

# MULETOWN NEWS



September / October 2008

## Harley Davidson's 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

By Eddie Campbell

I can't think of any other company worldwide that could call all of its customers and say "Hey, we are having a party to celebrate our 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary and you are all invited" and then have almost a half million of their customers show up, but that is exactly what Harley Davidson did on the last weekend in August.



Milwaukee Wisconsin became the destination of Harley riders from all over the planet. The logistics of such an event is mind boggling. They needed hotel rooms from as far as 70 miles away so they booked all of them. They opened their new museum just in time for the celebration and knew they couldn't get everyone in so a lottery was held for the lucky visitors. People had to eat, so vendors were set up at every outpost and dealership within 2 hours ride of Milwaukee. Bratwurst was a staple. The dealerships had their own parties that rivaled many state rallies. From Uke's Harley in Kenosha to Route 43 Harley in Sheboygan and of course the two big dealerships in Milwaukee, Milwaukee Harley and House of Harley. We stood in line for ten minutes just to get into the House of Harley.

People needed something to do so they held a parade. Imagine getting 7500 motorcycles gathered up, lined up and headed on a route that spanned about 3 miles of downtown Milwaukee streets virtually shutting down a city of 600,000 people on a Saturday morning. Maybe the first hundred or so in the parade being motor officers helped get that done. They were followed shortly by the HOG Chapter flags, hundreds of them from all over the world. The crowd that was viewing this incredible ride was filled with local residents. Thousands of them lined the parade route to see history in the making. In addition to the parade, nights were filled with "street parties" that with guidance from local police went off safely and ran the gamut of entertaining to wild. Hundreds of bikes cruised the streets on everything from sport bikes, to Vespas to the Boss Hoss and of course hundreds and hundreds of Harleys.

(Cont'd on Page 2)



**Harley Davidson's 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (Cont'd)**



But the centerpiece of the event was the lakeshore of Lake Michigan. On one end was Veterans Park and with an assortment of vendors and one of the concert venues for live bands. In the center was HOG Island with souvenirs and refreshments for HOG members and their guests. The other end was the Summerfest Grounds with another concert venue. Entertainment for the event included the big names of Kid Rock, ZZ Top, and the headliner, Bruce Springsteen. It was about a 2 mile walk from one end to the other. Also mixed in were the permanent exhibits of a technology museum and an aquarium. Parking was at a premium and to get a good seat, arriving 5 hours early was normal.

Numerous of the downtown streets were parked solid on both sides with bikes. The party goers included a lot of young Harley riders which I thought was good to see. There were also the hardcore biker clubs, but everyone blended together into one huge group with the same interest.....Riding Harleys!!! Getting through the toll stations in Chicago was also an interesting event.

Well, I can say one thing for sure, Harley Davidson knows how to throw a party. I can't imagine the preparation that took place to put this on so smoothly but it went over very well. According to my calculations, Milwaukee and the surrounding areas took in almost a half of a billion dollars in tourist revenue this one weekend. If the celebration went on for two weeks, I don't think you could have seen it all but I'm glad I saw as much as I did. Happy Anniversary Harley!!!



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP TOTAL AS OF OCTOBER 2008

**-78-**

**Welcome!**

**Our newest members:**



**Billy Allen      Donald Ledford**  
**Dennis Melvin      John Walrath**

## Greetings Muletown Chapter!

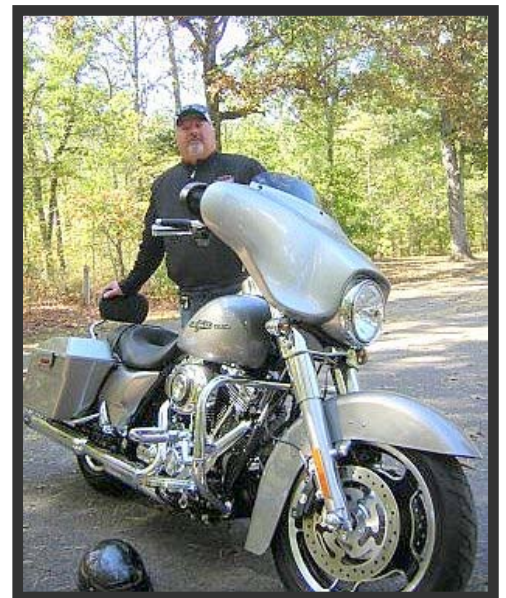
I hope that this message finds everyone in good health and spirits! So far the late summer and early fall have provided us with many beautiful days here in Middle Tennessee and hopefully there are a few more coming our way! We still have several rides and other activities scheduled for the remainder of 2008, so get on line, check out the calendar on our website and see if you can make one of em'!

One important event that comes to mind is our annual "Turkey Run" which is slated for November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This event brings together riders from the Muletown Chapter, and their guests, along with the local Christian Motorcycle Association who all join together to help those less fortunate here in Maury County. There is a cost of \$15.00 per bike for this event and all proceeds go to the Servants Heart Ministries, who use the funds to purchase meals for the needy. What better way could there be to help those in need during the holiday season than in supporting this great event. It gets better and better each year! Also, don't forget the Muletown Chapter will be joining the CMA again this year for the annual "Toy Run" which is set for December 6<sup>th</sup>. (See additional info in newsletter)

Switching gears a little bit, I ran across an article recently in the HOG Tales magazine about motorcycle exhaust noise. The article titled "One Man's Music – Another Man's Noise" really hits home, especially in today's environment here in the United States of "Going Green" I guess you could say that noise in some cases could be considered a form of pollution and that it certainly could offend some folks. Not so say that I don't like the sound of my exhaust, but the article did make me take a step back and think about how others may perceive what we enjoy in the wrong manner. I hope you enjoy it.

Hope To See You On The Road Soon! Ride Safe!

Arnold



## ONE MAN'S MUSIC IS ANOTHER MAN'S NOISE

Call it temptation, but there's something about a Harley-Davidson® motorcycle that calls its rider to open the throttle. The resulting roar stirs emotions of power, euphoria, and freedom. Simply put, to love a Harley-Davidson is to love the sound of a V-Twin engine.

For some, however, the throaty V-Twin sound is nothing more than "noise." It's this sentiment that has led a growing number of communities throughout the country to implement noise ordinances that target motorcycles. In some U.S. areas, if your pipes exceed posted decibel limits or are missing an EPA compliance label, you could face hefty fines.

The issue sheds light on the need for all motorcyclists to ride respectfully to preserve the freedoms our sport enjoys. As H.O.G. members, we are, in some special ways, the public face of Harley-Davidson. So perhaps have an extra responsibility to set a good example in this area. Please read and take to heart the respectful riding practices presented here. And help us prevent the spread of unnecessary motorcycle regulations and restrictions.

Before you set out on your next ride, consider the following:

**Outfit your bike with EPA-approved parts.** Many aftermarket exhaust systems exceed acceptable EPA noise levels and are therefore subject to fines, depending on the community. Harley-Davidson's Screamin' Eagle® Street Performance Slip-On Mufflers always come with an EPA label – and they sound great to boot!



**Noises carry.** Motorcycle noise is especially amplified under bridges and overpasses and echoes off buildings in downtown areas. Similarly, a wide-open throttle in a residential area causes disruptions for the people who live there. Be aware of how the sweet music of a V-Twin can quickly turn into a major noise issue for others.

**Attitude goes a long way.** While most Harley-Davidson riders are respectful of the communities in which they ride, there are those who either don't consider the impact a loud exhaust may have on others or purposefully seek to attract attention. Regardless of the reason, excessive motorcycle noise creates a problem for all of us. Avoiding the wrong kind of attention is easy. Be mindful about when and where you make yourself heard.

**Idle considerately.** Idling as little as possible in early morning hours goes a long way to keeping the peace with neighbors. As one rider has suggested, roll your bike to the end of the driveway before starting up. The additional distance between your bike and the neighbor's house can make a big difference.

**Get educated.** Keep current on the noise issue in your own community and around the country. A simple Web search can produce a lot of information about noise sensitivities in your area or those in which you'll be riding

For more information on the motorcycle noise issue, visit the AMA's (American Motorcyclist Association) Web site at [www.amadirectlink.com](http://www.amadirectlink.com)

*(as found in HOG Tales Magazine)*

*If you've read the newspaper lately or watched the evening news, you know that times are tough for a lot of our fellow citizens. Please do what you can to help.*

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### **3rd Annual Muletown Chapter Turkey Run / Chapter Meeting**

(Closed Event)

(Open Event)



Ride will depart H-D of Columbia at, or as close to 10:00 a.m. as possible. There will be a pre-ride safety briefing prior to the ride, so please arrive early and with your tanks topped off.

The ride will cruise the backroads throughout the county and will end at "The Garage" (near Maury County Regional Hospital), where a lunch consisting of Deep Fried Turkey's, Hamburgers, all the fixin's, deserts, drinks etc. will be awaiting us!

**Cost will be \$15.00 - Per Bike**

All proceeds will be donated to the Servants Heart Ministries who use the monies collected to help those less fortunate here in Maury County purchase Thanksgiving meals. We're looking forward to our friends with the CMA joining us again this year!

The Muletown Chapter's November meeting will also be held in conjunction with this event. This is the last Chapter meeting for 2008.

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### **CMA Toy Run**

Start Time: 10:00 AM (Open Event)

A Toy Run being hosted by the CMA will take place on Saturday, December 6th. All donations will go to benefit Servants Heart Ministries who help those in need right here in Maury County.

The time and location have yet to be determined so check the website for updates! This is not a Muletown Chapter sponsored event, but rather one that the Chapter has participated in for the last several years as a way to say "Thank You" for the CMA's participation in our Turkey Run, who's proceeds also go to benefit the Servants Heart Ministries here in Maury County.



Come on out and support this worthy cause!

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## *Never In A Hurry*

### **Words to live by on a motorcycle**

By Ken Glassman

3/15/2006

(submitted by Hope Conner)

When I took my Motorcycle Rider Safety Course years ago, the instructor told us within the first 15 minutes that he'd been riding for 20 years without any accidents. He attributed that to practicing the many safety rules we were about to learn, and to one other personal creed he lived by: *"I'm NEVER in a hurry when I'm on my bike."* He added, "If you remember nothing else in this class, remember that."

Those words echoed in my mind a few weeks later when I took my new bike out for my first motorcycle ride. I rode off, pulled into the left turn lane and came to a stop waiting for traffic to pass. At the first gap in traffic I was about to turn, then hesitated. What if I popped the clutch and killed the engine, or if I was too hard on the throttle and spun out of control? I wasn't comfortable yet on the bike, and I figured it would be better to wait for a more comfortable interval between cars. I would have made the turn driving a car without a second thought, but I knew a lot of bad things can happen to kill you on a bike that only results in bent sheet metal in a car. And besides, I remembered the words of my MSF Instructor, "I'm never in a hurry when I'm on my bike."

I think about those words every time I get on my motorcycle. They are great words to ride by. I feel no road rage, because I'm not in a hurry. I don't need to try questionable passes on two-lane roads; the car will probably be stopped right behind me in a mile or two at the next light, anyway. I don't ride at excessive speeds because I don't need to get to my destination any quicker. The goal is not to get there quicker, it's to get there alive and enjoy the ride along the way.

It was with this mindset I sat at an intersection recently, enjoying a nice afternoon ride. I was on a major, four-lane, suburban thoroughfare, with a left turn lane on my side of the road. There was a construction barricade set up just past the light, so the right-hand lane would have to merge into my lane before we all got through the intersection. I was about 10 cars back, so I wasn't sure that I'd get through on this light. There were several cars in the left turn lane next to me, and a guy on a red sportbike behind a station wagon waiting to turn. The first car in line wasn't paying attention when the arrow turned green. The guy on the sportbike honked his horn, and by his body language and motions he seemed agitated because only three cars turned on the arrow. Now there were two cars in front of him as the light turned green in both directions. I sat there slightly amused and thought to myself, "Hey, relax pal, where ya runnin'?" I sat patiently while the cars going in my direction were merging into my lane to get through the intersection. The cars in the oncoming direction were moving through the light sporadically, so the first car finally turned left, but the second stopped. Again this rider threw up his hands in disgust, thinking there was plenty of time for the next car to turn. He inched right up on the bumper of the station wagon in front of him, and was looking through the glass of that car at the oncoming traffic. I was inching up but still behind this scene, when I saw that there was a small opening in the oncoming traffic, and the wagon was going to turn. But I also saw that just beyond the turn, there was a driveway coming out of a strip shopping center, and a car was approaching that driveway to exit. The over anxious sportbike rider had tucked himself right behind the left rear bumper of the station wagon and couldn't see the possible danger. I was now saying to myself, "Don't go, pal... the wagon may have to stop and you won't have room to clear the intersection... don't do it, DON'T DO IT. And then I screamed out loud in my helmet "NOOOO!"

The station wagon did have to break for the other car, and the rider did get hung out to dry as a Buick came riding up in the right oncoming lane. I heard a loud screech of brakes and saw this mid-70s big Buick Electra plow into that sportbike's rear wheel, sending the rider flying into the air like a rag doll, with his bike tumbling after him. The rider landed 10 or 12 feet away, slid on the pavement and smacked into a utility pole on the corner, and lay motionless. I was frozen and horrified at what I just saw. I had no place to go to get off my bike, so I had to go through the intersection past the construction to pull over. I ripped off my helmet and grabbed for my cell phone in my saddlebag to call for an ambulance. Before I could

*(Never in a Hurry cont'd)*

even get my phone out, I saw a police car coming up the road. He'd probably seen the accident happen, because he was only a few hundred feet away approaching the intersection. Within seconds all traffic came to a halt with a dozen witnesses to the accident swarmed the scene. In seconds I heard more sirens and saw ambulance lights approaching.

By the time I ran back to the scene, I couldn't get close because the police had sealed off the area and the paramedics were doing their job. I found the first officer on the scene, gave him my name, and told him what I saw. He had seen it happen and had lots of people to talk to, so he thanked me and said they'd call if it was necessary. My knees were weak, my stomach was turning, and all I could do was sit down on the curb, throw up my lunch, and cry. Then I got angry at the rider. I asked myself where the hell could he have been going that was so important that he had to get there a few seconds sooner? It was in the middle of a fall Sunday afternoon. Was he late for his girlfriend's birthday party? Was he rushing to a buddy's house to catch the second half of the football game? Was he racing home because his wife told him his baby was sick? Or was he just pissed off that he wasn't the only vehicle on the road that day, and everybody else was just an impediment to his riding enjoyment? Regardless of the reasons, are any of those things important enough to risk your life for? Riding a motorcycle is such an enjoyable activity. Why would anybody choose to be so impatient, or agitated and intense?

As I gathered myself up and headed for home, I was thinking that I'll never know the answer to those questions. I'll never know if he had a girlfriend, wife, or baby at home. But I'm pretty sure that he has a mother and father, who are crying their eyes out right now, and maybe brothers and sisters who are stunned and sobbing. I'll bet a lot of his family and friends are thinking to themselves that none of this would have happened if he hadn't bought that damned motorcycle in the first place. They may also be cursing the innocent driver of the car who hit him, because it's easier and more comforting to blame somebody else for this tragedy. As for the driver of that Buick, I know his life will never be the same, and I feel for him, too.

As I rode back home, my senses and alertness were sharper than they had been an hour earlier. I was aware of everything going on around me. I glanced at my mirrors more often to make sure I knew where all the traffic was. I looked at my speedometer, and I was right on the speed limit. As I slowed for my first left turn, I saw an oncoming car. It seemed like I had plenty of time to make my turn, but I came to a stop. I waited for the oncoming car to clear the intersection, before making my turn. So I'll see my wife and daughters 30 seconds later, but I will see them. And maybe I'll miss the first touchdown of the second half of the game. That's OK; I'll see the highlights on the news tonight. All I could think about were the words of my instructor, "I'm NEVER in a hurry when I'm on my bike." More than ever, those seemed like words to live by.

*Ken "Hawkeye" Glassman is the motorcycle columnist for the Daily Herald newspaper in suburban Chicago. The Daily Herald is the only newspaper in the nation that has a separate motorcycling section each week during the riding season. His freelance articles can often be seen in national magazines and on several motorcycle Web sites like this one. Ken also is a monthly co-host with Gina Woods on Open Road Radio in Chicago, airing each Sunday night from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. on WCKG, 105.9 FM.*



## LOH Update

Congratulations to Valatta Martin and her son Marquis. Through her dedication and hard work, as well as the hard work of all those who volunteered their time and materials, Valatta is now the proud owner of her Habitat for Humanity home. A dedication ceremony was held on September 7, 2008 to celebrate her milestone as well as to turn over the keys to her new home. We wish her and her son the very best as they start this exciting chapter in their lives!

A special thank you to all those Muletown HOG members who gave of their time and resources in helping to make Valatta's dream a reality.





## ***EVENTS CALENDAR***

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- **October 25<sup>th</sup>** Chapter Lunch Ride: Eagle's Roost Restaurant  
Eagleville, TN (Closed Event)
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- **November 1st** Chapter Lunch Ride: Soda Pop Junction  
Lynnville, TN (Closed Event)
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- **November 6th** Road Captains Training: "The Garage"  
Columbia, TN (Closed Event)
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- **November 8<sup>th</sup>** Chapter Lunch Ride: Henpeck Market  
Franklin, TN (Closed Event)
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- **November 22<sup>nd</sup>** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Muletown Chapter "Turkey Run"  
(Closed Event)

Chapter Meeting (Open Event)

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- **December 6<sup>th</sup>** CMA Toy Run (Open Event)
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- **December 19** Muletown Chapter Christmas Party  
Park Place Catering  
Columbia, TN (Open Event)
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**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.

Sponsored by:  
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[www.hdcolumbia.com](http://www.hdcolumbia.com)

*Harley Owners Group*

**Chapter 2033**

[www.muletownrider.com](http://www.muletownrider.com)

## ***Chapter Officers:***

Director - Bill Isom

Assistant Director - Arnold Conner

Treasurer - Ken Steverson

Activities Coordinator - Eddie Campbell

Head Road Captain – Jerry Knox

Newsletter Editor – Tricia Shearn

LOH Director – Hope Conner



Ten Passenger Harley Limo