

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 14-16. Bayou Thunder NSHD.
- Mar. 27 30, Louisiana State HOG Rally, Baton Rouge.
- April 5, Chapter Meeting, NSHD @ 9:00 am.
- April 13, Spring Fling Poker Run, NSHD @ 8:30 am
- April 19, Chapter Show & Go Ride, NSHD @ 9:00 am
- See the web site for a complete listing of events

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MS, Ride	1
From The Editor	2
From The Officers	3
Last Month's Minutes	4
Spring Fling Poker Run	5
Chapter Rides to Hog Rally	6

# Northshore HOG News

ISSUE 45

#### **APRIL**, 2008

## NORTHSHORE HOG INVADES COLUMBIA By Dan Wehr

On Sunday, February 24, 2008, the Chapter experienced a terrific ride to Columbia, MS, for some great eats and a visit to Mississippi's version of the Grand Canyon.

By 9:00 am, a group of 13 Harleys and about 22 riders gathered at the Dealership on a cold (46 degrees) Sunday morning. The group, led by Carl Hill, departed Slidell, and took a direct but scenic route, north on I-59 to Picayune, then north on MS Route 43 to Columbia. While it was sunny, the temperature remained on the cold side of comfortable. Nevertheless, we all enjoyed the beautiful gently rolling countryside of Mississippi's south-central hill country. At about 10:45 am, we arrived at our first destination, the Round Table Restaurant.

The Round Table derives its name by the fact that its customers are seated and served at large round tables that can accommodate 12 or more people. The dishes, which, on our visit, included catfish, fried chicken, roast beef, a wide variety of vegetables, and several deserts, are placed on an oversized Lazy Susan. Customers pick what they desire and dish it up themselves. As you can imagine, this arrangement can sometimes result



FEASTING AT THE ROUND TABLE

in a tug-of-war competition for the more popular items. It also encourages socializing as everyone has an unobstructed view of everyone else. For twelve dollars, you can enjoy all you can eat and drink. We occupied two tables in our own private dinning room and stuffed ourselves.

After lunch and a subsequent gas stop in town, we rode north on Highway 587 toward Monticello for approximately 10 miles. Then we turned right at the "Red Bluff" sign. After a third of a mile, the road abruptly stopped because, for some unknown reason, the pavement had fallen into a deep ravine on it's east side.

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## From the Editor

## Random Thoughts and Road Hazards

## How Do You Feel About Getting Old?

By Dan Wehr and an anonymous contributor

Old age, I've decided, is a gift. I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometimes despair over my body, the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging flesh. Often, I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long. At my age, I am now invisible to the searching eyes of opposite sex, liberated from the surges of hormones and the rites of courtship.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, and my loving spouse for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kindly and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend.

I don't chide myself for drinking that extra beer, eating that extra cookie, not making my bed, or for buying that silly gadget I didn't need. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon - before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 AM and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50s, 60s & 70s; and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, friend, or pet, I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. I will eventually remember the

(Continued on page 8)

If you are not a current member of the Northshore HOG Chapter, or you forgot to renew your membership in January, simply fill out an enrollment form (available at the dealership or on the website, see"Downloads"). Get a \$5.00 discount on your next full membership if anyone (other than a member of your household) joins on the basis of your referral.

## From the Officers

We, the officers, hope you all are enjoying the meetings and rides. Your officers want to provide an atmosphere for all of us to have fun, enjoy the meetings and ride often. Turn out for meetings and rides have been great. Let us know what we can do to make your membership experience even better! Got a favorite ride or place to eat? Want to Road Captain a ride? Just let us know and we will help you plan it!!!

### Have an idea or opinion? Let us know. Contact the editor at danielwehr@charter.net



3154 Pontchartrain Dr. Slidell, Louisiana (985) 643-6133

## Bike Nite Every Wednesday Night





Restaurant Hours Monday - Saturday: 11 AM to 10 PM Fridays: 11 AM to 11 PM Sundays: Noon to 8 PM

We had a great meeting and breakfast on 3/1. Weather was perfect so we ate and had the meeting outside. A ride to Gulfport followed the meeting and Mike Bruno even came along for the ride!

At the March meeting no one won the Treasure Chest!!! It will continue to grow next month so attend the meetings and get your chance to win the Treasure Chest plus the 50/50!!! We had a fantastic ride to Red Bluff on 2/24. Lunch at the Round Table was excellent!! We had 20 members come out and enjoy a nice day/meal and view!!!

Mark your calendars for March 14-16<sup>th</sup>. Bayou Thunder is back at Mike Bruno's Northshore Harley Davidson. There will be bands, vendors, bike show and an escorted ride. We will need HOG volunteers to help out with a membership drive and 50/50 during the weekend. More info in the newsletter.

March 27-30<sup>th</sup> is the State HOG Rally in Baton Rouge. Quite a few members have indicated they are going. We are putting together a list via email of who is going on which day so rides can be scheduled. So if you are going and want to group ride one of the days let us know when you are going to attend. Hope to see you there and at the next meeting on 4/5!!! Till then enjoy the spring weather and ride often!!!

Your Chapter Officers

## Last Month's Minutes

Northshore. HOG Chapter March 1, 2008

Outdoor meeting, complete with pancake breakfast for attending members. Meeting began a little before 10:00 AM to allow time for relaxing breakfast socializing.

Invocation/benediction was presented by Russ Davis followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Have an idea or opinion, let us know. Contact the editor at danielwehr@charter.net



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Carl Hill requested volunteers for an escort to bring Jean Davidson, Granddaughter of Walter Davidson, from the Houma H-D store to the Northshore H-D store Saturday morning. Escort riders to meet at the Slidell T/A Truck Stop Saturday morning, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00AM.

Members were briefed on Mike Bruno's Bayou Thunder March 14-16, with the Kick Off Party starting at the Southside Café in Slidell at 7:00PM Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Events include live music by Bag of Donuts and Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers; and a special presentation Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 PM till 3:00 PM by Jean Davidson. Other events include Rhett Rotten and the Wall of Death, and a Dyno Shootout, both days. Sunday the music will be provided by Group Therapy and the Chee Weez, along with a Ride In Bike Show.

The Chapter is looking for volunteers for a Membership Table and 50/50 both days. We are also looking for volunteers for our Second Annual Poker Run, the SPRING FLING POKER RUN on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Tom and Nina Hunt from the Mobile, AL HOG Chapter briefed our Chapter about the Alabama State HOG Rally, starting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Safety Officer Dan Schewe briefed the Chapter on the legal helmet requirements (either USDOT or SNELL Approved) and reminded everyone to wear high visibility clothing while riding.

Dwight Bradbury provided the Treasurer's Report, which can also be found on the Chapter web site.

(Continued on page 6)

## *Spring Fling* Poker Run Scheduled on April 13th

The Chapter will be sponsoring its second annual poker run which will take place on **Sunday**, **April 13th**. The first stop will be Mike Bruno's Northshore Harley-Davidson. Mike has graciously agreed to open the Dealership on that Sunday for this event. **Registration will** begin at 8:30am. The fee is **\$20 per** rider and **\$10 per passenger**. The first bike out will be at 9:00am; the last bike in will be at 3:00pm.

This event is open to all riders and vehicles. **Cash prizes** will be awarded for the top four winning hands. Additionally, there will be a **50/50 drawing**, **door prizes**, **food**, **music** and more.

The first card will be drawn at registration. There will be three stops along the route with the final card being drawn upon returning to the dealership.

Your participation is important to making this event a success. Please plan on attending.

For more information visit the Northshore HOG website at http://www.northshorehog.com.

Open space

## Membership Renewal

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership before it is too late. Renewal forms can be obtained from the front desk at the dealership or on the website under the "Downloads" link on the left side of the home page.

**S.E.E.** Recently, the MSF introduced a simplified version of the mental process for making judgments and taking action in traffic: S.E.E., for Search, Evaluate, and Execute, which is used in the Rider's Edge® New Rider Course and the MSF Basic Rider Course. **SEARCH** As you ride, scan the area aggressively, including the areas along the road and behind you. Check your mirrors frequently to maintain a constant awareness of your surroundings. **EVALUATE** Use that information to evaluate

the situation, predict what unexpected hazards and challenges may arise, and actively formulate strategies to deal with them. **EXECUTE** Adjust your speed and positioning accordingly, while communicating your intentions to others.

### Update Your Profile

Many of us have had a change in address, telephone number or email. Please go to the website www.northshorehog.com and update your profile. Don't forget to do the same thing when renewing your 2008 membership.



#### ISSUE 45

(Continued from page 4)

Greg Peterman briefed the Chapter on our sign in sheet procedures to record member participation points and to sign up for Chapter rides. He briefed everyone about the previous weekend Chapter ride to the Round Table and the Red Bluff area.

The 50/50 winner took home \$68.00. There was no Treasure Chest winner so that pot grows to \$75.00 for the April meeting. Everyone is reminded they must be present to win.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.

Pat Schaefer, Secretary

## CHAPTER RIDES TO LOUISIANA STATE HOG RALLY PLANNED

If you are going to the Louisiana State HOG rally in Baton Rouge and want some company on your trip, the Northshore Chapter has scheduled rides to the rally from the dealership. The following is a schedule of organized rides to this event:

**THURSDAY 3/27/2008:** Ride led by Mark and Rose Aucion will depart Northshore Harley-Davidson at 9:00 am.

**FRIDAY 3/28/2008:** Ride led by Carl Hill and Greg Peterman will depart Northshore Harley-Davidson at 9:00 am.

#### **NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES**

One Quarter Page - \$20.00 Business Card - \$10.00

#### Buy 6 issues of advertising and receive a 20% discount

Contact Dwight Bradbury if you are interested in placing an ad or have questions.

Open space

### **Columbia/Red Bluff Ride**

(Continued from page 1)



approximately 700 feet to the valley at its base. At one time, the road extended along its western rim, but the instability of the soil and erosion pulled the pavement away

WIDE-ANGLE VIEW OF RED BLUFF VALLEY

and down its

steep slope. The face of this cliff is painted with varied bands of red, yellow, and grey clay sharply contrasting the green vegetation at the top of the escarpment and the valley bellow. This amazing sight was worth the trip, and I recommend any of you to journey there.

During our half-our sojourn at the cliff, Carl jokingly lowered himself half over the edge of the rim acting as if he was falling in. Personally, I could not watch this as I feared his act would become a reality given the fragile condition of soil under him. After this and other photo opportunities, we reluctantly made our way back home enjoying warmer temperatures and reviewing priceless memories of a remarkable day of riding and having fun.



The road became our parking lot. After dismounting, we walked north, past the post barriers and were astonished by what I would describe as a mini-Grand Canyon! There, to our right was a sheer cliff of red clay that extended down

CARL HILL IN HARM'S WAY



MOST OF THE GROUP AT RED BLUFF'S RIM

#### ISSUE 45

## **GETTING OLD**

(Continued from page 2)

#### important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you loose a loved one, when a child suffers, or even when someone's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength, understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many others have never laughed and died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be.

(Editor's Note: This was originally an e-mail forwarded through many recipients and finally from my brother, a fellow Harley Rider, to me. I did some heavy editing and added my own comments to this poignant commentary on the ravages of time and one's graceful acceptance of everyone's fate. Unfortunately, I was unable to identify, and give credit to it's author. Danno)

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