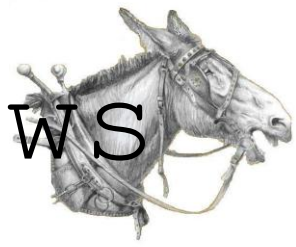


# Muletown News



July / August 2008



*It's all about having FUN and enjoying the RIDE.....  
....but the destinations aren't bad either!!*

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*Harley Owners Group*  
**Chapter 2033**  
[www.muletownrider.com](http://www.muletownrider.com)

# Upcoming Events

- August 23rd** Chapter Lunch Ride: Rivershack Restaurant - Perryville  
(Closed Event)
- August 28<sup>th</sup>–31st** Harley-Davidson 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / H.O.G. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Milwaukee, WI (Closed Event)
- September 6<sup>th</sup>** Overnight Ride: Reelfoot Lake (\*\*see additional information below)  
(Closed Event)
- September 13<sup>th</sup>** “Cruzin’ the County” Ride / Chapter Picnic / Monthly Mtg.  
(Closed Event) (Open Event) (Open Event)
- September 27<sup>th</sup>** Chapter Lunch Ride: Shaffer Farms Meat Market -  
Lawrenceburg (Closed Event)

**CLOSED EVENTS** – Are those chapter events which are open to chapter members and one guest per member.

**MEMBER EVENTS** – Are events that are open only to H.O.G. members.

**OPEN EVENTS**- Are those chapter events which are open to chapter members, national H.O.G. members and other guests as desired.

Hello Muletown Chapter!

Below is information regarding accommodations at the *Reelfoot Lake Inn* for the Overnight Ride planned for September 6. It will be up to each member to reserve their room. Thanks to Nancy Hopper for helping to get this set-up!!

*There are 15 rooms blocked off at the Reelfoot Lake Inn. These rooms will be blocked off until Monday, September 1, 2008. If you plan on making a reservation please do so before this date. The room rate is \$59.00 plus tax unless you plan on more than 2 people in a room. There is a \$10.00 charge for each additional person. The telephone number is 731-253-6845. If for some reason you prefer a room on the first floor be sure to let them know when making the reservation. Some of the rooms will be on the second floor. Also, I blocked off non-smoking rooms. If someone wants a smoking room please be sure to indicate this when making your reservation.*

Chapter Membership  
Total as of August 2008  
**-74-**



**Welcome!**

**Our newest members:**

Neil Jones  
Karen Bosak  
Wayne Bosak

## ***Chapter Officers:***

Director - Bill Isom

Assistant Director - Arnold Conner

Secretary - Randy Kinsey

Treasurer - Ken Steverson

Activities Coordinator - Eddie Campbell

Head Road Captain – Jerry Knox

Newsletter Editor – Tricia Shearn

LOH Director – Hope Conner

## **UPDATED CLUB H.O.G. 25 INFORMATION**

All activities for CLUB H.O.G. 25 will be free to H.O.G. members and one guest each. One part of our celebration that was previously announced was a paid concert featuring Aerosmith and Kid Rock. However, Aerosmith has canceled their performance at the H.O.G. concert due to medical reasons and does not have any other dates scheduled through the rest of the year.

Due to this unexpected occurrence, we will not be selling tickets for a separate concert inside Miller Park. Instead, Kid Rock will join the entertainment for CLUB H.O.G. 25 on the exterior grounds of Miller Park – a free event. We're pleased to announce that all entertainment during our 25th Anniversary celebration at Miller Park will be free for all H.O.G. members.

### **JOIN US FOR ONE HISTORIC DAY!**

Help H.O.G. make history by being a part of the biggest one-day celebration we've ever had! Please join us in Milwaukee on Thursday, August 28, 2008 for an unforgettable day of fun, music, and celebration.

### **PARTY ALL DAY ▶**

H.O.G. members will receive FREE admission to CLUB H.O.G. 25 at the Miller Park exterior grounds (one guest per member). Just show your H.O.G. card at the gate and walk right in to enjoy great food, [stunt and drill shows](#), the H.O.G. [Wall of Ink tattoo contest](#), [merchandise](#), and [musical entertainment](#) such as Kid Rock, Sugarland, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, and more!



Greetings Muletown Chapter!

It has been a very busy summer so far and it's kind of hard to believe that it's coming to an end soon. I hope that everyone has gotten in their fair share of riding and that all of your journeys have been safe.

In just a few weeks, on September 13, we're holding our annual Chapter Picnic at the Maury County Park and again in conjunction with the picnic we are planning another "Cruzin The County" ride for which prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers. This was a big hit last year! Our September Chapter meeting will also be held during the picnic. Hamburgers, hotdog's and all the fixin's are on the menu. We've got a lot planned for this day so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information!

Don't forget the Reelfoot Lake Overnight ride planned for September 6<sup>th</sup>. This was voted as the best ride last year when our surveys were conducted and you know Joe Hopper, the Road Captain for this ride is always going to find some great roads for us! Information was recently sent out about hotel accommodations at the Reelfoot Lake Inn. Check the websites "Muletown Update" page for more details.

The Officers Group will be planning rides and events for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter soon. As always, if there are rides you would like to see added to the calendar, please let one of the Officers, or Road Captains know. We always appreciate new ideas and ride destinations.

I was thumbing through a magazine the other day and found a pretty cool quote. I'm not too sure who said it, but I thought it reflected how a lot of us feel about the experience of riding our bikes:

**"Motorcycling Is The Magic Carpet To The Fountain Of Youth."**

Hope that everyone enjoys what's left of the summer and to those of you who may be traveling up to Milwaukee for Harley's 105<sup>th</sup> celebration, travel safe. Thanks to all of the Muletown Chapter members for their support this summer. We've had some great rides and even better memories. I personally can't wait for more!

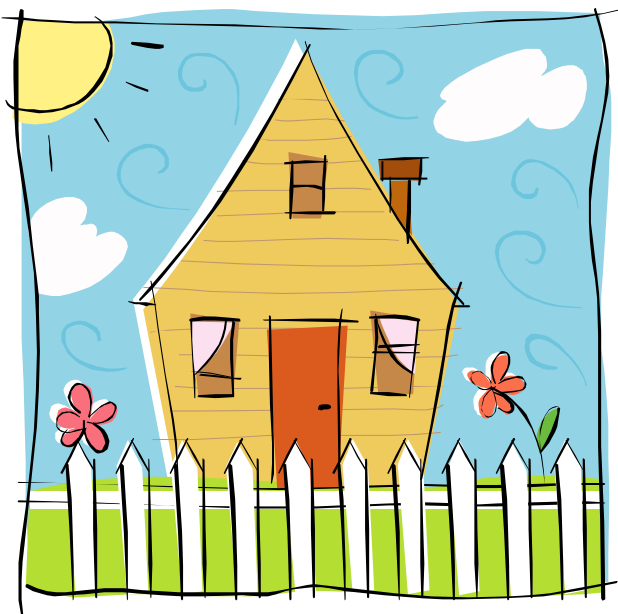
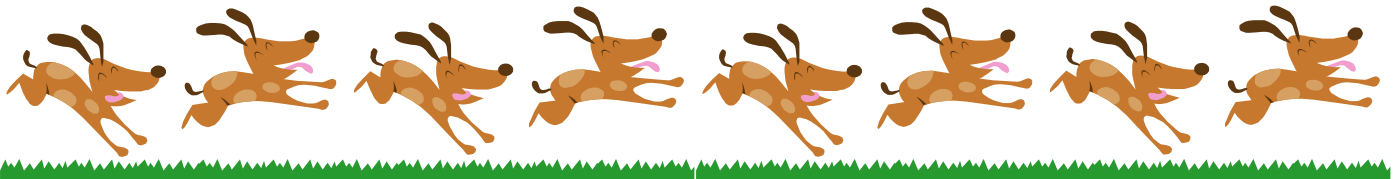
See You On The Road!

Arnold



## LOH Update

The LOH have been busy this past month collecting votes for the Cutest Pet Contest. Patty Roberts-Schmitt carried the jars to the Grand Opening of the PetSmart Store in Spring Hill and also placed them at her office for a day. The jars were at the Chapter Meeting in July and also made an appearance at Columbia Harley Davidson. So far we have collected approximately \$ 289.00 for the Maury County Animal Shelter. We will continue to accept "votes" over the next several months.



The Habitat for Humanity House is close to being completed. The dedication ceremony will be held within the next month. Anyone who helped with this project will be invited to attend. Please watch your e-mail for the actual date once it has been decided.

## **Ain't That Cool!!**

Ken Steverson

We've been incredibly lucky this August to have some wonderful riding weather. What can be better than temperatures in the mid-eighties and low humidity? Well, don't hold your breath. I guarantee you that before we see the colors of autumn we'll have more temperatures in the 90s and humidity levels to match. So how do you deal with soaring temperatures? Most of us settle for riding in a t-shirt and jeans but it seems that more and more I'm seeing Muletown HOG members riding with summer riding jackets of nylon mesh or perforated leather. Regardless of your preference, none is really an answer to the sauna of heat and humidity. Now there may be a better answer if you are willing to shell out some bucks, \$349 to be exact.

Your answer to the hot days may be the Veskimo Personal Cooling System. It's a portable cooling system whose development came from systems developed for U.S. astronauts while wearing their space suits. The system consist of a mesh vest with over 50 feet of 1/8" tubing attached for circulating ice water. The ice water is circulated by a 12v pump powered by a battery pack of 8 1.5v single use alkaline AA batteries or 10 rechargeable batteries. An optional power cable that can be plugged into a bikes power outlet is also available.



Using large ice cubes such as those from your home icemaker allows circulating water to remain cold for about 4 hours in near triple digit temperatures.

Want to know more? See a full product report in the September issue of Motorcycle Consumer News. (www.mcnews.com) or visit their website [www.veskimo.com](http://www.veskimo.com)

## **Publications Worth Your Consideration**

Ken Steverson

Everyone is familiar with American Iron, "the magazine for those who love Harley Davidson motorcycle." Two publications you might not be familiar with are Motorcycle Consumer News and Motorcycle Cruiser. Neither publication is specifically devoted to Harley Davidson, in fact, some issues make no mention of the Motor Company and sometimes when they do evaluate Harley Davidson products they can be pretty critical. That doesn't mean they are anti-Harley, they can be equally critical of other brand names. I think both publications can help to broaden your appreciation for the motorcycling community at large and bring you information that you might not be getting from other publications.

MCN has regular features entitled Mental Motorcycling, Motorcycle Design, Medical Motorcycling, and Proficient Motorcycling and Innovation of the Month. I particularly enjoy the Mental Motorcycling and Proficient Motorcycling articles. From time to time, they also feature articles on great destinations. The September MCN features an interesting article about touring the state of Utah. Like Consumer Report, MCN has no advertising!

Motorcycle Cruiser is full of ads but offers some good information too. An article in MC helped me plan our recent trip to Arizona and I particularly enjoy their head-to-head evaluations of bikes. The August issue featured an article comparing the HD Softail Custom, Honda VTX 1800, Star Stratoliner, Suzuki C109RT and Victory Kingpin Touring bike. I also like the product evaluations the MC provides. They may evaluate winter riding gloves one month, helmets the next, and then saddle bags and luggage the next. Another regular feature is SHOPTALK where they deal with any number of more technical issues related to motorcycle maintenance and troubleshooting problems.

You can check out both publications at their web sites: [WWW.MCNEWS.COM](http://WWW.MCNEWS.COM) AND [www.motorcyclecruiser.com](http://www.motorcyclecruiser.com)

## Why We Ride: The Joy of Motorcycling

What's the allure of motorcycling? One rider attempts to explain...

By [Stephen M. John](#) of MSN autos



Released from the steel cage of the automobile, motorcyclists experience scenery firsthand, rather than through the frame of a vehicle windshield.

What attracts people to motorcycling? When faced with the numerous personalities of both riders and motorcycles, there may not be a single answer. Despite the differences between touring rider and hill climber, chrome-encrusted cruiser and nimble Grand Prix race bike, there are some universal attributes that get under the skin of the motorcyclist and feed the desire to ride.

Freedom is often cited as an attraction, but what does that mean? Compared to driving a car, riding a motorcycle offers freedom from the constraints of four-wheeled physics. When a car negotiates a turn, it leans to the outside of a corner, struggling to maintain its former direction of travel. A motorcycle leans into a corner.

This may not sound like much, but until you've experienced both you can't understand the superior grace and simplicity of this mode of travel. Cornering becomes a symphony of precise movements instead of an awkward wallow, working in harmony with the road instead of fighting it tooth and nail.

### **The Sense(s) of Freedom**

Once freed of your steel cage you are thrust into the world to experience a broader existence unfettered by HEPA filters and climate control. Your nose will get a vivid introduction to skunk roadkill and diesel exhaust, but will also revel in bread baking and plants blooming. Your body will feel the thousand tiny impacts of raindrops and absorb the buffeting of the wind. Your skin will feel the gently warming temperature as you crest a hill and drop to the valley floor below. You are no longer huddled behind a wheel disconnected from nature. It's *Lawrence of Arabia* in Cinerama versus a daguerreotype of a camel.

(Why We Ride cont'd)

Wrap all this freedom in a lovely ribbon of performance, and you get what experts call fun. Not the fake hood scoop, chrome wheels and racing stripe school of performance. Picture instead a carrier launch and you'll be in the right neighborhood, and you don't even have to pledge seven years of service. Best of all, this astounding performance is dirt cheap. For less than half the cost of most commuter pods you can buy a stock motorcycle capable of 9-second quarter miles.

Don't bother figuring the cost for a production car with matching performance, because you won't find one. AMG teamed with **Mercedes** to make the CLK-GTR capable of a 9.4 second quarter mile, and it's a steal at a measly \$1,000,000. Performance cars do have the edge in aerodynamics and top speed, but to use them you'll need lottery winnings and the Autobahn.

All of this freedom and fun doesn't come without a price. First of all, you have to learn how to ride. Given the right training and the right attitude, the skills can be acquired by just about anyone. Want proof? One of my first forays was on my dad's 1975 Honda CB125S, a ride so mild it's hard to believe it could burn gasoline. I was so overwhelmed I couldn't remember how to stop, and ended up using a conveniently located pickup to do the job. Fortunately the **Motorcycle Safety Foundation** (MSF) runs well-organized classes where you can safely learn motorcycling in a pickup-free environment.

### **Motorcycles? Practical?**

What about practicality? Over the years I've carried a turkey, two-by-fours, a dozen roses, crutches and a bookcase on a motorcycle, but even I haven't tried transporting an infant or a major appliance. But how often do you really use the cargo capacity of a four-wheeler? Not often, judging by the throngs of single-occupant vehicles choking the roadway, wasting gas and time hauling around a sluggish, three-quarter-empty steel box.

Finally, there's the favorite of mothers and fathers everywhere: danger. On a motorcycle you are more vulnerable and you'd better accept that fact and ride accordingly. I always ride as if I am invisible to the sea of cars around me, because all too often it's true. I wear a helmet, jacket, boots and gloves regardless of the temperature or length of the ride. You might think it's a hassle just to reach the corner store, and it does take more time than slipping on a seat belt. For me it is an important ritual, a reminder I am about to engage in an

activity with a fair amount of personal risk. Donning my helmet triggers a pre-recorded message telling me I'd better be alert if I don't want to end up as a hood ornament.

Risk is inherent in motorcycling, but it can be managed and turned into an advantage, one that I think is the real long-term attraction of riding. A new rider must gain experience, since at first everything you



(Why We Ride cont'd)

have is spent just keeping upright. Gradually, shifting gears and scanning for Dozy Joe Auto blowing through a stop sign takes less effort as your brain adjusts to a new sensory plateau.

### **Engaging the World Around You**

While motorcycling you are still fully engaged with the outside world, but the rest of your brain is free to explore paths otherwise unavailable. With your mind free of rigid supervision and self-awareness, all sorts of problems get solved in the background and tension evaporates. Exactly the opposite happens in an automobile. Driving makes so few demands on our minds and bodies we go on autopilot. How many times have you driven to a familiar location, and arrived only to realize you don't remember large parts of the journey?

Need another rationalization regarding the two-wheeled wonder? Motorcycling is a resounding social plus: reduced traffic and parking congestion, better fuel economy and fewer noxious emissions. Motorcycle ownership should be a Green party litmus test. Sadly, these benefits are lost on the majority of Americans, whose opinion of motorcycles seems to be forged solely by watching Marlon Brando tear up a small town in *The Wild One*. This shared sense of being outcast and knowledge of how much fun we're having leads to a sense of community among riders. Have you ever seen two automobile drivers wave to each other because they were driving? For me, waving to a fellow rider is nearly a daily occurrence. The horror, the horror...

Freedom. Fun. A clear mind and a clear conscience. These are all powerful reasons for staying in the saddle. But an even simpler truth about motorcycling keeps me coming back for more: **I always feel better after a ride than I did before.**

*An avid bibliophile and lifetime motorcyclist, Steve John has raced in various motorcycle series and events, including stints in multiple classes at the Isle of Man TT.*