

TALES FROM THE REDWOODS

DECEMBER 2017



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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Seasons Greetings

happy 60 60 60-days

It is hard to believe the year is almost over, Thanksgiving is past, the Religious Holidays are upon us and in just a few weeks it will be New Years Day!

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and allowing me to serve as your Director this past year, it was an experience that will not be forgotten. There were good times and difficult times and those when I just wanted to just ride off to the horizon and not look back, but with the support of my staff and members of the chapter things always worked out well.

I also wish to thank the many volunteers that helped make this year successful, from the members that helped lead rides, everyone that helped with the marathons, Summer Run volunteers and those that helped out behind the scenes. Without you this chapter would falter. And lets not forget our Sponsoring Dealer! Without Phil and the staff of Sonoma County Harley-Davidson this chapter would not exist.

But the year is not over yet, there are still a few events on our calendar. There are toy runs, our annual ride out to the Valley Of The Moon Children's Home as well as a few other scheduled rides. *Remember to always check the HOTLINE for updates and cancellations before leaving for a ride.*

Again thank you for the experience it has overall been a good time!

Now LETS MAKE SOME NOISE!



Greetings Redwood Empire!

We are at the finish line. The year is almost over and pretty soon we will be welcoming 2018 and all it has to offer. That means new experiences, new Harley loving friends, and new ideas to make our chapter even better than before. I for one am excited to see what all this coming year will bring. But before we say goodbye to 2017, I would like to thank all of you who volunteered throughout the year at our chapter and dealer events. When members raise their hands and volunteer it tells me one important thing. It says that those members care and are truly invested into our chapter. So, I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers who put in the time and effort throughout the year to make our rides, events, meetings, and social gatherings a success that you are what makes this chapter remarkable. Thank you for supporting Redwood Empire and Sonoma County Harley Davidson.



We have one last general membership meeting for the year. I hope y'all can join us as we close out the year and recognize the hard work and dedication some of our members have put in. The December general membership meeting will be on December 7th. We hope to see y'all there. We have moved the date for the December Board of Directors meeting since Christmas is fast approaching. It will be on December 14th at SCHD. We would like to ask all current officers to show up as well as the officers selected for 2018 so we may discuss transition of responsibilities. We are working diligently to make sure we start off 2018 on a positive note. In order to help us better do this, we are asking once again for current members to volunteer as ride leads or help us plan rides and events by reaching out to myself or the other officers. We are here to help facilitate what the general membership wants but in order for us to better do that, we first need to know what it is y'all want. Please do not hesitate to pull any of the officers aside and let us know any ideas or concerns you may have. We are here for y'all.

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.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

Being Visible Being Seen

Skull styled brake lights may seem like a cool lighting upgrade (and I shake my head when I see it), but it's your decision and your right to do it. Nobody wants to hit a motorcycle rider, but with your Halloween decoration blinking lights and now the winter months getting darker earlier, **Being Visible Being Seen** is the key to staying out the path of a car or truck. If you plan to do a lighting retrofit, think long and hard about how much safety you want to sacrifice for style.

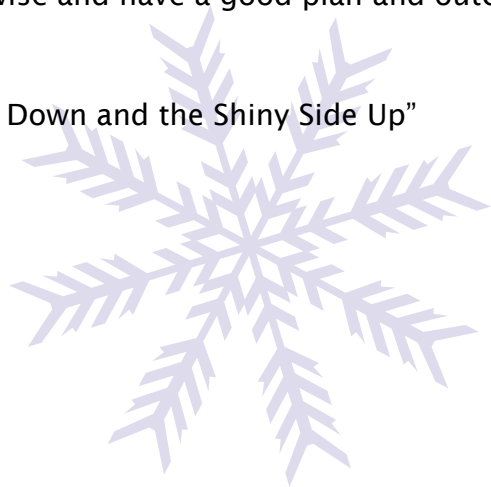
Every state has rules on the books about what you're allowed to use as brake and directional lights on a motorcycle, but some are "enforced" more than others. In some states such as Massachusetts, requires a "DOT" stamp on the lens, while California will generally take your word for it or not "Blink" an eye. But just because you can ride around with whatever excuse for lights you want doesn't mean you should. Directional and brake lights are some of the most important elements in the "BE Visible Shield" you have on the road as a motorcycle.

LED replacement kits and bulbs are popping up all over the aftermarket, local auto parts, and shops like mushrooms. But like every other accessory they're not all created equal, some are well built and others are just junk. You'll know junk from well built when you see it, but basically if you're replacing an incandescent bulb with LED bulb, you want little diodes pointing in all directions, not just on a flat plane of lights. ***Note: this doesn't apply to LED Lights that come with their own housing.***

LED bulbs and incandescent bulbs are going to project light in slightly different directions "Optimal Visibility" is going to happen when the LED's are nestled into reflectors designed for their projection pattern. Using an incandescent reflector with a LED bulb is going to be suboptimal and is a waste of time and money. If you're going to upgrade, make the choice to replace the entire light housing with a manufacture designed for LED if the light is something you depend on to see, like a headlamp. But you can get away with LED's in a stock housing if the primary objective is "being seen" as with blinkers or brakes.

LED's, as you may have heard draw less power than incandescent bulbs which is true and generally that is a good thing for your electrical system as it tends to lighten the load. Be wise before you buy, as many manufactures claims put on their products are simply not true if you are buying "Aftermarket". Be penny wise and have a good plan and outcome if you're going to upgrade your motorcycle lighting.

As Always "Keep the Rubber Side Down and the Shiny Side Up"
Vincent Mulligan Safety Officer



This being the last newsletter entry of the year, I wish to thank the officers and members for affording me the opportunity to attempt to inform and entertain in the newsletter and at the meetings as chapter historian. I tried to dwell on relevant issues and information on Harley-Davidson motor company history, Harley Owners Group history, and Redwood Empire Chapter Harley Owners Group history.

With the help of Larry Jacobs, owner of GW2 Printing that does the chapter's printing and member of REC-HOG, we managed to bind all of the "Tales from the Redwoods" newsletters in our archives. This makes them more organized and easier to access and read.

I also had the opportunity to sit in on all management and board meetings to assist our chapter to function. Our board members spend considerable time and energy running this chapter and deserve our gratitude.

I've enjoyed working and riding with all of you. Enjoy the Holidays. I will be riding with you again soon.

Martin Hlusak





BERKELEY MARATHON VOLUNTEERS





NOVEMBER General meeting





REMEMBRANCE RIDE



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



DECEMBER

01 Friday Off Work Ride
Meet at Johnny's Java, Cotati at 10am and depart at 10:30am. We will be riding out towards the coast and come back in to Novato. Lunch will be at Jennie Low's located at 120 Vintage Way, Novato, CA.

03 Cloverdale Lions 20th Annual Toy Run
This event is presented by the Cloverdale Lions Club. Pack ride with Santa (weather permitting.) Music, raffle, silent auction, 50/50. Full no-host bar. Lion's famous barbecue, tri-tip, Frank's famous beans, salads, rolls. Please bring one new unwrapped toy + \$10/person. Ride pins to first 200 registered. Meet at Johnny's Java at 9am and departing at 9:30 am.

07 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 the birthday raffle drawing; next month's birthday list for the Tales of the Woods; and the guests list.

07 Pearl Harbor Day, commemorates the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor. The attack began at dawn December 7, 1941. It crippled the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and caused the U.S. to enter World War II. During the attack at Pearl Harbor,

over 2,400 American servicemen and 68 civilians were killed. Five of the eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, and virtually all ships were damaged. On Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, U.S. flags are to be flown at half staff. On December 8, 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in a speech to Congress it was "...a day that will live in infamy". The U.S. then declared war on Japan.

10 Ride Planning Meeting.
Meet at Marvin's Restaurant, 7991 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati at 10am. All road captains and anyone interested in being a road captain are encouraged to attend.

10 Road Captains Ride
Meet at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson, 7601 Redwood Dr, Cotati at 10am and depart at 10:30 am. The Director and Assistant Director will lead a ride after the last ride planning meeting of the year. We hope y'all can join us.

12 Laps Of Appreciation
Community members have a unique opportunity to take a ride in a first responder vehicle on the Sonoma Raceway road course as part of the raceway's Laps of Appreciation benefit on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 12. This fundraising event will serve as a special opportunity for the North Bay community to gather and thank the public safety personnel involved in the response to October's fires. The highlight of Laps of Appreciation

will be the chance for attendees to enjoy a ride around the Sonoma Raceway road course in their choice of first responder vehicles from several North Bay fire and police agencies. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the event for \$25 per person; each ticket includes three ride tickets for laps around the road course. All proceeds will benefit the Sonoma County Resilience Fund and the Disaster Fund for Mendocino County. To purchase tickets in advance or for more information, visit www.SonomaRaceway.com or call 800-870-RACE. Parking is free at the benefit and riders of all ages are welcome. Sponsorship opportunities are also available as part of the matching fund or to sponsor the attendance for a local, non-profit youth group. Laps of Appreciation will run rain or shine. facebook.com/events/839889622856397/ We will meet at Gate 1 of Sonoma Raceway - Sonoma Raceway, 29355 Arnold Dr.

13 Hanukkah/Chanukah Starts

14 RECHOG BOARD Meeting will meet at SCHD at 6pm. At this meeting, the 2017 officers will turn over all duties and responsibilities to the incoming 2018 board. 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 **Valley of the Moon Toy Run.** We will be visiting the children at the Valley of the Moon Children's Home. We ask that chapter members and friends please bring new and unwrapped toys for Christmas. Meet at Johnny's Java at 9am, departing at 9:30 am. Those that are not riding can meet us at VOM. This is a rain or shine event. In the event it is raining, we will be driving to VOM. Director will lead ride.



18 **Monday Fun Day Ride** Meet at SCHD at 10am and depart at 10:30 am.

25 **Merry Christmas**

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.

05 **Friday Off Work Ride** Stay tuned for more details, coming soon!

07 **Ride Planning Meeting.** Meet at Marvin's Restaurant, 7991 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati at 10am. Anyone interested in planning or leading a ride are encouraged to attend. Open to all current Redwood Empire Chapter HOG members.

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 everyones riding styles. If you have ideas or concerns, please reach out to the Director at director@rechog.org. Meet at SCHD at 10am, departing at 10:30 am.

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, departing at 9:30 am. www.easyridersevents.com

DECEMBER 2017

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2018

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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			

Membership renewal time

You should have received a renewal reminder in your email! The annual premium will remain \$25 for 2018. You are welcome to pay early (in fact, we encourage it) to avoid the January rush. However, we will not deposit your check until January, 2018. Obviously, if you pay cash, it won't matter. But, if you write a check, it will be a few more weeks before it's deposited.

Also, we are pleased to announce that you can use a debit/credit card to pay your dues. But, because we want the money to be posted in 2018, this feature won't be available until January. 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.



HAVE A HARLEY-JOLLY CHRISTMAS



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

BY JIM WHEELER

November 2017 General Meeting

Call to Order: Dave called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Flag Salute: Mare led us in the pledge of allegiance

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

Assistant Director: Ian announced members having birthdays this month which were Bill Parker and Rick Wallenstein; Rick Wallenstein won a \$25 gift card courtesy of Sonoma County Harley Davidson, Guests were then recognized and were Greg Leonard and Debby & Brian Thurston

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

Treasurer: Linnea announced the chapter is solvent

Membership Report: Dave noted we are at 155 members, Rob was excused from meeting, The membership drawing was held and Jack Read was called again this year but was not present, the prize money will be added to next months drawing

Safety Officer Report: Vince discussed lessons learned from the fire storm; make sure to have a plan to get out of the house

Director Time: Dave spoke to the sadness of the firestorm, a hat was passed to take up a collection for our members who were affected by the fire, Dave announced the Christmas party has been cancelled, discussion ensued regarding other options, Dave discussed participation point standings,

Open Mike: Marc Mendelson discussed Yountville veterans home ride, Big Bob discussed a single mom displaced by the fire and needing assistance and to contact bob if you can help,

50/50 Drawing: Won by John Stutterman (ticket 392649)

Meeting Adjourned: 7:51pm

Minutes compiled and submitted by Jim Wheeler

Raffle Prize Winners:

Ticket Number	Name	Prize
2265697	Bill Parker	HD Hat
2265838	John Hendricksen	HD Clock
2265657	Dave Anderson	HD Tin Sign
2265739	Mel Stireman	HD Goggles & Sticker
2265752	Marc Lampell	HD Coffee Mug
2265865	Jean Riggs	HD Picture Frame
2265680	Jim Montengro	HD Cheese Board
2265754	Marc Lampell	HD Wine Glass
2265736	Mel Stireman	HD Goggles, grips, covers
2265765	Marc Lampell	HD Coffee Mug
2265834	John Hendricksen	HD Coffee Mug
2265751	Marc Lampell	Bike Polish



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SUBMIT YOUR MATERIALS

Send your comments, photos, anecdotes and jokes for the
RECHOG Newsletter to newslettereditor@rechog.org.





2018 ANNIVERSARY RIDES HOME - These rides celebrate the 115TH anniversary of H-D and the 35TH anniversary of H.O.G. Each ends in Milwaukee for the big celebration.



Key:

Welcome Riders
Rallies

Tours

Rides Home

Tours

March 1-4 &
November 8-11
Southern California H.O.G. Tour
L.A./San Diego/Palm Springs
May 18-20
Trail of Honor & Blues Trail H.O.G. Tour
New Orleans, LA to Jackson, MS
June 14-18
Yellowstone & Bearfoot H.O.G. Tour
Red Lodge, MT
July 18-22
Rainforest, Rivers &
Volcanoes H.O.G. Tour
Seattle/Olympic National Park
September 19-22
Colorado & Black Canyon H.O.G. Tour
Colorado

Rallies

May 29-June 2
Great Smoky Mountain H.O.G. Rally
Maryville, TN
August 2-4
Iron Adventure of New England
Sunday River, ME
August 28-September 2
H.O.G. 35TH/H-D 115TH Anniversary
Milwaukee, WI

Rides Home

August 21-29
Northwest Ride Home
Seattle, WA to Milwaukee, WI
August 21-29
Southwest Ride Home
San Diego, CA to Milwaukee, WI
August 23-29
Northeast Ride Home
Portland, ME to Milwaukee, WI
August 24-29
Southeast Ride Home
Ft. Lauderdale, FL to Milwaukee, WI

Details are subject to change. Visit hog.com/events for the most up-to-date information.

Our Rally map was designed by H.O.G.® member Heather Leach, who has been a proud Harley-Davidson® motorcycle rider since the age of 2. She began riding on the back of her dad's Softail® Custom model, then purchased her first bike when she was 18, and recently added an Iron 883™ bike to her collection.



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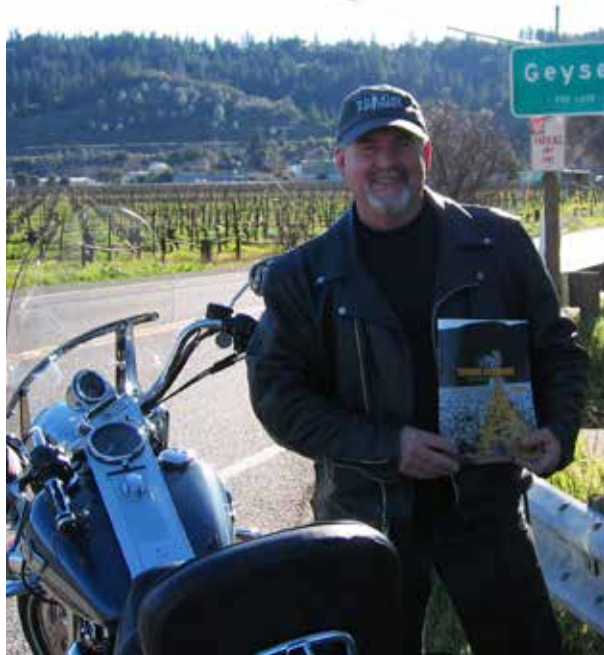
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**// If you don't ride in the
rain, you don't ride. //**

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