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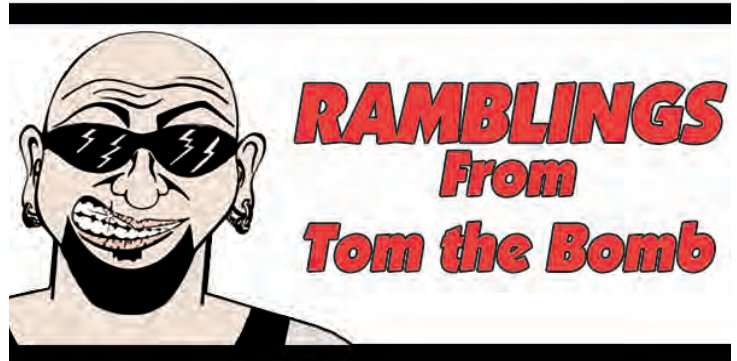
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April is here. It's the time when animals end their hibernation and plants come back to life. So, it's the perfect time to end your hibernation, get that bike out of the garage, and enjoy God's creation to it's fullest.

Spring is just around the corner, which means motorcycle-related events are really starting to pop up on our event calendar. Please check it out! Bikers are well known for having big hearts and taking care of those who can't take care of themselves. We want to encourage everyone to participate in as many charitable events as they can – especially those that benefit locals. Also, if you hear of anyone planning a bike-related event, have them fill out our online form to enter it onto our calendar of events (free of charge). It will not only help get the word out, it will also help avoid competition for local participation.

This winter, as with many winters before, I've had a lot of people comment about how I must've been crazy to ride my motorcycle during cold or unfavorable weather. They would say, "Isn't it too cold to be on that thing today?" And most of the time I'd answer, "It's not that bad if you dress right." But honestly, I've enjoyed it quite a bit. I believe feeling Old Man Winter nip at my nose was rarely a concern when compared to feeling the sun on my back, or getting a panoramic view of the changing leaves. I arrived at my destination a little chilly at times, and it took me a few extra minutes to get ready when I left, but being able to truly experience the world as it unfolded around me was worth the trouble.

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tom the Bomb Blevins	Eddie Rahm
Gary Boyd	Keith "Angel" Riddle
Sandy Hodges	"Joe Cool" Wiram
Ronnie "Rock" Land	Robert Zorn

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHY

Tom the Bomb Blevins	Sandy Hoffman
Jimmy "Moleman" Cornett	Ronnie "Rock" Land
Bob Edens	Miss Emily
Chris "G" Gordon	Eddie Rahm



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As I have stated before, when it boils right down to it, a lot of the technological advances in four-wheeled vehicle design in recent years have centered on insulating the occupants from the environment. Car commercials brag about how things can be loud outside and quiet inside (or vice-versa, depending on whether or not your favorite song is on the radio), and how bumps in the road are barely noticed because of the smooth ride... The "creature comforts" available on luxury cars borderline on the ridiculous when you stop and think about them. I mean - do you really need heated seats? Really? It seems like a large portion of consumers out there are focused on floating down the road in their own artificial environment where nothing from the outside world "interferes" with their traveling experience. Bikers are different though. Right?

Motorcycle riders (to some degree) invite the outside world along for the ride. They feel the temperature, smell the smells, and interact with the curves... There is just more to experience in their traveling experience. I think that is why more people on bikes seem to focus on the journey versus the destination. Most citizens would think it was ludicrous to drive 100 miles for a piece of pie and ice cream, but a lot of bikers would jump at the opportunity... They might even say the pie tasted better.

So, your homework this month is simple. Go out there and get you some pie. Break out of the rut, emerge from your hibernation and invite the outside world. There are already a bunch of local rides, runs and benefits posted in our event calendar and a ton of them on our Web site, [www.roadrashmag.com](http://www.roadrashmag.com), so get out there and get two-wheeling!

As always, we want to thank everyone who has been making a special effort to patronize our advertisers, and encourage everyone else to do the same. During tough times, we all need to stick together and work toward our common goals. That boils down to supporting those who support you. If you like getting this magazine every month, or even if this is the first one you've seen and you'd like to read another - pay attention to the advertisers that support this magazine and spend some money with those businesses. They deserve your support.

Be careful out there, and keep it twisted!

*Tom  
THE  
Bomb*

## ROAD RASH STAFF



"Tom the Bomb" Blevins  
Founding Partner  
TomtheBomb@  
roadrashmag.com  
423-322-0223



Ronnie "Rock" Land  
Managing Editor / Partner  
Rock@  
roadrashmag.com  
423-400-6419



Jimmy "Moleman" Cornett  
Distribution  
Moleman@  
roadrashmag.com  
423-400-2635



Alan "BooBoo" Kelley  
Sales / Partner  
Alan@  
roadrashmag.com  
423-903-2068



Julie "Pebbles" Land  
Proof Reader &  
Den Mother  
(423) 400-5217



Sandy Hoffman  
Advertising Sales Rep  
sandy@  
roadrashmag.com  
423-240-1919

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# ROCK'S TWO CENTS



My position in Road Rash Magazine sends me to many public events each week. I meet and interact with thousands of people each year while attending dozens of charitable events. Our magazine gives away thousands of dollars in free advertising each year to support these events. I have weekly contact with everyone from the CMA (Christian Motorcycle Association) to the Outlaws MC and everyone in between. Everyone that rides is a member of our motorcycle community and Road Rash Magazine is the voice of that community. That being said, I was not surprised when Channel 3 news called and asked me if I could help them with their story on the recent busts at the Outlaws and Black Piston's clubhouse. I agreed to an interview.

I have gotten some criticism for my interview and one person felt that I was being an apologist for the individuals and clubs involved. I am not a member of any club, nor is it my intent to be a defender of anything other than the Constitution and due process of law. Sound bites will never tell you the entire story and this was true with my interview. Being a writer, I prefer the written word. You will get more facts in an article than you'll ever get on the evening news. Let's start by seeing what we all can agree upon. How many of you still believe that people are innocent until proven guilty? (Whoa... that should be 100 percent of you!) How many of you believe that there are people in all organizations that commit crimes? How many of you believe everything you see on TV? How many of you believe everything that a self serving informant or government agent might say?

There was one comment in particular that was cut from the aired portion of my interview. When asked if I was surprised about the busts I answered yes, then added, "but not as surprised as I was when the sheriff of Hamilton County was indicted and arrested." I was not just being flippant. The point I was trying to make is that there are people who break the law in all segments of society. Let's not be so fast to paint everyone with the same brush before they are tried and convicted in a court of law. I don't think that's being an apologist as much as it is just being fair. Due process of law is a principle we all should hold sacred and it is an important part of what separates us from totalitarian countries.

I went on to say that I knew most of the people arrested, but had never seen or heard of them doing any of the things with which they were charged. The news reporter even stated at the end of his piece that he had checked and the majority of those arrested didn't have a previous police record other than minor traffic offenses. (But I thought this was a criminal organization made up solely of convicted felons?) I also stated that I've seen many of the accused at charitable events around town and

said that I have attended some of their parties. Nothing sinister there, just people laughing and having a good time. Now, are my statements an endorsement of the clubs or am I just being truthful? I already know, you'll have to judge for yourself.

Now I will give you my opinion on some things. I believe that people are innocent until proven guilty. I know that there are some bad people in all organizations. I don't believe that all members of the Outlaws MC are criminals, just like I don't believe that all priests are pedophiles, or that all sheriffs are drug dealers. Some are, most aren't. The Outlaws at least operate under a moniker that infers some antisocial behavior, whereas, priests, police, and others operate as a part of acceptable social and governmental organizations. Our parents taught us to trust these people. I believe that even bad people can do good things from time to time, and I don't mind giving them credit when they do. I also know that there are plenty of innocent people doing time. DNA has proven dozens of death row inmates innocent since it's inception. Whoops, sorry there guy, we uh, made a little mistake. Sorry about those last 25 years. Even with all the mistakes and injustices, we still have the best justice system in the world and we all need to be thankful for that.

I'm sure that there will be some convictions in these cases, penny ante convictions, but convictions none the less. The ATF informant/agent was placed undercover in hopes of him garnering evidence about the 2007 Dalton bombing case of which the Outlaws were suspects. Two and a half years later all they got was a handful of petty drug sales. Some of the conspiracy charges will end up being nothing more than someone discussing purchasing or selling drugs without even possessing them. The drugs in this probe were evidently purchased from a small time Chattanooga street dealer who was not a member of either club. But I thought the Outlaws had a world wide network of drug sources at their disposal? That's how they are described by law enforcement. Why didn't they just order up a few keys from Detroit or Miami? If the entire truth were known, we would find that these international outlaw clubs are simply many local clubs with local working class members that for the most part operate independently of one another. Yes, they have a hierarchy, but the region and national are not calling the shots or dictating local behavior. When after two and a half years, the informant couldn't implicate the Outlaws in the Dalton bombing, the ATF started grasping for whatever they could find to justify the hundreds of thousands of dollars and man hours dedicated to this case.

Those who are found guilty will do the time; buy the ticket, take the ride. When they get out, hopefully they won't do it again. If any are found not guilty then they should be repaid (by the government) for their legal costs. Of course that won't happen. Once arrested, you have already lost a ton of money, reputation, and time, even if you're found not guilty. I can guarantee that you won't read about any of the defendants found not guilty on the front page of the paper or hear it as the lead story on the local news. That part of the story will be tucked neatly away near the back of the paper with just a casual mention. That's just not as flashy a news story now is it?

What I'm really wondering is why our real "gang problem"

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is not being acknowledged or controlled by our police chief and other local politicians. There are gang related shootings in Chattanooga every single week. You immediately know it's a street gang shooting when you hear that the victim was shot in the leg or lower torso. I guess it's hard to shoot straight while holding the gun sideways and holding up your pants with the other hand. One innocent bystander was killed a few weeks ago at Kanku's on Wilcox Blvd. when one idiot started shooting at a rival idiot. Another person was killed at the same store just last night. Eastdale is a war zone, especially on the weekends. Why isn't the ATF involved there? Do you reckon some of those guns are illegal and being possessed by felons? History tells us that the ATF doesn't get involved with street gangs. They specifically target motorcycle clubs, even though there are tens of thousands of gang bangers compared to a much smaller number of motorcycle club members. Why is that? How about a massive roundup of the hundreds of gang bangers in Chattanooga? Oh yeah, that could be dangerous, they might shoot back... and besides... we don't have organized street gangs here. Yeah, right!

Please understand, I'm vehemently opposed to people selling cocaine, crack, meth, or any hard drug, however, I would much rather get the gun slingers off the streets first. The urban gang bangers pose a much greater threat to innocent people than the members of the clubs on Campbell Street.

All motorcyclists' wearing patches now face a perception issue. Are they the "good guys" or the "bad guys", they all look the same to the uninformed eye. In reality, all John Q. Citizen sees is a big bearded guy with long hair riding a motorcycle with something on his back. Even riders not associated with a riding organization have some basic knowledge about the patches that riders wear. Locally we have the CMA, HOG (Harley Owners Group), GWRRA (Gold Wing Riders), Blue Knights, Steel Brothers, Unwanted, ABATE, Southern Cruisers, WOW (Women on Wheels), and Black Angels, just to name a few. There are many more. John Q. would be shocked at all of the money these groups raise for charities each year.

Motorcycle riders are bound together by our love for riding and the open road. We are a breed of daredevils and thrill seekers. Some love the speed, while others like to cruise. Some like bar hopping while others like to ride long distances. Some ride every day of the year, while others only ride when it's over 60 degrees. Some like to hit the curves hot, while others like to hit Nightfall. We are all different, but we are the same. We each risk our lives every time we straddle a saddle. That creates a bond. We are a family of strangers and I'm proud to have been a part of motorcycling for over four decades. Like it or not, that's my two cents.

LTRNTT,  
Rock

PS - It has been brought to my attention that the ATF agents in charge of this investigation have, without permission or just cause, used the name of Road Rash Magazine to goad and deride those arrested. When the accused were brought into the



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ATF "war room" they were shown a wall adorned with dozens of their photos. The large heading over the photos was Operation Road Rash. The agents went on to tell one of the accused, "We don't have to lie in the bushes anymore, Road Rash Magazine does our surveillance." We take pictures at all local motorcycle events. Our subjects know that their pictures are being taken. We are not lying in wait snapping photos of unsuspecting subjects, be them Outlaws or anyone else. We decry these actions and statements by the ATF. On a more serious note, by using our name, the ATF has implicated our staff in their operation. I believe that this is not only immoral, but, shows a callous disregard for the safety of our staff and our credibility as the voice of the local motorcycle community.

Not only does their sick humor escape me, it also angers me greatly. How dare they bring us into the fray. Not only did they steal our photos (our download policy clearly states "for personal use only"), but they slandered the name of our magazine by including us in their witch hunt.

"There's an attitude in the federal government that people you dislike have fewer constitutional rights than the rest of us," said Larry Pozner, former head of the American Criminal Defense Bar. "They take relatively minor offenses and trumpet them as the crime of the century. This is garden variety stuff made to sound like a major law enforcement coup."

"This happens all the time, especially when big headlines are involved," says defense attorney David Lane. "I've represented a number of unpopular groups, and the most dangerous gangs in the country are the DEA, the ATF and the FBI. Those three gangs are frequently out of control, and they basically ride roughshod over the Constitution of the U.S. on a regular basis."

The ATF's main target over the last ten years has been investigating and prosecuting 1%er motorcycle clubs. There are an estimated 20,000 outlaw motorcycle club members currently in the U.S. compared to over a million members of black and hispanic street gangs. According to government statistics, those street gangs are responsible for 80% of all crimes committed in the U.S. So I ask again, why is our federal government spending countless millions of dollars on investigating and prosecuting motorcycle clubs while the million plus gang bangers shoot up our neighborhoods and sell drugs on every street corner?

Come on sheeple, get your heads out of your butts and realize that we are losing our constitutional rights more and more every day. From the Homeland Security Act to the RICO and conspiracy laws, we accept them and keep on watching American Idol and Sons of Anarchy. Do you know why we accept it? Because we think that we are not doing anything wrong and those laws are only for the deviants. WRONG!

I will close with a famous quote from Pastor Martin Niemoller (1892-1984):

THEY CAME FIRST for the Communists,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

THEN THEY CAME for the Jews,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

THEN THEY CAME for the trade unionists,  
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

THEN THEY CAME for the Catholics,  
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.

THEN THEY CAME for me  
and by that time no one was left to speak up."

I AM SPEAKING UP! Wake up America. The country we are leaving our kids is a mere shell of the country our fathers and grandfathers fought and died for. The rights you think you have will dissolve like the sand once you get the federal bulls-eye painted on your forehead or your back. When they come for you, it will be a different story.

Send comments, suggestions, and hate mail to:  
[rock@roadrashmag.com](mailto:rock@roadrashmag.com)



# 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.

Our good riding buddy Frosty was involved in an accident on March 7, 2009. He was riding solo on his way back from Daytona when he got into some gravel at the junction of I-90 & I-16 near Savannah. Frosty broke five ribs and fractured his pelvis. The jury is still out as to whether he totaled his Buell Usykses. You might remember Frosty as a past Lost Tag winner or as a member of last year's trip to Glacier. Frosty



rode that Buell at Rockspeed from Chattanooga to Rapid City, South Dakota. He's one tough hombre and I'm sure he'll be back in the saddle before long. They are telling him six to eight weeks . . . bummer. Get well soon Frosty.

Rock, Pebbles, Mole, & BooBoo

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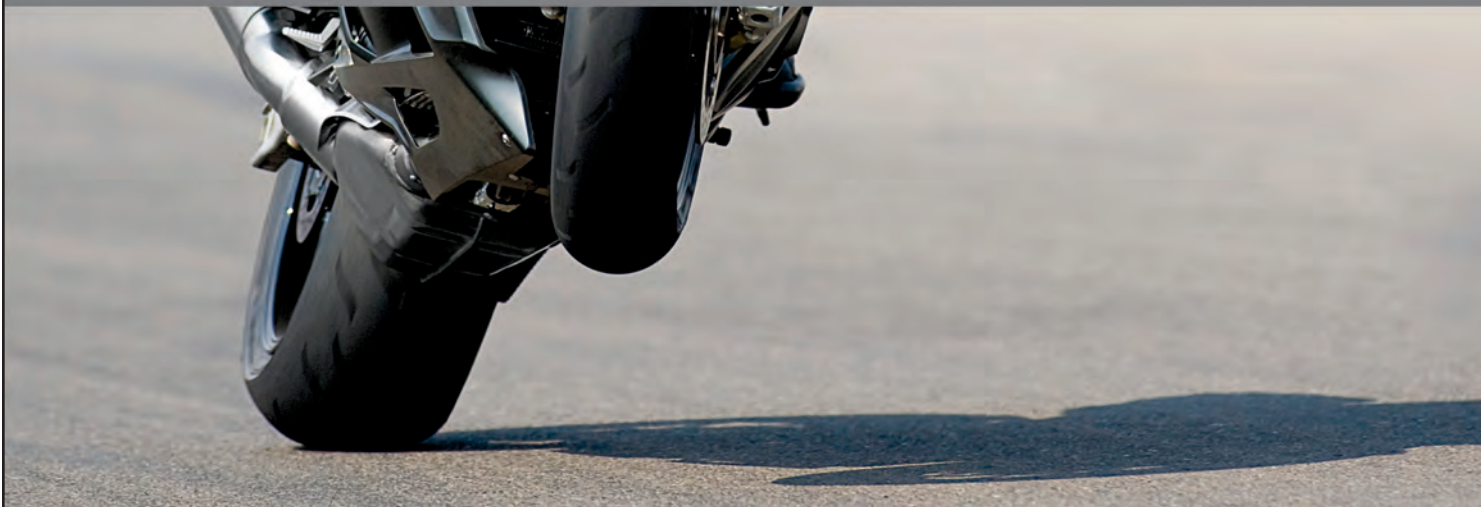
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I thought I would take the opportunity this month to just give my readers an idea of what I have planned for monthly articles this year and finish my article with the best "what I have learned" piece I have ever read.

**Welcome to the Club Series**

I will continue my series highlighting local clubs/fellowships/



ministries with several different groups in the next twelve months. To date I have highlighted four different local groups and have received several invitations to visit other groups for the purpose of a Road Rash article highlighting their group. If you would like for me to

highlight your group, just send me an invite. You must have a back patch and must have a positive impact on the community to qualify I will visit your meeting, report on my observations, and interview a leader of the group. Hopefully this will lead to some good free publicity for the group, and maybe some new active members added.

**Track Day**

My plans were to participate in a Track Day last spring, but I kept putting that off until it never got done. Well it is put off no longer because by the time you read this I will have completed my first Track Day on my Aprilia Tuono RSV 1000R, at the Talladega Grand Prix track in Alabama. I plan to give you a step-by-step account of my personal Track Day experience in one of my future articles, hopefully some helpful information for those who may be contemplating a similar venture. I will also make some suggestions of tracks and Track Day promoters if you are interested.



**Bikers' Dozen Article**

I am wrapping up my 'Bikers' Dozen' project for the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau, with the goal to increase vacationing motorcycle riders to our area. This project, to be completed by this April, will highlight thirteen scenic loops originating and terminating in the Chattanooga area. The loops will vary in length from as little as 135 miles up to the two-day loop of 450 miles, through varying terrain and primarily on two-lane state highways. When complete, the package will be found on the Visitors Bureau Web site and will include road maps and topographic maps of each route, a written description of the ride with interesting details along the way, photos along each route, and suggested food and gas stops. One month in Counter Steer I will give specific details on the package and a preview of one of the loops.

**Pandora's European Motor Sports Article**

One month I will highlight our new BMW/Ducati dealership on Highway 58 (Pandora's European Motor Sports) and give some of the background information on BMW and Ducati motorcycles; some of the best performance and best-engineered bikes in the world.



**More of the Same**

The remaining articles will be my standard Counter Steer format, their goal to present something interesting to you, how that may apply to motorcycles, and then how that may apply to your relationship with the Lord. My Counter Steer articles are intended to challenge the reader to consider the Lord and his possible impact on their lives. I trust the next twelve months of Counter Steer will entertain you, educate you, make you a safer rider, challenge you, make you a better person, and bring you into a closer relationship with the God who created you.

**I Learned (Author Unknown)**

I learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. (Age 7)



I learned that when I wave to people in the country, they stop what they are doing and wave back. (Age 9)

I learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. (Age 12)

I learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up. (Age 14)

I learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. (Age 15)

I learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice. (Age 24)

I learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's great pleasures. (Age 26)

I learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there. (Age 29)

I learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. (Age 30)

I learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it. (Age 42)

I learned that you could make someone's day by simply sending them a little note. (Age 44)



I learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast blame on others. (Age 46)

I learned that children and grandparents are natural allies. (Age 47)

I learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. (Age 48)

I learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. (Age 50)

I learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. (Age 51)

I learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills. (Age 52)

I learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. (Age 53)

I learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. (Age 58)

I learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage. (Age 61)

I learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. (Age 62)

I learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. (Age 64)

I learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. (Age 65)

I learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. (Age 66)

I learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. (Age 82)

I learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch - holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. (Age 90)

I learned that I still have a lot to learn. (Age 92)

**And a few things I have learned (Eddie):**

I have learned that my friends are better people than I will ever be.

I have learned that all the ideas I had about being a great parent went out the door when I had kids.

I learned that people are more important than motorcycles.

I learned that the closer I try to be to God the more I know I'm not.

Now lets go out and play in the streets!

**Eddie Rahm**  
"Fast Eddie"  
eddieahm@roadrashmag.com

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# This & That



Greetings! Hope y'all got out to ride over the past month. As you know, I have written often about riding gear, and in particular cold-weather gear. The only new garment I have added to my arsenal is the Shampa insulated pant liner. Well, Amy got cold the last time we rode, so we decided to get the Tourmaster heated jacket liner, heated gloves and the Shampa insulated pant liners for her. It really sounds as if there is an inordinate amount of stuff, but it's actually quite easy to manage and is not bulky at all. The jacket liner is quite thin, lightweight and wind and waterproof. The gloves are a bit cumbersome at first but do tend to break in after use. The pant liners are of a stretch material with their own liner for warmth so they take up no room. The first time we rode after getting all that stuff, we saw temps beginning in the mid 30's. After the first few minutes of riding with the heat turned on Amelia was snug as a bug in a rug! The coldest temperature I have experienced while riding is 22 degrees, and that was not by choice. When I left Chattanooga the temp was in the mid 30's, but when I ascended the plateau at Monteagle, the temp dropped to the low 20's. The only thing that got cold was the area of the face between the head liner and the goggles. So far I have not figured out how to secure that area. If everything is in place—exactly in place—I can effectively block out all the cold, but it doesn't work every time. If anyone has any ideas, let me know and I'll pass it on.

I don't know if you have tried going to Blairsville or even Ducktown since highway 64 has been closed. I truly feel for those folk who have to commute to Chattanooga or Cleveland from that area. It is an incredibly long ride going up to Tellico Plains and cutting back through Reliance to get to Cleveland. Yes, it is scenic, but that loses its drawing power real fast when you must traverse it twice a day in the dark! It's about a two-and-a-half hour ride from Blairsville. I think the southern route through Ellijay probably takes the same amount of time although the interstate from Dalton may make it a tad quicker.

And speaking of longer rides: our plans for our upcoming summer trip with the Road Rash Crew will set a new record for Amelia and me. After riding throughout Colorado, visiting the North Rim of the Grand Canyon and working our way back to Canyonlands National Park and Arches National Park near Moab, Utah, we will depart that exalted company and proceed alone back across Utah to Bryce and Zion National Parks, down to Las Vegas and through Death

Valley. Then we'll head north to Sequoyah National Park and Yosemite. We'll take Tioga Pass eastward then head back to San Francisco. Then take US 1 and 101 up the coast through Redwood National Park and up to Vancouver. We'll head back through the Columbia River Gorge, go through Deadwood, Sturgis and that area, stopping at Mount Rushmore (of course!) and Wind Cave National Park before heading to the Badlands National Park. After all that, it is a journey on back roads through the plains to the Great River Road and on home. This is one of the trips we have discussed for many years but realistically never thought it would come to fruition. The opportunity finally presented itself and we realized it simply wouldn't happen unless we took the bull by the horns and made it happen! And contrary to what Rock says, I am not retired! He's just jealous! Most of my clients use email or fax: they send me their stuff, I do the required processing and either email or fax the results to them. The advent of the laptop (I'm a laptop virgin, anyway, as I have an aversion to technoid stuff) has freed us up to be mobile, so we can go on the road and continue to work, although I'm not sure I would call short interruptions "work."

So get the rides out, practice slow-speed drills in a parking lot until sleeping skills emerge from hibernation, and re-enter the demolition derby known as the local streets! And be careful! Cagers have not been accustomed to seeing scoots for the past few months. Of course, that is implying they see us in the first place!

## RIDE ON

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## **APRIL 1**

**Chattanooga TN**

### **MCIC MEETING**

Barts Lakeshore - 7 p.m.  
Sandy: 423-240-1919 or sandy@roadrashmag.com

## **APRIL 3**

**Chattanooga, TN**

### **BLESSING OF THE BIKES**

Tennessee Riverpark, Amnicola Hwy, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Gary Scruggs 423-991-0962,  
president@cmachattanooga.com

## **APRIL 4**

**Chattanooga, TN**

### **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

Chickamauga Dam Boat Ramp - 7 a.m.  
Al Kaschimer: 423-304-3030,  
chaplain@cmachattanooga.com

## **APRIL 10**

**Chattanooga, TN**

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Gary McCullough: 423-304-8417,  
underworld09@charter.net, tommy.benford@shawinc.com,  
mcculloughgw@yahoo.com, or eroberts65@aol.com

**Chatsworth, GA**

### **POKER RUN 19TH ANNUAL ABATE D1**

American Legion 167th (5th Ave.) - FBO: 11 a.m.  
Sharon Apodaca: 706-581-7483, info@abategad1.org or  
www.abategad1.org

**Chattanooga, TN**

### **TRI-STATE/TRENTON RIDE**

Sportman's Warehouse (Hwy 153 & Lee Hwy.) - 10 a.m.  
roadcaptain@cmachattanooga.com or

## **APRIL 16 -17**

**Kingsport, Tennessee**

### **HOLSTON RIVER RALLY**

Domtar Park (1414 Riverpark Road) - 12 p.m.  
Steve Warner: kjmwarner@yahoo.com or www.  
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## **APRIL 16-18**

**Huntsville, AL**

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## **APRIL 17**

**Ringgold, GA**

### **BLESSING OF THE BIKES**

Ringgold United Meth. Church (Nashville Street) - 11:30 a.m.  
Keith Kenney: 678-938-1386 or themayor@charter.net

**Nashville, TN**

### **CMT/ABATE TRI-COUNTY CHARTERS SWAP MEET**

Lane Motor Museum (702 Murfreesboro Pike)  
Kevin Chapnick: 615-456-2317 or flytens@comcast.net

**Covington, Georgia**

### **3RD ANNUAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION RIDE**

old Wal-Mart (Highway 278) - FBO: 11 a.m.  
678-342-4004

## **APRIL 18**

**Chattanooga, TN**

### **LISA D. HAGAN MEMORIAL POKER RUN**

Mac's Pub (Brainerd Rd.) - 1 p.m.  
Boots: 423-243-6404

## **APRIL 23-25**

**Milledgeville, GA**

### **MILLEDGEVILLE THUNDER SPRING RALLY**

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## **APRIL 23**

**Lafayette, LA**

### **7TH ANNUAL RIDE FOR AUTISM**

Cajun Harley-Davidson - 8 a.m.  
Carol Mesa: 985-237-0429, cgmesa@bellsouth.net or  
www.projectindependence.org

## **APRIL 24**

**Dalton, GA**

### **H - D DEMO DAY**

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**Chattanooga, TN**

### **MDA RIDE INTO SPRING POKER RUN**

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## **APRIL 24-26**

**Cherokee, NC**

### **CHEROKEE SURVIVORS RALLY & CONCERT**

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## **MAY 1**

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# THE LOW DOWN:

**Make/Model:** 2003 Boss Hoss

**Engine:** 350 cubic inch Chevrolet

**Owner:** Kenny Lyda – Chattanooga, TN

**Paint:** Chris Cruz - Deland, Florida

**Photos:** Bob Edens – Chattanooga, TN

([www.BobEdens.com](http://www.BobEdens.com))



By now, I suppose you noticed the gas tank on the front cover is a lot wider than what you would normally expect on a motorcycle, or you've recognized the valve cover sticking out from underneath it as one you might notice under the hood of a hot rod car. Is your interest peaked? Rest assured, you are not alone. What you are looking at here is a bike dripping with so much power and testosterone, it can barely fit between two wheels – a Boss Hoss. If you've been around and paid attention, you've probably intermittently seen one or two of these running down the road or parked at an event, but even then, they deserve a second look and a lot of respect. If you are not familiar with the brand, let me introduce you...

These bikes come from the factory with a high-performance Chevy V-8 engine (the same one you might find in a pick-up truck or muscle car weighing more than twice as much), which any shade tree mechanic will tell you is a feat in itself. But, when you consider the design work and knowledge that went into making everything work as it should as a dependable motorcycle – it's amazing.



Kenny Lyda (the owner of Choo-Choo Trailers on Dayton Boulevard in Chattanooga) ended up getting this bike a few years ago after the original owner spent a lot of time and money customizing what was already a "factory custom." Although Kenny also owns and rides a very nice Harley-Davidson, he says he always gets a lot more attention when he pulls up on the Boss. I suppose that is understandable considering the indescribable awesome custom paint job by Chris Cruz, the chrome frame, ram air... There are just so many cool details surrounding this bike and its modifications to mention here.

I would like to thank Kenny for taking time out on a beautiful March afternoon to stop by the Chickamauga Dam boat ramp for this shoot, and thank one of the best local photographers around, Bob Edens, for lending us his talent for this issue as our guest photographer. Please keep Bob in mind if you need a professional photographer! You can check out more of his work at [www.BobEdens.com](http://www.BobEdens.com). If you'd like to see more from this shoot, check out the pics on our site, [www.roadrashmag.com](http://www.roadrashmag.com), or stop by Choo-Choo Trailers and ask Kenny if you can see his Boss Hoss in person. Just make sure to tell 'em you saw it in Road Rash!



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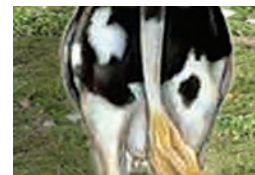
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# Joe Cool's Biker Health



Motorcycle riders are exposed to dust, dirt and many other foreign air born particles that invade the riders nasal and respiratory system. Like anyone else, the automatic response to invading allergens is a sneeze.

When a motorcyclist is traveling at highway speeds a sneeze could be hazardous. This is truly the best time for someone to say, "God bless you" after a sneeze. Otherwise, the old tradition is arbitrary and unnecessary.

Many people have become accustomed to saying "bless you" or "gesundheit" when someone sneezes. This tradition began hundreds of years ago and various origins of the tradition exist. In mid-evil times it was believed the sneeze was the devil stealing someone's soul. The more modern myth is the sneeze causes the heart to skip a beat or even stop. We know now that these are untruths about the simple act of sneezing.

The function of sneezing is to expel mucus containing foreign particles or irritants and cleanse the nasal cavity. During a sneeze, the back of the tongue elevates to partially close the passage to the mouth so that air ejected from the lungs may be expelled through the nose. Because the closing of the mouth is partial, a considerable amount of this air is usually also expelled from the mouth. We now know that sneezing is a reflex action and is most often the sign of something relatively benign, such as a cold or allergy.

The force and extent of the expulsion of the air through the nose varies. Believe it or not, the human sneeze has actually been clocked at over 100 miles an hour. That's right, even faster than the motorcycle you are traveling on. The true danger of a sneeze is when you try to suppress it.

Never suppress a sneeze. Why? Because you can seriously hurt yourself. Sure, you might get by with no lingering problems 9 out of 10 times you try to suppress that sneeze. But statistically speaking, you're still operating under a risk. Think of trying to instantly stop your motorcycle traveling at that high a rate of speed. While the mucus of a sneeze weighs hundreds of pounds less than your bike, you still have a rocket propulsion system in your head.

The very kind of percussion involved in a suppressed sneeze can wreak serious injury, mostly to the structures within the head. For example, you can create a prolonged "ringing" sensation, or affect your hearing, which may or may not be temporary. There's also a chance you burst an eardrum - especially if you hold your nose shut to suppress the sneeze. You can actually tear blood vessels and muscles within the head. A sinus hemorrhage is also possible. The heart can be affected by a suppressed sneeze due to the pressure exerted on the vagus nerve, which can slow conduction of electrical impulses that control your heart rate. Also, there are reports that more than a few older people have actually sustained brain injury and possible death just out of fear of committing a social faux pas like a violent sneeze. So if someone suppresses a sneeze it would be appropriate to say "God bless you" or "gesundheit," then remind them not to suppress the sneeze. If someone sneezes openly, then simply say, "Good sneeze."

The sneeze is our body's natural defense against foreign invaders. Do not suppress what is natural. Let the sneeze

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go vigorously. It is best to sneeze into your hand or arm to protect others from your air born "cooties." However, I suggest that you don't worry about coverage while motoring on the highway. It is better to sneeze openly than to let go of the handlebars at the wrong moment. Better to spray saliva on your windshield and have a little snot hanging from your nose than to lose control of your bike. If that happens the statement "God bless you" may be the last thing anyone says to you. Remember to take good care of your self. Because, if you won't, who will?

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# The Newbie

First things first: Lucky Man Cimo hooked me up in a big way, and I wanna say thanks. We since strolled into Southern Honda Powersports about three minutes before close and picked up a few parts for my bike. Those Southern Honda guys were especially friendly and helpful. They ordered us parts and worked with me to make sure I got what I was looking for at a fair price. Lucky Man took all that stuff and fixed my bike while I was off in Haiti. He fixed my clutch perch so I can put my mirror back on my bike, changed the oil, replaced my leaky fork seal and shined that bad boy so well it looked like it just rolled off the showroom floor. He detailed that thing with great care and attention. I really appreciate his hard work, and wanted to give him some public thanks. I'll tell ya – I've got some GREAT friends!

That said, I sure hope that it's warmer this month than the last few. I kept thinking that surely it couldn't stay that cold for that long could it? A few months ago I went from 90 degrees in Haiti to below freezing in Chattanooga within 24 hours. First thing I did back in the States? Ate a cheeseburger! The second? Jumped on my bike and rode all that week. It was around 30 degrees the entire week. I had to pry my hands off the handle bars - but I rode. It was nice to have the wind in my face even if my face was frozen! I was the only one in all of Hispaniola (again for you geography challenged types – the island that is shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti) who wasn't riding a bike. There were bikes everywhere! All small foreign models and they carried everything on their bikes. In fact, they'd put you Wingers to shame! You'd see up to six people riding one bike, or a passenger on the back holding a goat under each arm or a driver balancing a large propane tank across the back seat. These guys could ride!



They'd zip and cut and dart through traffic in a way that we could only fantasize about doing here. There are no rules of the road and the cops I saw didn't seem inclined to care about traffic – or much else as far as I could tell. Back in the DR I did see two fine looking Harleys with riders decked out in black and orange. They had on so much Harley gear they looked like sales reps! Nice bikes though....

Everyone wants to know, "How was your trip to Haiti?" Well, it was real hot. After that it gets confusing. The trip was good. But how can so

much suffering be good? It was boring, and quite exciting, very frustrating and completely encouraging, desperate and hopeful. Sounds a little like "A Tale of Two Cities..."

Roxy and I flew into the Dominican Republic on February 6. We loaded trucks with supplies and our convoy headed out around midnight. We drove all night, crossing the border into Haiti around dawn. I've been to poor parts of our country, and have been to third world countries before, but I've never seen poverty like I saw along the side of the road. The houses were less than shacks, cobbled together with sticks and mud, cardboard and tin. Women cooked over wood and charcoal fires. Babies crawled in the dirt. Goats, pigs, dogs and chickens rooted through trash piled along the side of the road. But it was Sunday morning as we drove in, so we were amazed at the number of people wearing nice Sunday clothes going to church. Interesting fact: 98 percent of the people say they're nominal Christians/Catholics, 20 percent claim to be Baptists, 10 percent just say other Protestants, and 65 percent practice Voodoo. For those that struggle with math, I'll just tell you that adds up to 193 percent...

We got to the orphanage we'd be working out of and got our food staged and tents set up (on the concrete), and then got to work bagging up food for distribution. The next day we set out early to our first feeding. We had a security guard with us packing

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a gun, a Haitian presidential guard (their version of the Secret Service) as well as a few of his buddies, also packing. We set up a controlled entry point and a controlled exit point with a handful of us guys guarding each point while the armed guys tried to organize the crowds. We let in ten ladies and children at a time to control the flow of people and the ladies from our team handed out bags of food to each person. When we were done we loaded the buses and drove to our next feeding site, which we executed the same way.

The next day we headed back out, but the first feeding was canceled since we couldn't secure any entrance or exit. That afternoon got hairy. We started feeding and people flooded in from all the surrounding villages. We had a mob on our hands. They weren't mean or bad people. They were just hungry. If I was trying to feed my kids, I'd probably have behaved worse than they did. So we stuck the ladies in a church, backed the truck up to the doors and formed human walls to hold back the crowds. They were agitated and frustrated. They were hot. So were we. With the level of poverty being what it is, and their culture what it is, its survival of the fittest - first come first serve. So the Haitians weren't particularly convinced that a straight, orderly line was the way to go. They pushed, shoved, yelled, and sneaked past us. We were there to help them, so we smiled as we yelled and shoved them back. It sounds horrible to us - and it was - but it was the Haitian way.

The next week was better - and worse. Our tents were on hard ground rather than concrete. We had showers and flushing toilets. We also dug two foundations by hand and mixed concrete to pour by hand. Most of us worked hard. A few people were there to preach at the Haitians about their sin. Regardless of your religious convictions, this was time to work and help these people, not thump anyone with a Bible. Anyway... we did another feeding - 2,000 bags of food, 2,500 - 3,000 people that wanted that food, and nothing but me and seven other guys between the crowd and the food. We had our trucks positioned to build a corridor the

people had to come down to get the food, but it was still just us standing in the sun for three sweaty hours as we formed a human wall to hold them back and keep them organized. It was intense to say the least.

As we drove around the suburbs and rural villages we could see the fallen buildings, the cracked walls, and upwards of 770,000 people living in tent cities. We also got to go into the heart of the city and see the widespread destruction. Block after block after block of crushed, fallen and destroyed buildings. Three, four and five story buildings that were completely leveled - nothing but rubble and dust.

And there was no aid. I have no idea what the big aid organizations are doing with all their money, but we saw next to no aid anywhere. The Haitians are still almost completely on their own. There are UN and American troops everywhere providing security, but I saw very little food distribution and no construction/cleanup work. A handful of Haitians were pounding on the fallen buildings with sledgehammers, but no big construction equipment was to be found. In one case an entire nursing college - over 200 students - collapsed burying everyone inside. There's been no effort to even begin digging the bodies out.

But life goes on. The kids fly homemade kites in sprawling tent cities. Soccer games are played on the streets with nothing but fallen buildings on each side. Moms bathe their kids and cook their food right on the side of the road. And they sing. They smile, they sing and they thank us for coming to help. If I learned anything on my trip it's that people are resilient, small efforts do matter, and that Haiti is one hot country.

See you on the road.  
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# Busa Doe Tech Tips

**Windshields: block the wind, stop a rock, or make a statement?**

Many of the old school riders out there will tell you that you don't need a windshield (or windscreen as some would say) because if you get hit by a rock it's just going to shatter... and if you can't take the wind blowing hard in your face, and the bugs in your teeth... then you just don't need to be riding!

Well, thankfully for modern riders the windshield has become standard issue, and a great add-on to bikes that traditionally didn't come with a windshield. I will never forget the first time someone came and asked if there was a way to put a fairing and windshield on his HD Deuce... What? Yes, I said an HD Deuce. He said he had just had enough of the wind, rain, bugs, rocks, and bumble bees! As you well know, nowadays you can get a windshield kit for almost any make of bike out there. It seems that many of us have become less concerned with our image and more concerned with our comfort. Choosing a windshield is not as easy as it sounds, because now windshields come in all sorts of sizes, shapes, colors, and qualities. So how do you pick the right windshield for your bike? The truth is simply your personal taste, how



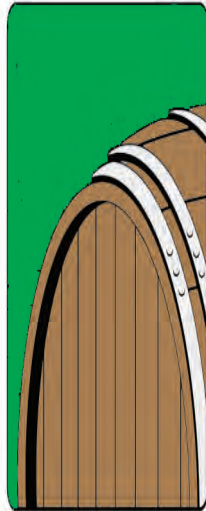
much wind and debris you want to block, and what kind of statement you want to make when folks see you go by. Modern quality-made windshields are made not to shatter and have protective coatings guaranteed to stop rocks, rain, birds, or any other debris that comes your way.

For starters, let's talk about sizing. The first thing you need to do is stop in your favorite local motorcycle shop and ask to measure your bike for a windshield. The windshield manufacturers send out measurement tools to dealers to assist in finding just the right size for you and your machine. Basically, you take it out to the parking lot and while you sit on the bike, someone else holds the measurement tool up in the position it would be normally mounted. (By the way, this needs to be done by someone trained to read the device, or

you might end up with something different.) You will need to sit in your normal riding position and look through the windshield. Most people like to normally look just over the top of the windshield so you are not constantly adjusting to the Plexiglas distortions. However, there are those that want to be totally inside the shield and look through it all the time. So, it boils down to your choice. However, this also allows you local mechanic the time to look at mounting options.

Second, let's talk about mounting. Many riders enjoy the modern quick disconnect kits, which are the only way to go if you can go that way with your bike. No longer do you have to spend thirty minutes with a wrench to change windshields. No longer do you have to ride with the same one all the time. This type system allows you the most options in your quest for the best windshield of the day. For example, when you are planning to cruise downtown and go to dinner on a hot

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summer night with your favorite someone, you may want to slap on a smaller narrow windshield that adds to the sporty looks of your machine and still keeps the bugs off. Possibly this type shield is color matched to your paint job. Then when you head off on a long cross-country cruise for the weekend, you want maximum protection from wind, rocks, bugs, rain, oil, debris, etc. On that trip you don't care about looking cool or color matching. Having a quick disconnect kit installed and purchasing more than one windshield allows you options. Windshields range from large fairing type shields to small handlebar mounted deflectors. So decide what best suits you and your bike through consultation with your favorite local bike shop.

Third, lets talk about quality. In recent years there has been a ton of new names hit the windshield market. Many of them are fine for average usage. However, my experience is that the two best brands are Memphis Shades, and National Cycle. At Ultimate Cycle in Chattanooga, we are authorized dealers for both of these famous brands. Yes, we can also get others if you need, but believe me when that rock does hit, you want a shield that does not shatter. Higher quality shields cost more for sure, but let's face it, this is one area of your bike you may want to put in the extra bucks. If you have a damaged windshield or windscreen on your bike, you really need to replace it. One time while I was on a trip about 500 miles away from home, I had a bad day with an old cracked windshield. I was driving over railroad tracks at about 40 miles per hour and it broke off. I tried to catch it and it flew off, flipped up and cut my nose wide open. I had to stop clean up all the blood, buy some bandages, and then rode home with no windshield to stop the wind and debris on my freshly bloodied nose. That happened about 20 years ago now, and today I always remember that time when assisting

customers with a windshield purchase. The bottom line is that you get what you pay for. Average large windshields and the kits will run around \$300 to \$400. So, when someone wants to sell you a new windshield for \$50, think twice.

Lastly, let's talk about maintenance of your new windshield. Cleaning windshields can be difficult because they are easy to scratch, and once scratched may never be the same. Additionally, solvents such as window cleaners in the buckets at gas stations will cause fogging and scratching on your new windshield. I recommend washing a windscreen with water and non-abrasive soap to soften up road grime. You can use many of the non-abrasive liquid or foam cleaners to polish the shield. Just make sure that your cleaner is some form of plastic cleaner and plastic polish and you are using a soft towel. I suggest not using a RainX type water repellent on windshields or windscreens. With these precautions, you should get many years of riding out of your shield... And hey, the replacement shields are much cheaper than the ones that come with the hardware, so if you have to replace your shield you can expect about 50%-75% less cost than you originally paid!

If you have questions or need assistance with a windshield for your bike, come out and see me at Ultimate Cycle in Chattanooga!

As always ride far, ride safe, and come see me!

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# THE VIEW FROM THE WING

## Top Twelve Reasons to Ride Motorcycles over the Age of 50



There are so many reasons to ride a motorcycle. Some of them are better than others. With gas prices soaring up and then plummeting down and who knows what will happen tomorrow, a motorcycle makes solid economic sense. But in reality most people who get into motorcycling, ride for the pure joy of two-wheel adventure. The feeling of freedom as you experience the wanderlust of a lazy day slithering through the back roads. It is the euphoria that you experience as you and the bike become singular in purpose. The community that you have as you ride with friends. Together you taste the delights of each trip together, whether a day trip or a weekend adventure to a bed and breakfast, or taking a trip across the country, there is nothing like riding a motorcycle. As I contemplated this thought in my meager little brain, I tried to come up with a "top twelve list" of why men of a certain age love to ride a bike.

**12: Skintight leathers!** Yes, skintight leathers do have a slimming effect on overweight middle age men and can actually give them a certain sex appeal. As long as the leather continues to stretch they can carry this look for several years. It does become a problem when the lines of the Depends adult diapers start to show through the tight leather pants. You lose a bit of sex appeal at that point. If

you are on a GoldWing, you should be color coordinated with your wife/girlfriend, who is now referred to as your "ole lady." Not in her presence of course, as you still have to live with her.

**11: Electronic gadgets!** You will, as a successful GoldWing or Harley owner, have a plethora of electronic gadgets that you will have to navigate as you operate your machine at the same time. Gold Wingers are so good at riding that roads like US 129 and The Dragon are not really a challenge unless we are answering a text message while searching the GPS for a good restaurant, and using the CB to tell your riding buddy to smile that the photographer is right around the corner! The GPS is useful, as you will need to know electronically where you are and how to get home at all times. This is particularly useful during dinner rides in downtown Chattanooga. You see, as we get older the memories start to fade, so we need the GPS to remind us where we are. And you will need a CB radio to ride from now on. They are extremely important in identifying where the closest ice cream eatery is located.

**10: Tattoos and body piercings!** You can now go out and get that tattoo that you have secretly wanted! You know the one that you can hide when Monday morning comes around and you have to look professional. Other options are temporary tattoos but they look really funny if you get caught in the rain! You may want to avoid smiley face tattoos. Skulls and Eagles and Harley-Davidson themed tattoos are your best bet! Others may look at the tattoo and not notice that you are riding a Vespa! You can also now get that ear pierced like you wanted. Again there are plenty of fake ones to fool people but if you have decided to ride a bike with slight vibration you will want to be careful that it doesn't vibrate off! If you are at a leather themed bar and there are a lot of men present, just make sure that you have pierced the right ear! Or is it the left?

**9: Ice cream.** Of course many hard-core bikers and wannabes will ride to a bar and spend the day there, but we will seek and find ice cream and other fattening stops in order to better test the weight capacity of our bikes. This is, of course, only done in the name of research.

**8: Parking.** You can now park close at bike events. Yes, you are now one of the few, the proud and the brave! The ones who call the road their own and can on a Friday night ride downtown or to the local Harley shop and show off that new chrome bobble or neon lights. You now know the power of riding through the barricades to go where no car goes. You have arrived!

**7: The thrill of the ride!** You can ride your cruiser with your ole lady on the back. Yes, after years of respecting her and loving her, she now sits on the back of the bike and becomes your ole lady for the duration of the ride. If you are going

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through a mid-life crisis and you are single and just dating, she is your "bxxxx." This again is a very good time to have extra earplugs for her so she never actually hears you refer to her in this manner. Out on the highway and looking for adventure! You will ride with the sun in your face and wind in your hair! Or toupee!

6: Biker events like Sturgis and Daytona. Yes, you will now schedule your vacation around these mega biker events as they are a must see, or at least must be seen at events. Make your reservations now as you need to be as close to the action and vendors as you can so that, heaven forbid, you do not have to ride the bike in and around these events. If you are really well off financially you can fly your bike to the close airports and actually ride into town as if you travelled across country. If that is not available to you, there is plenty of room to park your trailer. Event t-shirts are available online if you cannot actually make it there.

5: Speed and handling! Even the smallest and slowest motorcycles have better handling and speed than most cars. It is the most fun that you can have on the road. If you are a true biker, the open road is the place for you. If you are lucky enough to have a GoldWing, you know what a thrill it is to ride. It scratches all of the itches.

4: People! Other bikers are what really make this the greatest pastime there is. There is nothing better than being with great friends on a great ride and sharing the memories as you eat or just sit around. You meet the nicest people on a Honda bike (those of us older than 50 will remember that ad campaign by Honda nearly 40 years ago). The thing is, that it is true. Look how nice Rock is now. Okay, maybe I will look for another example. The truth is that no matter what brand of bike someone rides, I have always found that bikers are just great people. Just ask the small kids who got toys this Christmas from one of the many toy runs.

3: Lights! Yes, our Harley brethren actually got this from us. Some of our bikes are lit up like proverbial Christmas trees. Of course, there are always angels perched on top of our trees! They are our wives!

2: Chrome! Not the good looking real chrome, but plastic chrome! What are we chopped liver? Can we not get real chrome pieces?

1: Friends. The friends that we meet on a Gold Wing are among the greatest. We ride our bikes. We ride to eat and eat to ride and then get up and repeat the process! Our greatest asset is the friends that we have made and machines that we ride. I hope that it never changes!

Gary Boyd  
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# TWO LANE CUISINE

As my long time readers may remember, my first column over eight years ago was titled Rock's Two Lane Cuisine. The column ran for a number of years before I changed it to my current bi-line. Two Lane Cuisine was a monthly restaurant review that included directions to the featured eatery. I decided to revive Two Lane this month to promote a new advertiser who offers one of my favorite foods, a bison burger. Luckily we got there early and the place was almost empty so I could take pictures without interfering with their customers. About ten minutes after these photos were taken there were more than 25 diners ordering, eating, and having



a good time. I'm glad we got our order in when we did. I was starving!

Soup's On is located at 3103 S. Broad Street. It has been at this same location for over 17 years. As it's name indicates they started out specializing mainly in soup. Pebbles and I had eaten there a few times over the years, but because they were only open for lunch, we didn't have many opportunities to dine there. Soup's On is now open for dinner Wednesday and Thursday from 4 until 8 p.m. and Friday from 4 until 9 p.m. In addition to their famous soups, they have a complete menu from sandwiches to salads. They have even added Smok'in Barbecue by Rod. No matter what your taste or mood, you can find something to fit the bill.

Soup's On is a family operation and their motto is "Best Soups on the Planet" which is attributed to Byron Potts, the dad of current co-owner Cissy Bennett. They also have another saying on their menu, which only a small businessman can understand and appreciate, "IN GOD WE MUST TRUST." All small businessmen know that we are the cornerstone of the economy, yet the tax breaks and the bailouts always go to the big fish in the pond. That's my interpretation at least.

I ordered the half-pound bison burger. I knew it would be good, but I didn't think it had a chance of being as good as the one I had in Hill City, South Dakota. After all, it couldn't be as fresh. We had ridden our Harley's smack dab through the middle of a herd of 300 buffalos in Custer State Park early that morning and then I ate one for dinner in Hill City. Anyway, the bison burger I got right here in Chattanooga far surpassed it's South Dakota counterpart. How could that be? I got my answer. Soup's On only uses local buffalo meat. Yes, local. They get their bison from Burton Brown's bison farm in Flintstone, Georgia. How many of you knew that we had a bison herd in North Georgia? I sure didn't. You can visit Burton's web site at eaglesrestranch.com if you are interested in his ranch and products. To reiterate, the bison burger

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was killer. Go try one and tell them Rock sent you.

Since Julie couldn't resist the bison burger either, I only had one item on the menu to review. Oh yeah, before I forget, the french fries (my favorite food) were hot, crunchy, and very, very good. No heat lamps used. I had a brainstorm and quizzed the young couple at the table next to us. They were gracious enough to tolerate my imposition. The guy ordered a Rueben and his date was feasting on a tuna melt. After a little impromptu interview I determined that they were from Saint Elmo and both loved the food. After turning them on to a Road Rash Magazine, we picked up our desserts and headed out. Normally, I wouldn't get a dessert, but for the sake of my readers, I made an exception. You believe that, don't you? In order to have more items to review, we ordered two different desserts. All of Soup's On desserts are homemade. We settled on a red velvet cupcake with cream cheese icing and a carrot cake cupcake with cream cheese icing. After the bison burger and fries, there wasn't room for dessert. So, we toted them home for a late night snack. They were both unbelievably fresh and moist. They were both a twenty on a ten scale.

Taylor, the 16-year-old daughter of the owner, Cissy, was our waitress and a delight. She was cute, very polite, and had a great gift of gab. The gift of gab is a field in which I consider myself an expert, and this kid had it. Once you meet Cissy, you can tell that the apple didn't fall too far from



the tree. The homey atmosphere was right up my alley and I felt right at home the minute I walked in. The inside was decorated with an array of Coca-Cola memorabilia, which is colorful and entertaining. We will definitely be back.

Oh yeah... the directions. From our home in Belvoir, we took Mission View to Oriole to Navajo to Main Street and then hung a left on Broad. They are located just over the viaduct on the right. For you old timers, they are located a stone's throw from the old Pate's Harley-Davidson location on Broad Street. Yeah, you gotta be old to remember that one.

Rock

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## TRAIL OF TEARS FOUNDER BILL CASON MEETS WITH SCOTTSBORO, ALABAMA ROTARY CLUB

Trail of Tears founder and ride leader, Bill Cason, was invited by the Scottsboro Alabama Rotary Club to attend their monthly luncheon and discuss the current Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride. It seems that "The Real Story" has obviously not been told to the local citizenry by the local media. Most people in Northern Alabama still do not understand why the ride is not following the original route which traveled though Scottsboro and northern Alabama.

Bill invited Sandy Hodges and I to join him and we jumped at the chance to ride to Scottsboro and have lunch with Bill & the Rotarians. After all, the Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride was birthed in Chattanooga, Tennessee, so it was only fitting that "The Local Guys" of Road Rash Magazine should attend and support Bill. There was 60% chance of rain, but it was my day off and I was not going to miss my Wednesday ride. Sandy and I took off in full rain gear, but luckily we didn't encounter any heavy rain, just drizzle most of the way.

Bill started by telling the local businessmen the history of the Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride. He told how he started the ride in 1994 and about the scholarships that the ride supports. He continued to tell everyone about the new route through Tennessee and about his new sponsors.

As was expected, when Bill opened the floor up for questions, the first question asked was "why is it that the ride no longer comes though Scottsboro and northern Alabama" Bill explained that he had encountered some problems with the officials in Madison, Alabama. The last year he led the ride through Madison he was forced to stop by the State Patrol and 35 riders from the Alabama spin off ride were placed right behind the VIPs and in front of the thousands of riders that had lined up and

waited for hours to secure their spot. When Bill told the troopers that he didn't need to stop in Madison, one trooper told Bill that he had no choice but to stop in Madison, his orders came straight from Montgomery. Time ran out before Bill had time to get into the back biting and lawsuits that occurred after the Alabama faction tried to illegally vote Bill out of his own ride.

I have told many people that Bill Cason IS the Trail of Tears Motorcycle ride. He founded it and has led it for 16 years. It is his legacy and history will reflect this fact.  
Rock



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11 HVL 2:15PM	12 HVL 7:15PM	13 OFF	14 TEN TBA	15 TEN TBA	16 TEN TBA	17 TEN TBA
18 TEN TBA	19 MTG 7:15PM	20 MTG 7:15PM	21 MTG 11:15PM	22 MTG 7:15PM	23 MTG 7:15PM	24 HVL TBA
25 HVL TBA	26 HVL TBA	27 HVL TBA	28 HVL TBA	29 TEN 7:15PM	30 TEN 7:15PM	

Home Games     Away Games

### SPOTTED AROUND

Music For A Cure Benefit  
for Cris Painter at Spectators  
Pics by Tom the Bomb





Our featured local motorcyclist this month is Jamie Braden. A long time Road Rash reader, we “met” on line many months ago, and after working through a few scheduling conflicts, we finally got our “ducks in a row” long enough to get this article completed. She is super friendly, down to Earth, really outgoing and very nice... Well, I'll let her tell you more in her own words:

“I am 40 years young... I have two kids, two pits, and two cats. I grew up on Signal Mountain for most of my young life. Matter of fact, Reverend Booger wrote about Roberts Mill Road (Roberts Gap or “The Gap”) in his last column. That was down near my old stomping grounds... I have been down Roberts Gap many times. I'm glad Booger gave it some good P.R. I have worked at Blue Cross now for a little over 10 years. Unfortunately they do require me to show my face, so I can't ride as much as I would like. I love going to Nightfall and Sundown and looking at the bikes. I have a boyfriend named Brian. We have been together two years. We love riding and camping and do a lot of both. We are getting ready to go to Daytona, Florida. We are going to ride on down to the Keys while we are down there. I'll get my “Mile 0” patch! Yeah! We are camping the whole time, so I hope it warms up down there.”

Well, enough formalities... Let's see how Jamie does answering our infamous 10 Hot Seat questions!

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

My nickname is “Lucky.” That's a whole story in itself. But the short of it is, I was kidnapped by a truck driver. My car broke down and I caught a ride with this driver that stopped... I made a big joke out of it and talked the guy into letting me out before we crossed into Kentucky... I guess he had more sense than to cross the state line... I wish I had had more sense than to get in that truck. Ha ha ha. Also, my family and friends call me “J.D.” My brother Jim just started calling me by my initials and it stuck.

**2) When did you first start riding motorcycles,**

**and what was your first bike?**

I had three older brothers, so riding was just what I did from the start. If we didn't have some old junker running, somebody on down Corral Road would or we would put a bunch parts together and have a “neighborhood bike.” We'd take them out in the woods, cow fields or anyplace we could get away with it.

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

I rode to Daytona last year with my boyfriend. Nothing really interesting happened except it was freaking 30 degrees when we left. Neither one of us use a windshield or have any heated gear... I'm thinking heated hand grips sound good for our trip this year.

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

Oh yeah, my Dad did when he was younger. He will be 80 in March, but he still talks about wanting to get a three-wheeler. (I guess you never forget the feeling.) My two oldest brothers, Roy and Kenny and several of my cousins also ride.

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

I have had a couple wrecks. I was coming in late one night and the interstate was backed up so I was going to go 153 to Lee Highway back when they were doing that construction. I went to change lanes and didn't notice the lane I was going into was built up quite a bit higher than the lane I was in...

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So when the tire hit it, my bike just slammed me into the pavement. I went skidding across 153 with my bike riding me for a change. I picked her up and rode her home with a broken shifter. I had just put my first and only windshield on my bike. The wreck broke it off, so I figured I must not have needed it. I probably would have seen the problem with the road if I were not the poster child for "what not to do." I did not bring my clear glasses, so I was wearing my sunglasses (at night). Yeah, I am not the brightest crayon in the box. The second wreck was in 2006. I had a brand-new Harley. I had her 10 days (to the very day) and a girl pulled out in front of me on Brainerd Road. She "saw a break in traffic." I was fine after that one too, but my bike was totaled. It still had the drive out tag on it.

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

Are you kidding a girl that rides? Not a bit.

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

Oh yeah. Besides meeting all the other riders. The parking is usually killer. And I have saved a ton on therapy sessions.

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

I love all kinds, but really long rides are the best. I can't wait to get my "iron butt" patch. Around here, I love heading up 27



to 111 and coming back up the back side of Signal Mountain, then either coming off Roberts Mill or the front side of Signal Mountain.

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

I probably ride about 10,000 miles a year. A lot of folks didn't think I even had a car until I started having back problems and eventually surgery.

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

I guess the only thing I would change is there would be more women riding. They just don't know what they are missing. I tell every woman that looks at me on my bike and says, "I wish I could ride one of those," you can do it! Riding a motorcycle is easier than riding a bicycle.

Well, it looks like Jamie did a jam-up job answering our questions. I'd like to thank her for taking the time and trouble to give us an insight into her life, and to thank Miss Emily for taking the pictures featured here. If you should happen to see Jamie out and about, ask her to sign your copy of Road Rash Magazine!

If you know of anyone you'd like to see featured in our Hot Seat, drop me a line at [tomthebomb@roadrashmag.com](mailto:tomthebomb@roadrashmag.com)!



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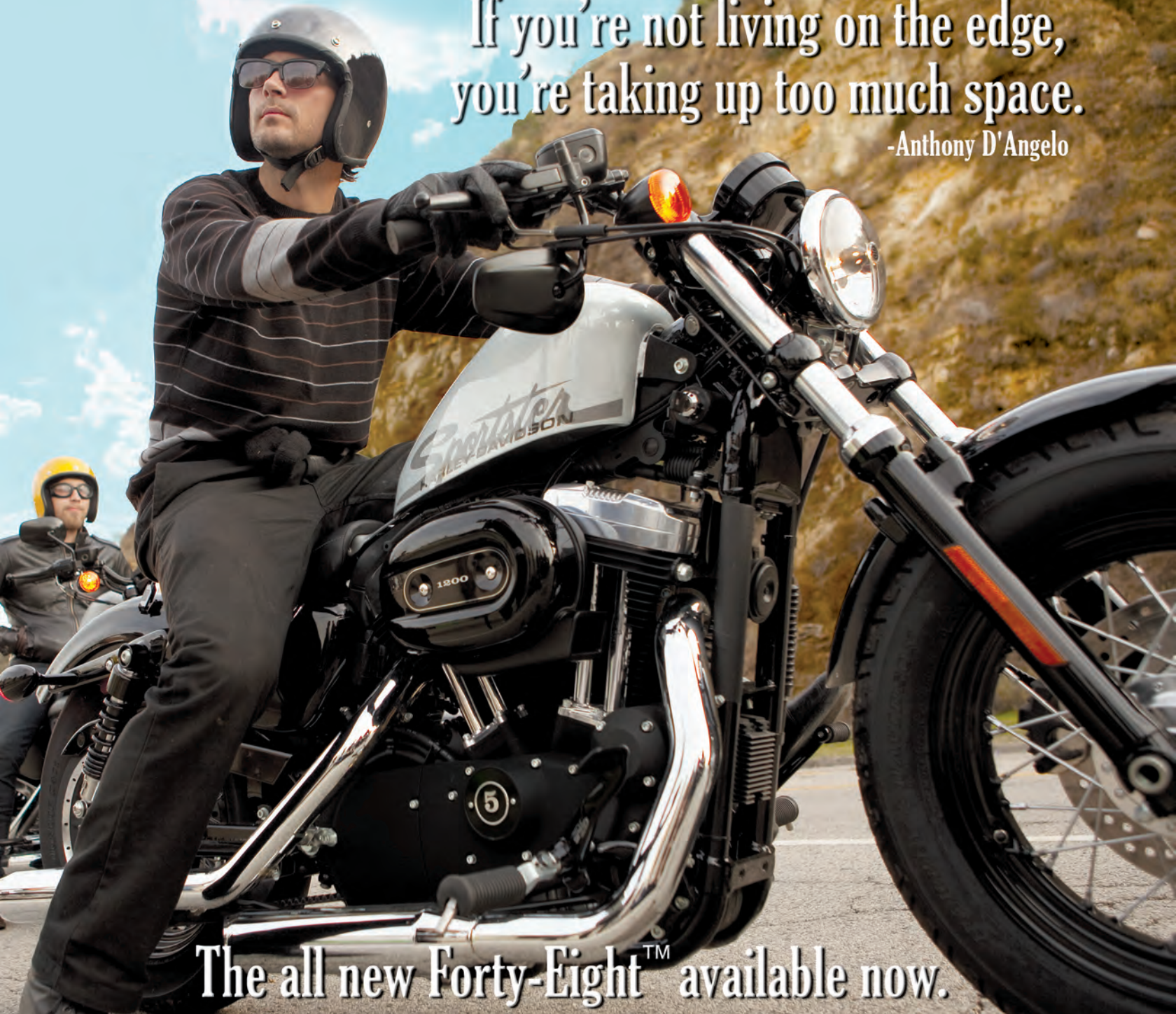
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