

# THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

## TO RIDE BEYOND—HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN—TOM SANCHEZ

2024 was definitely a year for the books! I think we had more rides canceled this past year for weather than in any of the last 5 years I've been part of this chapter! It is amazing that even with all the miles we lost due to excessive heat in July and August, the canceled rides due to rain throughout the year, and other issues, we still managed to ride more miles as a chapter than in 2023. Some of this was due to having a couple of long, overnight rides, like the one to Sturgis, but we did ride over 15141 miles on chapter rides. This was over 5000 miles more than last year! Our end-of-the-year winners were Fred Honeycutt with 7902 miles, Jim Stone with 7171, and Rick Leighton with 7032 miles. Our local-only mileage winners were Ted Lawson with 3515 miles, Rick Leighton with 3362 miles, and Fred Honeycutt with 3084. Our top passengers were Sandy Honeycutt with 6658 total miles and 1840 local miles, Vicki Melle with 1722 and 867, and Sheila Hyatt with 887 and 452 respectively.

2025 has already kicked off with our New Year's Day ride. If you haven't signed up for the new Ride 365 program with Southside, you can see Leslie upstairs at the dealership or a Road Captain during the month of January. We want to get everyone enrolled for the new year. If you don't have your Chapter Mileage Program number to participate in that program, see me to get one! I hope you've enjoyed your holiday season and are ready to ride!

Remember, the Chapter Mileage Program is different from the Ride 365 program and in addition to that program through Harley-Davidson. To sign up for your Ride 365 mileage program, you can see one of our Road Captains on any ride in January. They will have a signup sheet similar to what you can give Leslie at the Dealership. To sign up, you'll need your HOG number, last 6 of your VIN and your mileage to start the year. This should be easy since you'll have your bike there with you when you come to a ride! Your 365 miles may also earn you awards and gift cards from Harley. So, sign up at the start of the year!

The Road Captains have already started planning rides for 2025, including a trip to Florida for the Thunder Beach Rally in Panama City, FL at the end of April! New rides, to new destinations, and possibly new overnight trips to allow us to explore great scenery further from Hampton Roads are in our future! We're excited and hope you are too. Let's have a great year riding with Tidewater HOG!

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# SAFETY

## LEVELLY

### Riding a Motorcycle in Winter Weather

Motorcycle enthusiasts know that the open road calls year-round, even when winter weather tries to freeze those ambitions. But with the right preparation and mindset, winter rides can be just as rewarding as their warmer counterparts. Here's a comprehensive guide to riding your motorcycle safely and comfortably through the chill.

#### 1. Gear Up Smartly

Winter motorcycle riding starts with the right gear. Layering is key, as it allows for better insulation and flexibility:

- Base Layer: Moisture-wicking materials like merino wool or synthetic fabrics keep sweat off your skin.
- Mid Layer: Fleece or other insulating materials trap body heat.
- Outer Layer: A windproof and waterproof motorcycle jacket and pants protect against the elements. Look for gear with thermal linings.
- Accessories: Thermal gloves, heated grips, a balaclava, and insulated boots are essential. Don't forget a neck warmer to seal gaps where cold air can sneak in.

#### 2. Prepare Your Bike

Just like you need to bundle up, your bike needs winter preparation too:

- Tires: Consider switching to winter tires for better traction on slick surfaces.
- Battery: Cold weather can drain your battery faster. Keep it fully charged and consider using a battery tender.
- Fluids: Ensure that your bike's antifreeze and oil are suited for lower temperatures.
- Lubrication: Regularly lubricate chains and cables to prevent them from seizing up.

#### 3. Adjust Your Riding Style

Winter conditions demand more cautious and deliberate riding:

- Take it Slow: Cold tires have less grip, and icy patches can be hidden. Reduce speed to increase reaction time.
- Smooth Movements: Abrupt braking or sharp turns can lead to loss of traction. Be gentle with the throttle and brakes.
- Increase Following Distance: Give yourself more room to react to slippery spots or sudden stops.
- Stay Visible: Shorter days and poor weather can reduce visibility. Wear reflective gear and keep your lights on.

#### 4. Be Weather-Wise

Understanding and anticipating weather conditions can make or break a winter ride:

- Check Forecasts: Always review the weather before heading out. Avoid riding in severe conditions.
- Road Conditions: Look for reports on road conditions. Snow, ice, and salt can all impact your ride.
- Stay Warm: If you start feeling too cold or lose sensation in your extremities, it's time to take a break and warm up.

#### 5. Mental Preparation

Riding in the winter is as much a mental game as it is a physical one:

- Stay Focused:\*\* The cold can sap your concentration. Stay sharp and aware of your surroundings.
- Plan Your Route:\*\* Choose routes that are well-maintained and familiar to you. Avoid secluded or rarely used roads.
- Stay Connected:\*\* Let someone know your planned route and expected return time for safety reasons.

#### Conclusion

Winter motorcycle riding isn't just about braving the cold; it's about embracing the challenge with preparation, caution, and respect for the road. With the right gear, bike setup, riding techniques, and a focused mindset, you can enjoy the unique beauty and thrill of the winter landscape from the seat of your motorcycle. So gear up, ride smart, and savor the crisp air of your winter journeys!

#### ***Motorcycle Safety Foundation***



## EVENTS

Winter Chill Ride—January 15

New Member Orientation—January 18

HOGS on Ice—January 18

TBD Ride—January 29

Valentines Ride—February 1

Valentine's Brunch—February 9

Chapter Meeting—February 12

Southside Harley Davidson 35th Anniversary—February 22

Pool Tournament—February 23

Chapter Meeting—March 12

More to come...See Facebook, emails and the website calendars for updates.



### Embracing New Beginnings: The Significance of the New Year

As the clock strikes midnight on December 31st, a collective cheer echoes across the globe, heralding the arrival of the New Year. This magical moment, symbolized by fireworks, confetti, and heartfelt resolutions, marks not just the beginning of a new calendar year, but also an opportunity for personal renewal and transformation.

### Reflecting on the Past Year

The New Year serves as a moment of reflection, offering a chance to look back on the past year with gratitude and introspection. It's a time to acknowledge achievements, cherish memories, and learn from the challenges that shaped us. Whether it's personal growth, career milestones, or relationships nurtured, reflecting on the past year helps us appreciate our journey and recognize the progress we've made.

### Setting Intentions for the Future

With the dawn of a new year comes the promise of a fresh start. It's a time to set intentions and goals that align with our aspirations. New Year's resolutions, often written with enthusiasm, reflect our desire to improve ourselves and our lives. From adopting healthier habits to pursuing new hobbies or deepening connections with loved ones, the New Year inspires us to envision a better version of ourselves.

### Embracing Change

Change is an inevitable part of life, and the New Year serves as a powerful reminder that we have the agency to shape our future. Embracing change can be daunting, but it also brings opportunities for growth and self-discovery. The New Year encourages us to step out of our comfort zones, embrace new experiences, and cultivate resilience in the face of uncertainty.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year 2025! What a year 2024 has been! The weather didn't always cooperate with us but regardless, we still had around 55 rides that did happen. We had several overnight trips, attended a HOG Rally, participated in rides for different charities and memorial rides for our military and families. We assisted an elementary school with a presentation, helped out Southside Harley with some of their events and had a successful Fall Festival. We had some activity events throughout the year, culminating with our Holiday party. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped with these rides, events and activities.

I hope you are ready to have more fun and adventures with your fellow HOG members. We've started the year off with our annual First Ride of the Year Ride and there are more rides already on the calendar for this year. Road Captains continue to plan more day and multi-day rides for the year, we had the first HOG even. We have an event scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup> with the HOGS on Ice, the annual Ride to Valentines is already scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup> and our Valentines Brunch on February 9<sup>th</sup>. There are many other rides and events being worked on. LOH is planning activities and meetings, we are looking at scheduling our Chapter Pool Tournament and other activities as the year goes on. It will be a great year of rides, events and just plain fun!

During the winter months, please take some time and go to the Harley Owners Group website ([www.hog.com](http://www.hog.com)). There you can learn about the Ride 365 program and benefits for participating. Also check out the destination ride programs they have such as the Dealer Check-in, 15 Rides for '25 and 50 Rides, One Nation. You can earn points, Challenge coins, etc. There are many HOG Rallies and Touring Rides scheduled all over the country that are listed on the site. The website has all kinds of information regarding National HOG and there may be benefits or incentives you are not aware of. If you haven't done so, I recommend you visit the site and find out what you might be missing!

We look forward to seeing you on a ride or at an event this coming year. We continue to strive to keep our motto going, "We Ride the Most!!!"

**Linda Knowles**  
Director

### ALL Year Long—

The other day, I posted a meme that said "Always keep a look out, some of us ride all year long. Well, I am some of us! If it's over 25 degrees, I will ride. Not in the snow, and I avoid heavy wind but, cold doesn't bother me. The reason I am writing this, though, isn't due to the weather, it's about the need to tell people to watch out for Bikers ANYTIME.

We are licensed vehicles that share the road every day with others. The total lack of regard for safety while driving is absurd. I pay attention to all drivers, even when I am driving in the cage. I see people on the phone, eating, putting on make up, reading (yes reading), texting.... It's downright scary. The fact that people are in a 2000 pound killing machine doesn't seem to be a thought. Most motorcycle accidents are Not the fault of the biker but, someone just Not paying attention.

We do things to make us safer. Loud pipes, train air horns, reflective clothing and gear, extra lighting. None of it seems to make a difference. I honestly believe that there should be at least one question about spotting a motorcycle on the driver's test.

So, what can we do about it? If I see someone doing something that will put me in danger, I get their attention and have them put the phone down or stop doing what ever it is. Most of the time, I get a shocked look, but they comply.

This brings me to the next issue. That's the people that don't think motorcycles are vehicles that have a right to share the road with them. Unfortunately, some of these people go out of their way to move us off the road. I have encountered this a couple of times but, I will not put in writing how I resolved those issues.

Both of these things need attention. Police enforcement would be nice, but education is the best thing we can do. Constantly remind your friends that don't ride to keep an eye out for motorcycles, explain the plight we go through. When they say how dangerous it is, explain that it wouldn't be if everyone paid attention. If they hear it enough, they will say it too. Play games like counting bikes, while driving. It helps to train your eyes to look for them. Post, on social media, as often as possible, that we are out there and for everyone to watch out for us. Make sure we are represented in a positive manner. Yes, there are some bad elements to the biker community, The speed junkies, the wheelie riders, the "gang" element but, that is not the vast majority of us, and we need to point that out. And above all, Pay Attention yourself. Expect the other person not to see you or not care about you. The more you do that, the more you can avoid a very bad situation.

Stay safe while you are riding, dress for the weather, wear layers that you can take off or put on as needed. Check your tire pressure. Do the maintenance on your bike often and enjoy the ride!

**Mike Pastore**



At the Holiday Party in November, we announced the winners of our Chapter Contests for 2024.

**Oddities Chapter Tour Ride:**

- 1st place: Ed Wells
- 2nd place: Mike McColgan
- 3rd place: Fred and Sandy Honeycutt

**Chapter Ride Program:**

- Local Mileage:
- 1st Place: Ted Lawson
- 2nd Place: Rick Leighton
- Passenger: Vicki DeMarco Melle
- Total miles:
- 1st Place: Fred Honeycutt
- 2nd Place: Jim Stone
- 3rd Place: Sandy Honeycutt

- Volunteer of the Year: Rick Leighton
- Honorable Mention: Rick Kuhn



Finally, as you will see if you look at the pictures taken at the party, the Ugly Sweater contest was hotly contested. At the end, we did have a winner, Stephanie White. Congratulations go out to all our winners! If you didn't participate in our programs this year, I hope you will consider doing so in 2025!! **Linda Knowles**

At our last Chapter meeting, we had a contest to see who had a Harley Dealership T Shirts the farthest from Southside Harley. We had 18 members who entered with T Shirts from the US, Europe, the Mid East, South Africa, Far East and the South Pacific. The winner was Jim Stone whose T Shirt was from Sydney Australia at 9,760 miles. Jim won a 2025 Harley Davidson Calendar. Thanks to everyone who entered and the pictures are available on Shutterfly. **Linda Knowles**



## IT'S HERE!

Didn't sleep much, walked the floor and felt a fair amount of anxiety. I had waited for the conversion of Shaman for 6 weeks. I traveled to the shop in Richmond, which was doing the work, a couple of times, and I worried. A lot. I felt like that time 65 or so years ago when I awaited the arrival of my first born! Would it look good? Would it ride good? Would I have problems riding it? The night before I was supposed to pick it up I was hollowed eyed!

In truth, I was not all that excited about getting a trike. And I really did not want to lose the 135 CU engine I had had installed nor my functioning CB. But our esteemed Parts Guru at Southside, Joe, showed me a picture of the California Sidecar Co. conversion, told me about it and in the end, sort of cost me a bunch of money!

California Sidecar, as the name suggests, originated as a Company building sidecars 30+ years ago in Southern California. They soon began building trikes for Brand X motorcycles and then moved to the western part of Virginia, to the small town of Arrington. (Near Lynchburg) They then expanded to building trike kits for all motorcycles, to order.

I spoke to Dwight, the founder, owner and still President of CSC a few times at some length about converting my '23 Anniversary CVO and he finally decided that, while he could build the trike kit for my bike, he did not have the capability of matching the CVO paint but had a dealer in Richmond, Virginia who did have a painter with that kind of equipment and skill, Richmond Superbike, located near the Richmond Airport. I contacted the owner of that shop, Joey and then together with my friend Steve Clark, rode over there to talk with him. Joey booted up his computer program and together we specified every detail of my conversion and I ordered it, about Sept. 1.

My last two wheel ride, taking my Shaman to the dealer in Richmond was on November 16 having been advised that the kit had arrive4. I had the pleasure and honor of having a dozen HOG riders escort me there, one of whom was son Billy Jr.

The kit arrived in Richmond in late November and went immediately into the paint shop. The painter, using spectrograph (and skill) matched and painted it with 5 coats, then sent back it to Joey where it was installed and I was invited to come and pick up about 350 pounds of parts no longer needed on Shaman. (Available parts listed later.)

Finally, December 21, was the day to "come and get it".

## SHAMAN '25





## Shaman '25 continued

I was given lots of advice about riding trikes, most notable of which was from Bill Arnold who told me it would be “different”. Man, was he right! Different was hardly an adequate descriptor. I was taken next door to a large, empty parking lot by Joey and schooled on riding it. But, when I started out, the trike wouldn't turn; really wouldn't turn, nearly ran me into the next door building. Finally, had to just stop, and consider, and then turn it while sitting stationary. Then I fully realized that you don't turn a trike by leaning it as I had been doing for many, many years. You gotta “drive” it. You gotta use your arms! REALLY use your arms. Ok after that.

I learned that “arms” lesson again on the “Winter Solstice” ride on Saturday, Dec. 28, the last ride of 2024. The ride was only a half day so I thought it would be a good ride for me to get acquainted with the Trike. And how! We rode on the little bitty, bumpy roads in Pungo known only to God, and by special dispensation, our Director, Linda Knowles. By the time we reached the Border Station, I needed a double wrap of Lanacane on my arms! So now, I'm working on that problem now!

### PARTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE:

- 2 SADDLE BAGS
- 1 REAR FENDER
- 2 REAR LIGHTS
- 1 TRIPLE TREE
- 2 RHINEHART PIPES, CUSTOMTIPS

**BILL JACKSON**



VAN GOGH TRIKE







TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS  
2025  
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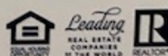
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