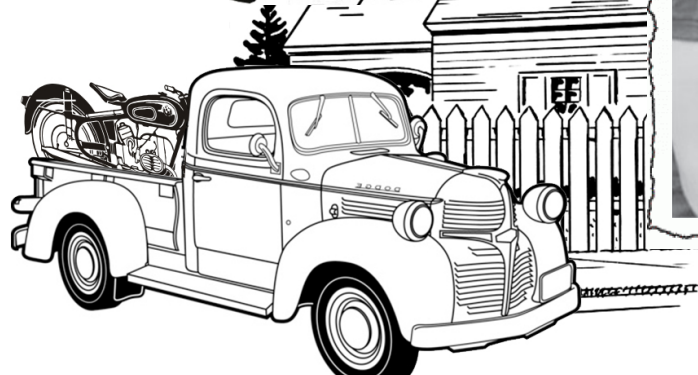
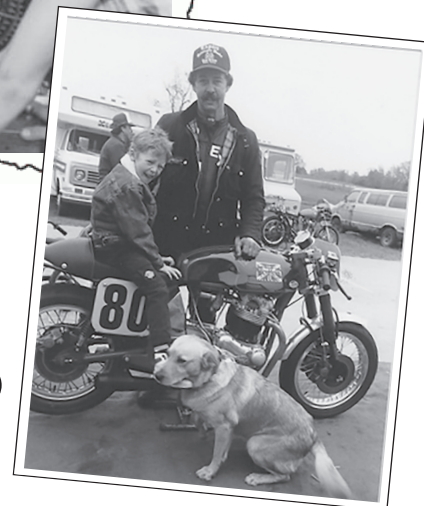




Racing families



(Left) John and a young Bob in the workshop.
(Below) Bob, Wes, and the family pet.
(Photos from Team Expert Photo Archives)



The Goodpasters

By Ron Melton

If you were lucky enough to be born on August 21st in 1928 as the gentleman named John Goodpaster, you would have been riding motorcycles for 75 years now. You would have picked-up your skills by test-riding motorcycles that were for sale, and you would have ridden your motorcycle to the Jack Pine Enduro, entered, won, and then used the same bike to get back home.

At one point someone would tell you there is a bike available that you can shift with your foot – “Wow, that would be nice!”

You would have become an amateur National Hare Scrambles Champion. Your son Bob would have dragged you to the AHRMA races where you started helping out by becoming a corner worker, then a grid marshal, a scorer and eventually head of tech inspections, ensuring the track was a safer place. Finally, the folks at AHRMA would figure out how sharp you are and make you the Race Director, running the whole show.

During this stint at AHRMA, you would wear-out four motorcycles, riding to every event you attended, leading to the AMA to naming you “Rider of the Year” in 2000...

John's accomplishments and accolades could fill a book, but I only get a couple of pages; I must mention that John served as an AHRMA Trustee for 12 years.

John handed the torch (and the racing

gene) down to son Bob Goodpaster, who was very ready to keep the family name in the winner's circles. Bob was a licensed pro flat tracker in the 1960s and rode on the main jet. He held an AMA pro motocross license, earning a State Championship and competing in the late-'60s Inter-Am

brawls. He racked-up eight or nine gold medals in the Six Days Enduro Qualifiers, and in 1977 rode on the factory Maico team with Barry Higgins and Lars Larsson.

In 1988, he showed up on the starting line for the roadrace at Steamboat Springs,



Colorado on the Norton 750. During his AHRMA life, Bob has won 10 National roadrace titles, served two terms as a Trustee, and is currently the Chairman of the Benevolent Committee.

Bob passed the “genetic seed for speed” to his son. Wes Goodpaster is a third-generation AHRMA racer and a fifth-generation Goodpaster iron worker, who was truly taught by the best. He was taught to win and that’s typically what he does at our roadrace tracks. Already an AHRMA National champion, Wes carries the bright Goodpaster family torch high...

You’ve probably noticed the photo of a baby on the seat of a Norton Commando. Yeah, well, that’s an early photo of now seven-year-old Ryder. ...born to be a racer from one of AHRMA’s great racing families. ▲



(Above) Four generations of Goodpasters: Wes, Ryder, Bob and John. (Below) Ryder Goodpaster, five days old. (Opposite bottom) Bob and Wes in the pits at Road America, 2017. (Photo by Al Koivisto)

