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Tom the Bomb... RAMBLINGS From the Top Dawg

Hello loyal reader! Welcome to the November edition of Road Rash Magazine. It's great to see you back here, and we appreciate your support!

The weather is getting chilly. This is the time of year that I always dread. It's not that I'll be forced to park my motorcycle (because I won't), but that I will be forced to put on and take off layers of clothing, gloves, face masks, and all the other (for lack of a better word) crap I use to keep my body temperature up to an acceptable level while riding in cold weather.

I've had quite a few conversations with Bill Cason, the Trail Of Tears motorcycle ride founder, about his ride, but I've never asked how he picked the date. Whatever the method, it worked like a charm. Let me explain... It seems like the TOT is always the first ride where I feel the need to break out my winter gear, and from that date until spring (unless it is in the middle of the day), I almost always have to have on at least a jacket. The TOT is never what I would consider bitterly cold – but it's always the first time I admit the weather is a little brisk. I've learned through the last few years, that if a ride happens before the TOT, I can probably get by with jeans and a t-shirt – but if it happens after the TOT, I can count on having to wear leather (at least).

So far, I've survived riding (in this area) practically every day throughout the winters without freezing to death or losing any extremities due to frostbite

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– mostly due to wearing layers of clothing including insulated coveralls. They do a lot toward keeping me from being extremely uncomfortable. I don't know if you've noticed the insulated coveralls my partners and I wear when the weather turns chilly – but they work pretty well. According to my partners, the difference between not being uncomfortable and being warm has to do with the electric jacket liners they wear underneath. I don't have one – yet. I can't really tell you why not... Maybe I'm holding on to the belief that anyone this far south doesn't really need that kind of accessory, or maybe I think it's more of an accomplishment to survive without "cheating." In either case, I'm about ready to accept my place in the line of "electric cowboys" riding "steel horses."

In the next month, I'm going to shop around and see if I can't get a good deal on an electric jacket liner, and possibly electric gloves (which I hear are also one of man's greatest inventions). In the next few months, I'll let you know what I find, what it cost, and whether or not it was worth it. In the meantime, let me know if you

have any good advice on keeping warm while riding.

I would like to remind everyone while you are out shopping for your winter gear (or anything else for that matter), please consider doing business with our advertisers. As I've said before, they pay our bills where you don't have to. It is because of them that we can bring you a high-quality, locally focused magazine at no cost. Please show them your support!

I'd like to close with an apology. We ran an embarrassing picture of my good friend, Dozer, last month (as a joke), but, because of his position in his bike club, several people in the motorcycling community weren't laughing. The responsibility falls squarely on my shoulders, and I just want to say I'm sorry for any animosity it might have caused.

Until next month, keep warm, keep safe, and for goodness sake, keep riding!!!

Tom
THE
Bomb

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Trail of Tears 2008



The Trail of Tears Remembrance Association would like to thank the following people for making this year's ride a huge success:

Road Rash Magazine (the guys that support the loca. guys), Senator Bob Corker, Sara Brown, RPO Coordinator, Thunder Creek H-D, Earl Small's Cartersville H-D, CustomWerks Graphics, Shoals Outdoor Sports, Southern Honda Power Sports, Jim Oliver's Smokehouse, Easyrider, Shudan Design Group, Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield, City of Fayetteville, TN, City of Florence, AL, Trials Training Center, CMA – TN and AL, DW's Motorcycle Accessories, AL State Highway Patrol, Frank Pate Fire and Rescue and TN State Highway Patrol. Also, all local law enforcement in Hamilton County, Marion County, Franklin County, Lincoln County, Giles County, and Lawrence County in Tennessee and the Florence Motor Patrol units in Alabama.

Thanks also to all of the riders who came from all across the country. It is your participation that enables us to continue helping Native Americans through scholarships.

This was my fifteenth year leading the Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride and it was even more exciting than the first fourteen. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new route this year, and I hope to see all of you again next year on the Trail.

Bill Cason, Ride Leader and Originator







ROCK'S TWO CENTS

I can't believe it, but Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Where has the summer gone? We've lost quite a few riders this year due to accidents. Some were the fault of the rider, but more times than

not is was a cage driver's negligence that resulted in the rider's death.

Motorcycling has always been a dangerous activity, but things have gotten much worse over the last 20 years. When I first started riding (many decades ago) people only had the radio or a tape deck to fiddle with while driving. Today, we have people talking on their cell phones, putting on makeup while eating an Egg McMuffin, and texting all at the same time. Oh yeah, I forgot the people turning around smacking their kids in the back seat. It's a zoo out there. I have always likened riding to playing a video game. I assume that everyone out there is trying their best to kill me and it's my job to dodge them and avoid dying. Sounds relaxing, huh? It's my humble opinion that relaxing is not an option while riding in high traffic areas if you want to stay alive. That doesn't mean that I'm not having fun. It's fun trying to stay alive.

Now, there is another obstacle being thrown at us. This new obstacle is being paid for with our tax dollars and

promoted by our local politicians. This new danger has been a part of our past, but is being revived in an attempt to save money. "Chip seal paving" is messy and dangerous for all drivers. For motorcyclists it can be deadly. What are these morons thinking? Let's throw some loose gravel on a hard surface and try to hold it down with some nice hot tar. Most of the gravel ends up pooling up in places, causing a very dangerous situation for riders. Most veteran riders can handle a road like this, but new riders can panic and go down in the twinkling of an eye. Motorcycles just don't like loose gravel.

Today, due to high gas prices, we have dozens of new scooter and motorcycle riders hitting the streets each and every week. Many of these people have not been on two wheels since they were kids riding their bicycles. They have a hard enough time just riding on normally paved roads.

The City of Chattanooga has already messed up Altamont, Mountain Creek, Norcross, and Pineville Roads. I wonder how many roads in Riverview are going to get the ole chip seal process. I can almost guarantee you that there will not be one block of this piece of crap paving process used over there. It might chip the paint off a host of high priced automobiles, not to mention the tar. I'm sure the city is not going to pave the entire Volkswagen property site with chip seal. Welcome to Chattanooga Volkswagen, we're still using 1950's technology on our roads. Oh, you thought you were coming to a progressive, modern city. Sorry about that little misconception. Yee haw to the Mayor and city officials!

Now that my blood pressure is back to normal, I want to tell you about some changes made by one of our

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advertisers. Our friends and supporters at Ultimate Cycle have moved from their Market Street location to a brand spanking new facility on Jubilee Drive. When you are at the traffic light at Brainerd Road and East Brainerd Road, you can take left onto Jubilee Drive and it's right there behind the out of business car dealership. Charlie and Cindy have outdone themselves this time. Please see their story, pics, and ad on page 11.

I also want to mention the two local toy runs coming up in November and December. The Santa for all Seasons ride is on November 29 (see the ad on page 20). This ride starts at the Big K parking lot at 4801 Highway 58 and ends at the Amnicola Business Center. On December 13, we have the Hamilton County Toy Run (see the ad on page 40), which starts at the same Big K and ends at Ultimate Cycle's new location. Please support these two local toy runs so the needy kids in our area can have a better Christmas. If it weren't for us bikers, many, many kids would go without on Christmas day.

The staff at Road Rash Magazine is proud to support our local charities. In 2008 we have donated over \$15,000 in free advertising to help these events be successful. Our advertisers make this all possible. Please patronize our advertisers and thank them for making our magazine (and contributions to the community) available. Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

LTRNTT,
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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.



Although we know that there were many accidents and deaths in the Chattanooga area this past month, no one sent us anything to print in Tears on Black Leather. Please understand that this space is available to you to honor your friends that have died or been hurt in motorcycle accidents. It is up to you to send



us the information to print. Of course we would rather not have anyone to honor here, but we hate not receiving any submissions when we know that people have good down.

We regret that we did not have any pics of Josh Swartz to accompany the nice articles we published in past issues. The article about Josh last month was written by Mary Eaves, here name was not included in the article. The following three photos are of Josh Swartz. Thanks to

his friends that sent them to us. Please take the time to honor your friends. It's as simple as an email with some attached pics.
Rock



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THE ULTIMATE SHOP

Ultimate Cycle, located in Chattanooga, has been known for being the "local rider" shop for sometime. Now, they have moved their location to 103 Jubilee Drive, at the



intersection of East Brainerd and Brainerd Road. This is centrally located for most riders in the Chattanooga area and only one mile from I-75, exit number three. The same great sales and service riders have come to rely on will still be found at the new Ultimate Cycle.

But we found even more things are taking shape at this new location!

They have greatly expanded their service area to meet the growing numbers of riders. This includes a brand new motorcycle express lube center where riders can get tires and oil changes while they wait! Some riders will not want to leave though, with the addition of a rider down room called "The Sanctuary" where you can relax, watch television, read magazines, or even surf the Web! To top that off, Ultimate Cycle has added "Big Daddy's Dogz & Deli" inside the dealership where riders can have a great hot lunch or some ice-cold suds while waiting!

Ultimate Cycle has always had some great parties, but now their event lot is huge... It's over one half acre, fenced

and paved with a large covered patio for seating, a band stage, and plenty of motorcycle parking! Area motorcycle events are now being offered priority bookings for free! Just call and ask for the event reservations.



Ultimate Cycle has also added a new mobile service truck for riders. Anytime, any day... this truck will come to your location, anywhere within 25 miles of Chattanooga. Onboard is one mechanic, electricity, air, lifts, a tire changer, tools, and most basic parts... Best of all though, it's all in the dry! Once called, this truck has the ability to safely lift your motorcycle (or trike) inside the



truck where a mechanic can fix flats, make minor repairs, and get you back on the road fast. If that is not possible, this truck will then tow you and your bike (in the dry) back to Ultimate Cycle for free! Their motto of "Keeping Riders in the Wind" really shows with this support of riders.

No rider should go out without one of Ultimate Cycle's business card's in their vest pocket, and local riders should assist riders traveling through town by stopping and giving a brother rider the number for the Ultimate Cycle's mobile service.

Another new upgrade at Ultimate Cycle is the brand new mobile dyno-tuning center. This impressive vehicle contains a new "Dynojet" motorcycle dyno capable of testing all makes and models of motorcycles! Additionally, on board, there is a mobile showroom containing exhaust systems for most models, power commanders, re-jetting/carb kits, a nitrogen filling station, and various



other performance based upgrades for your ride. If you need to know how to make your ride run the best it ever has, see the crew at Ultimate Cycle and let them show you around the new mobile dyno tuning center!

We hope everyone will come out to see the new Ultimate Cycle, or visit their Web site for more information (www.ultimatecyclescooter.com).

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HERE'S THE RUB

"...But remember, I'm still a guy!"
Brad Paisley

I am old school. I started riding mini-bikes and go-karts in the early '60s before progressing to a Yamaha DT250 Enduro (a precursor to the modern day BMX cycle) in my teens. I eventually migrated to big twin bikes as I aged and my center of gravity shifted making wheelies no longer an option! I can remember during the lean AMF years, when you could ride for months and not pass another Harley rider. If you did, you naturally waved as it was almost a salute of acknowledgement for someone else paying their dues. Even more rare, however, was passing or even knowing a woman rider!

Before all you female readers flood e-mails and letters of complaint to Tom the Bomb, please recognize that I am NOT sexist. I love to see women on bikes! I was pleased to see Rah-Rah pen an article last month. I have ridden with her and believe me she can "ride it like she stole it!" Anyone who says a woman on an 883 can't keep up needs to lay down 2,800 miles in four days like we did last summer when she booked to Canada for a long weekend with us!



That being said, last weekend I went on my group's semi-annual "Patch-Only" weekend (just men... no wives, no girl-friends, no hang-arounds or newbies.) It was two days of hard, cold-weather, tight formation riding. We didn't go to the mall, shop for souvenirs, or even once ask, "You aren't wearing that are you?" We basically just rode, and ate (and ate), and acted like fools (men): not shaving, cussing, spitting, peeing outside, walking around in our underwear and lighting farts on fire. There is a big

difference between being childish and child-like and I prefer to think all men, occasionally need to get away to just be in the company of other men talking about Harleys, chain-saws, jacking up a house on its foundation, driving 18 wheelers and other manly stuff! My wife is tolerant of the situation and probably enjoys the "no-man for a weekend" escape as much as I do. "Go play macho games and get that testosterone level up," she says.

Now before you come up with a million excuses why you can't do this, I will lay out the perfect plan and save you from any excuses of not knowing how to execute the perfect guy's weekend... Book a cabin at Falls Creek Falls State Park! You can get a good price on a place with four separate beds and two fold-out coaches. It is "reachable" if someone in the group cannot get off work until late on Friday. Stop at Laura's market on top of Cagle Mountain (just twenty minutes before arriving), buy coffee, and get the best tasting hamburger you have eaten all year! Do it now when it is cold and if anyone complains about it being

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too dark or too cold when you arrive, they get the fold-out coach! Saturday morning: get up, make coffee (which somehow taste that much better than it does at work) and head out for the Sparta Café in Sparta, Tennessee, an hour away and a beautiful ride if you take the back roads. It is one those great, family-owned, small town main street diners - which are a dying breed. Order the Hungry Man's Special. When the waitress asks how you want your eggs, if anyone answers "Poached" they get the fold-out coach that night! Go to Burgess Falls and hike a mile in biker boots and heavy leather jacket to see the waterfalls. This will separate the smokers from the non-smokers but there is a short cut to a level return gravel road so you can get back. If anyone complains about the hike, again - they get the foldout coach. That night, go to Prater's Barb-B-Q in Morrison, Tennessee for dinner. Order the Half Rack Special. Use their hot sauce as it the perfect blend of spicy and taste bud scorching hot. Go back to the lodge and argue about whether those deer-signal devices really work. (We passed several deer that were too old and hard of hearing to prove either way the effectiveness of these devices). Play poker, smoke cigars, tell lies and argue with each other until wee hours of the morning. The best part of this is that there is no cell phone reception, so people will not be taking calls from work, girlfriends, or wives... Get up early Sunday and head home. Stop again in Laura's Market for fuel and breakfast. You can make it home in time for church, or to do the chores on some honey-do list.

Now, man-up and go ride that motorcycle.

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REVERAND BOOGER'S TWO-WHEELED PULPIT

Well Hello,

By the time most of you read this summer will be just a memory, fall will be fully in the air, and winter will be right around the corner. Please remember all the kids whom wouldn't get toys if it weren't for us biker types bundling up and collecting them. So ride as many toy runs you can, and I hope to see you out there doing so. For this month's sermon I chose to compile a "best and worst" list. Seems like everyone else has one I might as well too. Hope you enjoy.

Worst excuse for not wearing steel toe boots while riding: I won't be able to feel the shifter.

Now I don't know about the rest of you, but I have never found it necessary to have an intimate relationship with my shifter. I put my steel toe under it, pull up and it shifts.

Best reason for a passenger not wearing full-length pants: Bikini clad sportbike passengers cruising main during Bikeweek.

Now I am not condoning this practice... All I am saying is if you're going to do something as unsafe as this - at least make it entertaining.



Worst bike pit stops: Unnamed gas stations in Villanow, GA. and Cowan TN, which will not let you, use their rest room.

Best bike pit stop (local): Laura's Market, atop Cagle Mountain.

This has to be one of my most favorite places to stop, you have gas, food, and a place to sit outside and smoke if you so desire. The staff is friendly and service is good. Now some of you are thinking, Booger you are just kissing up to an advertiser. That is not 100 percent true. I would be writing the same thing if Laura's wasn't an advertiser - I just wouldn't be using their actual name.

Best bike pit stop (non- local): Flying J truck stops.

For some reason I have taken a liking to these places of business. The food is good most time, they have most anything I need, and they are relatively quick to get in and out of. Just think how nice it would be if Flying J or some other national chain of truck stops would start a biker friendly campaign, with bike only pumps and parking.

Best advice for first time riders of the "Dragon:" Slow down and take your time. It isn't a race. There is no bikini-clad trophy girl waiting with champagne at the top.

Best smart a#\$ remark to a stranger at a pit stop:

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(When asked, while standing by my bike, if I was "out for a ride," I replied: "Nope I am out walking. My bike followed me."

Second best smart a#\$ remark to a stranger at a pit stop: I walked into a store on a very cold day, fully clad in leather. I was asked, "Are you cold?" I replied "Nope. I just hate cows."

Best accessory I have purchased this year: A bottle holder on my handlebars.

Having something to drink while cruising down the road has been a godsend this summer. It will be a required piece of equipment on my bikes from now on.

Worst accessory I have purchased this year: Open fingered riding gloves.

Now these aren't bad things for most people, but seeing as I have bought two pair this summer and lost both pairs... They just don't work for me. In the winter, I don't forget to put on gloves (because its cold and my fingers remind my brain I need to put gloves on), but in the summer, my fingers forget to say anything to my brain and I head out with my gloves somewhere besides my hands and I never see them again.

Best Barbeque (local): Battlefield Barbeque.

For the past two years I have been on a quest to eat at every barbeque place I could, looking for the best. Now I

did set rules before I started, to qualify the place must be a non-chain local type place. So far about the best place I have found locally is Battlefield Barbeque in Chickamauga. Now again some of you may be claiming I am just kissing up to an advertiser but take my word I have eaten at 75 percent of the locally owned places in this area and Roger at Battlefield does it right. Plus being owned by a rider helps because if he is there I can talk bikes with him and an added plus is that I can eat, let my bike cool, then go wash it at car wash in front of his place.

Best Barbeque (non-local): Prater's (Morrison, TN)

This place just has an old time barbeque restaurant feel to it. They have buckets of peanuts on the table, food served in a basket with wax paper, and, from what I can tell, the entire family working there. To get there, find your way to either Manchester or McMinnville and stop and ask directions to Morrison. Trust me if -your just wanting to ride to eat, it's worth the trip.

Best way to end an article...

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Rocky and Laura Layman of Laura's Market on Cagle Mountain have been strong supporters of Road Rash Magazine since they first opened over two years ago. They have been leading a monthly ride on the last Sunday of every month. The ride leaves Laura's Market at 10 am CST. The ride runs from spring until deer season (priorities you know). Give Rocky a call at 423-987-0069 for more info.

Make sure and stop by Laura's Market on your rides up Cagle Mountain (Hwy 111). They are the first business on the right after you top the mountain. They have great food, gas, and plenty of beer for sale. On top of that, they're just great folks.

The pic to the left is from their ride to the Dragon and Cherochala on August 31. Make sure and tell Rocky that the "real Rock" told you to stop by. He'll know what you're talking about.

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Denise Tindall: 423-756-5558 x 188, dtindall_teenchall@yahoo.com
or www.teenchallenge.com

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Louis D. Marler: 423-309-9759 or ldmarler@yahoo.com

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November 2008 Road Rash Biker Chick Tiffany

You may have noticed the owners of this bike also owned the cover bike we featured in Road Rash last September. Tracy and Kathy say they bought this Dyna in August of 2004 before it even hit the showroom floor. Since then, they've added Chrome Thunder Star wheels, Vance and Hines Big Radius pipes, a Danny Gray solo seat, Arlen Ness mirrors, and tons of chrome. They wanted me to mention that Dr. Dave has performed all service to this bike, and claim he is the best Harley mechanic in the southeast.

This month's Biker Chick Tiffany is a Georgia Peach who, besides being a black belt in karate and playing co-ed softball, is also studying to get her master's in cosmetology. Apparently, like a lot of women in that field, she changes her hair color and style quite a bit. The last time I checked, she's a brunette! In any case, she's an outgoing young lady with a good head on her shoulders (regardless of what color it may be), and beautiful blue eyes that I'm sure would get her out of any trouble she might get herself into. You can check out many more pictures of Tiffany and this beautiful Super Glide at www.roadrashmag.com!

The Low Down:

Make/Model: 2005 HD Dyna Super Glide

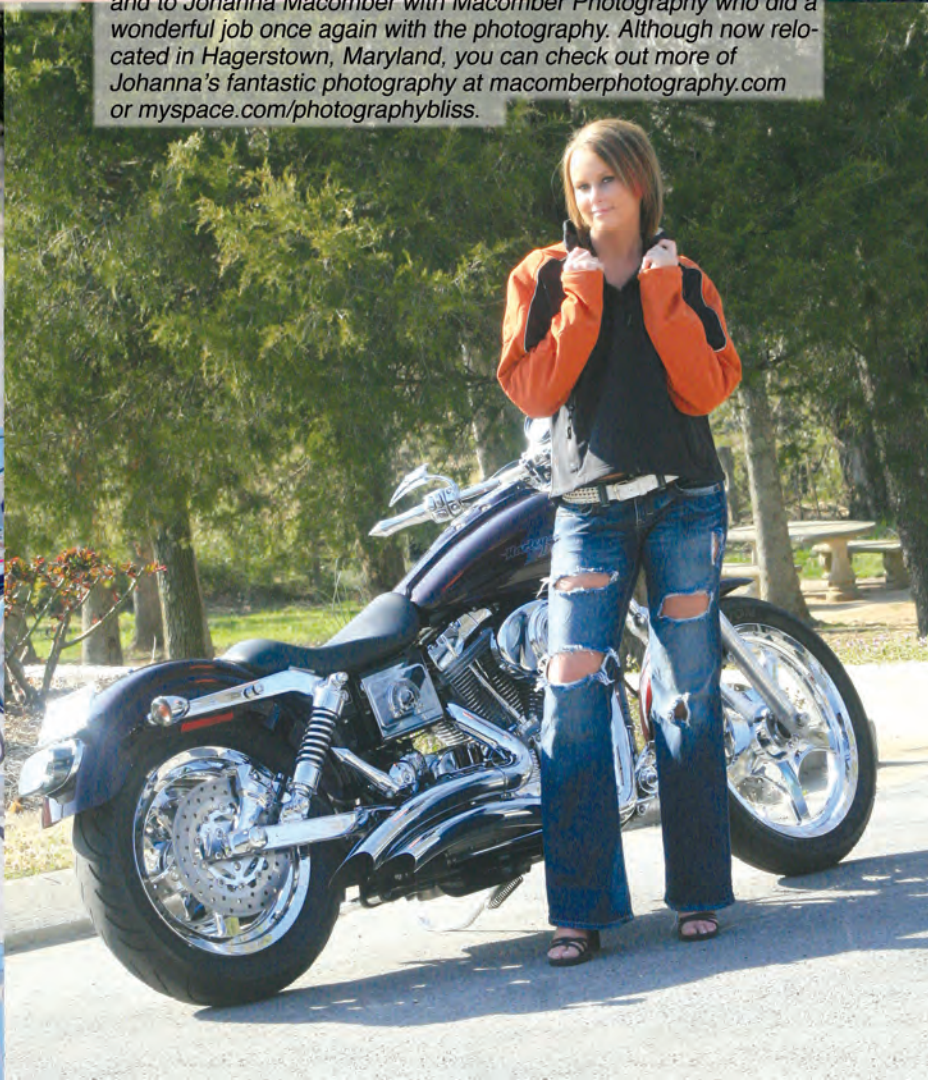
Engine: Harley-Davidson 88 Twin Cam

Paint: HD – Black Cherry Pearl

Owner: Tracy & Kathy Schrader–East Ridge, TN

Photography: Johanna Macomber

Special thanks goes out to the Schraders for being so cooperative and to Johanna Macomber with Macomber Photography who did a wonderful job once again with the photography. Although now relocated in Hagerstown, Maryland, you can check out more of Johanna's fantastic photography at macomberphotography.com or myspace.com/photographybliss.





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BUDGET ADVENTURES

Turning the alarm clock off this morning was not a problem since I was awake long before it went off. I was going over the last few details and planning a nice route to ride in my mind. The trip was not a long one, but a first-time adventure for several of those who were planning to go. "The trip," you ask? It was a motorcycle camping trip off two wheels. I know, this is not something new or even special to most long time riders and to the loyal readers out there... but this was a new experience to some that went.

With the overpriced cost of fuel these days turning a weekend into something more than a wallet emptying experience can be a great way to enjoy your bike and to spend a little time in an area that you'd usually overlook.

We chose Joyce Kilmer as our destination for the weekend. The Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest is located about 15 miles from Robbinsville, N.C., right off the Cherohala Skyway. This area was purchased in 1936 by the Forest Service for twenty-eight dollars an acre. Later the Veterans of the Foreign Wars asked the Government to set aside a stand of the trees as a living memorial to Joyce Kilmer, who was killed in action during World War I.

The forest changes throughout the seasons and has a two-mile trail that winds through a pristine forest with many trees that are over 400 years old. Some of the yellow poplars have circumferences as large as 20 feet. The 1984 Wilderness Act expanded the wilderness area to 17,394 acres, so there is plenty of room to stretch for the weekend.

The campsites are between 10 and 15 dollars per night and include grills, bathrooms (close by), and (for those who need a morning shower to enjoy the day) just across Santeelah Lake at Cheoah Point you will find nice shower houses. Those who prefer a better roof over their heads can rent one of a few small cabins on the lake. The camping spots are based on a first-come basis so plan ahead if heading over around a holiday.

A quick ride into Robbinsville after the tent is set up for some grocery shopping will yield supper over the fire, or you may just choose to have dinner in town. About 20 minutes of easy scouring found plenty of firewood for the evening. The fire felt nice at sunset and the cool mountain air followed the shadows. Also a word to the wise... If you need any adult beverages you may want to pack them with you or you will be riding a while to find a store that sells them. Either way, you will enjoy a relaxing weekend with the sounds of a peaceful mountain stream.

Picking the items that you want to carry with you on these trips can be an interesting process of elimination. Should I take this? Do I need that? Well, you first must remember that this is an opportunity to take a break from the hustle and bustle of life. Leave the laptop at home. Don't forget the camera, and most of all bring your spirit of adventure. Simplify your items and expect to rough it just a little. You might be surprised at just how much fun you will have. You will realize that you don't have to take out a second mortgage just to enjoy a little peace and quiet. That made it a great way to spend a weekend!

Marty Dunn

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Welcome to the club! This article begins a series highlighting motorcycle clubs/ministries/fellowships in the Road Rash coverage area. Every third month I will highlight a different group in Counter Steer and will publicize your group if you send me an invite at edtennga@bellsouth.net. The only requirements are you must have regular meetings, a back patch, have a positive impact on the community, and be a regular reader of Counter Steer (just kidding on that last one).

The Black Angels:

My first club to highlight in this series is the Black Angels, a group active in the Motorcycle Clubs in Chattanooga (MCIC) meetings each month and in the local motorcycle community. I attended one of the meetings of the Black Angels earlier in the year on a Sunday afternoon at the 45th Street Lounge, which serves as their clubhouse. The group's members are primarily from the black community but not all members are black and membership is open to everyone. Based on my observations, all are welcome. There appeared to be a



pretty even mix of types and brands of bikes represented at the meeting and I found the group to be most congenial. The group appeared to be better organized than many groups with various reports regarding activities, special projects, community involvement, treasury, membership, as well as a guest speaker from FACES (a fund-raising project). One thing I especially appreciated was the discussion related to their involvement in mentoring kids at the public schools. Perspective visitors who have a problem with smoke may not be a good fit for the Black Angels since they have quite a few smokers and the meetings are in a smoking permitted facility. On the day I visited the Kensington and Chattanooga chapters had a combined meeting, as is done periodically, including periodic combined rides/events.

The following interview is with Bobby Strickland, who is the Black Angels National Treasurer and a personal friend

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Tell me a little about the Black Angels Club and what your goals are?

The Black Angels Kensington Georgia chapter was officially established in 2007 by way of a split with the Chattanooga chapter, which was established in 2006. The Black Angels MC was originally established in Chicago in 1968 and that chapter sanctions any new chapters. The Black Angels (a not-for-profit organization) are a group of riding members and



non-riding associate members with a mission to encourage motorcycling as a recreation conducted safely, legally, and courteously, bringing many years of pleasure and enjoyment! We are also committed to supporting various causes in our communities, promoting the welfare and well-being of the residents through donations, benefits, and pledges. Our goal is to eliminate the negative stereotypes bikers are branded with and to become an organization whose heart has no limits and whose imagination knows no bounds.



How many chapters do you currently have and about how many members are in each chapter?

We currently have chapters in Chicago, IL (65 members), Chattanooga, TN (27 members), and Kensington, GA (13 members). We also have national officers consisting of the National President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant of Arms, and Road Captain.

How often do you have meetings and what is the format for the meetings?

We have meetings once a month based on a traditional meeting format and the meetings typically last about one to two hours.

How often do you have group rides and what are some of your destinations?

We have one or two mandatory rides each year as well as various ones that are optional. We have ridden to Nashville, Knoxville, Atlanta, and other regional destinations.

Do you have service projects or participate in charity events for the community?

We participate in a charity event called "Beat the Heat," which raises money to purchase fans for the elderly during the summer.

We help with "Cycle Santa" during the Christmas season by donated toys/clothes and by adopting many family members throughout the community in Chattanooga and North Georgia. We held a fund-raiser for a young lady who was diagnosed with cancer and participated in the "Toys-For-Tots" ride as well as the "FACES Ride 4 Smiles" charity event. We have regular fish fry events to help raise money for various charities.



What are your membership requirements and costs?

To become a member you must own a bike of 500 cc or larger in engine displacement and go through a 90-day probation period prior to purchasing/receiving your colors. Monthly dues are \$20.

What types of bikes do your members ride?

Our members ride all types and brands of bikes and associate members are not required to own a bike.

What is the age variance in your group (youngest to oldest)?

Our ages range from 22-53.

Who are the leaders of your group and how would Road Rash readers who may be interested contact you?

Chattanooga Chapter: "Mad Max" (423) 645-9781
Kensington Chapter: "T. Black" (423) 933-4410

I would like to offer my thanks to the Black Angels for their hospitality and a special thanks to Bobby Strickland for his meeting invite and interview info. If the Black Angels looks like a good fit for you why not visit one of their functions? Maybe one day soon they will be saying to you, "Welcome to the club."

Now let's go out and play in the streets!

"Under His Wings"

Eddie Rahm

edtennga@bellsouth.net





Views & News from the Dragon & Skyway

Good Cop or Bad Cop?

Last year, after the Fourth of July weekend, the Tennessee Governor's office decided it was going to take a "tough guy" stance on those reckless bikers on the Dragon. I went through on a Sunday afternoon last July and counted 13 different T.H.P. units on the 11 miles of Dragon. On the North side of the Dragon, the Blount County Sheriff's office got in on it also with four more patrol cars there. It has slacked off somewhat but there still is a heavy L.E.O. presence every weekend on the Tennessee side.

Did I see an ambulance? No way. They are there to keep us safe remember? If they wanted to keep us safe, wouldn't they station an ambulance on the Dragon, so it would not be a 45-minute wait for one when needed?

The harassment of bikers here began and has not stopped. It's even spread to other states. Back in June, the day before I left for my annual trip to upstate New York for "Americade," I got a call from one of my biker pals, warning me they were setting up a check point on the interstate coming into Lake George - the Americade site. They called it a "safety check" and were stopping all bikes - no other vehicles! This was done at the beginning of the event and at the end when everyone was on their way home.

The NY State Police wrote hundreds of tickets and made dozens of arrests, all in the name of "biker safety." So let me ask... Did any of those bikers (that were herded into that check point) feel any safer? No way. It is done for two reasons and neither have anything to do with safety. It is done to intimidate bikers and steal money from them - period!

I have since read that the NY State Police did the same thing at another biker event this summer. I also heard the AMA is taking it up with the State.

A couple of weeks ago, I was heading north on US 129, just outside of Robbinsville, North Carolina, on a Sunday morning for a little early morning "Dragon Slaying." The NC Highway Patrol had gotten into the same act and had a roadblock set up, manned by two motor officers. They were stopping all vehicles, but let's face it... On the weekends, who is going thru Robbinsville? Bikers!

The Trooper asked to see my license, and as I was

pulling it out he was looking at my plate. He checked out my license through a plastic cover, and I was going to pull it out, but, he said that it was not necessary. He just checked the expiration date and looked for my MC endorsement. That MC endorsement has been on my license since 1975 and will always be there. His partner had four bikers on the side of the road and was writing them up. Gee, I felt much safer after that! They were there all weekend making everyone safer? Yeah right! They were there to steal our money!

On to today... It was another sunny Sunday, and having already done my weekly Dragon Slaying on Friday, I decided to head South and hit the twisties in Northeast Georgia. US 129 goes right by my house, and I took it south to GA 180 and headed over to Suches, GA - home of the Two Wheel Inn. This is a biker campground and hang out with great burgers. It is in the center of some great twisty mountain roads and just a few minutes from Helen, GA (another big biker spot). Heading home on GA 60 a freshly paved world class twisty 2-lane. I was playing tag with a crotch rocket jockey behind me. That's right, he was behind me and could not pass me on my "Geezer Glide." We were having a real nice ride when another rider coming the other way was waving for us to slow down I figured it was a good time to let "Mr. Rocket" pass me. About two miles up the road, there were three Georgia Troopers and a roadblock. Imagine that: more cops targeting bikers.

This grumpy sergeant said, "License." Again, while I was pulling my wallet out, he looked at my plate. I pulled out my license and handed it to him. As he was looking at it, we heard a couple of rockets screaming up behind us. I guess nobody waved to them to slow down. He said (to his buddy), "Here come some more." I said, "Imagine that... More bikers on this road." He said nothing and handed me back my license. I put it back in my wallet and was waiting for him to say I could leave. He said nothing, and was turning his attention to the crotch rockets that were slowing quickly as they saw us. I said, "Sergeant can I go?" He said, "Get out of here!" On the right side of the road were two bikers standing next to their bikes with tickets in their hands. Gee once again I felt so safe!

So do we just accept the fact that we as "Bikers" will be harassed? No we do something about it like join a state motorcycle rights organization "SMRO" or the American Motorcycle Association www.ama-cycle.org or the Motorcycle Rights Foundation www.MRF.org. For a few bucks a year they will fight for our rights. Now if you really want to get off your butt volunteer to help these organizations. As for ABATE, I am not to sure I want to back them as the only thing you ever hear about them is that they are fighting helmet laws. Get real anyone who does not wear a helmet is a jerk!

Perhaps ABATE should put there efforts toward something more important. We are now a target of taxation without representation as that is what the government agency stealing our money does. It has nothing to do with motorcycle safety. It's about generating revenue and nothing else. So join a organization and do something about this injustice! And make sure you are your bike are legal at all times.

Keep your head & eyes and twist the throttle!

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There is the myth of the "runner's high." No one knows for sure, but some say the combined effect of our hormones during long vigorous exercise can create an intense euphoric state. This might explain why many people become addicted to running and other strenuous exercise routines. Are they longing for the feeling of intense well being, or could it be the good feeling of accomplishment? In any case, you cannot go wrong with regular exercise as a healthy alternative to emotional well being. It beats drugs and alcohol hands down. However, there are those who overdo even a good thing. But, that is another topic for my next article. Take care of your self, because if you won't, who will?

"Joe Cool" Wiram
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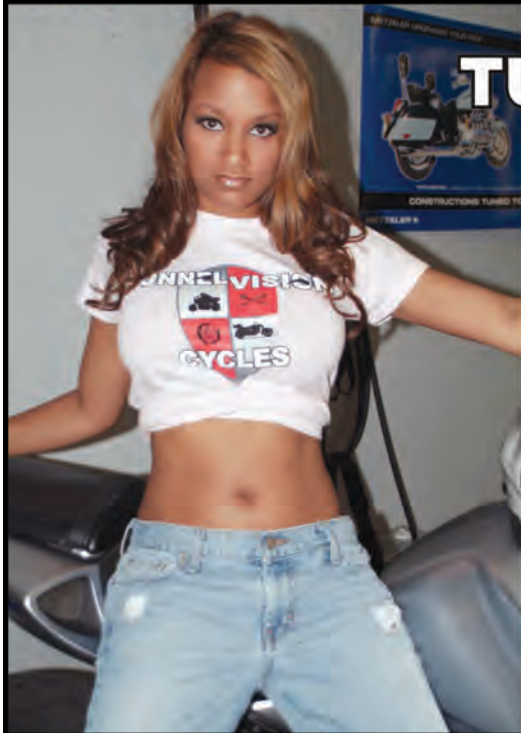
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This Versus That



There are many options and preferences we have as motorcycle riders and everyone seems to have their favorites. You know, helmet versus no helmet; gloves versus no gloves; cold weather versus warm weather riding; solo or pack riding, et cetera...

I have ridden under several different circumstances in my short

time on a bike and thought I'd share my ideas. In some areas of the country, the helmet issue is not an option. Around here, it is the law, so I do wear my helmet where required. On my trip in July, however, we did ride in some "no helmet required" areas. In fact, the only time I wore my helmet that six-day weekend was in Tennessee until we got to Kentucky, the day we were in Canada, and when we hit the Tennessee line coming home. For safety's sake, I do prefer riding with my helmet. But, I have to say; riding without a lid was a lot of fun, too. I can't say if the laws were different here, whether or not I would wear one all the time.

Gloves versus no gloves: To me, this is another safety issue. I have found that I do wear gloves most of the time. I have fingerless gloves I wear in the summer, heated gloves for the winter, and a couple of pairs of in-betweens. Gloves give me a better grip and would hopefully protect my hands

in case of a crash. I have found myself riding without them when riding poker runs, for some reason. I think because of the many stops that are made during an event like that. So, I guess, my general preference on gloves is to wear them.

Weather riding is probably where I have the strongest opinion. Although, I'm not opposed to riding in cold weather, (as stated in last month's article, I ride year round), I much prefer riding with the least amount of clothes as legally and personally acceptable. My ideal riding attire includes, good riding boots, socks, jeans, tank top, and my colors. It takes me long enough to gear up for a ride wearing just these minimums. With the weather changing this time of year, I find myself putting on and taking off several times in a day's ride. In the mornings, I might have two extra long sleeve shirts on, my chaps, and my jacket. By afternoon, I'm shedding the chaps and jacket and sometimes the extra shirts. Then, I have to strap them on the sissy bar, as my saddlebags are small. Then, if I'm still out by evening, I commence putting all that garb back on for the ride home. It's a lot of work, but worth it. The hardest part of weather-changing riding is adjusting my timing for getting to where I need to go. It takes me a while to realize I need to allow extra time for gearing up so, this time of year, I'm often late. I'm slow enough gearing up when I don't have all the extras, as the group I ride with can attest to. It seems that, no matter how hard I try; I am always the last one to thumbs up when riding with a group. I'm working on this one guys, really I am!

Last, I wanted to talk about solo versus pack riding. Lots of people have expressed their preferences on this topic. I ride both solo and with my group often. When I ride alone, I am thinking about how I can better ride in a pack and when I ride in a pack, I'm thinking about how I can be a safer solo rider. Some people say they don't like riding in a pack. Last year, when I was learning to ride, I rode in a pack as much as I rode solo. I am grateful to the guys in my group for their patience with me and for making me feel so protected. When we ride together, we ride as one. It's an amazing feeling.

There are lots of pros and cons to different riding scenarios, and everyone has their own ideas of limits. It doesn't matter whether I wear a helmet or not, gloves or no gloves, cold or hot weather, solo or in a pack. I just know that if I'm riding, I'm having fun! It just might take me a little longer to get there during the winter months.

Be safe out there!

RahRah

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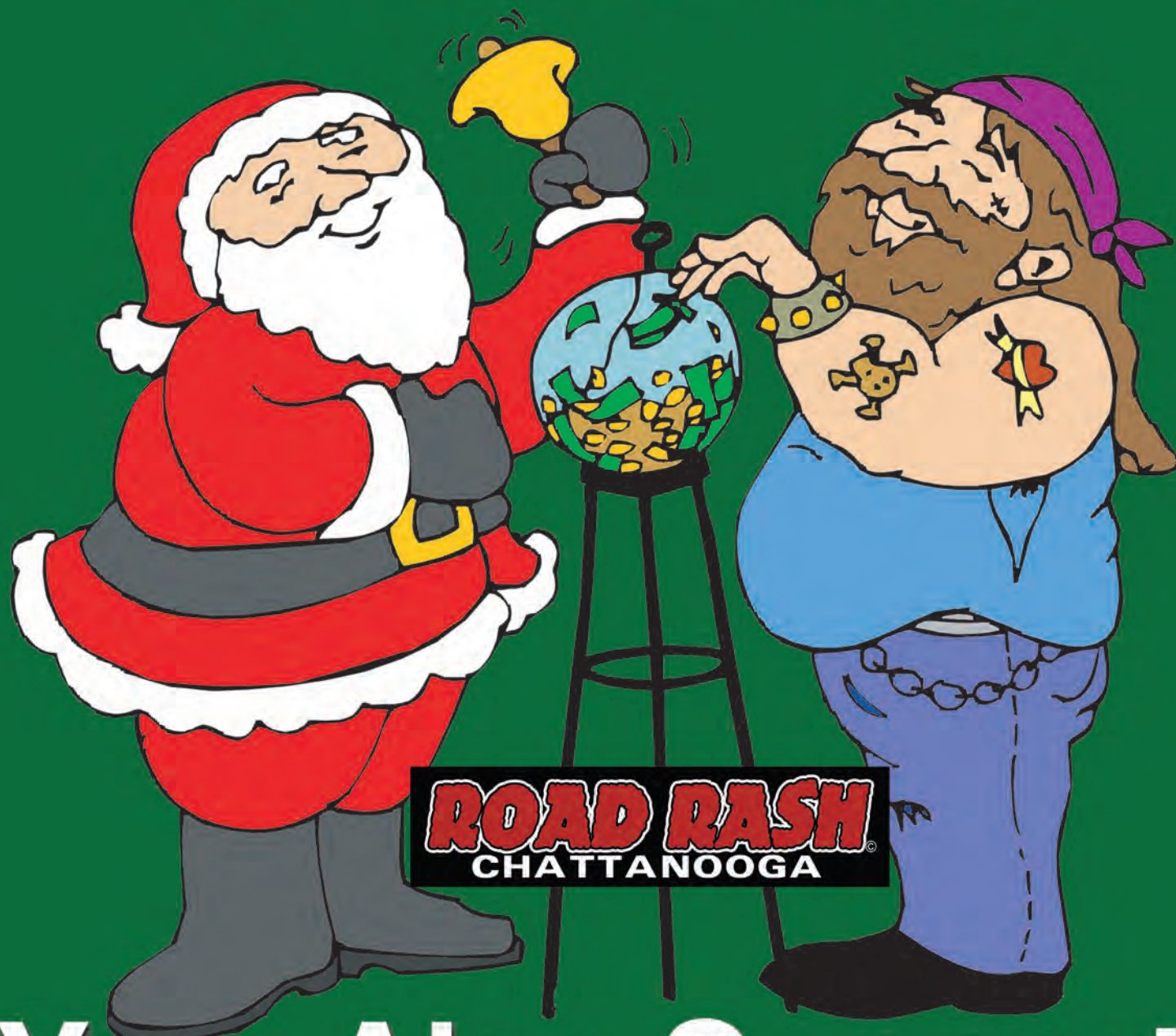
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Here you'll also find the **Smoke House old country store** featuring antiques galore, BBQ & Hot sauces, jams & jellies, pork skins, Watkins potions, roasted peanuts, gifts, a 1920 player piano, collectables, homemade candies, candles, and a whole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



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Tuesday, November 4th - Super Tuesday!
Wear your "I Voted" sticker or bring in your voter's registration card and receive 15% off your MotorClothes® Merchandise purchase!

Saturday, November 8th - Chili and Leather Party at Thunder Creek Harley, 1:00PM to 5:00PM
Join us for Hot Chili and Cool Savings on Leather!
Live Music! Food by Bud's Sports Bar!

November 11th -15th - H-D® Trim a Home Event!
Save on Harley® collectibles to decorate your home for the holidays!

Thursday, November 13th - Ladies Garage Party™ at Mountain Creek Harley, 6:30PM - 9:00PM
For the ladies only! Come learn about Harley-Davidson® - the products and the machine!
Bring a friend! R.S.V.P. to April. 706-370-7433

THUNDER CREEK

Harley-Davidson/Buell
Chattanooga TN
423-892-4888
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MOUNTAIN CREEK

Harley-Davidson/Buell
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ALBANY

Harley-Davidson/Buell
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229-639-0035
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TIFTON

Harley-Davidson/Buell Shop
Tifton GA
229-387-8855
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