

"THE HIGH ROAD"



Syracuse H.O.G. Monthly Newsletter

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 4 - April, 2015

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2015



Thirty-two years... That's three hundred eighty four months that the Syracuse Harley Davidson HOG Chapter 3424 sponsored by Performance H-D has been around until this year's 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade! For Mike and I, it seemed like it was that long anticipating the prep for this year's parade. Perhaps it was the anxiety and excitement of pulling together our first major event for the Chapter with the assistance of PHD. Actually, it was only 54 days, and that went by fast now looking back.

After we signed up with the Parade Committee we found out this year's parade theme – "Marching into Spring". That's when the creative juices started flowing. Spring means flowers, bright colors and **BIRDS !!!**

With the weather Mike & I have seen the past couple of parades, we thought we really needed a float to carry our Harleys – what's a parade for bikers without bikes? So out came the trailer from 4 feet of snow and Mike's ingenuity came up with a pretty simple way to 'plant' our flowers. We had a great response from some really creative and handy people. Our sponsor's liaison with us, Rich Milazzo was so patient and accommodating. He listened to our ideas and suggestions and helped us with a warm area to decorate and pull the float together.



PARADE PRODUCTION CAST & CREW:

Creator/Director/Costume Design: Cindy Standen

Production Creator/Director: Mike Standen

Location Manager & Property Master: Rich Milazzo

Master Scenic Artist: Deb Yackel

Special Effects: Karen Whedon, Patti Reith

Set Decorators: Barb Snyder, Marge Canino

Construction Foreman: Kevin Reney,

Carpenters: Bruce Chimine, Jim Shepard

Transport Captain: Bill Becker

Equipment Technical Support: Ken Yackel, Rich Milazzo

Counterweights/Equipment Operators: John Snyder, Garry Canino

Supporting Hardware: 2015 HD Road King & 2015 HD V-Rod Muscle

Photographer: Marcella Becker

Dialogue Editors: Ken Yackel, Carl Barber

Producer & Craft Services: Dick Davidson

Parade Day brought us a cold morning and a short, light drizzle, but by noon we were close to 40, cloudy skies and no rain. The scariest moment was pulling the float out of the PHD cold storage garage with an ice covered lip just outside the door. It took 2 drivers and about 4 holding the tailgate, but we got her out, loaded up the vehicles and across town we went. The SPCA was in front of us and their load of dogs – Joey & Chico to name a couple kept us entertained. One was so excited to be there, he couldn't hold it all in...marking along the walls and even his handler's feet! And what's a parade without some eccentric characters that show up to join in the festivities – Ariel, Irish Jester and the eccentric lady with her Pomeranian in a tutu. We all pitched in and finished up the decorating of our vehicles, but the most fun was dressing Patti Reith for her star role. Remember we mentioned the theme – Spring means 'BIRDS' ??? That's when our parade mascot was born! She held up well atop the Irish green 2015 Road King, waving and smiling the whole parade route.

And what can I say about our front end – Bill Becker and Steve Knowles on banner duty. Who would have known that Steve had such a musicality about himself? Thanks to the Corcoran High Marching Band keeping the beat, the guys strutted and spun their stuff all the way down Salina Street!

So much fun and such good people to hang with produced a wonderful event and a great event. Thank you to all who contributed to this year's parade. Crazy, but we're actually looking forward to what next year's theme might be – perhaps we should be careful what we wish for.....my little piggies!



Syracuse HOG Monthly Meeting Sunday, March 15, 2015



The meeting was called to order by Director Bill Becker who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill mentioned that after today's meeting that we will be having our annual safety presentation given by the State

Troopers and following that we will revisit the ride plan calendar. He then welcomed new member Dave Lepage. Rich Milazzo gave our Sponsoring Dealer Report. Rich thanked everyone who attended the Spring Open House on Saturday, March 14 and those who participated in the St. Patrick's Parade, (Especially Patti Reith, who donned the Pink Flamingo Costume and rode on the float in the parade). Assistant Director Ken Yackel then thanked Jim Shepard, Ray Liepke and Karen Whedon for manning the membership table at the open house. Since we have had a table at the last two PHD functions, we have signed up 14 new members. Ken reminded us to keep our questions for Trooper Eberel to that which pertains to motorcycle safety only. Ken also said that volunteers will be needed for the upcoming PHD Demo Day which will be on May 9th. Ken then introduced Garry and Marge Canino as our new Historians. A round of applause was given to Cindy and Mike Standen for a great job they did on the parade! Kevin Reney gave the treasurers report as Dick Davidson is under the weather. GET WELL DICK!

Membership Officer Jim Shepard reported that as of today's meeting, we have 127 paid members as we signed up 12 at the Open House. Jim then passed out continuous membership awards.

Head Road Captain Kevin Reney will be revisiting the ride calendar after Trooper Eberel's presentation. As of last meeting, we had 40 plus rides scheduled and plan to add more today.

Rob Gabor our Safety Officer reminded everyone that now is the time to check your registrations, inspections and insurance before the riding season begins.

Our Activities Officers Cindy and Mike Standen are exhausted after the St. Patrick's Parade. Cindy thanked everyone for pulling together and getting the trailer decorated for the parade last week and especially thanked Rich and PHD for letting us inside to do so and for the bikes that were on the float. Cindy then thanked all who participated in the parade. She has lots of pictures! Cindy

mentioned that there is a little lull between now and the start of our riding season and wanted to know if anyone would be interested in going to the comedy club at Destiny. Cindy will be looking into a date and who is performing.

LOH officer Terry Clark stated that she had fun in the parade. She is still collecting hotel samples for the Rescue Mission. She is also willing to take any new riders on a one on one short ride if anyone is uncomfortable starting out riding in a bigger group. If you are interested you can contact her.

Community Service Officer Karen Whedon spoke of getting a group together for a pancake breakfast at the Beaver Lake Nature Center. The date is March 28 and April 4 from 9am til noon. Prices range from \$3 to \$5 and you must purchase a token for \$4 on you departure. Karen also will be looking for volunteers to man the phones at the upcoming Tel Auc for WCNY. The date we will be doing so will be April 18th. WCNY looks forward to the HOG'S volunteering. She also is looking for volunteers for the MDA's Muscle Ride which will be June 14th.

Webmaster Chris Blakley will be posting the ride schedule as soon as it is completed. Chris also talked about making sure you sign up for text alerts which will send you a reminder or let you know if a ride has been cancelled.

Photographer Marcella Becker still has the end of year CD's available for \$5.00.

Our new Historians Garry and Marge are very excited to be a part of it.

This month's T-Shirt Bingo state was RHODE ISLAND. No winners and the pot increases to \$80. Bill Kilgore won a \$5.00 discount coupon to use toward his meal or ice cream on one of our club rides. Bill got the answer to today's trivia question. A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Yackel
Secretary



Written by Ken Yackel

Assistant Director

With the March meeting in the past, we are that much closer to start our riding season. I do not know about you, but I am ready to ride. Hopefully, we all took some safety and helpful riding tips home from the safety meeting that New York State Police gave at our meeting. Many of us are not aware



that Trooper Ebrel, who gave the presentation, not only does road patrol, but is also one of two motorcycle officers assigned to Troop D. He also is one of the NYS Police scuba divers. On top of it all, he is a rider himself. Kevin Reney has told me that we picked up a lot of rides after the meeting on Sunday, so stay tuned for the calendar to come out on the web. Thanks to all that stayed and took part. It looks like we have a lot of new destinations for the year. Let's all try to make as many rides as possible and enjoy many miles of fun. More great jobs are due. Let's start with Karen Whedon, Ray Liepke and Jim Shepard. In the last two events at PHD, they have manned the membership table and signed 14 new members and many renewals. This is a great job, and thank you for all of your hard work. Now let's talk about Cindy & Mike Standen. What a fantastic job they did setting up the Sunday before the parade at PHD as well as coordinating with Rich M. to let us use the garage to decorate the trailer. Then we are off to the parade where all you could see was a blur of grey and Cindy constantly running around making sure that all went as planned and taking pictures. Thank to Cindy and Mike. Then we have our flamingo (thanks Patty Reith). Thanks for taking on that task. Last, but not least, thanks to PHD, our sponsoring dealer, for the great party after the parade. Let all get out, ride and have fun.

- Ken



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Written by Cindy & Mike Standen Activities Officers

April Activities Report



The Saint Patrick's Day Parade was Saturday, March 14, 2015, and what a great time we all had. We think it was pretty successful and a lot of fun.

Also, by print time, we've hopefully had our first ride of the season on April Fool's Day and enjoyed a fun evening at Funny Bones Comedy Club on April 11th. Mike and I are personally looking forward to the Loop the Lake ride as we've never been on that one before.

Then, there is HOT Training the last weekend of April in Rhode Island for some of the officers.

The season is getting busy!



Written by Terry Lynn Clark

Ladies of Harley

The weather is finally breaking. I was beginning to wonder. Now to wait for a few days of rain to clean the streets of salt.

We will start riding in earnest very soon. Please remember to check your bike for mechanical issues and wear gear for the weather. Right now, cleaning and waxing is the name of the game.

I am still collecting the motel bottles of shampoo and such.

Ride safe and see you on the highway.

Terry Lynn

Here are 15 smart strategies for dealing with traffic-choked streets from Motorcyclist, online magazine:

Watch drivers' heads and mirrors.

Watching the head movements of drivers through their windows and mirrors is an excellent way to anticipate sudden moves (check their mirrors).

Trust your mirrors, but not totally.

Your bike's mirrors can be lifesavers, but they don't always tell the entire story, even if they're adjusted properly. In traffic, always buttress your mirror-generated rear view with a glance over the appropriate shoulder.

Never get between a vehicle and an off ramp.

This sounds almost too simple, but drivers who decide to exit at the last minute kill plenty of riders each year. The simple rule, then, is to never position yourself between a vehicle and an off ramp. Passing on the right is generally a no-no.

Cover your brakes.

In traffic you must often react extra quickly, which means not fumbling for the brake lever or pedal. To minimize reach time, always keep a finger or two on the brake lever and your right toe close to the rear brake pedal.

Be noticed.

Make sure drivers and pedestrians can see you, even from a distance. Ride with your high beam on during the day (as a courtesy, turn it off when sitting behind someone at a light), and wear brightly colored gear.

Be ready with the power.

In traffic, ride in a gear lower than you normally would so your bike is ready to jump forward instantly if asked. (Not everyone rides open-class twins, after all.) Doing

so gives you the option of leaping ahead instead of being limited to just using the brakes when that pickup suddenly moves over. The higher revs might also alert more cagers to your presence.

Practice the scan.

Constantly scanning your entire environment while riding--from instruments to mirrors to the road ahead to blind spots to your left and right rear--keeps you aware and in touch with your situation, and therefore better able to react. Dwelling on one area too long--watching only behind or in front of you, for instance--is just begging for trouble.

Left-turn treachery.

When approaching an oncoming car that's stopped and about to turn left, be ready. Your brights should be on so the driver can see you (during the day), but don't rely on this to save you. Watch the car's wheels or the driver's hands on the steering wheel; if you see movement, be ready to brake, swerve or accelerate, whichever seems best for the situation.

Ride in open zones.

Use your bike's power and maneuverability to ride in open zones in traffic. In any grouping of vehicles there are always some gaps; find these and ride in them.

Doing so will separate you from four-wheelers, give you additional room to maneuver and allow you to keep away from dangerous blind spots. And vary your speed.

Use that thumb.

Get into the habit of canceling your turn signals often regardless of the traffic situation. A blinking signal might tell drivers waiting to pull into the road or turning left in front of you that you're about to turn when you aren't.

It's good to be thin.

A huge advantage single-track vehicles have over four-wheelers is their ability to move left and right within a lane to enable the rider to see what's ahead.

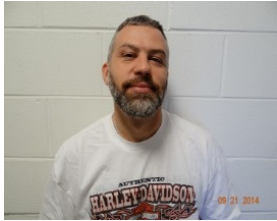
More than one way out.

Yeah, motorcycles fall down. But they're also light, narrow and hugely maneuverable, so you might as well learn to exploit their strengths when things get ugly, right? So don't just brake hard in a hairball situation. There's almost always an escape route. Always have an escape route planned, and update it minute by minute.

Running interference.

This one's easy, and we'll bet most of you already do it: Let larger vehicles run interference for you when negotiating intersections. If the bonehead coming toward you from the left or right is going to blow the light, better they hit the box van next to you, right?. Be patient, and use the vehicles next to you as cover.

Written by Kevin Reney Head Road Captain



Well you guessed it....it's now April, and that means riding season is on!

Our ride list is up and posted, so check it out.

I have a couple of reminders for everyone:

- 1) If you need to change or cancel a ride for any reason, contact me at roadcaptain@syracusehog.com.
- 2) If you are leading a ride, please email me your rides and a good phone number that I can use to contact you, in case of ride changes.

And as always, ride and have FUN!

Head Road Captain,

Kevin Reney



While many of the HOG members were out in the cold and rain, riding along the parade route, Karen Whedon and Ray Liepke were back at Performance Harley-Davidson's Open House manning the membership table recruiting new people for the club. Jim Shepard was also there taking money and answering questions as well. We signed up/renewed 12 members, so it was a great day all around.

Written by Jim Shepard Membership

Hi. Our membership is at 134.

The following national memberships expire in April for these members:

Carolyn Bialobreski
Bud Fisher
Laurie Fisher
Joseph Hurteau
Bridget Kemp
Michael Kemp
Richard Milazzo
Renee Sager
Mark Sheremeta
Phil Sinker
Robert Thousand III
Maureen Wakefield

Thank you,

Jim

**Written by Karen Whedon
Community Service**

Syracuse HOG Night at WCNY TEL-AUC 2015

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

We will be manning the phone bank on Saturday **April 18, from 8:30 until 12:00.** 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 computer operators.

We can meet for dinner before going to the station at a place to be determined. There is also free food available at the station, catered in by a local restaurant to feed the volunteers, and from past experience, it is usually a good meal.

I already have eleven volunteers and will be sending around the sign-up sheet again at the next HOG meeting.

This 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
Snooper101@msn.com
(315) 963-1941



Ride for life

MDA Muscle Ride For Life
Sunday June 24, 2014

Muscular Dystrophy Association's Muscle Ride is once again asking Performance Harley-Davidson and Syracuse HOG to help them out on this year's ride, which will be held on Sunday, June 24th.

We need Syracuse HOG members to volunteer for directing traffic, lining up the bikes, helping with registration and to participate in the ride as well. The ride will end up at a place to be determined (possibly Limp Lizard on Onondaga Blvd.) so if you don't want to participate in the ride, come to help setup, sell raffle tickets and just keep things organized. There will be food and soda available so no one will go away hungry.

There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet at the next few HOG meetings.

Thanks,
Community Service

Written by Rob Gabor

Safety Officer

I think I'm seeing the grass under all of that snow. Can riding season really be just around the corner?

Since April showers bring may flowers, I figured I'd talk about riding in the rain this month. Riding in the rain isn't fun for most, but by following a few safety tips, it can be a bit more tolerable and a lot less risky.

- 1) First and foremost, wearing proper rain gear is very important. Wearing Gore-Tex or something of equal quality is the best option. This includes any gear that will be not only waterproof, but also breathable. You also want to make sure it is a lightweight material. This is important for a many reasons. You want to retain comfort, allow your skin to breathe and keep your inner clothes from getting wet. The best rain gear will be designed to not let water in near your head, wrists, waist or boots. Make sure face protection is worn too. As you approach faster speeds, rain can feel like little daggers hitting you in the face. Also, a good face shield can help with your vision as they can help repel or disperse rain.
- 2) Check your tires. When roads are not dry, this is when your tire tread is most important.
- 3) Watch out for puddles and running water. Any time that you can't see the road through the water, you also don't truly know the depth of a puddle.

Potholes or debris can be hiding underneath any of them. Avoid them whenever possible.

- 4) Rain after a dry spell, can be even more dangerous. Fresh rain at this point can be landing on dirt, oil, etc. It takes a few hours of rain to wash away most of these undesired surfaces.
- 5) Time your stops. Remember that when stopping on a wet surface, you will need a little more time/space as there is less friction on the road. Keep this in mind when following other vehicles as you want to not follow too closely and increase your time to stop, should you need to.
- 6) If you must follow behind a car, try to ride in the path of the tire tracks from the car in front of you. As a car drives, it pushes the water from under the tire to the side. There is often the least amount of water on the surface in the tire tracks made by the car in front of you.

Now let's keep dry, stay warm, get out and ride!

- Rob





Mark Down These Dates

Monthly Meeting - 4/19/2015 - PHD 10:00 AM

PHD Workshop – 4/18/2015 – PHD 12:00 PM

PHD Bike Blessing – 4/25/2015 – PHD 12:00 PM

For up-to-date information, visit our website:

WWW.SYRACUSEHOG.COM