

HIGH ROAD

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2014

Director
Bill Becker

Well it looks like our spring weather has finally arrived about a week ago; this long cold winter has made me long for the days when the temperatures would increase and I could get my bike back out onto the open road. So far this spring has been wet and cold, but that hasn't kept me from planning to make our annual loop of Skaneateles Lake ride after the Chapter meeting on April 27th. Make sure you have on enough layers to stay warm if needed and come join the fun. I'm hoping to have a group picture taken at the overlook on the south end of the lake during the ride if the weather permits.

We currently have more than 60 planned rides scheduled for 2014 on the Chapter ride calendar and PHD has events planned, such as the Blessing of the Bikes on April 26th and the first Demo Days on the 17th of May. I'm hoping that this gives everyone plenty of opportunities to get out and "Ride and Have Fun" this year.

This year's Chili Cook-Off held, along with PHD's Spring Kick Off, was a huge success. Thank you to all who cooked, helped out, or just ate some really tasty chili.

Our HOG Officer Training was held in Hershey, Pennsylvania on April 4th and 5th. I would like to thank Marcella Becker, and Ken and Debbie Yackel who took the time to attend. They have a lot of great ideas to bring back to us to help make our riding experiences even better than ever.

So let's keep our fingers crossed that the weather will continue to cooperate so we can enjoy Skaneateles Lake on April 27th.

Ride and Be Safe
Bill

Secretary
Debbie Yackel

Chapter Meeting Minutes
Sunday, March 16, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by director Bill Becker, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill stated that the NYS Trooper Greg Eberel and Trooper Jay Straight will have a power point presentation on motorcycle safety at the end of today's meeting. Bill then welcomed all new members and guest.

Bruno from our Sponsoring Dealer is very excited to be involved with the HOG Chapter. Bruno presented a new HOG merchandise catalog and all merchandise can be ordered through the dealership. He then thanked everyone that attended the St. Patrick's Day party. PHD has set up a seminar on the new GPS system that is now on the 2014 bikes for April 17th at 6pm at the dealership, and Bishop Robert Cunningham will be presiding over the 2014 Blessing of the Bikes on April 26th.

Assistant Director – Ken Yackel thanked everyone who participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Ken also mentioned that if you haven't seen the new display in the shadow box in the dealership to check it out and if you have any ideas for the next quarter to pass them along. He then thanked Cindy for volunteering to check on the coffee supplies for our meetings and Rich and Maureen for their kind donation of coffee cups. Also volunteers are needed for the Bike Blessing. A sign- up sheet will be passed.

Treasurer's Report from Dick Davidson – we have money, we've spent money, and we're getting money. The books are always open if anyone wishes to see them.

Membership Officer – Jim Shepard reported that as of today's meeting we have 122 paid members.

Continued next page

Assistant Director
Ken Yackel

Well, we have been home since Sunday afternoon and I still can't believe the extensive training that we received at HOT which was held in Hershey, Pennsylvania on April 4th and 5th. The instructors were very informative and took plenty of time to answer all of our questions.

Many of the classes that we took will help us become an even better Chapter.

In speaking with people from other HOG Chapters makes me real happy that we are in 3424, as many of the other Chapters do not have what we have, nor do they have the generous dealer support, nor do they have the liberty to speak to their dealer.

Most of the other Chapters are owned by auto dealerships and others have absentee owners that are never around.

Let's all enjoy the great club that we have and continue to support our Sponsoring Dealer.

Most of all "Saddle up and Let's Ride"



Minutes continued from page one

Head Road Captain – Dave Dunn thanked everyone for staying for the ride meeting and stepping up to lead some rides. You can find the schedule on our website. If a ride needs to be changed or cancelled, please call him and he will contact Chris so it can be posted to the website. Safety Officer – John Snyder also mentioned the safety presentation by the NYS Troopers at the end of today's meeting. Next month he will have a presentation on riding in staggered formation, leading and sweeping a ride and general riding safety. John also stated that we (Syracuse HOG) have been commended for our safe riding by State and Local police.

Fun Report from our fun girls – Peggy Neary and Barb Snyder also thanked everyone who participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. They are working on a new venue for our annual picnic and if you have any suggestions, to please contact them.

Ladies of Harley Officer – Terry Clark stated that she's tired of this weather and wants to get out and ride!

Community Service Officer – Karen Whedon is looking for volunteers for Tel-Auc for Saturday, May 3rd. Our shift begins at 8:30pm and will be meeting at the GEM at 6. A sign-up sheet is being passed.

Webmaster – Chris Blakley is willing to help you sign up for text alerts so you won't miss any changed or cancelled ride notifications.

Photographer – Marcella Becker still has the picture CD's available. They are \$5.00 each. If you have any pictures that you would like to see on this year's CD to please email them

New Business – Jeff Moyck will be leading a ride to the Watch Fire at the State Fair Grounds on May 25th. The ride will be leaving PHD at 5pm and there is a \$10.00 donation per bike. Check the website for more information.

Jim Poole will be leading a ride to Rolling Thunder/Roger Brundage Memorial Ride and rooms are still available. You can contact Jim or check the website for more information

This month's T-Shirt Bingo state was NEW JERSEY. The pot for next month is now \$10.00. Trooper's Eberel and Straight then gave their safety presentation.

A motion was then made and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Yackel
Secretary

**Head Road Captain
Dave Dunn**

On April 1st, a few brave souls ventured out for our first Club ride of the season. We had a good ride, the roads were good, and the company was exceptional (hard core, as they will be referred to this year). We tried to limit the number of rides in the early season and concentrate on having the majority scheduled for the better weather. We have an orientation ride scheduled for Saturday, April 19th. It's open to everyone and we will be covering the basics of group riding and actually get out for a short ride. This will be a good opportunity for new, as well as, experienced riders to get out and ride as a group prior to our first Chapter Meeting ride, which historically draws one of the larger crowds of the season.

Just a reminder to our ride leaders, it's very important to choose a sweep that has some knowledge of the responsibilities associated with that position. I will be covering more of the specifics at Chapter Meetings. It is also not a bad idea for the ride leader and sweep to exchange cell phone numbers for any number of reasons.

I also wanted to remind everyone that the Annual Bike Blessing at Performance Harley Davidson is at noon on April 26th, the day before our next Chapter Meeting. The most Rev. Robert J. Cunningham, Bishop of the Syracuse Catholic diocese will be officiating.



The following National HOG memberships expire

April	May
Tim Alexander	Dana M. Baker
Tim Duerr	Dan J. Demko
Alan W. Lindsey	John E. Reidy
Deborah Lothridge	Kenneth J. Reschke
Don D. Rice	Nick E. Rinaldo
Shannon M. Rice	Heidi J. Robinson
Renee M. Sager	Thomas Schupp
Mark J. Sheremeta	Michael L. Walker

**Safety Officer
John Snyder**

When it comes to handling dog problems on a bike, here are a couple of ideas:

I, being a dog lover, do not like the first two ideas, but if you ride, you need some strong self-protective instincts, too. While it may infuriate you to see someone treat a dog badly, a big dog can be a serious road hazard for a motorcyclist if the owner is stupid enough to let the animal run loose near a road.

If you have a dog problem that's chronic (a neighbor who routinely fails to fence or leash his critter), you may have to deal with the same dog repeatedly. You may find it handy in such a case to keep a can of black pepper on the bike. Let him come close (not within contact, though) and get a co-rider to sprinkle it liberally in his face while you drive at a slow speed.

You could also try the pepper spray that is sold for personal protection. It may do the same thing, maybe even be better – but you have to be pretty close to hit the dog with it in the face. There may be some long-term effects on the dog (besides to discourage him from chasing bikes!), such as damaging his eyes; however, this doesn't seem to be a problem for human beings who are pepper-sprayed.

The preferred method with the occasional dog adventure is to change speed so that the dog is confused. If it is trying to chase you on the bike, vary your speed so that the dog can't tell where you're going to be next. Slow down so that it overshoots your front wheel, then speed up so it can't catch you. In short order, the dog will probably give up.

The one thing you want to avoid is kicking the dog. You can seriously destabilize yourself on the bike by doing this – and if you kick out and the he bites and grabs hold of your leg as you're moving, you are very likely to go down (besides having teeth marks in your boot!). If a vicious dog approaches you on your bike while you're stopped and unable to drive away, you'll be doubly glad to be wearing good boots and leather chaps.

April's Schedule

1 st	April Fool's Ride	26 th	Blessing of the Bikes
16 th	Mystery Ride	27 th	Chapter Meeting Loop Skaneateles Lake
19 th	TBD		

May's Schedule

1 st	Limp Lizard	18 th	Chapter Meeting Marble Hill
7 th	Delphilius	20 th	Mo's Barbecue
8 th	PHD Bike Night	22 nd	PHD Bike Night
16 th	Cicero American Legion	23 rd	Rolling Thunder Roger Brundage Memorial Ride
17 th	PHD Demo Day	25 th	Watchfire Ride
		31 st	Mystery Ride

For more information visit our Website at syracusehog.com

Syracuse HOG
807 N. Geddes Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
00000