

The Stars and Pipes

December 2021



Merry Christmas 2021!

Fairfax Harley Owners Group



EDITOR'S COLUMN

All Things Must Pass, sang George Harrison in 1970, and that includes my tenure as editor of this newsletter.

It's not that I've run out of material or things to say - that simply doesn't happen - it's that in 2022 I'll be doing my last year of work before retirement (with all the paperwork and planning that entails), and overseeing a home sale and a new home build, and I must concentrate on those with my limited powers of focus!

There are a ton of things to consider and take care of, especially when it comes to putting our house in Springfield up for sale. There's a master bathroom to renovate, paint to freshen up... all sorts of stuff. A Honey-do list times 100.

We bought a lot at a place called Lake Caroline, a lake development just off of Route 1 about twenty minutes south of Fredericksburg, and are in the process of building a house there. We pushed the financial button to make that start to happen last month. So when do we move? Good question. "It depends." Thanks to the Covid pandemic and supply line screw-ups, everything is on back order and nothing is happening quickly.

So I will be giving up this newsletter and being a HOGs officer in favor of serving as an occasional Boss Hog and Road Captain for some rides I have in mind before I leave the Fairfax Chapter sometime next year.

Well, that's the plan, anyway.

I realize that there are many of us who live a good distance from Fairfax who are still members of this chapter, but after I move south I'd like to avoid excess travel up the horrible I-95 or Route 1 and will therefore begin activity with the chapter based with the Richmond Harley dealership, which will only be a half hour from where I'll live. It'll be a change from a D.C. suburbs-based perspective to a more southern perspective.

So. Thanks to all of you who gave me kind comments about the 632 pages of newsletter I've formatted in 2020 and 2021.



The Stars and Pipes

A publication for the members of the Fairfax Harley Owners Group (F-HOG) in Fairfax, Virginia

December 2021

Volume 23, Issue 11

(Yes, it has actually been that many.) It's been a pleasant creative endeavor, and the membership, officers and dealership have always been supportive. And yeah, I'll make it up north for F-HOG rides from time to time.

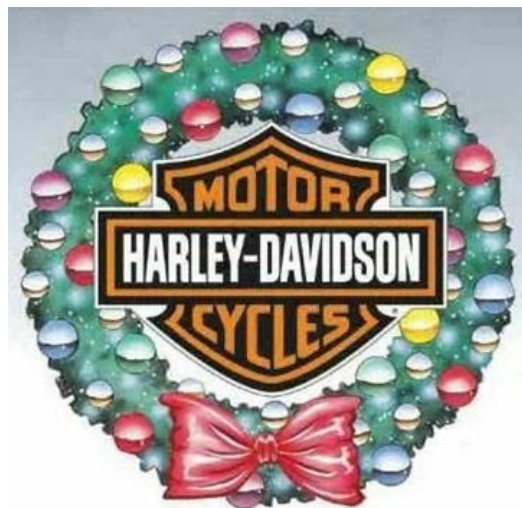
What's in this issue? Harley Christmas shopping ads from the past, motorcycles in comic books, Precious Moments motorcycles (!), redneck motorcycles, Harley organizational culture, five pages of weird bikes and some et cetera stuff that's been in the buffer for a long time. Plus the usual articles.

All of us here at *The Stars and Pipes* World Headquarters wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! Since I'm a year-round rider, I hope to see you on the road in the cold months...

Enjoy!

Wes

COVER: Forget the reindeer. Santa rides a Harley!



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Well, fellow F-HOG members, we have come upon the end of my journey as your Director of the Fairfax HOG Chapter.

The past six years as an officer has been an experience that will always be cherished. I accepted this challenge and grateful that it came my way. I am very thankful as I was working my way through the ranks, that I had amazing officers guiding me as well supporting along the way.

I was honored to ride beside people I classify as brothers and sisters who I could count on if I needed help or support. I

experienced many journeys that I never imagined when I walked into my first F-HOG Chapter meeting.

Ride and Have Fun is the theme of our chapter, but as you should know by now, I added my own twist. "We Ride as One"; I truly believe we do.

How many times do we wave at other bikers that we pass on the roads, how many of us stopped to help other bikers, and don't we all believe that we never leave anyone behind? These are just a few thoughts that support Ride and Have Fun, but they

also support We Ride as One!

In my last article I mentioned GRATITUDE, and I said I would define this word. Well, I will do the best I can and keep it short. I am very thankful for having been given this opportunity to be a member first and then an officer. Being able to learn how to be a better rider and pass on what I have learned to others. Being open-minded to always learn and being appreciative for those that want to help. Grateful that giving back to others or those in need is what our chapter does and is part of our culture. The readiness to show appreciation without really being asked; members just raising their hands volunteering their own time to support. These few examples listed all can define gratitude and this is F-HOG.

I would like to thank my wife Kathy for supporting me these past six years as I was on the go for the chapter. Holding

down the house and keeping things in order while I was traveling was appreciated. I must also mention that Kathy's support in being my ghost writer from time to time really helped. I cannot even begin to list all the F-HOG Officers past and current as well fellow members that I served alongside to say THANK YOU enough!

It has been amazing, and it's not a Goodbye - it's a See Youz Later!

Always Remember

We Ride as One!

Ray

What Is Gratitude?

Every language in the world has a way of saying "thank you." This is because gratitude is an inherent quality that resides within each human being, and is triggered and expressed spontaneously in a variety of different contexts. Gratitude crosses all boundaries - creed, age, vocation, gender, and nation - and is emphasized by all the great religious traditions.

Gratitude is essentially the recognition of the unearned increments of value in one's experience - the acknowledgment of the positive things that come our way that we did not actively work toward or ask for. The *International Encyclopedia of Ethics* defines gratitude as "the heart's internal indicator on which the tally of gifts outweighs exchanges," a definition that echoes the notion of unearned increments. The connection to the concept of gifts is a natural one. The Latin root of the word gratitude is grata or gratia - a given gift - and from this same root we get our word grace, which means a gift freely given that is unearned.

Gratefulness is the inner gesture of giving meaning to our life by receiving life as gift.

Gratitude is a feeling that spontaneously emerges from within. However, it is not simply an emotional response; it is also a choice we make. We can choose to be grateful, or we can choose to be ungrateful - to take our gifts and blessings for granted. As a choice, gratitude is an attitude or disposition. As writer Alexis de Tocqueville once described it, gratitude is "a habit of the heart." Brother David Steindl-Rast, a Benedictine monk, reminds us that "gratefulness is the inner gesture of giving meaning to our life by receiving life as gift."

(From gratefulness.org)



DECEMBER RIDES AND EVENTS!

December 2021



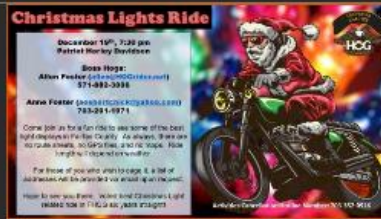
Adopt-a-Spot - December 4th



Monthly Chapter Meeting - December 8th



Salvation Army Elf Workshop & Volunteers -
December 11th, 16th, 17th



Christmas Lights Ride - December 19th

Last Day of the Year Ride - December 31st

[Click here to see the web page...](#)

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	1	2	3	4 Adopt-A-Spot - 8am
5	6 Fairfax HOG Officers Meeting - 6:30pm	8 Monthly Chapter Meeting - 6:30pm	9	10	11 Salvation Army Elf Workshop & Volunteers - 9:00am
12	13	15	16 Salvation Army Gift Distribution Volunteers - 8:30am	17 Salvation Army Gift Distribution Volunteers - 8:30am	18
19 Christmas Lights Ride - 7:30pm	20	22	23	24	25
26	27	29	30	31 Last Day of the Year Ride - 10am	1

Hō Hō Hō Harley!

A look at Harley-Davidson
Christmas marketing

by Wes



What an experienced gift giver did with '46 for Christmas

Put his \$46 down on a bright, new Holiday-red Harley-Davidson M-50. Gave it to his best elf, wished him more fun than even elves are up to. Show us one elf, from here to the North Pole, who wouldn't gladly work off the balance (\$179). If you have some exceptionally deserving "elves" in your home, you can buy the M-50 outright for only \$225 f.o.b. Milwaukee. Or, ask your Harley-Davidson dealer about a gift certificate. Low-cost insurance readily available, ask your Harley-Davidson dealer for details.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON

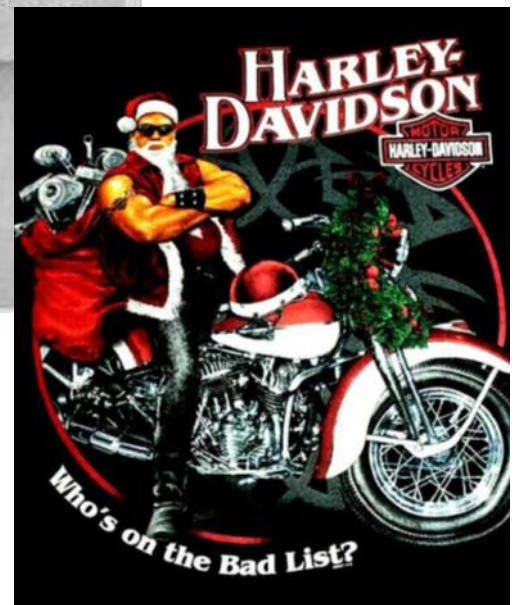
Harley-Davidson suggests:
give your family the finest gift of all.



Ride safely.
Always wear your helmet, keep your
lights on, respect the countryside you
ride through...and watch out for
the other guy.



Boy's Life, Dec. 1974.
Good advice then and now!



Above: A somewhat deceptive ad. \$46 is the down payment on a \$225 Harley (Aermacchi) M-50, which was only produced in 1965 and 1966. Still, this particular elf looks happy - and why shouldn't he? That M-50 is faster than a Schwinn String-Ray, which is what this elf was riding in 1965 and 1966.

Right: Harley learned the advertising value of the word "bad" when bad started meaning good.



The Perfect Gift?

See your Harley-Davidson dealer. That's where it's at.

It all comes together in one place at Christmas. For the cyclist. Or a cyclist's friend. Your Harley-Davidson dealer has neat clothing for rough weather or sun-warmed winter riding. Cycle accessories. Lubricants and cycle-care compounds. Perfect gifts for any rider on any machine. Cycles and accessories that were made for each other. See your Harley-Davidson dealer. That's where it's at.



Harley-Davidson

DECEMBER 1969

31

Christmas! Where is it at? In your heart or some such maudlin thing? No! It's at your AMF Harley dealer! It's December 1970 and not only are curly, loopy fonts in style, but that blonde with the flat hair and the go go boots is trying on what looks like a white jacket. Good luck keeping *that* bug canvas clean on a motorcycle.

I like the reflection of the pine tree in the rear view mirror. They had to put *something* there...



These are Franklin Mint Harley-Davidson collectible models produced in the early 2000's. I don't know how many they produced in total, but this I do know from watching many episodes of *Antiques Roadshow*: If it's marked "collectible," don't expect to put your kids through college selling them later.

My mother bought a bunch of Franklin Mint stuff which we sold after she died. It was worth somewhat less than it was new - if there was a market for it at all. So... buyer beware.

LITTLE-KNOWN HARLEY FACTS

By Joe Livingood

HARLEY-DAVIDSON DIDN'T MASS PRODUCE MOTORCYCLES UNTIL 1905

William Harley and Arthur Davidson finished one bike in 1903 and two more the following year. The first machine was two years in the making, with the assistance of a German designer named Emil Kroger. One of the next two prototypes was sold in 1904 to a Mr. Meyer, and after passing through four more owners in the following years, had reportedly logged 83,000 miles. The first year of "mass" production was 1905, when H-D manufactured eight motorcycles.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON WAS NOT A MARKET LEADER WHEN THEY STARTED



In the first decade of the 20th century, there were more than 100 motorcycle manufacturers in America, and Indian had nearly a five-

year head start in terms of production bikes. Springfield's George Hendee was a former bicycle racer and astute marketer; his partner Oscar Hedstrom was a brilliant engineer. Milwaukee was barely sniffing Indian's exhaust during the first five years. By 1910, H-D was producing about 3,000 machines a year, while Indian figures were double that. Indian's successful racing endeavors and subsequent sales success were the motivating factors forcing Harley to abandon its policy of no factory-supported competition. An internal race department was formed in 1914, and the legendary Wrecking Crew went on to win countless races and bring needed notoriety to the Motor Company. Harley became the world's largest motorcycle manufacturer by 1920.

EVEL KNieVEL DOESN'T HOLD A DISTANCE RECORD JUMP ON A HARLEY

Kniesel might be the most famous jumper of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, but he no longer holds the record for the longest jump. His best leap on his XR-750 traveled 133 feet over 14



Greyhound buses in 1975. But in 2008, Bubba Blackwell broke Evel's record by jumping his XR-750 157 feet. While Blackwell holds the distance record on a Harley XR-750, the longest-ever jump on a Harley was made by Seth Enslow in 2010. The Crusty Demons of Dirt alum used a modified XR1200 to

leap an incredible 183.7 feet.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON HAS WON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ROADRACING

In 1960, Harley-Davidson bought a 50% interest in the Italian Aermacchi factory, taking it over entirely in 1974. The Italian-bred two-stroke roadracers, re-badged as Harley-Davidsons, went on to earn three consecutive 250cc World Championships (1974 through 1976) with racer Walter Villa aboard the RR-250. Villa followed up his quarter-liter success by earning the 350cc title for Harley in 1977.



HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLES HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED IN JAPAN

Beginning in the early 1930s, the Rikuo Internal Combustion Company manufactured motorcycles under license using H-D tooling. The company name was eventually shortened to just Rikuo (apparently meaning "Land King" or "Continent King"), and they built nearly 18,000 motorcycles between 1937 and 1942, many of which were employed by military and police departments. Rikuo production continued following World War II until 1958.

Hop on a Harley - Attain Elective Office

Not to get political, but during last month's election did you read anything about Mr. Edward Durr? A blue collar truck driver in New Jersey, Durr got fed up with the way things were in New Jersey and decided to run as a conservative Republican against Democrat State Senate President Stephen Sweeney, the longest-serving legislative leader in the Garden State. It was a real David vs. Goliath political match-up.

Durr's campaign coffers were tight; in fact, according to one source he spent only \$5,000 and according to another he spent \$8,000-\$9,000, an insanely low amount. Durr won by a very narrow margin.

Check out [his campaign video](#) - it looks like something shot by his wife using a cell phone.

So why the attention in a HOGs newsletter?

Advance to the 0:38 second mark, where he mounts what looks like a ten year-old Harley Street Glide and rides off, eventually to the State House in Trenton. Now *that's* working class credibility! - Wes

RIDERS' PROFILES

A feature of the newsletter wherein we get to know our members...

Name: Troy Payne

How long have you been in the Fairfax HOG Chapter? Less than a month.

How long have you been riding? Off and on since 1985. Maybe 8 years total time.

Why do you ride? I enjoy the outdoors and open air. I also enjoy the performance.

Bike you currently ride: 2021 Ultra Limited, River Rock Gray / Black Denim Blacked Out

Bikes you have owned: 1984 Honda V65 Magna, and 2 - 1994 Honda Goldwings

The best ride you have ever done: 3 day, fall ride with my wife through the Shenandoah Valley

The worst ride you have ever done: My first ride home from Camp Lejeune NC. To Vienna VA in December 1985. It took 12 hours and I was in snowy conditions not long after crossing into VA on I-95. But I was determined to make it home for Christmas! And I made it.

Quote: "The only easy day was yesterday"



KNOW YOUR STAFFER!

Name: Erica "Get Back to Your Department" Brown

Title: Motorclothes Associate

How long have you worked at PHD? A year

How long have you ridden? I don't. That would be dangerous. I'm a Professional Passenger!

Bike you currently ride: If I had one it would be a Fat Boy.

The Best Ride you have ever done: To Jacksonville, FL and back.

The Worst Ride you have ever done: Wrecked on Braddock Road (no hospital trip, though).

Why do you ride? I like the freedom!

Quote: "I do all my own stunts!" (She says she's clumsy, but we think it's just the 21st C. way of being graceful and feminine.)



PATRIOT HARLEY-DAVIDSON EVENTS!

Welcome to Patriot Harley-Davidson®'s **WINTER STORAGE**

CHOOSE FROM 2 OPTIONS:

Storage Plan 1 (Cost \$149):

- Storage from 1 November 2021 through 28 February 2022
- Bike stored in climate-controlled environment
- If customer provides battery tender, bike will be kept on tender
- Multipoint safety inspection

Storage Plan 2 (Cost \$299):

- Storage from 1 November 2021 through 28 February 2022
- Bike stored in climate-controlled environment and kept on a battery tender
- Engine oil change
- Multipoint safety inspection
- Bike started once a week and brought to operating temperature
- Bike cleaned prior to pick up date

WINTER STORAGE FEES MUST BE PAID WHEN BIKE IS DROPPED OFF

Additional work can be performed upon request and at a discounted rate of:

25% off Labor - *authorized and paid for by customer at date of drop off.*

20% off Labor - *authorized and paid for by customer prior to 31 December 2021.*

10% off Labor - *authorized and paid for by customer prior to 31 January 2021.*

GET WINTER STORAGE FOR FREE!!!

*Winter storage fees will be waved if you have \$3000 or more work done on your bike
(original Winter Storage fees not included in \$3000)*

*All Winter Storage bikes will be picked up no later than 28 February 2022. It is the responsibility of the customer to make arrangements to pick up their bike or have it delivered prior to 28 February 2022.

Starting on 1 March 2022, all remaining Winter Storage bikes will be charged a \$25 per day storage fee unless prior arrangements have been made. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 703-352-5400 or email at service@patriothd.com.



Winter Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10-6
Wednesday	10-6
Thursday	10-6
Friday	10-6
Saturday	9-5
Sunday	11-4

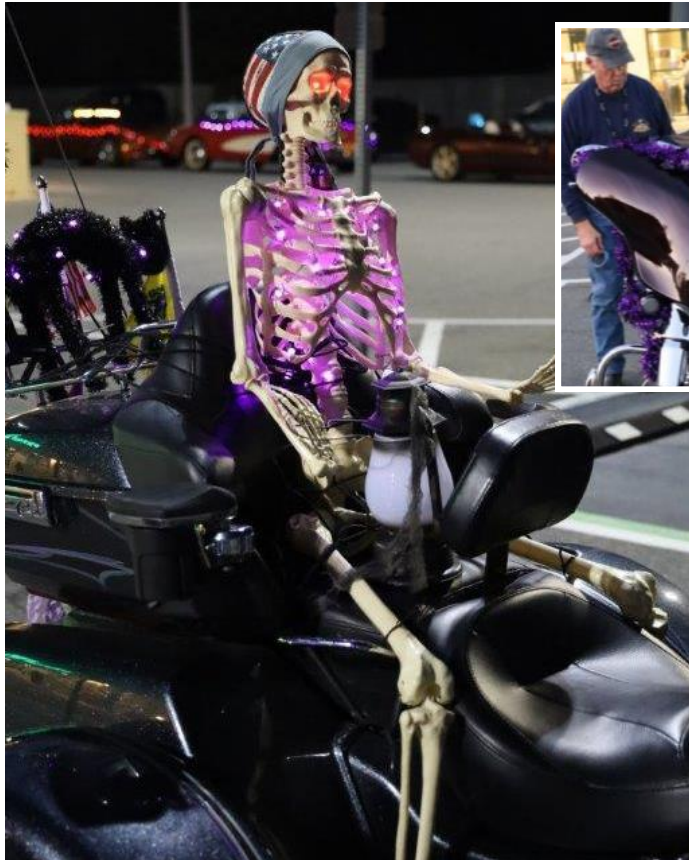


Above: Seen on a car window in Gettysburg in 2019.

Above left: Patriot Harley-Davidson's winter hours.

Below: Harley-Davidson still life on Route 55 outside of Markham, VA on 11/10/21 (Marine Corps Birthday). The sun shining through that maple was incredible - this photo doesn't do it justice. I liked the shed, the low wall, the tree and the road. - Wes





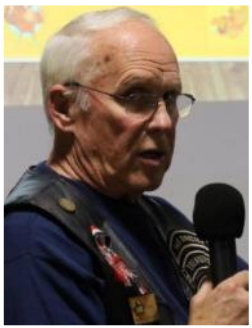
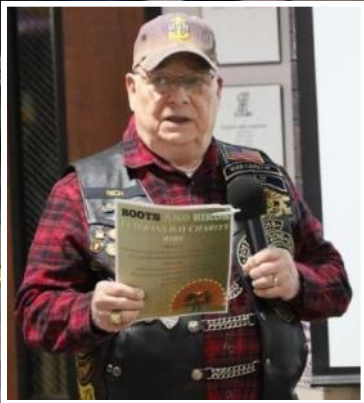
10/27/21 Halloween Parade





10/30/21 - Graveyard Ride





More Motorcycles in the Comic Books

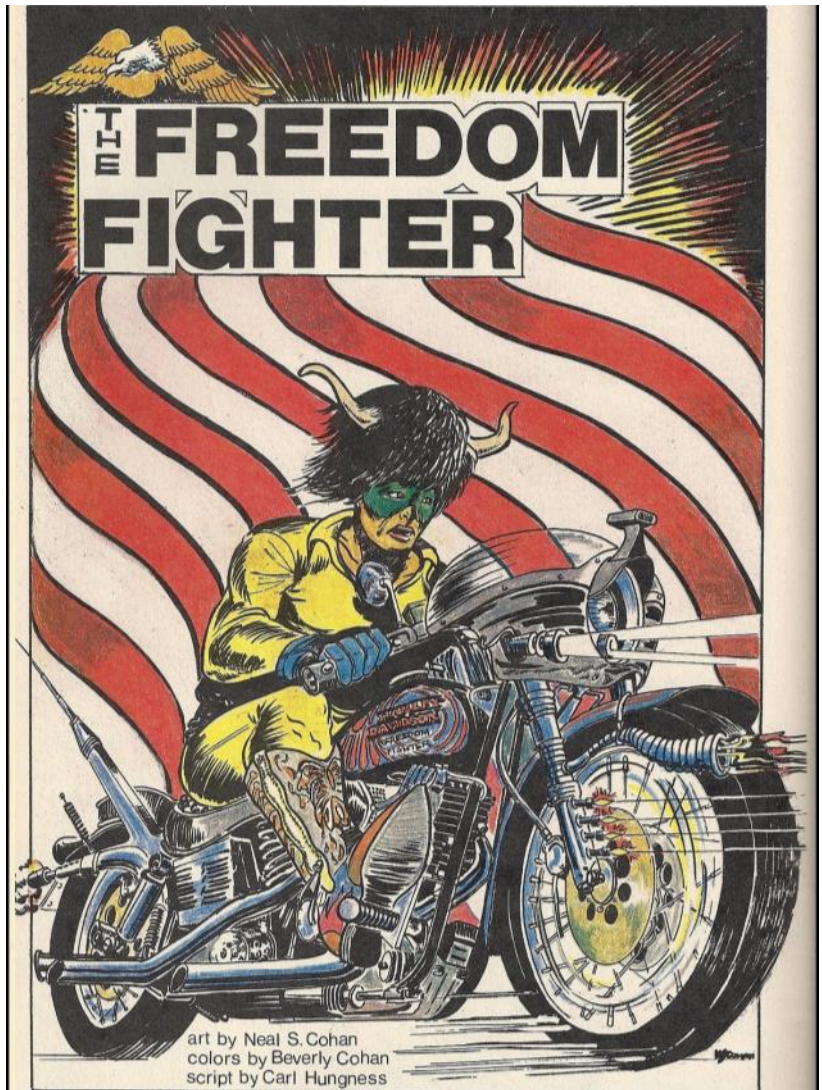
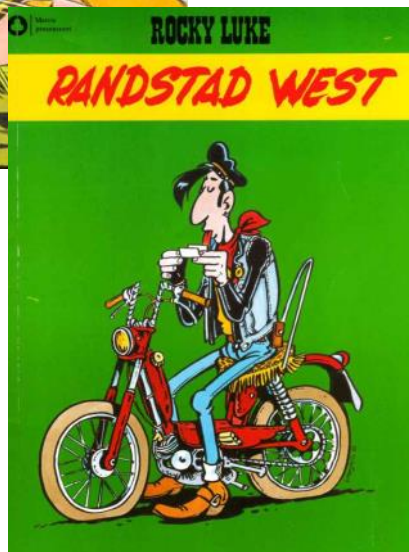
By Wes



The fact that the Japanese soldiers are so insultingly drawn tells you that this is a wartime issue, specifically, from 1944.

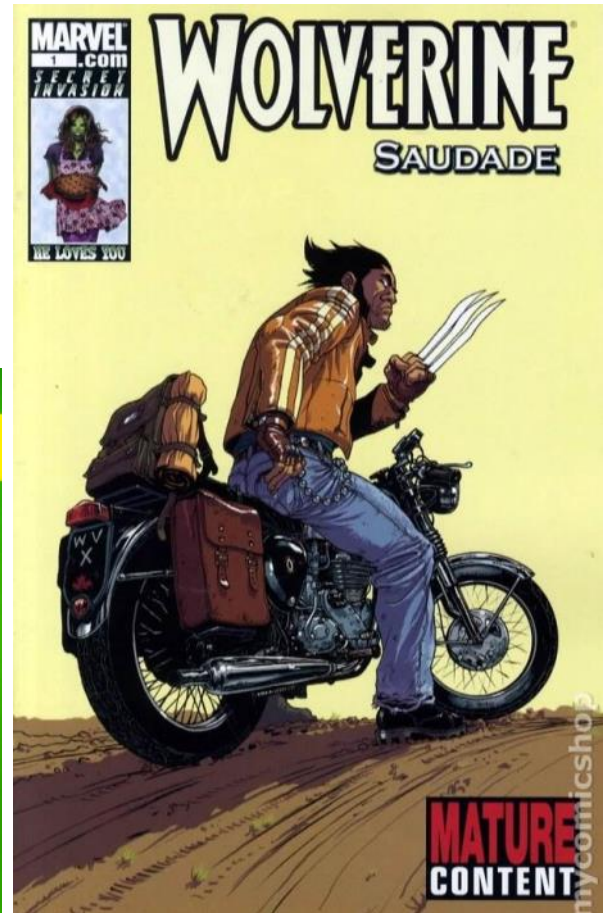
I don't know who Rocky Luke was, but he rolls his own and rides a really unimpressive bike. Needs air in the tires.

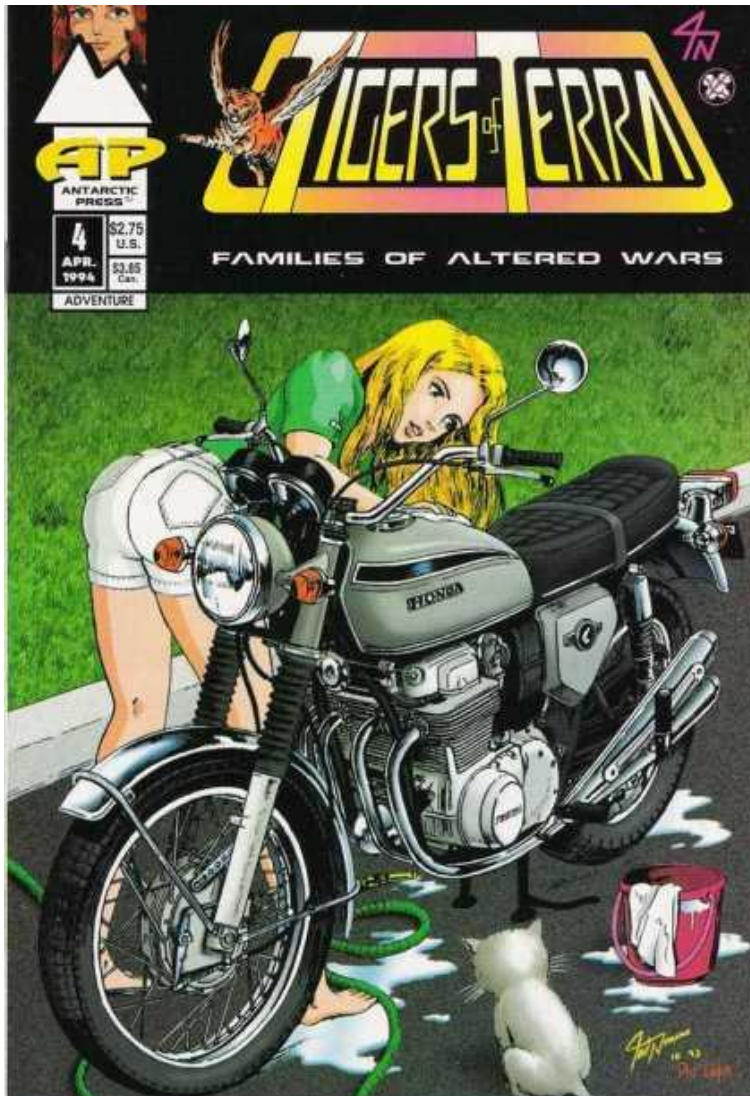
Careful with those claws, Wolverine! Motorcycle rubber ain't cheap.



The Freedom Fighter is defending your right to wear ridiculous hats.

I like the eye-poking antenna.



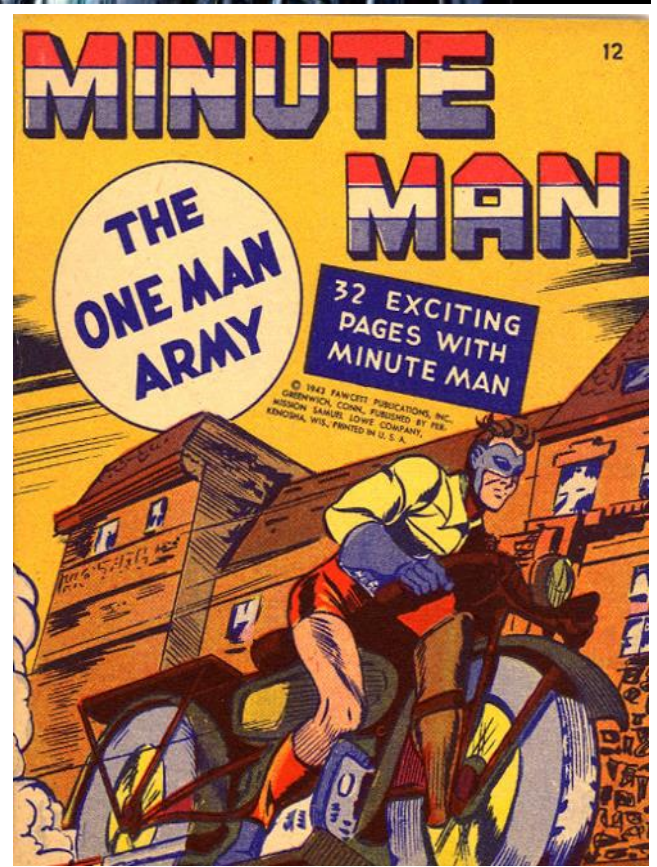
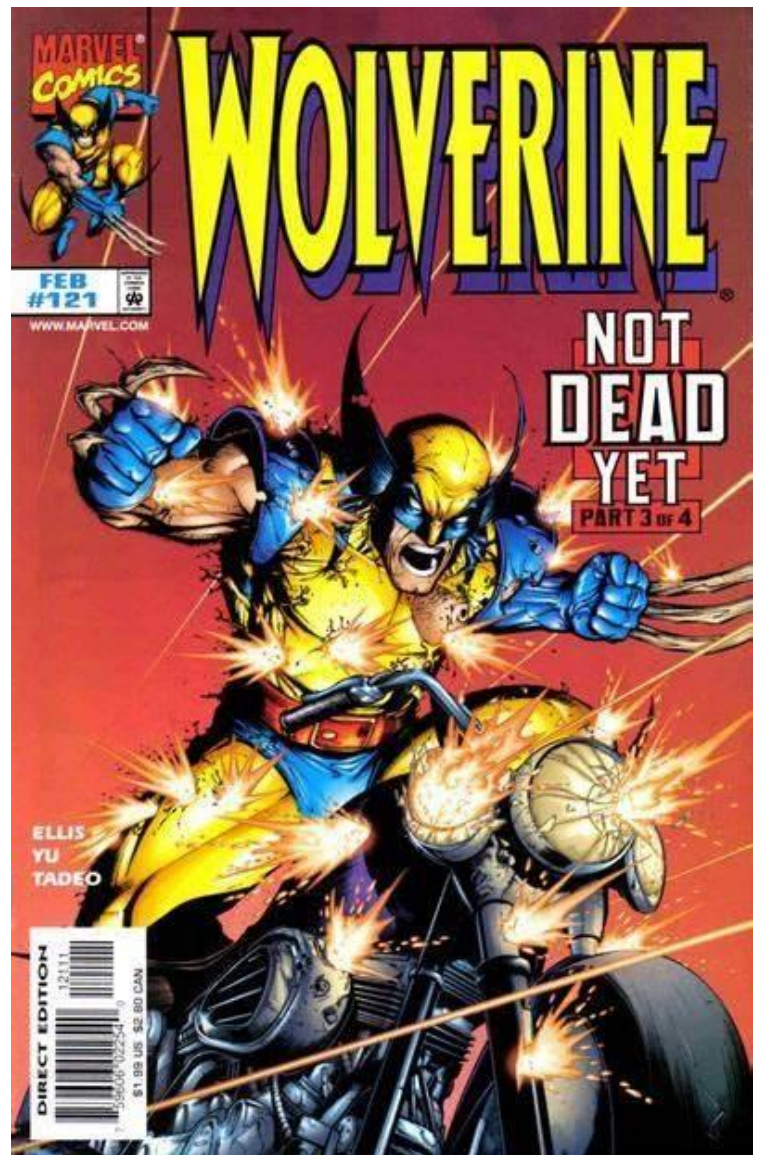


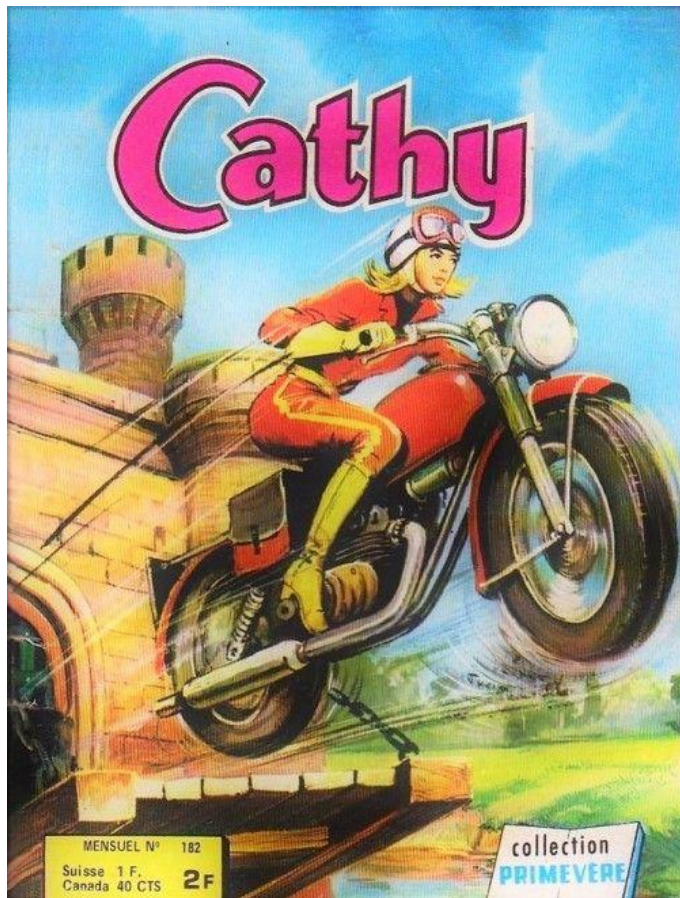
That Honda is supposed to be the focal point of interest in the "Tigers of Terra" comic cover - but it clearly isn't.

The perpetually angry Wolverine is NOT DEAD YET. But his bike is.

Way too much text in that thought balloon on the "World of Wheels" cover.

The reason why the Minute Man (1943) was a one man army was because the Germans laughed themselves helpless when they saw his booty shorts.

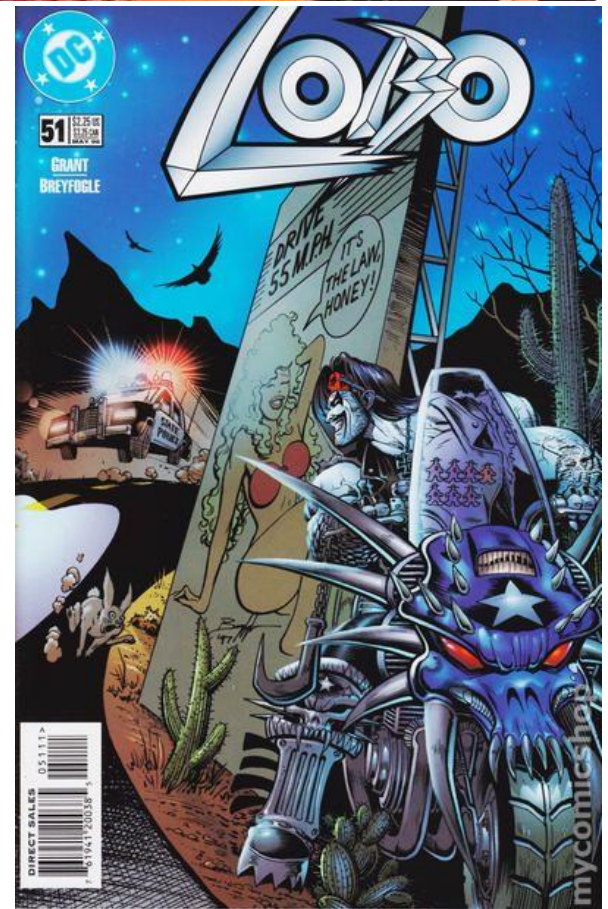


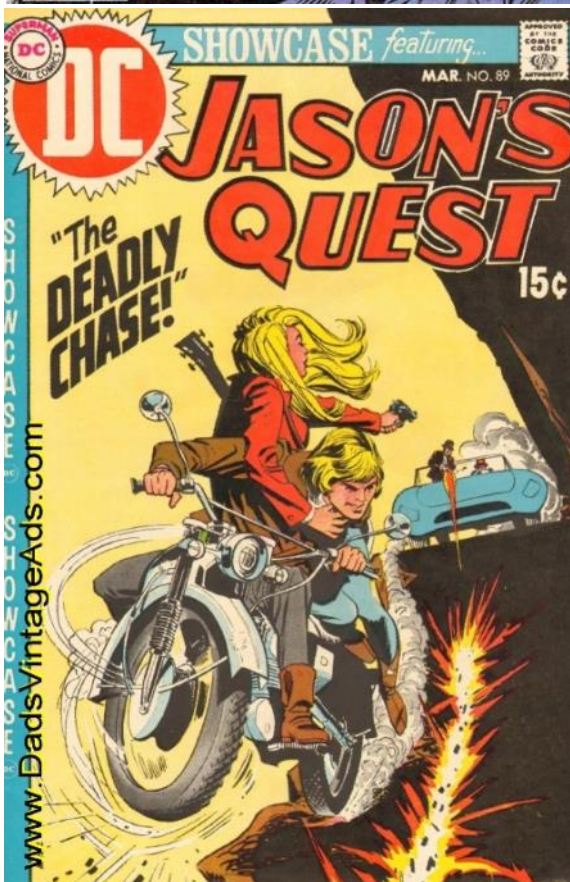


I like the title font in the left "Hot Rods" better than the right. But how did that cop jump so high? And is the guy on the right wearing lipstick?

Cathy is the sort of girl who enjoys doing jumps off of the drawbridges of medieval castles. She's kind of a Julie Wood-styled lass.

With a bike like that you just know Lobo is bad news. But that star makes it look like a sort of Captain America-Gene Simmons hybrid.

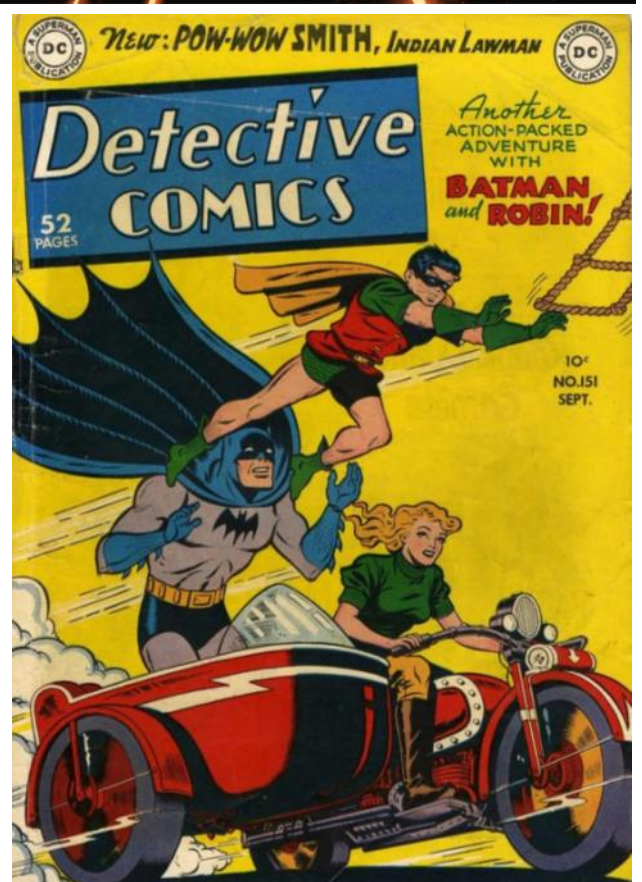




Of all the costumed heroes, Captain America is the one most associated with motorcycle riding. He'd just strap that shield to his back, kick start that big Harley v-twin and it would be curtains for the Krauts.

Jason's Quest is to keep that blonde with the guitar on the passenger seat. Annnnddd other stuff...

A puzzling image: Who is the woman at the helm, why is Bats relegated to being a sidecar passenger and where did that rope ladder Robin is lunging for materialize from?



“Redneck Motorcycles”

The following is what comes up in the bing and duckduckgo search engines when you use the title of this piece as a search phrase. I do this sort of thing, Gentle Reader, so that you don't have to. - Wes



Left: At first I wondered how much more power this fan would add, but then I noticed that it seems to be linked to the Briggs and Stratton engine. The cords? I don't know.

Below: For John Deere enthusiasts, I guess.



Below: When an ordinary trike just ain't cuttin' it.

Below right: Goin' huntin'? Yep.

Bottom and right: Shorts don't seem to be such a good idea...





Left: “Home Depot” and “Harley-Davidson” both start with “HD.”

Below: Not your typical Bay Area resident.



Above: Hardwoods, do you suppose?

Left: A still life.



Left: The redneck aesthetic is not just for Americans.

My German-speaking friend tells me that the German text means “the Bikesmith of Harz.” The Harz is a low mountain range in northern Germany. I like the gas mask.



By Wes

I was an engineering major in college, not business. Except for the fundamentals that everyone understands (Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door"), I don't understand business theory and practice at all. So when I saw an article on the Internet entitled [Harley-Davidson's Organizational Culture Characteristics: An Analysis](#) by Daniel Kissinger on a business management website, my eyes started glazing over.

As it turns out, it's an easy read. The article defines four traits of how the Motor Company does business:

Bold rebellious attitude. "People in the custom chopper biker culture are typically seen as bold and rebellious. Harley-Davidson is strongly associated with this culture." True, dat, as my oldest daughter would say. However, it's funny. There was a time when Harley not only *didn't* embrace a rebellious, anti-social culture, but avoided it as much as possible. Think of those geeky vintage advertisements showing guys dressed like old time gas station attendants - in ties - riding an FLH with a woman looking more than a little like Donna Reed on the passenger seat. Honda was famous for re-introducing this kind of wholesome motorcycle cultural cue in 1962 when it launched its, "You meet the nicest people on a Honda" ad campaign – which turned out to extraordinarily successful. The funny thing was, it was in direct response to fears average Americans had of motorcycle gangs, many of whom rode Harleys.

In latter days, however, Harley-Davidson has embraced its rebellious, anti-social reputation and even one-upped itself: "*Screw it, let's ride.*" My favorite ad in this genre shows an especially nasty-looking biker on a fearsome v-twin with the banner, "*I'd never let my wife ride it. At least, not until she's eighteen.*" Yikes.

Customer-centrism. Really? Is Harley-Davidson customer-driven? I say yes – it's the reason why I held out for a 2016 Road King and not one earlier than that. Starting in 2016 the Harley-Davidson lineup benefitted from their Project Rushmore effort, which involved getting input from riders about what it is they wanted in their bikes. Harley listened, and this resulted in improvements in power, comfort, infotainment and control. I very much enjoy

being able to open my saddlebags while I'm on the seat!

Last year I read a very negative article about the electric Livewire bike Harley introduced. The writer, a professional journalist, wondered why on earth Harley-Davidson would attempt to introduce such an odd duck to their lineup.

I can answer that: In 2014 and 2015 Harley-Davidson went on

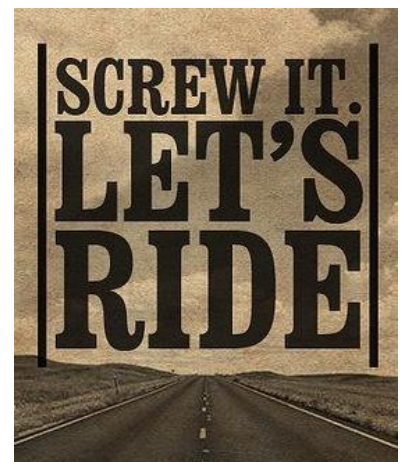
tour to various American, Canadian and European dealerships with their prototype electric bike and asked riders, "Should we build this?" The answer was a resounding YES. So if an electric Harley puzzles or dismays you, consider that Harley riders told them to build it. It doesn't get more customer-centric than that, does it? I would think it's an example of what we always claim Japanese manufacturers do: *listen*.

Harley-Davidson's business values. From the article, "...the company's notable values are integrity, accountability, diversity, teamwork and creativity." Okay. This observation is so corporate-generic that, well, I have nothing further to write!

Leadership development. The article notes Harley's efforts to develop leadership within the organization via human relations methods, but I consider leadership based more on the company as a whole. It's somewhat tricky to get current numbers for the numbers of motorcycles sold in the United States parsed by manufacturer, or parsed by dollar sales income. You have to define what kind of motorcycle – sports bike, touring, adventure, etc. - it is you're talking about. And, frankly, I don't care! But I think it's pretty clear that Harley-Davidson is the market leader in the U.S. in heavy, traditional bikes (which are the only ones I care about, my being somewhat heavy myself). Harley-Davidson is a leader. I don't know what their market share is exactly in the U.S., but I understand it's dominant.

Hey - that business article wasn't so daunting after all.

And one more thing, the "Screw It, Let's Ride" ad campaign... With the last year and a half dominated by Covid and a spate of bad news coming at us faster than just about any other era I've lived through (including Watergate and Vietnam), the notion of putting your cares aside and just riding a Harley makes relevant, current sense. I've had the "Screw It, Let's Ride" attitude a bunch of times in 2020 and 2021.





Above: I ride a Jag. No, really.

Below: Looks like one of those bull rider things in a western bar.

Middle left: Red Bull bike. Wiiings.

Middle right: My fave, the skeleton bike.

Bottom left: The COW-a-saki. Get it? The bike made from bones.

Bottom right: The Moo Cow Trike. Seems kind of Green Acres-ish to me.

EVEN MORE WEIRD BIKES!



Right:
Someone
stole my
engine!





Left: Makes me think of Spongebob Squarepants.

Below: Tank! Bike! Tank! Bike! It's a tank AND a bike!

Middle left: Might as well be a car.

Middle right: Well, it LOOKS fast. But is it?

Bottom left: The American Standard.

Bottom right: Seats nine. Or ten. I can't tell.





Left: Does it float?, I wonder...

Middle left: Because steering is overrated.

Middle: When the phrase "on two wheels" doesn't mean exactly what you think it does.

Middle right: Engineered for amputations.

Bottom left: The GirderBike!



Bottom right: Behold the Hemorrider! If it possibly works at all. I mean... how could it?





Left: This is so sad.

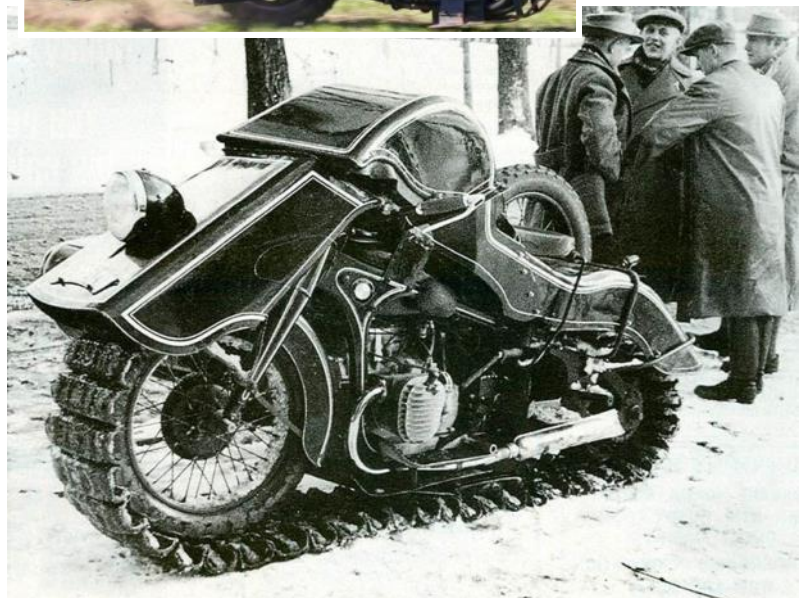
Below: A little too homemade for me, thank you very much. And if it can seat four, it isn't a motorcycle!

Bottom left: A lot of engineering went into the design of that front wheel, I think.

Bottom right: I can see why one might think one wants tank treads, but the fact that you don't see these around suggests that it might have been a solution in search of a problem. Nice pinstriping, though.



Left: The phrase "back-asswards" comes to mind.





Left: When you have an old prop airplane motor but want a motorcycle.

Below: No club will have him. We ride as one. He rides *alone*. I say he's European.

Middle right: If Vlad the Impaler took up motorcycle design.

Bottom left: I get the impression that the guy who designed this really wanted to be a locomotive engineer.

Bottom right: Looks like a Monty Python animation.



Left: The LARPer-Biker connection.



It's bad form to apologize before a speech, lesson or article - after all, your audience may not notice anything objectionable - but this is a throwaway piece I've had in the buffer for over a year, unused before now. It kind of goes nowhere. I hope you like it, but... perhaps you won't. - Wes

HELLO

My nickname is....

I was in the U.S. Marine Corps, a Civil War federal reenacting regiment and in a rugby club. All three of those institutions had one great thing in common: nicknames. (I was "Vambo," "Jonah" and "Brigham," respectively.) In rugby we referred to each other by nicknames so often that when one player was called by his real name instead of "Elvis," we all briefly wondered, "Who's that?"

I note with interest that Kaitlin, a Patriot Harley-Davidson staffer, is nicknamed "Hurricane Kate" "Trainwreck" and "Troublemaker." When I gave her my profiles form I honestly didn't expect any response to that question.

But nicknames are fun. My friend Thomas Hammill had the following observations:

"Rugby nicknames take their own forms. Descriptive: "Dave the New Guy," "Pete the English Guy."

Fanciful: "Rock Star," "Lobster."

Name driven: "Jake" (last name is Jaick), "Jimbo," "Dan-O," the Spicka brothers, "Spick" and "Speck."

Action driven: "Shaky Pete," "Batman," "Dave the Unstable Guy." And then there's "Tom the Thief."

Rugby nicknames, however, evolve, sometimes even to other people. A college punk with average college game showed up one day and declared that he was "Flash." We promptly dubbed him "Flush." He has worked as hard as any player I have ever seen and now "Flash" fits. Moral: You can't nickname yourself.

Then again, a nickname is something you can carry for life. "Dave the New Guy" joined the club in 1983, but he's still New Guy.

My favorite nickname story took place alongside a rugby pitch

when my club was playing the Washington Renegades, a gay men's rugby club. Our wing "Princess" was running the ball and we were yelling encouragement "Go, Princess!" One of their onlookers turned to us and said, "You have a 'Princess?' Interesting. So do we. And a couple of Queens." We howled.

I see that nicknames are not at all common among the HOGs. And I think I know why: the presence of women. (I think this a *good* thing, I hastily add.) I suspect no matter how rough and ready or hardcore a guy is, it's just ungallant for him to nickname a woman. And I don't think women commonly nickname themselves unless they're on sports teams. And heaven forbid we should start encouraging our women to start nicknaming the guys! That won't go well. - Wes



I'm
Knucklehead!



I'm
Panhead!



I'm
Shovelhead!

[Motorcycle Monday: Huge Abandoned Motorcycle Collection Uncovered](#)

This is pretty cool. Be sure to watch the video from December 2009.

I wonder what the disposition of all this stuff is today...



ABOVE: Found somewhere on the Internet (a friend alerted me to it): "New York City Women's machine gun squad, NYPD reserve. July 26 1918. Captain Elise Reniger, manning the gun, Miss Helen M. Striffler on the rear seat, and Mrs. Ivan Farasoff driving." I like the comments on reddit:

et cetera

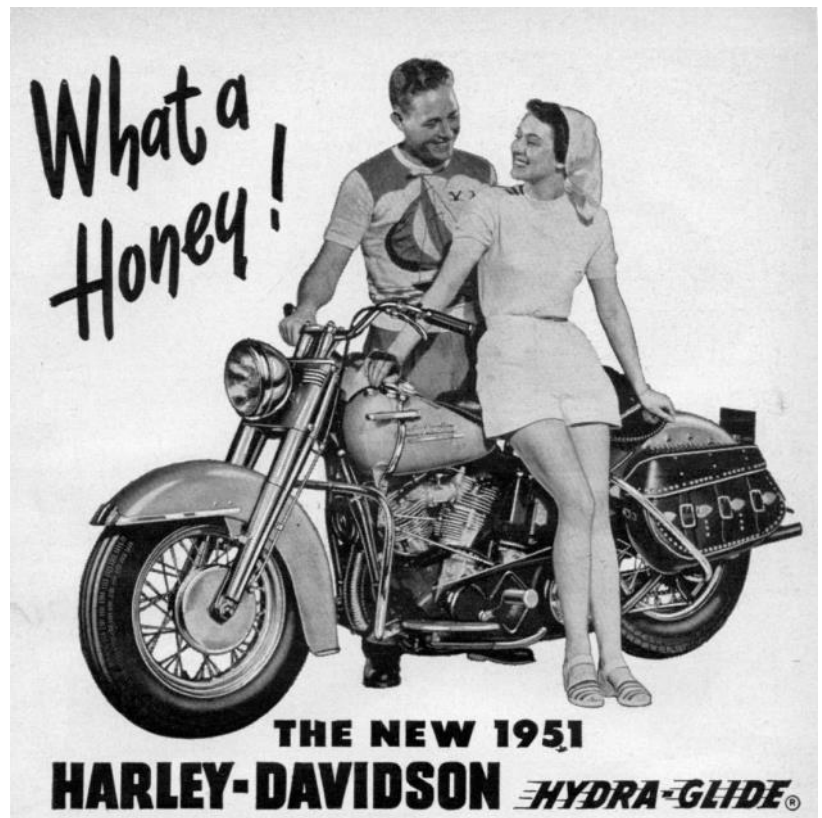
"You gotta wonder what justified a Lewis Gun equipped squad of women rolling through NYC. Not even today's cops have full auto weapons."

"Pigeons. Problem then; problem now."

"Someone pointed out that this picture is posed and they're probably right. It's not even clear that there really was a 'women's' machine gun squad. There was a machine gun squad (men), these women were on the women's reserve squad, and people don't change, so they thought, hot women, hot guns, let's get some pictures."

As much as I'd like to be able to write that that's a Harley they're in, it isn't. That X-design on the tank designates this as an Excelsior Motorcycle. The Lewis gun could fire .30-06 rounds at the rate of 500-600/minute. Whew!

RIGHT: The "honey" is... the bike or the girl? And yes, that is actually a sailboat on his shirt. The collar is, of course, buttoned. It's 1951, after all.



3D Wooden Motorcycle Puzzle



D. 3D Wooden Motorcycle

Just pop the printed pieces out of the plywood and piece this 3D Motorcycle puzzle together. Wooden pieces snap together to create a cool motorcycle with painted details. No glue or tools needed. 94 pieces, 6" x 11" when assembled. Instructions included. 8 years and up.

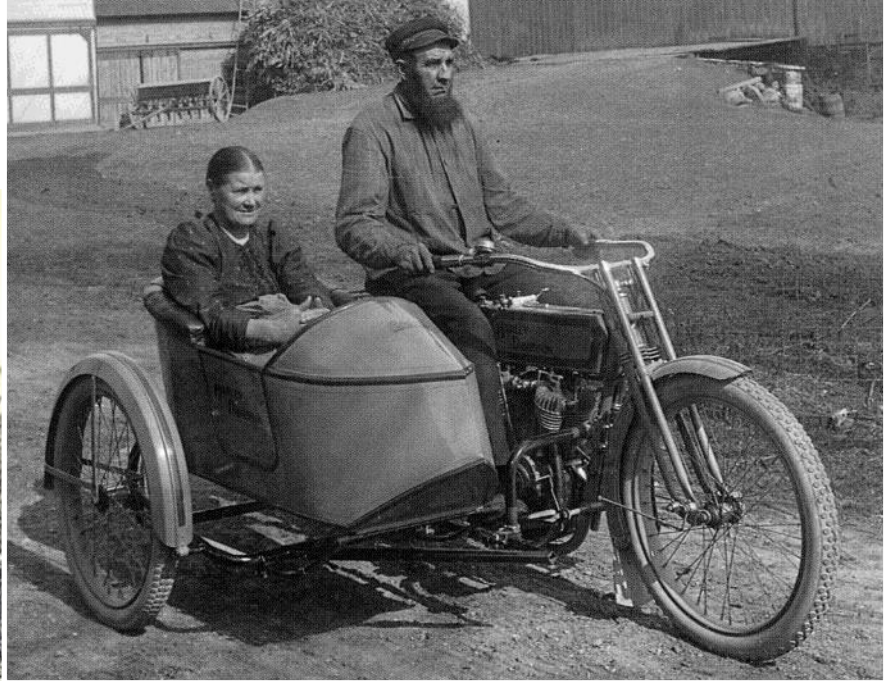
45604 \$9.99

Above: Available from spilsbury.com

et cetera



Above: From 1934. This Texan rides tall in the Harley saddle! (Check out the single star and "Texas" on the windshield.)

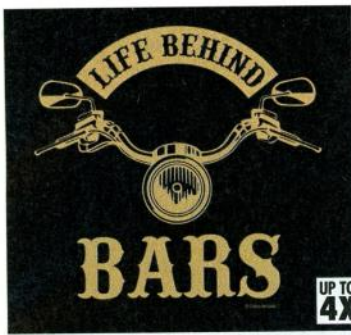


Above: The farmer and his wife on an early Harley "Silent Gray Fellow."

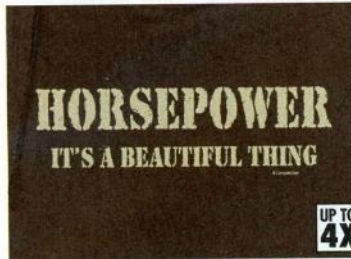
[If you have a Harley Trike, make sure all your recall work is done!](#)



Above: World War I soldiers on a Harley.



Life Behind Bars T-shirt
 #1C299 S, M, L, XL \$19.99
 (XXL \$21.99 3X, 4X \$24.99)



Horsepower T-shirt
 #1565 S, M, L, XL \$19.99
 (XXL \$21.99 3X, 4X \$24.99)



NEW All I Need is My Motorcycle T-shirt
 #1C383 S, M, L, XL \$19.99
 (XXL \$21.99 3X, 4X \$24.99)



NEW Cool Metal Motorcycle Model Kit

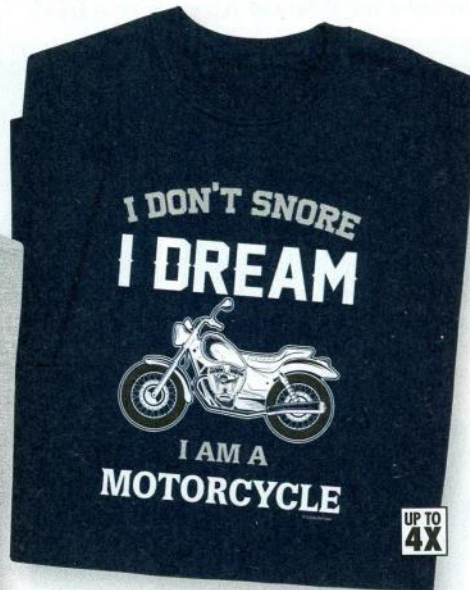
Anyone can own their own motorcycle with this fascinating metal puzzle kit. Model features amazing detail with parts laser cut from two high-quality steel sheets. Easy to follow image-based instructions are included with each kit and NO GLUE OR SOLDER REQUIRED! Simply snip out the pieces and bend the tabs through corresponding connection points. Assembled measures 4.6" x 1.65" x 2.75".

#8A023 Metal Motorcycle Puzzle \$21.99



I Dream Motorcycle T-shirt

#1C326 S, M, L, XL \$19.99 (XXL \$21.99 3X, 4X \$24.99)



Old Man with a Motorcycle T-shirt

#1C329 S, M, L, XL \$19.99 (XXL \$21.99 3X, 4X \$24.99)

et cetera

The stuff on this page is available from www.ComputerGear.com - apparently a catalog with something for everyone.

Provided as a gift-giving suggestion by the staff at *The Stars and Pipes*.

Notice that the tee-shirts are available in up to 4X. That tells you something about the motorcycle culture. Or America.



NEW Life is Like A Motorcycle T-shirt

#1C385 S, M, L, XL \$19.99 (XXL \$21.99 3X, 4X \$24.99)

"I remember going to Chicago. There had been riots, and as we drove through, the cops, tense, trying to be smart, directing the traffic, no hands on the handlebars, were falling off their motorbikes. As we came through in a limousine, one would go ahead to the next junction, stop the traffic, we'd then cross and the other one would go ahead and so on. These guys would be so flash, so 'into the mania.' They drove these big Harleys, holding both hands up, with a loud whistle in their mouths, sun-shades on, braking and skidding off their bikes. They were like madmen." - George Harrison describing a scene during the height of Beatlemania in his book *I Me Mine*

PRECIOUS MOTORCYCLE MOMENTS

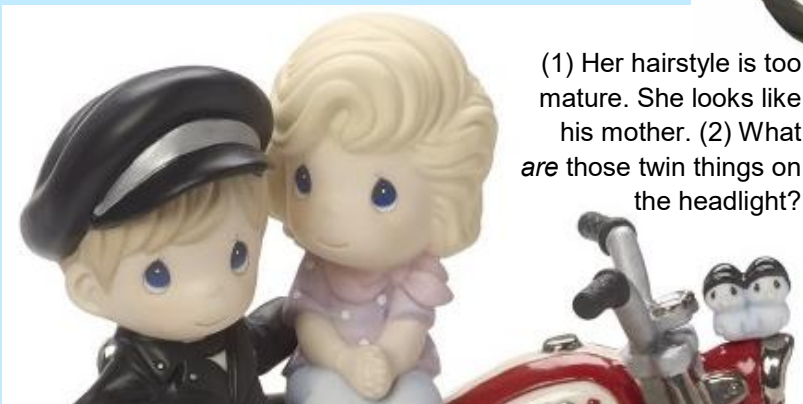
You know Precious Moments: Those sad-sack, big-eyed children miniature statues you see, mostly in Hallmark stores. (Assuming that people in Harley clubs frequent Hallmark stores, of course.) I can't really call myself a Precious Moments enthusiast, so I can only present these with a shrug and a puzzled expression on my face. - Wes



I usually have a smile on my face when I'm on a bike. Don't know what's bumming these two out. The dog is happy, sort of.



These two just got married. In the Precious Moments emotional world their expressions depict unbridled joy and optimism.



(1) Her hairstyle is too mature. She looks like his mother. (2) What are those twin things on the headlight?



Santa is looking a little sad and bereft here... CHEER UP.



Is he embarrassed to be seen with her? I can't tell.



These two look apologetic.

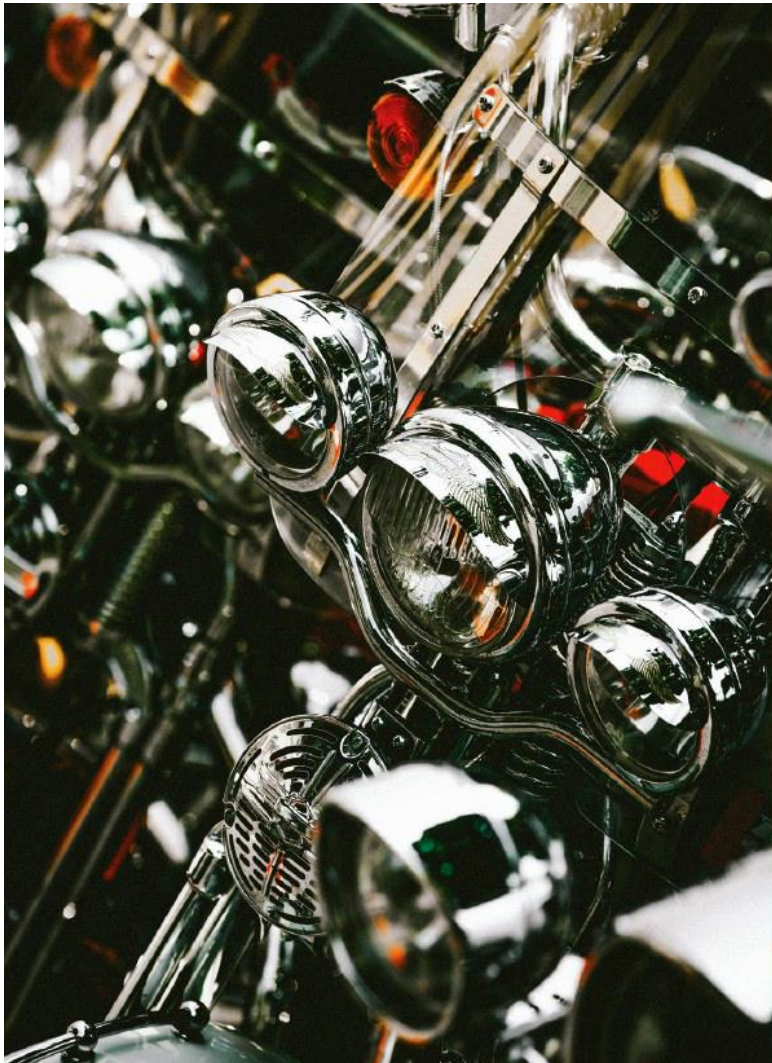


December Birthdays!

Ken	Lyons
Edna	Rendon
Peter G.	Pasek
Michael	Anderson
John E.	Hall
Kathleen	Riddle
Brian	Rudolph
Anthony	Rahner
Stephen H.	Mahoney
James	Compton
Holly	Russo

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY. REMEMBER,
YOU ARE ONLY YOUNG ONCE
BUT YOU CAN BE IMMATURE
FOREVER.***

* But don't ride like this.



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JD & Sheri Morrisette
FHOG members



**Life can be hard, life's unfair.
Fun's parked in the garage -
That bike over there.**

**You can ride alone and that's okay,
But come be a HOG
Not later - today.**

**Friends are needed when the going gets bad.
F-HOGs pull together
Good times to be had.**

**We ride for lunch, we ride for fun.
But no matter why
We ride as one.**

