

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



DECEMBER/JANUARY

2019-2020



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Chapter Meeting & Social

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

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.

I first want to thank you for choosing me to be your director for 2020. It is an honor to serve you. I also want to thank our new primary officers, Mitch Lavine as your assistant director, Monika Staub as your returning treasurer, and Jodi Rizzotto our new secretary. I would also like to take this time to officially announce our great group of appointed officers, starting with our returning road captain Tom "T Rex" Willison along with his supportive wife Sherri Willison as our returning activities director. Our past secretary Jennifer will be heading up our Ladies of Harley Group this year and I am happy to announce that Kathy Bradford has volunteered to again wrangle us to donate blood as our blood drive coordinator. Our safety officer this year is going to be our past sergeant-at-arms Robert Brown. Thank you all for stepping up and taking on the new challenges that are sure to present themselves in 2020. I want to also give a great big thank you to the following members that have volunteered to take on the responsibility of filling out our leadership team. Geoff Thorne will be our new membership officer; Dennis Palmer will be our media officer. Erika Rosignolo has volunteered to be our newsletter editor and Mr. Greg "U Turn" Peek has stepped up to be our 2020 sergeant-at-arms. Thank you all for volunteering to make 2020 the best year it can be. I also want to thank all of last years' officers. 2019 was a great year thanks to your hard work and dedication to your follow members.

I would also like to let you all know that this article is being written on the first full day of retirement. Which means not only will I be driving Patsy nuts, I will be free to spend more time on chapter business. Please if you all feel so inclined pray for Patsy to have patience. It is greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to 2020 being a great year of riding and having fun and hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

[illegible]

Asst. Director Mitch Lavine



As 2019 comes to a close, it's been over 16 years that I have been a member of the I.E.HOG group.

I look back at some of the great friendships I have made and all the great folks that I have meet.

I am truly blessed to be part of this group.

There have been so many epic rides over the years, I have put on well over 150,000.00 miles on my bikes since I joined the group. We are lucky to have a group of people that love to ride and explore the open road. And all of this could not be possible without the support and backing of our dealership Riverside Harley Davidson. They do so much for us throughout the year including donating over \$500.00 towards gifts for the Christmas party.

Thank you to all of those who have stepped up as officers over the last few years and to those who have volunteered for this year. The chapter could not function without all of your help.

We are all about riding and having fun.

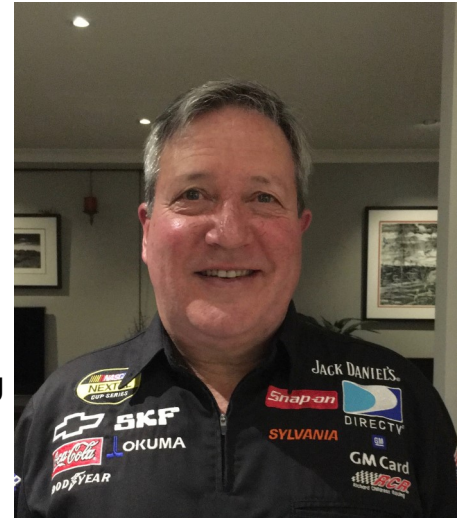
Make sure to come on out for the next activates meeting on Friday, January 24th.

If you can't make it, pass on your ride list to one of the officers, and we will present it at the meeting. We are always looking for new adventures. Not all rides will be placed on the calendar. We only have so many weekends to ride. But our director who is retired and for the most part unemployed wants to start planning rides during the week. I'm so jealous. We want to continue with our great overnight rides. There are so many great places to see within a 2 to 4 day ride from Riverside. There's no reason we can't plan longer rides as long as we have a road captain. We also want to do some pop up rides during the year. Just post it on Facebook with the date and time and road captain and let's get out there and enjoy the southern California weather.

I hope to see more of you at the meetings and rides. Step out of your comfort zone and join us for a ride and remember why you bought your bike. I hope it wasn't to take up space in your garage, but rather to hit the open road and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air.

Membership

Geoff Thorn



Hello everyone, I would like to start off by introducing myself. I am originally from Melbourne, Australia and moved here with my wife, Birgit, two years ago. I started riding road bikes back in 2008, so I would be used to riding before getting onto a bigger bike. I shipped a 2006 Ultra Classic from California to Melbourne in 2009, and joined the Melbourne HOGs. I rode that bike for 9 years and clocked up over 80 thousand kilometers riding through the beautiful country side of Australia and making great friends.

My first experience with the Inland Empire HOGs was when I was visiting California with my wife in 2016, I reached out to the Chapter Director, Mitch Lavine, who was kind enough to invite us to their annual Halloween party. We were made to feel very welcome and had an absolutely wonderful time with everyone. When we moved here in 2018, the first priority was to buy a new bike and then join the Inland Empire HOGs.

Our move from Australia came with many challenges, to say the least. The Inland Empire Chapter members have made us feel at home and were very supportive. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone for being so welcoming and kind. We are truly blessed to be part of such an amazing chapter. I have now clocked up 15,000 miles on my new bike since arriving here, it should be more, I know! I have seen some amazing places and formed some great friendships.

I want to be a contributing member to the chapter and have decided to take on the role of 'Membership Officer'. I enjoy meeting people, I am always interested to learn about their life experiences, especially their riding background, and I look forward to sharing my wonderful experiences with potential new members.

As of November 2019, our membership was at 136. We had a new member, Alejandro Aguirre join the chapter in December. He bought a new sportster and received his free membership from the Riverside Harley-Davidson dealership.

As a reminder, membership renewals for 2020 are due.

Renewals should be dated 1-1-2020.

Please send me an email at geoffthorn1@gmail.com if you need a membership form. Forms can also be picked up at the Riverside Harley Dealer.

Blood Drive

Kathy Bradford



BE THE ONE TO SAVE A LIFE

The last donation date for 2019 is 12-28-19.

The first donation date for 2020 is 02-20-20.

On Dec 28, 2019 and Feb 20, 2020, I will be at Denny's – 3530 Madison St. Rvsd at 8:30am for breakfast.

Afterwards we are going to LifeStream, located at 4006 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside.

It is best to make an appointment to avoid any type of crowd there – please call them directly at 951-687-2530 or 800-879-4484 and remember the group name when you donate is:

MHOG, (which we must tell them every time.)



From the Editor's Desk

Jodi Rizzotto



This is a fictional story based on many rides to Borrego Springs:

It was a cold, sunless day, and she should be at home, cuddled up in front of their fireplace with a book. Instead, Zion zipped up in her leather jacket, neck gaiter pulled up over her chin, and lined up in the dealership parking lot, waiting for the HOG ride to begin. Her husband, Ron, rode behind her, a loving reminder he always had her back. There were eight other shivering people with them. At least their destination was the desert where it should be warmer.

The road captain pulled out and the obedient pack followed. Zion's visor was up so the icy wind slapped her cheeks, making her more alive. It had been hard getting up this morning, to leave their blanketed bed. Of course, Ron had been up making coffee and checking the tires on their bikes. With a groan, she had flipped back the covers, and joined him.

Down main roads surrounded by traffic they rode, seeking an exit from the solemn grey city. The group poured onto the freeway, patiently passing through the maze of trucks and cars until they emerged, group intact, in the fast lane. Even on a Saturday morning, the traffic was heavy. Where could all these people be going? Envious drivers glared as the line of bikes passed their vehicles.

There were other things she should be doing right now. The kitchen floor needed to be mopped, there were papers to grade for school, cookies to be baked for the potluck next week. For those reasons, she needed this interlude. Riding her Harley balanced out the hectic parts of her life.

How did she get here, riding her own Harley? For years, she had ridden behind Ron, taking pictures of the amazing places they rode. Other female riders would ask her when she would get her own bike. It seemed like an impossible dream back then. She had no experience riding motorcycles. It was expensive enough to own one Harley. But small steps and practice brought her here, and now she rode confidently with the group. She couldn't have done it without Ron cheering her on.

When they exited the freeway, they had to traverse another busy city to reach the backcountry they sought. Endless traffic lights and cars separated their line. Finally, the road narrowed into a two-lane highway that dodged between the rocky hills. She shook out her shoulders and settled into the ride.

The hills around them wore boulders like toys tossed from a giant's toy box. Stubborn oak trees and scraggly bushes clung to underground water while rows of grapevines hoped for irrigation. This was a wild place where only the determined could dwell.

From the Editor's Desk (cont.)

The Harleys danced the curves, following their leader into a windswept valley high in the mountains. An intersection appeared to the left, and they turned, heading toward the desert. This docile, almost straight road gave no hint of the daring drop off into Montezuma Valley that still awaited them. Ron and she had been on this road many times, but today would be the first time on her bike.

Before they dove down, the group pulled over at the scenic overlook for a break and pictures. Sitting on the stone wall, Zion took a selfie with Ron, the vast brown checkered desert behind them. Don took out fresh baked oatmeal cookies that he shared with everyone.

It was time to leave. From the pullout, she couldn't see the road, but she knew it was there. An ominous sign with squiggles and an arrow announced their path. Ron gave her a kiss and she fastened on her helmet. This was her challenge. In the company of her husband and friends, she would take on this mountain and win.

Carefully they pulled out from the gravel to the main road. Zion followed the bike in front of her, matching turn for turn, not looking over the sheer drop to the right. Back and forth, the road descended into the desert, the road sidestepping its way to the bottom. Sheer white rock formed a wall to their left, cracked and carved into sculpture.

Their roller coaster ride slowed down when the group caught up with a cautious car that followed all the speed limit signs. Zion kept her distance from the bike in front of her, executing her turns as practiced. An overwhelming sense of joy settled over her. In this moment, on this mountain, she was one with the road.

With one more turn, the road spit them out onto the flat desert. The car they'd been following turned off at an RV park, and they were free once more. In her mirror, Zion saw Ron give her a thumbs up. Facing her fears, she had danced with the mountain and not stumbled.

Whatever she dealt with for the rest of the week, she could always look back on this moment and smile.



San Simeon Overnighter



Day Rides Borrego Springs



Day Rides- Joshua Tree

Dinner Ride- Los Vaqueros



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Also look for weekly email blasts for updates and changes

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION	MEETING PLACE
Dec. 21	8:30 a.m.	Palm Springs- Sherman's Deli	RHD
Dec. 28	8:30 a.m.	Blood Drive	Denny's on Madison for breakfast first
Jan. 4	9:00 a.m.	Black Sheep Breakfast- Ride after to Hideout	Moreno Valley Elks Lodge
Jan. 5	10:00 a.m.	Lake Ellsinore- Stadium Pizza	RHD
Jan. 9	7:00 p.m.	Chapter Meeting	Riverside Elks Lodge Tacos start at 6:00 p.m.
Jan. 11	8:00 a.m.	Polar Bear Ride- Salton Sea	RHD
Jan. 24	6:00 p.m.	Activities Meeting	Tom and Sherri's home
Jan. 26	9:00 a.m.	Long Beach- Shenanigans	RHD

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If we missed your birthday, please notify the editor to be added to the birthday list.

December

John Lanthripp 12/4
Chuck Coulter 12/5
David Braly 12/7
Mick Hammer 12/11
Marney Peek 12/11
Yvonne Lanthripp 12/15
Mitch Lavine 12/16
Paul Friedt 12/19
Dave Rusk 12/19
Gene Hall 12/25
Jennifer Carter 12/31



January

Monika Staub 1/3
Donna Braly 1/9
Kathy Bradford 1/10
Carol Marquis 1/10
Earl Russell 1/14
Rick Angle 1/15

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2020 IE HOG OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS:

Director	MICK HAMMER
Assistant Director	MITCH LAVINE
Secretary	JODI RIZZOTTO
Treasurer	MONIKA STAUB
Ladies of Harley	JENNIFER CARTER
Head Road Captain	TOM WILLISON
Immediate Past Director	MITCH LAVINE

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Activities	SHERRI WILLISON
Blood Drive	KATHY BRADFORD
Chapter Photographer	ERICA ROSIGNOLO
Media Officer	DENNIS PALMER
Membership	GEOFF THORN
Newsletter Editor	ERICA ROSIGNOLO
Safety Officer	ROBERT BROWN
Sergeant-at-Arms	GREG PEEK
WEBMASTER	OPEN