TALES FROM BWOODS

JANUARY 2017





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

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



RECHOG OFFICERS 2017

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| Webmaster: Sergio Bravo | . 415.420.3867 | webmaster@rechog.org |
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| Dealer Liaison: Phil Eiselin | | |

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 Harley-Davidson, 7601 Redwood Dr, Cotati, CA

SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION: TFTW gladly accepts articles, photos and antecdotes for publication! Please send text, 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

DIRECTOR BY DAVE McCOMBS

happy New year

Hello everyone, I hope your Holidays were pleasant and full of joy.

I would like to once again thank the 2016 Board of Directors for their service and hard work in keeping this chapter operating. Randy Mack did a fine job of leading the group over the past two years and deserves a nice round of applause.

I would also like to thank and welcome in this years Board Of Directors, whether they are returning in the same position, starting a new position, first time officers or dragged out of retirement... and last but not least I wish to thank Phil Eiselin of Sonoma County Harley-Davidson, if not for his support this H.O.G chapter would cease exist.

In the efforts of keeping the chapter moving forward, The Board will be planning and working on some exciting events and outings this year along with some "incentive" programs to help and keep members involved in chapter functions, one of which is the return of the participation points program, this time it will be very simple and streamlined. There will be more information to come on this as the board works out some of the kinks and details.

In closing, I would like to ask the members to get involved in some way, be it attending rides and meetings, helping out in some way or even some new ideas for rides or events. Remember, this is your chapter also and your input is very important.

Let's Make Some Noise! Dave McCombs

2017 H.O.G.® OFFICER TRAINING

The best start to the 2017 season is to make plans to attend H.O.G.® Officer Training, or H.O.T. HOT provides an opportunity for officers to attend classes, share best practices, and network with other Chapter officers.

COURSES WILL INCLUDE:

- · Group Riding
- · Working with Social Media
- The Dealer Chapter Relationship
- $oldsymbol{\cdot}$ Working with Dynamic Personalities
- Motivating Volunteers
- · Welcoming New Members
- And more...

The training begins at 8am on Friday and ends by 5pm on Saturday. Registration is open Thursday 4pm - 7pm, and Friday morning at 7am. The training is free and includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday. You can also bring a guest to dinner with you on Friday night for some added festivities. Registration will open soon! Keep an eye on hog.com for additional information, including hotels and room blocks. Hope to see you there!

2017 DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Feb 10-11 Schaumburg, IL March 24-25 Albuquerque, NM Feb 17-18 Myrtle Beach, SC April 7-8 Buffalo, NY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BY IAN REFUGIO

January 2017 HAPPH NEW HEAR RECHOG!

It's hard to believe that we're into 2017 already. I guess time really does fly when you're having fun. And we sure had a lot of fun in 2016. The chapter enjoyed a lot of great rides and activities thanks to the officers, road captains, and members who planned out some really cool rides. Thanks again to the outgoing 2016 officers under the direction of Randy Mack who worked tirelessly. The entire Redwood Empire Chapter has truly benefited from all your hard work and dedication.

This new year also brings to the chapter new things. We have new leadership under veteran RECHOGer Dave McCombs who promises to bring new ideas and a boost of energy that will surely get the chapter excited about the year to come. I have the privilege of serving as your Assistant Director this year. The 2017 board of directors together with our very supportive sponsor and friends from Sonoma County Harley Davidson will be striving to bring new and exciting ideas to RECHOG. We understand that we are a riding chapter and we will concentrate on bringing quality rides to our members.

I would personally like to invite all our members to come out and join us on our monthly meetings. Come out and be involved in our chapters direction. We, the officers of RECHOG, are here for the members. We want to hear whats working for you and what isn't. This is our chapter and we want you to know that your voice matters in how we plan our future rides and events.

I hope to see you all on future rides. I am excited to have more wonderful memories with great friends who ride the world's greatest motorcycles.

Ride hard. Ride safe. Ian Refugio, Assistant Director





Son, someday you will make a girl very happy, for a short period of time. Then she'll leave you and be with new men who are ten times better than you could ever hope to be. These men are called Bikers....

LADIES OF HARLEY BY SHELLY BOKKIN

hello to you all!!

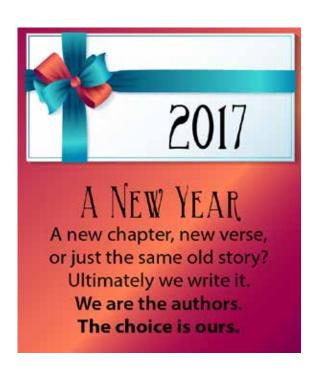
Firstly I hope everyone had an amazing holiday season! I know I sure did! My daughter Aubree and I were able to go to Disneyland and Universal Studios during her winter break at school. Who doesn't love Disneyland during the holiday season!! And this was our first trip to Universal. Fun times!!

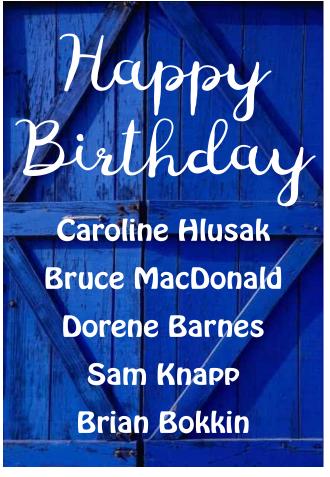
Secondly I'd like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be your 2017 LOH officer. I am super excited to encourage all you ladies, as well as the men folk, to come out and play!

We are going to be doing a lot of really fun rides this next year (mani-pedi's, shopping malls, and you know we are going to jelly belly again) as well as some get togethers along the way. (I'm feeling a movie, karaoke or game night in the future) So it doesn't matter if you currently ride, or maybe you ride on the back, or perhaps you used to ride. All of you are welcome to come and participate in all the great things we are going to be doing. The more the marrier!

And lastly if anyone has any suggestions for rides or get togethers, please let me know... Thank you again and I look forward to seeing and riding with you all in 2017!

Shelly





SAFETY OFFICER BY VINCE MULLIGAN

I hope that everyone had a fabulous time at the RECHOG X-mas Party and had a fabulous Holiday and New Year. Speaking of the New Year, what I want to accomplish as the Safety Officer this year is to not just cover tires or what apparel to wear during rides and bad weather, but cover the over all focus of safety in conjunction with riding. This first article (Safety, Safely, Safe) is how I place safety while riding and how I keep myself mentally focused while riding. Cheers everyone!

Safety, Safely, Safe

The words *safety, safely*, or *safe* refers to our freedom from danger, injury and damage, and to your personal security. These words have been used so often that many of us may think of them as a "Preaching Words", or words that might "force us to alter our ways or change our bad habits".

Let me explain, if we're riding our bikes safely or safe, we're simply operating our bike as intended and obeying all the laws, no more or no less. If we're working with a power tools or tools in general that requires eye protection, don't fight it. Safety glasses are simply a necessary accessory to the proper use of that power tool or tool. If we're at home, and take the time to safely use a ladder instead of standing on a chair, milk crate, stack of books or what ever elevates us will reduce the risk of a fall.

Seems like a lot of work to have fun or get a chore done right? And nobody can be 100% safe right? Well, try this instead when you hear the words safety, safely, safe, think of it as words that applies to the way we ride or complete a chore everyday. Think of the words "Risk Management" if you will, keeping us out of harms way.

What speed am I going to maintain? Is it time to swerve? Or to stop? Or just go slow? We riders often times are facing a situation that absolutely needs a split-second decision in order to escape a near miss or collision. In times like this, the practice of risk management is a crucial remedy.

In general, "risk management" is having the understanding of risks and performing the appropriate action to circumvent or reduce the same. Thus, all "Good" riders like us know all of our physical, environmental and vehicular limits. Risk management also comes in the form of having the ongoing appropriate safety training, safety gear, performing motorcycle pre-ride checks and maintenance. This may also result to lessen our liability when we maybe involved in an accident. The rider who appreciates the worth of risk management is the rider who experiences fewer collisions, near misses, or a "No Harm No Foul Incident" and is going to enjoy the most of what riding has to offer.

There are few steps to consider in risk management:

1. Acknowledgment of the fact that there is the existence of risks while riding. The fist step is to admit that there plenty of risks while riding. By this reason, the rider rides

accordingly because the risks to him/herself or to other riders and property are at stake.

- 2. Risk Assessment is a learned skill that we perform everyday consciously and subconsciously. Whether the rider is a seasoned rider or new to riding should know that this takes ongoing practice while riding when it comes to risk assessment skills. Thus, all riders must take advantage of ongoing training and the time in the saddle to increase their skills.
- 3. Risk Recognition. We as riders can not manage the risks if we do not recognize them. There are two forms of risks the subjective and the objective. The subjective risk is that which is inherent in the rider's attitude. Objective risk, on the other hand, is created by environmental, vehicular and road conditions.

Risk management should be a very natural effect while riding. It includes lots of factors like weather, motorcycle condition, road conditions, rider's health and more. Sometimes riders can be unaware that they are already implementing some form of "Risk Management". This is subconscious application. It is something innate that even if we do not think about it, it just comes out as a constructive defense against a probable road dilemma. External factors like our philosophies and attitudes may affect our risk management skills. Thus, it will be better if we have a positive outlook and the urge to desist trouble and injuries.

HISTORIAN BY MARTIN HLUSAK

Please allow me to introduce myself as this year's Historian. I'm Martin Hlusak, a retired Optometrist and HOG member for 19 years. Hindsight is 20/20, so I should've purchased a Life Membership day one!

I practiced Optometry in Phoenix, Arizona and then in Susanville, Ca. for the last 25 years. The Harley assigned dealership for Susanville is Redding, Ca. two hours away. Chico dealership is also two hours away. Reno Nevada dealership is an hour and a half away. Carson City, Nevada dealership is two hours away. My wife for 38 years, Caroline, who rides her own Fatboy, and I checked out all the HOG Chapters and decided to join Carson City. At the time they were the most friendly and most active Ladies of Harley. We would've become officers had we lived closer and we were not running a private practice in Susanville.

We've been members of REC-HOG for four years and have found you to be very friendly and Ladies of Harley is also active and keeps getting better (a little pressure for Shelly Bokkin, who has already express some new ideas)! I too, as Historian have spoken with some members and have gotten some new ideas to make the REC-HOG Archives more accessible to the members.

If any of you have ideas or suggestions please contact me by phone or e-mail or REC-HOG Facebook.

Looking forward to an exciting new year. Martin Hlusak, Historian



REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER HARLEY OWNERS GROUP | JANUARY 2017





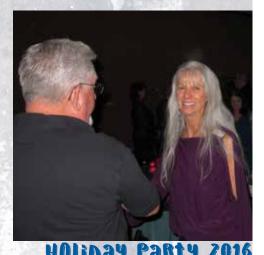














RECHOG.ORG | HOTLINE 707.575.6786

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





Happy New Year! New Year's Day ride.

2nd Annual Bread & Chowder Ride by Sergio Bravo. Meet at SCHD at 10:00am, depart at 10:30. 1st stop will be at Freestone Wild Flower Bread Co, 140 Bohemian Hwy, Freestone, CA. 2nd stop Spud Point Crabshack, 1910 Westshore Rd. Bodega Bay, CA 94923. 3rd stop Bodega Head, then ride to Sergio's house for a beer. Those not wanting to ride can meet up at the Crabshack at approximately 12:45. Lead RC Sergio Bravo, Sweep is Steve Reed

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.

Off Work Friday Ride Meet at SCHD at 10:00, depart 10:30. Lead RC Marty Hlusak

Steve Reed will lead at ride, meet at SCHD at 10:00, depart 10:30. Destination to be announced.

FYI - Easy Riders Bike Show, Sacramento Convention Center Show Hours: 10am-7pm. Tickets: Sold at the door the day of the show, or get your tickets early at the Convention Center Box Office (approx 2 weeks prior to show) Admission Adults: \$20 Active Military Discount *\$5 OFF WITH MILITARY I.D.*

Road Captains Meeting. This meeting is for ALL current road captains and anyone interested in becoming a road captain. This being the first meeting of the year it's very important you attend as we will be covering many topics. Meet at 11am at Carmen's Burger Bar, 90 West Mark Springs Rd. Ride for road captains to follow, weather permitting.

SOUTHEAST H.O.G. RALLY

November 01 - November 04 Pensacola, FL

CENTRAL H.O.G. RALLY

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

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



Monday Funday Ride by Smag Smaggy. Meet at SCHD 10:00, depart at 10:30am

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.

Mani/Pedi Ride by Shelly Bokkin. Meet at Johnny's Java at 10:00, depart 10:30. Shelly will lead a ride to lunch. Lunch will be at 12:00 then a short ride to the nail salon. Reservations for mani/pedi will be at 2:00. Shelly will need a head count to secure reservations so if you are interested in this portion of the ride, be sure to TEXT Shelly at (530) 604-3153 and let her know.





Steve Pehargou will lead a ride, destination to be determined. Meet at Johnny's Java at 9:00, depart 9:30.

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For more outside activities please pick up a copy of Thunder Press at Sonoma County Harley-Davidson. If you have an idea on a place to go,

If you have an idea on a place to go, or an event that the group might like to do, please send an e-mail to the Activities Director at: activitiesdirector@rechog.org

Ride and Have Fun!

Marc Mendelson, Activities Director, 2017





| Janua | ry 2017 | , | | | | |
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General Meeting Minutes Redwood Empire HOG

Date: 12/1/16 Call to Order: 7:00 pm Pledge of Allegiance led by: Jack Read

Previous Meeting Minutes Motion to Accept: Claude Jones Second: Mike Faria

Director Randy Mack: Randy shared that the 85 year old woman who had a 'motorcycle ride' on her bucket list enjoyed the time she spent riding with the group. He thanked the club for the rider turnout. The new website is being built now and should be operational by the first of the year. There are some Christmas Party tickets left. See him after the meeting or see Danielle at the dealership to purchase the tickets. The road captain party is being held at 355 Rock Mound Rd, in Geyserville. Randy thanked the club for letting him serve as director and said he had fun. Randy presented certificates of appreciation to the club's outgoing officers.



Chartered in 1988 and proudly sponsored by Sonoma County Harley-Davidson

Asst Director Dave McCombs: Dave started off by recognizing an honored visitor, Bill Merian. Winners of the monthly birthday gift cards were Karen Knapp and Jim Jones. Dave spoke about the Berkeley 1/2 marathon. Those who helped were eligible for a drawing for a \$25 gift card. Aubrey Bokkin won the card. Start thinking about helping during the San Francisco Marathon to be held in July of 2017.

Treasurer: Linnea gave the current financial report.

Membership, Lonnie Olaeta: Lonnie pulled the white ticket and Paul Smith won the prize.

Lead Road Captain Steve Pehargou: Steve reminded us about the upcoming Cloverdale toy run on Sunday. The road captain party is coming up and there will be skills training on 12/11/16. Valley of the Moon toy run will be held on 12/17/16.

Safety Officer Jeff Baron: Told everyone to have fun and be safe.

Activities Officer: Donna said she enjoyed being Activities Director. The next road captain meeting will be held on 1/15/17 at Carmen's Burger Bar, in Santa Rosa, at 11:00 am.

Communications Officer: Jim told us that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the club for his 21 years.

Sergeant at Arms: Jack thanked club members for allowing him to serve as Sergeant at Arms.

Newsletter Editor: Cherie Wheeler thanked the club for re-electing her to her position.

Historian Doug Barnes: Mentioned that this was his last appearance as Historian. Then he shared two stories, one about a minister's sermon on the sin of lying and the other about a veterinary cat scan.

Open Mike: Steve Pehargou commented that the 85 year old woman really liked loud pipes. Donna Fess thanked Randy for doing a great job for the last two years. Sergio Vial thanked Susan and Jack for opening their doors for the Thanksgiving dinner. Dorene Barnes wished everyone happy holidays and asked for prayers for Ran Shipway's son who had a stroke and is paralyzed on his left side.

Members only drawing: Member drawing went to member number #86, Tom Larini. He was not present so the gift card goes up another \$25 next month.

Opportunity Drawing: Antonio Lemos won the opportunity drawing.

Raffle Winners:

 6766333
 Jim Montenegro
 6766264
 Susan Kirkpatrick
 6766057
 Paul Smith
 6766248
 Walter Kettler

 6766485
 Randy Mack
 6766032
 Ron LaMariana
 6766406
 Jean Riggs
 6766274
 Jack Read

Meeting Adjourned: 7:43 pm

John E. Mentz, Secretary - Redwood Empire Chapter







SECRETARY BY JIM WHEELER

happy New Year everyone!

Whoa! Is this Déjà vu or what? I thought I was living the RECHOG retired officer life and collecting a pension?? "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in!" I was honored when our new Director asked me to take a position on his board and serve with him. I look forward to serving as Secretary this year. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or suggestions. My email and cell phone number is printed on the inside cover of the newsletter.

I want to take this opportunity and thank the outgoing RECHOG board for all their service to our chapter. A lot of you may not know the full undertaking an officer takes to serve on our board. There are many, many hours that are put in by an officer that often goes unnoticed or thanked. It takes a lot to keep this chapter rolling along. A huge thank you goes to our past Director Randy Mack. Sitting at the helm of this chapter and insuring everything is going well requires a lot of hours often working into the night and suffering many headaches and stresses. Thank you for all that you have done Randy. Enjoy retirement. For those of you continuing to server on the board, thank you for undertaking another year.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dave McCombs for many years. We have shared a lot of fun times and endured some sad times standing shoulder to shoulder. As he thought about taking on the position of Director, he shared his vision and some of his ideas he has planned. Please support him as he implements these ideas and events and I think you will be well rewarded. We all know it takes "a village" and I am certain your 2017 officers will be doing their best to come up with fun and exciting things for us to partake in. Do YOU have any ideas that will make it a fun year? Please share them with the board as we would love to hear about them. After all, it is all about riding and having fun.

One of the first things to change to encourage fun is bringing back the participation point system. I hear there is even going to be a prize for top point person. Points will be given as follows: 1 point for attending a ride or general meeting and 2 points for attending a BAD ride or volunteering for the marathon(s). More info to come regarding the point program.

See you on the road.

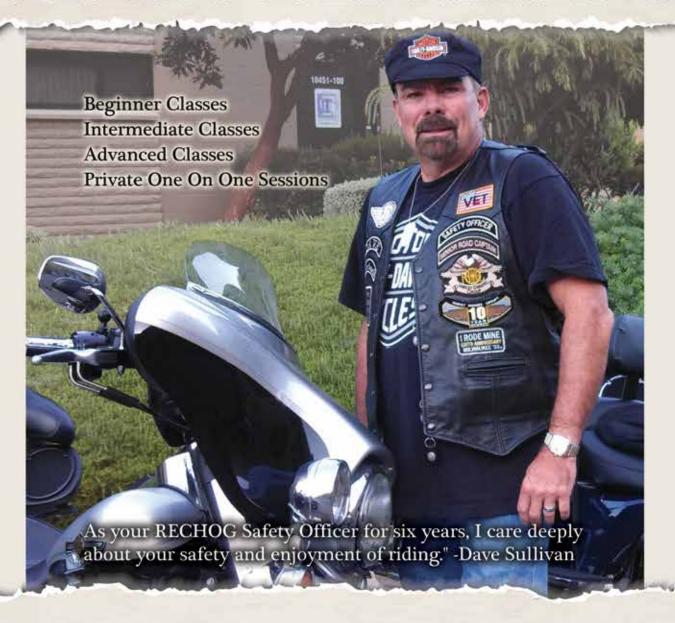


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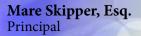
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Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.

– Benjamin Franklin

TALES FROM THE REDWOODS
c/o Sonoma County Harley-Davidson
7601 Redwood Drive
Cotati, CA 94931



"Dad, why do people who ride bikes look so happy?"

"Look son, in my opinion they are crazy. Also, they have a weird philosophy. They think they are free, they believe in enjoying the wind in their faces, the dust, the rain, the sun and everything else. They call their friends brothers; they help each other, they greet each other even though they are strangers.

When they get off their bikes they embrace as if they haven't see each other in years. They live for the day. They are likely to die at any time but apparently do not care."

"Dad, will you buy me a motorcycle?"



