

Showin' Off His Custom Street Smarts

# THE GRAVESSEND

## FROM LONG ISLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Article And Photos By: Chris Callen

**W**hen Mike Cole finished his '39 Knucklehead, that had sheet metal hand hammered out of copper, he picked up the nickname "Copper Mike." That handle seemed to stick among all his friends and gave him inspiration to carry the luster of high polished copper into his next build, pictured here, Gravesend.

What is even more unique about this bike, and a point that you might miss right off, is the truly unique combination of a Shovelhead bottom end and a Knuckle top. When I asked Mike why they decided to go this way, his partner Charlie shouted, "Cause someone said it couldn't be done."

Charlie Lamantia started Street Smarts about five years ago after wrenching from his home garage for about thirty years and with a lifetime as a machinist/tool and die maker, he doesn't respond well to the word can't. That might be the reason they call him the "Violent Italian." So when they looked at what needed to be done to overcome this challenge, it was

simple; just make some custom pushrods, their own breather gears and a few items that they're keeping to themselves and there you have it: a Shovel Knuck.

Mike Cole is no new comer to the scene either. He started riding dirt bikes when he was twelve and made the transition to the street at eighteen. Having many cool bikes under his belt, it was a perfect fit to bring his fabrication expertise and Charlie's motor abilities and put them under one roof. The result is the bike you see here, their

first bike as partners at the new Street Smart Cycles. It would seem that it's not just our magazine that approves of this combination. We met Mike this past Bikeoberfest at Willie's Chopper Show where he took the 1st place "Bad to the Bone" class. That's a hell of an honor but their awards wouldn't stop there. They also took 1st place Bobber class at the Boardwalk Show and 2nd place Bobber at the Rat Hole; all in all some pretty cool accolades to walk away with.

Don't let me give you the im-





pression that the bulk of this build is all about a copper plated frame and a trick motor; that's far from the truth. What the sum total of this machine is comes from the aesthetic blend of art and the machine. Every painstaking detail from the hand-made bars and fender struts, to the hand fabbed sheet metal and engine mount, give this beauty street credit with extra to spare. Sitting in a parking lot, it forces people to walk over to it, and as it rolls down the street, their heads twist off.

The execution of their brand of



Bobber works so well, you could compare the clean lines and almost not believe that it's a one-off, hand-made bike. But that's just what they do at Street Smarts. They call themselves a "No Fills" motorcycle shop who loves the work they do, and it shows. The brass risers and pegs, the classic pipe wrap over, and the hand-made exhaust system hugging the Knuckle sandwich is just too much for a tramp like me; I want one!

Makes me wonder what they'll be bringing to Florida this year. Guess we'll have to see. Until then, you can check them out on their web site. As always, tell 'em the Source sent ya. [www.streetsmartcycles.com](http://www.streetsmartcycles.com)

**Cycle Re-sources:**  
**Street Smart Cycles Inc.**  
 15 Monmouth Ct. - East Northport, NY  
 Phone: 631-261-2440  
[www.streetsmartcycles.com](http://www.streetsmartcycles.com)



**THE GRAVESEND TECH SHEET**

**Owner:** Street Smart Cycles Inc. / Michael Cole  
**City:** East Northport, NY  
**Fabrication By:** Street Smart Cycles Inc.  
**Year:** '72/'46  
**Model:** Shovel/ Knuckle  
**Value:** 45k  
**Time:** 6 Months

**ENGINE**  
**Year:** '72/'46  
**Model:** Shovel/ Knuckle  
**Builder:** Street Smart Cycles Inc.  
**Ignition:** Dyna  
**Displacement:** 74"  
**Pistons:** V-Twin 8.5:1  
**Heads:** '46 Knuckle  
**Cam(s):** Crane FL Shovel  
**Carb:** Mikuni/ Street Smart Manifold  
**Air Cleaner:** Goodson  
**Exhaust:** Street Smart Cycles Eagle Eye  
**Primary:** BDL

**TRANSMISSION**  
**Year:** 2007  
**Make:** Ultima  
**Shifting:** 6 Speed - Foot Shift

**FRAME**  
**Year:** 2007  
**Make:** Street Smart Cycles Inc.  
**Rake:** 35 Degrees  
**Stretch:** 4 Inches In The Rear  
**Swingarm:** Nope!

**FRONT END**  
**Type:** Sportster  
**Build:** H-D - Shaved Sliders By SSC  
**Extension:** Stock  
**Tees:** Shaved By Street Smart Cycles Inc.

**WHEELS**  
**Front Wheel:** Performance Machine  
**Size:** 21x 2.5"  
**Tire:** Metzeler  
**Brakes:** What?  
**Rear Wheel:** Performance Machine  
**Size:** 18x 3.5"  
**Tire:** Metzeler Comp K  
**Brakes:** Performance Machine

**PAINT**  
**Painter:** Cycle Paint & Metal  
**Type:** Urethane  
**Color:** Root Beer Copper Metal Flake  
**Graphics:** Copper Leaf  
**Matting:** None  
**Copper Plating By:** Artistic Chrome

**ACCESSORIES**  
**Bars:** Street Smart Narrow Baby Apes  
**Risers:** Todd Cycle Brass  
**Hand Controls:** Hockey Iape  
**Gas Tank(s):** Modified Tear Drop  
**Rear Fender:** None  
**Front Fender:** Front Fender Modified & Ribbed  
**Seat:** Mikey's Leatherworks  
**Foot Controls:** Street Smart Mid Controls  
**Tailight:** '09 Car Running Light Converted  
**Headlight:** '61 FL Spot Light  
**Oil Tank:** Bill Dodge - Bling Cycles  
**Photography By:** Chris Callen