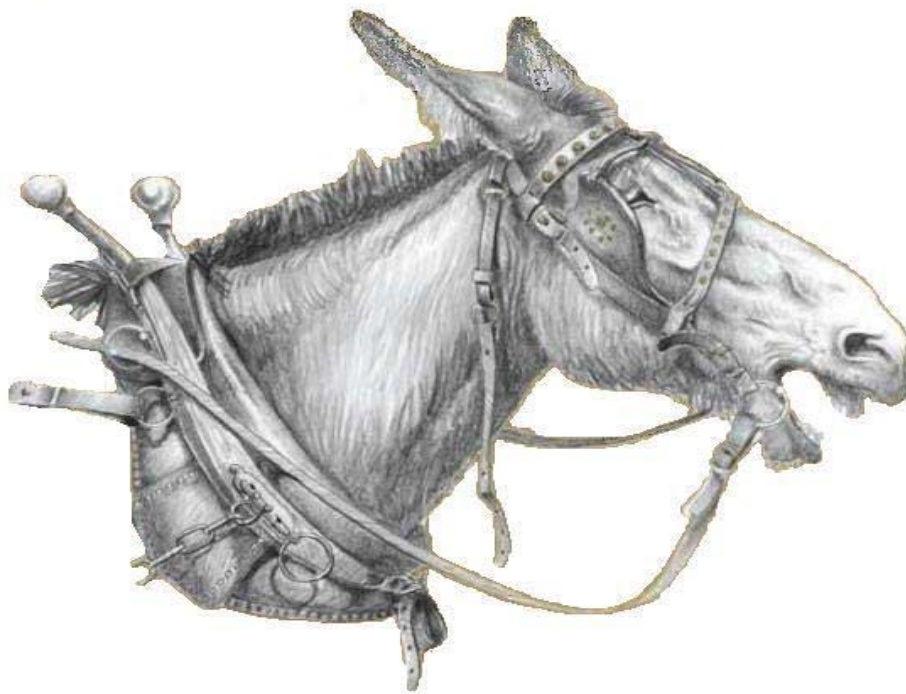


Muletown News

June / July 2007

Harley Owners Group®



Muletown Chapter 2033

Sponsored By:
Harley-Davidson of Columbia
1028 Nashville Hwy.
Columbia, TN 38401

www.muletownrider.com

Chapter Officers

Director - Bill Isom
 Assistant Director - Arnold Conner
 Secretary - Randy Kinsey
 Treasurer - Ken Steverson
 Activities Coordinator - Eddie Campbell
 Head Road Captain / Safety Cord.- Ron Miller
 Newsletter Editor - Hope Conner

Calendar of Events

June 30 — 2nd Annual Giles County
 Veterans Alliance Benefit Ride

July 14 — Red Boiling Springs Overnight
 Ride / Day Ride

July 21 — "Giving Something Back"
 Multi-Chapter Poker Run

August 11 — Chapter Ride / Picnic

August 19 — Road Captains / Group
 Riding Training
 (2:00 p.m. – Park Place)

August 24-25 — National HOG Rally
 Knoxville, TN

September 15 — Chapter Lunch Ride
 River Shack
 Perryville, TN

September 29 — Pickwick Landing State
 Park Overnight Ride



To Our Newest Members

Darrell Alshie
 Ronald Grabar
 Timothy Herhold
 Denise Little
 Becky Patterson
 John Poor
 Johnny Turman
 Petrona Turman
 Trish Shearn
 Roxanne Wright

The Muletown Chapter
 Officers And It's Members
 Welcome All Of You
 To The Family!

Chapter Membership Total
 As Of June 2007
 - 114 -



*"Four Wheels Move The Body,
 Two Wheels Move The Soul"*

Author Unknown

Express Yourself - In The Company Of Others

By: Arnold Conner

WOW!, What a great year it has been so far! It's hard to believe that we're already halfway through June and well into our summer riding season. Where does the time go? For those that were lucky enough to get up to the State HOG Rally in Nashville I'm sure that if you're like me you had your fill of "Rockin' The Country", which was this years theme. I ran into a lot of Muletown members and it sure made me proud to see all of you there!

Speaking of great events, don't forget that the 24th Annual National Club HOG® Down Home Rally is being held this year in Knoxville, TN. The dates for this event are August 24th –25th. If you haven't already done so please plan on joining many of your fellow Chapter members for this sure to please good time. Registration is open until August 10th and there are several ways to do this, the easiest probably being online. The cost is \$20.00 per person for those that pre-register which includes shipping and handling of your rally pack. Please visit the Chapters website and look for more information and a link to this years Down Home Rally.

After re-reading my article from the last edition of our newsletter I have decided that I am going to stick with my theme "Express Yourself - In The Company Of Others for the remainder of the year. Much like the way you express yourself in customizing your Harley, expressing yourself in the HOG Chapter is much the same. Everyone has their likes and dislikes and whatever they may be we hope that you find enjoyment in being a member of this Chapter. If you haven't done so already, come out and join us for some of our upcoming rides. Check the calendar on the website for all of the information you need about both our Chapter Sponsored Events and volunteer Pick-up Rides.

Have a great summer and ride safe!



What Kind Of Member Are You?

By: Randy Kinsey

I'm asking this question because I have been thinking about it a lot lately since I returned for Primary Officers Training. The reason it has been on my mind is because of a patch I saw while we were there. It was a small rocker patch like we have on our vests. You know the ones that read "Charter Member", "Road Captain", etc. But this one just had the initials **J. A. F. O.** Ken and I thought about it for a little while and then we asked Ron what it meant, he told us that it stood for **J**ust **A**nother **F**_____ (you fill in the blanks) **O**bserver. I laughed about it at first but it didn't take long before I asked the question of myself, am I **J**ust **A**nother (BLEEP) **O**bserver? I thought about when I first joined our Chapter and how all I cared about was making the rides and being with the people I had become to think of as my Harley Family. It didn't take long before the want to help made me feel like a pest. I know Gary will back me up on this. I wanted to help in any way I could, so he and I would have long talks where I would ask a million questions. First I thought that becoming a Road Captain would be a way to help, to plan and lead rides to places I have enjoyed and wanted to share. But the want to help kept at me; I wanted to be involved, to make our Chapter the best it could be. I had ideas I wanted to share; I wanted to see the ideas I had heard others talk about put in to place. Before I knew it I was asked to take on the position of Safety Officer. I wondered if I was up to the challenge but again I wanted to help in anyway I could. It was work I have to admit but I know that nothing good ever comes easy, so I stuck with it. This year even though I had my reservations I was asked to be the Secretary. I was concerned that my workload was already at a breaking point and finding the time to be involved would really be a challenge. The challenge is still there, between a family life, work and all the everyday chores it is hard to make the time to stay involved, as I would like. I've missed being there to ride and visit with all of you this year but it is not because I haven't wanted to be there. The want to help is just as strong it's just the extra time isn't. So I hope you see why I have been asking myself the question, am I Just Another (BLEEP) Observer?

So here is where I ask you to ask yourself this question, What kind of member am I? Do I have the desire to help? Do I have ideas I would like to share? Can I find the time to give of myself to help our Chapter? If you can answer yes to any of these questions I hope you will make that known to any of your Chapter Officers. Let me assure you there is nothing wrong with being an observer if that is where your heart leads you, but if you have the desire to give more of yourself contact your officers, we would love to hear from you. I know that together we will make this the best Chapter ever.

Relax and Enjoy the Ride

By: Ken Steverson

I bet every one of you has found yourself in this situation. It is a beautiful day and you're out for a ride in unexplored territory. You are enjoying the sights and smells of a wonderful summer day, a deer in the pasture on your left, the smell of honeysuckle and freshly cut hay. You say to yourself "Ah, what a morning! Life IS good."

You notice that the terrain is changing a bit and the road is becoming a little more challenging, there are some nice sweepers and you're now encountering some hills. You pay a bit more attention to your riding but your mind wanders a bit still taking in the views. Your mind returns to the task at hand, safely riding your bike, and all of sudden there is a sharp turn to the right and you can't see through the curve, you think "wasn't there a road sign or did I just miss it". You're into the curve too "hot", Mother Nature takes over, and now you're in a panic mode. You do your best to stay within your lane but for some reason the bike doesn't want to turn. "What's wrong with my bike?" races through your mind. You've now crossed the yellow line, your well into the oncoming lane and all you can do is hope and pray that there isn't a farmer in his John Deere or a logging truck coming in the opposite direction. Luckily, farmer Jones is still feeding the hogs this morning, the logging truck broke down a couple of miles down the road and you finally manage to get through the curve and back into your lane. Now you get that funny "weak knee" feeling and you say to yourself "What just happened, why wouldn't my bike turn?"

A lot of bikers, many less fortunate than you, have asked the same question. During a recent study of motorcycle accidents (with no other vehicle involved), the riders were asked to explain the accident. Many responded, "My bike just wouldn't turn and I ran off the road." I suspect, as did those studying the accidents that there are many contributing factors to this situation. Speed and riding beyond one's ability, object fixation and failure to make an appropriate head turn could have certainly been contributing factors. I also suspect that upper body tension particularly tension in the arms contributed to the riders perception that the bike wouldn't turn. Think about it. Every movement of our arms is transmitted to the handlebar of our bike. If a counter steering push to make a right turn is equaled by tension in the left arm the net result is a bike on a straight-line course and failure to negotiate the right hand turn.

Ever find yourself becoming aware of fatigue in your hands and realize that you're "white knuckled" and are squeezing the grips like a vice? Don't deny it; I think we've all been there. I'll guarantee you if you have a death grip on your handle bar you've also got tension in your arms and are sending confusing steering signals to your bike.

Bottom line, LOOSEN UP! Relax your grip. Be aware of tension building in your shoulders. If you find your shoulders up around your ears you can safely bet that you're tense. Drop your shoulders. Put a little bend in your arms and shake them out from time to time. RELAX, enjoy the ride and make that turn every time.

Ruminations

By Ron Miller a.k.a. "Duke"

June 7th found 11 bikes and 15 up all headed down to Manchester by the Sea for some seafood delight from Famous Freddie's. A good restaurant with a helpful waitress and a fast kitchen. We enjoyed the roads and the route picked out by our road captain, Ken Steverson, and his chief Navagatrix, Mary Steverson. Couldn't have asked for better weather, with temps in the upper 80's and no clouds to be seen. Thanks Ken, for a good trip and a good meal.

This was Hope Conner's inaugural voyage in group riding. I couldn't see her from where I was, but when I checked on her at a rest stop, she had a big grin on her face. Knew she was doing well. Arnold said she wanted to go faster in the curves, but I think we were going plenty fast enough! Didn't even suggest it to Ken.

Ken's ride on the 9th was our first ride since the State rally at Opryland. We had a blast. Got it started off with the class by Jerry "Motorman" Paladino. This was a fun way to sharpen the skills we had or to learn new skills. Everyone learned the importance of "head and eyes" and to turn the head as far around as it will go. Jerry teaches the method of riding taught to police officers, and it is effective. One of the students put his foot down (a common occurrence), held it down just bit too long, and got it caught under the passenger's peg. Fortunately he was wearing heavy motorcycle boots--we wear these for a reason! Had some damage to a tendon, but it could have been worse. Without the boots he probably would have had a "spiral fracture" of the ankle. This type of fracture is the worst ankle fracture there is, and requires surgery with screws and plates. Fortunately he was properly attired, and is back up and riding.

Speaking of proper attire, I saw some of the worst examples of group riding, and the worst safety violations, at the rally this year than I have seen in over 30,000 miles of group riding. Men riding in shorts and sandals and women on the back wearing shorts and flip flops. Also plenty of people were drinking and riding in the evenings. It's a wonder there weren't more injuries. Now I know why there are so many accidents at Daytona Bike Week each year.

Enough preaching, and I hope I am preaching to the choir! On Friday and Saturday we had the competition warm ups and the qualifying runs. Gary, Jay Billman, Teresa, Trish and myself enjoyed the heat and the competition. We also enjoyed improving our slow speed skills. We all feel more confident about handling the big bikes at the slow speeds required in most riding situations.

We also enjoyed the ride on the General Jackson. It was a lazy ride, with entertainment, food and drink up the Cumberland to downtown Nashville and back. Later we went to the Wildhorse for the night's entertainment. There was a shuttle service at the hotel, so no need to get on the bikes after the party. The bikes lined up on Second from Broad to Church Street was an impressive sight, as were the throngs of people occupying most of the sidewalks.

If you missed the Rally this year, there is always next year. Hope to see you at the next one.

On My Own Two Wheels

By: Hope Conner

When I was a teenager my friend and I rode our bicycles everywhere and anywhere. There were no limits—no boundaries. When we jumped on our bikes we took off. Free to go anywhere and see anyone. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, and you were with your best friend. Nothing else mattered except having a good time. And at the end of the day you went back home put the bicycle back in the garage, and then you had to do your homework and your chores that were both there waiting for you.

Our lives are pretty much the same now. There are always “things” that need to be done. Bills that have to be paid, lawns that need to be mowed, or laundry that needs to be washed . But on Saturday when you roll that motorcycle out of the garage and take off down the highway—Don't you get that same feeling all over again ? The sun is shining, the sky is blue, and you are with your best friend. For the next several hours nothing else matters. It is only about that day and the peaceful feeling of just cruising and taking in the beauty of what surrounds you on your ride. And at the end of the day you head back home, put the bike back in the garage and all those responsibilities are still there waiting for you.

I have enjoyed being a passenger on a motorcycle for the past several years. But I can honestly say that it took riding my own to make me see why so many do it. The feeling of freedom is unbelievable. The view is amazing! And I can't wait to see more!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Driving Your Car

VS.

Riding Your Bike?

By: Gary Shearer

I am involved in a lot of motorcycle training classes. Sometimes I am the student; and sometimes I am the teacher. I hear lots of advice given to students from both my peers in the teaching field and the instructors I continue to learn from them on how to stay safe while riding motorcycles. Lots of techniques on how to handle specific situations and what to do if.....? After listening to these teaching tools over the years, I think I have a much simpler way to educate riders on staying safe!

Instructors teach awareness about obvious things like riding gear being your only protection on a bike vs. the cage you are surrounded by in a car. They teach the difference in stability and vulnerability on a bike vs. a car. They teach the difference between 2 wheels and 4. Why don't they just teach the fact that your mind set has to be different on your bike than in your car?

Many of us are "weekend only" riders. We get our bikes out on the weekends as a release from the day to day hassle of real life. When we are riding, we are usually well aware that we are on our bikes and generally stay away from heavy traffic for the few hours that we ride. Eventually, we all end up riding on bikes somewhere in the real world. Places where busy traffic is the scene and there is a greater potential for danger. The folks who get into trouble here are the ones who do not stay focused on the fact they are still on their bikes! How many of you have ever found yourself tailgating a car while riding your bike? How many of you have ever found yourself hanging out in the left hand lane on the interstate just rolling down the highway enjoying the breeze? How many of you have pulled out from a traffic light that just turned green without looking just because your light turned green? These are just a few scenarios most of you can relate to if you are truly honest with yourself. We have all done these things at one time or another. The problem with these scenarios is we are forgetting to ride our bikes differently than we drive our cars!

It is my opinion that riders, without even knowing, gravitate toward their car driving habits while riding their bikes. I believe this to be a major reason for accidents among motorcyclists. A wise person once told me that motorcycling is a *perpetual* learning activity. I now know this to be true. My advice to you is to take some time to educate yourself on experiences and techniques others have had while riding. No matter how good of a rider you think you are; there is always someone better than you out there! When you think you are the best and know everything, you become a danger to yourself and others. Give this theory some thought. I would love to discuss this with you sometime.

Classifieds

1998 Harley-Davidson Sportster 883Low

Silver w/ Black Flames

Added features:

- New Drive belt
- New Battery
- New Ignition
- New Handlebars
- Saddlebags
- Windshield

Garage Kept

Very Clean!

\$5,000

Contact: Johnny Turman

Throwindirt11C@aol.com

Anyone interested in submitting a classified in the next newsletter please send your information to Hope Conner hsconner@msn.com