



The Talon

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

To Ride Beyond—Senior Road Captain—Linda Knowles

First thing I want to do is to welcome and congratulate Regie Farr for becoming a Road Captain! Thank you Regie for your willingness to give your time to the Chapter and planning and leading rides for our members to enjoy. Even as the temperatures drop, your chances to ride with the Chapter do not. Your Road Captains continue to schedule rides through the Fall and are even starting to plan rides for 2023. As I write this article, there has been a total of 15,663 miles and 51 rides so far, 6 of those were multi day rides. This is not counting rides that were cancelled due to weather and we still have more rides already planned for this year. We are very blessed to have active Road Captains who are willing to take the time to plan rides for us. I hope you have taken advantage of these riding opportunities over the past year and will join us on the rides still to come.

Speaking of temperature drops, make sure you check the weather for the day of a ride and dress appropriately. We are in the time of year where it may be cold when we start and warm up as the day goes on. Dressing in layers is the best way to go as you can regulate your warmth and comfort for the changes in the temperature. Being cold or too warm during a ride can make the ride a less pleasurable experience.

Finally, this is my last article as Senior Road Captain. I will be taking over the role of Director for 2023. I am looking forward to my new position in the Chapter and I am happy to announce Tom Sanchez has agreed to take over the Senior Road Captain position for next year. I want to thank all the Road Captains for their hard work and willingness to plan rides for our Chapter. Your dedication to this Chapter has made my job as Head Road Captain for the last two years much easier and I appreciate all of your efforts. To all our members, thank you for your participation and kind comments regarding the Road Captains efforts over the last two years and I look forward to my time as your Director.

Linda Knowles
Senior Road Captain



Inside This Issue

TO RIDE BEYOND.....	1
BIKETOBERFEST.....	2
VALENTINES DINNER.....	2
TRIKES EYE VIEW.....	3
FUNNY.....	3
FROM THE DEALERSHIP.....	4
FINDING GODZILLA'S TONGUE.....	5
NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLLIAGE TRIP.....	6-7
FROM THE DIRECTOR.....	7
SAFETY.....	8
OFFICERS.....	9
ADVERTISING.....	10
AFTERTHOUGHT.....	10-

Nov-Dec 2022
Issue 6
Art Verdin
Editor

BIKETOBERFEST

I recently rode with a small group to Daytona Beach for Biketoberfest. This was not a HOG ride. We left on a Wednesday and returned on Monday. We stayed in an AIR B&B each night; Wednesday night stop, Thursday - Saturday at Biketoberfest, and Sunday night on our return trip. If you haven't tried AIR B&B I strongly recommend you look into it. First, it is an incredible cost savings when split between a few people. Then there is the ability to cook breakfast and dinner in the home... another cost saver. Lastly, instead of everyone parting for the night to their separate hotel rooms, we stayed up watching football games and playing cards. Adult beverages may or may not have been involved. On our stops, the typical home varied between \$120 and \$165 per night, with a cleaning fee of \$40 and \$75 tacked on. All homes were three bedrooms with two full baths. One home was on five acres with an electric fence (to keep bears out) and another had a two-car garage which easily fit all four bikes.



The larger the group, the cheaper the cost. For example, a cabin in Sturgis from August 1 -7 in 2023 with 4 bedrooms and nine beds rents for \$3817. Split nine ways that is only \$424 per person for a six-night stay. In Sturgis. During Bike Week. A 2200 sq. ft home two blocks from Main Street with five beds and three baths sleeps nine people for \$7110 for six nights, or \$790 per person for six nights. Milwaukee anyone? July 5 through July 10 sleeps 8 for \$1183, or \$148 per person.



For large groups traveling in a HOG event such as next year's rally, I'll take the hotel we block every time. But for your smaller multi-day trips, HOG or not, AIR B&B is worth looking into as an option.

REGIE FARR

VALENTINES DINNER

The Tidewater HOG Chapter Annual Valentines Dinner for 2023 will be at the Aberdeen Barn. Join us on February 12th at 545pm. Bring your Valentine and enjoy fine food and wonderful companionship. We have been to the Aberdeen Barn a number of times over the years, hosted by Bill Jackson, and as in the past, ladies will be honored with a flower.

While it's early to think that far ahead, nowadays it's necessary in order to secure a facility which will accommodate our group and provide separate checks as necessary. As in the past, your email reservations are necessary because the ladies will receive a beautiful flower!!

Please email Bill Jackson at GREYEGL@COX.NET with your reservation.



Trikes Eye View

Now that Summer is over and the cooler weather is here, it's time to think about layering for warmth. I finally got heated gear and it's a godsend. Especially, when temps go below 50*. Learning that tip beats having hypothermia. LOL. I've become like the weatherman in checking the daily weather so I can plan my rides, but sometimes I read the wrong day and pay for it on the ride but that is a rare occasion. I also learned that wind goes right through flannel lined pants. Yikes! So even if you think you have enough layers, you might need another one.

Well, that's my recent experience. Now, I'll have my hot chocolate.

Lisa Verdin



EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE—November 5
URBANNA OYSTER FESTIVAL—NOVEMBER 5
TOYS FOR TOTS—November 6
CHAPTER MEETING—November 9
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY—November 12
RIDE TBD—November 13
SMOKEHOUSE RIDE—November 19
MAYFLOWER MARATHON—November 20
TRYPTOTHAN DETOX RIDE—November 25
FALL COLORS RIDE—November 27
GATSBY NIGHT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION—JANUARY 21
(Tickets are on sale now)

FUNNY

While riding my Harley, I swerved to avoid hitting a deer, lost control and landed in a ditch, severely banging my head. Dazed and confused I crawled out of the ditch to the edge of the road when a shiny new convertible pulled up with a very beautiful woman who asked, "Are you okay?"

As I looked up, I noticed she was wearing a low cut blouse with cleavage to die for... "I'm okay I think," I replied as I pulled myself up to the side of the car to get a closer look.

She said, "Get in and I'll take you home so I can clean and bandage that nasty scrape on your head."

"That's nice of you," I answered, "but I don't think my wife will like me doing that!"

"Oh, come now, I'm a nurse," she insisted. "I need to see if you have any more scrapes and then treat them properly."

Well, she was really pretty and very persuasive. Being sort of shaken and weak, I agreed, but repeated, "I'm sure my wife won't like this."

We arrived at her place which was just a few miles away and, after a couple of cold beers and the bandaging, I thanked her and said, "I feel a lot better, but I know my wife is going to be really upset so I'd better go now."

"Don't be silly!" she said with a smile, while unbuttoning her blouse exposing the most beautiful set of boobs I've ever seen. "Stay for a while. She won't know anything. By the way, where is she?"

"Still in the ditch with my Harley, I guess."



FINDING GODZILLA'S TONGUE

In 2001 I sold my 1975 FLH Shovelhead so that I could pay for my brand new 2001 Road King. I owned that bike for 16 years and rode and wrenched the heck out of it.

I had two beautiful kids, a wonderful wife, and a mortgage. Life was good and I needed to keep the bills under control. I loved my old Shovelhead and hated to see her go.

A couple of years ago my son John, now 32 years old, gave me a call to tell me he thinks he found my old Shovelhead. It's in Portsmouth he said. "Do you want me to see if we can buy it back?"

I wasn't interested. The road king was running fine and I didn't have a lot of extra money.

Bump forward to 2022. The Road King was still running fine with over 150,000 miles on her, but it was fuel injected and didn't need any work. It seemed like all the machines I owned were controlled by a computer. I was aching to get my hands dirty on some old iron so I gave my son a call. "John, do you think you can find the Shovelhead again?"

I made that call on a Thursday. The following Saturday, the Shovelhead was back home after 21 years. I didn't care about the money. It just felt good getting reacquainted with my old friend.

The dude I sold it to back in 2001 still owned it and took very good care of it over the years. He changed the primary to a belt drive and still had the original white buddy seat that I sold with the bike.

I thought I'd never see that seat again!!! Riding on that pogo stick seat on a warm sunny day was like being in heaven.

I anticipate working on her this winter and taking her on a few of our HOG rides next spring to get her reacquainted with some of her old friends in Tidewater HOG.

Keep an eye out for that white pogo stick seat appropriately nicknamed Godzilla's tongue.

By the way, the young man in both pictures is John, my son. The kid that grew up on that Harley.

Matt Walsh
Tidewater HOG since 1995



The Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Experience as a New Rider

If there is one thing all HOG members know, it's the fact there are very few things out there as exciting as riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. But when a non-rider asks "What is it like to ride a Harley?" it's often hard to put the exact feeling into words.

Some common responses I've heard are "freedom" or "flying" or even "physical and emotional pleasure." All these are correct answers in their own way, but the truth is what you ARE FEELING isn't really easy to put into exact words.

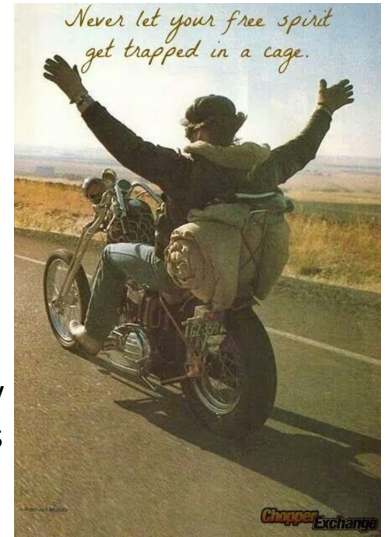
You can always take your friend for a ride around the block, but passively riding and controlling the motorcycle are two different feelings. So, Harley-Davidson came up with the concept of the "Jump Start" to give non-riders a better idea of what it feels like. With the Jump Start, a non-rider can test out many of the things which makes riding a Harley exciting.

The feeling of shifting gears, rumble and roar of the engine, and controlling the power all make the Jump Start experience unbelievably exciting to new riders.

I'd invite you to bring your curious non-rider friends to Southside H-D to experience the Jump Start. It's an easy and free way for them to start their journey to a full motorcycle endorsement in a safe, controlled, and judgement-free environment.

Once they have completed the jump start, we can give them information on local riding classes. And, for a limited time, we will be happy to offer a partial re-imbusement after they pass the rider course. All they have to do is visit Southside H-D and experience the Jump Start before taking the class.

So, the next time one of your friends asks you what it's like to ride a Harley, don't just tell them, let Southside H-D show them in three easy steps.



- Step 1 – Experience the Jump Start
- Step 2 – Pass the MSF Basic Rider Course
- Step 3 – Get Rewarded

Joe Snarl

New England Fall Foliage Trip

Last year I lead a ride, in July, to New England. I took 18 bikes/trikes through and around the White mountains, the lakes and rivers of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Everyone had a great time. We only had one day of rain, which happened to be the same day as the COG Rail train ride up Mt. Washington. But even with that, everyone enjoyed the experience.

After we got back to Virginia, word got out about the trip. I had several people come up to me with an interest in a similar trip, so I started planning. I like to make my trips/rides a bit different. Where it's not just about riding twisting roads all the time. It's more the total experience of seeing/doing things that, maybe, people have not seen or done before.

I have always enjoyed late Sept/early Oct in New England. The days are warm (60s), and the evenings cool (40s). This weather combination brings out some breath-taking fall foliage. The first week of Oct. is also the time for the Fryeburg Fair. One of the largest of its kind on the east coast. With that in mind, I planned a trip that would incorporate both.

As many of the road captains will tell you, planning a large extended trip is not easy. It takes a lot of work, making phone calls to arrange hotel rooms, potential places to eat meals, gas/rest stops, other activities, and tracing out interesting routes. It took me 10 months to plan the July trip because so many people were going. This time I wanted a smaller group because I knew it would be almost impossible to get the rooms I would need for another large group. Most hotels in the area are booked for the fair and for the foliage touring.

To skip forward, in the interest of not making this article toooooo long, by the middle of Sept, we had 9 bikes and 2 trikes for the trip. 2 people dropped out because of family commitments by the week of the trip. Hurricane Ian had 2 more drop out because of baby-sitting issues.

So, with 7 people raring to go, we headed out a day early, to avoid the worst of Ian. It was rainy and windy up until the Richmond area. It stayed cloudy, but no rain from there to Gettysburg. Friday afternoon found the group touring the Battlefield museum. Thanks to Linda for setting that up. Sat. morning we awoke to wind and rain. More so than what was predicted. Being troopers the group got on their bikes and headed east to East Brunswick, NJ. This was our 1st night stop, if we had left on Sat.

Sunday morning, we had light rain that cleared, with blue skies, by the time we got to Conn. The group got to see some color changes while we traveled through Mass and southern New Hampshire. It was a hint of what was to come. We arrived at the hotel in Conway, NH around 5pm. I got everyone checked in and then headed north east to my home 32 miles away. "There were not enough rooms for everyone, so my wife and I elected to stay at our place in Lovell, Me."

Next morning the skies were sunny with a cold briskness to the air. It was 34 out when I hopped on the bike and headed to Conway to pick up the others for our 1st days ride. By 8:30 it had warmed up to about 50. Because the weather was so clear I decided to change up my plans for the day. We headed north on route 16 towards Mt. Washington. It was a great 90-minute ride through the Mountains. Lots of twists and curves, and off-course, the foliage was cooperating for us. We had hit it right at the peak. Our first stop was the Mt. Washington museum. Right at the base of the Presidential range. As everyone was getting off their bikes, jaws were dropping and smiles of pleasure were all about. The view was one that you get maybe a hand-full of times a year. Clear visibility all the way to the top of the Mt. Washington.

The museum was toured, the rest of the day was spent riding through the White Mountain National Forest.

Tuesday brought clear skies and cool temps again. Today was the trip to the Fryeburg Fair. The wife and I drove into Conway and picked the group up. Today there would be no bike riding. We took the group by cars, to the fair. Everyone had a great time. A couple hours ended up being all day. When it was time to leave, no one wanted to. But Grace and I had a surprise for the group. We brought them to our home and sat out on the deck around a fire pit. Had a few libations and then cooked up steaks for everyone. After all, you can't always have seafood in New England.
Photo provided by Bill Arnold;

Wednesday, another beautiful day, found the group heading to the coast for some famous lobster rolls from the Lobster Shack at Two Lights National Park in Cape Elisabeth. Yves got his 1st Maine steamed lobster.

Thursday was a cold ride for me into Conway. Left the house with temp at 32. It did warm up into the 60s during the day though. Today's ride was into northern N.H. Lots of colors. As Linda so nicely put it, we came over the crest of a hill, looking down into the valley, and OMG the view was awesome. We ended up crossing several 100+ year old covered bridges and road the famous Kancamagus Trail, through the Presidential Range, back to Conway.

Friday I awoke with a 102.8 fever, not covid thank goodness. So I gave that day's route to Bill and Linda. She lead the group to Laconia and around Lake Winnepesaukee. The report was they had a great time.

Saturday and Sunday, we made our return trip to Virginia. I would like to say that the trip was without problems, but alas I rode for 2 days with a 103 fever and more importantly, Ted Lawson, on our final day's ride home, blew an engine on the Jersey Turnpike. Sadly, he told us to leave him behind. He did manage to make it home in a rental car. His bike is still in Jersey awaiting a new engine

Oh, and by the way, Linda finally got to see a Moose lol. **Rick "Cheng" Leighton**



New England Fall Foliage Trip Pictures
[Shutterstock.com/QnhpK5Uf1tb](https://www.shutterstock.com/author/QnhpK5Uf1tb)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fellow HOGs,

We have some great events coming up in November. Urbanna Oyster Festival on November 5th, Toys for Tots on the 6th, Smokehouse Ride on the 19th, and Mayflower Marathon on the 20th to name a few.

Looking back, it has been a challenging three years. But I am happy to say that we continue to move forward as a chapter. We have done lots of rides both locally and long distance. We have contributed to the Food Bank, Lake Taylor Hospital and EDMARC. The chapter has done outings to Tides and Admirals games. I want to thank the incredible members of the chapter for their participation and support in these events.

I am proud to have served as Director for the past three years, however the time has come to pass the torch. Linda Knowles will be the new Director starting in January. She has previously served as Assistant Director and currently serves as the Senior Road Captain. I want to thank all the officers of the chapter for all the support and guidance they have provided me during my tenure and ask that you provide her with the same. I'm excited to see what the chapter will do in the future.

Don't forget the holiday party is happening Saturday, January 21st, 2023. Tickets are on sale at Motorclothes for \$35 per ticket. The event will be hosted at Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA.

Remember to be safe and most importantly have fun!!

Kind regards,

MIKE FLYNN, DIRECTOR

SAFETY

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAY RIDING

Keep the dirty side down with these motorcycle safety tips
First thing's first when it comes to learning how to ride a motorcycle: be safe.

Motorcycle safety tips are pretty much drilled into our heads from the get-go. As dedicated riders, we know we have to be on the ball constantly. Distracted cagers and unforeseen road hazards are a continual threat, and when a notoriously “drunken” holiday such as Memorial Day is thrown into the mix, we need to be extra cautious. Brothers and sisters of the road, I need you to stay vertical. So, here some motorcycle safety tips to stay safe on the road this Memorial Day.

DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

Always, always pay attention. Don't leave your fate in the hands of distracted drivers. Look both ways at every intersection, avoid blind spots on the highway, and maintain the proper distance behind other vehicles on the road. And, if you can, try to predict the movement of cars and other motorists—stay alert and two steps ahead of the other guy could mean the difference between getting home safe, or making home in a box.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE SEEN

Following suit with avoiding blind spots, it's always important to make sure you are seen by others on the road. So, keep your headlight on, and, if you can, wear brightly colored and/or reflective clothing.

DON'T DRIKK AND RIDE

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: don't drink and ride. Seriously, just don't.

FULL GEAR VS FOOL GEAR

Safety gear is made for a reason, to keep you safe; it really can't be explained any better. However, fun fact, safety gear can only keep you in one piece if you wear it.

DON'T PUSH IT

Tired? Don't ride. Pissed off? Don't ride. Drunk? Definitely don't ride.

USE COMMON SENSE

If you've reached your limit in any way, whether emotionally or physically, don't ride. Instead, wait it out, and only hit the road when you are 110% sure that you can give it your undivided attention.

GIVE YOUR HARLEY A SAFETY CHECK

Give your Harley a pre-ride safety check before hitting the road. Check the tire pressure and condition, the function of the brakes, and general electrical functions like the high-low beams, brake lights, signals, horn, etc. A simple once-over is all it takes and will not only give you peace of mind but keep yourself and others safe on the road.

FROM RAMBLEON.COM



**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2022**
SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DAVIDSON, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Dave Charette —General Manager Info@HRHD.com



OFFICERS 2022

HOG Manager	Jo Ann Emmons	hogmanager@tidewaterhog.com
Director	Mike Flynn	director@tidewaterhog.com
Assistant Director	Chris Ward	assistantdirector@tidewaterhog.com
Treasurer	Jo Ann Emmons	treasurer@tidewaterhog.com
Secretary	Jim Stone	secretary@tidewaterhog.com
Senior Road Captain	Linda Knowles	srrc@tidewaterhog.com
Member at Large	Tom Sanchez	memberatlarge@tidewaterhog.com
	Kaleigh Ward	
Safety Officer	Yves Lugand	safetyofficer@tidewaterhog.com
Activities Officer	Chris Moore	activities@tidewaterhog.com
Membership Officer	Vicki Melle/Bill Arnold	membership@tidewaterhog.com
Talon Editor	Art Verdin	taloneditor@tidewaterhog.com
Photographer	Lisa Verdin	photo1@tidewaterhog.com
Webmaster	Heather Moore	twhogwebmaster5344@gmail.com
Communications Officer	P.J. McGrath	communications@tidewaterhog.com
LOH Officer	Amy Lugand	lohofficer@tidewaterhog.com

ROAD CAPTAINS

Linda Knowles	srrc@tidewaterhog.com	Chris Ward
P.J. McGrath		Chris Moore
Yves Lugand		Fred Holtz
Bill Jackson		Rick Leighton
Bill Arnold		Mike Flynn
Tom Sanchez		Regie Farr

ADVERTISING



Diane Norton
REALTOR®, ABR, GRI
Licensed in VA

4100 Holly Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

D 757.472.1021 | O 757.428.8845 | F 757.390.3559

dnorton@roseandwomble.com

www.hrmls.com/dianenorton



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



Dee's Design's SEAMSTRESS

Dee Sanchez
(757) 333-2462

deesdesigns690@gmail.com

AFTERTHOUGHT!

I'm sorry for making you worry every time I climb onto my bike. For you worry this could be my last. I want you to know that if that is the case, I'm sorry I left on such short notice. Please know that was never my intention. You may sometimes ask why I would risk my life "just for a ride"? To some people, no answer will be good enough. Others may say things like, "he's careless, selfish or he only wants to go fast"! And for the rest of you that are undecided, please take a minute to read on.

"A ride" is our freedom away from a world turning evil, a nagging boy/girlfriend, a child that's on our last nerve. "A ride" could have helped you stay another day at a job. "A ride" could have saved an argument, or kept a husband from saying something he regrets or a wife from burning the house down ☹☹ "A ride" could be the only time a mom, dad, wife, husband, grandma, grandpa, girlfriend, boyfriend, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, friend, daughter or brother has during a day to catch his or her breath, to reenergize, to pray for strength to continue on with all the "job titles" a mother or father has in a day! Last but not least. I love it and everything about it. I love the long roads with the beautiful views! I love the excitement I feel every time I twist the throttle. I love the gas station conversations. I love the out of the blue races. I love the family that's within the biker community. I just love the ride!

I will finish by saying THANK YOU! Thank you, for supporting me even though you're not comfortable with it. Thank you, for the countless prayers. Thank you for every phone call to make sure the biker down wasn't me. Thank you for showing your love even when it's difficult.

Sincerely, Your Biker