

TALES FROM THE WOODS

JANUARY 2016



Happy New Year, RECHOG!

REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER #3494



REDWOOD EMPIRE HARLEY OWNERS GROUP

HOTLINE 707.575.6786 (RIDE INFORMATION)

NATIONAL HOG 800.258.2464

WWW.RECHOG.ORG

WWW.HOG.COM



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

7601 Redwood Drive, Cotati, CA 94931
800.400.2011 | www.sonomacountyhd.com



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Stay Connected

Official RECHOG pages:

Visit the RECHOG.ORG website.

Visit the facebook page. Please select
'Follow' and 'Like' the page so you get
last minute updates.

For more information, email webmaster@rechog.org



General Meetings 1st Thursday of every month, at **Cattlemen's Restaurant, 5012 Petaluma Blvd N, Petaluma, CA**
Board Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month, at Sonoma County H-D, 7601 Redwood Dr, Cotati, CA

SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: TFTW gladly accepts articles, photos and anecdotes for publication! Please send copy, and high-res images in a .jpg or .pdf format. Deadline: 20th of the month. Please email: newslettereditor@rechog.org

Chapter website submissions and info, please email: webmaster@rechog.org

Greetings and Happy New Year,

I would like to thank all the members and guests who participated in the Valley of the Moon Children's Center Toy Ride. There were 30+ children at the home this year and we had a chance to sit down and get to know them a little better over a hot cup of coco and fresh cinnamon rolls. I appreciated the fact that even though we were not able to ride our bikes to the event we showed up in numbers for the kids. Besides the toys we took all the raffle ticket sales money generated that morning (\$200) and donated it as well. Meg will use the money to purchase additional gifts especially for any last minute new arrivals to the facility.

I would like to thank our outgoing board of directors for their time and commitment to the chapter; you made 2015 a great year for RECHOG. I would also like to welcome the 2016 new and returning board members; I know they are as excited as I am about continuing our strong tradition of Riding and Having Fun and participating in this year's upcoming events and rides.

Looking back over 2015, we had a fun filled calendar of events with rides like our "Tin Barn Classic" and the 2015 Summer Run which was a huge success. We had our annual rides Easy Rider, Twisted Tunnel, Calistoga Parade to name a few along with our monthly rides "First Friday" with Dave Sullivan and "Monday Funday" with Donna Fess. We enjoyed some overnights and a large percentage of our members made the trek to Sturgis for the 75th anniversary. There was great support for our club fund raising with the San Francisco Marathon and the Berkeley ½ Marathon and we capped off the year with our annual Holiday party in December with good food, music, dancing, libations, prizes and comradery.

2016 is looking very promising. Starting Thursday January 7th we meet at Cattlemen's in Petaluma for our general meeting. Our Summer Run will be held on Saturday August 13th starting at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson and ending at Lake Sonoma. Please save the date. There will be more details after your new board convenes on the third Thursday in January. In addition to our "Tin Barn Classic" we will be adding an additional picnic type ride with a great ride, food, drinks and games. I am truly looking forward to your our new Activities Officer Donna Fess, she brings great energy and fun ideas for rides and events. With the addition of Sonoma County Harley-Davidson's marketing director Rachel, we are anticipating more dealer events and rides that end at the dealership.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your director for 2016. It is truly an honor and a privilege to lead the Redwood Empire Chapter of the Harley Owners Group.

Ride safe and have fun!

Randy Mack



Save
the Date!

RECHOG
Summer Run 2016
Saturday, August 13

The Power of The Bell

How to keep bad luck and “road gremlins” away from your Harley.

According to legend, the “open road” isn’t really as open as you’d like it to be. Rather, it is inhabited by countless “road gremlins,” dispatched by evil spirits to wreak havoc on you and your motorcycle. Some say these gremlins are the source of all the mishaps and mayhem that sometimes make your ride less than perfect.

Fortunately, there’s a defense against these invisible little evil-doers. It’s called a “ride bell,” a powerful weapon in the battle against bad luck. If you don’t already have one yourself, chances are you’ve seen one on somebody else’s bike. Or maybe you haven’t, as they’re attached to the bike somewhere inconspicuous.

No one is exactly quite sure how they work – different theories abound. One is that the gremlins are attracted to the pleasant sound, but then become trapped inside the bell, where the constant ringing drives them crazy. Eventually, they drop to the ground and, according to some, that’s where potholes come from.

However they work, everyone seems to agree on one important thing about ride bells: Sure, you can buy one for yourself, but their power is doubled when you receive one as a gift.

Will having a ride bell prevent you from ever experiencing bad luck on the road? We can’t guarantee that. We can, however, say for certain that your troubles will not be caused by invisible evil spirits.

Whether you believe the legend or not, a ride bell makes a great gift. No matter if you’re the giver or the recipient, it’s a powerful token of friendship, respect, and affection.



L.O.H. Luncheon

Saturday, January 16 at 12pm

Mi Pueblo Restaurant, Rohnert Park



The first gathering of LOH participants will be to discuss destinations and activities. Let's do lunch at Mi Pueblo's in Rohnert Park on Saturday, January 16th at 12pm to make plans for the new year!

I'm looking forward to some fun, safe and adventurous experiences with the Ladies of Harley.

Kathy Avilla



YOU'RE DROOLING...



2016

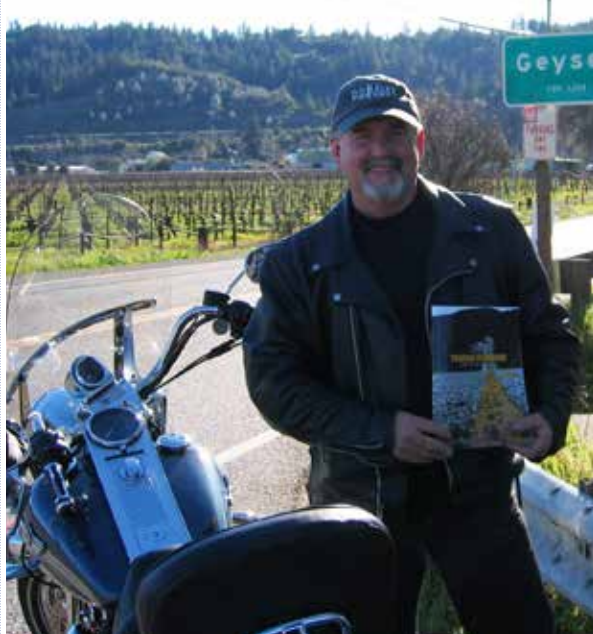
Deflategate

Happy New Year. I would like to thank Dave Sullivan of his great job of being our safety officer. We were lucky to have his knowledge available to us. I plan on getting as much of that from him to continue this year.

Well it is a little wet and cold lately and the big thing I have noticed is tire pressure. I usually check my Road Glide all the time when I ride and found my tire pressure down to 30 LBS. Then I checked my VRod which was down to 20LBS. Everybody please check your pressures.

Also with the rain and the leaves the roads make them extremely slippery. I was driving my car and slid at a stop and the ABS brakes were no help. Be careful. Ride safe, stay warm and may the force be with you.

Jeff Baron,
Safety Officer



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How you elect to spend New Year's Eve will depend on your:

1. age
2. remaining levels of optimism
3. threshold of pain

—Joseph Connolly

On New Years, just remember: if your cup runneth over, you've probably reached your limit—Melanie White

"Out with the old, in with the new" is a fitting expression for a holiday that is based on vomiting.—Andy Borowitz

New Year's Eve, when auld acquaintances be forgot. Unless, of course, those tests come back positive.—Jay Leno

The first week of January, gyms and yoga classes everywhere are packed with people who made new years resolutions to tone up. It's like sardines in there. Big sardines. But they're all gone by February.—Anonymous

And I'll leave you with this: Those who can't laugh at themselves leave the job to others.





2015 CHRISTMAS PARTY





VALLEY OF THE MOON CHILDREN'S HOME TOY RUN



Current info as of Dec 30th. Please review website calendar at rechog.org & call the Ride Hotline for latest updates and additions 707.575.6786.

JANUARY 2016

01 Happy New Year! *Not a RECHOG Ride, just FYI:* A reception to honor Tom Perkins is scheduled for January 1st at Dudley Perkins Company, South San Francisco, beginning at 12pm, immediately following Tom's traditional *New Year's Day Ride that will depart from the Dudley-Perkins dealership at 10am*. All are welcome to attend and celebrate TP's incredibly rich life. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Tom's name can be sent to SF General or Wounded Warrior Project.



01 Non-official ride: Lonnie's ride
Meet at Lakeville Chevron (1002 Lakeville St, Petaluma) at 10:30am leave at 11am. Ride south over the bridge to the Legion of Honor then to Cliff House (old Sutro Bath) and continue South to Pacifica, then we will follow the nose to see where we end up. It should be a fun ride, so come out and play. Check the RECHOG-Friends Facebook page for any unofficial rides.

02 River Rock Good Luck Ride Meet at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson at 9:30 leave at 10am. Brunch at River Rock Casino. Ride lead: Stephen Pehargou

03 Road Captain Breakfast Meeting
First Sunday of the month. Meet at Marvin's Restaurant, Cotati at 9am. All Road Captains are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone who would like to become a Road Captain.

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



09 Easy Rider Show
Meet at Johnny's Java at 9am and depart at 9:30am to ride to the Sacramento Convention Center. Easyriders brings you the HOTTEST Custom Motorcycle Shows in the USA! Kicking off in Sacramento, CA. 2 days of the industry's best vendors, THE FRYED BROTHERS BAND, the PURRFECT ANGELZ and 100s of the best custom builds on display for the public to vote on with the editors of Easyriders Magazine! Admission: \$20 Adult Saturday; \$18 Adult Sunday; \$30 Adult Weekend Pass. \$5 Military Discount. 10:00am-7:00pm. Sacramento Convention Center, 1401 K Street. www.easyridersevents.com

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

18 Monday Funday Ride.
Meet at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson at 10:00am leave at 10:30am.

21 RECHOG Board of Directors Meeting
6pm at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson. Members are encouraged to attend and observe the workings of their club and participate in the round table discussion. If you want to learn about RECHOG and how you can participate in our events, rides and activities this is a good meeting to attend.

FEBRUARY

04 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.

07 Road Captain Breakfast Meeting

First Sunday of the month. Meet at Marvin's Restaurant, Cotati at 9am. All Road Captains are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone who would like to become a Road Captain.

14 Valentine's Day ride and Newlywed Game

for those who wish to participate. Details to come.

15 Monday Funday ride

Meet at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson at 10:00am leave at 10:30am.

15 Singles Awareness Day

18 RECHOG Board of Directors Meeting

6pm at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson. Members are encouraged to attend and observe the workings of their club and participate in the round table discussion. If you want to learn about RECHOG and how you can participate in our events, rides and activities this is a good meeting to attend.

READY TO RIDE? 2016 H.O.G. Rallies across the U.S.A.

Louisiana H.O.G. Rally

Shreveport, LA , US

Thursday, March 31 - Saturday, April 02, 2016

South Carolina H.O.G. Rally

Anderson, SC , US

Thursday, April 21 - Saturday, April 23, 2016

Texas H.O.G. Rally

Denison, TX , US

Thursday, May 12 - Saturday, May 14, 2016

Alabama H.O.G. Rally

Huntsville, AL , US

Thursday, May 19 - Saturday, May 21, 2016

Delaware Maryland H.O.G. Rally

Harrington, DE , US

Thursday, May 19 - Saturday, May 21, 2016

Tennessee H.O.G. Rally

Memphis, TN , US

Tuesday, May 31 - Saturday, June 04, 2016

Kentucky H.O.G. Rally

Lexington, KY , US

Wednesday, June 08 - Saturday, June 11, 2016

South Dakota H.O.G. Rally

Watertown, SD , US

Thursday, June 09 - Saturday, June 11, 2016

West Virginia H.O.G. Rally

Lewisburg, WV , US

Tuesday, June 14 - Saturday, June 18, 2016

Alaska H.O.G. Rally

Kenai Peninsula, AK , US

Thursday, June 16 - Saturday, June 18, 2016

Open Road West H.O.G. Rally

10-day event starting in Santa Fe, NM and ending in Lancaster, CA via CO, UT and AZ.

Thursday, Sept. 8 - Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016

January 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

Cliques: The Good And The Bad

Over the many years we have been doing Harley Owners Group® Officer Training (H.O.T.) and one thing that comes up almost every year is the topic of “cliques. I guess a good starting point is to first define what a clique is. According to Wikipedia:

“A clique is a group of “persons who interact with each other more regularly and intensely than others in the same setting.” Interacting with cliques is part of normative social development regardless of gender, ethnicity, or popularity.”

So what can we learn from this? Well first, we know that they are not innately evil. Second we know that they are not bound by gender, race, politics or status. Lastly I think if we come at this with an open mind, we might realize that we as H.O.G.® Members are a clique.

We are by our very existence a “clique.” We are a group of people who interact more regularly and intensely than others. The Chapter officers may be perceived as a clique. The setting may change, but go to any biker function and H.O.G. Members are easy to find. We are a “clique” and it’s a good thing.

In most discussions at H.O.T. the word is used in a negative connotation, “How can we get rid of cliques?” I think that is the wrong question. Should not the question be “how do we engage those people who are interacting more and with more intensity?”

We as Chapter Leaders, as Chapter Members, need to not focus on that because we may have a group that prefers to ride together, eat together etc. that is not automatically bad for the Chapter. We instead should focus on welcoming them into the group as a whole and finding ways to let them DO H.O.G.® the way they need to DO H.O.G., DO Chapter they way they need to DO Chapter.

However, if a group of members are acting in a way that is detrimental to the Chapter or the sponsoring dealer then that is an issue. The best way to address this issue is to get together with those members in a non-public, safe setting. Discuss the perceptions of the Chapter; it may be that they just don’t feel engaged by the Chapter or its leadership. It may be just a simple lack of communication and understanding. It could be many things, but one thing for sure is that without communication it won’t get better. If that does not resolve the issue then a conversation with the sponsoring dealer or H.O.G.® Manager should happen.

I think that if we really think about this, most “cliques” are not bad for the Chapter. They in fact have little or no bearing on the Chapter, how it functions, the rides we do or the fun we have. Embrace those people who chose to hang with their closest friends, eventually they will be the Chapter’s closest friends.

When I started in my Chapter life I rode with two friends, and two friends only. They got me eventually to attend some Chapter events and rides. At those events and rides I rode with my two friends, and only my two friends. I am sure looking back we were viewed as a “clique” but we had nothing in our hearts but riding and having fun. It took a while for us and for the rest of the Chapter to warm up to each other but eventually all three of us became Chapter Officers, served proudly for many years and are still active with our Chapter.

It took both the Chapter Members and the “clique” members to make sure that the situation worked. It took both sides working to find common ground, acceptance, and validation. It’s not easy to be an outsider, and in this situation there are outsiders on both sides. Work as Chapter Officers to be inclusive, to be understanding that not every rider is the same, has the same needs and wants. So long as those “cliques” are doing no evil...Let’s just get back to RIDING and HAVING FUN.

Todd Robinson
H.O.G. Regional Manager



Rent A Slice of Heaven

2 bedroom, 2 bath condo that sits right on the beach at land's end in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Special price for any HOG member or their friends or family, \$1000 a week. This price is not good for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's and does not include nightly tax. It is currently listed in Vacation Rental By Owner now so people can go to www.vrbo.com and search for it by the listing #781514 for more information and pictures. If interested, please call Donna Fess for more details: 707-479-0016.



Metal sculpture of the earliest production (1903?) vintage Harley Davidson motorcycle and similar vintage motor and exhaust pipe along with vintage photos and drawings.

All attached to and framed in an approximately 32" wide x 24" high x 4" deep antiqued wood frame with a gunmetal grey steel back, and antiqued leather hanging strap. Not only are the metal parts filled with interesting details, but the front wheel actually turns!

Origin of this sculpture is unknown.

\$60 each, and would make great gifts!

Bob 707-483-6228 cell/text



Wheelie & Dave Mexico Cruise

How ya'll doin'? All aboard who's coming aboard! If you haven't attended the last couple of general meetings, you've missed the announcements regarding the cruise to Mexico happening in February. This is the last notification of the cruise prior to our sail date of Monday, February 8, 2016. A few of us are booked and anxiously awaiting our departure. I encourage everyone who can make it to come along and have fun on the high seas. We will embark the Carnival Inspiration on Monday, February 8, 2016 in Long Beach, CA. Please let me know if you have any questions. My email is wheeliej@sbcglobal.net or cell phone 707-479-8544. A Carnival Travel Specialist will be handling our reservations as she can arrange for us to sit together in the dining room and try to put our cabins nearby each other. We have used her before for this exact purpose. Her name is Charlene Reisler and her phone number is 800-819-3902, extension 82937. Her email is creisler@carnivalpvp.com Please go through her and not the web nor the generic Carnival number. When you talk to her, reference my booking number 7L9ZW4 (Jim Wheeler) so she knows you're a part of our group.

Schedule

Monday = Long Beach, Ca : Depart 5:30pm

Tuesday = Catalina Island : 7:30am - 4:30pm

Wednesday = Ensenada, Mexico : 8:00am - 6:00pm

Thursday = Fun Day at Sea

Friday = Long Beach, Ca





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It's Renewal Time!

It's time to renew your local HOG membership. All RECHOG dues will be **due at the beginning of each calendar year** starting in 2016. Please see our Membership Officer or stop by Sonoma County Harley Davidson, to renew today! Thank you for your membership.

“Four wheels move the body.
Two wheels move the soul.”

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