



Northshore HOG News

ISSUE 114

JULY 2014

“Bikeless in Blue Ridge”

By Sybil Pons, with assistance From Sonia Vicknair, and Robin Blakeman

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A group of Robin and Ward’s friends have collaborated on motorcycling vacations for some years now, with Johnny and me joining the group 3 years ago. Sevierville, Gatlinburg, and Blue Ridge have been the locations where cabins have been rented for a week of day rides to the surrounding areas.



Groups having as many as 13 motorcycles have ridden the Dragon, Cherohala Skyway, Blue Ridge Parkway—and many other beautiful roads without names over the years. With the ‘Linger Longer’ cabin in Blue Ridge, Ga. meticulously selected by our group in December, anticipation steadily built. We all looked forward to riding this beautiful area once again: Sonia and I ‘two’ up with our husbands, and Robin and Ward each on their bikes. That was until I encountered a spirited horse on March 3rd, was thrown, breaking my back and left ankle, requiring an operation on my back. Then, in late May, Vick broke a toe. Riding was out for me....and questionable for Vick. What to do?

This year marked a first: no bikes! Not sure of how this was going to work out, we made the usual preparations: the ‘girls’ met to plan ‘creature comfort’ details of the trip. After which, Robin handled shopping for the group and assembled/stored food and other supplies until departure. Johnny and I loaded up the supplies in our truck on Saturday evening at Robin and Ward’s home. We met at Vick and Sonia’s 6:30 Sunday morning, and left for a new kind of adventure for these Northshore HOG member friends: our bikeless vacation. Our 3 vehicle caravan headed up I-59, with Vick in the lead. (Directed by ‘Lulu’, his Garmin navigator.) Just north of Laurel, we came upon the broke-down Oak Ridge Boys tour bus. The rest of the trip up was uneventful, and we arrived on-schedule at our cabin at about 5:30 p.m.



Monday morning, we were treated to Ward’s impromptu Jack Daniels French toast, which was excellent! Toppings were: bananas, strawberries, glazed pecans and whipped cream. Yum! After breakfast, we received a

“Bikeless in Blue Ridge” Continues



visit from 3 deer in front of the cabin—just twenty feet away! The activity plans for the day included visiting local wineries and Mercier Orchards for fresh baked fruit pies, jams, and jellies. The wineries were closed on Monday. So, to ease the pain, we loaded up at Mercier with our favorites and enjoyed them immensely after dinner.

Tuesday brought lots of rain, wind, and mist in the mountains.... and relaxation at the cabin. A beautiful rainbow highlighted the show that Mother Nature put on for us. Although everyone enjoyed the restful day; ‘still employed’ Vick and Sonia seemed to enjoy their escape from the grind the



most. We grilled burgers, hot dogs, and sausage. We played cards and shot pool afterwards; enjoying laughs and great camaraderie. By the end of Tuesday evening, we weren’t feeling quite so sorry for our Bikeless selves!

Wednesday morning, Johnny was treated to very special, voluptuous 3 dimensional pancakes—topped with two perfectly positioned grapes. It was his birthday, so I treated him to his favor-



ite. Our group headed out to Dahlonega, Georgia, to shop and sight-see. Johnny and Ward were sitting on a bench in the Town Square, when a familiar rumble of two Harleys was heard. The bikes stopped very near to them, and off popped



Mike Bruno’s Northshore Harley Davidson’s Service Manager Robert Clifton and his friend,--former NSHD service writer A.J. who now works at a HD dealership in Nashville. Seeing them was an unexpected pleasure. They were also vacationing in the area—Robert riding up from Slidell, and A.J. down from Nashville to enjoy the area’s roads. They had visited the

“Bikeless in Blue Ridge” Continues

Wheels Through Time Museum, ridden the dragon, Cherochala Skyway, Blue Ridge Parkway in days prior; and just finished riding Highway 60 before seeing us in Dahlongega. After a short visit with our group, off they went--ahead of the rain to Helen, Georgia for the night. We capped off the evening with cards and laughs. Sonia displayed her poker skills and game face. In a game of 3/33, (with low/high winners) she beamed when she saw her single face-down ‘3’, fooling us completely for the rest of the game about what she held. (not!)

Thursday started with a sad good-bye to Sonia, who was flying home ahead of the group. Vick brought her to the airport, and we 4 headed off to the ‘Wheels Through Time Motorcycle Museum in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. It met the build up from Robin and Ward—we were so impressed with everything



Friday marked a completely ‘lazy’ day. We stayed at the cabin, played cards, went in the hot tub. Vick checked in on Sonia to confirm that she made it home safely. We talked and laughed all day. After dinner, we made preparations for departure for home. Saturday we left at 8 a.m. and headed home, arriving about 5:30 p.m. It is true that we don’t have interesting rides to share with our chapter from this trip; however, there is a key take-away: these ‘HOG’ friends may not have been able to “Ride” this time; but we still were able to “Have Fun”!



about it. Robin and I met Matt; owner/curator Dale Walksler’s son. On the return trip, we stopped to view people tubing the rapids on the Nantahala River. Some in rafts, others in kayaks—each fun to watch. Back at the cabin and reunited with Vick; cards and the hot tub capped off another relaxing day.

Harley’s Heroes



Disabled American Veterans

UPCOMING EVENTS

03 Jul - 08:00 am - Patriot Tour, Phase I

08:30 am - Depart Bruno’s For Biloxi Visitor’s Center
10:30 am - Depart Biloxi Visitor’s Center For
Armed Forces Retirement Home
Tour Hall of Honor & Have Lunch

04 Jul - 07:00 am - Patriot Tour, Phase II

07:30 am - Depart Bruno’s For I-10 W MS/LA Rest Area
08:00 am - Depart MS/LA Rest Area Baton Rouge HD

05 Jul - 09:30 am - Membership Mtg & Ride

11:30 am - Depart Bruno’s For The Shed
15094 Mills Road, Gulfport, MS

13 Jul - 10:00 am - Parkway Bakery Ride

10:00 am - Meet at Starbucks On Front Street, Slidell, LA
10:30 am - Depart For Parkway Bakery
538 Hagan Ave, New Orleans, LA

18 July 6:00 pm - LOH Ride - Armond’s Eatery

6:00 pm - Depart Bruno’s For
808 E. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA

24 Jul 6:00 pm - Gone Loco Ride

6:30 pm - Depart Bruno’s For Ride &
Bear’s Grill & Spirits, 550 Gauze Blvd, Slidell, LA

29 Aug 6:00 pm - Get Up & Go—Breakfast

7:30 am - Meet At Starbucks On Front Street, Slidell, LA
8:00 am - Depart for Taste Of Bavaria
14476 Hwy 22, Ponchatoula, LA

2014 Officers

Sponsor

Mike Bruno's 985-641-5100
NorthShore Harley-Davidson
E-mail: info@northshoreharley.com

Director

Ward Blakeman 985-707-3929
Email: ward.blakeman@yahoo.com

Asst. Director

Chip Newman 985-788-6363
Email: hjnewman3@aol.com

Secretary

Judy Anderson 985-960-2330
E-mail: wkaljda1@att.net

Treasurer

Buddy Newman 985-847-9289
Email: buddyn@bellsouth.net

Activities Officer

Bill Anderson 985-960-2500
Email: wkaljda1@att.net

Safety Officer

Russ Davis 504-201-2872
Email: russ.c.davis@ssa.gov

Head Road Captain

Simon Gonzales 504-228-5600
Email: sgonzales001@hotmail.com

Editor

Richard Dillon 985-788-2568
Email: dillonrr@bellsouth.net

Web Master

Karl Fox 985-640-1728
Email: karlfox@bellsouth.net

Ladies of Harley

Sonia Fox 985-707-4451
Email: soniaf1958@yahoo.com

Historian

Dwight Bradbury 985-705-4095
E-mail: cyclesnapper@yahoo.com

Membership Officer

Frank Lay 504-304-7089
Email: gentillyduck@yahoo.com

Photographer

Karl Fox 985-640-1728
E-mail: karlfox@bellsouth.net

Chaplain

Russ Davis 504-201-2872
E-mail: russ.c.davis@ssa.gov

From Your Interim Director

June Update and Farewell

Just a few short weeks ago, I agreed to dealer sponsor Mike Bruno's request and assumed this temporary position. The mission from Mike was to guide the chapter through a 3 month period that ended with the election of a new Director by the membership. I am very happy to say that by the end of our upcoming July 5th membership meeting, I will declare: "Mission Accomplished". We will have a new, elected director in place, and the Chapter Officer corps will be fully staffed: elected primary positions as well as appointed ones.

Turnover is a challenge for any organization, especially when it occurs 'at the top'. Even the best teams can slip -- and not be as effective in such a difficult time. Your current HOG Chapter officer team met the challenge head on, remaining cohesive and effective. Kudos to Colonel Richard Dillon for stepping up and assuming the role of newsletter editor in the wake of his predecessor's abrupt resignation. Further: everyone should be



proud of Secretary Judy Anderson for her professionalism and steadfast dedication. Support from you, our members, has been outstanding---as has the support from our Dealer Sponsor, Mike Bruno's Northshore Harley Davidson. Owner Mike Bruno, and managing partner Marc Dougherty's commitment to this Chapter is appreciated.

Your 'new', elected director will assume duties in July. My sincere thanks to everyone for the support that I have enjoyed. I am excited for our Chapter, and look forward to lots of 'good things to come'.

Ward

July Birthdays

Anna Rinaldo

John Loomis

Carol Dussel

Lloyd Songy

Ramon Spann Sr.

Wayne Garitty

Juan Price

Northshore #2147 HOG Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2014

Northshore 2147 HOG® Meeting

Location: Mike Bruno's Northshore Harley Davidson Dealership, Slidell, LA

In attendance were the following 2014 officers:

Interim Director	Ward Blakeman
Asst. Director	Chip Newman
Treasurer	Buddy Newman
Secretary	Judy Anderson
Web Master	Karl Fox
Activities Officer	Bill Anderson
Ladies of Harley	Sonja Fox
Head Road Captain	Simon Gonzales
Safety Officer	Russ Davis
Membership Officer	Frank Lay
Photographer	Karl Fox
Chaplain	Russ Davis
Editor	Richard Dillon
Historian	Dwight Bradbury (absent)

Meeting called to order: 10:05 AM

Pledge of Allegiance: Ray Gregg

Prayer led by: Russ Davis

Mike Bruno, owner of Northshore Harley Davidson, opened the meeting with a thank you to all the HOG Members for being patient during this time of change. Mike explained why the new bike owners will no longer receive a free HOG Membership. Mike states with his years of experience, you cannot buy loyalty, with that

being said he introduced LisaMarie Hambeton to explain what's planned for the future.

LisaMarie Hambeton, Parts & Accessories:

LisaMarie explained what Mike Bruno is offering to do in place of the free HOG Membership. On the third Thursday of the each month the dealership will invite everyone who has purchased a bike in the previous month to attend a Meet and Greet event which the dealer ship will provide food and drinks. All HOG officers and members are invited to attend and take advantage of this time to inform the new bike owners of who we are and what we have to offer. Would like to include a small group ride. Frank Lay and Judy Anderson will be leading this program, plan to have a sign in sheet in order to obtain name and phone # of interested individuals. This event will start at 5pm and go until? Let's all join in this shared event.

Judy Anderson, Secretary: Minutes for the month of May 2014 were approved as presented. Nominations will be taken at the end of our meeting for the New Director.

Reminded everyone of the "group riding booklet & CD" that we have for check out.

Chip Newman, Asst. Director: Would like everyone to try and come to the first annual Meet & Greet.

Buddy Newman, Treasurer: Presented the treasury report for May. A member asked for an explanation of expenses, which Buddy gave. We are in need of updating our Quick Books Program. We were given a computer by the Dealership to down load the new program, which then can be passed if and when we have a change in Treasurers.

June Meeting Minutes Continued

Dwight Bradbury, is going to get with Buddy and Judy regarding the down load and updating.

Bill Anderson, Activities Officer: Look forward to having a new members meet and greet event at the dealership, and new member rides. The dealership will pay for the food, and will be part of the new member outreach. I have added Saturday, Sunday and some week night rides, so please check the calendar early and often.

Upcoming events include the opening ceremony for the Veteran's Cemetery in Slidell, off of Airport Road on 12 June at Noon. We are meeting at the Northshore Mall by Sears at 1130 and then proceeding to the Cemetery at 1200.

We also have the Harley Davidson World Ride scheduled for Sunday, 22 June and Monday 23 June. Get out there and ride your Harley and then report your mileage to the Harley Davidson Members Web-site. Our Road Captains are working on a group ride for Sunday, and will be posting the information on our web-site for your information.

For those of you that might be interested in participating in the Talimena Rally in Texarkana, AR next year (2015), the dates have been set. Mark your calendars now – 21 – 23 May 2015. A block of rooms have been set aside for the Talimena Rally Event or TRE at the Arkansas Convention Center Holiday Inn in Texarkana, AR by phone at (870) 216-2000 or via mail at Holiday Inn Texarkana, 5200 Convention Plaza, Texarkana, AR 71854. There is a continuation piece to this Rally, and that is the delivery of the check to St Jude Hospital, in Memphis, that will occur in June of 2015. Two great rides to think about attending.

Also, mark your 2015 calendars for the first Sunday in May, and plan on riding to Lafayette for the Lady led opening of Women Riders Month. While we are in Lafayette, we can pick up some of the best Boudain in the world, and bring it home to enjoy later.

Check the calendar for the 3rd and 4th of July "The Patriot Tour ".Our new member Rodger Clark is carrying the Flag from Mississippi to Baton Rouge HD, and then Police escorted to the ex-USS KIDD Memorial on the Mississippi River.

This is a repeat of last month but we feel it is so important we are running it again.

We need our members to step up to the plate and be the ambassador for that new member you see in our mix. Walk up to them introduce yourself, ask what they ride, ask how long have they been riding? Are they use to group riding? It really makes a world of difference to the new member that hardly knows anyone.

Frank Lay, Membership: Keep up your National Dues. I'll be heading up the Meet and Greet here at the dealership, if anyone would like to help just give me a call or e-mail me.

Simon Gonzales, Head Road Captain: We are in need of men and women to come forward and be part of the Road Captain crew. We will work with you and train you in Group Riding. You will not be asked to do anything you are not ready to do. Please call or E-mail me if you have any questions and defiantly if you want to volunteer.

June Meeting Minutes Continued

Sonia Fox, Lady of Harley: We will be meeting at Robin Blakeman's house on the 28 of June from 3-6pm. This is a pot luck, drinks will be supplied, and if you chose bring a swim suit and lay out by the pool and/or hot tub.

Richard Dillon, Editor: Newsletter deadline is June 15th, send me any information, write ups on rides, pictures, etc.

Karl Fox, Web Master and Photographer: The web site is back up and running again.

Would like to reiterate about the Group Riding booklets and video if you have not checked it out, and even if you have you may want to review it again.

New Members:

Keith Ross	Joseph Seoane
RodgerClark	Ester Clark

The 50/50 was won again by Karl Fox, and Sonia pocketed \$65.00.

Judy Anderson, Secretary: We held nominations for Director, Bill Anderson was nominated, and accepted. With Bill accepting the Director ship, this would leave the Activities Officer open. Asked for nominations for the Activities Officer position.

Carol Dussel was nominated and she accepted. On July 7th we will ask if there is anyone else that would like to be a nominee. The Directorship will be turn over to Bill Anderson at that time.



Northshore HOGs Newest Members



Joe Seoane



Keith Ross



Esther and Rodger Clark

June Northshore HOG Chapter Rides



7 June Ride To 5 Guy's Burgers



8 June Ride To Abita Springs Brew

SPECIAL ELECTION REMINDER

*As Previously Announced:
We Will Elect Our New Director
At The July Meeting.
Take Part In The Process!*