



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

Volume 34 Issue 7

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Fourth of July

What is Independence Day? Yes, it is a movie. Who can forget Randy Quaid in yet another memorable role (probably only second to Cousin Eddie) as Russell Casse and his last words of “Hello boys! I’m baaaaack!”.

But that’s not what I’m talking about. As entertaining as the movie was, I’m referring to the day July 4<sup>th</sup>. The day that most people would say if asked, was the day that the Declaration of Independence was signed, and we celebrate our freedom from Great Britain. Well, they would be wrong. Not completely wrong, we do celebrate on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Declaration was not signed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, nor did we declare independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

So, what did happen on July 4, 1776? The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2<sup>nd</sup> (by Thomas Jefferson) and finally agreed on all the edits and changes. July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So, when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

Just to round out a few other important dates related to our Independence. The Revolutionary War started in April 1775. The Declaration of Independence wasn't signed until August 2, 1776 and wasn't delivered to Great Britain until November 1776.

Why the history lesson, you may ask. I was thinking about the holiday and what it means. How difficult it must have been for the people of time to believe and fight for their Freedom and their way of life. We live in a great country and we have these people to thank for it. Don't forget, Freedom is not free. It should not be taken advantage of and it requires all of us to participate.

It was unfortunate that Covid-19 held back the celebration this year. But it did not demean its importance.

Ride Safe, Ride Smart, but most of all Ride

Robert  
2020 HOG Chapter Director

P.S. One last bit of trivia. Two signatories of the Declaration died on July 4; Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Both in 1826. And let's not forget Russell Casse, July 4, 1996. RIP





Amy & Roelant  
Verbeek

Here I am sitting behind the computer with my shoulders hurting, my hands still aching from squeezing the handlebars so hard, but with a happy soul! I just got home from our trip to the east side of our beautiful state. Three awesome days, and one a little less.

Rain, gusty winds, and lightning kept us busy for at least half the ride. I was the lead road captain and wanted to take a break and figured I'd wait until the rain stopped. That didn't work!

The Tail of the Dragon trip was great, lots of beautiful roads, scenery, and of course the Tail of the Dragon. We rode that damn thing 3 times, that was about 2 times too many for me. Ha, but what a great feeling to have finished this bucket list item. Not only was the riding great, so was the camaraderie among all 13 members that went on the trip. We baptized Mark Jones with his new chapter name, Kill-Switch. That's what you get when you hit that kill switch button twice on the interstate. We learned how to make duck farts even better when you add Appalachian Sippin' Cream, the butter pecan flavor. We also learned that Dutch likes the flatlands of his home country more than these mountain roads. We learned that the elevator was only able to carry 3 people at a time, because when you put 5 people on it, the door wouldn't open on our floor. All in all, a fantastic weekend.

So, what else did we do this month.....

- On 6/7 a group went to Dyersburg and on to the Full Throttle Sloonshine Distillery. We had 12 bikes and 16 members participating.
- On 6/9 we had the June chapter meeting at the Sidecar Café, 57 members attended. A fantastic turnout.
- On 6/12 a large group rode to Natchez, MS. We picked up Butch and Nancy Moore somewhere around Grenada and we also met up with Steve Lyon who was in Natchez with the Austin, TX chapter. Friday night we took over Fat Mama's Tamales and helped them with the handing out of the food, not every employee thought it was funny. 😊 On Saturday we had 1 group riding to Vicksburg, while another was visiting some of the antebellum homes in Natchez. Others did their own thing. Saturday afternoon a bunch of the travelers ended up drinking some brews at the Natchez Brewing Company. We all made sure that Michael Becker had enough water that day. We had a total of 19 bikes and 28 chapter members finding their way home on Sunday.
- On 6/18, 23 folks found their way to Wyatt Earp's Steakhouse in Millington, yes, Millington, not Oakland. I think it turned out to be a great event, especially since we had the opportunity to ride out there.
- On 6/20 we ended up in Lexington, TN. How did we end up there you may ask? A few of us were brainstorming on where to ride to that Saturday and I found a place called Dan's Café. I figured that would make Dan Benson happy, so let's go. It turned out to be a great place, great service, good food, and of course a Harley ride there. That sounds like a good time to me. 14 bikes and 18 members participated.
- The next weekend we participated in one of my favorite events that the Bumpus family puts forth, the Tour of Duty. We rode to Jackson, Murfreesboro, and Lynchburg to get our passports stamped so we could participate in the drawing for the \$2,500 gift card. Unfortunately, nobody from our chapter won the money. Jordan became ill and was not able to ride home with the chapter (more about this later).

- And that brings us to this weekend's Tail of the Dragon trip.

What are some of the items upcoming big events:

- On 7/18 we will be riding to Florence, AL, to visit one of the homes built by Frank Lloyd Wright.
- From 8/5 to 8/9 we will be visiting Milwaukee, WI, to visit the Harley Davidson museum and who knows what else.
- In September we had the Bikes, Bourbon, and Bluegrass HOG Rally on the calendar, however, they very recently made the decision to cancel the event this year. We will schedule an overnight trip in its place.
- In October we still plan to attend the Ride the Ozarks rally in Harrison, AR.

Other events that we are looking to schedule are:

- Past Directors ride
- Swap meet
- Chili Cookoff
- Socials

One last (very important) item I want to bring up. I love riding with y'all and going on the trips and having a beverage, but what impresses me the most is the care that members of this chapter have for one another. Two years ago, Amy and I drove up with a flat tire at Bumpus to ride to Centralia, IL, for the balloon festival. Frank and Pauline stayed behind and rode together with us. This weekend, Jim T's battery was dead when he got to Bumpus, immediately Richard Cooley said, I'll stay behind and ride with y'all. Jordan had a kidney stone in Murfreesboro and could not ride his bike home. Instead of needing to leave it in Murfreesboro, Robert and Laura jumped in the car and Robert rode Jordan's bike home. I am sure I am forgetting many more examples like this, but this is what takes a chapter from being good to being great!



Quick: Name three things experts say you should always have when riding a motorcycle. Anti-lock brakes? Traction control? The latest airbag-equipped riding apparel?

Believe it or not, no, no and no. Sure, high-tech electronic rider aids and safety equipment prevent some crashes and injuries, but the most important – and effective – ways to

prevent crashes and injuries are surprisingly inexpensive, low-tech and easy to implement. What they are may surprise even the most seasoned riders.

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month - perfect timing, right? We're going to lay out three basic pillars of motorcycle safety with the goal of educating riders about how to ride longer and stay safer, no matter your skill level.

## PILLAR 1: GET THE GEAR

*"There are two kinds of riders; those who have gone down and those who will go down."*

That's an old saw, and not necessarily true, but yes, it's likely you'll crash. And if you do, you'll probably get hurt. As **Harry Hurt** (yes, he gets the irony of his name) wrote in 1980, "98% of the multiple vehicle collisions and 96% of the single vehicle accidents resulted in some kind of injury..." Yikes.

First, let's start with helmets. They're life-savers but won't make you a superhero. The modern helmet isn't that different from the ones from the 70s safety wise. In fact, the **US DOT's helmet-safety standard** has been pretty much the same for about 50 years. That's because it works! Your helmet is basically EPS styro foam encased by a hard shell. The hard shell will protect you from scrapes and a little bouncing, but the EPS's job is to slow down your head and brain to prevent your gray matter from sloshing around and bruising.



But there's a limit to what it can do – past about 15-20 miles per hour, the brain will get sloshed and injured. That's why helmets reduce fatalities (significantly) but don't eliminate them; fatality rates in helmet law-states vs. non helmet-law states aren't as different as we'd like.

**Still, wear a full-face helmet, every ride. Please.**

What you wear on the rest of your body is important, but probably won't save your life. It can prevent a lot of pain and suffering and can mean the difference between missing a day of work or going on disability for six weeks.

That means **ATGATT** - All the Gear, All the Time. You want abrasion protection for every vulnerable part of your body and impact-protection 'armor' for the likely impact points. And leave the kicks for gym class, boys and girls. Going back to Dr. Hurt, half the injuries were to the legs, ankles and feet of riders, yet most of us wear jeans, sneakers and a leather jacket, as if we will do some kind of mid-air **Shannon**

Miller thing and *decide* which part of our body will hit the ground first. You are not Shannon Miller (unless you really are Shannon Miller).

Basically, wear motorcycle-specific gear designed to keep you climate controlled, visible and at least somewhat protected from abrasion and impact if you crash. But now that you've got your helmet, gloves, boots, jacket and pants, are you still injuring yourself every ride?

Well, if you're not wearing hearing protection every time you ride, then yes, you are.

Even the most expensive helmet you can buy (probably the \$4,000 Arai RX-7V) won't protect your hearing from the **115 or more dB riding a motorcycle at 70 mph** can generate. **At those levels, it can take less than 15 minutes to cause permanent damage.**

Motorcycle safety continues to evolve, and the biggest names in the industry recognize how important it is to filter out harmful noise. After trying **Ear Peace Motorcycle ear plugs**, Evans Brasfield from [Motorcycle.com](http://Motorcycle.com) said he "never thought that [he'd] be switching to a different brand of ear plug, but **Ear Peace's quality and comfort have won [him] over in just a few rides.**"

You will lose your hearing, so wear **ear plugs**. Still not sure why you need hearing protection? Catch up on [Motorcycle Safety Course 201: Protect Your Hearing Health](#) for more info on noise-induced hearing loss.



## PILLAR 2: FIND THE RIGHT TRAINING

Back in the old days, there was no training. A new rider would haggle with the salesperson, buy a bike (maybe with a free helmet thrown in to sweeten the deal) and meet the salesperson in the parking lot behind the shop for a riding lesson. "That there's the clutch, that there's the shifter..."

A year later, they might still be riding, but they'd have experienced at least one crash. "More than half of the accident-involved motorcycle riders had less than 5 months experience," stated the [Hurt Report](#), the landmark 1980 study of motorcycle crashes in Southern California.

Why do so many new riders crash? "The motorcycle riders involved in accidents are essentially without training; 92% were self-taught or learned from family or friends," Dr. Hurt goes on to say. The motorcycle industry took notice, leading to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) and low-cost nationwide training by 1990. Fatalities started to decline.

And then they started to climb again. Why? Many experts say the MSF changed its curriculum to make it easier to pass the course, and states made the class either free or mandatory (or both), using it to

replace the basic skills test at state DMVs. Additionally, tens of thousands of Baby Boomers bought new motorcycles after 10 or 20 years of not riding. The accident rates spiked; by 2008 (the peak year for motorcycle sales) over 5,000 riders were dying a year. Sales are half that today, but that deadly number still hovers around 5,000.



The lesson is this: mandatory basic training with an easy-to-pass licensing test is good, but motorcyclists are still dying at about *30 times* the rate of other road users per vehicle mile travelled (VMT). So just the basic class you needed to get your license isn't enough. Seek out advanced classes, like those offered by **Total Control Training** and the **MSF**.

Another great (and fun!) way to stay safe is to take an off-road motorcycle training course. Going back to ol' Dr. Hurt, "Motorcycle riders with dirt bike experience are significantly underrepresented in the accident data." A dirt bike will teach you how to control skids and slides and be smooth on the controls, especially brakes.

Competition and closed-circuit training make you safer, too – with a caveat. You'll get you comfortable with high speeds, throttle control, emergency braking and a host of other skills, but it can also make you more comfortable taking risks on the street. "Track days don't really make you safer," I recall **National Motorcycle Institute** founder Joe Elliott once telling me. "They just increase the speed you're going when you crash."

Finally, there's literature. If you've made it this far, you've got the tolerance to read the hundreds of great books, reports and studies about the science, culture and mechanics of not crashing.

But all the reading and knowledge in the world may not protect you from yourself. Even the best training isn't as protective as a *free* helping of good rider-safety attitude.

### **PILLAR 3: ATTITUDE OVER EGO**

Honestly, the best way to not crash is to get on the motorcycle and *not want to crash*. I'm not being flip.

As a guy who has crashed more than a dozen times (I lost count), when you push the envelope, when your focus is somewhere that *isn't* not crashing, when you don't have the skill or ability for road conditions, intensity level or motorcycle, you will either crash or badly stain your undergarments.

In other words, take motorcycle safety seriously and you won't crash, or at least improve your chances of being an elderly rider. Taking it seriously means a lot of things: maintain your equipment, be a dedicated lifelong student of motorcycle safety and technique, and for pluck's sake **never ever ride under the influence** of alcohol, drugs, fatigue or strong emotions.

Filter out crashes caused by stuff in these two paragraphs and you'll probably reduce your chances of crashing by 70 or even 90 percent, making the final thing less (but still very) important. **Don't be a squid!**

## You and Your Three Pillars

What we hope you take away from reading this is that there are three essential pillars of motorcycle safety - the right gear, training and attitude. Like a three-legged stool, they all need each other to stay upright, as each has its strengths and weaknesses. And just like a stool, relying on just *one* of these pillars will leave you on your ass.

Ride smart, ride safe!

Larry Allen  
Safety Officer

**MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**

# **THE ULTIMATE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY GUIDEBOOK**

**3 PILLARS OF MOTORCYCLE SAFETY**

- 01 GET THE GEAR**  
Protect yourself and others with proper gear.
- 02 FIND THE RIGHT TRAINING**  
Invest in courses and certifications to learn the rules of the road.
- 03 ATTITUDE OVER EGO**  
Take safety seriously. Accidents can (and probably will) happen!

A vertical graphic with a red header and footer. The main content is on a light gray background. It features three numbered pillars of motorcycle safety, each with a red circular icon and a corresponding illustration. The first pillar is 'GET THE GEAR' with a motorcycle jacket and helmet. The second is 'FIND THE RIGHT TRAINING' with a document icon. The third is 'ATTITUDE OVER EGO' with a checkered racing flag. The footer contains the word 'EARPEACE' in red.

**EARPEACE**

## Advantages - Mechanical and More

What do longer arms, longer legs, a longer memory and a 6-gallon fuel tank all have in common? They all give the user an advantage. The prize fighter wants longer arms, the basketball player wants longer legs, the student wants more memory, and the long-distance Harley rider wants a 6-gallon fuel tank rather than the 5-gallon version. Common sense or just knowing what you can and can't do gives you an advantage in a demanding situation. And who wouldn't enjoy the advantage of being moved to the front of a long line? Often it doesn't take much to get an advantage. I like the saying, "In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king".

I was thinking about how much we rely on the mechanical advantages we enjoy all around us. We use doorknobs to transform rotational motion into lateral motion to open the door's closing mechanism so that it only takes a few fingers of force to open a heavy door on its hinges. And, scissors are a type of lever and fulcrum which give us the advantage of cleanly cutting paper. Archimedes made a famous statement with respect to the lever "Give me a place to stand and I will move the earth". But remember the lever is a simple machine that uses force to do work and Galileo Galilei taught us that that simple machines do not create energy but only transform it.

There are well played advantages and there are illegal, unfair advantages. In sports there is a long list of prominent people who were caught breaking the rules to get an illegal advantage. NASCAR driver Richard Petty, said something like, "If you ain't cheating a little, you ain't winning much". Seven time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong had all his medals stripped away for using performance-enhancing drugs. John Calipari was caught violating recruiting rules. And Tonya Harding put a hit on Olympian Nancy Kerrigan's knee.

Legal advantages are acceptable but there is a warning to those who use illegal advantages. The book of Proverbs (10:9) says, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out." We like to think that those who don't play by the rules will get what's coming to them. When the honest person makes a mistake and breaks the rules, they usually try to make it right. Alexander Pope wrote, "To err is human to forgive is divine." Meaning, as humans, we will make mistakes, and we should believe that we can admit them to God, and He will forgive us. Forgiveness is the "divine" act on the part of God. Those who are sorry can get forgiveness from God. God made the rules and by asking for forgiveness He gives us the advantage of forgiveness. So, ask for forgiveness and you'll have the best advantage.

That's my view from behind the handlebars,  
Peter Doorley

Bumpus  
Harley-Davidson®



# Membership

## To Join HOG National

In order to join the Memphis HOG Chapter, you must first be a national or associate HOG member in good standing. Click the link for the Harley Owners Group website to read about HOG Events, Membership Types and Membership Benefits.

Once you join, you receive a membership number. Use this number to join Memphis HOG.

## Join the local Memphis HOG Chapter

Download the Memphis HOG form and fill it out. There are three ways to submit the form;

1. Drop off the form along with \$20 cash or check at the Bumpus HD Memphis parts counter.
2. Bring it to the next Memphis H.O.G. activity. Check the Events Calendar for upcoming events.
3. Mail the form and a \$20 check made out to "**Memphis HOG Chapter**". Mail to:

Memphis HOG Chapter # 4928  
Bumpus Harley Davidson  
2160 Whitten Road  
Memphis, TN 38133-6004

To get to the Memphis Chapter Membership Form follow the following link:

<https://www.memphishog.com/membership>



## 2020 Officer Team

**Sponsor:** Tim Bumpus  
**Director:** Robert Gantt  
**Assistant Director:** Jim Ferguson  
**Treasurer:** Bob Browder  
**Secretary:** Tim Backus  
**Activities:** Amy & Roelant Verbeek  
**Head Road Captain:** Dave Stockton  
**Membership:** Carol & Jim Tactac  
**Safety Officer:** Larry Allen  
**Photographer:** Tony Crook  
**Web Master:** Tony Crook  
**Dealer Liaison:** Joe Moscon

Participation Points and Club Mileage through July 1, 2020  
 Max Points = 46  
 Max Mileage = 2918

Top 20 Participation Points		
Place	Name	Points
1	Verbeek	43
2	Rector	36
3	Tactac	34
3	Cooley	34
5	McDowell	31
6	Ferguson	28
6	Becker	28
8	Dunaway	27
8	Dunaway	27
10	Backus	26
11	Tactac	24
12	Gantt	22
12	Crook	22
12	Benson	22
12	Allen	22
16	Verbeek	21
16	Stockton	21
16	Doorley	21
19	Barbee	20
20	Wells	19

Top 20 Club Mileage		
Place	Name	Points
1	Cooley	2904
2	Verbeek	2566
3	Dunaway	2379
3	Dunaway	2379
5	Rector	2209
6	McDowell	2007
7	Benson	1788
8	Becker	1786
9	Browder	1588
10	Barbee	1554
11	Rector	1360
12	Ferguson	1261
13	Lowe	1180
14	Gantt	1151
15	Backus	1126
16	Tactac	1098
17	Stockton	1016
18	Verbeek	1009
19	Tactac	948
20	Wells	928

# Chapter Events



## July

**02** **HOG Officer Meeting**  
6:30pm. Tekila Mexican Bar and Grill, 1335 N Germantown Pkwy, Memphis TN 38016

**09** **Tail of the Dragon**  
Long weekend ride. Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Day ride. More details to come.

**14** **Memphis HOG Chapter Meeting**  
The chapter meeting will be held at Kooky Canuck. Join us for good food and socializing beginning at 6:30pm.

**18** **HOG Day Ride**  
Frank Lloyd Wright house in Florence, AL.

**23** **HOG Chapter Social**  
More details to come.

## August

**05** **HD Museum Milwaukee**  
Long weekend ride. Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.

**06** **HOG Officer Meeting**  
6:30pm. Tekila Mexican Bar and Grill, 1335 N Germantown Pkwy, Memphis TN 38016

**11** **Memphis HOG Chapter Meeting**  
The chapter meeting will be held at Kooky Canuck. Join us for good food and socializing beginning at 6:30pm.

**16** **HOG Day Ride**  
Veteran's Museum, Halls, TN

**20** **HOG Chapter Social**  
More details to come.

**29** **HOG Day Ride**  
Hubcap Burger, Scott, AR

## September

**03** **Memphis HOG Officers Meeting**  
6:30pm. Tekila Mexican Bar and Grill, 1335 N Germantown Pkwy, Memphis TN 38016

**05** **HOG Day Ride**  
Along the Mississippi. More details to come.

**08** **Memphis HOG Chapter Meeting**  
The chapter meeting will be held at SideCar Café. Join us for good food and socializing beginning at 6:30pm.

**17** **HOG Chapter Social**  
More details to come.

**27** **HOG Day Ride**  
More details to come.

**INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?**

Ads are free to current members selling personal items, e.g. bikes, bike parts, garage sale items, etc.

Business ads run for \$50/yr. for a business card, \$75/yr. for a ½ page, and \$100/yr. for a full-page ad. Please contact Robert Gantt to set up your ad.



*Bob Browder, MBA, CPA*

9112 Pembroke Ellis Drive  
Bartlett, TN 38133

(901) 833-4866  
bartlettcpa@att.net

[www.bobbrowdercpa.com](http://www.bobbrowdercpa.com)

**THANK YOU FOR**

**YOUR FRIENDSHIP**

**AND BUSINESS !!!**

**I LOVE REFERRALS !!!**

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH THE MEMPHIS HOG CHAPTER?

- Get text alerts or follow us on Twitter  
To get texts: Text a message to 40404 with the following information:  
*Follow memhog4928*  
You should receive an instant confirmation.



- Join our members-only Facebook group  
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/282199048513345/>

To join: Go to the page and click "Join"  
One of the officers will add you to the FB group.

Note: There is a public FB page, but it DOES NOT have event information.  
<https://www.facebook.com/MemphisHogChapter/>

- Check out our webpage and online calendar  
<http://www.memphishog.com/>  
<http://www.memphishog.com/#!calendar/c1nf7>

The chapter calendar is compatible with Google Calendar and iPhones.  
Search for the calendar associated with the chapter activities email: [memphishogactivities@gmail.com](mailto:memphishogactivities@gmail.com)

- Special Note to AOL mail users  
Please add [memphishogactivities@gmail.com](mailto:memphishogactivities@gmail.com) to your email contacts. This will help insure chapter emails don't end up in your trash\spam folder

## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH BUMPUS HARLEY DAVIDSON (MEMPHIS)?

Website: <http://www.bumpushdmemphis.com/>

Event calendar: <http://www.bumpushdmemphis.com/check-out-our-events--xcalendar>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BumpusHarleyMemphis/>

Twitter: [@BumpusHDMem](https://twitter.com/BumpusHDMem)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/bumpusmphs/videos>