

THE
HANDLEBAR STAR
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INLAND EMPIRE HARLEY OWNERS GROUP® #3448

APRIL/MAY 2017





Inside this edition

Director	3
Assistant Director	4
Road Captain	5
LOH Officer	6
Secretary.....	6
Safety Officer.....	7
Chapter Manager.....	8
West Coast Thunder.....	9
Blood Drive.....	11
I am HOG.....	12
From the Editor’s Desk.....	14
Activities and Birthdays.....	15
Sponsors	16
Officers.....	17

Who we are:

The Inland Empire Chapter is a family oriented group of road riding enthusiasts who enjoy riding their Harley-Davidson motorcycles together. The members would like to share this enjoyment with you and encourage you to join in the activities we have during the year. You are welcome to participate in many of the rides and events whether or not you join the chapter.

**Chapter Meeting
& Social**

**Second Thursday of
each month at 7:00**



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MICK HAMMER



Greetings I E HOG,

I wanted to start off my article this week with a big thank you to all our members that have been showing up for our efforts to increase membership at Riverside HD Bike nights. Our presence has been noticed and we are starting to get a few membership forms filled out and invites to prospective members to join us on ride

We are putting together an order for a long sleeve riding shirt branded with the Inland Empire HOG Rocker. Each shirt is \$30.00 for S thru 2XL with larger sizes costing \$35.00. I will be placing the order the week of May 15, 2017 following our next chapter meeting. Give me a call if you want to add to the order.

I hope everyone has had the chance to join the chapter on a ride or two this year. I know that I have been on a few rides this year that have taken me on roads I have never been on before, to places I am seeing for the first time and with all the wet weather we had earlier in the year the scenery hasn't looked better in a long time. Our moto is "Ride and Have Fun." I know I have been doing a lot more of that. Overnights are on the calendar, so reserve a room and come join us on a 2, 3 or 4 day ride.

We are coming into the West Coast Thunder season, for those that have never participated before your experience will be enhanced by volunteering. Last year Patsy and I spend time working for the cause and it was not only rewarding but a lot of fun as well. Get involved— you won't be sorry.

That's it for now, see you all soon and remember,

Let's "Ride and Have Fun"

Mick

HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN

DAN ALEXANDER



Do you ever wonder if you are doing the right thing or are you just spinning your wheels trying to get ahead of the game? I have often asked myself this question many times wondering if I am doing the right thing or not. I have come to the conclusion that I am doing the right thing as your Head Road Captain. When I pull into the dealership parking lot for the day's ride and I see 14+ bikes and people ready to go on the scheduled ride for that day, I shake my head and begin to smile from ear to ear. I know that as one of the leaders of this chapter are doing the right thing! This is why we bought our motorcycles, to ride and not collect dust. We have had some great rides this year and have many more planned.

It is hard to believe that we are into May already as it seems that we just had the New Year's Eve party at the Maws'. May is a busy month for us with West Coast Thunder, but we have some great overnight rides coming up. The next overnight ride will be the Utah ride that will take you through some of Utah's most beautiful backroad scenery to be experienced. Following that will be the Sierra Ride that I have planned some beautiful riding through the Sierra Nevada range of California and Nevada.

But wait, there's more!!!! The Grand Canyon ride will be September 29th through October 1st and I guarantee that we will definitely ride into Grand Canyon National Park. If you are going to Zion N.P., you may want to consider buying an annual pass for the National Parks. These are also good for the National Forests (parking) which also happen to be in our back yard. Speaking of the National Forest, I have heard that the annual Big Bear Grizzly has been canceled for this year (a run that was started by IEHOG) but should resume next year.

Thank you to all for the participation in the rides and I look forward to riding with you all!

Be safe and have fun doing it!

Dan Alexander
Head Road Captain

LADIES OF HARLEY OFFICER LYNELL WELLER

It's spring time and that means Riding Season is in full bloom. Hope you have enjoyed the rides we have put together these first 4 months of 2017. We have some awesome rides on the calendar with more fun rides and things going on. We have an activities meeting in June, and we would love you to come and join us.

I am starting plans for our holiday parties. I am looking for someone to open up their home for our Christmas party, which is set for either December 9th or the 16th. I will finalize the date later. Please contact me and let me know.

Hope to see you all out riding.....with us on the next ride.



SECRETARY LAURA MAW

April had many great events both at the dealership, Riverside Harley Davidson and on Chapter rides. I hope you were able to make some of the events. We will be seeing many more events coming up in the month of May and June and I hope you will be able to come out and participate. We always have a great time.

A highlight for me in March was attending the Harley Officer's Training (HOT) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I rode with three great guys, that are hilarious, by the way, Mitch, Mick, and Dan. I'm thrilled to know such great guys. I learned that we have "No Boundaries" when it comes to riding. We are to ride and have fun with each other. In order to ride and have fun, we need to remember we all have a common interest and that is riding. We especially need to respect each other, help each other have a good time, and enjoy each other's company on rides. We may not agree with one another, and that's okay, but respect one another and be reminded that we're here to ride and have fun.

The month of May is especially important with West Coast Thunder. Sharon Bridges has spent countless hours planning and coordinating another fabulous event for the National Cemetery. I hope you have plans to attend and better yet, plan to help on that weekend to make this the best year yet.

One last thing I learned from HOT training is to make sure the news article is short and sweet and that is what I plan on doing!

Enjoy and have fun!!



SAFETY OFFICER WISHBONE RUSK



Skill is NOT Enough—Survival depends on the choices we make

With many years of experience on two wheels, I've faced innumerable 'tests' on the road and, thankfully, I've passed them all. That must sound like I've got super-human riding skills. I do not - and never did. My skills have never been greater than 'competent'. My opinion is that a competent rider has skills that are adequate to successfully deal with virtually any threat presented. But there are others out there who possess particular riding skills that are enormously better than mine ever were, and yet several of those others are likely to be involved in life-threatening accidents sooner or later. Why is that?

Let's get past the obvious - some accidents are truly unavoidable. Larry Grotzky was perhaps the world's best known motorcycle safety guru. No question that he knew what he was doing and that he behaved with safety foremost in his mind, yet at 55 years of age, while riding in Texas a couple of years ago, he died after colliding with a deer. It was not the result of rider errors or lack of skills. Every licensed motorcycle rider CAN apply their brakes and slow, or bring their motorcycles to a stop from any speed. They CAN shift gears. They CAN twist their right wrists in order to change speed. Those are only examples of fundamental skills.

Rider errors, the greatest cause of motorcycle accidents and the resulting injuries and deaths, are examples of DOING or NOT DOING something with skill. So, it might occur to you that the way you stay healthy while continuing to ride is to develop your skills through practice and by taking advanced riding classes to improve your knowledge and your riding skills.

In my opinion, merely being able to respond properly to any given threat is not enough - that is, having the skill to deal with a situation is important, but inadequate. Motorcycling is a hugely mental endeavor. Judgment and caution are not skills - they are mental strategies we use to stay safe out on the road.. Becoming skillful is primarily a muscle management ability that is obtained by practice. MASTERY is primarily a mental management ability that is obtained by simply making good choices.

It is not a throw away line to suggest that being a master at something involves being able to, but positioning yourself to never have to, demonstrate that mastery by using your expert judgment skills rather than your expert riding skills to stay safe out on the road.

Keep The Chrome Side Up

IE HOG CHAPTER MANAGER

JIM BRIDGES



Let's begin with welcoming all the newer members to the Inland Empire Harley Owners Group. What an ambitious and loyal group of bike enthusiasts that have actively jumped in, participated in the rides, social events including the bike nights at the dealership, we, thank you. It's easy to see that we have an amazing group of future leaders rising to maintain our reputation as the best HOG Chapter in Southern California.

Unfortunately, we sometimes forget that because many of us have been around for a while and some longer than that, we, the "old timers", have expressions, abbreviations and rules that we may not have shared or explained along the way to the newer members. It could be such simple things, as what does **KSU** mean? (Kick Stands Up) What is a **GAR**? (Get Acquainted Ride). When riding in a group, we usually ride in a staggered formation and all hand signals are to be passed on all the way to the last bike in the group. Please check out **IEHOG.com**. There is a section on terminology and road rules which also includes hand signals. Newer members may have questions like, what is the new password to get into the "**Members Only**" portion of our web page? Do you have the IE HOG app for your phones? If not, how do you put that on your phone? Where do I get the most updated information on the next group ride? Do not be afraid to ask questions. We were all new members at one time.

Also, there are things about our IE HOG Facebook page that everyone needs to know. For instance, please be aware that members are not allowed to sell items or advertise on this page. If you want to advertise your personal business, please give a business card to one of our IE HOG officers and for only \$30.00, your business card will appear in our bi-monthly newsletter for the next year. We want to keep the information on Facebook positive. Although we want to know if there is something negative in the Chapter, please bring it to one of the officers or to me. All negative information, comments and pictures, political or religious messages and advertisements will be deleted immediately by the site administrators.

A portion of your \$25 membership dues automatically goes into our Charity Fund, which is known by we, the old timers, as the **Drifter Fund**. Ask around and you will hear the heartfelt story of why it was named that. Each year, we solicit ideas from the membership as to which charity is deserving of our funds. Drifter was all about kids. So, in his honor, we donate to children's charities. Mostly because in the big world, our donation is small, we prefer to give it to a local children's oriented charity. Donating to a large national charity is great for headlines but our donation will get lost. Although we directly solicit the charity ideas early in the year, if you have an idea, again, please bring it to one of the Chapter officers.

Thank you, again, for all of the great participation and support. **KEEP RIDING SAFELY AND HAVING FUN!**

Jim Bridges,

IE HOG Chapter Manager
Riding Academy Manager
Riverside Harley-Davidson

WEST COAST THUNDER XVIII is just days away!

It's that wonderful season again ...West Coast Thunder time! When so many motorcycle enthusiasts come together on Memorial Day Monday to honor our fallen heroes. This year, West Coast Thunder's 18th year, we are proud to say that we have already given over \$800,000 to our sole benefactor, the Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee.

We want to thank the following people who helped to stuff 3,775 West Coast Thunder registration packets on Saturday, April 8th: Ted Worth, Kevin & Carol Marquis, Tom & Sherri Willison, Deborah Macias, Papa Duane Chamlee, Mitch & Debra Levine, Scott, Maria & Samantha Schaffer, Bill & Kathy Lassley, Todd & David Deveny, Kevin & Patty DeLawyer, Gary Kermoian, Dan Alexander, John & Dawn Clem, Jim & Marina Spicer, Brian & Kathy Bradford, Cory Smith, Mike & Patsy Hammer. If we missed anyone, we are very sorry because it takes all of you to help make West Coast Thunder successful each year. Thank each of you sincerely and we hope you enjoyed your annual pizza lunch.



So many people look forward to West Coast Thunder Memorial Day event each year. It takes well over 300 volunteers to put an event of this magnitude together, to plan and organize the details, to register the participants, put up and remove traffic signage and equipment, to help to stage the bikes before they depart the Riverside Harley-Davidson. We are very grateful for all this support and the dedication of our city officials, Riverside and Moreno Valley Police and the CHP who are so vital in helping to keep everyone safe.

Additionally, this year, we need some helpers to assist once the parade leaves. Please contact JD Wire, Dave Rusk, Jim Bridges, Bill Chamberlain or myself if you are not riding in the parade and can help move all the traffic equipment and clear Indiana Avenue quickly.

Not only does this huge event inspire motorcyclists but it has become a Memorial Day tradition for families and friends who bring their lawn chairs, posters and flags out to wave and salute as the parade passes their neighborhoods in Riverside and Moreno Valley and then go home to barbecue. We have even seen parties along the parade route including a bounce house for the kids. What a great way to teach our youngsters about patriotism and to honor our Veterans.

(West Coast Thunder cont.)

We hear wonderful stories at the WCT Registration desk each year and have spoken to many participants who attend West Coast Thunder year after year and they are proud to be able to name exactly the few years that they missed out of the past seventeen and ...they know the reasons why. Ron Courts, of Riverside, proudly says that he has missed only two WCT's and looks forward to show his respect for what Memorial Day is all about.



This year the tribute concert which is once again to be held at Soboba Casino's outdoor arena will begin with the West Coast Thunder Color Guard doing the colors and local singer, Michael Houston, known from THE VOICE, singing the National Anthem and a medley of patriotic songs. Next, the musical band, **LANco** who just performed at Stagecoach, will open the show. The WCT Color Guard will perform their emotional Ultimate Sacrifice Ceremony between sets and then the phenomenal, **Eli Young Band** will entertain the crowd in style.

Separate concert tickets may be purchased at the Riverside Harley-Davidson for \$30.00 each prior to May 29th. Day Of tickets will be sold at Soboba for \$40.00 each.

We hope to see you all there.

For more information and to register online please go to:

www.westcoastthunder.com



Sharon Shannon Bridges,
Executive Director
951-237-0593
Sharon.bridges@westcoastthunder.com

BLOOD DRIVE

KATHY BRADFORD

May 13, 2017 will be our next opportunity to give the gift of Life, meet at 8:30 at Denny's - 3530 Madison, Riverside for Breakfast, then a quick ride to LIfestream 4006 Van Buren, Riverside.



When's the last time you stopped to appreciate all the good stuff your blood does for you? Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood and more than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day, according to the American Red Cross. With World Blood Donor Day approaching in June that gives you more reason than ever to get out and donate. While giving blood should be all about helping those in need, there are a few things in it for you.

Your blood may flow better

"If blood has a high viscosity, or resistance to flow, it will flow like molasses," says Phillip DeChristopher, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Loyola University Health System blood bank. Repeated blood donations may help the blood flow in a way that's less damaging to the lining of the blood vessels and could result in fewer arterial blockages. That may explain why the [*American Journal of Epidemiology*](#) found that blood donors are 88% less likely to suffer a heart attack. It's not clear if there are lasting health benefits associated with better blood flow. "What is clear is that blood donors seem to not be hospitalized so often and if they are, they have shorter lengths of stay," Dr. DeChristopher says. "And they're less likely to get heart attacks, strokes, and cancers."

You'll get a mini check-up

Before you give blood, you'll first have to complete a quick physical that measures your temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and hemoglobin levels. After your blood is collected, it's sent off to a lab where it will undergo 13 different tests for infectious diseases, like HIV and West Nile virus. If anything comes back positive, you'll be notified immediately. The physical and blood tests are no reason to skip your annual doctor visit, but they're good for peace of mind. But you should never donate blood if you suspect you might actually be sick or have been exposed to HIV or another virus.

I AM HOG

BY JODI RIZZOTTO AND
SHERRI CROSSON

People can be brought together in many different ways. Lives can be intertwined through simple hobbies. Sherri Crosson was brought into the lives of many through her love of motorcycle riding. And through the adventures we faced in Death Valley, I got to know the young, free-spirited woman.

Sherri was immersed into the world of riding from a young age. She would often find herself on the back of her mother's or father's motorcycle, traveling unknown roads to unknown destinations. She would often find herself the only child at these destinations.

And even with the many years and butt miles packed into her childhood, Sherri didn't own a motorcycle of her own nor did she have her motorcycle license. Her brother would encourage her, as her children who would often ask why she always watched the bikes that would pass or imitate the roar of a passing engine. When her brother finally persuaded her to take a motorcycle class, he passed away suddenly, putting Sherri's dream on hold. But instead of knocking the passion out of her heart, it only encouraged her to ride more, in memory of her brother.

And so, Sherri enrolled in Jim Bridge's *Rider's Edge Course* for Mother's Day. With all women, something Bridge's will never do again- you can ask him why as I'm sure he would love to explain- Sherri passed the rigorous course and set out riding. When she was given her certificate, the overwhelming emotion of the bittersweet moment of living up to her promise to her fallen brother moved her to tears.

She then joined I.E. HOG, immersing herself into the tribe of new and veteran riders. Her first ride was a Moonlight Ride to Idyllwild, which she found to be a challenge as a brand new rider but whole heartedly took pride in completing. The ride taught her that she still had much to learn, especially on mountain roads.



(I AM HOG cont.)

As Sherri found herself falling completely into the world of Harley Davidson, she wanted more. And so, she became a motorcycle instructor. And with much encouragement from her supportive husband as well as a friend and fellow instructor, she enrolled in a riding academy. And with much shadowing and hard work, she achieved this dream. The most rewarding part, she says, is seeing the smile on her students faces when they finally get "it." And is it hard being an instructor? It's a mental process in which she can't give her new riders overwhelming information but enough for them to understand. It's a delicate yet rewarding process. It's hard telling a student they must repeat the class at the end of the day, but it's worth it to help another follow their dreams.

And do her children follow in her footsteps? Her son, now twenty-three, has been riding for three years now. Her daughter plans to ride after she has more driving experience, but she is often seen throwing her leg over the back of her mother's bike.

And as I asked her for her final words of wisdom as we wrapped up our conversation, Sherri said riders need to learn how to look with their eyes at where they are going, or it will strip them of visual control when they do not. It's looking with every part of you, your eyes and nose to point into the direction they are going in turns and everywhere else on the road. Riders need to practice their skills- such as the lifesaving skills of swerving, quick stops, and cornering- as with practice, they will become automatic when you need them most.

So if you want to spend time with someone who loves riding and passing on her love of Harley, pull up next to Sherri on the next ride and be inspired.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Lemon Bars at Dante's Peak



As I savored the sweet tanginess of my lemon bar, I looked over the edge of Dante's Peak into the vast expanse of Death Valley. I shivered in the icy wind, despite the sun beating down on us. The Inland Empire HOGs were taking a much-needed break before zigzagging down the narrow road back down to Furnace Springs.

As I finished my treat, I looked around at the diverse group of travelers that had led my husband and me out of suburban Riverside and into the remnants of the Wild West. We were surrounded by businessmen, teachers, and salespeople, as well as a man who was a talented baker. There were wives who rode behind their husbands, as well as wives who rode their own Harleys. This journey drew us together as teammates and family, cowboys and cowgals gathered together at the campfire.

Bad Water Basin spread out before us, a still white lake surrounded by a multi-colored tapestry of minerals. Death Valley in winter seemed tame, but the blasted barren ground spoke of summer's inferno only a few months away. We took pictures, chugged water, and huddled together to talk.

At a signal, helmets were buckled, engines roared, and the bikes lined up single file to gently roll down the hill to the open road. The bikes descended like sure-footed burros and soon we left the lookout point far behind.

How could I have noticed the rugged stripes of crumbling rock walls from inside the confines of a car? How could I have welcomed the sun's warmth on my face inside a temperature controlled vehicle? Only a Harley trip can bring you face to face with the same West that challenged forty-niners to gamble their lives to reach their dreams of gold.

Who would expect homemade baked goods on a motorcycle trip?

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
April 30	9:00 a.m.	Perris Sky Dive Cafe	RHD
May 6	9:00 a.m.	Black Sheep Breakfast	Original Pancake House
May 11	7:00 p.m. (Tacos 5:30)	Chapter Meeting	Elks Lodge
May 13	8:30 a.m.	Blood Drive	Denny's on Madison
May 20	5:00 p.m.	Dinner Ride to Luna's	RHD
May 27	TBD	West Coast Thunder Poker Run	RHD
May 29	Early (See registration information)	West Coast Thunder	RHD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April

Julie Birchfield 4/2
 James Bowles 4/3
 Jeanette Baugh 4/5
 Sean Schoeppner 4/7
 Kevin Marquis 4/13
 Darryl Holder 4/15
 Ted (PITA) Padilla 4/19
 Chris Robbins 4/21
 Debra Causey 4/29



May

Laura Maw 5/15
 Diane Hoyt 5/19
 Debi Tuiolosega 5/24
 Rod Watson 5/25





A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

If you want to have your business card included in The Handlebar Star, contact Kevin Marquis for more details.

**Sharon
Shannon
Bridges**
BROKER/REALTOR®

(951) 237-0593
sharonbridges@sbcglobal.net
CA DRE # 01263739

REO CDPE SFR
CERTIFIED DISTRESSED PROPERTY EXPERT
SHORT SALES & FORECLOSURE RESOURCE

BRIDGES
Bridging the Gap Between Dreams and Ownership!

West Coast Thunder
MEMORIAL DAY
Bike Run

Sharon Shannon Bridges
Executive Director
Sharon.Bridges@westcoastthunder.com

7688 Indiana Ave. Riverside, CA 92504
Cell (951) 237-0593
www.westcoastthunder.com

2016 IE HOG OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS:

Director	MITCH LAVINE
Assistant Director	MICK HAMMER
Secretary	LAURA MAW
Treasurer	KEVIN MARQUIS
Ladies of Harley	LYNELL WELLER
Head Road Captain	DAN ALEXANDER
Immediate Past Director	DAVE RUSK

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Activities	PATSY MATA-HAMMER
Blood Drive	KATHY BRADFORD
Chapter Historian	JIM SPICER
Chapter Photographer	MARINA SPICER
Media Officer	SEAN SCHOEPPNER
Membership	BOB KIRK & MARIA SCHAEFFER
Newsletter Editor	JODI RIZZOTTO
Safety Officer	WISHBONE RUSK
Sergeant-at-Arms	SCOTT SCHAEFFER & CHUCK BAUGH
Riverside H-D Chapter Manager	JIM BRIDGES