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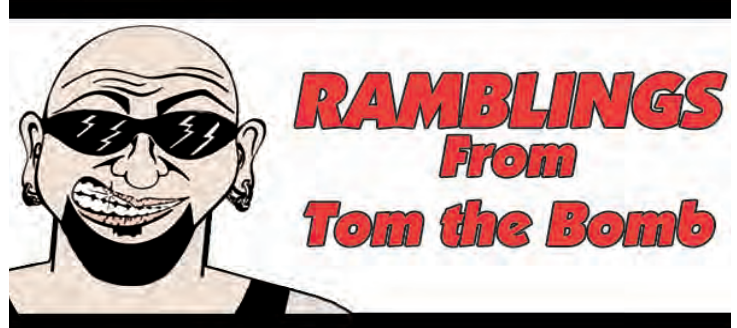


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 04 Ramblings by Tom the Bomb
- 08 Rock's Two Cents
- 11 Sundown Kickoff
- 12 Blowin' Smoke
- 14 Counter Steer
- 16 This and That
- 18 Motorcycle Event Listings
- 22 Road Rash Advertisers
- 24 Joe Cool's Biker Health
- 26 The Newbie
- 28 Busa Doc's Tech Tips
- 30 A View from the Wing
- 32 Cross Roads



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Alright folks – the time to buy your advance tickets to our 9th anniversary bike rally – The Road Rash Biker Bash is NOW. If you use your credit card on our Web site (or pay cash to a staff member) for your advance tickets, you can save \$10 off the gate admission, and have the opportunity to set up your campsite a day earlier than the procrastinators. It will be a party you won't want to miss, and having the best campsite and extra money to spend will make it all that much better.

We've gone the extra mile to make sure The Road Rash Biker Bash has exactly what you look for in a rally, and none of the stuff you don't like. We'll have excellent entertainment, fun games, crazy contests, beautiful rally grounds, interesting vendors, no hassles, a friendly atmosphere, and all without charging you an arm and a leg. Our rally site is easy to get to, far away from complaining neighbors, and the property runs along a spring-fed stream (which is great for cooling off, or washing the mud out of your hair). We also have a gas station/convenience store less than a mile away, and "civilization" (fast food, hotels, Walmart, etc.) 8 miles away (down a country two-lane or the freeway). Our gate price is less than most, and our advance ticket price is the best deal going!

Look at it this way... If you and your ole lady just wanted to pitch a tent in a random campground somewhere, it'd cost you around \$20 per night. You couldn't openly consume adult beverages, would have to provide your own entertainment,

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and you'd have to conform to some simile of a dress code or risk ridicule, and possible prosecution. On top of that, you'd have to be quiet (as to not disturb the sheep) starting at around 9 p.m. That doesn't quite sound like much of a party to me.

Now, in contrast, you could spend \$30 (in advance) and camp out three nights (in a tent, RV, transfer truck or whatever), and get to listen to a ton of live music. The bands we have lined up this year alone are going to blow you away. We'll have some crowd favorites, as well as some up-and-coming bands you are just going to have to hear to believe. Also, lazy people will get to ride from campsite to campsite on their ATV, golf cart, scooter or whatever without having to pay anything extra. We do ask that regular vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) remain parked – but getting them in won't cost you anything extra either. Everyone will get a chance to see what USBikerParties.com has called one of the wildest wet t-shirt contests around, participate in our hilarious motorcycle rodeo games, check out the bike show (sponsored again this year by Ultimate Cycle), and get some killer pictures of the pickle-sucking contest. That just scratches the surface.

Just ask anyone who has ever gone to the Road Rash Biker Bash, and I'm sure you will hear stories you

won't believe about how great a time it really is. The difference between The Road Rash Biker Bash and other rallies I keep hearing is: We have a better party in the campground. Apparently, people who come to the Bash just party harder, longer and louder than most. That reminds me... another good thing about the Bash is that we have enough property available that if you finally get partied out – you have the option of camping away from the noise and the stripper poles to catch up on your beauty sleep.

We will have a great selection of vendors selling everything from hot dogs, hamburgers and barbeque to bike parts, accessories, and that little do-dad your ole lady has been dying to have but you haven't found. As always, we will have a beer vendor on site, and will allow everyone to bring their own food and drinks if they so choose, as long as there are no glass containers (which is a safety issue).

The bottom line is, we want everyone to come out and have a great time. The few rules we do have center around that. First off, everyone must be an adult (21 or older). Next, we don't allow weapons or fireworks (for obvious reasons). We ask that you leave your pets at home (unless special arrangements can be made), and that you follow the instructions given to you by the staff, (which is

again, a safety issue).

Every time we produce one of these events, we learn a little more, and change the way we do things accordingly. Our goal is constant improvement and steady growth. Last year, we noticed a lot of people stayed in their shady campgrounds until the sun hid behind the mountains (and who could blame them – it is in mid-August), so this year, we're erecting a shade oasis in front of the stage, where people can bring out their lawn chairs and enjoy more of the live entertainment and cooler temperatures. We've changed out almost all of our security staff this time around, to let some of our friends relax more and work less, and we are going to try hard to get an honest-to-goodness "parade route" up and running.

Please come out and support the magazine, the event, and our efforts to make this area the most bike-friendly around. Come to the Road Rash Biker Bash, August 13-15 at Martin Farm (8700 Battlecreek Road, South Pittsburg, TN 37380) and get your tickets now at www.roadrashmag.com or call me (423-322-0223) and find out where I can meet you and sell tickets in person. We also have tickets at Quick Tees on Brainerd Rd and JLC Leather & More in Jasper, TN.

Thank you for all your support. Keep it sunny-side up and in the wind!

*Tom
THE
Bomb*

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Thunder Creek HOG Kickoff & Sundown
Pics by Tom the Bomb & Rocky Sizemore





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ROCK'S TWO CENTS



Jim Oliver's Smokehouse on Monteagle Mountain has been the sponsor of our Lost Tag Contest for the last year. For those of you that haven't joined in on the fun, let me explain the contest. Each month I hide a Road Rash "lost" motorcycle tag and we print a half page ad with the directions on how to find the tag. The directions always start at the entrance of the Smokehouse. The tag is usually hidden within a 35-mile radius of the starting place. The best part is the prize. We're not talking about some cheapo prize. J.D. Oliver and family offer the finder of the lost tag a free night in one of the rustic cabins behind the restaurant, a free dinner for two, and a six pack of your choice (beer or soft drinks).

The cabins at the Smokehouse are a favorite place to spend the weekend for my wife Pebbles and I. Every cabin has a fireplace, a jacuzzi, and a nice front porch with rocking chairs. And just when I thought it couldn't get any better, J.D. has upped the ante. Every Saturday night, the Smokehouse now has live music direct from Nashville. There is no cover charge and the atmosphere is great. You can order food, beer, and wine coolers while you watch the show. Pebbles and I were very impressed when we attended a concert a few weeks ago. Folks, the Smokehouse complex is only 38 miles from Chattanooga, and there are so many great roads to ride to get there. Whether you find the lost tag or not, you need to check this place out. Support those businesses that provide this magazine to you



each month.

The Lost Tag concept was conceived by BooBoo, but I have been the one that is forced (ha ha ha) to ride around and find a place to hide it each month. It gives me a good excuse to have lunch with my buddy J.D. and hang at one of the

hottest places on earth. You see, I have been a Smokehouse fan long before I knew the Oliver's personally. I have been going there since they opened in 1975. With the passing of Jim Oliver in 2007, the complex is now being operated by his family with his son J.D. Oliver at the helm of marketing and his daughter Betsy in charge of food services. The gift shop is unique and features a moonshine exhibit complete with stills and a video of a famous local moonshiner. Every single time I walk through the front door I feel like I've come home. Make sure and give them a try and tell them you appreciate them supporting local bikers and Road Rash Magazine. You can check out the lost tag ad and the Smokehouse ad on page 27 or visit their Web site at wwwthesmokehouse.com. You can also become a friend of the Smokehouse on Facebook, MySpace, and YouTube.com. Music schedules are updated weekly, and you can see numerous videos on their You Tube Channel.

I have gotten more positive feedback on my Wing Dude articles than any other article I have written of late. It seems you guys found Joe just as fascinating as I did. I got a nice handwritten four-page letter from Joe last week and it's amazing at all the places he's been since leaving Chattanooga a few

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weeks ago. After receiving the letter we talked on the phone and he asked about our western trip. He asked where we were going to be, so I gave him our itinerary. Joe's comment was, "I like that part of the country, I might just see you out there." Let's just say that I wouldn't be surprised if he turns up at one of our stops. A man that rides from his home near St. Louis, Missouri to Sturgis for the weekend might show up anywhere at anytime. I asked Joe when he would come back to Chattanooga for a visit and he said it would most likely be in the fall. I can't wait to see him again and pick his brain for some more great info on rides, equipment, and stories like only Joe can tell them. I've got a few good roads to show him on his next trip. He really loved the Devil's Triangle and I've got many, many more up my sleeve. Oh yeah, I generally don't wear sleeves... anyway... you get the idea.

A few weeks ago on a ride to the Cherokee my riding buddy and fellow writer Sandman went down. For once we were not playing and riding hard like we are sometimes known to do. It was a sunny day, unlike the time we rode the length of the Skyway in rain and thick fog. As a matter of fact, it was perfect. It was a long sweeper and as I straightened out, I checked my mirror to see where he was. Where he was, was on the ground with the bike's front wheel up against the guardrail. My first feeling was terror as I turned around to render aid. He was sitting up which was a good sign, but he couldn't do anything but moan. Within a few minutes he was talking and within ten minutes he got up and sat on the guardrail. To make a long story short, we called EMS, he was checked out and he opted not to take the ambulance ride to the hospital. The medics told Sandman's wife, Maurice and I that all his vital signs were okay and that he only had one cut over his eye and some road rash. And I don't mean copies of the magazine.



Now comes the part I still can't believe. His bike had no structural damage, but the left mirror was gone. I told him that we were going to call for a trailer to haul it home. Nope, he told us he was going to ride. What? You can't be serious, we said. He was adamant so off we went with 100 miles to ride before we got him home. We did have to stop a few times to keep him from stoving up, but he actually rode the thing home. When we got to his house he could barely move, his guts were rattled like a pan full of scrambled eggs. Let me go on record right here and now, Sandman is the toughest human I have ever known. It's hard to go down at any age, but when you're over 60 it hurts a lot worse and it takes much longer to recover. Hail Sandman. Oh yeah, another thing. That Wing can take a licking and keep on ticking too.

LTRNTT,
Rock
rock@roadrashmag.com

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SUNDOWN KICKOFF

Opening night at Thunder Creek Sundown took off Friday, May 28. I rolled in 30 minutes early and knew attendance would be a little slack for the evening. Partly because of the Night Fall concert series going on downtown, but perhaps mostly due to the threatening dozen extra large raindrops that fell on me as I rode out of Red Bank and through Hixson. I considered myself blessed as I talked with someone later that evening that said he and his wife were briefly poured on coming from where they lived. The clouds and the rain moved on out and the evening turned out perfect.

While attendance was somewhat lower, it didn't dampen the spirit of those who came. Everyone was excited and happy to get together and see faces they haven't seen in awhile. The food, the drinks and the band were great. I met some great new friends myself and felt like a bear (or prisoner) coming out of exile. I was taken by many of the rides that were in the parking lot. My camera in hand, I stayed busy clicking the shutter. You can view most of my pics on Road Rash's Web site (www.roadrashmag.com).

I was happy to see an old friend of mine that I haven't seen in sometime: Marion Jr. Gimme a shout anytime bro! His pic is on the Web site around one of the pretty lady servers.

I decided when I left the event that I must start buffing my chrome with an extra effort, scrubbing my wheels harder and putting someone else's toothbrush between

the tire treads because if you were there, you know those squeaky-clean sparkling rides are head turners. If you are the owners of those beauties, you have much to be proud of and your hard work and dedication are rewarded from the close looks and comments from those you see admiring your pride and joy. Again, you can check many of these out on the Web site.

Everyone, let's make a point to meet at Thunder Creek's Sundown every Friday at 7 p.m. and show our support!

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BLOW'N SMOKE

I'm baaaack! I know some of you are thinking, "Girl, it's about time. Where have you been?" and others of you are probably thinking "Oh no, not her again!" and there's probably some of you who have no idea who I am or what I'm talking about! Well, let me explain. I wrote for Road Rash for several years before I went M.I.A. a little over a year ago.

So where have I been and what have I been doing? A lot of travelling along with battling the dreaded swine flu and it's aftermath for almost three months. I've spent a lot of time out West, some time in West Virginia and Illinois, and of course a little time at the beach in Florida. I've ridden a lot of great motorcycle roads across the country, which I will definitely be telling you about. For example, one of the roads is what some call the most scenic highway in the United States. It's located in Utah and I've gotta tell you the route is awesome and has some unbelievable scenery. It's definitely one you don't want to miss.

I've ridden in sun, snow, and rain, not to mention the tornado that almost got us in Kansas. Yes, you read that correctly. Greensburg, Kansas was devastated by an F5 tornado in May of 2007. Ninety-five percent of the town was leveled. The town is still in ruins and is working on rebuilding. I told my Dad if we saw another area like that again I wanted to take a picture. Well, I think he misunderstood me and



was trying to get me in the middle of the tornado action. I've never been that scared in my entire life, but I'll tell you more about that later! I've traveled halfway around the globe to Israel and Jordan for a month. I would love to tell you I rode a motorcycle while there and would be writing about it, but unfortunately that isn't the case. I went on a bible study tour with Precept Ministries and anyone who wants to hear about it or see my pictures is welcome to stop by and I'll

show the 2,000-plus pictures I took while there. I also have a sampling of pics on my Facebook page. Just send me a friend request and you can check them out there.

In the last year I've also sold my bike, a 2005 Suzuki Boulevard C50. I hated to see it go, but it was time to upgrade to something bigger. Since then I've ridden a Yamaha V-Star 1300 on a trip out West and I've ridden a Yamaha Venture back from Wyoming along with a few other bikes. The Venture is a beast of a bike that I've always been scared of due to its size and weight. But, amazingly enough, it's not nearly as bad as I thought it would be. I love the fact that it has cruise control and an accessory plug for my Ipod. I jammed the entire trip from Riverton, Wyoming to Chattanooga. The most exciting part of riding that bike came when I stopped for gas because there was no extension on the kickstand to pull it out, so I had to have someone come and pull the kickstand out for me. I'm sure that was quite entertaining to watch. Needless to say, that got fixed first thing when I got the bike back to our shop. Currently I'm riding a Yamaha Raider. When I first saw the 1900 cc cruiser at the Yamaha show I knew I liked it but after riding it... I'm in love. We've done some custom work to the bike to make it stand out even more.

I've got so many adventures to tell you about and I'm already planning trips for later this year so I hope you're prepared to read about them. In the meantime, I'm back working with my family at RT Cycles, so please stop by and see me. I've actually moved up in the world and have an office with a door. You can't miss it. It's probably the only purple office in any motorcycle dealership in the world! Until next month, ride safe!

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Mystery Duo #1 was probably the most famous duo of all times and was considered the hottest act during the 1950's. Although there had been a number of huge successful film teams before, this duo was a new kind of team. The fun they had together

during their acts set them apart from the other performers at the time. Both were talented entertainers individually, but the fact that they were such good friends on and off stage took their act to a new level not displayed by other comedy teams. The plots were all pretty much the same; one was always the straight man and the other was the comedian. Combining for 16 movies and numerous TV appearances their names were recognized worldwide. They were the hottest act in America during the early '50s, but the pace and the pressure took their toll. The one who always played the straight man became increasingly disenchanted with the fact his comedian partner was garnering all the attention, and this "type casting" was what in the end served to separate the two. The last straw was when Newsweek Magazine took a picture of the duo for it's cover but subsequently cropped out the straight man when the actual cover was designed. They worked as a team for ten years until their split in 1956.

Mystery Duo #2 worked in radio, film, and television making them the most popular comedy team over the period of the 1940's and 50's. Between 1941 and 1951 they were voted among the nation's Top 10 Box Office Stars eight times, and ranked "Number 1" in 1942. Together they made 38 movies and many TV appearances and their "Who's on First?" routine is featured in the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum. In many people's minds

their unique chemistry and superb comedic timing have never been surpassed. In a partnership that lasted 20 years, they conquered every facet of show business, including burlesque, radio, Broadway, motion pictures and television. But in 1945 a rift developed when one hired a domestic servant who had been fired by the other. Stung by the move, the one who fired the servant refused to speak to his partner except when performing. The team's films of 1946 reflect the unofficial split, with the comedians appearing separately in character roles. The chemistry had been lost between the two and eventually their acts became tiring to a public who were looking for fresh material.

Mystery Duo #3 were an American singer-songwriter duo who originally called themselves "Tom and Jerry" in 1957. Close friends through childhood, they grew up in Queens, New York, just blocks away from each other. They met in elementary school in 1953, when they both appeared in the school play Alice in Wonderland. They rose to fame in 1965, backed by a hit single and their music was featured in a landmark film the same year, propelling them further into the public consciousness. They were among the most popular recording artists of the 1960s; receiving several Grammy's and numerous gold records. But by 1969, the duo's success began to take its toll when one who had begun a career in acting was featured in a movie that his partner, who was also promised a role, was completely cut out. The duo finally split in 1970 to little surprise of the public, and the two men went their separate ways.

Having successful long term personal relationships is all about accepting faults, dealing with them, and not having the "it's all about me" mentality. Those who are mature will be successful in their daily relationships and those who are not will fail over and over. There are relationships that seemed to be going great but in the end dissolved because of an issue which caused selfishness or lack of sensitivity to surface. We see this in the motorcycle community as well with conflicts between different groups or rifts within a group that serve to weaken the group and cycle community as a whole. With some members of the cycle community, the only time there is real "brotherhood" is when things are going their way. If a mistake or insensitive remark is made by another individual that individual

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is thrown out with the wash. We need to all remember folks make mistakes, or sometimes are simply just selfish. Those who are mature just deal with it in such a way as to not negatively impact the group or community. If you find yourself involved in some type of grudge or conflict why not step up to the plate and be the first to make amends? Its amazing how much impact the words "I'm sorry" can make.

Fortunately the Lord doesn't deal with us the way we deserve, because our actions warrant condemnation, according to the Bible. As sinners we need simply to ask for God's forgiveness and call on him to be the Lord of our lives. It's as simple as asking, and the relationship will be for a lifetime, never to be broken. The Bible says God keeps no record of wrongs, if we simply ask for his forgiveness when we fail. It will be the best duo you will ever be a part of, and its there just for the asking!

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This & That



Greetings! I reckon summer is finally here. Spring was rather strange this year as regards temperatures: a couple of extremely warm days followed by cool temps and rain. Well, that's ok. The more cool weather we have, the fewer hot and sultry days of summer we have. I hope! Those 90-plus days are not really conducive to comfortable riding until the sun goes down.

Have you ever noticed that life can go along at a normal and predictable pace for a few years and then, out of the blue, your life is turned upside down? And that the trouble usually comes in threes or fours? There have been two deaths in our family in the last six months, and a friend's mother passed just three days before the second death in our family. Your life is turned upside down and the pace and schedules you have become accustomed to are irrevocably and permanently changed. Of course, the accompanying grief and emptiness are experienced by everyone at one time or another. The huge change in your life makes you think of your own vulnerability. We who ride are inherently a little on the wild side, or perhaps we're just more adventurous than others. It's difficult to not think of one's own demise and whether our lifestyle is perhaps contributing to it. You know, living on the edge and all that. I feel that one cannot change one's lifestyle just because of the multitudinous "what ifs" that can be raised. Riding is more perilous than driving if only because of the lack of a cage and balloons to protect you. But let's face it: crossing a street on foot is quite dangerous. Our friends in Minneapolis got run over while crossing in a crosswalk by an old geezer who was not paying attention to what was going on. If you begin questioning the relative danger of things before doing them, the judgmental process will become all-encompassing and eventually you will wind up doing nothing only because it could be dangerous! I, for one, am not going to sit on the front porch in a rocking chair and watch the traffic go by. I will be on my scoot passing those cars!

The last time we rode the Cherochala turned out to be more interesting than I would have liked. It was a cold and dreary night... no, that's another story. It was an incredible day, sunny, very little traffic, a long straight going into a very slight lazy sweeper to the left. We had just finished

lunch and were looking forward to the ride. In other words, about the safest riding circumstances one can imagine. Somehow, I was caught not paying attention: as I looked back to the road, I was heading straight for the guard rail which was a couple of feet off the road. I managed to stay off the guardrail, but the shoulder dropped a couple of inches from the road and there were deep tracks in what was once mud. At any rate, once off the road I had no control and got thrown off the bike. Well, bruised and stress-fractured ribs require a 4-6-week recovery time. Not to mention the several thousand to fix the bike. It had no structural damage; just bolt-on stuff like fairings, crash bars, hiway pegs and a rearview mirror. I've ridden the Skyway more times than I can count, and in all types of weather from clear days, to rain, fog, snow and even ice. I've even exceeded the speed limit once or twice. I guess what it boils down to is: **PAY ATTENTION!**

The countdown to our out-west trip is beginning; the send-off day is in sight. It's a strange phenomenon: the closer the day gets, the more anxious you become. Making plans, acquiring the necessary gear, preparing a dry run packing all the stuff you just can't live without while on the road (read: makeup, shoes that will never get worn, various shampoos and facial creams, etc.) begin taking over your waking hours until the final day before leaving. Then you spend even more time looking for all the stuff you know you forgot. But it is ill-spent time. If you find something you had overlooked, great; however, there are even more things you will discover you forgot once on the road. You just have to stop and purchase the stuff you had at home but forgot to pack. That's okay. The excitement overrides the feel-like-a-nut-because-I-forgot-to-pack-it syndrome. Frankly, that's just part of the routine. It happens every year without fail. This time, however, we are packing tents and sleeping bags for occasional camping. It may turn out that our old bones can't take the hard ground (I already know they can't take asphalt!). If so, we'll do what many consider camping: staying in motels.

Every once in a while that can be very exciting. Like the time we experienced the couple getting married. We were in Superior, Montana, having stopped for the evening and were sitting in a semicircle drinking our favorite beverages before going to dinner. The newlyweds were in an old (old!) rusty pickup with a camper over the bed. They were coming back across the street where they had been refused service at a restaurant because they weren't wearing shoes. The bride was screaming all sorts of gross obscenities and making various hand gestures. She indicated she was going to the room, get her gun and go back and show them how fast she was going to get waited on. They did return to the restaurant—perhaps with her gun—but both the bride and groom were wearing shoes. It really was a good show. You just never know what you are going to experience on the road. That's what makes it an adventure and makes you look forward to every trip! So...

Ride on!

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JULY 9 - 11

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Chattanooga, TN

RIDE TO FT. MOUNTAIN/ELLIJAY

Sportman's Warehouse (Hwy 153 & Lee Hwy.) - 10 a.m.
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Dudley's (2890 Evans Mill Rd.) - 11 a.m.
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JULY 11

South Bend, IN

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AUGUST 6

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AUGUST 6-8

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The Low Down:

Make/Model: 2000 Yamaha R6

Engine: 600 cc bored to 750 cc

Owner: Ryan Clough – Rome, GA

Paint: High Tech Signs – Rome, GA

Photos: Tom the Bomb Blevins

Nope, this isn't a new prototype motorcycle to be featured in the latest Batman film... It's the Black Friday R6. Black Friday is a Southern Metal band based in Rome, Georgia and has rocked the stage and brought the house down at a ton of bike rallies, benefits, motorcycle clubhouses, back alley bars and sweet 16 parties. Okay, I'm not sure about the sweet 16 parties, but they did play the Road Rash Biker Bash last year to rave reviews, and are scheduled to headline Saturday night there again this year. They are a bunch of talented, likeable guys and if you get a chance to catch one of their



shows – you’ve got to do it man! As you might have guessed, I’m a Black Friday fan, and I’m not alone. Bike owner Ryan loves the band so much, he dedicated his paint scheme to promote them. I’m sure the fact he is dating the lead guitar player’s gorgeous daughter might have had something to do with it, but he says he thought the scheme would look cool and he did it to help promote the band and “the family.”

I rode out to Cartersville, Georgia to capture this bike during its first official public debut; a Black Friday show at the local Hooters. This bike is not just show – the motor has been bored to 750 cc for racing, it has new heads and intake, Two Brothers exhaust, Pilot Power tires, and an RK Racing chain running around a 48-tooth sprocket (for stunting). For legal reasons, I can’t say that I saw Ryan running up a few public streets on the back wheel, but I have already mentioned this bike’s capabilities, and I’ll add that Ryan sings in a rock band and jumps out of perfectly functioning airplanes for fun and profit. You do the math!

I would like to thank Ryan and the band Black Friday (www.myspace.com/blackfridaymetal) for allowing me to shoot this bike (and for letting me hang out and party with them). Come to the Road Rash Biker Bash and check them out in action! Oh, I also need to thank our Hooter’s girl for being so attentive, accommodating and thoughtful.

For many more pics, check out www.roadrashmag.com!



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Joe Cool's Biker Health

Any biker knows the importance of regular maintenance and service for a motorcycle to keep it running smoothly. For your bike to be reliable and perform well on the road, regular tune-ups and oil changes are needed. With this in mind, why would you hesitate to see your doctor for a check-up? Just like your scooter, you need regular "tune-ups" to assure reliable performance of your physiological and metabolic systems.

Some riders only take the bike to the garage when something is wrong and do not consider seeking a qualified mechanic for preventive maintenance. As well as, some people only go to a medical clinic when they feel something is wrong and do not consider seeing a doctor for preventive care. The time-honored physical examination is still of the utmost importance. It is this close connection between physician and patient that creates a relationship that helps the patient maintain a healthy lifestyle.

A physical exam is preceded by a medical history so the physician can get to know not only the present problem, but also what has gone on before. Past records must be reviewed and detailed questions asked, not only about symptoms but habits. Expect personal questions about cigarette smoking, drugs, alcohol, sexual



practices and emotional problems. The actual exam must be thorough and unhurried. Everything must be examined. Respiration, heart rhythm, reflexes, lymphatic glands, blood and urine samples are the most common examinations that can indicate any possible medical issues.

Your doctor will screen for diseases, assess risk of future medical problems, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and update vaccinations.

Even if you feel fine, it is still important to see your health care provider regularly to check for potential problems. Most people who have high blood pressure don't even know it. The only way to find out is to have your blood pressure checked regularly. Likewise, high blood sugar and high cholesterol levels often do not produce any symptoms until the disease becomes advanced. Blood sugar, cholesterol and triglyceride levels are checked from blood tests. You may also have chest x-rays, and EKG tests done.

Prostate exams for men and mammogram, PAP smears and bone density scans for women. Your annual checkup is also the time to discuss any problems you are having. Just as you may have a trusted and reliable motorcycle mechanic, I recommend you maintain a relationship with a doctor you are comfortable with, in case of a chronic or acute illness. Because I have my scooters serviced by a quality motorcycle technician, I feel more confident that my motorcycle will perform better on the highway for many miles to come. Also, I recently had a check-up with my doctor and I am running as well as a late model male can run. If you are willing to take the time and expense to have your bike checked out, why not do the same for yourself? Remember to take care of yourself. Because if you won't, who will?

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The Newbie

Lucky article number 13! It's been a full year of my ramblings, insights and opinions. I've had a blast writing for you all and getting to know so many of you personally. My learning about riding and being a biker has been an adventure. Thank you to all who have helped out in one way or another. Thanks for putting up with me.



go and I'm on the road. It's a year later, but I still have all the excitement about hitting the road and modifying my bike. I have the same factory seat on it (that's got to go) and the lights are as goofy looking as ever. Well, not quite. They did get a smoke job done, so they're remotely more low profile. Ugly, but low profile....

After far too long sitting in a cage I'm back on two wheels. I've got no idea how you guys handle that all winter long, it almost sapped what little sanity I had left. I'm not going to name any names (yes I will), but if you read my article you know who hooked me up and put me back together again. However, I will thank my mom and dad for the early Father's Day gift and the funds to buy parts. Dunno why, but they sure love their baby.

They sent a few pesos for me to buy parts with and I just turned all that legal tender over to my brother to do his magic. The boys over at Ultimate Cycle did some diagnostics for me and ordered the offending part – my stator. Lucky Man did the rest. Stator is on, two new tires, and I'm ready to roll. Someone should hire that boy! Wait – someone did! Southern Honda snatched him up to work their parts counter, so feel free to drop by, say hello, and spend a few bucks. The guy knows his stuff.


Being off my bike for so long has left me listless and bored. Not much to write about when stuck behind the wheel, but now I'm back to square one. My bike is good to

I want to hit more of the biker events, more Nightfalls, more parties, a few bike nights and all that jazz. Drop me an e-mail with an invite and Roxy an' I'll come hang out. Maybe I'll do a little write up on your group or event or something if you want. I'm no high-brow sophisticate, so you might not wanna offer me shrimp cocktail or set the table with fine china, but I promise not to steal the silver or spike the punch.

I'm also thinking about hitting the highway and taking a long road trip. My buddy, Beau, has been talking about Arizona or someplace out West. Sounds good to me. Looks like my 9-5 will dry up mid July, so I might just have a little time on my hands before the next bill-payer opens up for me. I think that may end up being an ideal time to go get lost on a long, wide road. Bet that would make for an interesting article. Guess we'll see.

See you on the road.

The Newbie
Keith "Angel" Riddle
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20 WTN 7:00PM	21 OFF	22 RIR 2:00PM	23 RIR 2:00PM	24 RIR 2:00PM	25 RIR 2:00PM	26 RIR 2:00PM
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Busa Doc Tech Tips

What you see may save your life!

Mirrors on bikes are IMPORTANT! First, it's the law that you have a rear-view mirror when you ride on the public roads. But more importantly don't you want to see someone or something coming up behind you? Personally, I do not like to be surprised at red lights, when changing lanes, and when cruising at steady speed. However, in each case I have had the dummy in a four wheeler not paying attention and almost try to move my rear tire to the front of the bike!

I know that sometimes the basic mirrors are not real cool looking in relation to all your paint and chrome, but personally I want to be prepared...especially in traffic. But now...(drum roll please)...mirrors don't have to be bland! Yes, you can now get a wide variety of custom mirrors for your ride made from composite, metal, or plastic. In fact on any model or style of bike, aftermarket mirrors can make a statement as much as a paint job and chrome. In recent years, mirror manufacturers have been aided with the advent of technology. The ability for a small aftermarket company to design and build really great custom looking items is now very simple. Thus, the imagination is really the limit to some degree.



Now, if you just want to get a little extra vision to help with the blind spots in your mirrors you can add blind spot mirrors that stick onto your existing mirrors, not pretty to some, but very effective. These radius mirrors can increase vision coverage by about 30%. Some mirrors are convex and allow a wide angle vision without adding to them. Please use your head though in mirror design, there are some nice looking mirrors out there that are way too small to really SEE anything in them. It's like looking through a small slice of glass that is vibrating...Not much more than just making you legal and looking good. But safety should and is the first goal, so just be wise in mirror selection. Actually, one good option if you want a cheap and easy to install product is a bar end mirror. This fairly easy to use mirror is small, but fast to install and requires no modifications in most cases. This is a really good option on sport bikes.

Another important factor is adjusting your mirrors correctly. The best way to set your mirror is to make sure you can see part of the lane beside you and behind you. This is what I call fifty/fifty. This works for me but you still will have blind spots, so even with mirrors it's important to turn your head and look just to be sure. Again mirrors can look cool, but should above all be used for safety. There are literally hundreds of designs and styles, stop by Ultimate Cycle in Chattanooga and I'll be happy to help find the best option for you.

Ride Far and Ride Safe, Come see me!

The Busa Doc

Robert Zorn

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THE VIEW FROM THE WING

A Great Day



"... I think I'll take my old Harley for a three day cruise..." Although I don't have an old Harley and I don't have three days to go riding, that sure does sound good to me. You see, I have been working extremely hard as of late. Or extremely long... Maybe if I worked harder it wouldn't take me so long. One of the worst casualties of this is that I have not had the time that my mind needs to recuperate by riding my bike as often as I would like. Of course I would like to ride everyday for about twelve hours a day but I would settle for just one twelve hour day a week. Last week I rode for twelve whole minutes.

It was with great anticipation that I woke up early this morning to ride to church. It is a great way to start the day. The scenery is beautiful as I ride the back roads from Harrison to Ooltawah. Like many roads in Tennessee the back roads that I take are winding through heavy groves of trees and passing over tributaries that feed out of and into the Tennessee River. On the way to church it is an awesome time to ride and to reflect on that which the creator has made. I also reflect on how beautiful Tennessee really is and then I'll come upon a home junkyard. Nothing baffles me more than riding through miles of nice homes and beautiful country and all of a sudden coming upon the model home for the old TV show Sanford and Son. And there will be chickens

all over the road. Why are the chickens crossing the road? It must be a form of Russian roulette that the chickens play with motorcycles. Feathers on the ground. Feathers on the ground. Looking to be dinner with your feathers on the ground. Chicken fajitas anyone?

But I digress. After church I was invited to breakfast at Cracker Barrel by a new friend whose 18-year-old son is interested in getting into motorcycling. Being my favorite meal and having the chance to talk about the joys of riding a motorcycle was all I needed to accept the invitation. There are two things that I am passionate about. First and foremost is tell people the great news about Jesus Christ and who he is. I love to see people who think of God as a killjoy traffic cop waiting to bust you every time you make a wrong move as they hear that God is really on their side and loves them and wants them to enjoy the gifts that he has given them. I also love to spread the gospel of how great motorcycling really is and how bikers are the greatest people to hang out with. I am truly passionate in our conversation and soon convince the son to get a new BMW 1000RR and the father to get a new Wing. As it turned out, the waitress was buying a Harley because they look cool and the couple at the table next to us were going looking for a bike Monday morning - if they remember. They were after all in their eighties. I recommended they look at the Boss Hoss. I guess I get a little excited about how much fun it is to ride.

In fact as we got done with breakfast, I had talked so much about how much fun it is to ride that I decided to blow off working on my house and go to the Road Rash Riding Crew's Most Official Clubhouse. You know, the place where we have our meetings. And it is not really a clubhouse but the Ooltawah BP. We meet there because we can gas up and get coffee and use the facilities. At our age, using the facilities is a priority. Since we have no dues, it is a great

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place for our clubhouse as it is free. You will find that free theme repeated often in the Road Rash Riding Crews Official manifesto. So I headed over there to get gas. And since we have no actual rules or real meetings or anything resembling a club, we call it a meeting because that is where we meet to go riding. Which is what for us, having a bike is all about, riding. These monthly articles are the minutes of those meetings.

I know that from riding with Rock and Sandy that we usually meet there at noon on Sundays to go for a ride. I have not ridden with them for about 2 months and I was no different from an addict looking for a fix. Now I love Rock. He truly is a great guy and a great friend. He and Sandy along with their wives Julie and Amelia have become very good friends. And Rock is dependable-you know, like a Rock. He is steady and strong and you know what you are going to get. And like swallows returning to Capistrano he always goes back to the same place. Or places. I am not saying that he is boring, just predictable. I don't want to start anything but it was Sandy who said he was boring. And Julie was very gracious and just smiled. Ah, the good wife.

But I was hoping to see them there and at 11:59 a.m., Sandy and Amelia pulled in. Rock and Julie were fashionably late. They didn't arrive until 12:01. And that will be the last time that I use the word fashionable to describe Rock. Rock cannot be described as fashionable until he wears an official Road Rash Riding Crew helmet like Sandy and I.

We took off and were going to ride Route 68 and head north to Tellico. But after following the usual stupidity of Sunday gawkers driving their four-wheeled fortresses on 64, Rock turned left on 30 and we went to Tellico via Reliance. It was great. We saw only three other bikes and they were coming our way so we were not forced to pass them. The road is in great shape and winds through the forest just like

Rt. 68 but with less traffic.

We got to Tellico to find over 150 motorcycles parked all over the place. You expect that on a beautiful Sunday as Tellico is the Gateway to the Cherohala Skyway and it is always busy with bikes. It is a great destination and a wonderful ride. And bikers flock there in swarms to ride those roads. I don't go to Daytona or Sturgis or Nightfall or The Trail of Tears because I do not like to ride in swarms. It feels "swarmy." Yet there we were smack dab in the middle of the swarm.

After lunch at the Teli Café, which was once again, a wonderful meal, we loaded up and decided to head back. We walked out to see a flock of seagulls riding towards the skyway. Or were they lemmings? We quickly headed out to find our back roads home. All by ourselves.

Most of the other bikers were all on biker roads. They were riding the Cherohala Skyway and the Dragon. I know they did because they had decals on their bikes and patches on their vests and t-shirts explaining how they had slain the dragon. I haven't seen that before. Thousands of them flocked from all directions to share the same stretch of blacktop.

It's a great time to discover our back roads. It's time to eat somewhere new. It's time to experience the true freedom of the open road. It's time to get lost. It's time to make a few U-turns and get your shiny bike a little dirty. Or you can just sit around and grow yourself a fu Manchu.

Gary Boyd

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CROSS ROADS

A BLINDING GLIMPSE OF THE OBVIOUS

You'd have to be the guest of honor at your own funeral last month not to know that thousands of Harley riders roared into Chattanooga on waves of style, history, and most importantly for local business, the big wheels rolled in with a lot of green diversity. They brought along 5's, 50's, Benjamin's (\$100) and the power of plastic, but as Yogi Berra would say "cash is just as good as money."

As you may have guessed, this piece is not about diversity as in race, not today. It is about motorcyclists, what we ride and life's little surprise packages that are wrapped in humorous and sometimes outrageous ribbons. I was thinking about diversity when I recently cut into a motorcycle dealership in Georgia, which shall go nameless and watched the parts guy's eyes fire up when I asked "what does diversity mean to you?" "Diversity," he snickered, "is like the variety of oil leaks you find on the ground wherever a lot of old Harley's are parked. Each one is different, but oil leaks is oil leaks." Ouch! Double Ouch!! Makes me think that his wife made him sell his bike and that all he has now is the jacket and boots with worn down heels from walking and riding the clutch in his truck.

I cut short my business with "Bunkie" the bad attitude parts guy and boogied on back to Chattanooga where a BMW, S 1000 RR was fueled and ready for the road at Pandora's European Motorsports. Principal Dealer Justin Prann rolled out the welcome mat for a choice test ride to be described as nothing short of "welcome to planet power." If you want some diversity, like hang on, hold on, and oh my god diversity, then the S 1000 RR (which means race ready) is the perfect human resources manager. Have a nice ride baby!

It was at Pandora's where a surprise materialized in the form of Bill "Gater" Matthews, a sport bike enthusiast who has more educational titles than Elvis has hit records. The hookup was instant and we were soon on the way to Blairsville, GA. My helmet speakers were pumping with Tina Turner singing "Big wheels keep on rolling," rolling south toward highway 19/129 with adventures sprinkled along the way to what would prove to be a killer day of discovery with an experienced and very knowledgeable rider.

As a recent retiree from Boston and growing up in



Chicago, stepping off the bike just south of Blairsville at the Sunshine Grocery was like opening a door marked "you ain't gonna believe this....!" It wasn't a doorway into something that Steven King would dream up, no, not terror, this was pure down home diversity. They have a little of everything. www.sunrisegrocery.com.

I am from up north so imagine my cautious look at a huge hornet's nest right there on an eye level shelf. The former occupants of this

curious creation were obviously big and capable of being as angry as Republican Party Chairman Michael Steele, when the news media found committee credit card receipts from a lesbian-themed bondage nightclub club recently. Lucy, let me 'splain! It's called the SODDIT defense, meaning, 'some other dude did it.'

Refreshed and brimming with new inventory information about a very good country store, we said goodbye to Karen and Shelley, the wonderful gals reflecting of such gracious warmth and genuine humor. We're off, Gater's on a Kawasaki ZX 1400 'Ninja' and me on a Kawasaki Concours 1400, wheeling towards Walkers Barbeque and Fried Pies in East Ellijay, GA. where the "Q" is so, so good, it can make you pass out.

The Walkers don't just do "Q" and fried pie business, they do family through twin brothers Donald and Hoss and sons, Russell and Nathan (Semper Fi). In addition to a kick-ass version of fried Oreo Cookies, you will not find a better Brunswick stew anywhere. For me excellent "Q" does not require sauce, but when it's Walkers special blends...they use it to revive you after you pass out from how good the ribs are.

As the locals poured in for grab and go and in some cases to just sit a spell, our waitress happily complained about how the muffler of her truck made so much noise banging against the frame that she couldn't hear her radio. Without missing a beat, Hoss said, "Sounds to me like your radio needs more volume." So it was said....because of a blinding glimpse of the obvious.

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Travel With The Road Rash Crew

Rock, Pebbles, Chad, Moleman & Lori, BooBoo,
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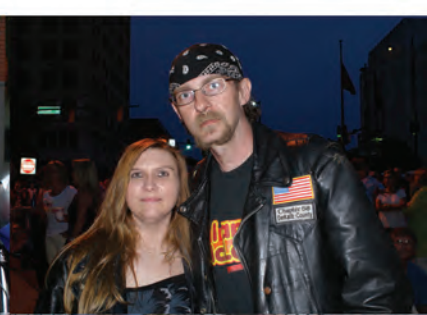
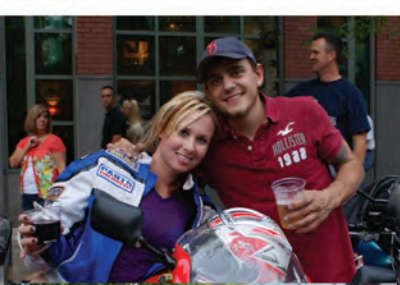
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