



The Talon

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344



To Ride Beyond—Senior Road Captain—Linda Knowles

I hope you have been able to join us over the last few months on some of the fantastic rides our Road Captains have planned. Our goal is to give this Chapter fun rides but also safe rides. At our briefings before our rides, the Lead Road Captain goes over the basic rules of group riding and those of HOG to keep our rides within their guidelines of no alcohol on rides. One of the points we bring up is to pass hand signals back that are given by the lead Road Captain. The reason we ask this is to ensure those further back in the group are aware of whatever that hand signal might mean. Example, hitting a pot hole or a dead animal on the road that was not pointed out is not fun but could be dangerous. The hand signals help in keeping the integrity of the group in the safest way possible. Please be mindful when you see a hand signal, the biker behind you or in the other track from you may not be able to see it. The Lead Road Captain gives the hand signals to signify that something is happening that all need to be aware of. Help us make our rides fun and safe by heeding our request to pass back all the hand signals. When we are riding together as group, the more we work together the better the ride experience will be. We are into our best riding season but also the hottest time of the year. Please make sure you are hydrating as you ride. We are all sweating but may not realize it as the wind created as we ride is drying us as we go. I am bringing this up as it happened recently to me. I thought I was drinking enough water and an electrolyte drink but apparently I didn't. I ended up in the ER with heart palpitations caused by dehydration. I know we have heard a thousand times to hydrate but until you actually are affected it may not hit home. I hope you can learn from the experience of others and take care of yourself. Our Road Captains have continued to get together monthly to plan future rides for all to enjoy. You can find our monthly ride calendars on our website, www.tidewater.com, under events on our Facebook page Tidewater HOG Chapter #5344 and through emails via Tidewater Update. Hope to see you on a ride soon!

LINDA KNOWLES
SENIOR ROAD CAPTAIN

Inside This Issue

TO RIDE BEYOND.....	1
OH CANADA.....	2
OH CANADA continued.....	3
EUROPEAN HOG RALLY.....	4
EUROPEAN RALLY continued.....	5
TRIKES EYE VIEW.....	5
EVENTS.....	5
TOUR RIDE 2022.....	6
SAFETY.....	7
WILLIAMSBURG/JAMESTOWN PICNIC.....	8
OFFICERS.....	9
ADVERTISING.....	10

June-July 2022
Issue 4
Art Verdin
Editor

OH CANADA

One of the first major rides that Vicki took with me was from Chesapeake to Key West on my new 2014 Limited. We went to Key West during the Peterson Harley Davidson Poker Run to Key West. Vicki had a blast on the ride and while we were in Key West. While we were there, we went down to the southern most point in the US and the actual start of US1 and had a picture taken of us and my bike. Since that time, I have thought about getting up to Ft Kent, ME to get a picture of us at the end of US1. During this time period I have ridden all of US1 except for the part from Houlton, ME to Ft Kent, ME. After last year's 7000-mile ride out west I made up my mind that this year would be the year to go to Ft. Kent. I started to make plans for a trip to Ft. Kent by way of Canada. I put on the Tidewater Calendar and got some takers for the trip. Some of the people that wanted to go dropped out after they found out that they had to have the Covid vaccine.

I planned the trip to take us from here to Niagara Falls to go into Canada. From there we went to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, and on to Edmundson, NB. The route was planned to not have any real long day rides.

Our first day we rode to Berkely Springs, WV where we spent the evening with a childhood friend of Faiths, the whole group had a great time at her house. The next morning, we got up and left for the ride to Niagara Falls. We rode through the back roads of WV and MD into PA; the scenery was breath taking. Once we got to Niagara Falls, we checked into the hotel and took a walk to the falls. David and Faith had never been there, the Falls were full and roaring. Pictures were taken and all of us were having a great time. After the walk to the Falls, we went to dinner at the restaurant where the Buffalo Wings were first served, and we had a blast. Back to the hotel to get up early for the crossing into Canada. We thought it might be a little trouble getting across the border but it wasn't. The Canadian Broader agent was nice and talkative. Once across we head to Toronto by way of a HD dealer, our first of many. We got to the hotel in Toronto early and check in early and had time to rest and site see. That evening we had a tour of the "Spirits of the Distillerys" of old town Toronto. It was like a haunted walking tour of the old distilleries of the area. If you ever saw the movie "Cinderella Man" with Russell Crowe this is where it was filmed. The walk was about 2 hours long and it was quiet fun and very interesting. Next day on to Ottawa one of the longest day rides, but we got there with time to site see. We had a little problem here because just a few days before we got there a storm had gone through and knocked out power. We had some problem with our rooms, but got it straightened out. Next day it was on to Montreal, it was going to be a short ride, but it turned out to be much longer than we had planned because we took a wrong turn, and the ride planner was not cooperating with us. We rode halfway to Quebec before we realized we were going wrong. We had a walking tour of the old part of the town set up, but we didn't make it in time. We still had some time for siteseeing and to find a good place to eat. Next stop was in Quebec we made good time because we knew half of the ride already. Oh, I forgot to mention the day before we had a great lunch at the Bienvenue Restaurant in Belle, Quebec. We stopped at HD dealer on the way that we had found the day before also. Once again, we got to Quebec early and checked into the hotel and went site seeing on foot, we were downtown in the old part of Quebec. There was a lot of construction going on but it was still very nice downtown. Next morning up and on to the last city we would stop at in Canada, Edmundson. On the way to Edmundson, we rode through some beautiful country on great roads. We got there and checked in. They had a really good restaurant right at the hotel. They also had free washing machines to use so washing was done. The next day we were going to cross the border back into the US.

Which we did and got a special treat from the US border agent. We stopped at the crossing and the agent asked where we had been and where we were going. He thought it was very interesting and told me we had to stop at the 4 Corners Park right around the corner on our route to Ft Kent. I really had no ideal what he was talking about. As we went down the road, we passed it and I noticed it had a statue of a big Moose in it. So, I went down the road and turned around to go up the little hill to it. We parked our bikes over by the moose to take some pictures. What I haven't told you yet was Faith kept asking where the moose are all along the trip. So, when I saw the Moose statue I knew we had to go to get a picture. As everyone was taking pictures of the moose and the painting where you could put your head in, I walked over to this big garnet monument and started reading it. To my amazement it was set up by the HD dealer nearby and was for the 4 corners of the US. While I read it I realized that now I have 2 of the 4 corners and all I have to do is go to Bellingham, WA and Chula Vista, CA to get the other 2 corners. This whole park was a very big surprise for us on the trip. After being there for a time we left to get to Ft. Kent riding down US1 for about 25 miles to the monument for the picture of us with the bike. Once we got to the end of US1 I had to explain that even though it states the first mile of US1, it isn't that since the 1950's when the US highway system was established. All north south US highways start in the south and end in the north. All east west highways start in the west and end in the east. As we finished with the pictures, we headed south down ME 11 which is in the center of ME. to Augusta, ME. All the riders on the trip were just amazed at the scenery and views we had. We also came across a real live moose for Faith to see. We also saw plenty of live deer and roadkill ones. We arrived at the hotel and made plans to go to a HD dealer nearby. Next stop was in Burlington, VT and again the ride was spectacular through NH and VT, some really great roads. We got to the hotel to relax and have a little fun. Next mornings trip was to Herkimer to stay for 2 days so we could go to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. We made a side trip on the way down to Herkimer to Ft Ticonderoga





OH CANADA CONTINUED

in New York. If you are not familiar with this Fort, think about the movie Last of the Mohicans. It was well worth the side trip. Getting to the hotel in Herkimer we all rested and had a great dinner at a real nice place. The next day we got up and went down to Cooperstown for the Baseball Hall of Fame. We all really enjoyed the B H of F, we spent almost the whole day in it. Up the next day to ride to Harrisburg for the night. When we got up the next morning Faith and David left us because David's back was hurting him, and they wanted to go straight home down 95. Bill Jackson had joined us here, so we were going on with the route to go over the high bridge on 50. We did not have as much traffic as we were expecting. So once over the bridge we decide to come straight home by way of 13 down the eastern shore. We all got home about 4:30 and after 3640 miles. I believe all of us had a really great time on the ride and it will be one that we will not forget any time soon. I want to thank everyone that went on the trip because they helped me get my picture to go along with the other one, I have of Vicki and I at the start of US1.

BILL ARNOLD



EUROPEAN HOG RALLY PORTOROZ, SLOVENIA

To say this trip was the ride of a lifetime is an understatement!! My current role in the U.S. Navy has me stationed in Rota, Spain. It's in the southwest province of Andalusia and one of the more popular beach destinations for Europeans. I first heard of the HOG rally right after I arrived here in August of 2021. I assumed at that time like most other things it would be cancelled thanks to COVID. Fortunately, I was very wrong and I'm glad that I was.

My trip started on Saturday June 4th. I left Rota and headed to the town of Vinaros, Spain on the eastern coast and about 2 hours south of Barcelona. After roughly 600 miles riding, I arrived in town about 6:00 p.m. and didn't have the motivation to do anything other than grab some dinner and get some sleep. Planning another 500 miles the next day will do that to ya. So, on the 5th that's exactly what I did. 515 miles across the French border to Cannes, France. Same as the day before I was beat but having never been to France, I made myself get out on the town for a couple hours and it was definitely something to see. I had never really heard of Cannes or of the fancy-smancy film festival all the celebrities go to. Didn't run into any celebrities so after dinner and probably a few to many glasses of wine I called it a night. Day three I sort of came to my senses and didn't plan to ride more than 300 miles. That got into the land of pasta and gladiators. I made it to Bormio, Italy and pretty good time. Other than sitting at a giant toll plaza just south of Milan for over an hour it was a pretty easy ride. Now Bormio isn't quite on the way to Slovenia but when your father-in-law (once removed) is the #2 man in the world for miles ridden for the HOG program and he recommends you add the Stelvio mountain pass to your trip, you don't question it you just re route yourself. So, that's exactly what I did. I stayed my third night in Bormio and on the morning of June 7th I rode the highest paved mountain pass in the Eastern Alps on the Italian, Switzerland border. 75 hairpin turns at an elevation of 2,757 meters. An amazing experience that I may never get to do again. The rest of Tuesday was spent finding my way out of the Alps and completing my 350-mile journey to Portoroz, Slovenia.

I arrived in Slovenia Tuesday evening with plenty of time to set up my camp site and make it downtown for what I can only describe after 4 days and 1800 miles as the coldest and best tasting beer I've ever had. I have no idea what brand or type of beer it was, but it didn't matter. Since the event didn't really get rocking till Thursday, I did a day ride Wednesday up to the capital city of Ljubljana. Nothing too crazy to see there except some really old buildings and of course the famous "Dragon Bridge". Thursday through Sunday morning were spent witnessing the European HOG rally. An awesome event to experience, with dealerships from all over Europe showing up. Harley Davidson can definitely throw one hell of a party. One of my brothers in arms Brian Stoops (Road name COBRA) made it down from Germany. He and I both are members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association. It's always time well spent when beer drinking with your brothers is happening. I met people who had traveled from as far as South Africa and Australia to attend. I don't think their motorcycles came with them though. I got the opportunity to talk with Karen Davidson. The great granddaughter of The Walter A. Davidson and daughter of Willey G. She was awesome and had lots of questions about my thoughts on the new bikes they've come out with and any ideas or suggestions I might have.

Four days of rallying and riding was enough for me but before I loaded the bike Saturday night, I peeked at what it might look like if I attempted the Iron Butt Challenge on my way back. Only took me about 15 mins to decide that I was definitely going to attempt it. Sunday morning at 5:30 on the dot I left Portoroz and headed west to Tarragona, Spain. 1,019 miles staring me in the face, and I had nothing but time. I made pretty good time to about halfway through Italy and then came upon an entire 8 lane freeway that was closed. An hour of back roads wasn't really what I wanted to do but I got to see some really nice Italian cow pastures. I got all the way to Marseille, France before I had to turn north and that took me up into the southern part of the Pyrenees mountains. With summer allowing for longer days, I wasn't too concerned about being in the mountains at night. That was until I got there. Freaking huge is the best way to describe them. They made for some of the most beautiful riding I've ever done and some of the scariest seeing as how I didn't make it out of them until after night fall. 17 hours and 44 minutes after I started, I made it to Tarragona, Spain. Still waiting on the IBA to certify everything and send me my certificate and patch but I can assure you my ass is anything but iron.

EUROPEAN HOG RALLY continued

I stayed Sunday night and most of the day Monday in Tarragona visiting my friend Manu and his wife. Manu is from Tarragona and has one of the most extensive motorcycle collections I have ever seen. Beautiful bikes dating back to the 40's. Best part is they all still run. Anybody that has ever heard some of the old school Harley engines knows exactly how sweet that sound is. I left Tarragona Monday night and rode approximately 330 miles down the coast to Alicante, Spain. Didn't see any of this city since I didn't leave Tarragona till 6:00pm I didn't get in till around midnight and to be honest at this point I was ready to get my ass home! Tuesday morn I decided I was tired of the coast-line and cut straight across the middle of the Andalusian province headed to Rota. This was anything but a "short" cut. Almost 400 miles and 97-degree heat made for the last ride of the trip to be the most unenjoyable one but getting home in time to see my little munchkin before bedtime and sleep in my own bed snuggle up with my wife made that 100% ok.

The only downside to my trip is that I didn't get to do it with my bride Elizabeth. She also rides and would have loved seeing southern Europe from two wheels. I'm sure over the next couple years that we are here we will get to do some riding however I don't know if anything will top the European HOG Rally in Slovenia 2022!!

EVAN DEAN



TRIKES EYE VIEW

Now that Summer is in full motion there's plenty of activity to do and riding. I'm sure that most of us are feeling the gas price hikes and I'm not sure how it has changed plans because of it. I know it has changed ours. As a result we're doing more local activities and taking in what the local farms have in. I enjoy berry picking and getting fresh produce along with just being out in the country taking in the beauty of trees not buildings. I didn't realize how many farms were around us here. Anyways this is one thing to enjoy if you want to stay close to home. That and I enjoy the pool to cool off. There might even be a trip to Busch Gardens coming soon.

LISA VERDIN

EVENTS

Short and Sweet Ride—July 2
Virginia Trail to Jake's Place—July 3
Bug Ride—July 9
Chapter Meeting—July 13
Tangier Island Cruise—July 23
Chapter Meeting—August 10

2022 TOUR RIDE

Tidewater Chapter 2022 Tour Ride Regional Airports in Virginia This year's Tidewater Tour Ride is Regional Airports in Virginia. These are the small airports that only small planes land at. You will be given a list and map of the Airports that are in VA. You also will be given a Virginia Aviation Ambassadors Passport booklet. If you want to you can go to the airports and get your book stamped for every stamp you will get 2 extra points. You will need to find the Airports and take a picture of the airport sign with you and the ride sheet in it. A Harley Davidson motorcycle needs to be in the picture also. There will be some rides that will prove to be a lot of fun and interesting to you. Come have some real rides with fellow HOGs. The cost will be \$15.00 for the ride sheet



2022 Regional Airport Tour Ride

SAFETY

7 Top Tips for Motorcycle Rides in the Summer

1. Maintain your motorcycle for summer

Heat and cold will have varying effects on different types of bikes, so as the seasons change, you should be properly tuning and adjusting your motorcycle. To begin with, you should always make sure that your fluids are topped off and the radiator is clean. Your tires need to have a good amount of tread and be properly inflated, as the heat can make them perform worse or even pop if these aren't properly calibrated. Finally, make sure to ask a mechanic or someone with significant expertise if your make or model of bike has been known to have heat-related issues and how to mitigate them.

2. Wear Full-Coverage Appropriate Gear

You should never be without proper full-coverage riding gear, but we always advise having a summer set and a winter set. Wearing gear that is made from breathable material such as mesh can help, as well as **wearing a helmet** that has vents to circulate air. Similarly, if your gear is moisture-wicking or absorbent, it can help keep your body cool as you sweat a bit during the ride. The theme remains the same for these first tips: enjoy the sun but don't let its effects cut your ride short.

3. Hydrate

This could just as easily be a life tip that extends into motorcycle riding, but it's especially important when you're putting in the miles during the summer heat. When you're wearing proper gear and working up a sweat maneuvering your bike over the road, you can get dehydrated quickly. The last thing you want is to cut a trip short due to heatstroke, dizziness, or headaches. We recommend carrying a hydration pack that you can sip while riding, as well as having a spare water bottle in your pack. Avoiding soda and energy drinks (which dehydrate you via sugar and chemicals) can also prevent the ill effects of the heat as you will be drinking more actual water without those as substitutes.

4. Take Frequent Breaks

This is a tip we would highly recommend for most motorcycle adventures anyway, but it becomes especially important during the hotter months. Stretching your legs to get blood flow, giving yourself a chance to rehydrate, and getting some fresh air can do wonders for the quality of a ride while preserving your health and stamina. Besides, we would hope that on your day trips or cross-country treks you're planning to hit as many scenic pull-offs, delicious diners, and quality sightseeing opportunities as possible.

5. Shade Your Eyes as Well

The intense summer sun can do a number on your visibility as well as even damage your eyes if they are not properly protected. Tinted visors or sunglasses can help to mitigate these issues – though we still advise using caution as you corner while going westward towards the sun. The summer weather conditions are sneaky in that they aren't oppressive from the moment you set out on your journey, but they get you with repeated exposure. Thus, look for the easiest ways to take care of the most dangerous summer riding conditions.

6. Wear Base Layers or Cooling Gear

Two great forms of heat control are wearing wicking base layers and/or cooling vests and wraps. The base layer will keep you cool by providing light compression for better circulation, which will increase your evaporative cooling. An evaporative vest or neck wrap can be soaked in water and it will evaporate over the course of a ride without making a mess of the rest of your gear. We highly recommend any or all of these mechanisms to add an extra element of heat protection.

7. Plan your Rides at the Right Time

There may be some days or parts of long trips where you can't avoid the sun at its highest point. However, for most day trips or the majority of motorcycle rides, you can check the weather forecast and plot your day accordingly. We recommend getting up early, hydrating, and starting your trip while planning breaks around the noon to five pm portion of a ride if possible. These tips, along with other routine health and safety tips for riding a motorcycle will keep you riding through the summer and into your next set of adventures. The open road is the greatest place to be almost any time, but without proper preparation and precaution, your riding career could be cut short. Luckily, these motorcycle safety tips are easy to remember and implement, so don't skip out on any of them.

The Law Tigers



WILLIAMSBURG/JAMESTOWN PICNIC



THE WILLIAMSBURG/JAMESTOWN AIRPORT PICNIC!

Airplanes roaring and Harleys rumbling; a great Spring Symphony in May at the Tidewater Harley Owners Group Picnic at the beautiful Williamsburg/Jamestown Airport in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The motorcyclists enjoyed of the Airport Ramp for a Motorcycle Slow hosted by Jake McSparron, Biker Games, orchestrated by Rick Leighton including Slow Races, Water Balloon Toss and Road Kill Pickup. The Corn Hole Tournament was hosted by Reggie Farr on a pretty grassy spot and there were Table Top Fun and Games hosted by Pam McGrath under the big tent as well as a wonderful BBQ Lunch catered by Whitener's BBQ in Virginia Beach, all under the giant tent which the Airport provided, including tables, chairs and trash cans.

Great appreciation to Members of both HOG Chapters for helping out and special thanks to Reggie Farr who donated water and ice and Chris Ward, who donated logistical support and Sheila and Keith Hyatt who also donated Paper Goods and to all who helped and participated in this Event.

BILL JACKSON

**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2022**
SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DAVIDSON, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
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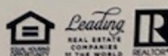
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The Talon is printed in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Forms can be obtained from the Talon Editor—Art Verdin