



HOG LOG

WINTER 2022

Orange Coast Rides Through the Long Dark Winter



In this Edition:

Colorado River Cruise

Upcoming Rides

Why we Ride: Family

New Member Welcome

Ladies of Harley

Spotlight Holiday Party



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Message from our Sponsoring Dealer Orange County Harley-Davidson

Hello Hog Members!

This has been a big year and we are very excited to have you all as part of the growing Wise Riders team! Some big changes have already happened at the dealership, and more are coming. We hope you all have seen the excitement and energy that we are bringing to Orange County Harley-Davidson. We have been very impressed by the Orange Coast Chapter, how much you ride and your involvement and support of dealership events. We are very thankful for your support.

We are looking forward to launching 2022 with some exciting events that I think all of us will really enjoy.

We look forward to getting to know all of you and to having a fun filled 2022.

All the best,

Alie

Marketing Manager

Orange County Harley Davidson





Editor's Note

By Jan Pappas

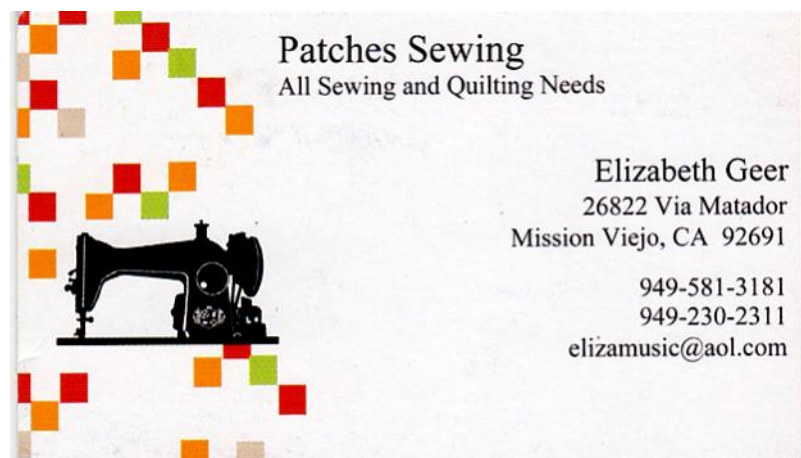


Hi! We are very glad you picked up this magazine and found us here! By thumbing through the pages of this magazine, you will get a glimpse into what it's like to be an OCHOG member. We have a very active chapter and all the officers work hard to plan incredible events for us to participate in. Whether it's a mid-week dinner ride, or a long multi-day destination ride, or just a local chapter ride to a fun new place, there is no shortage of opportunities to get together with like-minded people who love to ride!

In this edition of the Hog Log, you will find interesting articles written by chapter members, sharing their stories from the road. We had a really fun last couple of months and you will read about it here. We've gone on some exciting trips, had some great day rides, and also some fun get-togethers outside of riding. A highlight for our chapter, which we all look forward to, is our annual Christmas party, and it was really a wonderful evening! We think you will truly enjoy reliving it all with us!

We hope you enjoy this quarter's Hog Log! And we hope you'll be inspired to join us on a ride or even an overnighter. You won't find a friendlier, more adventurous, more fun group around! Thanks to everyone who participated in the rides and events and made them enjoyable! And here's to more fun down the road in 2022! Let's Ride!


-Jan



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Member of The Quarter - Sam Proko



For the 'Member of the Quarter' feature, we like to choose someone who has been instrumental to the success of our chapter in a way that is obvious and notable. Through the writing of this article, we can not only get to know this member a little better, but we can also thank them for all that they do. This quarter we chose Sam Proko. He has served tirelessly, behind the scenes, in order to keep our chapter afloat, so to speak. What would any good organization do without their treasurer, (or as we like to call him, The Accountant). Well, thanks to Sam's adept handling of our chapter's funds, we can rest assured that there is enough money at the end of the day to keep us in the black! And in sitting with him for this interview, I learned about the path that has led Sam here, and it is fascinating!

Sam grew up in Anaheim where he was given a lot of freedom. As a kid, he liked to build mini bikes and go carts, I guess you could say that his fascination with moving vehicles started early. At age 14 he started working and saving his money, and at 15 ½ he bought a brand new 1974 Yamaha 250 Enduro. He love the feeling of being able to ride by himself, not having to rely on his parents. The Enduro was a cross between a street bike and a dirt bike. He rode that bike everywhere. Back then there was no helmet law, and at 16 he was in a bad motorcycle accident where he ended up in the hospital hurt pretty bad with a broken leg requiring two plates and 13 screws. But even that didn't dissuade him from riding, he was just a little more careful. During that time he was a photographer for a motorcycle magazine called "Crash and Burn" (maybe that hit a little too close to home right then). Some people might have given up the motorcycle life altogether, but if riding is in your blood....

One of his first jobs was working at McDonald's where he met his first wife. Her dad owned a Bob's Big Boy restaurant up in the bay area, so Sam moved up there where they opened a total of five restaurants. At age 23, he was a general manager with 80 employees under him. It was at Bob's that he met his second wife and the love of his life, Leslie. He worked that job until he got burned out and decided to go back to school and get a degree, in you guessed it- Accounting. He attended Fullerton College, working on his AA degree, while working at a large commercial printer in Los Alamitos with his mom. His achievement at Fullerton led to an academic scholarship to USC and graduated with his Bachelor of Science which set him on the next path of his career as an accountant.

After graduating, he was hired at Deloitte, one of the top accounting firms in the country. In case you don't know about them, here is a little impressive info- "Deloitte is the largest professional services organization in the United States. With more than 100,000 professionals, Deloitte provides audit and assurance, tax, consulting, and risk and financial advisory services to a broad cross-section of the largest corporations and governmental agencies." At this firm, Sam became a manager and did a lot of traveling. Side note- one of his clients was J&P Cycles in Anamosa, Iowa, where a huge Harley-Davidson museum is. (The H-D brand was getting into his head).

Deloitte is a hard company to work for, long hours and lots of stress. Sam eventually left that job and became the Regional Controller for Troon Golf Company, a golf management company with over 150 golf courses (a dream job if you're a golfer!) He moved to Scottsdale and got to travel all over, and as a perk, he has gotten to golf at some of the most beautiful courses in the country. Side note- he started smoking cigars at that job, because "that is what most golfers do."

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After being on the road so much with that job, he got lonely and wanted to come back home and just be in one place. So he moved back to California and took a job at Balboa Insurance in their Risk Management department. At the time, his office was across from the bowling alley where our chapter used to have their meetings. (Enter Harley-Davidson again.)

Sam bought his first Harley in 2011 to ride with Leslie's brother. It was a 2002 pearl white Road King Classic. He rode it back and forth to work. Because our meeting place was so close to his work, he decided to check out a Harley chapter meeting, and he joined our chapter in 2013. His first impression was that everyone was so welcoming, inviting and humble. He remembers meeting Paul and Carolynne Schley and was impressed with their warmth and friendliness.

Right away, he decided to try to do every ride and overnigher the chapter offered, so he went on the New Member ride, went to Big Bear and SLO. After that he was "just plain hooked"! His advice to newcomers is to 'put yourself out there, get involved, make yourself at home'. The more you do with the chapter, the more you will get to know people who have the same interests as you, and the more fun you will have!

Always believing in service, and to give back to the chapter who had given him so much, he had a strong desire to help in some way and possibly join the leadership team. He volunteered his services to then Director Steve Burke, as a photographer (remember his gig at the mag "Crash and Burn?"), but nothing came of that. Shortly after that Craig Shelby became director and recruited Sam for Treasurer (of course!) and with so much accounting experience this was fitting! He has been keeping our chapter financially stable for the better part of a decade! He believes in rotation of service, so he has not only served as Treasurer, but also Assistant Director, now he is the Treasurer again.

In his professional life, Sam is now working at his dream job, working as the Director of Accounting for a non-profit with Long Beach Memorial Hospital. He absolutely loves that job and it really is the perfect fit for someone with his talents and values.

This year, Sam bought his first brand new bike— a Road Glide Special, in the "Snake Venom" color. If you have never seen this bike in person, you NEED to. I can't for the life of me figure out how when looking at the bike from one direction it is purple, and from another it is green! It is quite a phenomenon! And a beautiful looking bike!

Sam is one of those guys that mainly works in the background, he doesn't do anything for his own attention, but he definitely is the glue that keeps this chapter together. He is instrumental in making our chapter the success that it is. He is obviously smart and competent and truly an asset to our team, we are very lucky to have him! We are very grateful for Sam's willingness to serve on our team of officers, he contributes his talents and skills in ways we can never repay. Thank you Sam, for all you do!





Director's Cut

Welcome to our H.O.G. family

By Chris (Mo) Mosher



Welcome!

That one word speaks volumes about our chapter and what it means to be part of the Harley Owners Group (HOG) family. There is something special about getting on two wheels, feeling the wind and sun on your face and riding to explore this great country of ours. Riding is a passion that embodies who we are and is the common bond for all who take that step to climb on a bike. Sharing that passion and sharing the experiences we face on the open road is what being a member of a HOG chapter is all about, and it doesn't matter if you just purchased your first bike last week or have ridden for the last fifty years, all are welcome to join in and be a part of our family.

Our Orange Coast chapter is only one of over six hundred Harley Owners Group chapters around the country. Like any large organization each chapter has its own personality and way of doing things. If you live in an area with many chapters I highly recommend getting out and visiting each of them. Being a member of HOG means you are part of a large and diverse organization and it is important to find the right fit for you.

When you arrive at an Orange Coast event for the first time, it may seem a bit overwhelming. Our chapter is big and diverse with many riders who have built friendships over years. The atmosphere is often like a reunion, with groups circling around and catching up on life's happenings since the last ride. When I first joined the chapter, I was struck by the fact that these groups are not closed. I could, and you can too, walk up to any of these groups of friends and feel welcome. Love of riding, and bikes, are two of the best ice breakers for any conversation, and I think you will find that it isn't long before you feel right at home.

Our chapter loves to ride. Long rides, short rides, just about any time spent on a bike is time well spent. Take a few minutes and look over our calendar. There is something for everyone in our chapter events and we hope that you are able to take advantage and find those activities that fit your own riding style.

2021 was a fantastic year, with trips and activities that will provide a lifetime of memories. I hope you come and join in because 2022 will be a ride to remember!

Ride safe,

-Mo





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Assistant Director

By Brian Weiske



It's truly an honor to be asked to serve as Assistant Director of the Orange Coast Harley Owners Group (OCHOG). We have a wonderful chapter, a great group of members, and a strong will to ride! As I've had the privilege of meeting each of you over the past few years, I thought I could give you a little background on myself.

I have been heavily involved in sports and recreation from a young age, and I've always loved the feeling of being on two-wheels. From the early days with my Diamondback, I was always finding or building tracks and jumps. Those tracks, jumps and berms have since become housing tracts and parking lots, like so many of our childhood play areas, but that doesn't stop us. It helps us to reach out even farther for the love of the ride. What once was riding 'blocks to the store' has now become 'many miles to other states'.

I've had dirt bikes pretty much my entire life and frequented the Saddleback Motocross Park as a kid. Fast-forward some decades, and a few bikes later, and I'm taking my own sons to the Lake Elsinore Motocross Park. They've grown now, but I hope they will always look fondly on that time we spent together riding. In fact, last year my oldest bought his first street bike. Yup, it's a Harley!

I've never lost that feeling of excitement you get when you grab those handlebars and take off. Hot or cold... layer up or strip down... we've got to get on it. Growing up in Southern California, we take things like weather for granted. As a kid wanting to play outside after school, or an adult wanting to throw down some miles on our Harleys - there's no "riding season" in SoCal. We know, we're a little spoiled.

I learned quickly that my decision to purchase my first Harley-Davidson a few years ago was about more than just a motorcycle - it's definitely a culture. The stigma of the tough biker crowd was quickly pushed aside to reveal some of the most kind and thoughtful people I have ever met, when I attended my first chapter meeting. And OCHOG has become more like a family to me now, which is why I am pleased to serve as Assistant Director for our chapter.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime or just come up and say hi! I look forward to continuing to help in any way I can to ensure people have fun riding and return home safely to their loved ones.

- Brian



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Membership Officer

By Mark Pappas



New Members are always welcome!

I want to welcome all the new members and new Harley owners that have joined our Chapter so far this year. I can honestly tell you, your life will never be the same. You have probably heard this before, but it's true - that owning a Harley is not a hobby, it's way of life. And you joined the best Harley Chapter in the Country. I hope you like to ride, because that is what we do best!

Whether you're a new member or someone who is coming back to our Chapter after being gone, I want to encourage you to go on as many rides that you can with us, and definitely join us on the overnights. That's where you really get to know the other members and make new friends.

When Jan and I joined the Chapter in 2018 we immediately felt welcomed into the group. Even though I was a brand new rider, they never made me feel like I didn't belong. It was actually just the opposite. The officers and road captains kept inviting me on rides and told me that it would improve my riding skills. So, I took them up on their offer and now I have over 70,000 miles of great memories that Jan and I have made with this great group of friends over the last four years. We have seen so many beautiful open country roads that we never would have explored if we weren't part of this group. It has been amazing!

As many of you know, our Dealership is under new ownership. We are now a part of Wise Rider group and our family just got bigger. Our sister stores are Harley Davidson Yuba City, Reno, Redwood, Death Valley and Coronado Beach. Our new Sales Director is Matt Ensor. The first time I met Matt he told me how impressed he was with our Chapter. He was shocked at how many members show up for our rides and our monthly meetings. It is members like you that make our chapter a success!

Once again, welcome to the family and I look forward to seeing you on the next ride!

-Mark

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The Harley-Davidson Ride Planner: Downloading & Importing Ride Maps

By Brian Weiske

The choice to take the road less traveled is one of independence and freedom. It's been said that the best way to really clear the mind is to just get on a bike and ride. Not knowing your destination can often be the most freeing and soul-cleansing experience. However, there are times when you'd like that 'born free' feeling without the worry of where the gas stations are or if you'll get back in time for dinner. That's where digital apps come in to play. Nowadays, technology has become so useful that even the quintessential tough biker can't help but glance at their phone or infotainment system once or twice while on a ride. Between apps that allow you to map out your ride, to apps that record your favorite jaunt through the twisties, there's always a little room for planning and organization.

Being part of a wonderful community like Harley-Davidson has its advantages outside of the brotherhood and sisterhood we all enjoy as Chapter members. They put a lot of money and effort into R&D. They've developed ways to plan out or record your rides that are nice and easy. If you don't have an infotainment system on your bike, you can simply use your mobile phone. One of the most popular ways for Harley riders to plan out a day ride or a weekend trip is with the Harley-Davidson Ride Planner.

The Harley-Davidson Ride Planner can be used from a desktop computer or right there on your phone or tablet. You'll need to login with your active Harley-Davidson account, which can be found at <https://maps.harley-davidson.com>. This will keep all your rides and profile information synced across your devices. Next, you'll want to download the mobile app from the App Store or Google Play. This will allow you to access all the information from anywhere with cell reception.



No infotainment system – no problem. You can run the app from your mobile phone while on the ride. One caveat to the mobile app is that it can use a lot of power while in play so it's best to have a lead run from your battery for a full-time charge while in use on a ride, if possible.

Within the H-D Ride Planner and App you'll find locally "Recommended Rides" from Dealers as well as National HOG-promoted rides in the area.

Download "How to Import GPX file to H-D Mobile App" now by scanning the QR code (right) to view and download the step by step process. Although this demonstration is with an iPhone, a similar process can be achieved on an Android. I'd love to hear your thoughts on how well it worked, or how I can improve the process tutorial. Stay tuned for more helpful tips and tricks for a variety of topics!

Have suggestions for future tutorial topics? Email Brian Weiske at asstdirector@ochog.org or Jan Pappas at editor@ochog.org.



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Spotlight: Pappy & Harriet's

By Rober Govier

On September 1st, 1946 in the Mojave Desert, a small oasis of the old west had its groundbreaking ceremony, and Pioneertown was born. Many television shows have been filmed in Pioneertown, from 'Roy Rogers', 'The Cisco Kid', 'Alan Lane', and many others. It is an amazing place to visit and a great ride. One of the biggest attractions is Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace an old fashion saloon and eatery famous for its location (and good food). Although many HOGsters have made the trek to Pappy and Harriet's, it was the first time the chapter rode together to this fine establishment.

The riders met up at the Sendero Marketplace and headed off over the Ortega Highway. It was foggy and wet going up in elevation and stayed that way almost all the way to Lake Perris. I really don't like riding or driving in fog but as always, I was ahead of the group hoping to get some shots of them, but that was out of the question because of the conditions. After clearing Lake Perris, the skies cleared and we could see again. With a short run up Interstate 10 and hitting the cutoff for 29 Palms and Yucca Valley, we made our last leg to the destination. The ride up the hill on Pioneertown Road is a little test of twisting and turning to keep you awake. I pulled off the road and climbed up to the top of a hill waiting for the group of riders to show. It was a bit warm so it was time to get rid of some excess layers. It is kind of different to sit up among the rocks and cactus waiting for the riders to show up. I read 'War and Peace', unloaded two magazines shooting at targets, talked to the birds and a cheeky hawk that kept circling me, maybe it was a vulture (not sure of that).



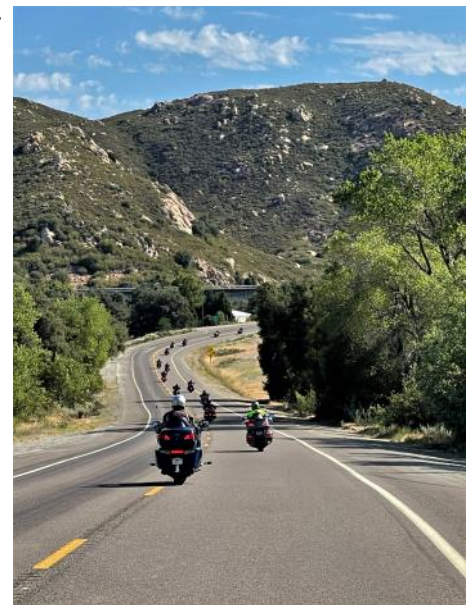
Roy Rogers & the Sons of the Pioneers on the steps of the Land Office in 1947.



1st of September 1946 EXCLUSIVE The musical group Sons of the Pioneers (L-R): David Bracer, Sally Patton, Adèle Mara, Dick Curtis, Roy Rogers, and George Tobin. Rogers is holding a shovel full of dirt and is wearing a cowboy hat, a button-down shirt, jeans and cowboy boots. (Photo by Gene Lester/Getty Images)
September 1st, Pioneertown Groundbreaking



Cisco Kid filming in Pioneertown in 1962



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After half an hour, I was seeing things in the desert, and heard the rumble of the pack coming down the road. Thinking to myself that I was in the perfect place to catch all of the bikes coming up the road in one shot, it was disappointing to see only three riders. It was only John, Rick, and Thomas coming down the road. I waited another ten minutes for the pack but they were nowhere to be seen. Now, knowing that sometimes I take a wrong turn here and there, I wasn't sure if they were already at Pappy and Harriet's. As I slipped and slid down the hill back to my bike, cursing all the way, I headed up to the restaurant. There was no one there but the four of us and about another 10 minutes passed before the rest of the crew came in.



Lunch was pretty darn good (I can vouch for the chili and the chicken sandwich). It is a great place to hang out, the staff was fantastic and I did not hear many complaints except from Cowboy who was stuck at a table listening to the same old stories. After lunch was finished, it was time to head for home through the Lucerne Valley and more desert riding. There are some great sights along the way, again riding solo to set up for shots, I get the freedom to ride just a bit faster and look for good vantage spots to shoot from. I decided that the Bear Valley Road turnoff would be the best place with the sun behind me and more on the riders as they slowed to make the turn. Some of the pictures came out really nice! **(Remember an 11x14 is only \$15 with \$5 of that going to Warrior Foundation).**



The riders all made it past me in good shape and it was time to ride off into the sunset and head for home. The group was making good time as they always do on the home stretch, so I passed them as they pulled in for gas and headed for the ranch with the thoughts of Roy Rogers singing-

“Happy trails to you, Until we meet again. Happy trails to you, Keep smiling until then.”



Why We Ride: Family

By Tom Sheltraw

Riding With my Daughter - Parenting at 75mph

Two of my favorite things to do in life is spending time with my family, and riding motorcycles. You put the two of them together and you've hit the pinnacle of enjoyment!

When I was a boy, one of the most cherished memories I had was riding on the back of my dad's motorcycle. The feeling of accelerating from a stop caused butterflies in my stomach. I'll never forget that sensation of excitement I had when my dad would lean the bike into a turn. But best of all was the feeling of pride I had riding, just me and my dad.

I remember dreaming about the day when I would get a motorcycle of my own and being able to be the one in control of that steel horse. I too wanted to create these powerful memories with my kids. Fast forward to November 2021 when I joined the Orange Coast Hog Chapter. My love of riding was at an unimaginable peak, and I realized the hours I would be spending on my bike away from my family. I decided to ask my 11-year-old daughter if she wanted to go on one of the chapter rides. She didn't hesitate but quickly responded with a, "YES!"

She not only loves to ride, she wanted to join the chapter and be one of the fellow bikers. She quickly figured out what the different patches represented, and the one she had her eyes on most was the mileage patch. She was hooked on riding and wanted to do whatever possible to earn a higher mileage patch. I am proud to announce that within four months, we have earned our 10,000 mileage patch.

Taelyn just turned 12 and although everything in me wanted to get her a Harley Davidson road bike, I knew she wouldn't be able to ride it by herself for a while. I decided to buy her a Yamaha RT 125 dirtbike. She was overjoyed with the fact that she has a motorcycle and will be learning how to ride on her own. Just a few more years, then I can buy her a Harley-Davidson!



Thinking back to when I was a kid, I remember the powerful feelings I had when riding with my dad. The bonding it brought between us, as we shared a mutual passion. The one thing that I never realized until this time in my life is how much joy my dad must have experienced riding with his son.

With Taelyn being 12 years old, she's going through a lot of emotional changes as she transitions into her teenage years. I am overjoyed with the fact of knowing that many of those years will be spent on the back of my Harley. The times we share together I know she will cherish for the rest of her life. I too am cherishing every moment I spend with her.

We start off every ride praying together for safety and our time together. We enjoy riding on the open road with our extended HOG family, and we enjoy great conversations over lunch. We talk about life, faith, future relationships, and we enjoy great conversation. Taelyn is my fearless princess, who enjoys new challenges and welcomes long rides. I remember being on the Laughlin overnight ride with her and as we were starting to takeoff, I leaned back and asked her if she wanted me to pull a wheelie. She quickly replied, "Sure!" Although I did not pull a wheelie, I had to laugh at her reply and her willingness to do anything. I enjoy her trust in me and her desire for adventure.

I remember one day she asked me how many miles we were going to ride with the chapter that day and I replied with telling her we were going to ride 270 miles. Her response was priceless, she said, "That's all? Can we ride more after we're done riding with the chapter?" I had to laugh at that comment because I understood exactly how she felt...because I feel the same way.

Although some may view this riding with my daughter as just a sweet gesture, it is much more than that. Riding with her means that I get to experience the excitement of these next few years to come with my precious daughter. Having this time with her I know is a blessing to her but it is also a tremendous blessing for me as well. I look forward to the day when she is sitting with friends and family sharing the stories we've built together. But most of all, I love investing into the most critical years of her life, in front, leading the way.

-Tom (Taelyn's Dad)



New Beginnings—2022: **Richie's Breakfast Ride**

By Chris Mosher



The Orange Coast annual event calendar has a rhythm to it. In 2021 our chapter had over 65 riding days on our calendar plus many non-riding events. Each month we have busy times and then some slower times. All of it culminates at the end of the year with our last chapter meeting, and then we have a few weeks break where members spend time with family and their own holiday celebrations. After spending most of year riding with each other week in and week out, the holiday break is refreshing, but over those couple of weeks we start to miss the activities, the rides, our friends and our HOG family members. The first ride of each year is a reunion. It represents the start of the new riding season but more than that it is coming back and seeing the familiar faces and catching up with all those that will be spending time of the road with us during the new year.

When planning chapter rides we always want to try and make it a nice first step in a very active year. We want to make it a shorter ride, to attract a broader group of chapter members, and the destination generally is a classic place that we have gone to for years. This year we chose Flo's diner at the Chino Hills Airport. Flo's is a great little diner and our chapter has gone there for years. Even better the route there takes us through Carbon Canyon, which is a great scenic ride. It was a great way to start the year and so arrangements were made, the calendar was published and we all looked forward to a great start to the year.

It was a great plan, and then the realities of living in California in 2022 struck. A few days before the ride we called to confirm that the restaurant was ready for a bunch of hungry bikers to arrive. Instead of the normal manager we reached a voicemail which informed us that the restaurant would be closed, "due to staffing shortages", through the weekend. The riding season of 2022 hadn't even started and we already had our first challenge. The Orange Coast planning committee shifted into overdrive. We scoured the local area and lined up restaurants to call. The challenge was simple. We needed a restaurant that could accommodate a group of 40-50 bikers that arrive at the same time, want quick service and require separate checks. Things were looking pretty grim when we struck gold. Richie's Diner, under the shadow of Mt. Baldy on the old route 66, didn't entirely shut us down.

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They were willing to try and just asked for our patience since they had the now familiar issue of being “short staffed”. We promised patience and the plans were made. New maps were made and the word of the change was sent out.

Saturday January 9th arrived and it was a beautiful day. Southern California has its issues but there are days, especially in the winter months, where one doesn't wonder why they live here. The sky was cloudless and while a bit chilly in the morning, it looked like we would reach the mid 60's later in the day. I firmly believe that chapter members vote with their time. If they are excited about events and the chapter, then they will turn out in force. Therefore I always wonder what the turnout will be before each ride. Especially so, on the first ride of the year. As I rode to the meet up site, questions ran through my head. Were people getting past Covid? Were old friends going to rejoin us? How was the spirit and excitement of the chapter?

I shouldn't have worried. I arrived an hour early to the meeting location and already there was a big collection of bikes lined up and ready to go. I was also excited to see, as I pulled up, many faces that hadn't been around for the last year or so during Covid. It seemed that we had finally turned a corner and people were finally ready to come back out. The bikes kept arriving and by departure time we headed up Tustin Blvd with 44 bikes in the train.

The morning mist was still burning off as we snaked through Carbon Canyon. A familiar ride, we typically only go through it a couple of times a year, so we reacquainted ourselves with the scenery and the road. Richie's was a little further north than our old route and so we took a new turn on Chino Hills Parkway. Going around a couple of hills, we were rewarded with the view opening up to the mountains across the valley. It was spectacular and the highlight of a great ride. It was an energized and excited group of riders that pulled in to Richie's. The staff were great, they took very good care of us. The food was excellent and it came out quick. However, the best part was catching up and talking with friends. I noticed other customers, sitting on the other side of the restaurant, looking our way. They couldn't help but notice the laughing, joking and smiling from across the room. We are a jovial group and tend to smile more, laugh harder and have more fun than most in any room.

The ride back home was equally beautiful and at the last gas stop we said our goodbye's. Sometime Spanish has a better translation for a feeling or spirit. Goodbye sounds so final and that really is never the spirit when we part at our rides. 'Hasta Luego', see you later, is more in line and really captures the spirit when we part at the end of a ride.

The 2022 riding season was open and we kicked it off with the appropriate amount of riding, fun and good cheer. The omens were good, this is going to be a great year for the Orange Coast chapter.



Meet-Up: New Year's Day Ride

We Start the New Year Riding! It's What We Do!

The OCHOG officers plan chapter rides quarterly, way in advance, they are set in stone on the calendar, and found on the OCHOG website. But sometimes you just want to "Drop Everything and Ride"! That's why we have a "Meet Up" officer – Nick Deitz. Nick is the guy who orchestrates these "semi-unplanned rides" for anyone who is free and wants to ride! Mainly, we advertise these through Facebook and we make it an unofficial 'chapter ride'.

One of those "unplanned but planned rides" was our annual New Year's Day ride to Old Town San Diego. You would think that after a night of partying and celebration on New Year's Eve, there wouldn't be a whole lot of people willing to get up early and go on a ride the next day, but there were!! About 45 of us gathered at the OC Dealer to ride down the coast and have lunch in Old Town.

Nick planned the route, we met at the dealership and were briefed on the day's ride. We rode down the freeway to Oceanside, where we exited the freeway. The rest of the trip was side streets along our beautiful coastline. It was an absolutely gorgeous, sunny day, the kind we get to enjoy here in SoCal almost 365 days a year, and makes others across the U.S. jealous! Imagine riding in January and the weather is sunny and warm! Well, we don't have to imagine it, we lived it! People were out enjoying the beach, riding bikes, walking along the boardwalks, as we took in the scenery of water and sunshine, simply the best way to start off a new year! A New Year- full of promise, fun and adventure!

We rode through the quaint beach towns of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Cardiff, Del Mar and La Jolla, past Torrey Pines, and then into Old Town San Diego, where we arrived at our lunch destination- Rockin' Baja Lobster. They have a parking lot big enough for all of our bikes, and even put us in a separate room where we took up two long tables and some smaller ones along the side. And the menu has something for every taste.

After a filling lunch and great conversations, we said our goodbyes and hopped on the bikes to head back home. The freeway was wide open, so it was a smooth and enjoyable ride home. I assume all those late night party-goers were still in bed nursing a hangover. But for the brave and adventurous OCHOG crowd, well, we just started our New Year logging in miles!! Maybe we'll win the 365 challenge this year! Here's to more fun rides in 2022! Cheers!



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Member's Corner



We are a family oriented group that believes in riding the bikes in which we have invested so much time, money, and affection.

Our rides include day rides throughout Southern California and overnight trips to Northern and Southern California, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. If you love riding, love seeing this great country of ours and enjoy the company of other like-minded souls, then come join us.

Where to find us

New Member rides are held on the last Saturday of each month. *Meet at Orange County Harley-Davidson at 8:15 a.m. for a Group Riding Orientation.*

Come visit our sponsoring dealer, Orange County Harley-Davidson, or visit their online calendar for a schedule of events and dates. Chapter Meetings are open to everyone and are held the last Thursday of each month at 7pm at Orange County Harley-Davidson in Irvine.

Ride Calendars are available at the Orange County Harley-Davidson Dealer or on our Website www.ochog.org.

Upcoming Events

- **April 21 Thursday** Orange Coast HOG Chapter Meeting, Social Hour starts at 5:30 pm, Meeting at 6:30 pm at Orange County Harley Davidson, 8677 Dr, Irvine, CA 92618 Come early to meet and socialize with chapter members or join us at 6:30pm for the business portion of the meeting. 60 Miles
- **April 23 Saturday** New Member Ride, New Member Orientation / Safety Review at 8:15 a.m. KSU at 9:15 a.m From OCHD, a short ride around Orange County, ending at OCHD for a free BBQ. Tips go to benefit Warrior Foundation Freedom Station. 1000 Miles
- **April 27 - May 1 Wed-Sun** DELCON Detour - Depart TBD From Jerome's. What could be better than a springtime ride that hits the Laughlin River Run, Grand Canyon, Jerome AZ, Sedona and Wickenburg all in one trip.
- **May 7 Saturday** Carpinteria - Depart TBD Starting Location TBD. A beautiful ride up the coast for a great brunch in a scenic coastal town.
- **May 15 Sunday** Palomar Mountain - Depart TBD Starting Location TBD. A local favorite picnic ride to the top of the world in North San Diego County. Possible \$10 state park entrance fee.
- **May 19 Thursday** Orange Coast HOG Chapter Meeting, Social Hour starts at 5:30 pm, Meeting at 6:30 pm at Orange County Harley Davidson, 8677 Dr, Irvine, CA 92618 Come early to meet and socialize with chapter members or join us at 6:30pm for the business portion of the meeting. 60 Miles
- **May 21 Saturday** New Member Ride, New Member Orientation/Safety Review at 8:15 a.m. KSU at 9:15 a.m From OCHD, a short ride around Orange County, ending at OCHD for a free BBQ. Tips go to benefit Hoka Hey/Warrior Foundation.
- **June 15-19 Thursday to Sunday** -Summer Cruise to SLO Depart TBD Starting Location TBD. A fan favorite! What better way to celebrate the long days of summer than with a trip up the coast to beautiful San Luis Obispo!



Ride365: 2021 is in the Books

In 2018, Harley-Davidson and H.O.G. came up with the chapter challenge. This was a chapter competition to see who rode the most miles. Two categories were established. The total number of miles and the average miles per rider. Over 500 chapters participated and the race was tight but when the smoke cleared, our very own Orange Coast chapter stood tall, having recorded over 1.6 million miles. In a very close second place, Fort Lauderdale conceded by a mere 40 thousand miles. Between the two chapters there were over 700 registered riders riding over 365 days. It is astounding to think that the difference came down to a mere 1/2 a mile per day for each chapter member.

The best part was that it was a friendly competition. Fort Lauderdale reached out to us first, and even sent a rider to visit, and we responded in kind. It was a great competition and 2019 shaped up to be a great rematch. We rode like crazy that year and in the end logged over 1.9 million miles. On Jan 1st the smoke cleared and we again stood tall. It was April when I received a call from corporate H.O.G.. Mileage was audited and they had determined that 200 thousand miles should be removed from our totals. Unfortunately we were not given any valid examples where we had incorrectly logged miles or where the riders didn't ride the miles we recorded. Fort Lauderdale was named the official winner in 2019 and we were second place.

Needless to say there was a lot of bitterness towards the competition and in 2020 our chapter decided overwhelmingly that we wouldn't participate in the chapter challenge. Instead we would hold our own individual contest to see which individuals rode the most miles. Then Covid hit, California went through the lockdowns and the chapter challenge faded into the background.

When 2021 arrived we still weren't ready to participate in the National competition. However there was interest in seeing how we would stack up against the top chapters in the nation if we tracked our own mileage. Orange Coast H.O.G. takes mileage seriously and so we use individual accountability, honor and respect to ensure that each rider has accurate totals. Our leaderboard is published regularly and riders can see who is moving up or moving down. In our opinion it is much more accurate than any number of bean counters back in Milwaukee.

Covid had dealt us a blow in numbers. The big chapters that compete for top mileage all have large memberships and they can count on high numbers to make up for lower miles per rider. We went at them with a vengeance and when the dust settled this year we ended up a respectable 4th place with 1.1 million miles. We were led to that finish by an inspiring year from John Russell. He led the overall individual riders with 41,321 miles. Led by John we saw what we could do and the spark to compete again was rekindled. It is hard to tell what corporate admin types will do with any marketing competition, like the chapter challenge. However we are recording every mile and will stand proudly behind our results. At the end of the year we hope once again to be among the elite chapters of the nation.



Rank	Chapter	Miles Ridden
1	4728 - FORT LAUDERDALE CHAPTER	1,833,044
2	1681 - CAJUN CHAPTER LAFAYETTE LA	1,764,867
3	2527 - ST CHARLES MISSOURI CHAPTER	1,475,338
4	5095 - ORANGE COAST CHAPTER CALIFORNIA	1,137,871
5	3637 - KIRKWOOD MO CHAPTER	1,077,018
6	4751 - OCEAN STATE CHAPTER RHODE ISLAND	1,025,593
7	3811 - WORCESTER MASS CHAPTER	953,518
8	3526 - DERBY CITY CHAPTER LOUISVILLE KY	901,155
9	1420 - THE WOODLANDS TEXAS CHAPTER	883,247
10	1814 - SUNSET CHAPTER TIGARD OREGON	852,603

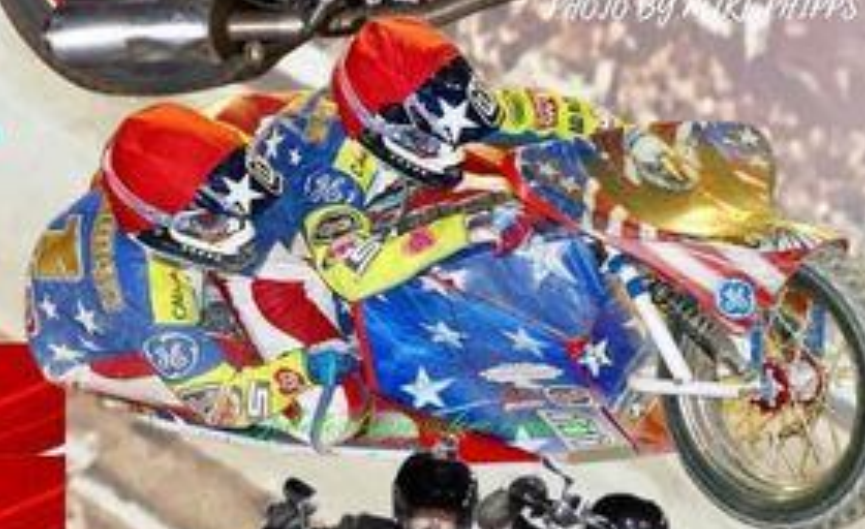
Ranking	First Name	Annual Contest USA 2021 Miles
1	John R.	41,321
2	Mike R.	34,427
3	Mo	32,741
4	Scott H.	28,172
5	Ken M.	26,998
6	Michelle D.	24,165
7	Robert G.	23,700
8	Bob T.	23,515
9	Brian W.	22,891
10	Mark P.	22,515

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- AUGUST 27**
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- SEPTEMBER 24**
- OCTOBER 1**
- OCTOBER 8**
- OCTOBER 15**



HIGHLIGHT: Holiday Party

By Jan Pappas

Our Holiday Party ~ A Three-Day Event!

It's not often that you get to attend an event that is three days long, maybe a festival or a convention, but a Christmas party? Now that's a first! But this year's party was just that, at least for those that attended the pre- and post-party festivities. This year, we were lucky enough to secure the American Legion Hall in Orange for a very reasonable fee. It had plenty of room for dinner tables, a stage for live entertainment, room for a photo booth, and casino games. So the date was set, our Holiday Party would be on Saturday, December 11, 2021. BUT, since it is a very old building and probably rarely used for these kinds of events, it needed to be transformed into a party venue! It needed a complete make-over to get ready for the sparkling event!



Cue the elves! A group of chapter members showed up the night before the party and worked their magic to spruce the place up a bit! First, they swept and cleaned every square inch of the hall, including the bathrooms. Then, they decorated every nook and cranny from the stage, to the foyer, to the tables, to the bathrooms, to the staircase leading up to the hall. They pooled their holiday décor together and brought in boxes and boxes of decorations- twinkle lights, garland, Christmas trees, poinsettias, ornaments, ribbons and wrapped boxes, and anything else they could think of. They turned the place into a veritable holiday wonderland! They played music and laughed as they “worked”. It was a pre-party party! And THEN, when all the set-up was done, they were rewarded with a steak dinner, cooked and served to them by the veterans in the dining room downstairs. What a treat!!

The next night was the Holiday Party, a night that many chapter members look forward to all year! They showed up in their holiday finery (quite the departure from the Harley attire we are used to seeing each other in!) They mingled, played casino games- craps, black jack and roulette, posed for the photo booth, checked out the raffle items, ate, drank and were merry! The band played, and people danced. There was even a cigar area set up outside for the usual “favorite” activity of some.

The food was delicious and was served to us by Tutto Fresco. There were desserts and a coffee bar. Something for everyone! And there were prizes! Raffle prizes, of course, but even a prize for the person who won the most “money” playing the casino games. That prize went to Frank Roberts! Some of the most coveted prizes of the night were the table centerpieces that were made by Linda Mosher. They were little Harley gnomes! They were so adorable! The whole night was a celebration of our chapter, our friendships, and the fun we have together!



Winter 2022

The next morning, the clean-up crew came in. Santa's little helpers showed up, packed up and cleaned up. Some had partied a little too much the night before, but still they showed up and got the job done! They left the place clean and shiny, in hopes of being invited back again next year. And in true hospitable fashion, once again the veterans served a fantastic breakfast to the hardworking crew!

And so, the 2021 OCHOG Christmas Party was in the books. A fun time was had by all. But here's a little secret- if you are one of those people who never wants the party to end, then consider becoming one of Santa's elves next year. And you too can have a 3-day Christmas party and join in the OCHOG fun!! It was a lot of work, but so much fun doing it together! The more, the MERRIER! Never was that more true!



Spotlight: Colorado River Cruise

By Jan Pappas

Winter, spring, summer, fall, there is NEVER a bad time to explore the Southwest! In Southern California, we have the absolute best weather for outdoor activities, be it hiking, fishing, camping, exploring nature, or just all around touring! And what better way to take it ALL in, than on a motorcycle? You are experiencing all that nature has to offer with every one of your senses, you feel the sun and the wind, smell the flowers and trees, hear all the sounds, and see **everything** without **anything** blocking your view. That being said, there's nothing like hitting the open road for a little "wind therapy" and discovery of new and interesting places! Whether you go for a day or a long weekend, you will come home refreshed and inspired by the fun you experienced with friends, on the open road.

Our most recent trip to Laughlin was a multi-day trip. We stayed at the Golden Nugget Hotel, on the Colorado River, and made day trips to Oatman, (where wild burros roam the streets!) and the Hoover Dam. On Day 1, our ride from Orange County to Laughlin, in true OCHOG fashion, we didn't just ride straight to the destination, we took the scenic route, stopping in Amboy, a little town on Route 66, west of Needles, CA. I have always wanted to take the quintessential picture with the "Route 66" sign in the middle of the street. We stopped our bikes alongside of the road and congregated in the street. IN THE STREET! It is such an awesome picture and of course Highway 66 is iconic! So you just gotta do it! Hopping back on our bikes, we traveled on to Laughlin in time to check into our hotel at 3:15. Our evening was filled with snacks and drinks around the pool, and dinner at one of the hotel restaurants, all with a beautiful view of the Colorado River!

Day 2 took us on a scenic tour of the area on our way to Oatman, Arizona. We "got" to ride the famous "Sidewinder Road" on Historic Route 66, between Kingman, AZ and Oatman, which is a trip all in itself! It is one of the windiest roads in the Southwest, made even more precarious by the sudden stops of our entire group when a burro or two decided to block our way! Our lead road captain, Mike Reedy, was ever vigilant and no bike, nor burro, was hurt during the ride. In eight miles there are 191 curves, hairpin turns and steep drop-offs (a test of true grit!)



Winter 2022

When you arrive in Oatman, you are treated to a town that looks like you stepped back in time. Oatman is an old mining town that is now a unique tourist spot, most days they even have even have a gun-slinger shootout show in the streets, but good luck trying to get your group through town at that time! We left before the show, since we were quite a large caravan.

The first thing you notice when you pull into Oatman, are the burros just roaming free on the streets. It's quite a spectacle! They live in the surrounding hills, but come to town for handouts from the tourists. It is really funny to see (unless you're trying to get your bike around them, then it's not so funny!) My favorite place in town was the old Oatman Hotel, built in 1902, where EVERY square inch of the ceilings and walls are covered in dollar bills, signed by patrons of the establishment! Thousands and thousands of them! My gosh! If that place ever burned down....!

Leaving Oatman, we rode beautiful open roads to Topock, arriving just in time for lunch at the Topock66 Restaurant which overlooks the river and has the most unusual seats I've ever seen! It's a really fun spot to stop and eat, and take in the view, and they have great food! After lunch we rode back to the hotel, after logging in 130 miles, to relax by the pool and enjoy the camaraderie. Some of us took in a concert at Harrah's hotel that evening. We saw Justin Moore, while others saw Dwight Yoakam at another hotel venue. Our concert was at an outdoor venue and the evening was really beautiful. Laughlin has some great headliners so it's a fun thing to do at night. And the water taxi was really fun too! But we had to walk back to our hotel after the concert because the water taxi stopped running at 10. Thankfully it was a short walk back. AND the bonus— we had Daylight Savings Time that night and gained an extra hour of sleep!!



Colorado River Cruise

Day 3 was another fun day of riding and exploring. Our destination was the Hoover Dam which is about 90 miles from Laughlin. Once we arrived at the dam, we got off our bikes to explore and take pictures. I recommend coming here in the fall or spring, anytime but summer, when temperatures can get to over 120°!! We were there in November and the weather was great!

The dam is a 60 story structure that provides water and hydro-electricity to seven surrounding states. It was completed in 1936 and if you haven't seen it, it is quite impressive! Afterwards, we headed to the Harbor House restaurant on the Lake Mead, for lunch and more breathtaking vistas of the surrounding area. After lunch we had a beautiful and leisurely ride back to the hotel where we once again partied by the pool, ate dinner and hung out.

The next morning was the dreaded check-out to head home, but in true OCHOG fashion we don't just ride home, we find the interesting sites along the way! And that really is the point of riding, not to just get to where you want to go, but to enjoy the journey! And with our group of riders, we ALWAYS do just that! A special thanks to Carol, our overnighiter activities director, and the officers that make the maps and plan the activities! It was another fun, successful overnighiter for our chapter!





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Bikes, BBQ and Cars

By Robert Govier

Let's Ride and Then BBQ

So, if you didn't make it to the Jan 29th Orange County Harley-Davidson Custom Bike and Car Show, you missed out on a great day. There were plenty of awesome cars and bikes to look at. The Hot Rod Trio was playing music and it was a great time put on by the dealership. It was the most people I have seen at the dealer in quite some time and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. This was our day to shine as a HOG Chapter and we did that for sure! There is no better chapter in the country as far as I am concerned.

As many of you know, we have taken over the BBQ duties at the dealership on the Saturdays that we have our New Member Rides so that we can raise money in support of the charity, Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station. You may or may not also be aware that several of us are riding the 'Hoka Hey Challenge' this summer, and we have also chosen Warrior Foundation to receive the donations we raise.

The logistics for the BBQ takes quite a bit of planning and work ahead of time with shopping for the food, prep and finally cooking. On an average New Member Ride BBQ, we may be cooking for about 50 people, but there were hundreds of people that showed up for the car and bike show. Consequently, many hands were involved in the process! On January 29th it was all hands on deck. Thanks go out to Linda Mosher and Mo for doing the shopping and a lot of the prep, cutting lettuce, tomatoes, onions, etc. and thanks also to Patty Allen, June Russell, Sue Nickerson, Linda Mosher, Tom Renner Bill Warren, Mark and Jan Pappas, who also did the shopping, cooking and serving (I hope I did not forget anyone, but at my age I am becoming forgetful. So if I did, I apologize and your work and help was greatly appreciated).



Winter 2022

We got that grill going at around 10:30 in the morning and did not stop cooking until 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. As I mentioned there were a lot of people to serve, and we came close to running out of burgers, we had to send out for reinforcements to cover the crowd, and they were patient, standing in line waiting for food. I really never heard a complaint all day, and if I did it was to the back of the line for them. We did run out of lettuce, tomatoes and pickles by the end of the day, but again it was a large crowd.

By the end of the day, we raised close to \$1800 in donations which was absolutely amazing! A big thanks goes out to Matt and OC Harley-Davidson for supporting the BBQ and giving us the opportunity to raise money. In the past several months we have raised quite a bit of cash for Warrior Foundation and it is because of the generosity of our members, and their hard work and dedication that this can happen. It is easy to flip burgers, but not many people are willing to sacrifice their Saturday to serve others, so I thank all of you for the help to get this done. And we do it all with a smile! And we don't charge, we only ask for donations! So without hungry riders who have big hearts, we would not be successful in our mission of helping the vets who have sacrificed so much for us (more than just a Saturday afternoon). Pat yourselves on the backs, go to bed with a smile on your face, because you make a difference. We can't wait for the next one.

P.S. we made a little over \$300 for the February BBQ. See you at the next one, come hungry and bring your wallets. Now can we get the mechanical bull for the Christmas Party?



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Winter Solstice Ride

By Tom Sheltraw

*The Winter Solstice Ride is our annual ride taken on (or around) the day that marks the shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice. The Winter Solstice, Dec. 21, marks the first day of winter, and has the least amount of daylight hours. It has been an annual tradition of OCHOG to rise while it's still dark, meet at the bottom of Ortega Hwy, and be at the top of the hill in time to watch the sunrise, which was around 6:45am. This year's ride was going to be a little different in that it was going to be split into two rides- all of the group rode up to the Ortega hilltop to watch the sunrise, and also to our breakfast destination of Rainbow Oaks Café, while some would continue on. After breakfast, we split off, some heading home and others continuing on to do more riding, see more sights and log more miles as a **Long Range Ride**.*

Here is an account of the day from one of our newest Long Range Riders, Tom Sheltraw. And believe it or not, his 12 year old daughter, Taelyn, earned her LLR patch on this ride as well! ~ The Editors

Our Winter Solstice/Salvation Mountain Long Range Ride

The morning started off with meeting at the Sendero marketplace by Starbucks, off Ortega Hwy. Kick stands up at 5:50 AM. Yes, that's correct 5:50 AM. Only the hard-core dedicated "crazy" bikers show up at this time, because it was dark and COLD! It would have been very tempting to just stay in bed where it's warm and cozy and sleep in, but you'd have missed out on the rewarding view of watching the sun make its very first peek into the morning sky on a clear, crisp beautiful day! From that vantage point the views are stunning.

So, we were definitely off for a very cold start of the morning...but an amazing 526 mile journey. One of the things you will see in the chapter is that when we meet early, the hard-core bikers show up. A few of them like Robert Govier, are so hard-core that they ride without any heated gear. It is definitely a pleasure to hang out with these hard-core, crazy people that are willing to get up at 4:something AM to go on a long range ride... even when the temperatures dip down to the 30° mark.

After riding to the top of Ortega, and waiting for the sun to make its debut, we took our picture, hopped on our bikes and we rode 35 miles to the Rainbow Oaks Café, in Rainbow, Ca. It was a cold ride but when we arrived, it was great to have hot coffee and a great, warm breakfast. The food was great and the atmosphere was even better. Rainbow Oaks Cafe has some history behind it. Although it was established in 1946, they had to close down in 2007 because of the Fallbrook fire that swept through and burned down 206 homes and destroyed over 9000 acres. They used some wood from the fire to rebuild their place. Two years later on April 2, 2009, they were able to re-open. It was a pretty spectacular site to see the parking lot full of bikes and cars, and a thriving café. It always amazes me to see the adverse things that happen to people and businesses throughout a lifetime, and how they handle these setbacks. Some may throw in the towel and give up, while others use it as a catalyst to bring about a new success. Rainbow Oaks was definitely the latter of the two.



One of the things I enjoy most about riding with the HOG chapter is that we don't just go on rides, we ride through life. Many of the places we visit, although we may not always know, have tons of history behind them. The setbacks, the stories, the successes, and the testimonies of overcoming obstacles, is ever present in the areas we ride through.

After breakfast, we said our goodbyes to those who would not be travelling on with us, and headed to our next destination, Salvation Mountain in the Sonoran Desert, Imperial County.

Salvation Mountain

Moving along on the journey, our next major stop was at Salvation Mountain, in Slab City. Slab city is a transient and retiree community where people live "off the grid". If you haven't been there, you definitely need to go see the area. This place definitely has some history and is definitely out there as one of the craziest sites and areas to visit.

Salvation Mountain is a big, man-made hill that has Christian artwork and sayings all over the place. The artwork on the mountain is made of adobe bricks. You will also see old tires, windows, automobile parts, and other crazy things incorporated into the design. There is over 100,000 gallons of paint on the mountain and it needs to be repainted all the time because of the harsh desert climate. There are numerous murals and areas painted with Christian sayings and Bible verses. The philosophy of the mountain was built around the sinner's prayer.



In 1984, a local resident Leonard Knight decided to leave a small monument out of concrete and paint. Over the next five years, the project grew.

This was said about Leonard Knight:

"A visionary ... Leonard worked beyond our concept of time, slowly and methodically without ever wandering from his path. His sole purpose in this endeavor was to spread the message that 'God is Love'. He shared this with everyone who came to the mountain ..."

Although Leonard passed away in 2014, his work is now managed by the nine individuals that sit on the non-profit board.

In Slab City, you will also see many abandoned, and some occupied, trailer homes, tents, and miscellaneous man-made structures around the area. The surrounding areas definitely are "out there" and kind of have the feeling of the zombie apocalypse. Yes, the area is pretty crazy, you gotta see it to believe it. I definitely wouldn't want to be there at nighttime but it is a sight to see in the daytime. Next stop, Glamis!

Glamis - Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area

Glamis is one of the largest off-highway vehicle recreation areas for sand dunes in the US. It is quite a breathtaking area. As far as you can see in all directions, it is solid sand dunes. Although I took many photos of the area, the photos do not begin to capture the breathtaking magnificence of the sand dunes. Although I was itching to ride up and down these magnificent dunes, I quickly realized that my 2021 street glide would not make it far. I guess I'll come back later with the right bike.

I am always amazed with the areas we visit. It is easy to forget that California is a vast and beautiful place, and there are actually places outside of Orange County that make it look like you're in another state, or even country. Glamis feels like you're in the Sahara Desert, with rolling sand dunes as far as the eye can see.

Heading Back Home-

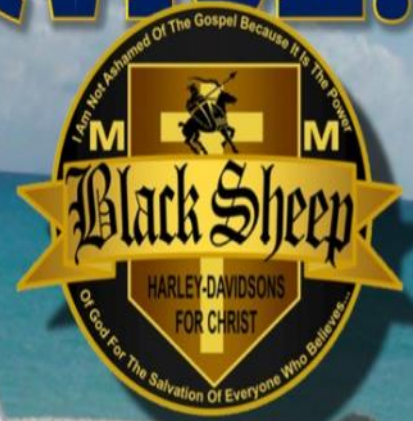
Overall, the day was fun-filled with plenty of excitement and beautiful rides. We gassed up and started heading for home. In all, the ride was 13 1/2 hours from start to finish, with four gas stops and closing off the day at 526 miles. Although this seems like a long day, it was definitely a day to be remembered. The miles, the history, the stories, and the friendships developed, will be remembered forever.

If you're reading this and you're one of the "normal" people that rides "normal" miles, I have a challenge for you. You might just want to get out of the house before the sun rises, and take the trip of your lifetime with us crazy Long Range Riders. You won't regret it!



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Focus on: R.O.C. Regional Officer's Connection

By Michelle De La Cruz

ROC'in Training

Chris "Mo" Mosher, Orange Coast HOG Director, assembled five officers to attend Regional Officer Connection training in Chandler, Arizona. I know what you are thinking- canned presentations and a lot of chatter. This was different. The one-day meeting went at full throttle and left me with a new perspective on our HOG Leadership.



As "Mo" said at our February Chapter meeting, we ride for fun. True to form, he and his wife Linda led Mark and Jan Pappas, Brian Weiske, Sam Proko and myself, on a scenic trip to Chandler, Arizona, starting with a hearty breakfast at the Julian Café, and beautiful vistas through the Banner Grade, Anza-Borrego and the Sonoran Desert. The road dipped and weaved through the mesquite-lined hillsides, rimmed by the beautiful mountain ranges in the background. Gridlock on the other side of the highway indicated we were getting close to the city. After a long day of riding, and checking in to our hotel, we had our chapter's traditional gathering by the pool aka "happy hour", to unwind and discuss the questionnaire in preparation for the next day's meeting. Linda provided a very nice charcuterie board for us to snack on while we shared stories around the table.

The next morning we woke up bright and early for the ROC training that was to take place. Chapters from Utah, Arizona and all over California were represented. Chris Harrison, HOG's Regional Director, emphasized the philosophy of "Riding and having fun!" with pointers on how to help leaders not let running the chapter get in the way of that goal. Discussion groups hit on key factors for success, factors like keeping rides interesting. In Southern California we are blessed with beautiful weather and we can adjust our rides to avoid weather conditions, which also vary in distance, and still end up in interesting locations, having a good time.

We heard lots of stories in which other chapters had differing issues, and a lot of these chapters were not doing so well. We got to witness firsthand, comparing ours to some others out there, how great of a chapter we have! We have it good! When it came time to talk through some of the difficulties the chapters were having, we just listened and felt very lucky. For example, the topic of Road Captains came up, whether or not they were in support of them, either because they didn't have enough members to support it, or they are too rigid in their rules. We thankfully have a great cadre of Road Captains that make navigating 40+ bikes (on an average ride) safe and efficient. Another topic was how we, as a chapter, are "perceived", which comes across in how we treat each other. And again I think we are doing pretty well on that point, as is demonstrated by the camaraderie and laughter shared over meals and at our stops.

ROC training cont.

Positive public perception is also affected by outreach to the community like our IWAR ride. Our chapter has always had a charitable side to it, with our support of fundraisers and toy drives, and our rides and events done on behalf of, and to raise awareness of, the Warrior Foundation. A lot of the rides we do have a philanthropic side to them. We ride to give back.

The most important factor for success is relationships, especially with our dealership. We really only can exist because of them. They support us in servicing our bikes, providing parts to enhance them, and when ready, upgrading to a new model. And it is a two-way street. Our chapter is a rolling advertisement for our dealership. As Brian pointed out, no other motorcycle has the level of solidarity that we enjoy with Harley. For that to continue, it is important that we build trust and rapport with Orange County Harley-Davidson, so they see our value to them. Again, we are lucky in that regard. We have a great relationship with our dealer!

Orange Coast HOG's success was validated by the 'solutions' to challenges that came up in the discussion groups. Our leadership is already implementing the ideas and suggestions that were being proposed. The strength of our Chapter's leadership is our willingness to adapt and reassess our decisions as a group, so that we can do it better going forward. But from what we could see at this training, we are already on the right path.

After a long day of meetings and discussion group sessions, we were ready to explore the town, so we rode to the huge Scottsdale Harley-Davidson dealership/experience. It was too late to get a haircut, tattoo or get married (yes, they have all those services available!), but we did enjoy the sound system installed on the "Audio Room" bike! And of course we bought some souvenirs! Getting hungry, we rode to old Scottsdale but couldn't get dinner without a reservation. So we rode back to the hotel and walked to a gastropub across the freeway, where we ate a great meal and got to celebrate Mo's birthday. We ended the evening by the hot tub with more talking and laughter, feeling very lucky that we really enjoy one another's company. Mo got a new nickname—Dachshund, and we gave him a gift to commemorate the weekend (you can ask him how that came about!)

Our ride home took in some new scenery. We backtracked through Gila Bend. In Yuma, Jan and I both saw alien space ships, amongst some metal statues, but even weirder was a 45-minute wait for Denny's! So we rode a little further to Cracker Barrel. We were the table everyone wanted to sit at, as we enjoyed each other's company.

The weekend was a reminder that good leadership makes good decisions, that build a solid foundation. And that foundation is what we have been building on for the past 2 ½ decades, and it is also strong enough to change for the better as we're always learning. Always keeping it fun to ride!





Notes from the Road



Photos from our members that are out enjoying the open road - Want to see a photo of your trip here? Just email us at: editor@ochog.org



Chapter Meeting - "Full House tonight. Way to start off the new year!"



Frank R.- "Good Morning Tombstone. Not riding, but someone is."



Cowboy - "Wanted to say what a great ride it was and thanks to Robert G. for the great group photo"



Jerry L - "There was a little debate this morning about how cold it was. Some said 32, and others 37. Who gives a s***, it was f***** cold! However, the ride was awesome and well worth it."



Debbie D.- "Yeah Baby!!"



Jerry L. - "Tom² (HD1)=\$"



Mike G. - "We need to find this road."



"Can't wait for the ride tomorrow!"

Notes from the Road

Let's Ride



Tom S.— We had a great day trip today.... It was so much fun seeing new roads...

#daddydaughteradventures



WFFS Ride—Fun ride with some HOG members to the Warrior Foundation Freedom Station in San Diego.... And then pizza! Thank you Robert G. for putting this together



No Comment....



Brain W. - "All in a days ride"

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