



Muletown Chapter 2033

<http://www.muletownrider.com>

Assistant Director's Report

Muletown,
Man, it sure has been a hot summer hasn't it! It seems like the 90 + degree days just won't let up. This year Sue and I have spent a little more time in Michigan to beat the heat. The weather up yonder is a little less humid and a little cooler during the summer than Tennessee.

We got together with my good friend Doug Stone and his wife Jeanne and took a motorcycle trip up to Northern Michigan to visit Beaver Island. The island sits about 32 miles out in Lake Michigan from Charlevoix. It is a beautiful and semi rustic island where

the biggest source of employment use to be fishing for white fish. Let me tell you, the boat ride over and back was a little bit rough. Like Dramamine rough.



For those of you who have never been on the Great Lakes, they are similar to being on the ocean.

The bike ride up was great. We took back roads and saw a lot of farm land with corn, soybeans, and dairy cattle. Stopped in Lake City and visited

with a friend of mine who had retired from Saturn, and then on to Charlevoix where we spent the night. We got on the boat the next day. The ride back to Lower Michigan a few days later wasn't as great as we encountered some big rain that caused us to get off the road for awhile.

If you have never been to the Great Lakes in Northern Michigan, I would highly recommend it. I know many of you have traveled this summer and may be heading somewhere this fall. Wherever you travel, enjoy your Harley Davidson and ride safe!

~Zero



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Muletown Officers

- Bill Isom, Director/
Sponsoring Dealer
- Eddie "Zero" Fisher,
Assistant Director
- Neil "Tex" Jones,
Treasurer
- Terry Fox, Membership
- "Colonel" Tony Cornelius,
Head Road Captain
- Eddie Mann,
Activities Director
- Ken Steverson, Secretary
- Jon "Doc" Ullrich, Editor
- Tricia Shearn, Webmaster

Activities Report, Eddie Mann

This time of year is my favorite for enjoying my bike. The heat is toned down a bit and colors of the Tennessee hills give you some of the best riding and sight-seeing in the country. We know fall is close because it is Chapter picnic time. By the time you are reading this we should be enjoying food and fellowship hosted by Doc and Sheryl after a short ride though some back roads led by Terry Fox. Our next major activity after the picnic will be our annual charity ride. This year the chapter has selected the Maury County Veterans as our charity of choice. The money raised stays here local and 100 percent of money raised will go to our veterans. This ride will be held on Nov

5th and one we hope the entire chapter will come out and support. For December we will have our annual Christmas party. The officers are still working out the details for the party this year. Be sure to get all your information at the Chapters meetings on the third Tuesday of the month at Puckett's on the square in Columbia. Next year Harley Owners Group has chosen The Upper Cumberland area and Cookeville to host what they are calling the Southern Backroads HOG rally. This rally will be from July 11-15 Cookeville has hosted State Rally's 3 out of the last 5 years. If you have been to any of them you know how much fun

this rally is, if not you should go experience it for yourself. The rally committee will be taking the favorites of the 3 state rallies and combining this into the regional rally. I am putting this in this article a little early so that if you want to plan on going you can plan and book a hotel A.S.A.P. You can find out about the rally a little early on Facebook at Southern Backroads HOG Rally. And as a final reminder don't forget to get those pictures of all the courthouses you took pictures of to Trish by Novembers Chapter meeting to claim the prize.

~Eddie Mann



Secretary Report, Ken Steverson

Hey Folks,

How is that for a "good ole" southern greeting? Mary and I have just returned home from a week at Hilton Head Island and its good to hear southern lingo again. Don't get me wrong we met some nice folks but "the accents." Lots of folks from way north of the Mason Dixon Line. But we had a great time and we'll go back again next year. Already have our reservations. Enough of that. Lets get down to business.

As of the end of August we had \$1652.25 in our Muletown checking account. We have a few expenses coming up. We will be paying the postage for sending "care packages" to a service member serving in the Middle East and our Chapter picnic is also coming up. The chapter picnic is free to members and their family members, a real bargain considering the cost of your Muletown membership. Even with the above expected expenses we should be in

good shape for our next major expense, our annual Christmas party. Details of the Christmas party will be announced at a later date. Hard to believe we're already talking about Christmas.

We still have a good 6 or 8 weeks of good riding weather. Check out the web site calendar for upcoming rides and plan to rack up some miles before you have to break out the chaps and heated riding gear. See you on the road!

Head Road Captain Report, "Colonel" Tony Cornelius

Autumn riding season is upon us. I know that many of you love to take advantage of the great (if not notorious) scenic routes that Tennessee and the surrounding states have to offer. The following article talks about some of the challenges facing motorcycles/riders on these routes and mitigation being done to make them safer. I lost a high school friend last year who entered a curve too fast at night and I think this is a great review for anyone who rides a touring bike. I hope you enjoy it!

"Due to the fall color season October is the month of highest visitation on the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is also the month with the highest number of motor vehicle crashes. Every year a large proportion of those crashes involve motorcycles. Research has shown that most of these crashes involve large touring type bikes and experienced riders.

So what is it about the Blue Ridge Parkway that results in significant motorcycle wrecks?

The Blue Ridge Parkway was designed in the 1930s and 40s by engineers and landscape architects for slow moving scenic travel by motor car. One of the elements incorporated into the design were

descending radius curves. These were utilized to maximize the beauty of the land while hugging the contour of the mountains. These types of curves are not used in modern highway construction. It is safe to say that even motorcyclists who have been riding for most of



their adult lives will encounter curves the likes as they have never seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway and other national park roads. That is why even the slightest distraction or looking off at the scenery at the wrong time can result in disaster.

The Park Rangers on the Blue Ridge Parkway conducted analysis of motorcycle wrecks and identified specific areas where accidents were regularly occurring. An example would be south bound at mile post 36 in Virginia where eight motorcycle crashes occurred in one year. At these locations large and more "aggressive"

warning signs were placed directed toward motorcycles. Following the placement of the signs there were no motorcycle crashes at mile post 36 for two years.

One theory behind the number of crashes involving large touring style motorcycles is their design with a wide bottom or base of the frame. As motorcyclists enter these deceiving curves they tend to over correct and catch their foot pegs on the pavement. This common factor in many wrecks then causes the motorcycle to spin out of control.

Despite the new signs and an aggressive education program, motorcycle wrecks are still occurring in the park at an alarming level. The Blue Ridge Parkway is often referred to as one of the best roads in the world to tour by motorcycle. I do not doubt that is true. Motorcyclists need to be aware that they are traveling on a road surface that may include challenges they have not seen before. They need to watch both their speed and full attention to controlling their bikes down the entire length of the Blue Ridge Parkway so they can return home safely.

Ride Safe and Rumble On!

Tony Cornelius

Head Road Captain



Membership Report, Terry Fox

It's been one hot summer, and every time we get ready to ride it's 50% chance of rain!!!

What's up with that?? But still, we have a great little membership of 56 members, and I hear if we have a ride, Robbie has one more, that

wants to join!!

So if anyone knows anyone that wants to join now, for \$20.00 they can join for this year & all of next year!! We may be a small chapter, but I still think, we have the best membership!! ~Fox



October

Mike Ridings

November

Bridget Thomas

December

Harley Owners Group Sponsoring Dealership



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It is about the bikes and the people, after all.

Chapter Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to promote responsible motorcycling activities for local Harley Owner Group (H.O.G.) members by conducting Chapter activities and encouraging members to participate in other H.O.G. events. Chapter activities and operations shall be conducted in a manner consistent with a family oriented, non-political, philosophy. We are dedicated to advancing the enjoyment, image, and safety of the sport of motorcycling.

