

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344



To Ride Beyond—Lead Road Captain—Tom Sanchez

We did it again! Last issue, I wrote about how the chapter came together and won our division for the State Chapter Challenge. Well, since that time, we've held our annual 2 Chapter Challenge with Hampton Roads HOG to see who could get the most folks out on a ride. We set the destination for Roanoke Rapids, NC and met up at the Carolina BBQ restaurant to see how it would turn out. Unfortunately, I was in my car because my bike was down for maintenance.

Interesting side note – please take care of your motorcycle. Do regular maintenance, check it regularly using T-CLOCS as recommended by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, and pay attention to your ride. I was aware of a potential issue with my clutch and, when it went out on the Bird Park Ride, I was prepared and able to get myself and the group I was leading to safety. Everyone continued on and had a great time while I waited for a friend and HOG member to come and trailer me back to Southside.

Anyway, back to our story...I was at the restaurant a few minutes before the motorcycles rode up so I was watching what unfolded. First, I spotted HR HOG at the light and watched as their group turned and rode into the parking lot. It was an impressive sight. But then I noticed a rider or two about halfway back in the group. I recognized the riders as Tidewater HOG. Turns out our first group had met up with HR HOG just before the light and turned in with them. I am certain they thought they'd won since their group was larger than those from Tidewater HOG that came in with them. However, what they didn't know and would soon find out was that this was only the first group. Soon, Regie, Steve and the rest of the second group rolled up and it was clear we would win! Not by a lot, but by enough. What a fun sight to see! Hopefully, at the next meeting you'll be able to see the trophy.

Many other rides and events have happened since the Talon was last published. We've had the Mayberry in May overnight ride, the Rolling to Remember event, local rides, open houses and new member orientations that included group riding seminars. We even rode to support those diagnosed with Autism as we joined others in the community for the Maci's Ride. Several members even had the opportunity to attend Accident Scene Management training to help us better handle any mishap we may encounter on the road, whether in our own group or if we ride up on an incident. We want our Road Captains and members to be safe and have fun. We hope you'll join us on a ride this summer. In July, we will be attending the N the Burg HOG Rally in Fredericksburg, VA. Throughout the months of July and August, many other rides will be scheduled and conducted. Remember to hydrate and dress for the heat! And, get out on the roads. Ride. Have fun. See you out there!

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July-August 2023
Issue 4
Art Verdin
Editor

EVENTS

Independence Day—July 4
Chapter Meeting —July 12
New Member Orientation—July 15
Ladies of Harley Meeting—July 19
Ride to the Rally—July 25
HOG Rally—July 26-30
Chapter Meeting—August 9
New Member Orientation—August 12
Sunrise Ride—August 19
Gimme Shelter Ride—August 26

MORE TO COME IN 2023

THINK SUN BASICS

Things we don't even think about and tell our self. (I don't need a sunscreen) I went on the short orientation run Saturday in a short sleeve shirt (no sunscreen). I have very red arms like a lobster, LOL, problem a lobster is not red until it's cooked. Most of my Harley shirts are long sleeve and this is why. We all wear sunglasses, so think about your skin too. My open face helmet lets my nose stick out to get burned on a long ride (never gave it much thought until now) So think and take care with SPF 30 or higher.



Mike McColgan
Words may Inspire, but only action creates change.



FALL FESTIVAL - Save the Date

WHERE: Southside Harley Davidson

ADDRESS: 385 N Witchduck Road VA Beach VA

DATE: Saturday October 28th 2023

TIME: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

-HUGE Yard Sale

-Large Donation Area & Bake Sale - shoppers pay what they want or can. 100% of money collected from this area will go to EDMARC Hospice for Children.

-Dee's Design's onsite! Bring your leathers to get patches sewn on.

Will have a large selection of patches for sale!

-Much More to come!! – Will Update thru Facebook!

VENDORS: Rent a parking spot to sell your goods! \$15 for 1 or \$25 for 2 spots. (bring your own set up) Email Pam at pam1.mcgrath@gmail.com. Put Fall Festival in subject line. We will be asking Vendors to send a few pictures of items they are selling so we can promote. You are welcome to sell anything (almost anything-ha-ha). You can sell clothing, home goods, crafts, vintage items, motorcycle parts & accessories, ETC!

To make a donation: If you have items to donate to be sold with proceeds going to EDMARC, email Pam at

pam1.mcgrath@gmail.com. Put Fall Festival in subject line. You can also bring items to a monthly HOG meeting and Linda Knowles (Director), Pam McGrath (LOH) or any Board Member will be happy to assist.

Pam McGrath
LOH

I Need a Reason to Ride

"I need a reason to ride"...said no biker ever, but at times it can be helpful when others share ideas and their experiences from the road. With that, I'd like to introduce a couple of groups whose activities can enhance your daytrips or even longer rides. First, I'd like to tell you about the Ride-To-Eat (RTE-X-USA) group that's free to join and open to all motorcycle enthusiasts. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/723374431356382> The concept is to earn points by eating your way across the USA. Simply choose a direction and stop at one or more of the restaurants listed on their map in any of the 50 states. They provide a downloadable (kml file) for locations, which can be opened in Google Maps. Scoring is easy; for one point, you submit a picture of your bike along with the restaurant's sign and the RTE-X sticker (supplied to you free via mail after sign-up). For a second point, order food and take a picture of your meal along with the sticker. In addition, you can score points for POI sites (points-of-interest) that are also pinned on their map. Last, IBA riders with verified Long Distance Rides (LDR's) over 1000 miles in 24 hours along with at least one RTE will receive 1 point while those with 1500 miles in 24 hours and at least one RTE will receive 2 points. Each quarter, the rider with the highest points wins a \$50 gift card. In Virginia alone, there are 25 opportunities statewide and another 14 or so just to our south in the eastern half of NC. So when planning a ride, consult their map for stops along your route and earn points for a shot at a gift card and quarterly bragging rights.



Second, I'd like to introduce to you the Tour of Honor (TOH) group, which is also open to all motorcycle riders. This group can be found at: <https://www.tourofhonor.com/index.html> Unlike the RTE-X group, there's an entry fee to join (\$150) but \$30 from each registration is donated to one of the following charities of your choosing (Fisher House Foundation, Gold Star Family Memorial Foundation, or Gary Sinise Foundation First Responders Outreach). Entrants also receive a welcome package containing a numbered TOH flag, a t-shirt, patch, stickers, etc. The purpose of this motorcycle group is to visit the many monuments and memorials randomly chosen throughout the 50 states, which honor and pay tribute to our military veterans, First Responders, and more. Much like RTE-X, this is a self-directed ride of your choosing and schedule or if you prefer, together as a group. Trophies are awarded to the first three riders who visit all of the memorials in a state or region. However, all riders that visit a minimum of seven state memorial sites will receive a pin and certificate. Categories for additional certificates include the Lost Generation (Doughboys), Sea-to-Shining

I Need a Reason to Ride continued

Sea Helicopters, War Dogs and K9 Heroes, Gold Star Family Memorials, 9/11 Memorials, Veterans Cemeteries, National Parks Tour, North to Alaska, Four Corners, and Iron Butts. Scoring is easy with their free TOH downloadable app. Take a picture of the memorial along with your bike and flag then upload it to their scoring site. Through this app you can identify and locate each state site along with their respective GPS coordinates and directions. Virginia alone has 92 sites listed statewide. In addition, the app allows you to track your overall progress and stats. Not that you needed a reason to ride but I hope both suggestions are helpful when planning a route and will enhance your daytrips or cross-country journeys. They're also a fun way to tour the USA while sampling local cuisine, honoring our nation's heroes, and visiting some out of the-way places, which more than likely you never would have found on your own. Enjoy!

Ed Willet





EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Our chapter website has recently received a major update! If you haven't visited the site in the last couple months, I think you should. We've been working hard behind the scenes to enhance how we share information with the chapter.

One of the latest additions to the website is an entire page dedicated to [Ride 365](#)! This page is a consolidated reference for all of the aspects of [Ride 365](#). We'd love to hear your feedback on the page so check it out today!

The next thing we've added is a resource center for our Road Captains and Officers. This page contains the most up to date forms and templates that we use for ride planning and meeting the insurance/legal requirements set forth by Harley-Davidson, for day-to-day chapter operations.

Lastly, we'd love to hear your thoughts on some long term initiatives to enhance the website. We've listed them below, and you can share your thoughts by emailing webmaster@tidewaterhog.com

Potential Website Enhancements:

- Password Protected Members Only Section that includes:
 - Virtual Member-at-Large comment box (like the physical box at the dealership, but online)
 - Merchandise interest form and polls
 - Multi-day ride planning info (hotel info, RC contact info, routes, etc.)
- Member recognition page (virtual bulletin board where members can recognize each other for doing something interesting or special)

If you have any ideas to improve the website, or how we communicate with the chapter online, please share. Our chapter is only as strong as it's members!

Heather and Chris Moore
Webmaster and Activities Officer

THE BIG UGLY TROPHY

On June 4th, we won the Two Chapter Challenge again this year with our sister Chapter Hampton Roads HOG. We had members who rode with the chapter, those who were unable to ride drove their cars, and others who were from out of town who showed up to be counted. It was a great turnout of 38 members who came to support the Chapter. The challenge started in 2012 as a fun way for the sister Chapters to do something together. It was decided we would pick a place that was close to the same distance away from Southside Harley and Hampton Roads Harley and see who had the most members show up. At that time there wasn't anything more to it than bragging rights. One afternoon before the challenge, some of us were sitting around a member's garage having a couple of adult beverages when the subject came up. We talked about it and decided we needed something more. Luckily, the guy's house we were at said he had a trophy somewhere and after a few minutes rummaging through his garage, there it was. We all laughed and agreed that was it and The Big Ugly Trophy was born! Since that time, it has passed back and forth between the Chapters. Someone at one point suggested we clean it up but that was voted down quickly as that would have changed the whole look and meaning. The trophy is like the ugly duckling but out of that comes the swan, which is the fun and comradery of the Chapters getting together for a friendly competition. Hopefully we will hold on to The Big Ugly Trophy again next year!

Linda Knowles—Director



FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe July is here already! The last two months have certainly flown by as I feel I just wrote my last article a couple of weeks ago! The Chapter has been very busy with rides (when it wasn't raining), we went to "Mayberry" for a long weekend, we won the Two Chapter Challenge with our sister Chapter, Hampton Roads HOG, had a "ridetivity" to Sylvan Heights Bird Park and the HOGs and Dogs baseball game at Harbor Park, not counting the all the day rides we had. We've had several new members join us and they have been very active with the Chapter which is great to see! There have been a couple of changes with the Board in the past month. Steve Cain is our third Member-at-Large so all positions are full. Pam McGrath is taking over as our Ladies of Harley officer for the rest of the year. Our Webmaster is working on making some changes to our website which will be welcome additions to the website. The next big event will be the N The Burg HOG Rally in Fredericksburg, VA July 26th-29th. The Chapter ride to the Rally leaves on July 25th and returns July 30th. Stay tuned for more fun events and rides! Hope to see you soon at our Chapter meeting, the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Southside Harley, or on a ride!

Linda Knowles
Director



RIDING A TRIKE

Riding a Harley Davidson trike is a unique and exhilarating experience that offers the perfect combination of power, stability, and freedom. Whether you are a seasoned rider or a newcomer to the world of motorcycling, a Harley Davidson trike offers an unforgettable ride that is sure to satisfy your inner adventurer.

One of the most striking features of a Harley Davidson trike is its three-wheeled design, which provides added stability and control on the road. This is particularly reassuring for those who may feel uneasy about riding a two-wheeled motorcycle, or for those who simply prefer the added security of a third wheel. With the added stability of a trike, riders can focus on enjoying the ride and taking in the scenery, rather than worrying about balance and control.

Another notable feature of a Harley Davidson trike is its powerful engine, which delivers an impressive amount of torque and acceleration. This means that riders can enjoy the thrill of the open road while cruising at high speeds, or take on challenging terrain with ease. Whether you are cruising down a winding highway or tackling a steep mountain pass, a Harley Davidson trike provides the power and performance you need to conquer any road or trail.

Of course, riding a Harley Davidson trike is not just about power and performance – it is also about the sense of freedom and adventure that comes with exploring the open road. With the wind in your hair and the sun on your face, riding a trike is a thrilling and liberating experience that allows you to connect with the world around you in a way that is simply not possible in a car or other enclosed vehicle. Whether you are riding solo or with a group of friends, a Harley Davidson trike is the perfect way to experience the freedom and excitement of the open road.

In addition to its performance and freedom, a Harley Davidson trike is also a stylish and iconic symbol of American motorcycle culture. With its distinctive design and legendary reputation, a Harley Davidson trike is a true classic that commands respect and admiration wherever it goes. Whether you are a die-hard Harley fan or simply appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of a well-made machine, a trike is sure to turn heads and inspire envy among your fellow riders.

In conclusion, riding a Harley Davidson trike is a thrilling and rewarding experience that offers the perfect combination of power, stability, and freedom. With its iconic design, powerful engine, and smooth handling, a trike is the ultimate expression of American motorcycle culture, and a testament to the enduring spirit of adventure and exploration that drives us all. So if you are looking for an unforgettable ride that will take you to the edge of your limits and beyond, look no further than a Harley Davidson trike.

Lisa Verdin



Cowboys and Bikers

Cowboys on horses and bikers on Harley Davidson motorcycles have a lot of similarities. They both share a certain ruggedness that is difficult to find in other modes of transportation. Cowboys and bikers alike embody the spirit of freedom, adventure, and independence.

Cowboys on horses have been part of the American West for centuries, and they have a certain mystique and romanticism that come with it. They must be tough, brave, and resourceful to survive the wilds of the West. Cowboys often have a strong sense of responsibility and a commitment to their work, making sure that their herds are well taken care of.

Bikers on H- D motorcycles also have a certain mystique and romanticism that come with it. They embody the spirit of freedom, adventure, and independence. Just like the Cowboys on horses, they also have a strong sense of responsibility and a commitment to their work. Bikers also have a sense of belonging and a connection to their peers.

Both Cowboys on horses and bikers on Harley Davidson motorcycles are symbols of freedom and independence. Both groups enjoy being able to go wherever they want and do whatever they please. They both have a strong sense of camaraderie and loyalty to their peers. The noise of horse's hoofs galloping is like the roar of the bikes engine.

In conclusion, Cowboys on horses and bikers on H-D motorcycles have a lot of similarities. They embody the spirit of freedom, adventure, and independence. They both have a strong sense of responsibility and a commitment to their work. They both have a sense of belonging and a connection to their peers. Cowboys on horses and bikers on Harley Davidson motorcycles are symbols of freedom and independence and will always remain a part of the American West and the motorcycle culture. However, there are also many differences between these two groups. Cowboys are often associated with the country, while bikers are often associated with the city. Cowboys typically wear boots and hats, while bikers typically wear leather jackets and helmets. Cowboys often ride in groups, while bikers typically ride alone. Cowboys are known for their work ethic and independent lifestyle, while bikers are seen as rebels and risk-takers. Cowboys are associated with the rural lifestyle, while bikers are associated with the urban lifestyle.



Whichever one you choose ride it like you stole it!

Bill Arnold

**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2023**
SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DAVIDSON, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
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HOG Members—We could use some ads. Ask some of your friends, or post one of your own. Even if it is just for a partial year or one issue. Your group needs it, especially during and after the COVID-19 lockdown. Thanks in advance, and please request a copy of the form from me at taloneditor@tidewaterhog.com



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