



# SYRACUSE HOG

CHAPTER 3424

## The High Road

**Syracuse H.O.G. Monthly Newsletter**

**Volume XXIII, Issue 11 – November, 2016**

### **Pictures from Cedar Pines Ride - October 16, 2016**

Pictures by Cindy Standen



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## Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2016

By Cindy Standen:



The meeting came to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**New Members & Guests** - We welcomed three new members.

**Health & Welfare** - A Moment of Silence was made for a Chapter member who recently lost a family member due to an assault by two young teenagers.

For respect to that member and their family, their name was not mentioned but our deepest condolences go out to them.

**Treasurer's Report** - Joanne Piston reported that our current balance is approx. \$2400. Last month's expenses were for the Annual Picnic for which the bottom line cost to the Chapter after ticket sales was \$300. Joanne is collecting names of anyone who would like a Chapter name tag. They are \$8.00 and she needs to have a total of 12 to place the order.

**Membership** - Mike Piston reported we currently have 144 members. Anyone who is renewing the Chapter membership and do so in November or December will be put in a drawing for a free year's membership. Of course, any new members now signing up will have their membership for these months included in their 2017 membership. Everyone should make sure they fill out the back side of the Membership Renewal Form which is information about your bike and mileage. This mileage will be tracked throughout the year and honors for that will be given at each Annual Dinner. Mike Standen manned the door to ensure everyone signed in – 33 in attendance today.

**Road Captain** - John Kresse reviewed his article from the October newsletter about being cautious of deer now that the days are shorter so we're still riding at 5-7 pm when dusk sets in and deer are on the move. He also mentioned his interest in putting an order together for anyone interested in an official HOG vest that he noticed in our HOG Members Catalog, see him if interested.

**Safety** - Steve Knowles also touched on his October article about handling your bike when road surfaces are dangerous – wet, leaves, holes, etc. He also demonstrated how adhering a black vinyl strip on the very bottom edge of a retractable clear face shield, creates a narrow sun-block band that could quickly be positioned to block the blinding sun with a simply vertical flick of the face shield, either up or down as necessary. He offered to help out anyone who might want to do this with their helmet. Also Mary Amyot shared the events of a recent ride that she and Ron took where a flock of turkeys – 50 or more crossed the road ahead of them. This took place on Caughdenoy Road.

**Activities** - Kristine Wilson mentioned the great time had by the 57 people who attended this year's picnic and thanked all those that helped up with the event. She then mentioned the final 4 places that are under consideration for our Annual Dinner Meeting. First a quick vote determined that a Saturday night was preferred so we are looking at 1/15/16 which will take the place of the usual Sunday meeting in January. Locations considered are Bella Domani on E. Taft Road, Casa Di Capani on Burnet Ave., Borio's and The Spinning Wheel. A couple members shared their experiences with some of the locations. A hand vote determined that our first and second choices are Casa Di Capani and Borio's as Bella Domani unfortunately has a minimum of 75 people and The Spinning Wheel was just too informal and had no votes. She needs to confirm continued availability for our date, determine the actual menu and cost which are needed for the actual venue. The per person costs are between \$18 & \$24 on average. She'll have the actual final details, location and cost to Chapter Members by the November meeting and will start collecting at that time along with continuing to plan the festivities. Anyone interested in helping her out should contact her directly.

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**Ladies of Harley** – Terry Lynn Clark reminded everyone that we continue to take in donations for the VA Hospital patients and residents. They require any clothing items are new. Many items are needed such as toiletries, clothing, games and more can be found on their website. She is pushing for a delivery of the items to the hospital just before Christmas so please put this on your To Do lists and drop your items off at the dealership at any time you're in the area. John Kresse also suggested that we take up a monetary donation and use those funds to purchase some H-D clothing off the sale rack. He'll speak with Nate or Brian about anything they might like to add to this idea.

**Community Service** - Karen Whedon is always looking for food donations for the Food Bank and she too, is looking to put in our donated items just before the Holidays. Our last donation was 25 lbs. She also mentioned the Red Kettle Drive for the Salvation Army. Brian Sedlack looks forward to us doing this and we will have three dates – 11/25 Black Friday, 12/10 PHD's Holiday Party and on Christmas Eve 12/23. Along with the Red Kettle Drive we'll be either doing an Ugly Sweater Contest again which has always been fun or maybe and Ugly Elf Contest. Contact Karen if you want to help out on anyone of these dates.

**Photographer** - Karen Whedon is always collecting our photos of our rides, events or any motorcycle related event that we individually do. At year end for our Annual Dinner Meeting they'll be a photo montage of all these photos and also a cd for purchase with all them for our own collections.

**Historian** – Garry Canino was unavailable for today's meeting, enjoying the grandchildren.

**Editor** - Rob Gabor again requested that anyone who has a story to tell can share that with us all by contributing to our newsletter.

**Webmaster** – Rob Gabor shared for the new members about our website filled with links to our newsletters, planned events, ride calendar and other good motorcycle related links. We also have a Facebook page that any member can LIKE and request to join. If anyone would also like a text message kicked out when there are any updates, he'll set that up for you. He'll need your carrier name as each has a little different process to set them up.

**New Business** – Cindy Standen mentioned a Chapter Member benefit with Empower Federal Credit Union. Their flyer noted their great rates on loans, investments and checking/savings accounts. Cindy also described today's ride after the meeting, heading north up thru Redfield and to Cedar Pines for lunch with the ride leaving shortly after the meeting. Kevin Reney announced that any member interested can request to step up and take on an open Officer's Position. As the year comes to an end, more about what positions might be available will be announced. Any person who would be interested in the future is always more than welcome to work along with a current officer as well to see what it's all about.

**T-Shirt Bingo** – Everyone was reminded that the t-shirt must be the shirt must be the person's top layer of clothing and be an official HOG dealership t-shirt. Oklahoma was picked with no winner; the pool is up to \$80 for next month – 8 months without a winner!

**Pig Pot** – We took in \$129 and Terry Lynn had the winning ticket for \$64.50. The Officers reviewed the price for the Pig Pot tickets and have increased the amount for the \$5.00 set to 12 tickets as well as continuing 2 for \$1.00.

A motion was made and the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.



## DIRECTOR

By Kevin Reney:



Well it's time to enjoy some TURKEY, and then that wild frenzy to find everyone that perfect gift.

Hopefully this year I will be able to figure out what to get everyone on my list. Then to wrap it!!!! It's not my favorite thing in the world to do, but you can't just hand them an unwrapped gift, can you??? No, not really. So maybe I'll have to do all my shopping at Performance and let some volunteers wrap everything.

If you are good at that, Brian is asking for help. He wants to set up a table and have the club wrap gifts. All tips will be donated to a charity on our behalf. So, if you can make those gifts look good, sign up to help out. Whatever time you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

December 3rd 9-4  
December 17th 9-4



## TREASURER

By Joanne Piston:



At 10/31 our bank balance stood at \$2539.23.

We have almost no activity during the month of October. We took in a few memberships and money from the pig pot only.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on the details

## HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN

By John Kresse:



Winterization: This is a paraphrased version of a short video I found on line from a well know bike parts retailer. At any given

time you and I probably know any one of these bullets but putting them all in one place I think, was a good idea. What I have below was taken directly from their video.

Fuel: Keep a full tank and use gasoline stabilizer. Add the stabilizer and ride for 2-5 miles or run the bike long enough (5 minutes) to warm up engine to get the

stabilizer through the system. If carbureted, turn off the petcock and drain the bowl. If you're fuel injected (2007 and later) there's nothing else to do.

**Oil:** Once warmed up, perform an oil change. Over time, contaminants and acids will build up and can deteriorate metallic parts. This is especially important if you will be storing it for an extended period of time (like us, 4-5 months). When done, start the bike for a minute or 2 to check for leaks. Turn off the bike and recheck fluid levels.

**Tires:** Check your tires and wheels. Look for uneven wear, weather checking and signs of wobble. Put your bike on a lift and manually spin the wheels. Also check the tire pressure. Both over inflation and under inflation can be dangerous, plus affect tire wear and handling. Use a high quality gauge. If possible, store on a lift to prevent flat spots. Check the pressure first thing again in the spring.

**Battery:** If you have a lead/acid battery, check and maintain proper fluid levels. If possible, remove the battery and clean the terminals with a soft wire brush and spray on a lubricant or terminal sealer to help keep oxygen away from them and stop corrosion. Store in a cool, dry area but do not expose the battery to freezing temperatures. If you don't want to remove the battery, a trickle charger can be used all season without risk of damage.

**Lube:** Lubricate all moving parts that require it. Look for all the pivot points and cables.

**Finishes:** Wash your bike one last time. This will give you the chance to take one last close look at everything as you usually are up close and personal with every square inch and have a chance to take note of anything that may seem out of place.

**Pack your pipes!** Mice love finding closed dark places to build a nest. If possible, stuff some steel wool up each pipe (or cover the ends with aluminum foil). Leave a post-it note on your speedometer or other conspicuous place to remind yourself to take it out in the spring.

**Security:** Lock your bike. Whether in a garage or shed, make your bike less appealing to steal. The presence of a lock may be all that's needed to make a crook choose someplace else and something easier.

Lastly, cover your bike and scatter a few moth balls around just to make your seat and wiring just that much less appealing to camp out in and chew on.



## SAFETY OFFICER

By Steve Knowles:



### Increasing Conspicuity

When I began riding my Electra Glide Ultra Classic (switched-up from a smaller metric bike), I noticed a huge difference and respect from other drivers, I concluded that they must be able to see me much better; maybe earlier too. It may be the abundant lights that surround the FLHTCU, or it could be the 'ultra cool blue' color, or maybe, it's just the pure huge SIZE of this awesome machine! But I do sense, there's a remarkable difference of my conspicuity (visibility) to other drivers, and with that, I feel I'm a safer rider.

*{Conspicuity... easily seen or noticed; readily visible or observable, attracting special attention, as by outstanding qualities}*

### Increasing Conspicuity

from

NYS DMV Ride at your Abilities

In crashes with motorcyclists, drivers often say they never saw the motorcycle. From ahead or behind, a motorcycle's outline is much smaller than a car's. Also, it is hard to see

something you are not looking for, and most drivers are not looking for motorcycles. More likely, they are looking through the skinny, two-wheeled silhouette in search of cars that may pose a problem to them.

Even if a driver does see you coming, you are not necessarily safe. Smaller vehicles appear farther away, and seem to be traveling slower than they actually are. It is common for drivers to pull out in front of motorcyclists, thinking they have plenty of time. Too often, they are wrong.

However, you can do many things to make it easier for others to recognize you and your motorcycle.

### Clothing

Most crashes occur in broad daylight. Wear bright colored clothing to increase your chances of being seen. Remember, your body is half of the visible surface area of the rider/motorcycle unit.

Bright orange, red, yellow or green jackets or vests are your best bets for being seen. Your helmet can do more than protect you in a crash. Brightly colored helmets can also help others see you.

Any bright color is better than drab or dark colors. Reflective, bright colored clothing (helmet and jacket or vest) is best.

Reflective material on a vest and on the sides of the helmet will help drivers

coming from the side spot you.

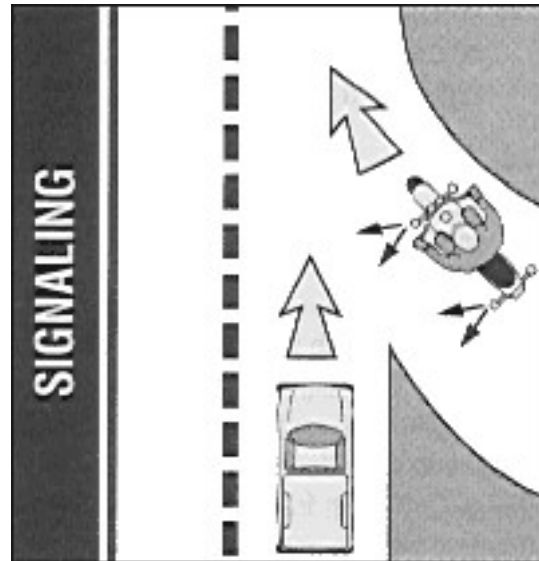
Reflective material can also be a big help for drivers coming toward you or from behind.

### Headlight

The best way to help others see your motorcycle is to keep the headlight on - at all times (motorcycles sold in the U.S. since 1978 have the headlights on automatically when running.) Studies show that, during the day, a motorcycle with its light on is twice as likely to be noticed. Use of the high beam during the day increases the likelihood that oncoming drivers will see you. Use the low beam at night and in cloudy weather.

### Signals

The signals on a motorcycle are similar to those on a car. They tell others what you plan to do. However, due to a rider's added vulnerability, signals are even more important. Use them anytime you plan to change lanes or turn. Use them even when you think no one else is around. It's the car you do not see that is going to give you the most trouble. Your signal lights also make you easier to spot. That is why it is a good idea to use your turn signals even when what you plan to do is obvious.



When you enter onto a freeway, drivers approaching from behind are more likely to see your signal blinking and make room for you.

Turning your signal light on before each turn reduces confusion and frustration for the traffic around you. Once you turn, make sure your signal is off or a driver may pull directly into your path, thinking you plan to turn again. Use your signals at every turn so drivers can react accordingly. Do not make them guess what you intend to do.

### Brake Light

Your motorcycle's brake light is usually not as noticeable as the brake lights on a car — particularly when your taillight is on. (It goes on with the headlight.) If the situation will permit, help others notice you by flashing your brake light before you slow down. It is especially important to flash your brake light before:

- You slow more quickly than others might expect (turning off a high-

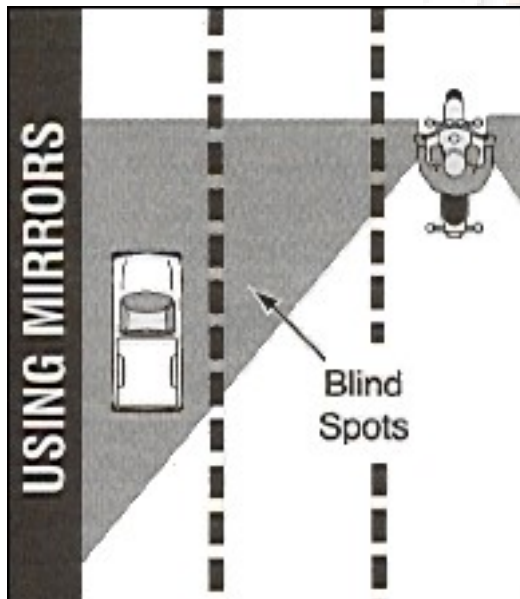
speed highway).

- You slow where others may not expect it (in the middle of a block or at an alley).

If you are being followed closely, it is a good idea to flash your brake light before you slow. The tailgater may be watching you and not see something ahead that will make you slow down. This will hopefully discourage them from tailgating and warn them of hazards ahead they may not see.

### Using Your Mirrors

While it is most important to keep track of what is happening ahead, you cannot afford to ignore situations behind. Traffic conditions change quickly. Knowing what is going on behind is essential for you to make a safe decision about how to handle trouble ahead.



Frequent mirror checks should be part of your normal scanning routine. Make a special point of using your mirrors:

- When you are stopped at an intersection. Watch cars coming up from behind. If the driver is not paying attention, he could be on top of you before he sees you.
- Before you change lanes. Make sure no one is about to pass you.
- Before you slow down. The driver behind may not expect you to slow, or may be unsure about where you will slow. For example, you signal a turn and the driver thinks you plan to turn at a distant intersection, rather than at a nearer driveway.

Some motorcycles have rounded (convex) mirrors. These provide a wider view of the road behind than do flat mirrors. They also make cars seem farther away than they really are. If you are not used to convex mirrors, get familiar with them. (While you are stopped, pick out a parked car in your mirror. Form a mental image of how far away it is. Then, turn around and look at it to see how close you came.) Practice with your mirrors until you become a good judge of distance. Even then, allow extra distance before you change lanes.

### Head Checks

Checking your mirrors is not enough. Motorcycles have "blind spots" like cars. Before you change lanes, turn your head, and look to the side for other vehicles.

On a road with several lanes, check the far lane and the one next to you. A driver in the distant lane may head for the same space you plan to take. Frequent head checks should be



your normal scanning routine, also. Know what is happening all around you.

### Horn

Be ready to use your horn to get someone's attention quickly.

It is a good idea to give a quick beep before passing anyone that may move into your lane.

Here are some situations:

- A driver in the lane next to you is driving too closely to the vehicle ahead and may want to pass.
- A parked car has someone in the driver's seat.
- Someone is in the street, riding a bicycle or walking.

In an emergency, press the horn button loud and long. Be ready to stop or swerve away from the danger.

Keep in mind that a motorcycle's horn is not as loud as a car's, therefore, use it, but do not rely on it. Other strategies may be appropriate along with the horn.

### Riding at Night

At night it is harder for you to see and be seen. Picking your headlight or taillight out of the car lights around you is not easy for other drivers. To compensate, you should:

- Reduce Your Speed — Ride even slower than you would during the day — particularly on roads you don't know well. This will increase your chances of avoiding a hazard.

- Increase Distance — Distances are harder to judge at night than during the day. Your eyes rely upon shadows and light contrasts to determine how far away an object is and how fast it is coming. These contrasts are missing or distorted under artificial lights at night. Open up a three-second following distance or more. And allow more distance to pass and be passed.
- Use the Car Ahead — The headlights of the car ahead can give you a better view of the road than even your high beam can. Its taillights bouncing up and down can alert you to bumps or rough pavement.
- Use Your High Beam — Get all the light you can. Use your high beam whenever you are not following or meeting a car. Be visible, wear reflective materials when riding at night.
- Be Flexible About Lane Position. Change to whatever portion of the lane is best able to help you see, be seen, and keep an adequate space cushion.

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### TEST YOURSELF

Reflective clothing should:

- A. Be worn at night.
- B. Be worn during the day.
- C. Not be worn.
- D. Be worn day and night.

[Answer D](#)

## HISTORIAN

By Garry Canino:



### BITS AND PIECES

I named this article “Bits and Pieces” because as I looked through the two boxes of historical information that Cindy gave me concerning the “history” of the club. I ran across a small packet of papers stapled together under a sticky labeled “1989 Newsletter”.

Under closer inspection as I read through the packet I realized that I actually had in hand three issues from the year 1989, the August 2nd, issue, the October 1st issue and the November 1st issue.

Remember the Harley’s Owners Group (HOG) was created in 1983 as a way to build stronger relationships between the Company, its employees and its customers.

1989 was six years removed from the founding year. If anyone is counting 2016 is 28 years removed from 1989 and 34 years removed from 1983.

Putting all of this in prospective lets see what 1989 had to offer. The August issue is two double-sided pages long, as is the November 1 issue. The October 1 issue is a total of two double-sided pages with a single page insert and a two-sided page insert.

It was mentioned that articles submitted to the newsletter should be given to Dave Sedlack, and should be submitted by the first of each month. In 1989 there was a NORTHEAST HOG RALLY held in Marlborough Mass, attended by 19 member of the Syracuse chapter, there was mention of a Life Members Breakfast. There was a membership contest with the winner awarded a HD leather jacket. Contest rules were included in the newsletter. There was an article on upcoming events with dates. It was noted that future issues would include events sponsored by other HOG chapters and other motorcycle events in the area.

The October issue reflected on the “Syracuse Mile Weekend Race”. As usual the Syracuse weather had a hand in shortening the race but as reported \$207 was raised for MDA. Eight new member’s names were mentioned.

October seemed to be a turning point, there was a questionnaire and one question on the questionnaire was should they have monthly meetings, the vote was yes and Don Elliot’s Truck Stop was mentioned as the meeting place. One other interesting article was that the membership voted to include a roster of members of the club with name, address and phone number with members wishing to opt out could do so.

The November newsletter made mention of the group getting together during the worst 6 months of the year to plan for the best 6 months of the year. Mention was made of a run up north to Iron Block to participate in the

Halloween Poker Run, 35 bikers participated. The monthly minutes made mention that the Iron Block group was a big supporter of the Syracuse MDA run and it was hoped that the Syracuse Group would do the same for them.

Another interesting note: it was decided back in 1989 that the group would meet the third Sunday of every month. No mention was made of a Christmas Party but it was noted that the December meeting was to be held at the Western Ranch Motel.

It was interesting to note how many similarities we have with the goings on in 1989, and how things are now different.

We will deliver whatever we have collected to the CNY Food Bank in time for their Christmas Basket distribution.

Many of you will be at or participating in the various holiday events taking place at Performance Harley Davidson, so bring in a can or two any time you stop in to shop or volunteer. Please place all items in boxes in the back of the meeting room and



**Let's make this the best food drive yet**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Karen Whedon:



### **Community Service Events**

We will be collecting canned goods at the November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> Syracuse HOG meetings. Please continue to bring canned meats, vegetables, condiments, pasta and any other items that have an extended shelf life. Do not bring any items in glass containers.

If you have any questions please contact me or catch me at the meetings.

Next on the agenda is the **Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing** at Performance Harley Davidson.

I need volunteers for the following dates:

#### **Black Friday November 25, 2016** –

There are specials all day. So come early and get in on the bargains then help with the bell ringing for an hour. Sounds like a WIN WIN to me! I only have 3 volunteers so far so there are plenty of shifts open.

**Saturday December 10, 2016** - This is also PHD's Christmas party so many of us will be there already volunteering to help them make the party a huge success.

So why not ring the bell for an hour, help PHD with the party for awhile and then spend the rest of the time eating, shopping and mingling with your fellow bikers.

It is a really great time as shown by the fact that I already have 9 volunteers signed up; but there is always room for more. And besides... you know you're going to be at PHD sometime during the day!!

**Friday December 23** - Time to catch those last minute shoppers and maybe do some last minute gift getting yourself. Lots of shifts available as I only have 3 people so far.

Shifts are for one hour unless you want to stay longer.

Although not quite community service, don't forget about volunteering for PHD's gift wrapping booth.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-4

December 17<sup>th</sup> 9-4



On the 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be an UGLY SWEATER CONTEST for the bell ringers. There will also be an Ugly Sweater Contest for all members at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The only rule is that it cannot be the same sweater from last year; and yes we have pictures..



And as always, *Thank You for caring.*





# SYRACUSE HOG

CHAPTER 3424

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