

The Biking Life

January 2009



MAGAZINE

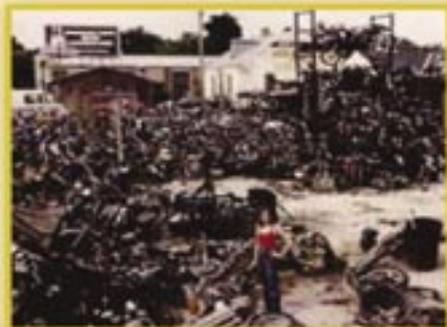
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Cover: Photograph: Cover photo many of the people that help to bring you The Biking Life every month, set up by John Skala cover composition by Cher Petrovic..

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Letter from the Publisher By Jim Furey

Like the cover says we wish all of you a happy new year. I hope that this will be the best one ever for you our readers and supporters. I also hope that the inauguration of our new president on the 21st will help ease some of the malaise our nation has been in for the past several years.

I talk to many small business owners every month and have known for a long time what our government is finally fessing up to that we are in bad economic times. There have been many signs, I have watched as people I used to work with jobs, were sent overseas. I have seen some of my friends who own small businesses struggle while watching their dreams erode. I have talked for countless hours with others about how business has been steadily declining. This dismal business climate affects big and small alike, but it is perhaps more devastating to the small because they typically don't have as many resources.

I also know that many of you are suffering too. The job losses at Chrysler and now Anheuser-Busch will probably never be replaced; jobs that pay well are disappearing only to be replaced by lower paying jobs. We suffer while the people that caused this mess line up with their hands out, for the government to help them cover their errors while we get no relief. The same people who have issues with Welfare don't seem to mind as much when the "welfare" benefits corporations.

Where are you going Jim? You may be asking. This is where I am going. Bikers are a brotherhood, a family of sorts. This is not true of all motorcycle riders but it is true of all bikers. And as brothers and sisters of the road, this is a time when we need to band together to support each other. Part of that is supporting the people that support this publication. I ask that you please let businesses know you saw their ad here. I also ask that you let businesses know how much you like The Biking Life. Many of you give us very nice expressions of support when we see you out, so please let others know how you feel as well. And of course thank you very much for your kind words.

I know in my own life that the tough times, have made me a better and stronger man. I hope tough times will make our brotherhood better and stronger.

I hope and believe the New Year will be better. All of us here at The Biking Life wish you, your families and friends all the best in the year ahead.

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Panhaed Billy's

By Rich Hagendorf

Dreams don't worry about recessions, they grab a person, or in this case two and they don't let go. This particular dream has a death-grip on Michael Carter owner/operator of Panhead Billy's Smokehouse BBQ & Tavern aka Panhead Billy. This dream started over two years ago and despite the economy, has been a work in progress ever since. "We aren't where I want to be yet." says Michael Carter, "Our grand opening was not what I wanted. We didn't even have our liquor license yet so it was basically smoked meat and bottled water. I like to think we've come a long way since then, but we are still working on making things better everyday." The work shows. Among other things the beer is cold and the drinks are mixed to perfection.

As anyone who has traveled Missouri on I-70 knows the 148 exit at Kingdom City is a major fuel and food stop for just about anyone traveling cross country or just on their way to the Lake of the Ozarks. While most of these businesses are located south of 70, those who are savvy will head north about ½ a mile on Hwy 54 to Old Highway 40. Leave the fast food joints and inattentive drivers to the cagers and come to a truly American owned and operated local establishment where being leather clad is just a sign of being a member of the family.

As you can tell by the name, Panhead Billy's Smokehouse BBQ & Tavern this place has multiple personalities. The word "Family" almost made it into the name but was rejected at the last minute because it was too restrictive and confining for the multiple personalities of the place. Panhead Billy's is an intensely family friendly eatery during the day that recognizes and respects its small town patrons and strives to make everyone feel like they just came home. The kind of place you feel good about taking the Ole Lady and Crumb-snatchers to while still being among Bros. After all, Bikers have families too, and we like to take them out for some good eats every now and then, without being stared at like some kind of freak show, or being seated next to the kitchen door. But when the sun goes down it is a Biker Bar.

When you get there you will find yourselves not in another cookie cutter franchise serving punched out micro-nuked pseudo-food but in a refreshing relaxed environment where truly made from scratch meals wait to be devoured. Carter assures us, "We make everything right here in our kitchen. It's all smoked right outside or grilled on order. We don't even have a microwave, and won't." Bring your appetite, 'cause the servings are more than generous and if you can't finish what you started, sharing isn't frowned upon, this is after all a family/biker bbq/tavern. Driving up you get the impression of an old Roadhouse brought into the 21st century. The parking lot tells the

story, filled with pick-ups, sedans, minivans and of course BIKES. This place, like the bikers who live in it, is part of the community. As we all know, there are more of us than they think. Stepping inside you are immediately impressed with the real wood paneling laid out in log cabin fashion, custom cut and milled from timber on the old home place. The workmanship and luster of the 50 foot bar, let you know right away that this ain't no rootie-poot dive. The rough hewn tables and chairs invite you to come on in relax, and enjoy, as the sound system pumps out classic rock, country and alternative jams. Those of us who are old enough to remember when kids could run around in the bar while Dads and Uncles downed a brew or two will feel as if they have stepped back in time.

Early dinner time resembles a family reunion bar-b-q where the food is great, and there are always cousins and in-laws that you haven't met yet, and don't know your stories. Conversations from table to table are common as members of the biker family strengthen the bonds and share experiences.

Mom's and Dad's with kids in tow and Grandparents dotting over grandkids are nothing new at any eatery, but seeing the tatted up dude with the doo-rag wiping bar-b-q sauce off the face of his two foot tall riding partner is something you don't see everyday at the places that are high on presentation and low on content. The BBQ is sweet, wet, and tender whether yard bird, cow or hog your mouth will appreciate your decision as you suck the meat off the bone or savor the brisket that has been slow smoked right outside the kitchen. Side dishes are familiar but each has its own twist to remind you that you aren't at just another food factory. If you don't want another boiled potato drowned in mayo, try the Tater Hog salad. The slaw is obviously fresh as it crunches with every bite there is always pork in the beans, in fact all the sides are definitely worth a try. Simplicity rules and there are no foo-foo presentations or wasted greenery on the plate. In a hurry, get yours to go.

While families are welcome at mealtime, time comes for the kids to go to bed and the grown-ups get to play on their own. Cold beer and liquor by the drink delivered by the friendly and attractive barmaids fuel the nightly festivities as Bros and Babes let the good times roll. There is no corporate inspired cooked up "Bike Night" because bikers are always welcome here.

Panhead Billy's is a dream in progress, economy be damned, turn up the tunes, get me a cold one and let's live the dream.

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running around like the LOH women who would wrap your Christmas presents for you which is a good idea if you wrap presents anything like I do. There was one other Santa's helper there and it was none other than our own Cher Petrovic who was taking pictures of anyone who dared to sit on Santa's lap.

This was a great day and Patty and her staff once again put their best foot forward and hopefully many people's Christmases were saved by their efforts. Remember if you didn't get what you wanted for Christmas return it and visit your favorite Harley dealer to get something you really want.

Santa Saves Christmas
by Jim Furey

In many places the Christmas season was a little slow. With so much bad news coming from so many different directions who could possibly save Christmas this year? Why none other than Santa Patty otherwise known as the owner of **Doc's Harley-Davidson**. This holiday saving act was performed on December 13th at her Customer Appreciation Day.

In addition to Patty there was another Santa there as well to brighten the kiddies days as visions of new Harleys danced in their parents heads and speaking of new Harleys was that one of those new XR1200 I saw sitting on the showroom floor. I just bet that is going to look awesome sitting under someone's Christmas tree. The first time I saw one of those up close was at the Doc's Fall Open House when R.K. Stratman had his at the dealership. This is truly an awesome machine and certainly worth the trip to the shop just to check it out.

There was also a chili cook-off going on but I was unable to try any because my wife has banned me from ever eating chili, I think forever. There were other Santa's helpers



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4. You wipe your butt with your bare left hand, but consider bacon “unclean.”
5. You think vests come in two styles: bullet-proof and suicide.
6. You can't think of anyone you HAVEN'T declared Jihad against.
7. You consider television dangerous, but routinely carry explosives in your clothing.
8. You were amazed to discover that cell phones have uses other than setting off roadside bombs.
9. You've often uttered the phrase, “I love what you've done with your cave.”
10. You have nothing against women and think every man should own at least one.
11. You bathe at least monthly whether necessary or not.
12. You have a crush on your neighbor's goat.

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New for 2009 Part 1: American V-Twins By John Skala

The Cycle World International Motorcycle Show took St Louis off its schedule a few years back. The closest it comes to St Louis is when they stop in Chicago on February 6-8. Instead of waiting to go to Chicago, I took a tour of local dealers to what is new in the motorcycle world for 2009.



I started at Doc's Harley-Davidson where Jim Wagner showed me around the new XR1200. This is a race inspired bike in the Sportster family. The bike takes a number of styling cues from the XR750 dirt tracker that won numerous championships. This bike was previously introduced in May in Valencia, Spain to the European market. Now, the bike is finally coming to the American dealers with an initial offering of 750 bikes in orange and black. The inverted forks, air intake scoops, satin finish twin upswept exhaust, large tachometer, dual disc front breaks and stock oil cooler give it the appearance of a speed machine. The looks are backed up by a huge 50mm throttle body fuel injection system along with performance cams to produce one quick great handling bike.

Jim also took me back to the shop where they just received another Tri-Glide Ultra-Classical. This is the new three-



wheeler direct from the Motor Company. Unlike the many conversions, this one comes with the full Harley-Davidson warranty. The bike was designed from the beginning as a trike with a front end that is optimized for enhanced handling and comfort. It comes stock with the 103-inch Twin Cam engine, six speed transmission and 6-gallon fuel tank. An electric reverse is available as an option. Jim pointed out another part of the design that sets it apart from the popular conversions. Instead of molding the rear compartment and fenders as one piece, H-D makes the fenders separately so any damage to a fender will not require the expensive replacement of the entire rear unit. If you are looking for one of these nice trikes, be sure to get to your local dealers soon as they seem to be in short supply at this time.



I stopped by Gateway Harley-Davidson and talked to Tom Brennecke about the Buell line. He showed me what he believes is the closest interpretation of Eric Buell ideal race bike so far. The Buell 1125 CR is powered by an 1125 cc Helicon engine that was jointly developed along with BRP-Rotax. This new engine is liquid cooled like the V-



Rod engine, but it has a 72-degree angle between cylinders unlike the V-Rod's 60 degrees or the tradition Harley 45 degrees. Three counter balancers and overhead cams help the engine create 146 hp



just before reaching the 10,500 redline. The bike continues the Buell innovation of ZTL (zero torsion load) brakes that mount the rotors to the rim of the front wheel along with an 8-piston caliper. The CR model is a café racer style design with a small fairing and clubman style handlebars. The bike features some advanced electronics including; an analog tach with an embedded digital speedometer and a built-in security system that operates off an owner entered pin code.



Moving a little further south, I stopped by Bourbeuse Valley Harley-Davidson and talked with Rick LeClaire about the new V-Rod Muscle. The style of this bike says power, even when it is standing still. The big 240 mm rear tire is very visible under the cutaway rear fender. The fender is very clean with an LED stop-turn-tail light under the fender and a license plate mount that was moved to the

left side of the wheel. The hot-rod style dual exhaust with satin finish chrome has turned out ends that remind me lot of the Nascar pipes. The all-new bodywork with the new instrumentation gives it a great look. If you are looking for a clean hot-rod bike this is one not to be missed. Rick also mentioned a change for 2009 that doesn't effect the look or performance of the bike, but does make a few of the bikes more attractive. This change comes in the lower prices for 2009 on the Fat boy and some other Softail and Dyna models. Rick says that contrary to what you might think from hearing the news, financing is still available to qualified applicants.



By the time I got to St Charles Harley-Davidson, I had already seen all of the new H-D models for '09. Therefore, I asked Brad Sabol if we could take one of their touring models apart to photograph some of the 450 changes that have been made to the FL family of bikes. It was fairly busy in the showroom at the time, so he directed me to a brochure instead as we talked about the changes. In the last couple of years, Harley- Davidson had changed the engine and upped the transmission to a 6-speed gearbox so it was a natural progression that this year's changes are mainly in the chassis and comfort areas. The redesigned frame has larger tubing along with strong castings and forgings replacing stamped and welded parts and bent tubing, The beefed up swing arm was also widened to hold the new 180 mm rear tire. The engine is now mounted at four rubber isolated points in lieu of the previous three points. All of these changes add up to a 70 pound increase in load carrying capacity. Not only was the tire size changed, the tire construction has also been upgraded to a newly developed multi-tread design that has a longer-wearing compound at the center to extend tire life and straight line performance surrounded by a lateral-grip compound to enhance traction as you lean into a curve. They estimate a 25 percent increase in tire life with these new compounds. The exhaust has a two into one into two design that has been rerouted to move



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A NEW RESOLUTION

As I was out in the garage looking over the condition of my bike, I starting thinking about how many miles we'd ridden this year, the people we'd met, and places we'd been. I was thinking about how God has blessed this year with the ministry opportunities and how excited I am and looking forward to next year's riding season. I was also remembering my brothers and sisters that won't ever ride with me again on this earth, that are with the Lord and riding on those streets of gold.

As we prepare for riding each spring, I always put my bike up on the jack and check the tires, brakes, lights, and make sure everything's in good condition. At this time, I also prepare myself spiritually for the next riding season. I need this quiet time to refresh myself. Just as we must prepare our bikes, we must prepare ourselves and be ready for a new year.

At the start of this every year, we make new resolutions and plan what we want to accomplish or renew. It sometimes becomes our "To Do List" for the months to come. We reflect on what changes we need to make in order to better our lives or lives of those who we love. We need to take a hard look at what should be first on our list – what is the top priority. Some of us have tried drugs, alcohol, marriage, money, friends, bikes, sex, etc. as ways to happiness. These help temporarily, but never last. They either leave us needing more or with an empty feeling. I ask you to make Jesus your top priority this year. Only Jesus' love changes us from the inside out. When we accept Jesus, He takes away the old and gives us a new outlook. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV)

All we have to do is ask. We are all very special to God. God has made each of us unique and we are each created for Him and for each other. He tells us: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10 NIV). We just have to ask Him to help us. Please consider asking Jesus into your life and starting 2005 as a new person in Him.

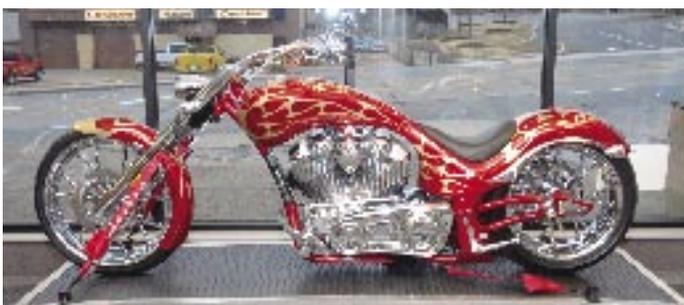
If you're not sure how to do this, ask any Christian biker at your next rally or contact one of us. The State Coordinator for Missouri is Jim (Becky) Oliver, 636-332-6814, oliver8050@aol.com; and the Illinois State Coordinator is Don (Vicky) Brown, 217-629-8938, vdBrown77@aol.com. For more information about CMA, you can contact either of the above or call me at 314-434-2282.

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

the pipes away from the rider's thigh and passenger's foot. For those times when you get stuck in stand-still traffic, there is a rider activated cut-off that temporarily stops the firing of the rear cylinder which will help keep both the engine and rider cooler.

Between travels to H-D dealers, I stopped by J & W Cycles in Washington to see what was going on with the Victory line of motorcycles. I talked with Luke Manion and Tyson Stevener for a while about the Victory tenth anniversary and the limited addition Vision anniversary model. While there are no new models for 2009, a number of the existing models have been upgraded to the 106 cubic inch engine.

Moving on to the Big Dog line of custom styled bikes rounds out the American v-twins for this part of the article. Josh Rulo at Gateway Big Dog was excited about the new Wolf model for 2009. This bike uses an exclusive 121 inch version of the newest S&S X-Wedge engine.



This engine uses three cams with a 56 degree cylinder design. With 30% fewer parts, 22% larger fin area the engine has a 21% reduction in vibration with makes it a smoother, quieter and more durable. To stop all that power, the Wolf uses Brembo rotors and PM calipers. The bike rides on a 23-inch front tire and a 20 inch 220 mm rear. With an aggressive 45 degree rake, single down tube, right side drive and brake and hidden rear shock the bike was a smooth clean look from front to rear. The



instrumentation and lighting add to the custom pro-street look. The combination analog/digital speedometer/tach is switchable to make either the speedo or tach analog and the

other the digital readout. The odometer also keeps track of when you have the bike serviced and when the next service is due. Of course, the Wolf has the superb paint and finish that we have come to expect from Big Dog.

The one thing that was clear at every dealer I visited was the enthusiasm and product knowledge of all the sales people.

For more information visit your local dealers, check out the web sites and see more photos at our web site www.thebikinglife.com.

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Geo's Rocks Bike Nights by Jim Furey



I have heard a lot of talk about various bike nights throughout the region and I think it is good that so many are now following our lead. However, there is one bike night that none of the others can compare with and that is **The Biking Life magazine's** Thursday Bike Night at **Geo's Wings and More** at 4307 West Main St. in Belleville, IL.

We cannot take all the credit for this success, in fact it stems mainly from the way George and Karen the owners of this establishment have embraced this weekly event. Starting in mid-April every Thursday Night, scores of motorcycle riders show up at Geo's for an evening of good food, friends and an opportunity to see some of the sharpest rides on two wheels in the area.



The name of this place pretty much says it all. They feature a huge variety of chicken wing flavors and

if chicken isn't what you are looking for they offer many other delicious items on their menu. Geo's is ideally suited for this type of event and that is why I approached them two years ago.

They have a nice patio to sit on when the weather is decent and it also provide a port of refuge for smokers all year long. They have provided special parking in front of their place for motorcycles and of course on Thursday nights they block off most of their parking lot for motorcycle parking. This is the really cool part here your scoot is always where you can see it. Because even if the patio seats are all taken there are lots of windows in the main dining area, so no matter where you sit inside or out you can see your bike.

The food, friends and bikes are enough to encourage a nice crowd to come out but Karen is always concocting contests to keep the bikers entertained. I have seen everything from football tosses to bean bag tosses, washers and even hula hoop contests. This year another new wrinkle was added, as our hosts upped the entertainment value by having DJ Kong laying down the tunes as only he can. We also had soem vendors there displaying their wares folks like Sonny of S 7 J Lighthouse who can make your bike special with his LED products, Gary Tyler from Chopper Chairs and Kenny from Thunderbolt Polish would detail your bike and sell you this product, so you can detial it yourself. I know it is winter now but April is just around the corner, but even better though it may be a little cold outside some of these fine folks tasty food will warm you right up and you know what it doesn't matter when you are there you will probably run into someone who shares your passion for the two wheel life. So go on visit Geo's I guarantee you'll be glad you did.



continued on page20

Chariots of Fire Customs LLC

January Newsletter

(636)356-9015

www.chariotsoffirecustoms.com

I can't believe I am writing the newsletter for 2009! Thank you to everyone who made 2008 another year of growth for *Chariots of Fire Customs LLC*. In a world full of uncertainty, rocky banks, unstable businesses, job losses, I am happy to share with you that we continue to grow and expand. A huge thank you to Benny, Tim, Doug, and Jim who all pitched in to help us expand the shop. We now have a show room for the consignment bikes. It looks awesome! *Chariots of Fire Customs LLC* continues to grow only with the help from all of our wonderful volunteers, customers, and friends.

Sale for January
20% off Specialty Items bought for Christmas

We will be at the Wide Open Bike Show February 14 and 15, so mark your calendars.

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All consignment bikes are clean and well maintained.

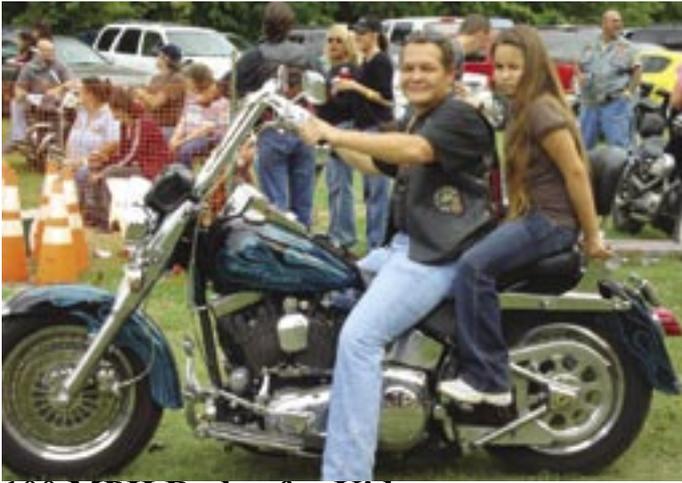
Call or stop by for more information on each bike 636-356-9015

Next time you stop in, be sure to ask about buying a raffle ticket to win a Harley Davidson "Build a Bear" retail value \$100.00. ABATE is raffling off the bear and proceeds will go to Sammy, son of Sam Wells who passed on this past fall.

We continue to collect items for our troops. Please bring in socks, underwear, pj pants for both men and women to cloth soldiers as they move from the front line medics to more stable facilities. They are often shipped off with no more than a hospital gown. Also nonperishable snacks reading materials etc. All items appreciated!

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Keep the Shiny Side Up



100 MPH Rodeo for Kids

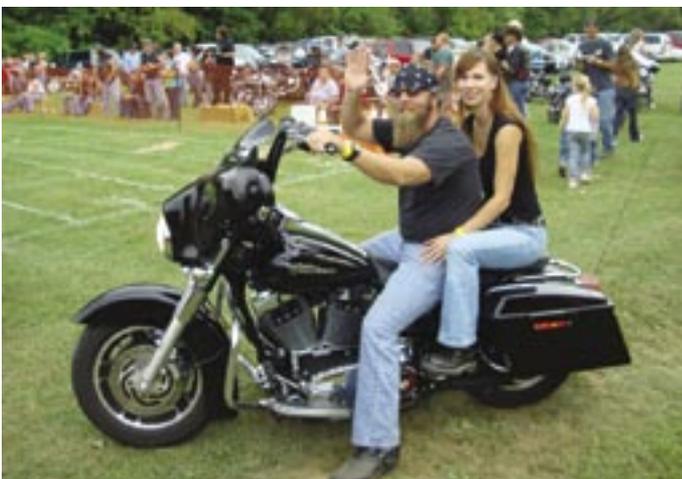
by Cabbie

Photos by Cat Turner

The Fast Boys from Illinois did it again. The FBI better known as the 100 MPH Club from Caseyville, IL put on their 5th Annual Benefit Motorcycle Rodeo at their clubhouse on Bunkum Rd. Throughout the day there was the motorcycle games going on along with an auction, food, live music by Bottom Floor and of course a great time.

This was the fifth year that this club had had a fund raiser for the I.F.S.A. Children's Burn Camp of Illinois. This fun loving group of guys makes their donation each year to the Fairview Heights Fire Department which forwards the money to the camp on the club's behalf.

The morning started off a little on the wet side but by midmorning the weather had changed for the better. The bikes started rolling in and by 2:00 PM the attendance really started to pick up. By 4:00 PM more than 00 people had showed up, in a mood to party and contribute to this great cause. The auction had a lot of good items and it was really fun to see the bidders trying to outdo each other.



Many of the local clubs showed up to support this event and the 100 MPH Club hopes they all had a good time. This event has grown each year and they really hope to see more of the clubs next year.

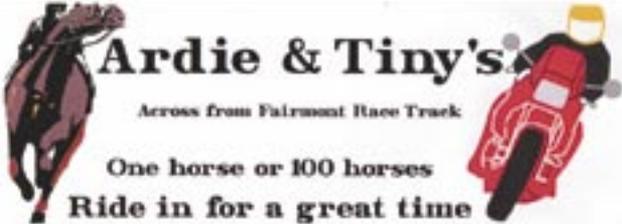
You don't have to be a biker to come to a motorcycle rodeo. Just come on down to help support the kids. Plans are already on the table for next September's event so please mark your calendars now. Our hosts want to remind you that bikers are beautiful people just like you.



This coming February the club will be having their annual Barn Bash Party at their club house; this is one you don't want to miss. This year's rodeo had many sponsors, their donations help the club out before the event and their ad's on the poster helped make sure that the club reached it's goal for the event.

The club wanted to makde sure to thank everyone that donated items for the auction becaue they know that without your help they won't be able to do as much for the children. Helping the kids is what this event is all about for all you do the 100 MPH Club thanks you.





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Christmas Open House Celebrations By John Skala

Christmas is the biggest time when family and friends get together to celebrate the holidays. And the motorcycling family is no different. Several local dealers have established a tradition years ago where they treat their friends and customers to an open house celebration on the Saturday before Christmas.



Here are a few photos of the open house at Donelson Cycles St Ann store. Carl and Kathy Donelson and their family hosted a tremendous party with plenty of food and beverages. Friends from across the decades were on hand to celebrate and swap stories of their exploits over the years. There aren't many motorcycle shops in area that



have been run by the same family with such a successful history. In addition to their daughter Kim, they now have a few of their grandchildren working in the store.

Back at the parts counter, Charlie was doing it old school. No computer needed here as he brings out the book to lookup parts for a vintage BSA.



Just down St Charles Rock Road by I-170 is Gateway BMW. Even though Dave Hunter and his crew, led by Bob Honz and Shannon Logan, have a relatively new dealership, they are continuing a tradition started years before with the original BMW Motorrad downtown. In fact, a couple of the original owners of that shop, Bob Odell and Bill Heggerty were on hand for the celebration.



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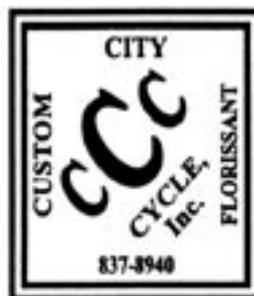
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As seen at their open houses in the past, the food was plentiful with an emphasis on a wide selection of desert items. It was another crowded scene both inside and out. Although it was a cool day, a large number of those attending arrived on their bikes.



Freedom of Road Riders Local 42 Gray Summit held its annual Bike Show in conjunction with Pacific Eagles-Dan Donnelly Back to School Bash Annual Rib Cook Off September 28th at the Pacific, MO Eagles Hall.

Beautiful weather brought the bikes and motorcycle enthusiast out and the smell of Bar-B-Q Ribs brought everyone else. Sorry, I can't tell you who won the bike classes, but there were trophies and some great looking scooters of every make, model, description, and age. Several vendors helped make this event even more fun. Forr Local 42 would like to say thank you to Bourbeuse Valley HD, the Bird Man, Pin Striping by Mike & Massage Therapy by Kat.

After the show's Trophy presentation & prize giveaways the real fun began! FORR Local 42 hosted Bike Games. You didn't have to be a biker to enjoy this one! Yeah, a couple of folks got serious about their abilities the rest of us had a lot of fun participating in & watching the Slow Races, the Keg Roll, the Clothes Line Race & and of course the Weenie Bite.

The Eagles' Rib Cook Off organized by Dan Donnelly, a Pacific Police Officer raise funds to provide school supplies for needy area children and from I what I've heard they do a Heck of a job! And they were providing some tasty eats for everyone in attendance. Watch for both Organizations' upcoming events! Ride Safe! Mel



As usual, we will have more pictures posted on our web site at www.thebikinglife.com.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS SEND THEM TO STAFF@THEBIKINGLIFE.COM



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The Bike Shows Are Coming

By Michael Joe

We are getting prepared to blow your minds this coming year with a new and improved Wide Open Bike and Rod Shows. This event is one of those things that carry us, the riding community, through these cold winters.

Ralph Roades has taken these shows to a whole new level. These shows are worthy of being checked out again since these changes will guarantee they are attending something different and geared toward the whole family. A lot of work and well thought out changes will insure you will see the show of all shows.

First of all our Kansas City Show has moved to Kansas City Metropolitan Community College just off I-435 and Front Street (Exit 57) on January 10th and 11th. This site will feature over 60,000 square feet of some of the sharpest rides around. Kids under 12 years of age get free entry to some of the areas most awesome bike builds. There will also be rat rods, hot rods, the Wide Open Calendar girls, and Purgatory Tattoo's Chris Melchert, along with crew on hand to perform their temporary art and crafty designs on willing youngsters.

Wide Open will repeat the show once again at the Family arena in St. Louis on February the 14th and 15th. Along with all the new changes this year, the parking will be free to the Family Arena Bike Show spectators. You are hearing me right "The Parking is FREE!!"

This year there will be even more cash prizes than ever before. Trophies will be awarded in 25 classes, all first place winners will walk out with a trophy, and also a chance to put cash in their pocket. Best of Show still the top prize, taking home a trophy and cash. Plus several other winners will receive cash. Features for these winners will be written and printed in a coming issue of Wide Open Motorcycle Magazine. This year there is a new wrinkle; all the 1st place winners will have a chance to be featured in our magazine by drawing. First place winners will be put in a helmet and a drawing will take place at the end of each show. "Best of Show" always graces the cover of Wide Open Magazine. Throughout both shows DJ, "Slacker" will be playing your favorite tunes and announcing winners

for THOUSANDS of dollars in gas, cash and prizes, including gold band passes to the Glencoe Camp Grounds in Sturgis, SD to spectator entries, so hold on to your tickets.

The award ceremony for the Wide Open Bike Shows will be turbocharged this year. When you check in your scoots; a professional picture will be taken. This will help us in the judging process, but also every 1st place winner upcoming issue of the magazine. This photo will be displayed on stage via photoplay on an 8' x 12' screen for all winners, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. The bike show crowd will be aware of you, the winner, and your steel steed will be on stage as well. This is what it's all about folks, "WIDE OPEN" and outrageous.

This year's Kansas City show concessions will be hosted by the Ararat Shriner's of Kansas City. All sales will help Ararat Shrine continue its efforts in supporting the Shriner's Children's Hospitals. This touches me personally. In 1967 my brothers and I were involved in a house fire that burnt the house to the ground, and it also burnt us. We suffered 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree burns over 60 percent of our bodies. Mother and father were told we would not survive this misfortune. I am a father of five children and could not even imagine this news. After two weeks the Shriners heard of our plight, and took us to the Shriner's Burns Institute in Galveston, TX where we went through several skin grafts, and months of recovery. If it had not been for the Shriners we certainly would not be here today. This is not meant as a sad story, but one of celebration of the Shriners. I think Ralph made a great choice in involving the Shriners.

The volunteers in St Louis will once again be the March of Dimes Bikers for Babies, another fantastic organization that is dedicated to helping babies. These shoes are about a gathering of bikers coming together, having a blast, and supporting great causes. Get yourselves to these awesome shows.

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Christmas Party at The Moto Museum By John Skala



The Gateway Riders BMW motorcycle club held its annual Christmas party at the Moto Museum this year. With the addition of the Triumph Grill next to the museum, this is an ideal dinner event venue for motorcycle enthusiasts. Club members socialized while viewing a unique collection of rare and vintage motorcycles from around the world. With 100 motorcycles from over 20 countries there was plenty to see and discuss. When is the last time you saw a water cooled Scott Flying Squirrel from 1935?

While the members reviewed and appreciated the motorcycles, the staff of the Triumph Grill assembled a delectable buffet dinner right there in the museum. From



the salad to the chicken and veggies to the brownie and cookies for desert, everything was delicious and there was plenty of it.

The Gateway Riders club is primarily comprised of BMW motorcycle riders, but membership is open to riders of all brands of motorcycles. They have events scheduled every month of the year with group rides when the weather permits. In addition to the local rides, the club also hosts the Falling Leaf Rally every fall for BMW riders and guests. This rally has a strong tradition of over 30 years and draws hundreds of riders from all across the country.

If you haven't been to the Triumph Grill yet, it is open 7 days a week serving a broad menu of American cuisine. If you haven't been to the museum recently, you should plan a trip to see the newly renovated galleries and the bikes that have been added to the collection. The Moto Museum had very limited hours in 2008. With the opening of the restaurant, maybe they will be open on more dates in 2009. Instead of waiting for their new dates, you can also get your group together and call Zach Smith to schedule a viewing.



For more info you can visit their web sites:
the Gateway Riders - www.gatewayriders.com
the Moto Museum - www.themotomuseum.com
the Triumph Grill - www.triumphgrill.com

For more photos of the Moto Museum and the Triumph Grill check out the Photo section at www.thebikinglife.com.

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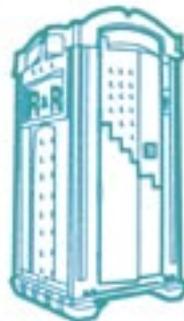
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**Parkland Toy Run
by Killer Miller**



I now declare this officially a tradition. For many years now with the coming of the first Saturday in November the Park Hills, MO area bikers gather at the Cici's Pizzas pizzeria in Farmington, MO for the annual toy run. This year it happened to be the day after many Halloween festivities. It was also of course a week after the Saddle Tramps MC party. That was a blast as usual, Midget and I had a helluva of a good time.

It was great that Midget hot his bike back on the road. The music this year was provided by the South Side Five and they rocked. They are one of the better bands in

the area so look for them in your area or book them for your gig.

The weather this year for the toy run was incredible. 73 degrees in November beats two years ago when it sleeted. No doubt the weather played a huge role in the record turnout of 217 bikes a couple of dozens hot rods and corvettes. After the parade Mrs. Killer whom I would like to thank (and she knows why) and I arrived on Big Red at the final stop. The Elks lodge in Desloge, MO to stack up the toys and canned goods and be thankful that we for the most part were all able to be here again in 08 , I hope we can all make it in 09 and remember happy holidays and do good in your hood. Killer and crew thanks and gone.






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Food Drive Helps Others and Stimulates Local Economy

Donations Result in over \$12,000 in Customer Discounts at Surdyke Harley-Davidson

Though many are affected by the downturn in the economy, customers at Surdyke Harley-Davidson eagerly did their part to help the less fortunate in the Festus community. During the dealership's canned food drive, held October 25 through November 29, over 750 people donated approximately 5,000 cans of food, which were placed in an over-sized crate used to ship Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The community's generosity resulted in roughly two tons of donated food, all of which will go to the Ozark Food Pantry in Festus, in collaboration with the Boy Scout Troop 484. Queen's Supermarkets of Jefferson County also played a role, donating product and stocking the dealership with cans for customers to purchase for donations.

The dealership offered customers a one percent discount off for every can donated, up to 21 percent. The tally is in, and the dealership gave out over \$12,000 in discounts during the event.

"We know it's a tough time right now for many people, and we also know that our customers

are the most generous people in the world," said Tim Surdyke, general manager of the dealership. "Together we are providing needed stock for the Ozark Food Pantry while injecting revenue into the local economy."

The food will be delivered to the food pantry on Wednesday, December 10, just in time to make the holiday happier for area needy. Boy Scout "Dives" in to Donate

Surdyke Harley-Davidson "where we treat people the way we like to be treated and we deal" is located at 2435 Highway 67 in Festus, MO. For more information visit www.surdykeharley.com or call 636-931-8700.



Dirty Ernie RIP

This past October 2008 the Saddle Tramps MC of St. Louis lost a long time member. He was painter, tattoo artist and all around brother, Dirty Ernie. Dirty Ernie went to be with his maker after a short illness. Shortly before his death he found out, he was going to pass and that his time wasn't long so he made all the proper arrangements. His art work and photos of his life were displayed, good music was played and a brother from the Christian Motorcycle Association performed the services. He said that Ernie had asked him to say something good, but not to good because everyone there knew him. Those in attendance knew that this was his style. He truly was one of those that when he passed, with him went a way of doing things. RIP from myself and the staff to all his brothers both family and patched and to all that knew him. I ask you to remember the good but not to good Ernie

Killer peace.

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Donations will be given to Jefferson Barracks Hospital

9th Annual Buffalo Toy Run by Jackie Parks



Christmas is every little boys and girls favorite time of the year. , And like at so many other times the motorcycle world steps up. The riders around here show up at Buffalo Mo. They meet on the Woods Super Market parking lot, it doesn't take long before it fills up with bikes and toys.

We are all there for the same reason THE KIDS. The motorcycles line up 2by2 filling the street with their loud pipes ,and cool paint jobs, rattling the windows as they pass. These generous riders are making there way to D.A.V building. There they will wait on us with a warm welcome hot coffee and homemade chili & desserts. This done by t he DCTT volunteers.



The Farmer Family starts the raffle & auction, in a room full of bikers all clad in leather jackes and for a good cause. You know the rest but this day is not over yet, there is an after run. All the riders are invited to AM Vets 117. I would like to say all TOY RUNS are important to your communities. Putting a smile on a child's face Christmas morning is a good feeling. I would like to thank The Farmer Family, Rosie and the DCTT. This run had grown tremendously, in 1999 57 bikes took part, and eight years later is 2007 over 300. How cool is that? We hope to see you there next year. On a personal note. I would like to say I call Dallas county my home.

THE 2009 HOT BIKE & BABES CALENDAR OF ILLINOIS



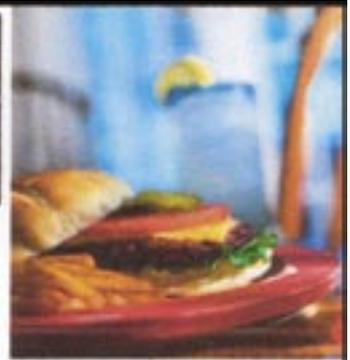
The 2009 Bikes and Babes calendar of Illinois is the 1st of its kind in the state of Illinois. It features custom Harley Davidson's, custom choppers, and of courses beautiful women from all across the state from Chicago to St Louis.

The calendar could not be produced without the help of the following sponsors: Benld Brew Haus, Brookhills Golf Club, Bootleggers, Knuckleheads and Skubes Pit Stop in Springfield, IL, Final Four in Sherman, IL.& Shepp's Bar & Grill in New Berlin, IL.

The 2009 Bikes & Babes calendar can be picked up at all the fine establishments listed above as well as Risqué and Bad Girl Video in Springfield, IL or online at: www.sandovalphotography.com and www.illinoismodelsandtalent.com Look for model calendar signing events at all these establishments through out the year in 2009.

The shots shown here were taken at The Benld Brew Haus and are provided courtesy of Ed Sandoval Photography, 1451 N 5th St Springfield, IL 62702, 217-638-0824 ed@sandovalphotography.com www.sandovalphotography.com





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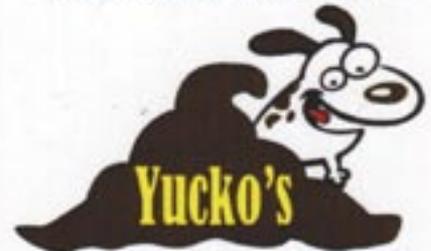
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The way it is” Robert Barnhill.

MOUNTED WARRIOR

I turned my attention away from the ice that covered the streets, and lay ahead on my path. I focused instead on finding the defroster fan switch. Moving it to high with hope that it would soon clear the ice and moisture that had blanketed my windshield. An Arctic cold front had moved in, adding to the cold we all already felt as winter spares no one.



A cold rain had turned to sleet as the light from the sun had dropped from sight. Scenes of a winter night were everywhere. Heavy coats, fur hats and gloves kept those who walked the sidewalks warm, as they marched briskly towards some unknown destination. The traffic signal had now turned to red.

While I waited snug in the warmth, I closed my eyes and began to think of last summer.

My thoughts turned to the sun rays I could feel on my exposed skin. Leather covering a few parts of my body as I rode my Electroglide. A short windshield directing the hot wind onto my face and arms.

My hair, wet from sweat had soaked the bandana I wore. My skin dark, tanned from miles of being uncaged, and riding alone with the wind. As usual I was carrying more baggage than I had needed but I had tried to anticipate many possibilities, only crowded my seat. Images filled in my brain of mounted Warriors riding for days with little food and carrying only weapons of war. Foraging as they rode, they needed little.

Bending my leg close to my body, I was able to drop my right leg across the seat. A second later my engine brought thunder to the small valley I was leaving. Rolling with the wind, and the path I had chosen to follow. Truly, this was a path least taken.

A few miles ahead I made a left turn, onto a road I had seen as I rode west to the Black Hills. I was keeping the promise I had made that I would return and ride towards its end. This small country road rolled through the hills, high then falling away, the asphalt lay on almost undisturbed soil.

Occasionally a small tree stood in the sea of grass, Grass that just over a lifetime ago had fed the buffalo that roamed free over this same land. My throttle was steady, with a certain grip I rolled towards the Sioux Indian Reservation at Pine Ridge. The heat fell across my skin, and a drop of sweat fell into my eye.

Seeing me, a painted pony began to run along side the fence, running free with his head held high with the pride he was born with. I slowed to watch as he ran hard to keep pace with me. Just as centuries ago Painted warriors mounted on ponies, rode this same wind, riding hard, riding fast. Riding into the winds of change.

Their freedom would be taken away by land hungry settlers. Mine had been taken by the nine to five grind for years, but now returned. I was free as they had been. Free to ride into the mist of a morning sun, free to breathe a pure mountain air, or free to ride the winds of the oceans surf.

The blaring of horns and the sound of wipers on an iced windshield awakened me to return to the real world. I thought of those behind me, never knowing the feeling of riding the wind. Just blowing their horns, and going nowhere.

Buy a Harley. Own the Company.

St. Louis, MO (November 14, 2008) – With a tough economy and so many losing their jobs in the United States, owner’s Gary Surdyke and Rene’ Creed of Gateway Harley-Davidson in St. Louis, MO, Surdyke Harley-Davidson in Festus, MO, and Dale’s Harley-Davidson in Mount Vernon, IL, are giving customers a piece of the corporate pie by offering free shares of Harley-Davidson Motor Company stock to every customer that buys a bike until Christmas.

Gary Surdyke, owner of Surdyke Harley-Davidson and Dale’s Harley-Davidson stated, “What better way to own a piece of Americana than to ride a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and be part owner of the company as a shareholder.”

“Harley-Davidson is an American icon,” said Rene’ Creed, daughter of Gary Surdyke and owner of Gateway Harley-Davidson. “Thousands and thousands of workers across the United States are employed with Harley-Davidson Motor Company, with a dealership or do business as a vendor. We just felt like it would be a smart way to give back to the customer while helping the brand, the Motor Company and our economy.”

To give customers something tangible to serve as a reminder of their investment, the dealerships are giving a framed certificate of the customer’s ownership in the Motor Company.

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AN INKLING



This month's ink was done by "Ed" over at Threshold Tattoos; he has done several pieces for Trick from the Fatboys already and he does great work. Trick was born and raised in Brooklyn and now resides in the area. Obviously he is a big Giants fan and has been since 1973. He got this ink last February 10th after the Giants, his beloved G-Men had won Super Bowl 42 and it just happened to be his 42nd birthday. Next time you see Trick have him show you his art.

IF YOU THINK YOUR TATTOO BELLONGS HERE THEN SEND US A PIC PLUS SOME TEXT ESPECIALLY WHO DID IT TO TATS@THEBIKINGLIFE.COM



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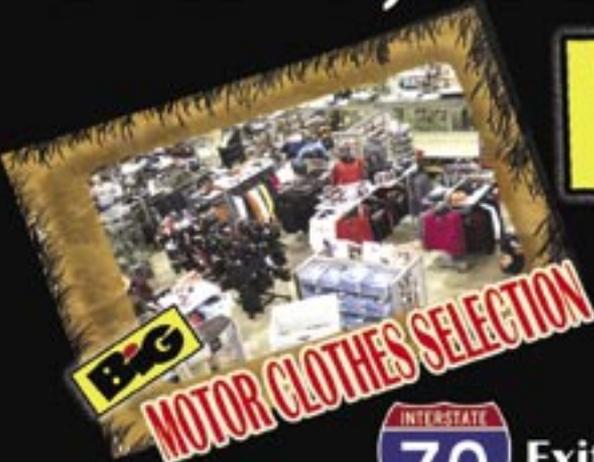


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