

Donnie Smith was raised on his parent's dairy farm in Donnelly, Minnesota. After graduating from the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture, he moved to Minneapolis. He got into racing dragsters before entering a two year tour of duty with the United States Army. Upon returning home, Donnie opened *Smith Brothers* & *Fetrow*, a race/auto parts shop with his brother Happy and his friend, Bob Fetrow. After chopping and raking motorcycle frames for his uncle Elwood, Smith Brothers & Fetrow began producing motorcycle frames and girders full time, which eventually led to Donnie Smith becoming one of the top designers and fabricators of custom bikes today. Functional design and clean lines are Donnie's signature style. Donnie's bikes have been featured in all the major motorcycle magazines in the US and as well as various publications internationally.

Along with American Thunder Productions, Donnie hosts "The Donnie Smith Bike Show" in downtown St. Paul, MN. This is the biggest motorcycle show in the Midwest. This has been an annual event for the past 20 plus years. Donnie was instrumental in starting one of the biggest attractions to this show, the Donnie Smith Chopper Class Challenge. This is where high schools enter builds from chopper building courses into a competition between schools.

Donnie was inducted to the Sturgis Hall of Fame in 1995 and has lifetime achievement awards from V-Twin and Hot Bike magazines. In 2010, the mayor of Spearfish, SD proclaimed March 28, 2010 to be "Donnie Smith Day" and awarded Donnie a key to the city.

Donnie Smith Custom Cycle, Inc. is located in Blaine, MN. He is still an avid drag racing fan, a supporter of many charitable events, and spends most of his leisure time motorcycling with his lady, Dawn, and their many riding friends.