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The Scenic City's Motorcycle Heart Beat

MAGAZINE

APRIL 2012

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ROAD MAP

From The Editors	5
Staff & Info.....	6
Rides & Rods	8
Photos.....	10
Chaplain's Corner	12
Family Vintage Photos.....	13
Reader's Shots.....	14
Kent's Recipe.....	15
Advertiser Index.....	15
Event Listings.....	16
Friends of Gus Photos.....	18
TCHD H.O.G. Chapter.....	24
Photos.....	25
Supercross - Atlanta	26
MotoGP Coverage.....	28 & 29
Photos.....	30

Road Map Photo
Photographer: Gregory Cook
www.gregorycookphotography.com



Cover: April 2012
Photographer: Kim Teems
kimteems.com



FROM THE EDITORS

Hi Folks,

The weather has been great and I am seeing more and more motorcycles on the road. This is a good thing, but there have already been a couple of serious accidents this year and unfortunately there will probably be more to come. Most accidents are not caused by us riders. The exceptions are usually when people ride drunk or they bite off more than they can chew in the skills department. Most motorcycle accidents occur when driver's either pull in front of us, don't yield the right of way, cross the yellow line and hit us head on, or hit us from the rear while stopped. Cell phone use and especially texting has become a more serious problem than drunk driving. Please be careful out there folks. When stopped pulse your brake lights to help alert texting idiots approaching from the rear. Watch everyone, be aware, stay alive.

This is my favorite time of year to ride my sport bike. I can wear my full padded gear without being too hot and uncomfortable. I might ride my touring bike in sleeveless shirts, jeans, and boots, but I'm armored up when sport riding. It's a security thang! I've been out a few times lately and my body is telling me that I'm out of shape. I need to drop a few pounds and punch and kick my hanging bag more. Sport riding is just that, a sport, and if you're working it, you will get sore until your body gets back in shape.

My riding buddy, Alan "BooBoo" Kelley just picked up a Honda CBR1000 and we have had a ball putting her through her paces. She's black and she's awesome! Time will tell if he likes it as well as the BMW K1300S he had last year. The Honda is much lighter and shorter, but it doesn't have all the rider controls like the K bike.

I had a great time at the season's first major charity ride. The Roughneck's MC Georgia hosted their annual Jarrad Little Memorial Poker Run & Ride on March 17th and their turnout was even larger than last year. There were riders from many, many states and a great showing of support from other local clubs and organizations. Check out the photos on page 25.

Remember, we have the CMA's Blessing of the Bikes coming this month and there will be many more events to follow in the coming months. Thank you for supporting our advertisers who bring this magazine to you each month.

LTRAD,

Ronnie "Rock" Land

Rock@kickstandup.com

Hello Chattanooga and beyond,

I had a great time at the Roughnecks Jarrett Little Poker Run last month. They had a fabulous turn out and raised a lot of money for the Shiner's Children Burn Hospital. The ride went by some local fire halls, stopped by Thunder Creek Harley-Davidson for some St. Paddy's Day fun, and then ended at Skyzoo for music, door prizes, and special awards. I think the Roughnecks have started a new first big-ride-of-the-season tradition! Yep – It's riding time!

Recently, FACES: The National Craniofacial Association hired me to be their Communications and Program Director. I'm really excited about this opportunity. I have been involved with FACES since 2004, when I designed their brochure while working at The Print Shop. As is my habit, I did research on craniofacial differences so that I would have a better idea about the children and adults that FACES helps. I cried the whole time. A person with a craniofacial difference not only endures many, many surgeries, but due to ignorance, is often subjected to stares, public ridicule, and meanness. I wanted to help and soon became a FACES volunteer. Our fist project together was the FACES Ride 4 Smiles, which will be seven years strong on June 2 [Save the date - www.Ride4Smiles.org]. So long story short, I'm THRILLED to be working with FACES.

So that being said, I am stepping down as KickStand Up Editor and leaving that in Ronnie's capable hands. I will take on a smaller role as webmaster and contributor. You may not see as much of me, but I will still be here... eyes open for good stories and photos.

It's been a great ride! I'm looking forward to the curve ahead.

Kim Teems
kim@kickstandup.com

"It is always the simple things that change our lives. And these things never happen when you are looking for them to happen. Life will reveal answers at the pace life wishes to do so. You feel like running, but life is on a stroll. This is how God does things."

~ Donald Miller



Greg Cook

CHATTANOOGA'S

KICKSTAND UP!

The Scenic City's Motorcycle Heart Beat

MAGAZINE

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The Hunt for Uncle Gus is On!

We've lost our faithful mascot, Uncle Gus... Can you find him? He's lost somewhere in one of our advertiser's ad! Be the first to find Uncle Gus and win KickStand Up! Swag! The lucky winner will be the first one to come by the Quick Tees office [see page 17] with the winning answer! Please note - the Uncle Gus in Rides & Rods is not the one we're looking for.



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(Event organized by the Lake Blue Ridge Chapter, Southern Cruisers Riding Club)



RIDES & RODS

Charlie Beavers



Charlie Beavers is the parts manager at Thunder Creek Harley-Davidson. He grew up in Belleville, Michigan with two brothers (Rick & Sid) who rode motorcycles. It's only logical to assume that his older brothers influenced him to ride, but riding runs deeper in his family than that. It was actually his grandparents that started this family tradition (see pic on page 13, this photo shows both of them on one motorcycle, but his grandmother also rode her own bike. It was identical to her husbands).

Charlie raced professional flat track in the mid seventies along with his brother Rick. Charlie raced two years amateur and three years in the Camel Pro Series. His brother Rick raced five years. Sid and Dr. Dave Clemons were the pit crew and they traveled all across the country racing.

Big brother Sid followed Dr. Dave to Chattanooga and Pate's Harley-Davidson in 1978 and Charlie joined them at Pate's in 1980 and worked there till 1981. From 1982 – 1989 Charlie worked in the parts department at Sport Cycle Center. When they closed in '89 he went back to Pate's until they closed their doors in July of 1991. Between 1992 and 1996 you could find Charlie at White's Cycle and Marine until he had the opportunity to join the staff of the new Harley dealer in town, Steel HD. Steel sold to Thunder Creek Harley Davidson and Charlie has been there since 2001.

Charlie met his wife Debbie in 1991. She had a six year old son, John who Charlie raised as his own. Sadly, on December 30, 2006 John was killed in Bagdad, Iraq. His son John Jr. was born the following day.

Charlie's collection of bikes is varied and most

impressive. He has some real classics that you don't see every day, especially in the condition in which Charlie maintains them.

Rides:

- 2000 Harley Davidson Road King
- 1997 Buell M2 Cyclone
- 1978 Kawasaki Z1-R
- 1968 Yamaha YR2 (350cc Twin)
- 1972 Yamaha CT-175 Enduro (927 miles)
- 1974 Harley Davidson Z-90 (622 miles)
- 1975 Bultaco 360cc Astro (Flat tracker)
- 1989 Honda CR250 R Motocross
- 1973 Honda CT-70 (Trail 70) 63 original miles
- 1971 Honda CT-70 (Trail 70) 1838 miles

Rods:

- 1967 Chevelle Malibu
- Complete restoration, original 283 engine, built to 302, turbo 350 transmission, factory ac, rally wheels, Ermine White with blue interior.
- 1991 Ford Mustang GT

Thank you Charlie Beavers for letting KSU into your part of the world. I was very impressed by your collection of rides and rods.

Chuck Welch

chuck@kickstandup.com

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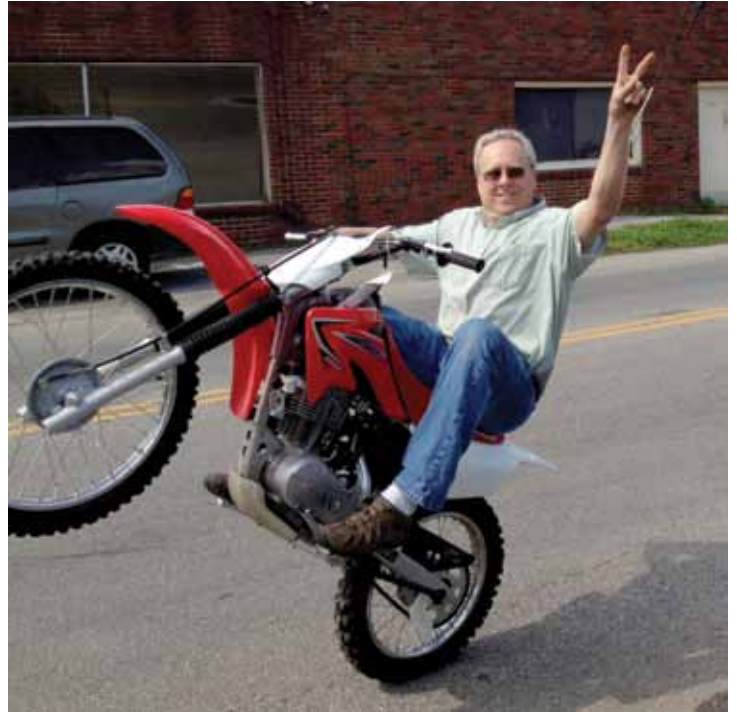
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Garry Griffith Cycle will soon bring Erik Buell Racing (EBR) Motorcycles to the Chattanooga area.

EBR Motorcycles are American-made motorcycles designed by Erik Buell. Buell started out as a racer, and that is exactly how he designs his motorcycles, ready to race. He knows what a racer wants and needs in a motorcycle, and is making that available for the street. Since his racing career, he has designed motorcycles with that same racing mentality. As Buell's website says, EBR is aggressive, well-calculated, and passionate.



Photos by Steve Anderson/Courtesy Erik Buell Racing

Having this brand available gives an American option to those racers that want to buy American, but have not had that option. These bikes come from East Troy, Wisconsin. They are designed and manufactured in the U.S.. They create American Jobs, but EBR uses technology from all over the world to produce the engine, suspension, and other performance parts.

Garry Griffith comes from a similar background, racing some of the same tracks and events as Erik Buell. This is one reason that he was selected to be a dealer. Garry will be able to tell about every detail and give insight on how certain aspects will behave in varying situations. His aggression and passion for motorcycling will compliment a motorcycle that is designed with that same mentality.

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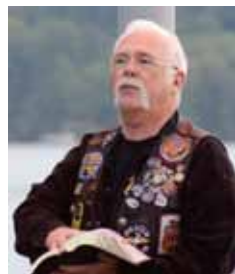
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



I Samuel 12:23

Hello. This is the Chaplain's Corner. So if I say something Biblical, that's okay. Don't be afraid to read further - Jesus is and can be the best friend you can have.

I'm Al "Cowboy Al" Kaschimer, the chaplain for the local CMA Chapter.

We meet the first Monday of every month at Rib & Loin on Highway 153. We eat from 6:00-7:00 and the meeting runs from 7:00-8:00. Everyone is welcome. Don't forget the Blessing of the Bikes on Saturday, April 7th and Sunrise Service Sunday at the boat ramp Eastside of the dam. Baptism if you want to be. Now let's state the obvious for those of you that didn't ride this winter (missed waving at you).

Riding season is upon us. Riding through God's creation is something that is felt as well as seen. Psalm 118:24 tells us "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Guess what? Tomorrow will be THE DAY again. I know that we have recently experienced tragedy again with the tornadoes - but Thank God no loss of life this time. Chaplain, how do you explain this tragedy some may ask. I can't. I do know that the Bible tells us that we will have trials and tribulations in this life. And we surely do. But one of the Bible verses that I take comfort in is Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." The road is rough. Make Jesus your Road Captain. Ride with HIM. Be safe,

Cowboy Al

chaplain@cmachattanooga.com

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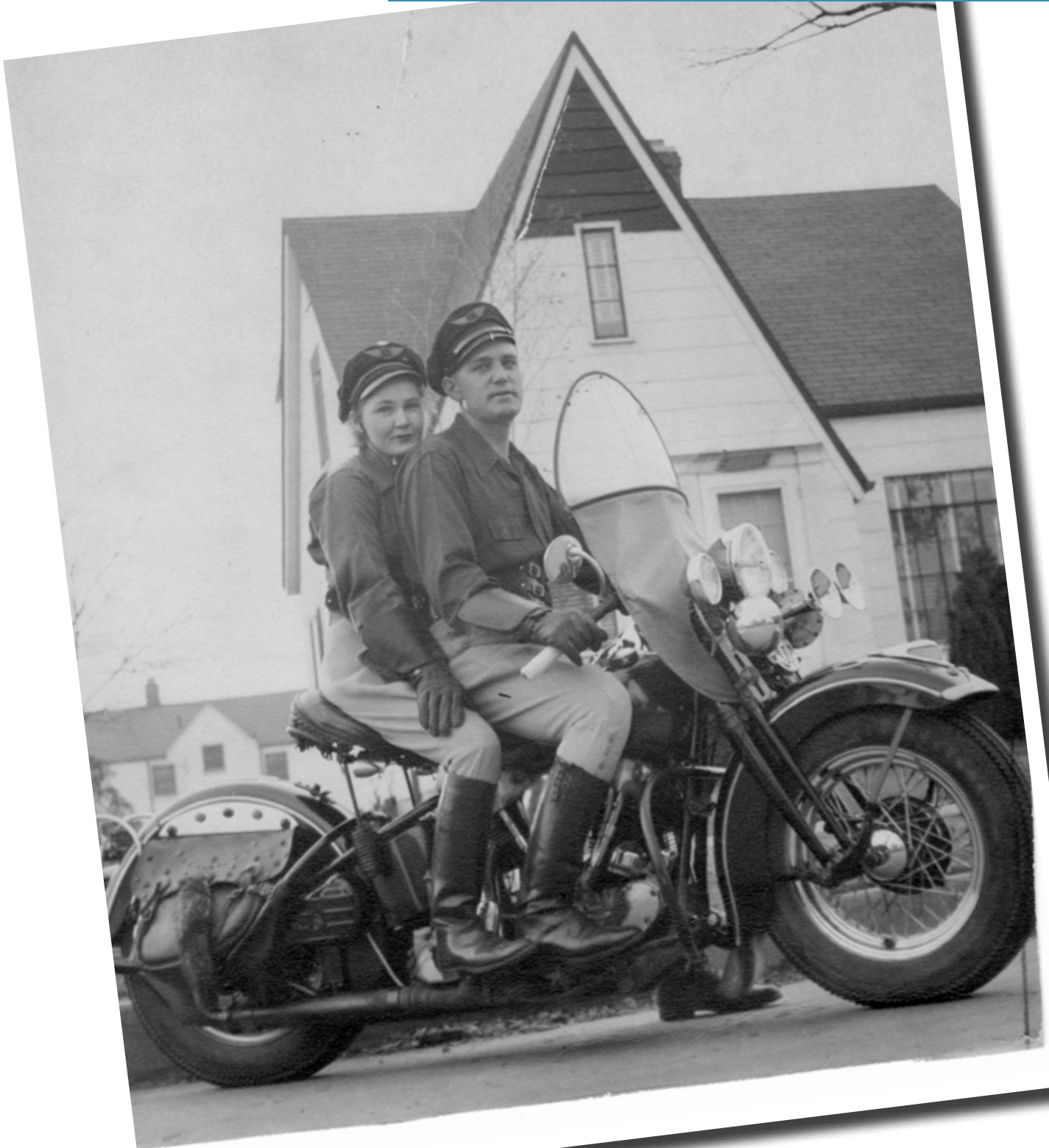
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Vintage Family Motorcycle Photos

We asked for it and we got it! Keep them coming! If you have some cool motorcycle photos of you or your family from days gone by send us an email at info@kickstandup.com along with a copy of the photo, or drop by Quick Tees and have Ronnie scan it. You never know...your shot may end up here!

Charlie Beaver's grandparents on a 1947 Knucklehead



READER'S SHOTS

WINNERS



Pictured is Morgan Cross and her stepdad Billy Wattenbarger. Morgan is in the first grade at McConnell Elementary in Whiteside, TN. She will be seven in June. She has been riding with Billy since she was five. They do a lot of short rides, the longest being to Fall Creek Falls a couple of times last summer. This year they plan on riding to the Dragon and several other longer rides.



Pictured is Arvin Penn. He was last month's winner. He is the official KSU magazine distributor to the Chattanooga Public Works Department. Arvin picks up a box each month.



Talk about getting it right off the truck! You can see the FedX truck's reflection in the window as Phillip "Paw Paw" Shankles and his wife April win KSU gear and show off the Roughneck's Georgia's two page spread about their charity event. The KSU flag goes up the day the mags arrive and stays up for the first two weeks.

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ADVERTISER INDEX

A Better Choice Chiropractic	12	Mike's Seafood	29
Allstate / Keith Thompson.....	30	Mountain City Landscape	12
Allstate Trailers	17	Mountain Creek Harley-Davidson.....	32
American Trading Post & Grill	10	Pandora's European Motorsports.....	19
Amsoil.....	30	Powersports Unlimited.....	29
ASR	12	QuickTees.....	3
Autocycle Powder Coating	8	Red Bank Wine & Spirits	21
Blacksmith's Bistro	29	Rick's Cycle Parts.....	16
Cagle Mountain Trading Post.....	11	Sequatchie Valley Wine & Spirits	11
Dallas Bay Baptist Church.....	31	Skyzoo.....	30
Dead Girlz Tattoo & Boutique	17	Smoke House Restaurant	22
Dodd and Associates Training.....	8	Stereo City.....	12
East Brainerd Wine.....	15	Stroker Cycle	14
Elke's Hair & Nail Salon.....	20	The Hogs Pen.....	27
Garry Griffith Cycle	27	The Print Shop.....	17
Hawg Wild	11	Thunder Creek Harley-Davidson.....	32
Hilltop Hotel	21	Tom's Tree Service	17
Howard Heating & Air	17	Trail of Tears Ride to Remember.....	24
Hudlow Axle.....	23	Underground Customs	20
Johnny Houston.....	2	White Cotton Leather Co.....	11
Kirk's Cycle.....	28		



Grilled Barbecue Pizza

By Kent Whitaker

Ally and I love just about anything cooked on the grill, and this goes for pizza as well. Yep, pizza cooked on the grill. Don't worry. You won't have to learn to toss dough over your head like those cool guys in high end pizza eateries. But I don't think that would be fun to learn, or at least give it a try.

First, you need a covered grill, gas or charcoal. Then you need some ready-made pre-cooked pizza crusts and then your favorite toppings. You can use all of the traditional items like Ham, beef, sausage, pepperoni, Canadian bacon, veggies and more. I use leftover barbecue as one of my favorite toppings. Plus you need some cheese and some sauce.

Here's some food for thought, why not try your favorite smoked meats and cheeses, a white sauce instead of a red sauce to add some variety? Just top your ready-made pizza crust with the toppings, place it on the grill with low to medium heat, close the lid until everything is golden and the cheese is melted. Remember, the crust is already cooked, chances are you used pre-cooked meat toppings so all you have to do is warm everything up and melt the cheese.

But for something a bit different, here is a grilled pizza recipe to get you started.

Barbecue Grilled Pizza

2 pizza crusts store bought
 2 cups barbecue –your choice
 1 cup barbecue sauce divided
 Chopped onion
 Chopped green pepper
 Shredded cheddar cheese
 Crumbled pepper jack cheese
 Coat each crust with your favorite sauce and the barbecue. Top with chopped onion and green peppers then cheese. Cook on a covered grill for about 10 minutes or until heated and cheese is melted.

Kent Whitaker is a culinary writer and cookbook author. He is the winner of the Emeril Live BBQ contest and winner of an American Authors Association Gold medal. Kent's books are in bookstores nationwide and are available online. Kent lives in Chattanooga with his wife, son and two crazy dogs. Visit him online at www.thedeckchef.com or twitter @thekentwhitaker .

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 850 West Main St. 6:30pm-9:30pm CST - NO COVER!
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Graysville, TN

Memorial Open Car Show
 662 Harrison Ave., 12:00-4:00 775-3875 or 645-7553 Rain Date Friday & Saturday, April 6 & 7

Monteagle, TN

Smoke House Live Nashville Music
 850 West Main St., 6:30pm-9:30pm CST - TheSmokeHouse.com

Saturday, April 7

Chattanooga, TN
CMA Blessing of the Bikes Tennessee
 Riverpark, 10am - 2pm 423-991-0962

Madisonville, TN

Full Throttle Warriors Bibke Blessing OAA
 Worship 876 Englewood Road Reg. 10 Blessing 11:30 423 807 1777, ftwarriors.org
 Friday & Saturday, April 13 & 14

Monteagle, TN

Smoke House Live Nashville Music
 850 West Main St., 6:30pm-9:30pm CST, TheSmokeHouse.com

Saturday, April 14

Gordonsville, TN Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet
 Caney Fork CMT/ABATE, Inc. Tennessee National Guard Armory, 100 Transport Drive Gates open at 9 am, 615-281-7279

Murphy, NC

Rumble for Relay Rivers
 Edge Mountain RV Resort reg. 8am bikes out 10am 828-644-5047

Chattanooga, TN

Benefit for Jimmy Songer
 The Bar [The Longbranch], 4904 Rossville Blvd. 423-867-5377

Friday & Saturday, April 20 & 21

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Saturday, April 21

Chattanooga, TN
Freedom Riders MC - Make-A-Wish Poker Run and Charity Event
 Thunder Creek Harley - Chattanooga - 10am Registration 11am FBO Gary Varner chattanoogaofreedomriders@gmail.com

Ringgold, GA

Blessing of the Bikes and Louise Kenney Memorial Ride to Benefit Nourishing the Children in Catoosa
 Ringgold United Methodist Church, Nashville Street, Ringgold, GA 11:00 AM Keith Kenney 678-938-1386 kkenney1073@gmail.com

Friday & Saturday, April 27 & 28

Monteagle, TN
Smoke House Live Nashville Music
 850 West Main St., 6:30pm-9:30pm CST
 TheSmokeHouse.com

Saturday, April 28

Fort Oglethorpe, GA
Georgia Remembering Our Heroes Memorial Poker Run
 Polo Field - Barnhardt Circle Fort O 9 am 706-861-2860, www.6thcavalrymuseum.org

Saturday, May 5

Cleveland, Tennessee
Veteran's Home Run
 American Legion - Post 81, 227 James Asbury Dr. NW 423-476-4451

Wednesday - Sunday, May 2-6

Thunder Beach Rally

Panama City Beach, FL
 thunderbeachproductions.com

May 12, 2012

Chattanooga, TN
3rd Annual Big Hearts for Little Hands Motorcycle Rally
 Thunder Creek HD. FBO 3pm, LBO 4pm 423 593 7397 - steelbrothersmc.combigheartsforlittlehands.html

Saturday, May 19

Pikeville, TN
3rd Annual Thunder On Main
 Downtown Main Street Pikeville, TN Colleen Raber 423-453-6990

Friday - Sunday, May 25, 26, & 27

Monteagle, TN
Thunder on the Rock Music Festival and Bike Rally
 423-304-5246 - thunderontherock.net

Saturday, June 2

FACES RIDE 4 SMILES
 Thunder Creek Harley-Davidson Ride4Smiles.org

Franklin, NC

Smoky Mountain Rumble
 478-237-3761 - smokymountainrumble.com
 Thursday - Sunday, September 20 - 23

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Hill on Wheels Scooter Rally 5 State Scooter Race
 Scenic City Scooters, 2248 Dayton Blvd. 423-875-6445

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The TWISTED SPOKE

Wow, \$600 for a helmet?!? That's six tanks of gas on my bike. It was the new Shoei Neotech modular helmet. It has the air vents that you need for the hot Chattanooga summers. It has an inner sun visor that comes down to block the sun. Every mechanism works easily and flawlessly as befitting a \$600 helmet. I loved it. I mean I am one of those crazy people who would actually not wear a helmet if I didn't have to. But if I have to, this is the one I want to wear.

I love quality. I can't always afford quality, but I do love the finer things in life. I love fine dining and fine wine. Okay, I don't drink fine wine anymore. But I try to buy the better boxes of wine. And since I ride such a fine motorcycle, a 2002 GoldWing, I want to treat it to the finer things in life. For instance, I only put synthetic oil in my baby. After 170,000 miles on the odometer, it still performs well. I wish I did. And as I have that many miles I am starting to look at replacing certain parts. I have made a list. I am not getting married, nor am I having a baby, but I did register at the finer motorcycle dealerships in town just in case anyone felt the need to indulge me. The words fat and chance are ringing through my brain in succession.

Along with a new helmet, I would like a new exhaust system. There are a couple of scratches and dings on my current mufflers, a result of too many trips through The Dragon. Hey, the sport bikes do it! I'm thinking the new Vance and Hines GL1800 replacement mufflers. They add a nice sound and a few more ponies. I like a few more ponies. The exhaust system is only \$800.

And speaking of sound systems, mine could really use

an upgrade. So I will put some new sound equipment and amplifiers and tweeters and speakers and an iPod for just the bike. I'm thinking around \$1500 installed. I could also use the new Garmin Zumo 665 with XM radio and Bluetooth and 3D buildings. And it's only \$800. And I'll never have to turn around again. Ever!

I probably should replace all of the hoses and fluids at this point, also. And my switches are a little suspect, as they have seen a lot of rain and sun so it may be prudent to replace them. My front wheel is oxidized from brake dust so I should get it sanded and powder coated. And it would look silly to do the front and not do the back. And I may as well go ahead and have my luggage rack powder coated at the same time. That would look cool. Oh, and the fiber-carbon dashboard and instrument panel pieces. For \$1200 that will look eally killer.

I already have the Traxion suspension in the front so I had better go ahead and get it for the rear. And I guess it would make sense to freshen up the engine. Maybe Honest Charley's can pump a few more ponies in the old bike. Oh yeah, and then I can chrome the valve covers and the timing chain cover, you know just enough to sparkle a little. Black and chrome, now that's royal!

I really want to smoke out my lens covers. Give the bike a sinister look. And get an F-4 scratch resistant, smoked, windshield. And I guess I had better call Kenny Reynolds. I can envision a fresh paint job with the true flames. Purple true flames. And we will have to paint the frame itself. Or better yet I think that a true fiber-carbon frame can be made for my baby. Oh yeah, that's it. I can just have a custom frame for my Wing made out of carbon fiber. This bike is going to look great! And it will run great! Oh the possibilities. I can have the mostest, baddest, fastest, GoldWing in the country. And I can do it all for the sum of, wait a second, add this to this and carry the 6 and, oh yeah, that's going around that much and the grand total is, {trumpets sound} \$36,879.26.

Cool. Wait. How much? Maybe we don't need the carbon fiber frame. And the speed shop redoing my engine, which can wait, I guess. Although I hear that they do great work. And the paint job by Kenny Reynolds will have to be put on hold. A case of Honda touch up black will have to suffice. Really the old Wing is, well, old. Ten years of riding in snow and salt and rain and summer every day has taken it's toll on her looks. Heck, look what it's done to me. And as good as he is, there ain't nothing Kenny Reynolds can put on me to make me look younger.

I really like the helmet. Maybe I can just get the helmet. It's expensive, but I truly believe that the quality is there and that it's justifiable. Besides, with Obama's changes in full effect I am going to need all of that money just to buy gasoline. No bucks. No bling.

So I am going to have them order my helmet. Silver. I love the comfort and the fit and feel of, hold on the phone is ringing.Hello?Oh hi, Honey. {It's the wife.}...How was your trip to the dentist?Really?.....

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Well, that's it for that. That new helmet is going to have to wait. My wife needs a root canal and it's in one of her front teeth. I can't believe it. Just when I.....But she does have a beautiful smile and I know it's important. So I have made the right choice. I think. Although, would it really matter? I mean, we do live in Tennessee.

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THUNDER CREEK ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY
Pics by Lori Cornett

ROCK'S ROUTES

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I am asked all the time about my favorite local rides and routes. I've been asked dozens of times for my favorite "No Stress Express" route to Savannah and directions to other destinations that I have written about over the years. So, for the next few months I'm going to give you a few to try. I have routes for my sport bike and other's for cruising. Of course, all routes are interchangeable and great on any kind or style of bike.

This particular ride I simply call "My Loop." I ride it on my K Bike at least once a week, sometimes alone, sometimes with another sport rider. The route has three variations, but the directions I list here are for the longer version. My bike and I know every curve, every imperfection in the pavement, and every nuance of the ride. We also know the dangerous areas and the places we can "ride it like we stole it." This ride has four ascents and four descents. It is a sport bike rider's dream. I also might add that I've ridden this particular route hundreds of times, two up, cruising with my wife. It's fun any way to want to do it. Try it . . . you'll like it.

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L on Co Rd 90 / 301
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L on Co Rd 131
L on 40
R on 11, L on 117
L on 136
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Who is Thunder Creek H.O.G. you ask? Thunder Creek H.O.G. is a group of Harley enthusiasts that enjoys the camaraderie, the open road and making new memories with both old and new friends. We are a group of people that come together from all different areas of the spectrum to enjoy our one shared passion, the ride of the Harley Davidson.

We are sponsored by Thunder Creek Harley Davidson. We have a great working relationship with our

dealer liaison, Geof Hutchinson and our General Manager, Keith Morrison. With the help of our volunteers and our dealership, we are able to make everything come together for all of the events, activities and rides that we plan throughout the year. To have such a wonderful relationship with our sponsoring dealership is a blessing.

As in most groups we do have an array of activities, but one stands out among them all. That is all of the Chapter rides that we work to plan each year. This year we have more rides planned than any year in the past. We have at least two planned for every month and some months have three. We have incorporated five overnight rides this year, two are old trusted rides and two of them are new adventures. We hope that bringing in the new rides will help to keep the adventure alive.

We plan, participate and manage several different events each year. Last year we began our Blazin' Saddles event. It has been such a success that we are currently planning Blazin' Saddles IV which will be sometime this fall. Be on the lookout for this event to be scheduled and come out and enjoy

the wears of the Thunder Creek H.O.G. family. You can choose from a variety of beans, chili or soup. Toss in a little cornbread, find a new favorite desert and enjoy some spectacular fellowship.

March is our annual St. Patty's Day Bike Show. Come out and enter your bike for a chance to win the People's Choice among other trophies. We have live entertainment along with lots of food and drink. We currently have our second adopted soldier who we supply with small items that are not so easy to come by when on active duty. Last year we adopted a family for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We provided them with Thanksgiving dinner and with Christmas gifts, this was such a great joy that we plan to do it again this year.

In September, we host the Trail of Tears Kickoff party at Thunder Creek. This is an all day event to kick off the annual ride led by Bill Cason. The Trail of Tears Ride is always the third Saturday of September and the kickoff party is on the Friday before. This year's party will be on Friday, September 14. If you have an opportunity come out and join us for the party on Friday night; then maybe we will see you on the ride Saturday morning.

Thunder Creek H.O.G. meets the second Monday of every month at Country Place Restaurant. The meeting starts at 7:00, if you would like to eat please come early. Remember, H.O.G. membership has many benefits. Attend a Chapter meeting today; we would like to have you as the newest member of Thunder Creek H.O.G.!

Come out and ride!
Jennifer Rash
Activities Officer, Thunder Creek H.O.G.

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This ride not affiliated with any Trail of Tears ride other than the "Charlie Maxwell Ride" from Cartersville, GA, "Cherokee NC Ride", and the "Cherokee Northern Route Ride" from Kentucky all of which take place on Friday, September 14, 2012. Trail of Tears Remembrance Ride is organized by a 501 C3 non profit Board of Directors



THUNDER CREEK ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY
Pics by Lori Cornett

SUPERCROSS

ATLANTA

When you go to Atlanta Supercross and walk in, the smell of exhaust inside the Georgia Dome prepares you for what is to come. The light show and “K-Dub’s” famous transfers really get you pumped. My family sat just behind the starting gate in the bottom section with a perfect view of all the action and some pictures to tell.

Cole Seely rode Trey Canard’s bike for the night after Trey’s injury. He really put on an impressive show! He usually races in the Supercross Lites class and does well, but I never expected him to do this good in his first few rides on a 450cc. He started the race with a Holeshot and led Dungey for the first few laps. As the race went on, Dungey finally made it by Cole Seely to take the lead. Seely then started drifting backward behind Villopoto, Millsaps, Stewart, and Brayton. He finished a respectable 6th. Even though he drifted back, you have to give this guy credit for holding off Dungey for so long.

Ryan Dungey started in second and rode the rear fender of Seely’s bike for the first eight laps. He waited it out until he had the perfect moment and made the pass up the inside. He ran away for a while, but his race wasn’t over. Villopoto fought his way through the pack and slowly reeled in Dungey, but it was too little too late. Before he could make a pass, the checkered flag waved, and Dungey’s patience paid off.

Ryan Villopoto started mid-pack and had only made his way to 6th by the end of the first lap. While Dungey fought for the lead, Villopoto fought through traffic on his trip to the podium. Surprisingly, he didn’t move up as fast as I expected him to. It could be that he didn’t like the track or that the heated race in the front drove the top riders to push harder and go faster. Either way, it wasn’t until halfway through that he finally passed Seely for 2nd, and charged for Dungey.

Stewart was in 9th at the end of the first lap, which isn’t terrible considering what he’s gone through before. He pushed through as he has time and time again. He saw little resistance, but there was one issue where some say he would have finished better if he hadn’t been stopped by caution lights on the track, preventing him from jumping one of the triples. There is also controversy that Villopoto may have jumped the triple even though lights were on. It was later concluded that Villopoto was already committed to the jump before the lights came on. I don’t think it made too much of a difference, but it can be argued. Stewart showed us what he can do when he keeps the bike on two wheels. He finished a respectable 3rd, making this his second podium.

I have to say, if you ever get the chance to go to a Supercross race, do not pass it up. It’s one thing to see it on TV, but it’s so much more exciting to get the smell, the sound, and the atmosphere of actually being there. I’ll be at Atlanta next year for sure!



Jeff Griffith

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The second Official MotoGP™ Test of 2012 in Malaysia came to a close with the reigning World Champion again top of the timesheets, closely followed by team-mate Dani Pedrosa and Monster Yamaha Tech 3 rider Andrea Dovizioso.

The third and final day of testing at Sepang was held in hot and dry conditions, with teams setting out early to make up for time lost yesterday due to rain. All riders were out on track upon opening, including all four Hondas, and under ideal 40 degree track temperatures Casey Stoner (Repsol Honda) posted a 2'00.473 in the morning. That time remained as the best of the three days as the World Champion focused his efforts in the afternoon on efficient fuel consumption.

Dani Pedrosa pursued his team-mate by 0.175s as the Spanish rider focused his efforts on chassis modifications to improve stability under braking and reduce front end chatter. Andrea Dovizioso was three tenths from Stoner with a time of 2'00.802 on his Tech 3 machine after the Italian found a more efficient and comfortable riding position yesterday. Yamaha Factory Racing's Jorge Lorenzo was fourth quickest and ended his day with a race simulation that revealed the more powerful 1000cc bikes will require careful tyre management. The 2010 World Champion reported that the new soft Bridgestones lost their grip early in the simulation, making braking more difficult due to sliding. The Spaniard also reported that the electronics improvements made during this test made corner entry easier and smoothed out the YZR-M1 overall.



Yamaha team-mate Ben Spies ended his day early, completing 28 laps with a best time of 2'01.432 set before a crash in the early afternoon. The American walked away from the fall unhurt though did not re-enter the track in the afternoon and his time from the morning placed him eighth in the line-up. Spies commented that he was happy with the electronic improvements though he and his team "haven't pushed the bike to its limit yet".

Cal Crutchlow (Monster Yamaha Tech 3) climbed to fifth position by the end of the day with a best lap 2'00.986, half a second off the leading time of Stoner and 0.245s ahead of the quickest Ducati in the field, the Pramac Racing GP12 of

Héctor Barberá.

Álvaro Bautista (San Carlo Honda Gresini) recovered from a crash in the morning to post a time of 2'01.275, over a second quicker than his time set on Tuesday, placing him seventh. The Spaniard declared at the end of the day: "This morning I had a hard time riding, it's clear that I have a lack kilometers on the bike and yesterday we didn't ride, plus I had a silly fall today but then picked up speed and reached a good pace."

Newcomer Stefan Bradl finished the day in ninth and 1.019 off the top time set by Stoner, with Valentino Rossi and Nicky Hayden following in 10th and 11th respectively. The Ducati Team pair have

work to do, with Rossi reporting that the outstanding issue remains riding position and that the set up for it was better at the first Sepang Test. Developments made with the traction control, however, has been reportedly been good.

Colin Edwards (NGM Mobile Forward Racing) wrapped up the second Malaysian Test in 13th position with a best time of 2'03.681, a one second improvement from his last visit to the circuit, while Avintia Racing riders Yonny Hernández and Iván Silva also improved the team's performance with a best lap that was 1.6 seconds faster than at the first Sepang test.



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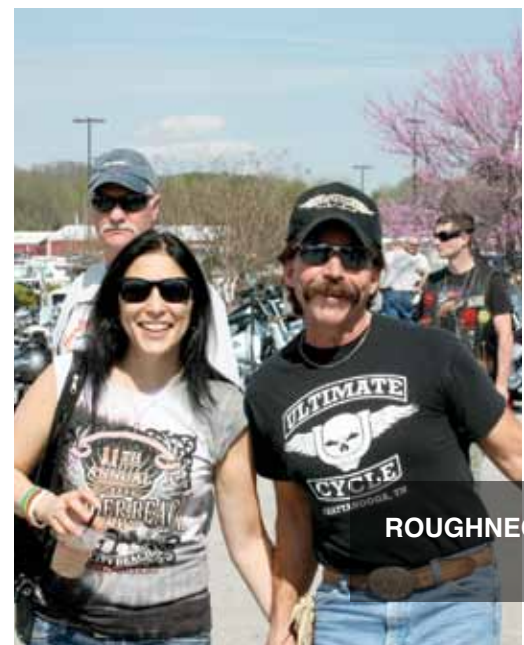
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