

Muletown News

August / September 2009

You Must Be Crazy To Ride A Motorcycle!

By Jackie Vaughan

(Submitted By: Arnold Conner)

“You have to be completely crazy to ride a motorcycle. Those things are dangerous!”

How often have we heard that? Zealous four-wheelers are bent on saving us from our own stupidity. Of course our bulbs are dim. Anyone bright wouldn't go near one of those two-wheeled death machines. “It's too risky,” they intone piously.

In a small part, they are right. There is risk involved in operating a motorcycle. There's also risk involved in driving on a freeway, even in a tank. And it's purely insane to sleep on a waterbed if we have cats. The trick is to manage the risks and to not take dumb risks.

One of the main keys to managing risks is to take a motorcycle rider course, and to keep the mental and physical skills we learn sharp. Many skills are lost in six months if they aren't practiced. Knowing good cornering and curve-riding techniques doesn't do us any good if we don't practice them.

Knowing our limits, the limits of our machines, and the limits of our environment and riding within those limits is also critical. We must remember that those limits change constantly and adapt our riding style to conform to them.

Superior riders never get themselves into situations requiring superior skills. Taking dumb risks is asking for trouble. If we keep pushing our limits, we will eventually exceed them, and the consequences can be devastating or even fatal. Riding faster and faster through a familiar curve can spell disaster when we've pushed our traction to the limits and there's something unexpected in the road halfway through the curve. Riding fast in the rain just because we're in a hurry makes no sense when we know we can't stop quickly. Slowing down and putting distance between us and a hazard is sensible risk management. Replacing worn tires helps keep us safely stuck to the road.



Part of the challenge of motorcycling is risk management, and the sport wouldn't be very enjoyable if we wrapped ourselves in cotton and surrounded ourselves with a cocoon of safety devices. However, the sport is more fun if we don't have to worry about dangers we create for ourselves.

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Family

By: Hope Conner

I believe I was in a Primary Officers Training class when the instructor told a story about a HOG member's first chapter meeting. He was greeted by a fellow member who said "Welcome to the family! What took you so long to get here?" I remember smiling and thinking that is a really nice way to describe how friendly a chapter can be. But it wasn't until these past few months that I realized just how true those words really are. I knew we had made some wonderful friends within the chapter who have cared about Arnold and I, and our family. Always asking how is Maddy doing? And taking the time to make her feel welcome when the only way I could take part on a chapter ride was bringing her with me and following in the car to the destination. Then when we found out that Maddy was going to have a sister many of you always made a point to ask how things were and how everyone was doing. When Kinley arrived we were very proud and eager to show her to all of our friends. In fact Ali brought her and Maddy to Bruster's the night of the Million Mile Monday Ride so we could introduce her to our Muletown friends.

Just a few days after that is when we began to realize that our chapter is about so much more than motorcycles and great rides. It is about family. Because that is how you have treated us through some very difficult weeks. So many of you took the time to call and offer your prayers and concern. Never failing to ask how you could help us. And when the time came that we needed our "family" the most many of you were there to support us. I have two reasons for writing this. One is to say thank you for caring about us, our children, and our grandchildren. You have helped in so many different ways.

I also want to say to all of those members who have joined and have never attended one meeting or one ride..... you have no idea what you are missing out on! I honestly do not understand why you would take the time to become a member but never once visit with us. These are some of the greatest people you will ever meet! So how about checking the calendar and making plans to attend our next event.

Come on out and meet your family!



Well can you believe we are heading into fall already?? Please be aware of increased deer activity.

We would like to welcome all the new members, good to have you aboard. The Chapter has met our goal of 70 members. We dropped below that for just a short while, but thanks to the newest additions, we currently stand at 71. I would like to take a minute to say how important it is to keep your international dues up to date. HOG sends out a list of all chapter members showing if you are A – Active or I – Inactive. So legally, to be active in the Chapter you must keep your international HOG dues current. Please stay on top of it.

Let's start fall off by finding a few more riders who share the fun of the open road and put on a few miles together. Remember as they say the BEST IS YET TO COME!!! See you on down the road!

Peace

Jay



Chapter Membership
Total as of September 2009
-71-



Welcome!
Our newest members:

James Lockwood
Debra Stall
Matthew Starner
John Stockinger
Daniel McCulley
Bob Bruton
Shirley Bruton

Muletown HOG Chapter #2033

Officers

Director – Bill Isom

Assistant Director – Arnold Conner

Secretary – Jock Floyd

Treasurer – Ken Steverson

Activities Coordinator – Eddie Campbell

Head Road Captain – Jerry Knox

LOH Director – Hope Conner

Membership Officer – Jay Morgan

Newsletter Editor – Tricia Shearn

www.muletownrider.com

This month's spotlight on...

Jerry Knox



WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST BIKE? 1982 Yamaha 400 Maxim

WHEN AND WHAT PROMOTED YOU TO START RIDING? When I was a kid, maybe 5 or 6, I was in downtown Columbia with my Mama and I remember seeing what I now think was a mid 60's Duo Glide come around the courthouse. I knew then someday I wanted something that made that "sound".

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOTORCYCLE RIDE / TRIP SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN RIDING?

I guess it would have to be an extended weekend road trip to Pigeon Forge, Bryson City, Robbinsville, NC and the Dragon.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM MOTORCYCLE RIDE / VACATION? Without a doubt, Monument Valley, Utah and the Grand Canyon. I've done it in a motor home, but want to go back on the Road King.

MOST FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP OTHERS PREVENT IT:

A couple come to mind. I was going down Mooresville Pike at about 60+ mph when I hit a metal object that caused a rear blowout! Also meeting a semi on the Dragon. Stay to the right of your lane!

CURRENTLY RIDES: 2006 Road King





Eddie Fisher

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST BIKE? 1966 Bridgestone 60 cc

WHEN AND WHAT PROMOTED YOU TO START RIDING?

My brother rode, and a friend's brother had a Duo Glide that I got to ride on. This was around 1965.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOTORCYCLE RIDE / TRIP SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN RIDING?

I've had many great rides. A most memorable ride is hard to pick. I did ride from Ann Arbor, Michigan to Denver, Colorado in 1972.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM MOTORCYCLE RIDE / VACATION?

I would like to ride from Tennessee to Sturgis, north to Washington State and back.

MOST FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP OTHERS PREVENT IT:

I had an old man turn left in front of me back in 1969. This happened at an intersection and I hit his front fender. No broken bones, but I hurt like hell. Recommendation is to ride like you are invisible!

CURRENTLY RIDES: 1998 Road King



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE PATTY & RODNEY?????

(Part 2)



June 19th - 21st - 950 miles

London, KY (Wildcat Harley Dealer)
Slade, KY - Red River Gorge, Devil's Gulch
Nada, Ky - Nada Tunnel
Red Boiling Springs, TN - Cyclemo's Motorcycle Museum



June 26th - 28th - 1400 miles

Louisville, KY
Story, IN (Story Inn - Restaurant & Story Still Tavern Motorcycles park in the front & Horse at the hitchpost outback!!)
Little Nashville, IN/Brown County (Similar to Gatlinburg)
Holland, MI (Home of the Tulip Festival, Dutch thyme)
Mansfield, IN (Home of Covered Bridge Festival, population approx. 10 Over 2 million people roll through during the Festival)
Santa Claus, IN (Christmas Thyme Village)

July 3rd -6th - 1800 miles

Oldenburg, IN (German community with strong Catholic History)
Metamora, IN (1838 Canal Town...Like Gatlinburg only 1/3 the size with Gravel Streets)
Dublin, OH (Roadside attraction "Giant Field of Corn")
Put-In-Bay, OH (Island Community Only accessible by Ferry with majority of Island transportation is Golf Carts & Bicycles, Home of World's Largest Bar)
Ashland, OH (Home of Hot Air Balloon Festival)
Berlin, OH (Large Amish Community with great Amish built crafts & furniture)
Croshocton, OH (Historic Roscoe Village - History & Charm of the >1800's, Much like Lynchburg)
Charleston, WV (Heart of the Appalachian mountains...Beautiful Foggy Scenery at 6:00 in the morning)

July 11th-12th - 650 miles

Gadsden, Alabama (Noccalua Falls - Read the Legend of this young lady's lost Love jump...Incredible Place to Visit)
Cheaha Mountain, Alabama (Highest Pointe in Alabama)
Talladega, Alabama (Talladega Scenic Highway)



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE PATTY & RODNEY????? (cont'd)



July 24th – August 7th14 States in 14 Days, **6900 miles**

Metropolis, IL (Home of Superman); Carbondale, IL

Oquawka, IL (Home of Norma Jean-Elephant struck and killed by Lightning) Brandon, IA (Home of World's Largest Frying Pan)

Mitchell, SD (Home of World's Only Corn Palace)

Wounded Knee, SD (1890 Indian Massacre site) Hot Springs, SD (Mammoth Discover Site/Oldest Jail in SD Territory)

Custer State Park, SD; Mount Rushmore, SD; Badlands, SD; Walls, SD

Needles Point/Custer State Park, SD; Deadwood, SD; Sturgis, SD

Devils Tower, MT; Little Big Horn, MT (Custer's Last Stand) Billings, MT

Virginia City, MT (City Site of the TV Show Bonanza) Lewis & Clark Scenic Trail Hwy, MT Butte, MT (Richest Mountain in Montana & Home of Evel Knievel)

Yellowstone Park, WY (Sulphur Springs, Mud Volcano) Beartooth Pass, WY Cody, WY (Home of Buffalo Bill's Irma Hotel & Restaurant...BEST Ribs Ever!!, Most Photographed Bar in Wyoming)

Yellowstone Park, WY (Old Faithful, Continental Divide) Grand Tetons Mountains, WY (Incredible!!!) Rawlins, WY

Steamboat Springs, CO; Pueblo, CO

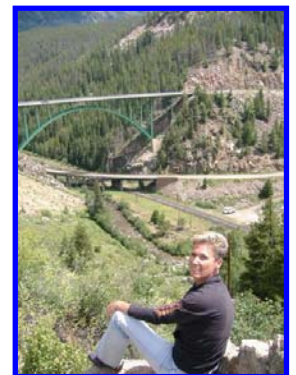
Dodge City, KS (Boothill Cemetery) Chisholm Trail, OK (110 Degrees Hot and Sunny!!) Oklahoma City, OK (Bricktown...Beautiful Downtown/Water Canal)

Cowboy Museum, Oklahoma City, OK (A Must SEE!!) Corn, OK (P.R. Love Corn) Meers, OK (Home of the World Famous Meers Burger) Tahlequah, OK

Buffalo's Mulebarn & Social Club (A must stop for any Muletown Member!!) Talimena Scenic Drive, AR/OK (Wildlife Heaven...Saw 4 Bear, 2 Deer & Bobcat within 20 miles) Benton, LA

Spring Hill, TN

To be continued...



EVENTS CALENDAR

September 25th-27th	Chapter Overnight Ride: Smoky Mountains – Maryville, TN	(Closed Event)
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October 10th	Chapter Lunch Ride: Big Sandy, TN	(Closed Event)
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October 11th	Dierks Bentley “Miles and Music for Kids” Charity Ride Benefits Monroe Carell, Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt http://dierks.com/miles-and-music-kids	
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October 17th	Chapter Lunch Ride: Amish Country Buggy Ride - Lawrenceburg, TN	(Closed Event)
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October 20th	Chapter Meeting: Park Place Catering & Reception Hall	(Open Event)
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October 24th	Chapter Lunch Ride: Cyclemo’s Motorcycle Museum – Red Boiling Springs, TN	(Closed Event)
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October 31st	Chapter Lunch Ride: Halloween Cemetery Ride – Maury Co., TN	(Closed Event)
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November 14th	Chapter Lunch Ride: Henpeck Market - Franklin, TN	(Closed Event)
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November 21st	Muletown Chapter’s 4 th Annual “Turkey Run” Benefits Hope House – Maury County Center Against Domestic Violence	(Open Event)
	Chapter Meeting	(Open Event) ***Stay tuned for more details***

December 19th	Chapter Christmas Party: Park Place Catering & Reception Hall	(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.

A BIG “THUMBS UP” TO HARLEY-DAVIDSON: Anyone who’s ever had to push a big, fully loaded Harley dresser to back it out of a downward-angled driveway or parking spot knows how tough that task can be. But relief may be on the way. According to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Harley-Davidson has applied for a patent on a “Reverse Drive Assembly for a Motorcycle.” Though H-D has made no public statements regarding this patent, the company apparently would like to make this system adaptable to all of its current Big Twins. The idea is to provide a rather simple conversion that could allow any Big Twin, touring or otherwise, to have a reverse gear. (As reported in the September 2009 issue of Cycle World Magazine)