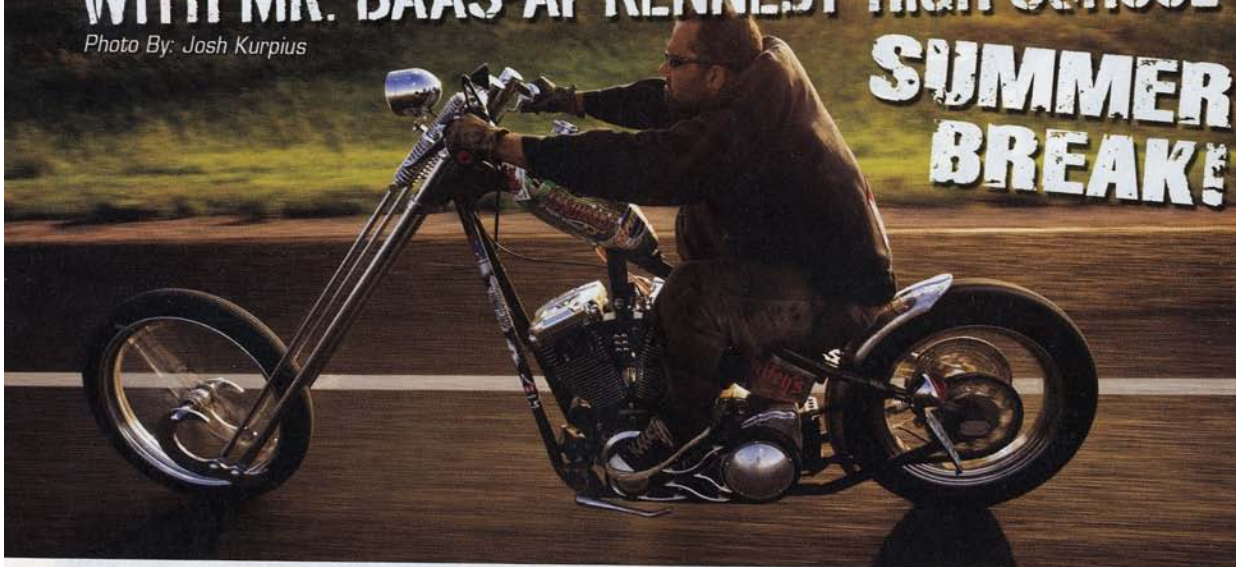


# CHOPPER CLASS

## WITH MR. BAAS AT KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Photo By: Josh Kurpius

# SUMMER BREAK!



**W**ell summer is flying by too fast now and this summer has been packed full of great motorcycle adventures, good times and more support for the Chopper Class. I recently returned home from Sturgis after another kick-ass week of good friends, great riding and nightly mayhem. I am always stressed out about Sturgis every year as it is the Mecca for the industry and anyone who is anyone is there. This is my chance to make new connections with companies, stop by and say thanks to the ones already on board and most of all, show off the chopper the kids built during the school year.

This year was no different with us all scrambling to get the display pieces and the class bike ready for the trip. Although we were working on multiple builds last school year, our main focus was the long bike which consisted of a 25 over Springer donated by the man Sugar Bear himself, and by the way, Sept. 19th is Bear's birthday so HAPPY BIRTHDAY BEAR, you still

look like you're a young cub! The frame for this build was built by my friend Chad Pearson, with the motor coming straight from Harley, the transmission from Baker, and the primary from BDL. Wheels and tires came from Larry Middleton at Bikers Choice, a KIL keyless ignition donated by my friend Art, all braking and controls came from JayBrake, wiring expertise came from Ken at Smiley's Customs using a NAMZ Custom Cycle Products wiring builder's kit. Neil Ryan at American Thunder saved us on getting some last minute parts needed as well as The Shop in Minneapolis.

Since the kids were not done with the rear fender, bars, gas tank, and seat pan (which Duane Ballard will be covering), I pulled some parts from my stash to throw on just to have it done enough to ride in Sturgis. One of the main reasons this bike had to be able to be ridden was because I had the honor of being selected as one of the 12 builders to compete in the Baker Burnout Drags. This was too cool to be asked to be in and I knew that win or lose, I had to pull in the pit in style on that 10 foot long beauty. From the minute the class bike hit the Broken Spoke parking lot it was nonstop pictures and questions about the legendary

front end and how it handled.

Knowing that just explaining it wasn't enough, I was offering a free test ride to anyone who came by, that hadn't been drinking, to see for themselves. It was cool to see the expression as they pulled away and the big smile as they returned in amazement at how well that long Springer handled. During the week of riding, the class bike was running good and after a few minor adjustments (thanks Brew) we had the bike tuned and ready for the burnout contest.

I rode to the Buffalo Chip where the contest was being held with a large group of good friends, some from the Limpnickie Lot and some just good friends from out of town. We were treated like royalty by Bert Baker and his crew as we got to hang out in the VIP lounge watching concerts and enjoying free food and drink. After the first round of concerts finished we were rounded up to take our bikes down and line them up for the drags. We previously drew numbers to see who we'd race first round and I got good friend Beanre'. From start to finish there was a huge crowd around the pit with smoke and rubber flying everywhere and Roadside Marty did an awesome job as emcee of the event. Unfortunately, I did not win but as stated before, I was

looking good on that long chop and everyone was impressed with what the kids' accomplished.

Thanks again to all our sponsors, good friends and the Buffalo Chip crew for putting on a great event. Lon Nordbye is a ruler and he is doing great things at the Chip. The class bike will get finished and then torn down for final paint and powdercoating this school year so keep an eye on the upcoming issues of *Cycle Source* as I will be sending in my monthly updates which will include us continuing on the Kiwi Indian Springer/Guilty Customs' frame build as well as another Sucker Punch Sally build. If you are going to Sturgis next year, I highly recommend staying at the Broken Spoke County Line campground, it is definitely the place to be for good times and great people.

And don't forget to support the High School Chopper Class; it is the future of our BREED!

**CYCLE SOURCE**