

2018 Holiday Newsletter



MERRY CHRISTMAS



HAPPY HANUKKAH



OR

ANY OTHER CELEBRATION!

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of the Cleveland Chapter members!

We've had a pretty stellar year. The rides we rode were interesting to say the least. Our Head Road Captain let his instincts coupled with his GPS take us on some great roads less traveled. There were a few moments however when we

crossed Old Dunham road three times in 15 minutes. I could hear the unit: ("Jeez, I'm recalculating!")



We started the season with some fan favorite activities like the annual chapter/dealership bowling party (we won by 5 pins), and a unique night out at Fox and Hound playing billiards and throwing darts. I'm going to work on planning a few more unique events to get the season started this coming year. Of course, we're always open to suggestions.

We're committed to planning new and exciting destinations and rides for the 2019 season couple with some familiar roads and spaces as well. Please help us with your thoughts on where we should go. Members have been asking about Hog Rallies and riding there as a chapter. I'm all in favor as long as we get legitimate interest in going to them. Signup sheets coming soon.

This past season, very few rides were canceled. I'm going to request that you let common sense prevail: if it's raining cats and dogs with monsoon winds howling sideways, we probably aren't going anywhere although I'd put nothing past John as he watches his weather app in the dealership parking lot!

In conclusion, I'd like to express my gratitude to everyone that made this year a great one. All of the people who rode, volunteered their time and energy, entered the chapter contests or just hung out at Southeast Harley Davidson on a Saturday morning, I salute you!

Once more with feeling...Happy Holidays and we'll see you next year!

If you are interested in joining our Officer Team, see me for details!



Sincerely,
 Jeff Allie
 Director, Cleveland Chapter HOG #3696



Okay, now that you've hopefully read the official Director Season's Greeting on page one, here's the real skinny:

I rode last year. That's right, I. Rode. That's really what this whole HOG organization is all about. That's the fundamental tenant of HOG; "Ride and Have Fun." I cringe in amazement at people who own a Harley Davidson and it sits in the garage for weeks on end. Jeezy Creezy, get out and ride it! 'Nuff said.

No single person can run this organization. Everybody in the officer group contributes his or her time to making this beast tick. You know who you are. Ken, Joe, John - you've become great friends and greater brothers. Laura, Lu Anne - always ready with a hug of reassurance. Mike - always looking for food somewhere but *ya gotta feed the soul before you hit the road*. Vini - It's always good to hear the words you say: "Thank god no one died last month". And "Grandpa" Clay - always subtly pushing but in the best possible way. Lee-climbing up my butt to get some words on paper. I hope this starts making up for the times I didn't.

I feel like that hostess of the kids show Romper Room who held up her imaginary looking glass and said: "*I see Leslie and Neville and Bud and Rick and Dave and Tim and John and Terry*, and the list goes on." If I don't see you on Saturday, the week just doesn't feel right. And all the rest of the road captains, hanger out-ers at the dealership and people who just walk up to me and stick out their hand and say hello. You all contribute to the wellbeing of the clan.

Back to the ride and having fun thing, yeah, I had fun but I learned some "fun"amentals of riding as well.

1. You really should look to see if your kick stand is in the fully extended and locked position. Not doing so will almost certainly guarantee your bike will end up resting on its left side. I have witnesses.
2. You really should look to see that your feet touch the ground on both sides of the bike while trying to leave a parking lot on a downhill slope. Not doing so will almost certainly guarantee your bike will end up resting on its right side. I still have witnesses.
3. You really should look to see that your speed going into a blind-rise-to-the-right-turn (almost 90 degrees) is moderate. Not doing so will almost certainly guarantee your bike will end up dropping into the ditch, off the road, on the wrong side. If I only had two more inches of road, I'd have made it. I know, I know...that's what she said! Once again, I have witnesses.
4. I could talk about this stuff all night...

On the other hand, I spent hours tearing up back roads and touring small towns, saw some awesome sights, and met some fine folks. Turned gas into noise. Lived to ride and rode to eat. Worked on the best damn motorcycle there is but still haven't cleaned it, and I still have many witnesses...and I intend to do it all over again next season.

Thanks for listening,

Jeff Allie





News from the Chapter Manager:

Well don't have a lot to report this time around except for the 365 Mileage program. As of today we as a chapter have posted 18376 miles. Out of the 531 chapters in the program we rank 68 overall. In the Northeast Market 1 we rank 7ths. With Rubber City in 6th place by only 6635 more mile. We still have time to beat them, as this event doesn't end till December 31, 2018. So anyone who has been in the program this year and hasn't got their final year-end mileage to me please do so as you put your bike in storage for the winter. I need the following info Last 4 of your VIN number, Name or HOG number and Mileage. You can e-mail the info to me at "claymor@ameritech.net". Next year it is my understanding that this event will be tied into the ABC's of touring. I will keep you posted and if you are interest in being part of the mileage next year come and see me at South East on Mondays or Saturday Morning or just call me

POINT OF INTEREST, OF THE 158 CHAPTER MEMBERS ONLY 33 PARTICIPIED IN THE 365 MILEAGE PROGRAM. Let's do better next year

EVERYONE HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Always Ride Responsible



Clay Morris, Chapter Manager

CM111818



From the Rothbrust's: Joe and Luann
Assistant Director and Media Coordinator

As Joe and I were thinking last winter about the rides we want to take and the places we want to see in 2018, we decided to make it a goal to see more of our own state of Ohio.

It seems that we are always making ambitious riding plans to get out of our own state when there was at least half of Ohio we have never seen or explored. We both grew up in Ohio but know little about our own backyard. Lo and behold, the chapter challenge of courthouses presented itself and off we went!

We managed to visit, photograph, and admire the courthouses in all 88 Ohio counties! What amazing adventure this was. The history of these buildings, the ornate architecture, and spending time in many small towns from one county seat to another was an unforgettable tour. Most courthouses in Ohio are original. Many had interesting historical plates in front of them. In so many spots, we met and talked with a number of local people passing by asking us what we were doing and offering more tales of their hometowns.

And in Ohio? A majority of them had a Lady Justice statue adorning the tops. Each "Lady" carries the traditional sword and scales. Some had blindfolds. Some did not.

We travelled hills, backroads, valleys, twists, plains. And in some areas, lots of corn!

This challenge showed us many places we would like to return to like the Neil Armstrong Museum in Wapakoneta. Grand Lake St. Mary's near Celina. Serpent Mound. Yellow Springs. We never tired of riding along the Ohio River. So many towns had murals painted on walls in town or on the flood walls. Especially fascinating were the murals in Newark, Bucyrus, and Circleville. The Pomeroy courthouse was built on the side of a hill and had 3 separate entrances on each story.

Great challenge this was but the whole purpose was to get out and ride. These chapter challenges give us opportunities to see new places and create new riding loops. In taking on the challenge you find adventure by seeing the world on two wheels.





Ken Farabaugh, Secretary:

As we end this year, I would like to wish all of you the best. I hope you all had a great year and I hope you all had Fun while riding your Harley-Davidson. I also hope you joined the chapter on at least one ride, if not several. As we try to put rides together that everyone can enjoy, not all rides are for everyone, every time. We welcome your input, now and in the future, as we get ready to put next seasons ride schedule together. The more variety we can include in our rides, the more riders we can gather to enjoy the rides. Please don't be afraid to let us know what you think and where you want to go.



Stay warm, summer is coming!

Wow, what a great year!

As most of you know, I teach Motorcycle Ohio Rider Education courses. This is extremely rewarding and boatloads of fun. If any of you have ever thought about becoming a motorcycle instructor, feel free to ask me about it, we are always looking for good instructors with a passion for the sport. The only possible downside to doing these classes is that they normally occur on the weekends during the summer. I don't know about you, but that sounds like the best time to ride. You know, like go on chapter rides and such. So, I saw my miles in 2017 go down and I figured it would be worse in 2018. Somehow, that didn't happen. I managed to log in over 11,000 miles this year and still did my classes on the weekends. Not sure how that happened. I did go on a few good trips and that accounted for about one half of my total miles.

In the spring, Joe and I did the annual pilgrimage to my favorite place on Earth, the Great Smoky Mountains. East Tennessee to be exact, Townsend. They happened to be having a rally that week, so we enjoyed some rally activities and our usual runs about the mountainside. Some of you have asked me where I ride when I am down there, so here is a list of some of the roads we did this year. Because of the orientation of the mountain and certain roads, many of these get traveled several times in a single day, just to get from one side of the mountain to the other.

Back of the Dragon, The Snake 421, the Diamondback, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Hellbender 28 (3 times), the Tail of the Dragon (7 times), the Foothills Parkway (7 times), Rt.68, The Six Gap, US 129 south of the Dragon (3 times), Little River Rd. 73 (5 times), Montvale/Happy Valley Rd., The Rattler 209, and the Devils Triangle.

We were gone a week and rode about 2700 miles on this trip. I hope you got out and had some fun as well.

Ken Farabaugh



Motorcycle Ohio Registration begins January 22, 2019.



From Gia "Raff" Collins:

The riding season sure did come to an abrupt close, which prevented me from realizing my mileage goal for this year, but, I guess that's ok. Leaves more time to get the yardwork done in between raindrops and the windstorms, right?

As we all get a chance to reflect on this past year's season, and look forward to making plans for next year, take a moment to give thanks for the friends and family we are making our memories with. It sure does make the stories more fun to tell having travelling buddies.

In the past few years, we have spent time with our friends riding in Colorado. We started in Colorado Springs, and travelled through Durango, Aspen, Vail, Gunnison and several of our National Parks. We rode up Pike's Peak, and through the thickest of clouds through Gunnison National Forest. That was one of the most nerve-wracking rides we have ever been on, and prayed the tractor trailer we were following didn't go off the mountain. It was raining and blowing, and in the mountain gap, there is nowhere to find shelter. We rode it out, and thankfully made it to the bottom. The "Million Dollar Mile" was one of the most appreciated parts of the ride, as the big sweepers into Silverton and Durango gave way to some beautiful sites. We will be riding part of that route this year, and we hope the ride will be just as spectacular.

This year, we are planning on riding Southern Colorado and Southeast Utah. We will be making our journey through several National Parks, one of which is Arches. I hope Sheryl smiles on us as we make our pilgrimage there to remember her at Delicate Arch. She is always in our hearts. We also hope to meet up with some friends from Nevada while on our trip. It's always fun to reunite with fellow riders.

With the holidays fast approaching, take time to enjoy the moments, and make wonderful memories.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and joyful holiday, and a happy new year!

Gia Raffaele

Webmaster





From Steve Vanni: Assistant Head Road Captain

This past May Southeast Harley Davidson went above and beyond the call of duty by hosting a spaghetti benefit dinner in honor of my late wife Joanne. I want to thank everyone who helped put that together especially Barb and Jane and everyone else who volunteered the love and support you showed for even offering such a generous gesture resonated deeply with myself and my family. Jo obviously touched a lot of people's hearts in our Harley family both in the club and in the dealership itself whether it was good or bad influences the support I received after her demise was very overwhelming for me.

Over the summer I tried to come up with a way to show my appreciation but have not thought of a way to say or show what that support has truly meant to me. As I have visited our dealership since May I have observed that even though this is a business and yes they have to sell to stay in business so many of the people that work there.....Care! Southeast has made me feel like family and I know as family that is what is done. From the bottom of my heart I want to **THANK** the entire Southeast Harley family for remembering Joanne in the way you did. I tried for years to get her to join the HOG chapter and when she finally did she was proud to be a part of it. She would not have liked the attention of this but she still would have been deeply touched by the love everyone showed through the support of the benefit. I am so grateful and very humbled by all the emotional support I've received from the Southeast Harley Davidson family.

Thank you again for everything. You are truly incredible and my heart is filled with gratitude.

Steve Vanni





From Tim Smith: Happy Wanderer!

This past year I took a ride out west and rode the Pacific Coast Highway from Seattle Washington to Los Angeles California. To get there, I first rode to Sturgis South Dakota with some great people that I consider myself lucky to call my friends. Stewart, Connie Guy, and Mike Suren. It was great to get to plan a trip where I was going to ride to so many great places but the day I left on the journey was one of the best. Maybe not the scenery but the adrenaline, excitement was awesome. I remember corn fields, windmills, Pickers on the Mississippi, Wall Drug signs, getting Connie's bike washed at the Harley dealer and all the great places we ate at on the way. Sturgis was great and so was the weather. Bikes ran great and we rode all the great roads surrounding Sturgis.

It was another type of high when after a couple days of Sturgis I began my solo trip. The weather was great and instantly found myself riding with some bikers that were also heading west. Making my way to Bear Tooth Highway, Yellowstone, and across the northern part of Washington to Seattle. Wow is all I can say. Mountains, Buffalo, mountain lakes and realized I left my heated gloves that I bought just for my trip at home on a shelf in the garage. I love those Pilot Gas Stations that sell gloves. Weather was chilly but not cold. Camping on the beach was amazing but my hike to and from was well deserving of a couple cold ones.

As I began my Pacific Coast ride at a weed store about 10 miles from beach camp, I had to stop just to see what it was like, No I didn't buy anything. I began to see glimpse of ocean as the road weaves to and fro the shoreline. I spotted a whale from one of my pullouts in Oregon. It also sunk in that there was going to be a lot of fog while riding the coast. I would normally start riding around 9 and ride till 5 or 6 depending on how many times I would stop. Did it all on my Time. Saw a lot more ocean as I got into the Big Sur area. Camped a couple nights at a state camp that was a stone's throw to the ocean. Big cliffs that I explored like I was a little kid. Swimming at a Malibu beach and turning inland to start my trip east was another milestone as I expected the weather to get much hotter, well I was correct. I got to ride Angeles Crest Highway and Rim of the World was not too bad, maybe 85.

But as I rode through Joshua Tree National Park it started to heat up. Once I exited the park and began to ride across Arizona the temperature reached 107. I did my planning and had a hydration vest that works great, if you ride in hot weather, get one. \$40.00 I met with family in Phoenix and enjoyed a great dinner before leaving to travel through an incredible mine. Morenci Mine. Then riding what was once called Devils Highway (666) now known as route 191 up to Alpine Arizona which lays claim to our largest Elk in the USA. I didn't see any... The people were the best friendliest people and most interesting I think I had met.

The roads across New Mexico were open and vast, Stayed in Roswell and I think I was the only one at a 200 room hotel. They had a nice pool! Texas was Smelly and Oklahoma I finally got wet. Road through the Ozark National Forest on route 16, dry roads but treating to rain all day. Made it Memphis and parked in front of the rebuilt Woolworths where the blacks were refused food and refused to leave. I felt humbled.

Road on thru Nashville and into Gatlinburg Tennessee where I hooked up with my son and close friend. Road the dragon and sported around a couple more days before heading up north to home. Catching the Back of the dragon on the way home. Note: 90 percent of my trip was on 2 lane roads. A couple roads I probably should not have been on as they were a little sketchy but it was all part of my great adventure. I met some awesome people and made some new rider friends that I now am in contact with. I am in the planning stages of next year and hope to run into some of you on the road.





From Lee Herman/Editor



Well as you can see, this year is coming to an end. This is also the time to reflect on the past year, its trials and tribulations and set your sights on next year. Be thankful for what you have, be thankful for the friends and family that share your life with and above all, be thankful for yourself. You made it through the toughest year of your life.

Now onto your next chapter. What is in store for you? A big trip, a new HD, or just reacquainting yourself with everyone you know. Whatever you chose to do, remember, this Harley family is always here for you. Don't be afraid to ask for help, or ask to ride with someone. We are pretty open to everyone, even you!

I do hope the articles that have been shared with you give you ideas for riding next year. If you can't do those long distance ones, see us for the daily rides we plan. We'd love to have you and share the road with you!

Sooooooooo. MERRY CHRISTMAS ONE AND ALL, and remember.....

