

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS



Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

TO RIDE BEYOND—HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN—TOM SANCHEZ

Summer is in full swing, and the temperature has been way up there! We hope you've had the opportunity to ride with us and take advantage of the great routes the Road Captains have been finding. With that being said, we want to remind everyone to stay hydrated. Find ways of being, or staying, cool. Look for shade when you stop, use a hat when off the bike, and consider wearing a cooling vest or neck band. We passed out several of these bands last year, and they come in very handy as a great way to keep you refreshed. Dee and I like to pack a small cooler with ice and waters for these hotter days. And, sometimes, we'll just get a drink when we stop at a gas station. The key is to be drinking the right things and staying hydrated when your body is sweating off that water in the heat.

There is also a strong tendency to reduce what you're wearing to stay cool. We recommend the adage – Dress for the slide, not the ride! It may be hot, but you still want to be protected by wearing gloves, protective clothing, boots, etc. We've switched from our leather vests to a mesh textile one with fewer patches to allow for more airflow. That helps us stay cool in the heat of the day. We also look at riding earlier and taking more breaks for water and shade. There are plenty of other recommendations for helping stay cool, safe, and smart while riding in the summer, and we hope you'll find something that works for you. If you need ideas, talk with those in your group when resting. In fact, one of the best investments I've found for my bike during the summer is a special seat cover recommended by another chapter rider! It stays cool even after being outside all day, even when the temps hit triple digits! Talk with others. They're a great source of information and advice.

As mentioned earlier, we are halfway through the year, and we've ridden roughly five thousand miles on over twenty rides as a chapter! It is close to what we've ridden in each of the last two years, even with the weather cancellations! We have lots more rides scheduled throughout the summer – some start early in the day, some happen in the afternoon (look for those Ice Cream Rides!) And, we have several overnight trips planned in the next couple of months. Remember, too, to get your reservations in for the upcoming Fall Foliage Ride. That is one that never disappoints! Check the website, Facebook, and the calendar at Southside for more details. Let's hope for better weather, fun roads, and more opportunities to get out and ride as a chapter!

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JULY-AUGUST 2025

Issue 4

Art Verdin

Editor

SAFETY

SAFELY

Motorcycle riders can easily get sunburned due to prolonged sun exposure during rides.

To prevent sunburn, riders should wear protective clothing with a high UPF rating, use sunscreen on exposed skin, and consider riding during less intense sun hours.

Why Riders Get Sunburned:

- **UV Exposure:**
Motorcyclists are exposed to harmful UV rays, even on cloudy days, which can cause premature aging and skin cancer.
- **Gaps in Clothing:**
Sleeves may not always fully cover the wrist, and gaps can occur at the neck or other areas, exposing skin to the sun.
- **Riding During Peak Hours:**
Riding during peak sun hours (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) increases the risk of sunburn.
- **Stopping for Breaks:**
Riding breaks can expose riders to more sun, especially if they remove helmets and other protective gear.

How to Prevent Sunburn:

- **Protective Clothing:** Wear clothing with a high UPF (ultraviolet protection factor) rating, like specialized solar protective material.
 - **Sunscreen:** Apply sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to all exposed skin, including the face, neck, ears, and hands.
 - **Reapply Sunscreen:** Reapply sunscreen every two hours, especially after sweating or swimming.
 - **Hydration:** Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and taking water breaks.
 - **Sun-Specific Gear:** Use helmet face shields with UV coating, neck socks, and other protective gear designed for motorcyclists.
 - **Adjust Riding Times:** Consider riding during cooler hours, avoiding the peak sun hours.
 - **Lip Protection:** Use lip balm with SPF 30 or higher.
 - **Sunglasses:** Wear sunglasses that provide 100% UV protection.
- What to Do If You Get Sunburned:
- **Cool Water:** Run cool (not cold) water over the burn for 5-10 minutes.
 - **Cool Compresses:** Apply cool compresses to the affected area.
 - **Moisturize:** Use a gentle, fragrance-free moisturizer.
 - **Over-the-Counter Medications:** Consider using over-the-counter pain relievers or anti-inflammatory medications.

Seek Medical Attention: If the burn is severe (blisters, severe pain, or signs of infection), seek medical attention.

Street Rider

EVENTS

Pony Ride—July 5

Chapter Meeting—July 9

Shenandoah Valley Ride—July 25-27

Ride to the 31 Hero's Ride—August 2

Chapter Meeting—August 13

Buccee's to Boonies Ride—August 23-24

Ride to Myrtle Beach Fall Rally—September 30-October 4

Fall Foliage Ride—October 16-19

Please note: There are a number of rides yet to be named and posted—please see Facebook, emails and the website calendars for updates.



My experiences on riding a two wheeler vs a three wheeler. It has been many years since I've ridden a two wheeler then a few years ago I got to ride one in a parking lot and it brought me right back in time. I found I was able to balance and maneuver like I used to. Then I made a plan to go to the class and get my two wheeler endorsement. The bike I have is a three wheeler Freewheeler which I bought because of an injury that caused issues with my leg. I still love my trike but I also enjoy riding on two wheels as long as it's not bigger than a Dyna. And recently got to ride one around nearby. I enjoyed the freedom of leaning and being able to fit into smaller spaces. Along with the fact that I can still do it, I was very happy. I hope to get a two wheeler bike in the future to ride around town on.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summer is here and it's HOT!!! I have pulled out my little collapsible cooler that fits in my saddle bag to put water in. I freeze a couple of bottles and put 2 more on top of them. That way the top bottles are kept cold and I have more as the ice melts. I fill my cup is have on my bike with ice and refill it at every stop to make sure I have water to drink at all times. One misnomer is that wearing a short-sleeved shirt will be cooler than a long sleeve. In actuality, it is the opposite. Wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt is better. Light colors reflect the sun away and heat whereas dark colors actually absorb it. Also, long sleeved shirts keep the sun off your skin which keeps you cooler. I know the "biker color" is black but it is definitely not your friend during the summer heat. We may be cancelling rides due to the heat index for the day being in the danger zone. Remember, once the temperature rises about 95, the faster you go, the wind temperature actually rises. Example, riding at 55 mph when the temperature is 95 degrees, the air temperature rises to 97 degrees. At 100 degrees it will feel like 105 degrees. The faster you go, the wind temperature continues to rise. We all love riding our motorcycles but we need to be aware of the risks of doing so in the higher temperatures we are dealing with.

The Chapter has a raffle going to win a Southside Harley 3 year maintenance plan, unlimited mileage. The value of this plan is \$2895. It is a great deal, especially for our members who ride a lot and hit those 5,000 miles points quickly. Tickets are \$20 for one, 3 for \$50. Part of the proceeds will go to our Charities, The Lake Taylor Hospital Children's Unit and the Southeastern Food Bank. In order for this to be successful, we need help from our members. First, we need someone to be willing to be in charge of the Raffle. We also need members to be present at Southside on Saturdays to sell tickets. We need members to take turns being there with shifts of 10a-12p, 12p-2:00p. Please look at your schedules and make plans to help the Chapter out. Please contact me at director@tidewaterhog.com if you can help us out, especially if you are willing to be in charge of the raffle. Hope to see you soon at a meeting or on a ride. Please ride safely and smart during the summer heat!

LINDA KNOWLES
DIRECTOR

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 70 mile run Wednesday 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



IT WAS AN AMAZING AND OVERWHELMING DAY!



If I were to write about all the reasons that I am grateful for each of you on little pieces of paper, they would fill up an entire building. Each of you are amazing and I am so blessed to have you in my life.

Thoughtful and unselfish are two words I think of when I think of Tidewater HOG Members, Southside Harley Davidson and their staff. Always supportive when asked. My life is blessed with some of the greatest people. Thank you for being part of my journey. Sometimes I forget to say thank you to those who make the biggest difference in my life. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us. Towards the end of 2024. it was suggested that Lake Taylor Hospital be our Charity for 2025. No hesitation from anyone on that. When I went to Lake Taylor Hospital to inquire about restarting the Ride for the Children I was met with an overwhelming "Thank You" from Mr. Orsini the CEO and Tammy Ferguson, the Director of Volunteer's. Yes, yes, yes was their comment and joy of our dedication to the hospital and their children. And so, we have begun and I must say it is humbling to say the least.

Each day is a new opportunity to be grateful for something new. We can all choose to take things for granted or to take things with gratitude. Someone once said that Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

As everyone gathered Saturday, April 19, 2025 there seemed to be a Joyfulness showing from everyone.

The Volunteers were eager to get the preparations ready for cooking the burgers and hot dogs for the lunch that was going to be served. The ladies with all their baked goods were eager as well to get set up and ready to go for a great day of talking with everyone that came in to the dealership and approached their table with a smile to see what was available and their joy in explaining that the funds being raised were for the Children at Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital. People smiled, purchased and gave from their hearts generously.

One of our members presented a challenge to the other members in our chapter Well, the morning was filled with generosity from several to meet that challenge. My heart was filled with joy and at one point overwhelming with what was taking place in our Chapter's goal to raise at least enough money to buy a special Pediatric Bed for a child at Lake Taylor Hospital.

Thoughtful and unselfish are two words I think of when I think of Tidewater HOG Members, Southside Harley Davidson and their staff. Always supportive when asked. My life is blessed with some of the world's greatest people.

Sometimes I may forget to say thank you to those who make the biggest difference in my life and the lives of those around us. At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for caring and being who you are!

**JO ANN EMMONS, TREASURER
AND HOG MANAGER**

The Ring Beneath the Ride: The Story of Biker Fairy Bells

There's a small, almost secret sound that hums just beneath the roar of many motorcycles. A soft jingle, easily overlooked, but for those who know—it's protection, tradition, and a little magic all rolled into one. They're called **guardian bells**, or **biker fairy bells**, and they carry more than a pleasant ring.

Legend has it that the road is haunted—not by ghosts, but by *gremlins*. Mischievous little spirits that ride along with you, causing mechanical troubles, bad luck, and sometimes worse. But bikers, being a clever and superstitious breed, found a way to keep the gremlins at bay: a small bell, hung low on the frame, near the ground.

The idea? The gremlins get caught in the bell. Driven mad by its sound, they fall off the bike and back onto the pavement, where they belong. In this way, the bell protects the rider. But here's the twist—the bell works best when it's **a gift**. A bell bought for yourself is good. A bell given to you by a fellow rider, a friend, or a loved one? That's where the real magic lies. It's not just metal. It's connection. It's trust. It's protection passed hand to hand.

And for those of us who ride, whether you believe in magic or not, sometimes it's the little rituals that carry the most meaning.

I hang a bell on my bike not because I *fear* gremlins—but because I respect the road. I honor the stories that came before me. And I never turn down a little extra protection when I'm chasing wind.

MIKE PASTORE



RADAR LOVE

In the movie *Pulp Fiction*, just before Vincent Vega plunges a needle of adrenaline into Mia Wallace, he asks Lance, "Okay, then what happens?" to which Lance replies, "Kinda curious about that myself." That is exactly the answer I expect from our local weather forecasters. "What's the weather gonna be like tomorrow?" "Kinda curious about that myself." Just recently we had a major ride cancelled due to the weather forecast. And it turned out to be a beautiful day.

Those weather considerations apply mostly to day rides. When we are on the road and have to get from point A to point B, we have to take the weather head on. Almost. No matter how sunny and bright blue the sky is, we should check the weather forecast and radar at every stop. Sometimes we cannot avoid it and have to make a decision to ride through a rainstorm or wait it out. Avoiding rain isn't about staying dry or comfortable. It is about visibility, the lack of which can be dangerous. Tidewater HOG has some memorable rain stops on the way to Sturgis (hanging out in the bay of a car wash - who needs it in this weather anyway) and on a trip to Milwaukee (and an unplanned long sit-down lunch). It seems every year the return trip from Rolling Thunder/Ride to Remember is like riding through an Olympic-size swimming pool for hours. Kind of hard to reroute that. Sometime the visibility is so poor you hit a pothole and wonder if it was really a portal to hell. There was even a Myrtle Beach trip resulting in riding through the outer bands of a hurricane.

But sometimes we can make a course correction to avoid a red or yellow radar cell. This is where the weather app on your phone comes in handy, but they are sometimes hit & miss. Radar apps are essential! We trusted a radar app on the return leg from our recent trip to Panama City Beach and it paid out huge dividends. We were on I-10 moving east from Tallahassee to Jacksonville in Florida, and a radar check during a fuel stop showed us intercepting a nasty storm which was tracking northeast. We decided to leave our planned route of I-10 and navigate north and northeast through some Florida and Georgia state roads. In doing so, we completely avoided the storm; it left our minds like *Men In Black* with that pen. We were able to move at a pretty good clip through some beautiful country roads. The speed limit on the signs may as well have been replaced with a shrug emoji. Find your best radar app, find a couple of them, and you'll likely find some dry and sunny back roads you otherwise would never experience.

REGIE FARR

WIN A SOUTHSIDE HARLEY MAINTENANCE PLAN WORTH \$2895!!

**This plan covers all scheduled maintenance services for
3 YEARS, UNLIMITED MILEAGE!!
(Only pay for difference of cost between regular and synthetic oil)**

**ALL HARLEY MOTORCYCLES ARE ELIGIBLE NO MATTER WHERE MOTORCYCLE WAS PURCHASED
TICKETS ARE ONE FOR \$20, THREE FOR \$50
DRAWING WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 22ND
DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT**

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Lake Taylor Children's Hospital and the Foodbank of Southeastern VA



A Note from the Editor: I want to thank everyone for your support of this publication, both by reading it and by submission of articles and pictures. I, for one, am enriched by your experiences, stories, and fun times together. This publication depends on your involvement and support. You are invited to send any articles to me by the end of August for inclusion in the next Talon. Pictures can be sent to the photographer, Lisa Verdin. I hope you are having a wonderful summer and remember: WE RIDE THE MOST!

Rolling to Remember 2025

By

Steve Cain

As the sun rose on Friday morning May 23, 2025, a group of new and older members gathered at WaWa on Newton Rd for our annual trip. Our HOG chapter was headed to Washington DC to participate in the Rolling to Remember 2025 event. Seven of us pulled out of Wawa around 8:00 am and made our way up to our first stop going through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and over the Coleman bridge to the Wawa in White Marsh, Va. The ride that morning was cold and who would have thought you would have to put on a long-sleeved shirt near the end of May. We got hot coffee, water and stretched our legs before we proceeded on. Our next stop was for gas and more refreshments if you needed it before we made a push to our lunch stop in Fredericksburg, Va.

We picked up two more of our members at our lunch stop, Fred and Sandy Honeycutt and after lunch we went to our first Harley dealer, Old Dominion Harley Davidson. At the Dealership we spent time looking at the clothes, shirts and the motorcycles that they had on the showroom floor. After the quick break we got back on the road and headed further north and west. As we were taking the scenic route off in the distance you could see the Blue Ridge Mountains. We pulled into the next Harley dealer, Bull Run Harley Davidson, and we stocked up on shirts and souvenirs. Once finished at Bull Run Harley Davidson, we started our final push to the hotel where we would be staying for the weekend. As we arrived at the Hotel we ran into friends that we had not seen in a while, Eric and Lisa Hutchings. They arrived the day before us and had come up for the event.

(The entire article can be viewed in the supplement posted on the website. This is a moving article about Rolling to Remember)



**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2025**
SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DAVIDSON, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
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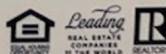
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HOG Members—We could use some ads. Ask some of your friends, or post one of your own. Even if it is just for a partial year or one issue. Your group needs it. Dues are also due now. Thanks in advance, and please request a copy of the form from me at taloneditor@tidewaterhog.com



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