



Desert Wind

Chapter
#1665

Ridgecrest Activities Group
Antelope Valley, California
Harley Owners Group

Apr/May
2009
Volume 15
Issue 2

Proudly Sponsored by:

Antelope Valley Harley
Davidson
1759 West Ave J12
Lancaster, California
(661) 948-5959
www.AntelopeValleyHD.com

April Meeting
Saturday
April 11, 2009
09:00AM

May Meeting
Saturday
May 9, 2009
09:00AM

Meetings Held at
Charlie's Pub in Ridgecrest

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Harley Owners Group



****Ladies of Harley
Position is still open!!
Contact Wade Tallman
if you are interested.**



**HARLEY OWNERS GROUP #1665
ANTELOPE VALLEY CA CHAPTER,
RIDGECREST ACTIVITY GROUP**

**Sponsor:
Antelope Valley Harley Davidson
1759 West Ave J12
Lancaster, California 93536
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<u>Ladies of Harley</u>	Monalisa Garcia
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<u>Safety Officer</u>	
<u>Road Capt. Coord.</u>	Jeff Bayard
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<u>Secretary</u>	Tom Lystrup
<u>Editor</u>	John Brandt
<u>Ladies of Harley</u>	
<u>Photographer</u>	Judy McCauley
<u>Activities</u>	Josh Wilkerson
<u>Historian</u>	Crystal Liesman
<u>Safety Officer</u>	Stan Austin
<u>Road Capt. Coord.</u>	Bland Burchett
<u>Webmaster</u>	Don McCauley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Rex Walraven
<u>Membership/PAO</u>	Dennis Linck



Wade Tallman
Wind in my Hair
(Wind across the Bald spot)

Yes it's that time of the year again....weather getting real nice, wind not blowing too hard, and those big \$\$\$^ butterflies are everywhere. Man do they hurt when they hit you in the forehead!

First thing I want to say is Welcome Back to all our returning members and Welcome Aboard to our new members. The last couple of months we've had outstanding attendance. It's really nice filling up all the chairs...believe we had standing room only for March!! I hope everyone finds the short videos interesting. Always seems to be one or two items that pop up that we have either forgotten about or really didn't know. Learning how to operate your bike CORRECTLY and SMOOTHLY at low speeds is essential to survival.

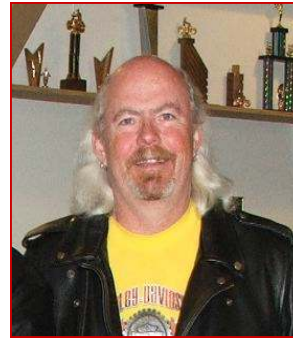
I have not gotten through all the survey forms as of this writing but hope to have all the data available for the April meeting. We'll discuss some of the specifics at the board meetings, like the number of charities you want to support and adding any rides or events that may have showed up on the forms. Remember that you have ways of getting up to date info to the board members by email...it can be new ride suggestions or if you have issues you want resolved. Check the bottom of each weekly activities email from Josh for the email address.

I won't linger on this for much as I'm sure our Safety and Road Captain will address it but we have had 2 accidents in last couple of months. It just goes to show you that riding a motorcycle is a dangerous business...but it's the love of the ride that keeps all of us on a bike and enjoying the road. **EVERYONE: KEEP YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR HEAD ON A SWIVEL.**

We will have had a first "joint" event with AV as of this writing so hope it turned out well. There are lots of great folks down there and the more the merrier for the rides. Other events coming up: check the website and read the weekly activities email.

That's all for this one! Keep the shiny side up and the rubber on the ground.

Live to Ride: Ride to Eat!!!!



Tracy Ackeret
Assistant Director

Greetings everyone,

Well another couple months have passed since the last newsletter. A lot has happened since then. The RAG has taken a few rides, and from the sound of Josh's weekly activities, Tom and a friend had quite a ride from Texas. There were two group rides after the last general meeting. One went to Peggy Sue's over by Barstow and the other went up to the Kern River Brewery. Debbie and I went on the one to Kern River. The food up there is always good and as usual it did not disappoint this time.

On the ride up there we passed an Ultra Classic on the side of 178, we slowed down when we passed him to make sure everything was ok but he waved us on. When we go to the Brewery he was right behind us so we invited him to eat lunch with us. Turns out it was a rider from down below that was just out on a Saturday ride. After talking to him several of us decided to take the Caliente road back to 58 then home. We invited him to ride along with us which he took us up on. For those that have not gone on the Caliente Bodfish road it's a very cool road that takes you the back way from Isabella to Caliente. There are actually two different roads that you can take; they have been called the high road and the low road for as long as I can remember. The high road is a lot twistier and has lots more switchbacks. The low road does not have as many switchbacks and has gentler curves. We took the low road and except for a few cows in the middle of the road that we had to avoid we had a very nice ride. This brings me to my point about this, if you see another rider on the side of the road at least slow down to make sure they are ok if they wave you on then all is good, if not then stop and see if there is anything that you can do to help. Once we got to the brewery and met up with him we found out that he enjoys taking the road less traveled and had a nice ride with him. Hopefully he will remember the RAG and have good things to say about his experience with us.

Wade and I will be attending Primary Officer Training (POT) in Las Vegas the first part of April and I for one hope to gain some knowledge about the inner workings of what a HOG chapter is about and how to help our chapter. I am looking forward to it. I am taking the Ultra over there so that's a bonus, getting to take it on a ride. I have been suffering from cabin fever and need to get out. The shuttle landed the other day and I have been busy with it for what seems like the past couple months. They kept slipping to the right with the launch so it's been a bit of a pain but now that its over I can look forward to a few weeks of quiet till the next one is due to launch, then it starts all over.

Anyway, I hope everyone has been able to start getting out now that the weather is starting to warm up and I for one am looking forward to another wonderful year of riding.

-Silk



Bland Burchett
Spokes
Road Captain Coord.

This article was going to focus on the “Rubber Band” effect, but with the recent RAG member incidents....I believe you would get more out of a basic discussion on the mishaps.

Let's first discuss the incident where a 2-up couple went down trying to avoid an animal. The bike went down and the riders hit the ground somewhat hard, but they didn't seem to have any serious medical concerns. They gathered themselves up, picked up the bike and went about their merry way. Well, guess what.....shock is an amazing feature in our mind's pain defense system and it can mask a serious injury. The couple eventually realized the passenger wasn't feeling well the following morning and went to the ER. It turns out the passenger had a serious head injury and broken clavicle.

Lesson: Shock will mask the pain of serious head and internal injuries. When in doubt....seek medical attention. Having a helmet only prevented an even more serious head injury.

Good news: Injured passenger is recovering fine

The next incident can be summed up as a series of somewhat normal events that resulted in a very low speed (<5 mph) two bike collision. Both bikes went down and the 2-up passenger's ankle was broken. Individually, each event would normally not be considered an accident contributor, but stacked up just right.....they were. The events were:

1. Change in group lead
2. Hand signals for turn
3. Left turn
4. Bike problem (possible stator/voltage regulator failure)
5. Follow-Me signal
6. Nice big asphalt open parking area
7. Distress Signal

So what happened to stack up these events was in my opinion a calamity driven by the time frame they occurred in....less than a minute. I took the group lead as signaled by the current lead. Shortly thereafter, I signaled for the left turn with both my hand and bike turn signal.

Now...here is where things start to stack up. I notice my bike signal was off within milliseconds of hitting the turn signal switch. So I proceeded with the same turning procedure again; Hit my turn signal switch and used hand signal (now we're within 100'-200' of the turn and slowing to execute the turn)....but now I'm concerned as my bike blinker did not come on (never came on the first time either...just didn't notice). I quickly hit my right turn signal switch...nothing (o'shit)...quickly scanned to my voltage meter.....NO VOLTAGE (Big O'shit). Now all this took place again within 100'-200' feet of the turn. The group behind me doesn't know I'm in trouble, but my 2-up rider did as she told me her hands were starting to get cold about 10 min's earlier (she was wearing my heated gloves).

OK the above series of events (1-4) set the stage and no real panic. All I needed to do was execute the turn and pull over to tell folks what was going on with my bike.

Now, here is where it gets complicated. Just before I was actually going to turn left (within 50'), I noticed how narrow the road to Scotty's Castle was and also a nice big asphalt open parking area on HY95 that tied into Scotty's Castle road....right where we were turning left. So, within milliseconds I figured it would be safer for the group to follow me into the parking lot and I signaled "Follow Me" right after I started my left turn.

Failure 1: I did not use the correct hand signal to "Follow Me" nor did I emphasize the "Follow Me Signal" (as wrong as it was), so folks would know something was up.

I executed the partial turn (45 degrees as a posed to the full 90 degrees) into the asphalt parking lot thinking the group would follow me. After I made the 180 in the parking lot, I realized the group did not follow me, but was following the previous group lead down Scotty's Castle road. The previous group lead who was following behind me as the #2 bike in this formation was focused on the turn, scanning the turn area/road and did not see my signal. Also, #2 assumed I was peeling off from the group to take pictures and that #2 was again assuming the lead (as we had done this many times in the past on our rides either as a couple or with a group).

So, with the group formed up after the turn and slowing to cross a cattle guard, I became concerned they did not know I was having bike troubles. I waved the "Distress Signal". Now, the new (original) lead recognized something was wrong and after crossing the cattle guard starting a gradual slow down to accommodate the "Train" effect when stopping. At the same time, my "Distress Signal" caught the eye and attention for a millisecond of the new #3 rider. The rest is history and the slow speed collision occurred as the #3 rider collided into the rear of the #2 rider.

In summary, the events 1-4 added to 5-7 resulted in proving Murphy's Law is still valid.

Failure 2: Not staying focused on your immediate surroundings/ride conditions.

Lessons Learned:

1. Know the proper hand signals
2. Don't confuse the group by changing group leaders during the ride
3. Stay focused on your immediate ride until you are completely stopped
4. When unplanned events start occurring, be on alert
5. Proper personal protective equipment prevented more serious injuries, especially HEAD INJURIES
6. Use the RAG "Trailer" network

Good News: The group executed immediate emergency procedures, assuring all bikes and riders were off the road and safe. Injured rider first aid was administered immediately and the authorities were notified for medical assistance. The injured rider's broken ankle is healing fine and expected to have a full normal use recovery.



Stan Austin
Safety Stan



Well here we are again! Another newsletter and 2009 is moving fast. Summer is coming in a few months. Barb and I have a big ride in just two months, Alaska here we come! Our very good friends, Don and Judy McCauley, have also been planning this trip with us for a few years and this is the year! I hope all of you are planning rides this summer too. The bike is headed to the shop for necessary repairs, a tune up, new tires and a good check out before we do our 8K+ mile trip. Keeping your ride in good repair is only part of the plan. You need to make sure your body is ready for the ride. Make sure you have a medical check up and you are physically fit. Do not have drugs in your system, which may impair your driving. On a motorcycle you must be sharp and at your best. When you ride make sure you do not over extend or drive tired. Everything comes together to make a safe riding package. A well maintained bike and a rider in good health makes it complete.

The group has already had some fun rides and the events calendar is full of more fun things to come. This year is going to be a fun one, so do not miss out!

Below is an MSF article on riding unimpaired. Read over it and remember you do not need alcohol or drugs to have a good time, be safe and sober so you can return home from your ride.

The Importance of Riding Unimpaired by Alcohol or Other Drugs

Theory: Alcohol and Motorcycles are Incompatible

- At a BAC* of 0.01 to 0.04%, judgment begins to lessen, the drinker is less critical of their own actions, reaction time is slowed, and indications of mental relaxation may appear.
- At a BAC of 0.05 to 0.07%, judgment is not sound, thinking and reasoning powers are not clear, and the ability to perform complex skills is lessened.
- At a BAC of 0.08% or above, judgment and reasoning powers are severely hampered, and the individual cannot complete common simple tasks without error.

Proof: Statistics from Recent Studies (by NHTSA, Florida, Kentucky, and Australia)

- Having any alcohol in one's body increases the chance of crashing by five times.
- Having a BAC greater than 0.05% increases the risk of crashing about forty-fold.
- 46 percent of all motorcyclists killed in crashes were using alcohol.
- One fourth of all fatal alcohol-related motorcycle crashes involve motorcyclists running off the road, overturning, or falling from the motorcycle rather than striking another object.

Explanation: Alcohol Affects Your Ability to "SEE"

SEE is the acronym for MSF's strategy to help motorcycle riders maintain a safety margin as well as remain ready and able to respond properly to traffic situations. SEE stands for:

- **Search** for hazards that might lead to trouble.
- **Evaluate** how the hazards might interact to create risk; prioritize multiple hazards to deal with one at a time.
- **Execute** an action to maintain a margin of safety.



Rex Walraven
Semper Fi
Treasurer

The treasurer's report is provided at the monthly Chapter meeting and is available from the Treasurer upon request.

From The Money Man, or as Wade would call me, Mr. T.....

We have a good start on our budget so far this year with most people having rejoined from last year. For those that have yet to rejoin that were members last year we request that you please do so very soon as March is the last month without an additional five dollar charge on membership dues and by the time you read this it will already be April.

I am still waiting to hear what members would like to see purchased with our funds, and also what things they would like to see the HORAG work on for fund-raisers for either our Christmas party funds or maybe charity work. We have about the same amount of funds currently on hand that we have had the last few years, so I anticipate being able to fund the same activities as in the past. Our HORAG combined garage sale is tentatively set for July, I hope you can all help with this fund raiser as it usually makes a good bit for the club. The car wash is another great fund raiser so we look forward to all the help from all of you in these two efforts.

I've been on some good rides and looking forward to some more road trips in the near future. Keep the rubber side down, ride hard, and have fun!



Tom Lystrup
Secretary

RAG Members,
What a great year 2009 is turning out to be! We've had great attendance at our general meetings. Membership is up to 75 so far this year. It would be nice to break 100. So invite your friends to join! With your membership and monthly attendance at our general meetings, you get a membership card that entitles you to 10% off merchandise and parts at Antelope Valley Harley Davidson in Lancaster. Also, with your membership, AV Harley will transport your bike to and from AV Harley for \$15. As the price of gas climbs back up, this deal gets better and better. Please, make sure to renew your HOG membership annually if you haven't already done so. I hope you'll have as much fun riding in 2009 as you can. I've put several thousand miles on my 2008 Road King Classic so far with several more rides planned. I hope to see you on some of them.

RAG Secretary
Tom Lystrup



Don McCauley
Web Talker



And His Lovely
Co-Star

Judy McCauley
Show me the bugs in your teeth

We are continuing to take many photographs of our rides and updating the website. Please send us any pictures you may have taken as well, we welcome inputs from all members for the website and picture slide shows. Please email us with any other suggestions for the website.

Don & Judy



Josh Wilkerson
J-Dub Activities

No Report this month



Crystal Liesman
Historian

No Report this month



John Brandt
Editor

No Report this month



Denis Linck
PAO

No Report this month

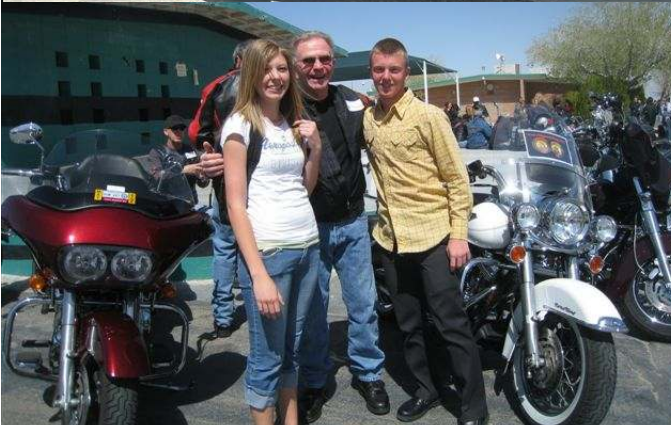
Lunch Run to Peggy Sue's in Barstow



Lunch Run to Kern River Brewery



Burroughs Bikers Against Diabetese (BAD) Ride





April Birthdays



Mel Berry



Bland Burchett



Dino Ghilardi



Scott McGarty

May Birthdays



Malia Bridgeman



Mike Cash



Marty Dorrell



Anne Haber



Michelle Smith

RAG General Meeting Notes

Date: 14 March 2009

Meeting called to Order by: Wade Tallman

Time: 0900

Director, Wade Tallman: New members welcomed - 8 total. Chuck Cordell offered to allow us use of his storage barn for the yard sale later this year.

Asst Director, Tracy Ackeret: Plaque for RAG members will be displayed at AV Harley.

Secretary, Tom Lystrup: With the 8 new memberships received today the total RAG membership is 74.

Treasurer, Rex Walraven: There is money in the budget for activities this year. Comments for possible activities are welcome.

Activities Director, Josh Wilkerson: New Cruise Night coming. AV Camp night 3/21. There are two rides today. One to Peggy Sue's near Barstow and the other to the Kern River Brewery.

Road Caption Coordinator, Bland Burchett: Reminder that what can go wrong will go wrong. Practice good riding techniques. Ride Like A Pro segment viewed during the meeting as training.

Safety Officer, Stan Austin: There have been a couple accidents last month involving RAG members. Safety is always the priority. Watch out on curves. Email Stan for questions about base policy. A new regulation is coming out soon and will be posted on the website www.ridgecresthog.com

Web Master, Don McCauley: Check the Activities Director Topics page for the latest info about activities.

Newsletter Editor, John Brandt: Inputs for the April/May newsletter are requested.

Photographer, Judy McCauley: Some CDs of last year's Yearbook are still available for anyone that wants one.

Historian, Crystal Liesman: No comments

LOH, Anne Haber, Barbara Austin: No comments

PAO, Dennis Linck: No comments

Member comments: Scooter made an announcement for the May 9th Biker Blessing. This should be a big event. Each year for the past few years, attendance has doubled. Last year there were over 400 bikes. Plans are being made for the annual RAG picture. Ideas are welcome. One location offered was Bristlecone Pine Forest, overlooking the Owens's Valley. Biker's Against Diabetes was mentioned as well as Relay For Life. These events are being planned again for this year.

The next RAG General meeting will be April 11th at Charlie's in the Carriage Inn at 0900

UNIVERSAL MOTORCYCLE HAND SIGNALS



Start your engines



Stop



Go ahead and pass me



Bikers ready



Hazards on the road



Don't pass me



Stop your engines



Turn off your turn signals



Single riding



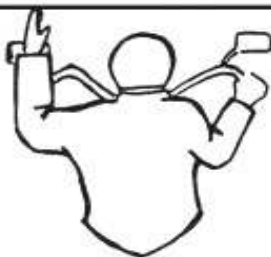
Left turn



Slow down



Staggered riding



Right turn



Speed up



Time for a pit stop

Motorcycle Web Links

Antelope Valley HD website

www.AntelopeValleyHD.com

AV Hog Website

<http://www.avhog.org>

HD Home Page

http://www.harley-davidson.com/hd_main/hd_home.isp

Motorcycle Safety Foundation

<http://www.msf-usa.org/>

Ridgecrest Activity Group

<http://www.ridgecresthog.com/>

HOG Chapters

<http://hogchapters.net>

Maps

http://www.harley-davidson.com/wcm/Content/Pages/Ride_Planner/Ride_Planner.jsp?locale=en_US

Harley Owners Group

<http://www.hog.com/>

California DOT-Road & Highway Info

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/>



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Summer Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 9am to 6pm
Sunday: 9am to 5 pm



Upcoming Events:

**Lunch run to Wimpy
Burgers in Cal City**

Apr 11

Biker Blessing

May 9

**Dinner run to Idle
Spurs Steakhouse in
Barstow**

May 23



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