

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344



TO RIDE BEYOND—HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN—TOM SANCHEZ

Happy New Year! We are excited for the new opportunities to ride this coming year! By the time this comes out, you probably have already ridden with us for the New Year's Day ride where our new Director, Regie Farr, took over for Linda Knowles. I know you'll all join me in thanking Linda for what she has done for this chapter for the last three years. Linda, thank you! And we look forward to Regie taking the reins for this next year!

We finished off 2025 with over 13,000 miles and more than 50 rides as a chapter. And we look forward to even more this year. We have several overnight rides planned throughout the year so keep your eyes on the chapter calendar on the website and events page on Facebook to be part of these awesome events. We will also have many of our yearly rides like the Winter Chill Ride, the St. Patty's Day ride, the World-Famous Run, and the Tryptophan Detox ride! We hope you come out and join us throughout the year! Remember to sign up for Ride 365 – Road Captains will have sign-up sheets at all rides in January to assist you, or you can see Leslie upstairs at Southside to get your initial miles entered. Then, throughout the year, turn in your miles to keep track of your progress. We will also be restarting the counting for our Chapter Mileage Program. The winners for 2025 were Jim Stone with 3,685 miles and Fred Honeycutt with 3,167 miles for the local count and Rick Leighton, 9,133 miles, and Fred Honeycutt, 8,329 miles, for the total miles. Sandy Honeycutt won both categories for passengers with 2,623 miles local and 7,775 miles total for the year. Which one will you win in 2026? We have winners for those that can only ride locally and the total category for those that also attend the overnight events. We hope to see bigger numbers this year! If you don't have your CMP number (different from your HOG number) or can't remember it, see me or email me at srrc@tidewaterhog.com for more information.

We're excited and hope you are too. Let's have a great year riding with Tidewater HOG!

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JANUARY—
FEBRUARY 2026
Issue 1
Art Verdin
Editor

SAFETY

SAFELY

Safe Motorcycling in Winter: Essential Tips for Cold-Weather Riding

Riding a motorcycle in winter can be rewarding, offering clear roads and a sense of adventure when many riders hibernate. However, cold temperatures, reduced traction, and unpredictable conditions demand extra caution. With proper preparation, gear, and techniques, you can ride safely even in chilly weather.

Dress in Layers for Warmth and Protection

Staying warm is crucial, as cold impairs reaction times and control. Layering traps heat effectively:

- **Base layer:** Moisture-wicking thermals to keep sweat away from your skin.
- **Mid layer:** Insulating fleece or wool for warmth.
- **Outer layer:** Windproof, waterproof jacket and pants with abrasion resistance.

Add heated gear like electric gloves, vests, or socks for extreme cold. Don't forget insulated, waterproof boots, thick socks, and a neck gaiter or balaclava to protect exposed areas.

Prepare Your Motorcycle

Cold affects your bike too. Use winter-rated oil to maintain viscosity, and check battery charge—cold drains it faster. Equip with heated grips, a windshield, and hand guards to block wind.

For tires, opt for cold-weather or dual-sport compounds that perform better in low temperatures and wet conditions. In snowy regions, consider studded tires for grip on ice (check local laws).

Ride Defensively and Avoid Hazards

Winter roads hide dangers like black ice (invisible on dark pavement), salt, and slush. Ride only when roads are clear and dry—avoid snow or ice if possible. Bridges and shaded areas freeze first.

- Slow down and increase following distance.
- Brake and accelerate gently to prevent skids.
- Scan ahead constantly for slick spots.

Wash your bike frequently to remove corrosive road salt.

Winter riding isn't for everyone, but with these precautions, dedicated riders can enjoy the season safely. Always check the forecast, know your limits, and prioritize safety over the ride. Stay warm and ride smart!

ART VERDIN



WINTER STRUGGLES

It's that time of year to pull out the winter gear. For me, it's long merino wool underwear, heated jacket, heavy winter jacket, winter vest, heavy gauntlet gloves, chaps and neck gaiter. Whew! It makes me tired just to think about it. The first morning of getting all this on can be trying. Hopefully you planned the night before and gathered it all together as something always ends up some place than where you thought you put it. The next morning starts with the challenge to remember the order in which to put it on. Do I put on my heavy socks or long underwear first, then finding your jeans that will give you enough room to pull them over the underwear. There's deciding which shirt to wear over the wool top that is thin enough to let the heat get through from your heated jacket but big enough to not to show all those extra pounds you swore you were going to lose. Get the boots on then pull the chaps out, figure out which belt buckle hole will work this year and then get them zipped and snapped on. Next is the heated jacket and hopefully the temperature control is with it. Now it's time for the heavy jacket, vest and neck gaiter. Huffing and puffing, you head out to the bike. I know where the heated liner adapter is supposed to be in my saddle bag but of course, it's not there. After a few minutes you find it had slipped out and was in the bottom of your bag. Get that attached to the battery tender and now it's time to get on the bike. As you go to throw your leg over the bike, you can barely pick up your leg. Grab that chap and help get it over. Now it's time to rest a minute before you put your helmet on. The final steps are getting your helmet on, remember to hook the heated jacket to the battery and pull on the heavy gloves. It's like learning all over again where your controls are as your fingers are so fat you pray you don't turn your bike off by accidentally hitting the cut off button. Get the bike started and head on down the road only to realize you didn't close the doors in your lower fairings or the vent in your fairing. The fairing one is easy to close but forget the lowers until you stop. Turn the heating jacket on and pray it still works – thankfully it does. You start warming up and enjoy the ride.

You meet up with everyone and someone takes a picture of you. You look at it later and realize you look kind of like Randy in The Christmas Story. Once you get going, the struggle is definitely worth it and I will deal with it! Here's to winter riding!!!!

LINDA KNOWLES



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to 2026 everybody! I am Regie Farr, your Tidewater HOG Chapter #5344 Director this year.

I am honored and humbled to be asked to accept the position as Director for 2026. I have had a great two years as Assistant Director, and I appreciate all the officers, both primary and appointed, for their commitment to the chapter. All of the 2025 appointed officers have agreed to remain in place, so I really appreciate that assistance. I have big shoes to fill, and I have the support of five previous directors who remain active in the chapter today. I have lived in the Tidewater area since 1990, have been a HOG member since 2006, and a member of Tidewater HOG since 2015. Since joining, I have seen many changes and because of the amazing people involved, all the changes seem to be for the better. The remarkable growth of the chapter is not only due to the chapter leadership that preceded me, but by the combined efforts of all members. This is OUR chapter, and every member is important to its success. It takes all of you helping to make this the great chapter it is. In my various interactions with members of other chapters via rallies, Chapter Challenges, and Regional Officer Connection, our chapter stands out! Some chapters are astonished by the support we receive from our dealership and of the amount and variety of rides we participate in. Not many chapters have the level of activities, fund raising, day rides (we had 50 of them), and seven overnight rides. The Road Captains are already busy filling the 2026 calendar with rides for this year. Ladies of Harley is busy gearing up for 2026, and I can't imagine another chapter matching our charitable efforts of 2025. What other chapter raised over 30 thousand dollars for a good cause? Hopefully, a lot! But likely, not that many.

I want to touch briefly on the Ride 365 program. This program allows us to not only collect miles as individuals, but as a Chapter. The more members who register for Ride 365, the more miles we can record! As a chapter, we ride enough miles to win our region; we just need to sign up and record them! We have already started signing folks up for 2026 and will have Ride 365 sheets available at each meeting for those who wish to turn in an odometer reading. All you'll need is your HOG number and the last six digits of your VIN. There are great incentives for all to include patches, pins, and cash rewards. Lastly, if someone is interested in being the person in charge of promoting Ride 365, tracking chapter mileage, and informing the group of our current status during monthly meetings, please see me.

I look forward to continued success in 2026 and many events, rides and adventures!

REGIE FARR
DIRECTOR



EVENTS**First Ride of the Year—January 1****Winter Chill Ride—January 10W****Chapter Meeting—January 14****HOGs on Ice—January 17****Valentine Ride—January 31****World Famous Ride—February 7****Valentine Dinner—February 8****Chapter Meeting—February 11****SSHD Anniversary Event—February 21**

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

Ride 365

The results for the 365 Program are in for 2025!!! We are in the East Central Division and we came in 4th place with 413,743 miles! We are 1st of all Chapters in Virginia!!! Nationally we came in 69th out of 522 Chapters - not too shabby folks. Currently we only have 55 members participating. Our leader is Howard Condrey with 37,441 miles!

I know we have other members who have not signed up to participate in the 365 Program. How about making a New Years Resolution to sign up on 2026!

If you want to find out about all the benefits for you that are available through the 365 Program or to see the results for the year, go to https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmembers.harley-davidson.com%2FHDMN_Login%3FstartURL%3D%252FHOG%252FHDMN_Ride365%253FPublicAccess%253Dtrue%2526PublicAccess%253Dtrue%2526PublicAccess%253Dtrue%2526source_cd%253Dundefined%2526source_cd%253Dundefined&data=05%7C02%7C%7C8c0fea04a0fa4d9b55a808de47b2b1ce%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C639027029980660021%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsImlAiOiJXaW4zMmIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=noAPurQItzyDi%2BrIVI95qIqMLbeK%2FZSnmdMAO6GLKLY%3D&reserved=0.

If you are not involved in the 365 program, we will be setting up chances for you to do so starting with our annual First Ride of the Year! Stay tuned for more information!!



HALIFAX RESOLVES

On November 8, after the Two Chapter Challenge lunch in Roanoke Rapids, NC I decided to go on down to Halifax, NC to see a house built in 1760 in Enfield, N C by my Great Great Great Grandfather. The house was moved to Halifax and restored. While talking to some local people, I was reminded of something I had read about some time ago. On 12 April 1776 a meeting was held and a document was signed in Halifax, NC titled the "Halifax Resolves". This was the first document advocating the separation of the Colonies from England and predates "The Declaration of Independence" by two months. A celebration of the event is held in Halifax on 12 April each year. 12 April 2025 is the 250th anniversary of the event and will probably be quite an event. I plan to attend.

Construction & Ownership: Built circa 1760 on land owned by [Col. Bradford](#), a delegate to the 4th Provincial Congress.

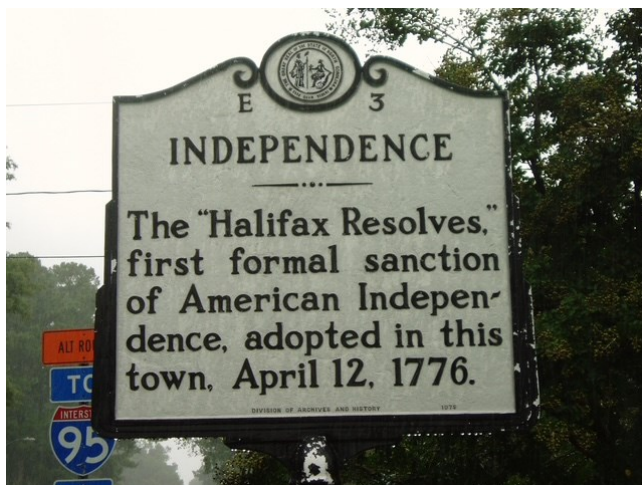
Notable Residents: Home to Rev. Henry Bradford (Revolutionary War soldier, Methodist preacher, educator) and his wife, [Sarah Crowell Bradford](#).

- Religious Significance: The house was a center for early Methodism, hosting services and camp meetings, with Bishop Francis Asbury being a frequent visitor.
- Education: Rev. Henry Bradford ran Bradford's Academy from the property in the early 1800s.
- Restoration: Moved to its current location in Historic Halifax for preservation by the Historical Halifax Restoration Association (HHRA) to reflect its 1790 appearance.
- Location: Situated near Fishing Creek in Halifax County, near the pivotal Halifax Resolves site.

Significance:

The house embodies the spirit of early American independence and provides a tangible link to the individuals and events that shaped the nation, making it a crucial landmark in North Carolina's history.

RICHARD BRADFORD



**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2026**

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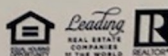
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HOG Members—We could use some ads. Ask some of your friends, or post one of your own. Even if it is just for a partial year or one issue. Your group needs it. Dues are also due now. Thanks in advance, and please request a copy of the form from me at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



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