

GPD's Roy Martin Roars Into Harley-Davidson Custom Bike Show

by Laura Lieff

For Harley fans all over the nation, the 110th Harley-Davidson Anniversary Celebration is a big deal and being invited as a custom builder is an even bigger deal. Chosen as one of 28 Harley motorcycle builders from across the country, Glendale Patrol Sergeant and professional custom Harley-Davidson builder Roy Martin will compete at the AMD (American Motorcycle Dealer) Invitational Custom Bike Show starting August 28 through September 1 at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"I was shocked and excited to hear that I was chosen because it's such a top honor to be invited to something like this," Martin says. "This is a milestone for me because just being invited to the anniversary celebration means so much." Martin will have two motorcycles in the competition.



Serve And Protect: Patrol Sergeant Roy Martin has been with the Glendale Police Department since 2001 and has gone through extensive law enforcement motorcycle training.

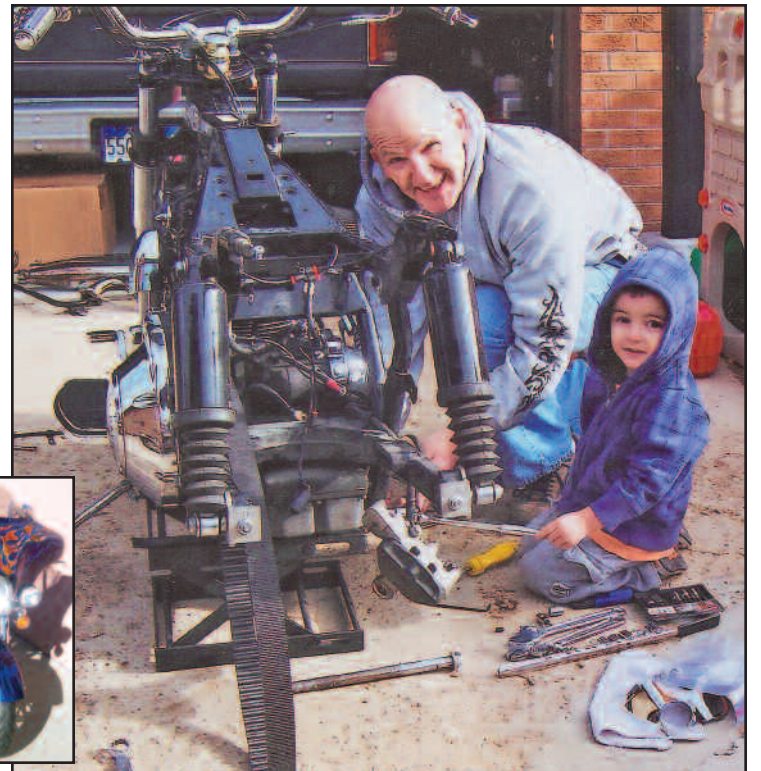
Over \$30,000 in cash and prizes is up for grabs at the invite-only show in four classes of bikes with the FreeStyle class winner securing a bid to the 2014 AMD World Championship in Essen, Germany. The Modified Harley winner takes home a Screamin' Eagle 120R High-Performance engine which has an approximate value of \$6,000.

In addition to the competitors, over 300,000 spectators are expected to come from all over the country to the iconic museum to celebrate the anniversary, witness the best of the best in custom builders and enjoy live music from 60 bands. The event's headlining acts include Aerosmith, Kid Rock and Toby Keith. Other notable acts include Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, ZZ Top, the Doobie Brothers, Cowboy Mouth, Bret Michaels, ZZ Ward, Lupe Fiasco and Buckcherry.

While Martin has been building Harleys for over 20 years, he says it takes a great deal of time, money and energy to put the bikes together and have them ready for competition. He also says the bikes he will be showing at the museum have taken several years to complete and can be sold for between \$30,000 and \$60,000 depending on what the customer wants. Additionally, if a custom builder wins a major show like the AMD Show, the price increases. Martin currently owns three custom bikes and plans to show them for a while unless someone makes an offer to buy them.

A Long Time Coming

Martin grew up dirt biking and got his start in the Harley world in 1992 when he bought his first brand new bike after being on a two-year waiting list. Two weeks later he had already taken it apart because he wanted to put his own spin on it. In 2001 he brought his machinist background to the Glendale Police Department and went through extensive law enforcement motorcycle training.



Works Of Art: Martin, who was chosen as one of 28 Harley motorcycle builders from across the country, will have two motorcycles in the invite-only competition.

Family Time: The next generation of motorcycle and car builders in the family is Martin's six-year-old grandson Adrijan who hangs out in the garage and helps.

"I trained with the Denver Police Department and learned a whole new skill set," Martin explains. "They showed me a completely different type of riding and taught me how to perform the job on a motorcycle in a safe manner."

Twelve years later he says he continues to enjoy his job and is glad to be involved in law enforcement.

"I always felt I could contribute to the community through law enforcement and since I grew up close to Glendale I'm thrilled to be part of this department," he says.

Counting Down

While Martin is fine-tuning his bikes, he is counting down to the weekend celebration. "I'm excited to see the Harley-Davidson museum and be around so many other Harley builders and people in the industry," Martin says. "It's going to be a great party with a lot of live music so I'm looking forward to that as well."

In addition to motorcycles, Martin also enjoys building and showing custom cars. He is currently working on a 1961 Chevy truck and had a Camaro, which garnered the most wins out of any Camaro west of the Mississippi, that he used to take to car shows across the country.

The Next Generation

Martin says that next generation of motorcycle and car builders in the family is his six-year-old grandson Adrijan and five-year-old granddaughter Atijana who

hang out in the garage and help. He notes that although his custom building hobby is expensive, his family is very supportive.

While Martin's invitation to compete as one of 28 builders in the AMD Custom Bike Show solidifies him as one of the top 28 Harley-Davidson builders in the country, he knows that with only four categories

and seven bikes per category, the competition will be tough.

"It's an automatic win just to be invited to this show," he says. "Customizing bikes is my passion and I'm thrilled to be celebrating a United States manufacturer that has been able to stay in business for over 100 years."

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