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DECEMBER 2010

MAGAZINE

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*Cover: Scene P Snata is once again making the local rounds finding out what good lboys and grils want for Christmas. Especially Santas like this one that is riding in a toy run to help those children that are lass fortunate than many. Photo was taken by Rocker Votrain*

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## Letter From The Publisher by Jim Furey

Wow it's December already, boy this year has just flown by. I hope it has been a good one for all of you and that this holiday season continues that trend. If you have had a good year please come out to our annual Christmas Party at Fatboy's in DeSoto, MO. This combo food drive, bake sale and toy drive benefits the mission in Jefferson County We have been doing it for years and our supporters have always come through in a big way. One of the truly heartwarming things about this particular event is the genuine response that the people who run the mission have to you great folks and our generosity. So many times the thanks isn't there but not with these folks they understand that they are blessed when something like this happens.



well. As this year draws to an end though I am sure there many things we all have to be grateful for. I used to know a man who would tell me "If we all aid our troubles out on table usually at the end of the day I would be happy to trudge along with mine.

I took that to mean that sometimes we look at things and see them in a bad light but really there are people out there who are suffering far worse than us. So why do I share this well because this is truly the season of giving. When we give to others we pass our blessings along and hopefully the people we give to may get an opportunity to pass their blessings on to others and by doing this we all get a little better.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a great start to the New Year. As always to I thank you for making us part of your biking life.



That got me to thinking I know that this has not been the best year ever for you our readers in many instances and also for many of the businesses that support us as

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## Every Season is a Caring Season for Bikers

Each Christmas season across the United States you can find Bikers partying and celebrating with each other at their dances and local events. But many people don't recognize the sharing and giving that Bikers practice – not just at Christmas, but all year long. Bikers always try to help their fellow man, their brothers, as special needs arise. Bikers are always having benefits, poker runs, selling raffle tickets to raise money for someone who needs extra help of

some kind. Everyday there's a biker stopping to help another biker who is broken down on the road – it's the necessary thing to do. In the biker community, we call these acts "brotherhood," but these acts are also examples of God's love being shared within the biking family.

Christmas is the holiday when everyone should recognize and share God's love with others. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, God's greatest gift to each of us. God sent His only Son to show His love to mankind. When Jesus walked on earth, He healed the sick, helped the poor and showed His love to everyone and taught us to love. John 3:16 tell us, "God loved the world so much He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:17 goes on to say that "God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." As Christians we are here to show God's love to everyone. Christians can learn a lot from the biker brotherhood about that. But, loving God and showing God love is the other part of God's commandments. This Christmas season, let us think about our relationship with God and be thankful for the Gift He has given us. If only those outside of motorcyclists could follow the examples of our Biking family in reaching out and giving to their communities and individuals in need. We are very proud to be part of such a loving and caring brotherhood.

If you have any questions where you stand in the family of God, talk with any Christian biker at your next rally or contact one of us. Christian biker at your next event, call me at 314-434-2282 or e-mail me at [h2osjk@prodigy.net](mailto:h2osjk@prodigy.net); or you can contact the Missouri State Coordinator, Ray (Linda) Ward, [wardscma@yahoo.com](mailto:wardscma@yahoo.com), 636-274-0998 or the Illinois State Coordinator, Don (Vicky) Brown, 217-629-8938, [vdBrown77@aol.com](mailto:vdBrown77@aol.com).

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## **Years End 2010** **By Rocker Votrain**

It always seems strange for me to write for this magazine I mean I am just a regular guy. But it's especially strange when I am trying to come up with an article I know will be the one to end my year.

Yes this is December for you, but its late October for me.

Some riders have stored their bikes and await the New Year's riding season. Ah the smell of spring and the warmth of the sun on our backs as we break into a curve. \*SIGH\*

Some like me have tuned and preformed the latest oil change and did whatever maintenance in September, because there is no real down time. But by the time your reading this the battery tender will be attached to Baby and she will be topped out and lightly covered. Awaiting the time when I insert her key and ask her to wake up from her slumber. I know there will be days when the weather is warm enough to ride and I want her clean and ready for that. I might even try the car tire conversion this time when I change out the tires. I will let you know how that goes...

And what about that New Years Day ride? I am hoping I am able and that I wont get laid up again after like last year.

This past year I have seen changes. Lady Bellz and I have got more active in the Patriot Guard in our local area. We made the events we could but health problems and cash flow were as always a hindrance.

We saw sunrises and sunsets from the bike seat. We participated in escorts of fallen soldiers of these latest wars and of wars long past. It was humbling... We got rained on and met the protesters from Kansas who's children are also victims of the hate they spew. We stood for hours honoring our fallen dead... We witnessed thousands of citizens line the streets as hundreds of bikers rode by in escort to Jefferson Barracks cemetery. I rode in a precision where they shut down the interstate except for the escort and official vehicles. Talking about making you think...

My travels took me to Tennessee. I was there when the floods happened in Nashville. I had the opportunity to see my son and his wife and my Grandson Lane. I met some wonderful people while I was down there. But one of the best times were sharing a lane with my Brother Jesse and his wife Vickie. Its been a few years and DAMN if it didn't feel good to have our patches flying together again.

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I joined ABATE but its a chapter in Tennessee thinking I could transfer to a chapter on Southeast Missouri when I got back home only to find out there is no chapter in Southeast Missouri. But that's ok for right now, who knows maybe someone will get a chapter started down here. Maybe not, we will have to wait and see.

Along the way we came across Hero's Way program and if you want to back something this is a very worthy project. It honors a Missouri town's fallen Iraq or Afghanistan soldier by collecting money for two road signs.

We have met some of the most awesome people you could ever meet, I am talking mainly about the members of the Patriot Guard we ride with and a few others too. But I have to say our up line from assistant flag Captains all the way to our Senior Ride captain these People are OUTSTANDING. Yes that means you Sarg and Goose. And Caddy who has set a new bar for what a support vehicle is supposed to look like.

We also found some of the best hidden gems to eat at in Southeast Missouri. Like The Branding Iron in Farmington (awesome Bar-B-Que), The Travelers Table in Davisville (and all I can say is this is worth the trip check their website for hours) The Stray Dog

Bar-B-Que and Pizza in Van Buren, MO (try it before you say a thing) And Baylee Jo's BBQ in Ironton Mo. (In the warm months this place rocks the weekends live bands and GREAT food)

We rode in toy runs and are already planning on riding the next one too. Speaking of toy runs the 2010 run was substantially smaller this year. The 2009 ride had 226 bikes and this year we had about 100. Some blamed the cold morning while others say it was the economy and I have to agree things are tighter this year. Thanks to all the riders and all the car clubs that participated in this yearly event You are all OUTSTANDING!!! Oh BTW Thanks to Santa who once again made the parade and rode in the front of the per-session.

All in all it's been a full year. Not always what we wanted but what we all needed to make us grow. I feel like I have made or found my long lost brothers and sisters. And I brought you all alone for the ride the best and only way I knew how. I hope this past year I have given you a smile and possibly something to think about.

This coming year I will try harder to tell my stories in a way that brings you along at 60mph hard into a blind left hand curve in traffic.

Also word has it the largest event for the Patriot Guard will be held in September 2011 at Bass River Resort in Steelville Missouri its called "The Gathering of the Guard"... I will be reminding you of this from time to time and giving you exact details dates and events....

So, thank you to all the regular readers and possibly a fan or two.

Merry Christmas, Happy Yule, Happy Hanukkah and my hopes for the very very best of New Years...

Brightest Blessings and ride safe...

Rocker and Lady Bellz

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF OF THE BIKING LIFE MAGAZINE. BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR THE COMING YEAR.**

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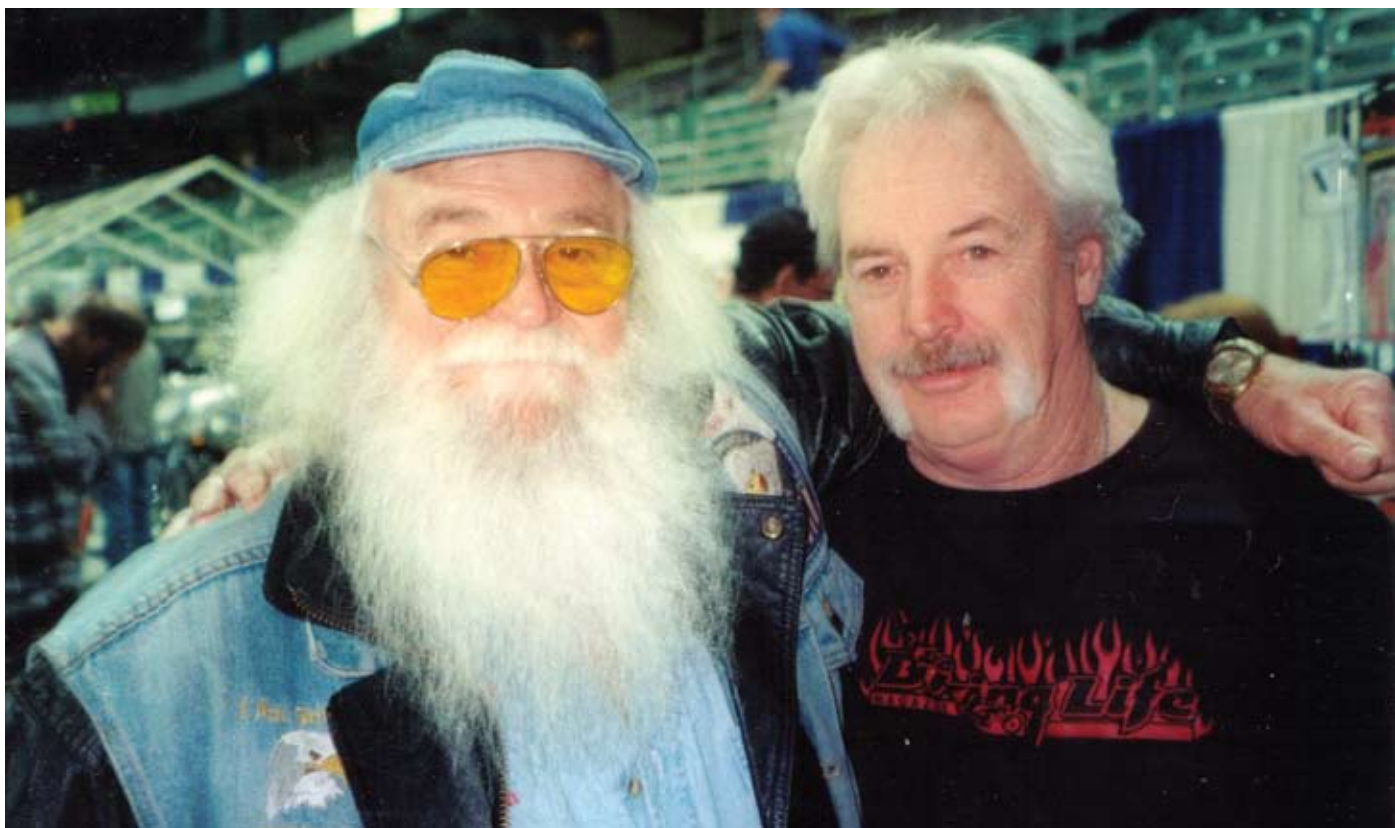


### Additional Show Dates:

January 23 Peotone IL

March 20 Kalamazoo MI

May 29 Valparaiso, IN



## **Brotherhood**

**By Jim Furey**

I have been lucky enough to meet a lot of good people since I started this magazine. I am pictured with one of the best here. For those who do not know who he is. This is Steve “Wildman” Howard and for many years he was the driving force behind the Hartbauer/McBride Foundation. I have talked about that before. He could be cantankerous but his one desire was to do all he could to help the foundation in its goal to help motorcycle riders and their families from the region. That alone is awesome but what sets this man apart from many is he understands brotherhood.

He knows there is more to being a biker than wearing new chaps and a bandanna. He knows that the little wave on the highway truly means something. He knows that being a brother means being willing to go to the mat for someone. He knows that being a brother means supporting your brother even when you know he is wrong. He has taught me some of these things.

The Saint Louis region’s biker community is richer for the things he has done. Not financially richer but richer in spirit and tradition because of men like Wildman who pass their experience and beliefs on to

the next generation. Keeping the ideal of brotherhood alive as they demonstrate in their everyday lives what it means to be a brother.

Wildman has many brothers and all I’ve met are good men. A few years ago Wildman asked me if I knew what brotherhood meant. I said what do you want to sleep with my wife, (that would be a non-starter in my world) and he laughed. Then a little while later at an event he called me up and introduced me as one of his brothers. After having seen the men he calls brother I was very honored and I just wanted to let him know that I am proud to be his brother.

Brotherhood is what the Hartbauer/McBride Foundation aka Bikers Helping Bikers is all about. So watch the magazine for flyers for their event and come out and demonstrate that you know a little about brotherhood by doing what you can to help your brothers on two wheels.





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Having participated in helping put on the SEMO “Run What Ya Brung” event and, over the years, having some of my club brothers race their bikes, I have always wanted to do so too. In the past, Dennis “Meathead” from the K.C. charter would bring “Safety’s” bike with the wheelie bar and “Fast Eddy” not being quite right, would put on a spectacular show, along with “Dupo Chuck” and Pat from the S.T.M.C.

At the old Appleton location, they would work up the crowd with daring heat runs and then let the racing up to all the competitors. Now that the event has been relocated to Lesterville, there have been some new tests of riding skills and good races. For instance, the Barrel race, the 3-rider relay race and the ring on the peg 2-way race. There have been some really good competitions.

Before SEMO, my old lady had a 90XL and she sold it to Trevor who changed it into a street chopper. Bad luck struck him and some lady hit him, totaling out the XL and ending with Trevor losing his left leg. I offered to buy it back and build it as a SEMO race bike and that’s what I did.

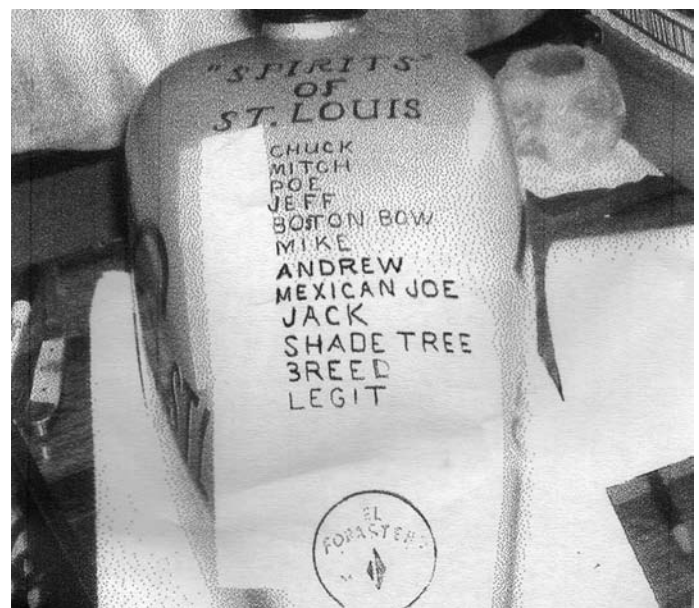
Trevor had added some bolt-on rear struts which I left on. The bike would get jammed in gear and the shifting forks had been broken. I pulled the tranny and replaced the shifting forks. Then I had *Andy’s* mount a set of knobby tires. While I was there I found a 51 tooth rear sprocket. I replaced the bent front fork tubes with 2” O.S. to give it an uphill rake. I put on stock buckhorn bars to help with steering in the mud. Drag bars are too spooky in off-road racing and apes, even though they look cool, don’t offer good operator sitting position. I painted the bike silver, like Lindberg’s cross-Atlantic plane, the *Spirit of St.*

*Louis*. Carrying out that theme, I named the bike *Spirits of St. Louis* and then listed the names of my deceased club members in the order of their deaths. The number “56” written is the numerical alphabet for E.F. which is self explanatory and was placed on the number plate and gas tank. I ran it down my alley and around the block several times; it ran okay, so I figured it was ready.

When we went to Lesterville, we were busy setting up the band stage, the porta-pottys, the cook area, providing vendors with electricity and water, getting firewood, trying to get the track in shape and all the other behind the scene jobs that have to be done before the campers begin to arrive. Getting there on Thursday, I didn’t mess with the bike till Friday evening and it ran like crap.

I had 2 gas tanks for the bike; the first was the practice tank. The second, the race tank, somehow had crap in it which then got into the filter and the carb bowl. For all the 60-plus eyeglass wearing brothers who have ever taken apart a C.V. carb sitting in wet grass and hoping not to lose some small, but very essential, part or tearing a not easily replaceable gasket, here’s to ya! The stars must have been aligned just right or maybe the Hail Mary that my mom taught me to say under my breath during stressful times did the trick. Whatever it was, I got it back together, fired it up and Spirit sputtered twice, then caught a good slug of fuel and hit an R.P.M. that let me know this bike was ready.

The next problem was that of me being a 68-year old disabled veteran. Was I going to be able do well enough in the competitions so I wouldn’t embarrass myself, or more importantly, embarrass my club colors? Well, not to worry. Brotherhood saved my ass. Patrick who is now a patch holder, but who was a prospect at the time, told me he would ride Spirit. He had an old football-style helmet from the 60s; must have been his dad’s. It was gold metallic, kind of like Jack Nicholson’s helmet in the American







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classic movie *Easy Rider*. He got some black electrical tape and put a racing stripe down the middle of the helmet and the number 56 on each side. He took *Spirit* on a couple of runs and said, "We're ready." I said, "Okay!"



It rained a LOT on Friday night and Saturday morning the weekend of SEMO, so the track was a muddy disaster. The regular bikes were called for safety reasons, but the option to race was left open for those who had bikes with knobby tires.

Bike #77 was brought up from Joplin by our brother club, the G.G.M.C. Another entrant was a cool shovelhead

raced by the Association, a club from Arkansas. "Wild Man," my name for him, always comes ready to put forth the best racing effort on his ape hanger EVO chopper. He told me he rides to work every day. He brings knobby tire mounted wheels and sets the bike up for racing at SEMO.

During warm-up runs, the Association's bike broke down. Good thing for us because last year, they made a good effort in the overall "Run What Ya Brung." "Wild Man," #77 and Patrick on Spirit put on a wild, muddy, crazy edition of the Run What Ya Brung Race!

Spirit won the all out drag races and the tire drags. This year's races featured some of the wildest performances we have ever seen at SEMO.

Do yourself a favor; come to SEMO next year. You will be guaranteed to enjoy the races. If you really want to really enjoy the races, build something and find somebody like Patrick who can plow through mud like a Missouri Mule on the *Spirits of St. Louis*.



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## Mouse in the House! by Joy Furey

Mouse races? Does this mean racing real mice? Or maybe they race some sort of mechanical mice or maybe it's some sort of mouse racing video game. Having never been to see mouse racing, I had absolutely no idea.

We walked into the VFW in East Alton to find out. The Dream Weavers were having their annual dinner-dance event, this year hosted by Patches and Badges for Kids, to raise money to go towards the Shop with a Cop program. Nice crowd with lots of visiting going on. The event offers some good food too. Fried chicken and cake. Okay, there were other things, but yum—fried chicken and cake!

In the side room, there were silent auction items. I bid on several and finally decided to concentrate my efforts on the puppy “purse.” I kept raising that bid, but someone always outbid me. Bidding competition was definitely fierce! I didn’t win the puppy “purse.” Not to worry though, I ended up with one anyway



after I told my friend, Vi, about the one I didn’t win; she gave me one she doesn’t use. Yay!



Anyway, as I wandered around, I saw a glass fronted wooden box with different levels built in it. This must be for the mouse races, I thought, but I still wasn’t sure if the mice were real. Then I saw the mice—yep, they were real. For the races, the mice were put in, one on each level. The opening to the raceways were blocked until all the mice were put in. Then the doors opened and the mice raced out. Well, not so much. Lots of them scurried for a few steps and then stopped to view the crowd or just sit and twitch their noses or scrub their faces. Some were slow starters and then suddenly took off, running all the way to the end for the win! Lots of fun to watch.



There was also a game where the mouse was put onto a roulette wheel. Whatever number the mouse put a paw on first was the winning one. I didn’t try that, but it was very popular with the rest of the crowd.

A live auction and dancing rounded out a fun evening

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or who paid to attend this event helped provide a Christmas memory for a needy child. It doesn't get much better than that!

Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hannukah, Happy Holidays! However, you say it during this holiday season, I hope you have the best ever. And, I send you my best wishes for a very Happy New Year filled with love, laughter and prosperity!

for a good cause! All proceeds from the evening went to support the Shop with a Cop program. This program allows kids in the area to go shopping for Christmas presents with local law enforcement officers. This allows kids to see police officers in a positive light, as well as, providing them with presents that they would not have had otherwise.



Besides the sponsorship this program gets from the Dream Weavers, some of the local motorcycle clubs around the area also donated money during the event. The generosity of the motorcycle community is amazing given these tough times! Everyone involved



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#### Gateway Harley-Davidson to Present \$20,000 Donation to USO of Missouri -

St. Louis, MO (November 30, 2010) – Gateway Harley-Davidson will present a donation check to the USO of Missouri on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:00am, at Gateway Harley-Davidson in South County in the amount of \$20,000 as part of their “Gypsy Rendezvous Year of the USO” year-long fundraising efforts to help support the troops.

Once a month over the course of this year, an event was held at Gateway Harley-Davidson on Lemay Ferry Rd. with some USO fundraising element tied into the event. Such events included a bike show, bike wash, a memorial ride, a golf tournament at Annbriar, and the biggest fundraising element of all . . . a motorcycle raffle. Motorcycle raffle winner, Steve Zeiter of Fenton, MO, stated, “I think it’s great what Gateway is doing for the USO. I just wanted to help make a donation by buying a ticket. I never thought I’d actually win this thing, but sure glad I did. Christmas came a little early this year!”

Gateway Harley-Davidson owner, Rene’ Creed, explained the origin of the fundraising concept, “My mother and father met at a USO. My dad was in the Air Force. He accidentally hit my mom with a volleyball. He went to apologize to her, and as they say, the rest of the story kind of wrote itself.” With past family ties to military, a strong support for the men and women serving our country, and the iconic American Harley-Davidson brand, which has a longstanding history with our armed forces, “it just seemed like a perfect fit,” Creed continued.

The USO of Missouri, located at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, is a not-for-profit organization that relies solely on the generosity of their donors. Their mission is to support the troops by providing morale, welfare, and recreation-type services to our military personnel and their families.

For more information, call Matthew Will at (314) 845-9900 or via e-mail at [mlwill@surdyke.com](mailto:mlwill@surdyke.com); or log on to [www.usostl.org](http://www.usostl.org).



Well folks, as you the readers know come the first Saturday in November. Killer and the misses load up the old Victory sleigh for our little jog down Highway 67 to Cici’s Pizza in Farmington, MO. For their annual toy run and while not officially sanctioned by any club it is always a good turnout and a well run parade through the Parkland that ends in Desloge Mo. at the Elks Lodge.

Here we were as always there was food and beverages which we could consume to our hearts content (some of the biggest hotdogs I have ever seen) and while it was sunny it was also way colder than it has been. This day it only got in the forties with the low starting at 27 degrees and that would explain why the turnout was down from the record year of 2009 . But everyone that rode and all the groups that showed up like the Patriot Guard Riders, the CMA and the Midwest Drifters MC all made for a great time . Now look at the pictures and write your list for Santa

#### Killer trying to think of spring.







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## Buffalo Soldiers Ride Again

By Jim Furey

Many motorcycle clubs can trace their origins and original members back to Veterans' returning from various wars but there are very few, as far as I know, can trace their heritage to a specific unit but there is one I am sure of. They are the Buffalo Soldiers MC. Their name is a tribute to the 10th U.S. Calvary Regiment that was formed in 1866 after the Civil War, they were stationed on the frontier at Fort Leavenworth Kansas and was a segregated unit as they all were back then. The name was given to them by the Cheyenne Indians that they faced in battle on the plains and from what I have read it was because of their tenacity in battle.

Today's Buffalo Soldiers no longer ride horses but instead they ride steel and they definitely know how to party. Earlier this summer they held their annual party in Lebanon Illinois. The local chapter has a clubhouse there and it is pretty nice. The festivities started on Friday night with a meet and greet. I was not able to make this but from what I hear it was great kickoff to the weekend. Saturday was an awesome day and provided a perfect backdrop to the club's poker run. They took their riders on a fun



ride that took them to stops like the Cellar Room in Alton Illinois and up the River Road to the Hawg Pit BBQ Barn in Grafton Illinois. I would imagine there was a party back at the clubhouse that evening as well.



Sunday was party day at the clubhouse. There was some very tasty food available and any beverage you could want. They had a dj laying down all types of music. Bill Sankus was there installing lights on many of the bikes there. He does a superior job and does it for a very reasonable price. He also did some games I tried my hand at the slow race I did okay but did not win but that doesn't matter it is about having fun. I also want to say that the Booze Fighters came out in good numbers to support their fellow clubbers.

Them the highlight for me and I am sure a few other folks was the patching of some of the clubs prospects in to full patched members. My hat is off to the new members I appreciate the efforts you have made to wear your colors and hope you let no one tell you, you cannot wear them anywhere. At any rate this was the first time I had made it to the Buffalo Soldiers Block Party but I plan to be there next year if they'll let me. So to all the BSMC I say ride on.



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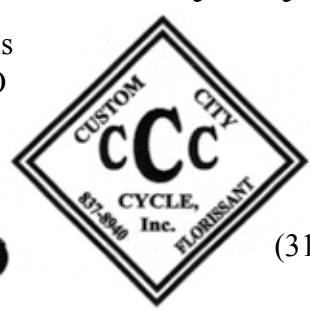
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**Wednesday Show-Mes Wingsday Bike Fest** Fairview Heights and Lemay Ferry locations only

**Wednesday Ryders Inn Bike Night** at Ryders Inn in Highland, IL food and drink specials

**Wednesday Shannon's Pub Bike Night** at at Shannon's i Tilden, IL

**Wednesdays Fallen Kings MC Bike Night** at Mary Etta's, 2902 Keokuk St Louis, MO

**Wednesday PT's Showclub Bike Night** at PTs Showclub in Centreville, IL

**Thursdays STUNNA Thursdays** At Paradise 1, 615 Missouri St East St Louis, IL (618) 482-5578 DJ

**Thursdays Bike Night at Bikers Corner** at 1924 N Vandeventer Ave in St Louis, MO

**Thursdays Hardriders** call their hotline (314) 340-2000 for info

**Thursdays Bike Night** at Rum Runners in Farmington, MO

**Thursdays Bike Night at Geos Wings and More** on West Main in Belleville, IL from 6:30 to 10

**Thursdays Crown Royals M/C Bikers Night** Out Blues Alley 9053 Riverview St Louis

**Friday Bikes, Beers and Bonfires** at Chasers on Dutch Hollow Rd. \$1.50 Dom LN

**Friday Weekend Kickstart Party** at Cadillac Jacks on St Charles Rock Rd in Bridgeton, MO live music

**Saturday Scandalous Saturday Bike Night** at Fatboys in DeSoto, MO

**Sunday Sundowner Sundays** at Trs Place in Belleville, IL

### December

**4th Piasa Gateway ABATE Holiday Dance** at the Edwardsville Knights of Columbus on Marine Rd

**9th Ladies Night** 5 to 8 PM at Frieze Harley Davidson, Ofallon, IL

**11th Customer Appreciation Day** at Doc's Harley Davidson

**11th Chasers Christmas Party** at Chasers on Dutch Hollow Rd, Belleville, IL

**12th The Biking Life Annual Christmas Party** at Fatboy's in DeSoto, MO

**16th Men's Night** 5 to 8 PM at Frieze Harley Davidson

**18th Bush Pilots Christmas Party** at the vclubhouse Central and Union in Alton, IL starts at 6 PM

**18th Ted's Motorcycle World Christmas Party** at the dealership

### January

**1st Polar Bear Plunge** at Smitty's on the Marina in New Athens, IL

**9th Piasa Gateway ABATE Snowball Poker Run** see flyer for details

**23rd Midwest motorcycle Swap Meet** Admiral Coontz Recreation Center in Hannibal, MO

**29th Winter Blows Indoor Swap Meet and Bike Show** at Fairmount Park, IL hosted by ChaosNation.net



***THE BIKING LIFE IS GROWING AGAIN AND TO MAKE THIS GROWTH REALLY POP WE NEED YOUR HELP. RIGHT NOW WE ARE LOOKING FOR SALESPEOPLE IN ALL AREAS WHERE THIS PUBLICATION IS READ. PARTICULARLY THE ST LOUIS METRO AREA, CENTRAL ILLINOIS, SOUTHWESTERN MISSOURI. IF YOU LIKE RIDING, HANGING OUT WITH GOOD FOLKS AND MAKING SOME SPARE CASH TO BOOT THEN GIVE ME A CALL 314-322-7883. WE ALSO WELCOME ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ABOUT RUNS, RALLYS, AND BENEFITS. KEEP WATCHING BIG THINGS ARE ABOUT TO HAPPEN. I INVITE YOU TO COME GROW WITH US.***

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- Browse the Chaos Directory with web pages full of information on all the local bike shops, bars, artists, clubs, and everything involving the biker lifestyle. Browse the web pages and help support the local shops / biker businesses!
- Post / view local biker events,(bike runs, shows) in the Events Calendar. Great way to get a flyer out to bikers in the local area or find local events to support!
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- Receive a weekly events letter showing all future events, bike runs, shows, shop sales, etc. Great way to see what is going on in your area for the upcoming week!

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## Mile Thrills Again



For many years now one of the TBL staff goes to THE MILE at the fairgrounds in Springfield Ill. This year the duty fell to me and as always when it comes to getting into a race my arm doesn't have to be twisted too much. Going up with me this year was my long time friend Fuzzy, Al, Hot Rod and couple more buddies of theirs.

It was a great ride up; just cool enough to still need leathers but not cold my kind of day. Since the thirties this has been the track to win on. And it still is today with riders like Bryan Smith and Jethro and Sammy Halberth trying to etch their names on the trophy with Markel and Leonard and Hill.

Also on the program was pro singles a 450cc MX derived bike lowered on DT tires and suspension, the motors can have all sort of work done to them but the frame has to be stock . A couple of years back some in racing circles thought that 450's on a mile would be boring and slow but that is far from the truth as the racing today would show.

Of course the big motors are what the crowd loves the roar of the XR750 has echoed around this mile for years but this year it was joined by the scream of the Ducati of Joe



Kopp (points leader ) and the seasons most recent winner Brian Smith on the Werner Springsteen Kawasaki 650R. This was the famed Ebay Special, winner at the Indy Mile the previous weekend.

With two time race winner Kevin Atherton as Grand Marshall a parade lap was done for Aid to Injured Racers and a moment of silence for lost riders then the silence was broken as the best racing on Labor Day weekend started. Levi Meyer won the first 450 heat with current #1 Baker in second and Alton Ill.'s own points leader Jeff Carver on the Vans Yamaha in third.



The second heat saw Wyatt Maguire taking the victory. The first expert heat had Smith, Johnson and Wiles locked in a battle for the ages for 12 laps with Smith taking the photo finish. Second heat saw another great battle between 7 time champ and fastest man in the world Chris Carr, Jared Mees (current #1) going at it for the distance with Mees getting the nod. Third heat saw the two foreign bikes, the Ducati of Kopp and Bears Triumph, make a quick get a way but were tracked down just as quick with Willie McCoy drafting past Kenny Coolbeth for the win. .

The dash for cash had Carr, Mees, McCoy and Smith banging bars for 4 fast laps with Carr getting the money at



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the end. Singles LCQ had Tabb winning with Minert and Chaz Springsteen getting the final transfer. With all that racing out of the way The 450 Main took the line with 18 riders going 15 laps this actually was almost the best race of the weekend. At the drop of the flag anyone of the riders could have won but after an exciting 15 laps the checkered fell on Mike Toon from MO who made a huge push on the final lap to draft past Jeff Carver, Shauna Texer and Minnert right at the line for the photo finish win.

Now came time for the 25 lap expert final all the big guns lined up and for the next 17 minutes 18 riders battled the track each other and history to see who would win. Kopp's Ducati tried but faded Carr led the first and a couple after that. Halbert(Sammy led lap 3 Mees 4and 5 McCoy 6th thru 9 the Kawasaki of Smith took the lead never to be completely headed and although there was still lots of draft passing going on when the checkered flag fell it was history being made as Kawasaki won back to back miles with Brian Smith at the bar. Springer giving support and Hall of Fame (like Springer) Bill Werner building the bike the monster energy 650cc Kawasaki pulled into victory lane , rounding out the happy podium was Chris Carr and Jared Mees. But today was to belong to Smith, History and the fans who saw it at the great Springfield Mile.

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## AN INKLING



**THIS MONTHS TATTO WAS SUBMITTED BY MIKE DONOHUE. MIKE IS ALONG TIME FRIEND OF THE MAGAZINE WHO NO LONGER LIVES IN THE AREA BUT STAYS IN TOUCH AND VISITS PRETTY REGULARLY. ON ONE OF HIS VISTS HE STOPPED IN AT SHADY JACK'S AND CHECKED OUT THE TATTOO SHOP. WHILE THERE HE GOT BERTO TO DO THIS VERY COOL LOOKING PIECE. DID I MENTION THAT MIKE ALSO RODE IN THE HOKA HEY CHALLENGE. HE DIDN'T WIN BUT HE SURE LOGGED A LOT OF MILES. DOES YOUR TAT BELONG HERE IF SO SEND IT TO: [TATS@THEBIKINGLIFE.COM](mailto:TATS@THEBIKINGLIFE.COM)**

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