



Northshore HOG News

ISSUE 29

MAY - JUNE 2005

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monthly Meeting and Dinner Ride to French Settlement May 21 at 9 am.
- Saturday Ride to Java Grotto in Mandeville May 28 at 9 am
- 1st Annual HOG Picnic June 12 11 - 4 pm
- Overnight ride June 25

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Crescent Grill Ride

Following April's Chapter Meeting the group took a ride led by Jim Carothers to the Crescent Grill in Hattiesburg, MS. The weather cooperated with sunny skies, cool temperatures and low humidity. Approximately 35 riders and on bikes participated in the ride.



Look at all that chrome

Taking I-59 North we made an impressive view with the bikes strung out in a staggered formation (see Juan, we do listen!) as we headed towards Picayune and then on towards Poplarville and eventually making to the

Crescent City Grill around noon. They were expecting us at the restaurant and we got seated quickly by the staff. I for one had never been to this establishment and was immediately impressed with not only the friendly service, but with the wide selection of tasty items on the menu. I don't believe anyone went away hungry. After lunch the group broke up with some of deciding to visit a local motorcycle dealership while others made their way back home.



It's not all about the ride

If you never have been on one of the Chapter's group rides and wondered what they are like this was a great example of a typical ride. Jim kept the group moving at a good pace, but my speedometer never showed more than 75 mph. Although there was moderate car and truck traffic the group stayed together and the formation did get broken up, the lead riders pulled off on the shoulder and waited for the group to catch up. As passenger vehicles would pass more often than not the occupants would wave or nod (you could almost read their thoughts - wishing they were out there with us). Well organized, good food and sharing a Saturday afternoon with your fellow chapter members - Does it get any better than this? Why not make plans now to join us for the lunch ride to French Settlement after the next chapter meeting on May 21? - Terry Forrette - Editor

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From the Editor

Random Thoughts and Road Hazards

As my inaugural issue of the Northshore HOG Newsletter let me start out by saying safe riding and good luck to Stan and Mary Anne Benvenuti as they relocate to their new home. You will be missed! And now let me say - THANKS A LOT! After some serious arm twisting from our Grand Potentate and Director Bruce, I volunteered to take over the editor's chair from Stan and Mary Anne. This is no easy act to follow considering the fine job they did on the previous issue of the Northshore HOG Newsletter.

My goal for the remainder of this year is to publish a bi-monthly newsletter that reflects the interest of our riders. Now the easiest way to do this is to have input from the riders - This means you! Hey it's easy. You write up a short piece about a ride you have taken (see the article on False River), tell us about a ride you have always wanted to take, a review on a new accessory or motoring gear is always great, or if you want send me your thoughts on what is or is not working for you in regards to Northshore HOG. Use some type of word processor like MS Word and email it to me at forrette@yahoo.com. Unless you are totally out of line or trash Road Glides, you can pretty much bet your contribution will make it in an upcoming issue. So get going, get riding and get writing. - Terry

P.S. Hey Stan. I plan to stick with your by-line "Random Thoughts and Road Hazards. Nice touch!



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From the Director's Saddle

As the word gets out about our activities and the fun we are having, our membership ranks are steadily growing each month. New members are participating and contributing to the club. Our last meeting had a good turn out and we had a great ride and lunch in Hattiesburg.

We are starting to plan some joint activities with other local HOG clubs. This should allow us to meet some new people and explore some new riding areas.

Our group had a great time at the LA State Rally. We even had a birthday party for 3 people one night! The food was great and the bands excellent. Take a look at the pictures on the website, you can see for yourself.

Each member has been issued a 2005 membership card. If you didn't pick yours up yet see June at the next meeting.

We are raffling off a donated hand made Harley Quilt as a fund raiser. There is a picture of it at the front desk and on the bulletin board. You can pick up a ticket at the shop or at the next meeting. The drawing is June 18th. You don't need to be present to win. Support the club and pick one up.

We are planning our summer picnic for Sunday, June 12th so mark your calendar. It will be held at Fontainebleau State Park. Stay tuned for the details.

Hope to see you at our next meeting and on our weekend rides.

Bruce Dillingham - Director 2005



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POT in New Orleans

On March 18th and 19th five of the Chapter's officers attended the H.O.G. Primary Officer Training (POT) held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans. Over 450 H.O.G. officers attending this first of 4 US meetings and two international meetings, came from Ohio, Texas, Michigan, Nevada, California and several other states. The session was kicked off with an entertaining audio/visual display highlighting the "Posse Ride" from last year. Jim McCaslin, HD President and Stever Philips, VP of Quality of Control then introduced the staff of highly qualified trainers that we would be interacting with over the next 2 days. During pre-registration we all selected various workshops to attend including; risk management, conducting chapter rides, creating and producing events, financial management and various other sessions. Each session was coordinated by one of the volunteer POT trainers. They all, of course, were H.O.G. members with several years of officer involvement in their chapters. In addition to the training staff, the seven regional H.O.G. representatives participated in the sessions, and our own Valerie Ledterman, Region 6, was the coordinator for the entire event. As you probably guessed, it was not all hard work. The meals were great and Saturday night there was a wonderful dinner and entertainment by Rockin Dupsie. If you are interested in attending PTO next year, your first step is to become a H.O.G. officer. See any of the current officers on how to get involved in the chapter and become an officer.



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Did You Know ...

- European Chapters were first established in England, Sweden and Norway in 1989.
- The first H.O.G. Chapter in Japan was established in 1996.

Road Captains Needed!!

Been Riding for a Year or More?

Take the next step in your transition from Rider to Biker! Lead and support your fellow riders. Learn how to plan and execute a safe Group Ride to any destination. The Slidell HOG is looking for some experienced riders (1 year +) that can support our Chapter by volunteering as **Road Captains**. Training is free. We minimize the impact on your personal time. We need some young-blood. Come on...get involved! Contact Jim Carothers at (985)285-5504 or any HOG Chapter Officer.

Tales From the Lone Rider: *False River Run*

I set out on a cool Saturday morning heading north on I-55 to Amite where it intersects LA 10 and in about 2 hours I pulled into ST. Francisville, LA. This is an old town full of quaint shops and restored homes but they would have to wait for another day. I continued on LA 10 until it ended at the ST. Francisville—New Roads Ferry landing. Paying my one dollar fee I eased the bike on to the steel decking and took in the panoramic view of the Mississippi. The trip across the river was short and I headed into New Roads and then north on 10 past False River. This is an oxbow lake created when the river followed the narrow stream over a neck of land (Pointe Coupee). I continued. across the Morganza Spillway to were LA 10 and 15 intersect. LA 15 follows the Mississippi river north, taking every one of its turns and twists as it crosses the area known as Old River. Here there is a series of river structures that were designed to control the path of the Mississippi River.



Flood control gates at Old River

The structures are impressive with their massive flood control gates that keep the Mississippi river from flowing into the Red and Atchafalaya river beds. Without this protective system, build in the 1950's, the Mississippi, as we know it, would take the course of the Atchafalaya and empty into the Gulf somewhere near Morgan City. Ferriday is the first large town that I have passed since New Roads. The decision was then too either cross the Mississippi and enter Natchez and take Hwy 61 back home or continue on 15 to the north.. One of the benefits of being a Lone Rider is you not only get to set your pace but also your direction. So, without a hesitation I head north, but that's another story for another day. - Lone Rider



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In The Beginning - A Brief History Of H.O.G.

Terry Forrette - Historian

The year was 1983, just two years after the buy-back from AMF. Financially Harley Davidson was suffering. Faced with a large debt burden from the buy-back, low sales figures, a somewhat dissatisfied dealer network, and a still suffering public image, the Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) was created. The first appearance of H.O.G. was at Daytona Bike Week in March of 1983 that included a poorly attended bike show followed by a now infamous cocktail party (some things never change). However, this event was followed that same year with several H.O.G. get-togethers around the country that eventually united the "family" of Harley Davidson owners into one group. Dues that first year were \$30. First year membership was an astounding 30,000 members and that grew to 63,000 in 34 chapters by 1985. H.O.G went overseas in 1991 with founding chapters formed in Germany, France, and England. 1992 saw the first European H.O.G. rally in Mulhouse, France. At present time there are over 650,000 members in 1,200 chapters based in 115 countries and dues have only increased to 40 bucks! H.O.G. membership was then and still is a great value.

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