



HOG LOG

April 2019

Riding in the land of the
Rising Sun



Making the Most of California's
Superbloom



OCHOG Kicks off the riding year
In
Palm Springs

Also in this edition:
Upcoming Rides
The Road Warrior
Looking in the rear view
& More...

Member of the Month Sean King

Finding peace on the open road

MOTOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON CYCLES
ORANGE COUNTY HARLEY-DAVIDSON



RIDE 365



HOG LEG

Orange Coast Chapter - 4337

APRIL 2019



Message from our Sponsoring Dealer Orange County Harley-Davidson

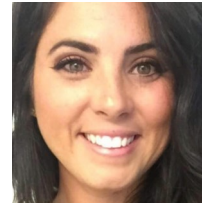
For the latest weekly specials and happenings be sure you visit www.ocharley.com and get signed up for our emails and follow us on www.facebook.com/ocharleydavidson

Thanks,

Jenn Hornacek

Marketing Manager

Orange County Harley Davidson



In this issue

Editor's Note: In this edition..... 2

Director's Welcome to the Family..... 3

Assistant Director..... 4

It's all about the ride

Riding the Land of the Rising Sun 5

Members Frank and Randy head off on a Japanese riding adventure

Members Corner11

New Member info and Upcoming Rides

Member of the Month 12

Meet Sean

Revisited: Palm Springs 13

The Road Warrior..... 15

Visits Cabrillo National Monument

Highlight: Superbloom 18

Looking in the Rear View 19

Lookback at the history of maps at OCHOG

Notes from the Road20

Members adventures and photos





Editor's Note

Living the Dream

By Michael Greco

As we head into Q2 of 2019 we are greeted by some great riding weather, lots of new members and a new edition of our HOGLOG!

This is the Inaugural hardcopy edition of the OC HOGLOG quarterly, published by the Orange Coast Chapter # 4337 of the Harley Owners Group. A special thanks to our sponsor dealer, Orange County Harley Davidson and to the hundreds of dedicated members in our chapter; ranked #1 in the 2018 HOG Ride365 contest.

I hope you enjoy reading the pages that follow and get a sense of how much we at the OC HOG Chapter 4337 truly enjoy riding. After all, riding our Harleys with other HOG members, is truly.... Living the Dream!

In this issue you will find articles from our Director and Assistant Director, as well as recent stories from our members about exciting rides, from places as far away as Japan. Also included for your viewing pleasure, information on local rides that have taken place recently, as well as upcoming rides you are welcome to join us on. Look for an article on early OC HOG Chapter history, and enjoy a peak into some posts from our members on social media as well.

On behalf of all the people that work hard to help make our Chapter #1 in the nation, I hope you enjoy this addition of the Orange Coast HOGLOG quarterly and that we see you at one of our upcoming meetings.

Michael



You're Not Alone

(714) 305-0676
tmartin@templaw.net

Tom Martin
Attorney

Ken Nodelman
Realtor®/Loan Officer
DRE License No. 01255012
NMLS License No. 233624

Evergreen Realty
MORTGAGE LOANS

1397 Calle Avanzado
San Clemente, CA 92673

Toll Free 888.886.6635
Cell 714.343.5693
Fax 949.429.5984
Knodelman@gmail.com
www.ClearChoiceRealtyTeam.com

Juve "Hoov"

Consultant



2618 San Miguel Drive #478
Newport Beach, CA 92660
tel. (303) 623-4292

Hoov@HoovSports.com
www.HeliteMoto.com

Carol Murray 877-895-8118

YOUR VACATION HOME
Apartments • Villas • Cottages • Chateaux



France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, U.K., Ireland,
Greece, Czech Republic, North America, Caribbean



Director's Cut

Welcome to our H.O.G. family

By Mel Fonseca



Welcome Members,

First, I want to thank Orange County Harley Davidson Dealership ownership and the membership for allowing me to serve as Director and be a part of an organization that not only provides fun, safe riding opportunities for all but allows lifelong friendships to be created. I am following the footsteps of some great leaders in the H.O.G. family. This Chapter was formed back in 1984 and the individuals who formed this chapter were motivated and persistent in pursuing a goal of success and making the Orange Coast H.O.G. (OCHOG) Chapter the best chapter in the country.

This past year we were the recipients of the 2018 National HOG Ride-365 award for recording the most miles ridden in one year as a chapter, we rode just short of 1.7m miles. Congratulations to all of you who participated. This year we are experiencing rapid membership growth and it has shown at our chapter rides and events. Our officer core is excited about this growth and are busy creating events and rides that stay true to our slogan: Ride, eat and have Fun. We are also making sure we stay atop of the leader boards for the 2019 Ride-365 contest.

Several opportunities will be available every month to join friends and meet other members at our planned day and overnight rides, as well as planned events, this is where lifelong relationships are created.

For our current and prospective members I want to assure you that the intention is to grow the OCHOG Chapter without limits, this means not only in numbers but also in finding creative and fun ways that we can all share in this great love we all have.....for our bikes and for that freedom we all feel when we hit the open road.

I look forward to a fun successful year and invite each of you get involved, participate, and most important have fun.

Ride safe,

-Mel

ORANGE COUNTY

MOTOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON CYCLES

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

11-3PM
SATURDAY
BLOCK PARTY
featuring **HOT MESS MOJO** **OC ANGELS FOOD**
Plus! **A FREE TICKET TO WIN A HARLEY!**

WIN A NEW 2019 HARLEY-DAVIDSON 883 IRON!
Enter Every Saturday!
Only at **ORANGE COUNTY HARLEY-DAVIDSON**
WINNER ANNOUNCED
SATURDAY, AUG 31 2019

*RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS!



Assistant Director

It's all about the ride

By Chris (Mo) Mosher

Odometer readings, mileage charts, competition over miles, excitement in the chapter is sky high after our recent successful run at the National Championship. With so much emphasis on miles and odometer readings it is easy to get caught up in the competition and lose sight of why we do what we do.

I recently was sitting and chatting with some chapter members and they were telling me of a great ride they had finished. Starting in Mission Viejo they rode over Ortega, stopped and ate at Hell's Kitchen and then rode to the scenic view point that looks over Lake Elsinore. I knew the spot well and often pass it on my own rides. The view of the mountains and lake is amazing. What made this special was the bright orange splash of color on the other side of the hills. The California super bloom of 2019. The couple took in the sights tools pictures, mingled with crowds, and then eventually pulled themselves away and headed back home.

Listening to their story I was struck by how they really had experienced what riding is all about. It isn't about the miles, it isn't about the food, the band or the beverages. It is all about that life experience. They will remember that moment standing and looking over the valley forever. We all are searching for those moments

In the end, it isn't about the miles.... It's all about the ride.

Mo



Whipz
BIKE WASH
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
(949) 207-9728 Cook's Corner Sat & Sun

#1 Traveling Notary Public

- Reasonable Rates
- Orange County and Surrounding Areas
- Escrow Experience
- Loan Document Knowledge
- Efficient Service with a Smile

Paula Wheeler
949-291-5327
auntpwheelers@gmail.com

2E WEALTH MANAGEMENT
PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

PAUL J. TOOHEY, CFP® AIF®
President / Wealth Manager
CA Insurance License No. 0628872

140 S. Chaparral Court, Suite 130
Anaheim Hills, CA 92808-2239
www.2EWealth.com

Phone: 714.998.8200
Fax: 714.998.8202
Paul@2EWealth.com

Bill Alvarez
Owner

26469 Rancho Parkway South
Lake Forest CA, 92630

Office (949)916-7977
bill@escapetheplaceca.com
escapetheplaceca.com

ESCAPE THE PLACE CA

Riding the Land of the Rising Sun

By Frank Roberts and Randy Tiffany



Konnichiwa fellow OCHOG riders! Hello from Japan! Curious how Randy and I got here? Well the story starts back with iWAR.

Eaglerider sponsored our IWAR ride. They are now the official rental company for Harley dealers and just signed a contract to rent bikes in Japan. To get the ball rolling the government of Japan authorized a FAM trip, or familiarization trip, where a small group of riders would ride a popular route through central Japan called the “Dragon Route”.

It was a pinch me moment for sure, but they reached out and asked if Randy and I could join Jeff Brown, the CFO of Eaglerider, Erik Severson Director of Business Development, his friend Glen on the ride. Little did we we know what was in store for us.

Soon travel day arrived and we caught our flight to Narita where we were met by Miwa and Maki, two ladies who would accompany us on our trip and serve as translators, organizers, and den mothers to a bunch of bikers prone to dropping items. In Japan, nothing is ever lost, it is found and the finder will find you and give it back.

The first evening after we were shuttled to our hotel, was one where you feel like you are in a strange land, but something about it seems familiar. The familiar part would come from the kindness of the people, food, beautiful scenery and of course, Harley Davidsons!

Day 1 Nagoya to Gifu, 72 km.

After breakfast and walked to the Moto Tours location and were introduced to our bikes for the week. My 2018 Street Glide was gleaming as I connected my iPhone so I could play music during the ride. After going over a safety and road rules briefing, we geared up a bit due to some light rain and off we went to our first stop the Nagoya Castle.

Nagoya Castle is one of many castles in Japan built by the Shogun. Samurai were the feudal lords and served as protectors of the local people. Samurai were mighty fighters and were armed with armor, a dagger and the famous Katana blade. The castle has been rebuilt following the burning of the original during WWII. Nonetheless, it is an impressive structure that must have required and enormous amount of labor to build back when there were no cranes or power tools.

The next stop was the Atsuda Shrine is home to one of three sacred swords, Kusanagi. This sword is housed in the temple and is not available for viewing, but there is a small museum with several Katana swords, painted panels and other items. Well worth the visit, even if the signs are not in English. After a walking tour and offerings to the temple, we walked to a locally famous dish of grilled eel over rice.



Riding the Land of the Rising Sun

I had never eaten eel, so was surprised at how delicate it was with its sweet, smoky flavor. It was also the first time I have eaten on the floor since I was a kid.

After lunch, we rode on to Gifu Castle. We parked in a small side street and walked up a long walkway to a cable car which took us up the 300 meter mountain. After an uphill climb, we finally stepped inside the replica castle, originally built in the 13th century. Inside were original Katanas, all sorts of weapons from the time and a view from the balcony that saw 360 degrees down on the city of Gifu. Well worth the climb.

Off to our first hotel in Gifu. We only rode 72 kilometers, but were already immersed in Japanese culture. Our evening was spent at the kickoff party with several dignitaries thanking us for coming followed by entertainment by real Geisha and a great buffet dinner. Of course, many toasts with beer and saki.

Day 2, Gifu to Ishikawa, 220 km.

After leaving what was one of the most beautiful hotels, we started our 220 kilometer ride. We rode through the Japanese Alps for the first time. Climbing higher and leaving the city behind, we got our first glimpse of how beautiful the countryside is. Winding roads, suspension bridges, tunnels and snowcapped mountains were our companions along the ride. We stopped at a mountain restaurant for lunch and enjoyed hot bowls of Udon. Inside was the owners prized collection of motorcycle memorabilia and a cool customized Harley Sportster! The dude cooked a mean bowl of Udon and built a beautiful bike.

After lunch we visited the Natadera Temple, built by a Buddhist monk in 717. We entered the shrine which is built inside the mountain, lit some candles for offerings and toured the grounds. We were led by a monk giving us detailed descriptions of what we were seeing.

Our next stop caught me totally by surprise. It was the Japan Automobile Museum with more than 500 cars and motorcycles on display. There was a Rolls Royce used by Princess Diana on her visit to Japan, lots of old Japanese cars that never made it to the United States, Datsun 240Z's, Fords and Chevys, race cars, utility vehicles and my personal favorite a rare De Dion-Bouton, made in France in 1899. Behind this contraption, it towed a wicker chair made for one passenger.

Day 3 Ishikawa to Noto Peninsula, 292 km.

Off to the Noto Peninsula. This is the head of the Dragon Route. Our first stop was Kenroukuen, home to the beautiful Japanese gardens. The grounds were part of the ruling Maeda family for two centuries and opened to the public in 1871. Touring the grounds, we were followed by a local news crew and a newspaper crew. We walked the grounds enjoying the scenery and learning about the area. Such a beautiful and peaceful place. We arrived at the hotel just before dark, had our usual first beer and toast and then hit the onsen before dinner. Onsen are like our hot tubs, except it is gender separated. After entering the onsen, you disrobe and take a shower sitting on a small stool.



Riding the Land of the Rising Sun



I scrubbed with soap and hot water, then entered the steaming hot pool. There was also one outside which Randy and I used. A great way to meet your riding partners after a long day in the saddle. Now we had nothing to hide!

Dinner was done in our robes. This is traditional and was a lot of fun. A feast of sushi, sashimi and all sorts of delicacies were on the table. I finished dinner and met up with the Eaglerider guys, Jeff, Erik and Glen. Over the bottle of Japanese whisky from dinner, we talked about the trip so far and what was ahead.



After this stop, we jumped on the highway. After an hour or so we came to the Sea of Japan. Riding with the ocean on our left, it was a beautiful sight. Then we exited the road and actually got to ride on the sand! Chirihama Beach Driveway is an 8 kilometer ride on nothing but beach sand. We stopped and were interviewed by the news crews, mugged for the cameras and watched as other tourists drove cars and even large buses on the beach. This was a highlight of the trip and is not to be missed if you are in the area.

Next up was Keta Shrine. This holy spot dates back 2000 years. We entered the shrine to be treated to a Shinto purification

ceremony. This beautiful ceremony was done inside the shrine and incorporated a drum, bells and some beautiful dance movements. We all left feeling better, but might take a few more services to totally purify us. We sat down to a bento box lunch that again, was filled with delicacies.

After a visit to a mayoral office, we stopped at a Japanese lacquer workshop, the Shioyasu Urushi Ware Company. The artist gave us a demonstration of how the lacquerware is made followed by a visit to the store. Ladies, get your shopping mode on as this place was filled with fine lacquer furniture, artwork, bowls, sandals and jewelry. I purchased a nice pendant for Anne and some really cool chopsticks.

The ride continued to Senmaida, a hillside of terraced rice fields. These fields sit perched on the Sea of Japan that looks much like Big Sur. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site and its beauty is unmatched.

We finished with a ride to our beautiful hotel, which was a Tadaya hotel in the traditional Japanese style. Rooms featured the tatami mats and low tables and chairs. It was the biggest hotel room I have ever stayed in. It had a living room with two sofas, a picture window overlooking the sea, an interior rock garden, a full wet bar and bathroom with two toilets, two sinks and a huge shower and bath. If you have never used a Japanese toilet, watch out which button you push, or you will get a surprise.



Riding the Land of the Rising Sun



Day 4 Noto Peninsula to Hida, 220 km.

The next day we set out in the rain for our 220 kilometer trip to Hida. Our first stop was a local fish market where we taste tested various foods from sausage to some great fried pork on a stick. We ventured on and were treated to a traditional Japanese Tea Service by a lady versed in the practice. We each were served a little sweet item and a cup of unbelievable matcha tea. I purchased a tin of the tea and received the bamboo whisk as a souvenir. I need to get to work on my Tea Master skills.



Rain shortened our ride through the Japanese Alps as the rain turned to snow. It was -2 celsius or about 28 degrees at our highest point. We rode in and out of tunnels with snow greeting us at every exit. One tunnel was 11 kilometers long or over six miles! We were warm and dry after exiting that one.

The next stop was the UNESCO World Heritage site of Shirakawago. This town is famous for the A framed homes built by hand with no nails or steel. Some are over 250 years old. This part of the world was cut off from the rest of civilization for hundreds of years so they used what they had to survive heavy snow and cold.

The attic of each home served as a place to cultivate silk worms.

Our visit was cut short by the weather however as we left the mountains, the sun came out and Hida came into view. We pulled into the hotel and for dinner were treated to Waygu beef, one of the best in the world. This beef is from female virgin cows, each raised in its own little home so as not to be exposed to the elements. Massages and beer are treats as they are hand raised to about four years old. The attendants cry when it is time, well you know, for them to cross the rainbow bridge and become a delicious meal! We cooked the beef, which tasted like meat flavored butter, over little table BBQ's and washed it down with plenty of beer. Endless plates of the raw beef kept coming until we cooked and ate as much as we could hold. At \$400 a pound, I am glad I did not have to pay that bill.

Day 5 - Last Day Hida to Nagoya, 229 km

Sunny and cool with a fresh layer of snow on the ground, we departed Hida. With miles to go our first stop was a familiar one to HOG riders, a highway rest area. May I say Japan knows how to do public roadside stops. Plenty of food, I chose the hot and fresh apple tart, little grocery stores with local foods, and the best darn vending machines anywhere. You can find almost any cold drink, Lemon Squash to Sweet or even hot coffee in a can! And might I say the cleanest restrooms anywhere on the planet.

We saddled up and made our second stop for lunch. I ordered the fried chicken lunch. It was the best ever. Little nuggets perfectly breaded and fried with a garden salad made from greens that were so fresh they were probably picked that morning. After lunch we had green tea ice cream from a little shop across the street. The owner said he had been following our adventure in the newspaper and was hoping we would stop by. He walked us to our bikes and got a nice picture with us.

Riding the Land of the Rising Sun

Leaving there, we made our way to the Seki Hamono Museum Swordsmith shop. This is just not any shop. It has been run for 26 generations by family members and has been making Samurai Katana's for all these years. We watched as they heated up iron in the hand operated kiln, pounded the first parts into a mass, cut it in half and folded it over. Then we all got a chance to pound the hot metal. No OSHA restrictions, this was done without safety gear. No steel toed boots, goggles or gloves. Awesome! After taking turns hammering the 5000 degree iron, we learned how the finished product is made. It takes a year to make the blade, then another four years for the handle depending on its requirements.



Then the moment that will stick with me the rest of my life; we got to hold a live Katana. We were told not to speak while holding it, don't touch the blade and above all don't swing it unless you want to see severed body parts flying around. The blade is so sharp, it will work its way into skin just from the weight of the blade, which surprisingly was very light.

We received a certificate in Katana Swordsmithing and then had a chance to shop. After a small purchase in the knife shop, we left for a final destination, Harley-Davidson Chiryu, where we delivered our bikes back to the dealer. A final beer and some shopping for cool tee shirts, we were driven to our hotel in downtown Nagoya and attended our Farewell Dinner. After dinner and many, many beers and kanpais, or drinking toasts, we stumbled back to the hotel.

Japan is a beautiful and interesting place and I will always remember my week of motorcycle adventures. Moto Tours helped to make it a great experience and their hospitality cannot be matched.



Special thanks to Mr. Kazunari Matsuzaki - Managing Director of Moto Tours Japan, James Worth - tour leader and all around funny guy, Takeichiro, Support Van, Miwa Harada, Tour Planner, Makiko Amano, Tour Planner, Shotaro Tanaka, Executive Producer, Kizuki Matsuzaki, Executive Producer and to Atsushi Sekino "Ninja" our intrepid photographer.

A very special thanks to Eaglerider, without whom this trip would have never happened.



Members Corner



We are a family oriented group that believe 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 third Saturday each month. *Meet at Orange County Harley Davidson at 8:15 for a New Member Orientation.*
- H.O.G Happy Hour is open to everyone and held on the last Friday of each month at Orange County Harley Davidson.
- Chapter Meetings are open to everyone and are held the third Thursday of each month at the Back Bay Conference Center in Irvine.
- *Ride Calendars are available at the Orange County Harley Davidson Dealer or on our Website www.ochog.org.*

Upcoming Rides

- **April 24th - April 28th** - Delcon Detour: Laughlin River Run, Grand Canyon, Sedona. One ride and so much to see and do. Closed ride members only
- **May 4th** - International Women's Ride Day: Join in and help us celebrate Ladies who ride! Meet at Orange County Harley Davidson (OCHD) for a 9 a.m. departure.
- **May 8th** - Moonlight Dinner Ride: Join the chapter and celebrate the full moon with a short ride to a surprise dinner destination. Meet at OCHD. Depart 6:30 p.m.
- **May 19th** - Lake Arrowhead: Join the chapter for a great lunch ride up to Lake Arrowhead. Meet at Jerome's furniture in Anaheim. Depart 8:30 a.m.
- **May 31st to June 1st** - Three Rivers: Visit Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. Closed ride members only.
- **June 8th** - Lake Henshaw Round Up BBQ: Ride to the hills in North East San Diego County. Meet at Sendero Marketplace in Rancho Santa Margarita. Depart 8:00 a.m.
- **June 12th** - Moonlight Dinner Ride: Join the chapter and celebrate the full moon with a short ride to a surprise dinner destination. Meet at OCHD. Meet at OCHD. Depart 6:30 p.m.





Sean King

March 2019

Member of the Month

I'M BACK!!!

Third times the charm.

Look on the bright side. It could have been Tom, Nick or Robert. Just think of me as your champion against those three notorious rascals you typically see here.

Though you could consider me one of them now, couldn't you?

.....but I digress.

Let's get back to me.

I could tell you a bit about me, so you could know me better, but it seems some of those records have been sealed by the Courts, some files are still code word classified by the US Government, and other things....well, lets just say the statues of limitations have not yet expired.

So let's talk riding.

It was a good year which started with an Iron butt ride to Winslow AZ and back. Logged over 1100 miles in 18 hours that day. It was a great time with my fellow chapter members.

That day fueled my desire to ride. Since I was already planning a fly

fishing trip to Tahoe, I left five days early to ride with some military buddies in Utah. On the way from SLC to Reno on I-80, I kept one step ahead of angry storm cells that time to time dumped rain and hail on me.

After fly fishing the little Truckee River I took to the road again, back to SoCal, stopping only to visit my Dad at the National Cemetery, just outside of Gustine, on Memorial Day.

Next trip was in early September. I had a reunion with some friends from my Rodeo days in Tulsa, OK. As per usual I was solo, so I headed out, averaging 650 to 750 miles a day.

On the road by 6am, hotel by 4pm. Soak in a hot tub, sleep, do it again.

My first destination was Fort Hood, TX by way of Albuquerque, NM. I found an old army buddy I haven't seen since 1985. Next was Paris TX, to visit a friend from my rodeo days who couldn't go to the reunion. Next stop Fort Worth Harley, for no other reason then to tell them Kim from OC Harley said hello.

A straight run for Tulsa, OK. Three days of drinking and carousing with a whole lot of other broke down old Bronc Riders like me and like the old days there was a bar fight the first night. Good times!

Leaving Tulsa, I linked up with my old Battle Buddy from Army Basic Training who rode in from Michigan and we rode together to Fort Sill in Lawton OK. We visited our old barracks where we trained in 1983. We were treated as VIP's and had the time of our lives.

Leaving OK, I was solo once again with a destination of SLC Utah by way of stops in Colorado Springs

and Cheyenne. After 3 days of riding in Utah with more Army/Rodeo buddies, it was a straight shot to SoCal.

This year was packed full of smaller rides from 200 miles to 850 miles a day. Over all I logged just over 17,000 miles. My best year to date.

I love the serenity of being alone on the open road and I sometimes wonder if in a past life I wasn't doing the same thing on a horse, either as a Mountain man or a pony express rider.

I find peace on the open road. I often say a prayer at the beginning of each day and ask God to allow my Dad, who was a Long Haul Truck Driver, to travel with me.

This next year has its own adventures yet to be seen, but my goal is to assist others to find the same serenity on the road that I've experienced.

I'm Sean King and let's ride!



Revisited: Palm Springs



Living in Southern California we pride ourselves on having 365 riding days a year. However, let's not kid ourselves. It can get cold and wet on during some of those winter storms. The annual Palm Springs overnighiter has emerged as a regular event which marks the beginning of the best riding time of the year.

This year was no exception and maybe there was even more anticipation due to all the rain we have received. It was touch and go with the weather and up until the day before it seemed touch and go with a new winter storm making landing.

Day 1; March 8, 2019, Friday, "That's Why They Have Windmills!"

On the way to the meeting location, the brisk cool air, clear blue sky and a few light clouds were a welcome break from days of rain. The snow clad San Bernardino Mountains in the distance were breathtaking.

Excitement was in the air as we greeted each other and within the next few minutes the number of motorcycles would grow to 32. Mel would lead us out on the first day of the ride. Cruising along between San Clemente and

Oceanside, the views of the ocean, Catalina and the hillsides through Camp Pendleton were spectacular. As spectacular in its own way was the sight of U.S. Marines out there protecting our shores. Always wanted to be one of those guys.

Reaching the Sorrento Valley area we looked ahead and saw ominous storm clouds, clearly dumping wet stuff. Undaunted, we continued straight toward them. At first it looked like we might skirt south of the storm. That was not to be.

Exiting I-8 on Tavern, coming into Alpine, ride information advised us to be prepared for rain, wind and cold. There was talk of snow in nearby Julian. Continuing our ride into the storm, it began to rain. Soon strong gusts of wind and a significant drop in temperature as we ascended in elevation. All this gave us an excellent opportunity to practice our "riding in the rain, wind and cold" skills.

Soon we were over the pass and spotted the blue skies over the desert. Descending into the Imperial Valley we left the rain and cold behind but the wind stuck with us for the rest of the day. On to beautiful Brawley and lunch at the world famous Brownie's Diner.

Leaving Brawley we worked our way to Hwy 111 and rode north along the east side of the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is a shallow saline lake 43 feet deep spanning 343 square miles and situated directly on the San Andreas Fault. The high salt content is due to the fact that it is fed by 3 rivers but has no outflow. At its deepest point the bottom of the lake is only 5 feet higher than the lowest point of Death Valley. While people do swim in the Salton Sea, according to California State Parks it is best not to when the Sea is thick with green algae or the water is covered with dead fish. Even so, a reliable source disclosed that more than one chapter member on the ride learned to water ski there. That all being said, during our ride the glistening water with the San Jacinto mountain range in the background were quite picturesque.

Reaching the northern end of the Salton Sea we made our way to I-10 then to Indian Canyon Drive. The giant windmills near the confluence of Indian Canyon and the I-10 were turning, doing their job. As for us it was on in to Palm Springs and some quality pool time at the Quality Inn.

Revisited: Palm Springs



Day 2: March 9, 2019, Saturday, “Joshua Tree National Park”

Weather Saturday morning was beautiful, calm and sunny as we lined up for the day’s ride through Joshua Tree National Park. Carol would be leading. We all cheered as she announced there would be no wind.

Established by congress as a National Park in 1994 Joshua Tree consists of 1,235.4 square miles of high desert rocky terrain dotted with thousands of Joshua Trees. Joshua trees, also called yucca trees or yucca palms, are native to arid southwest United States. They are indigenous to the Mojave Desert at elevations from 1,300 to 5,900 feet and are known to live up to 1,000 years. For those of you who are fans of Dr. Seuss’s writings (Green Eggs and Ham, etc.) he used the unique configurations of the Joshua tree in modeling many of his characters. The Park itself is a great place to camp, hike and ride bicycles and motorcycles. During our ride we made way for several cyclists doing a 193 mile ride the same day we rode 165. Personally, I was grateful for my Harley.

Entering the Park from the north we rode to Keys View for some breathtaking scenery. Situated at 5,185 feet above sea level, Keys View offered an incredible vista spanning from Salton Sea to the San Jacinto Mountain Range and Mt San Gorgonio. At 5,185 feet above sea level, heated gear was again the top ticket.

Leaving Keys View we rode south, enjoying views of boulder landscape with rock climbers, hikers and photographers out in force in the fields of desert wildflowers. Exiting the southern end of the park, we navigated back to I-10 and Palm Desert where we relaxed to a great lunch at the Shadows Restaurant situated within the Sun City golf course. The afternoon was our own and various groups headed off after lunch to enjoy downtown Palm Springs, swim in the pool or take a nice afternoon nap.

Day 3: March 10, 2013, Sunday, “Daylight Savings Time w/Twisties”

Kickstands up at 9:30 a.m. seemed to offer a fantastic opportunity to get a little extra sleep until one read the fine print and realized that today was the day to move one’s time piece ahead 1 hour for daylight savings time. Still, much better than leaving at 8:30. Chris Mosher would be leading the charge home and the weather was near perfect.

Chris promised twisties, and twisties there were. The beautiful landscape on CA-371 and CA-79 through the San Jacinto Mountain Range on the way to Temecula was a wonderful reminder of the amazing scenic countryside we have in our own back yard. On CA-79 we passed through Aguanga, a small census area of about 1,128 roughly 18 miles east of Temecula. There along the road was an approximately 10 acre field containing metal dinosaurs and other animals sculpted by Ricardo Breceda, a local artist.



Reaching Temecula we made our last stop at the Shell station and said our goodbyes. Another fun ride with good friends and a great kick off for 2019.

The Road Warrior: Cabrillo National Monument



It isn't just the act of riding through beautiful scenery that captures the imagination but also seeing places that make you feel like you are a part of history. This combination of history, views and a great riding route are what made us choose Cabrillo National Monument as our editors ride pick for this edition.

In 1542 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo anchored his ships off Point Loma and became the first European to land on the California coast and discovered what later became San Diego harbor.

The National Monument is at the far end of Point Loma but is surrounded by the Point Loma National Cemetery. Close by are many sight seeing and food options but we have selected a route that will highlight a few of our favorites.

Keeping with the historical theme this route starts in the location of another landmark with ties to California's Spanish past. Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded over 220 years after Cabrillo's first landing, in 1776 and is part of the string of California missions that were established along the coast.

A quick but scenic 70 mile ride down I-5 along the coast generally follows the old Camino Real ("Kings Road") which connected all the missions. Once in San Diego it is just a few minutes ride up through small residential streets to the start of old Fort Rosecrans and Point Loma National Cemetery. Definitely worth a stop it is only a few minutes further to the National Monument. Don't forget your park passes as this is a National Park and entrance fee's apply to each bike.

The views are stunning and on a clear day there is no better place to see San Diego harbor. A nice visitors center has the historical background and is worth taking the time to visit.

After taking in the views a quick ride back down Point Loma and around Harbor drive and along the



The Road Warrior: **Cabrillo National Monument**



Embarcadero are in order. Lined with Tall Ships, Cruise ships and the USS Midway the streets are crowded and progress can be slow but the views are worth it.

At the end of the Embarcadero is Sea Port Village. True to its name this is a small gathering of restaurants and shops is right on the water. Parking is tight but the attendant's are friendly and will fit bikes into no parking spots on the edge of the lot.

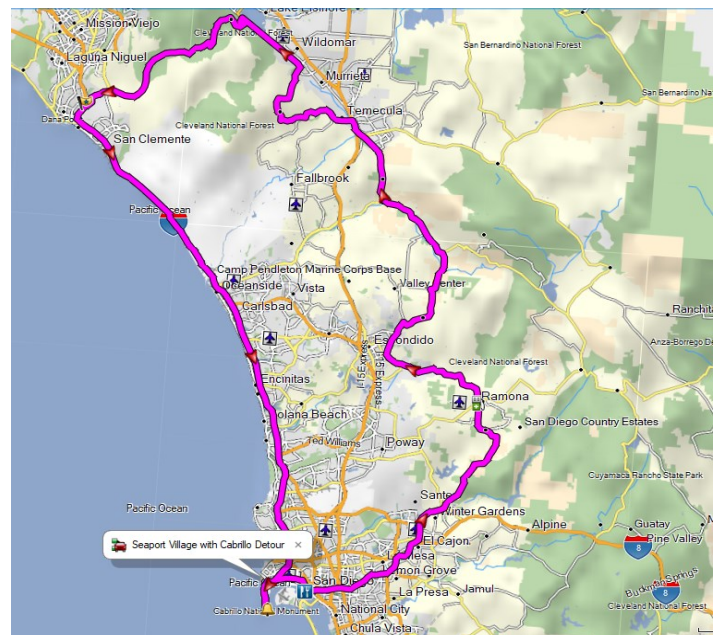
After lunch it is a quick ride through town and onto the freeway headed east. We recommend the longer twistier roads through eastern San Diego hill country for the ride home.



Exiting off the 8 and north on the 125 and 67 soon you are off the highways and into the hills. The route goes around Lake Wolford, especially scenic now that it is full from the recent rains, and on to Ramona.

A quick stop for gas and then continuing on Valley Center drive and north to Temecula. Another brief stint on the I-15 north to Elsinore and then the very familiar final ride home, up and over the always scenic Ortega Highway.

At 220 miles this is a great day ride and a historic and scenic trip into California's Spanish past.



The Road Warrior:

Cabrillo National Monument

-The Route

Seaport Village & Cabrillo Detour	
Meet up: Starbucks, San Juan Capistrano	
Meet at 8:00 a.m. and Kick stands up: 8:30 a.m.	
Right turn on Del Obispo	
Right turn on I – 5 South	.4
Exit Right Exit 20 on I – 8 East to El Centro	62.1
Keep Right to Rosecrans Street	62.2
Right turn on Talbot Street	65.7
Left turn on Canon Street	66.3
Left turn on Catalina Boulevard	66.5
Arrive Cabrillo National Monument (\$10 fee if no pass)	70.0
(D 10:30 am)	
Return on Catalina Boulevard	
Keep Right on Canon Street	73.4
Right turn on Talbot Street	73.6
Left turn on Rosecrans Street	74.3
Right turn on North Harbor Drive	74.8
Right turn on Pacific Highway	79.1
Arrive Seaport Village (Lunch D 12:20 pm)	79.4
Return on Kettner Boulevard	
Right turn on West Harbor Drive	79.6
Left turn on West Market Street	79.7
Left turn on on 11 th Avenue	80.5
Right turn on G Street	80.6
Continue on CA – 94 East and Keep Right	80.9
Keep Left on CA – 125 North	89.1
Exit Right on I – 8 East	91.4
Exit Right Exit 17B on CA – 67	94.8
Right turn on Maplevue Street	101
Left turn on Ashwood Street	101
Left turn on San Vicente Road	114
Arrive Arco – Cross main on left (Gas) (D 8:55 am)	118
Right turn on Del Obispo	
Right turn on I – 5 South	.4
Exit Right Exit 20 on I – 8 East to El Centro	62.1
Keep Right to Rosecrans Street	62.2
Right turn on Talbot Street	65.7
Left turn on Canon Street	66.3
Left turn on Catalina Boulevard	66.5
Arrive Cabrillo National Monument (\$10 fee if no pass)	70.0
(D 10:30 am)	
Return on Catalina Boulevard	
Keep Right on Canon Street	73.4
Right turn on Talbot Street	73.6
Left turn on Rosecrans Street	74.3
Right turn on North Harbor Drive	74.8
Right turn on Pacific Highway	79.1
Arrive Seaport Village (Lunch D 12:20 pm)	79.4
Return on Kettner Boulevard	
Right turn on West Harbor Drive	79.6
Left turn on West Market Street	79.7
Left turn on on 11 th Avenue	80.5
Right turn on G Street	80.6
Continue on CA – 94 East and Keep Right	80.9
Keep Left on CA – 125 North	89.1
Exit Right on I – 8 East	91.4
Exit Right Exit 17B on CA – 67	94.8
Right turn on Maplevue Street	101
Left turn on Ashwood Street	101
Left turn on San Vicente Road	114
Arrive Arco – Cross main on left (Gas) (D 8:55 am)	118

Times are estimates. It's all about the Journey!

Highlight: California's Superbloom



The 2019 riding season is off to a slow start after waves of storms unloaded record amounts of rain. The Orange Coast chapter has a long history of riding in Southern California but no one can quite remember a spring where so many rides had to be cancelled due to rain. We are used to the spring showers and each year they bring flowers in the desert bloom. Long an OCHOG tradition, rides to see the desert bloom have always been popular. Seeing the normal shades

Of brown, blues and grey of the desert suddenly come alive with streaks of yellow, orange and violet is quite a site. However this years rains have given us a once in a lifetime look at the the deserts coming to life in the Superbloom. Normally quiet destinations are now filled with flower followers and many a road, known for solitude, is now packed with crowds trying to see the incredible sights. With the flowers and crowds off the charts we thought it would be helpful to provide some hints for a great two wheeled Superbloom outing:

- 1) Elevation Matters - Flowers bloom based on a mixture of rainfall, sunlight, and temperature. You will find early bloomers at lower elevations. Higher elevations, like Joshua Tree will bloom later in the spring.
- 2) Patience - We want everyone to be safe and have fun. Flower Followers in cages are looking at the scenery and aren't always looking out for those of us on two wheels.
- 3) Picnic - Fighting the crowds and traffic can mean no quick entrance or exit to key flower watching spots. Save time and hassle by bringing lunch and taking time to smell the flowers.



- 4) Consider taking a hike - This is a once in a lifetime event and it isn't fun to hike around in leather and boots. Bring some clothes so you can go up and enjoy the scenery and your lunch. It could be that picnic is the memory that will stick with you down the road.
- 5) Explore - The bloom isn't predictable and changes over time. Explore the area and plan on impromptu stops. The perfect picnic area from last week may be replaced this week by something better down the road.



In the end the answer to how best to enjoy the Superbloom is to do what OCHOG does best.

Get out and enjoy the ride!

Looking in the rear view: Orange Coast Navigation

By Ken and Jean Pence

Our HOG chapter is very sophisticated in terms of ride planning and organization. By consulting the Ride Calendar, you can know the ride destination, its distance as well as level of difficulty. All good things to know. Riders are also able to visit the chapter web site and download detailed maps with turn by turn directions. These maps can be printed or input to a Garmin device or Infotainment System to help insure you know the route. Plus, if you should be separated from the main train of bikes due to traffic conditions, you are assured that a Road Captain will magically appear to guide you back into the fold. This was not always so.

In the early days of our chapter, 1990s, a typical ride consisted of roughly ten to fifteen bikes. The meeting site was on a cul-de-sac across from the old dealership on First Street in Santa Ana. The leader gave profound advice, "Follow the fender in front!" Riders sometimes had to execute dramatic maneuvers to accomplish this!

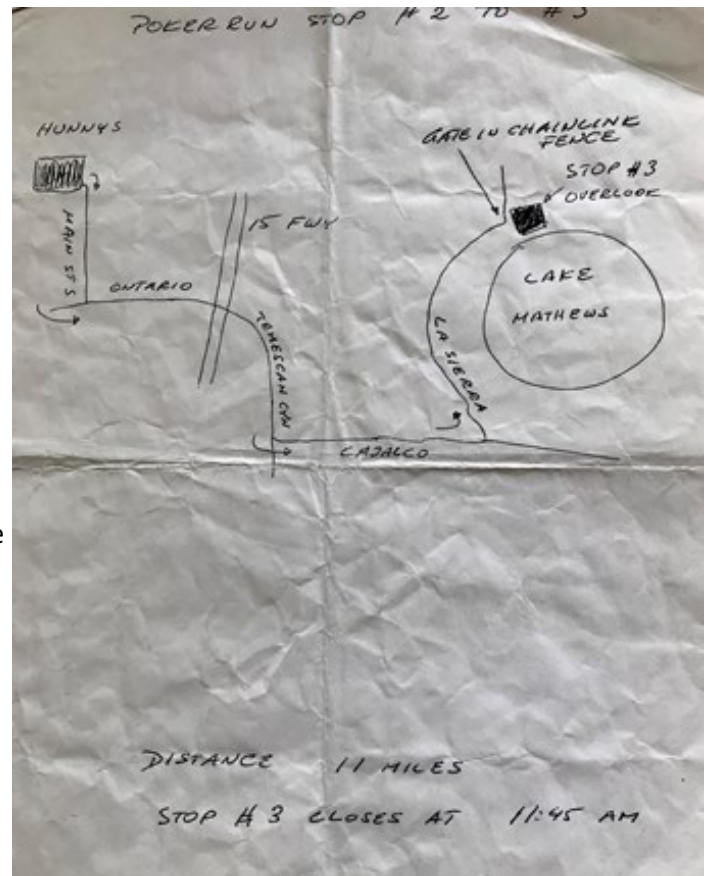
Over time, the custom was to pass out hand drawn "maps" prior to departure. Most rides were led by the Director unless a member came up with a ride and volunteered to lead it. This person would also provide the maps.

The so-called map was simply a piece of paper with some pencil lines, numbers to suggest highways and possibly some street names. There were very few, if any, points of reference. Riders clipped them to the windshield, tank bag or stuffed them into a pocket. It wasn't helpful, so just "follow the fender in front!"

Years brought improved technology. The chapter evolved and the process changed so that complete maps were run off on a Mimeograph machine, complete with the scent of denatured alcohol, the duplicating fluid. The purple letters and lines provided more information, but the paper was still a bit unwieldy without some sort of windowed pocket device to hold it. Again, follow the fender at all costs!

The early days did not always have preplanned stops. At some point, while passing through a small town, the leader might slow as his helmet swiveled like a radar antenna. That was an indication that his tank was near empty, his bladder was near full or it was time to eat! The response to any of this could be an abrupt turn into a driveway, or it could also mean a group U-turn was eminent! Just keep up with the fender in front. But, you know, we never really worried too much about it. Twenty plus years ago there was significantly less traffic congestion. It was all fun.

The map sample should make you thankful for all the technology and expertise our officers utilize to provide navigational guidance on our club rides. By the way, even with advances in technology it is still a good idea to "follow the fender in front."



Notes from the Road

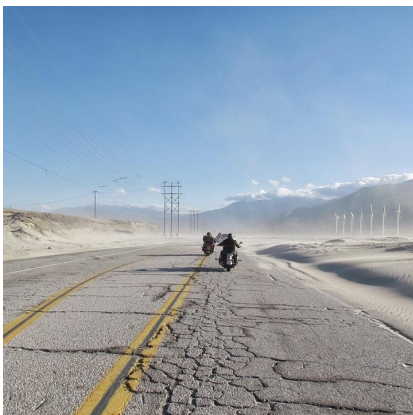


Carol A. Via Facebook -

32 bikes made the highly anticipated trek to the desert for our first over-nighter of 2019. Great riding and lots of fun for all!

Taking a southerly route through the Imperial Valley, we had the opportunity to hone our U-turn skills near Ocotillo before making our way to Brownie's Diner in Brawley for lunch and then onto Palm Springs.

Choosing a theme song to best describe Day 1...Bob Seger's "Against the Wind"! Although a number of our rides were canceled due to the rain, the end result is a super bloom in Joshua Tree with spectacular wildflowers on display, snow on the mountains



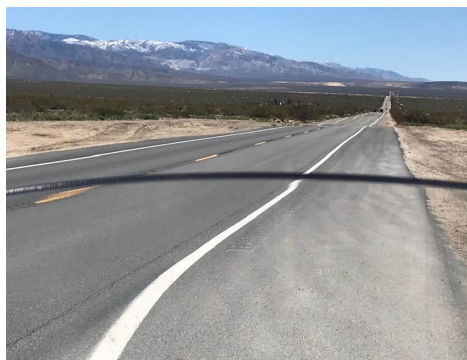
Paula W. Via Facebook

Thank you [#OCHOG2019](#) leadership, road captains, officers (our most respected volunteers) for planning a lovely vacay. We appreciate you keeping us safe at all times!!



Wayne G. Via Facebook

The "OPEN ROAD" to 247 Cafe, A biker friendly Bar-B-Q, Ole Jeff says it's the best in the land!!



Joanne K. Via Facebook

Had to see up close, all orange coloring in distant hills on our ride today. What a surprised... Wild California poppies!!



Jay A. Via Facebook

That's My Ride... [During the Borrego Springs superbloom ride]



Scott H. Via Facebook

Topoc 66 and London Bridge ride. Another great day!



Notes from the Road

Scott H. Via Facebook

Great ride today amigos
Thank you Wayne for the tour
thru Cattle Country !!



Debbie D. Via Facebook

Thanks for the salton sea tour and
history lesson to boot!! I've got
my hand warmers with me still!
Saddle sore and only half way to
the real deal! Lord! Need heated
gear!



John R. Via Facebook

All American on his birthday



Dan T. Via Facebook

Finally Open!



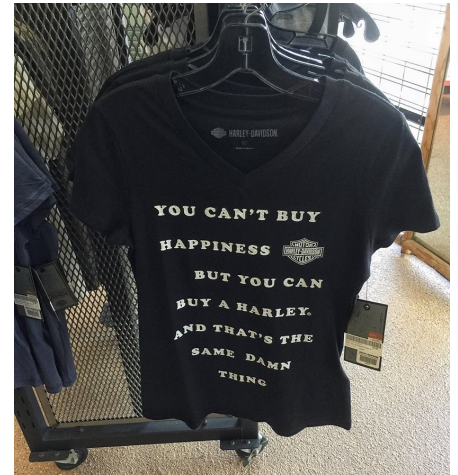
Posted Via Facebook

New Member Ride Photo




Want to share your notes or photos
from your ride?

Email: editor@ochog.org



Patches Sewing
All Sewing and Quilting Needs



Elizabeth Geer
26822 Via Matador
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
949-581-3181
949-230-2311
elizamusic@aol.com



[instagram.com/stixtattoos](https://www.instagram.com/stixtattoos)
stixtattoos@gmail.com

Paula Wheeler
ealator®/Notary


Evergreen Realty
OF COASTS

1397 Calle Avanzado
San Clemente, CA 92673



949.291.5327
949.429.5984 Fax
auntpwheeler@gmail.com
www.ClearChoiceRealtyTeam.com
DRE License No. 01272195

ORANGE COUNTY



HARLEY-DAVIDSON®

The mission of Orange County Harley-Davidson® is dedication to the highest quality of customer service delivered through a family-oriented, integrity-based, quality-trained, fun lifestyle dealership. Our top priority is to exceed our customer's expectations through Harley-Davidson® motorcycles, parts, service, general merchandise and related product sales.



**8677 Research Drive
Irvine, CA 92618**

SHOWROOM HOURS

Mon-Fri 10:00am - 7:00pm
Sat 9:00am - 6:00pm
Sun 10:00am - 5:00pm

SERVICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9:00am - 7:00pm
Sat 9:00am - 6:00pm
Sun 10:00am - 5:00pm