

HIGH ROAD

May 2014

Director

Bill Becker

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May has arrived, and I for one am hoping that it will continue to bring better weather for riding! With all that talk about April showers bringing May flowers, I have to tell you, I really started hating flowers. Hopefully this new weather system will take root and we can all get out and start enjoying some of these excellent ride destinations that are planned. I would like to quickly thank all of you that supported Performance Harley Davidson on April 26th for the Blessing of the Bikes, and to those of you that worked the WCNY Tel-Auc on May 3rd. Your support is greatly appreciated and you all looked marvelous on the big screen. Please keep in mind that the first Performance Demo Days is scheduled for May 17th, we could use your help to make this event another success.

Once again the issue concerning Trikes and where they should be positioned during a group ride has come up as a question. Discussion about the evolution of Harley Davidson Trikes and riding as part of chapter ride is not a new trend. To somewhat sum up the concerns of riding with Trikes in a group ride are; lane location, obstruction of the rider's view behind them, speed of the Trike when cornering, and last but not least, control of the Trike. All these are viable points, HOG addresses them based upon the riding ability of the Trike operator, but I personally feel we all need to work together to provide an enjoyable safe riding experience for everyone. It's been suggested that Trikes should possibly be positioned at the rear of the group. But I have a concern that since the fastest point of any ride is towards the rear, it might make a newer Trike rider push him or herself faster than their current skill level safely permits. For now, as director, I feel that the ride leader for each ride can assist in Trike placement, if this issue needs to be addressed. If several Trikes are present for a group ride, the ride leaders should ensure that the Trikes are positioned throughout the group to reduce limited visibility. As responsible riders, I would always suggest that you add 2 seconds in distance when following a Trike. This will help prevent you from being surprised or cause you any concern if a sudden turn makes a Trike operator reduce speed or lane shift to safely navigate through it.

Secretary

Debbie Yackel

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The meeting was called to order at 10 am by Director Bill Becker, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill then welcomed all new members and guests. Everyone has been asking where our Editor Mike Waters has been, and he is on the road to recovery. Bill also stated that we need to stay in compliance with National HOG. Lawsuits were up 40% last year.

Our Sponsoring Dealer, Brian Sedlack thanked everyone who volunteered and attended the Bike Blessing. It was a great turn out. If you ever have any questions or concerns, he is there for us. PHD will be open on Sunday's from 11am to 3pm, and the outlet store will be open on Bike Nights which are every other Thursday from 6-9pm.

Assistant Director, Ken Yackel let everyone know of the passing of Carmen Rinaldo's father. Our sincere condolences are with the Rinaldo Family. An attendance sheet will be passed around at all future meetings. This lets our Dealer Principal get a good idea of how many members attend our meetings. Ken then stated that while at HOT, a lot of dealers don't have any communication or support from their Dealer. We have truly been blessed with ours. Thanks Dave and Brian for your support! Ken also thanked all the volunteers that helped at the Bike Blessing, thanked Chris Blakley for keeping up with all the updates to the Website. Treasurer Dick Davidson reported that we have money, we are getting money, and we spent money. As always, the books are always open for review.

Jim Shepard, our Membership Officer, reported that as of today's meeting we have 139 plus 5 new members! Head Ride Captain, Dave Dunn stated that if you need to cancel or reschedule a ride to please call him, not Bill, Ken or Chris. Dave also stated that there will be a Zero Tolerance to alcohol on any rides. The ride is over when the destination is reached. If you have been drinking, you cannot participate in the ride. The same if you drink at the lunch or dinner ride, you cannot ride back with the group. Also Ride Leaders, it is your responsibility to have the name of the place, directions, and phone number of your destination available to riders, and to call ahead for seating availability. The orientation ride was cancelled but will be rescheduled.

Safety Officer, John Snyder – Animals are out, be careful, vary your speed.

Assistant Director
Ken Yackel

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Well the riding season has finally arrived. The Blessing of the Bikes is now behind us and we should have a safe and enjoyable season. A BIG thanks to all that helped at the Blessing. This was a big success. This year there was well over 100 bikes. I am now a firm believer that Karen Whedon should have been a police officer. Glancing over our ride schedule, it looks like we have many interesting and fun rides. It's also nice to see a few member's as New Ride Leaders this year. Our new form that Bruno is handing out with all new bike deliveries is working. I have had many phone calls, and we have had several new members joining. I see that some of the new procedures that have been put into place are raising many questions. Please understand that they are needed to conform to HOG National rules and regulations. Please help all of us with this change and make it a simple transformation so that we are in compliance. For those of you that have made your reservations for the Liberty Bell Ride, the route will be available shortly. If at any time you have any questions, please contact me. In closing, get out and ride and have fun, and be sure to support our Sponsoring Dealer.

Head Road Captain
Dave Dunn

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The month of April was pretty much a wash out for Chapter rides. The only ride that took place was the April Fool's ride on the 1st. Besides the ride leader, only two other bikes showed up. Hopefully May and subsequent months will have better weather and numbers. Ride Leaders please submit ride directions to the webmaster if you want them posted on our website prior to the ride. You should also hand out printed copies to those who would like them at the riders briefing prior to leaving on the ride. Your cell number and the number for the destination would also be helpful if needed by anyone who may get separated from the group. Do not forget to get signed release forms from all riders and any guests who have not signed a waiver. Please contact me to cancel a ride as soon as you determine if it needs to be cancelled. I will notify the webmaster to post the cancellation on the Bulletin Board, and I will also notify the parts counter at PHD. To member and guest riders that are planning on riding and have questions about cancellation, please check the website, have your smartphone receive notices directly from the webmaster or contact the parts counter directly at PHD. Parts counter number is 471-1157. Please do not call me directly to inquire about the status of that nights ride.

Ride and Have Fun!Dave

Minutes continued from page 1.

The FUN Girls, Peggy Neary and Barb Snyder are investigating places for our annual picnic. They are looking into the Cicero American Legion. If you have any other suggestions, please email them. Ladies of Harley officer, Terry Lynn Clark said there is not much going on but please remember to bring in any hotel samples for the shelters. Community Service Officer, Karen Whedon is passing around a volunteer sheet for June 29th for the Ride for Life. Chris Blakley, Webmaster, has updated the Website. You can now get an icon for your phone that has the google calendar and google generated map. Old Business – Walt Nowakowski reported that the ride will be cancelled unless we have 10 people to go on the Vermont overnight ride. New Business - A question was raised as to when the new Street Bikes will be available, but the dealer has no information as of yet. T-Shirt Bingo – This month's state was NEW YORK – we had several winners. The pot is at \$10.00. A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned and was at 11:01am. An accurate headcount was not available as not all members signed in.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Yackel
Secretary



Safety Officer
John Snyder
safety@syracusehog.com

We as Syracuse HOG are a very diverse group of people which have many riding styles and experiences. We team together to ride safely. I learn a lot from watching and talking to people about their riding styles to improve my riding skills. I am one of the first to say I have made some really stupid motorcycle moves in the past. I have lived but do not want to tell about them. If we do not try to learn something new every day and improve, we will not prevent accidents.

Syracuse HOG has a very good reputation about motorcycle safety. We have gotten this through hard work by all the members. We have gotten this by being open and honest with each other. So if you see me make a mistake and have some advice that I can improve my skills, please give me the gift of your insight. I have learned that feedback is a gift.

Group Riding: Why?

There are several advantages for motorcyclists who ride street bikes in a group:

A group is usually more visible to other drivers than a solo rider;

Other vehicles can predict what a rider in a group will do because all members generally maintain fixed positions and fixed intervals between riders;

In case of mechanical problems or an accident, help is available immediately to the rider. A member of the group may carry a cell phone. Usually some riders in a group are trained in First Aid and CPR. They are often aware of safety information and accident management procedures that non-riders may not know – for example, not to remove the helmet of a downed rider unless breathing is inhibited, where to find particular medical information for a downed rider; how to manage an accident scene to prevent complications, etc.; and

It can be a lot for FUN!

In addition, motorcyclists tend to learn a great deal from each other about their sport. Planned stops along the way offer a fine opportunity to socialize and to share valuable tips and techniques.

Group riding: Why Not?

Group riding is not for everyone. It requires a certain level of skill and self-discipline. It restricts an individual rider's options as to speed, changes in route, and lane positioning. To attempt to ride in a group without having good basic riding skills and a good sense of what others in the group are likely to do – and what they expect you to do – is an invitation to an accident, one that may involve damage and injuries to more than one bike and one rider. It is also a matter of personality, in that group riding requires good communications, courtesy among riders and a willingness to look out for the safety of others while riding your own ride. Those who don't wish to ride in a group but who wish to arrive at the same destination as their friends may serve as a scout if they have a CB radio, or they may just prefer to travel solo and meet up with their friends at the day's end.

I will be discussing group riding over the year with short articles. Syracuse HOG has monthly group rides planned where we share the rules and our experiences. We have experienced riders mixed in to help with the experience.

If you want to know more about group riding, please go to http://www.msf-usa.org/downloads/group_ride.pdf. This is a great article for spacing and hand signals. The MSF website has a lot of good information. They even have a handbook for riding three wheel motorcycles. <http://www.msf-usa.org/library.aspx>.

Please come and enjoy group riding. Ride and Have Fun!



Monthly Ride Schedule

May		June	
18 th	Chapter Meeting Marble Hill	4 th	Mystery Ride
20 th	Mo's Barbecue	5 th	PHD Bike Night
22 nd	PHD Bike Night	7 th	Captain Jacks
25 th	Watch Fire Ride	8 th	Poolville
31 st	Mystery Ride	11 th	Red Brick Pub
		15 th	Chapter Meeting Buffalo Head Inn
		17 th	Log Cabin
		19 th	PHD Bike Night
		24 th	Devaney's
		28 th	Tom Wahl's Avon

For times, check the website at www.syracusehog.com

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Bike Blessing at Performance Harley Davidson on April 27, 2014

It was a dreary April Saturday morning in central New York, but it was also the day for the annual bike blessing at PHD and a few gray clouds were not enough to keep Syracuse bikers from receiving the blessing for a safe riding year.

As the bikes started pulling in, the clouds started to break up and the rain held off. There was coffee and donuts from Dunkin Donuts courtesy of PHD and everyone received a special “I was blessed...” sticker for their helmet or bike.

The bikes were lined up in 2 rows, then 3 rows and the rows kept getting longer and longer. Over 170 bikes came to be blessed and share the camaraderie of a very special event.



Bishop Cunningham arrived with a police motorcycle escort and took the stage. Bruno Schirripa and Brian Sedlak presented him with a Harley Davidson motorcycle jacket as a token of appreciation for taking time from his busy schedule to do the bike blessing.

The Bishop then said a few words and wished everyone a safe and enjoyable riding season. He blessed all who were there and then walked up and down the rows of bikes sprinkling holy water as he went.



He took time to stop and talk to some people and have a few pictures taken. He made a special point of stopping to talk to a man who had brought his 3 kids on their bicycles to be blessed. Hey, it was a bike blessing. No rule said it had to have a motor. I know the man appreciated it and the kids were quite impressed with the whole scene.

We then convinced Bishop Cunningham to don his newly acquired Harley Davidson jacket and allow some pictures to be taken with Bruno, Brian and others.



As the Bishop was preparing to leave, the first few rain drops started to fall so everyone mounted up and went on their way, feeling a little safer riding with God's blessing. It was a great day and a big Thank You to Performance Harley Davidson, Brian Sedlak and Bruno, who arranged for the Bishop's participation. In addition, thanks to the Syracuse HOG members that helped to direct the bikes, line them up, pass out stickers and kept things moving smoothly and organized. And a very special Thank You to Bishop Cunningham for supporting Syracuse's motorcycle riders.