

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE MEMBERS

Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344



TO RIDE BEYOND—HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN—TOM SANCHEZ

We are approaching the end of the year and hope you’ve had a great time riding with Tidewater HOG. What a year we’ve had! While we may have had over a dozen rides canceled for weather, sometimes rainy, sometimes ridiculously hot, we’ve still managed to plan and execute roughly 50 rides as a chapter as I write this article. We still have a few more weeks left in the year, and I am confident we will average more than a ride a week for the year!

Have you joined us on a ride? Did you take pictures? Have fun? Make new friends? Or, find new roads to ride? The goal of this chapter has always been to ride and encourage a love for riding. Our motto, “We ride the most!”, is something we try to live by. As a chapter, we’ve led rides for more than 10,000 miles! And, we’ve had several overnight rides – to Sturgis, to Maine, to West Virginia! We’ve ridden over familiar roads in Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Eastern Shore, Moyock and northern North Carolina. We’ve been to Edenton, Ahoskie, Rocky Mount, and Lake Gaston! If you’ve been with us, you’ve participated in memorial rides for the fallen Special Forces heroes on the Extortion 17 memorial ride, supported those with Autism on the Maci’s Ride, or those with Breast Cancer on the Pink Ride. We’ve also supported the friends and family of friends and family as we’ve honored those we’ve lost, including the owner of Southside Harley-Davidson, Mary Hughes.

What will the next year hold? Hopefully, great weather, great roads, great friends, and great times as we ride even more in 2025! We hope to see you out there! Join us, get involved! And help grow Tidewater HOG!

Look for the next article for the award winners for the year’s Chapter Mileage Program as we celebrate those that have ridden the most miles as rider or passenger with Tidewater HOG. The names will be announced at our Holiday party on November 23rd at Ballyhoo’s! We hope to see you there!

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Art Verdin
Editor

WINNER at the FALL FOLIAGE RIDE

The 2024 Fall Foliage Chapter Ride is in the history books, 4 days, 1100 plus miles of beautiful mountains, fall colors (with a lot of green still there) and some historical sightseeing, beginning with VA Highway 33, just north of Richmond to Louisa (and lunch) to Harrisonburg and then on to “The Viper” highway, a very “interesting” continuation of highway 33 on to Elkins, WV and our hotel.



We enjoyed a tour of the Trans Allegheny Insane Asylum and voted on which of our riders should just be left in the Asylum. Winner by unanimous vote was Dave Schell who won a free lunch.

On the third day of the event, Rick Leighton led the group to visit the very sobering Flight 93 Memorial in Stoystown PA. And then, on our fourth day, 330 miles back home via Highway 250, a challenging stretch of U-turns coming down the mountain into Staunton VA.

Bill Jackson



Tidewater Chapter of HOG thanks
Freedom Outdoors for being a good
neighbor to Southside Harley Davidson

EVENTS**Urbanna Oyster Festival—November 2****Toys for Tots Ride—November 3****TBD Ride—November 9****Veterans Day—November 11****Chapter Meeting—November 13****Smokehouse Ride—November 16****Food Bank Ride—November 23****Elfin Good Party—November 23****Thanksgiving—November 28****Tryptophan Ride—November 29****Chapter Meeting—December 11****Christmas—December 25****New Years—January 1****Chapter Meeting—January 8****HOGS on Ice—January 18****More to come...See Facebook, emails and the website calendars for updates.****ANOTHER GREAT FALL FOLIAGE RIDE**

PJ & I joined HOG in 2014 and have not missed a Fall Foliage ride since. This is the ride of the year and it never disappoints.

This year the fall colors were in peak form. It was a super fun group. I feel like we made new friends and got closer with old ones.

Bill Jackson is the “Master” planner when it comes to long trips. Every meal, hotel, gas stop, and our adventures to Trans Allegheny Lunatic Asylum and Flight 93 Memorial went off without a hitch!

We had a big group so we split into two groups and each group had their own support car this year! Thank you Lenora Jackson and Mike & Debbie McColgan!

This was the first time I drove my own bike on a Fall Foliage ride. I’ve gotten more comfortable riding twisties in the mountains finally! I had a new experience coming home in heavy traffic on 95. We were in the left lane doing approximately 70 MPH when my bike cut off. It felt like I was running out of gas but I had over a half tank. I was able to pull over on a very small shoulder on the left side of the interstate where the Sweep (Regie Farr) pulled in behind me. Regie knew exactly what happened. I had accidentally cut the bike off with the on/off switch. I’ve heard others talk about doing this but it never occurred to me. I just cut the bike back on and off we went! I

Riding with the club and knowing someone has your back is what it’s all about.

Pam McGrath

Editor’s Note: Regie wrote an extensive article about the Sturgis trip with several pictures. Due to space constraints, the article is not included here. It will be published in the next edition.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we head into the last two months of 2024, we look back at a great year of rides and events but also look forward to 2025. I want to thank the Board of Directors for all their hard work this year and their willingness to stay in their positions for another year. We are very fortunate to have Road Captains who are willing to devote their time and efforts in planning rides for the Chapter. Some Chapters do not have Road Captains and only have a few rides a year when a member steps up to do one. Many times, they just meet, decide who's leading and off they go. Even with many rides cancelled this year due to the weather, we still had 50 rides so far this year and we have several more planned for 2024. I doubt there are many Chapters that can say that. Please take a moment and thank the Road Captains for their time and effort in keeping our slogan of "We Ride the Most" a reality.

Our Chapter is one of the strongest chapters around and it shows. We have active members who have been with the Chapter since its beginning in the 1983 and we have many new members who have become active, participating in rides/events and volunteering. Lifetime friendships have been formed between members who have met while participating in Chapter activities. For some, like me, the Chapter has afforded many opportunities to ride and visit many places we might not have gone to otherwise.

We focus on riding, both day and multi-day rides but also participating in community events. We were given a Certificate of Appreciation by the NC Patriot Guard Riders for our participation in their 23rd Anniversary Patriot Day Memorial Ride to remember all who were lost on 9/11. The Chapter has participated in many other events that Tom has touched on in his article as Head Road Captain. One of my favorites happened earlier this year when we participated in the Norfolk Public Schools Attendance Challenge. The Chapter was asked to help Mary Calcott Elementary School pass on the Attendance Challenge Flag to Larrymore Elementary School. Fifteen of our members showed up and we led a bus full of children carrying the flag from one school to the next. As Harleys can do, we made a lot of noise to be sure they knew we were coming and were met by a cheering bunch of students. I think our members had just as much fun as the kids did!

Our events have been successful, mainly due to our members who volunteer to help set up, cook, clean up and make the events enjoyable for all. The Oyster Roast and Cook Out on October 19th was a big success and we received a lot of positive comments from those who enjoyed the oysters and burgers. Our latest event, the Fall Festival in conjunction with Southsides 757 Swap Meet on October 26th raised \$958.00 for Edmarc Hospice for Children.

We are currently collecting items for the Mayflower Marathon for Southeastern Food Bank. We have a barrel at Southside Harley for collection. We will deliver the items on November 23rd.

Finally, we have our "Elfin' Good Time" holiday party on November 23rd at Ballyhoo's Restaurant from 4p to 8p. We will be giving out the awards for the Chapter Mileage Program, Chapter Oddities Touring Program and Volunteer of the Year Program. Tickets are \$10. If you haven't done so, get your tickets soon as it will be a great time and I hope you will join us!

Linda Knowles
Director



Things about Autumn that I love. I enjoy the crisp air, the vibrant colors, and the peaceful atmosphere that autumn brings. I enjoy sitting out back around the firepit with a nice beverage and chatting or listen to music. I love decorating and baking for the holidays and riding my motorcycle and taking in the fragrance of leaves burning and bonfires. Lots of good stuff to do.

Here's a Dr. Seuss-inspired motorcycle poem:

Rumble and roar, a mighty machine,
With wheels that spin and a metallic sheen.
A rider astride, with a helmet so bright,
Zooming and zooming, a glorious sight.
The wind in their hair, a feeling so free,
The open road stretched out, just for me.
A curve in the road, a twist and a turn,
The engine's low growl, a lesson to learn.
With leather and chrome, a biker's attire,
A sense of adventure, a heart set on fire.
A journey awaits, a destination unknown,
The thrill of the ride, a feeling well-known.



HARLEY T SHIRT



QUILT RAFFLE



**All proceeds to be split between Here
for the Girls and the Pink Ride**

1) TICKETS ARE 1 FOR \$5, 6 FOR \$20

2) DRAWING WILL BE ON 11/23/2024

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT FOR DRAWING!



TIDEWATER HOG CHAPTER #5344



PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE MAYFLOWER MARATHON TO SUPPORT THE SOUTHEASTERN FOOD BANK. WE ARE COLLECTING GOODS AND HAVE A BARREL AT SOUTHSIDE HARLEY. BELOW IS A LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED BY THE FOOD BANK. WE WILL BE DELIVERING THE ITEMS TO THE MAYFLOWER MARATHON ON NOVEMBER 23RD.

Most Needed Items

While the Foodbank works to respond and assess the extent of the need, you can help by donating our most needed items at the 27th Annual Mayflower Marathon. Your efforts make an enormous difference in the amount and variety of foods we are able to distribute to our neighbors in need this holiday season.

Holiday Menu Items

Frozen turkey / ham
Stuffing mix
Corn bread mix
Quick bread mix
Gravy
Potatoes (boxed or canned)
Cranberry sauce
Pie crust mix
Canned milk

Lean Protein

Canned tuna
Canned sardines
Canned chicken
Canned turkey
Peanut butter
Beans

Fruits & Vegetables

Canned fruits
Canned vegetables
Pasta sauce
100% fruit juice

Whole Grains

Cereal / oatmeal
Pasta
Rice
Crackers
Granola bars
Pancake mix

Condiments

Ketchup / mustard
Salad dressing
Syrup
Jelly

Meals

Soups / stews / chili
Boxed meals
Canned pasta

Kitchen Essentials

Flour
Cooking oil
Herbs / spices

Personal Hygiene Products

Adult diapers
Shampoo / conditioner
Body wash / soap
Toilet paper
Toothbrush / toothpaste
Deodorant
Feminine hygiene items

Baby Products

Formula
Baby food
Diapers
Wipes

Remember

Low fat, low sodium, and low sugar products preferred
Non-perishable food
Non-breakable containers
Nutritional labels intact
Product is good 6 months past the Best / Sell / Use By Date





“AN ELFIN’ GOOD TIME” Tidewater HOG Holiday Event

DATE and TIME: November 23, 2024 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Ballyhoo’s Seafood Restaurant

2865 Lynnhaven Dr, Suite D3, Va Beach, VA 23451

(757) 412-4441

TICKETS: \$10.00 Per Person

Heavy Hors D’oeuvres

(Iced Tea & Soda included)

Cash Bar for Adult Beverages

Come out, enjoy the fun!! . Raffles, Prizes and more!

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

I WAKE UP EVERYDAY

When I get asked how I am doing, I respond with : “I woke up, it’s a great day! Everything else is my choice”. I normally don’t divulge too much information about what is wrong with me but, I live in constant pain. Nothing anyone can see, but, I have been injured and affected medically, in ways that cause severe pain. With that said, I could, justifiably, stay in bed all day and wallow in the pain. No one would disparage me for it. I choose to not do that. I choose to be active. I choose to find positive. I choose to



work past the pain and, I find good and positive throughout the day. Its not an easy thing to do. And, when it gets bad and affects me doing things, people don’t understand. “You are faking”, “It cant be that bad”, “You ride a motorcycle, you aren’t really hurting like that”. These are just a few things that I hear. I choose to have the smile on my face and to enjoy as much as I can as often as I can. I make the choice to not let the pain be what defines me. I woke up today, It’s a great day. This choice is made despite what I may be feeling. The mental anguish I may be going through, the physical pain I may be experiencing. I choose to find the good things to concentrate on. My motorcycle is part of that. It provides me with that escape. And the friends I have made through the motorcycle community are fantastic. So, why am I talking about this today? There are a few reasons. The first is because I know there are so many others dealing with things like myself and I want them to know, its ok to hurt. Its ok to give in every now and then but, find the ways to choose to enjoy everything else. If you only focus on that, it is all you will have. You woke up today too, the day cant start any better, make the choice to follow that. Another reason is for those of you who

don’t experience this. Well, I am very happy for you but, please have some understanding that you may not see my hurt but that doesn’t mean it isn’t there. I choose to not wallow, I choose to not be angry or sad. Look around and take notice of the slight limp, the lean while walking, the grimace or moan when sitting and standing, the rubbing of temples and so many other little cues that there is pain. Understand that we may be suffering and just choose to endure it so we can have a little joy in our lives. We understand that it may slow the pack a bit and we feel bad about that. We will push ourselves hard to make that not happen but, we would ask that you understand as well.

My hope is that people with chronic pain find ways to enjoy life outside of that pain. Also, that we all have some understanding, sympathy, for those that are going through that. Most of us don’t want to bring it up, we don’t want it to define us. Please be aware. And lets all enjoy the day together.



FALL FESTIVAL 2024

TIDEWATER HOG OFFICERS AND ROAD CAPTAINS
2025
SOUTHSIDE HARLEY DAVIDSON, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
Dave Charette —General Manager Info@HRHD.com



OFFICERS 2025

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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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