

February 2010
Volume 24 Issue 1



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Newsletter of the Memphis Harley Owners Group
Chapter 4928 Founded February 20, 1986

Thompson Memorial Edition

Director's Corner



by Joe Moscon

All of our articles went to the editor late this month. You know, I am one of those people that believe everything happens for a reason. When I sat down at 5:00 A.M. and opened my email, I had been informed that a dear brother of ours had just passed away, Jim Thompson. So my article this month is dedicated to Jim.

If you didn't know Jim, I promise, we all know someone like Jim. If you did, you had to have loved him. Me, well, I always loved and appreciated Jim! He was my "Check point". If I needed to know how things were, I could ask Jim, or he would let me know how things were. That was Jim, and the markings of a true friend. You might not always like what he had to say, but he spoke what was in his heart and on his mind.

In his gruff and straight forward, spit it out there kind of way,

Jim was one of the most caring people I knew when it came to the Memphis HOG Chapter. For that way he was, I will always remember him and thank him. Jim didn't believe in hiding, or mixing his words. If he had something to say, you got a call, you would listen to him, because he cared! You knew he cared by the passion in his conversation about what ever topic he called you about.

Looking back to 2009, you might have thought after watching him ride, maybe he had a "Bucket List". I remember announcing all the 1,000 mile days he rode and even a 1,500 mile day or two. I remember him bringing Neisce back to our hotel in Cuba, Missouri to make sure she would be ok, then riding off into a rain storm where you couldn't see a car in front of you! Only he and God knew the plan. But between he and Him, I am sure it got carried out. That man was a rider there is no doubt!

Beyond all of that, he was a father, a veteran, a partner to Neisce, and a dear friend to many of us in Memphis HOG. He was one of the most honest, straightforward men you would ever meet. For all of that and more, I stand and salute, and humble myself to him, Jim Thompson.

God is with you my friend.

Sincerely,

Joe D Moscon
Serving proudly as:
Director Memphis HOG #4928

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Road Captain Prospect List
Gary Brawley
David Luetwyler
Denisce Paine
Jim Stingley

Chapter Meeting

Friday, February 5th, 2010

6:30pm

Fresh Slices - Bartlett

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at**

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E-Mail Surprise Contest

Watch your E-Mail

February 2nd



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We also have large and small HOG patches, Memphis HOG rockers and LOH patches for sale as well.

All this can be purchased at the Motor Clothes Department at Bumpus on Whitten Road.

Call (901) 372-1121 for details.



Know Your ABCs (ABCs of Touring)

Knowing your HOG® benefits should be like knowing your ABCs. Take, for instance, the ABCs of Touring ... it's not as if any of us really need an extra incentive to ride. But there's something thrilling about exploring the back roads and happening upon a town that begins with the letter "Z." It's the little discoveries that make riding so fulfilling. Not to mention, all the great prizes you could win.

It doesn't take much to take part in the ABCs of Touring. All you do is collect photos of yourself and your Harley® holding a current edition of *HOG*® Magazine in front of "official" signs for various entities – cities, counties, states, countries, etc. – and you could be eligible for great prizes. Check your *HOG Benefits Guide* for more details on how to take part, or visit members.hog.com.

ABCs of Touring Changes for 2010

By J. Carolyn Rice

Attention: Memphis Chapter Members

The 2010 ABCs of Touring Contest has been changed from previous years. There is no U.S. National Rally this year. The 2010 Official Touring Form allows participants to enter 5 National/Provincial Parks and 5 National Forests for 1 point each, and the H-D Museum will be tallied as 2 points. The remainder of the categories are the same as in past years.



Ride high, Swiffer.





December 16, 2009

Memphis Chapter #4928

Dear Memphis Chapter Members:

Sounds like you've done it again Memphis H.O.G. members. In 2008, you rode a combined 767,000+ miles in 10 months! We weren't too surprised to hear that you surpassed that amount in 2009 by riding **1,241,388** miles! So once again, we must offer our sincere **congratulations** on your achievement!

We also want to thank you for exemplifying what local H.O.G. chapters are all about. You give new meaning to our motto *Ride and Have Fun!*

Like I said earlier this year, I had no doubt your chapter was up to the challenge of reaching a million mile goal. So what's it going to be for 2010? 1.3 million? Whatever goal you set, there's one thing you can be certain of: you **will** have fun! Make sure to include the last Monday in June on your ride calendar, because we need your mileage contribution for our 3rd Annual Million Mile Monday!

So once again, **CONGRATULATIONS!** You folks are indeed extraordinary! Keep it up!

With great respect,


Penny Spotts
General Manager
HOG and Rider Services


Willie G. Davidson
Sr Vice-President & Chief Styling
Officer

Assistant Director's Article



J. Carolyn Rice

"Riding The Rallies"

It is time to pull out those calendars and start making your riding plans for your 2010 riding season. Are there places you have wanted to ride last year but it just didn't happen? Well make 2010 the year you will ride those roads.

State Rallies offer members the opportunity to experience states and their back roads in a unique way. Each state rally reflects some of the flavor and character of the state hosting it. You really never know just what you may discover as you venture out to the different state events. Take a look at the state rallies on www.hog.com. They are listed in chronological order. Pick and choose the ones that appeal to you.

The first state rally each year is always hosted by Louisiana. This year it will be held in Hammond, Louisiana, only 50 miles from New Orleans. Hammond is at the crossroads of the South linking a number of cities such as New Orleans, Louisiana; Houston, Texas; and Biloxi, Mississippi. The 2010 Rally has been named *"Rally at the Crossroads"*. Let your imagination run wild. Ride with a group of your friends to Hammond, party on Bourbon Street just like Jim, ride the beautiful winding, hilly roads this area offers, stop and experience Hammond's great restaurants with a wide variety of "what we ride for" delicacies from fresh Louisiana seafood to smokin' barbecue! Sounds like a rolling party filled with fun, fun and more fun to me.

Here is a list of 2010 Southern State Rallies. Check the website for further details of each rally.

Louisiana State HOG Rally Hammond, LA	March 25 – 27
Alabama State HOG Rally Dothan, Alabama	May 13 – 15
Tennessee State HOG Rally Chattanooga, TN	June 2 – 5
Kentucky State HOG Rally Bowling Green, Kentucky	June 10 – 12
North Carolina State HOG Rally Charlotte, NC	June 17 – 19
Arkansas State HOG Rally Hot Springs, Arkansas	July 29 – 31
Missouri State HOG Rally Columbia, Missouri	August 26 – 28
Mississippi State HOG Rally Natchez, Mississippi	September 16 – 18
Florida State HOG Rally Destin, Florida	October 20 -23

When you sign up and attend State HOG Rallies you meet new HOG members from different chapters across the nation. The hosting state chapters extend their hospitality showcasing the best their state has to offer. As you read about each rally you can see that some offer opportunities of touring local attractions even at reduced prices or group rates. There are local chapter members available to help guide you on your back road adventures while you are visiting their areas. This gives a different perspective of what an area can extend to your riding journey.

Next month I will be writing about the details of our own 2010 Tennessee State Rally. Be sure to mark it on your calendar. Chattanooga is always a blast to ride, visit, and enjoy.

Happy Birthday Memphis Chapter

WE ARE
Going Home



The Memphis Harley Owners Group

Grant us safe passage on our journey home, Jim.



Activities and Happenings



Jeff LeDuc



Laura Acree

COME ON COLD WEATHER! GO AWAY! WE WANT TO RIDE! RIDE! RIDE!

We're ready for the cold weather to move on out and warm up just a little bit more! We've got some great things going on during the month of February and hope everyone can join us with more to be added. Why will things be added you ask? Well, we had a dinner social/activities meeting at Bahama Breeze and I'm sure many of our members have stepped up with a lot of great ideas and places to go.

Here is what's going on so far:

The Chapter meeting will be at Fresh Slices on the 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Larry Allen is having a Group Riding Class on the 6th with a surprise destination for lunch.

AND

Who's ready to have a wonderful steak dinner with their sweetheart? Hope everyone! We've got a wonderful sweetheart dinner set up at the Butcher Shop on the 13th. Come join us for a great steak dinner and fellowship.

On the 25th, we have a dinner social at Eat Well on Germantown Parkway.

Safety Officer's Message



Larry Allen

My old Boy Scout training had a motto we as motorcycle riders should put to use. It is "BE PREPARED"! It is easy for riders to get complacent, especially veteran riders, and not be prepared for the many events that can happen when riding a motorcycle. Do you still cover your brake and clutch levers when coming up on an intersection? Do you really know how to react when the car turns left in front of you at the intersection? Do you really know how your bike will react in a panic stop? If not I would advise you to take an experienced motorcycle-training course. You say you took one when you started riding five years ago. Well its time you took the advanced course. You need to take this course every so often to keep your skill sharp and to learn how your bike really handles. In this course you use your bike and you get to know exactly how fast it will stop. You will learn how it will react in a quick left and right weave maneuver. You will do this in a controlled environment with experience teachers. This training might save your life. Bumpus HD is offering the ERC course for HOG Club members. State Tech also offers an ERC course. Don't put it off for spring is just around the corner. Contact me by email if you have an interest in taking a course

Below is monthly safety tip. Check www.msgroup.org for more.

ONE RULE

That Will Keep You Alive On City Streets

By James R. Davis

Of all the things that we learn being out on the streets with our bikes, one stands out as the all time lifesaver in my book.

If you can avoid it, never enter an intersection without another vehicle on your right side.

It should be noted that this advice assumes you ride in a country where people drive on the right side of the road.)

If you have to slow down in order to let a vehicle catch up with you on the right side, or if you have to increase speed a little so that you catch up with another vehicle, having one on your right side is as safe as it gets for entering an intersection.

Obviously this also means that if you are stopped at a traffic light and it turns green, you enter the intersection when the vehicle on your right does - no jackrabbit jumps if you want to live. Too tame?

Could be, but this rider likes it that way. In fact, I'd rather that the vehicle on my right was a bus or even an 18-wheeler.

By the way, it is safer that the vehicle be on your right than on the left. The closer you can be to the center of the intersection when you go thru it, the more air there is (on average) between you and somebody that comes at you from either side. This is just another way of saying that if you have to enter the intersection by yourself, do it in the left most lane.

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Road Captain's Gas Tank

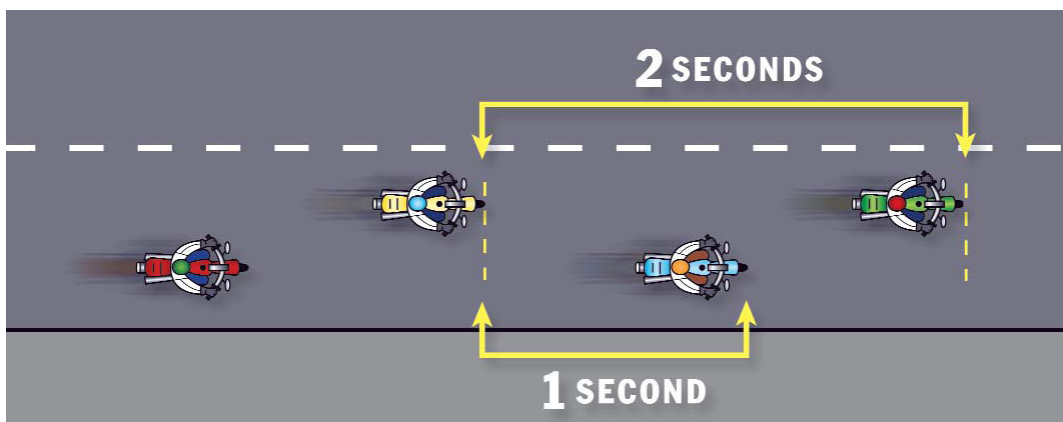


Greg Patton

Group riding has always been a part of our HOG Chapter. We strive to have well trained Road Captains to make your riding experience more enjoyable. Our ongoing training are just a couple of things we do to help make the rides safe.

Let's review some Group Riding information:

- ✓ Always arrive on time and with a full gas tank.
- ✓ We will always hold a riders briefing and review the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals before each club ride.
- ✓ Announce the lead, primary sweep and secondary sweep Road Captain's (please note that the secondary sweep may become a lead if a group gets separated due to a traffic light etc) for each group. If the group gets split don't panic. This is when the Secondary Sweep Road Captain will take the lead of the group; they will then work on regrouping with the front bikes in your group
- ✓ Ride in formation. The staggered riding formation (see diagram below) allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed. We will never be side by side except for at stops. As you leave a stopped position the rider on the left will pull away first then the rider on the right and slowly stagger out to the proper formation.
- ✓



If any rider has a medical or mechanical problem that they need to stop for try to find a safe spot to stop (but we know this may not be possible) and the sweep rider will stop with you. The Sweep Road Captain will assess the situation and help make a decision on what to do. The Lead Road Captain will take the main group on to a safe location and the Road Captains will talk via cell phone to see what needs to be done.

Sources MSF web page and Memphis Hog Road Captain Manual.

Historian



Lisa Patton

his-to-ri-an (hĭ-stôr'ē-ən, -stôr'-, -stör'-) n.

One who writes or compiles a chronological record of events; a chronicler.

Polar Bear Ride 2010. This was the 33rd Annual Dream Factory of Memphis Ski Freeze. Memphis Hog Chapter has participated for 23 of those years beginning in 1986. One year was missed due to weather and that was 2001. Donations were still collected and donated to the Dream Factory.

Dream Factory of Memphis is a nonprofit volunteer organization that grants the dreams of critically and chronically ill children ages 3-18.

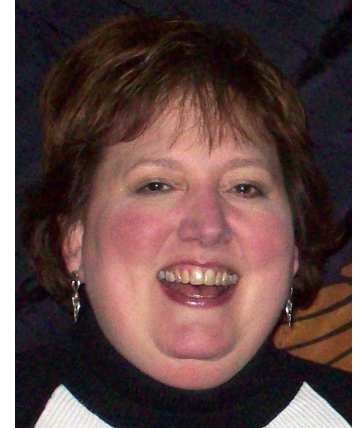
Our very own Jerry Austin was quoted in the Commercial Appeal. **Part of the Article from the Commercial Appeal dated 1/2/10:**

[Among the hundreds of supporters were numerous members of area motorcycle clubs, including some who took the plunge. Jerry Austin was not one of them. "We pass the helmet and take up donations, but I'm not shucking my leather to get in," Austin said with a laugh as he hunched his shoulders against a stiff cold wind. "When I see them in the water, I'm no longer cold."]

The Memphis Hog Chapter was proud to have 53 bikes ride from Bumpus Whitten to Perimeter Mall to Mud Island for this chilling event. Our very own Daniel Moscon took the brave challenge to participate in the Ski Freeze. Check out his exciting experience and exotic outfit in pictures that are now available to view on the website.

Please remember to take those pictures and submit to mphotohg@yahoo.com. Please take the time to compress your photos before sending.

Ladies Of Harley



Pam Powell

WOW! What a great start to 2010! We had a member ski in the Mississippi River at the Polar Bear ride on New Year's Day. Our first chapter meeting of 2010 kicked off a new contest, a letter of congrats from Willie G and Benny on our accomplishments, and we found out that we were "going home" to Milwaukee in June! The year 2010 is going to be unforgettable!

On Saturday, February 13th, we will have a bake sale at Bumpus on Whitten. I am asking all ladies to look at your delicious recipes and bake one of your heavenly desserts for us to sell! All desserts need to be at Bumpus at 8:00 that day. You will have to come in through the parts department. We will meet in the waiting area where we will package the desserts in to individual servings.

Our February LOH Meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 18th at Pete and Sam's Italian Restaurant. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. The address is 3886 Park Ave. and the phone number is 458-0694.

If you are new to the chapter please come and join us and begin making new and lasting friendships! You do not have to have your own bike to be a member of LOH. All you have to do is register with national HOG and want to have fun. It does not cost extra to be a LOH member. Did I mention we have lots of fun and fellowship?

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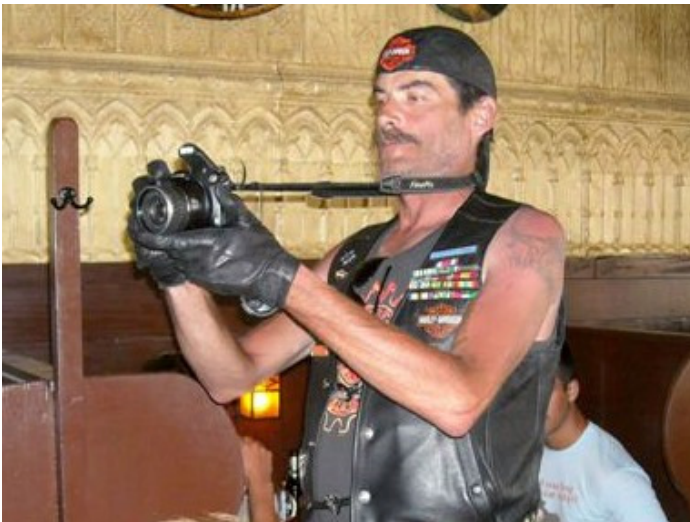
Hitch Doc chrome trailer hitch that will fit all touring bikes from 1980-2007. It is complete with wiring, chrome ball cover, etc. This is an easy bolt on install. List price for this hitch would be \$350.00. I am asking only \$200.00.



All Chrome Center Stand. Very High Quality. The Harley Center Stand sells for \$379. This unit will fit all 1997-2007 Harley Touring Bikes. Does not affect ground or cornering clearance. Easy to use and great for parking in garage as it makes the bike take up less space and it is also good for washing or working on the bike. It is an easy bolt on install. I paid \$400 plus tax but am asking \$200 for this unit.

**Contact Larry Allen at 901-378-7318 or
by email at LDALLEN@MSN.COM
if you are interested.**

James H. Thompson
November 17, 1961 - January 19, 2010



Jim said, "I've got your back, Postman." I came to realize he's wasn't back there anymore. He was out in front plowing the wind, and living, and achieving incredible feats. Jim came to realize what many of us ignore, life is short. Jim's on his grand ride now. My memories of him will carry me many miles down the road.

....with love and heartfelt sympathy for the rest of us,
the Postman



Chaplain's Message by Larry Allen

Well we started off the New Year with a cool Polar Bear Ride to help benefit the Dream Factory. It is always nice to start off the New Year helping out someone that has been dealt a tough situation. We all feel good about helping out a child and making one of their dreams come true. I give many thanks to all the bikers who turned out to support the Memphis Water Ski Club charity event.

The world experienced a tragedy when Haiti had a devastating earthquake that has killed thousands and left a major city and country in turmoil. And while the world rushes aid to this country it will never be the same again after this event. These events should remind us how fragile life is and how quickly our paths can change. As we all know who live in Memphis, we sit on top of a major earthquake zone. It took Haiti 200 years for a major event to occur. Who knows when Memphis will shake again? However, the Haiti event should remind us to "Be Prepared." Do you have food and water and other supplies put away to get by on for a week? If not think about it and BE PREPARED. We also need to be prepared spiritually for tragedies in our lives. It is hard to do so but put your trust in God and know that he is with you through the good times and the tough times. BE PREPARED spiritually in your life.

I just found out today we all lost a good friend and Harley Brother. Jim Thompson passed away after a sudden illness. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and especially to our Harley Sister Denisce Paine for their sorrow and grief. I got to know Jim on several of our rides. Jim was a veteran and a great guy. He really loved the wind in his face. All of our lives are better for having enjoyed the open road with Jim. We will miss him.



February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Jan	1 Feb	2	3	4	5	6
					7:30p (C) Chapter Meeting Fresh Slices	900a (C) Group Riding and Safety Class
7	8	9 6:30 (C) Road Captains Meeting Francisco's Millington	10	11	12	13 600p (C) Sweet Heart Dinner
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 6:30p (C) Dinner Social	26	27
28	1 Mar	2	3	4	5	6



Happy St. Valentine's Day



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