

# —CANOPY— ROAD Cruisers

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION



GWRRR Region A  
FLI-A2  
Established 1982

The official publication of the GWRRR Canopy Road Cruisers, Tallahassee, Florida 32303 March 2004

## CD Goldline



## THANKS !!

I want to extend a great big THANK YOU to all that helped in making this years rally another success! After last years terrible weather, we deserved the beautiful weather this year. There is always a lot of planning and coordinating prior to this event, but it's worthwhile because we always have a good time!

As I mentioned in the February meeting, I will be relinquishing the Chapter Director spot to Lenton and Leucetia Stephens in June. I'm sure all of you will support them as you have with me. This is probably one of the easiest chapters in the state to be a leader because of the great members we have. I'm looking forward to helping Lenton be successful in his leadership role, as Charles Couch has with me.

With this months issue, we are looking at spring right around the corner and some great riding weather. Don't forget our annual spring campout/cookout next month on the 17th and our trip to Alabama the first weekend in May to visit the Barber Motorcycle Museum.

Ride Safe,  
*Hugh*  
Chapter Director

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Positions available: contact Hugh to get involved!

## Highlights

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**Next Chapter Meeting:**  
**Golden Corral**  
**March 11, 2004**  
**6:30 Eat, 7:30 Meet**



Lenton Stephens and Vanessa Shivers pick out winning tickets for the Door Prizes.

## What You Missed

### February Meeting Highlights

**-The** upcoming Rally was the main topic of conversation.

**-Charles Couch** talked about the trip to the Barber Museum that has been planned for months and the need for making your reservations for a motel.

**-Hugh** and Chapter Members were surprised by Marcy, Lauren, Emily & Kirstie with a big birthday cake for Hugh. It almost slipped right by us!

**-The** Florida District Rally is March 18-20. Hugh has dollar tickets for the GoldWing that is being raffled off. The proceeds are used for Rider Education. A flyer can be downloaded here: <http://home1.gte.net/eeporter/District%20Flyer.pdf>

**-We** talked about the Poker Run and showed the packets that will be used for this event. (It worked out fairly well, but I've already started making improvements as per others suggestions and what I learned from doing it this time.)

**-Bob Lumsden** won the 50/50 and gave the money back to the chapter. Thanks Bob!

Wishing you wonderful rides!



## March Birthdays

Michael Mayer	03/01
Leucetia Stephens	03/02
Marvin Culverson	03/03
Jo Nell Culverson	03/05
Mary Lee Rouse	03/05
Carol Ergenbright	03/06
Ann Lumsden	03/08
Mattie Lussier	03/09
Sheila West	03/12
Wayne Parmer	03/24
Faith Martin	03/26
Richard Lussier	03/31

## April Birthdays

Emily & Kirstie Waller	04/02
Frank McKenzie	04/04
Cliff Mathis	04/12
Janice Gargus	04/21
Wayne Hicks	04/24
Bob Lumsden	04/30

## March Anniversaries

Wayne & Belinda Hicks 03/30

## April Anniversaries

Greg & Carolyn Campbell	04/09
Arnold & Mary Watts	04/14
Wesley & Vanessa Shivers	04/21
Gus & Donna Daniels	04/23
Ken & Mary Lee Rouse	04/24

## March Re-up

Sunny Andrews

## Motorcycle Wisdom

**-Everyone crashes.** Some get back on. Some don't. Some can't.



## Barber Museum Roadtrip

### Barber Motorsports Museum Trip

This will be held April 30 – May 2. We will depart from #1 (Hardee's Lake Jackson) at 9:00 AM, April 30, 2004 for Leeds, Alabama. We will be stopping around every 100 miles for gas and rest breaks. We should cruise up there mid to late afternoon.

Those who want to go and have not already confirmed reservations with me at the Days Inn in Leeds should call and make your own reservations ASAP. If you desire to stay at the Days Inn, call (800)329-7666 or (205)699-9833. Other area motels are the Guesthouse International Inn (800)214-8378 or (205)702-2700, and Comfort Inn (800)228-5150 or (205) 640-6600. For those who want to stay at 29 Dreams Motorcycle Campground, call (205) 672-0309.

We will visit the museum on Saturday, May 1st after breakfast. Admission is \$10 per adult and opens at 10:00 AM central time. After visiting the museum, we can do a scenic ride that afternoon and perhaps eat at the ARK Restaurant which has fabulous seafood and is rated among the top 5 catfish restaurants in the USA.

We will leave Sunday morning, May 2nd after breakfast for Tallahassee. Again, it is stressed that you make reservations ASAP if you have not already done so. Please call Charles Couch if you need any additional information or should you have any questions.

### Don't forget to ASK FIRST!

Sometimes in my enthusiasm and rush to get something great for our Newsletter, I occasionally have to remember to take the time to get **written permission** to use material. Because we don't make any profit from our newsletters, most of the things we use like clipart are just fine and can be used in a little newsletter like ours without worry about legal ramifications. But it's always a good idea to check first. The internet has been a mixed blessing. It's a great way to find information, but it's too easy to use whatever we find without a second thought. I'm glad I took the time to check with Mr. Meyer. He is a published author and his book publisher requires that certain information accompany any re-printed excerpts. As Newsletter Editors we have to remember, it is our responsibility to understand the copyright requirements of materials we wish to use. More information on Intellectual Property/Copyright Laws can be found at: <http://www.copyright.gov/>  
Information on ASK FIRST! can be found at: [http://www.gag.org/about/ask\\_first.php](http://www.gag.org/about/ask_first.php)





# Neighborhood Hazard

(or: Why the Cops Won't Patrol Brice Street) by Daniel B. Meyer

I never dreamed slowly cruising through a residential neighborhood could be so incredibly dangerous!

Studies have shown that motorcycling requires more decisions per second, and more sheer data processing than nearly any other common activity or sport. The reactions and accurate decision making abilities needed have been likened to the reactions of fighter pilots! The consequences of bad decisions or poor situational awareness are pretty much the same for both groups too.

Occasionally, as a rider I have caught myself starting to make bad or late decisions while riding. In flight training, my instructors called this being "behind the power curve". It is a mark of experience that when this begins to happen, the rider recognizes the situation, and more importantly, does something about it. A short break, a meal, or even a gas stop can set things right again as it gives the brain a chance to catch up.

Good, accurate, and timely decisions are essential when riding a motorcycle...at least if you want to remain among the living. In short, the brain needs to keep up with the machine.

I had been banging around the roads of east Texas and as I headed back into Dallas, found myself in very heavy, high-speed traffic on the freeways. Normally, this is not a problem, I commute in these conditions daily, but suddenly I was nearly run down by a cage that decided it needed my lane more than I did. This is not normally a big deal either, as it happens around here often, but usually I can accurately predict which drivers are not paying attention and avoid them before we are even close. This one I missed seeing until it was nearly too late, and as

I took evasive action I nearly broadsided another car that I was not even aware was there!

Two bad decisions and insufficient situational awareness...all within seconds. I was behind the power curve. Time to get off the freeway.

I hit the next exit, and as I was in an area I knew pretty well, headed through a few big residential neighborhoods as a new route home. As I turned onto the nearly empty streets I opened the visor on my full-face helmet to help get some air. I figured some slow riding through the quiet surface streets would give me time to relax, think, and regain that "edge" so frequently required when riding.

*Little did I suspect...*

As I passed an oncoming car, a brown furry missile shot out from under it and tumbled to a stop immediately in front of me. It was a squirrel, and must have been trying to run across the road when it encountered the car. I really was not going very fast, but there was no time to brake or avoid it—it was that close.

I hate to run over animals...and I really hate it on a motorcycle, but a squirrel should pose no danger to me. I barely had time to brace for the impact.

Animal lovers, never fear. Squirrels can take care of themselves!

Inches before impact, the squirrel flipped to his feet. He was standing on his hind legs and facing the oncoming Valkyrie with steadfast resolve in his little beady eyes. His mouth opened, and at the last possible second, he screamed and leapt! I am pretty sure the scream was squirrel for, "Banzai!" or maybe, "Die you gravy-sucking, heathen scum!" as the leap was spectacular and he flew over the windshield and impacted me squarely in the chest.

Instantly he set upon me. If I did not know better I would have sworn he brought twenty of his little buddies along for the attack. Snarling, hissing, and tearing at my clothes, he was a frenzy of activity. As I was dressed only in a light t-shirt, summer riding gloves, and jeans this was a bit of a cause for concern. This furry little tornado was doing some damage!

Picture a large man on a huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a t-shirt, and leather gloves pattering maybe 25mph down a quiet residential street...and in the fight of his life with a squirrel. *And losing.*

I grabbed for him with my left hand and managed to snag his tail. With all my strength I flung the evil rodent off the left of the bike, almost running into the right curb as I recoiled from the throw.

That should have done it. The matter should have ended right there. It really should have. The squirrel could have sailed into one of the pristinely kept yards and gone on about his business, and I could have headed home. No one would have been the wiser.

But this was no ordinary squirrel.

This was not even an ordinary pissed-off squirrel.

This was an evil attack squirrel of death!

Somehow he caught my gloved finger with one of his little hands, and with the force of the throw swung around and with a resounding thump and an amazing impact he landed square on my back and resumed his rather anti-social and extremely distracting activities. He also managed to take my left glove with him!

The situation was not improved. Not improved at all. His attacks were



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continuing, and now I could not reach him.

I was startled to say the least. The combination of the force of the throw, only having one hand (the throttle hand) on the handlebars, and my jerking back unfortunately put a healthy twist through my right hand and into the throttle. A healthy twist on the throttle of a Valkyrie can only have one result. Torque. This is what the Valkyrie is made for, and she is *very, very* good at it.

The engine roared as the front wheel left the pavement. The squirrel screamed in anger. The Valkyrie screamed in ecstasy. I screamed in...well...I just plain screamed.

Now picture a large man on a huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a slightly squirrel torn t-shirt, and only one leather glove roaring at maybe 70mph and rapidly accelerating down a quiet residential street...on one wheel and with a demonic squirrel on his back. The man and the squirrel are both screaming bloody murder.

With the sudden acceleration I was forced to put my other hand back on the handlebars and try to get control of the bike. This was leaving the mutant squirrel to his own devices, but I really did not want to crash into somebody's tree, house, or parked car. Also, I had not yet figured out how to release the throttle...my brain was just simply overloaded. I did manage to mash the back brake, but it had little affect against the massive power of the big cruiser.

About this time the squirrel decided that I was not paying sufficient attention to this very serious battle (maybe he is a Scottish attack squirrel of death), and he came around my neck and got IN my full-face helmet with me. As the faceplate closed partway and he began hissing in my face I am quite sure my screaming changed tone and intensity. It seemed to have little affect on the squirrel however.

The rpm's on *The Dragon* maxed out (I was not concerned about shifting at the moment) and her front end started to drop.

Now picture the large man on the huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a very ragged torn t-shirt, and wearing one leather glove, roaring at probably 80mph, still on one wheel, with a large puffy squirrel's tail sticking out his mostly closed full-face helmet. By now the screams are probably getting a little hoarse.

Finally I got the upper hand...I managed to grab his tail again, pulled him out of my helmet, and slung him to the left as hard as I could. This time it worked...sort-of. Spectacularly sort-of, so to speak.

Picture the scene. You are a cop. You and your partner have pulled off on a quiet residential street and parked with your windows down to do some paperwork.

Suddenly a large man on a huge black and chrome cruiser, dressed in jeans, a torn t-shirt flapping in the breeze, and wearing one leather glove, moving at probably 80mph on one wheel, and screaming bloody murder

roars by and with all his strength throws a live squirrel grenade directly into your police car.

I heard screams. They weren't mine...

I managed to get the big motorcycle under directional control and dropped the front wheel to the ground. I then used maximum braking and skidded to a stop in a cloud of tire smoke at the stop sign at a busy cross street.

I would have returned to fess up (and to get my glove back). I really would have. Really. But for two things. First, the cops did not seem interested or the slightest bit concerned about me at the moment. One of them was on his back in the front yard of the house they had been parked in front of and was rapidly crabbing backwards away from the patrol car. The other was standing in the street and was training a riot shotgun on the police cruiser.

So the cops were not interested in me. They often insist to "let the professionals handle it" anyway. That was one thing. The other? Well, I swear I could see the squirrel, standing in the back window of the patrol car among shredded and flying pieces of foam and upholstery, and shaking his little fist at me. I think he was shooting me the finger...

That is one dangerous squirrel. *And now he has a patrol car...*

I took a deep breath, turned on my turn-signal, made an easy right turn, and sedately left the neighborhood.

As for my easy and slow drive home? Screw it. Faced with a choice of 80mph cars and inattentive drivers, or the evil, demonic, attack squirrel of death...I'll take my chances with the freeway. Every time.

And I'll buy myself a new pair of gloves.

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"Neighborhood Hazard" is an excerpt from his new book "Life is a Road, Get on it and Ride" which is due out in late March or early April. For more information, visit: [Lifeisaroad.com](http://Lifeisaroad.com)  
Daniel B. Meyer is also the author of "Life is a Road, the Soul is a Motorcycle", published by iUniverse. The book is available everywhere online (Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, etc) or can be ordered at any bookstore. The book's website is <http://lifeisaroad.com>

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# WING DING 2003 by Pat Gordon

*Pat & George left Tallahassee, Florida, June 27th and headed for Wing Ding 2003 in Madison, Wisconsin. So far they have met some vendors from Hawaii heading for the Wing Ding festivities, weathered a thunderstorm, learned a lot about finding restaurants in Wisconsin, visited the "House on the Rock", bought goodies from the Wing Ding Vendors, enjoyed a concert by the Diamonds, toured the quaint Alpine town of New Glarus, and enjoyed an entertaining fireworks show. The next leg of the trip included the Michigan Dunes and Mackinaw Island, a visit to Valley Camp Museum and Fort Mackinac then headed for home.*



Wednesday, we were up at 6:00 to head South it was 52 degrees out. A cool front came through Tuesday afternoon. I put on two pair of pants and two jackets and was still cold. We tried to find a route south where it was not raining and flooding the way it had been the past few days south of Michigan. We drove to Saginaw and I 75 S., at Waterford we turned west on State Rd 59 to US 23 S. At Ann Arbor we stopped for lunch. We also stopped at Honda Dealer and Harley Dealer looking for rain shoes to go over our BMW riding boots. We continued west on I 94 to Jackson, and south on 127 to the Ohio state line at 5:30 pm, then West on US 20 to 576 South to Montpelier to see an old school friend of mine. We found her home easy enough in this small town, but she was not home and was not expecting us. From Montpelier we traveled south stopping in Hicksville for dinner. After traveling back country roads we weren't sure where we would find a place to eat and it was threatening rain so we stopped to put on Frog Toggs. It was another overcooked dinner at Hicksville. They sure named this town right. We didn't know we were so close to Ft. Wayne, or we would have waited to have dinner there. We stayed in Ft. Wayne for the night, so we could go to the Honda shop in the morning for a new head light which was burned out.

Thursday, July 10th, breakfast at Halls in Ft. Wayne, which was not far from the hotel. George remembered this restaurant from the trip last year

to Wing Ding. We had the best ham and cheese omelet we have ever had there. The Honda dealer, Ehlerding Motor Sports, was not open; we forgot we are back on the earlier time. We waited for the dealer to open. The manager was very nice and gave us great service. The upstairs of the dealers store was like a museum. There was a large display of vintage motorcycles, scooters, snow mobiles and miniature farm equipment. The headlight was under warranty so it didn't cost anything. We found a pair of clear goggles for me and totes (over shoes) for the rain. We were back on the road by 9:30 headed south on 469 to Interstate 69. Some cornfields were flooded and the Wabash River was over its banks. We passed Fairmont, Indiana the home of James Dean where there is a museum, but didn't have time to see it, we were trying to get out of Indiana before the afternoon storms hit.

The bypass around Indianapolis took for ever, and then road construction slowed us down just North of Kentucky. In Indiana the Waffle Houses are Waffle and Steak. We had to stop at one and find out the story. The waitress told us that when Waffle House wanted to come into Indiana, there was already a restaurant named Waffle House so they had to use the name of Waffle and Steak. The word steak has the same amount of letters as House, so they could use the existing signs and everything else looks the same.

Louisville, KY was the next city and we arrived near rush hour. We decided to take a state road to avoid the

traffic, but that was a mistake. The suburban commuters of Louisville travel far from town so the traffic was heavy. We decided to get back on I-65 to make up time. We spent the night outside of Nashville.

Friday we were up at 7:00 the requested 6:00 wake up call was not heard. Breakfast at the Waffle House and I called Mom at her sister Dorien's home to make sure they were not leaving for the day. Mom had been visiting friends in Nashville and family in Fayetteville. We visited with my relatives all day.

Saturday we were up early and had breakfast at Rachael's, where we usually eat on trips to Fayetteville. The morning sky was clear, the air was cool and the sun was shining. But by mid day it was very hot. We drove south through Alabama and arrived home that evening just before dark. I couldn't find the house keys which I had taken out of my purse to lighten my load during the trip and put them in one of the bags. We had to unload the trailer on the front porch and go through everything. Before I could find them George broke into the house by removing a small window air conditioner and crawling through the window.

After checking the mileage on the Goldwing we calculated that the trip was 3,760 miles.

We had a great time and avoided the bad weather most of the time. I do wish that the Wing Ding event was not held every year at the hottest time of the year. We already have our reservations and are looking forward to next year at Grapevine Texas.



## Rally Pix

*courtesy of Karen Share*

### More next month!



#### Above

Early birds line up for registration. Vanessa Shivers, Carolyn Campbell, Lucretia Stephens, Jim & Ferrell Graham, Charles Couch and Ray Henley sign 'em up and hand out lots of tickets.



#### Left

Hugh Waller explains the trickier parts of the Poker Run Map.



## Swap Shop\*\*

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**Kuryakyn triple exhaust extensions;** used, very good condition for GL1500  
**\$ 60.00**

**Stop and Go tire patch kit** - new  
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**Orville Sage custom windshield** for GL1500, tinted with large engraved eagle, with engraved wind wings, installed **\$ 175.00**

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Tallahassee, FL

#### FOR SALE: **NEW!**

**2000 Mazda-B-4000**

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Drk. Green - **\$ 9,500.00**  
Looks and runs like new!

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(850) 562-4542  
Tallahassee, FL

#### FOR SALE:

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Call Jerry Langley (850) 984-5618  
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**\$2,500.00**

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#### WANTED:

**Stock exhaust system for Valkyrie Tour**  
(561) 968-0535  
e-mail: patsea@bellsouth.net  
Pat Seadorf (Asst. District Director)

#### FOR SALE:

**2002 Suzuki VL800K2 Intruder**  
Blue/Black  
Windshield, Engine Guards, Footrest, Hard Saddle Bags, Chatter Box CB Radio  
**\$5,500.00**

Call Robert Riley  
(850) 682-4350  
Crestview, FL

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## Local Rallies and Events

### 2004

- March 11 Chapter Meeting-Golden Corral-Eat 6:30 PM-Meet 7:30 PM  
 March 18 R J's Catfish Pad-Lake Talquin Dam-Depart #2 at 6:30 PM  
 April 08 Chapter Meeting-Golden Corral-Eat 6:30 PM-Meet 7:30 PM  
 April 15 Nicholson's Farm House-Havana-Depart #1 at 6:30 PM  
 April 17 Spring Cookout-Pat Thomas Park, Lake Talquin  
 Lunch & Dinner-Camping available-Call Hugh for more Info.  
**April 30 Trip to Barber Museum, Birmingham, Alabama**  
**May 02 Return from Barber Museum Trip**  
 May 13 Chapter Meeting-Golden Corral-Eat 6:30 PM-Meet 7:30 PM  
 May 20 Homecoming-Thomasville-Depart # 6 at 6:30 PM  
 June 10 Chapter Meeting-Golden Corral-Eat 6:30 PM-Meet 7:30 PM  
 June 17 Julia Mae's in Carrabelle - Depart # 3 at 6:30 PM  
 July 08 Chapter Meeting-Golden Corral-Eat 6:30 PM-Meet 7:30 PM  
 July 15 Seineyard's in Woodville-Depart # 3 at 6:30 PM

\*\*If you received a Printed Calendar, please make the following changes to the List on the back. (The calendar part is correct.)

- March 18 - RJ's Catfish Pad (instead of April 8)  
 April 08 - Chapter Meeting

## Departure Points

- # 1: Hardees, N. Monroe
- # 2: Circle K, Highway 20 & Capital Circle
- # 3: Circle K, Crawfordville Highway & Capital Circle
- # 4: Chevron, Highway 98 - Woodville Highway
- # 5: CITGO, Hwy., 90 - I-10 east (Cross Creek)
- # 6: NEW Publix, Thomasville - Bradfordville Roads
- # 7: Pilot Truck Stop on Hwy 90 West (previously Williams)

## Other Community Events

- March 13 2nd Annual Jefferson County  
**Ride For Life Poker Run**  
 Monticello, FL  
 The Monticello Rotary Club and the Monticello Altrussa Club are sponsoring a Poker Run Saturday, March 13, 2004 to benefit the American Cancer Society. The run will start and end at the Sunnyside Convenience Store, 8.0 miles North of Monticello on U. S. 19. The route is entirely in Florida (approximately 110 miles). Entry fee is \$15.00 for rider and \$5.00 passenger (lunch included). Prizes for best and worst hands, 50/50, and lots of door prizes. First bike out at 10:00 AM. Last bike in at 2:00 PM. For more information, contact Dale or Margaret Boatwright. 850-997-5674, 850-933-7921 or 850-933-2585, or e-mail [cdboat.1@worldnet.att.net](mailto:cdboat.1@worldnet.att.net).

## Florida District & Regional Rallies

### 2004

FEB. 27 - MAR 6

FL1-H

The Goldwing Getaway  
 New Smyrna Beach

Mar. 18 - 20

Florida District Rally  
 Kissimmee  
*Grand Prize*  
*1800 GoldWing*  
 donated by Honda  
 of Leesburg

Apr. 1-3

Alabama District Rally  
 Madison

Apr. 3

FL1-B

Poker Run and Fun Day  
 Brandon

Apr. 17

FL1-R

Rally/Poker Run  
 Dunnellon

Apr. 24

FL1-X

Hug Contest & Poker Run  
 Orange Park

Apr. 24

FL1-D

Annual Submarine Races  
 Gulf Breeze

Apr. 29 - May 1

S. Carolina District Rally  
 Greenville

More Florida District  
 Information and Forms can  
 be found at:  
<http://home1.gte.net/eeperter/index.html>



Gold Wing Road Riders Association  
Hugh and Marcy Waller, Chapter Director  
1921 Harriet Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Friends For Fun,  
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Postage



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April Issue - March 25th  
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cc: Faith Martin,  
faith\_martin@comcast.net  
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version is provided as a PDF file and  
can be accessed on our website at  
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Thanks, Faith

# THE CYCLE SHOP

## Time Has Come.



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## THE CYCLE SHOP

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