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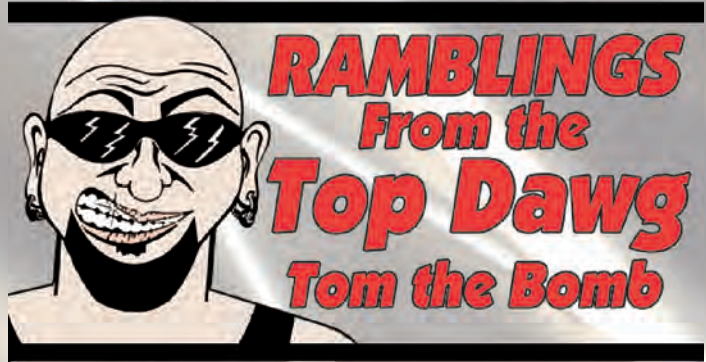
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04 Ramblings from the Top Dawg
- 08 Rock's Two Cents
- 11 MCIC Minutes
- 12 Here's the RUB
- 14 This and That
- 16 Reverend Booger's Two Wheeled Pulpit
- 22 Event Listings
- 24 Kevin Miller's Featured Softtail
- 26 Road Rash Advertiser Listings
- 30 Counter Steer
- 32 Rah Rah On The Road
- 34 Joe Cool's Biker Health
- 42 The Hot Seat - Tony Shrader



I heard a joke the other day I have to share... This guy and his wife always spent their vacation at Sturgis for Bike Week every year. One year, his wife was pregnant with their first child, but they decided to go anyway. Well, they were stuck in traffic (mostly motorcycles) when she suddenly went into labor. Spotting a policeman on the sidewalk, the husband rushed up to him and said, "Hey man, I've got to get to a hospital quick! What's the fastest way to get there?" and the cop said, "Stand in the middle of the intersection and scream 'Harley-Davidson Sucks!'" ...I thought it was hilarious...

February... It's the time of year when every woman looks to their man with the anticipation that all of the work they've done trying to turn them into the thoughtful, romantic sweethearts they've always dreamt of has paid off. It's also the month when you can find panicked men of all ages speed-walking through the mall, searching for something (anything) within their price range that their significant other might find "thoughtful" and will keep them out of the doghouse until the next birthday, anniversary or holiday leaves them in a panic again.

It has been suggested that Valentine's Day was created and promoted by the movers and shakers in the greeting card industry, in order to reach into well-meaning male billfolds one more time each year. I'm not sure if that theory would actually hold water... but, on the other hand, I'm sure Hallmark isn't too upset about their



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February sales spike.

February 14 can be frustrating for guys like me (the romantically challenged), but before you make a huge mistake like purchasing a toaster oven or a gift card (not a good idea – trust me), take a moment to consider some better options out there. Whatever you do, please try to patronize our advertisers in the process. They are in the background, supporting the local biking community every month of the year. If you're going to spend your hard-earned money anyway – why not throw it their way?

Warm weather is on its way, and along with it, a cornucopia of motorcycle-related events. Back by popular demand, the Sundown parking lot parties at Thunder Creek Harley-Davidson will be happening about every other Friday night starting May 29 and going through the Trail Of Tears Kick-off Party September 18. Charlie Wade at Ultimate Cycle has been planning a possible weekly parking lot party every Saturday throughout the summer, utilizing the large parking lot at their new location at Brainerd and East Brainerd roads. There are other "must attend" events that are in the early planning stages, and

there are a ton of charitable runs, rides and benefits already posted in our Event Listings (check them out on our Web site for a more complete list). Everything is looking like things are really going to take off this spring. I can't wait!

In closing, I'd like to thank you, our faithful readers who support and inspire us every day. This business has allowed me to meet more of the most genuine and incredible people than I think I could have possibly met any other way. I think I speak for the entire staff when I say we couldn't possibly do this without you. Along those same lines, please continue to submit photos, articles, and suggestions whenever you can. It's the only way we can make this magazine, the Chattanooga area's only local motorcycle-related media, the best it can be.

Keep it rubber side down, shiny side up and in the wind!

*Tom
THE
Bomb*

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Our 2009 trip will be similar to last year's, but we will bypass Yellowstone in lieu of adding Glacier National Park and the "Going to the Sun" Highway. After Glacier, we will head south to Red Lodge, Montana where we will spend the night before tackling Bear

Tooth Pass the next day. After Bear Tooth we will head East over the massive Big Horn mountain range ending up in Custer, South Dakota. All first timers must see the Black Hills, Badlands, Crazy Horse, Mount Rushmore, and most importantly, they must ride with the Buffalos in Custer State Park. Being the ride planner I am, our reservations are already made and the routes have already been sent to the crew for perusal. Of course, with any trip, routes could vary depending on weather conditions and other unseen circumstances. These unknowns are what make traveling by motorcycle so appealing to a real "road dog." Yes, it's more comfortable and safer inside your F150, but you are not experiencing – you are just seeing. There is a huge difference. If I have to explain, you wouldn't understand.

As we did last year, Pebbles will be taking thousands of photos and we will be uploading them daily after we settle in for the night. Along with the pics I will be doing a blog relating the days events. Last year we had many, many people that followed along with us on our Web site. Hopefully, if he's not too excited, I can get "Tom the Bomb" to tell you first hand what it's like to see this beautiful country for the first time in a blog of his own. Our goal is to light a



fire in your soul and to encourage you to do something that may be out of your comfort zone. Beware: Once you do a trip like this, you will be hooked for life.

Needless to say, we are all psyched and counting down the months. By the time you read this we will be at five months and 21 days from blast off. It will be upon us before we know it. Until next month...

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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.

Once again, I am sitting at this keyboard to compose a submission to Tears On Black Leather. This is always a difficult task, but this one is painfully so. I am writing today about a very unique, complex and unforgettable person: Oren "Neil" Clem.

I became acquainted with Neil many years ago, when he bought Hawg Wild Cycle Supply from Wendell. I became friends with Neil several years later when I started dating Tony Culver. Neil and Tony were best friends. The adventures that the two of them shared go beyond anything that I can reveal here. Any time spent with Neil was definitely an adventure. He was not always easy to like. He could be rude and insulting. In fact, he was a majority of the time. But he was also very, very funny. You'd just want to knock his teeth out, but you couldn't because you'd be laughing so hard.

Tony and I did a lot of business with Neil. We printed his shop shirts and we entrusted him with our two Shovelheads. Neil's shop almost always had the parts we



needed, in stock. That was saying a lot for a '78 and '82 model. Tony and Neil had a system between them when it came to business. It was known as "the barter system" and it only worked if the individuals could be trusted. Neil could be trusted. We used to marvel at his system in his shop. It was tight. Neil was the one you could call on from the road, if you broke down. If he couldn't talk you through it and get you going again, he'd be there to pick you up.

Neil loved a road trip and he loved a party. He also loved to combine the two. He was never careful about what he said and didn't much

care who he insulted. Heck, reading the stickers on his bike was sure to make somebody mad. He absolutely loved it. That's just who he was. But somehow, he made it fun. I can't tell you how, but he did.

We don't know exactly what happened to our buddy Neil. We feel like we lost a part of him some time back. Things changed in his world. He changed. This seems to happen to some of our most cherished souls. They become troubled. We hoped that Neil would be okay. We checked in from time to time and he did the same. We thought he was going to make it. He chose not to. He made the choice and we must respect that. But we will never get over missing him. We'll miss his insults, his jokes, and his laughter. We loved him. We still love him. We always will.

Tami Culver



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MCIC NEWS

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The MCIC (Motorcycle Clubs In Chattanooga) organization was formed with the purpose of uniting the members of the various attending motorcycle clubs and the rest of the local motorcycling community. Unique to this area, this organization welcomes attendance and participation from all clubs as well as the general public, and offers a rare opportunity to contact, inform and utilize large groups of active members in one forum. By attending the next monthly meeting, you can contribute to our efforts to improve the community, help the helpless, and promote motorcycling in a positive light. These basically informal meetings also serve to introduce motorcyclists from all walks of life to one another and have served to promote friendship and cooperation across the board. Join us for our next meeting!

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HERE'S THE RUB

"Baby it's Cold Outside!"
A song by Frank Loesser

Road Rash articles are due to Rock by the 10th of each month. I slip mine under the Editors door about midnight on the 9th. So by the time I have written this, the magazine has been published and it got into your hands, and I am sure most of you have long-ago abandoned any of those silly New Years resolutions! You probably have already resumed normal eating, smoking, drinking, spending and couch-potato habits. The Super-Bowl traditionally marks the end of any of my healthy lifestyle promises. I hope if you made the commitment to "ride more this year" however, that you have not forsaken that worthy quest but are already riding in the cold weather!

Much has been said in this magazine singing the praises of heated garments (and I am a huge fan of the Electric Cowboy route) but heated underwear are not the end-all answer to winter riding. If Santa didn't bring you a full electric ensemble, those HotHand heat-packs will suffice in a pinch. You can and should venture outside before springtime!

I am soon going to ride to meet a buddy who lives in



Garden City, Kansas. I was giving him my advice on what it takes to make a long haul in cold weather. I am not talking the Polar Bear winter run or short commute to work; I mean the crossing multiple times-zones. I have another ride to Battle Creek, Michigan planned for March. Contrary to popular belief, there are some Yankees that ride and do not trailer to Bike Week. If they can come down here I can go up there. I guess I'll motorcycle there and make a return "Run to the Sun" to show them it can be done without

a trailer.

Anything that cuts the wind comes first. For the bike, a windshield is the best decision and in winter is an essential - not an option. Some guys swear they will never use a windshield and I guess we will see them again come about April or May. Harley makes covers for the highway bars that block the wind at the knee level. They also make these cool little wind-wings for the Glide bat-style fairings that serve three purposes; they divert air away in the winter, they can be angled to direct air towards you in the summer, and I have a sticker on mine that says warns "don't f**k with my bike" that I divert from view when I ride the bike to church. I also have a left hand side drink holder. Part of defeating cold long-distance ride is to knock out 100-mile legs and simply not stop so much.

When I was a kid, my mother would beg me to wear a woolen toboggan-hat over my ears to keep warm. I didn't think it looked cool and my hero Michael Parks on the TV show, "Along Came Bronson" wore his rolled-up, perched

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on top his head, "watch-cap" style. As I got older I realized being cool means not being cold. When commuting about town the neoprene or thinsulate face-masks are fine but they seem to fog up the sunglasses a lot for my taste. Moleman wraps a scarf around his neck and face. I don't know how he does it. It is kind of a World War One, Ace Flyboy, kind of look with a definite cool factor. I tried it but mine always blows away! On a trip of any distance I use a full-face flip helmet. It allows me to tuck the collar of my electric jacket liner up inside (kind of Bazooka Joe style.) The heat feels great on the back of my neck and warms the blood running to the brain so you think you are warm even if your toes begged to differ. For that, I have a pair of winter boots; knee-high, leather, engineer style, one and a half size larger than I usually wear. They are great for two pair of layered socks. I wear a pair of insulated Carhart overalls. This is an idea I copied from the Reverend "never a slave to fashion" Booger. They have a covered-zipper on the outside of the legs (away from the paint or finish) to make putting on or taking off the knee length boots less of a chore, they are easy to get into and out of, they are rain resistant, they cut the wind, and they don't require a lot of additional undergarments to remain warm. Bibs rule over Chaps! The magazine is opting for a family-oriented slant so I won't go in to detail about the advantage bibs have over chaps in keeping "the boys" warm.

I don't know how Carharts compare to Harleys FXRS insulated bibs and at a quarter the cost I guess I won't find out either. My wife says they make me look fat but I don't care. I repeat, this is not a fashion statement... but since I am on the subject, Booger doesn't like it when the young guys on Sons of Anarchy wear those baggy jeans showing their underwear with white Michael Jordan sneakers. I say

that it is the difference between younger bikers and the old school motorcycle-enthusiasts. So you Youngbloods probably want to wear those J's when the weather warms up just to upset Booger and give him something to rant about in a future column.

In closing, I realize I did an unpaid Carhart promotion and I didn't mention one of the best winter pieces of apparel I got this year for Christmas! Road Rash magazine has the greatest 100% acrylic, thermal-lined, stocking hat with earflaps! It works well under a cheater helmet and it is embroidered with "Road Rash Magazine" on the front. That is what the cool people and the warm people should be wearing this year! Support the local guys!

Rub



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BIKER NEWS

HONDA HOOT CANCELLED

The dire economy continues to dominate the headlines, with Honda canceling the 2009 Honda Hoot. The annual rally has run for 15 years.

Honda has cited economic setbacks as the reason for other recent cutbacks, like its exit from the F1 and AMA Roadracing series. The following press release from the www.hondahoot.com officially announced the decision:

American Honda announced that the 2008 Honda Hoot will bring to a close 15 years of what has been one of the most successful motorcycle rallies in history. Over the years, almost a quarter of a million guests attended the Honda Hoot, which was born in the hills of Ashville North Carolina and eventually moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. At the first event, a little over 3,000 attendees enjoyed what would grow to become one of the largest rallies in North America.

The Hoot set new precedence for what a motorcycle rally should be, offering not only a wonderful opportunity to test ride new products but also focusing on family fun and growing the industry from the ground up. Based on the current economic crunch, which may have significant impact on our customers during 2009, American Honda will take this time to seek out new and innovative ways to engage with our customers so that we can continue to ride together.

American Honda extends our deepest gratitude to the more than 1,300 volunteers who helped make the Honda Hoot a success, all of our event sponsors, our two host cities, Knoxville, Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina, and especially to all the good people who helped make the Hoot such a great event.

2009 MYRTLE BEACH CANCELLED

Message from the Mayor

Dear Visitors,

Myrtle Beach is no longer the location for two long-running motorcycle events. After many years, our residents grew weary of three weeks of noise and traffic congestion each May, and they asked City Council to end the events. As a result, the Harley-Davidson Dealers Association Spring Rally and the Atlantic Beach Memorial Day Bikefest will not be held in Myrtle Beach. This was a difficult decision. Myrtle Beach welcomes visitors year-round, but the giant motorcycle rallies simply grew too large. Our staff, residents and businesses strained to keep up with these huge single-focus events. It may surprise you, but our economy is much healthier with a fully diversified visitor base, instead of a concentration on one or two extremely large events. Please know that Myrtle Beach is not anti-biker or anti-motorcycle. We want folks to come on the vehicle of their choice and enjoy all of the things Myrtle Beach has to offer. We are ending the motorcycle-related rallies because they grew too big and lasted too long. The huge rallies even kept visitors away from Myrtle Beach, and that's not good.

For everyone's safety and welfare, City Council has added a few new rules and regulations. We believe these new laws will make Myrtle Beach a safer and more friendly destination. For example, with your safety in mind, we now require that all motorcycle riders and passengers wear a helmet and eye protection. We also have a 1:00 to 6:00 a.m. curfew for everyone under 18. These and other rule changes are explained on this web site.

Thank you for understanding. As you know, Myrtle Beach is a great place to visit, and we welcome you at any time. I look forward to your next visit and am confident that you will have a great time in Myrtle Beach!

Sincerely,
John Rhodes - Mayor

4th Annual Ride 4 Smiles Motorcycle Event to Benefit FACES Teams with Ultimate Cycle for Yearly Poker Run

You can help put a smile on the faces of children born with craniofacial differences by participating in the upcoming Ultimate Cycle and FACES Ride 4 Smiles. The event to benefit FACES, The National Craniofacial Association, will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 30 at Ultimate Cycle, located at 103 Jubilee Drive, at the intersection of Brainerd Road and East Brainerd Road.

The day will open with the Blessing of the Bikes by members of the Christian Motorcycle Association, and the fun will continue all afternoon. The motorcycle poker run takes place from 10:30 until noon and includes games, special pictures of riders and their bikes, lunch, and specially designed Ride 4 Smiles pins to the first 100 participants who register. Even better: the winning poker hand receives \$1,000 cash!

FACES, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, is a national organization founded and headquartered in Chattanooga. The group assists children nationwide born with severe craniofacial disorders and their families by providing information, support, and financial assistance.

"The Chattanooga area motorcycle community is so compassionate and generous," said FACES Program Director, Stephanie R. Hale. "The previous Ride 4 Smiles events have raised more than \$60,000 to help build smiles on the faces of the children we serve who struggle with these difficult disorders. We want to be sure that all of the participants in this year's Ultimate Cycle and FACES Ride 4 Smiles will have a smile on their faces, knowing the impact they are making on these special children."

For more information on Ultimate Cycle and FACES Ride 4 Smiles, or to register for the motorcycle ride, call 423-266-1632 or go to www.faces-cranio.org.



Left to Right: Ultimate Cycle Owners, Charlie and Cindy Wade with FACES' Board Chairman, Jake Thal and board member, HippyChicKim (shaking hands on partnering together for the 4th Annual Ride 4 Smiles Motorcycle Event to Benefit FACES)

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REVEREND BOOGER'S TWO-WHEELED PULPIT

Hello humans! It's me again, Reverend Booger's motorcycle. My owner received a laptop for Christmas and was foolish enough to leave it in the saddlebag overnight. Not real smart... I never said he was the sharpest tool in the tool roll, but he is my owner and he treats me decent. Besides, if he hadn't, I wouldn't be able to contact you humans and give you updates. The last time I was able to communicate with you I was sitting in a parking lot in Wisconsin resting from a 1,000 mile trip done in 24 human hours. This time, I want to talk about how my owner maintains me, the joys of riding in cold weather, and lastly, a quick update of what's going on with my motorcycle friends.

Okay, I am going to try and be as honest about my owner as I can. You that know him know that he is not real particular about "shiny and pretty" as far as a motorcycle goes. Being as I like to move down a road instead of sitting in a garage being rubbed on, his attitude suits me fine. All that scrubbing and rubbing kind of tickles, I prefer the occasional spray down that my owner gives me at the place where my owner puts what you call "money" in and then sprays me down with warm soapy water. Recently he has been rubbing a copper piece of this money stuff on my tires, am not real sure what that does but I do know it means I will be getting new tires soon. What he lacks



in keeping me clean and all fru-fru he makes up in keeping me in top running condition. I get regular visits to a garage where a nice man named Steve checks me all out and makes sure I am in good health (also I get to visit my sibling, a 2001 sporty, whom is getting reconstructive surgery at the same place). I do have to admit I get a little nervous when my owner comes at me with tools, after that little experience when I spit a spark plug out he hadn't installed correctly, but he seems to know his limits and lets Steve do the critical stuff. The things I like about him most are his fondness of Dynas and FXRs, his fondness for all types of riding, and the fact he rides year-round.

That brings me to my second topic. Sitting in parking lots with other bikes. Yes, we do talk while you are inside doing whatever you do at those places you ride us to. It has come to my attention that there are some poor motorcycles that get hooked up to strange devices, have strange stuff poured in their tanks, and then "stored" for most of the winter. I am real glad that is not me. Now, being as I am a carbureted bike, I do get a little what human's would call "asthmatic" till I get warmed up, but my owner pulls a little knob on my left side, I get a little extra go-juice, and I start breathing nicely. It feels so good to have that brisk air caressing my cylinders! To think some bikes don't know this joy disturbs me. So, if you never take your bike out on a cold day, please bundle up and do it for your bike's happiness.



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Since our last chat there have been some changes in the bikes I ride with. The big black Electraglide named "Hoss" is gone, replaced with another big black Electraglide I call "Hoss number 2." Like I said last summer, I have gotten used to not getting to know these bikes well because the owner trades them in every year, but I do get to see what all new stuff the "mother factory" is doing to bikes. A new bike joined up last summer, it is a sleek orange and black V-rod I call "Speedy." It's a nice bike to be parked by despite the slight odor of anti-freeze.

Another new bike started riding with us recently. It's an older Ironhead. I really like it because it makes me proud to see someone show care and respect to an older bike, although I do call him "Gramps" when he is parked beside me. "Stealth" still rides with me, and yes, our owners are still what you humans call "friends." And yes, they still spend a lot of time picking on each other and doing what you humans call "laughing." "Road Puppy" has become missing in action here lately, from what I understand her owner is off learning to drive one of those huge truck things we pass on the highway. I hope she returns soon, I miss her. Well, I guess I better get some rest, no telling when my owner will come out here, start me up and head off down the road. If you see me out and about and I have a saddlebag open and flapping, my owner didn't forget to snap it - that's me waving!

As my owner says:
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This & That



I am not one to chase the latest and greatest technology, but after watching Rock ride in the coldest of weather and not be phased by the temps, I decided to try and alleviate the one area in which I truly get cold. If the temperature drops below 60, my fingers must think it's freezing outside and react accordingly. I've added some clear grip protectors (wind deflectors) and they have helped considerably over the last two years. But the tips of my fingers continue to have a mind of their own. So I relented and ordered some Synergy heated gloves by Tourmaster. I have quite a few riding goodies made by Tourmaster (riding boots, riding jacket and luggage) and have been satisfied with every one of them. Keeping my fingertips warm has become my top priority. It sucks when you're forced to stop riding between gas refills because your wimpy fingers demand attention.

My assessment: These things are great at doing exactly what they are advertised to do. They will keep your fingers and hands incredibly warm. The gloves plug into a wiring harness. The harness goes up each arm, around the back and exits the bottom left side of your riding jacket. Since one probably would not wear these gloves if not wearing a riding jacket to begin with, all this is of little consequence... except for the first time you try them out. After threading the ends out the sleeves, you have to concentrate on what attaches next. The gloves themselves limit dexterity after donned, so you must remember to plug the right glove to

the sleeve wire first, then put the temperature control into the pocket on the right glove, connect the left glove, get on the bike and then connect the wire coming from the battery to the wire exiting the riding jacket. Then put the gloves on. Sound confusing? It is, the first couple of times you do it (I can think of several things which have proved confusing the first time!). Getting off the scooter requires that you disconnect the wire from the battery. Performing tasks like topping off your fuel tank can be done by just letting the gloves hang by their wires. It feels rather strange having all that stuff hanging off your jacket. After a couple of uses, though, it is like anything else and it becomes habit.

The temperature control has three settings: low, medium and high. Low proved more than adequate on today's ride. The high setting actually confused me at first. My hands and fingers were so warm (hot, actually) that the sensation was misinterpreted as cold. But the opposite is true, and I think one could come very close to burning oneself if not careful.

If you decide to order a pair of these, I would order a size larger than the fitting guide indicates if your measurements come close to the next size. I think they run a tad small. I got mine from Competition Accessories (www.competitionaccessories.com) and got about \$10 off the normal price. Another goodie I use is the LDComfort (LD for long distance) (www.ldcomfort.com) riding pants. These things are as good as Rock's review indicated. I used them on the ride to Canada and back and they worked well. I will not ride more than 50 miles without these things! Ride on!

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The Low Down:

Make/Model: 2006 Harley FLSTCI

Engine: Twin Cam 88

Owner: Kevin Miller - Chattanooga, TN

Paint: Kenny Reynolds - Chattanooga, TN

Assembly: Tammy - Mountain Creek HD

What's more appropriate for our Valentine's edition than a labor of love? The bike pictured here was beautiful when purchased new at Mountain Creek Harley-Davidson in Dalton, Georgia by then employee Kevin Miller. However, after much work, blood, sweat and tears, it is hardly recognizable as the same ride. The outcome is stunning, but, as many bike-building projects begin, it started off with near tragedy.

Kevin was stopped behind a truck at a stop sign in mid-March of 2007 a little before 10 a.m. when an older lady slammed into the back of him, nearly destroying what was essentially a new motorcycle and launching Kevin approximately 10 to 15 feet. The cage driver made it another half mile or so down the road before hitting a bunch of mailboxes and being arrested for driving under the influence of prescription drugs.

Rebuilding the bike took around two months, mostly due to the insurance company dragging their feet. Once things started rolling, local painting legend Kenny Reynolds (we seem to be hearing a lot about him lately) completed the incredible paint job in about a month, and Tammy was able to put together the rest of the masterpiece in about three days!

As you might well imagine, this puppy got plenty of genuine Harley parts like a flush mounted fuel gauge and cap, mustache engine guard, an FLHX front fender, a Deluxe rear fender, tombstone tail light assembly, billet shift levers, a tack and speedo combo, rider and passenger floor boards, chrome front end, quick detach passenger back rest and luggage rack, and a Screamin' Eagle breather kit... but the list goes on. It also has Vance and Hines exhaust, Drag Specialties quick detach side plates, bareback saddlebag kits, plus a chrome swing arm and frame covers. Put that together with some RC Component wheels, 16-inch Buffalo internally wired ape hangers and a ton of various other shiny/sparkly things and you end up with one smooth and adaptable ride!

When I asked Kevin about his bike, he said, "I would like to thank Charles Keith for selling me this Heritage, Keith Morrison for paying me enough to buy it, and Chuck Ferro for inspiring the paint job and graphics. I'd also like to thank Tammy for the assembly and taking time to get my bike 'right' after the accident, and of course Kenny Reynolds for creating such an awesome paint job."

As long as we are thanking people, I'd like to thank Kevin and his lovely wife Linda for providing and delivering this month's cover bike (as well as posing in the background), Dewey Gass and the other good people at the famed Chattanooga Choo-Choo for allowing us to use the historic train depot as a backdrop, and Mark from Chattanooga Horse Trams for trying to help out where he could. "Tom the Bomb" performed photographic duties.



For many more pictures of this beautiful bike and historic backdrop, visit www.roadrashmag.com and click on "Photos!"



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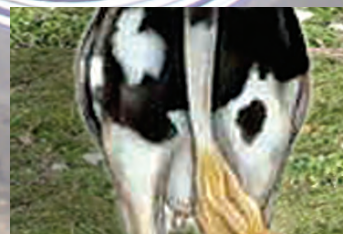
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Dalton H.O.G. Chapter New Year's Day Ride



Photos by Rock



SPOTTED AROUND

Retro pics by HippyChicKim, Tom the Bomb, and others





It is the common chemical substance that is essential for the survival of all known forms of life, yet the same substance can be one of the most destructive forces on Earth. The mystery chemical is water and there may be no greater example of "good" and "bad" found in the same source. Water covers 71 percent of the Earth's surface, mostly in the oceans, with only 1.6 percent of the water found below the surface. Of the surface water about 97 percent is saltwater found in the oceans with a surprising 2.4 percent contained in glaciers and the polar ice caps, leaving a minute 0.6 percent in our rivers, lakes, and ponds. The average depth of the Atlantic Ocean is 10,936 feet and the Pacific Ocean is 14,040 feet deep, making it a little more understandable why such a high percentage of the surface water is contained in the oceans.

Water makes up from 55 percent to 78 percent of the human body, depending on fat content, and its

replenishment to maintain water for most life, meaning seven glasses moisture, or pure water. most every agriculture, production,



is absolutely necessary life. Our bodies need every function to sustain approximately five to a day in the form of food beverages with water, Water is essential for type of manufacturing, processing, energy cooling, and most any other area essential to our daily life. Our bodies cannot survive without the intake of water, but to the contrary, an over abundance of water can be deadly. If a person drinks too much water they put themselves at risk of water intoxication (hyper hydration), which can be fatal. But by far the greatest danger we face when water turns deadly is flooding. Flooding is the number one property and casualty cause among natural disasters. The highest casualty count due to natural disasters was the China Flood of 1931, which took the lives of over 3,000,000 people, plus uncountable animal life and property damage.

The sudden destructive power of floods is a classic example of how something good can quickly escalate to something deadly in a very short period. As



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we ride our bikes, enjoying the freedom and the good life that riding brings, we must always plan for the worse or unexpected. When we ride in congested or fast moving traffic we should especially be prepared for a way out concerning evasive action if the worse happens. We should always be on guard for the deadly objects on the road (recap chunks, mufflers, ladders, lumber, etc.) our less careful fellow travelers leave for us to negotiate. Below I have listed some common road hazards and my personal approach to handling them. Hope something here helps you.

Objects in road: Concentrate on a spot a foot to the side of the object, rather than staring at the object. Your bike will go where you look.

Sudden flat tire: Slow down gradually and ease over to the roadside slowly. Don't grab a handful of brake or steer sharply to the roadside.



Grooved pavement: Don't fight the bike, since it will typically only wander back and forth six inches or so. Just let it wander; you'll be just fine.

Gravel and wet leaves: Try to make any required turn before and after the gravel/leaves and don't grab that front brake while in the hazard.

Dogs: Don't kick at them or make sudden swerves that will send you into the path of something bigger than the dog.

Broken chains or engine failure at speed: Get your maintenance done before you leave your driveway.

Interstate driving: Stay in one of the two car tire tracks. This will help to avoid sudden junk in the road plus helps your view around the traffic up front.

Wet roads: Slow down a little and take it easy on the front brake. Otherwise, just relax; it's not that big a deal.

In preparing for life we need to be ready on a moments notice for the call to death's door. When people talk about a personal walk with the Lord or religion is it just a bunch of "hogwash" or a "crutch for the weak" in your mind? Or maybe you just really don't know what you believe or disbelieve. Read the book of John in the Bible and see if that clears up the issue for you, then decide. My prayer is you will be prepared for what life throws at you, and it will be with the Lord at your side. Now lets go out and play in the streets!

Under His Wings,
Eddie Rahm
edtennga@bellsouth.net

P.S.: Next month I highlight the Southern Cruisers Club in my "Welcome to the Club" series.

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COMING NEXT MONTH



In our March issue Eddie Rahm's article will discuss his visit with the Southern Cruisers Riding Club. Tune in next month to see what this club is all about. If you would like your club or association featured in Welcome to the Club series, please contact Eddie @ edtennga@bellsouth.net - Editor

RAH RAH ON THE ROAD

If someone had told me two years ago that I would be where I am now, I would have laughed at them and told them they were out of their minds! As stated in previous articles, I only bought my first bike two years ago. I did not know how to ride it when I bought it. But I did learn how, and once I could ride, it took a lot to keep me off it. What I am about to tell you is all about what riding has given me and how it has changed my life. I am 48 years old and grew up right here in the Chattanooga/North Georgia area, never having been much of anywhere else but this area. I guess you could call me a small-town country girl, but not without dreams. Dreams which have been awakened over the last two years since I've been riding, along with a "me" I didn't know existed.

I had a hard time learning to ride my bike. I was scared of it at first. And took it real slow. It took me three months to get it out of my driveway! The first time out, I was scared to death. I was invited to a meeting of the group I now ride with. Reluctantly, I agreed to ride to the meeting. It was exhilarating to actually get out of my neighborhood and I gained a little more confidence as a result of the ride. Not just confidence to ride, but an overall feeling of accomplishment. As time went on, over the next two years, I became a more self-assured person. Riding gave me courage to step out of my comfort zone in other areas of my life as well. Last July, I rode with my group to Black River Falls, Wisconsin and from there to Canada and Niagara Falls before returning home. On the trip back home, I realized how much I loved the road. My thought was to figure out a way to make a living while riding across the



country on my bike. Even though that didn't happen (as of yet), I am now riding across the country, making a living, but on 18 wheels instead of two. I have been away from home now for one month, learning how to drive a big truck. Again, stepping out of my comfort zone. Had I not taken to riding a motorcycle, I don't believe I would have ever considered this career field.

I have been in about 15 states in the month I've been out here. I have seen the majestic sunset in El Paso, Texas, the quiet mountains of New Mexico, and the snowy landscape of Flagstaff, Arizona, and much more in between. I am meeting people from all walks of life. I am seeing the country like I dreamed. I am seeing the beauty that is of God's hand. It really is Spiritual. There is so much more than I could have ever imagined out here for me to experience. All because I took a risk and learned how to ride a bike. It's amazing!

I have never been away from home for any period of time. Never been away from my family and friends whom, over the last eight years, I have come to lean on and depend on. It's kind of scary being out here all by myself. But, my family and friends back home are constantly offering their support of my dream and encouragement to "buck up and push on." They really believe in me! It's kind of funny. My road name is "RahRah" because I was a cheerleader in high school. Now, I am the one playing the game and my family and friends back home are my cheerleaders. And, I have a whole slew of them! I'm thankful for technology, cell phones and the Internet. Through this, I stay in touch with home and

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have even "met" friends that I've never seen before, as yet.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that my decision to learn to ride a motorcycle started out to be simply that. I had no idea the doors that would open for me along the way. In October 2008, I did something else I would never have thought I could do... I went hang-gliding! I've always been terrified of heights but, because of the courage and confidence I got from riding, I was willing to give it a try. It was incredible! Thanks, Glider! And, there again, riding gave me even more confidence to take another chance. Life is about taking chances, walking through risky situations in faith, and welcoming personal growth no matter how frightening it may seem at the time. Life is also about family and friends and being there for one another. I am rich in spirit because of the people in my life today. I am on an adventure of a lifetime, for me. And, even though I'm out here by myself, I'm never alone. My little Sporty has brought me so much happiness and excitement when riding her, but the real deal is that she has shown me that I can be so much more than I ever thought I could be. Riding has given me the gift of true friendship and true brotherhood/sisterhood not available to non-riding folk. It ain't just a ride, or a way to get from point A to point B. It's a way of life and a way to life! I'm looking forward to seeing and being where this incredible journey leads me next. Where is your journey leading you?

Don't just ride... live!

RahRah,
Pres. RWR6
(a Harley-riding, hang-gliding, truck-drivin' country girl on the road & loving it!)
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Joe Cool's Biker Health



February is the month to cherish those closest to your heart. Valentine's Day is the widely celebrated time to do something special for your sweetheart. Do not take for granted the one your heart holds so dear. More importantly, do not take for granted the heart that is so dear to you.

Your heart is the center of your physical existence. We give very little thought about the driving force of our cardiovascular system. A normal functioning heart will continue to beat through out your lifetime without you ever having to give it one single conscience thought. That is because the heart has its own electrical conduction system.

The heart is, in the simplest terms, a pump made up of muscle tissue. Like all pumps, the heart requires a source of energy and oxygen in order to function. The heart's pumping action comes from an intrinsic electrical conduction system. The heart is a powerful muscle slightly larger than your clenched fist. It works as a pump to send oxygen-rich blood through all parts of your body. Blood contains oxygen and nutrients that every cell in your body needs to survive. The oxygen-rich blood travels throughout the arteries and vessels, nourishing the body so that it can function properly. The average resting heart

rate is approximately 70 beats per minute (bpm). That means in one hour, your heart will beat 4,200 times. In one day it will force blood through your vascular system 100,800 times. That is roughly 4,300 gallons of blood pushing through your body. In one year (365 days) your heart will beat 36,792,000 times. The average life expectancy is 77 years old. In that time, the heart will have contracted and relaxed 2,832,984,000 times (nearly 3 billion heart beats!!). That is not counting the beats during the nine months in the womb. That is absolutely amazing.

A mechanism made of smooth muscle that can work so efficiently and for so long with out ever stopping for oil change or a tune-up. Harley-Davidson and Honda only wish they could have it so good.

Like your motorcycle, your heart does need some proper care to keep it functioning properly. No one wants their bike to perform sluggishly or break down on the highway. Certainly, you do not want your heart to break down in the highway of life. Your heart needs certain elements to be in balance for a healthy and strong performance. Eat heart healthy, small proportioned meals. Be active on a regular basis. Keep body weight, stress, and blood pressure under control. Do not smoke. See your physician regularly. Adopt a heart healthy life style. Do not fail your heart, and your heart will not fail you. Take care of yourself. If you won't, who will?

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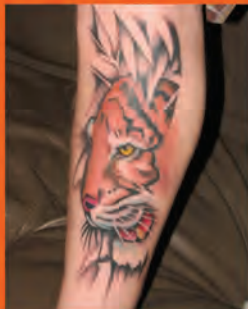
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NEIL CLEM GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

It was a beautiful day, December 30, 2008, when riders from far and wide started pulling in to pay their final respects for a brother gone, Neil Clem, a name once synonymous with Hawg Wild Cycle Supply. Neil's bike stood stoically in the corner of the lot, as if he was watching his brothers and sisters roll in to say their final good byes. Stories drifted in the air of past escapades and memories. I for one will always remember Neil's hard edge humor and cocky ways, and how he'd never turned down a request to help a charity ride or find used part for me, even if it was going to go on a Honda. Gone are the days where you could walk into his shop, grab a cold beer from his "soda machine," and listen to the stories go round...crude, rude, and totally old school. May you ride in peace as you take the high, twisty roads. You're gone but not forgotten.

HippyChicKim
RandomFox.com



Our featured local rider in "The Hot Seat" this month is Tony Shrader. Along with his wife Angie, they own Shrader Security and Lock, selling and installing all types of low voltage systems such as burglar alarms, access control, cameras, telephone, cable, and network cabling. They also do many aspects of Locksmith work. Tony has been in the alarm industry for about 20 years and did a tour in the USMC before that. Between the two of them, Tony and his wife have four children, all girls, with one grandchild on the way... God help him. He proudly rides with his brothers in the Southern Thunder Motorcycle Club and was privileged to have been elected president this year. Tony was raised in Chattanooga and loves his hometown. Tony says, "I have lived in several other locations in the U.S., but always seem to come back home to Chattown."

After tricking him into meeting me in a dark alleyway, we held him at gunpoint, forcing him to pose for these pictures and 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?

Well, I have actually had several over the years... I was "Shradar the Barbarian" in college. Then, when I came back from working offshore in LA, all my friends decided I should be dubbed "Bo." That was short for "Bojangles," which is a Cajun thing. After that, I was dubbed "Foam Butt" by STMC



members because my old Honda had its seat held together with duct tape (which liked to stick to my jeans along with foam from the seat). I finally settled on "Sandman," since I made my Taekwondo instructor unconscious. But, lately I am thinking of changing it to "Splash" since I seem to spill beer everywhere I go.

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

My first ride was when I was in the eighth grade. My friend had a Honda 100. I discovered clutches that summer. Those little bikes are sure fun to chase from behind while doing a wheelie across a football field! I guess my first bike was a "Sukzuki" 500 (?) I had for about two weeks in 1983 before the motor blew. At least I got my \$50 worth out of it.

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

This is an embarrassing question for me; knowing a lot of you guys have gone across the world and back on your bikes. I guess my longest trip would only be to Ashville, North Carolina. I know that's not very far and I had no interesting occurrences. I must concede to a lame answer on this one.

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

My wife Angie loves biking! She bought her own Honda 750 Shadow Spirit in '07. She rides very well (for a newbie). My youngest daughter loves to ride and will probably be on her own bike when she gets older.

5) Have you ever had any serious wrecks?

I have had many of the little bumps and drops most of you have had. I have only had one major accident. In 1994, I left the bank next to Holiday Bowl on Brainerd Road in Chattanooga. When my front tire hit the intersection in front of the old Gulas' Restaurant, this "person" decided to turn left in front of me. I only had time to utter the proverbial "OH %#&*!" when we connected head on. After my 30-foot Superman audition, I laid in the street thinking how bad it sucked. Had some interesting injuries, let's just say, vasectomy, vashmectomy.

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

I have not felt some of the harsher hate that a lot of you guys have experienced in the past. Seems the outlook on

bikers has lightened up over the decades a little, but I still get the traditional "you piece of crap" looks we have all grown accustomed to.

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

Just insurance benefits. And some nice little discounts at some of the friendlier places in town. Go Ultimate Cycle! I do suppose the gas mileage and easy parking spots are some nice additional benefits as well.

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

I love the smooth open road for just riding to relax and let your mind clear. But, I have to admit I do love the curvy roads for that adrenalin rush. My favorite local route, I guess, would be Suck Creek Road over the mountain.

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

I post about 10,000 per year.

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

The biggest change I have ever wanted to see within our community has actually become a reality. I always felt that bikers should stick together more since we are all brothers of the road. The Motorcycle Clubs In Chattanooga organization (MCIC) has begun this process. It is great to be able to rub elbows with other clubs and enjoy their company without stressing the different patches on our backs. It is us against a "cager" world and we only have ourselves to depend on.

Well, it looks like Tony did pretty well answering our questions. If you should happen to see him out on the road (hopefully not laying in an intersection), ask him to sign your copy of Road Rash Magazine. He might not offer to hook up your new surround sound system for free, but you'd get to meet a really cool guy in the process. Just be careful not to get beer spilled on you! Thanks for sharing Tony!

TOM THE BOMB



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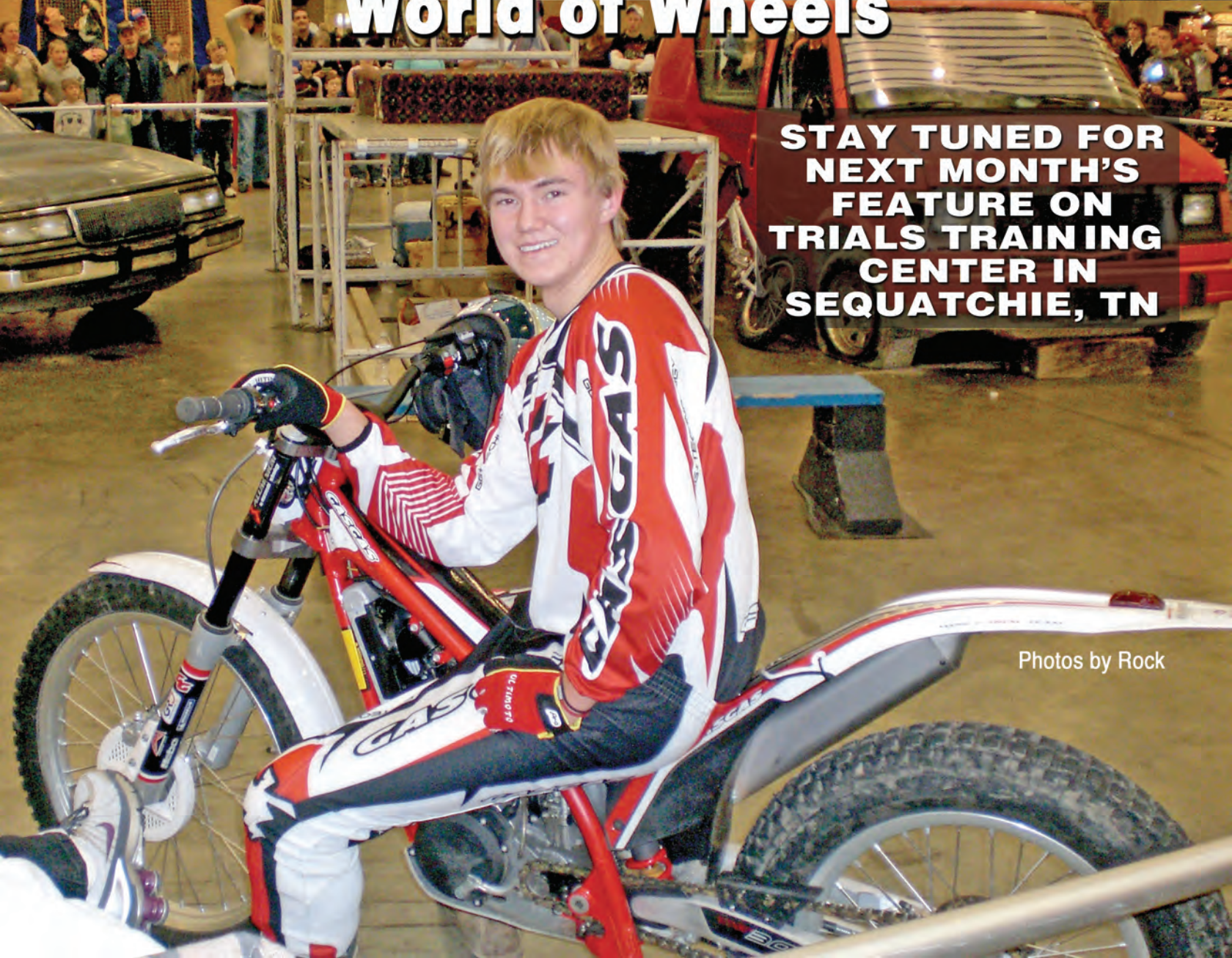
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Dr. Dave's Christmas Party - pics by Tom the Bomb, Rock, Moleman and Margaret





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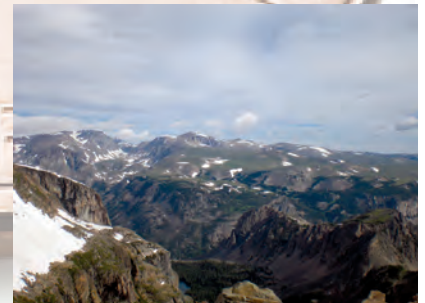
Well, Valentine's Day is right around the corner. Most of us must find that perfect gift or that perfect trip to show our significant other how much they mean to us. As far as trips are concerned it's still a little cold for a long excursion. If you read my article last month, I

told you about our weekend stay at the cabins behind Jim Oliver's Smoke House on Monteagle. J.D. Oliver even offered a \$50 off coupon in last month's issue just to help you decide to try them out. I was pleased to find out that some of you did give them a try and used the coupon. If you'll notice below, J.D. has extended his offer for February, which includes (of course) Valentine's Day (which falls on a Saturday). With J.D.'s help, I've solved your Valentine's dilemma right here in my first paragraph. There's nothing like a short weekend getaway in the middle of the winter to get you in good with the wife. Now remember it's only 38 miles, so you can bundle up and take the motor. If you don't have the intestinal fortitude for that, the offer still

stands if you take your cage. You can't go wrong with this idea, trust me.

When I'm not traveling, I am planning to travel. It is a never-ending cycle. The road is what motivates me and makes me feel alive. The excitement of passing through some little one horse town is just as strong today as it was when I was young. I love rural America and the back roads that tie them all together. I love eating breakfast in some little diner in Wyoming with the overall clad locals. This is America, and I yearn to soak up as much of it as I can while I am still able to do it. My body has gotten old, but my passion for riding is stronger today than it was when I made my first motorcycle trip four decades ago.

This year, the entire Road Rash Crew is planning on making the trip. Last year, "Tom the Bomb" didn't go, but hopefully this year he will be able to accompany us. BooBoo's wife Jenny will also make the trip this year. It's always exciting to take someone that's never been out West and see their reaction to God's magnificent handiwork. Photos can show it, but they don't do it justice. Last year Moleman, Pebbles, and I took BooBoo, who had never been West of the Mississippi. His excitement was contagious and I enjoyed being his tour guide. Like I told him, I led him on his first trip, now it will be his duty to lead others and bask in their excitement long after I'm not able to do it anymore. Don't get me wrong, I'm planning on another decade or two, but one never knows when their time is up.



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