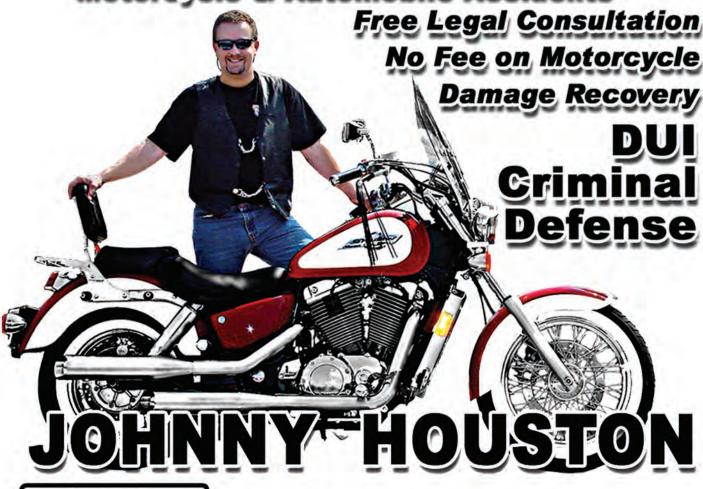


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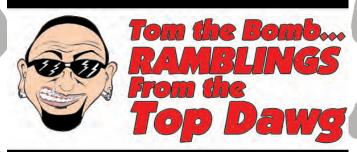
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I was riding through the "S" curves on Hixson Pike recently and started thinking about George Orwell's 1949 novel, Nineteen-Eighty-Four. Let me explain...

That stretch of road used to be one of my favorite places to twist the throttle back a little, lean into the turns and feel my stress blow away with the wind. Now... the 40 miles an hour speed limit is "photo enforced." That means, if anyone goes barreling down through there at speeds above what is posted – an unmanned camera will take pictures of them, their vehicle, and their tag number and they'll eventually receive a citation through the mail. It kind of takes the fun out of it. It's akin to the constant surveillance George Orwell described in a fictional futuristic totalitarian regime.

I have a friend who works in law enforcement who explained some things to me a while back concerning photo-enforced speed limits and traffic signals. In one particular instance, a company approached the local government "powers that be" with a proposal that was hard to turn down... They provided the equipment and labor to install cameras as well as the software and upkeep - free of charge. They even take care of mailing out the citations, collecting the money and doing almost all of the paperwork. All they ask in return is the majority of the money collected from the fines. Basically, all the local government has to do is provide an officer to review the tapes and/or photos (to make the final judgment on whether or not a law was broken) and cash the checks when they come in. Turning down a proposal like that is almost like turning down free money. And... it works. I no longer take the Hixson Pike "S" curves any faster than the posted speed limit, because I know that if I do, I will have to pay

have to pay.

It is a dangerous place. In the past, several people
(including a few teenagers) were severely injured and/or killed

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when traveling through the "S" curves at too high a rate of speed. You need only look to the roadside memorials to be reminded. I watched from the sidelines when every other effort to slow traffic down on that stretch of road (from a public safety standpoint) had failed. The city posted traffic officers, installed a traffic light, and highly publicized the dangers involved. But still, the speeding and accidents continued... until the cameras were installed.

I don't have any idea how much money Chattanooga has made off of citations brought about because of the cameras, but their presence has made a huge difference regardless. No one speeds through those curves anymore.

Not me anyway. I'm not made of money. Has it saved my life? Maybe. There's an argument to be made there. But I can't seem to bring myself to think that way. I'm still reminded how great it felt to lean over in the curves and roll on the throttle. I still want to shake my fist at "the man" whenever I see that unblinking eye staring blankly back at me - waiting for me to give in to my human nature. Waiting for my law-abiding responsible side to show weakness (don't laugh - I have one). I still feel like somehow my rights have been violated. Like "Big Brother" shouldn't be checking my speed and examining my credentials. But am I right in feeling that way? Not really.

As long as you don't break a law – you don't have anything to worry about. And if you are breaking a law, what argument can you present in your defense?

wouldn't want to stand in front of the parents of the teenagers that were killed on that same stretch of road and tell them I have a "right" to speed there and shouldn't be charged. We know when we are in the wrong, it's just that we've gotten used to getting away with it the majority of the time. We start to confuse rights with privileges and privileges with desires. Just because I enjoy speeding around a curve on my motorcycle (and believe I can do so without causing myself or anyone else harm) doesn't mean that I should be allowed to do so.

Here's something for you to think about... Why aren't there cameras on the "Dragon's Tail," or any other thoroughfare where speeding has been a problem? Can you come up with a good reason why there shouldn't be permanently mounted cameras in constant operation on the side of every interstate? How long to you believe it will be before George Orwell's vision becomes reality? Where do you believe your right to privacy ends, and your danger to society begins?

As always, before I leave you for another month, I'd like to thank you for choosing Road Rash Magazine and ask that you patronize our advertisers. They want, appreciate and need your support, and they pay our bills, so you don't have to. So, please let them know if you appreciate reading your own free local magazine!

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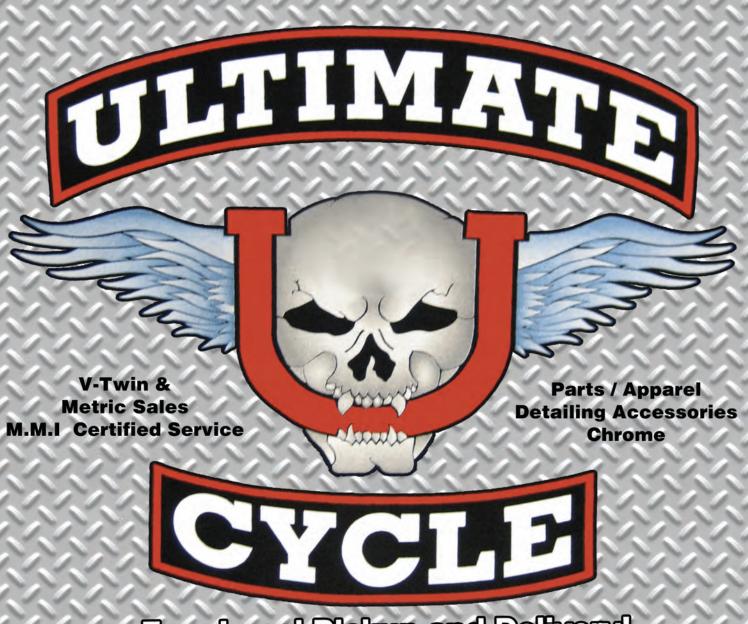
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#### ROAD RASH MAGAZINE - CHATTANOOGA AREA MOTORCYCLE EVENTS



# ROCK'S

Before I get started this month, I want to give you a hot tip on a great place to hear some live blues and eat some good food. During my Wednesday ride, my buddy Sandy and I stopped by White Cotton Leather in Dalton and then ate lunch

across the street at the Blues Train Cafe (see their ad on page 43). When I walked in, I was knocked out by how cool the place was – from the decor to the small intimate stage in the front corner. Blues Train offers a full bar and has really good food. The club reminded me of something you would find in Savannah, not Dalton. As a matter of fact, one of my favorite blues players, Eric Culberson, of Savannah played there just a couple of weeks ago. You need to give this place a try. When you do, tell Deanna that you saw Rock's article in Road Rash Magazine. Please support our advertisers. They enable us to bring this magazine to you each month. Without them you would not be reading this.

It's always nice to get an email from one of my few dozen readers. I just got one from a guy asking my advice on packing and preparing for a long trip. It's really gratifying to get correspondence that doesn't contain insults or threats. Anyway, this guy was supposed to travel with others, but they all couldn't go for one reason or the other. The important thing is that he's making the trip anyway. Atta boy! Now,

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I don't know the age of my reader, but he did call me his "elder," which means he's obviously much younger than me. I want to thank him for his email. I always enjoy hearing from folks and giving advice when I can help. I rarely really think of myself as an "elder," but I'm sure that I'm probably just in denial. My brain still thinks I'm 30, but the mirror and my body tell me otherwise. When I think about it though, it does seem that I am the elder in most situations. My wife is younger and all three of my partners are younger. I have mostly younger friends. Some would say that I'm just immature. When you were young, being dubbed "immature" was a serious put down. At over 60, however, I consider it a serious compliment. Anyway, here is my response:

I appreciate your support of our magazine and thanks for being one of my small, loyal, cadre of readers. Our staff works hard to bring a new and entertaining magazine to you every

month and we need all the support we can get.

I learned a long time ago that if you depended on others to go with you, you'd never go anywhere. That's because, as in your case, your friends bailed on you for one reason or another. A long adventuresome trip sounds great to everyone in the planning stages, but, it's amazing the excuses that arise the closer it gets to blast off. If the truth were known, most of them are just skeered. Bless their little hearts. Now I'm not saying that most people aren't a little apprehensive before embarking on a long trip. This happens to most people when leaving their family, business, and friends for a long period of time. This feeling is magnified when leaving on two wheels. It's just you, your bike, possibly a passenger, and your gear. No roof or doors can protect you from whatever the road throws at you. It's just you and the "mean streets." I've heard dozens of times "what do you do if you break down?" Duh... You fix a flat yourself and call for a tr...tr...trailer if it's



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something that can't be fixed on the spot. In addition, you have to contend with your non-cycling friends and family acting as if you are never coming back. Most people just can't comprehend undertaking such a feat.

Tip #1 - For a multi-state trip, always carry a list of your bike's dealers and their phone numbers all along your route. Harley riders have the Harley Owners Group (HOG) Atlas, which lists all the dealers in the country. If you are a back roads rider, however, you'll need a real map too. The HOG maps are only good for interstate travel. If you don't have one, let me know, I'll give you one of my past issues.

Tip #2 - Always carry a cell phone. I keep mine off until I stop at night unless I need it for an emergency.

Tip #3 - We only carry enough clothes for four days. Most

decent motels have washing machines on site.

Tip #4 - Always carry plenty of warm riding gear. Conditions change, so don't get caught with your pants down.

Tip #5 - Carry a tire patch kit if you have tubeless tires. I also carry a small 12-volt compressor. Laugh if you will, but it has saved my butt many times.

Tip #6 - Take an extra key. Keep it stashed away from your primary key. I learned this the hard way in South Dakota

Tip #7 - Needless to say, take good rain gear. This should be on board at all times, even around home.

Tip #8 - Buy yourself (and your passenger if you have one) both a pair of "LD Comforts." You can find them at www. Idcomfort.com. This is the best money you can spend, bar none. Trust me on this one; I know what I'm talking about. My wife and I experienced absolutely no "monkey butt" on a 4,600-mile trip!

Tip #9 - Being a "techno freak," I always take my laptop computer so I can access weather radar and check my email. I've varied routes many times to miss strong storm systems. Most motels have wireless Internet, so you can surf from vour room

Tip #10 - Plan your trip carefully and have your reservations made in advance. It sure saves searching when you're tired after a long day. Double-check your dates. (From Pebbles for your wife):

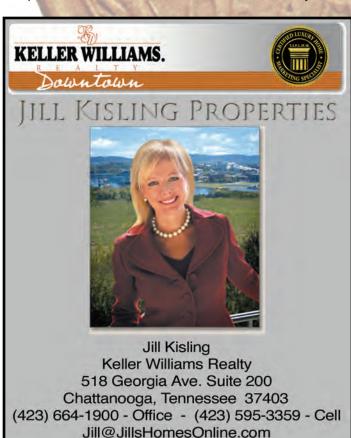
Tip #11 - Don't carry a hair dryer, most motels provide them. Tip #12 - Pack minimal make-up and travel-sized shampoo and toiletries. Most motels even supply shampoo and lotion.

Hope these tips help you!

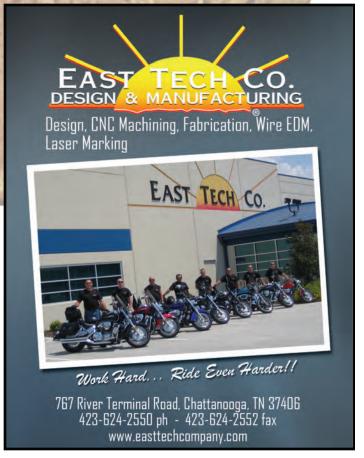
LTRNTT, Rock

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#### TEARS ON BLACK LEATHER

#### **Brothers and Sisters Down or Gone**

#### **HELP US HONOR YOUR BROTHERS.** SISTERS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

This column is entirely reader generated. Please send in a photo along with a poem or short paragraph about your loved one so that we can remember them here.



On August 28, 2008 Phil "Fred" Harris, 61 passed away due to injures sustained in a motorcycle accident. Fred was a Vietnam Veteran, a member of Chapter 203, an avid motorcyclist. He was always ready for a good conversation. He enjoyed many biker events, and his favorite was Boozy

Creek. Fred was a loving Father, Grandfather, and the best friend a person could have. He will be greatly missed by all of his family and friend.

As An Eagle Flies So Does Our Brother. - A Friend

#### IN MEMORY OF JOSH SWARTZ

If there were more people in this world like Josh Swartz, it would be a better place. You know people who can brighten anyone's day just by being around? Josh was one of those rare people. He was so incredibly funny, and had the greatest smile and laugh. He was literally one of the people that make this world worth being in. People claim after almost anyone's death that they were the best, but people would say those things about Josh while he was still physically around. Anyone lucky enough to have known him would agree that he was an all-around great guy, one that cannot be replaced - ever. You would have never guessed he would die at such an early age. It's difficult to imagine him not being around every day. I think everyone who had a chance to know Josh has a funny story to tell about him.

There was one time when several of us were hanging out in the East Ridge Food Lion parking lot (also known as "parking lot pimping") one night, and Josh was sitting on the tailgate of a guy named Bubba's truck. Bubba decided that instead of walking the 10 (maybe 15) feet to Food Lion, he wanted to drive. He told Josh ahead of time that he was getting ready to move, but Josh stayed put for the ride. Bubba gunned the engine (boys will be boys), and Josh rolled slowly off the back of the tailgate. He was not hurt at all and didn't even get any road rash! The thing that made it so funny was that Josh did the slowest roll ever off the back of the truck - almost a full body flip, but in super slow motion. He stood up and just laughed along with everybody else. He then walked over to everybody to tell us all about how he had fell off the tailgate, and how funny it must've looked. That was the kind of guy that Josh was. He would take things with a grain of salt and was able to laugh at himself. I can still hear his voice, and see that big grin of his

Josh had a silver and black Honda CBR1000. He loved to ride his bike, and he rode really well. He also had a lowered truck that he loved, and that truck was nice! Josh loved motorcycles so much that he requested to have several bikes at his funeral. If that isn't dedication, I don't know what would be!

It's hard to put into words how much Josh enjoyed riding. Every time I saw him ride, he had a smile on his face, and seemed to be at ease. He had a different kind of smile. It was the kind of smile someone who equally loves to ride would only be able to recognize. Josh passed away while on his way to work, riding his bike. If it's any consolation at all, he spent his last moments doing something that he really enjoyed and loved. At Josh's funeral, there were a total of 88 bikes, from what we were told. On the way out of the funeral home, and all the way to the cemetery, everyone revved their bikes to honor Josh. I could almost hear him looking down from Heaven and telling others up there with him, with that big smile on his face, "That's for me, y'all!"

Granted, I did not know Josh as well as others might

have. But I was around him enough to know that he was an awesome guy, he could make me laugh anytime, and the world is never going to be the same without him. I did have the pleasure of meeting his parents, Sue and Peanut, and in getting to know his mom, I could better understand how Josh was the type of person that he was. He was a lot like his mother, and I could tell by talking to her that she is so incredibly proud of him, and his father is too. Sue shared with me that if he were in trouble (or just being cute) he would tell her, "I'm the baby, Mama. Gotta love me!" Peanut told my husband and I that Josh was his hero.

Those who are left behind to honor Josh's memory include his family, with his parents, siblings and siblings-inlaw, Michael, Kelly, Kimberly and Steven. His entire family loves to ride and enjoyed the times that they were able to ride with Josh, along with the times they had with him throughout his life. Josh also left behind a fiancé, Christian and a son, Ryne. I know that they are going through a rough time, and it will take time to help them all adjust to the change, but maybe they can have more peace knowing their loved one made such a positive impact on everyone's life he touched. I know that Josh will keep everyone in Heaven laughing, until we can all meet up with him again. We all love and miss you dearly, Josh.





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#### HERE'S THE RUB

"The son of Daedalus who, in escaping from Crete on artificial wings made for him by his father, flew so close to the sun that the wax with which his wings were fastened melted,

and he fell into the Aegean Sea." - The Greek Legend of Icarus

We are calling the newest member to join the group I ride with, "Glider." He is a hang-gliding enthusiast, as well as a hang-gliding instructor. Glider has promised to get us all out sailing the skyways of the Tennessee Valley soon. When I mentioned to my wife that I was toying with the idea of taking up hang-gliding it did not surprise her. I used to sky-dive many years ago. Although she does not ride, she has accepted the independent spirit that drives a person like me that rides a motorcycle and regularly takes off on trips of 1,000 miles (just to eat a hot dog or bowl of chili with a bunch of friends) and be home two days later.

What concerned her most was not the safety factor but a fear that I would want to buy my own glider. Her exact words were, "I know you! You will not be content to just have a hang-glider. You will have to make sure it



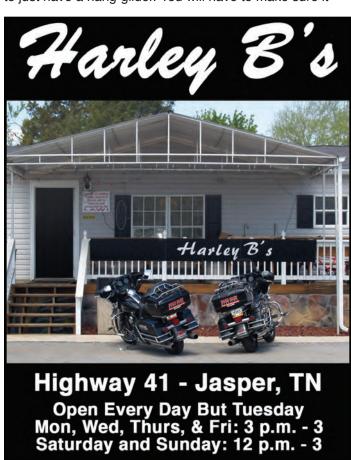
is different than everyone else's and then you start that of habit of yours, "customizing" it.

I chose the pseudonym RUB, an acronym for Rich Urban Biker, because I do like to customize my Harley and make it individually mine. Stock sucks! I look at a new motorcycle as a starting point much like an artist looks at a blank canvas. Everybody who knows me also knows that as soon as I make all the changes I originally envisioned, I sell it and start over.

When I showed my new paint job to Rock, who is knowledgeable and appreciates motorcycles more than anyone I know, he said, "I am afraid if I ever got a paint job that nice I would want to hang on to the bike and I simply can't do that because I rack up too many miles!" Some people, like Rock and Moleman, are content to leave their motorcycles stock and just ride the heck out of them.

Booger customizes his bike but he is what I would call a minimalist. It has to make it go faster, handle better or stop quicker or it is not necessary. He is more likely to take stuff off than add it on a bike.

There are many others like me however, that share my obsessive-compulsive disorder, cannot leave well enough alone and have to change their rides so they never, heaven forbid, pull up to a stop light, look over and see someone else riding a bike that looks just like the one they are straddling! Personalizing a bike is fun. I guess I like modifying them almost as much as I do riding them. It can







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however have consequences! Here are a few of the times in the past that where I wish there was a 12-step program for those of us with chrome addiction:

I used to love seeing the bikes that have those long leather streamers hanging from the handlebars. When I went to Memphis once I ran into the Iron Braid vendor at a rally and had them put arm-length black and white braids on my control levers. They looked great! Did I mention they were arm length? Them S.O.B.'s pulled a Zorro and whipped me in the face halfway to Nashville. I finally pulled over and used a Buck knife to cut them off in order to survive the rest of the trip home. I still see them on other people bikes and wonder if they are there just for looks or the rider is some kind of sadomasochist who enjoys being punished.

I put some bullet valve covers on the tires of my Police bike a few years ago. I thought the .38 Special shells matched the theme of the FLHP and when you customize, the devil is in the detail. I was out in the middle of nowhere when the rear tire went flat. Not only was the cartridge valve-cover missing, so was the entire valve stem! You can patch a flat. There is no roadside repair for a missing valve stem!

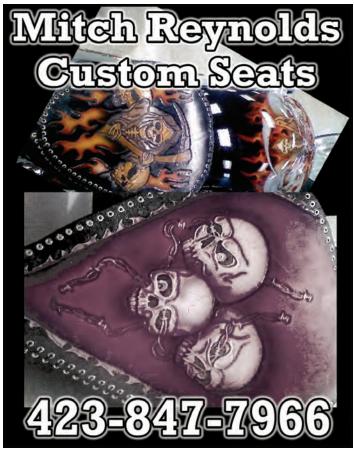
I put a chin spoiler on the Nightrain a few years ago. I reasoned that it was an easy enough installation that I was not going to pay the dealership to do it and so, with wrench in hand, I devoted a Saturday afternoon to a self- installation project. I had to remove and reinstall the regulator. The instructions said it would be a tight stretch. Tight was not the proper word. Impossible would have been more appropriate. As I tugged the wire broke. No big deal you say. Well, if you have a factory alarm system, the "black-box" brains of the bike considers it the same as someone attempting to hot-wire it for a joy ride and shuts down all the electronic components. It has dealer-only reprogramming and was yet another example of customizing gone badly.

So, I am planning to hang-glide and if I like it, I may eventually get my own kite, but there is a big difference between a mechanical mishap on the road and 1,200 feet in the air! I think I will not customize it. Chrome don't get you home! If I ever do suffer an in-the-air mishap, I don't want it to be attributed to a "screw loose in the operator."

#### **RUB**









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#### REVERAND BOOGER'S TWO-WHEELED PULPIT

Before I get started in my monthly rambling that I call a sermon. I would like to invite all of you to join me for a poker run on Sunday October 5. Registration opens at 11:30 pm, first bike out is 12:30 pm, cost is 10 a hand, and location is 309 north Hamilton Street in

Dalton. This run is to help raise money for Carter Hope Center, a non-profit drug and alcohol treatment center. So please if you can, come join me to help those whom want help but can't affo rd it themselves. For more information

please visit www.chcenter.com.

It's Sunday and deadline is Wednesday and I have writers block. I am not saying what I do is real writing, it's more like random rambling that hopefully will make someone chuckle. I have been fighting this for about a week now. However, while riding yesterday, it hit me that I had 3 topics bouncing around the committee but I didn't have enough on them to make a full sermon. So I figured I would do 3 mini sermons.

Packing a bike

Rub covered this pretty well but I do have some stuff to add. My categories differ from his a little; mine are essential, circumstantial, and frivolous. Essential are things that I like to be on my bike all the time. These are things that keep me safe and the bike moving. Circumstantial



would be things that would depend on length of trip and season. Electric gloves and clothes would fall under this. Frivolous would be everything else. Now on my Dyna space is somewhat limited so essential comes first. Like rub said what I consider frivolous may be high priority for someone else. For the most part if it doesn't keep me dry, warm, or my bike running it falls under frivolous. Ok I do at times bungee a

good luck Muppet on my bike. This may seem frivolous to some but I have gone several thousand miles and he has brought me luck so far. There are 2 people I admire when it comes to packing a bike, Moleman being one. His bike is like a rollin g filing cabinet. Everything is in its place, like he has an assistant running by his bike sorting through everything. The second is Frosty, no matter what you want there is a good chance he has it. I would not be at all surprised for him to pull a fully assembled engine out of a saddlebag if someone needed it.

Maps vs. GPS

My dad taught me how to read a map around the age of five. To this day, studying a map is one of my most favorite activities. In fact, an atlas falls into the "essential" category when it comes to carrying things on my bike. Currently I have one that I am using to mark all of the roads I have ridden. My goal is to mark every one at some point. Now that I have said that, you may have guessed I do not like using a Global Positioning System. I don't trust them. Call

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me old fashioned if you want, I really don't care. If you use a GPS and it hasn't given you wrong information at least once, it would surprise me. One day the "network" is going to fail and I will still be out tooling around reading my map while everyone else is lost.

#### **Cell Phones**

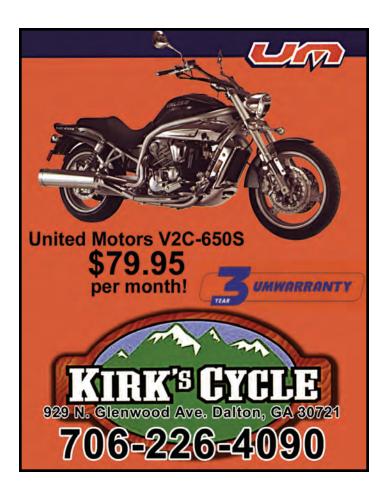
Even though these irritating pieces of modern technology also fall under "essential" on the list of things I carry while riding, I can't stand them. It's not mine that bothers me, it has saved my @\$\$ several times while out riding. I am mostly bothered by everyone else walking around on theirs. How many times have you been on a ride and at a stop you go to have a conversation with someone and they are either talking or texting to someone. If I've took the time to actually ride with you, the most you could do is listen to the lame jokes I've come up with while we were getting to wherever we are.

Well it looks like I've got a sermon despite my mental block. It may not be my best but at least its something. Before I say goodbye this month, I would like to wish my friend Nicole (Guido) a speedy recovery. She had the misfortune of taking a spill on her Sportster. She did show one of the true signs of being a biker... While she was lying in a ditch getting a broken collarbone looked after, her main concern was the condition of her motorcycle. Get well soon Nicole. I need you back in the pack!

Till next month Ride safe, ride smart, and ride often

#### **Reverend Booger**

reverendboog@hotmail.com









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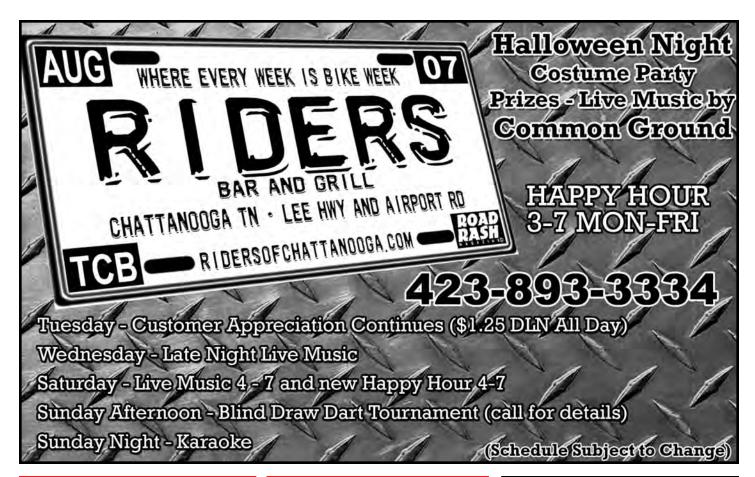
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#### ROAD RASH MAGAZINE - CHATTANOOGA AREA MOTORCYCLE EVENTS

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#### **OCTOBER 4**

Chattanooga, TN COLORADO POKER RUN Ultimate Cycle - FBO 11 a.m. Tony Shrader: 423-593-5622 or orvonton1@comcast.net

Ringgold, GA
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Catoosa County DFCS - FBO -10 a.m. Shay: googoo227@catt.com or www.cfapa.org

#### Dayton, TN FALL CREEK FALLS

Dayton Plaza - LBO: 10 a.m. Brady Queen-Peden: 423-365-2014, bqpeden@tva.gov, or cwmay@tva.gov

#### **OCTOBER 5**

DeKalb, GA

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404-298-8273, motorcycleride@dekalbsheriffsreserve.org, or dekalbsheriffsreserve.org

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#### I GOT MY MOTOR RUNNING

I got my first and only bike in January of 2007. It is a 2007 Sportster 883XL that was six months old with 4.950 miles on it. I had no idea how to ride it. I had only been on the back of a bike a couple of times in my life, and had wanted one for many years. I got the bike and it sat in my garage. I took the motorcycle safety course and failed it. One of the instructors told me that if he were me, he



would never get on a bike as long as he lived. The other one however, told me to go home, practice and not give up. A friend of mine had warned me about "garage mites," and I didn't want anything bad to happen to my bike. In early February, I decided to face my fears. Learning to ride was a very slow process. I would put it in neutral, sit on it, and walk it back and forth for the length of my driveway. After doing that for a couple of weeks, I started it up and walked it (in neutral) back and forth the length of my driveway. Over the next several weeks, I started getting the feel of the bike by putting it in gear and placing my feet on the pegs.

Toward the end of March (and after driving my neighbors crazy running up and down my street), I left my neighborhood for the first time. I rode from my home in Brainerd to my friend's house in Ft. Oglethorpe where a meeting was being held for the group of riders I now ride

with. After that, I started riding to work and studying to get the motorcycle endorsement for my license. I failed the written test twice before I finally got it in July 2007. I was hooked by then and rode every day. I have to give thanks to Moleman for spending hours on the road with me teaching me how to ride safely, and to the group for having lots of patience with me as I learned to ride in a pack with them. I love my brothers and sisters in ARM/RWR.

I've heard that you're not a true rider until or unless you lay your bike down. Well, I have done that many times. Thankfully, neither my bike nor I have suffered much damage. I have dropped it while coming to a stop (several times), a couple of times while taking off, once when I went straight in a curve into some kudzu, and once in traffic to avoid rear-ending the car in front of me that had suddenly stopped. That was the worst time, and I have scars on my elbows from that one. Each time, my only concern was picking the bike back up, which I have not learned how to do by myself as yet.

My first long trip was in February of 2008 (with my group) to Bowling Green, Kentucky. And my longest trip to date was on the July fourth weekend of this year. I did the first 1,000 miles in 17 hours to Black River Falls, Wisconsin. From there, I rode Sunday to Port Huron, Michigan. Monday, we crossed into Canada, rode across Ontario to Niagara Falls, re-entered the States there and slept in Erie, Pennsylvania. On Tuesday, we rode back to Chattanooga. That journey clocked me a little over 2,800 miles in four days of riding.

Now, I ride my bike to work and I ride a lot for pleasure. I ride alone and I ride with my group. I have ridden in the rain, (though I don't particularly like it), and I ride when it's cold. Last winter, I rode as long as it was above 25 degrees and not wet. That may be different this year as I now have









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electric gloves (thanks to my family)!

So far, this year, I have put over 23,000 miles on my bike. I look for opportunities, and find excuses, to ride. There are no words to describe how I feel when I am on my bike. And, I have never experienced anything like it. If you have ever thought that you would like to own and ride your own bike, my advice is to just get out there and do it. You won't regret it, I promise!

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#### ROAD RASH MAGAZINE - CHATTANOOGA AREA MOTORCYCLE EVENTS



The word "change" is defined in the Webster Dictionary as "something of the same kind but new or fresh." Some kinds of change we don't exactly look forward to, like getting old, while other types of change we do look forward to, like maybe a more exciting job. In any case, occasional change is good for expanding our horizons and getting us out of our comfort zones to do things we have not done before. It's time in my

Vesco

life to make a change, and I look forward to it, but at the same time it leaves me with a somewhat sad feeling.

After serving five years as president of Wings in the Wind Motorcycle Ministry, I have officially handed over the presidential position to Randy Carter, who is already serving as a Wings officer. Randy has some new fresh plans for

Wings to expand its ministry and to increase membership. I offer my heartfelt thanks to Randy for stepping into this



role. I will remain a Wings member, but will be limited in my participation so that I can pursue other service opportunities and interests, and also to stay out of Randy's way as he takes the group where he feels the Lord would want him to.

If you are personally looking for a group to be a part of, or are currently involved

in a group that is not meeting your needs, you may consider a change to Wings in the Wind. Personally, at this point I feel the Lord is leading me to other ministries and other forms of service to him. One new responsibility I am already excited about is being the teacher for the five year-olds class at



church on Wednesday evenings. The five year-olds are a fun group and since I think like a kid, it should be a good match for me. My motorcycle related plans are to ride more on my sport bike (Aprilia Tuono) and less "two up" riding with my wife Mary on our cruiser (Honda Magna). Mary and I will be substituting much of our weekend cycle riding with trips in our new Honda S2000 two-







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seat convertible.

As I spend less time with Wings, I plan to spend some time with other local cycle clubs, publicizing their activities in a series of Road Rash articles. Beginning next month (with the Black Angels MC), I will be highlighting some local clubs in a series of Counter Steer articles. Once every three months, "Counter Steer" will feature one of our local groups. I will obtain photos and info through visiting a meeting and conducting an interview with the leadership. If you would like your group highlighted, send me an email (and an invite) and I will attempt to accommodate you.

I would like to take a minute to offer thanks to some folks who helped Wings evolve from a vision to a reality. I also would like to highlight some of my fondest memories of past Wings events.

Thanks goes out to: Jon Arbuckle for his support, wisdom, and being my faithful riding buddy over the years! John Martin for his photography and sense of humor, which



always made events more fun! James Canning for all the help he provided with the Wings Web site and publicity materials! Paul Michaels for helping get Wings in the air! Bob Circeo for his Godly wisdom and support, especially when others frustrated me! Jimmy Johnson for his leadership

in starting the Jonesboro Georgia chapter. Louis Marler for his leadership in starting the South Pittsburg chapter. Tom Blevins for his advice and help on starting Wings in the Wind! And special thanks goes to my wife Mary for all the times she had other things she would have liked to do but came with me on Wings events to support me and Wings

There are several Wings events over the years that stand out... Our group ride to Etowah where we split

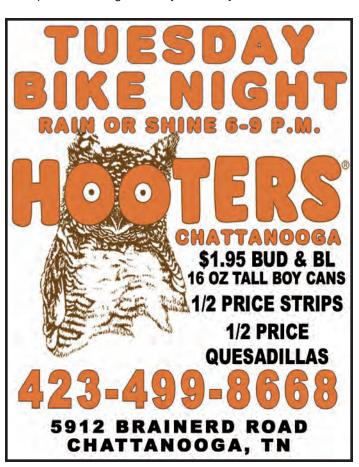


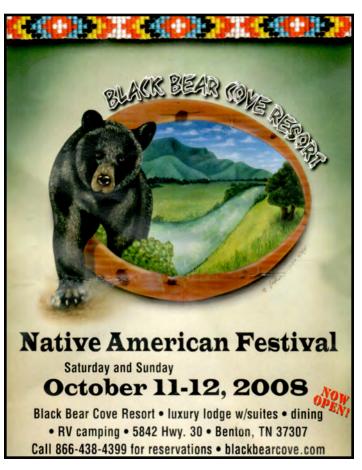
up into three groups with three different routes, all converging at Etowah for a great dinner. Our "Eight-State" trip last Spring, in which we met many new folks, saw many interesting things, enjoyed our fellowship, and rode our bikes on the back roads for five days. The Chattanooga Bicycle Club events that we helped with (for five years, until being told we were no longer needed due to liability concerns). The Trail of Tears ride that we helped with early in the morning (for five years until told we were no longer needed due to liability concerns). Our serving and cooking for the homeless men at the Union Gospel Mission. Our overnight trips to Fontana. And, of course, our rides to the Barber Motorsports Museum to see some of our first motorcycle loves.

Speaking of change, if you are living your life without the Lord, it is time for you to make the only change that that will impact your life forever. Ask for his forgiveness of your sins, then place your trust and care in his hands. What a change! What a Lord!

Under His Wings,

Eddie Rahm edtennga@bellsouth.net





#### Welcome Home

Our Brother, Son, Husband, Father, Uncle, Grandfather

SSgt. Bruce A. Hodge Sr.

Rising Fawn, Bruce Allen Hodge Sr. 57, departed this life on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. He served in the U.S. Army during and after the Vietnam War July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1968 to September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1979, he was in the 39<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer and the 93<sup>rd</sup> Combat Engineer where he received a purple heart. He was a member of the American Legion Post 214 in Fort Oglethorpe. He loved going to Florida for Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally. He was a hero in many of our lives was happiest when he was riding his Harley. I remember when he got me into motorcycles it was a big brother thing (I was so afraid to ride with him but he looked over at me and said you're doing great sis, that's all it took.) Bruce was one of those kinds of people that if you needed it, he would give it to you. He









had a lot of friends and resided in North Georgia near Chattanooga. We have always been a tight bunch of kids but that's how our mother taught us. The funeral was honorable just how he would have liked it, lots of bikes, the honor guard and a 21-gun salute for being a Vietnam veteran. Thanks to all who helped with his service to get it organized (I hope I don't forget anyone). PGR, American Legion Fort Oglethorpe, CMA, Thunder Roads, Alabama and Tennessee editions, Road Rash Magazine, Southern Cruisers, Rev. Warren Scott, Danny Robertson, Wayne Collins, Steve Mullis, Chuck, Dawn Mullis, Angel Collins, Elizabeth and her mother for the food at the Legion, Hollywood, Fast Eddie, Stoner, Forest, Ray, Annette Robeck (PGR), Sneakysnake (PGR), Thomas Dooley (American Legion Post) presented our mom with a bible from the American Legion Post 214, how thoughtful. Tony Hales, his best friend, bought a vest with the American Legion Patch, for his burial. There are some great folks up there in Georgia and Tennessee; Wilson's Funeral Home, VFW Post, Veterans Riders and all the family and friends. My heart goes out for my mother and father Edgar and Wanda Wethington, his wife Jackie and her sons, Terry and David, and Bruce's children Bruce Jr, Bev, Brian and Becky Hodge. There were nine of us at one time but God had his plans, Dave, Karen, Gail, Loretta, Greta (myself) put in a prayer for us. I have written a lot of articles but this has to be the hardest, to write about your own brother. I know he was suffering with Stage 4 brain cancer but at the end it became too much for him. He died a hero and will never be forgotten. As I probably speak for all of us (We loved you and even when you got mad we still loved you.) That was just Bruce though. Thanks for reading I just wanted to let all the veterans know you are all thought about. I know how hard it is to deal with the VA because Bruce tried until he couldn't try anymore. God Bless and May Bruce Allen Hodge Sr. rest in peace at the Chattanooga National Cemetery. We Love You Brother. Greta Meadows - Panama City Beach Florida

















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#### ROAD RASH MAGAZINE - CHATTANOOGA AREA MOTORCYCLE EVENTS

#### Joe Cool's Biker Health

Road Rash readers, do you realize people who ride on motorcycles burn more calories than people who drive in cars? Motorbike riders require greater physical demand than those traveling by car.

So, avid bikers are, in part, living an active lifestyle.

Last month my article explained how you could achieve fitness and wellness without going to the gym. Well, this is a continuation of that same concept through active living. An active lifestyle is a way of living that incorporates regular exercise and activities. However, there are many other subtle aspects of an active lifestyle.

Remember, the key to a healthy life is eating sensible, healthy meals and using the energy within the meals. Unused energy stored in your body is the beginning of fat accumulation. You can make a big difference in your energy expenditures with just a few simple lifestyle changes. Start by walking more.

Going for walks in a park or in your neighborhood is great, but try walking more throughout the day. If you spend most of your day sitting in an office, use your break times wisely by walking in or around your workplace. Choose stairs over elevators. Try not to avoid walking.



When you seek a parking place at the mall, do not waste time looking for the closest space, but park further away and walk. Do not be a "parking lot stalker." A stalker will follow someone leaving the store in hopes of getting that shopper's close parking space, then hover over the shopper until the space is vacated.

At home, burn more energy by pushing a mower rather than riding a mower. Or, you could try pushing a riding mower. That would use a lot of energy! When planning family times, choose to bowl over watching

a movie. Plan picnics with healthy meals and activities like Frisbee or badminton over fast food restaurants.

The more you move the more energy demand you create within yourself. The decision to find reasons to burn calories will enhance your overall health and you will grow old gracefully. It is all about being active as a lifestyle. That is a more permanent attitude toward your life, not just a passing fancy to lose a few pounds.

You can start your new active lifestyle by riding your motorcycle everyday, and looking for ways to move more through out your day. In doing so, you will achieve improved fitness and wellness without going to the gym. Remember to take care of yourself. Because if you won't, who will?

#### "Joe Cool" Wiram

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#### GO WEST YOUNG MAN

Nine months ago, "Rock" invited me to join him, "Moleman" and "Pebbles" on a tour of the West. I had gone on several weekend trips and various day rides with these guys, so I was excited to have the invite. I accepted the invitation and started looking at the map.



You know how it is when you talk about a trip. You think the day to leave will never get there. Well, about two months out I started to get a little nervous. I consulted the veteran (Rock) about equipment and various accessories I might need. These conversations took place over several evenings and drove my wife crazy because she could never use the phone. At that point I was already making plans to clear my schedule at work because I was leaving in two months. (It never hurts to plan ahead).

One month out: I think my friends were a bit surprised by my enthusiasm. I had told customers, my business partner, employees, wife, parents, even the guy at the convenience store, "Hey, I am heading out West next month. I'll be gone for ten days." I guess I was getting a little excited/nervous.

**Two weeks out:** I contacted Mitch at Thunder Creek Harley-Davidson. I told him, "I'm going on a 5,000 mile trip. I need to get "Big Black" serviced. I'll need tires

and anything else you might think." At that point, I would have bought a glow-in-the-dark stuffed animal if he said I needed it. Mitch and the Parts Department got me fixed up. Thank you Thunder Creek. At that point, my work was not a priority anymore. I was just going through the motions. I had daily phone conferences with the "Road Dawgs" (Rock, Moleman, and Pebbles) to make sure I had everything on my list. I had ordered so much stuff online that my wife's co-workers thought she was addicted to Internet shopping because packages kept being delivered to her office daily.

One week out: Well, what can I say? I was trying to take care of any loose ends at work, and had most of my stuff packed. I told everyone several hundred more times that I was headed out West for ten days, and I had a long talk with my dogs about my impending absence. As it turned out, they were the only ones that still loved to hear all about my upcoming journey. My friends and family had figured out that I was really going... "Are you sure you want to go that far?" they asked. They acted like I was getting ready to board the Titanic. Then, when I explained to everyone that "Rock" was going to download pictures daily, they had renewed enthusiasm because they could check the Web site and travel along with us.

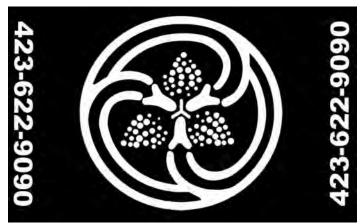
**Three days out**: I was nervous! Anyone with family and business responsibilities would be. But, as Janis Joplin sang, "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." You only live once. Let's go!

One day out: It was only hours away. I went through the motions at work. I couldn't sleep. I worried that I had over-packed, and drove everyone crazy one last time.









**Heading Out:** I kissed my bride, petted the dogs, and met the gang at Rock's house. The first day of the trip was a total blur. I think I almost ran over Rock a few times because I was so excited to be on the road actually doing it!

At the end of the first day, we arrived safely in Independence, Missouri. I must admit, I thought to myself that I had lost my mind taking that trip and that I had way too many responsibilities to be out there on a motorcycle. I mentioned that to Moleman (my roommate for the trip), and he just laughed and said, "Everyone needs a vacation." Man, was he right. I did not give work another thought for the rest of the trip. Thanks Moleman.

The trip was unreal: We saw the Badlands, Custer, Rushmore, Big Horn, Red Lodge, Bear tooth, Cooke City, Yellowstone, and "The Wizard of Oz." You had to be there. A friend told me that I would go West and never do it again, or I would go West and be hooked. I am definitely hooked. This country is awesome. I was fortunate enough to make the trip with some seasoned veterans, and I am thankful. If you choose your road crew carefully, you will make friends for life.

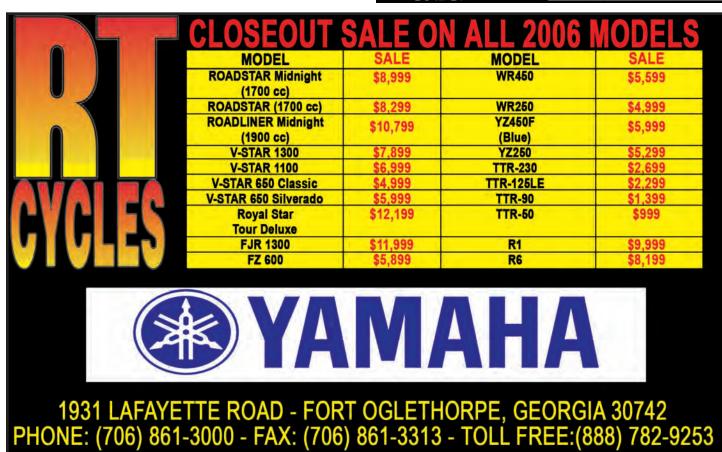
I hope that some of you who read this will decide to take the plunge. Go for it! You have always wanted to do it, and you deserve it. Take that trip wherever it may be. You won't regret it. Everyone needs a vacation!

#### Alan "BooBoo" Kelley

(You may even get a new nickname, too.) alan@roadrashmag.com







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T. Graham Brown - 8 pm CST





Saturday Night, October 11, 2008 Shane Worley - 7 pm CST John Anderson - 8 pm CST

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# HAMILTON COUNTY TO ROUNTY

# December 13

(Benefitting Partnership: Family Violence Services and Room in the Inn)

**STARTS: Big K-Mart (Highway 58) - 11 a.m.** 

**ENDS**: **Ultimate Gycle & Secoter** 

For More Information, Contact

Joe: 423-227-5682 frmc07@yahoo.com or Stephanie: stephanie.hale@earthlink.net

Sponsored by: Riders Bar and Grill, Ultimate Cycle, Subway (Market St.) and Kmart (Hwy 58)





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#### ROAD RASH MAGAZINE - CHATTANOOGA AREA MOTORCYCLE EVENTS



The local motorcycling personality we're featuring in the Hot Seat this month is none other than Al Creamer, the owner of Ace's Fort O Tattoo Company in Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia (one of our loyal advertisers), and a proud member of the Sons Of Confederate Veterans Mechanized Calvary. Not unlike the tattoos he's famous for producing, his life has been colorful and interesting. He's bounced around from Washington, DC to Virginia, Florida, Arizona, California, New York, and finally ended up in North Georgia. Luckily, we were fortunate enough to get him to stay still long enough to answer our ten infamous Hot Seat questions. Let's see how he did...

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

In the old days of the Red Rooster I went by Tattoo Al for obvious reasons. Today I prefer AL, although because of the name of my shop, I am called ACE sometimes.

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

I started riding on the late '70s on a '73 Sportster, which I sold to buy a '63 Pan chopper. I have had nearly a dozen





Harley's since then.

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

Back in San Diego I got really bored one night and loaded my tour pack with tattoo gear, saddlebags with tools and parts, and a duffle bag with clothes, then headed for Sacramento. I didn't even tell anyone I was going. The next afternoon I was still south of Sac when I stopped at a rest area. When I came out, my petcock had cracked and a large puddle of gas was under my bike. Why it didn't go up in flames I don't know. A quick fix, and I was back on the road.

#### 4) Do any other members of your family participate in Motorcycling?

My wife, Lynn, used to ride dirt bikes and four-wheelers, but she has an '08 Softail Deluxe now. My son, Sturgis, wants to build a bike so when he is legal to ride, he can have a bike he knows and can be proud of. To that end – we are looking for Softail parts between '90 and '99. We will even trade tattoos for parts.

# 5) Have you ever had any serious wrecks? Other than a broken collar bone and some road rash, nothing serious, but that's due to luck more than anything else.

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

I probably have, but I didn't really pay attention to it. I am what I am and anyone who would hold it against me I probably wouldn't want to know anyway.

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

I think knowing some of the people I have through riding has been a special benefit. The average citizen would look down on some people that I think have been some of the best people a person could know.

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

I like to go on routes I haven't been before and around here, there are an endless amount of new routes to take. I can't say I have a favorite. It all depends on the mood I'm in when I take off. Anywhere around here you can find some of the best scenery and highways I have seen in the U.S.

### 9) On average, how many miles do you ride a year?

I ride somewhere between 7,000 and 10,000 thousand miles a year.

10) If you could change one thing about the motorcycling community, what would it be? I'd like to see some of the riders dress more the part of rider. Shorts and sandals ain't much protection, but I guess one fall and some road rash or burns will cure them. But that is just an opinion I've formed from experience. Life is full of lessons. I have seen a lot of change in motorcycling since I moved back here. There seems to be more of a bond and respect among riders in general then I recall and it makes for more enjoyable riding.

Tom the Bomb







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# The backroads of Monteagle Mountain offer excellent scenery and diversity.

### FALL FOILAGE RIDII on the gurvey back roads of (0)

Located 38 miles west from Chattanooga and 80 miles east of Nashville, Monteagle is in a great place to make your headquarters for venturing out into the colorful 'mountains and hollows' of the Cumberland Plateau. Here, you have a choice of several scenic rides along the backroads of rural Tennessee, with all those tremendous curves, elevation changes and views, either looking off the Mountain bluffs or from the hollows back up at the plateau above. We list three rides here sure to please your craving for fall color touring

Start by making your headquarters camp at one of the quaint rustic cabins of Jim Oliver's Smoke House Best Western Lodge. The wood burning fireplaces invite you to cozy up and build a romantic fire then get into the big two person jetted tubs to soak and relax after your ride. The front porches call you outdoors to sit in rockers and enjoy the peaceful scenery surrounding the 20 cabins. Or, if a cabin is more than you want, the **Best Western Smoke** House Lodge rooms offer updated furnishings in the same quiet, peaceful surroundings; get a room out on the back and you'll enjoy the big open deck overlooking the 20 acre gardens and campus. Take a walk next door to the famous Jim Oliver's Smoke House Restaurant for some of their fabulous smoked Bar-B-Q and homemade sauces, fried chicken & catfish, fired green tomatoes, smoked beef brisket, country ham, homemade biscuits and fresh fried apple/peach/chocolate/coconut pies, locally grown fresh vegetables, and old fashioned long neck beverages.

Here you'll also find the Smoke House old country store featuring antiques galore, BBQ & Hot sauces, jams & jellies, pork skins, Watkins potions, roasted peanuts, gifts, a 1920 player piano, collectables, homemade candies, candles, and a whole lot of good stuff to explore and buy if you like.

While you're in Monteagle, visit the Monteagle Winery, just across the street from the Smoke House, they'll let you sample all their wines before you decide

which ones you want to take home with you. Shopping locally continues at Mountain Outfitters featuring camping and hiking gear, and a climbing wall, and B.True, a ladies clothing and jewelry boutique filled with unique jeans, tops, and frilly date-night attire. Right next door to the lodge, the Art Gallery features antiques, glass, and local handcrafts.

The curvey ride west on US 41A takes you thru Sewanee, home of the University of the South, where the austere Gothic buildings offer some of the most unique sites along the way. Ask for directions to the Memorial Cross and the Natural Bridge, both stunning local attractions. The little village of Sewanee

offers a variety of coffee houses, cafes, and gift shops featuring local crafts.

In Sewanee, you can choose to stay on 41A down the mountain thru charming Cowan and Winchester to TN 50 and on to the quaint hollow at Lynchburg, home of Famous Jack Daniels Distillery where you can take the distillery tour, and visit a host of country rural gift shops and eateries. Or, from Sewanee, you can turn south down TN 56 toward Sherwood where you'll find some of the most glorious sites along the quiet curvy highway 56, turning into Alabama 117 on to 72 East, where you'll ride by **Russell Cave**, a National Native Landmark, well worth visiting. Leaving Russell Cave hit 72 East back to Kimball and US 41 South to Jasper then US41 North to Tracy City and Monteagle.

Or, from Monteagle, ride east on US 41 to Tracy City, and visit Historic Dutch Maid Bakery and Café for refreshments and baked goods, then take TN 56 on to Altamont and then Beersheba where the Savage Gulf and Stone Door State Natural Area is located, a must see for dramatic bluff overlook views; Savage Gulf mountain setting make for a great stay. is one of the last stands of virgin uncut timber left in the eastern US. Then on down the scenic winding mountain highway to TN 127 North to TN 30 South, you'll be traveling some of the most scenic mountainous curvey

highways this side of the Smokies, turn right (West) onto 284 and go thru Fall Creek Falls State Park, where you can find the park center and cafeteria/gift shop, and hike to the highest waterfalls east of the Mississippi. Continuing west on 284 to TN 111 south to 399 west, this takes you to 108 where you'll turn west back to TN 56 west back toward Monteagle, headquarters for your fall foliage experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jim Oliver's Smoke House, 850 W Main St, Monteagle, TN 37356 or www.thesmokehouse.com for cabin and lodging reservations, call 800-489-2091.



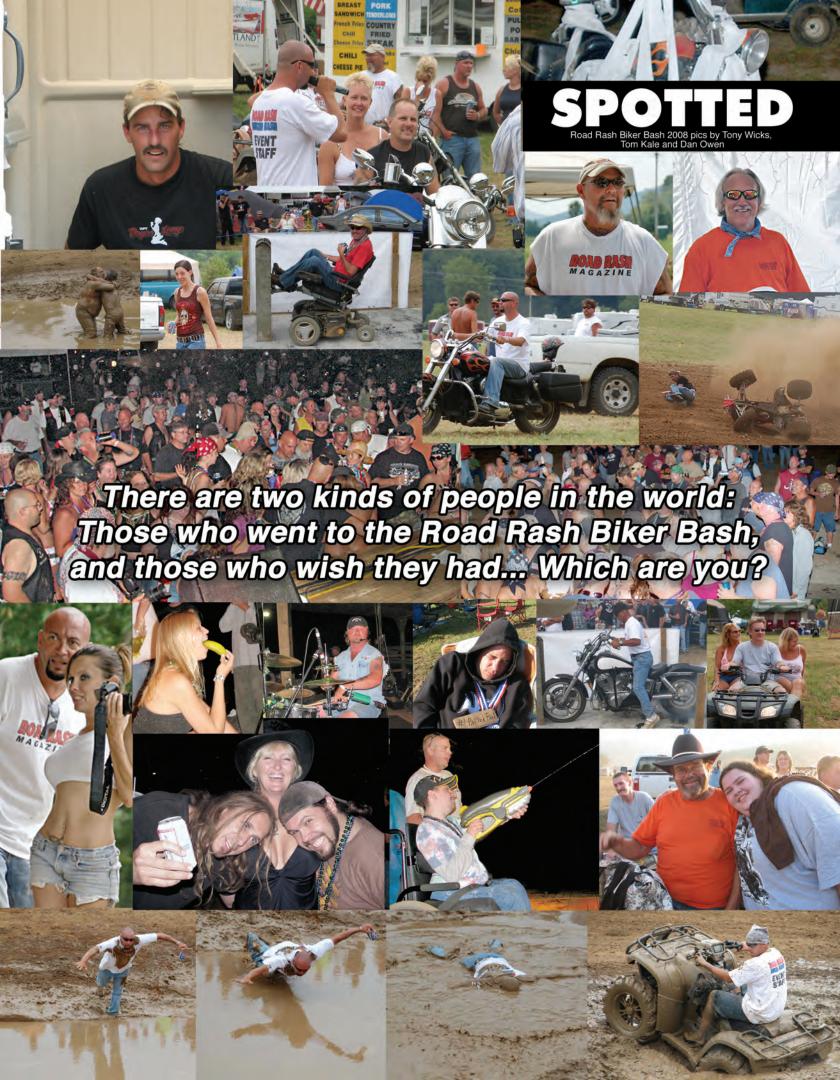
Stone Door overlook in Beersheba offers some of the most scenic views in East Tennessee.



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