

# Muletown News

September / October 2010



## Thoughts from Ken...

Hey Muletown-

I can't believe that it's already October and that within another 8 weeks our riding season is going to be coming to a close. But hasn't it been a great summer? We've had some great chapter rides and many of you have taken the opportunity to strike out on your own for some special riding experiences. Some folks have also purchased new bikes this summer. Pete Hayes is on a new scooter, I took a step up to the Street Glide as did P.R. and I understand that Rodney has a new bike on the way. It just doesn't get better than that. I'm looking forward to the next few weeks of riding. We're heading to Perryville for catfish, Eddie is leading us to Montgomery Bell, we have a Halloween cemetery ride planned and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Run is still to come. We've got lots of riding yet, so come on out and join us.

Recently I was reading an article by Fred Rau, a regular contributor to Motorcycle Consumer News, entitled "Motorcycle Unfriendly". The article addressed highway issues that impact motorcycle safety. As I read the article I was surprised at how many of the issues Mr. Rau addressed were present in abundance in our own riding "neighborhood". I know we have great roads in Tennessee in comparison to many other states but when it comes to motorcycle safety Tennessee still has a way to go. Here are some of the issues that we see regularly in our riding:

- Rain groves cut into the pavement to provide better traction for four wheelers in wet weather can create significant control issues for motorcycles. Can you say Nashville's 440 inter loop? Significant portions of the 440 loop have rain groves that will make even your 4 wheeler squirm.
- "Tar Snakes" or silicon compounds used to seal cracks in the road can be as slippery as ice. Until Hwy 412 was recently paved it was full of "Tar Snakes."
- Vinyl traffic arrows and lane markers used in place of paint can cause a serious reduction in traction
- Steel plates used to cover holes. Our own Harley Davidson Blvd. has a couple of steel plates, and when wet I guarantee you they are slick.
- Rumble strips that let a driver know they are wandering off the road. What about Carter's Creek Pike, not only does it have rumble strips on the side but there are rumble strips on the center line as well.
- Off camber turns can cause problems. Have you ever been surprised by scraping your floor board when making a right hand turn from the Tom Hitch By-pass onto Bear Creek Pike?

Even though we have great roads there are gremlins out there that can bite you if you don't stay alert. Keep your head and eyes up and ride safely.



Well here it is October and the fall riding has been great so far! Long sleeve shirt maybe your leather and your off and running. The membership stands at 60, and I have seen a few members who I haven't seen for a while, and told them about the picnic and what a good time they missed. I also told them just because they haven't made a lot of rides please try to attend the special ones: picnic, turkey run, Christmas party etc. It's always great to shoot the breeze with all our members. It won't be long and it will be time to renew those dues for 2011! I'd really like to see some old faces get back in the Chapter. I know things change. Kids playing ball, job hours change. But if you can, please try to make it back. There is also a new board up at the dealer that tells what we're doing for the month. Stinger did a great job on it! Thanks Stinger! This year will be the last year for the current membership cards. After paying your dues we will punch out 2011 and you will be set. Please make sure you keep up your national dues also. So one more reminder get your friends to join us on a few rides, sign up your wife. There's plenty of room for all! On the financial end, after all the bills have been paid this month, we are still in the black. Hope to see you all at the Chapter meeting!

Well that's about it for now hope to see you all soon!

Jay Morgan



## IT'S GETTING TO BE THAT TIME AGAIN-

Time to renew your Muletown Chapter membership. **Renew early**, before our first chapter meeting of 2011, and enjoy reduced membership dues of only **\$15.00**. If you're a procrastinator, it'll cost you! Renew after the first chapter meeting of 2011 and those membership dues jump to \$20.00. So why wait? Enjoy uninterrupted fun with your HOG Family even during the winter months. Renew early and get it out of the way. You'll be glad you did.

Chapter Membership  
Total as of October 2010  
**-61-**



## Welcome!

**Our newest member:**

Marti Alexander

## The "Bucket" List

We all have one. That list of things we want to do and places we want to go, mine just has Volumes 1 & 2. Not that I haven't been working on checking them off. It's just that I seem to be adding more as I go along. This past summer was no exception. We were heading to Alaska with our list in hand and looking forward to putting those checkmarks down the side as we traveled along.

We had months to plan and prepare but as the time drew near the excitement was almost unbearable. We thought we had planned for just about anything, but it was "Mr. Murphy" who said it best, "Anything that can go wrong, will." That's another story for another time, for this I'm going to focus on some of the good parts.

We left the first week of June and our travels took us northwest through South Dakota to Montana. Anybody who has been there will back me up; this is truly some beautiful country. Plenty of things to see and do there but those were all things checked off from previous trips. When you leave Rapid City and travel through Wyoming the Rocky Mountains start to appear on the horizon. There were plenty of times when the view framed by the windshield was just spectacular. When we got to Butte, Montana we turned north with the excitement of crossing into Canada not far off. This was uncharted territory for us; we had never been further west than Bozeman so it was all "new" to us from there on. Crossing in to Canada was painless for the most part, but I needed to practice some of my answers before we crossed back so as not to be pulled aside for the complete inspection. I really didn't know how long we planned on being in Canada and that answer just wasn't good enough for the border patrol agent. I'm sure the case of Bud Light was another strike against me too. I just never acquired a taste for Canadian beer, sorry. As it turned out, I would have liked to spend a lot more time there than we did, so my "list" has a few new entries for another trip another day.

After we made our way through Calgary we headed out to Ice Fields Parkway into Banff and Jasper National parks. This is where we saw our first glacier. The Columbia Glacier was just off the parkway, and worth the trip. Hearing there were record-breaking temps back home, it didn't feel nearly as cold as it was. From there we worked our way up to Dawson Creek, Milepost "0" of the Alaskan Highway. If you ever entertain the notion of making this trip, invest in a Milepost book to guide you along. It is filled with information and well worth the cost. As we drove along and counted down the miles, the scenery changed from mountains and forests to permafrost tundra. Each having a beauty all their own, but it was there that you really learn the meaning of rough road. This is also where you begin to see signs that inform travelers that services ahead are available from May through October. They don't just roll up the sidewalks at 5; they shut down the whole town, pack up and leave. Still we kept heading northwest knowing that our destination was not too far off now.

The first city you come to in Alaska is a place called Tok. That is where Darlene saw her first log cabin with a sod roof, I don't know if it was that or the push mower left up there that she liked most. This is where we saw our first sled dog kennel and noticed all the vehicles have cords hanging from the front bumper. My brother told me that there are 3 different heaters installed under their hoods so vehicles will start in the cold temps.



From Tok we headed out toward Anchorage down Highway 1. There are only 3 paved main roads in Alaska two of which begin or end at Tok. They make a loop from there to Anchorage or Fairbanks and back. No getting lost in Alaska. Take the 1 to the 2 to the 3 which takes you back where you started. As we made our way down Hwy 1 we made a side trip to Valdez. It's a beautiful town on the coast surrounded by mountains and the trip getting there was spectacular in itself. Glaciers, waterfalls and even eagles became a common sight around every corner. While we were there we enjoyed watching the fishing charters come in with their catch of the day and it was there I saw my first sea otter and was amazed at their size.



Leaving Valdez we made our way to Anchorage and then down to Seward. While visiting Seward, we took a Glacier sightseeing cruise. It was a beautiful day. As we left the harbor area, everyone was treated to a show from sea otters, porpoises, sea lions, whales and a variety of other sea life. As we made our way up the Kenai Fjord toward our first tidal glacier the scenery was amazing. When we made it to the bay area, the glacier was entering the water. Our captain stopped the boat, killed the motor and we just floated, while we watched and listened. I couldn't believe the sound. It's like thunder as the glacier cracks while moving slowly down the valley and into the water. It started, as a little puff of snow and ice but before long a large chunk would fall splashing into the bay. Some chunks large enough to make waves that would rock the boat.

Leaving Seward, we headed north toward Fairbanks. We stopped along the way and spent time in Denali National Park. We actually got to see Mt. McKinley; it's usually covered by clouds. During our time in Fairbanks, we were able to get up close and touch the Alaskan Pipeline. We had seen the pipeline snake its way through the countryside as we traveled and watched the video of the construction so I had to get a close look for myself.

After a little family time with my brother and his family we left Fairbanks and traveled down to Delta Junction which is Mile marker 1422, the official end of the Alaskan Highway.

It was there that I put the checkmark next to: Drive the Alaskan Highway. It sounds like such a little thing when I say that, but it was so much more. There are so many things that just have to be seen or experienced before you can truly appreciate them. That is my reason for having the Bucket List. That drive is definitely one of them. It was a once in a lifetime trip that I am so glad I was able to make.

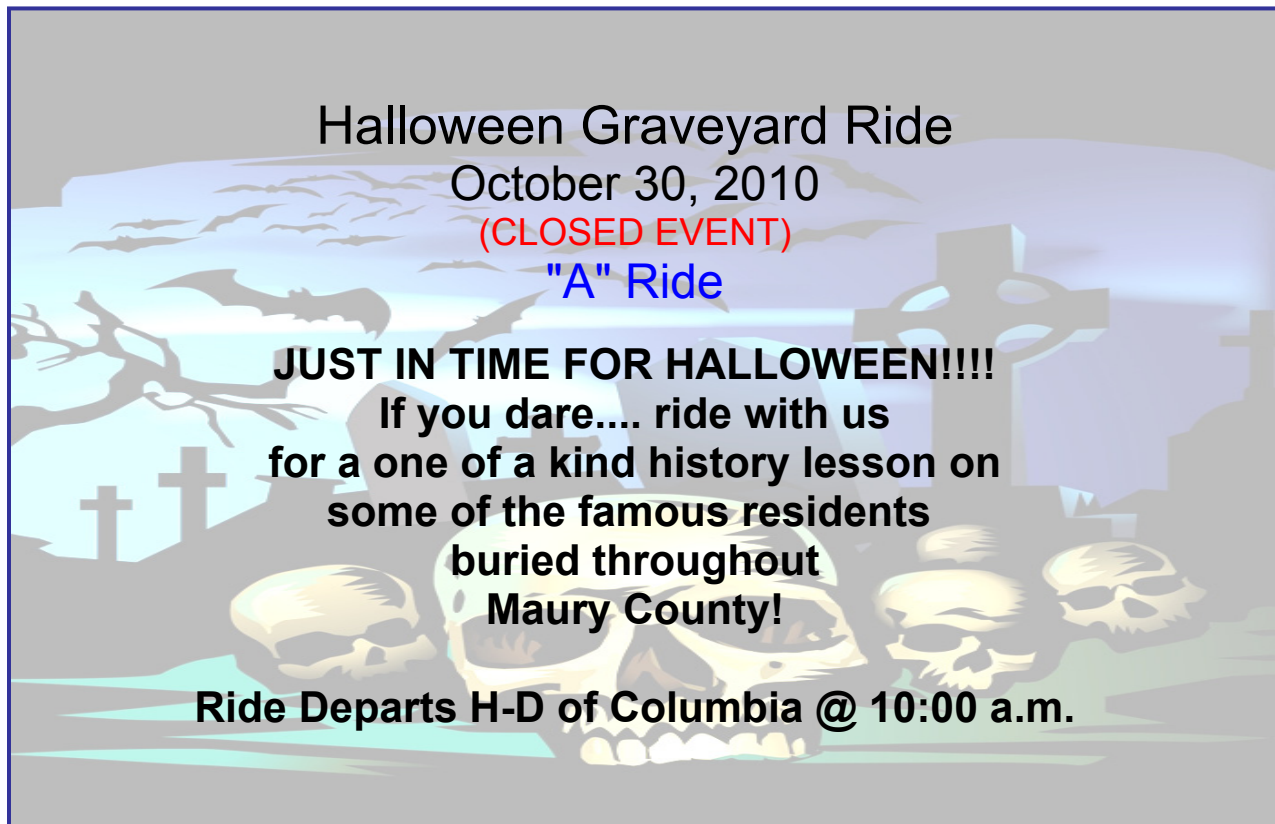
So as we headed home and make those checkmarks along the way I hope that each of you never makes it to the end of your Bucket List as I know I never will. Remember it is never about the Destination but the Journey!

Safe travels to all,

Randy & Darlene





A poster for a Halloween Graveyard Ride. The background is a dark, spooky graveyard scene with tombstones, a large cross, and several human skulls in the foreground. Bats are flying in the dark sky. The text is centered and reads: "Halloween Graveyard Ride", "October 30, 2010", "(CLOSED EVENT)", "'A' Ride", "JUST IN TIME FOR HALLOWEEN!!!!", "If you dare.... ride with us for a one of a kind history lesson on some of the famous residents buried throughout Maury County!", and "Ride Departs H-D of Columbia @ 10:00 a.m.".

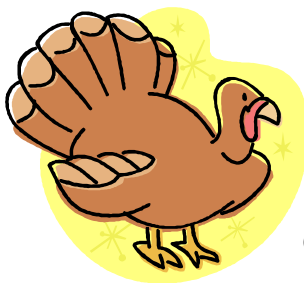
**Halloween Graveyard Ride**  
October 30, 2010  
**(CLOSED EVENT)**  
**"A" Ride**

**JUST IN TIME FOR HALLOWEEN!!!!**  
If you dare.... ride with us  
for a one of a kind history lesson on  
some of the famous residents  
buried throughout  
Maury County!

**Ride Departs H-D of Columbia @ 10:00 a.m.**

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***5th Annual Muletown Chapter Turkey Run / Chapter Meeting  
November 20, 2010***



Ride will depart H-D of Columbia at 10:00 a.m. 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 back roads of Maury County and will end at Park Place Catering, where a lunch consisting of Deep Fried Turkey's, Hamburgers, all the fixins, deserts, drinks etc. will be awaiting us! (ride – closed event)

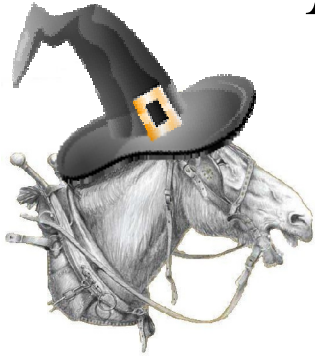
**Cost will be \$20.00 - Per Person**

All proceeds will be donated to Hope House which helps victims of domestic violence get back on their feet. We encourage all those participating to take the opportunity to tour the Hope House facility. Tours will be available before and after lunch.

The Muletown Chapter's November meeting will also be held in conjunction with this event. This is the last Chapter meeting for 2010. (meeting – open event)

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## ***Muletown's Kicking!!***



Fall is in the air and the riding season is coming to a close. We have a few good rides left on the calendar including our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Run November 20<sup>th</sup> and our year-end Christmas Party in December.

We plan to keep the chapter active through the non-riding months including a Winter Chill Fire-Pit Party and possible Wii Bowling Tournament!! Keep the suggestions coming!!

To have your suggestions heard for the rest of this season and the 2011 calendar, please **submit YOUR Dinner Ride, Overnighter and A-B Ride recommendations along with any Non-riding Extracurricular Activity you believe the Chapter may enjoy!**

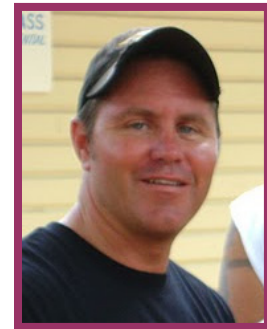
You may submit your ideas:

“Ride Suggestion” link on [www.muletownrider.com](http://www.muletownrider.com)

Email directly to: [rschmitt@usit.net](mailto:rschmitt@usit.net)

**Drop a note in the Muletown HOG Chapter suggestion box at Columbia HD Dealership**

Your recommendations are helping to keep the Muletown Chapter Rolling!



*Don't Hide it, Ride it!*

*Rodney A Schmitt*



In conjunction with the annual “Turkey Run” on November 20, we will be collecting shoe box gifts for **Operation Christmas Child** which is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse.

At the conclusion of the Chapter Meeting, all the boxes collected will be taken to Life Care Center of Columbia which is the drop-off location for this event. Anyone wishing to volunteer to take the boxes over should see Jerry Knox the day of the event. Go to [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) for more information about this worthwhile cause.

**EVENTS CALENDAR**


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**October 30<sup>th</sup>** Halloween Graveyard Ride: Visit graveyards throughout Maury Co. 10:00 a.m.  
 "A" Ride (Closed Event)

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**November 6<sup>th</sup>** Lunch Ride: Mystery Destination 10:00 a.m. "A" Ride (Closed Event)

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**November 20<sup>th</sup>** Muletown Chapter's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Turkey Run" 10:00 a.m.  
 Benefits Hope House – Maury County Center Against Domestic Violence  
 (Closed Event)

Chapter Meeting (Open Event)

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**December 18<sup>th</sup>** Muletown Chapter Annual Christmas Party  
 Park Place Catering (Open Event)

Stay tuned for details

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**"A" Rides:** Rides of less than 200 miles roundtrip

**"B" Rides:** Rides of more than 200 miles roundtrip  
 which may include overnight rides.

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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.

## Muletown HOG Chapter #2033

### Officers

**Director – Bill Isom**

**Assistant Director – Ken Steverson**

**Secretary – Jock Floyd**

**Treasurer/Membership – Jay Morgan**

**Activities Coordinator – Rodney Schmitt**

**Head Road Captain – Jerry Knox**

**Newsletter Editor – Tricia Shearn**

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

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