TALES FROM BWOODS

FEBRUARY 2017





RECHOG is proudly sponsored by **Sonoma County Harley-Davidson**

7601 Redwood Drive, Cotati, CA 94931

800.400.2011 | sonomacountyhd.com





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Redwood Empire Chapter #3494

For more information, email webmaster@rechog.org

DIRECTOR BY DAVE McCOMBS

happy Valentine's Day

This month I have decided to open my article with a brief history of St. Valentines day.

In the middle of February the ancient Romans celebrated Lupercalia which was a fertility festival. Between 200 and 300 A.D. at least two Christian clerics that were known as Valentine were martyred. In the late fourth century Pope Galasius declared February 14 as a day for honoring Saint Valentine.



Then in the 1300's St. Valentines Day became associated with love and romance. In the 1600's Europeans embraced the tradition of exchanging valentines and in the 1840's the United States started mass producing valentine cards.

Each year over \$450 million is spent on cards, candy and gifts for our sweethearts... seems to me somewhere along the line there must have been a St. Harley and a St. Davidson.

Enough with history, the year seems to be getting off to a good start, the Board Of Directors (BOD) are working together to make sure we have a very fun year, the Events Calendar is loaded with ideas and destinations to the end of the year, but there is still room to schedule in other ride and events to fill in some of the spaces, if you have any ideas for a ride or destination please do not hesitate to let our Activities Officer or Head Road Captain know.

We will be starting our **Summer Run planning meetings on February 9**th **at the Round Table Pizza in the Raleys Center in Rohnert Park at 6:00 pm.** We will need several volunteers to help make sure this is once again a fun and successful event, it would also be to our benefit to have a dedicated Coordinator to organize volunteers and see this event through to the end. Anyone with a desire to help is encouraged to attend. The meetings will continue at the same time and location on the second Thursday of each month until our main event is over. The date for the Summer Run will be August 19th and our destination will once again be the picnic area below the dam at Lake Sonoma.

Lets Make Some Noise

SOUTHEAST H.O.G. RALLY November 01 - November 04 Pensacola, FL

October 05 - October 07 Ardmore, OK

WESTERN H.O.G. RALLY September 14 - September 16 Chandler, AZ

GREAT LAKES H.O.G. RALLY August 17 - August 19 Saulte Ste Marie, MI

HOME SWEET CHROME H.O.G. RALLY
August 15 - August 19
Grantville, PA

2017 H.O.G. RALLIES

H.O.G. IRON ADVENTURE OF NEW ENGLAND July 27 - July 29 Lincoln, NH

PACIFIC NORTHWEST H.O.G RALLY
July 20 - July 22
Meridian, ID

H.O.G. REVOLUTION RALLY
July 13 - July 15
Utica, NY

SOUTHERN BACKROAD'S H.O.G. RALLY
July 11 - July 15
Cookeville, TN

LAST FRONTIER H.O.G. RALLY
June 22 - June 24
Fairbanks, AK

ROCKY MOUNTAIN H.O.G. RALLY
June 08 - June 10
Steam Boat Springs, CO

MERGING MOUNTAINS H.O.G. RALLY
June 07 - June 10
Roanoke, VA

SOUTHWEST H.O.G. RALLY May 18 - May 20 Temple, TX

DEEP SOUTH H.O.G. RALLY April 06 - April 08 Alexandria, LA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BY IAN REFUGIO

Let's ride and have fun!

I don't know about y'all but I'm ready to get some rides in. January was a little too rainy for my liking but I cant complain since it did get us out of the drought. I'm sure some of y'all are itching to roll the bike out of the garage and hit the road. Well after having the chance to meet with the other officers and road captains in the chapter, I'm confident that y'all will have your fill of rides and events these next few months. I want to assure y'all that we are doing our best to bring everyone in the chapter a good variety of rides. Some of the things to look forward to are overnighters, a cruise, camping trips, and of course our chapter picnics. One of the few things that we decided to bring back is our chapter Spring Run. More details will follow as we iron out the plans.

Just as we're settling back into riding again, don't forget to check out a few things. First off, make sure y'all are current on your National HOG and chapter memberships. Other than being a requirement, you don't want to miss out on your HOG benefits. To see a list of benefits that go with your National HOG membership, you can log on to www.members.hog.com. Secondly, I'm sure some of y'alls bikes have been sitting in the garage for a while now. Don't forget to do your pre-ride checks and make sure you have a fully functional and safe Harley Davidson motorcycle. Sonoma County Harley Davidson is always available to guide and provide you with your parts and service needs. Remember that safety is our number one priority.

I look forward to seeing y'all on one of our rides. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to approach me or any of the other officers. We're here to make our chapter the best we can possibly can and to ensure everyone has a positive experience.

Ride hard. Ride safe. Ian Refugio, Assistant Director

RECHOG Ride & Cruise • 3 Fun Days on the open seas • September 22-25, 2017

We've put together a fun ride and cruise. Please join us! We will depart on Thurs, September 21st and ride to Long Beach. We will park our motorcycles in a secure parking garage and head to our hotel for the evening. Friday, we embark the Carnival Inspiration for fun on the open seas and visit Ensenada, Mexico. Upon our return on Monday, we will ride back home. Please let me know if you have any questions. My email is secretary@rechog.org or 707-479-8544. A Carnival Travel Specialist will be handling our reservations as she can arrange for us to dine together and try to put our cabins nearby. Please call Charlene Reisler at 800-819-3902, ext. 82937. Reference Jim Wheeler (Booking #5MN6L9) so she knows you're a part of our group.

Cruise Schedule: 9/22 - 9/25

Friday = Embark Ship, Departs 5:30pm

Sunday = Fun Day at Sea

Saturday = Ensenada Mexico, 8:00am - 6:00pm Monday = Disembark in Long Beach, ride home

Could this incident have been avoided?

I call it an incident because it could have easily turned into an accident with tragic results. Luckily for me it remained an incident. And yes, it could have been avoided. Over the last couple of years I have been on several long-distance trips and have stories that I want to share. I will start with the last one that occurred. I was going to write this story right after it happened but didn't for a couple of reasons. One, I was busy moving into my new house but also because I was embarrassed that I made this mistake. I had been packing my luggage for basically the same way on many trips that made up of thousands and thousands of miles and never



had a problem. I would always check and recheck to make sure everything was secure before heading out. I packed everything the same way so many times that I quit really thinking about it. That was the mistake. So here's how this happened. I had expanded this piece of luggage to accommodate my chaps, leather jacket and heated liner and the bungee cords I was using fit tightly with all of that in there. But the morning I was getting on the road I was wearing my chaps, jacket, and liner and thought the bungee cords were tight enough but obviously they weren't because my luggage slipped down onto the fender and worked it's way between the rear fender and the tire. As I was riding, everything in my luggage was getting chewed up! In thinking back as to how this could have happened, I believe it was because I experienced a pretty good bump in the road and because bungee cords stretch it allowed the luggage to slip down. I did not realize this had happened until one of my

tennis shoes in the luggage got caught between the tire and fender which caused a screaming noise and the rear tire to lock up. I was riding on the freeway and I can't tell you how lucky I was not to lose control and go down. I attribute that primarily to riding a bike that fits me. A motorist had to help me pull things out from under the fender, it was jammed in there so tight I couldn't do it. Then I was able to get the bike onto the shoulder and had it towed to Mt. Diablo HD, I was only a few miles from there and almost home from a 2 week trip. I had the bike thoroughly inspected, I wanted to be sure there wasn't any damage to the wheel, etc. Between the items that were ruined and having the bike inspected, it cost me about \$500.00. It won't be long before we are all doing a lot of riding and going on trips and I hope by sharing this story you will think and re-think how you are packing and securing your equipment to see if there is room for improvement. I have decided to replace bungee cords with straps that don't stretch and get a net that will go over everything. I also learned that the loops on HD luggage can connect to each other which would make things more secure. We have new riders in our club who probably don't have much experience in riding with luggage so if you have any advice please be sure to share it!

Have fun and be safe out there....

Donna Fess



RECHOG.ORG | HOTLINE 707.575.6786

SAFETY OFFICER BY VINCE MULLIGAN

Group Riding 101

Few activities build camaraderie and memories faster than Chapter Rides. They are one of the "Core HOG" Chapter Activities. We all know riding a motorcycle is all ready inherently unsafe and lets dispel the "myth" that riding in a group of motorcycles is not any safer. That's why it's so important that we place a lot of importance on "Conducting them safely."

A pre-ride discussion of your plans, preferences, and requirements helps everyone avoid surprises. Talk about a pace (road speed limits), hand signals, details like fuel stops and routes, road changes, construction, and make sure everyone gets to offer something. It's always good to have an experienced or confident rider at the back of the group to sweep the ride and attend to those who have problems. He/She should have a cell phone to call for help. A map provision for the ride is always helpful.

The Flying Formation The basic group riding formation is familiar to most riders. The lead rider rides to the left of the lane, with the second rider to the right and a few lengths back. The third rider is a similar distance behind the second, and so on. This staggered formation leaves room for each bike to swerve to the side and provides reaction time to brake. "From the beginning to the end of the ride all riders will maintain their position and not advance unless the rider ahead indicates to do so" When roads get twisty or narrow, you should open up into a single-file formation. When you come to a stop at an intersection, tighten up into a two-abreast configuration at the stop as this will keep cars to the rear of the group and prevent passing in the lane. While it is tempting to block an intersection so your entire group can go through, is against the law in the state of California. So is leaving in large bunches at a time from a four-way stop (which is considered two or more) is a request for a citation.

Freeway or Multiple Lane Road Traveling Its not only the law in California but its out of respect to the other drivers traveling in and around the group to keep the group to the middle lane so as faster traffic can pass to the left and slower traffic can exit the highway or road way. Remember the "left lane" in many states throughout the US are "passing lanes" and are not "traveling lanes" so keep to the right and maintain traffic speeds.

Riders Responsibilities:

Pre-trip inspection of their bike is complete before the ride.

Arrive Prepared.

Family member, friend, or significant other knows your check in points along the ride.

Knowing the ride route and where it is going to take the group.

Full load of fuel in the tank.

Knowing the use of basic hand signals.

Don't break the law trying to catch the group.

Knowing your own skill level and not try riding beyond it.

Make sure the Road Captain and Sweep know that you will be leaving the ride early.

Being Safe and Having Fun.

"Keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down" Vincent Mulligan "Safety Officer" HISTORIAN BY MARTIN HLUSAK

hog historn:

H.O.G. National was founded in 1983. It went International in1991. We now have 1,099,214 members world wide with 1400 HOG chapters in North and South America, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and more.

The average HOG member spends 30% more than other Harley owners! In our chapter alone that's approximately \$1.3 Million! Unfortunately for our sponsoring dealership we did not all buy our bikes, upgrades, motor clothes, gear and accessories in the same year, nor all from this dealership alone. Nevertheless, it is a good thing to support our sponsoring dealership when we can. They support us.

REC-HOG HISTORN:

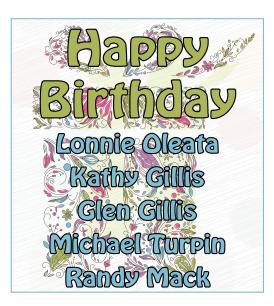
Redwood Empire Chapter HOG was established on June 2, 1988 with 10 Charter Members. The director was Sam Marovich. The chapter was sponsored by Michael Leskar, owner of Michael's Harley-Davidson in Santa Rosa. By 1989 the chapter had grown to 50 members. They had monthly rides, and their 1st poker run of 300 riders raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Assn., the National HOG Charity. (to be continued)



motor co. 635torn:

Harley- Davidson History: As I reported at our last chapter meeting we're all aware that the company got it's start in 1903. But that year they only made 3 bikes! And only 8 bikes in 1904. In 1907 the 1st V-twin prototype and sprung fork were developed. Not until 1909 did they make 1,149 bikes. 1909 also saw the magneto ignition, mechanical inlet valves in 1911, chain drive in 1912, mechanical oil pumps appeared in 1915 along with electric lighting and a 3 speed gearbox. The V-twin disappeared in 1910, the first year of the Harley's Bar and Shield trademark! But the V-twin re-appeared in 1911. (to be continued)

Marty Hlusak





REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP | FEBRUARY 2017























Current info as of Jan. 22nd. Please review website calendar at rechog.org & call the Ride Hotline for latest updates and additions 707.575.6786.

FEBRUARY

RECHOG General Chapter Meeting General membership meeting held the first Thursday of every month, at Cattlemen's in Petaluma. Eat and socialize beginning at 6pm. Meeting begins at 7pm. Please sign-in for: Birthday for that month drawing, next month birthdays that go to Tales of the Woods, Guests, and get your FREE Member ticket.

Friday Off Work Ride. Karen Knapp will lead a ride to Rumba Cuban Kitchen, 8750 Old Redwood Hwy, Windsor, CA. Meet at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson at 10am, depart 10:30. Sam Knapp will sweep.

1 st planning meeting for the Summer Run. 6pm Meet at Round Table Pizza, 40 Raley's Town Centre, Rohnert Park. Anyone interested in helping out with the Summer Run is encouraged to attend. Many volunteers are needed.

Getting You Lost Sergio Bravo will lead a ride. Meet at Johnny's Java at 9am, Depart at 10 am. Ride to Point Reyes Station via Chileno Valley Road. Ride to top of Mt. Tam via Hwy 1. (Bring \$5 for parking). Ride from top of Mt. Tam to Fairfax via backroads. Lunch in Fairfax at a Chinese restaurant. Ride to Petaluma via Sir Francis Drake. End of ride in Petaluma. Meet at Lagunitas Brewery or 101-Brewery for after-ride social.

Road Captain Meeting Meet at Mi Pueblo at 10am. 7384 Commerce Blvd, Cotati, CA They open at 10am so no need to get there early. All road captains and anyone interested in being a road captain are encouraged to attend.

Shelly's Valentine Sweetheart Ride to Vacaville Outlet Malls. Meet at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson at 11am leave at 11:30.



Happy Singles Awareness Day "It's all about falling in love with yourself and sharing that love with someone who appreciates you, rather than looking for love to comensate for a self-love deficit."—Eartha Kitt





Directors Meeting 6pm at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson. Members interested in the workings of the club are welcome to attend.

Burger Ride Steve Reed will lead a ride to Hamburger Ranch in Cloverdale. Meet at SCHD at 10am, depart at 10:30

Monday Fun Day Ride Donna Fess will lead a

RECHOG General Chapter Meeting General membership meeting held

the first Thursday of every month, at Cattlemen's in Petaluma. Eat and socialize beginning at 6pm. Meeting begins at 7pm. Please sign-in for: Birthday for that month drawing, next month birthdays that go to Tales of the Woods, Guests, and get your FREE Member ticket.

Friday Off Work Ride; TBD. Donna Fess will lead a ride if she's not in Cabo; otherwise someone else will lead. Details to follow.

FYI: Monterey Dixieland Jazz Bash by the Bay



Road Captain Meeting Meet at Mi Pueblo at 10:00 on Sunday Feb 12. 7384 Commerce Blvd, Cotati, CA 94931 They open at 10:00 so no need to get there early. Then Shelly is going to lead a ride, meet at SCHD at 11:00 leave at 11:30. All road captains and anyone interested in being a road captain are encouraged to



attend. Note: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS TODAY.

Ride TBD. Antonio Lemos will lead a ride following the Road Captain Meeting. Meet at Sam's For Play Café, 2630 Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa (just north of Orchard Hardware). Meet at 11:30, Depart 12:00.

RECHOG Board of Directors Meeting 6pm at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson. Members interested in the workings of the club are welcome to attend.

St. Patrick's Day



Spring Poker Run at Folsom Harley. Ron (Milkman) will lead. Meet at Johnny's Java Hut at 7:30, Depart 8:00. Note this is not a B.A.D. ride.

Monday Fun Day Ride. Glen Childers will lead a ride to be determined. Meet at SCHD at 10:00, Depart 10:30.

LOH Ride. The ride will be to Francis Ford Coppola Winery for an 11:30 tour. Meet at Bad Ass Coffee, at 8:30, Depart 9:00. 90 Mark West Springs Rd. Santa Rosa.

-April 2 FYI Next Generation Jazz Fest, Monterey

Overnight Ride to Ft.
Bragg and Mendocino. Marc
Mendelson will lead a ride to Ft.
Bragg for an overnighter. Sunday
morning we will visit the famous
Glass Beach on a minus tide to

search for beach glass. Then we will ride to Mendocino for a lunch stop before continuing home. Meeting times and accommodations tbd.



RECHOG GENERAL Chapter membership meeting held the first Thursday of every month, at Cattlemen's in Petaluma. Eat and socialize beginning at 6pm. Meeting begins at 7pm. Please sign-in for: Birthday for that month drawing, next month birthdays that go to Tales of the Woods, Guests, and get your FREE Member ticket.

Friday Off Ride, TBD

Road Captain Meeting 9:00- 10:30 Meet at Sam's for Play Café, 2630 Cleveland Ave, Santa Rosa (just north of Orchard Hardware). All road captains and anyone interested in being a road captain are encouraged to attend.

Joline Memorial Ride.

Ride and Have Fun! Marc Mendelson, Activities Director

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Location: Cattlemen's, Petaluma, CA Date: January 5, 2017 Call to Order: 7:02pm

Flag Salute: Sergeant of Arms Mare Skipper lead us in the pledge of allegiance

December 2016 General Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike Faria to accept the December meeting minutes as prepared with a second from Steve Pehargou

Assistant Director: Ian recognized Birthdays for January: Sher Shipway, Brian Bokkin, Glen Childers, Caroline Hlusak, Dorene Barnes, and Bob Hirsch. \$25 Gift card winners were Brian Bokkin and Dorene Barnes. Ian then recognized our special guests Chloe France, Patricia France, Bill Faulkner, Linda Delfino, and Brian Franz. HOG is conducting regional rally's in place of individual state rally's. There is a list in the January newsletter. The National Rally has returned to Milwaukee on Labor Day weekend this year.

Plaque Presentation: Dave McCombs presented a plaque to past director Randy Mack for his service

Raffle Prizes: Raffle prizes were given away throughout the evening. A list of prizes and their respective winners is below.

Treasurer: Linnea reported that the chapter is solvent

Secretary: Discussed the participation point program return, points will be accrued by receiving 1 point for each chapter ride and general meeting attended and 2 points for BAD ride. Top point winner will receive a \$100 bill. Wheelie then announced his new raffle that will be funded by himself, A HD Cheeseboard was giving away to Mare Skipper and a set of stemless wine glasses won by Vince Mulligan.

Membership Report: Rob thanked Lonnie for his service and helping transition to him, Rob pointed out that new members get a copy of the Tales of the woods for all the info it provides, RECHOG currently has 172 members. The membership should greet new members and make them feel welcome. New members David Wagy and Ken Jones were recognized. Member only drawing was drawn and ticket number 5636947 held by Ian Refugio won a \$25 dues credit

Activities Officer Report: Marc talked about having camp out on motorcycles, mentioned some future ride destinations as Big Sur, Monterey, Santa Barbara, peninsula rides, mountain rides, and/or gold country rides

Road captain: Donna expressed honored to be RC this year, the first road captain meeting Sunday, January 15 at Carmen's Burger Bar, Santa Rosa at 11:00am. Looking for additional road captains.

LOH Officer: Shelly thanked the membership for allowing her to be LOH officer, the first LOH ride is January 22 and will be a mani/pedi ride with lunch at William Tell House in Tomales

Safety Officer Report: Vince explained that baseball players attend spring training to refine their skills after the off season. Wants to do the similar thing for RECHOG, getting safety skills honed,

Dealer Time: not present

Historian: Marty thanked Doug for his past work as historian, Gave history report from the past. People remember their first Harley Davidson, Marty then gave us his "I'll leave you with this....."

Web Master: Sergio thanked Randy Mack and the new officers, there is a new web site coming, if you would like to be invited to the Friends of RECHOG Facebook page, send him an email and he will invite you

Communications: Milkman advised everyone to call the hotline as he keeps it updated

Words of Wisdom: Doug Barnes was welcomed to the front, he thanked Marty and gave us some words of wisdom

Director Report: Dave McCombs discussed participation point program, asked if the membership if they would like a 50/50 drawing in addition to the regular raffle. If you have an idea about rides, let an officer know. Dave also invited members to the board meeting. Finally touched upon the Summer Run meetings

Open Mike: Marty Hlusak discussed Friday off ride going to a Czech restaurant and also will be having ABC of touring rides, Dave Sullivan discussed there is now a MC safety class to take for traffic school if ticketed instead of getting a point on your record. Donna Fess is collecting t-shirts for Joline's memorial quilt, Steve Reed reminded everyone to check the hotline for the ride status on the upcoming Sunday ride, Dave McCombs discussed BAD ride reward for attending BAD rides

Member Only Raffle: Karen Knapp name was drawn but she wasn't present. Next month drawing will be worth \$200 "Opportunity" Drawing: ticket 6766574 was drawn and it belonged to Caroline Hlusak

Adjourned: 8:13pm Minutes compiled and submitted by Jim "Wheelie" Wheeler, RECHOG #3494 Secretary

Raffle Prize Winners:

Ticket Number Name Prize

6766694 Walter Kettler **HD Fleece Blanket** 6766777 Peter Imbs HD Tin Sign 6766823 Paul Benkover Sunglasses 6766800 Brian Bokkin **HD Picture Frame** 6766619 Jack Read/Chloe France **HD Magnetic Dart Board** 6766549 Vince Mulligan Sunglasses



Reno Ace's Baseball Saturday June 24-25

Meeting Saturday June 24th at Johnny's Java at 7am and departing at 7:30am. Ride through the foothills and mountains to Reno. Check in to the Whitney Peak Hotel located two blocks from the ball park. Game starts at 7pm. Sunday take a different route home. It's a fun weekend of riding and baseball. Game tickets are \$16 each paid in advance and no refunds (24 tickets available). Hotel reservations are made by calling the hotel, there are 14 rooms blocked out for the discounted group rate of \$129+ tax.

Whitney Peak Hotel, 255 N. Virginia St, Reno, NV 89501 Booking Link: https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=13492&nights=1&check-in=06/24/2017&group=RECHOG624

Or call 775-398-5400 and ask for the RECHOG rate or Booking code- RECHOG624

Cutoff date to make reservations: 6/2/2017

Shasta Caverns / Plumas CountyJuly 6-9

Thursday we meet at Bad Ass Coffee at 6am and departing at 6:30 am. We ride to Lake Shasta for a 2 hour Shasta Cavern Tour (cost \$26) then ride to Redding for the night at the Best Western Plus Hilltop Inn. There are 20 rooms blocked out under RECHOG motorcycle club at the \$139.99+tax group rate. Friday we ride some great back roads to the River Pines Resort in Graeagle where we stay for two nights rate vary depending on the room but about \$100 per night (there are 20 rooms blocked there also). Saturday you can lounge around the resort or your join me as I will lead a ride to see some of the amazing sites around the area. Sunday we head home. Each person must make their own room reservation at the two different venues:

Best Western Plus Hilltop Inn, 2300 Hilltop Dr, Redding, CA 96002 (530) 221-6100 under RECHOG motorcycle club.

River Pines Resort 8296 CA_89, Graeagle, CA 96103 Email Leslie at riverpines@thegrid.net under RECHOG

OVERNIGHTERS



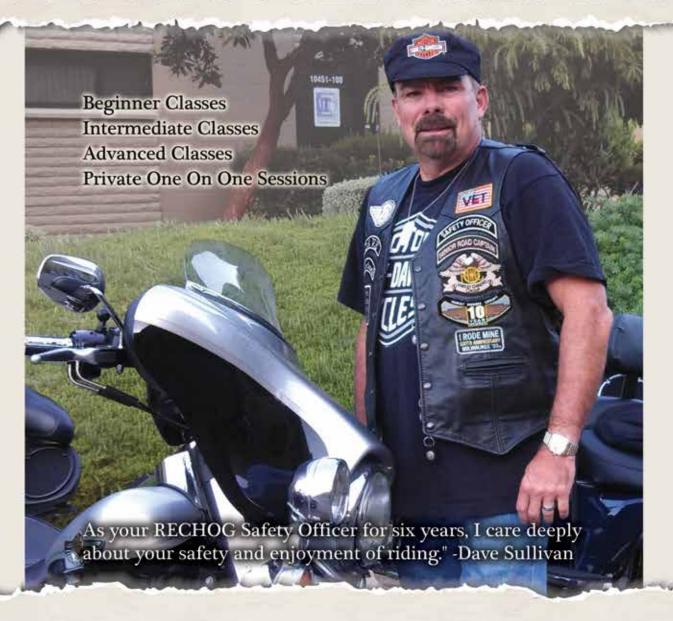


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Never hesitate to ride past the last street light at the edge of town.

TALES FROM THE REDWOODS

c/o Sonoma County Harley-Davidson 7601 Redwood Drive Cotati, CA 94931







