The Confederate Chapter Newsletter



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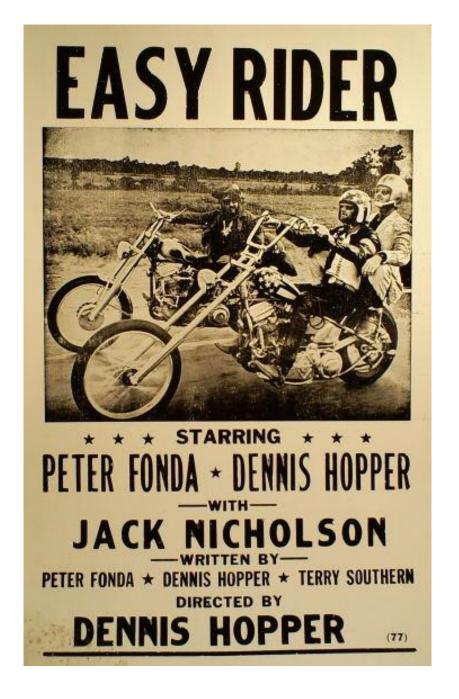
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Letter from the Editor—David Lloyd

Greetings Confederate Chapter Members,

As we end another great motorcycle riding year, we all have the normal time to sit and reflect on what has past and what is in front of us. This can be done early in the morning, while drinking coffee, or late late at night drinking something else?? Each one of us gives value to time and resources spent with family, friends and whatever keeps us occupied. With that, I challenge each one of us to strive to achieve more in 2017.

It's hard to believe we lost another club member in April of this year. Mario Kruger died in a motorcycle accident while riding with friends. We had a chance to honor his name at our Scooter Ride. He left a hole in many hearts!

This newsletter's feature story goes back to 1968 to revisit the "Easy Rider" movie. It covers some interesting facts and trivia about the making of this cult classic. It will give you a bit of the behind the scenes viewpoint to a movie with a \$400,000 budget, that has now grossed over 6 million dollars.

Also in this issue, we cover most of our 2016 Confederate motorcycle events, including one meeting night at Super Cycle, (Thanks Ron and Tina Elliott) our 7th annual Scooter ride, 12th annual Barber vintage festival, and our annual Christmas Party. This year, several members rode up to Rusty McFarland's home outside of Nashville, where he treated them to nice ride, interesting food and a small tour of his motorcycle collection.

I got the opportunity to ride up to Cape Girardeau with Cris Muirhead, Johnny Whitsett and Ronnie Farve to catch the 2016 Cannonball riders as they crossed America for the 4th time. We followed them to Springfield, Mo. the next day.

Another Great accomplishment of 2016 is the Brand new launch of the reformatted website. www.confederatechapter.com has a fresh facelift. The years of collection photos from all our past events covering events back to 2006 can now be viewed on the events page. The Newsletter page has all club newsletters dating back to 1982, which includes our very 1st newsletter, written by Clark Bennett.

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New year. Let me know if you have anything to share (stories or photos) with our fellow members in any upcoming newsletter.

Another topic to cover concerns membership dues. It is important that each member stay up to date with the local and national dues. Our fiscal year begins January we ask you to stay current so that these events can continue. Looking forward to riding beside you in 2017!!



Tub Meeting (a) SuperCycle





016 Scooter ridde







EASY RIDER-THE MOVIE

Anyone involved with motorcycles most-likely has seen or heard of the Cult classic 1969 movie, "Easy Rider". It is an American road movie written by Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper and Terry Southern, produced by Fonda and Directed by Hopper. It tells the story of two bikers (played by Fonda and Hopper) who travel through the American Southwest and South after selling a large score of cocaine. Most people initially saw this film as a low budget, drug infested bunch of hippies, on a hallucination trip. But the movie caught on with the biker scene and became a cult classic. It even help spark a new Hollywood era of filmmaking during the 70's. The film was added to the Library of Congress National Registry in 1998.

The basic story is about 2 characters, Wyatt (Peter Fonda) and Billy (Dennis Hopper) who smuggle cocaine from Mexico to Los Angeles. They sell the haul to the "connection", played by Phil Spector, driving a Rolls Royce and receive a large payday. They hide the money is a plastic tube inside the fuel tanks and head across the USA for Mardi Gras festival in New Orleans. The movie follows them into some interesting situations and unusual characters.

Without spoiling the movie if you haven't seen it yet, I would encourage you to see it. It's one of those films all motorcyclist should have in their movie bucket list.

What I want to share runs much deeper inside the making and filming of Easy Rider. There are many rumors about the movie and it becomes very interesting to see a little of behind the movie.

I must start with a few people who have already plowed deep inside the East Rider facts and honor them much credit of the information out there on the web about this truly amazing movie. Fritz Simmerlein of Harleysons.de found some of the original photos of the 2 bike builders from California. We will cover more on that later in the article. Also, Paul d'Orleans of http://thevintagent.blogspot.com/ offers tons of details on his blog website. Some of the facts written here still has different versions, depending on who you interview. I will list the article from this point as a bullet form Trivia type list.



#1 - The Motorcycles - Captain America and the Billy Bike.

This history lesson has many stories! Peter Fonda (Henry Fonda's son) was in the 60's freewheeling hippy days and actually has already made a few low budget motorcycle movies. He stared in "The Wild Angels" in 1966 and he and Dennis wrote, "The Trip" in 1967.

It was said, that Peter approached Harley Davidson in early 1968 about using Harley Davidsons for a film about bikers. Harley Davidson wanted no part of that demographics style rider associated with their brand. Peter Fonda had a friend in California named Cliff Vaughs. He hired Cliff to coordinate the motorcycle for the film. Cliff called in his buddy Ben Hardy to do the actual construction. Dean Lanza painted the original bikes. Nowhere credited in the film do African American, California custom bike builders, Cliff Vaughs or Ben Hardy ever get any acknowledgement for these 2 iconic machines.

More than 45 years after the production of Easy Rider, it's difficult to sort out the exact timeline of the film's creation, and the various responsibilities of the people involved. Several of the key figures involved with the film have died, including director Dennis Hopper and credited screenwriter Terry Southern. Many people claim they were responsible for the design and theme of these 2 choppers. Peter claims he was completely responsible for the design, however, Cliff Vaughs says he was the one with the distinctive look of the Captain America bike. Larry Marcus was a mechanic who lived with Vaughs at the time, and worked on the choppers and the early film production. "Cliff really came up with the design for both motorcycles," Marcus said in a phone interview. Vaughs says he and others were fired and replaced early on in the film's production, following the chaotic shoot at Mardi Gras in New Orleans. As a result, his name never appears in the credits. And while the film went on to become one of the topgrossing films of 1969 and a cultural touchstone, the name Clifford Vaughs has remained largely unknown.

Ben Hardy used standard H-D frames. '48-'56, and used Buchanan's frame shop to alter the steering head angle to 45 degrees. The steering head was cut off and repositioned, and the resultant extreme rake required a 12" extension to the telescopic forks. A set of A.E.E. fork clamps are used, with extended handlebar clamps ('dog bones'); the handlebars have a rise of 13" - not yet in 'ape hanger' territory.

Hardy and Vaughs were already making radical Choppers in a Shop called, Hardy's Motorcycle Service. Cliff was already riding the streets of California on crazy looking modified motorcycle. They had even built Jack Nicolson a radical Flathead chopper. Note the 45 degree raked Shovelhead Cliff Vaughs is sitting on. Ben Hardy died in 1994.

In total, four former police bikes were used in the film. The 1949, 1950 and 1952 Harley-Davidson Hydra-Glide bikes were purchased at an auction for \$500, equivalent to about \$3400 in 2016. Each bike had a backup to make sure that shooting could continue in case one of the old machines failed or got wrecked accidentally. One "Captain America" was demolished in the final scene, while the other three were stolen and probably taken apart before their significance as movie props became known. The demolished bike was rebuilt by Dan Haggerty and shown in a museum. The provenance of existing Captain America motorcycles is unclear, and has been the subject of much litigation. A motorcycle on display at the EMP Museum in Seattle, Washington is identified by that organization as the original rebuilt movie prop. A replica resides at the National Motorcycle Museum in Anamosa, lowa. Many other replicas have been built since the film's release.

Hopper and Fonda hosted a wrap party for the movie and then realized they had not yet shot the final campfire scene. Thus, it was shot after the bikes had already been stolen, which is why they are not visible in the background as in the other campfire scenes.

The Characters – Wyatt (Captain America) & Billy (Billy the Kid)

The movie character visions that Peter Fonda had for the film were much more defined than 2 freewheeling hippies. Fonda and Hopper have said that these characters' names refer to Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid. Wyatt dresses in American flag-adorned, while Billy dresses in Native American-style buckskin pants and shirts and a bushman hat.

Allegedly, the characters of Wyatt and Billy were respectively based on Roger McGuinn and David Crosby of The Byrds. According to Terry Southern's biographer, Lee Hill, the part of George Hanson had been written for Southern's friend, actor Rip Torn. When Torn met with Hopper and Fonda at a New York restaurant in early 1968 to discuss the role, Hopper began ranting about the "rednecks" he had encountered on his scouting trip to the South. Torn, a Texan, took exception to some of Hopper's remarks, and the two almost came to blows, as a result of which Torn withdrew from the project. Torn was replaced by Jack Nicholson, whom Hopper had recently appeared with in Head (along with another Easy Rider co-star, Toni Basil). In 1994, Jay Leno interviewed Hopper about Easy Rider on The Tonight Show, and during the interview, Hopper alleged that Torn had pulled a knife on him during the altercation, prompting Torn to sue Hopper successfully for defamation.

Hopper was also said to be difficult on set. During test shooting on location in New Orleans, Hopper fought with the production's ad hoc crew for control. At one point he entered into a physical confrontation with photographer Barry Feinstein, who was one of the camera operators for the shoot. After this turmoil, Hopper and Fonda decided to assemble a proper crew for the rest of the film.



One of the most shocking things about Easy

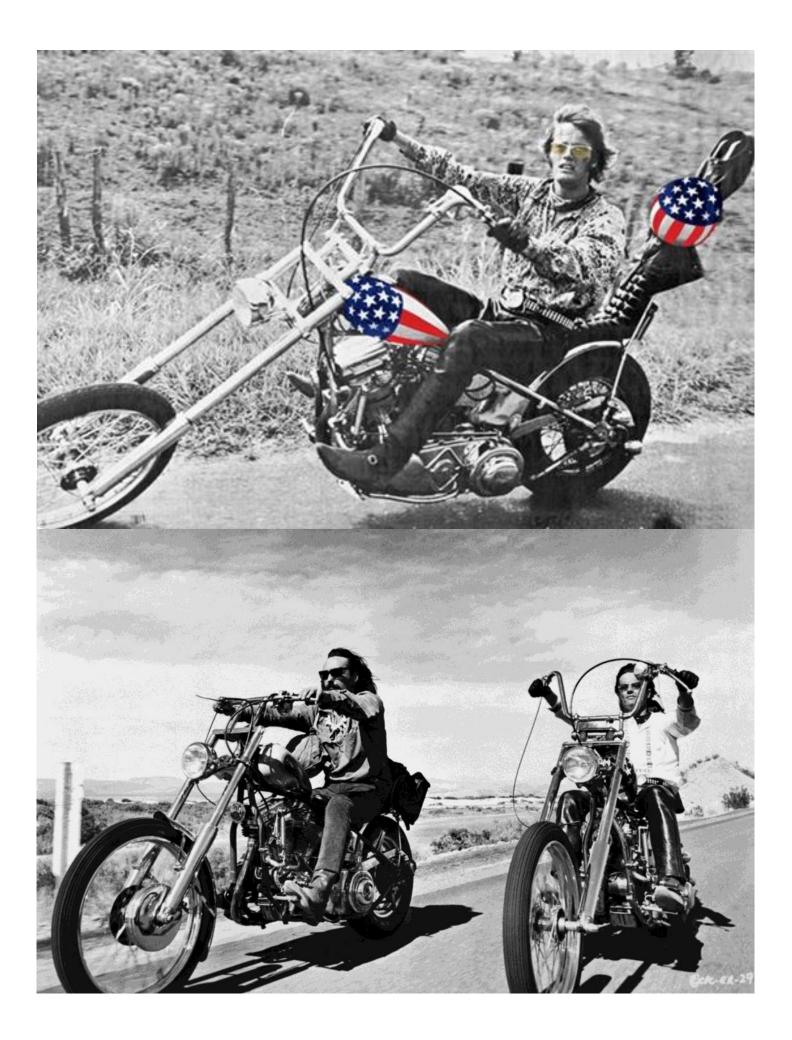
Rider is its ending, where both of the leads violently perish. "The initial idea had to do with a couple of young guys who are fed up with the system, want to make one big score, and split," Terry Southern told Creative Screenwriting. "Use the money to buy a boat in Key West and sail into the sunset was the general notion, and that was slated to be the film's final poetic sequence. It wasn't until the end that it took on a genuinely artistic dimension—when it suddenly evolved into an indictment of the American redneck, and his hatred and intolerance for anything remotely different from himself—somewhat to the surprise of Dennis Hopper: 'You mean kill 'em both? Hey, man, are you outta your gourd?!?' I think for a minute he was still hoping they would somehow beat the system and sail into the sunset with a lot of loot and freedom. But of course, he was hip enough to realize, a minute later, that their death was more or less mandatory."

Easy Rider Trivia:

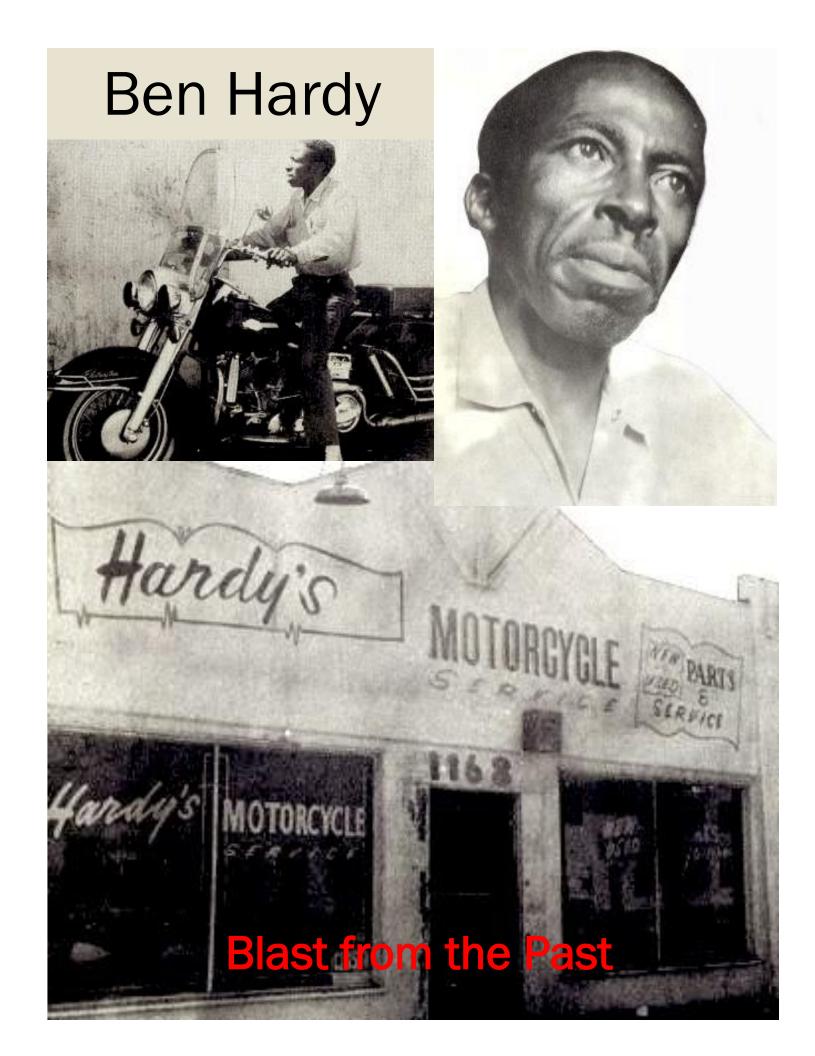
- Peter Fonda meets up with two prostitutes in the film. One is Karen Black and the other Toni Basil who gave us that neat little hit "Mickey" in 1981.
- When Wyatt, Billy and George Hanson enter the diner, all the people in the diner were local inhabitants of that town none of them were actors. Same for the two rednecks who shoot Wyatt and Billy from their truck, at the end of the film they weren't actors and that was their pickup truck.
- Originally Dennis Hopper didn't want Jack Nicholson in Easy Rider.
- Peter Fonda originally wanted Crosby, Stills and Nash to do the soundtrack but after hearing Steppenwolfs
 "Born To Be Wild" he decided it belonged in the movie.
- Peter Fonda's daughter, Bridget, appears briefly in a crowd scene.
- The New Orleans graveyard scene was filmed without a permit. You can hear the very real police cars coming to arrest the cast, sirens blaring. They got out fast.
- Dennis Hopper modelled his character's look after his good friend David Crosby of the group The Byrds.
- Three of the motorcycles used throughout the film were stolen shortly before the film was finished.



If you like riding motorcycles, have 15 days to spare, and about \$4301 to \$7710 burning a hole in your pocket, sign up for the Easy Rider Motorcycle Tour. The 2589-mile path ventures to some of the movie's real filming locations, from L.A. to Death Valley to Colorado to New Orleans. According to the tour's website, they've worked with Sony Pictures in authenticating the locales. "The Easy Rider Movie Tour will have you living the dream you have been waiting to experience since the first time you saw the movie," reads the summary.











2017 AMCA Nationals

February 24-25

Omaha Chapter National Meet

March 10-11

Sunshine Chapter National Meet

April 28-29

Perkiomen Chapter National Meet

May 19-21

Southern National Meet

May 19-20

European Chapter Meet

June 16-17

Viking Chapter National Meet

June 16-17

Fort Sutter Chapter National Meet

June 20-22

Rocky Mountain Chapter National Road Run

June 30-July 1

Rhinebeck National Meet

July 21-23

Wauseon National Meet

July 24-26

Evergreen National Road Run

August 4-5

Yankee Chapter National Meet

2017 National Road-conti

August 25-27

AMCA Australia Chapter Meet

September 2-3 (Tentative Event)

Motociclette Americane Chapter

September 11-13

Fort Sutter Chapter National Road Run

September 20-23

Smoky Mountain Chapter National Road Run

September 29 - October 1

Chesapeake Chapter National Meet

Confederate Chapter Events

8th Annual Scooter Ride — May 13, 2017— Rain date—May 20 2017

26th Ride to Work Day —June 19, 2017

46th Davenport Swap Meet Aug 31 - Sep 3, 2017

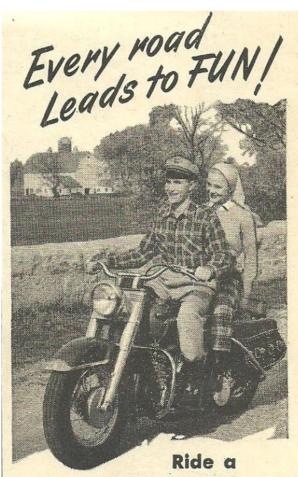
3rd Mississippi Fall Ride—TBA

Barber Vintage Festival —October 6—8, 2017

Fall Rodders Dinner—Nov 16, 2017

Annual Confederate Christmas Party

Please allow me to give credit to Roxanne Spencer for her countless hours behind the camera. She supplies nearly every picture we take at Confederate Chapter outings. You don't see her in any pictures as a result, but please know she is 100% there & appreciated!! Marshall and Chris Rolbillo also do a fantastic job of taking their photos and blending them into a collage masterpiece! Thanks—David



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2016 Rodders n n e r





16 Rodders n n e r

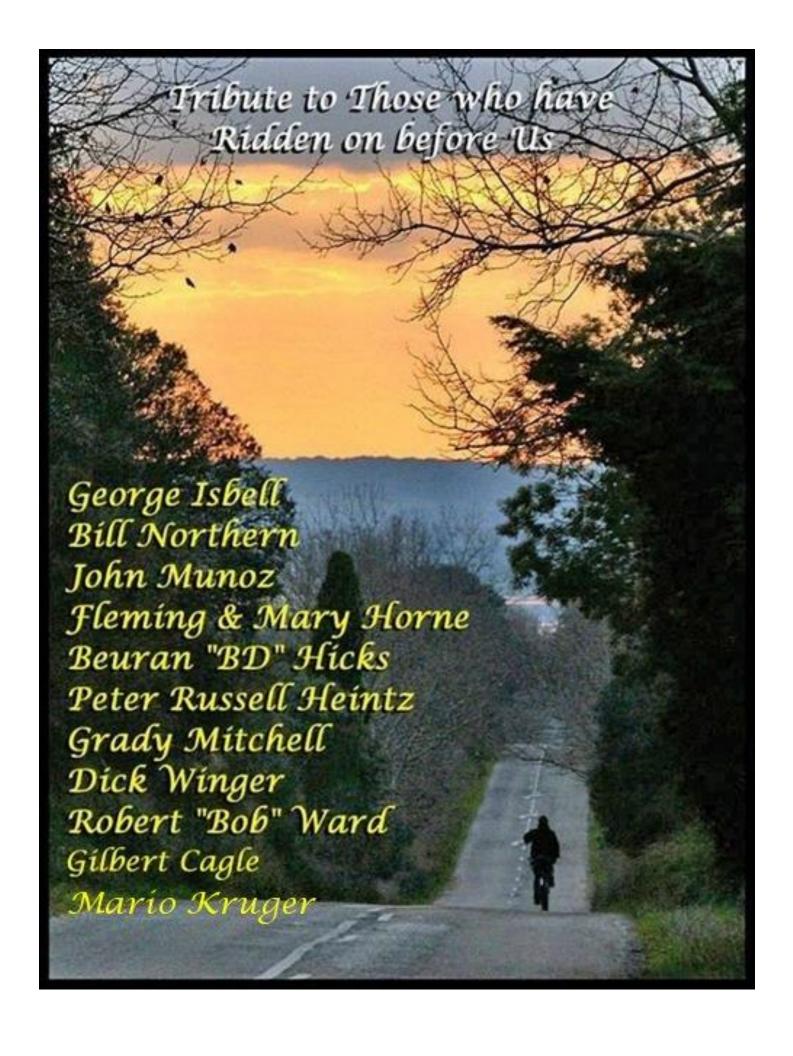


2016 C hristmas **Party**



16 hr:istmas Party





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