

The Biking Life

FEBRUARY 2006

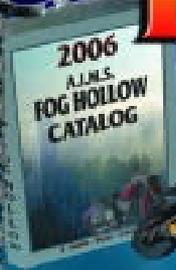
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*Cover: A Salty Dog propses at Piasa-Gateway A.B.A.T.E.
Christmas Party, Weasels sighted in the Lou, scene from
Smitty's on the Polar Bear Run.*

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Letter from the Publisher

by Jim Furey

February is here, and that means Daytona Bike Week and better riding weather are just around the corner. First off, to follow up a bit on last month's article about the Reservists coming home, there are two ways you can help support the troops. The first is by stopping in at **Don's Speed Shop** in Barnhart, Missouri. Don and Pam's daughter is currently serving overseas, and they have a box in their shop for people to make donations of various necessities for life over there. The second is by attending the Second Annual *Forget the Ribbons, Show the Green* Benefit at **Jack's Iron Horse Bar and Grill** on St. Charles Rock Road on February 10. The benefit is co-sponsored by *The Biking Life*, and the proceeds will benefit the James S. McDonnell USO center at Lambert Field. Johnny Rockit will be laying down the tunes, and there will also be a silent auction. This year's goodies look at least as good as last year's, when we auctioned off some brand-new lower legs and a custom-made seat by Gary Tyler from **Chopper Chairs**. The USO does a great job of supporting military members throughout the world as they travel, and their funding is all done by donation. Please come out and support this effort—you will have big fun.

My apologies to all who missed the second part of the Leather and Lace story in the January issue: I was changing page numbers right at the end and they got screwed up. The story, along with some of the pictures that didn't get published last month, is available for your pleasure in the online version of the magazine at our website (www.thebikinglife.com). It was a great time.

Speaking of great times, several fun events are coming up this month. On February 11, **TJ's Bar & Grill** will host their Third Annual Leather, Lace, and Lingerie Fashion Show. This event is put on with fashions from **Black Jack Leather, Doctor John's**, and others. The fashion show usually sells out fast, so visit TJ's at Highway 61/67 and Z in Peveley, Missouri, to make sure you are not left out in the cold. The **Gateway to the West HOG Chapter** is staging its annual Mardi Gras Ball on the 18th, and this promises to be an awesome time. The Gateway chapter, like all HOG chapters, has some really great people in it and is fun to party with. Contact the dealership for details on how to get tickets. Also on the 18th, the East Side Mardi Gras Association is having their annual ball—see the flyer for more information.

I have included the organizational mission statement as a way of introducing you to the **Patriot Riders Group**. There is a fanatical group out there that protests at our Nation's Service Members' funerals. At the grieving families' invitation, the Patriot Riders provide a barrier between the protesters and the mourners. I fully support anyone's right to protest—I served for 23 years to guarantee that right—but desecrating funerals is a place where I have to draw the line. Please check this out and support this group.

Finally, I salute Doug Rothberg for his 10 years of service as the Director of the **Kirkwood HOG Chapter**. I am sure he will be missed there, but I'll bet those of us who ride will get to see him out more often.



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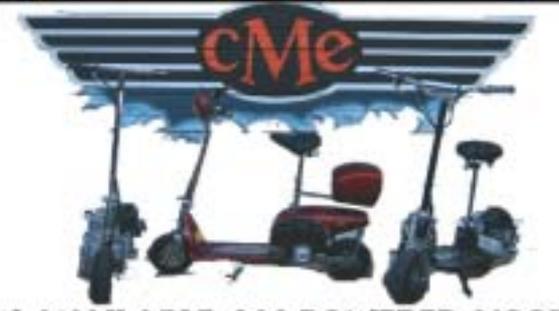
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Leather and Lace Dance Heats up St. Louis by Jim Furey



Each year I can't wait for November. "Why," you ask? Isn't the riding getting a little chancy or—worse yet—cold? Well, yes it is, but that isn't why. The reason I can't wait for November is the Annual Leather and Lace Dance hosted by the membership of the Kirkwood H.O.G. This event is held at the Casa Loma Ballroom at the corner of Cherokee and Iowa Streets in St. Louis. This is a fantastic setting for the dance. It is an old-style ballroom with a raised stage, huge dance floor, and lots of seating both on the floor and in the balcony, providing prime spots for watching all the revelers.

Although the event was hosted by the Kirkwood H.O.G., I also saw friends from the Belleville and Alton H.O.G. chapters; other chapters were represented, too. The attendees were not limited to H.O.G. members—the Vietnam Vets MC and the Illinois Motorheads were there as well.

We were all entertained on this evening by one of the region's most popular bands, Butch Wax and the Hollywoods. This great band plays a wide variety of music and covers it all very well. Butch Wax and the Hollywoods isn't just a great band to listen to—if you like to dance, they will definitely get you up on the floor. They got me and a whole bunch of other folks on the floor and kept us there. In fact, at one point Joy and I as well as a whole bunch of folks (including Pat Bush) were up on the stage boogieing. I know I was at the dance to cover it for the magazine, but hell: one of the great things about this job is that I get to enjoy myself, too.

One of the reasons I look forward to this event is to see the outfits the guests will be wearing. Once again, I was not disappointed—the outfits were very sharp and showed off their owners' best assets. During the band's breaks, the Kirkwood H.O.G. held contests, including a men's leather contest that appealed a lot more to Joy than

to me. Other breaks, though, featured the contests I enjoy: the ladies' leather and then the ladies' lace contest.



The contestants were all good sports for taking part and adding to others' enjoyment of the evening. It is a cliché, but it is a shame that they couldn't all win because they all deserved to. In my eyes they were all winners.



This is a hard ticket to get, but one that is well worth the price. If you like to have fun, enjoy great music with friends, and have your spirits (as well as maybe some other body parts) lifted on a fall night, I urge you to attend next year's rendition of this annual event. Thanks to the Kirkwood H.O.G. for staging another excellent party.



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News and Notes from Around the Lake
by Dennis "Henbo" Henley

New Year's Degree Ride



The **Lake of the Ozarks Motorcycle Association (LOMA)** had its annual ride on a great New Year's Day 2006. According to tradition, the number of miles coincides with the day's high temperature. The temperature got up to about 60 degrees around the Lake area, which was great news for the approximately 30 riders who took part. The ride started on the strip at around 11:30 before turning south on 42, continuing over to Tuscumbia, and returning back to the Lake. Enjoying the pit stops along the way was the order of the day for the riders who took part. It's great that groups turn out for fun events like this to break the ice on what sometimes is a dead, cold winter day. We've been lucky with the temperature, though, and with the great weather during the last half of December, a lot of bikers were out on the roads throughout the holidays and the new year—a good start to a hopefully quick winter. If you want to ride with LOMA, call their ride hotline at 573-480-RIDE.



Another Stop Along the Way

One of the best reasons to ride is to explore places you have never been to. Often, I just want to go and whatever happens, happens. No plans, no particular place, just a destination. You know where you're generally headed, but

nothing is set in stone. Riding in central, southern, or western Missouri (or any other part of the state), you can find the coolest little joints in the most backwoods, rural, off-the-beaten-path places. With welcoming people inside, a stop along the way can become a routine stop when you go through the next time.



One such place, close to the Lake but off of the busy Highway 54 corridor between Osage Beach and Camdenton is **Buckshots**. About 2 miles down State Road A, up pops this cool-looking place: all wood on the outside with a log cabin appearance, and even more rustic inside with antler lights, a stone fireplace, and wooden tables and chairs. Deen and Dr. Kim Matteo are the welcoming owners, offering a great beer and liquor selection, tasty food with a 3.5-pound burrito on the menu, pool tables, and sports on the tube. This is a biker-owned and biker-friendly place with plenty of motorcycle parking. Formerly known as the Outpost, the bar came under new ownership in mid-2005, and the owners have made it a good stop anytime along the way (they're even open for breakfast). Dr. Kim specializes in alternative healing and nutrition, and her background helps with the good stuff that goes into the menu items. If you want a change in a cozy atmosphere just off Highway 54, check it out and have a buck shot or a buck draw. (That means a dollar, folks.) We welcome Buckshots to *The Biking Life* family of advertisers: be sure to check them out.

What Are You Thinking?

Do you ever think when you ride? I mean, just ride and let your mind wander and think about stuff you see along the way or whatever pops in? I do this when I drive, walk, or do other things that I won't get into now. What do I think about? Well, let's see now...

- *Man, what a great day*
- *What a dumbass, his wife made him go shopping*
- *Where the hell am I going?...No, I'll turn off 73 to 64...No, 65 to Warsaw...Hope that one joint is open*
- *I kinda like that one gal I met at the library last week...I don't think she was married...She has to be a pain in the ass*

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- *This is grrreat...Man, I can't believe he went shopping...Poor sap*
- *This dumbass better not pull out here*
- *Should I drink tonight or wait till tomorrow night?*
- *Hope the weather is good tomorrow*
- *Wow!!...Now that is a dump*
- *I'll go slow and make this idiot tailgater go around...C'mon tourist (I'm waving him by)*
- *Oh boy, one hot mama...I would marry something like that...NAW!!!...What, am I out of my friggin' mind?*
- *60, 70, 80...I don't need another ticket...Back off...65 is good*
- *I could live in that trailer*
- *I need to stop somewhere soon...Gas or pee or water or something*
- *Watch this fool up here...Hey pal, do you see me?...I need a louder horn*
- *I wish I didn't have school tomorrow*
- *I still can't believe that dumbass didn't go...A new bike, and it sits...That's why he's married and I ain't...Thank God...Thank you, Lord...Oh, thank you...Man, I say that a lot*
- *It would be fun with someone to ride up here with...That's ok...Tony's gotta do something again...PW!!!...If I was retired, they couldn't find my ass*
- *Check out this hoosier...Nice car bud...Yea, how you doin'?...I like how they wave at ya, like they know you or something or want you to think they ride too...Yeah, right*
- *Man, I can taste that catfish right now*
- *Gotta fart...Oops...Man, that was close*
- *Let's see, 40 more miles...If I was a fugitive, this is where I'll come to...There's no way they could find me in these boonies*
- *Keep your eye on the road, Henbo...Stop thinkin'...Enjoy the ride...I am, I am*

I think too much, but then, what else could I think about?
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Wascally Weasel Womp by Al “Slow Talker” Wilson



It was a December afternoon, and the old lady and I thought we were going to get the rest of the day off. Then the phone rang: a mysterious call inviting us to come hang out with the Weasels, a self-proclaimed “drinking organization with a motorcycle problem.” How could we refuse? Lord knows that slave-driving SOB I work for wasn’t going to give up his plans. But you all know that story, so I ain’t gonna bend your ear again.

Sheri Whitehead, Bootheel correspondent for *The Biking Life*, had alerted us to the presence of Weasels in the area, and I had caught glimpses of a Weasel here and there, but I was never really sure if it was real or just my imagination. Now though, the Weasels, in the person of Sally (who, if I continue to get clandestine phone calls from her, I may have to refer to as “Deep Throat”), had contacted me. She told me the group was going to have their first annual Christmas party at the “The Fireplace” on Treecourt Industrial Rd in St Louis. It seems this out-of-the-way spot is the de facto den for these Weasels.



The decision to go was one of the best I made during the holiday season. This is really a fun group of people—heck, Bubba was there, so you *know* it was a fun group. I met a great bunch of fun-loving folks, and by the end of the evening I was pretty sure they had aptly described themselves with their motto. The Fireplace isn’t the easiest place to find. I had been there before, but only once, and I almost missed it, except I was pretty sure about where it was...and you know the “slow-talking one” don’t get lost.

There was some awesome food there and lots of it. This group knows how to put on a spread, and the staff at The Fireplace was very friendly (a little *too* friendly, the old lady thought). In addition to enjoying the fine food and drink, we listened to the tuneage from the jukebox when we weren’t busy regaling each other with tales of rides past. Later, who should arrive but Naughty Claus (I think he’s Santa’s evil twin brother), who had some fun activities for the attendees, including a North Pole Dance contest. This was a hotly contested battle...and I do mean *hot*. In fact, much to my surprise the old lady even took part in this, but she obviously didn’t want to win as badly as some of the other contestants. Later that evening there was to be a Candy Cane Licking contest, but I didn’t know if my ticker could stand that one, plus there were other places we had to go. The old lady and I had a great time and thank the Weasels for inviting us out with them. The bottom line is I now know there are Weasels in the area, and if I want to have fun I need to party with them. I recommend you do the same.



A.B.A.T.E. Christmas Party is a Celebration of Rights by Jim Furey



Some of the parties I most look forward to are hosted by the various local motorcycle rights organizations. We are lucky to have two strong ones in the area: in Missouri we are represented by Freedom of the Road Riders (F.O.R.R.), and in Illinois there is A Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education (A.B.A.T.E.). This story is about the great Christmas party hosted by the Piasa-Gateway Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. I guess there's something about fighting for our freedoms as riders that makes these parties and their guests special. There are always a lot free spirits at these events, and this one was no exception.



Joy and I got ready and headed off to the Edwardsville, Illinois, VFW Hall, which seems to be the home of most of their parties (I know their upcoming Hot, Sweet, and Sticky Dance will be held there on February 18). By the time we arrived, there was already a lot going on, with a very dynamic band playing for the crowd. The party featured a silent auction where I was able to pick up some last-minute Christmas gifts, as well as a fantastic

potluck meal. Among the several highlights during this evening of fun was watching one of the Salty Dogs propose to his sweetie. After she accepted, his club brothers offered their congratulations in a way that cannot be pictured here.

During the course of the evening the new officers of the Chapter were introduced. They'll have a hard time filling the shoes of the previous crew, but I am sure they will shepherd the group with the same skill as their predecessors. The contests were fun and entertaining, especially the sexy man and woman contest. Unfortunately, they didn't offer many opportunities for pictures that could appear here. Still, all the participants were good sports and put on a fun show for all.

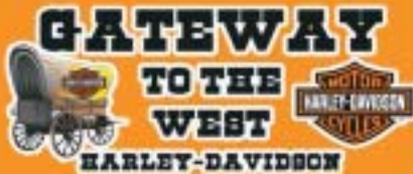
The events were judged by members of the local clubs, which were all well represented. One of the things I admire most about the clubs from the northeastern Metro area is their spirit of cooperation and support for each other's activities. S.I.M.C.A. is one of the driving forces behind this, and it would be great to see that level of cooperation spread throughout the St. Louis Metro area. I thank the Chapter for inviting us and hope we can make it to the Hot, Sweet, and Sticky Dance. However, even if we can't, you should definitely check it out. Another thing I urge all riders to do, regardless of what you ride, is to join either F.O.R.R. or A.B.A.T.E. These organizations fight hard for us, but they cannot continue to do so without our support. On the clubs page you can find listings for these organizations: find one near you and see what they are all about.



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Barry's American Cycle Puts Decatur on the Map by Jim Furey



The Biking Life has been distributed in Decatur, Illinois, almost since its start. However, we had never attended an event there. The reason for this was that we usually didn't hear about what was going on in the area until it was over. I had been talking recently with Barry, the owner of **Barry's American Cycle**, and he invited us to come up for his shop's December Open House. We readily accepted, thinking this was December and it'd be a fun road trip for the holidays.

We got there a little later than planned, and the reception that Barry and all the locals gave us made us regret that we hadn't arrived sooner (although I *had* been in Decatur earlier in life—I attended Eisenhower High School in the early 70s, but didn't graduate from there). (*Editor's note:* The managing editor of this magazine was born in Decatur, as well...) We could see that Decatur is a hotbed of motorcycle activity. The open house was great, and featured a lot of awesome food, all homemade and very

tasty. The groovy, blues-oriented music was awesome but unfortunately I lost their name..

I had been to Barry's American Cycles in the past, dropping off magazines or making a sales pitch, but this was the first time I got to tour the place. The shop recently completed (at least since the last time I was there) a glassed-in showroom addition. In addition to this nice touch, you can get some of the best buys on bikes around here as well. The main showroom is filled with leather, clothing, and a wide array of parts. In back is a full-service shop that even includes a Dyno machine. Additionally, Barry has antique bikes and motors on display throughout the service area.

The reception that Barry gave us was remarkable—he took us around, introducing Joy and I plus the magazine to all in attendance. We were well received and met several members of the United Riders of Central Illinois MC. Some members of the Freedom by Choice A.B.A.T.E. Chapter were there as well. They told us the chapter membership meeting was going to be in January, and if we liked fun we should be there. I told them we would try and make it, so maybe you'll read about that in the not-too-distant future.

The open house was great fun, and I thank Barry for inviting us. I look forward to more trips to see the great riders of the Decatur area, and if you need service for your ride, apparel, or a great deal on a bike, I urge you to visit Barry's American Cycle.



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TJ's Polar Bear Ride by "Killer" Miller

What a difference 365 days makes. Last year it was damp and icky, but this year it was sunny as a good-size crowd arrived at the best biker bar in Jefferson County, Missouri, for the first ride of the year. The riders included a large contingent of Boozefighters and a fair amount of TJ's normal riders. Around noon, the two groups split—one going down to Johnson's Shut-Ins to see the damage caused by the reservoir break, and the other going over to see perfectly normal people jump into cold water to take their first swim of the year. I rode with the second group: having lived through a hurricane, I don't need to see the damage water can cause. Most of the BFMC made up the second group, and we met their Illinois chapter over by the swimmers. Many other clubs were also present, including the Illinois Motorheads and the 81 Nomads. Jim "the boss" was there with his lady friend, too. I enjoyed a perfectly wonderful day of brotherhood and riding with good weather on both the trip up and back, and to me there is no better way to have the first ride of the year. So, Happy New Year everyone, and remember: read this like you stole it—Killer.

More Polar Bear Runs by Jim Furey

Like Killer I also set off on a Polar Bear Run on New Year's Day as did Kent Meisemann oh and Henbo too. Yes we at *The Biking Life* make every effort to be as many places as possible. In fact I ran into Killer at Smitty's in New Athens as that was the destination for the Road Raptors Riding Club and the Piasa-Gateway A.B.A.T.E. Chapters run. There were more than 75 bikes that showed up to take part, with two routes a longer one and a shorter one. I took the shorter one along with our friends from the Illinois Motorheads. This group stopped at Karbans' Knotty Pines on the way to Smitty's. This is also the home of the Paderborn Rat Pack. After leaving Smitty's it was a quick stop at **Gallagher's Getaway**, Sheila had gone out of her way preparing lots of food she was giving away and it was good. From there I took off for Good Times in Waterloo, to see some friends from down there. I know they also have a Polar Bear Run every year. I did see some familiar faces and had a great time. Kent took off on a ride with some of the more established riders from the St. Louis area. So with out further ado here are a bunch of pictures from the three of ours adventures. I can only say that if the first day of the year was any indication of the fun to be had this year riding, well then woo-hoo. It's gonna be a big time.





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Remembering
by Jim Waters
President, Good News Riders, St. Louis, Missouri

This last Tuesday night was the **Kirkwood HOG** January meeting, which I attended with a buddy, Marvin. We are both HOG members. Marvin had been asked to lead a short time of remembrance for HOG members who had passed away during 2005. As he was reading the names of members or family members, I realized that I did not know most of the people. But there was one name that stood out to me—Brandon.

Brandon was a young man who worked in the Service Department at **Doc's Harley-Davidson**. I had only met him a few times. One cold, raining night last spring I went to Doc's to pick up my bike at closing time. When I say it was raining, it was *really* storming. The lady at the Service Department desk tried to get me to leave the bike there and pick it up some other time, but I had to have my bike for a ride the next day. She picked up the phone, called Brandon, and had him bring my bike around to us. Brandon rode my bike up to the Service Department door in the pouring rain, parked the bike, and handed me the keys and just smiled real big. Brandon passed away a few months later. He was only 19 when he died—way too young.

Marvin asked the question, "What will people remember about you when you are gone?" We remember how people lived their lives and the examples they set for us. What kind of example are we setting for our friends and families? If you were to die today, would you be ready to meet God and face eternity? The Bible tells us that only God holds the keys to life and death. Jesus died so we could have everlasting life. If you aren't ready to face these consequences, then maybe you should make changes in your life. Think about it!

The State Coordinator for Missouri is Jim (Becky) Oliver, 636-332-6814, oliver8050@aol.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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Poor, Rich Children

by Joyce Davis

I've heard some people say how spoiled they were as children. Always talking about big parties, big gifts, big fun. I feel sorry for these people, though. As some point in my life, I realized that they should envy *me*.

I'm convinced that my mom must have hated laundry day, hated it as much as we six kids loved it. We lived about a block from the laundromat. Mom gathered dirty socks for days. Once she was satisfied that all the dirty clothes were in the baskets, she'd get Tom's little red wagon off the front porch. She had devised a way to get two little girls in the wagon with most of the laundry, with the older daughter and son each carrying a basket. I was child number three; I wasn't big enough to carry a basket, so I walked alongside the wagon, picking up any articles that wound up in the gravel and trying to keep my sisters from jumping or falling out of the little red wagon. Mom was the strongest of us all. She had to carry the baby, a big boy—11 lb. 2 oz., 24 inches long at birth. They grow so fast. At least the basket she carried didn't squirm so much.

We knew the routine at the laundromat. We would sit in a row of plastic chairs that were welded together, from the oldest down to the youngest, not counting the baby (Mom kept him safe on her hip). The five of us would always be excited, knowing that somehow Mom would have exactly enough change left over to buy a soda. How cool is this? How does she do it, we'd wonder. She must be a very lucky woman. After feeding the last hungry washing machine, she'd head directly for that light blue Pepsi machine and drop her coins in the slot. Then we'd hear the bottle drop. Oh, happy day! I can almost feel the bubbles tickling my nose even now. By now, we'd be leaning forward in our seats. Smiling, mom would first hand the Pepsi to Claudine, each of us watching her throat move as she swallowed her first drink. We'd all smile, as if we were being entertained by a magician. Next, it'd be Tom's turn. Tom sure liked to kid around and pester you. He always made the rest of us believe that he was going to drink the rest of the soda in one big gulp. Of course, his sip wasn't any longer than the rest of ours. Still, I was glad I wasn't child number 4 or 5. Finally, it'd be my turn. The soda was always as good as I'd anticipated. As I passed the bottle to my right, I'd see us all...still smiling. I couldn't tell you if I ever got a second sip from that one bottle. I can only tell you how special that first one always was.

When the washers all stopped spinning, Mom would take all those clean wet clothes home again. Washing them was but one small step in the process. The children went on with their daily lives, playing, smiling.

To the spoiled child I say, "I am so sorry that you will never know just how good one small sip tastes."

Looking back, I remember that Mom would tell us something like she didn't like Pepsi, or she already had one. Those memories helped me learn what sacrificing for a loved one meant. She did it without hesitation.

I'm still not convinced that we were ever as poor as our checkbook said we were.

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Road Rebels Spread Christmas Cheer by Jim Furey



Many clubs and organizations hold events during the month of December. We tried to get to as many as possible, but one event I make it a point not to miss is actually a two-parter. The first part was the Road Rebels Christmas party, held at the Venice Social Club in Venice, Illinois. This was a fun little party, consisting of the group and some of the clubs they are friendly with, along with a few invited friends like Mike and Ida from **Case's Custom Cycles** and Joy and I. The club members went all-out in providing some very tasty grub, and the raffles were a big success, with some nice items going to the winners. Club members also had a gift exchange: some of the presents were funny, some useful, but all given with respect. It seemed that all who attended had a great time. I know we did.

The second part was the Road Rebels' annual visit to a nursing home to give gifts to residents who have no one to share Christmas with. This is always a touching sight as the bikers give gifts, share some laughs, and try to lift the spirits of these folks. This is the second time I have witnessed this, and I also try to take part in cheering up the



folks. It is very sad, these once-vibrant folks who no longer have anyone to share the holidays with.

I have great admiration for the Road Rebels because of this good but difficult work. I know some other groups do toy runs, and that is admirable also, but the thing about a toy



run is that you can often see the child's happiness immediately. When you try to help the aged, the benefits are not so readily apparent. It is often hard to even judge if some of them are aware, although occasionally you get some sign of recognition. Still, I think the Road Rebels do it for the good feeling it gives them inside, knowing that they have given of themselves for someone else. I thank Grumpy, Murph, Shorty, Beng, and all the other members of the organization for allowing us to be a part of their holiday celebrations.



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Clubs and Organizations

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A.B.A.T.E

Backroads Chapter - Meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at Pop-a-Tops in Ellis Grove, IL. on Rt. 3 for more information please email shev@egyptian.net

Freedom By Choice Chapter – Macon County area our monthly chapter meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of every month starting at 1:00 p.m. at the DAV (unless otherwise noted)

Great River Chapter – Meetings the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM sites vary for more info email greatriverabate@msn.com.

Missouri Chapter – Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the V.F.W. 10817 Midland, St. Louis, MO for more info email webmaster@abateformissouri.com.

Peo-Taz Chapter – visit www.peo-taz.org for more info

Piasa-Gateway Chapter - chapter meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of every month starting at 7:00 p.m. Our meetings are held at the Edwardsville V.F.W. Post 1299 the V.F.W. is located 7108 Marine Rd., Rte. 143 East, Edwardsville, IL.

Prairieland Chapter - meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of every month starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Prairieland ABATE Building located at 1901 N. Railroad Av., Decatur, Illinois

St. Clair Co meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month - 7 p.m., at the Fairview Hts. Elks Club, corner of Old Lincoln Trail and Hwy. 161, Fairview Hts. IL.

American Cruisers - meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month at Bobeck's in Waterloo, IL. at 9:00 a.m email tats@htc.net for more info

Association MC Jonesboro, AR visit www.associationmc.com for info

Bikers Against Child Abuse: East Missouri Chapter Meets on the third Sunday of every month At the Knights of Columbus hall on McMenamy road, off of HWY 70 and MidRivers Mall Drive At 10:00 am, all bikers and bikes are welcome Call toll free 877-773-8790 or visit our website www.bacausa.com

Bootleggers MC - welcomes all brands of bikes monthly meeting First Saturday of the month Lon Bishop (Pup) Pres (618) 251-6160. Please call this number for further information.

BROTHERS OF THE THIRD WHEEL, GATEWAY CHAPTER meets the Second Saturday of the month at 2:30 PM at Good Times Tavern, 200 N Main St, Dupo, IL; please check the web site for details. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BTW-STL-MO/>

Christian Motorcycle Assn: (CMA) 2nd Thurs 7:30pm, Fire Mountain, 8925 Watson Rd., Crestwood, MO. Call Jim at 314-434-2282

Cross Road Riders Meetings on the 2nd Sunday of every month at the Union, MO public library, just off of Highway 50. Contact Lonnie Stallmann at 636-583-4871, llscmaer@hotmail.com or Phil Tolliver at 636-239-4055 or ptolliver001@charter.net

Good News Riders 2nd Thurs 7:30 PM Ryan's 8925 Watson Crestwood, MO. Call 636 296 3120 TTP://midwestrider.com/goodnews.jpg.

Servant Riders – meetings on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at St. Clair Bowl, 5950 Old Collinsville Road Fairview Heights, IL. All are welcome Roger Snyder (618-233-3443) e-mail: cmariders@compu-type.net.

Semo Son Riders - www.cmausa.org

Steelhorse Prophets – www.cmausa.org

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.

Cycle Disciples St.Louis Chapter – for more info please visit the following websites www.geocities.com/griz50/CycleDisciplesSTL.html www.cycledisciples.com/html/st_louis.html

Dream Weavers Motorcycle Club – meetings 1st Thursday of the month at the Woodriver VFW at 7 PM visit geocities.com/dreamweavers for more info.

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

FOG MC – Freaking Old Guys Motorcycle group must be 45+ to join all bikes are welcome for info or to join email budtrk@hotmail.com there will soon be a website also fogmc.com.

Freedom of Road Riders:

Local 20 – meetings last Sunday of the month 1 PM at Dexter, MO Eagles Hwy 25 North www.angelfire.com/mo2/roadriders

Local 24 - Meetings 2nd Weds of the month, 7:30pm at VFW Hall, 10817 Midland, St. Louis, MO

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

Local 32 - Meetings first Sunday of the month 1 pm, at LeeBo's Roadhouse Highway 84 East, Caruthersville, MO

Local 34 – meetings third Weds of the month at Bullwinkle's Pub Hwys T and 60 East Poplar Bluff, MO www.forr34.org

Local 35 – Meetings on the 3rd Sat of the month at the American Legion Hall in Artesian Park Clinton, MO at 5:00 PM

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 last Weds of the month 6:30 PM at Roadhouse 100, 2763 Hwy 100, Gray Summit, MO 636-629-1390.

Freedom Riders – welcomes all bikers and bikes to come ride with them email to Ride4JC1@aol.com for more info.

Gateway X-treme Riders Assoc - STL MO area including Metro East IL Club is primarily for owners/riders of Honda VTX cruisers. All bikes are welcome. Web site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gatewayvtx>

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

Honda Sport touring Assn. St Louis area 1st Sat; South Central MO 2nd Sat, Please join us at any time 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. Garth Haubner at (636) 928 6939 Email: ghaubner@juno.com or Tom Trieschmann by E-mail ttriesch@inlink.com

Illinois Motorcyclists Rights Association - an organization that concentrates on the street riders' rights Website is ilmotorcyclists.org

LOMA (Lake Ozark Motorcycle Association) Events/Rides Hotline (573) 480-7433

Marion Roadrunners Riders Group – an all bike, rider group that gets together on Sundays and rides, meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Eagles Hall in Marion, IL. The meetings are open to every one. More info as well as events are available on their web site www.marionroadrunners.com.

MidSouth Riders - Northwest Tennessee www.midsoutheriders.com

Midwest Trail Riders Assn. Email mtra@ridemtra.com www.ridemtra.com Event hotline (314) 314 434 5095

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

Missouri Road Dogs - Sikeston, MO, e-mail Moroaddog@aol.com for more information

Norton Owners Club -Interested parties can contact me directly at my address shurst01@mail.win.org or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gnoa>

Outlanders – All motorcycle brand, family oriented org promoting fun events without negative attitudes, drugs or alcohol. Meetings are the last Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM at the TRY Club, 655 Berkshire, East Alton, IL **Patriots MC** Paragould AR call Don (870) 240 – 3925.

Reelfoot Lake Night Riders - Tipton, TN www.reelfootlakenightriders.com

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, for additional club information. <http://www.r3c.org>

Road Riders for Jesus Chapter 5 - Meetings 3rd Thursday of each month at Alphonzo's 2 Schibert Ct. in Maryville IL. We eat at 6:30 PM and start meeting at 7:00 PM. All bikes welcome. Web site: <http://www.roadridersforjesus.org/>

Road Riders for Jesus Belleville Chapter- Belleville Chapter, meets every 2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm, Meeting starts at 7:00pm. at Crehan's Irish Pub 5500 North Belt West Belleville, Illinois For more info contact Glenn "Hogdaddy" Grigsby at 618-972-5875

Road Riders for Jesus (RRJ) Waterloo Chapter meets 1st Tuesday of each month at Arby's, 721 N. Market St. Waterloo IL. We eat at 6:00 p.m., meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. For more information see website www.roadridersforjesus.org

Road Rebels Riding Club - An all brand riding club, for more info about the club email President Rick "Grumpy" White roadrebelgrump@yahoo.com or 618-972-4951

Shadow Riders of 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 Breed Kennett, MO Chapter - For info visit www.southernbreed.com.

Southern Cruisers Chapter 47 - St Louis, MO E-Mail - john.platten@swbell.net for more info.

Columbia Chapter - visit the website www.southernrcruisers.net or email midlam69@aol.com

Southern Illinois Star Riders meet the first Sunday of each month in Collinsville, IL. Contact wizardandangel@yahoo.com or visit autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/southernillinoisstarriders/

Southwest Illinois Ronin Riding Club - **meets the** 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/

St Louis Motorcycle Club meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at Goff-Moll American Legion Hall, 2721 Collier, Brentwood, MO. Meeting time is 7:30 PM and all are welcome call (314) 771-7100 or visit www.yahoo.com/group/STLMC for more info

Star Touring and Riding Chapter 275- Meetings 1pm 1st Sunday of month at Victory Lane Power Sports in Swansea. A family organization of all bikes. Contact chapter president Jeff Smith, cmsr01@sbcglobal.net, 618-977-2184, or visit www.star275.org.

Vendetta's M/C, Bootheel Chapter - P.O. Box 831, Doniphan, MO 63935 kzk1420@gmail.com

Veterans of Vietnam M/C-VoVMC Membership is open to all Honorably Discharged Vietnam Era Veterans. <http://www.vovma.org/VOVMA.html>

Vietnam Veterans M/C - for more information on this club email them at vnvmcillusa@yahoo.com

Vietnam Vet's M/C USA MO (314) 440-1033

Women On Wheels Heartland Chapter meetings are the 4th Weds of the month at 7:00 at Color-Art Integrated Interiors, 1325 North Warson Rd., St. Louis, MO visit www.heartlandwow.org. for info

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.

Belleville, 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.

Bourbeuse Valley HOG Chapter 2nd Sunday of the month, 10:30 AM at Bourbeuse Valley Harley-Davidson 1418 Hwy AT, Villa Ridge meets inside the old store call (636) 451-0106 for more info or directions.

Decatur IL HOG Chapter meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the dealership.

Festus Mo. HOG Chapter 1st Wed of month, 7:30 at Surdyke Harley Davidson 2435 Highway 67, Festus, MO. Please call the dealership for more info (636) 931 8700.

Gateway to the West HOG Chapter 3rd Thurs of the month 8:00 PM at Gateway to the West Harley Davidson, 3600 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO. LOH meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Blarney Stone 4333 Telegraph Rd. at 7:30 PM for more info go to www.gatewayhog.org.

Kirkwood Mo. Chapter 2nd Tuesday of the month at Goff-Moll American Legion Hall, 2721 Collier, Brentwood, MO. The LOH meeting is held at Culpeppers, 312 S Kirkwood, Kirkwood, MO on the first Thursday of month. Everyone is welcome. Contact (314) 544 HAUG or www.Kirkwoodhog.com.

Ozark Mountain HOG of Lebanon, MO. meetings are held the third Sunday of each month @ 1 pm, at Ozark Harley-Davidson, 2300 Evergreen Parkway,. During the months of May-Sep, meetings are held @ 11 pm. For info contact www.ozarkharley-davidson.com or 417-532-2900

River Roads HOG Chapter 1st Wednesday of the month. 6pm Social / 7pm Business Meetings alternate between TNT Action Sports (Chapter Sponsor at 5101 Oak Street, Quincy) and Tri-State area establishments. For more info www.rrchog.com or call 217.224.1004

Springfield IL HOG Chapter Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month @ 7:00 pm, at Breaktime

St Charles HOG Chapter: 3rd Tues of the month 7 pm at St. Charles Moose Lodge 2705 Interstate 70 or visit www.stcharleshog.com or email webmaster@stcharleshog.com .

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



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Alton/Grafton/Wood River 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

The Loading Dock, 400 Front St, Grafton, IL (618) 786-3494

Porky's, 1543 E Edwardsville Rd, Wood River, IL (618) 254-9380

Sandbar, 1856 E Broadway, (618) 465 - 2861

Woodstock Lounge, 638 Broadway, Alton, IL

Wild Goose Saloon, 1505 W. Main St, Grafton, IL, (618) 786-8888

Belleville

Crehan's Irish Pub, 5500 North Belt West 618) 234-6500

Dutch Hollow Barn, 533 Dutch Hollow Rd. (618) 235-5868

Linda Lou's 1310 Dutch Hollow Rd (formerly H's Bar)

Mitch and Nancy's League Lounge, 1501 W Main St (618) 277-3643

Robin's Nest, 1614 Mascoutah Ave. (618) 234-7432
Sheridan's Frozen Custard, 5326 N Illinois St

The Antique House, 3701 W. Main St. (618) 235-3434

TR'S Place 4901 Concordia Rd., (618) 277-7135

Cahokia/Sauget/Dupo

Brandy Inn: 103 Water St. (618) 337-1101 Always Biker Friendly

Chopper Chairs (618) 531 - 3222

Derby Al's Diner: 2845 Camp Jackson Rd.

Carmi

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

Caseyville

ABG Sports Bar, 601 N Main St (618) 344 -9781

Caddyshack Saloon, 2865 N. 89th St, (618) 397-4704 Friendly bartenders Collinsville/Edwardsville

American Pride Collision 427 East Main St, C'Ville (618) 345-7872, We can fix your bike too.

Good Times, 834 S Morrison, C'Ville, IL

Our Place, 704 Henry St, Edwardsville, IL (6187) 655-1255

Granite City

Gabby's Bar & Grill, 1800 State St. (618) 452-2009

Jacksonville

Don's Place, 207 W Morgan St, (217) 243-2112

Maryville/Glen Carbon

Judy Inn, 3730 S Hwy 157 (618) 288 - 9182

Sharky's Sports Bar, 2537 Vandalia, (618) 344-0826

Granite City/Pontoon Beach

Smokey Joe's, 3998 Lake St, (618) 931-2279

The Village Inn, 4015 Pontoon Rd., Pontoon Beach (618) 931-4497

Mt. Vernon

The Crossing: 300 S 9th - 1 block off the square.(rt.37&rt.15)

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

Quincy, IL/Hannibal, MO area

Booters 112 W Main St, Mt Sterling, IL (217) 773-2381

Hard Times II 305 S Ohio, Camp Point, IL (217) 593-7733

Kelly's (A fun Place to Eat and Drink), 2902 Broadway (217) 222-5579

Long Branch Saloon, New Canton, IL (217) 426-2022

Sparky's, 221 N 5th St, (217) 224-7527

Sportsman's Club 111 N Capitol Ave., Mt Sterling, IL (217) 773-9096

The Other Place, 105 S Main St, Hannibal, MO (573) 221-4114

The Back Porch, 715 Oak, Quincy, IL (217) 223-8800

The Office, 717 Mortimer, Barry, IL (217) 335-3193

Southwestern Illinois Falling Springs Club, 2200 LePere Ln. Dupo, IL (618) 286-4440

Fountain Inn, 1912 Fountain Rd. Valmeyer, IL (618) 935-2266

Freda's Bar, 2071 Main St Renault, IL.

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

Georgia's Place, 415 Vine St, Eldred, IL

Gert's Place Bar and Grill III Rtes 3 & 149 Gorham, IL (618) 763-9254

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

Heartland Bar and Grill, 6180 Rte 3, Waterloo, IL (618) 939-6670

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

Karban's Knotty Pine, 4569 Buss Branch Rd., Waterloo, IL (618) 473-9954

L & D Patio, Bar & Grill Hwy 3 McClure, IL 62957 618-661-9106

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

Old Shamrock Tavern, Hwys 13 & 156, New Athens, IL (618) 475-9263

"Papa" Wheelie's, Old Rte 50, Trenton, IL (618) "A full throttle sports bar"

Rick's Corner, 201 S Union St Staunton (618) 635-3088

S & J Main Street, 608 N. Main St. Columbia, IL, (618) 281-9997.

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

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 (217) 522-2557

Knuckleheads, 2000 Peoria Rd., 62702 (217) 789-1488

Pony Keg Leathers: 2026 S 11th St (217) 544-3774
The Cove 1616 N Dirksen Pkwy (217) 753-1760

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Terry and Kathy's - Defiance, MO on Hwy. 94 about 9 miles south of Hwy 40

Fenton

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

Florissant

Class Act Tattoo and Body Piercing, 11629 West Florissant Rd., Florissant, MO (314) 972-0707

Fredericktown

Little Joe's Bar and Grill, 1317 Hwy OO (573) 783-5452

Gray Summit

Roadhouse 100, 2763 Highway 100 (636) 451-2007

Hazelwood

Jack's Iron Horse Bar and Grill: 12950 St Charles Rock Rd (314) 209-1280

Lake of the Ozarks Area

Backwater Jacks Lakeside Bar & Grill Lake Rd. to Beach Dr (573) 348-6639

Cheeks Bar & Grill at the Square, Camdenton, MO (573) 346-5400

Filling Station Pub & Grill, Hwy 54 Osage Beach, MO (573) 348-4796

Gasoline Alley 324 W Main St, Warsaw, MO (660) 438-4170

IM Tirebiters Bar & Grill, across from Shoney's in Oage Beach(573) 348-1177

Risky's Sports Bar, Hwy 54 West of Square Camdenton, Bike Night first Wed of month (573) 346-9740

Rock Island Line, "The Dam Bar" Bagnell Dam Strip Lake Ozark (573) 365-8911

Salty Dog Lakeside Bar & Grill, Lake Rd 54-37 (Jeffries Rd) (573) 348-9797

The Rail Sports Bar & Grill, Hwy 54 West of Osage Beach (573) 348-1431

Town and Country Motel, 5451 Hwy 54, Osage Beach (800) 251 - 5677

Louisiana

Eagles Nest Bistro, Hwy 79 (573) 754-9888

Pevely

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

St Ann

Lindy's - 10471 St Charles Rock Rd (314) 427-2822
St Charles/St Peters/O'Fallon

Porky's Restaurant and Bar, 1203 5th St, St Charles, (636) 940-0142

St. Louis

Double D's Hangout, 9853 S. Broadway, 314-615-9100

Frank's First Alarm 7800 Virginia (314) 638-9272 House of Rock, Ronnie's Plaza featuring the best in live music Thursday - Saturday.

Iron Horse Saloon, 7928 S. Broadway, Saint Louis, MO (314) 631-3141

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Scott and Beverly's Some Other Place Other Place 1500 Lemay Ferry Rd. (314)892-6969

Shady Jack's Saloon and Deli, 1432 N Broadway (314) 241-Hogg fax (314) 241-TITS

Southeast Missouri

BoonDock Bar & Grill,-22712 US Highway 61 Morley, MO. (573)262-8899

Bootheel Saloon -Highway 142 Poplar Bluff, MO

Bullwinkle's Pub, Hwy T off Hwy 60 E Poplar Bluff, MO (573) 778-9278

County Ice House,H Highway, Benton, MO (573) 545-9988

Danny's Place, 1102 Linn Street, Sikeston, Missouri (573)-471-9984

Farmer's Bar & Grill, Highway 62, Risco, MO (573) 396-5572

Jim & Jerry's Restaurant, Pub & Billiards 336 Vine St. Poplar Bluff, MO (573) 686-2006

LeeBo's Road House & Bait Shop - Highway 84 East, Caruthersville, MO (573)359-4493

Marbles Restaurant and Sport Bar, Bus Hwy 60, Dexter, MO (573) 624-8662

Mona's Clymax II - 215 Ward Ave., Caruthersville, MO (573)333-3003

Scotty's Sports Bar & Grill - 4802 West Village (PP Hwy.) Poplar Bluff, MO (573-686-9300)

Stevie P's, 207 Second St. Qulin, MO, Call 573-328-9963 for more information

Players, 632 Broadway, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 (573) 335-9915

Wheels Sports Bar & Grill, Highway 25 and Highway 62,Malden, MO (573) 276-5512

Wild River Pub & Grill, 3765 Hwy W, Farmington, MO

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.





A Portrait of the Artist: Van Gogh by Jim Furey

There are a lot of talented painters in the region; however, there is only one Van Gogh. He is also known as John Bauer, and I recently caught up with him at his studio in Belleville, Illinois. This is a feature that has been a long time in coming: John and I first talked about it a long time ago, and finally the stars aligned correctly and we were able to git-r-done.

John Bauer is a true artist and without any trace of ego; he told me that his is a natural talent that he has worked to hone since he was a boy. Born in East St. Louis, Illinois, some 57 years ago, he had the same education as most of us, but then in 1966 he decided he'd had enough of that and dropped out of high school. Not long after that, Uncle Sam sent him a letter requesting his services to help fight the Vietnam War. John did what he thought was right and served his country.

Even while overseas, John continued to educate himself and try new things with his art. He was and is always trying new things or even old things to give each of his artworks a different look. When he returned to the States he was able to find work in the art field and he excelled based on his natural ability until he was able to land a position as an art director. That was okay, but it didn't give this artist the freedom he needed, so he quit that job in 1990 in order to "really do art" as he says.

John really *does* do art: his work has been commissioned for the MGM Grand, Isle of Capri, and Station Casinos in Las Vegas. Closer to home, you can view his talent at the St. Louis Zoo—the scenes in the Ape House were painted



by John, and each one had to represent a different environment as the apes all come from different regions. Other pieces of art he has created grace the Kennedy Space Center, and his work has been viewed by millions no doubt. So, how did this man obsessed with perfection in his art come to paint motorcycles, you ask?



People who had seen John's ability come to life in different media kept asking him to paint their bikes. One day he relented, and since then he has been painting bikes in his shop and doing pinstriping at various events: **Ted's Motorcycle World** Customer Appreciation Days; the annual event hosted by Niehaus Cycles in Litchfield, Illinois; and the Missouri State HOG Rally. Now he also attends events where he stripes PT Cruisers. In addition, John's work can be seen on a number of Goldwings in the area. It all boils down to this—John doesn't care about what you type of vehicle you bring him, but what he can create on it.

One would think that with all the success he has enjoyed, John would be content to just churn out work, but no: his work is always in an evolutionary state. He is always looking for new techniques to create that special and unique look. One thing he is doing right now is incorporating variegated copper leaf into his paint jobs. The different colors in this leaf come alive in the light and give some awesome looks. One of the paint jobs he was working on while I was there was a warrior-themed piece—John used carbon pencil to draw the warrior, and the detail incorporated in this drawing is remarkable. Another artwork was created for Jim Leader. For Jim's bike John created a technique to make the bike appear to have the texture of carbon fiber. John used gold leaf in the pinstriping to finish off this superior look. The use of leaf in painting is not new, but John's take on it is. John loves to talk painting (I learned in talking to him that the clear coats should be as thin as possible to prevent failures, for one thing) and is always willing to discuss what he has done with up-and-coming painters.

In addition to having awe-inspiring talent, John is also a good man. I know of more than one instance where he painted bikes for people he knew couldn't afford his work because he wanted to help them out. His willingness to help other painters is another testament to that fact.

In looking around his shop, it is hard to find a spot that isn't painted, from wall murals, to pictures of Marilyn, to striping everywhere. Creating hand-striped pieces is one of John's new passions—he does all of his striping freehand, so no two pieces are ever the same, and some of those projects are displayed here. If you are contemplating having your bike or anything else painted, contact John and see what this modern master can do for you. John can be reached at (618). As I was leaving, he told me, "Originality is what distinguishes art from craft." Using that yardstick, John is every bit the artist his namesake Van Gogh was.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

February

1st to May 13th Motorcycle Madness II at Douglas County Museum 700 S Main St, Tuscola, IL theme is motorcycles through the decades with lots of different type displays call (217) 253 - 2535 for info

10th 2nd Annual Forget the Ribbons Show the Green to Support Our Troops Benefit at Jack's Iron Horse Saloon on the Rock Road music by Johnny Rokit **11th Leather, Lace & Lingerie Fashion Show** at David's Banquet Center in Pevely hosted by TJ's Bar and Grill tickets are on sale now at TJ's call (636) 475-3648 for info

11th to 13th Motorcycle Exposition at the Rosemont Horizon in the Chicago area

11th Wild Game CookOff at Ted's Motorcycle World 4103 Humbert Rd Alton, IL entry deadline is Feb 8 call Patti at (618) 462 3030 or 888 695 4740 to register or for info

17th and 18th Seasons of Refreshing host by Illinois CMA at the Northfield Inn & Suites, 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL (217-523-7900)

18th East Side Mardi Gras Association Ball SWANSEA IMPROVEMENT HALL, 301 SERVICE, SWANSEA, IL 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. \$15.00 in Advance \$20.00 at the Door (Includes Admission, Strand of Beads, Draft Beer, Snacks and Attendance Prizes)

18th Mardi Gras Ball by Gateway to the West HOG at Meramac Arnold Elks in Imperial, MO \$15 per person live music, Raffles and much more tickets on sale now contact Gateway to the West Harley Davidson for info

18th Hot, Sweet and Sticky Dance at Edwardsville VFW Post 1299 7108 Marine Rd Edwardsville, IL \$10 /person, \$15 per couple sponsored by Piasa-Gateway ABATE call Ed at (618) 372-4635 for info

19th A.B.A.T.E. of Illinois Swap meet and Motorcycle show at Prairie Capital convention Center 9th and Adams Springfield, IL 10 to 4 for info call 800-87-ABATE

25th Winter Barn Bash & Chili Party Fund raising event for the 100 MPH Club at their clubhouse 8300 Bunkum Rd Caseyville, IL starts at 2:00 PM all U can eat for a \$5 donation

25th Mardi Gras Party hosted by the Vietnam Vet's M.C. noon to midnight at their clubhouse 3223 Osceola (314) 353-6149 stop by after the parade Mardi Gras Specials

25th Kirkwood HOG Road Captains Midnight Madness Fund Raiser join them for hotdogs, burgers and soadas at Doc's Harley Davidson 930 S Kirkwood Saint Louis

March

25th FORR Local 42 Leather and Lace Dance at the Pacific, MO Eagles Hall, 707 W Congress 7 to ?? advance tickets \$10 from a FORR member until March 11th \$15/person, \$25/couple at gate

Joke of the Month

CAJUN PREGNANCY

Way down in Louisiana, Bubba's old lady had been pregnant for some time and now the time had come. So he brought her to the doctor and the doctor began to deliver the baby.

She had a little boy and the doctor looked over at Bubba and said, "Hey, Bubba! You just had you a son! Aint dat grand!"

Bubba got excited by this, but just then the doctor spoke up and said, "Hold on! We ain't finished yet!"

The doctor then delivered a little girl. He said, "Hey, Bubba! You got you a daughter! She a pretty lil ting, too."

Bubba got kind of puzzled by this and then the doctor said, "Hold on, we still ain't got done yet!"

The doctor then delivered another boy and said, "Bubba, you just had yourself another boy!"

When Bubba and his wife went home with their three children, he sat down with his wife and said, "Mama, you remember dat night what we ran

out of Vaseline and we had to use dat dere 3-in-1 Oil?"

She said, "Yeah, I do."

Bubba said, "Man, it's a dang good ting we didn't use no WD-40."

Weekly Events

Mon American Choppers on the Discovery Channel

Tues Two Wheel Tuesday on the Speed Channel

Thurs **Hard Riders weekly ride call their hotline for starting point (314) 340-2000**

Sat Ride starting at Mini Ha-Ha Beach on Old Gravois in Fenton meet at 11 AM

A Case for Motorcycles

by “Killer” Miller

As I write this, it is a balmy (above 40 degree) January day. As I was out riding earlier with a few others, I saw that gas was around \$2.30 a gallon. That gave me a reason to think—how many of us have a bike? Quite a few, I guess: I mean, you *are* reading this. How many of us want a bike? Probably even more. NOW is the time to buy. Bikes have many distinct advantages over cars. Here is a short list:

- Bikes get way better mileage. On average, cars get 22 mpg, whereas bikes get 45 mpg. Think about that the next time you fill up the family SUV (I know I do).
- Bikes require you to have a passion for them that few cars do, and with that passion you will have passion for other things in your life also.
- Bikes will cause you to meet new and interesting people. I never would have met some of the neatest people I know if I didn't ride a motorcycle.
- You get better parking spots.
- Kids will stare and wave at you (use this chance to be a good biker).
- Bikers do more good in the community than average car people, including toy runs for instance.
- Bikes are way cooler than most cars. Yes, I know bikes are inherently more dangerous than cars, but some of this can be alleviated by taking a safety course.

On the other hand, yes, you will get wet and cold, but hey—where else can you go down the road and do your laundry at the same time? Some folks consider bikes to be expensive play toys. No, they are *not*! What you will spend in start-up costs, you will save in fuel and insurance over the years. Even a full-dress Hog at a little over \$25,000 is still in the same price range as a family sedan and cheaper than most big gas hog cars. I have a good case in point on this. There is a guy I know (let's call him Chuck) who came into some money recently from the lottery. He wanted a bike—he'd had them in the past and wanted to get back into them. Chuck asked me for advice and I gave it. I told him he should go and

buy a used sportster, a newer Bonnie, or a good used BMW: a fairly low-maintenance bike with a low seat height that he would feel comfortable on. So, what does he do? He goes and buys a new economy car because he convinced himself that at this stage in his life—middle-aged, no kids, no wife—“a bike might not be a good idea” and “I could get hurt or wet.” “Yes,” I told him, “But you would be happier and better adjusted.”

You do not have to buy new or go whole Hog. My son bought a used 650 Yamaha twin that gets about 50 mpg and is still a pretty cool bike with potential to be even cooler. By the way, that is 20 more mpg than his Neon gets. Well, those are my thoughts. If you have any you'd like to share, write us at *The Biking Life* and let us know. We love our readers. Killer, out riding while I can.

Tech Tip

Q: Why is oil coming out of my breather?

A: for the owner of Evolution big twin engines, this is an all too common question. Well; there are a number of things you can do to prevent this situation from occurring on your bike. Simply follow these easy troubleshooting guidelines.

- When oil heats up it expands. Make sure you don't over-fill the tank and not allow any expansion room.
- The breather line coming off your oil tank. needs to be a breather. Verify that it is not connected to the supply or return fittings on the gear cover.
- If you are using an oil cooler, be sure it is inline after the filter and before the oil tank.
- Make sure you are using a 30-micron rated oil filter.
- S & S cases use a pre-1992 gear cover and gasket that seals the air oil separator compartment. Use of a 1993 and up gear cover or gasket will allow oil to seep into the separator compartment and fill it up past the breather tube in the crankcase—that will guarantee oil from the breather tube.



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our menu includes:steak quesadillas, charbroiled burgers and rib eye, homemade pizza, gravogetti deli sandwich open 365 days a year with pool table,pinball ,golf, bowling, darts, pool leagues monday, karaoke & ladies night tuesday, texas holdem wenesday, open mic thursday, live bands friday and saturday, we try to rest on sunday



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Here's a Hog that will make you go hmmm by Rob 'Bobo'Belinski

It happens some times you get so deep into the forest you don't see the trees. That is kind of the story behind this bike. It was built by Iron Hog Cycles in Barnhart, MO. I have been to this Shop many times and have seen their hardworking staff building another dream for some soon to be very happy customer. Yet for some reason I guess I was just used to seeing the quality rides created by Tim Smith, Gene Akers and now the newest member of their staff Anthony Stacy. This shop's slogan "If you can dream it we can build it" has rung true for one customer after another.

This sharp looking hunk of rolling steel is built on a Pro-One frame. PRO-ONE prides itself on its truly unique styles ranging from sleek and brilliant to mind boggling and thought provoking, and this frame certainly fits that bill. It is powered by a 113 C.I. Ultima motor, since bursting onto the scene Ultima has shown a strong commitment to engineering excellence in it's motors and the 113 continues that legacy and churns out all the power one could want with a twist of the throttle. The Wimmer air cleaner gives it a mean and lean look, that meshes well with overall theme of the bike.

The power generated by this awesome engine is then transferred to the 250 rear tire by the Ultima 5 speed transmission this beauty is equipped with. All the high quality parts used in this bike were, as they always are in this shop, a collaboration between these talented technicians recommendations and the customer's desire. They will certainly build your dream but they want to insure the rideability of any machine that bears their name.

Iron Hog Cycles is going to be your cool custom connection but recently they have begun to be your Harley Davidson hook-up as well. Yes you read that right are you looking for a new Harley, well after



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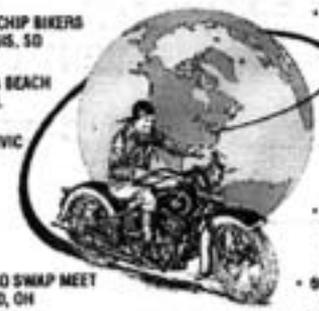
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BIKERS GATHER TO AID TROOPER'S FAMILY

On August 17th, 2005, Missouri State Highway Patrol Corporal John A. "Jay" Sampietro was directing traffic at the scene of an accident investigation on Interstate 44 east of Strafford, Missouri. Trooper Sampietro was struck and killed by an SUV driven by an Oklahoma woman. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and two sons, Matt, age 4, and Will, age 10 months.

The First Annual Jay Sampietro Memorial Benefit Motorcycle Run was held Sunday, September 18th. At 2 PM, about 50 riders left Scorpion Choppers in Nixa, MO, and rode to the Logan-Rogersville High School football field parking lot, a ride of about 25 miles. The Sampietro family lives just outside Rogersville, and Jay was a member of the Logan-Rogersville Fire Department. The firefighters met the riders at the school with a new rescue pumper which had been dedicated to Sampietro's memory and given his badge number, 584.

Riders were asked to make a donation of \$10.00 per motorcycle to join the ride. All the proceeds from the event went directly to the Sampietro family. Orders were taken for memorial t-shirts and wristbands inscribed with Jay's badge number, with the profits also going to the family. Approximately \$730.00 was raised and presented to Jennifer, who was waiting, along with Matt and Will, for the bikers to arrive at the school. With barely a month passed since Jay's tragic death, it was a very emotional time for everyone involved.

In true Ozarks fashion, the weather was not very cooperative. After nearly six weeks of hot, dry weather, it decided to rain the day of the run. The weather alternated between rain clouds and sunshine through the morning hours, but turned to an overcast sky and persistent drizzle by departure time. Organizer Dan Delcour announced to the crowd before the run took off that it would be held again the following Sunday, hopefully with better weather. "After all," he said, "what are the chances of this kinda weather two Sundays in a row?" Yeah, right.

The second First Annual Memorial Run took place Sunday, September 25th. The hoped for better weather failed to materialize, and it was another rainy, overcast day. About 50 hardy souls on about 35 bikes ignored the precipitation and turned out anyway. Someone at the Logan-Rogersville School District decided the run would not be allowed to end at the school again, so the group proceeded another mile down Highway 125 to the fire station, Captain Rich Stirts and his crew welcomed the riders with open doors and free sodas and bottled water. Capt. Stirts brought out t-shirts and blankets bearing the LRFD insignia and Stacey Delcour auctioned them off along with a Scorpion Choppers t-shirt. The donations and proceeds from the auctioned items brought in \$610.00, for a combined total of \$1340.00 from the two rain-soaked runs. Jennifer Sampietro was on

hand again when the group arrived at the fire station, and expressed her deep appreciation to everyone involved.

A reason was never given for the refusal by the Logan-Rogersville School District to allow the second run to end at the school parking lot. There were no reports of any complaints about the first one. Nobody could quite understand it, but it probably had something to do with the age-old stereotypical line of thought that if bikers are going to be involved, there's bound to be trouble. I suppose there's always the chance that during a memorial ride for a highway patrol trooper, supported and attended by several officers, everyone just might get drunk and naked and end up cutting donuts on the \$30,000.00 grass on the football field. Better safe than sorry, I guess.

The Nixa and Ozark City Police Departments provided escorts and traffic control, and were very cooperative in the organization of the rides. The Missouri State Highway Patrol provided traffic control at the intersection of Highways 60 and 125, helping to keep everyone safe through what can be very dangerous intersection. Special thanks go out to all the police officers and firefighters who helped in so many ways, and especially to the bikers who so unselfishly gave their time and their money to participate and help try to make things a little easier for the family of a fallen trooper. The run will be an annual event, so be looking for The Second Annual Jay Sampietro Memorial/Benefit Run in August, 2006.



Jennifer Sampietro with sons Matt and Will on the bike of Dan Delcour, organizer of the Sampietro Memorial Run.

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HOGS ON THE HIGH SEAS RALLY '05



Glenn and I joined about 1,200 other motorcycle riders and friends on the 3rd Annual Hogs on the High Seas in early November. This cruise has nothing to do with HOG or Harley-Davidson but is all about having a good time without riding anywhere. We left home on November 3rd and drove to Port Canaveral, FL. The ship left for the Western Caribbean on November 6th for a 7 day cruise. The route was the same as last year, Labadee (on the island of Haiti), Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. However due to the latest hurricane damage to the city of Cozumel and the dock we were unable to visit Mexico.

This was the first time for the HOHS cruise to use Port Canaveral for departure. We spent Saturday night at the nearby Radisson Hotel. There had been a pre-departure get-together around the pool that evening. The next morning we moved our car to their long term parking lot and took the shuttle to the dock.

Getting on The Mariner of the Seas was very smooth due to Glenn pre-registering us online. Then we picked up our goodie bags from Dean, Debbie and their crew. This year we received a beach towel with the HOHS design, instead of the deck of cards and a coin that we got last year. Also we got a magnetic door plaque with our names and hometown engraved on it, like last year. This was supposed to be put on your cabin door, but there were a few instances of them vanishing so we kept ours in our bags.

Once on board we had to wait for our rooms to be ready, just like early check in at any hotel. The café on the promenade deck was open so we had a little snack and waited. One word of advice for anyone going on a cruise...purchase a soda and juice sticker. For a onetime cost of around \$45 per person we could get a soda or juice at almost every place on the ship the entire week. Normally sodas and juice cost extra. Tea, milk, coffee, lemonade and

water are free. Any alcoholic beverage also costs extra and I would say a little more than what you pay at your neighborhood tavern. So be prepared for the bar tab at the end of the cruise. You can keep track of your daily spending by selecting a special channel on your cabin TV.



This year we decided to spend a little extra and upgrade to a room with a balcony. Last year we had a room with a porthole, but not the little one you see in the movies. This one was almost 3 feet in diameter. With the balcony we had a little bit more room in the stateroom, but really how much time do you really spend inside? Only while we were in port could we use the balcony, it was much too windy when out to sea.

Monday was spent at sea traveling to Labadee. When we arrived on Tuesday the weather was great, no rain and brilliant blue skies. At Labadee we did a T-shirt swap with a couple of hundred people. Then it was time for the BBQ luncheon, the poker walk, the men's best chest contest, swimming, and parasailing and on and on. Even the ship's captain came ashore. "Captain Johnny" is a member of a HOG chapter in Norway and keeps a Harley onboard for when he has time to ride. He had the bike taken



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ashore and rode around Labadee making the rest of us jealous.

Wednesday we arrived at Ocho Rios, Jamaica. There the group headed to Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville. They had a special T-shirt designed for us with their logo and our HOHS logo on it. There weren't too many of them so that was our first stop. The bar had several specials on food and drinks just for our group. This is one neat bar with the water slide, swim up to bar, large seating area and the beach. And a great photo ops with the ship in the background. Again more shopping, swimming and sightseeing.



Thursday found us in Georgetown, Grand Cayman. Here was the only Harley-Davidson dealer that we would be stopping at while on the ship. They had enlarged their shop since our last visit. There was free rum punch for those that were thirsty. The Hard Rock Café had a special pin made up for us also. More sightseeing, if you went to Hell you could purchase any extra poker card. The whole island was jumping. While we were on shore 6 other cruise ships pulled into port.

Due to the port and city of Cozumel sustaining recent hurricane damage we spent Friday at sea. Saturday was also a day spent at sea, but there were plenty of things to do. While we are at sea Dean and Debbie Anderson, the organizers, have scheduled different events to participate in or just watch. There was the Belly Flop contest, the Best Beard contest, Biker Bingo, the Buxom Wench contest and the vendor area. Here you get to meet the vendors one on one, have dinner or share a drink with them. Luster Lace, Red Wing Boots, J & P Cycles, Red Neck Engineering, Soft Brake, Battery Tender, and Kuryakyn, just to name a few.

Then when the rest of the ship is having their formal night the members of HOHS dress up in our leathers: vest, chaps, jacket, shirt or pants, and anything leather will do. Our waiters love it as they get a chance to wear biker t-shirts and doo-rags. If you don't like what is on the menu, head up to the buffet on the 11th deck. They have a large variety of food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Then there



is the Promenade Café that is open until well after midnight with snacks and deserts.

Every night we gathered for the daily giveaways. This year over \$300,000 in prizes was given away. You had to be present to win. A couple of really nice prizes went to the next name called because the first name drawn wasn't present. At the end of the cruise the specially designed bike was given away to a lucky participant.

This is the cruise for those people that say "I won't enjoy myself" and "I don't want to have to dress up for dinner". Where else are you going to see so many people that share the same interest as you? Another same old bike rally? That you have to ride to and then worry that you may imbibe too much and not be able to ride home.

Go to www.hogsonthehighseas.com to register for this cruise. That is the only way to be a part of HOHS and be eligible for the attendance prizes, bingo, poker walk and the bike. There you will find the price schedules for the various room sizes, frequently asked questions, and a discussion board. If you book your cruise through Royal Caribbean you CANNOT attend any HOHS function.

Check out the coming articles in American Iron, Thunder Press and Iron Works. Dean and Debbie are hoping to have an hour long show on television soon also.

We are already looking forward to our cruise next year, the new friends we'll make and hope that our old friends will share this experience with us.

Linda & Glenn Jacob





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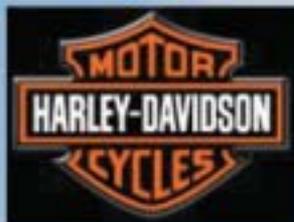
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We don't care what you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're a "hawk" or a "dove". It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is. You don't even have to ride. The only prerequisite is Respect.

Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes **as invited guests of the family**. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives.

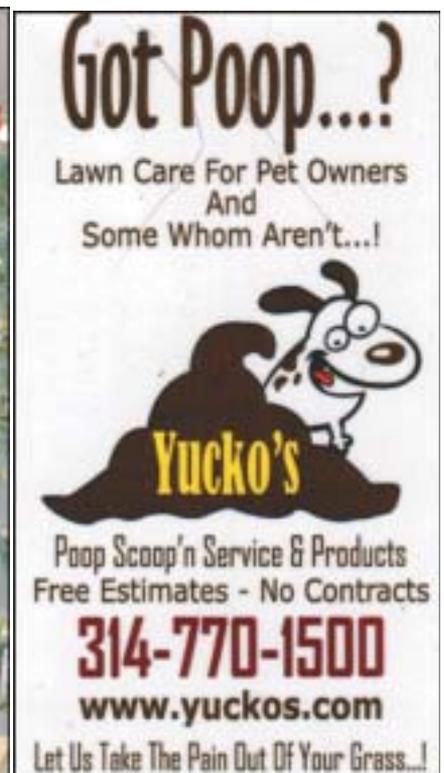
- 1. Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.**
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Editor's Note: I invite you to find out more about what this great organization is doing to protect the sanctity of these fallen heroes last rights, a great way to do this is to visit their website www.patriotguard.org. There is lots of good information there, you can sign up for the group plus they also have a listing of confirmed ceremonies and a list of ceremonies to watch for. Please support this group they provide a valuable service to the grieving families.



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I was at the Swap Meet wondering what tattoo to use this month. I had one at home but wanted something a little different. When I saw this young lady walk by, I knew I had found this month's tattoo. She stopped by the booth a little later and I asked her about it and herself. The tattoo can be found on the back Rhonda Heifner from Herrin, IL. It was done by Eric "Buzz" Brim who plies his trade at Twisted Pleasures of Pittsburgh, IL. Eric designed this ink. The female part was seen on a postcard and the wings and tail are all original. If you see Rhonda out check out this fine piece of art and if you need some creative ink work done contact Eric.

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