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To begin, the staff of Road Rash Magazine wants to apologize for a proofing mistake we made on last month's magazine. There were a couple of photos that included an individual with a visible obscene patch on his jacket. We did not realize this until it was brought to our attention by a reader after the magazine was distributed. We have always prided ourselves in the fact that our magazine is a family magazine that can be viewed by everyone. Like you we are human and make mistakes from time to time. This was one of them and again, we are sorry. Do us a favor. When you find said patch please take a marker and help us cover up our mistake.

March is upon us and officially winter is over. Of course, we will have some more cold snaps and perhaps another snow, but the worst is behind us. It's time for you seasonal riders to get your bikes off the trickle chargers, shine 'em up, and hit the streets. The events are pouring in and our event calendar is getting full. If you are planning on having an event this year you need to find an empty date and get the ball rolling. Our web site now has an online form that is fast and simple to complete. Just visit www.roadrashmag.com, hit the second link (Add Event), and fill in your information. That's all there is to it. Your event will be added to our site within 24 hours and it will appear in the next issue if we receive it by our 10th of the month deadline. Please try and support as many charitable events as you can this year. Even in tough economic times, bikers are the most generous people anywhere.

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The first big party this year is Ultimate Cycle's Customer Appreciation Party on March 27th (see pg 25). As usual, Charlie and Cindy will be hosting a fun event. There will be live music, food, drink, vendors, and giveaways. The Ultimate Cycle back lot is a great place for a party, with plenty of parking and a great stage for the bands. Ultimate's events are open to all riders. If you like listening to good music, eating, and hanging out, then this party is for you. I can almost guarantee that you will meet some new friends and have a great time. The Road Rash Crew will be in attendance and we'll look forward to seeing everyone and snapping your photo for our online photo gallery. Your photo might even make it into a future issue.

I'm sure you've noticed our front cover this month (also see page 3). The Chattanooga HOG chapter is hosting the Tennessee HOG Rally this year. There will be thousands of Harley's descending upon the Scenic City on June 2 - 5. If you plan on attending, please go to tstatehogrally.com and pre-register for the event. Pre-registration will entitle you to special events and merchandise. Soddy-Daisy's own Miss Tennessee, Stephanie Wittler will make an appearance along with other local dignitaries. The rally will feature a Casino Night, Bike Show, and a Pier Party. The Beaters and Party Nation are the two bands that have been announced to date. More bands will be announced in the near future. Watch for future updates here or check their web site periodically for the latest news. Thunder Creek Harley-Davidson will host the kickoff party on June 2nd featuring Nashville's own blues great Big Mike Griffin. Big Mike has played at our annual Road Rash Biker Bash many times and he is a local favorite. Big Mike is really, really big and he rocks! You can check out his music on his web site at bigmikegriffin.com.

I would encourage all you seasonal riders to take it easy on the throttle for the first few weeks until you get your chops back. It's amazing how much your skill level can deteriorate after just a few months of not riding. Those garage mites will infest the nicest of rides during the winter, so make sure to have your bike serviced (at one of our many advertisers) to make sure it's ready to go. While you're there, please tell our advertisers how you appreciate them for making Road Rash Magazine possible. Remember, without them you would not be reading this.

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ROCK'S TWO CENTS



Hi folks.

By the time you read this, spring will be right around the corner. Some of you will be having fun at the 69th Annual Bike Week in Daytona when this March magazine hits the streets. Most of you will be dreaming of warmer weather yet to come. As you see by our cover, Chattanooga will be the host for the Tennessee State HOG rally this year. Check out the pre-registration information on page three.

As I write this, our yearly western trip is only five and a half months away. I'm a little late this year finalizing our route and accommodations, but now everything is complete. We have decided on the Grand Canyon for this year's pilgrimage. Although I have been near the Grand Canyon dozens of times when I was young, I never took the time away from business to go visit it. Today is my year. On the way we plan on riding the mountains in southwest Colorado.

We will leave Chattanooga on I-24 West picking up 72 West at South Pittsburgh. We will take 72 West all the way to Memphis. This route will not be as boring as taking I-24 all the way. After we cross the river into Arkansas, we will take I-55 North to 64 West. We will follow 64 West to 167 North and then take 62/412 West into Harrison, Arkansas. This first day will total around 610 miles, about 90 miles less than past year's first days. Day two will take us across Arkansas

and Oklahoma and into New Mexico on 412 West. We will be stopping in Clayton, New Mexico for night two after about 612 miles.

My long time readers may remember Moleman's and my ill-fated trip to California in 2005. We were exactly halfway across the country outside Enid, Oklahoma when Mole collided with a slow moving van and went down at 85-plus miles per hour. Miracles do happen, because I witnessed one on that day. His bike ricocheted off the van, and he high-sided and bounced down 412 for a hundred feet before coming to a stop - all this in a sleeveless shirt with no helmet. Six stitches and the worst case of road rash I had ever seen was the result. We are taking the same road (412 West) this year and going by the very spot of his accident. We will thank God as we pass, for the opportunity to make it all the way this year.

When we leave Clayton, New Mexico for day three, we will start on 64/87 North West to Raton, New Mexico and then head north on I-25 to 160 West. We will follow 160 West for 120 miles to South Fork, Colorado, picking up 149 North to our third night in Gunnison, CO. This will be a 378 mile day of some mountain passes and a little interstate. Day four will take us west on 50 and then picking up 550 South at Montrose, CO.

The stretch 550 from Ouray to Silverton is called the Million Dollar Highway. This stretch through the gorge is challenging and potentially hazardous. It has steep cliffs, narrow lanes, and a lack of guardrails. The ascent of Red Mountain Pass is marked with a number of hairpin "S" curves taking us to an elevation of 11,000 feet. Once we reach Durango, CO, we will take 160 West to Cortez, CO and then 160/491 South to 160 West to "Four Corners." Four Corners

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is the intersection of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. We will follow 160 West to 191 South through the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation and will end up in Chinle, Arizona for the night. This day will total 340 miles.

On day five we will take 191 South to 264 West through the Hopi Indian Reservation. At 89 North, we will head toward the Grand Canyon's north rim. At Bitter Springs we will pick up Alternate 89 and at Jacob's Lake we will follow 67 South to the north rim. After a look at the big hole we will backtrack up 67 to Alt 89 for our fifth night in Kanab, Utah. Day six will take us through the Vermillion Cliffs on 89 East and at Page, AZ we will take 98 South to 160 toward Kayenta, Arizona. At Kayenta we take 163 North through Monument Valley, then pick up 191 North toward Moab, Utah. The Moab area is home to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. After a ride through these parks we will turn the ponies toward home, stopping for the night in Fruita, CO. The rest will be 600 and 700 miles interstate days to Paducah, KY. It is our tradition to spend our final night in Paducah and rest up for an easy four-hour day home.

As we have in past years, we plan on uploading our pictures every night so you can follow along with us at roadrashmag.com. We will take hundreds of photos everyday, so come join us on our adventure. I have added a helmet cam this year so I can also upload video every night of some of the more challenging roads. This year's riders will be Moleman, BooBoo, Sandy and Amelia Hodges, Pebbles and myself. Sandy and Amelia will be leaving us in Moab, UT and heading toward California and the northwest before heading home. It must be nice to be retired.

In closing I would like to welcome Aflac as a new advertiser. Brandy Kerr, an associate for Aflac wanted to

make motorcyclists aware that they are now covered under Aflac's accident policies. The Road Rash staff thought the price was right and the coverage was something that we needed. It pays the person, not the hospital. Anyone that rides knows that simply falling over can cause you injuries that can cost you real bucks and cause you to lose work days because of it. This is a nice inexpensive policy to supplement whatever health insurance you carry. Give Brandy a call and she will be happy to give you a free quote.

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Pandora's Capture the Flag Riding Event

The Adventure bike market is the fastest growing segment of motorcycling. Being the bike nut that I am, a motorcycle that can perform as well in the dirt as it can on the road was too much to resist. There are several manufacturers to choose from, but the leader in the 700 cubic-centimeter and larger bikes is BMW.



When I found out that Justin Prann was opening Pandora's European Motorsports, a BMW and Ducati dealership, the planets were starting to align! I had my eye on the F-800GS, only through magazines and the Internet. Justin had several 800s arrive in early January. The first bike out was orange and black, and had the options I wanted. I think I will go down as probably the easiest sale Pandora's will ever experience.

Pandora's hosted a "capture the flag" ride the very next day. I arrived at 8 a.m. to attend the pre-ride instructions. I signed up for the street/trail ride (70 percent street and 30 percent trail). Since I have not ridden off-road in years, luck would have it that the route was back roads to Signal Mountain, through Big Fork and over to Prentice Cooper State Park, which are trails I know well. There were about 15 bikes in our group. I was getting a bit nervous as we hit the trails. I could just hear it "Yeah, that guy with the new 800 just dumped it in a huge mud hole." It was very slick but I made it through with no problem. We made our turn back towards home at the fire tower in the park. We took a short break to discuss our last leg when John Queen, an

accomplished rider, challenged the group for a little more technical ride down one of the toughest trails in the park. I figured I was ahead of the game and decided to play it safe and hit the pavement. I dropped of Suck Creek Mountain Road at a pretty quick pace and the 800 did not disappoint. Back at the dealership, Justin and his team had burgers and dogs on the grill. Everyone returned safely with all kinds of wild stories from the ride.

The capture the flag ride was a great experience, and I would highly recommend it! Thanks goes to Justin and his staff, Rick Trimble (don't even try to stay with him), and all the other guys that helped put the ride together.

BooBoo



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This & That



Greetings! Did you enjoy the snow episode the last weekend of January? I thought it was quite impressive. This area really takes on magical charm when covered with snow. Of course, the local drivers have a heck of a time! Two rules of thumb will keep you out of trouble when trouble raises its head. First, go no more than half as fast as you think you can go. Second, stay at least twenty yards from the car in front of you. Stopping is the trickiest part of driving in the snow or on ice. There is a tad more traction in snow than on ice, but not enough to count on. And if you have wide tires, count on even less traction than someone with skinny tires. My Model A would plow through three-foot snows with ease. The tires were about three inches wide and would "slice" all the way down to the road and get excellent traction. The general idea when driving in snow is to have enough room between yourself and others so that you do not have to slow down or speed up. Just mosey along slowly, stay alert and plan ahead. Quite similar to the general rules for riding safely. At least the last two points apply! And no, I do not ride in the snow. Nor would I suggest it. I rode a bicycle to grade school in the snow in Kansas and it was quite safe. Of course, the bicycle had skinny tires and thus got more traction than one would think. More wheels would work better, though, like a trike or a bike with sidecar. This month's Rider magazine had an article on a fellow in Minnesota who rides year-round. He rides a

Ural with sidecar. The tires on the Ural are quite narrow and perform well in snow. He rides down to -25 degrees. I'm not sure I would even attempt that, but it does sound intriguing. I think he suffers from "sportier-than-thou" syndrome! I had that when I had sports cars: the top stayed down unless it was raining. Temperature was irrelevant.

We went riding this past Wednesday up through Monteagle and onto Highway 50. We took a lot of back roads and experienced damp roads with quite a bit of snow on the sides of the roads at elevation. The Monteagle area must have had a heck of a lot of ice. Trees were down everywhere and road crews were still trying to cut them and clear the roadways. The snow and ice had a psychological influence on us in that it appeared colder that it actually was. The heated gear made up for that, though, and I would highly recommend the stuff to anyone who wants to experience riding in the cold. Heated gloves and jacket liner are the minimum, I think. If you don't have a full fairing you might want to include pant liners too. My knees and thighs used to get very cold; heated pants would have been quite welcome on chillier days! Yes, it is a lot of stuff to put on, and with that additional stuff you are somewhat insulated from the tactile experience of riding; however, riding is riding, even if it's in cocoon-like warmth.

Another benefit of riding year-round is that you retain your riding skills at a higher level. These are skills that can lose their edge over three or so months of hibernation. There is a long check-off list required when starting a bike and going forth. Getting through that list at the end of the riding season is practically instinctual and requires very little time; getting ready for that first ride in the spring can be a tad intimidating: those little checks require active participation until things begin falling into place again. And one's in-traffic safety habits are no longer habits; one must retrain oneself to recall all the little tricks unconsciously used at the end of last year. For me, that is the greatest reason to ride year-round. I'm actually safer as a result of not letting my riding skills become rusty from lack of use. Reflexes remain quicker, and those little things like automatically knowing how much break lever to use in an emergency remain instinctual and do not require practice to regain that "feel." Besides that, riding is just plain fun.

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Turn the LOST TAG in to the cashier at the Smokehouse to redeem your prize & get your pic taken with JD Oliver for the next month's magazine. You are only eligible to win once a year.

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East Ridge TN

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MARCH 19-21

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Rossville City Park - Salem Road - 11 a.m.

Phil Shankles: 423-762-0133 or rmcrossville@gmail.co

Chatsworth, GA

MARCH MYSTERY RIDE 2ND ANNUAL ABATE D1

American Legion 167th 5th Avenue in Chatsworth 11:00am

Sharon Apodaca 706-581-7483

sharonapodaca@hotmail.com - www.abategad1.org

MARCH 20-21

Memphis, TN

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901-652-1727 or www.cycleshows.com

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Huntsville, AL

RIDE SOUTH POWERSPORTS EXPO & STUNT COMPETITION

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Reyn Mansson - 210-259-9916

m2motomedia@gmail.com

APRIL 17

Ringgold, GA

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

Ringgold United Methodist Church

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Keith Kenney - 678-938-1386

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Joe Cool's Biker Health

Road Rash readers, let me ask you a question. If you needed brain surgery, would you see a proctologist? (Some I know may answer yes, considering their head is usually inserted in that area). Would you take your motorcycle to a lawnmower technician? I hope you would go to experts who are educated and certified to render the proper service you require. Keeping this in mind, seek nutritional advice from only those qualified dietitians and not from the unqualified personal fitness trainers.

I am an Exercise Physiologist. I am an expert in prescribing exercise as a tool for improved health and well being. I am not an expert in diet and nutrition. I have been educated in nutrition and I know more about the subject than the average person. However, it would be unethical for me to prescribe any dietary changes for any of my clients. That is to be conducted by a licensed dietitian and regulated by a doctor. Personal trainers who have not achieved higher levels of education or completed sanctioned training programs in nutrition must not prescribe any other nutritional advice other than the federally approved food pyramid.

If you desire to reduce your weight, the most effect method is to create an active lifestyle that requires daily exercise and adopting eating habits that are sensible for a lifetime. Weight loss should not be done as a quick fix to fit in a dress for a wedding or to look good on the beach. Quick weight loss pills and other supplements should not be taken by anyone without a doctor's consent. Please do not make drastic dietary changes or take supplements of any kind because your personal trainer tells you to. This action may cause much more harm than good in the long run.

It is the long run that you want to be ready for. A high protein



diet is not a healthy eating lifestyle. Taking metabolic enhancers to stimulate the metabolic system and suppress the appetite cannot be taken forever. These are quick weight loss methods that lead to weight gain when the diet is over. If you struggle with your body weight, then see a well-educated and certified fitness professional for your exercise program. Then seek the advice of a well-educated and certified dietitian for your dietary program. These experts will help you find an active and healthy eating lifestyle that you can live with for your lifetime.

Please pay no attention to the so-called "reality" programs like "The Biggest Loser." These programs convey the wrong message for those people who are in need of a lifestyle change. An individual who is one hundred pounds over healthy body weight should not be forced to go through the training regiment that is seen on that ridiculous show. The high-intensity, high-impact exercises that drive those poor people into emotional and physical upheaval is, in my opinion, the worst example of training any person can do. Granted, those people audition to get on that show and win the big prize. I know of no quality trainer who would push an obese client to the point of physical and emotional exhaustion, then embarrass and berate them to the point of tears. The show thrives on showing the emotional turmoil because it gets ratings. Recently, one of the so-called "trainers" on that particular show was using her image to sell weight loss products. Please do not buy into the fat burners, diet pills, or any other quick fix weight loss product just because a TV celebrity endorses it.

If you have issues with keeping unwanted pounds off, see your doctor and ask to be referred to a registered dietitian. Get nutritional advice from an expert in the field. You will do so much better when you are properly educated in food sciences. Seek advice for diet and exercise from educated professionals. Do not get sucked into fad dieting from TV personalities whose only agenda is to market themselves. Please take care of yourself, because, if you won't, who will?

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Brainerd Road at East Brainerd Road

The Newbie

March is here and we're all excited about warmer weather. Those few really cold spells are over and everyone can pull their bikes out of dry-dock, change the fluids and start waving at each other. How exciting! The bike shops are busy with tune-ups and putting new tires on, not to mention all the shiny new doodads folks saved up for all winter long. And if you ride a Wing you're getting your new flat screen hi-def TV with surround sound mounted right above your rearview. Congrats. Me? I need a couple new tires, a fork seal (my pants are well stained from the months of neglect), some new oil and still need to replace my clutch mount and mirror. And after rolling my truck on I-24 two months ago I had to blow my tax return on a new cage instead of lowering the back end and replacing those retarded lights Honda stuck on an otherwise clean looking bike – I mean, seriously! That taillight is so hideous it's commonly referred to as "the tumor!" Maybe one day I'll afford a few toys to tweak my scoot into a more custom look, but that day ain't coming soon. Right now I've got a trip I need to take.

I've never understood how people can write different kinds of articles in a specialty magazine. I mean, why would you find politics in a cooking magazine or recipes in a car magazine? At last look, Road Rash was a motorcycle magazine for people who (predominantly) ride their bikes. So why would a contributor write an article about something else? Why would I assume that you care about my take on politics, sports or world events?

Because only writers are egotistical enough to think that you care about every thought that crosses their slightly (or in



my case – drastically) skewed brains. I like to brag – only partially tongue-in-cheek – about how tough I am and how I ride every day, even in the cold. I've mentioned about a thousand times too often that I was in the Marines. Who cares? I never left the United States. I never left North Carolina. Thank God I never had to fire a shot in anger, although I did bury more than one buddy. blah blah blah... That's not my point. I don't claim to be some angry tough guy or throw my rapidly increasing weight around. I just

think I can cope with more than a lot of "soft" people can. My mouth has written the check, now we get to try and cash it. I'm going to Haiti for two weeks. By the time this is fresh off the presses I'll be back. All I can tell you from this side with any certainty is that the trip will be – or was – life changing. Many of you donated money. Now they have tons (literally) of supplies, but they're not getting distributed. So Roxy and I are heading out with a local Chattanooga missions group (SCORE International) to set up aid stations and distribute food, water and medical supplies. From what we hear it will be pretty front line stuff. I like to be in the thick of whatever's happening, so I hope to be somewhere in need, doing something that matters. But as bad as things are over there, we'll see how tough I really am. How do I cope with all the devastation I'll see? The crushed and mangled bodies? The smell? The suffering in the children's eyes? That's a whole different kind of tough. I know I can put in a full day digging ditches in the sun, but how emotionally resilient am I?

I've been to a third world country before. I went to a place in the mountains of Honduras where I was probably the first white person they'd ever seen. I worked as hard as I've ever worked for people that were poorer than I'd ever seen. I got



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sick like a dog, so sick I could wish to die, and still worked as hard as I possibly could to benefit those wonderful people. And that trip will look like Disney compared to this. That trip wasn't disaster relief to a country that was already a dirty stain on the bottom of the totem pole.

So why go? It's not safe. I have kids to think of. The Red Cross is there. The US Military is there. The Israelis are there. If they can't set things right, who can? Why not just donate money like everyone else? I have responsibilities here after all. The simple reason is that God told me to go, so I'm going. Now I'm not gonna get all religious and theological and all that. I'm certainly not here to throw Jesus in your face or hope that you like me more because I mentioned the "Big G" (not you Chris, sorry). But I'm one of those who are foolish enough to believe that he means what he says and am willing to put it all on the line if that's what I'm asked to do. Is that bravery or foolishness or faithfulness? My answer is "Yes" to all of the above – but mostly faith. My girls are scared. I'm nervous. I ain't gonna lie. But I know that one way or another we're gonna be alright.

For one thing, SCORE International does this sorta thing regularly. They have a base of operations in the Dominican Republic, which, for those of you who struggle with geography, is on the same island as Haiti. So we're flying into a "safe" country with people who know the lay of the land and have infrastructure in place. They have boots on the ground, distribution points for goods, and familiarity with the people we'll be serving. They also told us that we'd have a security detail with us. Part of me wants a gun. If some dude with a machete wants the water he can have it, but if he wants my head or my wife, I'd rather be able to deter him from his intentions. I am going there to help people, not blow them away. I think I'll stick to handing out water and let others worry about killing folks.

Expect another article or two on Haiti. First off, I won't have ridden my bike for two weeks, so I won't have war stories to tell about the stupid crap I've done. However my guess is that I'll have a tale or two to tell about all I saw, did and experienced. Maybe you'll decide to read them anyway. Besides, I wanna thank Rock publicly for kicking in and helping fund our trip. He didn't do it for the kudos, but he deserves them nonetheless. I figure since he helped ship us off, maybe he'll read the articles. The rest of you can skip my ramblings – you'll have more time to shine your chrome doohickeys.

But don't misunderstand me - we do have an obligation to spend our hard earned cash. Buy all the aftermarket gizmo's you can afford. If we spend it, then we help boost the local economy, keep some people employed and ensure that the local guys can keep their doors open. Otherwise we'll all be buying online and paying dealer cost for everything, and we don't want that now do we? And let's not limit that view to just your favorite local bike shop either. If you need a bite to eat, break your normal habits and support a local eatery rather than the big chains. You might find a surprisingly good meal at that hole in the wall you've been meaning to try out. If you're given a choice, maybe you'll select some goods or services from the list of advertiser's right here in this copy of Road Rash Magazine you're holding in your sweaty little hands. That helps us continue to offer you the fine reading material and photos you've become accustomed to... That, and the random article about foreign travel.

See you on the road.

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Busa Doc Tech Tips

SEATS

Seats are probably the most common item that we ALL use every time we jump on our machines and glide off into the sunset at about 70 mph, and about 90 degrees. Are you there yet?

So why is it that we all want to change that one common item, almost as soon as we drive our new machines home the first time? Well the answer lies somewhat in your pants, or shall we say in your "seat!" It seems that we all have a different shape, size, and level of fat in those areas. A seat that fits your rear better, customized or not, will allow you much more time and enjoyment in the saddle. Getting the right seat for you is not really hard at all, however the cost may cause a reaction being anything from "Wow, is that all?" to "Wow, a seat costs that much?" There are several really good brands of seats, and of course there are numerous custom seat makers around. At Ultimate Cycle in Chattanooga, we specialize in the Mustang Seats. Not the cheapest seat around, but we find the overall cost, design, and quality to be very good in this line. Before you order your new seat, check out seats at your favorite local dealer and get a "feel" for what you like at what size feels the best.



You can also take some measurements back there and relay them to the parts manager to see what size/shape fits your measurement the best.

Remember no matter how old, all seats need to be checked out for damage, loose fittings, and proper hardware. Have you ever ridden a bike with a loose seat? Not fun in a curve at 70mph. How about one a dog has chewed the side off, held on by duct tape, and the foam is falling in between the frame? Well, that one is a personal story you will have to ask me about sometime, but just rest assured it ain't no fun! The bottom-line here is to check out your seat, whether it is new or old, for safety. Loose or damaged seats can be a fatal mistake.

A new seat will change a bike's looks and also the way it feels gliding down the road. Imagine being with five or ten of your favorite friends in tandem, about 90 degrees, not a cloud in the sky, just before sundown, right after a good burger and beer at that place down by the beach....are you there yet?

So how do you shop for that perfect seat? First thing you have to ask yourself is, what am I going to do with my bike? Do I need a seat for touring, for in town commuting, or that great looking, but not so comfy, seat for simply the looks? Well, obviously if you're going to ride long distances, that's usually a completely different seat than a show seat. And of course there's your choice of gel, air, regular foam, water, and my favorite, space foam!

For touring, basically we look for a little bit soft in the middle, yet a firm frame, and a little over sized. At Ultimate Cycle in Chattanooga, we also recommend the "Air Hawk" seat add on. This little tool makes a huge difference if you're going out over 400 miles. It attaches to the seat easily,

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allows you to set the level of air your rear wants and it can be adjusted just by blowing into a nozzle. Now days, you can even get a seat with a heater in it for winter riding.

One thing many do not think about until you need it is back support. A driver seat backrest is an important addition, but in a pinch a big backpack or T-bag can do wonders. Have you ever had a seat that you sat on for a few hours while riding, then got off only to find out somebody was playing Chinese torture with your butt? Then you dread trying to get back home and when you finally get off, you want to take the seat off and burn it!

The key thing is to buy a seat to fit your needs. Some riders may actually have multiple seats based on how far or how hard they intend to ride. Always make sure that the seat is the proper fit for you and for the bike. If you put the wrong seat on a bike, you might end up putting on a new wiring harness too because you end up cutting wires, etc. Let the custom seat guys make you a seat if you have a custom application.

Over 90% of motorcycles have synthetic covers. You can get fake or real leather seats, but sometimes real leather seats are so hard that you can't ride for longer periods of time without some real talent. You will have to decide on that one, but leather is not always the best. Whatever material you choose, make sure when cleaning your seat, not to use anything slick. The hardest thing to do is keep your rear in place when you're sliding all around. Plus that glossy sheen to your clothes lasts awhile to make everywhere you sit slippery.

At the end of the day your seat can be one of the best investments, and favorite parts on your bike. It can also be the thing you despise the most if you are not careful! So be sure to get one to fit your needs, your shape, and your likes. Shop around and try sitting on some before you buy, or come see me at Ultimate Cycle in Chattanooga and let us guide your glide into the sunset. Are you there yet?

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THE VIEW FROM THE WING

Sturgis, Daytona, Laconia, Chattanooga? Does Chattanooga not deserve to be one of the elite motorcycle destinations in this country? I believe that God has blessed us with one of the most beautiful areas in the U.S. Within 20-30 minutes we can be escaping the summer heat in the various plateaus that surround Chattanooga. We call them mountains, but they are in truth plateaus. We have the privilege of riding through beautiful forest preserves for hours at a time and never cover the same road twice. This place is truly wonderful. Unless you find a road that according to the map is supposed to be paved but that someone forgot to tell the paving crew. Off-road is great for adventure bikes and motocross but just a touch hard on Gold Wings.

And unlike the Rocky Mountain range, we have deciduous trees, which of course as everyone knows, are the trees that have leaves as opposed to needles. These are beautiful leaves that come alive in the spring, giving us a feeling of rebirth and new life while showering us with pollen. In the summer they provide shade as we wind through the back roads that are second to none as we ride. Then those same trees show their true array of colors in fall before they succumb to the approaching winter. The trees out west are a constant green. Nice, but the hardwoods in our neck of the woods display a beautiful tapestry that is breathtaking. They may have true mountains, but we have hardwood trees.

And our city is very friendly towards bikers. Not just for



two weeks in the summer (just look at the Nightfall Concert Series). I do not really go to Nightfall all that much but I am very impressed that the city puts it on. Every weekend through the summer we have a city that says bikers are important to Chattanooga. Most areas pay lip service to being biker friendly but the truth is that they really don't do anything to attract bikers. And what would the Trail of Tears be like if it did not originate here in Chattanooga? We even have our own magazine right here in the Scenic City devoted to the motorcycling community - a magazine of truly discriminating readers of high intelligence. Notice I said the readers were of high intelligence. Yes, I mean Road Rash Magazine.

We also have the largest volume Honda dealer in the U.S. and before Indian pulled the plug, the largest volume Indian dealer was right here in Chattanooga. Our Harley dealership is also one of the more successful dealerships and thousands flock to that dealership every Friday night that they put on their Sundown at the Creek parties. And hopefully we will soon have the largest BMW/ Ducati dealership in the U.S. If you haven't checked out Pandora's European Motorsports on Hwy 58, you need to. Regardless of what you ride, you will be impressed by what already is the best BMW/Ducati dealership in the country.

Pandora's Motorsports had their grand opening on the same Saturday that Road Rash and Steel Brothers were having the first of many Chattanooga Toy Runs. At the grand opening I had the pleasure of meeting Mayor Ron Littlefield. He was gracious enough to come to Pandora's early on a Saturday morning and stay for the entire toy run until well into the afternoon. Again this was on a day that he was also had commitments to be somewhere else later that day.

This is not an endorsement for any person or party. If you want to be an idiot and vote for someone else that is entirely up to you. While talking to Mayor Littlefield, I mentioned that it would be great to have the Wing Ding or the Honda Hoot

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right here in Chattanooga. This would bring in a large number of vendors as well as hundreds of thousands of bikers and co-riders. This would bring in much needed dollars to our local economy and he was very much in favor of this happening right here in Chattanooga. There's just one little problem...

Problem? What problem? The problem, Hizzoner (Hizzoner is term of affection that Chicagoans use for the person holding the mayoral office), explained to me was that the city did not have a facility to accommodate that many people. So that is where we are. We need the most intelligent people in this community, the ones who read Road Rash of course. (Yes you. Duh). To come up with ideas for an all-Chattanooga bike rally and the place to have one. We need to something on the scale of Riverbend. Or Woodstock! Or maybe the Olympics. We can have our own "Motorcycle Village."

Why would we want to do that? I think that people who ride bikes are always looking for that new adventure and they are always on the lookout for great rides. And bikers have money. I hate to be crass, but unless you are a writer for Road Rash, the demographics for most motorcyclists are above average income. Again, unless you write for Road Rash. If they are owners of a Harley or Gold Wing, they have a real penchant for spending that money on food, especially ice cream, lodging, beverage and chrome. Sometimes the chrome comes first. A person has to have priorities.

We have had the Harley Owners Group hold its national convention right here in Chattanooga with great success. For both the group and the city. When they left we actually had the correct number of children. See? Success! And they are coming back this year. In a time of unsettling economic certainties our city can use the boost. And admit it, even if you do not ride a Harley, it is pretty cool to see all of the bikes coming to town.

If we want to attract tourism, and we do, this is a great idea. I have heard many other bikers who've traveled through this area talk about how great Chattanooga really is. They are right. This city has worked very hard to clean up not only the pollution but has transformed the downtown from an area to avoid to an area that invites all to come. It has been well thought out and well executed and everyone who calls Chattanooga home should be extremely proud of this area. I am.

So what do we do next? Do we form a committee and appoint Rock as chairman? All in favor say aye. The ayes have it. So, Chairman Rock, what will you do next? Can we expect a blue ribbon panel to come up with a game plan? Will there be high-level negotiations through the wee hours of the morning planning the biggest motorcycle event ever?

I doubt it. I don't know what can be done but it is worth talking about. We have the very best that motorcycling has to offer and it is a shame to waste it. And everyone who has the authority seems to be in favor of doing it. But it will take an investment on both the city and the private sector. It will take more imagination and creativity than I have. But it is worth talking about, and worth doing. The H.O.G. of bikers are great, but the reality is that "you meet the nicest people on a Honda." Please send hate mail rock@roadrashmag.com.

And what should we call this huge event. We can call it whatever we want but please, do not call it anything "Choo-Choo." Of all of the things that I love about Chattanooga, the penchant for calling everything Choo-Choo does annoy me. If you were going somewhere, does Scenic City not sound better than Choo-Choo? In fact, I propose that we ban the use of the word Choo-Choo from now on. Again, please send hate mail and suicide bomb threats to rock@roadrashmag.com.

Gary Boyd

gboyd1800@yahoo.com

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IMPRESSIONS OF CHATTANOOGA RIDERS
from a North East Transplant

From the Northerner standpoint, you may be more of a BMW rider than you think. There are some well known characteristics of BMW riders that I see in the riding community at large here down South. Having recently relocated to Chattanooga from the North East and being that I am a motorcycle fanatic there are some observations of local riders I find extremely interesting. First off we have a skilled riding community, this is probably due largely to the fact there are plenty of technical roads down here that are well visited. The riders here can be fast; they are comfortable on their machines in a variety of different conditions and terrains. At a recent event I had at the shop one of the BMW Performance Center Instructors was putting on his boots when he asked me what skill level he was going to be riding with. I looked at him and responded 'intermediate to advanced', when he stopped and looked up at me I nodded and said '....no joke'. Up North I would have no problem taunting my riding buddies about being slow, down here I have adopted the habit of keeping my mouth shut.

Now being fast does not necessarily make you a BMW rider, on the contrary BMW type riders have a reputation for thorough, methodical, textbook riding style, a Gentlemen's bike, to be ridden by Gentlemen. From the standpoint of a Northerner there are other well known characteristics of BMW Riders, I have a few of them listed below- when contrasted against some of the attributes I've observed in the general riding community down South, it seems the riders down here are more 'BMW esque than you may think. Most BMW Riders will ride year round. This means a motorcycle

does not get winterized and parked in the corner of the garage for eight months of the year. If you do see a bike on the road in Manhattan in February, it will most likely be a BMW. Down here I see a little bit of everything on the road right now, from Japanese bikes to Italian bikes- it seems a large portion of the riding community does not go into hibernation.

Most BMW Riders will not let the rain keep them off the bike. Motorcycle rides on rainy days up north are to be enjoyed (for the most part) by BMW riders only, down here not so. There have been plenty of rainy days at the shop when I have been shocked to see bikes of all models pull into the parking lot. Rainy days are a well kept secret amongst riders with the proper riding gear....which leads into my next point. Most BMW Riders will ride with ATGATT (All The Gear All The Time)

Just about all the riders I see on the roads here have proper jackets, gloves, and boots....this is smart riding and should be taken seriously by all parties. Most BMW Riders will put serious miles on their bikes Gary Boyd's Goldwing.....186,000 miles....case closed

I've had the pleasure of starting out my riding career in Colorado, with arguably some of the best roads in the country. However great roads are not the only way to gauge the quality of a riding area, there is the caliber of the riders present that contribute largely to the experience. The enthusiasm, talent, and comradery I have witnessed in the Southern riding community is above and beyond.

These days instead of teasing my riding buddies about being slow I tease them about not riding BMW bikes, however they have all the attributes to fit the criteria of a BMW Rider.....now I just have to get them on the BMW bikes!

Justin Prann
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Katy makes her home in Tennessee and lives with her singer husband Virgil T. They have hosted and organized the Highway 41 Toy Convoy in Manchester for the past 13 years. Pieces of My Heart is Katy's autobiography and her first book.

Here are a few comments about Katy's book.

Jonsey

Feb 12th, 2010 at 5:47 am

I started reading Katie's book, and I couldn't put it down.... 10 hours later I turned the last page...rivetting is not the right word, but it's close enough. I usually know in the first 10 or so pages if a book has what it takes to keep me occupied.... This author had me from the get-go... open and honest...with a mixture of humor and tragedy....what more can you ask for in a book. Do yourself a favor....get in touch with Katy and order yourself a copy....you won't regret the purchase.

Jill

Feb 12th, 2010 at 10:17 am

This book is incredible. I was curious about it before I received my copy – but when I started to read it – it gripped me until the last page. I could NOT put it down.

I've just started reading it for a 2nd time – want to absorb more of the story that I'm sure escaped me the first time since I was racing through it. This time I will take my time.

This book would make a fantastic movie – this could be the #1 movie of the decade.

Pieces of My Heart: A Free-Spirited Gypsy's Journey Through her heart and soul...and hell. A True Story

Normandy, TN – (Release Date 02/05/2010)– Jump on the back with motorcycle mama, Katy Ishee, as she wildly steers us on a blistering ride of unwed motherhood, familial alienation, bikers, drugs, and insane asylums. You won't know whether to fall on your knees and pray to the Almighty, or get stone drunk and listen to Janis Joplin and the Grateful Dead.

When 17-year-old Katy is forced to surrender her son to strangers, her life becomes a web of secrets, lies and rebellion. Learn the hidden, yet true secrets of how unwed mothers are treated by the System, and what actually goes on in government-approved mental wards. A vivid picture of horror is painted as she describes her ten electro-convulsive shock treatments.

Her rebellion grows as she travels from Haight-Ashbury during the Summer of Love, through the brotherhood of motorcycling and four abusive marriages, even spending some time in sick-slick Hollywood ... across the country, back-and-forth, stubbornly refusing to give up on her dream.

Katy's is that spirit that refuses to compromise either with her herself or the world around her. It

Highly, highly recommend this book. You will be pulled in and live the story through Katy's words.

Brett Brock

Feb 12th, 2010 at 7:10 pm

I got my copy of Katy's book a few weeks back, and I read it cover to cover in two days! All 380 pages of it.

What a great talent this woman is and what a story she has to tell. I was right there with her on every page.

A good book will have you running a movie in your mind as you read it, and this book accomplished that and then some! I think I even heard the sound track.

Katy is a true hero, and the embodiment of the strong American woman who can overcome the harshest of obstacles, while never failing to appreciate life's little blessings, and the family reunion will make your heart soar!

Katy, if I ever meet you in person, you're #@%* right you're getting a hug. I highly recommend this book.

Terri Goodman

Feb 12th, 2010 at 12:36 pm

Katy's book will capture your heart and hold on tight. She reveals just how strong the human spirit can be. This book will make you laugh, cry and get angry as well. Katy will take you on the ride of her life. You will feel like you are right there with her through the ups and downs and the roller coaster ride to *#! and back. You can read this book and then read it again because you won't want to miss a thing! Get your copy of "Pieces Of My Heart" and go on the journey of a lifetime! You won't regret it and you'll never forget it!

You can order your autographed copy from Katy at www.katyishee.com Excerpt, reviews and what people are saying are posted.

Book Signing Schedule

March 5-6 - Pioneer Days, Cracker Trail Museum, Zolfo Springs, FL

March 7 - Webster Bike Show & Swap Meet - Webster, FL

May 15 - First National Freedom Ride - South Pittsburg, TN

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