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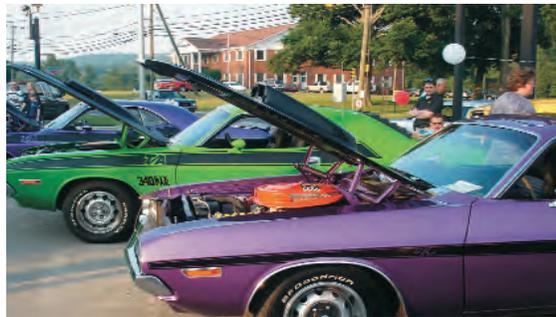
This website is very easy to navigate for the novice or experienced web users. Diversified, informative and entertaining ... a website that will take you into 1000's of other websites and routes to 1000's more ... everything in motorcycling and then some! This website was created as a service to those who support it.

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# Motorcycles;

Motorcycles; from sport bikes to cruisers, customs to trikes, full dressers and touring bikes, whatever you ride, or even if you're just the babe on the back, I think we are all in agreement that it's all about the ride and the camaraderie. This is one of those sports that's got it all – the sights, the sounds, the smells, the feelings and yes taste (yeah, even the dust tastes good when you're riding – the bugs might not, but you'll

get over it) and of course just the wind in your hair. Connecticut has some of the most scenic roads to ride, sometimes for almost all four seasons – and for some, **all four seasons!** Heading out of the winter months and into spring, we might start to get an occasional great day of riding without putting on too many layers – at least till sundown. You may be tempted to put away those layers, but it might still be a chilling ride home, and if you have strayed far away, you might still bring everything you got; gloves, leathers, long underwear and a face mask! That tingling sensation from the chill of the wind is numbing and makes you feel colder than cold. When you say “my face is cold,” it takes on a whole new meaning. The smells of wood burning in the air from fireplaces and woodstoves are turning into the smell of fresh cut grass and flowers, maybe along with some smells of someone's good ole home cooking. It all reminds you of why you went riding in the first place... that feeling of freedom as you ride the lean and its little g-force in those corners and turns, or the sight of the horizon rising to greet you as you come over a hill, or the sound of a pack of bikes just starting off at a green light; all the things that make you feel renewed while you are meandering through the roads of Connecticut. Racers, motocrossers and all other riders have the same enjoyments, only coming from a different perspective. Dirt track and motocross riders surely eat a lot more dust! A pleasant sight to a motocross rider might be making it to the other side of a mogul flying through midair without incurring any injuries, or the sound of a crowd cheering them on. For a dirt track racer, they might see the spot where they can maneuver around the pack and get into first place, or enjoy the sound and feeling of the downshifting into a turn only to come back out at full throttle. They all are just great highs in life. Each publication of Excursionz will provide you with a great excursion in CT with a map and a ride. This section of the magazine will also provide you with some fun stories, articles on motorcycle businesses, people, and whatever else we can dig up to entertain you. In the cold winter months you might have been breaking down your bike for repairs, getting that new paint job, or whatever else you wanted to do. As a new season of riding is upon us, now is a good time to start scouting out this year's rides and events. Our CT Bikers Guide Website has these great listers; classifieds, jobs, gigs, and an event lister where you can find a ton of great Charity Rides and more. Look for Spiderman's new column “Spider's Web” on the site; he is our new CT Bikers Guide Editor! Also, check out our new CT Bikers Guide Club Card that gives you membership to our new Discounted Gift Certificate Store where you can find some great businesses with gift certificates for a 25% discount! In the meantime, do come in and chat in our new chat room and if you're out ridin', as always “RIDE SAFE & STAY WARM.”

– *Cat in the Wind*



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# plainville,

CABKA (could also be known as)

# bikerville?

AS YOU ride down RT. 10, you might not realize that we have three of the most creative, talented, and successful motorcycle airbrush artists together in this one town. Jamie Chasse, Robert Gorske, and Alan Pastrana. There are also a couple of bars in town, Déjà Vu, which is right across from Explicit Airbrush and Grumpy's pub, further down RT. 10, where you can stop to as Nick says "wash the dust down" and/or grab some grub. I interviewed these patient artists for my article and am listing them in alphabetical order, so no one thinks one is better or worse! The methods they use may be both different and similar, but the end result is something you look at and go "wow, that is cool, awesome, sweet, nice, unbelievable, wild, amazing." You got the idea. I personally, unbelievably enough, come from a lot of artistic talent in my family, which I have none of, and look at these pieces of art in total amazement, thinking to myself... "Guys, what is going on in your minds!?!"

## jamie chasse

—explicit Airbrush

Jamie, from Explicit, answered that by saying "Some of my buddies tell me I need counseling." How I know him, Jamie has a quiet demeanor. Once you look at what he can do, it brings a new meaning to "In the still of the mind" or "Still waters run deep." He greatly enjoys his work adding, "It's nice to get paid for what you like doing." Growing up in Plainville, he drew when he was young, once winning the drawing contest at the fire department. In high school about 15 years ago, (you just got dated Jamie) he started airbrushing on t-shirts and jeans. From there he started airbrushing on cars, and as the jobs were "coming out nicer and nicer" the demand for his work was grow-



ing. Being basically a "self taught" artist, he says he learned from magazines, "how to articles" and good ole trial and error. I asked him if he would like to talk about that some and with a bit of a snicker and a grin, he said "No, let's just leave it at that." After bouncing around a couple of bike shops and working at a few in the area, he found his location on Rt. 10 in December of 2005. "It's nice to be in your own place and

control what is going on." His company does a lot of work for dealerships such as Four Horsemen, Gengras, Yankee, Docs and TNT.

The business also offers all in-house bodywork. His tools, he said – "I reference pictures or it comes straight out of your head and you just grab it and start painting." Yeah sure, sounds easy. Jamie would like to see his business expand. His work ranges from sport bikes to choppers, to hot rods, including full car kits, trucks and low riders. 75% of the work is bikes. He paints a lot of sport bikes with custom flames and realistic fire "maybe because I talk them into it. There is more room to work on them with a theme. You see them all over Florida, it takes a while for it to get up here." This last year he has also seen a lot of Suzukis from the '70s and Yamahas reincarnating in his shop... guys in their '40s and middle aged have been digging them out of the garage or storage area. "Maybe some kind of mid life thing I said?"

As I was leaving his office I noticed a drawing of a umm, very sexy, partially clothed and perfectly, shall we say "well built" beauty looking your way... of course it was his work as well. He said "That is actually some of what I miss doing, and at the time, I was sick of that and started doing this."

You can find Jamie at all the shows around Connecticut, Daytona, and a couple of Easy Rider shows, online at [explicitairbrush.com](http://explicitairbrush.com) and [ctbikersguide.com](http://ctbikersguide.com), or at Explicit Airbrush  
318 Farmington Ave.  
Plainville, CT 06062  
Telephone: 860-582-6038



# robert gorske

— roade studio

Although I did not actually get a chance to meet this talented artist in person, my conversation with him was enough for me to know that this was another man who loved his work and somehow could get those visions in his head onto something that we can all enjoy. Robert Gorske has been a full time airbrush artist since 1981, moving to Plainville from Bristol in 1990. Actually start-

ing his career in 1976 he was working part time, gradually going to

full time, he was still doing auto body work as well. He then started airbrush work on the side.

His friend Dave Cayer from Custom Coach suggested to him to just go into his own business; he had work available for him. Robert said "EASY DECISION!!!" Wow, if we all had those opportunities! Robert's work is about 90% motorcycles. He does everything from the ground up; sand-blasting, prep parts, body work, paint work, graphic airbrush, clear work, basically all finish and prep work. "I pretty much have full control of what happens to the parts and you don't have to worry about other people's scheduling." He told me "I have always been a visual type person," and "I just get these pictures in my head. You have reference materials you hunt down. When you have visuals, then those other ideas pop into your head." (Yeah sure again) I still don't visualize those wild scary looking skulls in my head, even in my worst nightmare! So I still wonder where they come from! This artist takes the notebook in his mind with him shopping, like to grocery stores, where he says "you are always looking for something different. Always have an open mind as far as color combinations, graphics and other ideas outside the art industry. I am always

trying to absorb other work that graphic designers have been paid a lot of money to catch your eye." The process; sketching, scanning, painting masks and of course use of the computer which helps to save time from hand cutting, especially lettering, all enable him to add more to a painting where he can give more to his customer. Robert also does truck lettering, regular repairs and restorations; he also works with some builders and sometimes large scale painting projects. These are all "nice little distractions," where there is enough variety to keep what he is doing "fresh." Most of his work is on Harley full custom, composite type bikes. "Flame work with the demonic type theme, skulls and whatever else goes with it, is the theme that seems to be repeating." I asked him if there was any part of his work he liked the best. He said "the airbrushing is most enjoyable, almost like meditation. You don't think about anything else but what is in front of you, like a meditative state." You can visit Robert Gorske at Roade Studio online at [www.roadestudio.com](http://www.roadestudio.com) and also on [www.ctbikersguide.com](http://www.ctbikersguide.com) or at Roade Studio 103 East Main Street Plainville, CT 06062 Tel: 860-793-8383.

full time by 1981. "Way back in high school" (I didn't ask how many years that was) he said his first job was in auto body work, at that time working after school and in the summer. He then majored in graphic design at UConn while freelancing as a graphic designer, ultimately hoping to wind up as a commercial graphic artist. Because he was not working



# alan pastrana

— pastrana airbrush

Alan's creativity started at the age of four, strongly influenced by his dad's love of Van Gogh, Rafael and artists of the like. Whilst being "Dragged" into the museums to see all this art, after a while he said "You can't help but be influenced," but then started to develop his own interest. All he remembers is drawing; using markers and paint, drawing in school, drawing as a hobby. From there he went to the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC, taking a four year program in illustration where he perfected his skills – now drawing nudes, oils, acrylics, and watercolors from sculpture to photographs. In the '90s his thoughts about computers were not too positive – thinking they could not reproduce original art. Now he "embraces" them. His system of sketching, scanning, sizing, vectorizing and cutting masks out to use for painting have proven his original thoughts about computerization completely wrong. Alan does all mock ups in the computer, enabling him to show a potential client an almost exact sample of what they requested him to create. Again, I wondered how these mind blowing pieces of art would get out of a mind and onto a part, or a bike, or a car, or anything! Alan has a collection of his own photos and other art, as well as samples clients bring in to him to start the process rolling. The scene is quite often composed of many different themes – all harmoniously brought together through the use of different artwork and pictures, which are in turn scanned and used to grab just a lamp post or part of the image he is trying to recreate. "You want to do research so you can get the realism." In his shop, he had several projects going. The one we came upon first, was of course some wild and colorful design coordinating several themes into a masterpiece. It was sitting on this holding fixture that allows him to move

it up and down to be able to reach the different areas he needs to get to. His reference art was hanging next to it, so he could work off of that closely. While we were there he showed us a sample of one of the vinyl cut outs produced from the plotter (same as the sign companies use) that made the building shape and design he needs for this project. It cut out all the little shapes of the building in the drawing. The mask has special glue on the back so you can place this on the area you want to paint, without harming or sticking to the finish. He then showed us how he used that to paint the shapes onto the part. Then of course the other parts of the theme, which don't come out of any help from a machine or computer, are painted to bring this creation to life. That is truly "Wild" stuff! Alan has been at this location since November 1, 2005. He works with his partner Honario Reynolds, who has been with him since 2003. Across the way is the Korabs Truck and Auto Body, where they work with "Sticks" on projects which need auto body services. It is quite obvious that the talent he possesses is thoroughly enjoyed by himself and his list of happy clients. His work is on bikes, cars, walls, and I guess anywhere else he can paint!

You can find Alan and Honario at Pastrana Unlimited, 131 Whiting Street Unit #1 Plainville, CT 06062, and also online at: [www.pastranaunlimited.com](http://www.pastranaunlimited.com) and [www.ctbikersguide.com](http://www.ctbikersguide.com)

it is hard to imagine that out of these less than artistic almost sterile looking shops, that these amazing works of art are created and produced. There is no creative atmosphere around them that creates a mind set for this art, the atmosphere is their own mind—amazing. I don't envy you when it comes time to decide which one of them to choose as an artist for your motorcycle, car, truck, wall, or whatever else you would like to have painted. Now that will be a tough decision, but would never be a wrong decision no matter which one you choose. All extremely talented, experienced great guys who love what they do. I thank all of these artists for participating and "tolerating" my interviews with them. I also hope we can bring them new clients and spectators who can appreciate their tremendous talents...

*cat in the wind*



It has been a few years since I first wrote

# "Who is this Don Clady guy?"

My first short and sweet version of this article was written around the time I started the CT Bikers Guide website. At that time I was putting as much information on the site just from what I already knew about motorcycling. So, on the links page I, of course, put a link for the Marcus Dairy Super Sunday, a popular ride event. Not long afterward, I receive an email asking me to correct the link to Cycle Sunday due to a violation of copyright issues. OMG!!!! Well, I got all flustered (can you imagine? Me, flustered?) and was horrified that I was in some sort of trouble. I made a few calls asking, "Who is this Don Clady guy?" The basic response was something like: There is a copyright and trademark issue over Super Sunday. Just change the link and let him know. I said "Ok, no problem." So I changed the link – simple. Then during one of my travels to see Dennis, (at that time he was at Laurel & Harley. Now after we have been waiting for a long long time, he has re-opened in Stratford as All American Fat and Skinny Cycle, located at 2400 Barnum Ave., Tel: 203-378-1960. He is also the pretend owner of CT Bikers Guide. When you call you can ask for the owner of CT Bikers Guide!) anyway... I asked him "Who is this Don Clady guy?" He proceeded to explain to me that he is an event promoter and has been doing a lot of things for the motorcycle community and that I should definitely give him a call. I did, and now, as the years have passed, I consider him to be a great friend and a person who I have had a lot of laughs with, who has helped me with the site in any way he can. He has included us in all of his shows, articles, website and events, and has been relentless in trying to get us out there! Stretches of daily phone calls and IMs have filled my days with quite a lot of entertainment. He has more energy than pretty much anyone I know. Whenever a new business contacts me I always tell them, "When you hang up the phone with me dial Don Clady at 860-354-5110 and talk to him. He will help you in any way he can." Simultaneously, I IM Don while on the phone to tell him I am having someone call him! It is quite the routine. Don has been asking me for years to do write ups for him, which, ugh, I NEVER have time to do, which makes me feel bad, as I know he is only trying to help me. And now look! My very own magazine to do write-ups! Just what I need... The funny thing is, now I am asking him to do write-ups for me! HA! You think he will? I am sure he will, 'cause he's that Don Clady guy!

Thank You Don!!

Cat in the Wind



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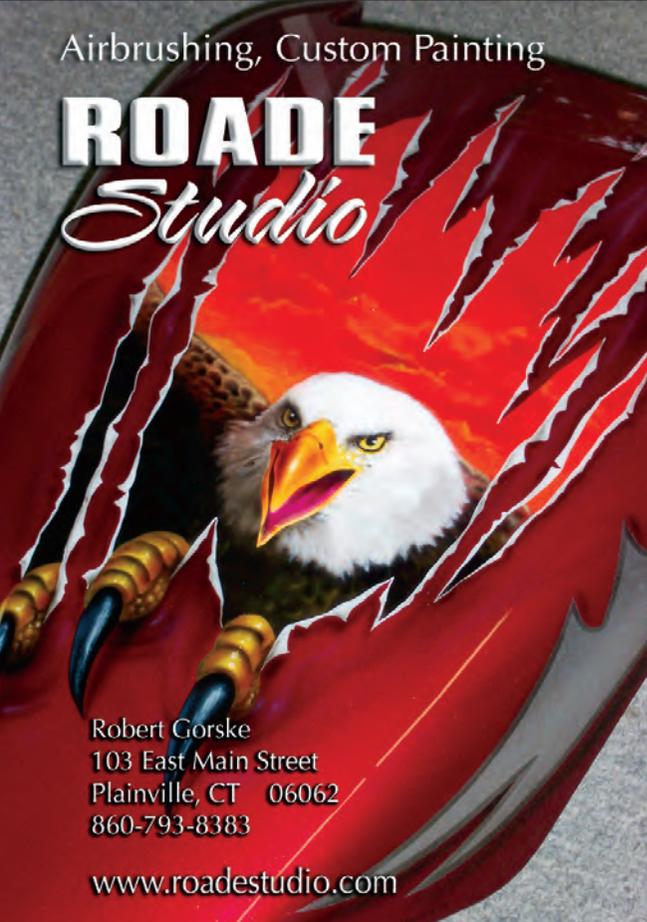

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# OTHER PLACES FOR CIRCULAR DRIVEWAYS



When I first moved to Guilford, I never thought that I would be able to keep the weeds from growing in my circular driveway....unbeknownst to me, my roommate, Pete, was eyeballing it for a completely different reason....to create the maybe one and only "1st Gear Track" in this entire area!! Everyone is used to cows and farmers here, but dirt track racing in your front yard.... NOT!! As soon as the key was in the door, the weeds were having their last hoorah!

This new playground started with the scraping of the stones (and weeds) off

the "track." Then a watering device was rigged up that was ultimately a kind of "Star Warsy" looking thing hanging on the end of the ramp of Pete's truck. Next, was the makings of the "drag," a funky two ton piece of metal attached to the back of the truck. Fred, our other roommate and fellow rider, became the Track Device Driver. Then you need a Track Drag Guiding System, that would be Pete, and finally an iron rake to smooth out the edges – operator of that also Pete! This systematic grooming and ritual eventually led to a "Flat Track" that looked almost as sleek as ice. Not a chance of a single "Whoop De Do" on this track! Every weekend (and

sometimes weekdays), Pete and Fred would practice on their new found track. Once a year we had THE BIG BIRTHDAY BASH, where this fun could be enjoyed by more than just themselves and me. We had it all – the pits (yard out by the street), the stands for the audience (front steps) and the concession stand (the kitchen). Just imagine – the buzzing of the bikes, the rubber of the wheels skitching around the corners turning up the freshly dragged dirt on the track, the clanking of the metal shoes dragging on the ground (some expertly duct taped), the inevitable miscalculation around a corner that sends the bike and the rider into these HUGE prickly juniper bushes (OUCH) and the sound of laughter from an excited bunch of guys and their onlookers! To them, racing around in first gear still felt like they were going 100. That, the almost crashes and pile ups, brought irreplaceable smiles to their faces. Even I started to see the

passion that drew them to this sport! Pete's first memory of riding is at about six years old when his father, Roy, brought him home a mini bike. He rode it around his house (hmm .. maybe that is where he got this idea for the track out of the driveway). His dad was racing Expert Scrambles & TT (now Motocross). Together, they would go to the deep woods of Vermont and ride on the logging trails with a map and a compass. Pete remembers what fun it was stumbling onto abandoned farms, foundations in ruins, old sugar shacks and the search for old bottles and such. (I now know where his appreciation for nature and strange little things comes from. He will often say.. "Look at that, you see it?" "Well.. NO I don't see it. WHAT???!") And he will point to some tiny little thing a mile away in a tree somewhere!)

All of these experiences helped him with his all around riding skills. Pete's dad was at the point where he decided he couldn't be sailing through the air on a bike anymore and decided to take on the Flat Track. Hoping that Pete would take an interest in it too so they could ride together, he was finding that Pete was "hell bent" on riding motocross. After some time, Pete finally grew interested in this type of racing and at the age of 15 he and his dad entered their first race together at Waterford Speedbowl, which has since been closed. He said it was "BUTTERFLY CITY" waiting to get out there, but once on the track he started to calm down. "Especially," as he chuckles, "after the announcers introduced us as the McGirr BROTHERS!!!" At the first event, father and son won two prizes. Dad got the dough and son got the trophy!!! They raced the same bike together for many years to come.

Starting out in the Amateur Class, within a year he was riding the Expert Class, but at the age of 22, it all came crashing down – literally. "I wasn't hurt bad, just enough to get my bell rung." At the time, money was tight, so racing went on the back burner. But, as they say, "absence makes the heart grow fonder," and so it did. Eight years later, Pete was racing again, this time in the Pro Am Class. In his down time, the categories of the classes had been changed from Novice to Amateur, to Expert, to now Pro Am to Pro. He was luckily OK'd to race in the Pro Am Class without going through a lot of hassle. Racing in this class still allows him the honor to ride with all other Pro Riders. The difference between the classes is that to be PRO you must ride all national races, everywhere, every weekend, every... every... every... in other words, just follow the circuit.

Now he was able to ride faster half miles and bigger tracks getting into 100 mph or more, or, as he chuckles again, "Just haul ass around the track! I can't see anymore fun that you can have, just you and your bike cruisin', being on a motor that you can do anything with. It's clean fun, but dangerous, sure. You are always looking for that 'Perfect Day' where everything works out right. You get to the point where friendship and respect of riding with other high caliber riders lead to a trust that you will not get tangled up with each other, or you will not take down the next guy and maybe take the whole pack down. Some guys will stove into you and bump you off, just so they can get one position ahead. It is not supposed to be a contact sport. We all want to go home without getting busted up and smashed to smithereens, so we can get up and

go to work Monday morning. Will Adams, Bob Weiss, Keith Jacobs and many others have all become my close friends, the 'shirt off your back' type stuff."

Problems now with flat track racing facilities force these riders to search out other tracks in New York, Pennsylvania, and up the line in Massachusetts. Even then there are only a handful that are less than four hours away. In August 2006, Mototown USA opened in Windsor, a new indoor facility for Motocross and Flat Trackers. Although these riders are thrilled about this new place to ride, they would all still love to see an outdoor track in Connecticut. Mototown USA is located at 1001 Day Hill Road. Visit their website for more information.



[www.mototownusa.com](http://www.mototownusa.com)

Now you can see some of these riders racing here!

**We have a few tips we would like to suggest...**

1) FIRST call your local Zoning Department about potential restrictions (Don't be afraid to call. Most towns have similar regulations. You might be pleasantly surprised at what they have to say). Main concerns of course are the safety and welfare of you and your neighbors.

2) Call your local Police Department to check into noise ordinances. (Obviously you will be hauled off to noise ordinance abuse jail if you ride at 3 a.m. and have some wild beer slamming party going on ...so DON'T do things like THAT).

3) RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBORS!! (EVEN THE ONES YOU MAY NOT LIKE). They probably have a phone that will graciously connect them to the noise ordinance police.

4) USE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ALWAYS! (Forget about the few pictures we have included in this article. They are DO NOT DO THIS AT HOME SHOTS!!)

5) Take care of your track ... remember water and drag simultaneously.

6) Try to make your bikes as quiet as possible! There are ways you can do this. (You may not like them but too bad. DO IT if you want to use your property in this manner).

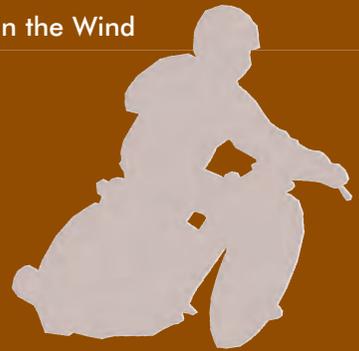
7) RIDE SAFE!! WHATEVER YOU RIDE!!

Special thanks to my dear, close friend, who I have the utmost respect for, Pete McGirr, for participating in this article. 48 year old Pro Am Class Racer. He is a framer by trade and

one of the most hard working, fun, and respectful people I know. Those traits must have trickled down the family tree, as his mom "Alva," dad "Roy," and sisters "Sharon" and "Sheila" are all the same kinds of people!

You can see Pete and some of these great riders at the Oakland Valley Race Park in Cuddebackville, NY. He is number 41, find him and say hello. He would be thrilled!

Cat in the Wind

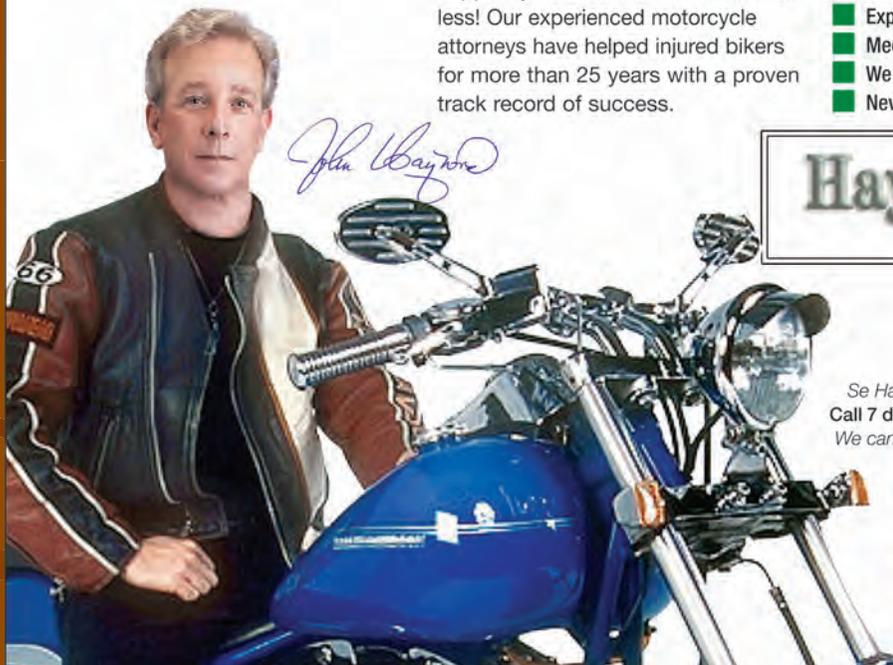


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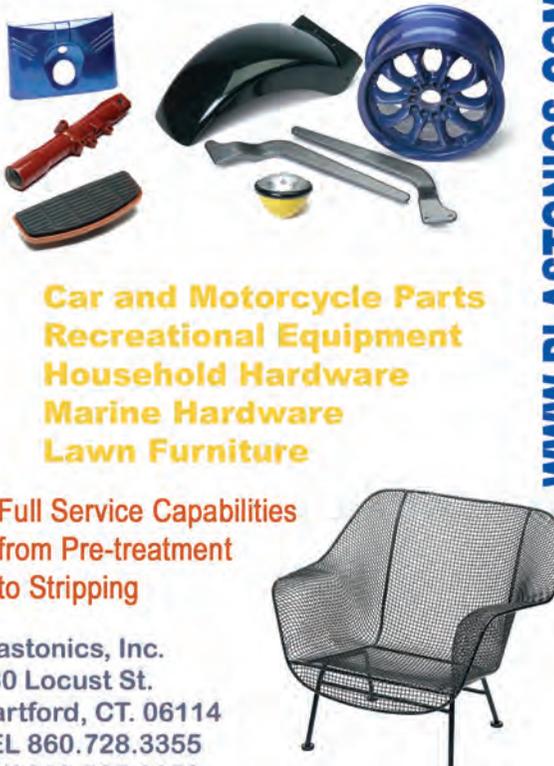
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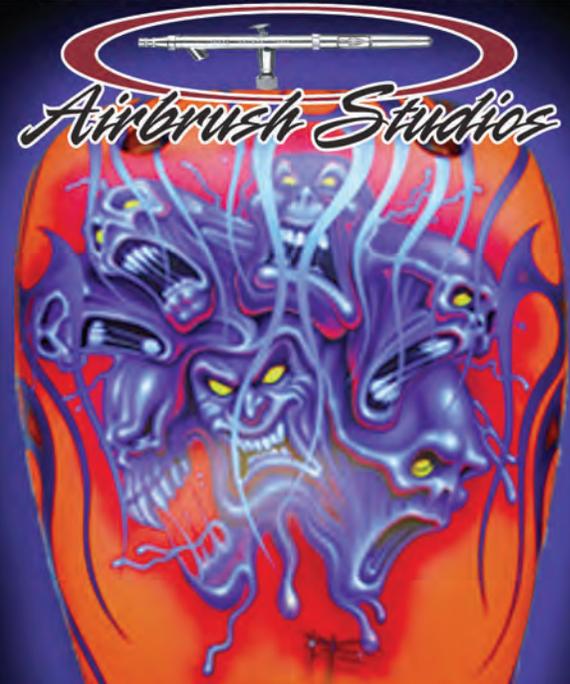
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# tips for drivers



The cold weather here in Connecticut is giving way to warmer temperatures and the streets will be busy with bikes and BMW's, trucks and tractor-trailers. Learning to travel together sensibly is a positive step in ensuring the safety of all.

Generally, motorists know to look out for other cars on the roads, but not for motorcycles. To share the road safely drivers need to be watchful of motorcyclists as well.

Research has shown that 75 percent of motorcycle fatalities have involved another vehicle, and two out of every three were the fault of the driver in the other vehicle.

**What can you do to avoid being part of these statistics?**

- Give the motorcyclist a full lane to ride in and allow the same room when passing as you would a car.
- Pay attention when making a left turn at intersections and when changing lanes. Most crashes occur when the cyclist is traveling straight and the other vehicle is making a left turn.
- It is difficult to judge the speed of a motorcycle. Give yourself extra time and room when making lane changes. Don't rush to make a left turn if you see a cyclist coming. Use your signal lights, this clearly lets the cyclist know your intentions.
- Cyclists will maneuver around obstructions that a car wouldn't have to, such as potholes, wet leaves, railroad tracks, and debris. Expect that this will occur.
- Check your blind spots before changing lanes. Be aware that large vehicles, such as tractor-trailers, SUV's, and vans can block your line of sight.
- Don't discard cigarette butts out windows, use ashtrays. Flying debris can distract a rider (specifically if it is ignited and falls on the rider).

– Don't follow too close. Be prepared should the rider need to avoid road problem areas. Most motorcycles, when driven at the proper speed, can stop in a shorter distance than a car; will you have enough room between you and the motorcycle if it must stop quickly?

– Teach your teen drivers and yourself to respect motorcyclists.

There are approximately 65,000 registered motorcycles on the roads of Connecticut, according to the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The National Center for Statistics and Analysis from 2004 reported 4,008 motorcycle deaths nationwide, of which 57 of these were in Connecticut.

Consider this as an insurance policy that you don't have to pay extra for. Do what is necessary to lower the statistics. Learn how to drive safely with motorcycles. Many insurance companies offer incentives to their drivers who educate themselves on motorcycle safety and awareness.

Although, Motorcycle Awareness Month is every May, it is important to stay sharp and remain alert through the remainder of the year. Drivers and riders alike want safety on the roads. Develop a safety trigger that reminds you to pay attention and watch out for riders on two wheels. My safety trigger is putting the key in the ignition.

*For more information:*  
*Connecticut Motorcycle Riders Association*  
<http://www.thecmra.com>

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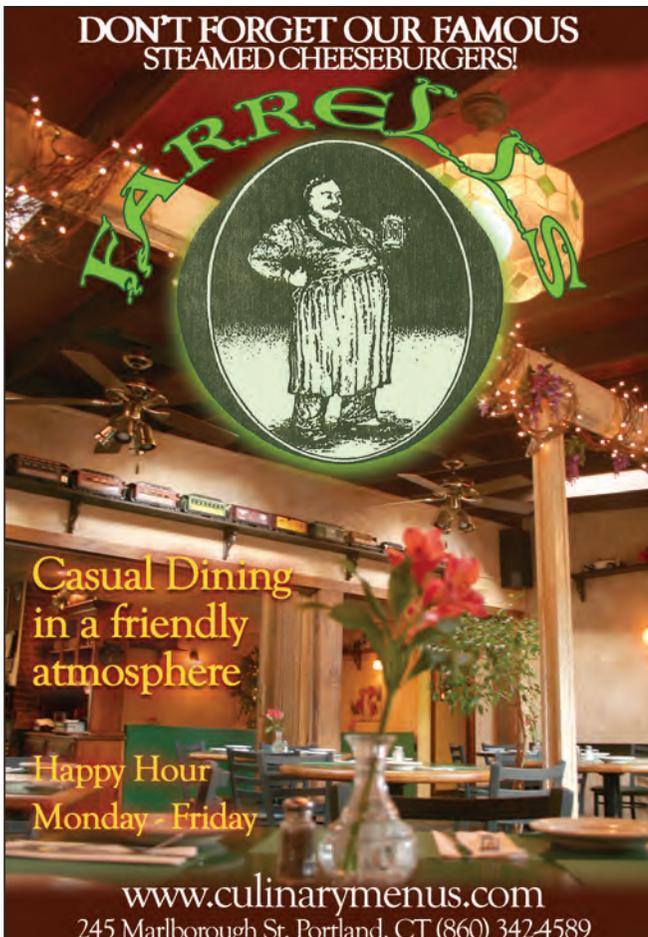


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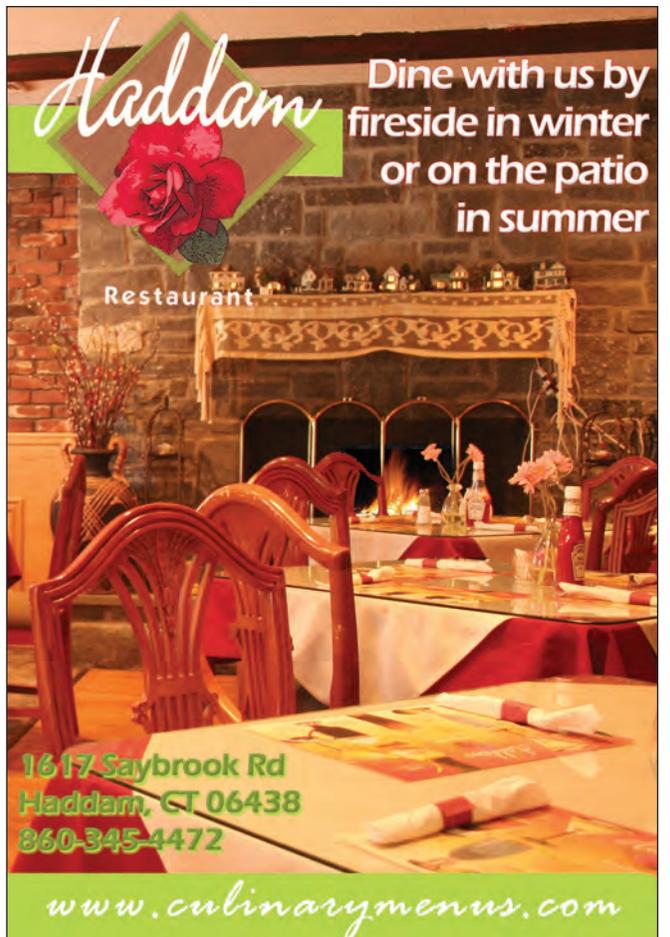


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# TWO WHEEL EXCURSIONZ RIDE AROUND GILLETTE CASTLE

Every journey begins with a turn of the throttle, so let's go! We start this ride at the Guilford Mooring. If you are starting your ride after 11 a.m., you can sample some of Chef Bob's specialties! Feel that crisp shoreline breeze and the smells only a true biker will recognize, as you view the marina on one side, and the marshes on the other. As you head out, you will pass through the town of Guilford, a historic trip in itself. With a mere four hundred and fifty plus pre-twentieth century houses, the town is full of historic architecture and quaint little shops, both on the green and along Rt. 1.

Continuing North on Rt. 77 past Rt. 80, you will go through one of the coolest stretches of farmlands, upland wetlands, ponds, arching hills, and a couple of S turns, where it is time to put the swerve on baby. This part of the road is fabulous! It climaxes at Lake Quonnipaug. (Please keep your eyes on the road; the cows will take care of themselves!) As you head into Durham right after Rt. 77 dovetails into Rt. 17, you will pass what is undoubtedly one of the most impressive views from any gas station in Connecticut looking across the Coginchaug Valley from Dick's CITGO. All you DD coffee addicts keep your eyes peeled! Shortly after the gas station, there is one of them on the left, in a little grey house!!

On to Middletown, you can switch from eye feasting, to just plain feasting, with over 48 restaurants of every variety on South Main, East Main and plain old Main alone. You will have your first encounter with the Connecticut River, where you get an eye catching view of the Arrigoni Bridge bringing you to Portland on Rt. 66. It is here that a stop at Farrell's Restaurant will warm your stomach, with its classic old-fashioned steamed cheeseburgers, to say nothing of steak, prime ribs, and seafood.

Continuing on Rt. 66 through East Hampton, you will find all your "ma & pa" shops, antiques, gift shops, etc. Home to one of CT's largest inland bodies of water is Lake Pocotopaug, if you have a few extra minutes take the drive around it; it's gorgeous! Before that on Rt. 66, turn onto Rt. 151, which winds through the little village of Middle Haddam. This little town is nudged up to the east bank of the good old Connecticut River, ending in East Haddam.

There you pick up Rt. 82 to Rt. 148, which brings you to the Gillette Park and Castle. THERE ARE PLENTY OF SIGNS FOR YOU TO FOLLOW! Entering the park, this is where four wheels move the body and two wheels move the soul. The road up to the castle is picturesque and the view from the grounds is breathtaking. Grab some food and a blanket, and you're set for picnicking or hiking there too. If time allows, a side trip eastward on Route 82 to Salem will give ample reassurance that there is still an abundance of verdant open farmland in CT. On the way back you can loop around and go by Devil's Hopyard, which is another popular spot.

Completing the third part of our triangular turn through mid Connecticut, East Haddam provides an awesome collection of jewel-like Victorian homes leading to that unforgettable Victorian masterpiece, Goodspeed Opera House. It rises like a true queen over the river as well as the East Haddam Swing Bridge (Thought to be the largest of its type in the world). A brief detour up Rt. 149 brings us to the tiny Nathan Hale Schoolhouse lovingly placed on a peaceful knoll overlooking the river, as if remembering the days of 1773 when this young hero in the making taught young men *and* women of the town.

On the Haddam side of the bridge turn left on Rt. 154. The Haddam Restaurant, another place you can wash the dust down, is there on the right, serving excellent pizza and Italian food. Then switch over to Rt. 148 and picturesque Chester, with its art galleries and bucolic restaurants. Following Rt. 148 to Rt. 81 and then to Rt. 80 brings us to the very scenic Chatfield Hollow State Park. Rt. 80 then joins up with Rt. 77 back in Guilford to complete our ride, as well as making it quite clear that traveling through Connecticut can provide a never ending series of delights.

If you plan to stop at any of these restaurants and have a group of eight or more, please **CALL AHEAD** and let them know you are coming!

## RIDE SAFE!!!

*Cat in the Wind, Sidekick, Spiderman,  
Mike Michaels, & The Staff*

## HELPFUL LINKS

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