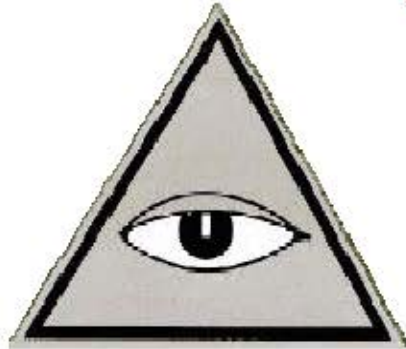
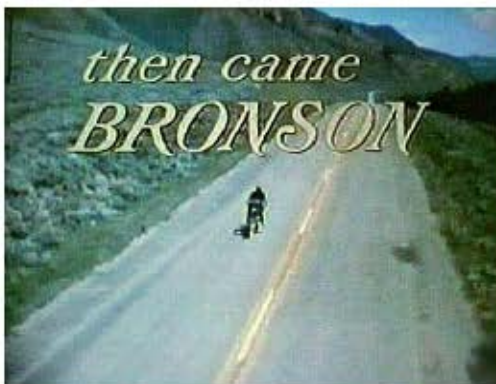


# Bronson's Garage



## Reunions & Anniversaries

2008 - 2012



# The Bronson Gazette

All news articles can be view in their entirety at  
[http://www.jimbronson.com/news/TCB\\_Gazette\\_Archive.htm](http://www.jimbronson.com/news/TCB_Gazette_Archive.htm)

**The First Union 27 - 28 June 2008**  
**Pickerington, Ohio**





In the fall of 2007 Mike and Greg met through the Internet with Mike's launching of the website Jim Bronson.com. Greg explained that he would love to have his motorcycle placed into a motorcycle magazine. Mike figured that this was pretty easy so he sent off a couple of e-mails to several magazines. Almost immediately Ironworks magazine responded and within several months an article was written and Greg's Bronson replica bike was a feature story in the April 2009 edition.

When the curators of the American Motorcycle Association's Museum in Pickerington Ohio saw the article in Ironworks magazine featuring Greg's replica Bronson bike they contacted him to ask if he would be willing to loan his motorcycle to the museum for one year. The AMA Museum was putting together a year-long show about motorcycles in the movies. During the opening ceremonies in June of 2008; Mike, Greg, Billy, Bill, and Tom planned to meet and support Greg's showing of his Bronson bike on display inside the museum. This 1<sup>st</sup> Union of Bronson's Garage also included Rich and Jim, they were also long time "Bronson-ites" from the days of their youth.

At the opening ceremonies the host was film and TV star Perry King along with comedian actor Tom Arnold and the legendary Dan Haggerty. During this weekend at the museum began the formation of a bond between the Bronson's garage members that endures to this day.

AMA HALL OF FAME MUSEUM

## MotoStars Mojo

Celebrities meet motorcycles in new exhibit



The Bronsonites let Tom Arnold, Dan Haggerty and Perry King play with their Bronson replica bikes

by Ernie Copper

PICKERINGTON, OHIO, JUNE 27-28—"Do you mind if I turn the gas off?" actor Perry King asked as he climbed on one of several Bronson replica bikes parked outside the Hall of Fame Museum for a photo op. "You left it on," he added. That solidified the notion that many of the principals in attendance at the museum's new exhibit "MotoStars: Celebrities + Motorcycles" are really just like us. They like bikes and they know bikes.

With roles in movies like *The Lords of Flatbush* and TV's *Riptide*, Perry King is comfortable with his inner celebrity, and made an excellent emcee for the events celebrating the opening of the MotoStars exhibit. Friday night kicked off with an Auction Gala, allowing those in atten-

Mark Mederski and exhibit curator David Morris mixed with the likes of Carl Morrow from Carl's Speed Shop, Rod Woodruff of The Buffalo Chip, Dan Haggerty, and Tom Arnold, just to drop a few names. Celebrity status as far as this exhibit is concerned can be reached one of five ways: Achievers, Sports, Music, Stage and Screen and Motorsports.

Friday night's auction items ran the gamut from a new Epiphone Les Paul Special II guitar autographed by country superstar Keith Urban, to a five-foot-tall Joe Cool (Snoopy) Motocross statue. Proceeds benefited various charities.

autographed Michele Smith custom pants would have brought far more at a bike rally around 2:00 a.m. The Gala wrapped up at about 10:00 that night.

I headed for a nearby Mexican restaurant for a snack following the gala, meeting up with other mototypes Mike Seate, Sara Liberte and R.T. from North Hills Cycle, and Tattoo Duke and Amy from *Cycle Source Magazine*. Sara has several pieces of her artwork on display at the museum along with a custom bike built by her and partner Ron Tonetti for Barrett Brooks, a member of the Super Bowl-winning '03 Steelers.

Saturday morning gave me a chance to learn more about the roughly 50 bikes in the exhibit and to learn more about the owners, past and present. For a while it was like "six degrees of separation." Carl Morrow displayed his Bonneville bike and owned the building where Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, whose trike was on display, started *Choppers Magazine*. Von Dutch, who hung out at that building, restored the 1929 Scott Super Squirrel which was once owned by Steve McQueen. These are the threads that make up a very rich fabric of modern motorcycling celebrity.

Fans waited for the official ribbon cutting ceremony, and here lies the genius of the exhibit. The intention was

to expose a crossover group of fans who follow the diverse celebrities represented to motorcycling's heritage, and I saw the idea work firsthand. One excited fan wearing a vintage Rush T-shirt was ready to burst with excitement when he saw Rush drummer Neil Peart's drum kit on display. "There it is!" he exclaimed, and that's exactly the effect those who planned the exhibit had hoped for, exposing new visitors to the history of motorcycling. While checking out the drum kit, that fan was ultimately being exposed to Peart's BMW.

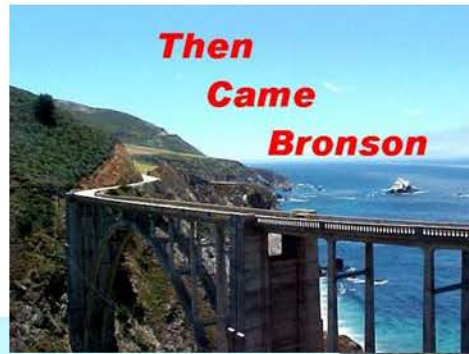
A unique panel discussion led by Perry King featured Carl Morrow, builders Austin Weiss and Sara Liberte, Tom Arnold, Dan Haggerty and stunt performers Gary Davis and Debbie Evans. The builders shared their passion for motorcycles and the stunt people shared tales that included motorcycle icons Steve McQueen and Bud Ekins. Davis fondly remembered a slow day for Steve McQueen when he came to work for Davis as a stuntman because he was bored, and the great actor was paid scale!

Haggerty recounted the story of motorcycling's Holy Grail, the Captain America bike from the movie *Easy Rider*. According to Haggerty, one of the two Captain America bikes that he helped build for the movie was stolen, dismembered and never recovered, while the other, a movie "double" bike, was in his possession. It had been damaged during the final scene of the movie and thus left behind by the thieves. Haggerty has since sold the bike, but wishes he had it back. He reviewed the *Easy Rider* replica on display at the

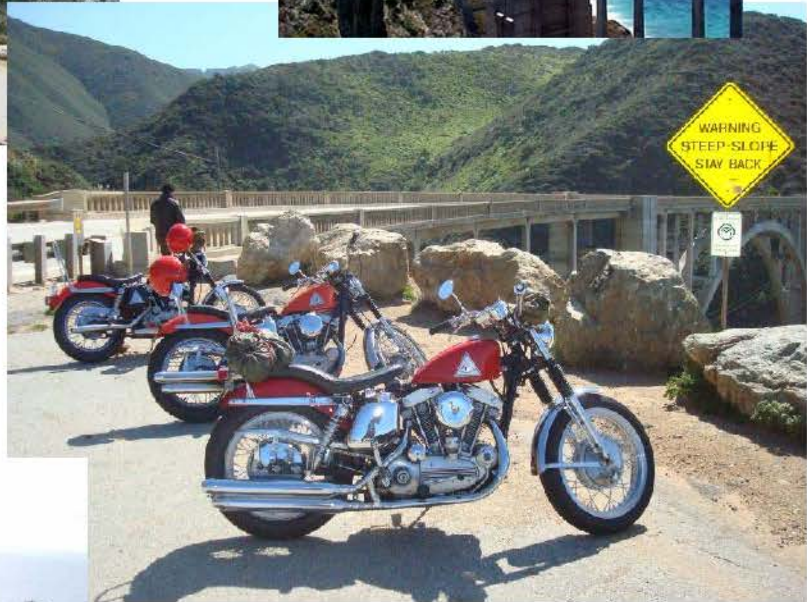


**40<sup>th</sup>**

# ANNIVERSARY 2009 BIXBY CREEK BRIDGE RIDE



On 24 March 2009, Mike invites Billy from Maryland and Don from Texas to join him at the Bixby Creek bridge on scenic Highway 1 on California's coast.



40 years to the day of the pilot movie's film debut on television in 1969, the three Amigos enjoyed the beautiful weather of the California coast and rode their Bronson replica bikes back and forth across the Bixby Creek Bridge to re-create the opening scene of Then Came Bronson.

During the day other Bronson enthusiasts showed up to enjoy the memories from 1969 and talk about the old days.

Several participants rode their motorcycles from as far away as Seattle and Los Angeles. The Bixby Creek Bridge is located 150 miles south of San Francisco.



# Harley-Davidson Celebrates A Birthday

July 11-12, 2009, Bronson's Garage was officially invited by the Harley Davidson



Museum to display their Bronson bikes as part of the One Year Birthday Celebration of the museums opening in the summer of 2008. The bikes were displayed in the Rumble Room and hundreds of TCB fans filed past the six 1969/70 Sportster 833 replicas and one Sprint stunt bike replica during the two day exhibit.

After 40 years Harley-Davidson has honored the memory of Jim Bronson and his bike. Imagine this: rolling your own personal bike up the elevator and past the many decades of H-D bikes along the walkways to the Rumble Room, and then show it off for two full days under the H-D seal of approval. This was truly a milestone in the recognition for the role Bronson played in keeping the H-D image and brand alive during the troubled decade of the 1970's. Nostalgic visitors and also the younger generation were in awe of the 1969 and 1970 Sportster replicas. The largest collection of Bronson memorabilia was also on display.

After 40 years Harley-Davidson has



Mike, Billy, Bill, Tom, Greg and David line up for review under the H-D museum sign next to the museum's entrance.



# THEN CAME BRONSON 1ST RE-UNION

And The Official 40th Then Came Bronson Anniversary



Top row, left to right: [Vicki](#), [Don](#), [Birney](#) & Joyce, [Tom](#) and [Rich](#).

Bottom row: [Mike](#), [Bill](#), [Greg](#), [David](#), and [Billy](#).



As the weather cleared and blue skies covered the beautiful state of West Virginia, Bronson's Garage teamed up to present seven Bronson replica bikes during the weeklong festivities at MountainFest in Morgantown. Also in attendance that week was Birney Jarvis legendary newspaper reporter and motorcyclist who inspired Denne Bart Petitclerc to write a movie script and present it to MGM which was picked up for a movie in 1969. The pilot movie would inspire 26 TV episodes of Then Came Bronson.

At the MountainFest event, Bronson's garage placed their Bronson replica bikes into diorama scenes depicting the pilot movie and TV episodes.



Everyone's favorite was the opening scene from every TV episode where Jim Bronson talks with the daily commuter in a stationwagon at a stop light and is asked that the question: "Takin' a trip? .. Yeah... where to? ... Oh, I don't know, wherever I end up I guess... Man I wish I was you.... Really? Well hang in there!"

Don's bike.

With the wall mural of the Bixby Creek bridge Mike's bike comes forth on the pavement of Highway 1.



In the pilot movie Jim and Temple spend the night camping in a rainstorm and cook.

**(Temple) Where are the rest of the eggs?**

**(Bronson) Eggs, I'm Eatin' 'em...**

**(Temple) What about me? Don't I get to eat?**

**(Bronson)... Well it's like I said..... You don't work, you don't eat.**





Bill's Bike was used to create the "movie set" diorama.

Greg's Bike was placed so that guests could walk all the way around it, giving them a 360 degree view of a Bronson Bike.



Billy's Sprint Stunt Bike was set up jumping over the creek, like in "The Old Motorcycle Fiasco" episode 2 of the TV series.

The Bronson Garage guys displayed their combined memorabilia collection, making this the largest display of Bronson memorabilia ever in one place.



The governor of West Virginia recognizes Bronson's Garage and defines the attention they generate.



*State of West Virginia*  
*Joe Manchin III*  
*Governor*

Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Telephone: (304) 558-2000  
Toll Free: 1-888-438-2731  
FAX: (304) 342-7025  
www.wv.gov.org

October 23, 2009

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I want to thank you for the nice letter regarding my office and the Division of Tourism with MountainFest.

MountainFest is such a wonderful event, showcasing the excitement of riding motorcycles and the beauty of the Mountain State. I am so proud of our commitment to this event and look forward to attending again soon. I also appreciate all the hard work of Commissioner Betty Carver and all the employees of the Division of Tourism for their dedication to not only MountainFest, but to all of the fantastic events across our state.

Thank you again for writing. Please express my appreciation to all the "Bronsonites." If I can be of further assistance for any reason, do not hesitate to contact my office.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III  
Governor

cc: Betty Carver

American Iron Magazine recognizes Bronson's garage.

EVENT BY JOE KNEZEVIC

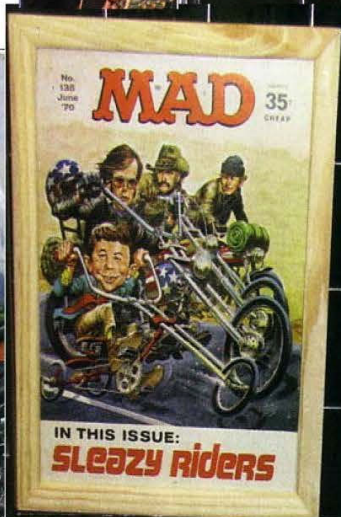
# MOUNTAINFEST MOTORCYCLE RALLY

*West Virginia plays host to something wild and wonderful*

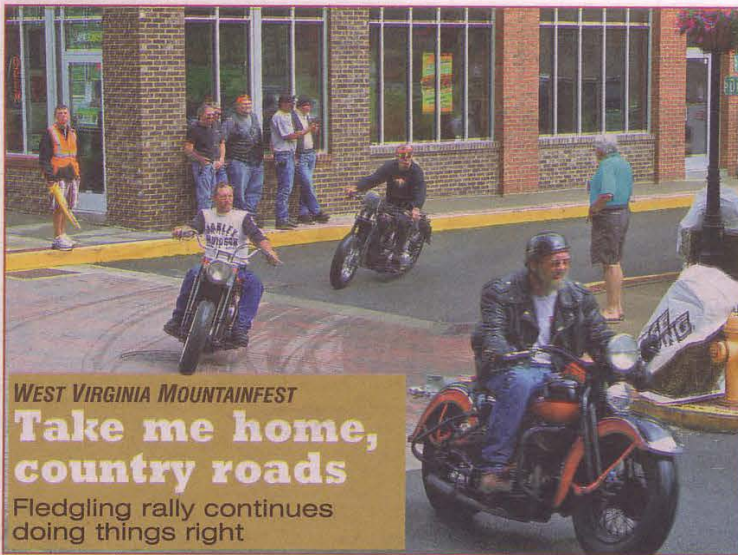
experienced was a first-class, four-day blowout that rivals any of the big national rallies I've experienced. Between Mylan Park and the sponsoring dealer, Triple S Harley-Davidson, ([www.TripleSHarley-Davidson.com](http://www.TripleSHarley-Davidson.com)), there were tons of shows and activities. A highlight was the awesome vintage bike show put together by Tom Mckee and his friends. Many of these bikes were not just on display, but were also put into mock settings that rival any permanent motorcycle museum exhibit I've seen. The Bronsonites, an obsessed group of folks, took the cake with a *Then Came Bronson* display that celebrated the TV show's 40th anniversary.

There was plenty of live music, the headliner being country superstar Travis Tritt, who played a whole show rather than just a few songs like so many other bands I've seen at biker rallies. On the last day of the event, participants were treated to the MountainFest Vintage Grand Prix featuring vintage bikes racing through Morgantown's Wharf District. That was in addition to the regular MountainFest Parade of Bikes, which is quite a sight itself.

So, if all that isn't enough to get you to attend, I feel it's my duty to mention that Morgantown has been recognized as one of the best small cities in the United States. MountainFest and its host town are conveniently located at the intersection of Interstate 79 and Interstate 68, and are surrounded on all sides by motorcycle-friendly roads. And it's really not far from many of us. In fact, within a 500-mile radius of Morgantown, you'll discover that about one-half of the US' population and one-third of Canada's fall into that circle.



# The motorcycle newspaper Thunder Press recognizes Bronson's Garage and Birney



**WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINFEST**  
**Take me home,**  
**country roads**  
 Fledgling rally continues  
 doing things right

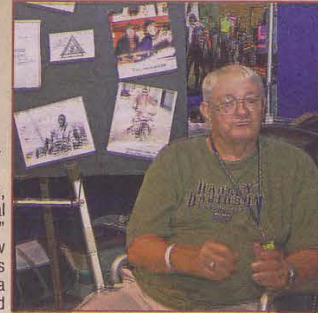
Vintage Racers Parade Lap  
 by Ernie Copper

MORGANTOWN, W.V., JULY 23–26—Five years ago I heard a radio ad for a new event called Mountainfest. Like a lot of people, I wasn't even sure what a "Mountainfest" was, but was pleasantly surprised when I checked it out. It turned out that Mountainfest was the best first-year event I'd ever attended. And it gets better every year.

Mountainfest is a nonprofit corporation that benefits the community in and around Morgantown, West Virginia. Its beneficiaries include Mylan Park, the primary venue for Mountainfest, and other area charities. They're not just feathering their own nest, either. Fifteen years ago, the area that is now Mylan Park was an

active surface mine. Today it's a 320-acre, nonprofit recreational/educational complex with a new 53,000-square-foot facility, the Hazel and J.W. Ruby Community Center. This unique relationship provides motivation that plays a vital role in the success of Mountainfest. The innovative effort was recognized by an award from the West Virginia Division of Tourism/Community Development in 2008.

This unique partnership helps provide the motivation that community businesses need to support the event, and leads to some amazing accomplishments. For starters, a four-day Mountainfest wristband is just 10 bucks and that includes headline acts like Travis Tritt and a host of other performers. It also includes access to one of the most creative vintage bike displays ever seen. Tom Mckee and friends put together an exhibit that rivals the quality of many permanent displays: military displays complete with artillery, camouflage netting and machine guns; Jack Wells' one-man, 17-bike BMW display; a vintage motocross display complete with real dirt and starting gate; and an oversized photo backdrop of London's ACE Cafe for displaying the



Birney Jarvis, the original "Bronson" explains how his experiences became a legend

British bikes—impressive machines in impressive settings.

If that's not enough, a close-knit group of friends now known as "Bronsonites" celebrated the 40th anniversary of the movie and TV show *Then Came Bronson*. They all own Bronson replica bikes which were displayed in multiple vignettes, including the famed Bixby Creek

Bridge, a soundstage, a bike jump and the hill climb. Even the opening scene from the TV series featuring Bronson pulling alongside an average businessman driving a station wagon, who expresses his desire to be like Bronson, seeing the country on his bike, was recreated. There was also a drive-in movie theater, complete with a VW Love Bug and a Corvair. What was playing? *Then Came Bronson*, of course!

ONLINE AT

**thunderpress.net**



CLICK ON "INTERNATIONAL FEMALE RIDE DAY" ON OUR HOMEPAGE, AND CHECK OUT KAREN DAVIDSON AND JILLIAN MICHAELS OF "THE BIGGEST LOSER" ON A VISIT TO BERGEN COUNTY H-D IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL FEMALE RIDE DAY ON MAY 1.

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The Bronson effect inspired many to take up riding in the late '60s and early '70s. Michael Parks, the star of TCB, wasn't available but that led to a guest that was even better—Birney Jarvis, the man whose real-life experiences were the basis for the TCB screenplay. Just like Jim Bronson, Birney worked for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and his motorcycle trip was the movie's inspiration. Now 80 years old, Birney provided autographs, told stories and shook hands all weekend. To find out more about this group and their intense dedication to the Long Lonesome Highway, visit [www.jimbronson.com](http://www.jimbronson.com).



Ryan Capes' 200 foot Ramp-to-dirt jump

The Mountainfest Vintage Grand Prix is a one-of-a-kind event—a free exhibition race through a course in Morgantown's Wharf District featuring tank-shift Harleys and Indians, European and Brit bikes and other vintage imports. Unfortunately rain dampened the streets Sunday morning and the event was more exhibition and less race than usual, but it still allowed fans and racers to see old bikes move while smelling and hearing them, too. By putting safety first and taking it easy, these racers helped insure the unique opportunity will still exist for years to come. This spirit of co-operation helps make Mountainfest special.

Vintage rides were also held on Friday and Saturday. Road Captain Andy Lindsay told me each ride had about 40 participants and Saturday's ride took about six hours! These are real enthusiasts riding everything from Harleys to BMWs on the area's best roads.

See "Mountainfest," page 23, column 1

The local Morgantown newspaper gives recognition to Bronson's Garage memorabilia display and the seven Bronson replica bikes.

# Bronson memorabilia



PHOTO BY DANNY SNYDER

Tom Hansen of Little Rock, Ark., is shown with a 1969 Harley-Davidson Sportster that he bought and rebuilt to match the one ridden by Jim Bronson, the lead character in the 1969 TV show, "Then Came Bronson." The MountainFest Motorcycle Rally in Morgantown was celebrating the show's 40th anniversary, including with several replica motorcycles and the screening of the show's pilot movie, at the Vintage Motorcycle Display.

## Past comes alive at MountainFest Motorcycle Rally

BY MARY WADE BURNSIDE  
TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

MORGANTOWN — Forty years ago, 13-year-old Tom Hansen was at his parents' house, channel surfing the old-fashioned way — manually — through the four channels offered on television at the time.

"I was two and a half feet away from the TV, and it was a little after 9," said

Hansen, a motorcycle aficionado who lives in Little Rock, Ark. "I changed the TV to NBC, and I saw a guy riding a motorcycle and I got hooked. The rest is history."

The show Hansen saw was "Then Came Bronson," and the "history" part started the teen's love affair with motorcycles that 40 years later landed him at the 2009 MountainFest Motorcycle Rally at Mylan Park in Morgantown.

He was there baby-sitting two 1969 Harley-Davidson Sportster motorcycles he had "built" — essentially, changed into replicas of the one ridden by the short-lived TV show's hero, Jim Bronson, a disillusioned newspaper reporter who set out on America's highways to make the world a better place.

SEE MOUNTAINFEST, PAGE 6A



As a prequel to MountainFest 2009; Billy and Greg's Bronson replica bikes were on display at Triple "S" Harley-Davidson in Morgantown for two weeks prior to the event.



Billy's 1970 Harley-Davidson 350 cc Sprint was also on display at Triple "S" Harley-Davidson. The Sprint was used in many of the stunt and action scenes during the filming, through modifications made by Bud Ekins. The bike was made to look like a Sportster.

