

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE MEMBERS



Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

JOURNEYS IN LIFE

Who would have thought 25+ years ago I would have faced some of the most horrific thing's life puts in front of us to feeling the compassion that can bring life full circle right before your eyes.

My beginning was not even knowing how to start a motorcycle.... but, due to a change in life's circumstances I found myself at Southside Harley Davidson purchasing what I thought to be the biggest bike there was...at least in my eye's that is the way I saw it. Oh, please by the way can you deliver it because I don't know how to start it, did not have a motorcycle license but did have determination.

Moving forward I saw, people having fun. Gathering around, sharing stories, going places and getting to know each other. That is something I wanted to share, so on with another journey to see what riding and all these great people and places are about. Off on my first weekend ride, left in 75-degree weather and right into the snow. Definitely learned what not to wear and what to plan for. Dress for the return trip someone once said...that stuck with me. Planning is so important in life.

Let's all go to a rally...fun adventure for sure but I did not plan on the rain storm that was like being in a hurricane as we all rode thru Afton Mountain and the rains would not let up. The great thing about that trip was the people that looked out for us new riders. Most of them still in this chapter today. We arrived in Roanoke and had the time of our life. Everyone was so supportive, caring and took care of each other.

Oh, the next journey.... I'm not one for saying "NO" So, let's plan some rallies, get involved even more and see where this will lead. By doing so, I have had the opportunities that changed my life, my outlook on people and the way to get things done. The adventures that I have been on thru the Dealership, Tidewater Chapter and Harley Davidson Motor Company have been filled with joy and more excitement that I could ever explain. The opportunities that riding and being part of the Tidewater Chapter have provided experiences, excitement, new friends, riding opportunities, meeting and becoming friends with people worldwide. Those memories that have been created are life long for me.

An unfortunate accident many years ago brought a new way of thinking for me. It was the most meaningful time that can bring you to your knees. People care and show it in many ways. Some that don't even know you, were there for me. Friends that I made thru the years took care of me. Milkshakes and Whoppers were brought to me at the hospital. People gave of their time and talked to me when needed, others stayed days and nights to get me thru the difficult times. You never know what will be put before you; you will know how to handle things with people beside you, then I did.

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Art Verdin
Editor

CON'T

In my journey I feel that people are put into our paths for a reason. We don't know the reason at the time but it does come clear when it is supposed to. This Chapter has been there for so many of its members, the dealership and the staff of which I have witnessed firsthand.

When I asked this Chapter to "Trust Me" at our last meeting and tried to explain to each of you about a family that is facing something that is very difficult. While trying to keep my composure and keep the identity of the family private this journey began. I looked at each of you and the overwhelming peace that you gave me was astonishing. There was a calmness that was present to do what is right and something that would change this family for the better while dealing with their issue at hand.

Their journey is just beginning and no one knows the outcome. What I do know is that each of you contributed, comforted me in moving forward for them because of you. Each of you have so very much to be proud of and I am so very proud to be a part of Tidewater Chapter. Each of you I am sure will come to know more as time move's forward. But, for now I want to "Thank" each of you for what you are doing for someone that you may or may not know. But that did not matter at that very moment as it was your "Trust" in what was presented to you that did matter.

Trust, is a powerful thing that I do not take it lightly but hold it in its highest regard because of your generosity. Please know that you have made a difference and for that my heart is full.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

JO ANN EMMONS

HOG MANAGER AND TREASURER

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY A TIDWATER HOG MEMBER

EVENTS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT SS—MAY 4

CHAPTER MEETING—MAY 8

LOW COUNTRY RIDE—MAY 10-12

MOTHER'S DAY—MAY 12

EIGHT RIVERS RIDE—MAY 18

HOOKIE RIDE—MAY 22

RIDE TO ROLLING TO REMEMBER—MAY 24-27

2 CHAPTER CHALLENGE—JUNE 2

HIGH COTTON RIDE— JUNE 8

CHAPTER MEETING—JUNE 12

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT SS—JUNE 15

HOOKIE RIDE—JUNE 18



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU RIDE, IT'S THAT YOU RIDE I heard that saying a very long time ago. I liked it. As a member of H.O.G., we tend to look at our Harleys as setting us apart. Well, it does! Harley Davidson is thought of as the father of motorcycles, where it all began, innovators and a standard for others to match. Yes, there are jokes about the oil puddle being the mark of a parked Harley but, we know they are the best. But, it is the fact that we ride, we get on two wheels and enjoy the open road. We cruise along and forget the world around us. We have a brotherhood (and sisterhood, don't want to get yelled at for that) that is unbeatable. Our greeting on the road, the two finger salute, is known to almost every rider. We have a language that is just for us while we are riding. And, we will stop to help if we see someone on the side of the road. Our love for the freedom of riding is unmatched. To top that off, we are probably the most generous group around. The amount of rallies and charity "runs" and events that we do is unmatched. The amount of money raised by these events is astronomical. We help prevent bullying, we promote education, we support scientific research, we escort our fallen, we honor our military and first responders.

That list is never ending. Our commitment to community and helping is almost ingrained into "bikers." We are also misjudged, mislabeled, scorned, and looked down upon. People watch movies and think we are gangs looking to destroy property and fight everyone. When, in fact, we are business-people, doctors, lawyers, police, military and veterans, sons, daughters, grandparents and care takers. We fit into almost every lifestyle with one big difference, we love to ride. A good portion of us belong to a group, a club, a collection of



ROLLING TO REMEMBER

riders who ride together on a regular basis. We wear "colors", patches on our vests to identify our group so people know we are together and what we stand for. These groups, as a whole, make the rides and events more

enjoyable, safer and adds to the camaraderie that it is to be a rider. Our Chapter of H.O.G., Tidewater Chapter 5344, is a fantastic group of riders. Our dedication to riding is extremely high (We Ride The Most). The feeling of riding with this group is wonderful, knowing that safety is paramount and there is someone always watching your six. I have ridden with a lot of different groups over the years, and I have ridden all by myself spattered throughout those years but, I feel a sense of comfort with our HOG chapter. I am glad I found a home with our group, and I look forward to riding a lot more with each and every one of you. Thank You for having me as part of the whole.

MIKE "WZRDMATR" PASTORE

TO RIDE BEYOND—HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN

Well, we've definitely had some rain these last few months! But as we move fully into Spring and get closer to Summer, we can expect some better weather. And with that, more rides from our chapter. We will also have several overnight rides coming up, with the Low Country Ride, the Ride to Rolling to Remember, and this summer, to the HOG Rally. We hope you'll join us on these rides as well as the local ones that will be happening almost every Saturday and Sunday (plus the occasional Hookie ride!)

Remember to sign up for the Chapter Mileage Program and the Chapter Tour Rides (Oddities and Attractions). Our goal is to get the chapter out riding. Bill Arnold has built and published about the Oddities and Attractions rides. Some of these will be done as chapter rides, but many of these are designed to be done when you're out on your own and looking for something to do and some place to ride. Check it out and talk to Bill if you have any questions. The Chapter Mileage Program is designed to get you riding with the Chapter. We keep track of the miles you ride with Tidewater HOG and give out prizes at the end of the year to those that "ride the most"!

How do we keep track? Well, everyone who signs up will get a number that helps me identify and track when they come out to one of our Chapter rides. When you sign in for the ride, there is a place on the form for this number. When the Road Captains turn in their sheets after a ride, these miles get added to a spreadsheet where I tally how many miles each member has ridden. Once you have your number, it'll be yours for as long as you are in the Chapter. You don't need to sign up for this program each year. It is automatic if you attend a ride. If you don't have a number, you can email me at srrc@tidewaterhog.com to get one. This is a fun competition that includes everyone, even those that just ride on the back! Our goal is to get everyone out riding and have fun while doing it. I hope to see you out there on our next ride!

TOM SANCHEZ

HOG WILD! A SEUSSICLE POEM...

I strapped on my helmet, a bright orange peel,
And donned my leathers, from head down to heel.

My hog, a Harley, all chrome and with gleam,
Thrummed like a Trompolow, ready for steam.

With a twist of the throttle, the engine did roar,
A sound like the Sneetches, when grumpy all four!

I rumbled down Main Street, a two-wheeled parade,
Leaving the slowpokes sputterin' in the shade.

The wind in my whiskers, my hair in a twirl,
Faster I flew, than a Cloverfield girl!

Past houses and Honkers, a blur and a zip,
This Harley Davidson, just wouldn't quit!

Up over hills I went, dodging Zooks and Zips,
Around all the bendy-boog corners and dips.
Through tunnels of trees, with the sunlight in streaks,

My hog and I cruisin', a team that can't be beat!

So if you ever see me, on my Harley so grand,
Just give me a wave, as I zoom through the land.
For the road is my ribbon, the world is my prize,
On a Harley Davidson, beneath sunny skies!

ART VERDIN



FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

THE VOUNTEER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Most HOG members are familiar with the Tidewater HOG Volunteer Incentive Program, but I wanted to take a moment to remind those who may not have a chance to make monthly HOG meetings and to get the information out to newer members.

Volunteering with Tidewater HOG allows you to connect to the dealership, fellow HOGs, and SSHD customers, who somehow always find their way to free food. Our partnership with the dealership makes it a better place. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference, from setting everything up, cooking, some clean up, and breakdown. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference.



Tidewater HOG has several opportunities a year to support our dealership, get HOG members together in an informal setting, and to greet customers and sometimes, first-time visitors to the dealership. And what better place to meet than around a grill for a hamburger or a Blackstone for pancakes.

As a volunteer you'll be able to sign up and then your name will be placed in the bucket for a chance to win a gift card. Once your name goes in the bucket, it never comes out. And every time you volunteer your name goes in the bucket again. The drawing is held at our monthly HOG meeting, the second Wednesday of every month. One HOG member may have two chances to win a gift card, while another has ten chances to win. You do not have to be present to win. At the last meeting of the year, typically a holiday gathering, the volunteer who contributed the most will be recognized with a certificate and a gift card. But even better, you get to know your fellow HOGs better, and you may be the first HOG impression new SSHD customers see as they find their way to the pavilion.

Our upcoming volunteer events include a pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 4th and burgers & dogs on Saturday, May 25th. All food, drinks, condiments, napkins and plastic cutlery is provided by the dealership. All that is required of a volunteer is very little work. Typically, flipping burgers, filling a cooler with ice, setting up/breaking down folding tables, and walking the trash bag to a dumpster 30 feet away. Other than that, meet, greet, eat, and have fun.

REGIE FARR



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy the nice temperatures we have had recently. It is a typical Spring for us, Spring shows up and then Winter shows back up again. Hopefully soon the weather will even out and Spring will stay! We have had some great rides and events in the past 2 months. When the weather cooperated, we had some great rides and events. Thanks to Tom and Dee Sanchez for setting up the HOGS on Ice event. It was a great time and made even better by the Admirals winning! We also helped Southside have a 50's Day on April 13th. We set up a backdrop like a 50's soda shop and showcased the 2024 Hydra Glide. Staff and your fellow HOG members got into theme and dressed up for the occasion. Jo Ann Emmons and Sandy Honeycutt made milkshakes and popcorn and everyone had a great time.

On April 20th we had two rides up to the State Chapter Challenge held this year at Lynchburg Harley Davidson. One group rode up Friday, spent the night to check in on Saturday morning. The other group rode up Saturday morning and came back the same day. We also had other members who were already riding in the area and showed up to check in. Forty of our members made the trek up to Lynchburg to sign in. Thanks to all our members who were able to make the ride and support the Chapter!! We did not win our Division (Knucklehead) this year but our Sister Chapter Hampton Roads won! Black Wolf HOG from Bristol, VA was the Overall Winner. Looks like we'll be heading out to Southwest Virginia next year – Road Trip!!

Bill Jackson has taken over the position of Activities Officer at this time. Bill has hit the ground running and is already setting up activities for the Chapter. I want to thank Mike Pastore for his willingness to step up to the position and I hope he will be able to help us out again in the future!

In the next few months, we have rides just about every weekend, have events at Southside we are helping with and have a couple of long weekend rides set up in May. The first will be the Low Country Ride, May 10-12th and the Ride to Rolling to Remember, May 24-27th. I hope to see you soon on a ride or at an Event!!

LINDA KNOWLES
DIRECTOR



Springtime is here after a long Winter. With that are things blooming all over the place. So allergy sufferers like myself fall into the yuckies from pollen. In fact when riding my motorcycle I can see the yellow dust blowing right at me or riding right through those itchy clouds of dust. Of course having a visor/face shield does always make you immune to the effects of it and before you know it, just sneezed all over the inside of it. Eew! Right? But I carry wipes and napkins for such mess-haps. If you're like me with all those lovely reactions to pollen you're hopefully taking something to give you relief. I've taken allergy pills and nasal spray but I did some research on more natural remedies to help me with that. Then I found out that by taking a tablespoon of local honey from a nearby farm, helps, because local honey has the pollens of what's in our environment and actually helps combat my allergy symptoms quite a bit by boosting my immunity to them. It is also very tasty and gives me a little energy boost. I hope this article will help other people with managing their allergies. Happy riding.



24 for 24 Oddities Ride

Are you ready for a challenge that will take you on a journey through Virginia to discover the most unusual and interesting places? As a Tidewater HOG Chapter member, you can participate in the 24-for-24 Oddities ride and earn points by collecting photos of yourself, your HD motorcycle, and strange points of Interest. The farther you travel, the more points you earn, allowing you to explore new places and push yourself to achieve your goals. The cost of entry is \$15.00 per HOG member. Always participate at your own risk and take photos safely and responsibly. With the chance to win a Harley Davidson gift certificate, this is the perfect opportunity to test yourself, showcase your love for your motorcycle, and discover the hidden gems of Virginia.

So get ready to hit the road, explore, and capture those unforgettable moments! This is where you can earn points by collecting photos of yourself, your HD motorcycle, and strange points of Interest in Virginia. Please note that only Tidewater HOG Chapter members are eligible to participate, and entries must be submitted individually. Multiple entries cannot be combined into a single-entry form. By visiting 24 for 24 Oddities Ride points of Interest, you can earn points calculated based on the GPS mileage from Southside Harley (SSHD). You (the entrant) must be in the photo, and extra points will be awarded if you can also get your HD motorcycle in the photo. Only one photo per point of Interest is needed, and pictures can be submitted in digital or printed format. Please ensure the images are clear and legible, as blurry, fuzzy, illegible, or unrecognizable photos will not receive points. For each point earned, you will receive a chance in a random drawing for one of several Harley Davidson gift certificates. The top four mileage earners will receive award certificates.

Oddities can be found on the computer at www.atlasobscura.com/things-to-do/virginia, and an additional website is available at www.onlyinyourstate.com/virginia/weirdest-places-va. So get ready to hit the road, explore, and capture those unforgettable moments! To enter, turn in the entry form and your photos of the 24 Oddities to Bill Arnold at any ride or meeting before the end of November 2024. Please note that the form must be received before November 30, 2024, to be eligible **24 for 24 Oddities in Virginia Tidewater Hog Tour Ride**.

Bill Arnold





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2024
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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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