

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

To Ride Beyond—Lead Road Captain—Tom Sanchez

What a summer we've had! While it's been very hot, and we've even had to cancel rides because of the extreme heat, we have also had the chance to ride a lot. Did you ride with us to Fredericksburg for the HOG Rally? Or, join us for the memorial run to honor the fallen 31 heroes from Extortion 17? Maybe you participated in the ride across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel to get pictures of the sunrise? Our hope is that you've joined us in riding. Period. The chapter has been active throughout the summer. While in Fredericksburg, many in the chapter had the chance to ride up to the Blue Ridge Parkway and get their picture taken at one of the sites for the HOG "50 Rides, One Nation" Destination Ride Challenge. These are special places within each state that, when you get there, you take a picture of yourself and your HOG membership book; then you submit that to HOG and they send you a special coin commemorating your journey. In Virginia, it is Skyline Drive in the Shenandoah National Park. I recommend looking at the details found linked on our website to see what else is near here in North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

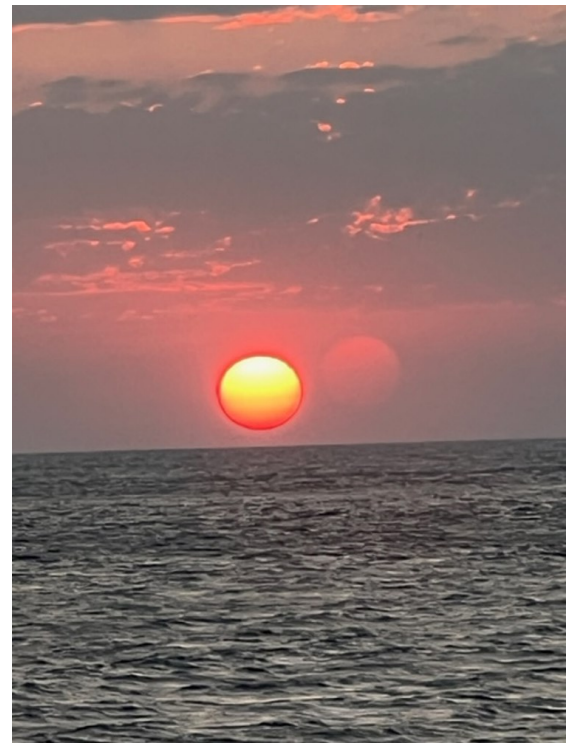
These last two months we've also had the opportunity to grow our ranks of Road Captains. Steve Cain and Matt Woods have stepped up and taken on the honor, privilege, and responsibility to be a Road Captain within our chapter. They've already planned rides for your enjoyment, with more to come. Road Captains work to ensure you have a safe, fun ride. We look for roads that we think you'll enjoy riding on and find interesting locations to eat in the hopes that you'll have a great time and come back out again. We love creating these opportunities and want the chapter to enjoy themselves and each other out riding. Check out the latest calendars to see what else we have planned.



Steve Cain



Matt Woods



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Sept-Oct 2023
Issue 5
Art Verdin
Editor

EVENTS

REDNECK ROADS—SEPTEMBER 2
OFF THE HOOK—SEPTEMBER 5
MISTY'S SCAVENGER HUNT—SEPTEMBER 9
RIDING FOR ICE CREAM—SEPTEMBER 10
CHAPTER MEETING—SEPTEMBER 13
HOOKIE RIDE—SEPTEMBER 20
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCH—SEPT 23
TWO CHAPTER PICNIC—SEPTEMBER 24
HOG 40TH ANNIVERSARY—SEPTEMBER 30
CHAPTER MEETING—OCTOBER 11
FALL FOLIAGE RIDE—OCTOBER 12-15
FALL FESTIVAL—OCTOBER 28
HOG CHRISTMAS PARTY—DECEMBER 9

MORE TO COME IN 2023

EMBRACING THE BEAUTY OF AUTUMN: THE JOYS OF MOTORCYCLE RIDING IN FALL

As the vibrant hues of summer gradually give way to the earthy tones of autumn, motorcycle riders find themselves presented with a unique opportunity to embark on exhilarating journeys amidst nature's breathtaking transformation. Riding a motorcycle during the fall season offers a remarkable experience that combines the thrill of the open road with the visual spectacle of changing landscapes. With cooler temperatures, crisp air, and a sense of tranquility that permeates the surroundings, autumn motorcycle riding is an adventure like no other.

1. Sensational Scenery:

One of the most remarkable aspects of autumn motorcycle riding is the captivating scenery that unfolds along the roads. As the leaves transition from lush greens to vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows, the landscape transforms into a painter's palette of colors. Cruising through tree-lined roads or winding mountain passes becomes a mesmerizing journey through a symphony of autumnal hues. The interplay of sunlight filtering through the colorful foliage creates a magical ambiance, evoking a sense of awe and wonder.

2. Mild Weather:

Autumn brings relief from the scorching heat of summer, offering motorcyclists a respite from excessive sweating and discomfort. The cooler temperatures of fall make riding more enjoyable, as the crisp air invigorates the senses. The absence of extreme heat means riders can don their favorite riding gear without feeling overwhelmed, allowing for a comfortable and pleasant riding experience. However, it's essential to dress in layers to accommodate temperature variations throughout the day.

3. Smoother Riding Conditions:

Autumn often brings drier weather with fewer rain showers, making road conditions more favorable for motorcycle enthusiasts. With reduced chances of sudden downpours and slippery surfaces, riders can navigate the roads with increased confidence and reduced risks. Nevertheless, riders should remain cautious as fallen leaves and damp patches can still pose challenges, particularly when cornering or braking. Regularly checking tire pressure and tread depth is also crucial to ensure optimal grip and stability.

4. Serene and Peaceful Atmosphere:

Autumn's arrival signifies a transition towards a quieter and more peaceful time of the year. As the bustling summer crowds dissipate, roads become less congested, offering riders the opportunity to revel in the tranquility of their surroundings. The calming rustle of fallen leaves under the tires and the fresh scent of autumn in the air create an immersive experience that heightens the connection between rider and nature. Riding through scenic routes, far away from the noise and distractions of daily life, allows for a profound sense of freedom and rejuvenation.

5. Seasonal Festivities and Events:

Autumn is a season filled with unique festivities, including harvest festivals, pumpkin patches, and scenic drives organized by motorcycle clubs or communities. These events offer riders an opportunity to connect with fellow enthusiasts, share experiences, and forge new friendships. Exploring local communities and participating in autumn-themed activities during pit stops further enhances the overall riding experience, creating cherished memories that blend the joy of riding with the spirit of the season.

Conclusion:

Autumn motorcycle riding offers a captivating blend of scenic beauty, mild weather, and a serene atmosphere. As nature adorns itself with vibrant colors, riders have the chance to immerse themselves in a sensory feast while experiencing the thrill of the open road. Whether it's the winding roads of the countryside or the breathtaking mountain passes, autumn beckons riders to embark on memorable journeys that celebrate the beauty of this enchanting time of year.

ART VERDIN, SECRETARY

HOG MILES

I like getting my HOG mileage awards, unfortunately, with the amount of miles I've accumulated, I kind of look like a rookie rider. I didn't buy my first Harley until 2018, and it was a 115 anniversary edition Tri-Glide and that's when I joined HOG and now on a 2020 CVO Tri Glide. But in the past, I was a big Honda rider. I had 2 Kawas 400/440, a Honda 550 SS then for my wedding present my lovely wife bought me a 1975 GL1000. That was a great ride that I set up for touring and made a homemade trailer hitch and in 1984 towed a trailer to California and back. I rode that bike everywhere, all the time. Total accumulated miles when I traded it in 1986 was 176,000 (22,000 when bought). I bought a new GL1200 then and rode it all the time no matter what the weather (19 degrees one day to work) including Americade 88. I took it with me when I got stationed in Italy and accumulated over 80,000 miles when I sold it while I was there. All this time I was a member of the GWRRA and with other assorted standard bikes I had during that time and after I got back from Italy. When I got back, I went through a VT750, a Shadow 1100 and finally a Kawasaki 900 custom. After all these years I amassed over 300,000 miles. So now that I'm a HOG, it's like starting all over again, but I'm determined to get at least 100,000 on this bike before I can't ride anymore. Love this bike, love the club and love the people.

STEVEN BRODIE



OH DARK HUNDRED

Groan. Is that alarm going off ALREADY? Yup, it's the Tidewater HOGs Annual Sunrise Breakfast Ride!

We gathered at the Wawa on Shore Drive and by KSU time, 0545, we had 22 motorcycles and 25 folks rarin' to go. We rolled into the parking lot behind the administration building at the South Toll Plaza. Chief Jansen of the Chesapeake Bridge Tunnel Police Force graciously provided two Officers for Escort and Trail.

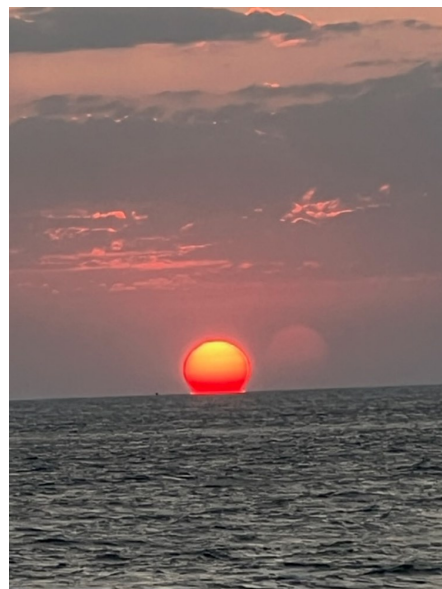
We gathered just past the Toll Plaza, the two Officers took position and we rolled to the large parking area at the entrance to the Second Tunnel, parked and within 5 minutes (at 0623), watched that mighty orange ball peek over the Eastern Atlantic Ocean horizon. Cameras clicked on the awesome grandeur of the sunrise. By 0640, we made the planned U-turn to exit the parking area and resume our planned route northward on US13 to the Sage Diner in Onley, Virginia. .



The Diner folks had it together. Within minutes we had coffee, water etc. and very shortly thereafter 25 breakfasts were served. They did a fantastic job and the groceries were terrific.

Southbound, on Route 13, and 68 miles later, we were at Southside Harley Davidson at 10:30. Thanks to everyone who contributed their presence and their great attitude on this Fun ride of the Tidewater HOGs.

BILL JACKSON





FALL FESTIVAL-Save the Date

WHERE: Southside Harley Davidson

ADDRESS: 385 N. Witchduck Road, VA Beach, VA

DATE: Saturday, October 28th, 2023

TIME: 9AM – 2PM

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

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-haha). 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. Any Board Member will be happy to assist.



CELEBRATION OF DUKE

On Saturday, August 12th, Tidewater HOG surprised Duke, who works at Southside Harley Davidson, with an Honorary membership to our Chapter. Duke started working at Southside in 1993. Over the years he assisted the Chapter with our events and was always ready to help us in anyway he could. Duke loves his “Biker Family” and greets everyone with a smile, handshake or a hug. Southside donated a vest while members of the Chapter donated the HOG patch, Tidewater rocker and a HOG name tag with Duke’s name on it. We were able to keep it a secret so he had no idea what was going to happen. When he was brought out to the front of the store, many TWH members, customers and staff watched as we presented a framed Certificate of Appreciation, a Tidewater Chapter Membership card and the vest to him. In the pockets of the vest were a set of vest chains and a little pink “squeaky pig”. Videos and pictures were taken of the event and are posted on our Facebook page. I feel that those watching experienced as much joy that day as Duke did. I have always said sometimes it’s the little things that we do that can make the most impact. Congratulations to Duke!!

LINDA KNOWLES
DIRECTOR



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The last two months have been full of rides and events! We've had plenty of weekend day rides, a fun time at the N the Burg HOG Rally, had a great showing from members to help out with the Pancakes and Sausage breakfast we did for Southside and we experienced watching the sun come up on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel during our annual Sunrise Ride. Of course, one of the biggest things we did was making Duke from Southside a Honorary Member of our Chapter. I think Chapter members enjoyed this as much as Duke did.

The next few months are also full of Chapter rides and Events. In September we have rides but also some events we will need your help with. On Saturday, September 23rd we will be cooking and serving the staff at Southside for our annual Employee luncheon. Contact Assistant Director Chris Ward if you can help out. On Sunday, September 24th is our combined picnic with our Sister Chapter, Hampton Roads HOG. It will be a fun day with food, biker games (2 wheel and trike), Minute to Win It and other fun things to do with our sister Chapter. Food will be provided by Scoots BBQ who won the award for Best Barbeque in Virginia in 2019. Also, we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Tidewater HOG on September 30th. October has even more weekend rides plus events such as the Fall Foliage Ride, the Oyster Roast and Chili Cookoff on October 21st and the Fall Festival on October 28th at Southside. Information about these events can be found on our Facebook page and will be sent out via our email Updates when available.

Finally, we will be starting our annual collection of non-perishable foods for the Mayflower Marathon Southeastern Foodbank Drive. Starting in September will have a barrel in Southside you can put your items in. The Foodbank also suggests donating diapers and wipes, baby food, and formula, adult diapers, hygiene products (shampoo, body wash, tooth brush/paste) and toilet paper. Also starting in September through November, we will be collecting the items at our Chapter meetings. The Chapter either donates frozen turkeys or money, depending on what will benefit the Foodbank the most. On November 19th we will load up the items in vehicles and we escort them to Pembroke Mall to the collection site. Help us make this a banner year by donating and joining us on November 19th. Hope to see you at a ride or event soon!

LINDA KNOWLES
DIRECTOR



Trike's Eye View



It's been a couple months since I posted anything. A lot was going on but now that things are beginning to settle, I want to talk about my experience going to my first HOG rally. It was the Rally N The Burg Rally in Fredericksburg, Virginia. It is a nice area at the foot of the mountains. Once there, there were a lot of activities to choose from and mostly rides, of course. There were so many a person couldn't do them all even on their best day but that was ok because it was an awesome experience. One day we rode to a potato chip factory called Rt. 11 Potato Chips and got a tour and samples of their products. They were very good. We also had lunch at a golf course. Another day, we rode on some good twisty windy roads then to a seafood place for lunch. Another fun ride was on a mapped out walk around the old town of Fredericksburg nearby to search for otters. That was fun. We took pictures with them and once back were given a little otter stuffy. There were various other prizes for participating in the activities. The puzzle room was fun too if you just wanted to relax in the ac. I got a tiny pink piggy that squeaks. Cute huh? lol. Then another day, I got to finally go to Luray Caverns. I've heard about this place for quite a while and was curious to go. Let me tell you, it was fascinating to say the least. I took a bunch of pictures of it to show the family. It was a nice cool 57 degrees in there because it was brutal hot up there that week. I'm not one to go underground but I made the exception to finally see this place. It was beautiful. Another fun and beautiful place we rode to not too far away was Skyline Drive National Park. That was another beautiful scenic place that felt like I was on top of the world looking down on everything. I could see for miles and the weather was clear. Once more I took a bunch of pictures to show the family. During our stay there I got to also see a fellow musician who was our entertainment in the evenings, Mike Proffitt, who was great. He even invited me to play a song with him which was a blast. Well before I knew it was time to head back but I took some great memories of fun with friends and riding back with me. I look forward to future rallies like this.

LOH – Ladies of Harley Member Profile



What is your full Name? Stephanie Ershek White

Where were you born? Saint Mary's, Pennsylvania

What brought you to Virginia? My husband's job in 1993

How long have you been married? I have been married to Chris White for 40 years!

Do you have children? 2 daughters

What are your hobbies? Extensive traveling, photography, crafting, cross stitching, reading

When did you start riding motorcycles? We started in 1983 in New York and Vermont

When did you join HOG? 2008

Have you held any positions with HOG? Photographer and Historian in 2012, 2013, 2014

Who was the first person at HOG that you met? Bill Jackson and Howard Condrey

What is your favorite thing about HOG? The people and fellowship

Do you have a favorite club ride you would like to share? There have been so many. Rolling Thunder and Tuggle's Gap



**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2023**
SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DAVIDSON, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Dave Charette —General Manager Info@HRHD.com



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Yves Lugand		Fred Holtz
Bill Jackson		Rick Leighton
Bill Arnold		Mike Flynn
Linda Knowles		Regie Farr
Steve Cain		Matt Woods

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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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