

THE TALON



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE
MEMBERS



Tidewater HOG Chapter 5344

TO RIDE BEYOND—HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN—TOM SANCHEZ

How was your summer? Were you able to join us on our local chapter rides? The Extortion 17 Memorial ride? How about one of our overnight rides to places like Buc-ee's or Shenandoah Valley? We've had some good times as a chapter and will have more coming up with our Fall Foliage, Myrtle Beach Rally ride, and Ozarks rides. We will also be seeing lower temperatures, which means we need to check tire pressure regularly as the changes in the weather mean changes to tire conditions.

One thing I noticed on my travels through the summer was the increase in Speed Cameras throughout the area. Many construction zones and school zones now have cameras that will check speeders and send out tickets! Both zones present their own issues to rides from distracted drivers or challenging road conditions to speed changes and traffic. School is back in session, and we need to be aware of the effects on motorcycle riders. Keep your head on a swivel and stay safe out there!

Remember, too, that this time of the year means more opportunities at the Dealership to support others and hang out with your chapter friends. We have a pancake breakfast, new member orientation, oyster roast, and swap meet coming up. All great chances to be with your chapter friends and give to great causes. We hope to see you out there and on the rides! Remember to check the calendar, our Facebook page, or our email updates to see the latest on ride opportunities with the Chapter! Be safe and ride!

Inside This Issue

TO RIDE BEYOND.....	1
SAFETY.....	2
EVENTS.....	3
RIDE SAFE.....	3
FROM THE DIRECTOR.....	4
BILL KEATING.....	4
GRATITUDE.....	5
RAFFLE.....	6
FALL FESTIVAL.....	6
SHENANDOAH WEEKEND RIDE.....	7
SHANANDOAH RIDE CONTINUED.....	8
OFFICERS.....	9
ADVERTISING.....	10

SEPTEMBER-
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Art Verdin
Editor

SAFETY

SAFELY

North American Biker Rescue

Having an unexpected mechanical failure on your motorcycle in your own driveway as you plan to enjoy a nice day ride is disheartening. More unfortunate is for that to happen in the middle of nowhere, 1000 miles from your driveway and 1000 miles from your destination! No tools, no bike lift, no trailer, and worse, no friends or family close by to come to your rescue.

A great resource is a Facebook page, North American Biker Rescue. If you take a look at it, you'll see instance after instance of folks on the side of the road reaching out for help. Even better, you'll see the response and assistance from complete strangers. Some recent examples:

Aug 22, Kieth S: Harley's broke down in Stockton I need help getting it back to Elk Grove can anyone help me? Brandon K responded: I'm in Sacramento I've got a trailer. Call me 916-296-2664

Aug 19, Janet B: In McCall ID with a dead Indian Chieftain. The battery will not hold a charge. Trying to get to Boise' Indian dealer. Is there anyone who can help transport? Tom M responded: Pull the fuses for the lights or anything not needed to run the engine, will get you more miles. AutoZone can charge your batteries too. I helped a buddy get 200 miles home this way

Aug 9, Robert T: In Dumas Tx headed for South Texas need picked up on trailer, bad back tire. Kathleen L, Admin posted: ALERT CLOSED. BIKER GOT BIKE TRAIERED. THANKS ALL!

Aug 3 Michael M: I am currently stuck in wheatland Wyoming at 86 16th St with a flat rear tire on my vrod need help. Kathleen L, Admin posted: ALERT CLOSED. BIKER REPORTED BEING SAFE AND HAVING SECURED TRAILER FOR BIKE. Thank you NABR members for responding!

If you are not ready to join the FB page, try watching it for a little while so you can make a determination if this is a resource you can use. If you are inclined to use this asset, join the page now, so you don't have to wait for an admin to add you to the page after you are stranded.

REGIE FARR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



EVENTS

Breakfast and Bikes—September 6
Ozarks Bike Fest—September 8-16
Chapter Meeting—September 10
Oceana Air Show—September 19-21
Tides Ball Game—September 21
Sunrise Ride—September 27
Ice Cream for Dinner—September 28
Ride to Myrtle Beach Fall Rally—September 30-October 4
Ride Like a Pro—October 4
Chapter Picnic—October 5
Chapter Meeting—October 8

Fall Foliage Ride—October 16-19
Chili Cookoff—October 25
LOH Swap Meet—October 25

Many more rides to come before the end of the year!

There have been quite a few accidents lately. Far too many of them fatal. But, why? Some people say it's the cage drivers not paying attention. Others say it's the people taking too many chances on the motorcycles. There are people who try to use it against motorcycle riders.

First things first, I want to extend my deepest condolences for anyone who has experienced a loss due to these accidents. I truly wish that these things never happened. Now, let's take a look at what is going on, especially here in Hampton Roads. Motorcyclists are not the primary vehicle on the road. And, for the most part, they are not out all year long. So, cage riders don't really have a lot of experience sharing the road with us. We are smaller and harder to see. We are a lot faster and can maneuver around traffic easier (even though some of those "maneuvers" are illegal). And we blend into our surroundings a lot better than a car. We, as the rider, need to be aware of these facts, People Don't See Us! For whatever reason we tend to be invisible. So, Lights! As many as you can get, Bright LED, flashers, neons, extra LEDs, always On. Make yourself be bright even in the daytime. Wear something reflective (I put reflective "spikes" on my helmet). Loud Pipes actually do save lives. Doesn't have to be obnoxious but, if you have that rumble, people do hear it and look. Understand that we are sharing the road with vehicles that can crush us and drive accordingly. Follow the traffic rules. Yes, we have a motorcycle that can go fast and fit in-between other cars but, that will eventually bite you in the butt. If not the ticket, it may cost you your life. If you want to go fast, go to a track, want to do wheelies, go to a closed lot. Keep that off the open road. And when possible, ride in a pack. The more of us that are together, the better we are seen. A lot of what happens is our responsibility, We need to be the cautious ones, because the cages are not used to us being there. Now, don't get me wrong, there are some people who go out of their way to attack us on the road. They don't think we belong, for whatever reason. If you do find yourself in that situation, stop, let them go past you. Get as much info about their vehicle as possible and report it. Do Not Chase them. You only risk your life. There are not as many of those people out there but, they do exist. The distracted drivers are the most dangerous to us. The ones on their phones, texters. I have a train air horn on my bike. If I see someone texting, I honk, then make the gesture to hang up. Most of them seem scared and do it. It's kind of funny. Needless to say, if we are aware, cautious, and take precautions, we can survive even the pit falls of driving Norfolk highways. Share the road safely.

MIKE PASTORE



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fall is on its way and will hopefully bring some cooler temperatures. It's been another hot summer but it didn't slow us up too much. The fall calendars are also full of rides and events so will stay busy! We've welcomed several new members over the last few months who have jumped right in to participating in rides, overnight trips and volunteering to help the Chapter with events. The Chapter continues to be successful because we have members who are willing to participate in the Chapter activities. We are now in our 42nd year of existence and going strong.

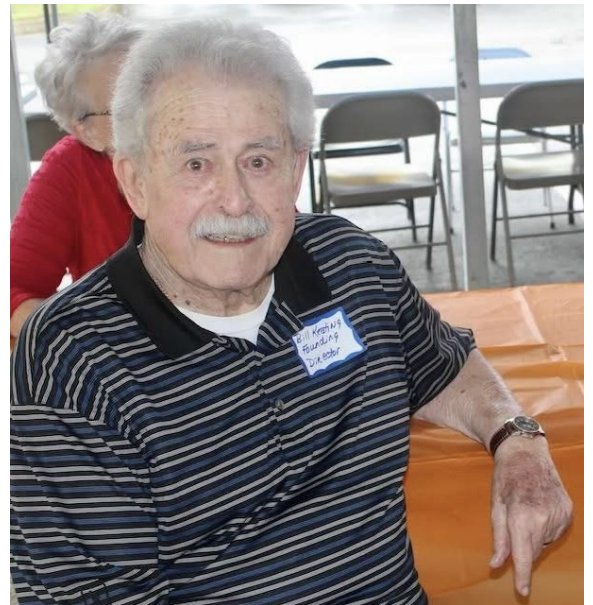
As I have said before, this is my last year as Director. The last three years as Director have been very enjoyable. A big part of the reason is the Chapter members. The Board has been very supportive and worked hard to take care of Chapter business. We have strived to be good stewards of the Chapter business and worked together for the betterment of the Chapter. Our Road Captains give up their time to plan and lead rides, keeping with our motto "We Ride the Most" as our Chapter has more rides than any other Chapter the area. It's so good to see our members support our new members by attending New Member/Group Ride Orientation to show the new members what it is like to participate in a group ride with us. With our charity efforts this year, we've raised money, had other groups, including Southside Harley who have joined in with the fund raising. We also have pledges to match the money raised, all to go to the Children's Unit at Lake Taylor Hospital to purchase specialized beds for the children. Our original goal was to purchase one but it looks like we will be able to purchase six.

Nominations will be taken at the October meeting for Director, Assistant Director, Secretary and Treasurer. Jo Anne Emmons is willing to continue on as Treasurer but all the other posts are open as they current officers are not going for re-election. I hope the members will consider running for one of the positions. Thanks to everyone in the Chapter for your support and participation in making my time as Director a great experience.

LINDA KNOWLES
DIRECTOR

BILL KEATING

With sadness, we report that Bill Keating has passed away. Bill was the first Director of Tidewater HOG in 1983. We had our 40th Anniversary of the Chapter in 2023 and I got a chance to talk with Bill. He was hired by Harley Davidson to ride around to different Harley dealerships to see if there was any interest in forming the Harley Owners Group. Bill was told they would give the idea one year and if there wasn't any interest, they would not pursue it. Obviously there was and there are now Harley Owners Groups all over the world. After the Chapters started to form he and others would meet to come up with guidelines that all Chapters would follow. Thank you Bill for putting in the time and effort and the Tidewater Chapter is evidence of your work. It is now 42 years since this Chapter was formed by Bill and it is still going strong.



DEAR TIDEWATER HOG CHAPTER MEMBERS

It is with a heart full of gratitude and bittersweet emotion that I write to express my deepest thanks for the incredible opportunity to serve as your secretary for the past three years. This experience has been one of the most rewarding chapters of my life, and I am profoundly grateful for the trust and support you have shown me.

While I may not ride, being part of this vibrant and passionate community has been an absolute honor. The Tidewater HOG Chapter is more than just a club—it's a family bound by shared experiences, laughter, and the open road. Over these years, I have made countless friends and cherished memories that I will carry with me always. From organizing events to capturing our moments together in meeting notes, every task has been a privilege because it meant contributing to the spirit of this remarkable group. Your camaraderie, warmth, and dedication to the HOG spirit have made this role so much more than a position—it's been a journey of connection and joy. I am endlessly thankful for the friendships forged, the stories shared, and the sense of belonging you have all given me.

As I step away from the Secretary role, I carry with me immense pride in what we've accomplished together and gratitude for being welcomed into this incredible community. The Tidewater HOG Chapter will always hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward to staying connected, cheering you on, and sharing in the adventures to come. **WE RIDE THE MOST!** I intend to continue as your Talon Editor.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,

ART VERDIN
SECRETARY



WIN A SOUTHSIDE HARLEY MAINTENANCE PLAN WORTH \$2895!!

**This plan covers all scheduled maintenance services for
3 YEARS, UNLIMITED MILEAGE!!
(Only pay for difference of cost between regular and synthetic oil)**

**ALL HARLEY MOTORCYCLES ARE ELIGIBLE NO MATTER WHERE MOTORCYCLE WAS PURCHASED
TICKETS ARE ONE FOR \$20, THREE FOR \$50
DRAWING WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 22ND
DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT**

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Lake Taylor Children's Hospital and the Foodbank of Southeastern VA



757 Fall Festival/Swap Meet

Southside Harley Davidson
385 N. Witchduck Rd, Va Beach, Va.
October 25, 2025/10am-3pm

- ***HUGE** Yard Sale
- *Large Donation Area- Shoppers pay what they want or can.
- *Proceeds go to Lake Taylor Hospital
- *Bake Sale, Food, Vendors
- *Dee's Design on site! Bring your leathers to get patches sewn on.
- *Large selection of patches for sale!

VENDORS:

- *Rent a parking spot to sell your goods \$15.00 for 1 or \$25.00 for 2 spots
- *Pay the day of set up, cash please. Bring your own set up.
- *Email Pam McGrath to reserve your spots at pam1.mcgrath@gmail.com
Please put Fall Festival in subject line of email.

LADIES OF HARLEY HOG

Shenandoah Weekend Ride

The Shenandoah ride, the weekend of July 25, 2025, was a great time. It was made possible by Linda Knowles, our Chapter Director and one of our Road Captains.



Rick Leighton

Shenandoah Ride continued



For a time, the planned ride was in doubt. Weather forecasts predicted a high chance of heavy rain. But as the departure date approached, the weather gods seemed to take pity on us—or so we thought. More on that later. For now, it meant 24 people on 16 Harleys would be heading out for three days of great riding.

We all met at our usual gathering spot (Newtown Rd. Wawa), and by 8:30 AM, we were KSU (kickstands up) and on our way in two groups. One was led by Linda and swept by Tom Sanchez, our Senior Road Captain. The other group was led by me and swept by Matt Woods. The skies were mostly sunny with temperatures in the mid-80s—not a bad day for riding. We headed west, sticking to back roads and making good time. Lunch was in Ashland—Mexican, nothing fancy, but very good. By the time we headed to our next destination (Stonewall Harley-Davidson), the temperatures had climbed into the upper 90s with a heat index in the triple digits. Everyone was dressed for the heat and had plenty of water or Gatorade packed, so this wasn't a problem.

**This article can be viewed in its entirety as
a supplement to this issue on the website.**

**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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Bill Jackson		Rick Leighton
Bill Arnold		Mike Flynn
Linda Knowles		Regie Farr
Steve Cain		Sabrina Mazol

ADVERTISING



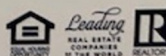
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HOG Members—We could use some ads. Ask some of your friends, or post one of your own. Even if it is just for a partial year or one issue. Your group needs it. Dues are also due now. Thanks in advance, and please request a copy of the form from me at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



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