

What happens when H.O.G.'s
see their shadows?

Oak Harbor
Rhonda and Ron



They Ride!



Dummsutawney, Phil

N O R T H C O A S T H . O . G . C H A P T E R # 5 3 6 9 F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 2

**North Cascade
H.O.G. Officers
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Open

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Director's Corner

By: Vince Danner

Director's Corner February, 2012

Rather than riding on the Third Sunday Ride, I'm looking out the window and putting this corner to pen. The TSR was canceled and if the view from your window is the same as mine, you'd be wondering why. I could easily ride from my house today but we had some friends over on Burn Road near Arlington that called to let us know they wouldn't visit today since they had enough snow; they were worried about getting up the hill to leave their house. Yesterday when I visited Skagit H-D, the service department was busy and numerous riders were out and about. Just down the road in Sedro Woolley and Alger, snow was on the roadways so you never know what to expect anymore from one town to the other. Our chapter very rarely cancels a ride and not knowing how Mount Vernon looks today, maybe we didn't need to cancel today's. We want our rides to be safe so each one of you need to look at the conditions near your house, evaluate how comfortable you may be riding in those conditions and make a safe choice for you and your family. Our Road Captains did the right thing and this time of year, it may be necessary again.



Thanks JT for stopping by, it's always nice when Milwaukee can pay us a visit. As our Editor pointed out, I like to plan waaaaay ahead and the good news that H-D will be throwing another party next year for the 110th anniversary gives us time to start planning and saving for a trip back east.

Was that one hell of a kickoff meeting for 2012 last month? Howard fired up everyone and raised the "noise" level to get us started. How about Rusty, speaking for the first time in front of group our size. I enjoyed the fact he reported not only for his position but several others, which happens but at least Chet wasn't yelling at me for doing it. Our 2012 offic-

ers are off and running with positive energy that will make this year another great one. Not to date our membership but most of you will remember the movie Kelly's Heroes and the character Oddball. That is the "righteous and hopeful" approach we want for 2012.

Check the calendar for future events. Look for your HOG number in this issue. Remember to bring your auction items early to the next meeting if you haven't already dropped them off. Don't forget your checkbook, we've got some cool items and proceeds support the Burn Ride.

Ride Safe, Vince

Lead Road Captain

by: Roger Valentine

Remember, make a joyful noise

It was good to see new members at our January meeting. Welcome all new comers. I hope we didn't scare you off with our joyful noise. It was nice to see people enjoying themselves. We have some good rides coming up and more for the summer time are being planned. We will keep you informed via the newsletter and emails of all rides that will be happening this year. On February 4th, Mark, Jan, and Rusty will be taking us on back roads to Bellingham. They are planning on going to the Heritage Flight Museum and then to lunch somewhere. Hopefully the weather will be in our favor for this ride and I hope to see everyone there.

On February 19th, Vince, JB, and Darcy will be planning a ride. They will let us know the destination and details by email. Wherever they decide to go, it's sure to be a good ride. If you ride a lot at this time of year remember to keep yourself hydrated. It's just as important now as it is in summer weather.

*Roger*

Wisdom from our Chaplain, pro Bono

By: Howard Bono

Our world is moving faster and faster. Not only do things happen quicker than they used to, with the new technology we are connected to all of it constantly. What this creates is a much larger list of things that we can worry about. I don't know about you, but I thought as I got older I would have fewer things to worry about, not more.

For many of us, the persistent downturn in the economy, the rising unemployment rate and the collapse of the housing market has taken our "worry list" to a whole new level. We don't know what is going to happen to us and that kicks in our natural human instinct to fear what we don't know. In our household and in our business Barb and I have come to the conscious conclusion that we are not in charge, God is. And, if God is in charge, why should we worry? Of course we are not perfect at it... yet! But we are improving.

This doesn't mean that we should not be concerned about the real life, day to day issues. It means that whatever comes up, we must move forward and continue to do what we can with the understanding that God has a plan for us and lessons to teach us. We can fight it or we can go with it. But we have to keep going. We know that worrying about it doesn't help it. But as humans we do it anyway. Like I said, it's in our nature.

So what good does worrying do? Since this topic has been on my mind a lot lately, here are a few things that helped me put it in perspective.

Worrying does more harm than good - Was the dentist visit really as bad as you imagined?

Worry is about things past or present, not things happening right now - If you are worrying now, then you are not experiencing the joy and the fun right in front of you.

Worrying doesn't change anything - You don't come up with solutions when you worry. Solutions only come to you when you give up the worry. Then, when those solutions show up, are you grateful for them?

Worry means that I don't trust God - God can handle way more than I can. If I turn over the details to Him, he'll take care of it.

Worry keeps us from the real things and challenges that God wants us to pursue - Don't sweat the small stuff. Worry is small thinking that keeps us from being what God wants us to be.

If you are interested, here are a few references you can go to:

Proverbs 12:25

Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up

Matthew 6:30

And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

1Peter 5:7

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you

Alfred E. Neuman

What me worry?



Will Rogers

Worrying is like paying on a debt that may never come due.

Yogi Berra

If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be.

Bobby McFerrin

Don't worry, be happy.

**I hope this helps...
Now go out and make a joyful noise.**



Paraprosdokian of the Month

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they're sexy.

Auction - Don't forget!

Before, during, and after the Chapter meeting on Feb. 5th, the auction to benefit Burn Camp will be held. First, there's some great stuff to bid on and second, your purchases will benefit a really worthy cause. Like I say, we already have some outstanding merchandise but we can definitely use more. If you have something to donate (hopefully), contact Mike Tanner at 360.387.3964 or just bring the items to the meeting. We'll deal with that. In any event, do try to make the meeting...first, for a great time and second, to take part in the auction. See you there.

Minutes, January '12 Meeting

by: Jim Wihlborg, Secretary

Chaplain Howard Bono opened a very busy meeting at 10:00 a.m. (4 bells) sharp at the Sedro Woolley American Legion Hall. Howard believes that God is pleased when He hears us **Make A Joyful Noise!** . . . and he [Howard] had us remove the contents from paper bags he'd placed on each table. Each of us grabbed a noise-maker (from small paper balloons emitting 'wa-a-a's, to instrument tone checkers, to whistles, and in the back of the room a snare drum) and blew or beat them until Howard and Vince and the regional HOG representative present were all shaking their heads and smiling. When the din subsided, Howard showed us a picture of a patch - [envision dual exhaust pipes, with the words "Making A Joyful Noise" beside them] he is having prepared for distribution at our February meeting; he is hoping that the 100 patches will be swapped by \$10.00 contributions from members, to be given to the Burned Children Recovery Foundation [BCRF]. Because Howard is shouldering the cost of the patches, all \$10.00 of each patch will go to the BCRF. After ending with a short prayer, he passed the gavel with a loud, "Make a Joyful Noise" to Vince Danner.

Our Director Vince asked new members to introduce themselves. There were seven: Carrie Cook, Shane Eargood, Leon Eargood, Steve Folmar, Michelle McLaglen, Ken and Vivian Howe.

Vince next introduced John "JT" Hasley to us. JT, an employee of The Motor Company, is HOG regional manager, and happily shared comments and H-D information with us. He began with the reason for the Harley Owners Group . . . to ride and have fun. He admitted to never having seen anything like Howard's **noises**, and said that demonstration certainly indicated that North Cascade HOG was having fun!

JT told us that H-D was making major adjustments to its numerous assembly lines – increasing efficiency and making them more worker-friendly. Improved technology is used to develop ever-better bikes, by testing new or improved parts before they are installed onto motorcycles. All of these changes mean that bikes are leaving the factories faster and ending up on dealers' showroom floors quicker. Except that . . . 2013 models will not be available until at least August, 2012, because of all the factory changes.

JT also told us that there will be a 110th anniversary party in Milwaukee, coinciding with a HOG 30th year celebration. A HOG parade with chapter flags flying is being planned.

HOG Insider Newsletter – Ever hear of it? JT mentioned it, saying that it has been in existence since July, 2011, and **NO**, it will not replace *HOG Magazine!*

Note: I'd never heard of it, so I went (1/11/12) to members.hog.com – and still couldn't find out anything about it, so I called 1-800-CLUBHOG. The lady there told me that *HOG Insider Newsletter* is emailed monthly to HOG members who have a current 'Online Profile' on the *HOG Members Only* webpage. I wasn't getting it because my online profile had an old email address listed (updated while I was on the phone with her).

JT shared that H-D's new CEO, Keith Wendell is a straight-forward, no-nonsense, Harley rider who'll ride hundreds of miles/day to attend a HOG meeting or other bike function, and that he's part of the reason that, "Harley-Davidson's moving forward." After the members applauded JT, Vince added, "If you ever see Keith Wendell, thank him for being a rider as well as president of Harley-Davidson."

Vince thanked Co-Editor Kathy Immel for a wonderful January NC HOG Newsletter, with new games and the "Who's Eyes are These" picture. He also reminded members that putting classified ads in the newsletter has been approved. Rates are \$10.00 for a 1/6 page ad, or \$100.00 per year; they could bring business to the advertiser and are good money-makers for the chapter. Mike Tan-

ner added that the editors have to have some flexibility with ads, so that a single ad would not require that an extra page be printed for that alone, or to cause the deletion of an article or graphic because of lack of space.

Our new Assistant Director, Rusty Gordon, announced that our chapter's **charter** is now on the NC HOG website, and that it should be read by all riders signing a liability release for chapter rides; signing your name indicates that you have read and will comply with its Articles.

Rusty also said that our Facebook page, now active, requires that users comply with standards of decency and refrain from conduct or language detrimental to members, our group or other individuals or organizations. The Facebook administrators are Rusty Gordon, Kenny Vickers, and Fred Smith (NC HOG's sponsor); if need be, an administrator will edit entries to the page. One of the administrators must authorize your joining the *secret* [secure] NC HOG Facebook page. The easiest way to join is to:

Email Rusty at fgordon@comcast.net, and tell him you'd like to join. He'll respond; you'll need to follow very quick and easy steps to join [it was easy for me, so it will be very easy for you]. Just go to the link in Rusty's email or go to the NC HOG website after Rusty responds to you, and click on the Facebook link.

Interested in regional rallies? Nevada and Alaska in June, Montana in July, and Idaho and Washington in August. Go to www.members.hog.com for more information.

Vince told the membership that Jim Wihlborg needed to step down from the Secretary's position for personal reasons. He asked that anyone willing to become the chapter's Secretary please contact him so a replacement for Jim can be appointed at the next Officers' Meeting.

No one has stepped forward to be our Activities Officer, but Ron Connolly has been hard at work for our annual pool shoot. The site selected suddenly closed its doors, so Ron went-a scramblin' to find a new spot. After the meeting, Ron made reservations for tables at Razzal's Bar & Grill, Smokey Point on Sunday, Jan 22. The winner, I'm sure, will let us all know who (s)he was at our February meeting. Thanks for goin' the extra mile, Ron.

Rusty reported on a new riding/racing facility being prepared in Shelton. The Ridge MotorSports Park is planning for motorcycle events and races, in addition to automobile performance displays and lots of racing. Track designers are giving special attention to meet the needs of the motorcycle community. The course will have sections that will challenge riders of all levels and to ensure a safe environment, planning plenty of run off. See www.ridgemotorsportspark.com for more information.

Tom Dostart, Treasurer, said that since NC HOG is a not-for-profit organization, ". . . it doesn't matter how much money we have, but that we have enough to pay for what we need." We currently have 142% more money on hand than we did at this time last year. If anyone wants to talk with Tom about 'the books', see him for answers to your concerns.

Vince reviewed data from the past ten years regarding membership; he found that for those 120 meetings, NC HOG averaged 67 attendees per meeting, that the average membership total for those 10 years was 266, and that August's meetings have always had the lowest attendance for the year [might that be Sturgis or weather-related?].

Lindy Lindberg, Membership Officer, reported that we currently

Minutes (continued)

have 236 members, but more than 100 of them have not renewed their dues for 2012. Members' names will be dropped from the roster on March 1 if dues are not paid by then. Lindy is planning to offer 'friendly' reminders to folks with whom she's talking who haven't yet gotten current. Don't let her pretty smile fool you; she'd make a perfect sergeant-at-arms!

Ladies of Harley Director Katie Marrs thanked everyone for the support provided to LOH with wrapping gifts and making contributions for the Christmas visit to the family they helped this year. Five or six bikes accompanied other vehicles to the family's home – only to find the entire household waiting out on the front lawn for them. "Overwhelmed," was the word Katie used to describe the expressions on all of the family's faces! The family invited the visitors in for coffee and cookies; it was two hours later that the LOH group left, after having distributed a \$100 and two \$50 gift cards, food and already-wrapped gifts for the family. The dad was still in the hospital, so he couldn't participate, but he had to have heard about LOH's caring for his wife and children. Our thanks to you, Katie, for the wonderful report.

Katie also asked for volunteer to help with a beanbag toss competition between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Skagit Harley-Davidson's January 21 WinterFest Party and Sale. I hope the HOG table volunteers will have a chance to toss the beanbags, too.

Vince stated that Skagit Harley-Davidson has recently reduced prices for servicing bikes (prices are shown in the January newsletter).

Darcy Kirkman, Safety Officer, talked about . . . safety. Some good hints: A good 'attitude' is key for safe riding! Having a bad hair day? Don't ride; Know it all? Time to quit riding! He reminded us that there are lots of good websites with safety videos. Darcy's also hoping to bring a semi- to Skagit Harley-Davidson's parking lot some day so we can 'see' that 'blind spots' are real and can be extremely hazardous to the biker not seen from a truck cab. A last reminder: Keep your head and eyes moving all the time, looking out for potential hazards.

Roger Valentine, Senior Road Captain, felt that riding exercises in a parking lot didn't work well last year; people didn't attend. He thanked Mark Van Oort for always being available and stepping up whenever an extra road captain is needed. Mark and Roger both managed to be on seventeen rides last year. When asked, Roger confirmed that rides are always weather-dependent, and that, " . . . Yes, we do have fun on rides." When someone asked about destinations of rides being planned, Roger agreed to email that information to the membership.

Vince reminded us that rides during Standard Time start at 10:00 a.m., but that after Daylight Savings Time begins (March 13, this year), rides begin at 9:00 o'clock.

Mike Tanner announced that on even months, the newsletter is his responsibility; forward to him stories or reports for the February newsletter. When known, road captains' names for rides will be posted in the newsletter for that month's rides.

Vince mentioned that he and Rusty will work with Kenny Vickers on ways that the website can be made easier to manage.

Linda Downing will follow Paul Reisman's format for the Histori-

an's report – she'll be interviewing and reporting on individuals' history of riding. That'll be nice; so often we know another member's name and what bike (s)he rides, but nothing else. Wouldn't it be fun to learn [it would for me] that someone else in NC HOG had . . . , oh, say, run for the presidency of the United States.

Tom Dostart had patches for sale because Catherine couldn't attend the meeting.

Mark Van Oort – I don't much care that he's a stand-up guy as road captain, but, wow, I love his Blooper Award presentations! Awardees were:

Bob Spiller - for best off-road rider. In addition to the plaque, Bob was presented with a hand-held level to help with 'lean angle';

Tom Litka – for having total disregard for left turn traffic signals, because " . . . signs are advisory, and traffic lights are for the other guy,"; and

Darcy Kirkman – presented with a document for him to write in a blank spot the number of months of riding with no 'incidents'.

Vince called up several 'Above and Beyond' volunteers to acknowledge their work during the past year: Rusty Gordon, Jon Marrs, and Cheryl Dawson. They received a well-deserved round of applause in addition to their gifts.

Vince then called up Curtis and Judy Ducken, and Jon and Katie Marrs to thank them for the tremendous efforts they expended to make the Skagit H-D Christmas party so successful. They, too, received a well-deserved round of applause from the members present.

As the meeting wound down:

Chet Griffith announced that the "Laurie's and Sue's Three Day Ride" to eastern Oregon and western Idaho will take place over Memorial Day weekend. More news to follow; and

Don Carter announced a 'hard-riding' event over the same weekend. "We'll ride from 8 'til 5 or 7, with 15-minute breaks every 2 hours, and a 30-minute lunch."

Linda Downing asked that the \$53 breakfast fund from that morning's meals be contributed to an American Legion worker, Julie Martin, who's undergoing cancer treatments. Linda received a unanimous positive response from those present.

Jeff Fox won the \$25 gift card provided by Skagit Harley-Davidson; Marjorie Dannemiller won the other drawing.

The meeting drew to a close shortly after 7 bells.

Jim





Skagit Harley-Davidson

1337 Goldenrod Road, Burlington
www.skagitharley.com

Valentine's Day is just around the corner . . .

on Saturday
February 11
2012

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North Cascade February, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 First Sunday Meeting	6	7	8 "Hula in the Coola Day"	9 2 "Groundhog Day" <i>(not to be confused with H.O.G. day - Which is every day)</i>	10 	4 First Saturday Ride
12	13	14 	15 18 "Cow Milked While Flying in an Airplane Day"	16	17	18 Valentine's Day Party Skagit H-D
19 Third Sunday Ride	20	21 	22 "National Margarita Day"	23	24	25
26 "For Pete's Sake Day"	27	28	29			

Totally useless trivia dept.: February is "International Hoof Care Month". It's also "National Condom Month" and "Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month"

Coming Events

Remember, all FSR's and TSR's leave Skagit Harley-Davidson at 10:00 am (9:00 am daylight time) unless otherwise announced.

February

The Fourth

- **First Saturday Ride** -

(RC's: Mark, Jan, Rusty)

Destination - Heritage Flight Museum

The Fifth

- **First Sunday Meeting** -

Sedro-Woolley Legion Club 10:00am

Burn Camp Silent Auction!

The Eleventh

- **Valentine's Day Party** -

Skagit H-D, all day

The Nineteenth

- **Third Sunday Ride** -

(RC's: Vince, JB, Darcy)

Destination TBA

The Twenty First

- **LOH Meeting** -

Bob's Burger and Brew



Have a
patriotic
President's
Day



March

The Third

- **First Saturday Ride** -

(RC's: Roger, Allen, Tom D.)

The Fourth

- **First Sunday Meeting** -

Sedro-Woolley Legion Club 10:00am

The Seventeenth

- **St. Patrick's Day** -

(Erin go broke!)

The Eighteenth

- **Third Sunday Ride** -

(RC's: JB, Jan, Doug)

The Twentieth

- **LOH Meeting** -

Bob's Burger and Brew

The Twenty Fourth

- **Spring Party and Sale** -

Skagit H-D, all day



Happy Valentine's Day

SPECIAL NOTICE - PLAN AHEAD

Skagit H-D's annual bike show and chow-down is scheduled for April 21st. Do your level best to make it to this event. You won't be sorry! Come to think of it, why not enter your bike?

February Dates of Note

The Fourth

Road Captains Mark, Jan, and Rusty have an excellent First Saturday Ride planned and they hope you can join them. You'll be riding to Bellingham where you'll take in the Heritage Flight Museum and, of course, lunch is in the plans.



The Fifth

This is the day for our regular Chapter meeting at the Sedro-Woolley Legion Club. It's also the day we'll have our silent auction to benefit the Burn Camp so try to arrive early enough that you'll have time to peruse the merchandise and make your bids. Everything will be displayed by no later than 9:00am and the auction will continue for a short time after the meeting. All donations will be gratefully accepted. Contact Mike Tanner, 360.387.3964.

The Eleventh

For a sweet time, be sure to make it in to Skagit H-D today to celebrate Valentine's Day with Fred, Lorie, and the whole crew. You can be sure that Cheryl will be serving up something delicious and you can pretty much count on there being other "sweet" surprises throughout the store. See you there!



The January Meeting - a Joyful Noise!



Bloopers



Photos by Tara



Membership Report

by Lindy L., your Membership Officer

From the Membership Officer

I would like to give a hearty **THANK YOU** once again to everyone who renewed their 2012 NCHOG memberships BEFORE I had to get this info to the Editor... (The rest of you know who you are.) As you all have heard too many times by now, anyone not renewing by 2/29 has to be removed from our membership list - yes, you get an extra day this year! So hopefully the 97 people who have yet to do that (as of 1/15) will get on with it already! Just in case you missed it, here's how easy it is:

- Step 1. Get a form
- Step 2. READ the release, Fill it out (including your email, please), & SIGN IT
- Step 3. Hand it over (with your dues)
- Step 4. -- Hey, there *IS* no step 4! that's it, you're done!

Please remember dues are \$20 for Full memberships and \$10 for Associates - what a bargain for so much fun! (And remember you can easily recoup that with the First Tuesday 10% NCHOG Discount Day at the dealership!) Forms are available online from nchog.com in the Officers-> Membership section, at the Dealership from Aaron in Finance (he's the guy who sends you those cool flyer/announcements

from Skagit HD), or at the next monthly Chapter meeting (Sunday February 5th). You can drop off the completed form and payment at the monthly meeting, at the Dealership, or mail it to the chapter at "NCHOG Chapter #5369, C/O Skagit Harley-Davidson, 1337 Goldenrod Rd, Burlington, WA 98233".

***** PLEASE NOTE ***** : if you plan to renew and haven't done it yet but really, *really* will - PLEASE email me (membership@nchog.com)! That'll save me all that bother of taking you off the roster and all those other lists we keep, just to add you back on later. My typing finger appreciates it.

If you have questions about membership, please feel free to contact me. I hope to see all of you at our monthly meetings, rides, and other events throughout the year.

FOR THE RECORD: as of 1/15/2012, we have 140 members for 2012

*Ride early and often -
and safe. Lindy*



The LOH Report

by: Katie Marrs

Our 2011 LOH Christmas Party is now a part of LOH history. We had a great turnout with 21 ladies. Welcome, Carrie Cook. It was nice to have you.

Luz and Barbara joined in the festivities. It was a fun evening of laughs, good company, and great gifts. We had a dessert table with special treats provided by Catherine, Linda, and Mary. Thanks ladies.

There was a "special" raffle, which was won by Lorie Smith, (Owner of Skagit Harley). We appreciate Lorie supporting LOH and attending our meetings.

Thanks ladies for making it a great success.

Thanks to the guys who taxied their ladies. We appreciate you supporting them.

I would like to introduce Elaine Fielding as your new Assistant LOH. Elaine rides a 2003 Sportster but also enjoys riding behind her husband of 43 years, Doug. She has been riding since 1970. Elaine enjoys traveling whether on a bike or in their Jeep. She is also busy with daughter and granddaughters (3) who live in Oak Harbor. She has been retired for eight years and, from what I can tell, is enjoying retirement.

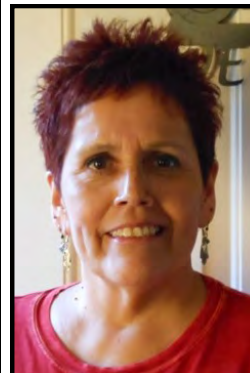
I'm looking forward to working with Elaine and making this a fun year for LOH.

Our next LOH meeting will be at Bob's Burger and Brew, Tuesday February 21, 934 Old Hwy 99N Burlington, WA

We meet in the back room. The meeting starts at 6:30 and you are welcome to come early for dinner and social time.

POC: Katie Marrs jonktmarrs@comcast.net
Elaine Fielding dougandelaine@isomedia.com

Hope to see many of you at our meetings.



*Katie
and
Elaine*



LOH Christmas Party..it looks like a great turn-out



Editor's Choice Photo Contest



Well, it was a close call for "photo of the month" and it turned out it was a draw. To the left, it's Grandma (Kathy) with grandson (DJ). This was from a Christmas visit and it appears Kathy is hating this. Not!



A H.O.G. and his dog

The co-winner obviously is the photo to the right. This is a snap of Dad (Ron) and "son" (Sporty). It's hard to say where or when this picture was taken because Ron and Sporty are inseparable.

If you are like most people with an **UNDERWATER HOME** you have a lot of questions.

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Cheryl Kilcollins - 360-610-1010

Howard Bono - 425-259-2600

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www.MyFinancialRevival.com



H.O.G. History by Linda

by: Linda Downing, Historian

Historian... "A student or writer of history". Ken Lee was a terrific writer. I would look for his articles in the Newsletters because he gave us something to enjoy or to think about. Then his thought train was on a siding and he had problems putting words to paper so he said NO MORE, and the position was open to be filled. I thought this sounded like fun, but it means a BIG learning curve for me. My notes are usually cryptic, sometimes hard for me to understand what the thought process was. Now I need to make my words meaningful for others, MY OH MY... what a process. Then I remembered how we all enjoyed the work of Paul Reisman, his interviews with others in our Chapter. What great stories of HOW and WHY others rode, wind in the face, etc. OK...I GOT IT...interviews, pick a name, ask a few questions and then get it all into a readable and understandable format. Send it to the editor for formatting and into the next Newsletter....remember the deadline for entry or there will be no report for others to read.

First interview visit with Frank Gordon....do you recognize the name? I received an email the other day from that name and was ready to send to recycle until I suddenly remembered, it sort of sounds familiar. Oh yes, our new Assistant Director....only it seems everyone calls him RUSTY.

How did you get the name RUSTY?

When he was younger, and had hair....it was RED. His Dad would refer to Rustoleum....so he has been Rusty for a lot of years. That is better than one of the definitions in the dictionary.... "dulled in color or appearance by age or use". His older sister is the only one that calls him Frank, HMMM I remember brother/sister language.

How long have you been riding?

He got his first bike in 1976 (no mention of what it was) and then a Harley came along in 1998. He has been a member of HOG since 1998 and shows a respect for the organization and what he rides.

Of all the Bikes, what is your favorite?

My new Ultra Limited with the 103 engine..it is so SMOOOOTH. Have you had any problems with the new bike....NO, and I WON'T break a belt. I remember that day, FBR 2010, a little gas station near Sandpoint, Idaho. We had all stopped for a fill-up and maybe a candy bar. Time to get back on the road, his son Shaun was on the bike with him, started the engine, into gear, OOPS...NO GO.

The belt broke in half, and he had to call Roadside service....a long wait on a hot sunny day, miles and miles from home. The rest of us had to ride on to keep up with the schedule, but we knew they would get home safe and have a story to tell.

What is your favorite vegetable?

He laughed and thought what kind of question is this? Then he answered with French Fries. I asked, is that with Ketchup? NO...he likes Tarter Sauce with his French Fries. He said Keith and Jan also like fries that way, and I added Mike to the list. That's four for Tarter on the Fries. Ok, I had some good answers from Rusty, you might want to remember some of them, I hope to have a Trivia Quiz near the end of the year.

Now for what others remember or think of Rusty...I think this is a great way to get all of the members involved. If you have something to add you might do a letter to the Editor and get it into the next Newsletter.

Rusty by Roger Valentine...

What do you have to add about RUSTY for my article? WHO?

Chuckle....Then Roger got serious and offered the following... He has a good sense of Humor, has a lot of character, very outgoing, takes good pictures, would be a good Historian, his articles in the Newsletter are very good. I then had to ask about the time Roger was charged with a Blooper. OH WHAT MEMORIES... that caused a rash of....at the meeting. Roger still insists it was not him but Rusty that had the problem with

what hand signal to give on a ride. Rusty was in the lead and Roger was Sweep so who gave the wrong signal to those following? That might be answered at a future meeting.

Rusty by Mark Van Oort...

What do you have to add about RUSTY for my article?

Laughter, and more laughter. FBR, FBR, FBR. One FBR he was riding in front of Mark and lost a shift lever. Mark didn't see when, or where it happened but remembers they had to stop in Missoula to get it fixed. Next FBR Rusty lost another shift lever. They stopped for Ice Cream and Mark noticed Rusty was working on the bike. This time Paul saw it on the road, stopped and picked it up and the fix was made. Next FBR Rusty had the Belt break....Oh yes...Oh my... Rusty worked on several attempts to fix the belt until he decided it was better to buy a new bike. That was three FBR's in a row....and



**Frank "Rusty" Gordon
(call him Rusty)**

Historian (continued)

the cycle has been broken. I am told he was on the ride in 2011 and no problems.....

Rusty by Tom Litka...

What do you have to add about RUSTY for my article ? Laughter again, everyone feels Rusty is a fun person.....then serious, Tom feels Rusty is a dedicated family man and can be private. But get him to a HOG meeting and his pent up inner energy gets released. Rusty and his wife have 3 boys, and he has a plan to have 3 Harleys so he can give one to each of the boys....so he has two of them now, that means he will need to buy at least one more. I think that may be two more so all 4 of them can ride together. Tom knows

that Rusty is dedicated to being involved with the HOG group. He wants to help make a difference, offer ideas and help to follow through with them. Being Assistant Director has put him in a position to do just that....Lets help out on his ideas....Oh, one more item...He plays the guitar. **Thanks Rusty for all that you do, I have enjoyed learning more about you.**



Assistant Director, Rusty

by: Frank "Rusty" Gordon

By the time this hits the streets it'll be late January. We've put 2011 behind us with a couple of great rides; Vince led us on the Director's Ride and how cool was it that when we joined up with Puget Sound HOG director Jim Coate and his crew in LaConner? We fought off the "drowsiness" of late night revelry and attended the annual "freeze fest" of the Polar Bear Run. Did we luck out with that weather, or what? (We can still lie and tell everyone how cold it was!) I'm looking forward to the month of February when there should be plenty of opportunities to get out there and "exercise" the bikes. Just remember to stay safe and watch the weather/road conditions. (Tip: pull in your clutch).

Let me take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing me to act as your Assistant Director for the 2012 riding season. It is truly an honor. I've been a national HOG member since 1998 and never joined a local Chapter until 2007 when I bought my '07 Electra Glide Classic from Skagit H-D and joined NC HOG. I've taken a lot, (and learned a few things), from this fantastic group of people, now it's time to give some of that back.

Let's talk about performance awards, and you speedsters will want to take note. Sooooo, as I left the December 10, 2011 road captain's meeting I, in my brilliance, decided to go for a little jaunt around the west side of Whidbey Island. As I crested a slight rise in a nice sweeping right hand turn, (35 mph zone), I decided to roll on a "little" power. Coming out of the turn, leveling the bars, glancing downhill at the oncoming white sedan with, "is that a luggage rack, noooo it's.....it's (aw, dang it)...low



profile "trouble bubbles", glance down, WOW, 50 mph!!!, that 103 is too frickin' smooth....well, maybe eh, he'll, ah, keep going straight.....(aw, dang)....he's turnin' around!" Bling! On the spot performance award and the state just scored \$150.00. Cha-Ching-a-Ling, Christine!! Caught with my red-hand in the "fun" jar! There went that 50-50 win from the December meeting! (best Charlie Sheen impersonation NOT-winning). Oh well, what can you do except strap on your helmet, slip on your gloves, fire it up and ride on! If you speed, you *will* get caught, (eventually), and I was long overdue.

Did I mention to you that the HOG Washington state rally is going to be in Okanagan, (oh-can-again), this year? It's August 23rd—25th. There's going to be some great rides and times there for sure. I made it to the 2009 rally there and had a blast. No, it didn't rain (all the time). One of my duties and responsibilities as Ass't Director is to act as liaison for the the HOG State rallies. We're fortunate that our director, Vince, along with members, Chet Griffith, JB Bryson, and Jim Coate are on the rally committee. If you plan on attending now is the time to start planning. Check out all the info on all the state rallies and this years "pin stops" on: members.hog.com, and for the Washington state rally the website is up and running: <http://www.wastatehogrally.com/>

As always, ride and have fun, safely.

Rusty-jingleheimerschmidt

Next Meetings: Feb. 5th and March 4th - Time, 10:00 am - 9:00 for breakfast

Twin Rides Report by Rusty

Story and photos by Rusty Gordon

The 2011 Director's Ride

Howdy there. It's been a while. How have you been? Good? Me too. Hold on tight, here we go! So, we rode over to Skagit H-D and the morning was crisp and pretty clear. Nice day considering it was the last day of the year. Vince and a rather large (motley) crew was standing by waiting to get briefed and get started on our traditional year-end trek and test of hypothermic endurance. We were able to do the sign-up sheet inside which was real nice, (and warm, ain't it good when the dealer is open for us? can I get a hallelujah?). Then we headed outside for a brief and saddled up. We left the dealership with 13 bikes and 15 bundled and toasty souls. Headed up north across the Skagit farmlands, we made our way to Chuckanut Drive. We rode up to Allen and jogged off to the right on Ershing Road. Nice riding past some small farms and rolling hills up to Colony Road where we wound our way back to Chuckanut and headed south to Bow/Edison Road. The road conditions were absolutely outstanding; dry and clear. We rolled through Edison, (single file), and onto Bayview/Edison Road over towards Samish Island. We cut back to Bayview and across SR 20 at the Farm House Inn. We were supposed to arrive at the La Conner roundabout at roughly around the same time as the Puget Sound HOG group from Sound H-D in Marysville. That would have been too excellent if both groups had been able to enter the roundabout at the same time; maybe next time!!! Anyway, we didn't see them (yet), so we pressed on and took the "short cut" on Dodge Valley Road. Did anyone else see that giant red "Rubik's cube"?? Back to Best Road and past Rexville Grocery and then there, as we passed the Snow Goose on Brown's Slough/Fir Island Road, was the PS group heading opposite. I hope we looked as sharp as they did going past. Impressive. We stopped for a warm-up at Conway and the other group backtracked to join up with us. They had 9 bikes with them. One of the PS riders was Kate and her bike is sportin' some awesome gangsta' pink wall tires. I think Mark is ordering a set for Darcy. I got some flaming hot salty nuts (from the store) for a snack and a cup o' hot java in me and I was ready to roll out for some more asphalt. Smooth sailing down Pioneer Highway and onto Marine Drive at Stanwood. Down some back roads that cut across the lowlands, (Happy Hollow or Norman I'm not real sure), and back to Silvana, then more back twisty roads that brought us to the end at the Road House on Lakewood. This is a great place to eat and have fun. The food and service were both fantastic. The camaraderie was incomparable. I mean to say we had a real good time with real good people. (You gotta love that Thesaurus....."hey, Billy Bob, what's another word for Thesaurus?") Thanks Vince, Jim, and everyone for a great ride and an excellent close to the riding season of 2011. See you next year, right?

The Polar Bear Run 2012

Oh man, what the fire truck! Why did I stay up so late? Huh, Whaaaa, alarm clock!!! Ooooooh yeah it was New Year's Eve!!!! Not that bad, really. Hmmm, little cold air on the

face, it's not raining. It's actually warm-ish. Not like last year in the low 20's - high teens. I can do this. So off we go to Sharp's corner for another glorious Polar Bear. (Should make it the Polar "Bare"...now that would be exhilarating!!!). Why isn't it raining....stupid weather people said it was going to rain. Dumb donkeys. ("G "rating folks). Anyway. Got to Sharp's and went inside, got served two cups of coffee, drank none, also, paid for none. (Keith?). Back outside and saw a bunch of people that I had seen yesterday, or should I say "last year". We saddled up and precisely at 10:00 am o' the clock, *sharp*, we launched. I have never seen Darcy that punctual. On time, everytime, (sounds like a FedEx commercial). I'm kidding of course. He, actually, is, the man, as they say! We stayed in a nice tight formation for the ride across Fidalgo Island and past Campbell Lake (ahhh, nice sweepers). Through the "twisties" at Pass Lake and on across Deception Pass. I'm quite certain the tourists got a nice look at the "crazy bunch of motorcycle enthusiasts" as we rolled by. You know, even though I live and work here on Whidbey Island, it's always such a sweet ride heading southbound. Especially through San De Fuca, (yes I was smiling when I typed that, you know you were smiling too when you read it). Seriously, that turn there by the old "ferry" pier, (yeah, you know the one I'm talkin' 'bout)....well if I have to explain it, oh, you already understand. Cool. We got to Coupeville, right after we spotted some "trouble bubbles" at the crossroads and headed into the Tye for some warm beverages and rest. After a short break, we mounted up and headed the rest of the way south to Clinton and Cozy's for lunch. You just have to love that really long "S" turn by the Outlying Landing Field (OLF). As always, upon arrival at our destination, we were greeted with warm welcomes and hot coffee for those that needed it. The fish and chips seemed extra good that day. Thanks to the Cozy's crew for being open year after year on New Years Day. No Bob, I did not order "gizzards" in your honor. Maybe next year. Another good run for the "Polar Bears" comes to an end. Hey, they should give out a patch or something for making this run...hmmmm. More to follow on that idea. Thanks Darcy for another excellent job leading us down-island in a most smooth, effective, and efficient run. It was a great kick-off to the 2012 riding season. Let's make it a safe and fun one. (Remember, if it's sitting in the garage you're not getting your money's worth out of it). *See you on the road*



Some Assorted Polar Bears



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