The Biking Life

FEBRUARY 2008 MAGAZINE

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Cover:Black Betty Bike built by bob Sparkman and our beauties Alyssa and Branda, Billy Bad Ass at the Damr Rally and the VFW Run start.

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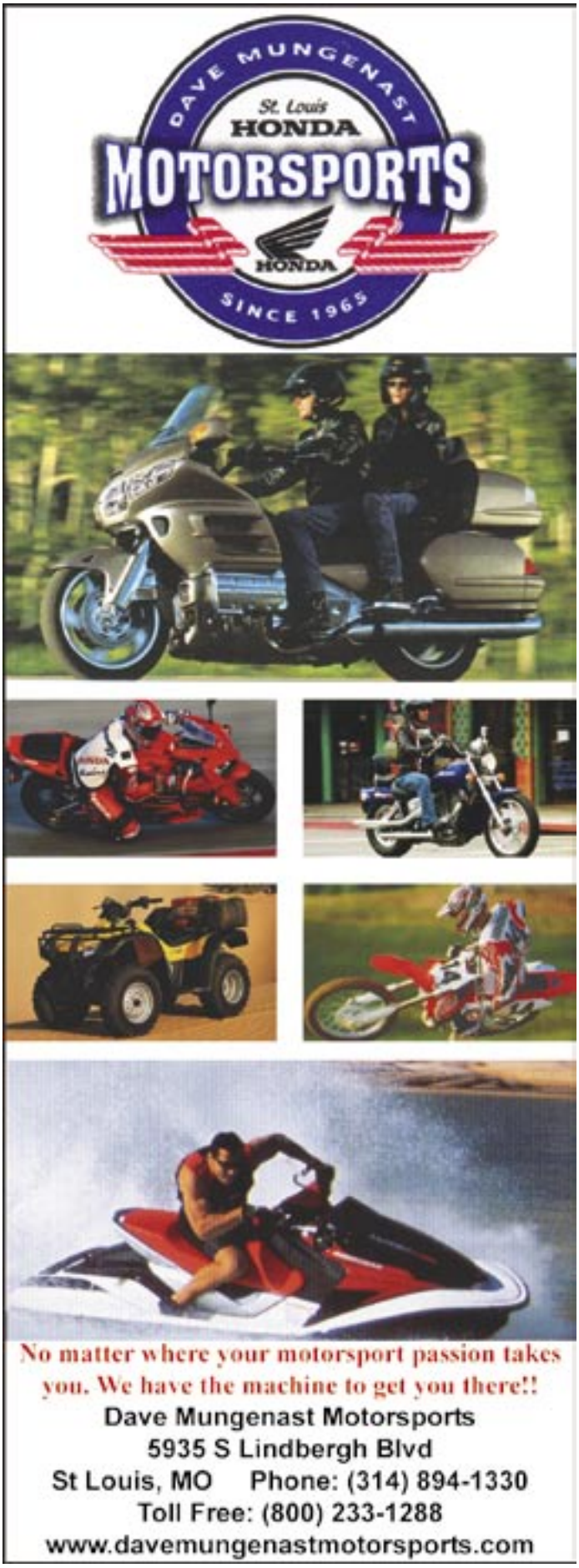

Letter from the Editor
by Jim Furey

Welcome to the latest issue of our monthly visit. You and I, we have become friends over these years and so I share my thoughts with you. The other day I was sharing some thoughts with my brother Steve 'Wildman' Howard. He told me he read something in a magazine available at some local newsstands. In it he said there was a story about a group that had held a run in the Kansas City area for bikers. He thought that was cool and he did take offense that they acted as if they had stumbled across something new and that they claim to be "Bikers Helping Bikers."

Well everyone around here knows that is the slogan of the **Hartbauer/ McBride Foundation**. Truly, it's more than a slogan; it is the tenet that this group lives by. They have given out more than $125,000 to help bikers and their families get through tough times caused by injuries, illness or other reasons. I have talked with individuals that have been assisted by the foundation and this month you will read what one person had to say about his experience. The name has been omitted to insure the anonymity of the individual; this anonymity is guaranteed and guarded by the foundation. I am hopeful that some of you, after reading this, may open your hearts and your wallets to help this worthy cause even more.

The **Hartbauer/McBride Foundation** has two major fund raisers every year, a dance in June and a poker run in August. If you would like to make a donation of goods or services for either of these events, feel free to contact me and I will put you in touch with a board member. These folks are all unpaid volunteers that help because they believe in the cause. I hope I can convince some of you to believe as much as I do in the months ahead.

When I was speaking to Wildman, I told him that he should feel flattered the group in Kansas City had held a run for bikers. It has often been said that "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." To which he said that I must also feel very flattered because I have many imitators as well. I said I know I do and went on to talk about how some not only imitate me, but claim my work as their own. Like the Hartbauer/McBride Foundation, ***The Biking Life*** is an original. Originals take a seed of an idea breathe life into it and tend it as it grows stronger. Imitators take an idea that someone else has nurtured and then act like it is something new that they have developed.

I think the thing that will in the long run help the **Hartbauer/McBride Foundation** and **The Biking Life** is the community we belong to. Yes, once again I am talking about the biker community. This is a community that prides itself on independence and one that can readily identify pretenders.

It is hard to believe since it is only February, but the calendar is once again starting to fill up with some really fun events. One of them that we hope to see you at this year is our ***Third Annual Forget the Ribbon Show the Green to Support Our Troops*** on **February 24**. Once again, most of the proceeds will go to the James McDonnell USO Center; a small percentage will also go to support the Fisher House that they are in the process of building to serve those being treated at Jefferson Barracks. This event is a great way to have some fun while providing support to the USO which does so much to help the morale of our troops. The Piasa Gateway ABATE Chapter is hosting their Annual Hot, Sweet and Sticky Dance in Alton, IL. This is also a great time. The 100 MPH Club is going to have a couple of fun events at their clubhouse on February 23rd. Please check out the calendar and support anything that supports a worthy cause.

Finally, I reiterate my appeal from last month. We as bikers are members of a community. In tough times like these, anything we can do to help support our brothers and sisters in this community is greatly appreciated. I know we don't hear thanks for efforts very often, but that doesn't mean our efforts aren't appreciated and needed. And as always, I personally thank you for your support.

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The way it is *"The Road Home"*
by Robert Barnhill

The stillness of the night just before the dawn was all around me as I finished packing my hard bags. There were only a few cars making their way through the streets as I zipped my leather chaps. Odd, I thought to do this, on a hot August morning and soon I would begin to feel the heat.

I opened the garage door and zipping my jacket, tightened my helmet strap as the Evo's engine warmed, warmed with a reverberation that echoed from the bare streets and houses. Only a few lights were on.

Shifting to first gear, I slowly eased the clutch lever to release the power, and with a twist of the throttle I began my journey. A journey that had begun a few weeks back in my head and that would make my tires roll today.

The heat radiating from the streets made me question only my choice to ride with leather. Shifting into fifth gear and throttling up, I entered the almost empty highway that would lead me away from where I now called home. A home I had found, friends I had made, and dreams of my life and future. Here I had planned to stay...

I chose the left lane and throttled to a fast cruising speed. The sounds of my exhaust and the wind in my face gave me a rush for the solo ride ahead.

My boots now resting on my road pegs, as I crossed the metal spans leading me across the river just north of where Lewis and Clark had spent a cold winter years before. Their slow transportation I couldn't even imagine. This morning my right hand controlled my speed taking me to the place where I took my first breath and where I had spent the first three years of life before my Father carried me away to a bigger farm many hours north. .

My thoughts returned to the miles I would make, as my Milwaukee engine brought my thoughts back to today. This would be the only sound I would hear for the hours and miles to come.

Following the highway signs for Route 64, and now feeling the drop in temperature, I knew I had made the right choice about the leather. To my side of vision I saw the fields planted and cultivated, but they did not offer the same warmth as the streets I had just left.

I struggled with my left hand to zip my jacket even more, to keep the body warm in this pre-dawn morning. The weather man hadn't forecast a sudden change

The sound of my exhaust awoke three sleeping passengers in a car I passed. Dreaming of what lay ahead, or what lay behind.

My only thoughts were of what lay ahead, as this trip wasn't planned. Like a sudden summer thunderstorm, it rose quickly filling my mind with thoughts of what lay ahead.

After the sun rose I slowed to stop for gas, and giving the usual lines to those confined to a world of being caged. A world I remembered, but never regret leaving behind.

The few miles I used it each month never gave me the feeling I had come love, the feelings of being free, even if it meant using the same highways. It only offered protection from rain storms and heat of the highway, but that feeling of being caged as a tiger tearing to become free would remain always longing for the feeling I first felt as a child in my youth of many summers ago, and many summers and winters since. Each stop for gas would give me time to feed myself, as much as the throttle time fed my mind, both welcomed.

The rides to Daytona, Sturgis and other places, now just a ride pin, and faint memories of the good times I rode the wind. The wind we feel, the same wind that often beats us from side to side and whips us from harvested fields. Avenues for the wind to follow the Plains, knowing only forests stop the side winds, but we ride even through the rains.

Late in the afternoon, and a few miles short of 500, I left the main highway. Slowing and down-shifting to second gear, my ride now entered the narrow roads of Carter County, Kentucky. A small town nestled in the foot hills near the West Virginia border, home of my ancestors since the early 1800's.

I stopped for a moment, as I found the spot where my father had built a small swinging bridge across the Little Sandy River which is the only way to access a small white frame house our family called home.

Childhood memories of an older brother riding the wind, while my sister and I tried to keep up. He was the first of many I would see. The first time I would feel the wind in my face, as a child now holding tightly I sat on the narrow seat. At this early age I became addicted to the wind, and the freedom of life all who ride seek to find.

My journey home was a product of cyber space. She had spent years riding her own, but times became hard, and her bike left for a new home. We had spent hour upon hour talking before this day, and she was the reason for my trip home. A lady I would have known had my Father not sought a new place for his children.

An hour after stopping, her bag was strapped in place as she had her place behind me on the Ultra. I took a look down a west bound highway, we could go east, we could go west, it was all up to us to decide and right away, made my choice.

I softly touched her leg as I shifted into third gear, and set our sights on the Northern Plains, Spear Fish Canyon, Crazy Horse, Main Street in Sturgis, the wind in our face....and our life together!

Bikers Helping Bikers

Steve "*Wildman*" Howard
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for the Hartbaler/McBride
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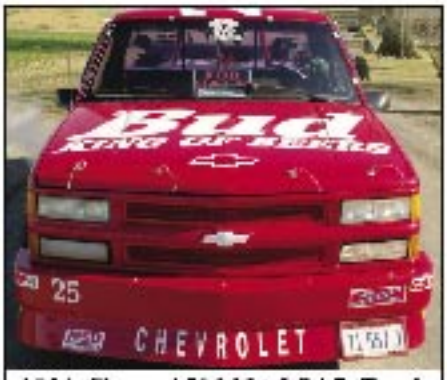

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HARDTAIL HUMOR

AN EIGHTY YEAR OLD LADY WAS BEING INTERVIEWED BY THE LOCAL NEWS STATION BECAUSE SHE HAD JUST GOTTEN MARRIED - FOR THE FOURTH TIME.

THE INTERVIEWER ASKED HER QUESTIONS ABOUT HER LIFE, ABOUT WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO ME MARRYING AGAIN AT 80, AND THEN ABOUT HER NEW HUSBAND'S OCCUPATION. "HE'S A FUNERAL DIRECTOR," SHE ANSWERED. "INTERESTING." THE NEWSMAN THOUGHT.

HE THEN ASKED HER IF SHE WOULDN'T MIND TELLING HIM A LITTLE ABOUT HER FIRST THREE HUSBANDS AND WHAT THEY DID FOR A LIVING. SHE PAUSED FOR A FEW MOMENTS, NEEDING TIME TO REFLECT ON ALL THOSE YEARS. AFTER A SHORT TIME, A SMILE CAME TO HER FACE AND SHE ANSWERED PROUDLY, EXPLAINING THAT SHE'D FIRST MARRIED A BANKER WHEN SHE WAS IN HER EARLY 20'S, THEN A CIRCUS RING-MASTER WHEN IN HER 40'S, LATER ON A PREACHER WHEN IN HER 60'S, AND NOW IN HER 80'S, A FUNERAL DIRECTOR.

THE INTERVIEWER LOOKED AT HER, QUITE ASTONISHED, AND ASKED HER WHY SHE HAD MARRIED FOUR MEN WITH SUCH DIVERSE CAREERS.

SHE SMILED AND EXPLAINED "I MARRIED ONE FOR THE MONEY, TWO FOR THE SHOW, THREE TO GET READY, AND FOUR TO GO."

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Whiskers in the Wind
By FUZZY

This story starts out back in the early 1970s. We were starting to get into riding Choppers, a few of us bros. There is one brother in particular that is no longer with us, Creepy Craig, who comes to mind as I write this story, so I am dedicating this story to him. We miss you Brother. I am sure you are blastin' on the "Skyway Highway" with "Whiskers in the Wind."

Back in the 70s, Craig would always say when we were getting ready to fire up our Choppers and put them in the wind, let's go for a ride and get a case of "Biker Beard." Off we would go blastin' down the highway to the next party or place of interest with our whiskers blowing in the wind. The faster we would go, the wilder the whiskers would blow. When we would get to our next stop, we would look at one another with hairs everywhere, laughing, grinning at one another as we would go. It is still the same way today; we are still laughing and grinning at one another going on our way with whiskers in the wind.

I am going to take a break right now 'cause it is 70 degrees today in January, so I am going to put these whiskers in the wind and get back to you a little later.

Well, I am back; it is 70 degrees, but the wind is really blowin'. I blasted to town and back, just enough to get a case of biker beard. I came in and looked in the mirror and, sure enough, it looks like I have a bird's nest on my chin.

I rapped it up real good on the home stretch for my lost Brother. I could feel all my whiskers, eyebrows, and even my nose whiskers going wild in the wind! You know you are blastin' if your nose whiskers are going wild. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

There are several types of whiskers and beards. Some of the beards are called Flyin' Porkchops, Birds Nest, Ponytail, Braided Tail, Bush, Brushpile, Curly Noodle, Shaggy, Stringy, Grizzly, Lumberjack, Mountain Man, Salt &Pepper, Santa Claus Beard and of course The ZZ Top Beards. There are as many different beards as there are people. Then you have the other whiskers: eyebrow whiskers, chest whiskers, leg whiskers, back whiskers, head whiskers, ear whiskers, nose whiskers, toe whiskers and lip whiskers. Some of the lip whiskers are known as mustaches with names like The Caterpillar, Tennesee Tuxedo, Snidely Whiplash and, get this one, THE HANDLEBAR MUSTACHE. In fact, there are more whiskers on the planet than there are humans.

How do I know these things? Well, its not because I counted all these whiskers. It is called common whisker sense.

Then there are the whisker sayings. You know, like, "Wow look out, I just missed that car by a whisker," or "I just saw her but missed her by a whisker." We have all at one time missed something by a whisker. "That catfish got off by a whisker," but not only did the catfish get off by a whisker, they have catfish whiskers.

So in reality, this world as we know it, just would not be the same without whiskers! What would the world be without Whiskers, you ask? The best that I can come up with is it would be a boring world without whiskers.

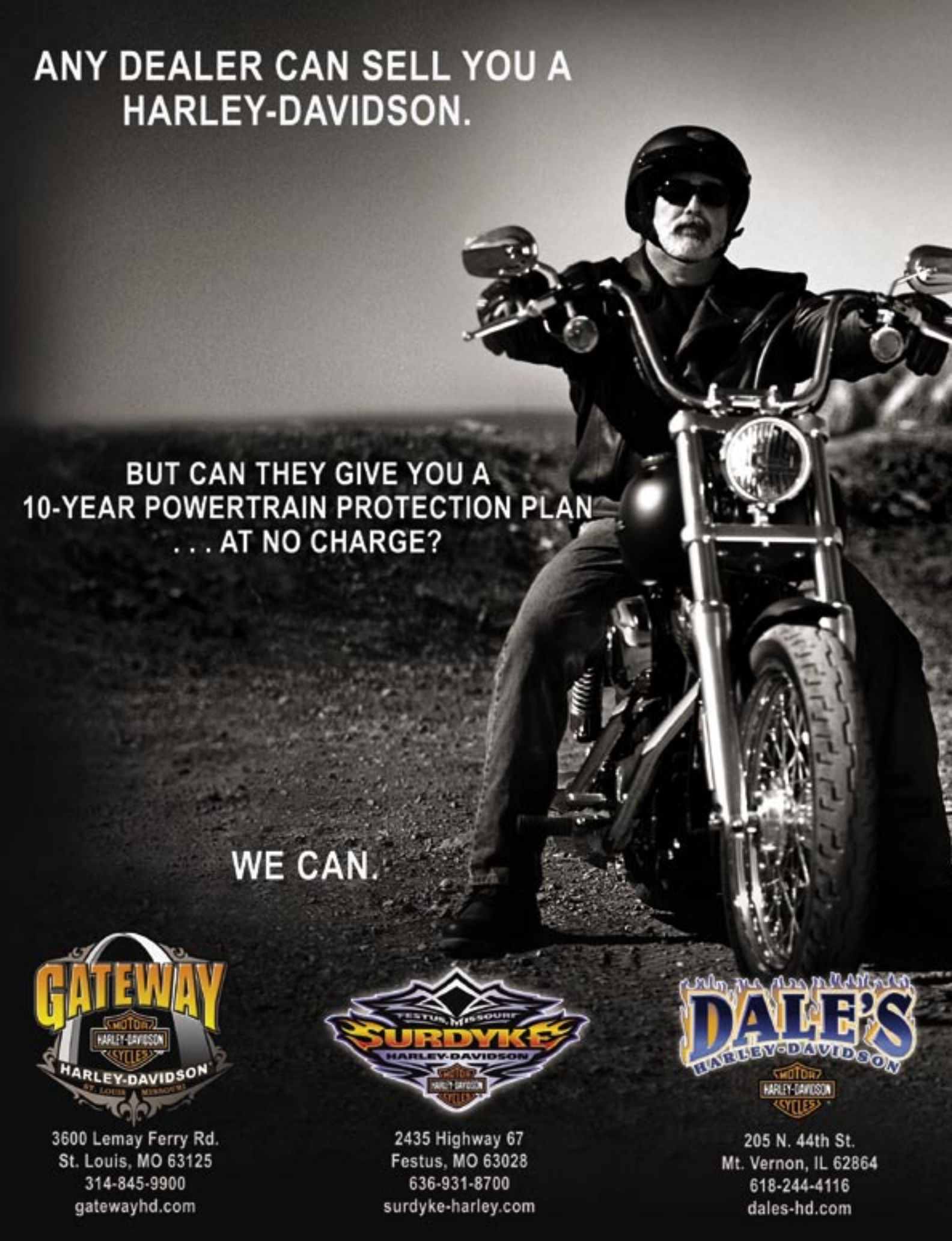
Just think Sisters/Ladies, there would be no more mustache rides, or this story either. It would mean that we would have a world full of a bunch of Smoothies. Now that's not to say anything bad about Smoothies and I am not talking about the smoothies you drink either!

Lets all be thankful for the whiskers we have, be it a few or a million or two. My Brothers of the Wind get on that Harley and put those "Whiskers in the Wind!"

Dirty Johnny has this to say, "If it was not for whiskers, he could not be Doctor Hairyhole Checker any more. I did not realize Dirty Johnny was a Doctor.

If any of you Brothers out there have any awesome pictures of a brother or friend with Whiskers Gone Wild, be it in the wind or otherwise, email them to staff@thebikinglife.com and let's see if Jim will put your pictures in the magazine like they do tattoos of the month. Let's have a Whiskers of the Month photo. Email them with a short description/info about the Whiskers.

The Biking Life MAGAZINE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VFW Rides for Fish
by Jim Furey

As many of you know, I live in Illinois which is kind of cool because we don't have to wear a helmet if we don't want to, but I envy the quality of the roads in Missouri. If you want to see some great country or experience the thrill of throttling through some nice twisties, then Missouri is where you want to be. This was brought home to me again this past September 22, as I headed over to the Cedar Hill, MO, VFW Lodge for the First Annual Poker Run in honor of Mike Fish.

I was approached early on in the planning by Steve and Denise Pratt. They wanted to get the word out about this run and knew ***The Biking Life*** was the way to do it. I thank them for their belief in us and what we do. Not surprisingly, I was running a little late but managed to get to the VFW before the rest of the riders hit the road. I signed up, said some helloes and then found a good spot to take some pictures as the rest of the riders mounted up. Our firsts top was the Desoto, MO, VFW.

The organizers of this ride did a great job in finding intriguing routes to take us from one stop to another. Some of these roads I had been on before, others I was getting my first chance to visit. After some nice hospitality in Desoto and some cold beverages, it was off to the Festus VFW. If you are noticing a pattern here, there is a reason. Yes, all the stops were at Veterans of Foreign War buildings. The reason for that is the organizers are members of the VFW and they wanted to do something to help other veterans. That is why the proceeds went to the Veteran's Research Fund.

From Festus, the next to the last stop was the Arnold VFW. I got a little turned around riding to this one, but eventually I found it and then we all prepared for our return to the Cedar Hill VFW. This whole route was primarily on county roads in Jefferson County. There sometimes hear comments about Jefferson County, but if you want great quality riding not far from the city then Jefferson County is always an enjoyable place.

Once back at the Cedar Hill VFW, I ran into many more friends including Fuzzy, who writes for us. He told me

he couldn't make the start, but wanted to hang out here at the end. For the low, low price of only $20, riders or passengers got a hand, a t-shirt and food and drinks at the final stop. The food was bodacious too. They gave away prizes for the top three hands and there were 50/50 raffles at each stop.

The organizers did a great job and everyone who supported this run was tremendous. Plans are currently underway for the 2008 version of this run and while this one was very good, as always I am sure there were some lessons they learned and that improvements will be made before next year. I would personally like to thank the sponsors of this event, Ambassador Floor Company, Weber Chevrolet, Mi Lupita and the Cedar Hill VFW. Their contributions helped to make this first time event a huge success and it was their support and the band, CounterClockWise, that kept the riders entertained well into the evening.

I thoroughly enjoyed this ride and thank the organizers for allowing us to be a part of it. This was a great time and one of the best rides I was on this year. I hope that more of you join me on this ride next year.

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The Dam Rally Heats Up
By Jim Furey

In days of yore, pagans celebrated the summer solstice by dancing naked in the woods. These days bikers celebrate it by dancing naked at the Dam Rally. Well, at least later on in the evening, there was a wet t-shirt contest but more about that later.

This was the 2nd Annual Dam Rally held at the Clarence Cannon Spillway on Mark Twain Lake, near Hannibal, MO. The proceeds from this event go to help the children of the local area. In the planning for the upcoming 2008 event, I think some will be earmarked for veterans groups too.

The 2007 event was a big improvement from the previous year because the rally was held at a new location on the lake. Chief among the improvements was the addition of on-site camping including showers available for the campers. Once again the weather held us down a bit because it was rainy in surrounding areas; however, those that made it to the rally stayed dry throughout the weekend.

The organizers once again had a battle of the bands going on all weekend. On Friday night they also had some mixed martial arts bouts going on that were entertaining to say the least. That is one sport that is growing in popularity. The fighters were willing to go the distance. In the battle of the bands all of the performers worked hard to make sure the rally goers had a great time.

There were vendors from throughout the Midwest who came out to support this worthy cause. Some of the vendors included **Chariots of Fire**, **Easton Custom Frames**, **Superior Powder Coating** and **E & M Motorcycle**. Although they were here to sell items, there were several times throughout the course of the weekend where Kevin Easton of **Easton Custom Frames**, Jan Knobbe of **Chariots of Fire** or Marsha and the crew from **E & M Motorcycle** stepped out with prize money or items to help the event proceed. There were other vendors as well including K-Bar Sewing for patches, several tattoo artists, food vendors and others. Some very tasty food items were put together by Jesus from Alton, IL. If you like good Mexican food you can check out Jesus most weekends at **The Cellar Room** in Alton, IL.

This year's event always had something going on for the attendees to check out. There was a parade ride, the field events which were very popular and one of the biggest crowd pleasers which was the "Burn Out" Contest. This was hotly contested in more ways than one. There is just something cool about the air being filled with smoke and being splattered with burning rubber as a tire disintegrates. Among the contestants were Sparky from Chariots, a dude that put his Honda through its paces and Terry Tesson who lit up the tire on his custom bike, but in the end they all had to bow down before the showmanship of Billy BadAss. Yep, he took the cash and for his efforts, he also won a new tire from Chariots of Fire. E & M also contributed to the prize package.

As the field events were coming to an end, we ran into old friends Rod and Robin McClain from Quincy. Rod is the owner of **Kelly's Tavern**, a fun place to eat and drink. It is always good to see them. As the evening progressed, the bands continued onstage trying to win the battle of the bands. In the intermission before the finals of the battle of the bands, Kevin Easton unbeknownst to the organizers held an impromptu wet t-shirt contest at his booth. Well

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it was kind of unbeknownst, Kevin kicked in $100 for the winner, E & M matched that as did several other vendors, and then there was a collection take up so the winner walked, or should I say, strutted off with quite a nice little haul. This competition was very spirited, and we thank all the women who took part especially the granny gone wild one.

I saw some folks the following Sunday and they said they heard this party didn't rock. I asked them when they had talked to their friends and it was obvious their friends had left before the party took off. A successful party, like this one ended up becoming, is the kind of thing that gets folks talking about the next year's event. That is certainly what we ended up with here! If you haven't been to the Dam Rally yet, this is one party that is only going to continue to improve and grow in popularity. Plan to come on out and party at this year's Dam Rally! It's fun time that is about doing something beneficial and therefore is worthy of all our support.

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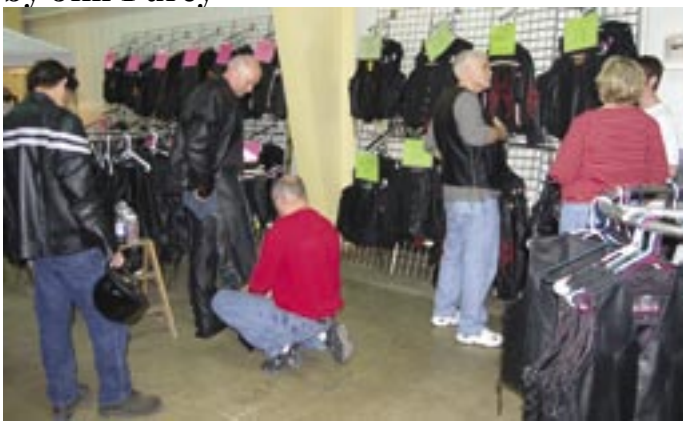
Swap Meet Kickstarts 2008
by Jim Furey



The first Sunday in January can mean only one thing. If you guessed the swap meet, you are correct, the first Thunder Alley Production Swap Meet of the year and 2008. As happens in the Midwest sometimes, it was around 70 degrees that day and the unseasonably warm day made it a great day to ride.

That did not stop a large contingent of the area's bikers from coming out in search of that part they needed to complete that project or that one part that would spark a new project. This swap meet seemed as if it had more parts sellers than some of them do. A number of the local shops had pulloffs they were selling, these included Watson's Wheels of Madness from Alton, D & C Cycle from Eureka and Big Boyz Custom Cycles from Fenton, MO. For some of the new riders, these swap meets are a great place to go to pick up parts for your bike and save a little of your hard earned money. Plus most of the sellers are more than happy to give you a tip to make your project easier.

While there were a lot of used part vendors here, there were also plenty on new parts as well being sold by Canyon Run and others. But if you were looking for pretty much anything motorcycle related from accessories to clothing, you could find it here. Black Jack Leather was there selling the best in leather at some of the finest prices around. The Professor was there selling sunglasses at tremendous savings; I have found some of the glasses I like best from this guy and you need to check him out. Joy finally managed to score a small purse that fits on a belt; she's been looking for one for about a year! Frieze Harley Davidson was there showing the new 105th Anniversary bikes and the always growing line of motor clothes.

Once again the fine folks from Thunder Alley Productions did a great job of making the swap meet truly an extravaganza! But if you missed the January swap meet don't be too hard on yourself because the April one is right around the corner, so mark your calendar for April 13, 2008. See you there.

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Black Betty
By Killer Miller

Sometimes as a builder, you have idea you think is worthy, but when you finish the project you go, ugh. The reasons for this are many. Maybe not enough forethought went into it or too many people had their respective hands in the creation (OCC comes to mind). Funny, many hands make light work, but too many cooks can definitely spoil the broth.

Alternatively however, sometimes you the builder have a vision and even though it might get clouded or even changed, the end result is an award winning show bike. Building a bike is not the easiest task in the world. You take an idea, convert it to paper, find components to get just the right look and finally have it painted to make it come to life.

I first saw a bike, quite aptly named Black Betty, at the Make-A-Wish Bike Show in September. The bike is based on a World War II fighter plane and I was struck by how cool the theme looked done on a retro style muscle bike.

As I often do, I left a card on the bike and soon after, the owner Mike Duenke called me. He told me right off that as much as he would like to take credit for this bad ass bike, the builder was actually Bob Sparkman who has a local shop known as St. Louis Chopper Works. Bob's bikes have been seen in this publication before. The quality of work he does truly deserves more recognition and hopefully we can help with that.

Bob built the bike in 2005 for the 2006 Wide Open Bike Show where it won its class. After this win, Bob put the bike up for sale and Mike bought it. This is how a lot of builders finance their next dream bike and the sale gave Mr. Sparkman the money he needed for his next project. His is a small shop and one really cool bike helps to fund another. There is always something fresh in the mental oven.

Black Betty, so named from the old Ram Jam song, is based on a Maximum Metal Works 5 out deraked 2 down and 42 over rigid frame with a 110ci Xzotic knucklehead feeding a RevTech 6 speed tranny. It breathes through a Crime Scene Choppers cover feeding an S&S carb and expelling gas though a set of Yaffe X Pipes. It rolls on Metzelers tires held up by a Jerry Springer. Accutronix provided the controls, risers and grips, and Crime Scene Choppers provided the primary that hides the Brute force primary belt. The tires fit over Performance Machine Hooligan Wheels, and stop power is provided by HHI Calipers and Rotors. Bob did his own paint work (thank goodness he went with black) and the simple scheme is set off by the lettering and Dirty Donna on the back fender.

The exhaust ports are what really set the bike apart and give it the cool fighter plane look. Of course, what will really accentuate any bike is when you have a couple of hot as nails models on it like the lovely Alyssa and beautiful Branda, women that could make any bike look great. Even better, they are both so easy to work with. They, along with Jack's Iron Horse bike owner Mike Duenke and Builder Bob Sparkman, made this photo shoot a pleasure to do. Now sit back and enjoy! Killer

waiting for spring…

Biker Biz Bits

Black Jack Leather has consolidated their operations in their O'Fallon, MO, store. That store is located at 2762 Highway K and is much bigger. You will see a lot of the same friendly staff you have come to know, and the professional service you will receive in fitting your garments is second to none. If you haven't shopped their new location yet stop in and say hello to these fine folks. I guarantee your wallet will be happy you shopped here.

Biker Brother, your one stop for leather sales, repair and alterations, has moved from their location at 301 E. Broadway down the street a couple of blocks into a new larger facility to serve you better. The new address for Biker Brother is 556 E. Broadway in Alton, IL, and they can be reached by phone at (618) 465-7330. Stop in say hi to Mike and see what he either already has for you or what he can do for you. Mike also has one of the largest collections of accessories in the area.Upcoming Events

Weekly Events

Tuesday Two Wheel Tuesday at Show-Mes on Lincoln Highway in Fairivew Heights, IL and Cape Girardeau, MO
Tuesday Bike Night the Third Tuesday of the Month at Down on the Corner n Hwy 96 in Marcelline, IL
Wednesday Weasel Wednesdays at Double Ds Hangout 9853 S Broadway St Louis this is a fun group
Wednesday Bad Ass Riders Ride or B.A.R. Ride leaves Shady Jack's on North Broadway around 7 PM
Thursdays STUNNA Thursdays At Paradise 1, 615 Missouri St East St Louis, IL (618) 482-5578 DJ
Thursdays Bike Night at Bikers Corner at 1924 N Vandeventer Ave in St Louis, MO
Thursdays Bike Night at Chuck-A-Burger St Charles 3150 Elm Pointe Industrial Dr., St Charles, MO 63301
Thursdays Hardriders call their hotline (314) 340-2000 for info
Thursdays Bike Night at Geos Wings and More on West Main in Belleville, IL from 6:30 to 10

February
2 - Fundraiser for 5-year old Briana Bosick - Chicken and Beer Dance at Elks Club, Belleville, admission $10 per person; entertainment by The Hoosier Daddys"
9 – Wild Bill's 3rd Annnual Wild Game Cook-Off at Ted's Motorcycle World on Humbert Rd in Alton, IL.
9 – 10 Wide Open Bike Show at the Family Arena in St Charles, MO
15-16 CMA Seasons of Refreshing
16th – Piasa – Gateway ABATE Annual Hot, Sweet and Sticky Dance – from 7 PM to 12 at the Alton Moose Lodge 526 E Delmar
23 – 100 MPH Club BB Shoot – from noon to 7 PM at their clubhouse 8300 Bunkum Rd. Caseyville, IL
23 – 100 MPH Winter Barn Bash – from 7 PM at their clubhouse 8300 Bunkum Rd. Caseyville, IL.
24 - The Biking Life's 4th Annual Forget the Ribbon Show the Green Benefit – at Jack's Iron Horse Saloon on the Rock Road in Hazelwood, MO.
24 ABATE of Illinois Swap Meet and Motorcycle Show, Prairie Capital Convention Center, 9th and Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; admission - adults $6; under 12 free with adult
29 – Leap Year Scavenger Hunt – Gallagher's Getaway 102 S Richland in Freeburg, IL sign up from 7 to 8 at Gallagher's.

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one of the strongest motorcycle rights organizations in the country!!! As many of you know, A.B.A.T.E.'s mission is one of education and awareness. A.B.A.T.E. youngest, our teens.

A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois also keeps careful watch on proposed legislative issues that might affect motorcyclists freedoms. On November 15, 2007 there was a press conference held with which three members of the United States Congress attended. Congressman Zack Womp from Chattanooga, TN was the first to speak. An avid motorcyclist from way back he pointed out that this is a "free country". Peoples freedoms are sometimes under stress from people who might be overzealous on a variety of fronts. He went on to say that motorcycles play a tremendous part in American history. They represent liberty and freedom and all the things that we hold dear. He said that he stands with us all and looks forward to working with us to make sure that state's rights are honored and places in this country are open to individual decisions and individual responsibility and not a set of laws that hits everybody, everywhere because somebody said that we've got to be politically correct on these things.

Congressman Tim Walberg of Michigan had similar comments. He is a supporter of education and awareness. He fought the helmet law repeal in Michigan for numerous years while in the State Legislature. He made the statement " while we can debate the issue of the necessity of a helmet or the lack of a necessity of a helmet, it would be better that we debated the issues and work together on putting something between the ears as opposed to on our head." He and his colleagues and others are asking that the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) look at things that PROMOTE safety not just REGULATION.

In 2008 A.B.A.T.E of Illinois will continue to protect the rights of all motorcyclists. It will seek to stop discrimination of motorcyclist because of the vehicle on which they ride. And it will be seeking legislation to protect the Illinois motorcycle riders training program. If you would like to be a fellow "Freedom Fighter" contact A.B.A.T.E of Illinois @ 1800-87-ABATE.

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Power Coating Answers
By Scott Keyes

I am writing this article in response to all of the customers that arrive at my shop who have asked me questions. These are questions pertaining powder coating and its process. Most people have heard the term and know that it exists but have no idea as to the process, durability or the color range that powder coating has to offer. In the following paragraphs I will try to explain and unravel some unasked questions that you, the readers of "The Biking Life," have and hopefully make you a little more educated in the process.

What Is Powder Coating?

Powder coating is the process of applying a finely ground powders (which consists of different pigments and resins) to a grounded surface. The particles of powder are charged as they leave the gun and are attracted to the grounded part by electrostatic means. The item is then placed into a curing oven and baked until it reaches its curing temperature for a specified amount of time. When it cools the item has a uniform, durable and high quality attractive finish. These powders range from a textured, to a high gloss, to a metallic and even a candy finish.

What are the advantages?

More Durable

The unique method with which powder coating is applied results in superior consistency and uniformity of the finish without sags, drips, runs or bubbles. The finish is an extremely tough durable coating which enhances the value of any consumer product to which it is applied.

In general, the performance properties (impact resistance, flexibility, and corrosion resistance) of powder coating are better than with liquid paints

Powder coated parts resist cracking, peeling and marring during handling and normal service use. In many cases, merchandise is specifically advertised as "powder coated" because of the quality image it projects.

Environmental Benefits of Powder Coating

Unlike many liquid paints, powder coatings are compliant with environmental regulations.

Liquid paints often contain solvents, which can contribute to air pollution and, in some cases ozone depletion. POWDER DOES NOT CONTAIN SOLVENTS and releases only a negligible amount of VOC's (volatile organic compounds) into the atmosphere resulting in no air pollution.

Most powder coating overspray that does not adhere to the part may be retrieved and reused depending on the type of system used, significantly reducing waste.

QA

Q: How many colors does powder coating come in?

A: I have color charts from 4 major powder coating vendors which literally gives my customers an endless variety from which to choose. And if I do not have a particular color, I have vendors that will match any color but keep in mind that custom mixes can be expensive.

Q: Can you paint over powder coat and if so does it have to be scuffed?

A: Yes, you can paint over powder coat; however, because you are painting a chemical on top of a chemical, you will get a chemical bond instead of a mechanical bond so scuffing really isn't an issue and not necessary.

Q: Can a powder coated surface be buffed out?

A. This is a question I am asked a lot. No, powder coating cannot be buffed out. Applying a buffer to a powder coated surface will melt the coating and gum it up which means the item would then need to be brought in for recoating. However, you may apply rubbing compounds on it as long as heat isn't involved

Q: Can I powder coat a sample too when I coat the frame

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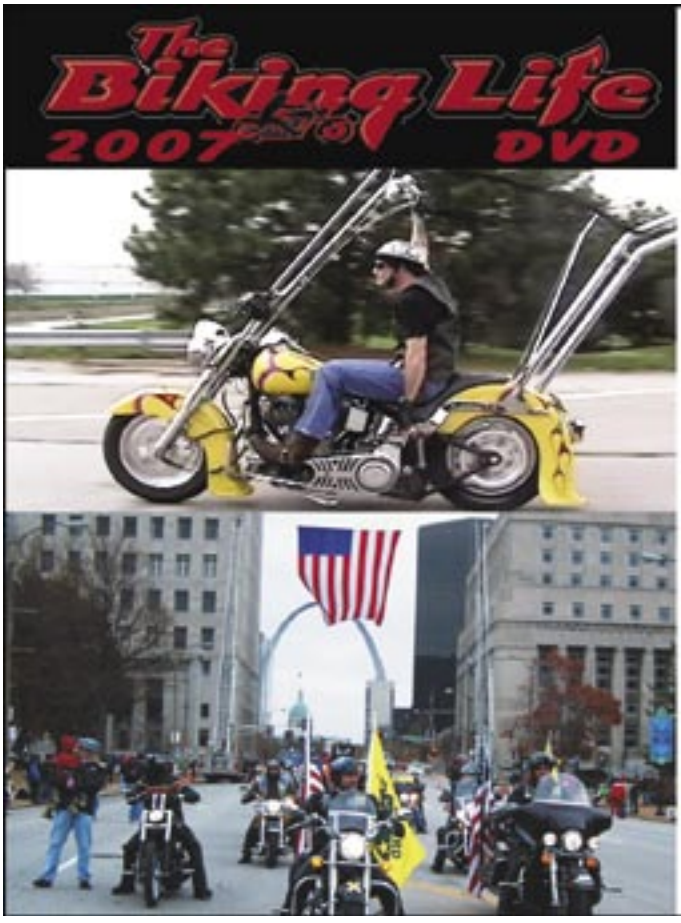

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so the painter can match the paint to the powder in order to paint the tank and fender?

A: It is more cost effective to just have me powder coat the tank and fenders along with the frame. That way everything matches and all that has to be done is to have your painter apply an automotive clear coat over my coating. That way you will be able to wet sand and buff the clear coat to a mirror finish. This will save time, material and, of course, money.

Q: If a paint chip color code was brought in can it be cross referenced to a powder coat color?

A: No, although you would normally think a color is a color, you are actually dealing with a liquid coating as opposed to a powder based coating. They are produced by 2 totally different processes. If you as a customer bring in a sample of the color, it can be matched up as close to the color as possible. If we cannot find a close match, as mentioned earlier, we can always order a custom mix.

Q: Does everything being powder coated have to be sandblasted first?

A: Not necessarily, but here at **SUPERIOR CUSTOM POWDER COATING**, we do blast everything that we coat so that everything that leaves our facility is done right and has a superior finish. Blasting the part before it is coated gives the powder a good surface to adhere to.

Q: Is there a pretreatment process involved in powder coating?

A: There is a pretreatment process involved with powder coating. Typically after the item is blasted, it is rinsed with an iron phosphate which is nothing more than a conversion coating which basically attacks the metal stopping any existing or future corrosion.

If there is anything that **SUPERIOR CUSTOM POWDER COATING** can do to assist you with or help in any way, please feel free to contact **SCOTT KEYES** at **618-288-6922** or at **618-9929-2732**.

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The Biking Life Show Sets the Pace
by Jim Furey

The Biking Life recently established yet another first. We held our first ever indoor bike show at the Belle-Clair Fairgrounds, and while I am undoubtedly biased I think it turned out great. There are several issues that need to be resolved before our next effort, but the positives far outweighed the negatives.

The show was held on November 10th and 11th this past year. It was in early September that I was approached with the idea of partnering on the show, and though I have had people counsel me against partners, it seemed like a good one. Thunder Alley Productions brought a history of doing big indoor events, and we at ***The Biking Life*** had run successfully motorcycle shows before.

The planning was intensive and our timeframe was short. We started lining up sponsors and the logistics of the event. There is more work to putting on a bike event than many folks realize and this was by far the biggest we had done. I would like to thank our sponsors who were: Chick Fritz Distributing, Frieze Harley Davidson, Black Jack Leather, Gallagher's Getaway, Shady Jack's, Weil-Lombardo Trailers and

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Paragon Leather, The Professor, RPM Motorwerks, Victory Lane, JMP Cycles, Belleville Honda, Canyon Run, Sohail Leather, Gateway Roffing Supply and Thunder Alley Productions, without their support the event would have been more challenging.

I put together an initial poster and we started publicizing the show. We unveiled our plan at the Thunder Alley Swap Meet in September, and then spread the word at Roctoberfest in Columbia, MO, the Rat Ride and wherever bikers were. We invited builders from throughout the Midwest and got some of the best, including **Cutting Edge Cycles, Pyrotec** and **Big Boyz** to name just a few. Our next hurdle was entrants for the show, so we used our database of prior entrants to our previous shows and also handed out entry cards wherever we went. This was very successful as we had the best showing of bikes I have seen at any one place. The variety and the quality made this the show to be at and to have your bike seen at. As you read in our last issue, the judging was difficult but the judges did a great job! We juggled the classes some to ensure that entrants were rewarded for their efforts. Very occasionally, this involved moving a bike that would not have placed in their true class into other similar classes. The magazine's name was at the top of the marquee so if anyone has an issue with the judging, please feel free to take them up with me.

Because I didn't want this to be just another event at the fairgrounds, we organized other activities during the two day event to keep people entertained and so that there was something for everyone at the show. We had hoped to have the Central Illinois Xtreme Riders, but there was an insurance issue that could not be resolved so we offer our apologies for that. However, we welcomed the Frieze Harley Davidson Motorclothes Fashion Show; Tom Compton's Excellent Tunes; the appearances by Favazz of KSHE; Bo Matthews from WIL; Jacquie Mann; and the bands, One Stone and particularly Mid-Life Crisis who filled in admirably when Floodline had to cancel at the last minute because of illness. Our thoughts go out to Johnny and the rest of the band. We hope Johnny has a full recovery. You can hear some of Floodline's music on our 2007 DVD.

This event was a lot of fun and we heard many positive comments. I think we positioned ourselves well for future efforts like this and hope to have another one soon.

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Polar Bear Rides and Jumps Bring Many Goosebumps
By Jim Furey

The start of a New Year brings with it promise, hope and a few hearty souls that want to get in that first ride of the year. In recent years, we have been blessed with some unseasonably warm weather on New Year's Day. (Joy says the low 40s is not that warm when the water won't melt ice thrown into it.) Heck, last year some idiot that writes for this publication jumped into the Kaskasia River at Smitty's in New Athens, IL.

That changed with the dawn of 2008. It was significantly colder, but that didn't stop a bunch of folks from hopping on their scooters and participating in several Polar Bear Runs that were held throughout the region. As always members of ***The Biking Life*** staff were out covering as many of these as we could get to. We missed the Frosty Balls Run, which started in Collinsville, IL, and we also missed the Piasa Gateway Polar Bear Run, but that was held a little later in the month.

We had someone going to the Frosty Balls Run but when they saw how cold it was, well maybe Oldskool isn't as Old School as he thinks. Joy and I caught up with some of the Road Raptors and members of St. Clair County ABATE; their Polar Bear Run starts at the VFW in Fairview Heights, IL. At the stop at Gallagher's Getaway in Freeburg, IL, we sat around and talked about the day, poked fun at each other and had a good time. On a happy note, the kitchen is

once again open at Gallagher's and all is pretty much back to normal after the fire.

From Gallagher's, it was on to the marina at New Athens and Smitty's. This is where several biker groups converged, including a number of Booze Fighters. In addition to being a favorite stop for riders in the warmer months, Smitty's is also the home of a Polar Bear jump. This means that every New Years Day, a number of folks line up for the opportunity to jump into the frigid waters of the Kaskaskia River. We watched a few of these either brave or insane folks make this leap of faith and then it was time to get on down the road.

Our next stop was Main Street in Waterloo, IL. Here we saw a number of old friends including Tommy and many

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others that took part in the Bob Barnes Polar Bear Run. This is one of the oldest runs in the area, and I finally got a chance to meet Bob. Chances are you will learn more about him and some of the history of this run later on.

Monty and some of his crew of friends went to Shady Jack's for the Kirkwood HOG Polar Bear Run. Last but not least, several chapters of the Christian Motorcycle Association met at the Arch Grounds to watch some other Polar Bear jumpers. Everyone I talked to had a great time in spite of the chill. If the party from the night before hasn't done you in, then a Polar Bear Run is an awesome way to start off the New Year. Hopefully we'll see you at one next year. If your group had one and it wasn't mentioned here, let us know about it and we'll try to get someone there next year.

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Fun in Festus on New Year's Eve
By Jim & Joy Furey

With New Year's Eve rapidly approaching, Joy and I were faced with that age old question. Where should we party this year? There are some friends of mine that get together every year in Belleville and this was the first year in a long time that I didn't at least stop in. Instead, Joy and I did something completely different and we have our friends in the Festus HOG Chapter to thank.

This very fun group invited us to their New Year's Eve Party. The party was at the Holiday Inn Express in Festus, a very nice setting, and our hosts were most cordial. Somebody in our party (me) had misplaced our tickets but someone recognized us and they let us in anyway. We saw some familiar faces as well as a bunch of new ones. We enjoyed meeting the attendees, particularly those seated at our table.

This is a HOG Chapter that I have seen many times while I was out doing magazine related stuff. In addition, I have seen them on one of their dinner rides outside Bandanna's in Festus and on many others as well. However, this was my first time to party with this active group and I assure you it will not be my last. They really know how to throw an event.

The doors opened at 7:00 PM and when we arrived the room was already full. The open bar provided in the ticket price insured that we were all socially lubricated. We made our introductions with those at the table and then expanded our circle of visitation. Around 8, we were invited to come fill our plates with the tasty morsels provided by Andre's. It is no small feat to cater a party like this but these folks did it and did it well. After a delicious dinner, the band filled the room with some good tunes for listening and dancing.

We truly enjoyed spending most of New Year's Eve (we had to leave before midnight) with the Festus HOG Chapter and thank them for their kind invitation. We look forward to getting together with them in the future!

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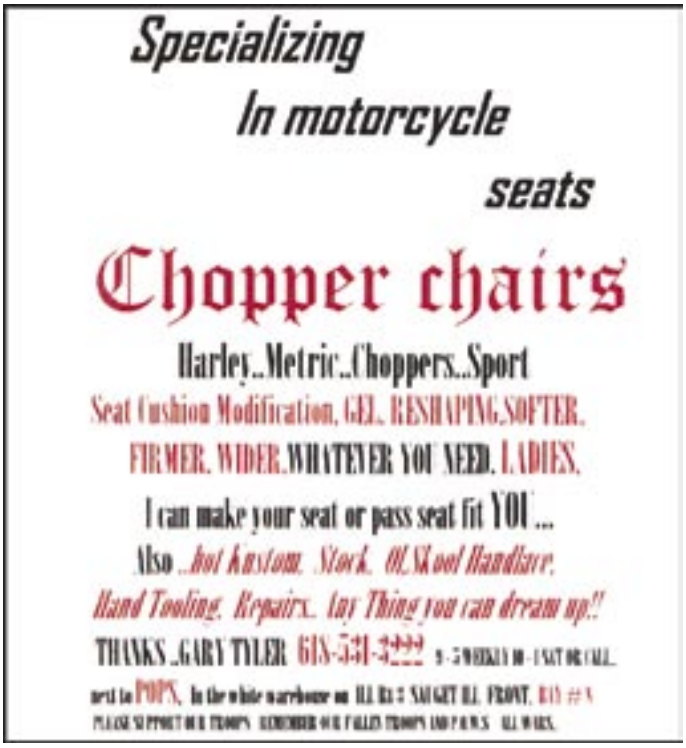

BIKE BLESSINGS

Bike blessings have been around for a long time. A bike blessing is an event where we get together to ask God's blessings upon the riders and their bikes. We ask God to keep us safe and healthy, to bless our lives and watch over our family members, to guide us and help us prosper. God has been blessing people a whole lot longer than bikes have been on this earth. (It's really hard to imagine a time before motorcycles, isn't it?)

One of the first blessings in the Bible is in Numbers 6:24: "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." This is a blessing in the Bible that the priest used to bless the people and spoken as coming from God himself. By giving the blessing, God is saying that he actively wants to help us and guide us. He can only do so while we let him. God has given all of us a free will. We can accept God's help and guidance or we can go our own way. At a bike blessing, we use Numbers 6:24 to ask God to keep us safe and to give us a good riding season. Our intent is to call upon God's protection and guidance for the future.

Kathy and I have been involved with Freedom of Road Riders bike blessings for about 7 years. The FORR bike blessing will be held this year on April 20th and this will be its 22nd annual event, with the actual blessing starting at 3:00pm. I hope many people will come out to celebrate this with us.

The Outlanders Motorcycle Club has their Bike Blessing on March 30th at 12:00 noon at the Roxana City Park. There will be a dedication of the Memorial to Lost Bikers that has been erected over the last year. The memorial was donated by the local clubs in the Roxana area. Each club will have representatives and members attend. The Patriot Guard will be there, along with other organizations in the area. Contact Bruce McEwen at 618-593-5994 for more information.

Come to one of these bike blessings and let us pray with you that God's blessings cover you, not only this year but throughout your entire life. We truly believe these verses: "The Lord is your protector, there at your right side to shade you from the sun. You won't be harmed by the sun during the day or by the moon at night. The Lord will protect you and keep you safe from all dangers. The Lord will protect you now and always wherever you go." (Psalms 121: 5-8)

If you are unable to attend one of these events and would like a bike blessing for your individual bike or group, ask any Christian biker at your next event, contact one of the following people, or call me. The CMA Missouri State Coordinator is Clark (Lucille) Doughty, 816-697-3077, wingman@wcblue.com; and the Illinois State Coordinator is Don (Vicky) Brown, 217-629-8938, vdBrown77@aol.com. For more information about CMA, you can contact either of the above or call me at 314-434-2282 or e-mail me at h2osjk@prodigy.net.

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AN INKLING

This month's ink was submitted by George Ball from Salem, MO. He picks up his copy of this rag at The Roadhouse. He says this is a Celtic Shaman and if you study this tattoo closely you will see that there is a great deal of detail in it and most of this detail has symbolic value.

The tattoo was done in the summer of 2007 and the artist was Ace at Ink Spot on Kings Highway in Rolla, Missouri. I had been to other shops around the area and was told that the design would not make a good tattoo. I disagreed. I showed the drawing to Ace and he said, "Oh yeah, I can do that, no problem." I think he did a great job. I get compliments on it all the time.

I thak George for taking the time to send us his ink and if you think your is worthy then said it to tats@thebikinglife.com.

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