

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS



Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

TO RIDE BEYOND—HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN—TOM SANCHEZ

Are you looking forward to the summer? Are you ready to ride? Maybe even take a couple of overnight trips on the motorcycle? I know I am!

As a high school teacher, I look forward to summer as much as my students do. This is the time I get to enjoy my vacation! While some of you are retired and can go riding whenever you want, and some of you have a work schedule that allows you to take time off throughout the year to enjoy some riding (like the Fall Foliage ride!), it is difficult for me to go very far during the school year because of the requirements of my job, the weather, and family obligations. So, I always look forward to the May, June, July, and August timeframe! I get to take long distance rides – sometimes with just Dee and sometimes with the Chapter. I enjoy them both.

I hope you are ready for some wonderful, warm-weather rides in the local area – some that may include ice cream stops at local favorites! I know I have one of these set up for early May if the weather holds out! And, we should start seeing some more overnight riding opportunities. In fact, by the time you read this, some of you may have returned from the Thunder Beach Rally in Panama City, FL. May will also bring the annual Ride to Rolling To Remember. This is the yearly ride through the streets of DC to remember those left behind as POWs. It is a great opportunity to support a noble cause. I'm looking forward to the pictures and memories that this ride always brings. In July, we will have the Shenandoah Valley Ride, and in August we have the Buc-ee's to Boonies overnight ride. Remember to plan for the Ozarks Ride in September and the Fall Foliage Ride coming in October.

Keep watching the calendar on the website and posted at Southside, the events page on Facebook, and the email updates for the latest on upcoming rides! We look forward to seeing you out there!

Inside This Issue

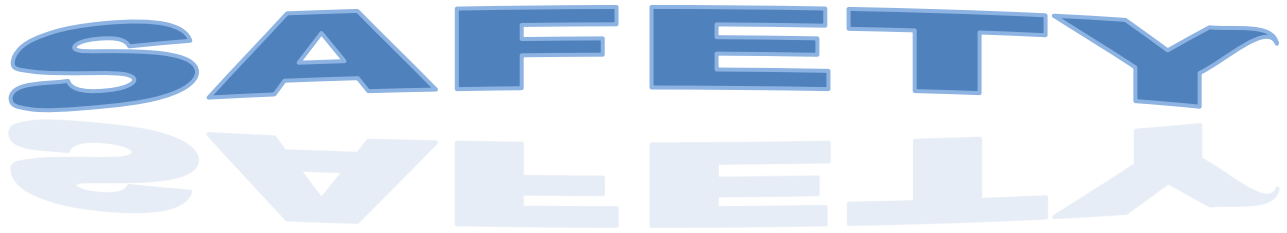
TO RIDE BEYOND.....	1
SAFETY.....	2
EVENTS.....	3
TRIKES EYE VIEW.....	3
FROM THE DIRECTOR.....	4
CALL OF THE MOTORCYCLE.....	4
ANNUAL POOL TOURNAMENT.....	5
IN MEMORY OF DAVE SCHELL.....	6
WHAT'S WITH THE STARS.....	7
TIDEWATER HOG EASTER BUNNY.....	8
NAMETAGS.....	8
OFFICERS.....	9
ADVERTISING.....	10

MAY-JUNE 2025

Issue 3

Art Verdin

Editor



Summer Motorcycle Safety: A Guide for New Riders

As the weather warms up and the roads become inviting, many riders eagerly dust off their motorcycles for the season. Whether you're a beginner or just getting back into riding after a long winter, safety should always be your top priority. Here's how to start your summer riding journey on the right foot:

1. Gear Up for Protection**

Summer might tempt you to ride in just a t-shirt and jeans, but proper protective gear is non-negotiable. Wear a DOT-approved helmet, abrasion-resistant riding jacket, gloves, and boots. Opt for breathable fabrics designed for warm-weather riding to stay safe without overheating.

2. Perform a Pre-Ride Inspection** After months of inactivity, give your motorcycle a thorough check-up. Test the brakes, lights, and tire pressure, and ensure all fluids are at optimal levels. If you're unsure about maintenance, schedule a professional inspection before hitting the road.

3. Ease into the Ride**

If you haven't ridden for a while—or are a new motorcyclist—start with short trips in low-traffic areas to regain confidence and control. Consider taking a motorcycle safety course to sharpen your skills and learn defensive riding techniques.

4. Stay Alert and Defensive**

Summer roads mean more vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. Drivers may not always notice motorcycles, so maintain a safe following distance, anticipate sudden movements, and avoid riding in blind spots.

5. Watch for Summer Hazards**

While the weather is ideal, summer brings unique road risks like sun glare, sudden storms, and slippery pavement from oil buildup. Ride cautiously in high temperatures, and stay hydrated to prevent fatigue.

6. Know Your Limits**

Riding requires focus and quick reflexes. Never ride under the influence or when feeling tired. Understand your skill level and don't push beyond what you can handle.

Motorcycling in the summer can be exhilarating, but safety should never take a back seat. With the right precautions, you can enjoy the freedom of the open road while minimizing risks. So gear up, stay vigilant, and ride responsibly!

ROAD GUARDIANS

EVENTS

Thunder Beach Panama City Rally—April 28-May 5

Fiesta Ride—May 3

Deadwood Ride—May 4

SSHD Ladies Intro to Riding—May 10

Mother's Day—May 11

Chapter Meeting—May 14

8 Rivers Ride—May 17

Ride to Rolling to Remember—May 23-May 26

Father's Day—June 15

Maci's Ride—June 22

South of the Green—June 28

Pony Ride—July 5

Shenandoah Valley Ride—July 25-27

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



Being back on two wheels is a great feeling. I've been waiting a few years to take the class and finally did it. It went well and brought back all the stuff I knew and felt from before when I was riding a two wheeler over 35 years ago regularly and 5 yrs ago on a friend's bike.

Then I got the chance to test ride a bike in traffic and did pretty good. It felt great to lean into turns and use a kickstand again. After several years on a trike (which I love btw), it felt even more freeing to ride like the old days. It's like the old saying like riding a bike, it all came back the minute I picked my feet up on the course. The leaning into turns was like a reflex. It was automatic. I look forward to riding more on two wheels in the near future and see where it takes me.

LISA VERDIN



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The weather is warming up and the Chapter is ready for it. Our Road Captains continue to add great day and multi-day rides to our Calendars for us to enjoy. Along with lots of rides, we are helping out at Southside Harley with cooking burgers and dogs or pancakes and sausage and are set up to do a few times this spring and summer.

Ladies of Harley have selected Lake Taylor Transitional Hospital Children's Unit as the charity for this year. They had a fun day for all with the 2025 Easter Extravaganza on April 19th and between the Bake Sale and Cookout we made \$665. One of our longtime members, Howard Condrey challenged TWH members to donate \$600 towards our goal to purchase a specialized pediatric bed for the unit. At the time of this article, two other members, Sandy and Fred Honeycutt and Ted Lawson have taken up the Challenge. Our goal was to purchase a pediatric bed which costs \$6,000. The Lake Taylor Ride is returning this year in December which has always been quite an event within itself.

We appreciate Southside Harley's continued support of our Chapter. We are now in our 43rd year of existence and we will continue to strive to keep it going another 43 years. Along with Southside Harley's support, none of the above would be possible if not for our Chapter members helping out with our activities. Our motto is "We Ride the Most" and I think we definitely live up to it. We also do more than just ride and is the reason we have such a wonderful Chapter. We thank our members who show up and support the Chapter in our efforts. We encourage everyone to take ownership of the Chapter with their support. Hope to see you on a ride or at an Event soon!

LINDA KNOWLES
DIRECTOR



LAKE TAYLOR TRANSITIONAL HOSPITAL

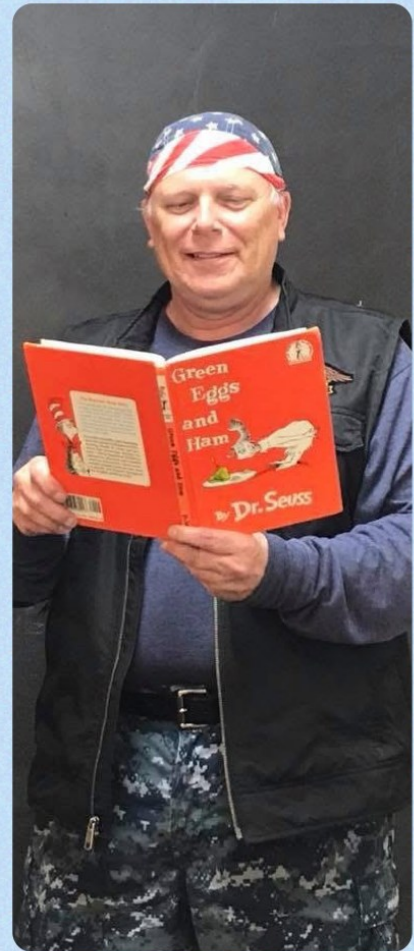
You want to be on your motorcycle. That call is happening. You need it, the feeling of the motor roving under you, the wind in your face, the solitude and your thoughts. The weather is beautiful, you have that yearning, the desire is so strong. But, for one reason or another, you cant. You have family obligations, way too many family obligations, your body is worn out from being sick, you have to take your dog to the vet (and haven't taught them to ride with you yet). Something, always something, preventing you from doing one of the things that gives you peace.

You know, being an adult, that life has its priorities, that you cant just abandon it and go for that ride. But, you also know you need to, real bad. This happens to us all (or I think it does). We console ourselves to the fact that, the next nice day we will ride. A migraine happens that day. The next day, we have to pick up a large item from the store, in the midst of doing other running around. There always seems to be something.

Frustrated, you need to be on your bike, escaping from all of it. Finally, you are going to ride with your friends. You get on all your gear, go out and uncover your baby, hit the starter and... click click click..... You realize its been a while since you started her and, you didn't have the trickle charger hooked up. You scream, at yourself as much as the situation. You get the charger hooked up, but you know it will be too long for the battery to be ready. The ride will be long on its way before you will be. So, you start another project and then realize, the day is gone. Another day without the ride.

Sometimes life happens. It gets in the way. We hope everyone who rides with us will understand. We hope its just us and no one else really has this problem and that we will have to explain our absence at a later time. Seriously, life happens way too often. To everyone reading this, I hope life has given you the opportunities to get the peace you deserve, that you need. Know that some of us don't always get that and be understanding. When we are not there physically, we are still riding with you in our minds. Keep our spot for the day when life frees us up again. Ride Safe.

MIKE PASTORE



A SUDDEN GOODBYE

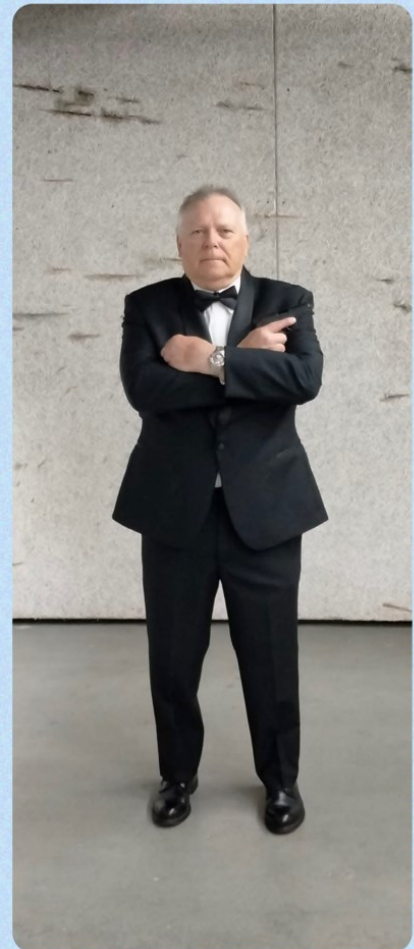
In the quiet, life took its turn,
A flame extinguished, leaving hearts to yearn.
No whispered warning, no time to prepare,
Just the echo of absence hanging in the air.

The world feels heavier, the colors subdued,
Memories flood, both tender and crude.
Laughter, we shared now a haunting refrain,
A melody woven with joy and pain.

You were a light in the darkest of days,
A compass of hope in life's tangled maze.
Now the silence grows loud where your voice
once stood,
A gaping void where all was once good.

But though sudden the shadow that fell on our
skies,
You linger in sunsets, in tears, in goodbyes.
In every kind gesture, in each fleeting smile,
You're riding with us in spirit, mile after mile.

Gone too soon, but forever you'll be,
A part of our story, of life's tapestry.
Though the loss cuts deep, and the sorrow
won't fade,
Your legacy shines in the love you've made.
AV



ANNUAL POOL TOURNAMENT

The annual Chapter Pool Tournament is in the books. We had 8 teams who participated and other members who came to watch and hang out with their fellow HOGS. We also had some representatives from Lake Taylor Transitional Hospital as we are raising money for the Children's unit this year. We raised \$419.00 and everyone had a great time and thank you to all who participated and made this happen. The winners were:

1st Place: Dee Sanchez and Mike - \$50 each gift card

2nd Place Matt and Grady Woods - \$25 each gift card

Runner up: Kathy Jones and Steven Spencer - \$20 each

Thanks to Billy Jackson who set up and ran the pool tournament. He also got a country ham and cans of peanuts donated for the Raffle. Thanks also to Jo Ann Emmons who set up the raffle gifts and collected money from participants, selling tickets for the raffle and 50/50. She also won the 50/50 and donated the money back for Lake Taylor. Thanks to Diane Norton for helping out with selling the tickets.

Finally a big thanks to Q Masters Billiards who donated the use of the tables and to the staff who took such great care of us yesterday.



WHAT'S WITH THE STARS?

When you are talking with a Road Captain, check out their vests, specifically their Road Captain patch. Several have differing number of stars attached to the patch. This is a system we use to show how long a Road Captain has been active. When someone decides to become a Road Captain, they have made a decision to be a big help to the Chapter.

What would a HOG Chapter be if we didn't ride? We are very fortunate we have members who are willing to step up to do so. It takes time and effort to map out a fun route with rest/gas stops and good places to eat. Multiply this by several days and add finding hotels on the multi day rides. We are so fortunate to have members who are willing to put the time in it takes to set something like this up. Road Captains are willing to put in the time because they like to share their rides with other members. The Lead Road Captain cannot do it all alone, they need a designated Sweep. Other Road Captains show up for rides to assist, if necessary, by volunteering to split the riders up into smaller groups if needed. In talking to other Chapters, they are amazed at how we operate and have so many members who are willing to become Road Captains. This comes from a continued 43 years of the Chapter being in existence and having members who have volunteered through those years to keep our system going. Please remember there are HOG Chapters that may only have one ride a month and some don't even have that.

There are times we have to cancel a planned ride and no Road Captain takes that lightly due to the amount of time they put into designing the ride to begin with. The weather may not be bad here but where the ride is planned to go may be expecting to have bad weather – Road Captains look at that. There may have been a storm the day before and Road Captains have to consider what the roads may be like between flooding and debris. Our goal is to keep everyone as safe as we can and have a fun ride.

A way we show our appreciation and recognition of a Road Captain's effort, is to give the Road Captains stars. They receive their first star at two years, the second star at 5 years and a star every 5 years after that. It's the Chapters way to acknowledge the amount of time a Road Captain has participated as one and to honor their efforts. Thank you to all Road Captains, past and present, for their time to keep our motto going "We Ride the Most"!!!!!!

LINDA KNOWLES
DIRECTOR





Tidewater HOG
Easter Bunny
Faith Gutierrez

Tidewater HOGS!! Are you a new member or maybe you have a couple of vests? We are still taking orders for Chapter Name Tags. WE ONLY NEED 5 MORE TO MAKE AN ORDER. Contact Mike Flynn at mjflynn57@yahoo.com. He will need your name, contact number, what name you want on the tag and whether you want a pin or magnetic back. Please note the pin back works best on vests and the magnetic work best on a shirt. Cost is only \$10.

**TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2025**
SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DAVIDSON, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
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ADVERTISING



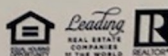
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HOG Members—We could use some ads. Ask some of your friends, or post one of your own. Even if it is just for a partial year or one issue. Your group needs it. Dues are also due now. Thanks in advance, and please request a copy of the form from me at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



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