

# THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE  
MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

## To Ride Beyond—Lead Road Captain—Tom Sanchez

Several times in the last two months, we've had to cancel rides. It pains us Road Captains to cancel rides, and we never do it without a good reason. We love planning and leading rides. We enjoy watching our members have fun on the roads we choose, and we really like hearing, "Wow, that was cool! I've never been down that road before!"

We look for a good mix of twisty roads and out-of-the-way places to take everyone. We look for fun, Mom-n-Pop restaurants that we think you'll enjoy. Personally, this is the hardest part for me. I didn't grow up in this area and sometimes struggle finding a non-chain restaurant that can handle our group. But, we persist. We plan, pre-ride, and hope to execute the day of the event. Often with the planning, we have to watch out for construction, road paving or closed roads that will detour our group. We don't want to take you on gravel roads and prefer to stay off the Interstate if we can help it. We also look for those times when we might have to make an uncomfortable turn across traffic with a group and try to find another way around so we can eliminate those hazards. In the end, we want a fun, peaceful, challenging (but not TOO challenging) route to and from lunch. We appreciate it when you tell us thanks and love seeing the smiles on everyone's face when you enjoy the ride as much as we do!

But sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. Recently I had a ride planned for some fun backroads to take us to Franklin and Smithfield. I was watching the weather over a week out, which is not always helpful. I remember when I first moved to Virginia Beach people would say, "Welcome to Virginia. If you don't like the weather, wait ten minutes!" That has been so true as I've watched it rain on one side of the street and not the other! Or, I've seen pop-up showers that weren't forecasted or on radar appear and drench me on the bike! We want to avoid having you all ride in the rain, so we watch the weather. This particular week, the Saturday weather changed about every 4 hrs. First the report was for 30% chance of rain, then it went to 60%. Then it went down to 20%, only to go back up to 55% the next morning. I waited until 6pm on the Friday before the ride to check one last time. The report said 70% of rain all during our scheduled ride time. I canceled the ride and waited to see the next morning what would happen.

As it turned out, the next morning was beautiful! The weather channel reported 20% chance of rain, and I began second guessing if I should have canceled the ride. It was a gorgeous outside! However, about 10am, when we would have been in the middle of our ride, the skies opened up and the rain poured down. I made the right call. We would have been soaked and might not have had time to stop and pull out our raingear before it was too late! I was relieved to see the rain because it confirmed my call to cancel.

So, the next time a ride gets canceled for weather, please know that the Road Captains are definitely looking out for your interests and safety. We want to ride, we want to have fun, but we also want to be safe. Leading a group in the rain is much harder than riding as an individual in the rain. Remember that as we go through these winter months. Thanks!

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Art Verdin  
Editor



## **TIDEWATER HOG CHAPTER #5344**

**DECEMBER 9, 2023**

### **"IT'S A CLASSY BIKER CHRISTMAS PARTY"**

**TIME: 6:00 PM TO 10:00 PM**

**PLACE: FOP CLUB (FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE)**

**110 KEMPSVILLE RD.**

**CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320**

**TICKET PRICE: \$15.00 AND INCLUDES 2 DRINK TICKETS**

**ALONG WITH HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES**

**WEAR YOUR BEST BIKER ATTIRE...WHO KNOWS, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE VOTED ON FOR  
BEST DRESSED BIKER! YOU NEVER KNOW "WHAT CAN HAPPEN - BUT ONE THING IS  
FOR SURE, IT WILL BE FUN AND A GREAT START TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON!!**

**TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MOTOR CLOTHES AT SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DA-  
VIDSON AVAILABLE UNTIL NOVEMBER 30.**

#### **EVENTS**

**ride**

**Oyster Festival Ride—November 4**

**Toys for Tots Ride—November 5**

**Chapter Meeting—November 8**

**New Member Orientation—November 11**

**Smokehouse Ride—November 18**

**Tryptophan Detox Ride—November 24**

**It's A Classy Biker Party—December 9**

**New Years Ride—January 1**

**MORE TO COME IN 2024**

## FORTY YEARS OF TIDEWATER HOG

On September 30<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tidewater HOG Chapter #5344. We found out earlier this year the Chapter actually started in 1983. The Chapter was first started at Gordon Harper Harley Davidson and in 1990 the dealership was bought and became Southside Harley. I started researching and with the help of Jo Ann Emmons and Dick Steger, we were able to put together a list of Directors over the years. Those we could find were invited to attend and we ended up having Directors from each decade there. Southside Harley provided the food for the day and we had quite a feast! It was interesting to hear former Directors speak of their time and involvement in the Chapter. We had asked everyone to put on a name tag the month and year they joined the Chapter and what positions they have held. It was interesting to see how many folks present have held a position(s) at one time or another over the years. The biggest “wow” moment for me was hearing from our First Director, Bill Keating. In 1983, he was actually hired by Harley for one year to go around to other dealerships to see if there was interest in starting a Harley Owners Group. They gave him \$100 a month for gas. He was also told that if the idea did not catch on in a year, they would not pursue it. Bill went around to other dealerships, met with others who were interested, and Harley Owners Group became a reality. Since Bill, other members have volunteered to step up as Directors, Assistant Directors, Secretary, Treasurer and all the other positions in the Chapter and because of their dedication, the Chapter has continued to exist and is going strong. I feel our Chapter embodies what HOG always promotes, Riding and Having Fun in a family friendly atmosphere. I have also heard many members talk about their HOG family, how they have met so many good people that they formed friendships with that go beyond the HOG group. We have members who joined in 1980’s and 90’s who are still active in the Chapter. That says a lot about this Chapter to have members who have been involved for so many years. For me personally, I would never have ridden as much or gone to places all over the US and Canada if I hadn’t become involved in this Chapter. I feel I owe this Chapter a lot. From dropping my motorcycle at the first stop sign on my first ride in 2009 to becoming a Road Captain and holding several other positions in the Chapter, I have enjoyed all my time with the Chapter. Between the three bikes I’ve owned since 2009, I am just under 200,00 miles, most of them ridden with the Chapter. I hope the Chapter continues on for another 40 years and for you, have the opportunity to meet others who become great friends and get to ride and see this country with them. Also, if you haven’t so far, I hope you will consider stepping up and taking on a position to keep the Chapter going.

### Linda Knowles



From L-R—  
Linda Knowles, (2023),  
John Gomoke (2001-  
04), Jo Ann Emmons  
(2005-07), Bill Keating  
(1983, 85-86), Dick  
Steger (1993), Mike  
Flynn (2020-22), Dan  
Mittendorf (2008), Bill  
Jackson (2010, 2016), PJ  
McGrath (2017-19)

## MY FIRST HARLEY RIDE

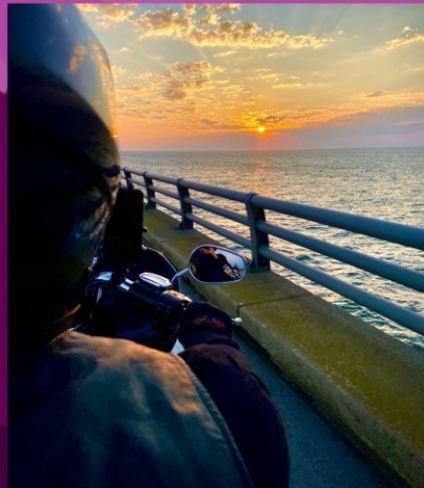
On June 28, 1970, I took my first ride on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. As a young sergeant on the Los Angeles Police Department, working in the Hollywood Patrol Division, I was assigned a supervisor of officers for crowd control at the first Gay Pride Parade. This was the world's first parade of its kind to have applied for and been granted a permit by a major city. I decided that as a parade route was over a mile long, I would need a vehicle which was more mobile than a patrol car. I somehow convinced my lieutenant that one of the Meter Maid's Harley Davidson Servi-cars would be a great idea. I checked out a hand-shift trike and headed out to the parade route. At the time, I had only ridden an actual motorcycle on one prior occasion when I was 17. I somehow mastered the shifting by the time I reached Hollywood Boulevard. For the most part, I never got out of first gear. As I was gleefully cruising down the boulevard in front of 50,000 onlookers, I felt a slight bump. I kind of forgot about the width of the rear tires and ran over a photographer's toes. After determining there was no injury, I advised him to step back. No harm, no foul. The rest of the event went smoothly and at the termination, I returned the bike to the garage. It would be 33 years until I next climbed on a Harley. It's been over 53 years, but I remember the rumble of the engine and the thrill of the ride, even if I never topped over 20 mile per hour.

Ted Lawson



Gay Pride Parade, Los Angeles, 1970





## Ride to the Smallest Police Station in the World

On the 6th of September Vicki and I left for Destin, FL at 8:30 a.m. on our Trike. We were going to ride about 500 miles on the first day to Richmond Hills, South Carolina. We would get there about 6 pm that day. But we ran into trouble with the bike and had to be picked up by the Harley dealer in Rocky Mount. We arrived at the dealer about 10:30 a.m. and did not leave until 5 p.m. The Trike was fixed, and we got on our way to Richmond Hills where we arrived at 10:30 p.m. We checked into the hotel and went to get some food. We got up the next morning and left at about 8:30 a.m. We stopped about every 150 miles for gas and got refreshed. We arrived at Destin, FL around 5:30 pm. We parked the Trike unloaded it and were in the suite by 6:30.

We met Vicki's two nieces and their husbands at the suite. The suite had three bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room. TV room and balconies. It was very nice and roomy. We all went to dinner and made plans for the week-end. On the balcony, we could see the waterways, beaches, and the Gulf.

On Monday, after breakfast, we found out that one niece and husband were leaving to drive back home. So, Vicki decided we should leave to go get the picture at the smallest Police Station in the world in Carrabelle, FL. So, in about 90 minutes, we were on our way to the Police Station.

When we arrived in Carrabelle, we went by the police station three times. The third time we finally saw it. We got our pictures with the Trike and Station and were off to Tallahassee to visit an old friend of mine. Gary and I taught together for about 22 years at South Miami SH and had not seen each other in about 5 years. We arrived at his new house at about 5:30 p.m. We took them out to dinner and had a really good time catching up.

We got up and left about 7 a.m. There was nothing but hugs and tears from Gary and his wife, Carmen. Of course, from me also. We stopped about 2 hours later for breakfast. Then Vicki said she wanted to get home, so we hit the road, again stopping every 150 miles for gas and refreshments. We rode until we arrived home at 8:30 p.m. that night. In all, Vicki rode about 730 miles in that period. Overall, we rode about 1950 miles in 2 1/2 days. This trip was for the 10 For 23 Ride to get the challenge coin for the Smallest Police Station in the World. Not a bad trip on a Trike. Keep smiling. Only the bugs know the real happiness

### Bill Arnold





## From the Director

We are coming to the end of 2023 and what a year it has been! It's been a crazy year for weather from rain to extreme heat but we were still able to get in lots of rides and events that I hope you participated in and had fun! In January we had our First Ride of the Year on January 1, along with a fun Holiday Gatsby party and our annual Valentine's Ride to Valentine, VA to mail our valentine cards, Valentine's Dinner in February along with a Pool Tournament, went to a Admirals Hockey Game in March, won the Knucklehead Division in April for the most members in our division at the State Chapter Challenge, in May we had a trip to Mt. Airy, NC for the Mayberry Ride and one to the Riding to Remember in DC over Memorial Day, went to the Sylvan Heights Bird Park, in June we won the Two Chapter Challenge again with Hampton Roads HOG, attended a Tides baseball game and participated in the Maci's Ride, had a fun time at the In-The- Burg HOG Rally in Fredericksburg in July, participated in the Extortion 17 Ride along with a beautiful sunrise ride over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel in August, celebrated our Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, participated in the opening ceremony at the Oceana Air Show and had our annual joint picnic with Hampton Roads HOG in September, we participated in The Pink Ride, had our Annual Oyster Roast and Chili Cook-off along with our annual Fall Festival and Swap Meet in October. Coming up in November, we will be attending the Toys for Tots Ride, have the Mayflower Marathon on November 19<sup>th</sup> for which we are currently accepting donations for through Southside Harley and in December we will have our Classy Biker Christmas Party and will be involved in the Snowball Express with the Patriot Guard. This still isn't everything we did this year as there were very few weekends that went by that we didn't have something planned. Don't forget we have our annual First Ride of the Year on January 1, 2024 to start the year off right. I hope you were able to look at the pictures posted on Facebook and email Updates from the events and rides. Thanks to all who contributed to the picture taking over the past year as it's a great way to remember what a good time we've had. We are already working rides and events for 2024. If you have any ideas for rides or events, please let one of us know or fill out a card and put it in the Suggestion Box at Southside located in the Service waiting area. Let's keep it going! On October 11<sup>th</sup>, we had nominations for the Four Primary positions for 2024. As only one person was nominated and they accepted for each position the officers will be as follows: Director Linda Knowles, Assistant Director Regie Farr, Secretary Al Verdin, Treasurer Jo Ann Emmons. We would like to thank Chris Ward who is stepping down this year as Assistant Director, for his four years he served and the time and effort he put into his position. We welcome Regie on as our new Assistant Director and thanks to Art and Jo Ann agreeing to stay as Secretary and Treasurer for another year. I also want to thank all those who have worked hard in the Chapter's other positions and gave up their time to help the Chapter function. We look forward to working with all of you in the Chapter next year. Please remember, we cannot do the events we do without our members volunteering to help. Thanks to everyone for their efforts for the Chapter and your participation on rides. Finally, I would like to thank Southside Harley-Davidson and all the staff for sponsoring our Chapter and for their support of the Chapter during the past year. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2024.

Linda Knowles  
Director



## Trike's Eye View



There are many things I enjoy while riding; the freedom, the breezes, the fun, but one thing that is especially noticeable and enjoyable to me are the smells.

There's plenty of good things I smell while riding such as, while riding through the woods, the earthy fragrance of the trees is especially nice.

Then there's some when riding past flowers blooming nearby. Lilac smells like Heaven when riding past them on a nice Spring or Summer day. And if you're lucky to ride past some restaurants you can smell the delicious foods cooking like barbecue or pies baking. Makes my mouth water.

Then, of course, there's some unpleasant smells like manure or the smell of a chicken or pig farm. Yuck! But I really enjoy the nicer ones I mentioned earlier. And in Fall there's the nice smell of fireplaces, burning leaves, and fire pits.

Try riding past a carnival and smell the combination of cotton candy and funnel cake. Yum.

Anyways, this article is about the many sensory pleasures I take in while riding my motorcycle.

Happy Fall y'all.

LOH – Ladies of Harley MEMBER PROFILE September, 2023



What is your full name? (Dee) – Deirdra Kay Sanchez

Where were you born? Newport, Rhode Island

Are you married? Yes, to Tom Sanchez

What brought you to Virginia? My husband's Military career

Do you have children? 3 girls and 1 boy

Do you have grandchildren? 3 girls and 1 boy

Do you work? Self-employed at Dee's Design's. (Seamstress, Formal, Weddings, Leathers)

Hobbies? Sewing, Crafting, Singing

When did you start riding motorcycles? 2015

When did you join HOG? 2018

Who was the first person at HOG that you met? Pam McGrath

What is your favorite thing about HOG? The family atmosphere

Do you have a special memory or favorite ride you would like to share? I was touched when 30 bikes from Tidewater HOG showed up for "Here for The Girls" Poker Run! "Here for the Girls" mission is to improve the lives of young women affected by breast cancer.



**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS  
2024**  
**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		

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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



## Dee's Design's SEAMSTRESS

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