

# Muletown News

November / December 2009

## The Harley Davidson Story

By: Alan Liptrot

(Submitted By: Arnold Conner)

William Harley was 21 when he drew up plans for an 116cc engine, which was built and fitted to a pedal cycle. That was in 1901. He was joined by his friend Arthur Davidson, and together they worked on what was really a motor-bicycle. With the help of Arthur's brother, Walter, they completed the project in 1903, however the boys were so dissatisfied with their first attempt, they scrapped the bike, but not without gaining valuable experience along the way.

The second machine, with a 405cc engine is classed by many as the first real Harley. The bigger engine and frame design meant this machine was something other than a motor-bicycle, and was a forerunner of the modern motorcycle. The prototype was built in a ten by fifteen feet shed belonging to the Davidson family, although the engine parts were said to be built at the West Milwaukee Railshops, where older brother William Davidson worked as a foreman. By 1905 this motorcycle was been offered to the public on a very limited basis. Three were sold that year.

The shed was eventually moved to the Juneau Avenue factory to serve as a reminder of the company's humble beginnings, but sadly was accidentally demolished by contractors during the 1970's.

By 1907 production had reached 150 motorcycles, and in that year they began selling their machines to police departments. Also in that same year, a prototype 880cc, V-twin engine was developed and displayed at the Chicago Automobile show, although very few V-twin motorcycles were sold before 1910. By 1909 well over 1,000 motorcycles were being produced, a tribute not only to the boys' engineering skills, but also to their entrepreneurial attributes.

In 1917, when the USA entered the arena of World War 1, new demands were placed on the company, as the military needed a robust, reliable machine. Harley-Davidson rose to the challenge and produced 20,000 motorcycles for the war machine. This no doubt helped the company take their place as the World's largest motorcycle manufacturer, and by 1920 they were producing over 28,000 units which were sold in 67 countries.

The depression of the Thirties hit the company hard and production fell to less than 4,000 in 1933. Through necessity, they produced a three-wheeled delivery vehicle which was named the 'Servi-car', a design that stood the test of time and only ceased production in 1973.

As war came again, Harley-Davidson copied the design of the BMW R71, and produced the XA model, as once again the company answered the demands of the United States Army and produced large numbers of motorcycles. They also built the WLC for the Canadian military, and sent more than 30,000 units to the Soviet Union.

After the war, the company flourished and the 'Super 10' and 'Topper' scooter were produced. In 1960 they bought fifty percent of Aeronautica Macchi's motorcycle division and the importation of the 250cc horizontal single began. This bike wore the Harley-Davidson badge and was marketed as the 'Harley-Davidson Sprint'. The company became sole owners of Aermacchi in 1974.

Hollywood too has played a part in the development of Harley-Davidson, sadly tarnishing the company's image and leading the brand to be associated with groups such as 'Hell's Angels'. In 1969 AMF bought the company, decimated the workforce and began to produce a machine which was much inferior to its Japanese rivals. Sales slumped and the company was on the edge of the abyss. The company's reputation became almost irredeemable.

Under pressure from Harley-Davidson, the US government introduced a 45% tariff on imported motorcycles over 700cc, but instead of going head to head with the Japanese, they concentrated on the 'Retro' style of bike. Many of the components for these machines were built overseas, and the quality of the finished article took a turn for the better.

In 2008, a Harley-Davidson Museum opened in Milwaukee. The three building complex contains a large collection of motorcycles and other Harley-Davidson memorabilia. This represents a huge leap from the shed in the Davidson's backyard and the austere years of the Great Depression. Proof enough that Harley-Davidson is more than a motorcycle, more than a company; it has become a way of life for motorcyclists all over the world. William and Arthur would be delighted.



**THE WINNERS OF OUR 2009 MILEAGE CONTEST:**

Male: Len Roberts  
 Female: Hope Conner

Chapter Membership  
 Total as of December 2009  
 -73-



**Welcome!**  
 Our newest members:

Pete Hayes  
 Phil E. Hulsey  
 Gary D. Davis  
 Susan L. Davis

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

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## LOOKING BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS AT THE SAME TIME

Hello Muletown,

Well, we have made it to the end of another year. When the end of the year comes each year, most everyone does two things. We all look back at the year behind us, and look forward to the year ahead of us. As I think about these two ideas, I reminisce about the past year of Muletown. In some circles, anyone could say its been a bad year. In some respects it has. We have had at least four members injured in bike related accidents, lost two grandchildren of members, and also lost a chapter member and dear friend of MJ and myself. Also, we had countless rides cancelled due to rain. All that being said, you might think, "Wow, what's going on?" While these losses and accidents and injuries make us sad, there were a lot of good times also. From "The Magical Mystery Tour" to deep fried turkey, it was still a good year. When tragedy strikes in the losses we've had, nothing can replace them, but the friendship we share is a help. Trust me. In 2006 when I lost my first wife, I bought the Road King, and, at Teri Christ's urging, joined Muletown. What I found were people who, like myself, just wanted to ride and have fun. Thanks to the people I met that summer, and a lot of them are you, I was able to bear up under the grief I was experiencing. When you get down to it, H.O.G. is family. What does family do when hardship comes? They bond together and help each other out.

Enough about the past. We also look to the year ahead. On the rainy days we couldn't ride, I have spent them thinking about what we can do in 2010. While there are places that we all want to go every year, we also need to come up with new ideas and places to go, things to do. For instance, I was really disappointed that we didn't get to do the Amish country buggy ride. That was something different. That is just one of many that was a victim of foul weather. Even though it is just December, before you know it, we will be planning rides for the first quarter of 2010. PLEASE let us hear from you if you have an idea of some place or something new. In the meantime, if you catch good enough weather to ride, keep a check on those tire pressures, as they can change in cooler weather, and RIDE SAFE! If any of you have any ideas or new places to go, contact me anytime at [simpleman12r@yahoo.com](mailto:simpleman12r@yahoo.com). MJ and I are looking forward to next spring, and BRINGING DOWN THE CHROME THUNDER on some unsuspecting town!

Remember, rubber side down, chrome side up,

JK



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

(Part 3)



August 15<sup>th</sup> - **700 Miles**

Single day trip: Rising Sun, IN (Nice Little River Town...Great River Road getting there)



August 23<sup>rd</sup> - **400 Miles**

Single day trip: Ridgely, TN (near Reelfoot Lake)



August 29<sup>th</sup> - **500 Miles**

One day trip to Old Shawneetown, IL (Oldest town in Illinois...Home of HoggDaddy's Saloon, just about the only business in this old town)

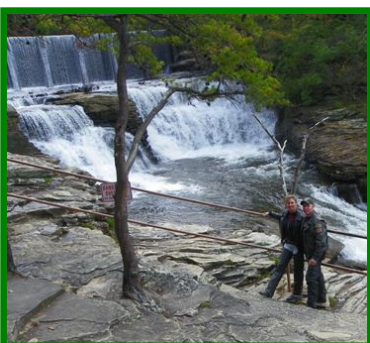


Sept 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> - 800 Miles

Historic Valle Crucis, NC - Mast General Store (Oldest General Store in NC built 1883) Bristol, VA

Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> - 550 Miles

New Harmony, IN (Charming Historical Town...Lincoln once lived here)



10/22<sup>nd</sup> - 10/24<sup>th</sup> - 750 Miles

Ft. Payne, AL (Desoto Falls) & Blue Ridge, GA (Great Mountain Roads & Cabin)  
Helen, GA (Great little German theme town) & Tiger, GA (Goats on Roof location)



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



October 31<sup>st</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup> -  
**550 Miles**  
Rock Island, TN (Rock Island State Park & Waterfalls) & Pigeon Forge, TN



November 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> - **900 Miles**  
Portsmouth, OH (Incredible back river road and a MOST SEE painted flood wall Murals almost 5 blocks long!!)  
Muletown, OH (Home of the MULETOWN MARKET)



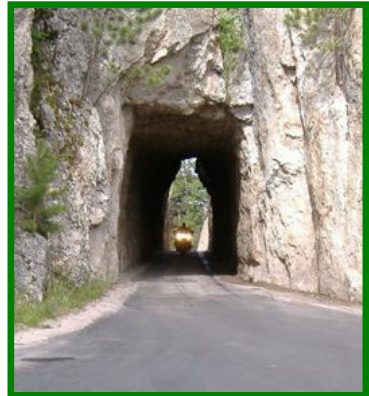
November 15th - **400 Miles**  
Paducah, KY (Walk friendly downtown with painted Flood Wall Murals...not quite as nice as Portsmouth, OH)

November 25th-27th  
**1200 Miles**  
Shreveport, LA

*Patty & Rodney have again gone to the ends of the earth and back! For those who are keeping track, their final mileage:*



**Rodney 32,121 Miles**  
**Patty 28,483 Miles**



# MULETOWN



## CHAPTER #2033

Date: 12/09

To: Membership

From: Jay Morgan

Subject: December HOG Newsletter



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Can you believe Christmas is already upon us with the New Year soon to come, I sure can't! Where did the riding season go!

As we all get ready for the Christmas party I'd like to let you know we will have the 2010 membership forms available for early enrollment (Your National HOG Membership must be active) Upon your paid \$15 enrollment dues we will punch your card. Any renewal dues received after the February 2010 HOG membership meeting will be \$20, so be sure to signup early!!

I'd also like to thank everyone for filling out the bio forms this year, they were very interesting to read and the pictures were great, a special thanks to Trish for including them in the newsletter.

The year-end 2009 membership was 73! Let's make our 1<sup>st</sup> goal of the New Year is 80!!

Now that the weather is turning cooler it's a great time to check over you scooter and make sure the tires are up to par, inspect for loose nuts and bolts, apply a good coat of polish and get ready for the 2010 **Polar Bear Run!**

I'd also like to thank you, the membership and the current officers for all of their help in my first year as your Membership Officer. To my Mini Crew Thanks (**You know who you are!**)

Let's put on our thinking caps and make those rides to places we missed this year and make them happen in 2010!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

**Peace,  
Jay Morgan**