

KOOLTRIKER EXPRESS...

A Publication of Kool Trikes North LLC

Devoted to the Trike Industry

EDITION 1 - FALL 2023

TRIKE HISTORY AND EVOLUTION

Trikes have been around for over a hundred years. They offer a unique riding experience and have evolved over time to become what they are today. There are currently over 100,000 Trikes on the road including the Harley TriGlide and many Trike conversions.

EARLY TRIKES

Early Trikes were not produced for recreational use but to serve as delivery vehicles for goods and sometimes people and were pedal operated. In the early 1900's a single cylinder engine was added which extended the use to disabled people who weren't able to use conventional motorcycles. Trikes were also used in the military for reconnaissance purposes. These Trikes were basically bicycles with an added rear straight drive axle and engine.

THE HARLEY SERVI-CAR

Harley Davidson began producing Servi-Cars in the early 1930's during the great depression as the company needed to expand their product base and increase sales. Harley merged a motorcycle and an automobile like rear section thus creating the first motorcycle Trike as we know them today. Servi-Cars were produced until around 1973. The Harley "Servi-Trike" was used by postal workers, product delivery, roadside repair companies and alike. The name Servi-Car basically stands for

Greetings fellow Rider and Triker!

*My name is Jeff Steiner. My wife Liz and I founded Kool Trikes North LLC in the Fall of 2013. Over the years we have accomplished over 275 Harley Trike conversions and several Honda Goldwing Trike conversions for customers all over the upper Midwest including some on the East and West coast areas and into deep Florida! Our mission is to **"Keep great riders, Riding!"** Over the Summer I have felt a desire to write a quarterly newsletter devoted to the Trike industry. This issue is the Fall 2023 edition. Feel free to respond to the contact information with questions, topics and any other area of interest related to motorcycle Trikes! Thank you for subscribing! **Jeff & Liz Steiner***

"KEEPING GREAT RIDERS, RIDING!"

"Service" - "Car" (vehicle) because of the two rear wheels and trunk space.

TRIKE CONVERSIONS

In the 1980s, Lehman Trikes started producing custom trikes designed for long distance touring. These trikes had a motorcycle front end and a car-like back end. They were designed to offer a comfortable ride for long distances and were popular with older riders. Today, there are a variety of trikes available on the market, from custom-built trikes to mass-produced trikes. They are popular with a wide range of riders, from disabled riders to older riders to those who just want a unique riding experience.

THE HARLEY TRIGLIDE

Harley began producing the three wheel touring Trike in 2010 and named it the TriGlide. It was a Harley Ultra Classic with an added Leman Trike unit. Harley entered into a contract with John Leman to produce the TriGlide until he passed away in early 2012. Harley now produces them in York, Pennsylvania. In 2015 Harley came out with a second style Trike called the Freewheeler. The Freewheeler is basically a Street Glide Trike with a sportier rear body style. Both the TriGlide and the Freewheeler use the same main frame and rear drive axle.

THE MODERN TRIKE CONVERSION

The modern Trike conversions as we know them began with the Leman Trike conversion kit. It featured a rear straight axle differential, mounting hardware, a fiberglass rear Trike body and automotive type rear wheels. Kits were made for various motorcycles including metric bikes. There are a good number of Trike conversion kit producers currently offering Trike conversion kits.

STRAIGHT AXLE OR INDEPENDENT SUSPENSION

Early Trike conversion kits featured a rear straight axle differential. The down side was it was and still is difficult to produce a comfortable ride quality especially for the passenger. Straight axles which are yet currently being used in the Harley Production Trikes do not have the flexibility to smoothly handle various road conditions. Many owners spend hundreds or thousands

of dollars trying to improve the ride quality of their stiff riding rear straight axle.

As Trike kits progressed producers began to develop an independent Suspension Trike conversion kit which improved the handling, cornering and overall ride quality of the Trike. The IRS (Independent Rear Suspension) offers much more flexibility over the various road conditions and is a God send to riders with health and back issues.

TO TRIKE OR NOT TO TRIKE?

That's a personal question with several considerations. We will look at the advantages and disadvantages of each.

FACTORY TRIKE

Here's my take on the factory Trike:

POSITIVES: *Instant Trike, no riding down time while conversion is being performed, serviceable at all Harley dealerships, Good supply of factory and aftermarket accessories, better trade in values.*

NEGATIVES: *Ruff riding rear differential straight axle, hard steering, vulnerable electric reverse, small rear trunk storage, Expensive!, They all look the same due to mass production.*

KOOL TRIKES - TRIKE CONVERSION

POSITIVES: *Independent rear Suspension, Mechanical reverse, correctly raked triple trees for comfortable steering (no steering damper needed), 6 – 7 cubic feet of trunk storage, stylish rear bumper, choice of 16,17*

or 18 inch rear wheels, standard adjustable aluminum bodied coil over spring shock absorbers, Standard Harley style LED tail lights, Wide range of Harley donor bikes to choose from, Unique body styles and paint schemes, don't have to sell off the bike or get beat up on a trade in, is unique and personal, you don't lose your heavy investment of upgrading and modifying your two wheeler, Good resale value, a

constant head turner! Kool Trikes are "Kool"!

NEGATIVES: *Some riding down time while your personal Trike build is being performed, may void remaining factory warranties, lesser Trade in values at the Harley dealership, Limited repair facilities across the nation if needed and your friends and riding buddies will be envious and jealous and may shun you!*

WHY SHOULD I TRIKE MY BIKE?

- 1. It can save you money compared to buying a new factory Trike that will need upgrades to somewhat ride comfortably*
- 2. It can save your marriage! Your girl will ride with you again!*
- 3. Aging and Health issues, Trikes are stable and sure footed!*
- 4. Large storage capacity for long rides!*
- 5. No need to balance the bike with passenger especially in slow traffic situations*
- 6. You've invested heavily into your awesome existing bike and adding a Trike conversion to it would be the cat's meow!*
- 7. You will have basically an almost unique "One of" Trike that's not a carbon copy of everybody elses!*
- 8. The Independent rear Suspension will give driver and passenger an out of this world ride quality!*
- 9. The overall ride quality of a Kool Trikes conversion will run circles around the factory Harley Trike!*
- 10. Your Trike will be photogenic and make you a Celebrity! Everywhere you go and stop people will be taking pictures of your Kool Trike!*
- 11. Everyone who views your Kool Trike will marvel and say "KOOL"!*
- 12. Your purchase of a Kool Trikes conversion will keep us up and running for many years to come!*

THE KOOLTRIKER FRONT BRAKE LEVER LOCKS HAVE ARRIVED!

These precision stainless steel Front brake lever locks are in high demand! This mechanism will pin your depressed front brake lever and hold your front brakes as a simple parking brake. It takes about half hour to install! Some drilling is required. Suggested Retail Price \$195, on sale for fall season at \$170, a \$25 savings! Installation \$35, Now \$25!

NOW SCHEDULING WINTER / SPRING TRIKE CONVERSIONS!

IF YOU or you KNOW OF ANYONE who may be interested in a
KOOL TRIKES INDEPENDENT SUSPENSION TRIKE CONVERSION

Call, email or send them to:
sales@kooltrikesnorth.com www.kooltrikesnorth.com

920-648-4800

WE ARE PLANNING ON BUILDING A NEW PREMISE!

We are purchasing three acres in the Jefferson, Wisconsin North Business Park. We need a larger more efficient facility! After many years of searching we feel this is the best option for us! Our current location on our home property of 1300 square feet is severely under sized. We are designing an 8000 square foot facility with a show room, large shop area, paved parking lot, offices and storage accommodations! If all goes according schedule we will be in our new facility in the Fall of 2024! All to better serve our growing customer base! More info forthcoming!

TRIKE RUNNING BOARDS ARE IN PROGRESS!

We are designing a unique running board that compliments the Kool Trikes conversions and also will work on the Harley TriGlide and Freewheeler! We are hoping to have them available by Spring 2024. These will feature a fog lighted version and a without lights version. All running boards will have a foot mounting pad that acts as a step pad to mount your Trike with ease and comfort! Keep an eye on our website and our emails for updates!

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