



NEWSLETTER

HOUSTON AREA #1 H.O.G. CHAPTER

Fall 2026



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A Houston AREA #1 H.O.G. Chapter Fundraiser

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Sheri at the front desk of the Mancuso Harley-Davidson Crossroads dealership. Scan the QR to pay by credit card. *Please specify if you want your tickets mailed or you will pick up.* Do not need to be present to win



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

4 Houston AREA #1 H.O.G.
Chapter Officers - 2026

4 Houston AREA #1
Chapter Communications

5 Cajun Rally Fun

6 A Message From Your
Activities Officer

7 Play Ball! Houston AREA #1
and The Space Cowboys

8 2026 Second Quarter
Mileage Report

9 Being Cool on Your Bike

10 The Importance of
Safety Gear

11 Calling All Ladies

12 A Sailor's Funeral

14 Remembering Greg Melius

12 Do You Know?

ON THE COVER: Jo and Daniel Protz,
Paula Inman, and Paul Kent rode the
scenic highways of Alaska on a three
day trip earlier this summer.

Photo by Daniel Protz

The Houston AREA #1 H.O.G. newsletter
is published quarterly for its members.
We encourage all members to send
articles and photos to be published.

Please email your articles and high-
resolution jpg photos to
editorhoustonarea1@gmail.com
by the newsletter deadline for the
upcoming issue.

The newsletter deadline for:
Winter 2026 Issue is September 28



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Houston AREA #1 Chapter *Communications*

The Houston AREA #1 H.O.G. Chapter uses many ways to communicate information to its members. The following forums provide different topics that are valuable to Chapter participation:

Facebook – Our main connection for member communication is via Facebook. It is interactive (members can post), and features the latest rides, events, activities, polls, and pictures. Facebook is not connected to our website or the HOGScan App.

Public: <https://www.facebook.com/HoustonArea1Chapter>

Private/Interactive: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/area1hog>

Website – The website includes the calendar, event details, pictures, newsletters, Ride Challenge information, officers and their email addresses, road captains, L.O.H., and your account information. You can also RSVP for rides and events which greatly helps the road captains and membership get you checked in and points recorded.

(<https://www.area1hog.com>)

Instagram – The Chapter's Instagram includes pictures and videos from Chapter events

https://www.instagram.com/houston_area1_hog_chapter_5255

HOGScan App – HOGScan provides information on Chapter rides, meetings, and events and is connected to our website calendar. Members can RSVP for rides and events. Besides detailed information and route links, this app is used to check in members so their points get recorded.

eBlast emails – Weekly and weekend emails are sent to Chapter members containing ride and event detailed information. This also includes the route link (used with the H-D Ride Planner app) and an RSVP link that sends you to the website calendar entry to RSVP (you can also RSVP on the HOGScan app).

Newsletters – This is a printed magazine containing Chapter articles and pictures. The newsletter is printed quarterly and is also accessible via the website.

Monthly Chapter Meetings – First Saturday of every month (except November and December).

*Dennis 'Master Mac' McHenry,
Webmaster/Social Media Officer*

To learn more about Houston AREA #1
scan, like, and follow the links below!



Website



Facebook

Cajun Rally Fun!

We had a fun Chapter event at the Harley-Davidson Cajun H.O.G. Rally in Lafayette, Louisiana on April 16 through 19. We checked in at Cajun H-D and learned it was more of a “ride on your own” event with some planned routes, not really an event at the dealership. We went on some fun rides and planned some additional fun attractions, including a ride to the Lynyrd Skynyrd Memorial in Mississippi and a ride on a ferry. But I have to say one of the best parts of the trip was planned by David Calvert when we went on the McGee’s Swamp Tour to see the alligators. Jo Protz got so excited she almost jumped out of the boat and Jeremy Cale had to be convinced to go but ended up having a great time.

Now let’s talk about those alligators!! Our guide, Skip, was so great, he knew exactly where to go and actually had names for every alligator. He had food for them so they came right up to the boat. Because they were so used to being fed, I decided it would be great to lean over the boat and film them. I wish you could see the video and hear me scream because one jumped up and almost ate me!! Then another one figured he didn’t get me so he tried to get Mickey!! It was terrifying but such a blast!! To leave McGee’s we had to get back up and down this *huge* gravel driveway over the levee which was an adventure in itself.

I have to say the absolute best part of the trip was just hanging out at the hotel at the end of the day and visiting with Jeremy, Cindy, David, Donna, and Mickey. We learned so much about each other. You have to join us on the next trip, you never know what adventures and stories you will leave with!!

Melinda Stavinhoa, L.O.H. Assistant



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A Message from Your *Activities* Officer



UPCOMING EVENTS

Lake Life, Great Rides, and Giving Back

As we head into the fall riding season, there are two exciting events on the calendar that offer great opportunities to enjoy time with fellow riders, create lasting memories, and support a worthy cause.

relax, and enjoy the ride. At the end of the run, riders will have the chance to see who holds the winning hand and takes home the top prizes.

Come test your luck, ride some great roads, and enjoy a fun-filled day of camaraderie with fellow members. Whether you're in it to win big or simply enjoy the journey, there's something for everyone.

Play Big. Ride Big. Win Big.

Don't miss this annual tradition as we come together to support a great cause while enjoying everything we love most—motorcycles, friendship, and the open road.

We hope to see everyone at both events as we continue making memories, strengthening friendships, and supporting our community.

Cheers!

Your Activities Officer, Justine Wilkerson

Labor Day Weekend Getaway at Lake Conroe September 5–7, 2026

Join us for a fun-filled Labor Day weekend stay at The Landing at Seven Coves, located at 7031 Kingston Cove Lane, Willis, TX 77318.

We'll be enjoying a relaxing weekend on the water with great company, beautiful lake views, and plenty of time to unwind together. Whether you're looking to relax by the lake, spend time with other members, or simply enjoy a weekend away, this getaway offers the perfect setting.

One of the highlights of the weekend will be dinner at The Wave Restaurant, where attendees can enjoy great food, waterfront views, and an evening of relaxation. It's the perfect opportunity to gather with friends, and enjoy everything Lake Conroe has to offer.

We look forward to spending the holiday weekend together and making memories that will last.

Annual Fall Fun Run September 26, 2026

Get ready for one of our most anticipated events of the year—our Annual Fall Fun Run!

This well-attended event brings together riders from across the area for a day filled with great roads, great friends, and great fun. The Fall Fun Run is more than just a ride; it's an opportunity to support an incredible cause. Proceeds raised during the event benefit Ride for Kids and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, helping fund research and support programs for children and families affected by pediatric brain tumors.

Participants will enjoy multiple stops at local watering holes along the route, providing plenty of opportunities to socialize,

Save These Dates!

HERE IS WHAT'S COMING UP AT HOUSTON AREA #1 H.O.G.:

August 1 Chapter Meeting
August 2 L.O.H. Pool Party
August 14 Dinner and Bingo Night
August 15 Bikes and Burgers
September 5 Chapter Meeting
September 5-7 Labor Day Weekend Bash
September 9-12 National H.O.G. Rally
September 18-20 L.O.H. Beach Weekend
September 26 Ride For Kids Fun Run
October 3 Chapter Meeting

Come Ride with Us!

These are just a few of the rides and events planned for this summer.

For more information visit our website at
www.area1hog.com

Play Ball! Houston AREA #1 and the Space Cowboys

Our Chapter had a great time at the Space Cowboys game, enjoying an evening filled with baseball, Chihuahuas, and great company. It was the perfect chance to relax, catch up with fellow members, and make new memories together. The ballpark atmosphere made for a fun and exciting night. Events like this remind us that the friendships we build are just as important as the miles we ride. Thank you to everyone who came out and made the evening a success. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next chapter event!

*Justine Wilkerson,
Activities Officer*



HOUSTON AREA #1 H.O.G. CHAPTER 2026 SECOND QUARTER MILEAGE REPORT

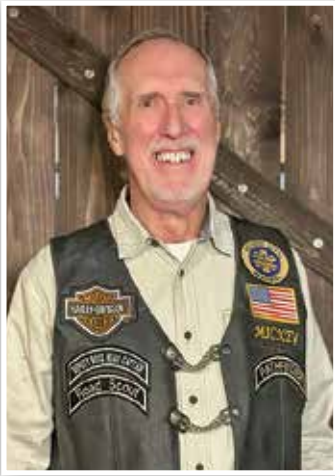


Encouraging Chapter Members To Ride A Lot!

Members Reporting Mileage This Quarter 57

Total Miles Ridden For The Quarter 140,625

Ken Baird..... 5,001	Timothy Fritch1,373	David Plachy 1,484
Steve Bosser..... 78	Karla Garrett..... 3,037	Kathleen Plumley 630
Matthew Britt.....1,207	Earl Hamilton..... 3,007	Daniel Protz.....9,957
Daniel Buck1,992	Traci Haworth..... 724	Jo Protz 13,544
Jeremy Cale9,360	Stephen Haworth5,514	Johnny Rodriquez 2,847
Donna Calvert1,954	Paula Inman..... 5,463	Jared Russell710
David Calvert1,954	Marc Jones 2,441	Richard Schneider 2,504
Randy Carter Jr1,399	Bernadette Jones.....2,171	James Shinabarger.....1,559
William Cline2,120	Paul Kent 4,849	Laurel Sorensen188
Doug Coffey..... 642	Steve Koinm 4,480	Alex Tewksbury.....122
Alejandro Cruz959	Mistie Koinm 2,634	Michael Tyson..... 3,226
Larry Daze1,360	Brandon Lamoreaux..... 3,325	Lynette Tyson 2,799
Kurt Demenge..... 6,420	Joseph Lewis.....1,028	Randall Wade 4,570
Rachael De Vries 321	Dennis McHenry..... 2,020	Tina Watson1,541
Carl De Vries 299	DeWayne Milligan 385	John Watson1,626
Shari Eagles..... 2,202	Karl Mortensen 503	Craig Wertz 1,171
Charlotte Ellis..... 93	Frank Moss1,069	Cindy Wertz 1,102
Tim Foxworthy 1,714	Robert Osterhage 859	Justine Wilkerson..... 4,247
Robert Franklin 652	Michael Peled..... 280	Kyle Zapf 538



Being *Cool* on Your Bike

We all think we are cool while riding our Harley's or other two-wheelers. Some come to this naturally and some have to work at it. Here are some facts for you to consider to keep your COOL.

The "windchill factor" becomes the "heat index" when temps get above 50

degrees and speeds exceed 5 mph. Combine the relative humidity with high temps and you may actually feel warmer due to sweat evaporation.

Increases in speed make you feel warmer because you are drying off quicker. Remember that perspiration is generated to help you cool. Also remember that perspiration means you are losing fluid, electrolytes, and salt in that magnificent body. It is to your advantage to replace this fluid as quickly as possible. A "cold beer" ain't gonna do it. It might taste good and feel refreshing on the way down, but it will not replace the fluid you have lost through sweating. In fact, it might increase your dehydration rate due to more frequent urination. Beer is a very minimal source of any electrolytes you lose when sweating. So have the beer, *but* only after drinking water or another liquid designed to replenish those lost minerals.

Iced Tea is suitable, but not the best way to get liquids back into your body. Iced tea has caffeine and usually sugar and both slow your body's ability to absorb the water content of the tea. Go with unsweetened tea and remember to alternate with water.



Consider carrying a motorcycle ice bucket or cooler.

Gatorade or similar drinks are very good at replenishing fluids in the ol' bod. They also contain electrolytes and carbohydrates. Reliable sources suggest that you dilute the Gatorade with water at about 50/50 due to the sugar content of the drink. Having a salad with your lunch and maybe eating a banana or two during the ride will also help with mineral replacement.

All in all, stick with H₂O. Water will do most of the work to keep you hydrated on a ride and it is more palatable when it gets warm. Just drink it.

Smart water has not increased my IQ and will minimally replenish the lost minerals from sweating. It may also increase your thirst factor.

If cramping is a factor in your riding experience, check your posture on the bike.

Using cruise control helps with hand cramping. Changing leg and foot position relaxes muscle tensions (highway pegs offer a variety of positions). Electrolytes and even pickle juice can prevent and/or treat cramping. Water is still the overall champion for these issues.

*Mickey Litherland,
Safety Officer*



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The Importance of *Safety Gear*



I know some will automatically move past this article, but hear me out. Having been through a recent high-speed accident - we hit a deer at 75 mph - the value of all the safety gear hit home hard. Even wearing all the recommended gear, we still had injuries, but survived to ride another day.

Helmet – This seems obvious to most, but this is the most important. Even half helmets keep your head from hitting

the pavement. The more coverage, ultimately the better. Even low-speed crashes can be catastrophic without good head protection. I was wearing helmet, and my visor was all scraped up, but that was better than my face. My wife's helmet was also scraped up, but that may have been from when it fell off the tow truck.

Jacket – As hot as it gets around here, an armored mesh light jacket is great. We were both wearing one with a tank top underneath. We had new elbow, shoulder, and back pads. After sliding down asphalt at high speed, our jackets still got shredded. My wife's left elbow got a big deep gash in it (even with an elbow pad), and her left sleeve and my right sleeve got shredded. Material makes a great difference. I am not sure if they make jackets with Kevlar or similar materials, but if they do it would be a great investment. I had road rash on my right forearm; my wife had road rash on her left and a broken wrist. The jackets still did their job. My wife's jacket must have ridden up on her during the slide – she had road rash all around her torso. Make **sure** the waist is cinched down.

Gloves – For the first time in years, I was wearing H-D leather fingerless gloves. We were testing some new software setups for our new Cardo headsets and I wanted to be able to change settings on my phone. That was a mistake. All my knuckles and the backs of my hands got scraped up along with my fingertips. My left palm was covered with leather, but that broke through and scraped my palm and wrist. That's been the most sore. I had a fracture in my right wrist. Next time, I'll wear full leather gloves. My hands hurt for a while. My wife was wearing full summer gloves and didn't have any road rash issues with her hands. She did however suffer a badly fractured left wrist.

Jeans – I was wearing motorcycle riding jeans with hip and knee pads. The seat area was shredded but not completely through. My right knee and lower leg area got shredded and I lost the knee pad: I suffered road rash on my outside lower right leg. I also had bruising around my hips, but the hip pads did their job. Next time I'd get similar jeans, but with Kevlar or similar reinforcing in the seat area and down the sides along with the hip and knee pads.

My wife was wearing regular jeans and got bruising on her hips and badly skinned up knees and road rash on the outside of her left leg. Riding jeans would have really helped her.

Boots – We both had boots on. Mine were skinned up, but held up well (first responder type boots). My wife's boots weren't specifically motorcycle boots, which may have led to having both ankles broken. She had two fractures in both her right and left ankles, along with a broken left big toe. Boots that brace the ankles would have been a tremendous help there.

First Aid Kit – I had a first aid kit with a tourniquet, mouth-to-mouth barrier, good scissors, etc., but my saddle bags and trunk were shredded and scattered all over the road. Luckily I didn't need them, as a state trooper was right behind us and saw it all unfold. He immediately called it in and EMS was there in minutes. A passerby stopped to assist until help arrived. We were very lucky to get help so quickly in the middle of nowhere. I would encourage everyone to take the Accident Scene Management (ASM) course when offered. Interestingly, my brand new Cardo unit did send out a crash alert to my daughter who tried contacting us right away. That feature worked well and gave her a message and our GPS location.

Friends – This was the most critical safety element for us (maybe besides helmets). I can't express enough how important this was for us. We were about 450 miles away from home, with no transportation or cloths (my wife's were all cut off, mine were shredded). Luckily we found our phones and my wallet was on a chain, so we had those. We were sent to a small county hospital 1.5 hours away from Wichita Falls. Our companions riding behind us saw it all and quickly helped.

After that high-speed crash we were in a daze, so their cool heads and quick assistance was what we needed. They helped get some of our luggage and transportation to the next hospital. Riding with others is a safety necessity, too. Our riding friends also brought up our car (6 hour drive one way) to allow us to get my wife back home so her doctors could perform surgery locally. It's hard to imagine what we would have done without them. Our friends also have helped in recovery with outpourings of support helping take care of us in such a time of need. Our gratefulness cannot be understated.

I normally don't wear a riding jacket, except on longer rides – I'll start doing so now. I always wear a helmet and full finger gloves, but will get better ones. I've had some good gloves, but for some reason would lose one. I'll get better riding jeans, too, with Kevlar (or similar). It is best to ride with friends just, in case a breakdown or accident occurs. If you wait for an accident to have the proper riding gear, you're too late. Without it, I don't think we'd be here, or our injuries would be so much more severe.

*Dennis "Master Mac" McHenry
Road Captain, Webmaster/Social Media Officer*

Calling All *Ladies!*



Mel here, inviting all Ladies of Harley to join L.O.H. in some fun and getting to know each other better.

Susan and I have started the year off with some great planning meetings and fun activities. We have had a night of painting at Painting with a Twist to show our creative side, and we enjoyed a day of riding with a "ladies only" ride to celebrate International Women Riders Day (with a few

male RC's), And most recently, we had a ladies only breakfast! But we are just getting started, we have a lot more planned.

Here are a few upcoming activities to look forward to:

- **August 2** - Swim party at the Tyson's
- **September 18-20** - Ladies only Beach Weekend (more information to follow).
- **Fall** - "We Clean Up Good" - A dinner for L.O.H. and their D.o.H.s (Dudes of Harley). (TBD)
Annual L.O.H. Christmas Party! (TBD)

We will also continue to hold our monthly meetings. Be sure to watch the Chapter calendar and Facebook page for more information.

Some of our past events included:

- Bra Decorating benefitting the Breast Cancer Ride 2025.
- Selling Raffle tickets to raise money for our Pediatric Brain Cancer Ride (Annual Ride for Kids).

Melinda Stavinoha, Assistant L.O.H.



A Sailor's Funeral



Early on the morning of Saturday, May 16, 2026, fifteen Houston AREA #1 H.O.G. Chapter members and two guests rode their Harley-Davidson motorcycles on an 85-mile ride to Surfside Jetty County Park in Surfside. The mission was solemn and inspirational: to perform a final placement of ashes ceremony and grant a young Vietnam-era sailor's last request.

The guest of honor was a U.S. Navy Aviation Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class who we will call "Sailor Smith," whose identity is withheld for privacy purposes. He was born in August 1952 in Galveston. With the exception of a few elementary school records and Catholic Church documents, his childhood is unknown: he did participate in an after-school Boy Scout program and went to St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church with his mother. No additional family members could be found after extensive searches.

In the Spring of 1971, fresh out of high school at the age of 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He underwent Aviation Boatswain training in Galveston Bay. After completing his training, he served on U.S. Navy aircraft carriers, including the USS Saratoga and the USS Valley Forge. His service record is without any incidents or issues. In December 1972, while on his second stint on the Valley Forge, an accident occurred and Sailor Smith was severely burned protecting a shipmate.

He was transferred to a Navy hospital in San Francisco for rehab and recovery and then transferred to a specialized burn hospital. He was honorably discharged despite not being fully recovered from his injuries and still in an intensive care unit. Unfortunately, Sailor Smith succumbed to his injuries on April 9, 1973, according to his death certificate. There were mistakes made with his paperwork at several points, and for years it was assumed that Sailor Smith left the burn hospital alive and never returned to Texas. In reality, he was cremated on April 25, 1973, and placed on a shelf in a California coroner's facility, where he remained for 52 years. Sailor Smith's mother died in 1982, never knowing that her son had died before her.

During the research for her son's ashes, local volunteers found Mrs. Smith's resting place without a headstone at Restwood Memorial Park in Freeport. The day before her son's ashes were placed in the sea, a headstone was installed, noting she was a Gold Star family member and mother of Sailor Smith. On the day of the interment ceremony, a Gold Star family stood at her grave with their cellphone speakerphone on, so her spirit could hear the words and works of people placing her son's ashes in the sea.

In the official disposition papers, Sailor Smith requested to see Pike's Peak at least once and have his ashes placed in Galveston/Surfside Bay. On April 29, 2026, his ashes were carried up Pike's Peak. They remained there until the stars twinkled above – the ashes then took the last train down the mountain. His ashes were then sent to Texas for his final request – his burial at sea at Surfside.

Craig Wertz, a U.S. Navy veteran and a member of our H.O.G. Chapter, took off his boots and waded into the Bay waters to lay Sailor Smith's ashes to rest.

With the following words, his last wish was granted:

"Sailor Smith, it is now, that we as your comrades, place you into the sea. Your duty is done, your service is over, thank you our brother-in-arms Aviation Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class, for your service to America. Fair winds and following seas."

TAPS was played and the assembled group paid their last respects.

The resolution of this Sailor's final journey could not have happened without the volunteer efforts of the Missing In America Veteran Recovery Program (MIAP, www.MIAP.us). The mission of the MIAP project is to locate, identify, and inter the unclaimed remains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state, and federal organizations. These forgotten veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect. Recently, a state hospital announced that 3500 remains remained on shelves to be identified. These remains represent the time span of the 1890s to 1971. It is estimated that 1,000 of these remains are veterans. This is happening in every state.

This project has just begun. We need to blanket every mortuary and cemetery in the United States and let them know there are people who desire to claim our veterans to ensure they are interred with the honor and respect they deserve. They served our great nation. It is now our nation's turn to serve them. The veterans languishing on shelves need us. They need America to step forward and ensure they are buried with honor. They need America to show their thanks for their service. Without them, we would not have the freedoms we enjoy today.

*David Calvert,
Boss Road Captain*



Houston AREA #1 H.O.G. Chapter members prepare to leave Freeport after interring Sailor Smith's ashes in the Bay. **Front** – Steve Bosser, Matt Britt, Laurel Sorenson, John Wertz; **Rear** – Richard Schneider, John Watson, David Calvert, Steve Koinm, Keith Thies, Kyle Zapf, Cindy Wertz, Mickey Litherland, Craig Wertz, Earl Hamilton; *not pictured*: Sheri McBryde.

Photo credit – Sheri McBryde

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Remembering *Greg Melius*

I met Greg in 2006 at the Houston Rodeo barbecue cookoff. We both ended up at the same tent and loved to dance. so we danced and drank the night away. I was cooking hot dogs the next day at Mancuso Harley-Davidson Central, and I told him he could find me there. He showed up and cooked hot dogs with me. That night we went back to the Rodeo cookoff.

That was the start of our relationship. Greg started riding with AREA #1 on his green Honda Gold Wing trike – you can imagine the teasing we put him through about that bike!

He became close friends with many of the Chapter members. After we broke up, we remained friends, although we drifted apart.

He always had a smile on his face and something funny to say. He eventually came to his senses and sold his Honda and bought



a Harley-Davidson. Greg joined the Chapter and worked his way up from Road Captain to Boss Road Captain. He also became an accredited basic and advanced motorcycle riding instructor.

His most recent job was working as part of the NFL officiating chain gang for the Houston Texans, which lasted for many years. He even got to work the Super Bowl when it came to Houston.

Some of this information came from his obituary and it barely touches the surface of how special Greg was. I was lucky to know him.

Jill Bengel, Chapter Member

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Do You Know...?

Have you seen any of these folks on a ride, at a meeting, or any other gathering? Stop and say hello! You never know when or where a new friendship may be waiting to happen.



TERRY BRANDBURG



THOMAS FOWLER



BOB (left) AND ANDREW (right)
FRANKLIN



JOE LARA

*While their photos were not
available at the time of printing,
please give a warm welcome
to these new members the
next time you see them:*

AARON JOPPAN

ERIC PHIFER

Welcome TO THE FAMILY!



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