



# Desert Wind

Chapter  
#1665

**Ridgecrest Activities Group**  
**Antelope Valley, California**  
***Harley Owners Group***

Aug/Sep  
2009  
Volume 15  
Issue 4

Proudly Sponsored by:

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

Aug Meeting  
Saturday  
Aug , 2009  
09:00AM

Sep Meeting  
Saturday  
Sep 11, 2009  
09:00AM

**Meetings Held at  
Charlie's Pub in Ridgecrest**

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*Harley Owners Group*

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

**Sponsor:  
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<u>Treasurer</u>	Rex Walraven	(760) 384-8537
<u>Membership/PAO</u>	Dennis Linck	(760) 375-3950



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

August already...what a summer. We had a great ride after the meeting in Aug. 15 Bikes and 2 cars up to Grumpy Bears and then minus 1 bike and 1 car that did Sherman Pass and hit Kernville. Awesome weather last weekend. I'm going to use this months newsletter to bring all RAG HOG members up to speed. We are getting close to end of year and lots of things are happening.

First: New Board. If you have an interest in taking on one of the Board positions, please get back to me ASAP. If you desire the director position it needs to be approved by Ron...any others are approved by the NEW Director and board. We would like to be able to announce all the board members at the Nov meeting so we need to work any changes now. REMEMBER: the board is there to help keep things moving...takes a little time but has great rewards.

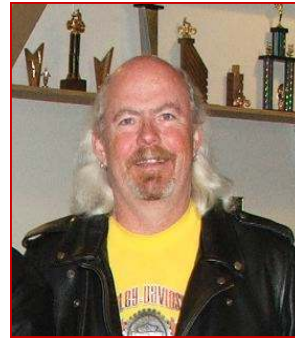
Second: Funding Events/Charities. We didn't have as much success this year in 2 of our major events. Yard Sale (thanks to Tommie and Clint for the hard work) unfortunately there were just not the shoppers as in years past. As such we only pulled in \$440....we have hit as much as \$880 in the past. These funds support club activities i.e. Christmas party ticket buy down. The car wash donations only made it to \$700, we usually get \$1000. I'm donating an additional \$100 to take it to \$800, would like to grab any donations from members who didn't help or didn't get a chance to bring their cars by to get our intake up to \$1000. Although not critical, its always nice to be able to pass along nice round \$500 checks to our charities. We also have the upcoming Silent Auction. We are in need for items to put up for the auction. Tommie has agreed to run the event (Thanks again Tommie) so please take a look around or if you want to make a nice basket, PLEASE let her know....Those funds go directly to the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for a needy family.

Third: Activities. Our activities chair has left Sep/Oct/Nov open for a reason. Looking for fresh ideas for some new rides. We are also going to increase scheduled rides for the month. If you have a ride, let Josh know and he'll get it on the calendar so the members can join in and increase the fun level. I'm planning a day trip up to Big Bear in Sep...and I might also do a one day or over-nighter to the coast via Hwy 33 through Ojai and the Deer Lodge for some fun and music.

The attendance for the Aug meeting was awesome...getting everyone back from vacation. Let's go for another big one in Sep...not sure what the ride will be but we'll have one scheduled for IMMEDIATELY following the meeting. I can smell the BBQ already and I don't even know where we are going!!!

Till next month, keep the shiny stuff up and the rubber down.

WAMBS!!



**Tracy Ackeret**  
*Assistant Director*

Greetings fellow Hogsters,

Once again I sit down at the computer to try and put my thoughts down for all of you to, hopefully read. This has been an interesting couple of months. There have not been many rides but we still seemed to amass quite a bit of miles. I have been riding to work every day since Debbie went to work at China Lake; however I have not been telling Josh about those miles. I suppose I should but I just don't feel good about counting those miles. It's only to work after all and not to a fun place. It is still miles put on the bike so maybe I will start telling Josh about them. Debbie and I have taken a couple rides since the last update. We took the bike and went for breakfast a couple times, went to the coast and of course there was Yosemite.

Yosemite is always such a beautiful place. I enjoy going there as often as I can. I think I could go there several times a year and not get tired of seeing it. We had 6 bikes ride up 395 and over Tioga into the park this time. Not as many as we have had in the past but there was one year that it was only 3 bikes so I can't complain. I hope all that went enjoyed themselves as much as I did. When we were in Oakhurst, Dwight's son Jeff joined us for the ride into the park on Saturday. The only complaint I have is the heat, it was over 100 on the valley floor on Saturday which was a bit hot but it was still a fun ride. On Sunday we all split up and went our separate ways with Wade, Cheryl, Debbie and myself going up and over 190 into Kernville. I had never taken that road all the way; I have gone part of the way from the Kernville side but never the whole way. That was a fun road to ride and one that I highly recommend. Just be aware of the switch backs on it, it took us a couple hours to go 26 miles but they were fun miles.

On another note, those of you who came to the July meeting got to see our RAG members board. We have been in the RAG for a bit over 5 years and in that time the group has always been talking about getting a members board. For lots of reasons we never seemed to get one. Well now we can say we have one. After the last meeting I took the board to the dealer and had Scott find a place to hang it up for us. At first he wanted to put it in the men's room above the urinal. As you can see from the picture it just didn't look right there, but I had to at least try. It's now hanging in the service area to the right of the AV member boards. I for one think it came out looking very nice. Next time you are at the dealer go take a look at it. I am going to be updating it every few months as needed. Right now there are a few name plates getting done so when the engraver gets them done I will be adding them to the bottom of the board. After the membership drive is done in March of next year I will take it down and realign the names in alphabetical order.

Ride safe

Silk



RAG Member Board Pics





**Bland Burchett**  
*Spokes*  
*Road Captain Coord.*



**Rex Walraven**  
*Semper Fi*  
*Treasurer*

Do you remember what the “Rubber Band” effect is? I’m sure you’ve experienced this effect weather you know the slang or not. But as a review, it’s basically the same effect you get when you stretch a rubber band; the length of the rubber band is extended...sometimes doubled in length over its relaxed state. So, the motorcyclist’s slang use of “Rubber Band” effect simply describes the dynamic change in distance between the Lead and Sweep riders that are due to a couple of riding conditions stated below:

1. Constantly changing your speed
2. Accelerating from a stop
3. Adjusting speed to posted limits

In each case above, the common denominator is your speed and how you maintain your speed with respect to the immediate rider in front and behind you. Depending on the group size and variation in speed...the ripple effect on the required speed from the tail end riders to keep up with the lead rider, who is maintaining a constant speed of 65mph could be as high as 85 mph in instances to keep formation. So, my General Rule Of Thumb is “Keep Up”.....Keep your group spacing constant and accelerates as needed.

So, now we move on to the next slang term “Accordion Effect”. I’m not sure if this isn’t my own “Coined” term or not, but I’m sure we’ve all experienced this effect as well. Basically, the term describes the effect of bunching up at sharp turns, sudden deceleration, and stops. This is the opposite of the “Rubber Band” effect where maintaining constant speed is the key. The according effect isn’t about speed, it’s about the natural occurrence when the group slows down and your spacing is adjusted to your speed. The key to avoiding collisions during these times is to remain focused on the rider in front and aware of the rider behind you.

Well, hope you enjoyed this little series on motorcycle slang and just remember that the key to safe group riding is to plan your ride, stay focused, practice good safe riding techniques and have a good attitude.

Cheers/Spokes

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

The treasury for the RAG HOG is a lower than usual this time of year after having our car wash and yard sale. I guess you can see the financial hardships of our country even in our little fairly well-to-do town of Ridgecrest. No, we’re not going to give up hope. We still have plenty of that. But we may have to charge a bit more for our Christmas party tickets this year. And we might not be able to give as big a gift basket for our family(ies) we support at the holiday time. And the charities we support may not get as big a gift this year either. But we will do the best we can for all of these. What we can do is look for other ways we can contribute, or buy more raffle tickets at the meeting, of course that means you have to come to the meeting, and now that Sturgis is behind us, maybe that will happen. But if you are out riding then that is for sure a higher priority than making a meeting.

> I really hope you are all getting some great riding time in. And I hope that you get as much of that time out of our HOT desert too. But when you live here, you have to make plans for riding in the heat. I have an oil cooler on my Ultra and my oil temp still runs real hot when I am riding through the hot afternoons here. I also carry two water bottles with me too, more if I am riding two-up. I like to refill my water bottles with ice and water at the gas stations that have fountain drinks. Stays cooler a little bit longer that way anyway.

> Josh and I had a great ride back on Old Route 66, hope you had a chance to see his DVD of pictures on the ride. We had a great time and can recommend this ride for loads of fun.

>

> Ride Hard, Your Money Man



**Stan Austin**  
**Safety Stan**



Hello my HOG friends! Well we have been home from Alaska for a month. It sure is hot here right now. For those few that ride most every day my hat is off to you. As soon as the weather cools I am sure the activity will pick up. Just a word about Alaska, we all had a fun road trip and we had great rides, great food, and met many friendly people. We were sad it was over. There were some places we could not see for several reasons, bad roads, not enough time or the area had been damaged by the winter thaw. The bottom line is that this is a trip of a lifetime. We did a lot of planning, as you need to know what you must have to go into Canada and back into the US. We did not plan hotel rooms, as we never knew how far we would go each day. The Alaska HWY is a good road but services must be kept an eye on to ensure you do not run low on fuel. If in the future you feel you want to make this trip feel free to talk with us and we will help you with information. Please check out the PPE info below and ride safe, ride often, keep your head up, and the rubber down.

Items of PPE

**Helmet** — A full-face helmet provides the most protection. Thirty-five percent of all crashes show major impact on the chin-bar area. However, 3/4- and 1/2-helmets also are available. Some motorcycle training sites have banned the use of half-helmets because of avoidable injuries sustained by riders wearing them.

**Gloves** — Commonly made of leather, cordura, or Kevlar, or some combination. Some include carbon fiber knuckle protection or other forms of rigid padding. Gloves designed specifically for motorcycle use have slightly curved fingers and the seams are on the outer surfaces to allow the motorcyclist to maintain his grip and control on the handlebars and clutch/brake levers. Some gloves also provide protection to the wrist.

**Jackets** — Generally made from leather, ballistic nylon, cordura, Kevlar or other synthetics. Most jackets include special padding on elbows, spine and shoulders. Airbag system technology is now available fitted to jackets and vests for accident protection and impact protection for both riders and pillioners. Competition-approved hard armor is superior to soft padding. Competition-approved back and chest protectors can be worn underneath jackets. Inflatable airbag jackets can offer an additional airbag for neck support.

**Pants** — Made of the same material as jackets, usually including special protection for the knees and hips.

**Boots** — Especially those for sport riding, include reinforcement and plastic caps on the ankles, and toe area. Boots designed for cruiser-style riders often have steel-reinforced toes (However this reduces sensitivity of the foot when changing gear). Boots should always have a rubber sole (as opposed to leather or other less-flexible materials). Despite their toughness and protection, most boots are very lightweight. Some even include titanium plating.

**Goggles or Helmet Visor** — Eye protection is of utmost importance - an insect or a kicked-up pebble in the eye at speed has enough momentum to cause significant damage. Such an event could easily cause the rider to lose control and crash. Besides this danger, squinting into the wind is unpleasant at best and watering eyes are quite distracting.

**Ear plugs** — Most riders experience substantial wind noise at speeds above 40-50 mph; at speeds of 65-70 mph, hearing damage can occur in as little as 15 minutes. Earplugs help protect against hearing damage, and reduce fatigue during long rides.

**Vests** — Made with high-visibility colors and [retro reflective](#) materials, vests can be worn over jackets to increase the chance of being seen and allow drivers to better judge the speed and position of riders, especially in adverse conditions of dark and wet.

**Other PPE** — Dirt bike riders wear a range of plastic armor to protect against injury from falling and hitting other riders and bikes, running into track barriers, and being hit by flying debris kicked up by the tires of other riders' bikes. This type of armor typically covers the back, chest, and sometimes the extremities.

It is increasingly common for gloves, jackets, pants, and boots to be outfitted with hard plastics on probable contact areas in an effort to ensure that when a motorcyclist contacts the ground, his clothing will permit him to slide relatively easily as opposed to "crumpling", risking injury to body parts being stressed in abnormal directions.

Riders sometimes use the acronyms "MOTGMOTT" and "ATGATT", which stand for "Most Of The Gear Most Of The Time" and "All The Gear All The Time", when describing their personal gear preferences.



**Tom Lystrup**  
*Secretary*



**John Brandt**  
*Editor*

*No Report this month*

Hi to all RAG members,

Hot enough for you? Summer heat definitely takes a toll on everyone and everything. I've been on my share of rides this summer and logging few thousand miles under the scorching sun. I know first hand that our bikes as well as our bodies need extra care to deal with the heat. Take extra breaks, to allow both to cool down. Hydrate frequently. Check out hydrator mesh jackets and vests. They work great. Pay more attention to the road. Watch out for slick asphalt where cracks have been filled in with tar, and for painted lines. Avoid riding during midday if possible. The hottest hours are from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Choose destinations at higher altitudes if possible. Last week the group went to Grumpy Bear's in Kennedy Meadows. A nice spot to beat the heat. Horseshoe Meadows and Whitney Portals are great destinations. Try the pancake breakfast at the snack bar at Whitney Portals, if you're hungry. Also, Angeles Crest Highway is now open to Wrightwood. A great destination for lunch is Newcomb's. Get the New York Pastrami sandwich. Wherever you ride this summer. Stay cool.

RAG Secretary, Tom Lystrup



**Don McCauley**  
*Web Talker*



**And His Lovely**  
**Co-Star**

**Judy McCauley**  
*Show me the bugs in your teeth*

*No Report this month*



**Crystal Liesman**  
*Historian*

*No Report this month*



**Josh Wilkerson**  
*J-Dub Activities*

*No Report this month*



**Denis Linck**  
*PAO*

*No Report this month*



August Birthdays



Tracy Ackeret



Stan Austin Jr.



Kimberley Geiger



Robert Gerber



Ted Hicks



Darla Thompson



September Birthdays



Barbara Austin



Megan Howard



Debby Linck



Don McCauley



Vikki Thompson



Greg Vincent



John Weaver

## **RAG General Meeting Notes**

**Date:** June 13 2009

**Meeting called to Order by:** Wade **Time:** 0900

**Director, Wade Tallman:** New members welcomed. Birthdays announced. July 10 yard sale at Tommie and Clint's. July 18 is car wash followed by pool party and barbeque at Wade's. July 29 is Million Mile Monday. Log on to the Harley website and log you miles that day. Over 3 million were logged last year. July 14 – Biker's Against Diabetes ride – ask Rex about details or to sponsor him for the ride.

**Asst Director, Tracy Ackeret:** Absent

**Secretary, Tom Lystrup:** Added 2 new members today for a total of 85.

**Treasurer, Rex Walraven:** \$2000 in the bank. Some will be used for gifts for the Christmas Party.

**Activities Director, Josh Wilkerson:** Absent

**Road Caption Coordinator, Bland Burchett:** Hand signal quiz. Bland and Billie have a cabin in Wyoming that is available for members to rent.

**Safety Officer, Stan Austin:** Absent

**Web Master, Don McCauley:** Absent

**Newsletter Editor, John Brandt:** Absent

**Photographer, Judy McCauley:** Absent

**Historian, Crystal Liesman:** Working on scrapbook

**LOH:** N/A

**PAO, Dennis Linck:** Absent

**Member comments:** none

The next RAG General meeting will be July 11 at Charlies in the Carriage Inn at 0900

## RAG General Meeting Notes

Date: July 11 2009

**Meeting called to Order by:** Tracy

**Time:** 0900

**Director, Wade Tallman:** Absent

**Asst Director, Tracy Ackeret:** Joe Law passed away. Joe will be kept on the roster. Also, Mike Clark, a former member passed away a few years back. His name will also be kept on the roster.

**Secretary, Tom Lystrup:** total membership 87.

**Treasurer, Rex Walraven:** \$1891 now in the budget.

**Activities Director, Josh Wilkerson:** Absent

**Road Caption Coordinator, Bland Burchett:** Hand signal quiz. Slow down. Keene Café ride today. No board members are available to lead as Road Captain. Members are still encouraged to ride although the ride will not be HOG sanctioned.

**Safety Officer, Stan Austin:** Mentioned that roads at higher altitudes break up easily due to frost conditions. Watch for broken asphalt, sand and debris on local higher altitude roads. Watch for animals as well. Fliers for car and possibly bike detailing by Ian were passed around. Rates are reasonable and he will come to your residence.

**Web Master, Don McCauley:** Plans to update the website soon. Watch for The Alaska trip summary – 8900 miles in 31 days. Hal asked regarding cell phone coverage in Alaska and the cost of service in Alaska. According to Don the cost is ridiculous. His bill over \$1000 before he could do anything about it. Recommended getting the international plan.

**Newsletter Editor, John Brandt:** Inputs for the June/July newsletter due by Aug 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Photographer, Judy McCauley:** Just purchased a new camera, but wore it out already taking over 15,000 shots in Alaska.

**Historian, Crystal Liesman:** Working on yearbook. Passed around samples of pages to be included.

**LOH:** N/A

**PAO, Dennis Linck:** Continuing to advertise for RAG group meeting on Lizard Listing KSSI 102.7.

**Member comments:** none

The next RAG General meeting will be Aug 8 at Charlies 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**



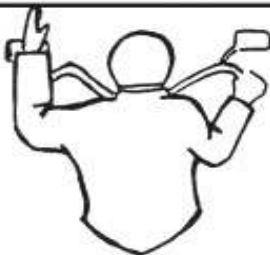
**Left turn**



**Slow down**



**Staggered riding**



**Right turn**



**Speed up**



**Time for a pit stop**

# Motorcycle Web Links

**Antelope Valley HD website**

[www.AntelopeValleyHD.com](http://www.AntelopeValleyHD.com)

**AV Hog Website**

<http://www.avhog.org>

**HD Home Page**

[http://www.harley-davidson.com/hd\\_main/hd\\_home.isp](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](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:

Tuesday-Saturday: 8am to 6pm  
Sunday & Monday: 9am to 5 pm



## Upcoming Events:

**Ride for Joe Law**  
**Aug 29**

**RAG HOG Annual  
Picnic**  
**Sept 18 —19**



Desert Wind News  
Address comments or  
questions to:  
[Brandt.john@mchsi.com](mailto:Brandt.john@mchsi.com)

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