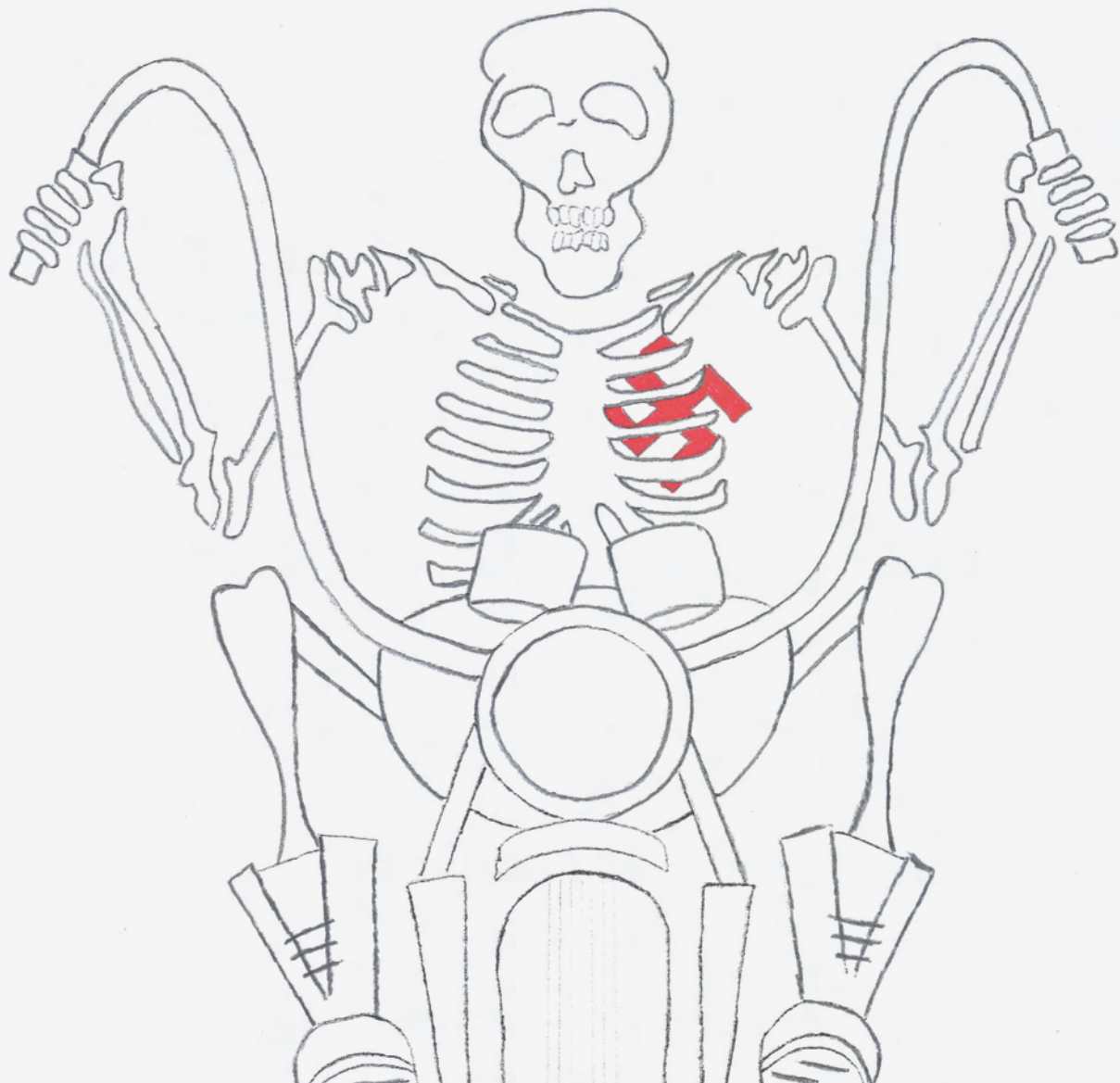


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Bigots on Bikes: The Growing Links between White Supremacists and Biker Gangs



KEY FINDINGS

- Growing connections. In recent years, there have been growing connections between outlaw motorcycle gangs and white supremacists. Increased connections between the two movements can expand their respective recruiting pools and lead to increased criminal activity, from hate crimes to organized crime.
- Cultural overlaps. Overlaps between the outlaw biker subculture and the white supremacist subculture make it easier for members of both movements to interact with each other and facilitate the forming of connections between them. These overlaps include similar symbols and language, as well as shared practices.
- Increasing crossover. Cross-membership is becoming increasingly common—racist bikers may be attracted to white supremacy, while some white supremacists may be attracted to the mystique and power of motorcycle gangs. Sometimes outlaw motorcycle gangs and white supremacist groups may even cooperate or associate with each other on a group level; these include both social and criminal connections.
- New white supremacist biker groups. Finally, in recent years a number of explicitly white supremacist biker gangs have emerged across the country. Though small in membership, they represent a disturbing new trend that may pose even more problems should their numbers grow.

Bigots on Bikes: The Growing Links between White Supremacists and Biker Gangs

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, a disturbing trend has emerged on the white supremacist scene in the United States. More and more white supremacists are developing links to motorcycle clubs across the country, including outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMG) frequently involved with criminal activity. Though there has always been a small amount of crossover between white supremacist subcultures on one hand and the biker subculture on the other, these contacts have heretofore been relatively limited.

Now, however, bikers and white supremacists are commingling with increasing frequency in a number of different ways. All five of the major white supremacist movements in the United States—neo-Nazis, racist skinheads, Ku Klux Klan groups, racist prison gangs, and Christian Identity groups—have developed noteworthy ties to the biker subculture. There is a significant overlap between elements of the biker subculture and elements of white supremacist subcultures, including shared symbology, shared slang and language, and in some cases shared dress. These cultural connections make encounters between the different movements easier.

As a result of these individual connections, the number of people who hold dual membership in biker clubs and white supremacist groups has grown. Institutional connections have also grown, including biker gangs co-sponsoring white power events and allowing white supremacists to meet at their club houses. The most disturbing development has been the formation in recent years of a number of explicitly white supremacist biker gangs and clubs. If these connections continue to increase, they could add strength to white supremacist movements and could also increase ties between white supremacists and organized crime.

II. CULTURAL OVERLAPS BETWEEN BIKERS AND WHITE SUPREMACISTS

Biker groups, typically called “motorcycle clubs” (MC) or “rider clubs” (RC), developed in the years after World War II, especially on the West Coast. As they became more popular and widespread, some bikers began to reject mainstream motorcycle clubs and formed “outlaw” clubs, so called because they operated outside the umbrella of the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA). Members of such clubs came to call themselves “one percenters” (1%ers), in reaction to an apocryphal statement by an AMA officer in the 1950s that 99% of motorcyclists were law abiding citizens.

Always nonconformist and sometimes violent, the major OMGs (Hell’s Angels, Outlaws, Pagans, Mongols, and Bandidos) all eventually developed associations with criminal activity that rose to the level of organized crime, including major drug dealing operations, frequent violence, and murder. They are currently serious concerns for law enforcement. The major gangs now all also have a variety of smaller, subordinate gangs that follow their directions to varying degrees. In addition, many have so-called “puppet clubs” or “puppet crews” that act as proxies for them.

The OMG subculture in the United States is distinctive and has a history that stretches back to the 1950s. Like most subcultures, the OMG subculture consists of shared ways of dress and decoration, customs and rituals, tattoos and symbols, and often language and music. Similarly, there are several distinctive white supremacist subcultures in the United States, such as the racist skinhead subculture and the racist prison gang subculture, as well as other white supremacist ideological movements, such as neo-Nazis, that have subcultural attributes.

Although the OMG subculture and white supremacist subcultures are in many ways quite different (the most obvious difference being the existence of nonwhite biker gangs and multiracial biker gangs alongside the more common white-only gangs), they do share some common elements, including use of some of the same symbols, styles, language, customs, and social behavior. In some cases, this commonality is a result of “convergent evolution,” where the bikers and white supremacists independently adopted similar symbols or customs. In other cases, the commonality is a result of cultural borrowing, both directly and indirectly.

These shared elements create a superficial sense of similarity between the two types of groups, especially in the eyes of outsiders such as the media or the general public. In some cases, they may even lead people to assume that a biker gang is white supremacist when it may not be. However, it is true that the shared similarities can help make members of the different subcultures feel more “at home” with each other and can make it easier for individuals to bridge the gaps between the subcultures. It is probably no coincidence that, as subcultural overlaps between the two movements have increased, actual connections between them have also increased. The cultural overlaps represent the first, foundational link in the chain of connections between biker gangs and white supremacists.

Symbolic Overlaps

The most common—and visually most obvious—cross-cultural connection between white supremacists and biker gangs is their shared use of symbols derived from Nazi Germany and the German military of the Nazi era.

This is the clearest example of convergent evolution, as bikers and white supremacists adopted these symbols independently and, originally, for different reasons.

The most commonly displayed symbols shared by OMGs and white supremacists include Iron Crosses, swastikas, the Totenkopf death's head image, SS lightning bolts, Nazi war eagles, and German army helmets (later replaced by motorcycle helmets resembling the original military helmet). Such emblems can be found on biker jackets and vests, on bikes themselves, as tattoos, and in clubhouses. The use by bikers of some of these symbols goes back to the 1950s when some early bikers, who were World War II veterans, began wearing military items, both their own (such as bomber jackets) and captured ones (such as helmets). Over the years, OMGs tended to use many of these symbols to show their nonconformist nature and for "shock and awe." For example, many bikers display the Iron Cross on their bikes and clothing, as well as in the form of jewelry and tattoos.

Though racism is often present (or even widespread) among the membership of OMGs, it is not uncommon for biker gangs and their members to use symbols such as SS lightning bolts (the symbol of the Schutzstaffel, Hitler's brutal enforcers) and swastikas without necessarily harboring a group-wide white supremacist ideology. For example, in 2009, the Outlaws MC published on its Web site photographs of Outlaws members posing in front of German Nazi Party flags. However, the Outlaws have allowed non-white members, as well as chapters in countries populated by nonwhites.

Such symbols do indeed have shock value, and have resulted in considerable and justifiable criticism of OMGs, especially for the use of the swastika. As a result, in recent decades, members of a number of clubs have stopped displaying swastikas in visible places, such as on their vests, though some may still display them in their private clubhouses. When motorcycle clubs continue to display symbols like the swastika prominently, they have sometimes had to come up with rationalizations to convince others that they are not neo-Nazis. For example, The Branded Few, a 1%er motorcycle club based in Reno, Nevada, claims, somewhat unconvincingly, that the prominent swastika found in the center of their patch is merely a good luck symbol, "a combination of four "Ls" standing for Luck, Light, Love and Life." Such explanations do not explain why a Nazi-style war eagle grasps the swastika. Members of the Branded Few have asserted that they are not white supremacists, which may well be true, but they have nevertheless been reluctant to abandon the offensive symbols.

For some other clubs, the explicit use of Nazi symbols and ritual is more disturbing. The Invaders Motorcycle Nation is an outlaw motorcycle club claiming chapters in Indiana, Missouri, Colorado and Texas. The Invaders prominently display SS lightning bolts on their Web site and on their colors (vests worn by members), while some members use "Heil Hitler" and "Sieg Heil" as greetings. Additionally, Nazi-themed paraphernalia was allegedly found at an Invader's home in Indiana during police raids in 2008, following a 17-month investigation of a suspected Invader drug-trafficking operation.

Because of their common use by OMGs, the displays of Iron Cross symbols, SS lightning bolts, and even swastikas cannot by themselves alone be interpreted as prima facie evidence of white supremacist beliefs or leanings without additional evidence.

For some symbols, however, there is no such contextual ambiguity and their appearance clearly marks the

encroachment of white supremacist ideology on the biker culture. It is not difficult to find individual members of motorcycle clubs who prominently display hate symbols that are not traditionally used by OMGs. While other members of a club may not necessarily share such beliefs, they typically do not protest the display of such symbols by the wearers.

This is true even among some biker clubs that are not outlaw gangs. Even the City Heat Motorcycle Club, an off-duty police motorcycle club with chapters in Chicago and Minneapolis, has members who have openly displayed white supremacist symbols. Photographs of City Heat members taken by other club members and posted to the Internet have shown that some members of the club display a number of symbols on their clothing that have white supremacist or hateful connotations. One member sports a patch that asks “Are you here for the hanging?”—a reference to lynching. The lynching theme is corroborated by a small chain noose the individual wears next to the patch. Another City Heat member displays the most common Ku Klux Klan symbol, the so-called “Blood Drop Cross.” Several members wear “Proud to be White” patches, an item typically worn by white supremacists.

Other white supremacist symbols sometimes seen on the clothing and gear of various biker gang members include references to the “14 words” slogan (a popular white supremacist pledge: “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children”), “white pride” patches, “white fist” images, Klan references, “WPWW” (for “white pride world wide”), and a specific round variant of the Celtic Cross that has become one of the most popular white supremacist symbols.

Linguistic Overlaps

The insular and often underground nature of both biker and white supremacist subcultures promotes the sharing of similar terms, slogans and phrases between them. Prison environments appear to have been the medium in which much of this linguistic overlap originally developed. As a result, OMGs, racist prison gangs and racist skinhead gangs tend to use many of the same phrases and slang terms. It is likely that most such phrases originally developed among OMG (which arose first), whose members transmitted many of them to members of the other types of groups while in prison.

Most of the shared phrases pledge a member’s loyalty to the group or to other members. For example, OMGs, racist skinhead groups and racist prison gangs alike often use the phrase “X Forever, Forever X”, where “X” is the name of the group. Members of the Hammerskins racist skinhead gang often use the phrase “Hammerskin Forever, Forever Hammerskin,” while members of the outlaw biker club Hell’s Angels use “Angels Forever, Forever Angels.” Often these phrases are turned into acronyms, such as OFFO for “Outlaws Forever, Forever Outlaws,” or CFFC for “[Aryan] Circle Forever, Forever [Aryan] Circle.”

OMGs and white supremacists also share a love for alphanumerically coded phrases. For example, one common white supremacist symbol is the number 88, which stands for “Heil Hitler” (because “H” is the 8th letter of the alphabet, so 88 is equivalent to “Heil Hitler”). Hell’s Angels members will similarly refer to their club by the number 81 (alphanumeric code for Hell’s Angels). One member of the White Knights of America, a racist prison

and street gang in Arizona and Texas, displayed the numbers 23 and 11 on the rear fender of his motorcycle (an alphanumeric representation of “W” and “K”).

Many members of both groups refer to one another as brothers or family. It is common for members of both biker groups and white supremacists (especially members of racist prison gangs) to speak of “love, loyalty, honor and respect” for their fellow members. Ending correspondence with variations of LLHR, LLR, LL&R, or LHR is typical. Failure to honor the group is considered a serious transgression, as indicated in other shared mottos such as “Death before Dishonor.”

Another shared phrase intended to reinforce group loyalty is “God Forgives, Brothers Don’t,” which alludes to the dangers of “snitching” on other members of the group. “GFBD” is the acronym used for this phrase and commonly appears in tattoos and on patches of both outlaw bikers and white supremacists (it is, for example, a common Aryan Brotherhood slogan). Some groups customize this phrase. For example, members of the Outlaws MC make it their own by changing it to “God Forgives, Outlaws Don’t.” A similarly themed shared phrase is “Silence is Golden.” Other shared phrases that allude to the dangers of helping law enforcement include “snitches get stitches” and “snitches: a dying breed.”

Shared Practices

The similarities between the two types of groups do not end at phraseology. Especially for racist skinhead gangs and racist prison gangs, a number of white supremacist group dynamics, including recruitment, indoctrination and organization, are quite similar to those in OMGs. One of the best examples of this is “prospecting.” Prospecting is the specific process for joining a group in which a prospective member (a “prospect” or “spec”) undergoes a lengthy period of apprenticeship before becoming a formal member of a group and being given a “patch” (either a tattoo or a literal patch on a jacket) for that group. This practice appears to have arisen originally with OMGs, later being adopted by most racist prison gangs and a number of hardcore racist skinhead groups.

Prospecting as a practice serves several functions. First, it gives the group a chance to examine a potential recruit for a long period of time before deciding if he is “worthy” of joining the group; this allows many people to be weeded out. Second, the apprenticeship period serves as a period for socialization for the recruit and allows the group to indoctrinate the prospect in group loyalty. Lastly, prospects are given tasks that other members do not want to do.

Almost all outlaw biker gangs require “prospects” to undergo a lengthy apprenticeship period during which they are required to perform assignments ranging from mandatory menial labor to acts of civil disobedience or crime. The same is true with a number of gang-oriented white supremacist groups. A good example of a white supremacist group whose recruitment process is similar to that of outlaw bikers is the Hammerskins, a racist skinhead gang with local groupings scattered across the United States. To become a member of the Hammerskins, a potential recruit has to serve as a “prospect” for one year and then a “probate” for six months.

The Vinlanders Social Club, a large racist skinhead group headquartered in Indiana, also uses the prospect system. It even requires prospects to participate in boxing tournaments against “patched” members of the club. Almost all racist prison gangs, such as the Aryan Brotherhood, Texas Aryan Brotherhood, or Aryan Circle, also use the prospect system. Prospects are often given dirty or dangerous work to do and are also often required to “prove themselves” to the group, such as by attacking a perceived enemy.

Another similarity between biker gangs and white supremacist gangs is that women connected to both types of groups are often only allowed to hold support roles—full membership is prohibited. Most outlaw biker groups do not allow women to become full-patched members. This is also common among racist prison gangs and racist skinhead gangs. For example the Supreme White Alliance, a Midwest-based racist skinhead gang, has officially allowed only men as members, though women can be “supporters.” Additionally, membership in the Vinlanders Social Club is limited to men, though there is a support network for the group dubbed “Firm 22” that allows female membership.

Shared Interests

An obvious common ground for outlaw bikers and white supremacist is a shared interest in motorcycles, bike accessories, and the apparel they wear. Both groups have members who operate businesses related to motorcycles and associated products, creating the potential of attracting one another as clients and perhaps members.

A common business of this nature is the motorcycle repair shop. For example, Richard “Mohawk” Durham, a former member of the Confederate Cavalry Corps MC, a small white supremacist bike club in Alabama, operates a motorcycle repair business in Brewton, Alabama. Mohawk recently left the Cavalry Corps and is now riding with the Pistolero MC, a support club for the Bandidos MC, a large outlaw gang. Similarly, Tim Flanagan, a Klansman from Ardmore, Alabama, operates a store that offers custom built bikes, service and repairs, as well as parts and accessories. Meanwhile, Anthony Moon sells motorcycles and related parts at White Boys Custom Choppers LLC in Bend, Oregon. Moon created his company in 2010 after moving to Oregon from Indiana. While in Indiana, he rode with the Aryan Brotherhood Nomads MC, but currently promotes an Oregon club called the Brotherhood MC.

In a similar vein, several white supremacist on-line stores sell biker accessories. For example, the Texas-based “Aryan Wear” sells biker wallets, wallet chains and head wraps, while “Local 1488” (operated by Rob O’Donovan of New Hampshire) sells patches with slogans such as “Biker born, biker bred, when I die, I’ll be biker dead.” Arizona-based Blitzkrieg Productions designs “hardcore streetware [sic] for proud members of the white race” and sells both apparel and custom bike parts.”

III. CROSS-MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN BIKER GANGS AND WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS



One-time Hammerskin, Jeremy Robinson

Given that most (though not all) OMGs are race-based, as well as the presence of racism in the ranks of most of these groups as well, it is no surprise to find that a number of full-fledged white supremacists have become members of motorcycle clubs, or vice versa. In recent years, the increasingly similar language, customs, and symbolism have helped to make such individual connections easier.

It is more common for cross-membership to be sequential rather than simultaneous. For example, in the 1990's, Terry Lee Boyce was the Imperial Wizard of the Confederate Knights of America, a Klan group based in Huntersville, North Carolina. Today, Boyce is a member of the Diamond Dogs MC in Marietta, Ohio. Similarly, a one-time Indiana Hammerskin, Jeremy Robinson, is now a full-patched member of the Hell's Angels MC. Jody Mathis, a former prominent member of the Florida State Skinheads, later became a member of the Warlocks MC.

There are many other examples of cross-membership or cross-association. A few include:

- **Ray Nolan Waldron**, a Mongols MC member from El Cajon, California, was convicted in 2004 of the murder of a rival motorcycle gang member. No stranger to prison, Waldron had previous convictions, including a 1997 hate crime for attacking an African-American with a knife. During a preliminary hearing for the 2004 murder trial, a prison gang expert testified that Waldron was a documented member of a racist prison and street gang, the Nazi Low Riders.
- **Justin DeLoretto**, also a member of the Mongols, was convicted in November 2008 of menacing, reckless endangering and reckless driving after a run-in with police in Oregon. The prosecutor in the case said DeLoretto had been affiliated with a number of racist skinhead groups and motorcycle gangs.
- **Anthony Hilton Luther** is the president of the Redding, California, Vagos MC Chapter. Luther, who uses the screen names "nocalSS" and "Mysterios Psychobilly skinhead," is also a Hammerskin. In November 2010, Luther organized and promoted a Hammerskin barbeque featuring two white power bands, Storm Troop 16 and Slaghammer. According to law enforcement, the Hemet, California, Vagos chapter, which draws a number of Latino members, also has a high proportion of racist skinheads amongst their members. This is unique to the area, as Hemet has a sizeable racist skinhead population.
- **Michael Harper**, a Christian Identity preacher, created a Georgia-based group called Riding for the Firstborn Motorcycle Ministry. The motorcycle ministry was an offshoot of a defunct Christian Identity group called Proud White Brotherhood. Christian Identity is a racist and anti-Semitic religious sect.

- **Bryan Wright** from Sumner, Washington, a self-confessed outlaw biker who became a white supremacist, was anointed a Christian Identity “minister” in 2004. He created the Identity Today Prison Ministry to proselytize to white supremacist prison inmates, including members of the Aryan Brotherhood and Aryan Circle racist prison gangs.
- Another interesting connection between the extremist world and the biker world is **Paul Hall, Jr.**, of Mariposa, California, once a prominent white supremacist and anti-government extremist. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Hall was the publisher of *The Jubilee*, an extremist newspaper founded in 1988 by his father. The now-defunct hate periodical once played a significant role on the extreme right, with an audience of Christian Identity adherents, other white supremacists and some militia and anti-government extremist groups. Today, Hall is the president of the Sierra Shadow Casters, a Mariposa, California-based motorcycle club.

Group Connections

Some OMGs actually engage in cooperation with white supremacist groups, a process that often first begins because of a cross-membership. For example, Leslie Baas, leader of the Outlaws MC in Florida, was a Confederate Hammerskin in the 1990s. In March 2008, the Outlaws, Black Pistons, and Cobra motorcycle clubs all participated in a St. Patrick’s Day event sponsored by the Confederate Hammerskins and Blood and Honour America (another racist skinhead group) in Central Florida. The event was held at the Outlaws clubhouse and attended by members of white supremacist groups such as Volksfront, White Revolution, Aryan Nations and the Nationalist Coalition.

On September 20, 2008, the Death’s Head Hooligans, a neo-Nazi skinhead organization based primarily in Arizona, organized “Oi Fest,” a white power music concert, in Tonopah, Arizona. The event was co-sponsored by the Sons of Aesír, an Arizona-based white supremacist motorcycle club, and the White Knights of America, a racist prison gang based primarily in Texas and Arizona. White power bands from around the country were featured, including Whitewash, Totenkopf Saints, White Knuckle Driver, and Storm Troop 16. Approximately 100 racist skinheads and white supremacists attended the event.

Such links extend beyond racist skinhead gangs and racist prison gangs. In June 2006, for example, members of the Imperial Klans of America (IKA), including leader Ron Edwards, attended the Barbarians Annual Biker Reunion at the Mendon Race Track in Ohio. During the event, an IKA member gave a speech starting with a shout of “white power.” The speaker encouraged the audience to stand up for the white race so that their grandkids would have white kids to play with, and claimed that better air, less crime and less trash requires fewer non-whites. During the event, the Barbarians gave the IKA an award for “largest club in attendance.”

White supremacists have tried other ways to connect with the biker world. One member of Stormfront, the largest neo-Nazi Web forum on the Internet, planned a white nationalist barbeque around a Northwest Harley Weekend in July 2009. Another Stormfronter created a user group called Aryan MC for bikers on Stormfront. Mike Schloer, a long time member of the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement, created a White Pride Riders group on Biker-

Or-Not, a social networking Web site for bikers. The White Pride Riders group has over 100 members, including members of outlaw biker groups such as the Pagans, Hell's Angels, and Sons of Aesír.

Criminal Connections

Just as OMG and white supremacist groups may have personal or social connections, so too can they have criminal connections. Some examples from recent years indicate this trend:

March 2008, Canada. In two separate incidents in March 2008 and January 2009, nearly 30 members of the White Boy Posse, a Canadian white supremacist street gang associated with the Hell's Angels, were arrested during police raids following a lengthy drug trafficking investigation. Police, who seized large amounts of drugs, weapons and cash, said the gang had 50 to 100 members in Edmonton and northern Alberta. The White Boy Posse is alleged to be a Hell's Angels puppet gang designed to do dirty work and insulate Hell's Angels members from prosecution.

June 2005, Ohio. Aryan Brotherhood member James "Aryan Jim" Blomquist formed an outlaw biker gang dubbed Order of the Blood after his release from prison in 2001. Blomquist joined the Ohio Aryan Brotherhood (an independent group unrelated to the original Aryan Brotherhood) while serving time for a 1990 armed robbery conviction. He even named his son James Dietrich Adolf, after Adolf Hitler and Waffen SS general Josef "Sepp" Dietrich. After his release from prison, Blomquist started AB Construction Company, a cover for criminal ventures for himself and other former inmates. From then until his arrest in 2005, Blomquist and the Order of the Blood collected hundreds of thousands of dollars by selling illegal guns, forging checks and manufacturing drugs. Indictments of those arrested indicated that the Order of Blood criminal network was financed and managed by the Ohio Aryan Brotherhood and the Pagan motorcycle gang. According to authorities, about 20 percent of those arrested were members of the Ohio Aryan Brotherhood. Members of the Pagans were also arrested. Blomquist eventually pleaded guilty to a variety of offenses.

August 2001, California. Hundreds of people were arrested in "Operation Silent Thunder," an 18-month Lancaster County investigation into a large meth ring linked to white supremacists and biker gangs. The investigations resulted in the arrest of nearly 300 people, shut down 16 methamphetamine laboratories, confiscated more than 45 pounds of methamphetamine valued at more than \$2 million, and seized scores of firearms and more than \$500,000 in cash. Many of those arrested were members of white supremacist street gangs and prison gangs in California, including Peckerwood gangs, Nazi Low Riders, and others. Others arrested were members of the Vagos motorcycle gang, which has had a number of ties to white supremacist gangs in California. According to officials, the different groups were closely interlocked, including selling chemicals to and transporting drugs for each other.

IV. WHITE SUPREMACIST BIKER GANGS

The ultimate connection between the world of white supremacists and the biker world is the formation of explicitly white supremacist biker gangs. In the past five years, a number of such groups have begun to appear all around the country, from Alabama to Arizona, California to Florida.

Some of these organizations are independent, while others are subsidiaries of larger white supremacist groups. Some of the groups have connections to major outlaw motorcycle gangs. Though the groups are small, the mere fact of their existence is cause for concern, as they represent a new area of expansion for white supremacist groups and have the potential to increase the connections between outlaw motorcycle gangs and white supremacist organizations.

► Examples of Biker Subgroups of Larger White Supremacist Groups

1st Kavallerie Brigade of Aryan Nations

In early 2008, a faction of the neo-Nazi group Aryan Nations led by South Carolina white supremacist August Kreis created a biker subgroup dubbed the 1st Kavallerie Brigade of Aryan Nations (it has also used the term Aryan Nations Motorcycle Riders Division). The faction described the subgroup as a “brigade of bikers who are also Aryan Nations,” and suggested the group could provide an “outlet for racially aware bikers.” By November 2008, the group claimed three units in Florida and one unit in Tennessee.

The Florida Kavallerie Brigade has close ties to the Florida Chapter of the Outlaws MC. A number of Outlaw members wear the Kavallerie Brigade flash on their colors or berets. The Kavallerie flash resembles the 5th Army



Kavallerie Brigade members and supporters



1st Kavallerie brigade uniform

Special Forces Group flash, depicting a silver totenkopf or “deaths head” wearing motorcycle goggles. The current leader of the group is “Brigade Commander” Ron Cusack.

Shawn Lloyd, also of Saint Cloud, is an Outlaws MC “hang-around” (a term used to describe bikers hoping to prospect with a club) and Kavallerie Brigade member. Lloyd has posted photos of himself to the Internet wearing a Kavallerie uniform. The black uniform has “1st SS Kavallerie Brigade” and the goggles-wearing totenkopf embroidered over the shirt pocket. Also embroidered are SS bolts on the collar and the Aryan Nations symbol along with a Nazi eagle on the left shoulder.

In June 2011, August Kreis was arrested in Tennessee for allegedly filing fraudulent statements in order to obtain veterans benefits.

Southern Brotherhood Motorcycle Club



Southern Brotherhood Colors

The Southern Brotherhood (SB), created in 1995 in the Easterling Correctional Facility, is currently the largest white supremacist prison gang in the Alabama Department of Corrections. The Southern Brotherhood Motorcycle Club (SBMC) is a subgroup of the Southern Brotherhood. One member wrote, “We are the S.B. we look out for our own and each other. On the streets we are a motorcycle club.”

The SBMC membership is predominately in Alabama. However, they claim some members in Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Indiana and Texas. The Indiana connection is most likely through Phil John Probus, Jr., of Pisgah, Alabama, the free-world leader of the motorcycle club, who is originally from Hammond, Indiana. Other leaders include Wes Sims of Birmingham, Alabama, often referred to as the co-President, and Kevin Watson of Chickamauga, Georgia, who is a vice-president.

In addition to their own events, members of the SBMC have also attended biker rallies in Alabama, including the Bama Bike Fest in July 2010 and an April 2010 bike rally in Faunsdale, Alabama.

SBMC “colors” (vest or jacket designs) are unique in that their bottom “rocker” (a curved patch which typically shows a club’s territory location) reads “D.O.C.” – referencing their ties to the Department of Corrections. On the front of the colors, members wear white patches that read “GFBD” and “14/23.” The “14” is a reference to the “14 Words;” while the “23” represents a list of “23 precepts” which the group uses as a behavioral compass.

Iron Circle Motorcycle Club

One of the oldest white supremacist biker groups is an offshoot of the Aryan Circle, a large white supremacist group active both in prisons and on the streets, primarily in Texas. In 1995, some Fort Worth members of the

Aryan Circle created a Circle-associated motorcycle club they called the Iron Circle MC. Members described themselves in an Iron Circle pamphlet as “an elite organization that strives for betterment of the white race through family, camaraderie and the creation and expansion of Aryan-owned businesses.” The club sold biker-related leatherwork created by incarcerated members and associates, including wallets, purses, skull caps, and motorcycle saddle bags. Ostensibly, some of the money from sales would go back to the prisoner who made the item and the rest into a fund to help members upon their release.

It is clear that a number of Circle members have at least one foot in the biker subculture. For example, in a 2009 Aryan Circle newsletter for federally incarcerated members, a member named Mikey wrote, “I am shooting for next summer to be on my feet and doing good flying our m.c. colors. I am hoping that we will have [sic] quit a few bro’s on scooters, flying them with me. Hell it would be nice to roll-up to Sturgis next year 15 or 20 deep.”

In recent years, the Aryan Circle has been involved in factional power struggles. One Circle faction announced in late 2009 that Troyce Ruby III would be the new director of the Circle’s motorcycle club. However, he is not going to be hitting the highway anytime soon; Ruby is currently incarcerated at the El Reno Federal Correctional Institution as a career offender for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamines and using or carrying a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime. He will not get out until 2018.

Schutzstaffel Motorcycle Club

The neo-Nazi group American Southern Aryan Reich was created by Brian Bass, Sr., a former Klansman from Titusville, Florida, who uses the pseudonym Amon Goeth, after the Nazi war criminal featured in the movie *Schindler’s List*. The group’s Web site explains that, “We are an elite organization whose members include Germans and Aryans as Waffen-SS members and Officers. We are a regional office of the Worldwide SS and we seek to return National Socialism as the dominion of the world. Jews, Negros, White Negroes (wiggers), Gypsies, Freemasons and Homosexuals are not allowed for any reason.”

The group’s small Florida contingent is in the process of forming the Schutzstaffel MC. The mission statement of the motorcycle club “is to ride to White Power Rally’s [sic], Motorcycle Rally’s [sic], and other events deemed necessary to our cause.” In a November 2010 post on the group’s Yahoo message board, Bass wrote “Also, Bike Week is coming up in March. I think it would be very beneficial if we could make some sort of presence there. Even if it is just to be seen and hand out business cards.”

Schutzstaffel MC members wear Schutzstaffel work jackets, which can be purchased at Aryan Wear, an online clothing store based in Hurst, Texas. The back of the jacket displays a top rocker that reads “Schutzstaffel,l” a bottom rocker that reads “Loyal to the Death,” and a Totenkopf variant in the middle flanked by patches that read “100%er” and “14/88.” On the front of the jacket is a small diamond shaped patch consisting of SS bolts, a neo-Nazi symbol signifying the Schutzstaffel.

Berserker Brotherhood



Berserker Brotherhood Colors

The Berserker Brotherhood is a relatively new motorcycle division of Temple 88, a white supremacist group that describes itself as a brotherhood of “white separatists.” The Berserker Brotherhood colors have a skull in the middle of an iron cross, flanked on the right by the number 88.

One anonymous Berserker Brotherhood member claimed on a social networking Web site that Temple 88 originally formed in South Carolina’s Allendale Correctional Institute under the name “Brotherhood of Ancient Ways.” He also claimed those who wore the Brotherhood’s colors “EARNED them behind the fences and wire,” suggesting its membership began as a racist prison gang or clique.

► Examples of Independent White Supremacist Biker Clubs

Sons of Aesír



Sons of Aesír Colors

The Arizona-based Sons of Aesír (SOA) is a white supremacist outlaw biker club created in 2005. Relatively small, it currently has several dozen members, the bulk of whom are middle-aged men who live in the Phoenix area. SOA members have jobs ranging from tattoo artist to pipe layer to tow truck driver. A number of SOA members have extensive criminal histories, including charges related to racketeering, explosives, weapons violations and aggravated assault.

Despite the club name (Aesír is a reference to the Norse Gods), which would suggest the group is Odinit in nature, the group claims that “members include Wotanists [Odinists], National Socialists, Identity Christians and others of various beliefs.”

Members claim to have a common white supremacist goal, the “advancement and prosperity of Aryankind.” The group’s Web site explains that “the premise of our ideology is based on the promotion of the values represented in the culture and heritage of the White race. We believe that being White, straight and proud are not things for which one should feel guilty about, regardless of the political correctness involved with it.”

The SOA have a clubhouse in Phoenix, where they hold meetings. SOA members are known to associate with members of the Hell’s Angels MC and are commonly present at Hell’s Angels events in the Phoenix area.

Confederate Cavalry Corps MC

Formed in 2009, the small Alabama-based Confederate Cavalry Corps MC (CCC MC) claims members in Missouri and Mississippi, but the bulk of the membership is from small Alabama towns such as Millbrook, Eclectic, Wetumpka, Theodore, and Troy. Touted by members as the “premier Confederate heritage motorcycle club”, this neo-Confederate club focuses on events and monuments supporting the Confederate States and Confederate Flag.



Confederate Cavalry Corps MC Colors

On the group’s MySpace profile, one member explains, “This was a country founded on white Christian aryan belief system of a republic! Whites are now, endangered species!! Where are we today!? God please bless the Confederacy! We do not wear, sing about, or pledge the sorry excuse for a flag called the ‘american flag.’ It should be called the ‘take your freedom flag.’”

On the Stormfront Internet forums, another member, “Loki,” described the CCC MC as a group “for white unity within the MC world” and as a group that “supports our Confederacy that is on the rise once again.” That same member provided an idea of the attitudes of club members when he wrote on a social networking Web site profile in July 2009 that “Jefferson Davis was my last President! That negro in D.C. isn’t my president” and “GOD save THE SOUTH and Ireland and Germany and all the rest of the ARYAN COUNTRIES.”

5150 Crew

The 5150 Crew is a small white supremacist outlaw motorcycle gang operating in Phoenix, Arizona. The name is derived from a California legal code provision referring to people who can be involuntarily committed to a psychiatric institution (and has been adopted by various gangs as shorthand for “crazy”).

The gang’s club colors include the phrase “White Pride” and a reference to the “14 Words,” as well as an Aryan Fist symbol with SS runes on the wrist. The 5150 Crew refers to Phoenix as the “White Boy City” and members wear a WBC patch is worn on the back of the colors as a reference to their turf.



5150 Crew colors front



5150 Crew colors back

The dozen or so members are typically in their twenties, and some have criminal histories that include crimes such as armed robbery, burglary, weapons charges, and aggravated assault. A number of 5150 Crew members are currently incarcerated. Trusted because of their verifiable criminal histories, they have allegedly been endorsed by the Hell's Angels. Police gang investigators consider them a puppet crew for the Hell's Angels.

White Boy Society



Stonecold MC member wearing one variant of the WBS patch

Created in April 2006, the Illinois-based White Boy Society (WBS) is a loosely organized white supremacist biker group. The WBS Web site explains that they are a group of “white brothers” who ride with the “14 words” as their only agenda, adding that “we are a two wheeled nomadic tribe of White Separatists that believe in showing pride in our race, heritage and the accomplishments of our ancestor’s [sic].”

Membership in WBS is open to white males who are not Jewish and are “of wholly European ancestry.” Additionally, members may not have a non-white spouse or dependant. One slogan used by members is “Two Wheels, Two Cylinders, One Race, White Boy Society is 100% Pro-White.” One version of the group’s logo includes SS bolts, swastikas and “14/88.”

The group was founded and is led by William DeBoer of Sandoval, Illinois, who is supported by memberships in several states, especially in the Midwest. DeBoer has had past associations with white supremacist organizations. For example, at one time DeBoer linked his Web site to that of the Indiana-based Vinlanders Social Club. He also participated in a September 2009 rally organized by the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement (NSM).

In early 2009, state leaders in Missouri, Texas, and Florida held meetings and were able to recruit new members. However, within a few months, factional fighting had already begun. A “southern council,” which included leaders in Texas, Louisiana, Florida and Georgia, left the WBS after an internal squabble and started their own group, the White Riders Riding Club (see below).

In June 2009, the WBS changed its leadership structure from that of a conventional pyramid form to one allegedly based on “leaderless resistance,” with no hierarchy or organization. Anyone who met membership requirements could become a member and form their own chapter simply by paying for a patch/membership. However, in January 2011, the group announced the open membership period “was a failed experiment” and that “patches must [again] be earned by prospecting/probating.”

WBS members are typically in their mid-to-late 40’s and hold jobs ranging from bike mechanic to carpenter to tattoo artist. A number of members are also members of Klan groups. For example, Frank Ancona, a Missouri



Supporter of WBS and member of Descendants MC

member of WBS, is a member of the True Invisible Empire Traditionalist Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a Christian Identity Klan based out of Tennessee.

WBS membership remains relatively small (several dozen spread across the country). However, the group draws support from other white supremacists. Some bikers from other motorcycle clubs who have white supremacist leanings also support the WBS. For example, a member of the Illinois chapter of the Stonecold MC wears a WBS patch beneath the club patch on his colors.

A typical example of a WBS supporter who belongs to another MC might be Matt "Spider" Avery, a member of the Descendants MC from Indiana, who wears a Klan patch on his motorcycle vest. In February 2008, Spider claimed on the WBS forum that the Descendants MC was "a white pride club. Our Colors [sic] red, white and blue, White cross, red swastika interlaced. It is good to meet some like minded people. I hope I have a chance to meet and ride with some of you this coming summer. WHITE IS RIGHT."

White Riders Riding Club



White Riders Riding Club Colors

In April 2009, several members of the disgruntled "southern council" of the White Boy Society resigned and founded their own group, which they dubbed the White Riders Riding Club (WRRC). WRRC now claims "chapters" in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Illinois, Idaho, and Georgia, though any chapters that exist must be very small. Membership is open to both women and men "who share a common belief in the 14 words." The Club's Web site explains that the 14 words are "the code word for our survival." Founding members Joe Griffin from Ruston, Louisiana, and William Patterson, a self-employed handyman and tattoo artist from Baytown, Texas, lead the group.

The group's sparse membership limits group activity. However, in the summer of 2009, Patterson, Griffin and his wife, Michele Griffin, who is also a member, managed to bike together to the Bonnie and Clyde memorial site in Bienville Parish, Louisiana. The only other discernable recent activity was Joe Griffin's attendance of an April 2010 Tea Party event in north central Louisiana, where he wore his White Riders vest.

Louisiana, where he wore his White Riders vest.

The Club's Web site claims that the White Riders are not a hate group. However, despite such claims, the site nevertheless includes links to the Web site of an Aryan Nations faction and has itself featured white supremacist

articles and essays such as “The Aryan Way.” The White Riders created a new numeric code phrase, featured in their slogan “living the 14/9,” a numeric reference to the “14 words” and the so-called “Nine Noble Virtues,” a concept borrowed from neo-Norse religion. The nine virtues are courage, truth, honor, fidelity, discipline, hospitality, self-reliance, industriousness, and perseverance. For their club logo, WRRRC uses an orange and black patch that depicts what they refer to as the “Norse God of Protection.”

One of the more interesting WRRRC members is Robert Starr III of Knoxville, Georgia, a self-declared “white separatist” who has posted anti-Semitic and Holocaust denial images on the Internet. In the 1990s, Starr achieved brief notoriety as the commander of a small militia group called the Georgia Republic Militia. In 1996, Starr and two other militia members were found guilty of conspiracy for stockpiling pipe bombs. During the investigation, buried explosives and pipe bomb components were found on Starr’s property. Starr served seven years in federal prison for those crimes.

Sons of Dixie Riding Club

In January 2011, white supremacist Gordon Young, of Sharpsburg, Maryland, created the Sons of Dixie Riding Club. Young promotes the Club using a Web site he originally created while a member of an Aryan Nations faction. The crass site is filled with hateful rhetoric and urges readers to provide moral and financial support to imprisoned white supremacists.

The Sons of Dixie RC is merely the latest in the long line of groups with which Gordon has associated. He is the former leader of the Sharpsburg, Maryland-based World Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, but disbanded his group in November 2006 to briefly join the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement. In August 2008, he reformed the World Knights only to disband again in April 2010 in order to join Paul Mullet’s Chillicothe, Ohio-based Aryan Nations faction. By the end of 2010, however, that faction had splintered due to infighting.

Peckerwoods

The Peckerwoods are a small, California-based white supremacist outlaw motorcycle club operating in the towns of Santee, Lakeside, La Mesa, and El Cajon. In the mid-2000s, this group was the focus of “Operation Blue and White”, a lengthy undercover criminal investigation. The Los Angeles Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department initiated the investigation into alleged firearms and trafficking violations in 2006. In July 2007, the investigation resulted in the seizure of 24 firearms, 1-1/2 pounds of marijuana, 24 marijuana plants, 600 tablets of prescription Oxycodone, 100 tablets of prescription Percocet, 50 tablets of prescription Vicodin, and 1-1/2 ounces of methamphetamine. Federal, state and local law enforcement officers arrested 14 individuals at nine different locations, and executed multiple search warrants.

Following the operation a number of Peckerwoods were convicted of criminal charges. One was convicted on federal charges for the sale and distribution of marijuana. Another member was one of five convicted on assault charges for a gang beating at a local bar. Three members were convicted on felony charges for selling prescription drugs.

The Norsemen Clan

The Norsemen Clan is a tiny white supremacist motorcycle club from Gulfport, Mississippi. Most members work offshore on oil rigs; because of their extended and varied offshore schedules, they have struggled to organize. The group's motto is "Ride with Pride 100%." One of the founders wrote on the Biker-Or-Not social networking site that the "purpose of the NORSEMEN CLAN is to bring like minded individuals in the gulf coast area together for motorcycling activities." The group's ideology is racist and anti-Semitic; for example, the same founder asserted in August 2009 that Jews run the movie and television industries and use television to control people.

Like some other small white supremacist biker gangs, the Norsemen Clan has experienced defections from members attracted to larger, more prestigious outlaw biker groups. For example, Christopher "Rock" Adams, a tugboat operator from Gulfport, Mississippi, was one of the four founders of the Norsemen Clan. In November 2009, Adams wrote that he had decided to "change directions" and pledged his loyalty to the "Outlaw MC," apparently leaving the Norsemen Clan. He did not abandon white supremacy (continuing to make references to the "14 Words" and repeating quotations by Adolf Hitler), but seemed to find membership in an established outlaw gang, even one not committed to white supremacy, more attractive.



Anti-Defamation League
605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-3560
www.adl.org