

"THE HIGH ROAD"



Monthly News Letter of the Syracuse H.O.G.

VOLUME XXII ISSUE March, 2015

Monthly Meeting Syracuse HOG Sunday, February 15, 2015



The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Director Bill Becker, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanked all who braved the bad weather for coming out. Bill then welcomed all new members and guests then called for a moment of silence for the passing of Louise Ferguson. Our sincere

condolences go out to Dave and the Ferguson Family. Also get well wishes to Ron Amyot. Ron had surgery on his shoulder.

Rich Milazzo from our Sponsoring Dealer thanked everyone who participated and volunteered in the Chili Cook Off. Rich mentioned that members of our sister club, Fingerlakes Harley, visited us and were very impressed with our operation. Rich also talked about donations for causes. It has to be in writing what the cause is about before they would consider making donations, and what is available for donation, not what you would want. The dealership's next event is going to be their Spring Open House, which will be on Saturday, March 14. Rich is looking for volunteers, (as with all Dealership Events) to help out, as well as, man the HOG Table. There are lots of new things happening within the dealership. Check the PHD website.

Assistant Director Ken Yackel also thanked all who braved the weather. Ken spoke of the need for volunteers for the MDA ride on June 14, as well as, needing volunteers and ride leaders and sweeps for Demo Day which is on May 9th. Ken also gave the Treasurers Report and Membership Report. We have money, we're getting money, and we're spending money. We're in good shape. As of today's meeting we have 112 paid members.

Head Road Captain Kevin Reney encouraged everyone to stay after the meeting for the Ride Planning Session. Our FUN Report was given by Cindy and Mike Standen. We are participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade which is Saturday, March 14th

Anyone interested in participating in the parade and wants to help decorate the float, give them a shout. LOH Officer Terry Clark just wanted to put out a reminder for donations of samples of soap, shampoo, etc. are appreciated for Vera House.

Karen Whedon our Community Service Officer was not in attendance, but left message to keep in mind volunteers to answer the phones at Tel Auc will be needed in April. Chris Blakley our Webmaster said as soon as the riding schedule is completed he will post it on the website as soon as possible. Photographer Marcella Becker has end of year CD's available for \$5.00.

Assistant Director Ken mentioned that we are looking for a new Historian and if you are interested in filling that position to drop him and email. This month's T-Shirt Bingo state was MINNESOTA. The pot increases to \$70.00 next month.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 11am with 31 members in attendance.



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Chapter Officers for 2015

Written by Ken Yackel

Assistant Director

Big thanks to all who braved the elements to attend February's Meeting. With many of our members being snowed in we still managed to have approx. 35-40 member's show. Kevin Reney did a great job after the meeting with ride planning. Many rides have been taken in however, there are many openings also. There will be a meeting again after March's meeting to secure the rest of the dates so plan on attending. We are in need of road guards to help with the June 14th MDA Ride please contact me if you are able to help last year we had a big showing of HOG Members. Performance Harley's Demo days are also in the very near future so please plan on helping at this event also. We will be in need of ride leaders and several people to man the registration desk. We are also looking for a member to take on the task of Chapter Historian if you have any interest please contact me by email. ultra11@verizon.net. In closing next time you see Cindy Standen ask her to wear her spring time sun glasses believe me you will laugh. Remember to support our sponsoring dealer P.H.D.



Ken

Written By Jim Shepard

Membership Officer

Hi, Not to much to say this month. Today we have 113 members

March Activities Report

Submitted by: Cindy & Mike Standen

Activities Officers



Well we are almost thru with winter. It's always a good sign when we get some ride planning in and start talking about rolling up those garage doors and bringing the

Harley's out for their first run of the season at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We have a few signed up but can always use a few more to make a great impression of what HOG is all about. We had a decorating get together at Performance Sunday 3/8/15 from noon to 3:00 to figure out how to decorate our bike trailer and make some SPRING props. I think we're ready.

HOG Bowl 2015 was Sunday 2/22/15 at Revolutions from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – always sure to be a good time and it was! Highest score was Wild Willie Kilgore at 182 and lowest was a tie with Deb Yackel and Alane Olivieri. Our overall average after the first game was 95. Afterwards a few of us checked out Margaritaville and watched the end of the Daytona 500. We even found a chair that fit Marcella-her feet were actually flat on the floor! Thanks to everyone for coming out and enjoying the afternoon.

And last – bone up on your Harley facts! Each meeting we will have HOG Trivia, a chance for a discount on your meal or ice cream if you join in on one of our rides through the season.



Pictures taken by Cindy and Mike Standen

What a Fantastic Bowling Outing

Written By Terry Lynn Clark

Ladies of Harley

Dang it! More snow as I look out the window, when is it ever going to stop? I want to get the sporty out to wash and wax it. Not

a chance with a foot of snow on the ground where I walk and 2' on each side of that. Doesn't Mother Nature know we have had ENOUGH. No, I guess not. The start of my regular season is April 1st, by then the rain has washed away most of the salt from the roads and the school parking lot. I may ride intermittently before that but April 1st is the Day. I am reading articles to get up to speed.

Liz Jansen of the blog, "Where the Road Meets the Spirit" had an interesting article to get the "tires rolling" in your head.

Ten Ways to Get READY for Motorcycle Riding

1) Check out local groups

That would be the HOG group; check out their ride itinerary for the year. Join them at the March meeting to finalize the rides.

2) Join on line forums to meet others with common interests.

The Harley Forum is one place. I know there are others.

3) Consider attending a Rally this year.

The New York Rally is in Corning this year. The Pennsylvania Hog Rally is in Erie. The Ontario Rally is in Owen Sound for those who would like an international flavor.

4) Visit websites for state and provincial tourism associations.

5) Research the Charity rides taking place in our area.

Don't forget Performance will be partaking in the Ride for Life one.

6) Investigate organized tours

HOG is having runs...Lakes to Lobsters...Dearborn, Mi to Bar Harbor, Me. in June.

7) Read magazines and watch videos/CDs(Lee Park's "Total Control" is an example) on writing to refresh your memory.

8) Use this downtime to do your winter maintenance done.

Check your owner's manual for the details you need to take care of.

9) Make sure your gear is ready

Check for wear, grease up your leathers, have repairs done: that snap that doesn't work anymore..

10) Prepare yourself.

Improve your physical fitness. Remember it's been a few months of not using the muscles in your body.

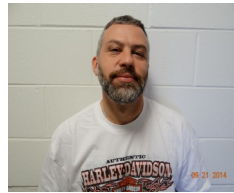
My last word is please be careful on the road, we want to be able to ride together when the weather breaks.

Spring is coming, I promise.

In the Wind, Terry Lynn

Written By Kevin Reney

Head Road Captain



Happy March !!!

While we had a smaller turnout for the Ride Planning Meeting than we would have liked, we did get a lot of rides planned. I would like to thank all of those that made it and helped out.

We have a lot of new destinations that we plan on going to see this year.

So get ready to enjoy some Fresh Sights.....



Written by
Bill Becker
Director

March Madness...To me means it's the time of the year we start our riding season! It's been a long cold winter and I can just smell spring around the corner. I would like to thank everyone who stayed for the ride-planning meeting and to those that step forward to lead us on what should be some fantastic rides. This years ride calendar has over 40 events planned; so far we are off to a great start. We will take some more time during the March meeting to include some more destinations.

We've got some great destinations planned some old, some new; the ride calendar will be completed in March and will be out in time for our first scheduled event. As always it will be available for download from the web site, and we'll have a limited copy of the Ride List at the meeting for those who are not on-line.

If you're new to the Chapter or just new to group riding, please take a look at the 4-orientation rides that our Road Captain has scheduled. This type of training as well as our group riding training sessions is invaluable in providing confidence to a new or inexperienced rider. Hopefully all the rides will be a mixture of some city country and back roads. What our Road Captain intends to accomplish is that every one knows the staggered AMA riding system and that every one understands the hand signals, so that we may have safe riding all year long. As always the main purpose is that we all learn how to ride in a safe manner that this chapter is accustomed to.

So whether you're looking to get out on the open road to do some touring or you just want to get out for a short ride with a great dinner destination, the 2015 ride calendar has some great choices that should suit your riding style and schedule. We have dinner rides scheduled each week as well as our weekend destination trips.

So come out and share the open road along with some great food, with your fellow HOG brothers and sisters and help make 2015 an outstanding ride year to remember.

Stay Safe

Bill



Written By Karen Whedon

Community Service

Once again we will be volunteering at WCNY for their annual WCNY Tel-Auc that is being held at their station in downtown Syracuse.

Not sure of the exact dates, but it will be near the end of April so mark your calendars in pencil for this fun event.

Volunteer jobs consist of working the phone bank by taking incoming bids and answering any questions. There are also positions for runners, which entails going up and down a couple of stairs to deliver bids to the computers operators.

We can meet for dinner before going to the station, placed to be determined although "The Gem" diner treats us very well and the food is good. However there is free food available at the station, catered in by a local restaurant to feed the volunteers and if that sounds good, we can do that instead.

It is a great way to spend a fun evening filled with lots of laughs, good times and helping Public Broadcasting at the same time. So plan on joining us !!

If you have any questions, please contact: Karen Whedon, Community Services at

Snooper101@msn.com or call (315-963-1941)



Pictures from the January dinner



Written by Rob Gabor

Safety Officer

Soon we will all be riding again and enjoying the nice weather. This is a good time to make sure we are going to be ready to ride. This month, I'd like to give a few tips and info to keep our heads safe. Most of us know that a full helmet provides better protection than a half helmet, but I'd like to address some other details we should be looking for when checking our existing helmets or choosing a new one.

Here's a few questions to consider when evaluating your helmet needs:

- 1) Should I use a full face or a half helmet? When looking at safety, a full face is always recommended. As it provides coverage for the lower half of your head as well. Here are a few myths that I've heard when discussing full vs half helmets.
 - a. I can see better with a half helmet – Nearly all full helmets are designed to give complete peripheral vision when riding. You should be able to see just the same with either. Also, the shield on a full face can be beneficial when riding in the rain.
 - b. I can hear more with a half helmet – Well that may seem like the case, in reality, a full helmet generally helps to filter out engine noise of the bike. Often, one can hear the vehicles and exterior noise better when the roar of the engine is “filtered” by a full helmet.
- 2) How old is my current helmet? Most safety organizations recommend to replace a helmet after five years of use. The material and construction of a helmet is designed to last for a limited time. The changes or weather plus the wear-and-tear begin to compromise the protection over the life of a helmet.
- 3) Has my helmet ever been dropped? The insides of a helmet are made to absorb the shock of a hit by letting the interior take the brunt of the hit. When this happens, the interior will “crack” and the helmet will no longer be as effective when hit in the same area.
- 4) How does my helmet fit? A proper fit for a helmet needs to be snug, but not too snug. You don't want your helmet to slide around as it can reduce the protection it gives. Also, you don't want it too tight as it can cause pain to the head as you wear it. Comfort also gives you a more pleasant ride. You don't want to be adjusting or focusing on your helmet comfort as you ride, as you should be focusing more on the ride itself. Also, once you find a helmet you like, try this retention test: Put the helmet on, including the chin strap snugly. Grab the back of the helmet and attempt to push it off, going forward. The helmet in no way should be able to slide off of your head. You want the helmet to stay on in any type of motorcycle accident.
- 5) Is my helmet a DOT approved helmet? This is not only the law, but a very important safety consideration. DOT approved helmets are helmets that pass a specific standard of protection for your head.
- 6) Is DOT enough? If you are looking for even better protection, consider one that is also SNELL certified. SNELL certified helmets are ones that pass an even more stringent set of guidelines to ensure even better protection than DOT.
- 7) Ok. I need to buy a helmet. Where should I buy one? When buying a helmet, please make sure to follow these guidelines:
 - a. Buy a helmet, in person, in a known store that sells various helmets and promotes safety. This includes H-D dealerships, motorcycle stores, etc. You want to make sure you can try it on for best fit, compare them with others and also be a first-time owner.
 - b. Never buy a used helmet. Nearly all stores will never sell used helmets as they don't know the history of them. You want to ensure you have a fully in-tact helmet that has never been compromised. If a helmet has been in a fall or accident, often the damage is only seen on the inside of the helmet.
 - c. Never buy a helmet online. Again, you want to ensure that your helmet has been properly cared for and shipped before it ever reaches your hands. We've all seen shipping nightmares of what packages go through when being delivered. It's best to avoid risks like these. Also, if the helmet doesn't fit right, you won't be able to return it to any reputable store online.
 - d. Never buy a helmet from a friend or garage sale. For all the reasons stated above, make sure you are the first and only owner of a helmet.

Let's look forward to a safe and pleasant riding season.

- Rob

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Mark Down These Dates

Monthly Meeting 3/15/2015 - PHD 10:00 a.m.

For up-to-date information, visit our website

WWW.SYRACUSEHOG.COM