stole it and paraphrased it to meet my own needs. I don't know who came up with the original version, but I do know it is not a cop-out, but rather a legitimate pardon to pursue true "spirituality."

When I am on the road and see a cow that is grazing or a hawk that's hunting its prey, it is only then that I get a sense that everything in the universe is doing exactly what it was created to do at that exact moment in time, including me!

I am not trying to cut in on Reverend Boog's Two Wheeled Pulpit here; it's just that riding is the closest means to meditation that I have been able to master. I have been told that "prayer is talking to God, while meditation is allowing God to talk back." I have always been better at talking than listening and so it helps to get out on the road once in awhile to clear my head and listen for a change. There is sensuality about it as it encompasses not only seeing, but hearing, feeling, smelling and even the air or the rain has a special taste to it that I would otherwise not know. It is the reason a dog sticks his head out the car window and I shouldn't have to explain it but I often do to people, who besides you, simply don't or won't understand.

The spiritual side of a motorcycle however is not limited by the need to be moving. Ted Simon who traveled around the world on a motorcycle, not once, but twice on the occasion of a flat tire in Africa said: "Petulant. Frustrated. I raised my voice. Why not? Empty highway. No one around 'Isn't this just bloody perfect?' I shouted. 'Yes', said God, 'But I didn't hear Him'".

If you are to accept that everyone and everything is just as it was meant to be for that exact moment in time, then you must also learn to accept the loose gravel in the turn, the dog that runs out in your path, or the unannounced left hand turn by a car that scares the crap out of you. It is an experience and Life was not meant to be a spectator sport!

Several years ago, I built what was in my mind "the perfect" chopper in my basement. I had been thinking about it for close to forty years and so many of its components were mainstays of the 60's and 70's from Manufacturers like Bates, Paughco, Performance



Machine, Primo, and S&S. A Frisco-styled Peanut tank, an exaggerated overly-raked Springer front-end, a suicide jockey shift with a glass door knob for a handle, twisted spokes, hard-tailed frame, a three-inch open-belt primary, simple trailer rear fender and no need for a front one, round oil bag, ape-hangers, 52' pan-head engine (the same year I was born)...I had meticulously built it in my mind at least ten-thousand times, down to every last minute detail, even the valve-stem caps (miniature eight-balls.) It was a devil I had to exorcise or go mad!

And so if this demon also haunts you, here is another freebie justification for the wife that will hopefully make reading this article worth your while... Don't ask permission to build it. What you do, is go to the junkyard and pick up the rustiest, greasiest, assortment of obsolete parts you can find. They don't even have to be motorcycle parts and bring them home in a box. When your wife asks, "what is that?" You proudly exclaim, "It is a motorcycle, I am going to build it one piece at a time!" After the laughter dies down... wait for it...she will add, "I will believe this when I see it"... and you have the green light! Trust me, it worked once.

There is the downside to having accomplished everyman's dream however. You will forever from that point be subjected to hearing, "why is it that you can build a motorcycle from scratch but you can't get the toilet to stop making that noise?" It's like going to the moon; everything else is inconsequential and should be a piece of cake! Remember, spirituality is about accepting the good with the bad.

I provided a picture to back up this story as I don't still own the bike to show you. Having mastered the art of kick-starting it to life, I proudly left my driveway on its maiden voyage, down the driveway, across the street and over the embankment that leads to a fifty foot ravine! It was like trying to steer a shopping cart and there is a good reason you only see the hardcore riding such scooters! About the third time you end up in someone else's front yard, you accept your limitations. Would I do it again? Probably not. Am I glad I did it once? Heck yah! Someday I am going to be sitting in a wheelchair in some nursing home telling the old-timer next to me about the experience and he is going to think, "I wish I could say I had done that!" Life is, after all, about the experience!

## The Rub



**CMA NEY YEAR DAY RUN  
PHOTOS BY MOLEMAN**




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# REVERAND BOOGER'S TWO-WHEELED PULPIT

**Well** Hello,

Since I am writing this at the end of Dec. I am not sure what the weather is going to throw at us between now and the time you are reading it, but at this point we have had a very mild winter. I would really hope that there wouldn't be a single bike out there hooked to a trickle charger, but I know there is. My suggestion on the next day that the temperature gets up to over 50, pull the charger off the bike, hook red to right ear, black to left ear and see if it will trickle some gumption into you to get out and ride. Now that I got that off my chest I can get down to what's been bugging me this past month. I have been compiling a list of things that gripe my butt. I probably have mentioned some of these in the past but I think they need to be repeated.

**1:** I have never claimed to be a biker. I said that because it really gripes my butt to be told I do something or own something that a "real biker" wouldn't do or own. Evidently there is some kind of unwritten code that these people think I have to follow. I was told that I didn't own the right kind of dog to be a biker. I have been told that I needed to drink to be a real biker. I have been told that if I was a real biker my motorcycle would look different. This is just a partial list of things I have been told riding my motorcycle is about freedom not about looking a certain way or acting a certain way.

**2:** When out riding I have developed a habit of doing what I call checking a car. When a car comes out of a side road or is stopped to make a left turn; I ease up on the throttle and check to see what this person is going to do. It gripes my butt when this person thinks I am letting them out. It would be different if I slowed down and motioned them out. While I am on the subject, it also gripes me for people to think that I am waving at them when I am using my arm signals. I just know I am going to get my butt ran over because some dip head driver thinks I am being friendly.

**3:** This one is about me, but it still gripes my butt. Over the past years I have lost off my bike several gloves, a sissy bar bag, two brake locks, a pair of glasses, a helmet, hats, sunglasses, untold numbers of packs of cigarettes, and one stuffed pig. I know all this is my fault but it still gripes me. Also if you happen to find any of these items, please email me

**4:** I know this next one may sound like resentment and it kind of is. People are always telling me about how wonderful it is to ride out west. One day I hope to be able to ride all the way out and up the Pacific coast and back. What gripes me about this is a lot of these people will start yammering about their ride and at some point I will ask them if they have ridden certain rides around here. It just amazes me the number of them that say no when I asked them if they have ridden the Blue Ridge parkway, the Natchez trace or any other of a number of routes around here. Also a lot of these people act like they have no plans to ride these or any other routes in our little corner of God's country. I like to think of myself as an ambassador for this part of the country and I will keep pushing riding locally till I take my last breath.

**5:** I know I have a reputation for dissing people for not



riding their motorcycles. But I try my best not to diss anyone for riding a certain brand motorcycle. I care a whole lot more about why you ride, than what you ride. It gripes my butt for someone to talk down about someone else's bike. Now it's different to comment on what someone does to his or her bike if asked what I think about it. As far as brands goes, I feel like it's more about freedom than all of us looking like clones. Well folks, that's about all the space I have for this month. Hope to see you out on the road till next time Ride safe, ride smart, ride often

**Reverend Booger**  
reverendboog@hotmail.com

The advertisement is a rectangular graphic. On the left side, there is a small portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie. To the right of the portrait is the Keller Williams Realty logo, which consists of a stylized 'KW' monogram above the text 'KELLER WILLIAMS' in a large, bold, red serif font, with 'REALTY' in a smaller, spaced-out font below it. Below the logo is a photograph of a man with a mustache and sunglasses, wearing a black leather motorcycle jacket and blue jeans, sitting on a red Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The background of the photo is a body of water. Overlaid on the right side of the photo is the text: 'Looking to buy or sell? Call David Nelson The Realtor that Rides! (423) 432-0653 (432) 664-1600 Office'.

# Blowing Smoke

Over the past few months I've provided you with some information about women and motorcycles. In December we looked at various companies that carry women's apparel such as Motorcycle Girl Wear, She-Moto, and Biker wear 4 Women. Although my supplies have lessened with the Holidays, I still have some items from the different vendors here at RT Cycle and I've ordered more! So, stop by and check them out. Last month, I told you guys about some prominent women in the history of motorcycling such as the Van Buren sisters, Bessie Stringfield, and Dot Robinson. This month I'd like to introduce you to some of the prominent females in the industry today.



one of her biggest challenges is maintaining and expanding the off highway vehicle riding opportunities. This not only affects the ATV and off highway motorcycle side but also the street side. How, you ask? Off road riding is how many kids get attracted to the sport, not to mention women. So, the next time you jump on your ride remember that because of people like Kathy Van Kleek motorcycling is a freedom we can all enjoy!



This third lady passed away in 1990, but her name is still living on today. It's one you know well – S&S Cycle, one of the most respected engine manufacturers in the industry. George Smith and Stanley Stankos founded S&S Cycle in 1958 in Illinois. Shortly thereafter, Smith bought out Stankos and he and his wife, Marjorie changed the name to Smith and Smith, thus S&S. She was essential to the business doing things from talking to customers, keeping the books, and answering technical questions. She was a motorcycle enthusiast before she met George. He enjoyed making parts and going fast, however she was the real backbone that kept the company going. Many who knew the couple said that if it hadn't been for her, the company wouldn't have survived.



First, I'd like you to meet Patricia DiPietro, the Chief Executive Officer and Vice President of the American Motorcyclist Association. According to an interview on WomenRidersNow.com Patricia started in the mailroom in 1976, got her degree and worked



her way up through the accounting department. The AMA Board asked her in November 2005 to oversee the AMA reorganization. During her time at AMA she says that she has seen a greater acceptance of motorcycling and it becoming more of a "family" activity. Oddly, her husband doesn't ride and has no interest in motorcycling. She hopes that more women will get involved so that activities such as the women's conference that was held last year in Athens, Georgia. She also encourages all riders to join the association saying that "AMA membership is what separates those who care about the future of motorcycling from those who are just along for the ride."



This next lady deserves a "Thank you" from all of us on two wheels for making sure we have and keep the right to ride. Kathy Van Kleek is the Vice President of Government Relations at the Motorcycle Industry Council. Along with her staff, she is the MIC's main voice in Washington D.C. and is responsible for providing overall direction for the MIC's government relations program including developing and implementing legislative information programs for the MIC, reviewing proposed state and legislative and regulatory actions and advocating the associations' positions to legislators and regulators. On a day to day basis, she is reviewing bills that are introduced to see how they favor the industry and preparing comments. In a WomenRidersNow.com interview, she states that



Even though motorcycling has been a male dominated industry, women are making large strides. Patricia DiPietro and Kathy van Kleek hold very influential positions within the industry and Marjorie Smith is a major factor behind a well respected engine manufacturer. And there are others – Patti Higgins is the Operations Administrator at the Motorcycle Safety Foundations DirtBike School and Kathleen Lawler is the Vice President of Communications at Harley Davidson. So ladies, keep riding and encouraging your friends to get out there. And, if you're looking for some women's clothing or gear, stop by and see me at RT Cycle!

**Teri Welborn**  
RT Cycle Suzuki Yamaha, Inc.  
www.rtcycles.net  
teri@rtcycles.net



# Tammy Tells It

**Greetings** fellow riders,  
I hope this finds you all doing well. This month I want to talk a little bit about helmets. You can spend a ton of money trying to find the safest helmets out there, but if they don't fit properly, they simply aren't safe. Certain manufacturers fit certain shapes of peoples heads differently. For instance, let's

say that you have an oval shaped head from forehead to the back, then a Vega helmet fits you better. If you have a round head, then an HJC helmet fits you better. Some people have a long head from forehead to chin, then an HJC is a better fit for you. Always make sure that the helmet fits you properly around the crown of your head. I mean fits tight, so that when you shake your head from side to side, the helmet moves with you and doesn't flop around. I know some of you have had this happen. You try on a helmet at a shop, it seems to fit you fine, then you ride around with it for a week or two and then it is simply too big. After you wear a helmet for awhile, the material starts to give. That is why it is so important to have a nice snug, not headache snug, but snug fit. Always try and put a finger on each side of your forehead, like at your temples, to make sure that there is no room, cuz if you get air in there it feels like it's going to pull your head off! If you ever have any questions or need advice on this, please feel free to come and see me and I will be glad to help. We do have a lot of helmets to choose from too!

That reminds me, all of our SHARK helmets are 10% off while supplies last. I also wanted to let you guys know that we carry helmets for kids! We have 2 styles to choose from, a full face and an open face helmet. We have an all black full face by HJC that sells for \$84.99 and also blue or pink graphic helmets for \$99.99. They really are nice helmets and very safe too. If you want to carry your kids or grandchildren on your bike and need a good helmet, come on by and check them out. The other open face helmets are by Vega and sell for \$49.99. Right now I know we have a pink one, but we probably have other colors

too. These are really nice and light for children as well. I know my daughters would have loved these when they were small, and even though I don't wear a safe helmet, I ALWAYS made sure that they did.

We at Southern Honda have a wide variety of items for riders, and we have cool stuff too. We are an Oakley dealer, and have a BIG selection of Oakley sunglasses. Right now selected styles are 20% off. We also carry some pretty nice sunglasses that are made by Bobster and sell for \$31.99 to \$59.99, depending on which ones you get. There is even a pair that changes from light to dark, and have the foam around them to keep the wind out that sell for \$39.99. I like the way these look too, even though they are very functional, they've got a sleek, cool look to them.

I want to close by welcoming a couple of people to our parts department. First of all, Stephanie Bettis in Shipping/Receiving, who is a real sweetheart to work with. Stephanie's husband rides a Boulevard. Also, I would like to say a special hey to Katie Selvidge, who has been working in our Clothing dept. Katie is a Motocross racer. I enjoy working with her very much and can't wait to watch her race one day. I also want to give a special shout out to Adam McArthur, Paul Mikesell, Chuck Jenkins, Josh McClure, Heather Kilgore and especially to David Wright for giving me such a great job here. All of these fine folks work in our Parts Department, and are always glad to help our customers. Well, I guess that wraps up this months "Tells It", so until next time, see ya with your knees in the breeze.

**Tammy Pierre,**  
Southern Honda, Parts Dept.

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"Step for Kids", with the help of the South Pittsburg chapter of "Wings in the Wind" motorcycle ministry, held the first annual "Step for Kids Toy Ride" on November 11.



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# February 2007 Road Rash Biker Chick Stephanie

Pics by Dan Bowen





## THE LOW DOWN:

**Make/Model:** 1998 HD Springer  
**Engine:** 1340 cc Harley-Davidson  
**Paint:** Blue/Silver Flames  
**Owner:** Ron Barra - Rocky Face, GA  
**Photos:** Dan Bowen - Chattanooga

This old school bobber style '98 Springer is a fine example of a "labor of love." The owner, Ron Barra has covered it in chrome, added 14-inch mini ape handlebars with four-inch risers, stainless steel lines, white wall tires and upswept exhaust pipes in addition to the gorgeous candy blue and silver flame paint job that really sets it off. Great job Ron!

Our beautiful model Stephanie may have an innocent smile, but she says she loves fast cars and bikes – I thought I recognized a familiar spark in her eyes. She points out that she has been riding for the past 11 years. In addition to a GS500 Suzuki motorcycle, she also owns a sports car capable of going 0-60 in less than five seconds and a 250 horsepower Dodge Dakota RT pickup truck. It sounds like Stephanie just might be one of those Soddy-Daisy Tennessee girls that my parents used to warn me

about. Like I said - she's got that look in her eye...

You can see much more of Stephanie and/or Ron's Springer on our Web site, [www.roadrashmag.com](http://www.roadrashmag.com) and/or check out more of Dan Bowen's amazing photography at [www.onemodelplace.com](http://www.onemodelplace.com). I hear Dan may be opening up a studio somewhere around Rocky Face Georgia. Keep your eyes peeled!

*Special thanks goes out to Ron Barra for providing the bike and the location for this shoot (the Manly Jailworks in Dalton, Ga.) and of course for Dan Bowen for outstanding professional photography.*



# MOTORCYCLE EVENT LISTINGS

## **FEBRUARY 3**

Chattanooga, TN  
**BRUCE HODGE BENEFIT**  
Full Moon Saloon (Old Palomino Club)  
423-838-1803, 423-629-1441, or 423-802-5179

Memphis, Tennessee  
**EASYRIDERS V-TWIN BIKE SHOW**  
Memphis Cook Convention Center, 255 North Main St.  
10 a.m.  
(800) 962-9857  
www.easyridersevents.com

## **FEBRUARY 9 - 11**

Norcross, Georgia  
**GREAT AMERICAN MC SHOW**  
North Atlanta Trade Center  
4 p.m. on Friday.  
(770) 279-9899  
northatlantatradecenter.com

Atlanta, GA.  
**32ND ANNUAL O'REILLY AUTO PARTS WORLD OF WHEELS**  
World Congress Center  
770-270-0175  
www.worldofwheels.com

## **FEBRUARY 10**

Dalton, Georgia  
**ABATE ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF**  
Dalton Shriner's Club - 7pm  
(770) 277-7393

## **FEBRUARY 13**

Nashville, TN  
**CMT/ABATE TN MOTORCYCLISTS ANNUAL LOBBY DAY**  
Capitol Building 6th and Deaderick St.  
- 9:30 a.m.  
615-262-1119, legislative@cmtabate.com or info@cmtabate.com

## **MARCH 2 - 11**

Daytona Beach, FL  
**DAYTONA BIKE WEEK**  
www.officialbikeweek.com

## **MARCH 3**

Dalton, GA  
**DAYTONA OR BUST BIKER BASH**  
Mountain Creek HD  
706-370-7433  
www.mountaincreekharley.com

## **MARCH 17**

Chattanooga, TN  
**ST PATTY'S DAY PARTY**  
Thunder Creek HD

423-892-4888  
www.thundercreekharley.com

Roswell, GA  
**ST PATY'S DAY PARTY**  
Killer Creek HD  
770-777-1000  
www.killercreekharley.com

## **APRIL 7**

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Free lunch for bikers  
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Chatsworth, GA  
**ABATE POKER RUN**  
Arlo's - 11am  
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## **APRIL 13 - 22**

Charleston, SC  
**BIKE WEEK CHARLESTON**  
843-767-4258  
www.bikeweekcharleston.com

## **APRIL 14**

Dalton, GA  
**THE BRITTANY FOUNDATION RIDE**  
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www.mountaincreekharley.com

## **APRIL 14 - 21**

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**HERITAGE MILLION DOLLAR BIKE BUILD-OFF**  
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## **APRIL 21**

Chattanooga, TN  
**GARAGE SALE**  
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## **APRIL 28**

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## **MAY 5**

Dalton, GA  
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## **MAY 11 - 20**

Myrtle Beach, SC  
**MYRTLE BEACH SPRING RALLY**  
www.myrtlebeachbikeweek.com

## **MAY 19**

Dalton, GA  
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## **MAY 20**

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## **MAY 25**

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## **JUNE 1**

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## **MAY 31 - JUNE 2**

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aburchfield@fontanavillage.com  
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www.hellbender28.com  
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## **JUNE 1 - 3**

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## The Harley-Davidson Fishin' Story

**Red**, the biker dude from Ringgold, Georgia was approached by a game warden while he was fishin' in the Nickajack Dam area. Red was sittin' on his Harley next to the bank, holdin' his fishing rod when the game warden pulled up.

Red had his ice chest strapped to the back seat of his Harley with four nice fish swimming around inside. The warden said, "Red, do you have a Tennessee fishing license on you for those fish?" Red replied, "Naw sir - don't need a license cause these four fish are my personal pet fish." "Yup," Red says, "I've had them for over a year or so. I love all four of them as much as I love this here Harley. Yeah, every evening I jump on my hog, strap these little fellas on the back, cruise down to the river, throw 'em in and let them swim around for an hour or so. When it's time to leave, I crank up my hog, they hear the sound of the pipes and come back to the bank - and all four of my little sweethearts jump right back in the cooler... then away we go, crusin' down the open road. They even have names. Mister warden look..." Red pointed into the cooler as he continued, "This one is Harley. This one here is Davidson. That little feller over there is Hog, and that one is named Honda Honey."

The Warden was standing there in disbelief and told Red, "That's the biggest bunch of lies and bull I've ever heard." Red said, it's the truth mister government man, and I'll prove it to you. It really does work!" The warden said, "Bud, I've got to see this - 'cause I'm fixin' to give you a ticket for no license." Red grabbed his cooler off the back seat, dumps all four fish in the river, then sat back down on his bike and started waiting.

After about ten minutes or so, the warden said, "Well!?" Red said, "Well what??" The warden said, "When are you gonna call them back out of the river?" And Red said, "Call who back?" The warden said, "The fish!" Red said, "What fish?? Tennessee and Georgia country folks might not be as smart as some city slickers, but us old hog riders are not as dumb as you government people think we are." With that, he fired up his hog and said, "See ya mister warden - got to get back to Ringgold!"

Thanks to Mr. Randall Lewchuk - Souix Falls South Dakota, (biker Red's brother) for this cool story.



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# From Behind The Handlebars



I don't personally make resolutions, but I have asked God to lead and guide me throughout this year as we do our best to serve Him. So when we pulled out of the Broad Street Pizza Hut on New Years Day, I knew we had just been part of a great ride and wonderful celebration of the New Year. When it all started hours earlier at the Sportsman's Warehouse, we were all in awe of the number of motorcycles that came to ride. Our new Road Captain, Gary Scruggs, took us on a great 40 mile or so ride and we had a total bike count of 198. By far the biggest New Years Ride we have been able to have. We got to meet folks from all over who come every year to ride with us. We were fortunate enough to have a group of folks from Athens who have been able to ride with us and it's always a blessing to see them. We saw license plates from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Florida, and even one from Louisiana. We had Harleys, Wings and everything in between on the ride. The members and staff of the Chattanooga chapter of CMA want to thank the management and the staff of the Pizza Hut for working so very hard to feed well over 100 bikers who stormed in cold, hungry and ready to

eat. If you were there, you probably saw some of the hardest working waitresses in town! It was fantastic of them to reserve an entire restaurant for a bunch of bikers. We will be ready in 2008 for another great New Years Day Ride!

I was asked why we didn't charge a fee to ride and although everyone would gladly throw in a few bucks to pay for the ride, that's not what its about. It is a pleasure and a joy to put the ride together and to be able to be a part of so many bikers as they

celebrate the New Year. Whenever I think of money and New Years Day, I recall the comedian and children's show host, Soupy Sales. On January 1, 1965 on his live morning children's show, Soupy suggested to his young viewers that they find the wallets of their sleeping fathers and take out "some of those funny green pieces of paper with all those nice pictures of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Alexander Hamilton, and send them along to your old pal, Soupy, care of WNEW, New York." Although that was over 40 years ago, I still remember it every year. Soupy got a one week suspension and only got a few dollars, since most kids who watched him didn't know how to mail a letter and he didn't even provide an address.

We have a few great rides coming up this year and we hope to be a part of many others throughout the riding season. Gary is planning a ride to tame the Dragon's Tail and we will let you know the date as soon as it is set.

Mark your calendars! Blessing of the Bikes is April 7, and the next morning we have a Sunrise Easter Service at

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Chickamauga Lake. We hope you will join us for both!  
So, until next month when I get back to storytelling and recalling the past, ride safe and remember CMA is just a phone call away.  
Next month I'll share with you how I know the man known to many as Waterbed and why it's his fault I ride a motorcycle.

See you on the streets,

**Harry T. Stone**  
info@cmachattanooga.com  
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**Sharon Wade - Continued from page 7**

Sharon and Ralph jumped at the chance, but Jody went her own way. Olson's winter home was the Montgomery Fairgrounds in Montgomery, Alabama where they parked between October and April each year. During these months, Sharon and Ralph returned to Chattanooga, where Sharon worked as a teller and reunited with her son and estranged family. Ralph worked at a local gas station a short distance from their apartment right off Brainerd Road. They were married in January of 1966 and hit the road again in April of that year. The carnival's motto was "when the grass turns green, the wheels roll." She toured for six months during 1966 riding hundreds of shows. She never wrecked during all her hours on the wall, although she did see Ralph take a nasty fall when a flat tire dropped him and his Indian during a performance.

Sharon and Ralph divorced in the fall of 1967 and she returned to Cleveland to raise her son full time. Sharon soon met Joe Wade of Cleveland and they were married in January of 1969. Joe and Sharon raised Rusty and soon had a daughter, Bekki. Both Sharon's kids currently live in Cleveland, Tennessee. Rusty Rymer, Sharon's son, is a Captain with the Chattanooga Fire Department and Bekki Wade Samples, Sharon's daughter, is a wife and full time

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Sharon on A1A, between Daytona & St. Augustine

mother. Sharon and Joe have four grandchildren.  
Today, Sharon & Joe ride a 1999 ElectraGlide Ultra Classic with a Leman trike conversion. Sometimes Joe's on the front, sometimes he's on the back, depending on the amount of fun he's had. He's knows he's in good hands with Sharon at the handlebars, after all, how many riders have ever ridden The Wall of Death?  
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For those of you who did not make the New Years Day ride, you missed a good one. It was cloudy, windy, and cool (read that cold) and still almost 200 bikes showed up for the run. The ride itself was a short one (approximately 40 miles), but it was a safe one. We ended up in St. Elmo where we commandeered the Pizza Hut. They never had a Monday afternoon like that before and will probably never have another one least wise not very soon.

A quick report on the "Toy Store" in Walker County. On Saturday, December 16 they provided toys for 1,325 children from 537 families, and we thank everyone for your support.

Well, January is here so can Daytona be far away? If you are planning on heading down to "Bike Week" or on any other long rides and your bike sitting out the winter in the garage, then spend a little time and make

sure that it is road worthy first. There are enough things and idiots out there to give you trouble without you adding to them.

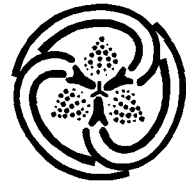
I hope that all of you had a Happy

New Year's Eve (that's amateur drunks night out to me) and that 2007 treats you well.

Be careful out there and keep the shiney side up.

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**3 April 1984 – 30 December 2006**

Sergeant John Sullivan was born 3 April 1984 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He enlisted in the United States Army on 23 July 2003. He graduated One Station Unit Training as a 13B Field Artilleryman at Fort Sill, Oklahoma from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion 40th Field Artillery.



Upon graduation from Basic Training he was assigned to Bravo Battery, 2d Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, Camp Hovey, Korea from December 2003 to July 2004 where

he served as number one man and Howitzer Driver. In these roles, he participated in numerous training exercises to help preserve peace on the Korean Peninsula. After eight months in Korea, the 2d Brigade Combat Team was called upon to deploy to Iraq in support of OIF III. While deployed in Ar Ramadi, Iraq SGT Sullivan served on the M109A6 155mm Paladin Howitzer as a Cannon Crewmember providing valuable counter fire missions while also conducting numerous mounted combat patrols throughout the Brigade sector.

In August of 2005 he redeployed from Iraq with Bravo Battery to Fort Carson, Colorado. While stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado he continued to train and hone his skills as an Artilleryman on the M119A2 105mm Towed Howitzer and also served as the Battery Commander's Driver. He was recommended to attend the Sergeant Promotion Board in July 2006 and was assigned to 1st Howitzer Section as the Ammunition Team Chief.

In October 2006 SGT Sullivan redeployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08. He served as a M240B gunner, driver and riflemen on over 50 combat missions with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Battery "BLACKSHEEP".

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge.

SGT Sullivan is survived by his wife Michele and newborn son John Michael Sullivan Jr. born on 31 December 2006.





John Jr.



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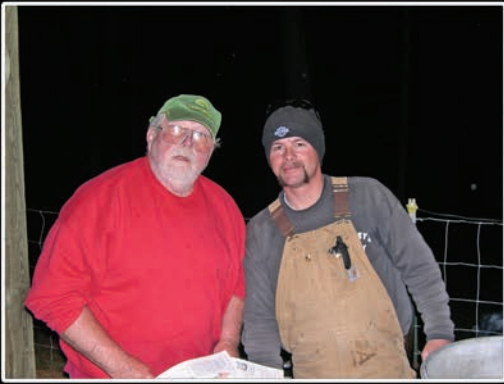
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**Last** week as I was finalizing my “Counter Steer” column for this month, I had a turn of events that led me to re-think my subject matter. I was forced to have my 10-year-old Miniature Schnauzer “Cricket” put to sleep due



to the final stages of diabetes she suffered from, and it was one of the hardest things I have had to do in years. After the initial sedative shot in one of the vet’s treatment rooms and prior to the final shot to stop her heart Cricket had about 10 minutes to just quietly lie in my lap for her final time of petting. As she lay there all I could think of was the way I had failed her as her master by being somewhat abusive at times when I felt she deserved punishment for certain things she had done. I feel punishment is appropriate at

times but I also know that I occasionally stepped over the reasonable bounds and now I pay the price with those negative memories when I think of this dog that had been such a part of our family’s life. The fact that dogs are so forgiving gives me hope that she only had good memories, but I know that in so many ways I fall short in my life and this is just another example.

With the large number of readers that “Road Rash” serves there is a probability we have some readers who are involved in some form of abuse as a regular part of their lives, and I am not talking about dog abuse. Child and spouse abuse are illnesses that not only affect the ones being abused but also the abuser. Unfortunately, many times the children being abused later as adults become the abusers while raising their own families. Prior to my

mother ultimately being sent to an orphanage, she and her eight sisters were temporarily raised by her father following her mother’s early death. Her dad would lovingly care for the girls during the week by cooking, singing, and loving them in every way, but would come home drunk on weekend nights and throw them against the walls like rubber balls. My prayer is if you find yourself in a similar situation, knowing you are stepping over the limits, you will take some sure steps to bring that cycle of despair to an immediate halt. Very few of us turn out to be the great parents or spouses that we once envisioned but that doesn’t mean we can’t change. Society has always labeled motorcyclers as being somewhat tougher and at the same time more compassionate than most folks within the community. It takes a tough man to admit to the problem of abuse and even a tougher one to do something about it. If we are in fact more compassionate, then there is not a need more deserving of compassion than to protect our own family members. My prayer is if you suffer from this serious problem you will ask for God’s forgiveness, your family’s forgiveness, and then seek help to do something about it NOW. It is also my prayer that some day you will not have to look back at the way you failed your family, as I look back on my failure with “Cricket”, but will be able to say “I did my best”.



As Jesus was hanging on the cross, people verbally and physically abused him in every way imaginable and he just responded “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do”. He offers true forgiveness upon the asking.


I wish you and your family a healthy and happy year of looking forward to seeing other each day! Your family is special and so are you!

“Under His Wings”,

**Eddie Rahm**

edtennga@bellsouth.net” edtennga@bellsouth.net

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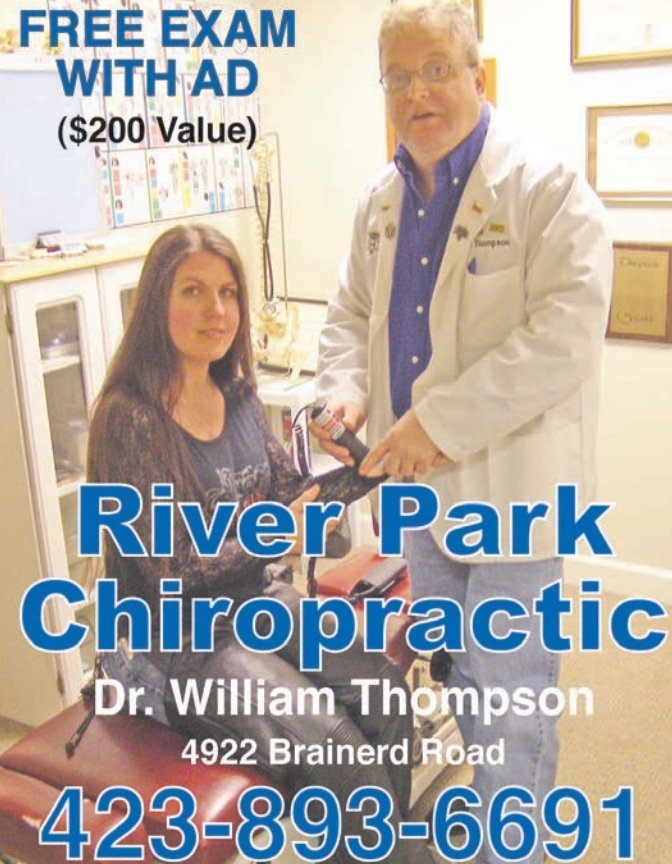
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# The Hot Seat



**You** may have seen this month's Hot Seat feature on the other side of the bar at any number of local watering holes. Amy Lou, an accomplished bartender, has heard more than anyone's fair share of bad jokes, opening lines, and heartbreaking stories – and she's endured it all with a smile. I'm not sure how she's held it all together, but I'd bet it has something to do with the stress relief she gets riding her Harley-Davidson and the support she gets from her club brothers. No longer slinging drinks, she's one of the few area women who can ride baggers with the big boys and perhaps the only one wearing a three-piece patch on her back when she does. Amy Lou is the only female member of the Unwanted MC – a patch she's earned and is proud to wear.



Amy Lou does really well taking a tight turn on a mountain road and remembering all the ingredients involved in a fluffy chick drink, but let's see how she does answering the **Hot Seat questions:**

**1) Do you have any nicknames, and if so, how did you get them?**

I've always been known as "The Queen" (the queen of bartending). Now that I've retired from that job, I'm better known as Amy Lou.

**2) When did you first start riding motorcycles, and what was your first bike?**

I started riding about 15 years ago. I learned how to ride on a 450 Suzuki, rode it for almost four years, then bought a '93 Softail Custom. If you've known me for that long, you'll remember that awesome bike won every show it was in. In 1996 I bought a beautiful big purple and red Road King. I loved her for ten long years. Sixty thousand miles later I decided to part ways with her and buy a black 2006 Street Glide.



**3) What was your longest road trip on a bike, and did anything interesting happen?**

I've got many... I guess the longest was when I went



to Sturgis and across the Rocky Mountains. It was about 5,000 miles in two weeks.

**4) Do any other members of your family participate in motorcycling?**

My husband and my "fake" son (stepson) ride – plus I have a lot of "brothers" in the Unwanted Motorcycle Club.

**5) Have you ever had any serious wrecks?**

No, thank God. I've had some close calls but so far I've been very lucky.

**6) Have you ever been discriminated against because you ride a motorcycle?**

Not really... I get a few looks and comments when some guys realize that I ride a bigger bike than theirs or that I wear full colors.

**7) Have you enjoyed special benefits because you ride a motorcycle?**

I guess so... Most people respect me for being a woman rider and because our club does so many great things for people in need.

**8) What is your favorite type of riding and what is your favorite local route (within 100 miles)?**

I'm lucky enough to have a great ride every time I leave home. My hubby and I live out on Lookout Mountain. Riding up and down, and around all the curves is always special. All of the mountains in this area are good rides.

**9) On average, how many miles do you ride each year?**

As many miles as I can get. Usually 12 to 15 thousand a year, depending on how much time I can take off work. The more miles – the happier!

**10) If you could change one thing about the motorcycling community, what would it be?**

I believe our community and town shows support for us and the work we do, but I wish more people would watch out for riders on the road.

I guess I can turn off the spotlight and pull the stool out of the corner until next month. If you know of anyone who should be featured here, let me know. My contact info is on page 5. In the meantime, if you happen to see Amy Lou out and about this month, ask her to sign your issue of Road Rash Magazine and how she took the heat.

**TOM THE BOMB**



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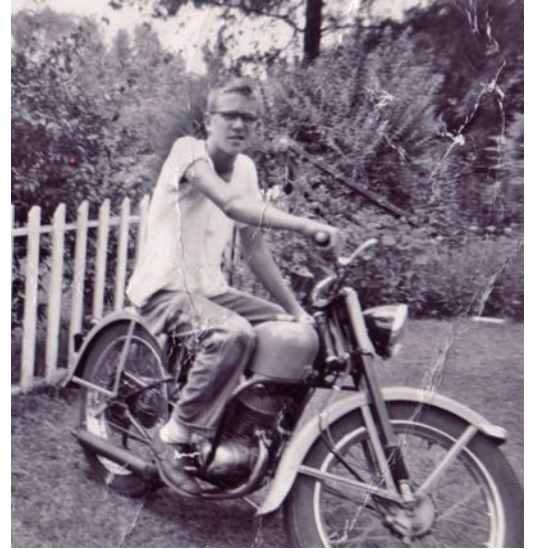
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# Vintage Photos



Rock, attached are some vintage photos of my bike. The bike is a 1972 customized Honda 750. These pictures were taken in 1974, the year that the bike took first place in the Chattanooga Rod and Custom show. Most of the custom parts were obtained from Tom Cass at CycleRama when he was located on Hixson Pike. All work on the bike was done by myself except the paint, which was done by Mickey of East Ridge. One pic was taken on top of Lookout Mtn.

Jerry Nicely  
Chattanooga

Charlie Adams  
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