



V-TWIN TALES

Corpus Christi Texas H.O.G. Chapter #5020

Sponsor – Corpus Christi Harley-Davidson
Regional Director – Tim Budzien
Director – Dan Robinson

First Quarter 2016 Volume 12 Issue 1
<http://corpuschristihog.wix.com/chapter5020>
Editor – Rickey Thielen

Jim Clark Memorial Hair of the Dog Ride

What the heck is Hair of the Dog? This of course is a take on the old adage of an alcoholic beverage consumed as a hangover remedy. The phrase comes from the expression "hair of the dog that bit you", meaning that the best cure for what ails you is to have some more of it. In ancient times it was literally used to say that if a dog were to bite you, putting the dog's hair into the wound would heal it. "Like cures like". This hangover remedy is not recommended because - a) it leads to a bad habit of drinking during the day and b) it doesn't really work very well. Still, this method works about as well as most other hangover remedies.

For many years now we have gathered on the first day of the New Year for a ride we simply referred to as the Hair of the Dog ride. What a better way to shake off the New Year's Eve partying (or not) from the night before than to get together and do what we do best and that is to ride with the H.O.G. group. Several years ago a friend started the Jimmy Carlock Memorial Fun Run for a fallen brother. Many of us attended those activities for years after our morning Hair of the Dog breakfast ride in the form of a poker run and social.



Continued on Page 2

As early as 1998 our Chapter history shows that this ride on January 1st was taking place. This year the Chapter Officers decided what a better way to pay homage to our fallen brother, Jim Clark, than to rename the first ride of the year in honor of Jim. If Jim were still with us, it would have been a guarantee that he would have attended this ride too.

With El Nino wreaking havoc in the form of cold rain on our recent rides, we still had 16 members and guests (17 if your count Jim watching over us) on 7 bikes and in 4 cages make the short ride to La Cabana Restaurant in Gregory on a very cold and wet morning. GOHOG!



SAFETY CORNER

by Eric Thomas, Safety Officer

First I want to say that I am honored to have been selected as your Safety Officer for 2016. It is a job I have special background and feelings for as I was always deeply involved with various safety programs throughout my 30 year Navy career. I plan to have a relevant safety article in each issue of our chapter newsletter and conduct a safety briefing at each of our chapter meetings. I apologize for missing the last meeting but it was due to a family funeral out of town.

I would like to start with some basics to refresh our memories and training. To have a safe motorcycle ride you must first have a safe motorcycle. It should be in top mechanical condition and have all required safety equipment properly installed.

To help ensure that your bike is in top mechanical condition it is important to follow the manufacturers recommended maintenance schedule at the prescribed mileage, or “K” intervals. This information can be found in your owner’s manual or can be provided by the dealership.

In addition to this regular “K” service, we need to perform frequent checks to verify the bike is safe to ride. A Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) suggested way to perform this inspection is known as “T-CLOCS”.

T-CLOCS CHECKLIST:

T- Tires & Wheels

- Tires: Condition, Air Pressure
- Wheels: Spokes, Cast, Rims, Bearings, Seals
- Brakes: Function

C- Controls & Cables

- Levers & Pedal: Function
- Cables: Position, Routing

Continued on Page 3

- Hoses: Position, Routing
- Throttle: Proper operation
- L- Lights, Switches, Electrical
 - Battery: Condition
 - Headlamp(s): Condition, Aim, Operation
 - Tail/Brake Lamp: Operation
 - Turn Signals: Operation
 - Mirrors: Condition, Aim
 - Wiring: Condition, Routing
- O- Oil & Fluids
 - Levels: Engine Oil, Transmission Oil, Cooling Fluid, Fuel
 - Leaks: Engine Oil, Transmission Oil, Cooling Fluid, Fuel
- C- Chassis (Suspension, Belt, Fasteners)
 - Frame: Condition, Steering Head Bearings, Swingarm Bushings/Bearings
 - Suspension: Front Forks, Rear Shocks
 - Belt/Chain: Tension, Lubrication, Sprockets/Teeth
 - Fasteners: Bolts, Nuts, Clips, Cotter Pins
- S- Side/Center Stands
 - Side Stand: Condition, Retention
 - Center Stand: Condition, Retention

Not all these checks are necessary every single time you ride, unless you ride very infrequently, but should be checked often enough so you know the condition of your bike at all times.

And lastly, safety check yourself and any passenger. Wearing all your personal riding safety gear is highly recommended to help ensure every ride is a fun and safe one. Recommended gear includes: D.O.T. approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeve shirt/jacket, full-fingered gloves, long pants, and over-the-ankle footwear. Make sure you are well rested and hydrated. Plan your ride and ride your plan as best you can. And if you are making any ride other than a local area ride, especially if you are riding solo, it is also recommended that you inform someone of your itinerary and schedule to help in any emergency situation.

Stay safe and have a fun ride.

I hope you found this information helpful. Please feel free to contact me anytime with any safety question or concern. I also welcome suggestions for future articles and safety briefs.

Corpus Christi H.O.G. Chapter 2016 POI Contest

For the fourth year the Corpus Christi H.O.G. Chapter is offering a Points of Interest (POI) contest for our members this year was put together by Bryan Gabbert. Last years' contest involved visiting 40 points in Texas to get a photo to prove the member was at the POI and this year there are 40 different points scattered all over the state. The purpose of the contest is to give our members a chance to get out and ride to areas of the state that they may not have visited in the past.

This year's contest runs from February 15th through July 31, 2016 with all submissions made to the receptionist at Corpus Christi Harley-Davidson no later than the close of business on August 1, 2016. All current Corpus Christi H.O.G. members are eligible and only one entry per member is allowed.

Continued on Page 4

Chapter members participate at their own risk. Corpus Christi H.O.G. and Corpus Christi Harley-Davidson assume no liability. Do not break the law or endanger yourself or others when taking photos. Multiple entries cannot be combined into one entry form.

Pictures will only be accepted that are printed from a computer on photo/plain paper or printed at a Wal-Mart, Walgreens or other professional printing company. Slides or digital files will not be accepted. Photos must be clear, contain the POI, your motorcycle and a copy of a 2016 H.O.G. magazine or 2016 H.O.G. Touring Guide to date the photo. Images must be clear and individual POIs must be legible in submitted prints. Prints that are blurred, fuzzy, illegible or unrecognizable will not count. One unique photo per POI is required. Optionally you, the entrant, can be in the photo if possible but is not mandatory as some members may participate without anyone else present.

The POIs are divided up into four categories. The first is “Two Steppin’ Across Texas” consisting of ten dance halls. The second is “Texas Roadside Oddities” which involves finding the ten items. The third category is “National Interest” for 10 National Parks & Forests in Texas as listed on the contest form. The fourth is “Rooms with a Past” involving going to five old and historic hotels. The fifth and last category is “Historic Courthouses” involving five old historic courthouses.

Prizes for participating and turning in the photos before the due date include:

- 5-9 POIs – 100 Rider Rewards points
- 10-19 POIs – 250 Rider Rewards points
- 20-29 POIs – 500 Rider Rewards points
- 30-39 POIs – 1,000 Rider Rewards points
- 40 POIs – 2,500 Rider Rewards points

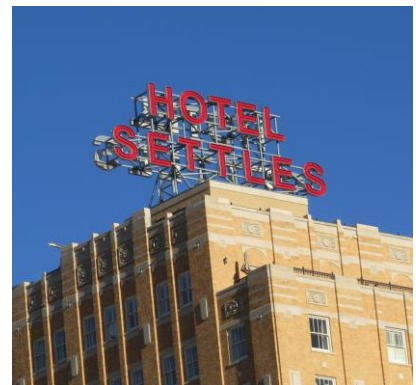
For those that collect a minimum of 25 POIs and turn those in before the due date are eligible to be entered into a drawing for a gift card as follows:

- 1st Prize - \$500 Corpus Christi H-D Gift Card
- 2nd Prize - \$250 Corpus Christi H-D Gift Card
- 3rd Prize - \$100 Corpus Christi H-D Gift Card

Submissions must include an itemized inventory of the POIs visited by turning in the list of POIs on the POI form. All photos should be organized in the order listed on the POI list with one photo per POI. All photos should be unbound and not in a photo album. All submissions should be made to the receptionist at CCHD not later than the close of business on August 1, 2016. In the interest of fairness, all decisions by the POI review committee will be considered final.

If you missed or deleted the email about the event with all the POI locations and rules, please send a note to Sherrie Gabbert or one of the Chapter officers. We will make sure you get a copy.

Good luck and good hunting.



Bike Hauling Done Safely

We all bought our motorcycle with the intention on riding it, right? Don't think there would be much argument with that statement. However, there could be a time when you are required to transport your bike to a destination or to the shop for repairs. It doesn't matter what the reason, it is important to know how to securely tie down your bike for the trip.

The Trailer: The first thing to check is that the trailer has secure points for the tie down straps. The location of those points will become clear and there is more than one way to do this, but at a minimum there should be one set near the front and one set of tie off points near the rear of the trailer. Commonly used trailers are open garden trailers, flat bed trailers with wooden beds and enclosed trailers. Loading a bike onto a trailer is always a concern. Some trailers have a rear gate that doubles as a loading ramp. Others have tilting beds and others lift the bike from the upright position. If a ramp is needed a 2" x 8" or wider wooden plank will work as long as the trailer is not very high.

The bed of the pickup truck can also be used. Extreme caution should be used if loading a bike into the back of a truck. In that case two and more preferably three people working together should be used to get the bike up that high. It would be best to find a ditch or steep driveway that would allow the bed height to be minimized. There are metal ramps that can be purchased, but the length of the ramp has to be considered depending on the height of the truck bed. A small truck such as an S-10 or Explorer could be accessed with a 6 foot ramp, but a full size ½ ton pickup or 4 wheel drive truck may require a 7 or 8 foot ramp. The last thing you would want to experience is a power failure or some other unforeseeable issue once committed to making the trip up the ramp with no place to put your feet. A bad outcome while loading the bike could cause a serious injury or death.

The Bike: Depending on the model of the bike it is fair to say the weight is going to be 400 to 900 pounds. The trailer or truck should have a GVWR of at least 1,000 pounds for the smaller garden trailer (the weight of the trailer/vehicle plus the weight of the bike). With larger commercial trailers the weight is not likely to be an issue. Just remember the bike should be positioned so that the center of gravity of the bike should be forward of the axle to ensure a positive tongue weight on the tow hitch.

Straps: There are many ways to tie down a bike. Each person must decide what their personal preference is with the bike they are trying to secure. Two things should be considered when purchasing the straps. The first consideration is the working strength of the straps and the second is the break rating. A minimum of 4 straps should be used and more if needed. The most commonly used straps are the web types available at any Wal-Mart or automotive parts store.

Once the bike is in place on the trailer and secured, the straps will be subjected to the forces of the turns, stresses placed on them by the road conditions, stops and starts. Any and all movements of the vehicle pulling the trailer will put stress in all directions on the bike and this will be directly conveyed to the tie down straps. Bikes can be hauled with only two straps tied off to the handle bars, but this method is not recommended. The use of short double eye straps should be considered when tying off to the handle bars to avoid binding cables, whether electrical, mechanical or hydraulic. Consider the angle of the straps. Straps should have at least a 300 pound working strength and a 600 pound breaking strength. Consider the straps that come with a ratchet tightening system as these are the best. Any strap used should have heavy hooks on the ends and the best ones are those with rubber or vinyl coatings covering the metal.

Tying the bike down: Attach the straps on the forward part of the bike first. If you are alone, sitting on the bike while tightening the straps will allow you to be able to get the bike into the upright position. Once stable you will be able to get off of the bike and continue tightening the straps. Be careful not to overtighten the straps and the front shock should not be compressed more than half of its travel. Fully compressing the shocks will cause

Continued on Page 6

damage requiring them to be repaired. Ideally the springs in the shocks should provide a tension force on the straps but still allow some travel to compensate for the turns and bouncing. Once the front straps are on, raise the kick stand and ensure the bike is in first gear.

If the trailer doesn't have a channel or wheel chock for the front wheel, blocking the wheel with some 2x4's or 4x4's should be considered. A block for the front wheel will prevent left to right or right to left movement of the tire. If the trailer doesn't have a rigid front wall for the front tire to rest against, something such as a 4x4 block should be secured to the trailer. Make sure the block is attached so that the straps will angle forward slightly from the bike to the trailer to prevent the bike from moving backward. Secure the back of the bike using a solid part of the frame or swing arm, if possible. This set of straps is to stabilize the bike left to right and prevent the rear wheel from hopping around from bumps in the road. Most of all, the important thing is to get the rear end secured to the trailer. Do not use hard saddlebag decorative rails as the rear attachment points as these are not designed to handle any stress. Secure all loose ends of the straps.

A fifth strap can be used, if desired, and can be attached to the same points as the front straps and is then run through the frame at the rear swing arm joint and tightened. This strap will hold the bike if either of the front straps break or loosens allowing some time for you to stop and fix the problem.

Once on the road stop after about 20 minutes and check the straps. Stop every 100 miles or so and do the same thing. One more point about hauling your bike in a truck bed. The bike along with its weight will change your braking and handling. You should slow down in curves and check your braking when you begin to get the feel of the how the additional weight affects the vehicle handing. Allow additional distance between your vehicle and those in front resisting the urge to follow other vehicles too closely.

One additional point, if you have assistance when unloading the bike. Make sure the transmission is in neutral. It makes is a lot easier and prevents you from getting the look when you have to explain why it was so hard backing it up.



Corpus Christi H.O.G. Mileage Contest

The 4th Quarter 2015 local H.O.G. Mileage Contest was won by Bryan & Sherrie Gabbert with 3,693 miles who received the 4th Quarter Mileage Contest patch and a shirt from CCHD. The rest of the participants were as follows. Rickey & Connie Thielen with 3,439 miles, Sabas Cavazos & Alma Villarreal with 3,390 miles, Eric Thomas with 3,000 miles, Steve Williams, Sr. with 2,896 miles, Louis Kubala with 2,468 miles, Marshall Lester with 1,956 miles, John Lackey with 1,897 miles, Richard Smith with 1,749 miles, Renato Perez with 1,566 miles, Dennis Lugg with 1,346 miles, John Fitzgerald with 1,242 miles, David Benoist with 978 miles, Bill Wilson with 949 miles, Steven Williams, Jr. with 927 miles, Cyndi Robinson with 491 miles, Dan Robinson with 462 miles and Andy Felkner with 123 miles.

Continued on Page 7

Richard Smith won the consolation drawing for the runners up and received a shirt from Preston Douglass and CCHD.

There are two ways to win each quarter. One way is to have the highest outright mileage for the quarter. The other way is to win the runners up consolation drawing from the remaining eligible participants for the quarter. Those who have won in either category during the course of the year are not eligible to win again in that category for the remainder of the year.

Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to Bryan & Sherrie Gabbert for their high mileage for the 4th quarter and to Richard Smith as the consolation drawing winner.



Happy Birthday and Many More.....

April

4 Alan Leonard
8 Stephen Williams, Jr.
9 Margie Arnold
24 Tim Seaman
24 Cheryl Sitzler
24 Stephen Williams, Sr.
28 Robert Calhoun

May

3 David Callaway
6 Bill Wilson
8 Clyde Douglas
8 Lynnie Gantz
8 Jim Jessen
8 Carlos Mota
10 Ronald Hildreth
10 Carl Tabor
13 Amber Callaway
13 Julian Gaona
15 Dan Robinson
18 Preston Douglass
23 Steve Montuori
31 Yolanda Mota

June

6 Michael Butler
10 Raul Guzman
24 Priscilla Molina
25 Rick Hunter





Happy Wedding Anniversary

April

4 Tony & Jennifer Tedesco
 21 Preston & Kate Douglass
 26 Carl & Cheryl Sitzler

May

6 Jeff & Elizabeth Ruble
 10 Robert & Greer Calhoun
 15 Carlos & Yolanda Mota
 20 Bill & Dana Wilson

June

2 Marin & Leonor Villarreal
 5 Michael & Marie Powell
 8 Rodney & Annette Nelson
 23 Tom & Patty Estes

Welcome New Members:

Marcos Dominguez, Richard Fibish, Robert Gonzalez, David Hilarides, Ronald Hildreth, Charles Lambert, Brian McDevitt, Carlos Mota and Yolanda Mota

Welcome to the Corpus Christi H.O.G. Chapter family and we look forward to riding with you



Top 15 Chapter Ride/Meeting Participation through 3/31/16

John Mathewson	(1)	Linda Benavides	(T11)
Eric Thomas	(2)	Cyndi Robinson	(T11)
Bryan Gabbert	(T3)	John Fitzgerald	(T12)
Rickey Thielen	(T3)	Louis Kubala	(T12)
Marshall Lester	(T4)	Dan Robinson	(T12)
Connie Thielen	(T4)	Richard Smith	(T12)
Sherrie Gabbert	(5)	Marie Powell	(T13)
David Benoist	(T6)	Melody Williams	(T13)
Sid Blalack	(T6)	Stephen Williams, Jr.	(T13)
Diana Gaona	(T6)	Sabas Cavazos	(T14)
Julian Gaona	(7)	Michael Powell	(T14)
Peggy Benoist	(8)	Daniel Barrientez	(T15)
Earl Koester	(9)	Alma Villarreal	(T15)
Raul Guzman	(10)		

Follow us on Facebook



Chapter Ride Policy Reminder - All Chapter rides officially end in the parking lot of our destination with kick stands down. We will have friendly rides home so no one is left behind.

National H.O.G. Mileage Recognition

The National H.O.G. Mileage Recognition program has been in existence since 1995.

Many of our local members participate in this program. The following are members who have attained an award milestone since the 4th quarter 2015 V-Twin newsletter was published. Those listed below are only those who turned in their mileages at Corpus Christi Harley-Davidson. If you mailed yours directly to Milwaukee or recorded the mileage at another dealership, you will not be listed. If we missed you for any reason, we apologize.

If you are not enrolled in the H.O.G. Mileage Recognition program please visit with the receptionist at Corpus Christi Harley-Davidson soon and she will help get you enrolled. Mileages can be accumulated for as long as you are a H.O.G. member and on multiple H-D motorcycles. The main thing to remember is that the mileages cannot be reported retroactively, so the sooner you enroll the more miles you can accumulate. Patches, pins and achievement rockers for reaching key milestones are a benefit of being a participating H.O.G. member just for doing what you already love..... riding.

Jay Conerly	1,000 Miles
Jay Conerly	5,000 Miles
Jay Conerly	10,000 Miles
Eric Thomas	40,000 Miles
Connie Thielen	500,000 Miles
Rickey Thielen	500,000 Miles

Congratulations to these Corpus Christi H.O.G. members for their accomplishments!

Secretary Report – Rickey Thielen

The Corpus Christi H.O.G. Chapter membership count was 105 members as of March 31, 2016. Please remember to maintain your National H.O.G. membership, which must be kept current, to be a Corpus Christi H.O.G. Chapter member. An expired membership at the National H.O.G. level automatically terminates local chapter membership.

Article VI of the HOG Charter relating to Membership states:

All Harley Owners Group[®] members may join any affiliated chapter. An expired membership in H.O.G. automatically terminates local Chapter membership. It shall be the responsibility of each local Chapter to ensure that Chapter members are current H.O.G. members and to maintain on file in the Chapter records a signed copy of the annual Chapter Membership Enrollment form and Release of each Chapter member. It shall be the responsibility of any person applying for, or renewing, membership in a local Chapter to provide proof of his or her National membership as a condition of eligibility for membership.

Have you checked the air pressure in your motorcycle tires lately?

REMEMBER WE HAVE A BREAKFAST RIDE EVERY SUNDAY LEAVING FROM THE SHELL STATION IN PORTLAND AT 8:30 AM. ARRIVE EARLY TO KICK SOME TIRES AND CHAT. THIS IS A CLOSED RIDE, BUT BRING A FRIEND OR GUEST ALONG AND LET THEM EXPERIENCE THE HARLEY THING.



2016 H.O.G. Rally Schedule

<u>State</u>	<u>Rally Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Pre-Reg. Deadline</u>
Kentucky	June 8-11, 2016	Memphis	April 20, 2016
South Dakota	June 9-11, 2016	Watertown	April 21, 2016
West Virginia	June 14-18, 2016	Lewisburg	April 26, 2016
Alaska	June 16-18, 2016	Kenai Peninsula	April 28, 2016
Virginia	June 22-25, 2016	Lynchburg	May 4, 2016
Minnesota	June 23-25, 2016	Eveleth	May 5, 2016
Arkansas	June 23-25, 2016	Hot Springs	May 5, 2016
Ohio	June 23-26, 2016	Zanesville	May 5, 2016
Colorado	June 23-25, 2016	Telluride	May 5, 2016
Wyoming	July 6-9, 2016	Riverton	May 18, 2016
Maine	July 13-16, 2016	Bangor	May 25, 2016
New York	July 14-16, 2016	Alexandria Bay	May 26, 2016
Montana	July 21-23, 2016	Bozeman	June 2, 2016
Illinois	July 21-23, 2016	St. Charles	June 2, 2016
Pennsylvania	July 28-20, 2016	Williamsport	June 9, 2016
Iron Adventure Run	July 28-30, 2016	Ludlow, VT.	June 9, 2016
Michigan	August 18-20, 2016	Harbor Springs	June 30, 2016
Missouri	August 25-27, 2016	Osage Beach	July 7, 2016
Pacific NW Rally	August 25-27, 2016	Spokane Valley, WA	July 7, 2016
Wisconsin	September 1-3, 2016	Milwaukee	July 14, 2016
Oklahoma	September 1-3, 2016	Woodward	July 14, 2016

If you plan to attend one of the many H.O.G. Rallies planned for 2016 please pre-register as early as possible. By doing so it lets the rally committee get a feel for how many members are planning to attend plus it brings in money from the registration fees so that they can begin locking in contracts and spending money for a great event. If you have never attended one of these events you should considering doing so. They are a lot of fun and a chance to get away for a weekend or longer.

New Rides This Past Quarter

Sherrie Gabbert, our Activities Officer, did a great job putting together our events calendar for last year. She is always looking for new places for us to consider adding to our list of places to go. For the first quarter there were "new to us" locations that we as a group hadn't been to before. Those locations were:

Hooters on January 13	George West Steakhouse in George West on February 20
JD's on the Bay in Rockport on January 16	Liberty Café in Freer on March 12
The Stone Creek Grill in Beeville on January 23	Broadway Bar & Grill in Nordheim on March 19
The Star of Texas Restaurant in Falfurrias on February 6	

If you have a favorite place that would be a good fit for our group, then drop Sherrie a note and we will check it out.

H.O.G.® Roadside Assistance Program

Your H.O.G. membership covers one service each calendar year, with maximum coverage of \$100 – enough to safely get you and your bike from the side of the road to the nearest Harley-Davidson® dealership. You are responsible for any charges over \$100. Call 1-888-443-5896 (also found on the back of your member card) and help is on the way, at any hour of the day or night.

For even more peace of mind, higher levels of coverage are also available:

STANDARD PACKAGE: Included with Full or Full Life membership.

Covers one H-D® motorcycle, one service per year, up to \$100.

DELUXE PACKAGE: \$19.95 per year.

Covers up to two H-D motorcycles, unlimited services, towing/roadside costs covered in full.

ULTRA PACKAGE: \$29.95 per year.

Same general coverage as Deluxe Package, plus emergency travel reimbursement.

ULTRA PLUS PACKAGE: \$49.95 per year.

Same general coverage as Ultra Package, plus coverage of up to three vehicles, including cars and light trucks.

To upgrade your protection plan or learn more, visit Road America protection plan or download the H.O.G. Roadside Assistance Additional Coverage Application.

Originally published in the May/June 2006 issue of Hog Tales®

Back From the Brink

Tim Hoelter
Vice President of Government Affairs
Harley-Davidson Motor Company

It was autumn 1982. Willie G. Davidson and I were seated opposite one another at a large conference table at Harley's Juneau Avenue headquarters. Also in the room were the other 11 members of the "buyback team." This was the group of H-D executives who had pooled their meager resources as a down payment to purchase the company back from AMF Incorporated, the New York conglomerate which had owned Harley for the past 12 years.

The mood in the room – at that particular moment – was pretty light. We had just heard a presentation unveiling a new idea: an "affinity group" for owners of Harley-Davidson® motorcycles. The idea was to give Harley® owners a means to connect with one another & to ride and have fun together.

Everyone loved the idea, including Willie G. As he listened, he doodled on a notepad and created what I consider to be the very first H.O.G. logo: a cartoonish flying pig carrying the letters H.O.G. in its tiny cartoon hooves. He showed it to me from across the table, and we both grinned.

Continued on Page 12

But with the next agenda item, the mood in the room suddenly changed. The sales projections for 1982 were presented, and the numbers were dismal. In fact, they were even worse than expected. Grim reality sank in. Harley-Davidson would lose tens of millions of dollars – again. More employees would have to be let go – again – and the bank would be closer to pulling the plug.

Dead silence filled the room as Willie G. looked down and scribbled something else on that same sheet of paper. He folded it in half and slid it across the table to me. I opened it and read the two words he had written. “We’re (CENSORED).”

I don’t know exactly why, but something told me to keep that piece of paper, so I put it in my pocket. To this day I’ve hung on to it because I never want to forget the emotional roller-coaster ride we were on back then.

At one extreme, we were free from AMF’s yoke, and we had incredibly loyal customers who had stuck with our products even as the quality declined during the AMF years. H.O.G. – if the concept worked – might be a great way to show appreciation and generate customer excitement. We were also optimistic about the changes we were making to improve quality and develop new products.

At the other extreme, our financial situation was dire. The U.S. was in a deep recession, and the bottom had dropped out of the motorcycle market. Worse still, Honda and Yamaha were in the midst of a market-share war of unsold Japanese motorcycles in the U.S. which was threatening to flood the market at fire-sale prices.

I had gotten a good taste of that loyalty during our ride from York, Pennsylvania celebrating the signing of the buyback deal on June 16, 1981 – 25 years ago this summer – to Milwaukee, a ride we dubbed “The Eagle Soars Alone.” It was an exciting event. We stopped at dealerships along the way, and were accompanied by members of the motorcycle press and even People magazine. For me, the personal highlight was riding into the small town of Napoleon, Ohio.

As we rode into Napoleon, it seemed like any other sleepy small town. But when we rounded the corner to arrive at the dealership we were suddenly greeted by a thunderous roar from hundreds of leather-clad Harley riders – customers of dealer Marv Yagel – who had gathered from miles around to welcome us. I, the pencil-neck Harvard lawyer, finally understood the customer passion that makes Harley-Davidson so special. My mind was permanently branded with this shining image of customer loyalty that would help see me through the dark days ahead.

Perhaps the darkest moments came during our regular Christmas plant shutdown in 1985. Unbeknownst to all other H-D employees, who were spending the holidays with their families, a core group of us – including CEO, Jim Ziemer – stayed behind, working around the clock on a last-ditch refinancing package. Our original bank no longer believed Harley had a future, so it tightened the screws, and money to operate was running out. It was touch-and-go, but on December 31, 1985, at the very last minute, we obtained new financing with an entirely different lender, one that better understood what Harley-Davidson was all about and shared our vision for success. Somehow we had weathered the storm. Vaughn Beals, our CEO at the time, celebrated by personally sending a bottle of Don Perignon to each of our houses on that snowy New Year’s Eve. Mine was delivered by taxi.

If the refinancing deal had not gone through, we would have filed for bankruptcy. In fact, the papers were complete and ready to go. We were that close.

In the meantime, H.O.G. had been officially launched on January 1, 1983. More than 30,000 members joined that first year, but it took a while for things to really take off. The earliest H.O.G. events had to be held alongside an established motorcycle event, such as a dirt track race; Daytona Bike Week; or the big annual rally

in Sturgis, South Dakota. Mostly, the “events” consisted of little more than a roped-off area – with a tent or awning if we were lucky – and maybe some warm soda, stale potato chips, and suspicious looking hot dogs floating in murky water. (Yum!) Those H.O.G. events weren’t much to speak of, but somehow they worked and riders gathered.

H.O.G.’s main purpose, after all, was for riders to connect with each other – and for us, the Harley management team (and other Harley employees), to connect with our customers and show how much we appreciated them. We kept a schedule of events and made sure at least a few members of the buyback team were present at each one.

Back then, we were optimistic about the future of H.O.G., but none of us had any idea, in our wildest imaginations, that it would become so successful. Today, H.O.G. has one million members worldwide and is still growing! It’s all due to the members themselves, who volunteer their time, sharing riding experiences around the world, and build friendships along the road. Most importantly, they ride together.

Many people know the story of the AMF buyback and how the venerable Harley-Davidson Motor Company pulled itself from the brink of financial ruin. But not enough people really know what a key role the Harley Owners Group® played in the subsequent turnaround and ongoing financial recovery of the company: H.O.G. helped keep the true spirit of Harley-Davidson alive while we took care of some challenging business.

I’m proud to have been part of the buyback team – but even more proud to be one of a million H.O.G. members. This group has been a big part of my life from the very beginning and will remain so as long as I live.

Thanks a million, everybody, for an incredible ride.

Tim Hoelter is a Life Member of Harley Owners Group® and has been an employee of the Motor Company since the buyback from AMF in 1981.



A Look in the Rear View Mirror

A look back at some events & happenings that took place in the 1st quarter of years past:

One Year Ago (2015):

- Hair of the Dog Breakfast Ride on January 1st to San Juan’s Restaurant in Port Aransas with 8 members and some then made the Jimmy Carlock Memorial Run afterward.
- Chapter Meeting at Silverado Smokehouse on 2/2 with 46 members in attendance. New members introduced were Albert Nino who rides a Street Bob, Julian & Diana Gaona who ride a 2014 Fatboy Low and Rick Hunter who has a 2009 FLHTCU along with a 1990 Low Rider FXR. John Lackey won the Chapter donation drawing and Alma Villarreal won the Chapter Charity drawing.

Continued on Page 14

- Road Captain Training class held at CCHD with Dennis Lugg as the instructor on 2/21 with 14 members.
- H.O.G. announces 2014 ABCs of Touring results. There were 1,612 participants in the United States and local members noted were Jim Clark with 117 points (8th in the US), Rickey and Connie Thielen with 95 points each, Bryan & Sherrie Gabbert with 58 points each and Richard Smith with 54 points.
- New members noted in the 1st Qtr. V-Twin Newsletter were Gabriel Besa, Eliza Chavarria, Diana Gaona, Julian Gaona, Donaciano Perez, Jr., and Carl Tabor.

Five Years Ago (2011):

- Hair of the Dog Breakfast ride to the Taqueria Vallarta in Orange Grove on 1/1 with 21 members.
- Chapter meeting at Silverado Smokehouse on 2/7 with 45 in attendance. Alma De Los Santos won the prize for LOH charity donation (The Ark) and Linda Benavides won the Chapter donation drawing.
- Road Captain Training was held at CCHD on 02/19 with 14 in attendance.
- Chapter ride to the Louisiana H.O.G. Rally attended by Bill Chabot, Jim Clark, Billy Fultz, Randy Towns, Dave & Sally Palmer, Rickey & Connie Thielen.
- LOH Bake Sale held at CCHD on 03/19 with 10 ladies that assisted with the sale and raised \$310.

Ten Years Ago (2006):

- Hair of the Dog Breakfast Ride on 1/1 with 16 members followed by the Jimmy Carlock Poker run.
- Charlie Barba resigns as Director due to move to Louisiana. Glenda Felkner appointed as Director.
- Chapter Meeting 1/9 at BJ's Pizza with 88 members in attendance.
- Chapter meeting held 2/6 with 59 members in attendance.
- St. Valentines Massacre Rally in Boerne on 2/18 with 12 members.
- Polar Bear run to Laredo H-D attended by 16 Corpus Christi members.

Fifteen Years Ago (2001):

- Hair of the Dog Ride to Refugio on 1/1 in very cold weather.
- Chapter meeting held at New Wine Fellowship Church hosted by Fred and Linda Zumalt on 1/13 with 43 people in attendance.
- Mike and A'lana Welch initiate Iron Butt lunch Rides and Posse Patch announced to be given for chapter participation.
- Chapter meeting held at New Wine Fellowship Church on 2/3 with 63 people in attendance.
- LOH ride to St. Valentine's Day Massacre Rally in Boerne 2/16.
- Posse night Sweetheart Ride to Island Italian on Valentine's Day 2/14.
- Chapter meeting held at New Wine Fellowship Church on 3/3 followed by a lunch ride to Cove Harbor Café in Rockport.
- Chapter ride to Rattlesnake Races in Old San Patricio on 3/17.
- LOH Field Events/cookout at Susan and Gary Garrett's place at Point Loma, Lakeside on Lake Mathis 3/18 with over 30 in attendance.
- Iron Butt Ride for Lunch in Gruene with 13 bikes on 3/24.
- Chapter ride to Louisiana H.O.G. Rally in Lafayette with nine members on 3/30 to 4/1.

Twenty Years Ago (1996):

- Chapter Christmas party at Sturgis Bar on 1/8.
- Swiss Chalet Run to San Antonio area in January. Seven bikes and 13 people over two days and 650 miles led by Senior Road Captain George Swank.
- Iron Horse Run to San Antonio with five bikes led by Safety Officer Jim Clark.
- Dinner run to Joe Cotten's BBQ in Robstown on 1/17.

Continued on Page 15

- Chapter meeting at Land & Sea Restaurant on 2/5.
- Ralph McMullen resigns and Bob Coleman assumes Director position.
- 2nd Black 'n' Blue Ball raise \$15,000 for MDA.
- Chapter Sponsors Blood Drive at Browne's HD in February.
- Overnight to San Antonio and Hill Country - 13 members.
- Chapter meeting at Chela's Mexican Restaurant on 3/4.
- Dinner run to Elm Street Café in Portland on 3/20.
- Ride to Shoreline Rehab center in Taft.

Chapter Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2016

Corpus Christi H.O.G. Chapter - #5020
 Chapter Meeting @ Silverado Smokehouse
 Monday, February 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Dan Robinson, Chapter Director, with 39 members in attendance.

Dan welcomed everyone to the meeting and then introduced Eric Buskell, rider number 733, who asked for a few moments to talk about the Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge. He said he was asked to come out and talk about the Hoka Hey which promotes awareness for the Indians of North Dakota living in poverty and third world conditions. The challenge is open for all age groups. He mentioned Tom Hunter who at 72 rode all the way to finish a previous Hoka Hey in Alaska. Billy Fultz, our past Director, has participated in past Hoka Hey rides. This year's ride starts at the Pala Casino, Spa & Resort in Pala, California on June 21st and will finish 9,000 miles later on July 21st at Wolf's Run in Irving, New York. The route will be very challenging via the backroads of America with memories to last a life time. This involves navigating with no electronic assistance, sleeping outside, staying within the designed route and having a U.S. Fleet Tracking device installed on the motorcycle. Eric came from Panama City Beach, Florida on an H-D Road Glide to talk with us.

Dan turned the meeting over to Jerry Olivarez, Chaplain, who gave the Chaplin's prayer.

Dan then asked if there were any new members in attendance and there were none. He asked everyone to make sure they signed in. Dan asked if anyone needed Chapter Charity or Chapter Donation drawing tickets.

Daniel Barrientez, Assistant Director, said they we had a safety meeting with the Road Captains this past weekend. We would like to have more Road Captains and have continuing Road Captain training.

Rickey Thielen said that the Chapter currently had 88 members and had about 47 that have not renewed for 2016. He then read the member birthdays and anniversaries for February and March.

Cyndi Robinson, Treasurer, reported the starting Chapter bank balance as of November 30, 2015 was \$2,544.38 with December income of \$685.00 from dues/Chapter Donations less expenses of \$2,491.91 for the Christmas Party for a year ending balance of \$737.47. January 2016 had income of \$344.00 and expenses for the newsletter of \$132.44 for a January ending balance of \$949.03. February had income of \$285.00 for a balance as of the meeting start of \$1,234.03. Proceeds from the donated Christmas Party RSVP deposit that went to the Coastal Bend Troop Support was \$630 and the additional tickets for the door prizes raised \$211 that went to the Ark.

Continued on Page 16

David Benoist, Head Road Captain, said our Road Captains are responsible for the safety of our riders. Leading our rides is not like being able to run an airplane on auto pilot where if the pilot makes it safely to the destination so do the passengers. Our Road Captains must constantly look in the rear view mirror to check on the riders behind him.

David then announced the results of the 4th Quarter 2015 Mileage Contest which was won by Bryan & Sherrie Gabbert with 3,693 miles. Bryan & Sherrie received the 4th Quarter Mileage Contest patch and a shirt from Preston Douglass and CCHD. The runners up were Rickey & Connie Thielen with 3,439 miles, Sabas Cavazos & Alma Villarreal with 3,390 miles, Eric Thomas with 3,000 miles, Steven & Melody Williams, Sr. with 2,896 miles, Louis Kubala with 2,468 miles, Marshall Lester with 1,956 miles, John & Julie Lackey with 1,897 miles, Richard Smith with 1,749 miles, Renato Perez with 1,566 miles, Dennis & Linda Lugg with 1,346 miles, John Fitzgerald with 1,242 miles, David Benoist with 978 miles, Bill Wilson with 949 miles, Steven Williams, Jr. with 927 miles, Cyndi Robinson with 491 miles, Dan Robinson with 462 miles and Andy Felkner with 123 miles for a total of 32,572 miles for the quarter.

In addition, David announced the top 5 mileages, taken from the Quarterly Mileage Contest totals, for 2015 were Rickey & Connie Thielen with 27,792 miles, Jim Clark with 24,686 miles, Louis Kubala with 23,376 miles, Bryan & Sherrie Gabbert with 21,247 miles and Eric Thomas with 20,349 miles. The 2015 totals for all members was 290,269 miles.

David conducted the drawing for the 4th Quarter 2015 Mileage Contest runners up and Richard Smith won a shirt from Preston Douglass and CCHD.

David also mentioned that the H-D Demo trailer will be at CCHD the 3rd weekend in March. Anyone wanting to help with the demo rides is welcome.

Sherrie Gabbert, Activities Officer, was not at the meeting so Bryan Gabbert said that we will have the 4th Annual CC HOG POI challenge this year thanks to Preston Douglass' support. This year's challenge will run February 15th through July 31st with all submissions due to the receptionist at CCHD no later than the close of business on August 1, 2016. There will be 40 POI's across Texas and there can only be one entry per Chapter member. Requirements are that a photo be taken of the POI, including your motorcycle and a 2016 HOG magazine or 2016 HOG Touring Handbook. The Customer Loyalty Points will be as follows: 5-9 POIs will be worth 100 points, 10-19 POIs will be worth 250 points, 20-29 POIs will be worth 500 points, 30-39 POIs will be worth 1,000 points and getting all 40 POIs will be worth 2,500 points. In addition, those that get at least 25 POI's will be entered into a drawing for one of three gift cards from CCHD. The 1st place will be for \$500, the 2nd for \$250 and the 3rd for \$100. Details will be sent out to members before February 15th.

Dan Robinson said that one option for our Chapter Charity this year is Halo Flight and Linda Benavides has some flyers. Individual Halo Flight memberships are \$25. Dan said that Preston Douglass has been a long time sponsor of non-profit organizations.

Santos Juarez said that in 2014 he had an accident and was Halo Flighted to San Antonio for treatment. He said they cover not only the Corpus Christi area but also San Antonio and Dallas. Halo Flight accepts what your insurance company pays.

Preston Douglass, Sponsor, said that the POI challenge took a lot of time and work to put it together. The POI and things like the newsletter takes a lot of work. Pat your officers on the back for their work as we have a lot of good Chapter officers.

Preston said that there won't be a lot of changes this year. The Polar Bear Poker run will be February 20 and

Continued on Page 17

will be a short run including a band, food and prizes. The H-D Demo Rides will be March 25 & 26 and they couldn't happen without Chapter support of our Road Captains. There will be a band. In April will be the New Bike Buyers party. Previous New Bike Buyers parties have been held monthly and quarterly with attendance up and down. For all bike buyers in 2015 there will be one party in April with a little more than just pizza. Instead of having a bunch of small parties he will focus on one nice party.

Preston said that if you have been a H.O.G. member for the past 15 years, H.O.G. lets him decide how the Chapter is run. In all that time he has not exercised that right but he is going to pull rank. There is no criteria (income, job, etc.) that he has used to recognize one particular member. Preston said that he would like to rename the Quarterly Mileage Contest for Jim Clark. He is proposing renaming it the Jim Clark Memorial Quarterly Mileage Contest. He also wants to install a plaque at the shop by the end of April that is large enough to honor the contest winners for years to come.

Preston said the Double Points Thursday has changed. CCHD will be picking 3-4 dates each month for double points to be announced 1-2 days in advance. He also wants to do better by giving out more points for events, etc. His overall goal is to give out more points.

Preston said that for 2016 H-D has a new Low Rider S that is awesome looking with a larger motor and a CVO Breakout Pro that is really nice. They should be at the shop by March.

Dan Robinson said that Bill & Fancy Bernhagen have chosen not to rejoin the Chapter due to their other activities. The position of LOH Officer is open with lots of activities to do. If anyone is interested, let the officers know.

The Chapter donation drawing brought in \$154.00 and was won by Chad Hammer who received \$77.00. The Chapter charity drawing for Coastal Bend Troop Support was won by Louis Kubala and he will receive a gift from Preston Douglass and CCHD.

Dan asked if there was any other business and there was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM. Thanks to all those in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Rickey Thielen – Secretary



GREY HAIR RIDERS DON'T GET THAT WAY FROM PURE LUCK!



H.O.G. Motto: Ride and Have Fun.

Show Your Support - Get the Corpus Christi
H.O.G. Chapter Colors and Wear Them Proudly
When You Ride



2016 Corpus Christi H.O.G. Chapter Officers

Sponsor:	Preston Douglass preston@corpuschristiharley.com	(361) 854-3146
Director:	Dan Robinson drobinsn546@gmail.com	(361) 548-3101
Asst. Director:	Daniel Barrientez dlbarrientez@yahoo.com	(361) 215-6761
Secretary:	Rickey Thielen rickeythielen@cableone.net	(361) 815-6280
Treasurer:	Cyndi Robinson cyndi.rob@gmail.com	(361) 548-3201
Head Road Captain:	David Benoit chieffinch@aol.com	(361) 215-0520
Safety Officer:	Eric Thomas jerictthomas@hotmail.com	(361) 815-0628
Activities Officer:	Sherrie Gabbert bsgabbert@stx.rr.com	(361) 452-0442
Chaplain:	Jerry Olivarez jerryolivarez@hotmail.com	(361) 443-7215
Editor/Historian:	Rickey Thielen rickeythielen@cableone.net	(361) 815-6280
Ladies of Harley	Sherrie Gabbert bsgabbert@stx.rr.com	(361) 452-0442
New Member Officer:	Connie Thielen connie.thielen@yahoo.com	(361) 215-2531
Webmaster:	Chad Hammer chad.hammer@me.com	(361) 537-1013

