

# WELCOME PACKET



## CHAPTER 4034

*Promote the Harley-Davidson lifestyle of riding, having fun, camaraderie and friendship, responsible motorcycling and a positive relationship between the chapter, sponsor and community.*

***Our Motto? Ride and Have Fun!***

The Harley Owners Group® is more than a motorcycle organization. It's over 1,000,000 people around the world united by a common passion: making Harley-Davidson® a way of life!

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## 1. Welcome Note from the Director

Welcome to the Central Texas Harley Owners Group! As Director of the group it is my pleasure to welcome you to the family, and to invite you to participate in the chapter meetings, the weekly rides, and the awesome events that our chapter enjoys on a monthly basis. Our HOG chapter is a riding chapter – we plan and enjoy day rides just about every weekend, weather permitting, and schedule overnight trips during the peak riding seasons that provide an excellent opportunity for the members to get to know each other and enjoy the camaraderie of the chapter. We promote safety to the greatest degree possible, and seek to provide an enjoyable experience for all CTHOG members.



This guide provides a brief introduction to the Chapter, and is intended to help ease you into the process of becoming an active CTHOG member. I hope you will find it useful, and look forward to getting to know you. Thank you for your involvement in our chapter, and Safe Riding!

## 2. Introduction

The Harley Owners Group® (H.O.G.®) is an organization founded and sponsored by Harley-Davidson Motor Company. The Group was established to offer motorcycling benefits and services to Harley-Davidson® enthusiasts throughout the world, and to develop a close relationship between the Harley-Davidson® rider, the Harley-Davidson® Dealership / Retail Store, and Harley-Davidson Motor Company. The opportunity for an authorized Harley-Davidson® Dealership / Harley-Davidson® Retail Store to start an independent Chapter affiliated with the Harley Owners Group® is offered to bring members together for the common interest of promoting motorcycling activities. As a benefit of membership, a H.O.G.® member may join any chartered H.O.G.® Chapter. The intent of the Chapter is to “Ride and Have Fun” with like-minded individuals who have a passion for riding Harley Davidson® motorcycles and the Harley-Davidson® brand. The Chapter shall be a family-oriented, non-political and nonreligious organization.



The Central Texas Harley Owners Group (CTHOG) is affiliated with Central Texas Harley Davidson (CTHD) located in Round Rock, Texas. The dealership supports CTHOG in many ways, and asks only that the CTHOG members support CTHD by purchasing parts, supplies, and service from CTHD, supporting CTHD dealership events periodically, and promoting CTHD to other Harley owners for parts and service. This symbiotic relationship should be mutually beneficial if it is to continue.

### 3. Social Media Presence

CTHOG maintains an active social media presence through the chapter web page and a chapter Facebook page. The chapter web page address is [www.cthog.org](http://www.cthog.org). **This web page should be your primary source of information for all things CTHOG-related**, and this guide will reference it as the primary resource for all CTHOG members. Over time programs, officers, and resources will change, be added to, or be removed. The web page will be as up-to-date as is reasonably possible. Other sources of information, including this Guide may not be as current, and should be considered a secondary source of information.

CTHOG web page contents include (but are not limited to):

- Account and My Page Access – Once you have created an account, this page will provide you access to your current ride list, mailing information, and profile. The chapter uses this information to contact you, and it should be current and complete.
- Calendar – This page provides a monthly summary of rides and events.
- Photographs – This page provides an opportunity to view and download photographs taken during CTHOG rides and events.
- Officer and Road Captain Information – Contact information for CTHOG officers and road captains is provided for reference as needed.
- Ride Support Information
  - Departure maps – Maps are provided showing the departure locations for CTHOG rides.
  - CTHOG hotline – On the calendar page a phone number is provided to check on the status of planned rides.
  - Ride Matrix – This is an excellent guide to help you determine which rides you should attempt. Every ride is labeled with a Ride Level, and this document describes what those levels entail. Use the Ride matrix to help you determine which rides are best suited to your level of experience and currency.
- Access to Chapter Newsletters and other Useful Information – The Downloads page provides access to Chapter newsletters and other information you may wish to download and read.

CTHOG also maintains a Facebook page where members can see and comment on items of interest to the group. This page may be found at [www.facebook.com/CTHOG/](http://www.facebook.com/CTHOG/).





#### 4. Newsletter



In addition to the social media presence, one of the main ways CTHOG distributes information is through a monthly email Newsletter called the Spoke'n Word. The newsletter provides information of interest to all chapter members, publicizes upcoming events, and reports on things newsworthy events from the previous month. Newsletter sections include the Directors Cut, the RC Corner, the Safety Corner, the Ladies of Harley column, the Ride Calendar, and information about specific rides. Past editions of newsletters in PDF format are available under the *Downloads* tab on the CTHOG web page.

#### 5. Officers and Road Captains

CTHOG officers run the business of the Chapter, and donate their time in an effort to provide an organized and enjoyable experience for the membership. Officer positions are typically on a two-year term, and terms may be renewed as long as the officer desires to continue to serve and is meeting the commitments of the position. Officers are selected from the membership. Candidates are those members who actively participate in chapter rides and events, are willing to donate the time required to perform the position functions, and who have supported CTHD with their patronage. Officers may be identified by rockers (arch-shaped patches) they wear denoting their officer position.

A list of the Officer positions is shown below. Current officers and email addresses are available on the CTHOG web page ([www.cthog.org](http://www.cthog.org)).

##### Primary Officers

- Director
- Assistant director
- Treasurer
- Secretary

##### Discretionary Officers

- Activities Officer
- Ladies of Harley Officer
- Head Road Captain
- Newsletter Editor
- Safety Officer
- Social Media Officer
- Membership Officer
- Webmaster

CTHOG Road Captains work under the direction of the Head Road Captain to plan and organize CTHOG rides. Duties typically include (but are not limited to):

- Documentation of ride attendees to ensure that each rider and passenger receive proper ride credits.
- Make sure that non-members sign waiver forms to protect the chapter.
- Pre-ride routes and assign ride levels in accordance with the Ride Level Matrix so that the membership have an idea about the difficulty of each ride.

- Conduct pre-ride briefings to review the route, hand signals, and other key information for safe group riding.

In general the Road Captains work to make sure that rides are as safe as reasonably possible and enjoyable for the ride participants. Road Captains may be identified by rockers they wear.

## 6. Chapter meetings

CTHOG chapter meetings are held at 10:00 am the third Saturday of every month except December, when the chapter breaks to avoid conflict with Christmas Holidays. The meetings are held in the Hog Pen, upstairs at CTHD. Please refer to the CTHOG Calendar at [cthog.org/calendar](http://cthog.org/calendar) to confirm dates and details about all CTHOG planned activities. A typical meeting allows an opportunity to discuss upcoming events, recognize new members, recognize rider awards, discuss LOH activities, and discuss safety practices. Frequently the dealership will introduce staff to the membership, and advertise specials only available to the CTHOG membership for that day. CTHOG members can also promote their own rides to the group, offering a wide variety of ride options.

Meetings are a great way to catch up with friends and chapter business, and pick up those items you need all at the same time. Chapter meetings are followed by a General Meeting (GM) ride for lunch (weather permitting).

## 7. Chapter Rides

The CTHOG chapter is a riding chapter. Our primary purpose is to ride and have fun. Please refer to the CTHOG calendar on the CTHOG web page for the most up to date schedule of rides. All rides occur weather and conditions permitting, and are subject to cancellation by the road captains if necessary. The CTHOG hotline (number on the web page above the calendar) provides up-to-date information about the rides, as does the calendar. Rides will generally fall into about four different types:



- a) GM Rides – These immediately follow the general meeting, and are short lunch rides. Ride distance tends to be less than 100 miles total.
- b) Orientation rides – These rides are intended for newer riders and include a more detailed pre-ride briefing in which safe group riding techniques are discussed. The route is typically short and non-challenging so that new riders can practice group riding skills. Ride distance will be less than 100 miles.
- c) Day rides – Just about every Saturday and Sunday during the year, and on certain other special occasions CTHOG will have day rides to various eating establishments within reasonable distance of Austin. Ride distances can be up to

about 250 miles and road types may vary from straight to curvy, slow to fast. Riders should pay close attention to the Ride Level Matrix to ensure their skill level and currency support the planned ride level.

- d) Overnight rides – These rides vary from 1 to more nights out of town, and are by far the best way to really get to know the CTHOG group. Favorites during the year might include the Big Bend Ride, the Twisted Sisters Ride, and the San Antonio Ride, but there are typically about twelve to choose from during the year. Overnight rides may require more preparation for inclement weather or variable road conditions, and careful consideration should be given to preparation. Talk to CTHOG members, road captains, or officers if you have any questions about going on overnight rides with the group.

## 8. CTHOG Ride Patches

It won't take long for you to notice that many of the members wear vests, and those vests are adorned with lots of pins and patches. The CTHOG group loves patches, and use them to commemorate such things as longevity, participation, and specific rides. While this is subject to change a partial list of patches you might see includes:

- a) “The Riders” Patch – Commemorates participation in chapter rides, and is a yellow and black rocker that may have stars under it. “The Riders” patch is awarded to members who participate in 10 or more chapter rides with a combined total of 1200 miles or more in one calendar year. The first year the member receives the rocker and a star, and each year the member accomplishes the goal an additional gold star is awarded. If the member achieves one but not the other a silver star is awarded.
- b) Longevity Patch – CTHOG commemorates longevity by awarding patches recognizing every other year of chapter membership. Member patches are awarded on odd year anniversaries.
- c) Special Ride patches – Many of the overnight rides are commemorated by patches, including the Riders Ride, the Twisted Sisters ride, and the Big Bend Ride. These patches are fun reminders of the great times on overnight rides.

## 9. Ladies of Harley (LOH)



LOH is a program sponsored by HOG to support women motorcycle enthusiasts. This is not a separate group; it's another benefit of HOG. The CTHD LOH is an extremely active group of riders, passengers, and enthusiasts alike who are passionate about the lifestyle and the chapter camaraderie. The LOH meets the second Tuesday of each month to plan activities and conduct their business. More information is available on the CTHOG web page under the *LOH* tab.

## 10. Chapter Benefits

Probably the best benefit of being a CTHOG member is the camaraderie of the membership. The men and women of CTHOG support each other like a strong family, and are always willing to help or provide guidance.



The CTHOG group maintains a ride calendar with over 100 day rides and numerous overnight rides every year. This is why we bought our bikes, to ride them, and having a dedicated group to ride with makes it that much more enjoyable. The group also enjoys many non-riding events throughout the year, including picnics, parties, wine tasting, bowling, baseball games, and other member-led activities.

Some of the benefits of being a CTHOG member come directly from the dealership who supports us. Please understand that these benefits represent monetary commitment on the part of CTHD, and all that is asked in return is that we are good ambassadors for the dealership. Keep this in mind, because benefits will only remain if they are considered mutually beneficial.

One such benefit of membership is the special deals frequently offered to CTHOG members. Special discounted prices on parts, service, and merchandise may be announced at the beginning of chapter meetings, and are only available to members present that day. Throughout the year the dealership may also have special events only for CTHOG members, like opportunities to ride demo bikes, or special sales events.

As another way to show its appreciation for being loyal patrons of the dealership, CTHD offers a 50% increase in loyalty points to current/active CTHOG members. For each dollar spent at the dealership a CTHOG member accrues 1.5 loyalty points. It is the CTHOG member responsibility to advise the sales person that you are a HOG member, and you may be asked to show your Chapter (not National) membership card to confirm a current local membership. Once confirmed, points are added to your account via the purchasing process. Certain restrictions apply. This program is offered by the dealership and may be changed or discontinued at the discretion of the dealership. For specific information about the CTHD rewards program, go to the CTHD web page at [www.centraltexasharley.com](http://www.centraltexasharley.com), click on the #CTHD@Nation tab, Reward Program subtab.

And remember, **benefits are subject to change without notice.** They are expressions of appreciation, not endowments.