



This head-turning chopper, put together by Richie Mauro of RPM Custom Choppers was inspired by the desire to design, construct, and produce a custom chopper that was something totally different.

Starting with a Carolina Customs frame with a 41 degree rake, Richie added Jeri's Springer forks and a 250 series tire; all rolling on a set of spike wheels. This gave him the stance he was looking for. When the 135 horsepower, 120" Ultima engine was fitted into the frame and matched with a 6 speed Ultima LSD transmission with BDL primary, the result was a screamer.

I not only had the chance to see this ride up close and personal, I had the opportunity to test it out when I rode it from Richie's shop to East Side's New Years Chopper Bash. Let me tell you... *This bike starts up with a dragon's roar, steals every piece of pavement it rolls over, and jumps through all 6 gears - begging to dance all night long!*

As usual, the bike was finished off with a variety of one-off custom parts that give RPM Custom Choppers their distinctive style. These include the oil tank, air cleaner, handlebars pipes, and the very unique gas tank and fenders. The paint and graphics were done by Justin Barnes of JB Graphix. Richie told Justin he wanted the bike painted Green and Purple and let the rest up to Justin. As usual, Justin completed a masterpiece. Richie thought the shape and paint job on the bike made it look like a flying space ship or something and knew he could not get away with Flying Purple Mother #^&\$#%&@; so.. Flying Purple Mother Sucker it was.

When I inquired about the asking price for this chop, Richie replied "If I sell it, I'll have to walk home; the Flying Purple Mother Sucker is my personal ride!" Hey Richie - offer me a good price and I'll give you a lift home.

RPM Custom Choppers is a federally licensed motorcycle manufacturer and is located in Newburgh, NY. They can work with people through email or over the phone to get started building, or they welcome visits to the shop. The works are in place for RPM to move to a much larger facility soon, where they plan to offer their own line of hardtail frames and other parts for home builders or shops to use. They will be bringing a number of their bikes to shows around the country for customers to check out their work. Check them out at their website at [www.rpmcustomchoppers.com](http://www.rpmcustomchoppers.com) or give them a call at (845) 561-2045.



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RPM Choppers was our spotlight last month so there may be some duplicate information in this story if there is get over it!! Only kidding Leanne wrote a good story and I thank her for her time and hard work.

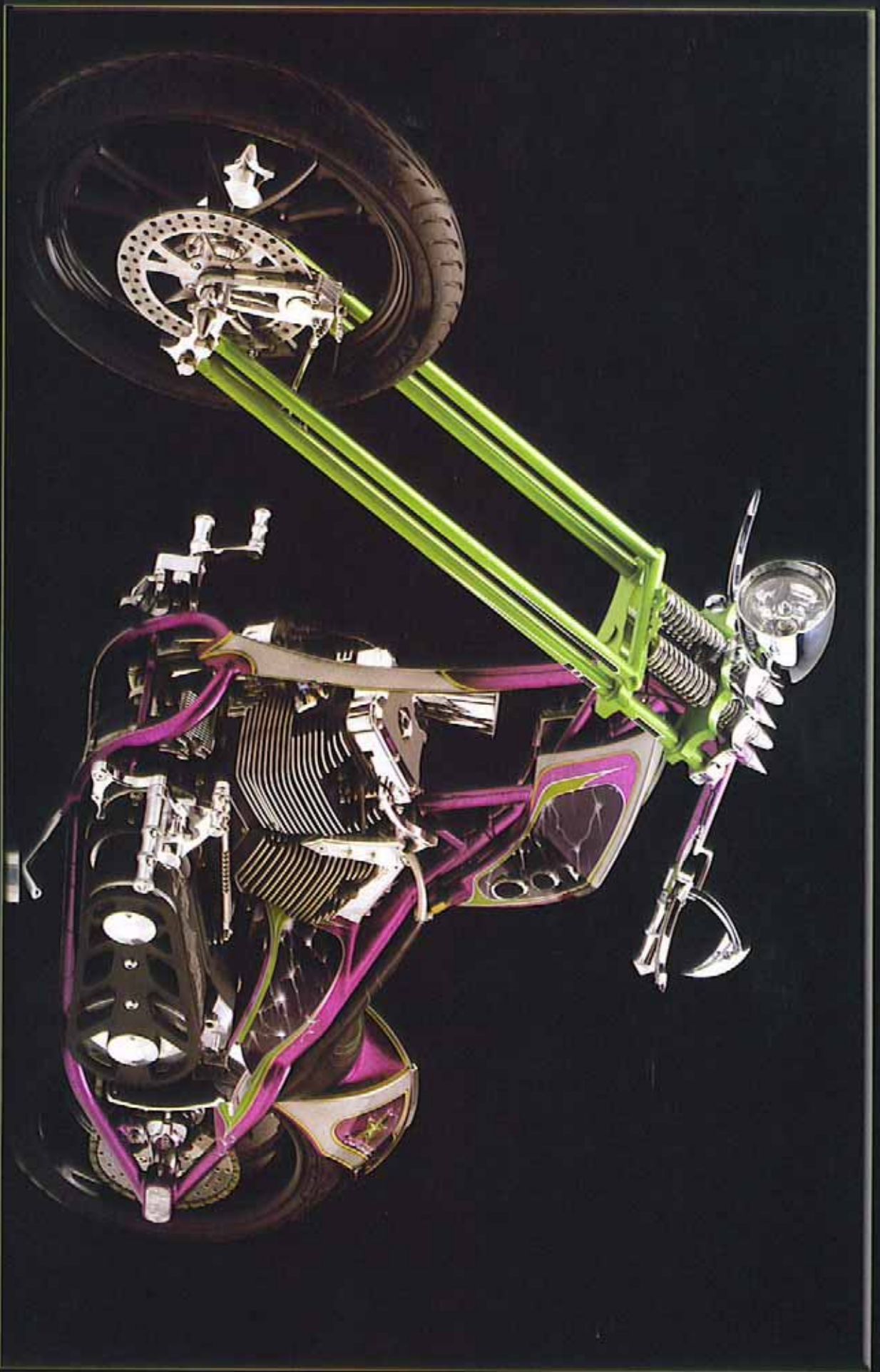
### Nothing Comes Easy

By: Leanne Smykla

I met Rich Mauro, or "Richie" as most have come to know him as, about three years ago. Over the three years that I have grown to love and occasionally hate, Richie he has been known to be the occasional "Loud Mouth", "Hot Head", and a few other things . . . but that's not what this story is about. What this story is about is the true essence of Rich Mauro and how his business known as RPM Custom Choppers came to be. When I met Richie, he was working as a mechanic working the normal nine to five to support his son and his son's mother. The mundane events of his job day in and day out left him craving more. Unbeknownst to me, my first meeting with Richie would mark the beginning of my witness to his metamorphosis from average Joe to a man pursuing his dream.

Considering the growing number of custom builders that seem to be popping up on the biker scene, it was fairly easy to assume that Richie's idea to start a custom chopper business was nothing more than an attempt to follow the biker "fad" that seems to infect many men and women. I didn't know him all too well then. As time went by, I learned that Richie had grown up around motorcycles thanks to his father, God rest his soul. Lucky for the biker industry, his father also exposed him to a lot of mechanical work also. As Richie grew older, he started toying around with welding, tig and mig. Like any normal human being, Richie wanted more money for his work, so at the age of 23, he got a DOT Certification in welding.

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