

SYRACUSE HOG

CHAPTER 3424



The High Road

Syracuse H.O.G. Monthly Newsletter

Volume XXV Issue 3 – March 2019



Director's Report

Kevin Reney



The Luck of the Irish helped me out this month. I got to surprise my father for his 75th birthday down in Florida. Thanks to his girlfriend Patty, I was able to make arrangements and he had no idea. Some of you know them, as they are members of this club. As far as the lucky, I got to ride in March and not freeze. I hope you enjoyed it Dad, as I know I did. I just need to find a Road Glide to keep in Florida...

Happy Birthday!



Meeting Minutes

Kristine Wilson

Chapter 3424 Secretary



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

New Members and Guests – We welcomed three new members and 4 ‘repeat’ members!

We also welcomed Don from Groton Cycle Center who told us about the different motorcycle courses they offer, basic through experienced. They are offering to give our HOG group a class together; 12 people are allowed on the range at a time. You are allowed to use your own bike. Passengers are encouraged to attend to learn their role when riding. If we are interested, they will make a special day at a special price for our group. He recommends planning the course for mid-May to rebuild confidence and skills at the beginning of riding season.

Health and Welfare – Brad was under the weather and couldn't make the meeting.

Dealership – No dealership representative this month.

Treasurer's Report – Joanne Piston told us that we have approximately \$3200 in the bank.

Membership – Mike Piston was unable to attend the meeting. If your name isn't on the sign in sheet or we don't have your 2019 information yet, please email him. There is also a column on the sign in sheet for your mileage.

Head Road Captain/Safety – John talked about the ride meeting after the regular meeting. He also thanked Don for coming; he set that up.

Activities – Anne Marie told us that the St. Patrick's Day parade is Saturday, March 16th. We are signed up but don't know where we will be in the order. More info to come! She also sent around information on attending a Syracuse Mets baseball game to get opinions about seats and menus.

Ladies of Harley – Terry Lynn asked us to continue to collect sundries and other items for our vets! Hopefully we will be riding soon!

Community Service – Karen talked about bringing in canned goods...hunger knows no season! TELOC is April 27th in the evening, which is always a good time. More information to come.

Editor – Christine mentioned that if anyone has anything to add to the newsletter, let her know!

Photographer – Brad wasn't at the meeting.

Webmaster – This is Jason's one year anniversary as webmaster! He can't thank Rob and Kevin enough for their patience and support over the last year. He placed sticky notes on the tables with information on text alerts for HOG: text HOG3424 to 844-83. Weather changes and cancelled rides will be on the text alerts. You can also sign up for email blasts at syracusehog.com. Jason can also sync the calendar on your iPhone with the HOG calendar. He also added that if you're apprehensive about leading a ride to please try it- he did it last year and loved it!

Assistant Director – We welcomed Dwayne as our new Assistant Director. He appreciates the opportunity to fill

Steve's shoes. He mentioned that it would be really nice to have a lot of new leaders for rides this year!

Historian – Not at the meeting.

Old Business – Kevin thanked everyone that came to the Annual Dinner and everyone who helped get ready for the event. We are already looking into future event venues, including the picnic- so if you have any suggestions, please email Kevin or Ann Marie before the next meeting!

New Business – From last month - 2019 will be the last Rolling Thunder. Book your hotels now if you want to go! Vermont will host a Rally the 3rd week in July. The 2nd week in August there will be a Rally in Ellicottville, NY! That one is around 200 miles; Jason volunteered to lead or co-lead a ride to the rally!

T-Shirt Bingo – Rhode Island was chosen with no winner. The winner next month will take home \$20!

Pig Pot – Total was \$121.00. One lucky winner took home \$61.00.

Motion to adjourn made at 10:43.

Ride meeting to follow!

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dwayne Scott



For the love of God, could it please stop snowing! Just seems to drag when we are all itching to get the bikes out. But, please before you do be sure to check your bike over from wheel to wheel.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the parade as that dirty word, "work", has gotten in the way again this year. I will be there to help in any way I can. Hoping everyone has a great time.

Ride calendar looks good but there are plenty of holes to be filled. So, if you have a place you want to ride to or just a ride to nowhere, let John know and let's do it. Even if you don't want to lead, its always fun going some place different.

Dwayne

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Mike Piston



Welcome to March 2019, we have 73 members that have joined or renewed memberships for 2019. Last year we had 123 members; so let's remind our family, friends, and those we meet to join HOG and look forward to a great 2019. Let's all ride (hopefully soon) and have fun !

If you haven't provided your birth month and would like to be recognized in the monthly newsletter you can send me the information through email; membership@syracusehog.com. Also, if you would like to be in the running for 2019 mileage awards you can send in your 2019 starting mileage/ending mileage through email or on the monthly meeting sign in sheet.

Just a reminder, the local membership to Syracuse HOG is for the calendar year; your National HOG membership may cover a different time period. Your local membership to Syracuse HOG requires an active National HOG membership.

Happy HOG Birthday!!

March:

Judy Metrick	Sharlene Rinaldo
Pete Smith	Michael Christopher
William Cartner	Anne Marie Christopher
David Bugin	Dwayne Scott

April:

Tracy Lundgren	Lynn Sturtz
Dan Marsh	

ROAD CAPTAIN/SAFETY OFFICER

John Kresse



18-Wheelers

Often make good 'riding buddies'

By: James R. Davis

When I was on jury duty a few months ago I had occasion to spend a lot of hours with a trucker who explained to me many of the things that I have always been curious about. Not the least surprising of which, considering the setting, was how many truckers manage to accumulate far more miles in their rigs than the law allows with the illegal use of a second set of log books. (The message here is clear - many truckers out there are TIRED - morning, noon, or night.)

[I have only been inside the cab of an 18-wheeler once in my life, when I was a kid. The driver had allowed me to ride with him between LA and Monterey along the

California coast. I could not believe how hard it had been for him to drive that rig - it had a 'brownie' (second shift-lever) that he managed by looping his arm through the steering-wheel. Well, technology has come a long way in long-haulers and brownies are a thing of the past. But the driver's job remains a tough one, and motorcycles often just add one more worry for them to have to deal with.]

This trucker that I mentioned above claimed that two-wheelers, particularly those driven by women, (though they often get 'cat-calls' from his friends), are actually held in high regard by truckers - especially if they seem to know what they are doing. Motorcyclists, he said, are smart to keep their distance from the trucks. He said that though retreads have been banned from automobiles for many years, there are still trucks that ride on them and if one should blow the energy released is roughly equivalent to a stick of dynamite. A motorcycle that happens to be nearby would not stand a chance.

And though it is not possible to completely avoid riding on one side or the other of an 18-wheeler, he said, a smart motorcyclist would not linger there and would pass as soon as they could. He also said that motorcyclists that pass a truck only to then pull in front of it are smarter still if they do not pull in too quickly. He described a nightmare accident he once had where a small Toyota had pulled in front of him on the open highway then hit its brakes. He was hauling a load of steel rebars and there was absolutely no way he could even slow down before running over that car. Mass and inertia have their own rules.

As to motorcyclists in general, he said that he was no longer surprised at the number of times he would say something about a 'good looking bike' on the road near him to another trucker in the distance only to have that biker thank him with his CB. This, because he has come to understand that most touring bikes have CB radios and that they seem to have realized that truckers can make good 'riding buddies' when the motorcyclist is riding solo. He described dozens of times riding 'escort' for a solo biker, and sharing a meal with a few of them along his way. That they invariably talked about their bikes (and he about his rig) while eating and how impressed he had been that they were really 'into' and knowledgeable about what they (the bikers) were doing.

I thought I would post this here because we often hear bikers describe 18-wheelers in rather nasty ways - like they were generically dumb, illiterate, drunk, mean, and dangerous. Truth is they are just people with a hard job and they are on the roads with people that do not have sufficient respect for how much time it takes to slow/stop those rigs so are constantly put in risky situations as a result.

My experience with truckers has been almost universally good. Hope this little Tip causes a few readers to re-think their attitudes about them. A trucker can be a life-saver in time of need. Why not maximize the odds?

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(James R. Davis is a recognized expert witness in the fields of Motorcycle Safety/Dynamics.)

As always...

Be safe in everything.

HRC and Safety Officer

John K.

**ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
Anne Marie Christopher**



Let's have fun!

Anne Marie Christopher

Activities Officer

TEASURER'S REPORT

Joanne Piston



Our annual dinner on February 1 brought large expenditures for the month. We did receive a few memberships (both new and renewals).

The cash balance at the end of the month was \$3,235.40.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the club's finances, please contact me at treasurer@syracusehog.com.

LADIES OF HARLEY

Terry Lynn Clark



Hi all,
Spring is coming I hear it with the geese rolling in. And there was a red, red robin bob, bob bobbing along.

I found this article and it seemed the right time for it.

What To Watch Out For On Your First Spring Motorcycle Ride

BY: **HFL STAFF**

Taken the winter off? You'll need to take it slow to start with for a variety of reasons. This is what to watch out for on your first spring motorcycle ride.

As we hope to emerge soon from the Polar Vortex, it's nearing the time to put your bike back on the road. But, when you do, that first ride of the year can be one of the most dangerous. This is what to watch out for on your first spring motorcycle ride.

Sand/Gravel/Salt

Over the winter, the roads will have been covered in traction-aiding substances like these. They tend to stick around for the first few weeks after the snow melts and gather in corners and intersections. We all know what the consequences of hitting this stuff in a corner or while braking is, so keep any eye out for it.

Potholes

These are formed as water expands and contracts with freezing; they're created over the winter. There'll be more of these in the spring than there were last fall. Small ones aren't a huge concern so long as you don't hit one while cornering or braking, but in the Northeast, potholes can get big enough to swallow a Bentley, let alone your bike.

Subsidence

With heavy rains and snowmelt, erosion can occur, undermining the footing of roads, especially in the mountains and out in the boonies where there's little road maintenance. Pay special attention to the edges of the asphalt and the verges, where previously firm ground can crumble away.

Animals

Spring means babies and animals migrating in search of food. Pay particular attention near bodies of water during dawn and dusk hours. You wouldn't want to kill a duckling, would you?

Flowing Water

Snowmelt or busted water pipes can create streams of water running across roads in unexpected places. Even if water is not currently present, its previous flow could have swept sand and other debris across the road.

Cold Temperatures

You're eager to start riding again, we get that, but doing so in just-above-freezing temps requires a little extra caution. Even if all other hazards are nonexistent, your sportbike tires aren't designed to work at temps below about 50 degrees and you'll need to account for the cold's effect on your body and dress accordingly.

Other Riders

It's not just you who's skills are rusty. Other riders are already a major hazard on the best of days, but on their first ride back in the spring? Watch out, particularly on popular riding roads.

What You Can Do About It

In town and on the highway, leave extra following distance behind other vehicles; they can obscure potholes, gravel and other hazards until it's too late.

Ride with extra caution, leaving more room than usual to slow down, change line or avoid hazards. Your skills will be rusty too, so leave some extra speed in your pocket to account for that too.

Heading to your favorite riding road for the first time in a while? Run a reconnaissance lap looking for hazards before you try and take it at your normal pace.

Even if the day starts warm, the sun still sets early. Make sure you pack a clear visor and stuff a silk balaclava and glove liners under your seat in case temperatures drop unexpectedly.

Stay steady, the weather is going to change soon.

See you soon.

In the wind,
Terry Lynn Clark

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Karen Whedon



SYRACUSE HOG COMMUNITY SERVICE

I will need volunteers to work the phone bank for WCNY's TEL-AUC. I have requested the evening shift on Saturday April 27th from 8:00 until 11:00 at the station on West Fayette Street. If you want to enjoy the free meal that is served to volunteers, you should be there by 7:00. If you have never done this before, not to worry, there will be a training session before we man the phones.

I will have more information and sign up sheets at the next couple of meetings.



The **Canned Food** drive for the CNY Food Bank will continue during the summer. Try to remember to bring a canned good or two to the meetings and any time you might be at Performance Harley Davidson. Hunger knows no season.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Also we will continue collecting clothing and sundries donations for the Syracuse Veterans Hospital all during the year.

Thank you everyone
Karen Whedon

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