



**IN THIS ISSUE WE TALK WITH HELL'S ANGEL FOUNDER SONNY BARGER
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Table of contents

Letter from the Editor	4
Spirit	
Sonny Interview	6
World Traveler	8
Wash me	9
This alters cleaning the bike forever	
Dan Akroyd Visits	16
Evan's Run	17
Ted's Grand Opening	18
Stud for the Stars	19
Wolfman	21
Columns	
Something Completely Different	10
Clubs and Organizations	12
Events/Our Bads/Joke	13
Events of interest in the area	
Biker Friendly Establishments	15
Places where they like to see us walk in	
Bike of the Month	20

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A black and white cartoon illustration of a bartender. The bartender is wearing a dark t-shirt and a dark baseball cap. He is holding a large, foamy mug of beer high above his head with one hand. His other hand is resting on his hip. He has a friendly, welcoming expression.

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Letter from the Editor

by Jim Furey

Spirit, it is a word with several different meanings, however many of the articles in this months issue are demonstrations of spirit and its variations. There is an interview with Sonny Barger you may or may not like him, that is up to each of you to decide. But you cannot deny, that this man, basically the founder of Hells Angels is the embodiment of the spirit of leadership. Sonny and his colleagues took an unorganized group of local clubs and transformed them into an international motorcycle club. A group that transformed the look of the motorcycle or at least the V-Twin version of it, they also have been responsible for creating the image most people have of bikers. I would like to thank the Hellinois Nomads for making this interview possible. They have been a friend to this publication since its start.

Then there is the unstoppable spirit of Vladimir ?????? a Russian from Minsk, Belarusk that is trying to earn his way into the Guiness Book of World Records for his travels around the world on his motorcycle, a huge undertaking for anyone but Vladimir has some additional challenges because he is a deaf mute. He has not let this deter him from his goal or from communicating, in some respects better than many of the folks I know who can speak. Vladimir was making at least his second tour through the St. Louis area and stopped at Surdyke's HD. The salesmen there tried to get some of the local media to come out and visit with this very special world traveler but none would till Marc one of the salesmen there said lets try "The Biking Life" and we got someone out there as soon as possible. We aim to serve the Bi-State region to the best of our abilities and this is just another example of our responsiveness.

Another example of spirit was embodied in the Circle of Love/ Evan's Ride that was held November 1st. In spite of pretty bad weather we still had about 70 bikes show up and probably another 20 or 30 other vehicles, to support this event and many others showed up later for the great food and the auction. These were some pretty hardy spirited bikers. There were a couple of other examples of spirit here as well, one being a mother and father doing whatever is necessary to ensure their child got the medical attention it needed and another was the spirit of life shown by the courageous infant for whom this event was held. Already at a very young age he has battled through more than a lot of us ever will but still after enduring all that, I have never seen a more vibrant or happy child. I had my first opportunity to meet the grandfather Mike Pulcher and the parents Mike and Michelle Fink and it was clear to me after that, that the loving and nurturing environment Evan is always in contribute much to his happiness nad his speedy recovery from major surgery.

Then there is the spirit of a motorcycle manufacturer that keeps rising from the ashes. I speak of the Indian brand,in

September it shut its doors to its workers but now it is just days from once again emerging as a viable competitor to its long time nemesis Harley-Davidson. We hope good things come out of the auction because the spirit of Indian has lasted so long, even without the benefit of a new product for over 50 years. You know if it was revered that long without a product that it is not going to go away now with the awesome product lines they have developed.

Finally it's December and there is the spirit of Christmas. Which is represented in its commercial aspects by our bikers wish list for Christmas and also by the stories on some of our local artisans. Then too there is also the other spirit of Christmas, which makes us think of all the good things that have happened for us this year. Starting this magazine has given me the opportunity to meet a whole lot of very nice people. I have made a lot of good new friends and look forward to meeting many more in the years ahead. I have had countless offers of help, first Carol Wilson has helped me in many different ways and become a friend as well. Kent Meismann pointed out to me one day how some of the pictures were lacking in quality, actual yI think he said they sucked and then offered his assistance in that area, Kent also has helped to open some other doors for us as well. He has also become a friend and confidant. Dave Murphy but don't call him Dave he likes Murphy better has also been a godsend with his photographic skills. We have also had people allow us to use their photographs in the magazine, Steve Immer and Alan Whiteside to name a couple. My sister Jennifer has helped with not only the editing but in many other areas as well. Rich Aubuchon has been a great contributor with his humorous outlook on life. The riding and motorcycle clubs in the area I would name you all but would be afraid I might miss one and that would be wrong. I don't want that to be one of "Our Bads". I thank each and every one of you as well as all the readers and the advertisers for making this all possible. Thanks to for your kind words about this small chip of a magazine there have been many times when those have helped to keep my spirits up.

Finally all the staff here at "The Biking Life" would like to offer our best wishes to everyone for the best of holidays no matter which one you celebrate during this season. We love the Druids too. Also we send our hopes that each and every one of you has the best year ever in 2004. Thank you all and keep the shiny side up.



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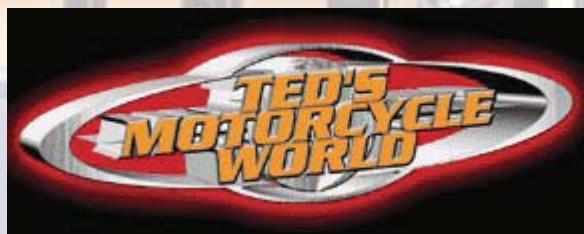
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TBL Interview: Sonny Barger

The Biking Life's publisher, Jim Furey, recently had the chance to meet with and interview Hell's Angel legend and founding member, Sonny Barger. Barger is an unlikely Renaissance man—a biker, an author of three books, the subject of an upcoming film, and a business-savvy entrepreneur who has marketed everything from beer to calendars to hot sauce...and more. He has also made his presence known on the Internet with his own web site, www.sonnybarger.com. In this wide-ranging interview, Barger reflects on the Hell's Angels organization past and present, dispels myths and stereotypes, and provides the sort of insight into the HAMC's fortunes and his own life that only he can.

TBL: Was there a Hell's Angels Chapter prior to Oakland?

SB: Yes. When we started in 1957, we used the patch from the Sacramento Club. After we started we all got together and became an organization so no one else could do what we did.

TBL: You used to work on bikes, didn't you?

SB: Yeah, I've worked on bikes all my life, but I wasn't a mechanic per se.

TBL: How did you hook up with the guys that were to become the original Hell's Angels?

SB: From riding.

TBL: How many original Oakland members were there?

SB: There were 7 original members in Oakland.

TBL: How would you characterize HAMC?

SB: When people ask questions like that, we have two standards answers: 1) guys that like to ride motorcycles

and have fun together or 2) Guys that like to get drunk together and beat up assholes like you.

TBL: Oh...

SB: [Laughs] Well, not particularly *you*, but people we're talking to.

TBL: What's the accomplishment that gives you the most pride?

SB: I don't know that I've done any one thing. I'm just sort of happy doing everything.

TBL: You have a daughter, don't you?

SB: Well, she's a step-daughter, and I no longer live with her. I'm in the middle of a nasty divorce.

TBL: Do you have any regrets?

SB: Well, my main regret is that I smoked cigarettes.

TBL: How long did you smoke?

SB: Ever since I was 16 or so.

TBL: Have you quit now?

SB: I did quit smoking in 1982, when they operated.

TBL: If there was one perception of you or the Hell's Angels held by most people that you could change, what would it be?

SB: Well, that would be that we are a criminal organization; that's what the police try to put on us all the time. See, the police have an opinion about us and they're never gonna change it. Like, they raided a clubhouse once as part of a major raid. They had no reason to raid our clubhouse, because no one in our charter had done anything that was criminal. But when they raided our clubhouse, they had a warrant that said they had to knock. It wasn't, you know, a no-knock raid. Just between you and me, here's what happened. They knocked on the clubhouse door at 6 o'clock in the morning. A member goes to open the door. A [police] lady with an automatic weapon fired seven shots; she hit him in the back one time and in the side one time. And the guy's left handed, and the door opens like this [gestures] and the lady's standing there, and she hits him in the back; she hits the wall of the door jamb. It's a concrete building. This guy gets shrapnel in his chest and falls down. They shoot a tear gas grenade through the front window, they shoot two tear gas grenades through the back window. They ran an armored car over the fence; they shot the dog in the back yard and then broke in the back doors. In 14 seconds from the first knock...don't tell me that's not a no-knock raid.

TBL: So the guy did nothing at all, he just opened the door.

SB: The lady says she thought he shot at her, but what she heard was them killing the dog in the back. His gun was fully loaded and never fired, and everybody there carries a gun. But, can you imagine, and they've got it on film, what happened in 14 seconds? We later found out they had made a mock-up of our clubhouse and had done practice raids; they had no intention of knocking. We've never shot at them, we've never let them in.

TBL: In a San Jose raid on the Vieras, two dogs were killed during a raid, where the cops didn't find anything. Do you guys ever get compensation?

SB: The state of New York had to pay \$500,000 dollars for a raid at a club house. I think we'll get some from that one [the Arizona raid] because they really fucked up. They do it because they can get away with it.

TBL: Do you feel you have been persecuted by law enforcement?

SB: Everybody has to have their job. They have theirs, and I have mine.

TBL: Did this [police troubles] start from the beginning of the club?

SB: Yes.

TBL: Lots of groups are losing memberships...

SB: Not us.

TBL: Is there a set process for becoming a member?

SB: Yes. First you are a hangaround, then a prospect, then a member.

TBL: How long does it take to become a member?

SB: At least a year...there is a [time] minimum.

TBL: Are a lot of issues between motorcycle clubs caused by law enforcement?

SB: A lot of problems between clubs have been caused by police agitators. That's how they make a living.

TBL: If I walked into a bar where Outlaws were hanging out with an HAMC support shirt on, would I be all right?

SB: You'd have to ask them that.

TBL: What if I wore an Outlaw support shirt where Hell's Angels were hanging out?

SB: We'd probably ask you to go to another bar or take the shirt off.

TBL: Okay, that's fair enough. Has there been a change in the Club's membership?

SB: There have been changes in everything. The club started 50 years ago—there is no way it *couldn't* have changed.

TBL: Did you have lawyers and doctors from the get-go?

SB: Yes. Lawyers for traffic tickets, and now we have criminal defense attorneys.

TBL: No, I mean as members.

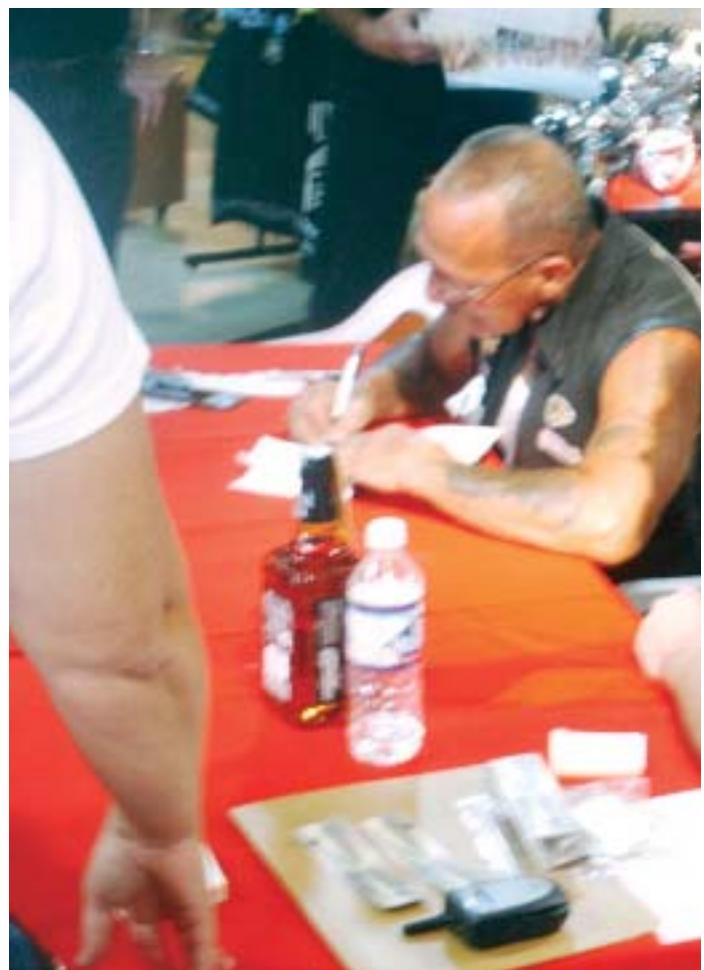
SB: Yes, somewhat, but there are a lot more members now than then.

TBL: What do you think the attraction is to being a Hell's Angel?

SB: The brotherhood.

TBL: Is the HAMC pretty regimented? Lots of rules?

SB: Not a lot. Most of the rules are based on respect. That's the way it's supposed to be. Our members are our family.



TBL: Not all prospects become members. What percentage makes it?

SB: I think a majority make it. Once you become a prospect you see what it is truly about.

TBL: Is Arlen Ness a Hell's Angel?

SB: Arlen Ness is a Hamster, that's another club. That is a millionaire club.

TBL: I was told by someone that you had been club members together.

SB: No, I've known Arlen for years, and he's a good friend, but we've never been club members together.

TBL: You have a very busy schedule.

SB: Yes. That's how I make a living.

TBL: You market many products.

SB: Yes. The beer is coming out again now.

TBL: Is it a special blend or brew?

SB: Well, it's a light beer. I don't mean low calories, just light color. I like that. I'm not a dark beer drinker. A lot of people like that, though.

TBL: Are they still working on the movie?

SB: Yes, but there was a little problem. There is a writer named Anthony E. Zuiker. Well, the same week he got hired to write the screenplay, he also got hired to be a writer on CSI, which has become a major hit. Anthony spent more time on the TV show than on the script.

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World Traveler by Al ‘Slow Talker’ Wilson

Recently I received a phone call from Mark Lane, a salesman for Surdyke’s Harley Davidson in Festus, MO. He told me that they had a very interesting man down there that I might like to meet. I headed down to Festus to see who it was. The man was Vladimir Yarets Alexevich, from Minsk, Belarus, and he was following his dream to become the first deaf/mute to travel around the world on a motorcycle.



By the time he arrived in Festus he had been to 29 countries and all 50 states, traveling by land, sea, and air. By the time I met him he had traveled 86270 km by motorcycle, 7500 km by ship, and 16,400 km by air for a total of 110,170 km. Vladimir’s journey has been chronicled in the “Thunder Press” as well as many other local publications. His ride is a 1990 Jawa 350cc motorcycle that is literally covered with stickers documenting stops on his journey. He did leave a small space on the windshield uncovered and he peers through this as he heads down the road. The Jawa has a two-stroke engine, so at every fill up Vlad throws some 30 weight oil in the gas tank, and about every 600 miles he pulls the heads off the cylinders and scrapes the goo off the pistons.

He stays in hotels about every other night, and sleeps under the stars often. Although he cannot speak and knows little English, Vladimir can still communicate well with those he meets on his journey; he has made friends everywhere he rides. The Jawa doesn’t come equipped with bags so he improvises, using two Igloo coolers for saddlebags and strapping most of his other personal belongings on the back of the seat. This man is a shining example to all of what can be done when you are willing to take some risks to follow your dreams.

This was a good story to report and I looked forward to publishing it. Unfortunately, I recently learned that Vladimir was involved in an accident. What I know of it is sketchy, but apparently he was heading north to Milwaukee to try to meet with someone at Harley-Davidson about giving him a good deal on a Sportster (heck, they should donate one to this extraordinary man). While traveling near Peoria, IL, he slowed down while traveling on the interstate. A car traveling behind him was able to avoid a collision, but a semi driver behind the car was not so lucky, nor was Vladimir. He was treated at a hospital there for his broken bones and other injuries. However, Vladimir has no health insurance, so a fund has been set up to help pay his hospital bills.



Above Vlad poses with members of the sales staff at Surdyke Harley-Davidson

If you would like to contribute to this fund contact check the website for details.



Something Completely Different by Rich Aubuchon

"You're just like Santa", my wife tells me each December. "You're both fat men who only come once a year". This bit of psychological castration is as much a part of our holiday tradition as candy canes and syphilitic bell ringers. Still, as painful as my systematic emasculation has been, it's nothing compared to the troubles that have gripped the North Pole.

Things haven't gone well for Santa lately. The problems began in February, when several workshop employees were hospitalized with slinky injuries. The elves union organized a walkout to protest allegedly unsafe working conditions, then things turned violent when he hired non-union scabs from Keebler. The union finally settled the strike when Santa threatened to outsource factory operations to Thailand.

Perhaps nothing tarnished Santa's reputation as much as the mid-Summer sexual harassment charges levelled against him by an intern in the Furby division. The young elf-woman, referred to in court documents as "Jane Snow", alleged that Santa had fondled her pointy ears against her will, offered to shove his yule log up her chimney, and forced her to watch the Ron Jeremy Christmas film *Miracle On 69th Street*. The accuser also claimed that Claus had blown thousands of dollars on call girls, or as he called them, "Ho Ho Hos". This followed the shocking news that Rudolph had checked himself into the Betty Ford Clinic- his red nose a result of decades of cocaine abuse.

Finally, the Claus grip on Christmas cheer was dealt a devastating blow by the Supreme Court. In the landmark *UPS v. Kringle Corps.* ruling, the court declared the North Pole to have an illegal monopoly on Christmas Eve gift delivery. Beginning next year, Santa will have to allow competing sleighs to land on rooftops. It should be quite a feat of engineering to see eight tiny reindeer pulling a big brown truck.

Now that he's been exposed as little more than a lecherous, union-busting robber baron, I shouldn't feel loyalty to Santa, but I do. Call me emotional, call me sentimental, but instead of thinking of Santa Claus as a fat cat in boxer shorts chasing a well-endowed twenty-year-old female elf around his desk or using hamfisted tactics to break up strikes, I like to remember the good times.

For that reason, as much as any other, I'm pleased to say I've already faxed my Christmas wish list to Santa. I feel compelled to share that letter with you, the reader...

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Dear Santa,

I hope you remember me. I'm the guy who asked for a Mercedes last year and instead got a book on bird-watching and a Members Only jacket. What the hell is going on at the North Pole, anyway? I know times are tough, but have you started shopping at Goodwill? For crying out loud, pay attention this time. I will not be dissed by some over-stuffed jelly-belly from an elf-infested igloo.

Here are my most special wishes for this holiday season:

I want those friggin' cats that think my front porch is their personal love den to be hit by a large, fast-moving truck. Let it be a lesson to the rest of those feline perverts to make whoopee on somebody else's patio furniture at 2am. Jeez, they make more noise during sex than a trophy wife who's trying to earn a trip to Paris.

I want a toilet that will stop running without me having to jiggle the handle every time you flush it. Or, better yet, I want my family to actually listen to me for a change and start jiggling it themselves. You know, it's crap like this that sent Berkowitz over the edge.

I want cable TV. It's been 4 years since I've had cable. It sucks having to pretend to understand when my friends are yammering about **Oz** or **Playmakers**. Please, please, please, I know I'm 35 years old, but all the cool guys have cable.

I want my son and daughter to get full-ride scholarships to Harvard, and I want it to happen now. I know they're just little kids, but if we can get that out of the way now, I could stop worrying about whether they'll turn into tattoo-scarred meth addicts during their teen years.

I would like the Barnum and Bailey Circus to finally heed complaints of animal-rights activists, and stop using trained lions, bears, monkeys, etc. The animals should be freed in a touching and moving ceremony, at which the lions and bears will maul several on-lookers and be put to sleep.

I'd like a hummer. Not a Humvee, or an H2. A hummer. You know what I mean. If you can't convince my wife, then how about that naughty little elf of yours?

Oh, yeah, and peace on Earth and feed the hungry and all that.

Well, Santa, there's my list. I trust this year, you'll come through for me. Please. I'm a small, petty and shallow man with so little going for me. Do me a solid this year, okay?

Sincerely willing to find you and kill you if you screw me again,

Rich Aubuchon

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Club listings

Bikers Against Child Abuse: BACA East Missouri Chapter meetings 2nd Sunday of each month, 12:30 noon, at the Knights of Columbus on McMenn Dr. off of Mid-Rivers Rd. and Hwy 70 in St. Charles all bikes and bikers are welcome, hotline (314) 277-8905 or (314) 719-2928 EastMo@bacausa.com.

Christian Motorcycle Assn: (CMA) Good News Riders 2nd Thurs 7:30 PM Ryan's 8925 Watson Crestwood, MO. Call 636 296 3120 [HTTP://midwestrider.com/goodnews.jpg](http://midwestrider.com/goodnews.jpg).
Chouteau Island Partners (Off Road MC Group) 1st Thursday of month [HTTP://w.icss.net/~squirts/island.htm](http://w.icss.net/~squirts/island.htm) Look for Tom Downing through the web site.

CONCOURS Owners Group: Monthly Breakfast Rides 3rd Sunday of month Except April which is the 4th Sunday. Meet at Quick Trip on South outer Road I-44 and MO. Hwy W. Eureka, MO 636 278 2276 or WWW.concours.org

Euro Motor Union of Greater St. Louis: meetings 7:30 pm 1st Tues Sports Page Inn. Old Rte. 3 South of Dupo IL. 314 994 1257

Freedom Cruisers this club meets the first Sunday of the month at Dutch Hollow Barn in Belleville, IL at 1:00 PM contact (618) 570-8781 for more info.

Freedom of Road Riders:

Local 24 - meetings 1st Weds of the month 7:30 PM at Charlack Pub, 8344 Lackland Rd., St Louis, MO (314) 521-6553

Local 25 - meetings the 4th Rursday 7:00 PM at the American Legion Hall in "Old Town St. Peters, MO" (636) 278-5910

Local 38 - meetings the 1st Sunday of the month 11:30 AM at TJ'S Bar & Grill Hwys 61/67 & Z in Pevely, MO (636) 464-2941

Local 42 - meetings the 4th Weds of the month 6:30 PM at Roadhouse 100, 2763 Hwy 100, Gray Summit, MO (636) 271-9123

Gateway Wings (314) 994 8216

Gold Wing Road Riders

Association GWRRA Have various meeting locations in the Metro St. Louis Area. Check out the one nearest you at www.stlouisgwrra.homestead.com
Heartland WOW, meetings are the 4th Weds of the month at 7:00 PM at the Prairie Commons Branch 915 Utz Ln., St. Louis MO. For more info see their website at www.heartlandwow.org

Honda Sport touring Assn. St Louis area 1st Sat; South Central MO 2nd Sat and KC Area 3rd Sat. Pleas join us at any time [HTTP://home.kc.rr.com/mosilhsta](http://home.kc.rr.com/mosilhsta) Warm weather meet at Chesterfield Valley Power Sports off hwy 40 West of Boone's Crossing Exit at 9am Kick stands up at 9:30 sharp for spirited ride of 150-200 miles. Garth Haubner at (636) 928 6939 Email: ghaubner@juno.com or Tom Trieschmann at (314) 692 7463 E-mail ttriesch@inlink.com

Midwest Trail Riders Assn. Email mtra@ridemtra.com <http://www.ridemtra.com> Event hotline (314) 314 434 5095

Midwest Cafe Racing Assn-Ride Line (314) 481 8078 Email Rideline@mcraracing.com or <http://www.mcraracing.com>

Outlanders All brand motorcycle orientated family org promoting fun events and activities without negative attitudes, drugs or alcohol. This club meets the last Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM at the TRY Club, 655 Berkshire, East Alton, IL.

River Road Riders, All Brand Motorcycle Club meetings are held the 2nd Weds of the month at the Alton Sports Tap 7:00 PM

Road Raptors Riding Club meets at Fairview Heights, IL VFW Hall on Rte. 159 at 7:00 PM first Wednesday of the month all bike brands welcome.

Shadow Riders Greater St. Louis MO. WWW.Shadowriders-stl.com meet on 4th Tues of month at Manchester Elks Lodge at 7pm (314) 477 9976 ext 772

Southern Illinois Star Riders meet the first Sunday of each month in Collinsville, IL. Contact

wizardandangel@yahoo.com or visit <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/southernillinoisstarriders/>
Southwest Illinois Ronin Riding Club 1st Saturday of each month at Noon at various area locations. Ride follows monthly meeting. This is an all-brand riding club. Call Bonedaddy @ 618-696-7768 or Trainwreck @ 618-973-6405 for meeting location or more information. http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SW_Illinois_Ronin_RC/

Harley Owners Groups HOG

Alton, IL. HOG Chapter 4th Thurs of month 7:30 PM at Alton Sports Tap Route 140 & Route 3 Alton, IL..... Ladies of Harley 4th Thurs also at Alton Sports Tap, Banquet room

Bellville, IL HOG Chapter 3rd Wed of month, 7:30 PM at the ELKS club at corner of Route 161 and Lincoln Trail in Fairview Heights, IL. Call dealership if you have questions (618) 277 8864. WWW.Friezeharley-davidson.com

Festus Mo. HOG Chapter 1st Wed of month, 7:30 at Surdyke Harley Davidson 2435 highway 67, Festus, MO. Call dealership if you have questions (636) 931 8700

Kirkwood Mo. Chapter 2nd Tuesday at VFW POST #6211 at 10430 Liberty, Overland, Missouri. The LOH meeting is held at Growlers Pub, 3811 South Lindbergh, St. Louis on the first Thursday of month. Everyone is welcome. Contact (314) 544 HAUG or www.Kirkwoodhog.com

St Charles HOG Chapter: 3rd Tues of the month 7 pm at St. Charles Moose Lodge 2705 Interstate 70 (South Service Road by Chucky Cheese) (636) 723-9365. stcharleshog@primary.net

If your club or organization would like to be listed here please send an email to clubs@thebikinglife.com

Upcoming Events

December

6th A.B.A.T.E. Christmas Party will be held at the VFW Hall in Edwardsville, IL starting at 6:00 PM.

7th Kirkwood HOG Chapter Toy Ride – sign-up from 11:00 to 12:30 at T. Billy Buffett's 9004 Overland Plaza \$5 donation per person ride is to St. Vincent Home for Children and returns to T. Billy Buffett's this is a Harley only event . This event is sponsored by Doc's Harley Davidson.

14th Gallagher's Getaway End of Deer Season Party at Gallagher's Getaway, 102 Richland Rd. Freeburg, IL, starts at 4:00 PM free mulligan, awards for the biggest deer and lots of great attendance prizes.

19th Christmas Party at Gallagher's Getaway 102 Richland, Freeburg, IL music by Pat Shook from 8:30 to 12:30. There will be jello shots, giveaways and snacks be there or be square.

May

15th – 16th 23rd Annual SEMO Run What Ya Brung Field Events at Ruesler's Gulch, MO more details will be forthcoming.

If your club or organization has an upcoming event you would like listed here please contact Jim Furey at (618) 531-0432 or at events@thebikinglife.com.

Our/My Bads

First to Darren Countie AKA Hollywood

Sorry about not getting your name right and also not giving you a free pop for your business “Star Studded” in the Angel Headlights story but read the story on him in this issue and look for more later and possibly an event this year to help his brother out.

Second to Black Jack Leather

If you tried to find them from the address we had listed in their ad you would have driven about to the other side of the state. That has now been corrected so stop in and see these nice people at the address listed in their ad and don't forget the 10% discount they'll give you if you bring in the ad and your free gift with the purchase of more than \$100 of leather goods.

We make mistakes some times we try to keep them to a minimum but if you find one let us know we will correct it and apologize when we are wrong.

Jim Furey Editor

JOKE OF THE MONTH

This big bad drunk biker with a big H-D tattoo on his arm was at a big rally. He walks up to a dude on a Kawasaki and knocks him over then asks him, “Who makes the best bikes?” ... the Kawasaki dude says, “Harley....sir.”

Then he walks up to a guy polishing his Honda, twists his arm and asks, “Who makes the best bikes?” ... The Honda guy cries, “Harley of course.”

He then staggers up to a rider standing by his Ducati and yells in his face, “Who makes the best bikes?” The Ducati rider flips the drunk biker then kicks him in the gut. After that he knocks his teeth out.

The drunk biker gradually gets to his knees and says to the Ducati rider, “You don't have to get so pissed off just because you don't know the answer!”

Wash Me, I'm Dirty

By G. "Curves" Poncia

“There she is, all ready for me. I anticipate what will happen next...

I approach her. She looks inviting and in need of loving attention from my experienced hands. I let my eyes take in the sight of her first. Her proud stance there in the warm, fall sun affords me a full view of her. She appears to be open and waiting for me to touch her. As I step closer I let my right hand slide over her sun-kissed skin and a smile crosses my face even as I mentally note each tiny imperfection – which are not really imperfections but reminders of adventures and other people with whom she has crossed paths.

I circle her all the while gazing at and feeling every part of her. I think to myself, “I'll slide my hand there and let my fingers wander there....” After my eyes are satisfied I let both take over their appreciation of her form – so full and strong and feminine. I look at her eyes and smile, “Here I come Miss G!”

I reach in the tub and search the steamy water for the soft sponge I've dropped in there. Then still dripping hot, foamy liquid, I begin slipping the sponge around in circles on her. One of my hands circles and soaps while the other trails along behind, checking to be sure I haven't neglected a single inch of her. Every so often there is a particular spot that requires extra attention. That's okay, I don't need an excuse to linger and caress her, other than it pleases us both and she never protests.

Now my favorite part, her twins round and full, I sit astride Miss G lean forward and let my fingers explore her rounded hard mounds. The foamy slickness drips from her tips as my hands glide effortlessly around and around.

At this point I realize I'm close to finishing but I force myself to slow down and not rush this sensual experience. I need to remember to give as much attention to her nether regions as her other parts. I glance up at her and see she is wet and ready for the climax, me too!!

I squeeze off a final squirt of my hose and there she is glowing, sitting in the wet spot and ready to get dirty again. But not quite yet, first I gather up the soft towel which will leave her skin glossy and well-loved. I take my time here, knowing these gentle caresses are appreciated just like the more vigorous and enthusiastic caresses of earlier. I must admit I receive as much pleasure from these final touches as she does, maybe because I know she will be looking fine and giving me another ride later.

Finally I step back and eye her frame and all it's delicious parts with a quiet satisfaction... Thanks Miss G, wanna go for a ride.

DONORS:

Ainad Shriner's, Albert's Floral Shop-Columbia, All-Stars Tavern-Dupo, All-Type Fire Protection Company, Al's Automotive-Cahokia, American Family Insurance-Tom Vogel, American Legion-Dupo, American Tires to Go-Sauget, Kris Armstrong, Associated Bank-Columbia, Audio Video Concepts-Columbia, Autobrite Car Care-Columbia, Bailey Appliances-Cahokia, Bankhead & Firth Orthodontics-Columbia, BasketCase-Belleville, Brandie Bean-PartyLite Hostess, Beehive Bowl & Restaurant-Waterloo, Belleville Honda, Belleville News Democrat, Big Boyz Cutsom Cycles, LLC-Fenton, Bob-n-Joans Tavern-Dupo, Bob's Tavern-Dupo, Mike Bohn, DeeAnn Bollinger – Pampered Chef Rep., Brandy Inn-Cahokia, BriteSide Landscape & Lawn Maintenance-Dupo, Joseph Buffa, Burris Management, Stephen Buser Law Firm, Cahokia Barber Shop-O'Fallon, Cahokia-Dupo Herald, Cahokia Liquors-Cahokia, Buck Carner, Terrie & Bonnie Carrico, Car Quest Auto Parts-Cahokia, ColorFast Screen Printing-Dupo, Columbia National Bank, Conrad Printing, Creations-St. Louis, Curves for Women-Columbia, Custom Screen Print-Dupo, Cutters-Belleville, Cycle Illusions Photography-Westview, IL, Dauber Pharmacy, Matt DeJarnette & Brenda Waln, Designing Dames-St. Louis, Dupo Florist & Gift Shop, E & J Town and Country, Inc., Eddie's Tavern-Dupo, Fat Cats Bowl-Shiloh, FF & F Dimensional Graphics and Signage-St. Louis, Firestone-Telegraph Road, First Divine Science Church of Today-Belleville, Flags-N-More-Columbia, Flooring Interiors-Columbia, Flyway Guns – East Carondelet, Fountain Tavern-Fountain, IL, Chris Fouch-Home Interiors Rep., Frieze Harley Davidson-Belleville, Frogs Tavern-East Carondelet, Tony Fuller Construction-Dupo, Deborah Fults, Gateway Farm Services-Waterloo, Gateway Harley Davidson-St. Louis, George's Pub-Dupo, Gianino's-St. Louis, MO, Gifts by Girlfriends-Freeburg, Global Products, Inc.-St. Peters, Good Tymes Tavern-Dupo, Cliff & JoAnn Goodfellow, Great Clips-Cahokia, Gruchala's-Columbia, Beth Gummersheimer-Avon Rep., Hamilton Jewelers-St. Louis, Healing Hands Therapeutic Massage-Mascoutah, Kiley Herbeck, HeroesandLegends1.com, Illusions Color Spa-St. Louis, J & J Shear Madness-Mascoutah, Jeanie Cate, The Jewelry Works-Cahokia, Jewelry Exchange & Loan-Cahokia, Joan's Beauty Shop-Cahokia, Kelley & Associates-Dupo, Kelly's Tavern-Dupo, Diane & Don Kersten-Country Companies, Khris Art & Drawing Studio-St.Louis, MO, Dvonne Killy-Discovery Toys Rep., Kimberly's Tea Garden-Columbia, Kriegers Bar & Grill-O'Fallon, IL, Lantern Restaurant-Columbia, Lee's Daycare-Dupo, LePere Village Inc.-Dupo, Lisa's Bar-Prairie du Rocher, Main Street Salon-Columbia, Market Place Grocery Store-Columbia, Maui Sun Tanning-St. Louis, Pamela McCallister, Mark McKinney, Mary's Restaurant-Ruma, Merz Salsas – Columbia, Mor-4-Less Grocery Store-Dupo, Mor-4-Less Grocery Store-Cahokia, Mid-America Quality Concrete-Columbia, Mon-Clair Animal Hospital-Columbia, Natural Solutions Day Spa-Columbia, Naumann Woodwork & Supply-Columbia, New Signs Fast & Printing-Cahokia, Pauline Niehaus, The Night Deposit-Mascoutah, Nobbe's Equipment and Farm Supply-Waterloo, Oberweis Dairy-St. Louis, O'Briens Food & Drink-O'Fallon, IL, Olive Garden-Fairview Heights, Paesano's Italian Eatery & Sports Pub-Shiloh, Gary & Tony Pulcher, James Pulse, Quizno's Subs-Columbia, Bonnie Rafeedie Tax & Accounting Service-Fairview Heights, RPA Construction Services-St. Louis, Rich's Foods-Buffalo, NY, Rich's Tanning-Cahokia, Robin's Nest-Belleville, S & J Main Street-Columbia, Sax Speed Chek-Mascoutah, Scandals, Inc.-St. Louis, Schnuck's-Cahokia, Tobin Search-Country Companies, Shell Gas Station-Dupo, Shrum, Inc.-Columbia, Shaely-Bugs-St. Louis, Shenanigans-Belleville, Shop-n-Save-Cahokia, Side Trax Tavern-Dupo, Sports Page Inn-Columbia, St. Clair County Farm Bureau-Belleville, St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Rams, St. Micheal's Church-Paderborn/St. Anne's Church, Suburban Journals, Subway-Columbia, Taake Insurance Agency-Columbia, Tattoo U-Cahokia, Mike Terri, Thai House Restaurant-Columbia, ThunderRoad Magazine, The Training Room-Columbia & Waterloo, Ted's Motorcycle World-Alton, Ted's CityView-Cahokia, Tony's Place-Mascoutah, Top Shooters Bar-Columbia, True Value Hardware-Mascoutah, VFW-Dupo, VFW-Cahokia, Vibe Rider of St. Louis, Wal-Mart-Belleville and Cahokia, George Weber Chevrolet-Columbia, Whistlestop Tavern-Dupo, Whistle Stop-Swansea, Wolf's Den Tavern-Freeburg, World Martial Arts-St. Louis, 100 Mile Per Hour Club

Biker Friendly Establishments

Illinois

Alton/Grafton

Cellar Room Tavern, 2704 E. Broadway, Alton, IL (618) 465-9874
 Danny's Lounge, 118 W. 4th St., Alton, IL (618) 462-6787
 Fast Eddie's Bon-Air, 1530 E. 4th St., Alton, IL (618) 462-5532
 Woodstock Lounge, 638 Broadway, Alton, IL
 Wild Goose Saloon, 1505 W. Main St, Grafton, IL, (618) 786-8888
 Harris's Tavern, On The Great River Road, (618) 466-9791
 The Loading Dock, 400 Front St, Grafton, Grafton, IL (618) 786-3494

Belleville

H's Biker Bar, 1310 Dutch Hollow Rd (618) 398-3668
 B & B Crehan's, 6413 W. Main St. (618) 394-1300
 TR'S Place 4901
 Concordia Rd., (618) 277-7135 ask about 'Good Nite Dic'

Carmi

Danny's Pool Room: 119 E Main Street in Carmi, IL (618) 382-9987

Granite City

Big Dugga's Restaurant, 699 State Road 203, Granite City, IL, 618-875-5800 always likes to be a stop on poker runs or host groups.

Maryville

Sharkey's Restaurant and Bar, 2537 Vandalia, (618) 344-0826

Mt. Vernon

Players: 300 S 9th - 1 block off the square(rt.37&rt.15) in Mt. Vernon, IL

New Baden

Outside Inn, 423 W. Hanover (Hwy 161), (618) 588-4672

Old Shawneetown

Hogdaddys Saloon: Main St in Old Shawneetown, IL (618) 922-1389

Southwestern Illinois

Falling Springs Conservation Club, 2200

LePere Ln. Dupo, IL

(618) 286-4440, music on weekends with

Sunday jam sessions.

Gallagher's Get-A-Way, 102 S. Richland, Freeburg, IL (618) 539-5208

Georgia's Place, Eldred, IL (if you have more info on this place let us know and we'll include it)

Good Tymes Bar and Grill, 200 N. Main St. Dupo, IL (618) 286-9693

Just Sue's Tavern, Evansville, IL (618) 853-4425

Lisa's Bar and Grill, Prairie DuRocher, IL (618) 284-3374

Lou and Michelle's Tavern, Waterloo, IL (618) 939-8300

Mary's Bar and Grill, Ruma, IL (618) 282-7944

Moof's Bar & Grill 501 Buena Vista, Chester, IL (618) 826-3155

Rick's Corner, 201 Main St Staunton used to be the Twisted Spoke (618) 635-3088

S & J Main Street, 608 N. Main St. Columbia, IL, (618) 281-9997 live music on the weekends and Thursday night Karaoke.

Sporto's Pub & Grill, 211 S. Main Street, Red Bud, IL (618) 282-7956

The Corner Pub, 602

Meyer Dr, Valmeyer, IL (618) 935-8209 call for info on their specials.

The Dawg Haus 102 S. Main St. New Douglas, IL.

217-456-7072

Willie's Corner, 128 W. Market, Red Bud, Ill 62278

Springfield

Grman's Harley Davidson Repair: 310 W. Browning Rd in Springfield, IL (217) 522-2557

Hangout Unwind Dance Saloon: 1630 N 11th in Springfield, IL 62702 (217) 525-8591

Pony Keg Leathers: 2026 S 11th St in Springfield, IL (217) 544-3774 Harley repair/Leather goods

Missouri

Fenton

That One Place: 1005 Majestic Dr in Fenton, MO (636) 861-1902

Hazelwood

Cadillac Jack's: 12950 St Charles Rock Rd in Hazelwood, MO (314) 298-8232

Pevely

TJ's Bar & Grill: HWY Z & 61-67, For Bike Show date information call (636) 475-3648.

St. Louis

Smokin Al's BBQ: 1216 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO (314) 781-8008 fax 781-8118

Shady Jack's Café: 1440 N Broadway

Blue Hen Trading Co, Leather and Authentic American Art, 1956 Cherokee, St. Louis, MO (314) 865-1500

www.bluehentrading.net Southeast Missouri

The Playdium, (across from Houck Stadium), 1127 Broadway, Cape

Girardeau, Missouri (573) 335-9830
Players, 632 Broadway, Cape Girardeau,
MO
Danny's Place, 1102 Linn Street, Sikeston,
Missouri (573)-471-9984
St Charles County
D's Hawg Trawf, 300 Sonderen St, O'Fallon,
MO (636) 240-0483

Villa Ridge
**Shady Jack's Saloon & Inn: 3417 Hwy O
in Villa Ridge, MO (636) 451-DUDE**

**Your establishment or one that you dig
on could be listed here if you tell us
about it at bikerfriendly@thebikinglife.com
or call us at (618) 628-2911.**

**Listed below are just a few of the hard
working people that made the "Circle of
Love /Evan's Ride" the success that it
was. If you see these folks let them know
you appreciate their efforts.**

SPONSOR: THE BIKING LIFE MAGAZINE-James Furey
FACILITY: The Club at Falling Springs-Dupo

THE CREW:

Carol Ann Wilson	Darryl & Anne Becherer	
Mike Wors	Jean Quirin	Jackie
Fink		
Jeanie & Rob Cate	Al Whiteside	Don
Marshall	PJ Kofarago	Dave
Carrico		
Debbie & Steve Wolf	Joy Hensz	Freddie
Ford	Loretta Hopson	Dave Murphy
Mike Pulcher	Patty Whaley	Mike
Killy	Sherry George	Matt DeJarnette
Jeanette Smith	Chuck Cobillas	Lynn
Earl		

VOLUNTEERS:

Stephanie Pulse	Diane & Don Kersten	Natasha
Wright	Leanne Kessler	
Jaime Habermehl	Steve Reichert	Lori
Jerome	Linda Leistler Evans	
LuAnn Beck	Nick Whiteside	Terrie
Bergman		

Dan Akroyd Visits Saint Lou

On November 6th fresh from his gig hosting the Harley-Davidson 100th Anniversary bash Dan Akroyd came to Saint Louis on a promotional tour. This tour included stops at a local Circuit City store and a visit to Doc' Harley Davidson. While at Doc's Dan patiently signed autographs and chatted with fans. After doing this for a while Mr. Akroyd along with Patty Busch and Tony Twist led about a 100 riders on a short ride around town. This was an awesome turnout considering the weather that day was cool and damp but thanks to Dan a great time was had by all involved.



**If you know of an event of interest that is
going to take place in the Saint Louis area,
or you are staging an event you would like
"The Biking Life" magazine to cover then
please contact us at
staff@thebikinglife.com and we will**

Circle of Love by Jim Furey

This story begins approximately a year ago with the eagerly awaited birth of Mike and Michelle Fink's child Evan. Shortly after birth, Evan was diagnosed with a severe condition called Tetralogy of Fallot. This is a very serious condition consisting of four major heart defects. First, there is a hole between the two bottom chambers of the heart; second, there is a narrowing near the pulmonary valve; third, the aorta is positioned over the hole between the two chambers rather than in the left ventricle; and finally, the right ventricle is more muscular than it should be. The Finks, along with the grandparents, did what was necessary to get this special child the care and surgery he needed. This caused some major financial hardships for them.



When Carol Wilson became a member of the staff of *The Biking Life*, she said "We need to put on a poker run, and I know just who it should benefit." From this humble beginning Carol launched the "Circle of Love/Evan's Ride" Foundation. Carol and her crew of hard-working volunteers set up the route, gathered donations for the auction and the raffle, and basically spent the next 6 weeks in a whirlwind of activity. They were relentless in contacting many of the local media outlets and were able to get this event the publicity it needed in newspapers and on the radio. Many thanks to all those outlets, especially to a good friend and supporter of this magazine—Smash from KLOU—who gave the ride some love on his morning show.

The hard work of the family and the crew of volunteers paid off, and everything was ready as the day of the Ride, November 1, grew near. The morning of Evan's Ride dawned overcast and gloomy, but still spirits ran high as the volunteers busied themselves with turning "The Falling Springs Conservation Club" into the Ride's headquarters. Walking through the rooms and seeing all the donations that local businesses and people had made was truly heartwarming. Slowly, bikes started trickling in and the riders gathered

around, drinking coffee and sharing stories. Throughout the morning the "trickle" began to grow and it looked good for the run, but then the weatherman struck and that 30% chance of showers turned into a 100% chance of rain. Some hoped the rain would let up and others called friends in the area to determine where the rain was falling. The start of the ride was pushed back as the volunteers discussed their options: riding regardless of the weather, rescheduling for Sunday when the weather would be better, or canceling the Ride outright.



Things were still undecided as the opening ceremonies began, and after some brief remarks by the Mayor of Dupo Ronny Dell and Evan's grandfather Mike Pulcher, it was time for the parents to take the stage. They thanked everyone for their support and gave a touching speech. Then the decision as to what to do was made when Michelle ended her comments with "Let's ride, 'cause that is what we do." Father Mark then blessed all who were there and the enthusiasm for the ride was ignited. We rolled out of the parking lot and headed into Dupo. Dupo's finest patrolled the intersections we rolled through and did a great job on what was really a miserable day. They provided a great service and we appreciate their dedication. We offer a big shout out and thanks to all of the fine officers of that community. Leaving Dupo, we got onto I-255 and headed south, getting off on Route 3 in a pouring rain. Many of us stopped at the Shell Station there by Bluff Road, trying to come to another decision on whether to continue or not. Many went home, some to get four-wheeled transportation and others to get dry. The rest of us continued on to the Fountains where we went through the same process again. The good people at the Fountain greeted us with some warm ham and beans and our choice of beverage. After that the weather started to cooperate and the Ride was on for good.

Rolling through the bottomlands along the bluffs, we headed on to our next stop—Lisa's in Prairie Du Rocher. It was a pretty ride and this strange orange ball in the sky even tried to peak through the clouds a couple of times. The atmosphere at Lisa's was super, probably because we weren't quite as soaked as we had been, and the hospitality just couldn't have been better. Many riders looked through their bags for dry clothing and others hung their jackets and rain suits over their bikes or

on the citizens fences. After a couple of beverages and another 50/50 drawing, we rode up the hill to Mary's in Ruma. Mary's provided some killer BBQ sandwiches along with awesome hospitality. Let me tell you, those sandwiches really hit the spot. Mary's had a nice crowd of regulars and that made for some really fine company. A couple more beverages and it was time to hit our next to the last stop: S & J Main St in Columbia, IL. It's rare to pass this righteous establishment and not see some bikes out front. S & J Main St is the kind of place that gives true meaning to the phrase "biker friendly." You know the story: a lot of yuppie bars out there want to be known as biker friendly because they want the biking community's money, but when push comes to shove they aren't. This place is the real deal. I contributed a lot of money here to someone else's pocket, but that was okay because the other 50% went to help Evan and other families whose children are born with or develop heart disease.

The trip back to Falling Springs was a little damp but no rain fell. We were greeted at the club by a lot of folks who came out to eat all the good food that was donated and then wonderfully prepared by the crew of volunteers. After everyone ate, the auction began. Freddy, the manager of Falling Springs, was our auctioneer for the evening, and he did a great job. In addition to keeping track of where the next bid was coming from, he also provided some humorous moments with some of his comments. Once again, thanks to all the businesses and individuals that donated goods for the silent and oral auction. The auction went on until almost 9:00 PM, and then we rocked out and danced to the band until the wee hours of the morning. This was the first annual "Circle of Love/ Evan's Ride," and even some pretty rocky weather couldn't derail it. We look forward to seeing all of you out there for the 2004 edition, which we may try to stage a little earlier in the year. All the hard work done by Carol Wilson and her cast of volunteers was greatly appreciated and we apologize for not having enough space here to list them all here. However, if you visit our website www.thebikinglife.com, you can see some additional photos and a list of the volunteers and all those who were kind enough to make donations.



Ted's Hosts Grand Opening

A steady rain and chilly temperatures couldn't dampen the spirits of the owners, employees, and patrons of Ted's Motorcycle World in Alton on Saturday, November 1. The local dealership had a capacity crowd for its grand opening despite the uncooperative weather.

Ted's Motorcycle World definitely had a party atmosphere as patrons enjoyed the free food and music and hoped to win one of six leather jackets that were offered in drawings throughout the day.

Inside the gleaming showroom, customers browsed among the clothes and admired the new model year Harleys. Other patrons shopped among the racing gear. From what I observed, the new cash registers weren't quite as new at the end of the day after the workout they received.

As the biking community continues to grow and diversify, it's good to have a wide variety of dealerships to patronize. With their new building Ted's is in a great position to serve the Bi-State area's bikers.

—Al "Slow Talker" Wilson



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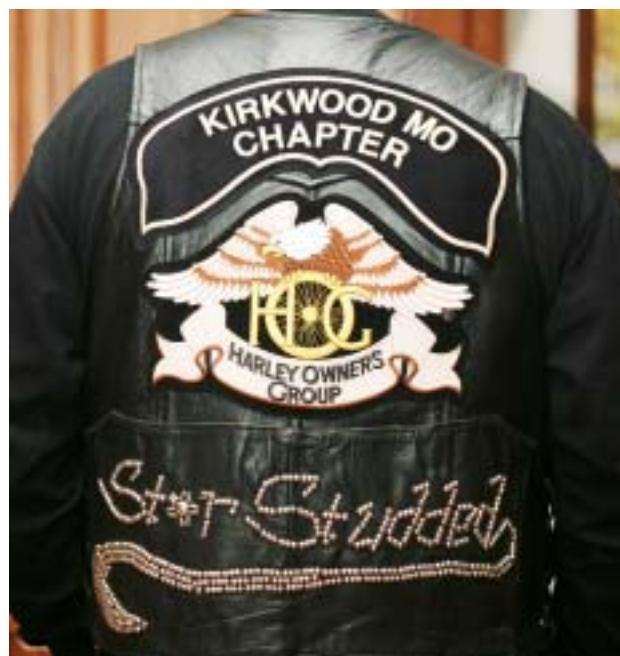
We buy, sell and trade
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Stud for the Stars
by Jim Furey

No, that's not who Darren Countie (known to most folks around here as "Hollywood") *is*, but that is what he *does*. Hollywood will stud any leather, denim, or other fabric garment you bring in to his "Star Studded" business. He got the idea for his home-based business while living in California in 1985. He was buying a pair of studded boots one day when he turned to his buddy and said "We could do this for less and make some money." His work gained him notice in the LA area and his talents were sought out by all types of folks—from exotic dancers, members of the band Kingdom Come, Jon Bon Jovi, and a host of others. Because of his talent and the cool designs he has created, he was able to hang out with Motley Crue members Tommy Lee and Vince Neil and use the lights from their cars to provide light for his pictures. The photos here show some of his work. His strong sense of family brought him back to the St. Louis area. His brother, Dennis, was involved in a very serious accident in which his neck was broken. This in turn caused hardship for his mother, so Hollywood came back to help out.

He buys studs in bulk and all of his designs are hand-created, guaranteeing that each piece is unique. He likes to try different things and he will also spike articles for you if you'd like. The approach of the Leather and Lace event has caused a surge in the jobs flowing in to him, but Hollywood says he has

plenty of time to create that special look for a Christmas gift. He will stud anything: chaps, leather ensembles, jackets, gloves, saddle bags, bras, bustiers, and just about anything else you can dream of. He is also a rider and you will find him most Thursday evenings riding his 2003 Road King with the Hard Riders.



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Brian C. Dillender - Owner
H-D Certified Motorcycle Tech.

Bike Feature by Brian Dillender

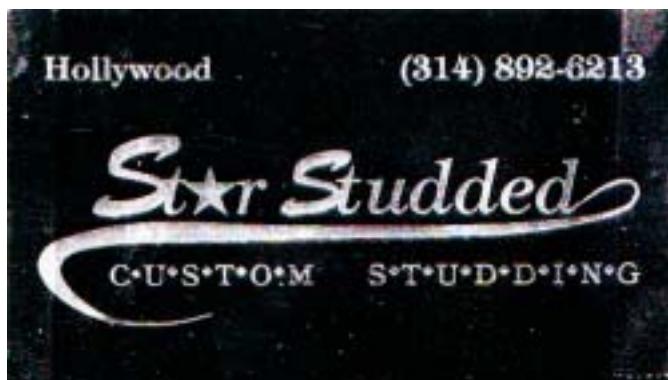
If you have never had the opportunity to meet the proud owner of this custom 2001 Custom Dyna Wide Glide, consider yourself lucky. In fact, if you find yourself being introduced to him your best bet is to smile, shake hands and move on. Because wherever he is the rest of his rowdy kin are somewhere near and that usually spells trouble of one sort or another. No...seriously folks this bike belongs to a good friend and riding buddy of mine Jay (chickenleg) Mason, proud Union Iron Worker Local 396. One of the many stand up people I have been lucky enough to meet through the years. You can usually find him at one of the many local watering holes during the riding season and I wasn't jokin about the rowdy kin part, Jay also shares the road with his wife Tina, Dad Kenny, Cousins Jim & Kathy, and Uncle Mike. If you sit down with these guys you better order a double and brace yourself.

I'll spare you the details of what prompted the customizing of this bike because it is typical. I will tell you that it involved a driver on four wheels not noticing the red light in front of them or the motorcycle stopped at it. Not to mention the driver must have been in a hurry because they didn't even have time to stop to see if he was ok!! Sound familiar? This hit & run crap is getting all too common!! Needless to say Jay was not seriously hurt and the bike looks better than ever. I think this bike is a clean example of taking a bad situation and making the best of it.

Some of the custom parts & accessories installed during this 3 month project read as follows. Stretched stock Dyna gas tank(by Owner & Reed White), Jesse Who-Diablo front fender, Wernimont-Duster rear fender, R.C. Components 21" front wheel wrapped in a Metzeler tire, Smoothie 16" rear wheel wrapped in a 160 Metzeler tire, Chrome H-D brake calipers, 12 1/2 inch Buffalo Bars, Sturgis special headlight, Vance & Hines exhaust, LePera seat, M-6 primary chain tensioner, Backroads Custom taillight/license assembly, Progressive rear shocks 2" under, Fork tubes 2" over, forward controls 2" over, Motor, Frame, & Tranny are stock with some carb mods. Paint is House of Kolor Oriental Blue with Silver tribal flames, applied by Houdini from Dupo.

Jay would like to thank his wife Tina, Kenny Mason, Reed White, Jerry Siegel and O.P.P. for the help and support.

The accompanying pictures were taken at the Mural Mile by the Arch in Downtown St Louis.



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The Wolfman by Jim Furey

First there was the Wolfman of rock and roll radio, Wolfman Jack. Now we have the Wolfman of motorcycle seats, Wolfman Gary Tyler. Gary is the force behind Chopper Chairs, and some of his work is shown in the accompanying photos. Custom seat design and manufacturing is just the latest career for this talented craftsman, but one that he enjoys immensely. Gary is a Vietnam and Desert Storm veteran as well as a former police officer.

Gary's education in his craft began in 1975 at State Community College in East St. Louis, Illinois, where he trained to become an upholsterer. After leaving school he worked for a firm that manufactured aircraft interiors. He continued his progression to master craftsman by working and learning in several other shops. Today, in addition to his work at Chopper Chairs, he also works for Garcia Restorations, where he restores the interiors of vintage British autos, Ferraris, and other various exotic cars. I've been to the shop a couple of times and there are usually some very nice cars being restored.

Gary likes to work with European leather. He told me this is because not as much barbed wire is used to enclose pastures in Europe; as a result, the hides have fewer defects. Gary also prefers the tanning process used in Europe.

Gary stated that he really likes dealing with the biker community—that we are easy to get along with and big tippers, too, probably because we understand the value of hard work. Chopper Chairs is centrally located in Sauget, Illinois. After seeing the quality of his work, I would encourage anyone thinking about getting a new seat to check out Gary's quality workmanship and let this Wolfman create a seat that will make you howl. For more information you can contact Gary at (618) 521-3222. Located in the same building as Chopper Chairs is Stallion Castle, which sells and sews on patches—either ones you already have or ones you purchase from them. Call Kenny Walker and let them sew your patches on.

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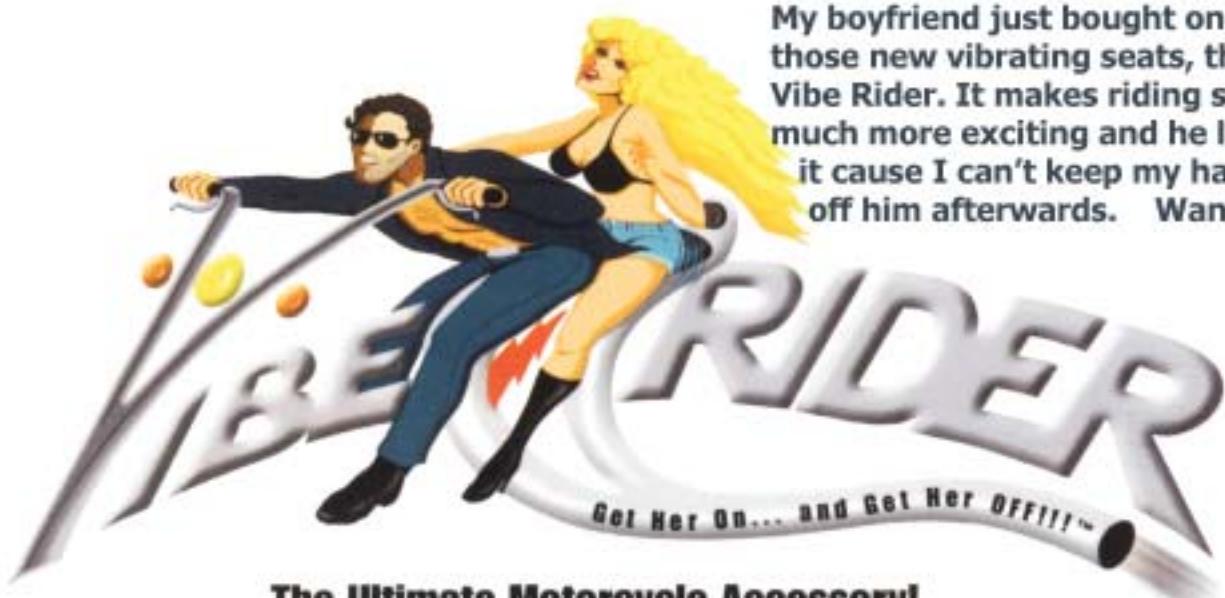
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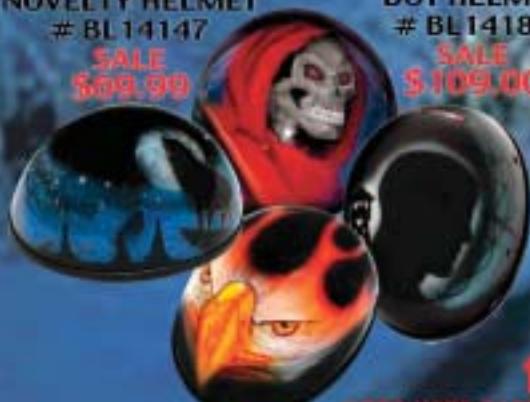
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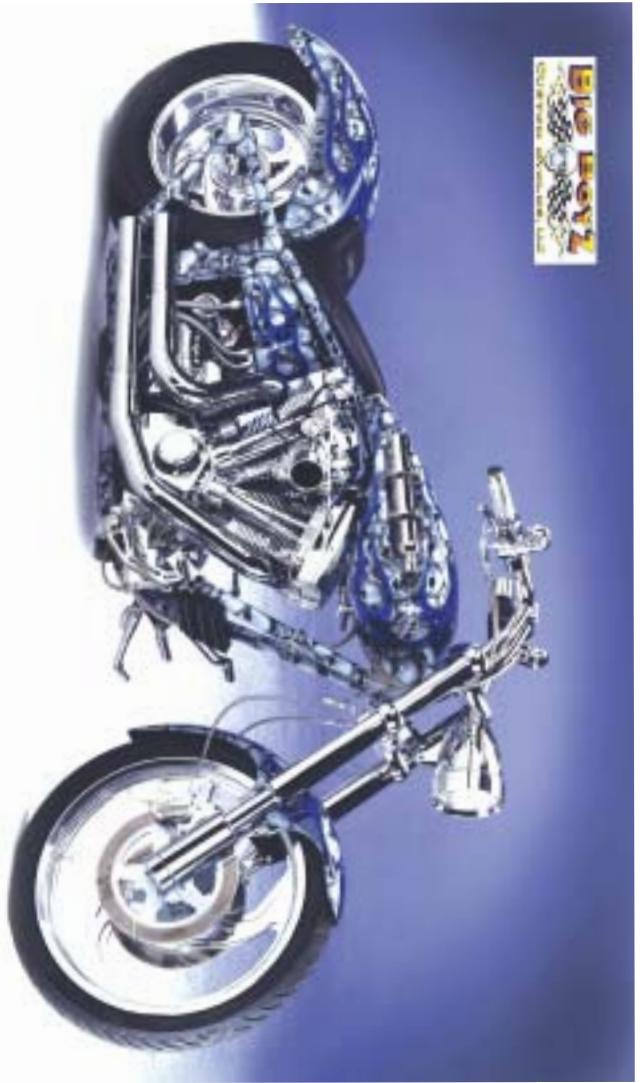
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