

TALES FROM THE REDWOODS

JANUARY 2018



HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER #3494





RECHOG is proudly sponsored by
Sonoma County Harley-Davidson
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Redwood Empire Chapter #3494

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2018 NEW GENERAL MEETING LOCATION:

First Thursday of the month: 6pm social hour, 7pm meeting

China Village, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati, CA

www.chinavillageca.com/

Greetings Redwood Empire!

It's 2018 and I am honored to serve as your Director this year. I am very fortunate to have a great line up of officers stand beside me as we try to accomplish more for OUR chapter. We will be unveiling plans for the year as time goes by. The one thing I would like to emphasize is NEW IDEAS. Our chapter is 30 years old this year. It has made it this far by adapting and changing with the times as our members needs and dynamics change. We want to try out new things for the chapter in an effort to increase participation, increase the liveliness, and promote bigger and better rides and events for all. We want to give back more to the chapter. But we can't accomplish any of that without everyone's support. One way of supporting your chapter is by reaching out to either myself or to any of the other current officers and letting us know what works for you and what doesn't. Feedback helps us create a strategy that will undoubtedly engage each and every member. I would like to thank you all ahead for supporting Redwood Empire and Sonoma County Harley Davidson.



I would also like to thank Dave McCombs for serving as last year's Director. It truly takes a lot of hard work, time, and perseverance to accomplish all the things necessary to make this great chapter what it is today. So, Dave I would like to thank you and your board of officers once again for a job well done.

I look forward to seeing y'all on one of our upcoming rides. Get out on your Harley Davidson and have fun. Remember, each member can invite one guest to our closed chapter rides. We are here to make our chapter the best we possibly can and to ensure everyone has a positive and safe experience.

Please check the calendar at <https://www.rechog.org/calendar> or call the ride hotline at (707)575-6786 for ride updates.

"Ride safe. Ride hard."



REDWOOD EMPIRE HARLEY OWNERS GROUP

HOTLINE 707.575.6786 (RIDE INFORMATION)

NATIONAL HOG 800.258.2464

RECHOG.ORG
HOG.COM

Happy New Year everyone! Here we are at the dawning of 2018 and a whole new year ahead of us. What new adventures or misadventures await us? What stories will we have to tell at the end? These are all questions we get to answer as we move through the year. One thing for sure, we are going to have some serious F-U-N !!! We have already begun discussing some exciting events for the chapter so stay tuned to hear more about them.

I would like to take a moment and say a big, heartfelt thank you to Past Director Dave McCombs and his board of directors. Sitting in that Directors seat takes a lot of work and energy and no one can really understand that until you sit in it. Dave, you join a small list of those who have served as Director. Thank you for your devotion to the chapter and the many hours out of your life that you gave to make sure the chapter was running as it should. And that goes for the officers that served with you. It takes a lot of work to keep everything running smooth. Thank you again for your service.

Our chapter has a big birthday this year. I've included a brief history of our chapters' beginnings for the benefit of our new members. Hard to believe it has been 30 years since 10 people got together and decided to form a chapter. HOG itself turns 35 this year and the motor company turns 115. There is a large celebration planned in Milwaukee this year and you can find out more at www.h-d.com/115 if you want to join the fun. We have our own celebrations planned for our 30th anniversary and more will be explained as our plans are finalized.

I am honored and look forward to serving you as the Assistant Director. For those who don't know me, I first joined RECHOG in 2005 and have risen up the ranks from being a road captain in 2009, to membership officer, secretary, assistant director, director and now back to serving as your assistant director this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. Let's make this our most memorable year yet. Remember, this is YOUR chapter! Our motto is "Ride and Have Fun." If there is a ride or event you think we should do or ride to, let one of the officers know. We are always looking for new and fun things to organize and participate in as a chapter.

I would also like to mention that if you have something to contribute to our newsletter, please send it our newsletter editor. Did you go on a ride or attend an event that you would like to share with us? Write an article about it and let all our members read about it. If you take pictures on our rides or events, please share them with our photographer so we can get them uploaded to our web site and also maybe get them published in our newsletter. We will be creating an official chapter Facebook page soon but you can also get information off our web site at rechog.org or by calling our ride hotline at 707-575-6786.

See you on the road,
Wheelie





Brief History of Redwood Empire Chapter HOG

On June 2, 1988 the first meeting of the newly formed chapter of H.O.G. was held at Michael's Harley-Davidson in Santa Rosa (4780 Sonoma HWY). There were 10 people present to help get this chapter off to a good start. Several names were suggested and the title of "Redwood Empire" was voted in as the name of this chapter. Bylaws which were drawn up and furnished by the Harley-Davidson Motor Co. were read to all people present. The meeting was chaired by Michael Leskar, and at this time several of the offices needed to run a local chapter have been filled by volunteers, Sue Phelps was Sec-Treasurer and Victor Stupansky was Road Captain. Sam Marovich was eventually elected as their first Director. It was decided by the people present that the best time to hold the local H.O.G. meetings would be the 1st Thursday of every month at 8pm. The Charter was effective on August 29th, 1988.

Under the direction of Sam, the chapter began attending other H.O.G. functions, gaining momentum and growing in membership. In December the Redwood Empire Chapter held their first Toy Run and the first Christmas Party was held at Shooters West in Santa Rosa.

By March of 1989, membership had grown to over 50 members. The Chapter was holding, monthly brunch runs, attending regional rallies, gearing up the Redwood Run and making plans for their first MDA Benefit. The Redwood Empire Chapter of the Harley Owners Group was definitely on its way.



Two Up What's to Consider?

Last year I had a few club members ask if I could write an article about my thoughts, concerns, safety aspects, responsibilities of the rider and passenger while ridding "Two Up". I wanted to make sure I had fulfilled this request and I researched the inter web and talked with a few folks in the "Safety Community". It produced the standard handouts which covered basics of ridding "Two Up" and a few laws that other States enforce, not too much there to sink my teeth into, so I decided to take a stab at it.

We have known ridding alone and taking in all the sights, sounds, and smells is truly enjoyable adventure, but now you want to involve your favorite co-pilot and make the adventure so much more. When you climb on the back of a motorcycle "Two UP", you are literally putting your life in the rider's hands. Here's what you should know and consider before taking that step. Learning how to ride a motorcycle is and can be tricky, but learning how to ride as a passenger is even trickier. As I have found out, there aren't any schools for it (though some rider-training classes can be set up for riders with passengers). In most cases, the only person who you can ask for advice is the rider who may or may not have ever done it, and can be the biggest issue for you.

Accepting the rider's invitation to ride along with him or her, I would at least at the very minimum expect that rider to have some experience both riding motorcycles and carrying passengers. I would also expect the rider to make sure I had the proper protective gear and I am using it properly. The rider should explain how important it is to mount, sit on, and dismount the motorcycle, what to do when you corner, brake and stop, and how to communicate essentials like "stop," "slow down," or "I have a problem." The rider you are "entrusting your safety to" I believe should display concern for your welfare and enjoyment of the ride. There should be some conditions established for first ride. I suggest a few short rides and talk about them after. The rider should agree to end the ride on the passenger's terms and turn around and go back, or wait while you are picked up by a friend or a taxi.

What are your responsibilities and what can you expect as the rider? With the already fore mentioned, the bike should be capable of "Two Up", you have adjusted tire pressures and shocks for the increased load for ridding comfort, performed all necessary safety checks, and what gear you used to bring (double it). Know the bike has become heavier; it won't steer as nimbly or even brake in as short a distances. It now has become more difficult to balance at a stop. Plan for more following distance, begin looking from two cars to three to four cars ahead, more effective counter steering will be necessary for cornering, paying attention to how you enter your turns. For passenger comfort (and not getting a gentle knock on the helmet) apply smooth rear to front braking to avoid skidding and sudden stops. When maneuvering the bike for heading out or parking, by loading or offloading your passenger in a safe spot to avoid tipping.

Passenger, what should you expect and what are your responsibilities? You should always have your gear ready for travel, be able to mount and dismount the bike with ease and confidence never surprising the rider. Knowing how to start/stop the bike, how to help pickup a down bike, and how to corner with the rider and bike, never making any sharp or sudden moves without notify in the rider first. Know your limitations for distance or time you can spend on the bike before needing a stop, (and if) you are going to fall asleep (a lot do) don't scare yourself and rider when you wake. On any ride,

know your destination, stops, and travel routes (some passengers are the navigator) as this can be very helpful to the rider. Communication is key and knowing that communication is going to be tough (unless the bike has a communication system) while in motion, have already established systems you can communicate your concerns to the rider. I can't stress this enough, while the bike is in motion leave the ridding to the rider keeping distractions to a minimum and keeping feet on pegs at all times, never trying to put your feet down helping rider to stabilize the bike.

My best advice is to work as a team always having a plan for the days ride and sticking to it. Never get in a rush, you're on a ride and if you get behind, or in traffic, there is nothing you can do but sit back and enjoy the day. When you get the opportunity to talk with other riders who ride two up, talk with passenger or rider to seek what they have learned and what works and doesn't work for them. Know that each time you ride together; you learn more about each other, you learn from your mistakes and ways of correcting them as the next ride brings another adventure.

Vincent Mulligan (former Safety Officer now Secretary and Membership Officer)

"As always, the rubber side down and shiny side up and ride between the ditches"

TREASURER

TAMMY MULLIGAN

Hi fellow RECHOG members

I was disappointed I didn't get a chance to sell myself to the crowd for the election and do my speech, so I decided I would tell you a little about me and why I wanted this position.



I am a mom of two sons, 35 and 33 and two step sons 36 and 34 (Vince's sons). I have three grandchildren Austin 8, Violet 3 and Harper 2. If you follow me on Facebook, you know I live for my grandchildren.

I have a degree in nursing, but have been running my own medical billing service since 1994 and before that I was an office manager in medical offices. I have many years managing medical doctors finances. I love what I do, making other people money. It may be hard to understand, but there is a reward in sending a medical claim to an insurance and seeing it paid quickly and for me it is instant gratification. I currently have 13 practices I manage their accounting. Besides my billing service, I also sell a medical accounting software, offer tech support and training for the software. Busy? Yes, but I have plenty of time to do my work for the group.

I wanted to run because I do have accounting experience and I really enjoyed working with the group on the Summer Run. I hope to help the group save money in areas and keep accurate records (following in Linnea's lead).

If you have any questions about what I do or what I am doing, feel free to just ask. I look forward to getting to know members I don't already know and working with the group in this capability.

Thanks,
Tammy Mulligan



CLOVERDALE TOY RUN





DECEMBER General Meeting



UPCOMING RECHOG ACTIVITIES

Please review website calendar at rechog.org & call the Ride Hotline for latest updates and additions 707.575.6786.



2018 JANUARY

01 Happy New Year!

01 Sergio's 3rd Annual Bread & Chowder ride, 1st stop - Freestone Wild Flower bread company (140 Bohemian Hwy, Freestone, CA) 2nd stop - Spud Point Crab Shack (1910 Westshore Rd, Bodega Bay) Note: I think Crabshack is cash only so bring \$\$.

3rd stop - Bodega head, say hello and make a wish to the new year. If you don't want to ride you can drive and meet us at the Crabshack +/- 12:15 Lead: Sergio (guaranteed to get you lost) Sweep: Volunteers accepted. Meet at Johnny's Java at 10:30 am and departing at 11am.



04 RECHOG GENERAL Chapter membership meeting, NEW MEETING LOCATION: China Village, 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati. Eat and socialize beginning at 6pm. Meeting begins at 7pm. Please sign-in for the birthday raffle drawing; next month's birthday list for the Tales of the Woods; and the guests list.

07 Ride Planning Meeting. Anyone interested in planning or leading a ride are encouraged to attend. Open to all current Redwood Empire Chapter HOG members. Meet at Marvin's Restaurant in Cotati at 9:00 am.

07 BOD Welcome Back Ride The 2018 Redwood Empire Chapters Board of Directors would like to officially welcome everyone back as we start a new season of riding with friends and family. We are working diligently in planning out rides and events that suites everyone's riding styles. If you have ideas or concerns, please reach out to the Director at director@rechog.org. Meet at SCHD at 10am and departing at 10:30 am. This is a closed chapter ride.

13 Easyrider Bike Show Tour We will be riding to the Sacramento Convention Center for the Easyrider Bike Show Tour. Meet at Johnny's Java at 9am and departing at 9:30 am. www.easyridersevents.com Brian Bokkin will lead this closed chapter ride.

14 Timber Cove Getaway Tour We will be riding out to the coast for a nice cool ride and have lunch at Timber Cove. Meet at SCHD at 10am and departing at 10:30am. Shelly Bokkin will lead. This is a closed chapter ride.

15 Lunch with Glenn. We're riding for lunch to Bolinas. Meeting at SCHD at 10:00 am and departing at 10:30 am. Glen Childers will lead this ride. This is a closed chapter ride.

18 RECHOG BOARD Meeting, Board of Directors will meet at SCHD at 6:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and observe the workings of our chapter and participate in the round table discussion. If you want to learn about how you can participate in our events, rides, and activities this is a good meeting to attend. Anyone considering becoming a chapter officer in the future is encouraged to attend.



20 10th Annual Polar Bear Run If you have what it takes to look cold weather in the eyes and say, "You won't stop me

from riding,” then this is the ride for you. We will be joining our friends from Iron Steed HOG on their 10th Annual Polar Bear Run. Registration is \$20 per person. Meet at Johnny’s Java at 8:30am and departing at 9am. Ian Refugio will lead this ride. This is a closed chapter ride.

27 **LOH Ride.** If you’ve always wanted to ride the backroads of Sonoma County, then this is the ride for you. Meet at SCHD at 10:30 am and departing at 11:00 am. Join is in supporting Heidi Faulkner on her first ride as LOH Officer. This is a closed chapter ride.

FEBRUARY

01 **RECHOG General Membership Meeting.** Our general membership meeting is held the first Thursday of every month at **China Village Restaurant located at 8501 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati.** Eat and socialize beginning at 6:00 pm. Meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Please sign-in for the birthday raffle drawing; next month’s birthday list for the Tales of the Woods; and the guests list.

04 **Ride Planning Meeting.** Anyone interested in planning or leading a ride are encouraged to attend. Open to all current Redwood Empire Chapter HOG members. Meet at Marvin’s Restaurant in Cotati at 9am.

“**Mark your calendars.**”

04 **Road Captains Mystery Ride.** We will meet at SCHD at 10:00 am and depart at 10:30 am. The road captain will lead the group on a mystery ride with the route kept secret. This will surely keep everyone guessing. Brian and Shelly Bokkin will lead this closed chapter ride.

11 **LOH Sweethearts Ride.** Nice and slow is how we’ll go. LOH Officer Heidi Faulkner will lead the sweethearts on this ride. Meet at SCHD at 10:00 am and departing at 10:30 am. This is a closed chapter ride.



Disclaimer: NOT a recommended safe riding position. DON'T BE DUMB.

15 **RECHOG Board of Directors Meeting.** Board of Directors will meet at SCHD at 6:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and observe the workings of our chapter and participate in the round table discussion. If you want to learn about how you can participate in our events, rides, and activities this is a good meeting to attend. Anyone considering becoming a chapter officer in the future is encouraged to attend.

17 **Cloverdale Citrus Fair Ride.** We are riding up to Cloverdale for a fun time at the Cloverdale Citrus Fair. This is a great family event. <http://cloverdalecitrusfair.org/cloverdale-citrus-fair/tickets-rates/> Meet at SCHD at 9:30 am and departing at 10:00 am. Steve Read will lead this closed chapter ride.

25 **103rd Annual Capay Valley Almond Festival.** Our 102nd anniversary Almond Festival is coming up soon! The Capay Valley Almond Festival began in 1915 and has long been a Northern California tradition. The only six town event in Northern California, the festival is a showcase of the Esparto/Capay Valley Region. The communities of Madison, Esparto, Capay, Brooks, Guinda, and Rumsey all have something exciting and fun to offer the whole family the whole day long! Entertainment, crafts, good food and fun for all members of the family are yours to enjoy. It is a wonderful time to see the beauty of the whole Capay Valley and to meet many of the wonderful people who live and work in the area. Meet at Johnny’s Java at 9am and departing at 9:30am. Steve Pehargou will lead this closed chapter ride.



JANUARY 2018

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FEBRUARY

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25	26	27	28			

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed time riding and being with those you love over the holidays. I am very excited to serve as your Ladies of Harley officer this year. I would like to start by sharing how much I appreciate our dealer, Phil and all the members of RECHOG. I had a dream of riding while recuperating from 2 hip replacements 4 years ago. My bucket list went like this: to learn how to ride a Harley and backpack the John Muir Trail. To tell you the truth, I had stopped dreaming of doing anything very physical for many years prior to my hip surgeries. I walked with a cane before my surgeries and had very limited mobility. Needless to say, I am living my dream! It took a village to see fruition. 2 years of rehab to build strength and mobility, 2 years of convincing my husband to be ok with getting my motorcycle license, working hard to save enough money to purchase a bike and then working through the utter terror I felt while learning how to ride. I joined the RECHOG group and finally got myself out of practicing stops in the parking lot and went on my first HOG ride, which was the remembrance ride in 2016. I immediately felt welcomed and realized I had joined a family of fun-loving, crazy and caring characters that I can't imagine my life without now. Thank you HOG family for looking out for me as I continue to learn. I am excited to plan fun rides and give back this year to all of you. Who knows, I might have some cigars to share.....Heidi

Membership renewal time

You should have received a renewal reminder email! The annual premium will remain \$25 for 2018. And, we are pleased to announce that you can use a debit/credit card to pay your dues. We tried using it for the Summer Run, and it was very successful.

Thank you for your continued support, membership and dedication to Redwood Empire Harley Owner's Group! We look forward to another great year of riding fun in 2018! If you have any ideas for rides or activities, please contact a board member, or join us for the monthly board meetings.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

BY JIM WHEELER

December 2017 General Meeting

Call to Order: Dave called the meeting to order at 7:14pm

Flag Salute: Mare led us in the pledge of allegiance

November General Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Claude Jones to accept the November meeting minutes as prepared with a second from Steve Reed

Assistant Director: Ian announced December birthdays Mike Johnson, Paul Benkover, Bill Faulkner, Steve Reed, Dave McCombs, Antonio Lemos, Shirley Jones, Karen Knapp, Kim O'rouke, and Jim Jones; Steve Reed won a \$25 gift card courtesy of Sonoma County Harley Davidson;

Raffle Prizes: Raffle prizes were given away throughout the evening. There were too many to list but there were 40+ prizes given away

Treasurer: Linnea announced the chapter is solvent

Membership Report: Rob noted we are at 155 members,

Director Time: Dave thanked the membership for their support, A buffet of steak, chicken, and salmon and all the sides and salad had been provided to all who showed up courtesy of the chapter; Dave then handed out appreciation certificates to the board members; Dave presented marathon volunteers with gift cards for their volunteer work; Dave reminded everyone of the upcoming toy runs and to come out and have fun; he finally thanked everyone for attending and for allowing him to serve as Director

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm

Minutes compiled and submitted by Jim Wheeler



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Sonoma County Harley-Davidson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CAROLINE HLUSAK

BRIAN BOKKIN

DORENE BARNES







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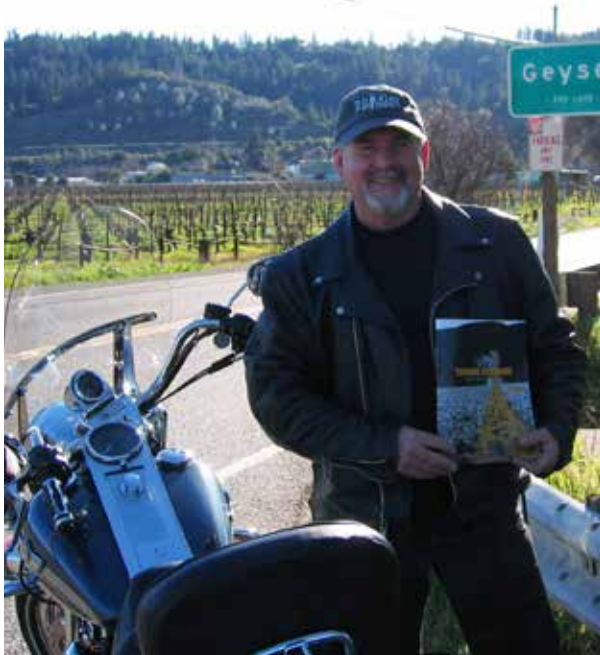
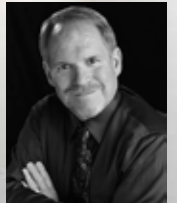
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There are drunk riders, and
there are old riders. There
are NO old, drunk riders.

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