



Mountain Wheelin'

Volume 32, Issue 3

March 2018

Happy March! The month of lions, lambs, and luck. I'm concentrating on luck... the best kind...the force that seems to bring goodness in a person's life.

Most of us believe in good luck. I would bet at some point in your life, you looked for a four leaf clover. Hanging on your car/truck mirror are talisman protecting you from harm. This newsletter goes into length about luck. On page 2, let me introduce you to Lucky Cat Garage, the owner, its claim to fame, and the philosophy of living a charmed life. Page 3 are bike designs that I've had on my computer for a long time and they needed to come off. You are "lucky" to see them! (and I guess we could say, we are lucky so many designers make these fabulous bikes for us to ooh and ahh at!) Page 4 is Dead Lucky 13, a cool site to buy amulets, talisman, and charms. MotoLuck is on page 5-6. Scott's gadgets round out page 6. If you would like to add some good luck symbols to your ride, page 7 has a few examples. Please read the box to your right as some things have changed for Sunday rides.

Meeting Place:

Due to the construction at the PA Visitor's Center at the Delaware Water Gap, we will be meeting at the back end of the **Giant Supermarket (Giant's Bartonsville) parking lot (Rt. 611 in Bartonsville).** If there is no scheduled ride for a Sunday between April and November, riders show up at the meeting spot and we'll decide on a ride at that time.

Sunday Rides: On Sunday, anyone considering becoming a member of our club is more than welcome to ride with us for a maximum of two rides. In order to continue riding with the club membership is required.

Wednesday Rides: Top of the Hill Gang: Members and non-members depart at 9:00 a.m. from Billy's Diner, Rt. 611 Tannersville, PA. Membership is not required for Wednesday rides.

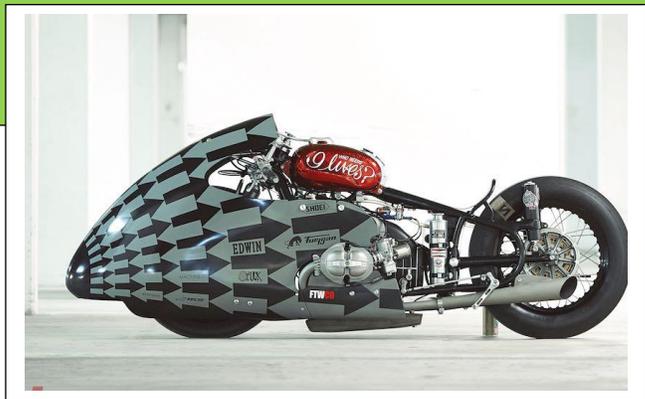
Attention: Ride Leaders: Please post some additional info about your rides on our message board the Wednesday prior to your ride. ...

MARCH

- 3/6/2018 6:30 PM Billy's Diner Dinner Meeting
- 3/10/2018 6:00 PM Pour House St. Patrick's Day Dinner
- 3/18/2018 8:30 AM Billy's Diner Breakfast Meeting-Americanade planning
- 3/21/2018 9:00 AM Billy's Diner Top of the Hill Gang Ride
- 3/28/2018 9:00 AM Billy's Diner Top of the Hill Gang Ride

APRIL

- 4/3/2018 6:30 PM Billy's Diner Dinner Meeting
- 4/04/2018 9:00 AM Billy's Diner Top of the Hill Gang Ride
- 4/11/2018 9:00 AM Billy's Diner Top of the Hill Gang Ride
- 4/15/2018 8:30 AM Billy's Diner Breakfast Meeting
- 4/18/2018 9:00 AM Billy's Diner Top of the Hill Gang Ride
- 4/22/2018 9:00AM Giant's Bartonsville Covered Bridge (PA Bucks County) Jim Catanzaro
- 4/25/2018 9:00 AM Billy's Diner Top of the Hill Gang Ride
- 4/29/2018 10:00AM Giant's Bartonsville Cabin Fever Ride-Larry Predmore



The founder of Lucky Car Garage, Sebastien Lorentz, remembers seeing the first bike that made up fall in love with motorcycles. “It was a Lawson’s Kawasaki 1000 S1 superbike

I cannot say why, but this bike impressed me when I was young. I discovered a pure beast with a high concentration of power on two wheels. At this precise moment, I decide to ride motorcycles.”

He started customizing bikes, not because it was cool, but for the fact he couldn’t afford a brand new one or even a second hand bike. His rebuilding of bikes for necessity became its own art. Preoccupied with performance, he loved racing cars and classic hot rods...pretty much anything that was fast, loud and dangerous!

Lucky Cat Garage was an after work place where freedom and creativity was allowed to happen. The maneki neko (the lucky cat) is a Japanese symbol for luck and fortune. He was only interested in the luck part, since he did not intend to get rich doing what he loved. He felt lucky to be supported by his girlfriend, friends, and family in pursuing his dreams.

And then, came the Sprintbeemer. The reconfiguration of a 55 BMW R50 took the runner up spot in the Retro Modified Class at the 2014 AMD World Championship of Custom Bike Building.

“I don’t see myself a bike builder,” declares Sébastien Lorentz, founder of Lucky Cat Garage of Ouerray, France. That’s certainly not something you expect to hear from the man behind the Sprintbeemer. That machine was the result of much hard work, with the blessing of luck.

The motorcycle has been named the Sprintbeemer Futherer because Lorentz said “to take it furtherer”, he was going to make it faster and better. It is painted with optical illusion-style alternating black-and-white arrows. “This came from the main idea that a sprint bike needs to frighten the competitors before the race,” Lorentz says. “I thought it was a first step to victory to impress and scare the challengers. The paint scheme was designed by my friend Benny Robinson, aka Machine 17. He had this brilliant idea of the arrows pattern, which is intended to disturb the competitor’s view. We spent almost two days drawing and masking the modified Air-Tech Streamlining dustbin fairing. Benny designed also the great race leather suit manufactured by Furygan to fit with the same design”

The Sprintbeemer is also a functional ride with a heavily modified BMW R 100 motor moving things along. “The inspiration came mainly from two different things—speed record history from BMW in the thirties, and sprint bikes and drag bikes from the sixties,” Lorentz says. “A bike should always be intended to be ridden, in my opinion.”

If you’d like a Lucky Cat Garage creation, you may have to wait. Lorentz states, “I’m trying to get my dreams and visions rolling on two wheels. That ain’t easy to sell your dreams. If someone trusts me enough and is ready to let me create him a bike the way I want, I could consider to do it. I believe I will manage to find my way following my own desires and not a commercial trend. It’s really hard to do if you have the pressure of customers.

But who knows? If we receive a customer query, we will first have to meet and take time to know each other. I don’t want to spend time and energy in a project I’m not fully excited by or just done for money. A custom bike for me is a big investment of time and personal thoughts, and even a big part of my life I will put in the project. I first need to ensure the customer and I will have a common view and feeling, and that he will be ready to wait for one-year minimum to get the bike finished. Otherwise, I think it won’t be something interesting and worthy of spending time.”

On the Sprintbeemer Furtherer, you will note the question, “Who needs 9 lives?” on the fuel tank. “It simply means you do not need more than one life if you use it properly,” Lorentz explains. “That is to say 200-percent exploring different ways and using all your available time to live your dreams, and then it makes a clear connection with the cat legend of having nine lives available.”



The Gerg Group designed this bike called the Sharkr... I can't imagine why! The bike skeleton is on the outside made of carbon fiber that supports the engine, rider, and wheels. It possesses 140 horsepower and can get to 60 mph in 4 seconds! The latest tech, at the time, was LED's and an electromechanic push button gear shifter....



This bike has been around for 9 years but its still sleek looking for an electric design. Eco friendly options are becoming more popular and OCC built this bike for Siemens, the tech mogul. Its friendly toward the environment but will hit 100 MPH So gas guzzlers...step off!



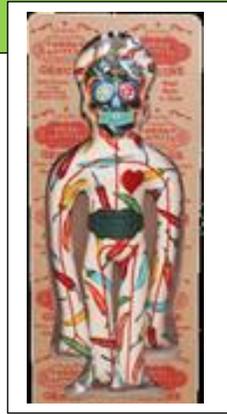
This alloy framed minimalistic design titled SWORDFISH is a concept bike by Alexander Kotlyarevsky. Lean, stark, and futuristic... not sure how they ride but it look awesome!



I can see myself tooling around on this... this cute Honda Cub Motorcycle is a concept vehicle by Sam Jilbert. It's a combination of 19th century bicycles and modern crotch rocket. Its eco friendly.. uses a hydrogen fuel cell! Its practical, an effective solution to modern day transportation issues, urban congestion and I bet this sucker would be easy to park!

This bike is 8 years old and I saw something similar in Italy in 2002. Dutch designer, Allert Jacobs' Aerocycle is a Fuel-Efficient Bike With a Fiberglass Casin. Three years in the making, the Aerocycle is a modified version of a Honda Innova 125i surrounded by steel tube frame and fiberglass shell. So the question you might be having is how to you get on this? It has a special door that slides forward to accommodate the rider.... What I find humorous is that it also has an interior lock system for security. I suppose it would prevent anyone from grabbing you by the head and yanking you out!. This \$5,000 prototype has other security.... It can hit 200 MPH! #seeyoulateralligator!





Charms, amulets, talisman are all part of the “good luck” club. We have bells on our bikes, angel medals pinned to jackets, some bikers have lucky 13 badges on their vests... M being the 13th letter of the alphabet & if you’re riding an Italian bike, 13 is very lucky!

I found this cool company that make dolls (don’t worry guys, they are “waaayyy butch”!) Dead Lucky 13 is the name of the place that make lucky items for bikers. From European Celtic traditions to Mexican sugar skulls (lucky and taste good too!), these iconic symbols are very recognized in pop culture.

Since ancient times, the skull has had multiple meanings. Celts used it for protection while other cultures associated it a s symbol for good luck, knowledge and change.

During Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, Mexicans decorate sugar shaped skulls in colorful patterns. The day is designed to honor the life of the deceased members of family, not the death. You’ll often see skulls at the tombs of loved ones. In biker terms, the skull of very prominent in tattoos, and is meant to symbolize good luck.

You have the choice of many different dolls each designed to bring fortune, or wisdom or wealth...the mojo behind the doll is chosen by you. They are limited editions inspired by ancestral beliefs , magic, and spirit. Hand crafted, natural materials are used in making these awesome gifts. You can look at them and chose the one you want by going to <http://deadlucky13>.



For wherever the road takes you!
 For Lady Luck.
 For your bike.
 For the biker, low rider or drifter.
 It might not be a Harley, but it’s still a freakin’ badass!

LOCKIEST GOOD LUCK TALISMANS!

*So, for those who are saying, well, what do I do with this?
 I’ve seen grown men with Barbie dolls riding on their bikes....
 Any other questions??*



MOTOLUCK



There are many people who believe in generating their own luck through superstitions and that holds true for bikers also.

I've got 2 bells on my bike and a third I haven't put on yet! I've got anti-gremlin power!

Here are some superstitions about the motorcycle world... believe it or not!

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

You'll hear about this superstition around Easter/Spring time. An actual religious practice, the blessing involves a religious individual and holy water. Now, for those Harley guys who can't handle a water mark anywhere on the bike, holy or not, maybe this isn't for you! (or bring a microfiber with you!) Holy water is for protection and being blessed by a priest... it is super, jazzed up, God liquid! even non religious people have their bikes blessed... can't hurt!

RIDING BELLS

I love these suckers, but I'm a bell nut. If you should come to my house, you have to fight through bell chains to get in my back door and I have windchimes and bells all inside too. They are chi shakers! Stirring up the good energy and warding off bad when ringing. Riding bells work the same way. It's said that little nasty evil spirits jump onto your bike and erode away at your good luck but if a bell rings, it makes them fall off....Another version has the tradition dating back to the Jackpine Gypsies Motorcycle Club and races held at Sturgis in the 1930's where, it is said, a bell was given to entrants to pin on their shirt as a token of entry.

A final version has the rider using the bell as a commemoration to a fallen friend. A brass bell is hung from the left side of the swing arm of the motorcycle. Each time the bike is cleaned, and the biker is bending down to polish the bell, they are reminded of their lost loved one.

It is said that a bell is only lucky if someone gives it to you.... Marketing ploy? I'm not sure, but I wouldn't buck it. If you want to show a biker that you care for them, give them a bell.

GREEN MOTORCYCLES

I devoted a whole page to this unlucky color because I found it to be really interesting reading, especially since I am a big fan of color psychology! Look on page 6 for this thought provoking read.

DEAD MAN'S BIKE

This creeps me out just saying it, but the story is that it's not about someone who died on their bike, it's about the spirit that still rides the bike in the sky and if he sees you on it, he'll knock you off! Same story also says, don't use the parts either! ... That kinda puts Mike and Frank's rusty gold bike finds in jeopardy, doesn't it.

RIDING WITH THE REAR PEGS DOWN

I was unfamiliar with this one. It seems that you should only have your rear pegs down if you are carrying a passenger. With the pegs down, it gives those evil gremlins a place to put their feet while riding around with you waiting to create havoc! That's why everyone should have a bell.... Kick those little suckers off!

Another version of this states that down pegs invites spirits to ride with them. If you are ever in a funeral procession for a fallen friend, it's said to leave your pegs down so the spirit can ride with you. Of course, you want to be careful who's spirit is riding with you! You get some crazy biker like Indian Larry on the back, who knows what'll transpire!

One of the more humorous reasons to keep the pegs up seems to be discouraging the "other half" from tagging along. This seems to be the rule of the guy who likes to go solo!

Continue on page 6.....

There seems to be a myth that green motorcycles and bad luck are correlated. You would think green and the luck of the Irish would debunk that idea, but it seems there are stories that add credence to this notion.

- Olive green painted WWII HD WLA bikes were refurbished from wartime to use for domestic use. They were so overused during the war, that even with revamping, they broke down on road.
- WLA's were used by messengers so German snipers made a point to shoot these riders who became easy targets on their green machines.
- Going back before WWII, British made racing motorcycles were painted green and often beat Harleys on the track... seems the bad luck of that tale stuck with Harley Davidsons.
- Green is also said to blend into the landscape to make it difficult to see.

As it turns out, the color green is associated with misfortune for centuries.. even beyond the invention of cars or motorcycles. This is where the psychology of color plays a part. Unripen fruit is connected with youth and inexperience. The term "greenhorn" or "green around the edges" are used to refer to someone unskilled or not ready... and put that together with motorcycling... not a good thing.

Green also is symbolized with jealousy and envy. "Green with envy" is common today but when Shakespeare talked about jealousy, he referred to it as the green-eyed monster.

Green also is used to illustrate sickness. If you look at your emojis on your phone, the sick one is always green. "Green around the gills" describes someone who looks nauseous. It also is used to describe spoiled food, mold, and other yuck like green swimming pools.... And you avoid these things like the plague!

It's just not motorcycles that are associated with bad luck due to the color green. Snopes.com says green cars also have this stigma. It is said that those cars are prone to develop mysterious trouble, strange rattles, knocks, and abrupt pulls to the road's edge, especially near concrete bridge abutments. (ooooohhh... Weird) The only accident I ever had was in a green Nova... ok...super weird!

Snopes also goes on to illustrate this superstition by pointing out that Mario Andretti never signs autographs with a green pen and that Joe Weatherly once removed his socks for a race because the rain turned them from blue to green.

Just some interesting, odd facts about luck!

Scott's Gadgets March 2018

Over the last year I have seen a number of posts from friends who have had their motorcycles and scooters stolen. I am sure that we all know someone who has been violated by vehicle theft. Some people say it is not a matter of "if", but "when" our motorcycle or scooters will be stolen.

A quick search this morning from an on-line accessory dealer indicated they carry 194 products to deter motorcycle theft. After looking at all of the offerings I came to the conclusion that the best defense may be the use of multiple deterrents. For example, a floor anchor and a chain work great in your garage but may be useless while traveling on the road.

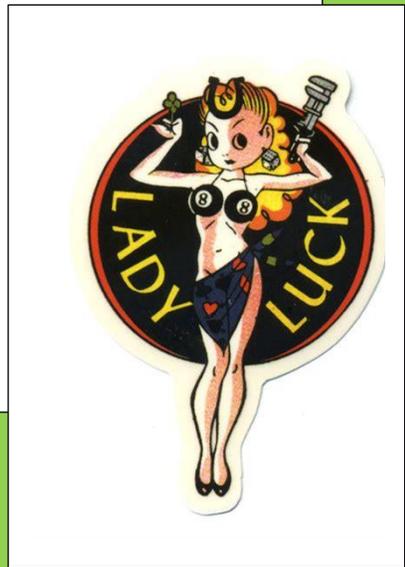
While on the road I use a combination of the bike fork lock and a disk brake lock. I must confess that on more than one occasion I have started the bike and pulled ahead only to be abruptly reminded that I forgot to take the disk lock off.

I ran across a new product called the GripLock. This unit is designed to fit over the right handlebar and brake lever. Once attached it applies the front brake until it is removed with its own unique key. The GripLock is constructed with hardened internal steel rods and it comes in eight Hi-Viz colors. It retails for \$64.98 at local retail outlets or on-line.

As suggested, I think we need multiple means to secure our bikes in given situations. This one may fit the bill for some of you.

Happy Motoring!

Do you believe in luck? Do you carry a lucky charm or a symbolic talisman to ward off evil and bring you good fortune? Many people do. Cultures around the world have developed signs and symbols that are believed to be lucky. Other symbols are thought to grant wishes or even heal the sick. There are also symbols for warding off evil and offering protection from curses. Good luck symbols come in many shapes, sizes, and forms. There are signs of good (or bad) luck in nature, including plants, animals, and insects. Many cultures believe that there are lucky objects, numbers, symbols, and gems. I'm including some of my favorites for you to consider if you decide to perhaps have them included on your bike or your riding clothing. Enjoy.....



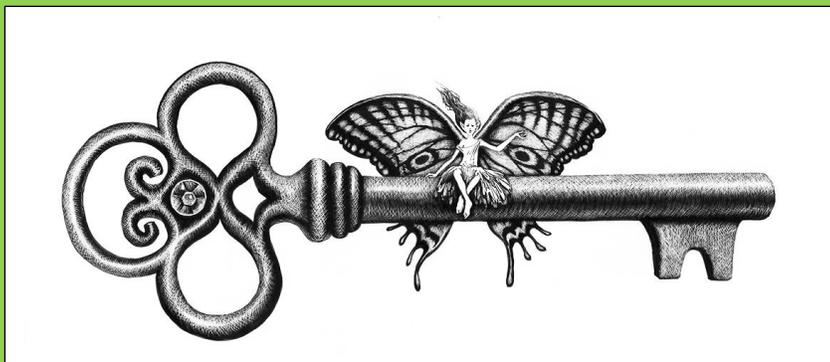
If you've ever looked closely at my bike, you'd see a dragonfly attached to my gas cap. Dragonflies are a lucky insect. As a creature of the wind, the dragonfly represents change. As a creature of the water, they represent the subconscious, or "dream" state. Other symbolic meanings associated with dragonflies are prosperity, strength, courage, peace, harmony, and purity.



Coins are lucky in many ways. There is a saying: "See a penny, pick it up and all day long you'll have good luck. Leave it there and you'll despair." Some take that idea further, and believe that if the coin is face down then it's best to leave it on the ground. Coins that are bent or have holes in them are luckiest of all, especially if they turn up as change after making a purchase. The luck of such coins is enhanced if they are carried in a left pocket or worn around the neck.

A key is among the most important symbols of luck. It is also one of the oldest of charms. A key given as a gift between lovers is considered a symbol of unlocking the door to the heart. It is believed that the giver will be lucky in love. The Greeks and Romans believed keys represented the "Key of Life," which had the power to unlock the door through which prayers reached the gods. It was also used to promote remembrance of things past and foresight for things to come. The ancients attached special significance to keys made of silver, the metal sacred to the goddess Diana. She was the protector of doorways and thresholds, as well as the special guardian of mothers-to-be. In Japanese culture, three keys tied together are considered a powerful lucky charm. They enable the wearer to unlock the doors that lead to love, health, and wealth. According to the gypsies of Eastern Europe, a door key with a metal ring attached will ensure a good night's sleep, if it is hung upside down over the bed. It can also prevent nightmares.

I take this lucky penny thing to a different level as pennies from heaven surely means it's from my father who passed away 20 years ago. Quick story... Jeff and I were riding to Myrtle Beach and we hit a stretch of road that was a straight shot to the city, however we had clouds that were beyond ominous... I was thinking tornado...so we found a closed elementary school and rode up as close as we could get to the front doors under a vestibule. As I put down my kickstand, there was a penny right next to it. What my dad didn't mention is that my pipes set off a security sensor and within minutes we were in the presence of officers... but, as luck would have it, there wasn't a tornado and the cops were very understanding being it was raining cats and dogs!



Mountain Wheelin'

General Membership Meetings:

1st Tuesday of the month – Dinner at 6:30 PM at Billy's Diner, Rt. 611, Tannersville, PA

3rd Sunday of the month – Breakfast at 8:30 AM followed by meeting at 9:30AM at Billy's Diner, Rt. 611, Tannersville, PA

