



# Desert Wind

Chapter  
#1665

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

Jun/Jul  
2009  
Volume 15  
Issue 3

Proudly Sponsored by:

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

Jun Meeting  
Saturday  
June 13, 2009  
09:00AM

Jul Meeting  
Saturday  
July 11, 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:  
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1759 West Ave J12  
Lancaster, California 93536  
(661) 948-5959**

**ANTELOPE VALLEY CHAPTER**

<u>Director</u>	Jesse Mattox	(661) 256-9610
<u>Asst. Director</u>	Lynne Gentry	(661) 273-0704
<u>Secretary</u>	Beverly Smith	(661) 824-0639
<u>Editor</u>	Joyanne Bernhardt	(661) 718-1052
<u>Ladies of Harley</u>	Monalisa Garcia	(626) 945-5846
<u>Photographer</u>	Marc Smith	(661) 547-6447
<u>Activities</u>	Kip Goodrich	(661) 317-2439
<u>Historian</u>	Pat Espinosa	(661) 722-4345
<u>Safety Officer</u>		
<u>Road Capt. Coord.</u>	Jeff Bayard	(661) 944-4167
<u>Webmaster</u>	Richard Longworth	(661) 940-8906
<u>Treasurer</u>	Starr Bayard	(661) 944-4167
<u>Membership Coord.</u>	Ruthie McCollin	(661) 722-2754

**RIDGECREST ACTIVITY GROUP**

<u>Director</u>	Wade Tallman	(760) 499-1967
<u>Asst. Director</u>	Tracy Ackeret	(760) 373-4120
<u>Secretary</u>	Tom Lystrup	(760) 375-4284
<u>Editor</u>	John Brandt	(760) 793-3392
<u>Ladies of Harley</u>		
<u>Photographer</u>	Judy McCauley	(760) 446-5310
<u>Activities</u>	Josh Wilkerson	(760) 371-1144
<u>Historian</u>	Crystal Liesman	(760) 375-7405
<u>Safety Officer</u>	Stan Austin	(760) 375-8998
<u>Road Capt. Coord.</u>	Bland Burchett	(760) 375-1698
<u>Webmaster</u>	Don McCauley	(760) 446-5310
<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)*

Man its June already!!! Time flies. The weather has been great. A couple of good rides. Joint ride with AV to Idle Spurs the other weekend. Nice place, good food, and good service. Its that time of the year where the weather drives everyone on more rides...and more vacationers in their cars....which means more ways to get tangled up with a car not paying attention. Let's make sure that for all our rides we take the extra time to talk through our ride and ensure all contingencies are covered. Especially when it comes to things as simple as passing or getting passed by a car. If you are going solo, keep your head on a swivel.

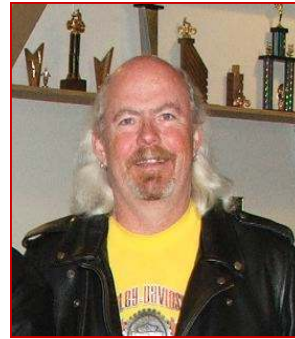
There are a multitude of upcoming events and rides. Check the web site and keep an eye out. With Don on the road with Stan to Alaska, there may be a little gap, but I'm sure he will catch up upon return. I'm sure there will be a good story or two on their 30 day adventure.

For RAG events the big ones are Thunder on the Lot, 13-14 Jun (I'm still looking to have Poker Run registration at the next meeting), Yosemite Run on 26-28 Jun (see email from Tracy), Yard Sale, 10 Jul (I'm sure Tommie will put out additional info for drop off soon), and finally RAG CAR WASH and POOL Party on 18 July. That's just the posted items. Spontaneous rides are ever present.

That's it for now. Keep the shiny side up and the rubber down.

PS. Matarango Days is scheduled for 17 Oct. Going to try and increase participation and play more bike games.

-Wade



**Tracy Akeret**  
*Assistant Director*

Greetings Everyone,

Well once again its time to write something for the newsletter, first off I would like to thank John for doing such a wonderful job on the newsletter. Having done the newsletter for three years I know how much work it really is to put together the newsletter every other month. It may not seem like it would be that much work to do but trying to make everything fit into the format and make it look good is not at easy as it might seem.

Summer is upon us and so is the prime riding weather. I have been riding almost every day, albeit it's to work but with Debbie now working up at China Lake I have had the opportunity to ride to work just about everyday. I think I have missed one day in the last six weeks. I have enjoyed most of them, the wind is a bit of a pain but if you want to ride in the desert you have to deal with the wind. I have also been able to get out a lot just to ride. We are planning on going over to the coast on the 12<sup>th</sup> for the weekend so Debbie and I will not be at the next chapter meeting. We will be enjoying the cool weather on the coast. I hope everyone has had the chance to get out and enjoy the nice weather.

We are once again going to be taking a ride up to Yosemite. We are going the 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. For those who have not been to Yosemite on a bike I highly recommend it. The beauty of Yosemite is awesome anyway but it's even more so on a bike. It's getting hard to get reservation in Oakhurst where we are saying so if you plan on going and have not made reservations you need to do so soon. I am looking forward to seeing the park again and hope others that have not been up there can join us this year.

Take care and ride safe

Silk



Josh Wilkerson  
J-Dub  
Activities



### 105 Years of V-Twin

Most of the articles in Desert Wind are ride based journey oriented while this one is more about the destination that was a journey 105 years in the making... the H-D museum in Milwaukee.

There's no doubt that we rode to the museum from the middle of Illinois, so there was a bit of ride to the story but that was quickly overshadowed by the whole motorcycle experience in Milwaukee. We checked into the "Iron Horse Hotel" about 6:30 in the evening after a real late start from Champaign, IL, apparently it's not the best idea to plan a ride the day after your nephew gets married. Anyway, as we pulled up to the Iron Horse we were greeted by a doorman who promptly directed us to the motorcycle parking, covered or not, our choice. He also ensured us that the parking was closely monitored 24-7 and that the bike would be completely safe. The hotel was absolutely fantastic and a bikers dream come true. I could go on but all the details can be found online. Once checked into the room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor we were able to take in the view of the Milwaukee skyline including an unobstructed view of the H-D Museum. Aha... Harley Mecca just a stones throw and a good night's sleep away.

The museum is two stories and the self guided tour begins on the second deck. The main corridors have a bike from every year while the side exhibit rooms have various parts of the Harley history in chronological order as you move through each well thought out and detailed display area. The first room does indeed house serial #0001 from 1903, and yes, it is in perfect working order. In fact, and according to one of the museum attendants, every motorcycle on display in the museum is fully functional and capable of running if so desired. The top floor included displays and artifacts depicting the beginning of the company, how the v-twin operates, 1920's and 30's board track racing, and all of the military service bikes from the world wars. The types and variations of bikes were unbelievable and included most every variant from recreational, basic transport, military, police, and even a three wheeled ice-cream vender that was produced long before the Tri-Glide. Also housed on the second deck is the archives and preservation areas where on certain tours you can put on white gloves and handle 105 year old documents as well as see preservation efforts for future displays. We were told that the museum only preserves, not restores, display quality artifacts so what you see is original condition. The archives was the last stop on the top deck before you went down to the first floor for the second half of the Harley century and the beginning of the, should I say it, the AMF years...

I'm pretty sure Don donated his first Harley for a display, no not the 1903 model, it was a Harley-Davidson AMF scooter circa 1963, I don't think I can refer to a v-twin as a scooter ever again. I bet Don and "Gidget" looked real cool riding down the road on that thing. All kidding aside, AMF seriously had some whacked ideas of what to put the H-D brand on. We saw the H-D logo on scooters, snowmobiles, mini-bikes, boats for heavens sake! AMF probably would have put it on a golf cart, oh wait, they did. The museum very tastefully displayed the AMF years but at no time was there any feeling of reverence, more of "It happened, so what, get over it." And get over it they did. Just after the AMF area there was an entire section dedicated to the re-acquisition of the company by the founding families and the struggles they went through to turn the company and the brand back around. If you're reading this, then you know the rest of the story.

Leaving AMF behind the rest of the first floor was dedicated to hill climbers, celebrity bikes, bikes from movies, and crazy bikes donated to the museum from owners. I think it's a toss up between the rhinestone covered Classic and the tandem seat and engine extended Ultra, an H-D limo maybe? Any way you look at it's all very impressive and highlights the passion shared by the company and owners of the motorcycle. As with the upper deck, the bottom had bikes covering the rest of the production years neatly lined up between velvet ropes as you walk past. Ending the tour was a recreation of the H-D design room with clay models of the V-Rod and other components now in production.

The museum provided an experience and an up close and personal journey through Harley-Davidson history energizing my passion and reaffirming my choice to be part of the H-D culture. In the end, at least in this case, it was about the destination.

Enjoy the ride; it's only been 105 years in the making!

J-Dub





Bland Burchett  
Spokes  
Road Captain Coord.

Howdy gang, so do you remember the “Follow Me” signal, how about the “Speed Up” or “Slow Down”? Well, as we found out the hard way.....knowing the hand signals is a very crucial part of “Group Riding Safety”. We realize there are some differences in the published hand signals between the RAG and AV-HOG news letters, but until we standardize our Club’s signals I would recommend reviewing both. They were both extracted from approved motorcycle riding and safety guides, and I’m sure you’ll come across the various signals over the course of your riding experience.

Now, with “Thunder On The Lot” just around the corner, its probably a good time to discuss the “Rubber Band” effect as we gear up for our group ride down to Lancaster to support this event. So, what is “Rubber Band’ effect...you might ask? Well, 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:

Constantly changing your speed  
Accelerating from a stop  
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 accelerate as needed. Now...don’t mistake this as a license to “Drag Race”....Ride safe and accelerate at safe speeds. Next month I’ll talk about the accordion affect (I’m not sure if this isn’t my own “Coined” term or not...but it isn’t referring to “Bubble Time”). Am I’m dating myself.....

-Cheers/Spokes



**Stan Austin**  
*Safety Stan*



My fellow Harley riders it is June. Time sure goes by fast! The year is almost half over. Oh yes, it is time for the Austin vacation. Don and Judy McCauley are riding with us to Alaska. We have planned for months to make this trip. When you read this we will already be on the road. Departing Thursday night we will head north on 395. On Sunday we will be in Vancouver, Canada. As of today, Monday 5/25, the trailers are packed and only a few last minute things are left to do. The four of us will take plenty of photos and some video of the trip. Don and I will try to post photos and stuff on the net for folks to see. I have a You Tube account and a Tagged site. We also plan on sending some e-mail along the way as Internet sites allow. The good news is we have some months of good riding weather ahead. Plan for the heat and drink plenty of water. If you can, ride early morning to get in as many miles as you can before it gets too hot. Then take more breaks so you can bet the heat. Carry lots of water and shade items in case of a break down. Keep that bike serviced and ensure you check the bike before each ride. Below are some rider tips for riding with a passenger. We will see you all soon. Keep safe and ride with the wind.

### **QUICK TIPS: Guidelines For Riding With A Passenger On Your Motorcycle**

#### **Legal Considerations**

1. All state laws and requirements for carrying a passenger must be followed.
2. Some states have specific equipment requirements. Examples: the motorcycle must have passenger footrests, passengers must be able to reach the footrests, and a motorcycle must have a separate seating area for a passenger.
3. The decision to carry a child, assuming all safety and legal factors have been considered, is left to the parent or guardian. Ensure that the child is mature enough to handle the responsibilities, tall enough to reach the footrests, wears a properly fitted helmet and other protective gear, and holds onto you or the passenger handholds. Check your state's laws; a few states have set minimum ages for motorcycle passengers.

#### **Operator Preparation**

1. Passengers should be considered as a second "active" rider so they can help ensure that safety and procedural operations are correctly followed.
2. A passenger will affect the handling characteristics of a motorcycle due to the extra weight and independent motion.
3. A passenger tends to move forward in quick stops and may "bump" your helmet with theirs.
4. Starting from a stop may require more throttle and clutch finesse.
5. Braking procedures may be affected. Braking sooner and/or with greater pressure may be required.
6. More weight over the rear tire may increase the usefulness and stopping power of the rear brake, especially in quick stop situations.
7. Riding on a downgrade will cause braking distance to increase.
8. Extra caution is called for in a corner because of the extra weight.
9. Cornering clearances may be affected.
10. More time and space will be needed for passing.
11. The effects of wind, especially side wind, may be more pronounced.

## **Motorcycle Preparation**

1. The motorcycle must be designed to accommodate a passenger.
2. The motorcycle owner's manual should be reviewed for manufacturer's tips about motorcycle setup as well as any related operational recommendations.
3. The motorcycle's suspension and tire pressure may need adjustment.
4. Care should be taken to not exceed the weight limitations specified in the owner's manual.

## **Passenger Preparation**

1. Passengers should be tall enough to reach the footrests and mature enough to handle the responsibilities.
2. Passengers should wear proper protective gear.
3. Passengers should receive a safety briefing (see #7 below).
4. Passengers should consider themselves a second operator and share responsibility for safety.

## **General Safety Considerations**

1. You need to be experienced in the motorcycle's operation and have a safety-oriented attitude before taking on the added responsibility of carrying a passenger.
2. Practice low-speed clutch/throttle control as well as normal and emergency braking in a low-risk area like an open parking lot, with a passenger.
3. Use caution in cornering and develop cornering skills over time to ensure passenger comfort and safety.
4. Use caution in corners as clearance may be affected.
5. Use MSF's Search, Evaluate, Execute strategy (**SEE SM**) to increase time and space safety margins.
6. Allow time for a passenger to adjust to the sense of speed and the sensation of leaning; speeds should conservatively safe and reasonable until a passenger acclimates to the proper riding techniques.
7. Ensure passengers follow safety procedures:
  - a. Complete personal protective gear is properly in use.
  - b. Hold operator's waist or hips, or motorcycle's passenger handholds provided.
  - c. Keep feet on footrests at all times, including while stopped.
  - d. Keep hands and feet away from hot or moving parts.
  - e. When in a corner, look over the operator's shoulder in the direction of the corner.
  - f. Avoid turning around or making sudden moves that might affect operation.
  - g. If crossing an obstacle, stand on the pegs with the knees slightly bent and allow the legs to absorb the shock upon impact.
8. Allow more time for passing.
9. Be ready to counter the effects of wind.
10. Avoid extreme speeds and dramatic lean angles.
11. Be ready for a passenger "bump" with their helmet when stopping quickly.
12. Start the motorcycle before the passenger mounts.
13. The passenger mounts after the motorcycle's stand is raised and the motorcycle is securely braced.
14. Annually complete an ERC Skills Plus *Rider Course SM* with a passenger.
15. Have frequent passengers complete a Basic *Rider Course* so they can better understand the operator's task.



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

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

I have nothing financial to report, other than that we are looking good for income and expenses are very comparable to last year so far.

I did take a 4260 mile road trip in the month of May. I left from here after the Biker Blessing on the 9th of May and rode to San Antonio Iron Butt style, riding 1500+ miles in under 36 hours, not without incident though. I got to Clovis, NM and got off my bike for lunch and noticed oil all over the right side of the scoot. Looked like it was coming down a rear cylinder push rod or close to it. Lucky for me the Clovis H-D shop was open, service too, and they took a look at it, cleaned it up, and I ran it a few miles and they confirmed that it was either the push rod or possibly the rocker cover gasket. But they said I could nurse it to San Antonio just fine, which is what I did. It's no fun riding the speed limit all the way across over half of Texas mostly at night, especially with the critters in that part of the country, to include herds of deer, armadillo, and a few big wild pigs too. But I got to San Antone at 0130 in the morning, and was able to get the bike into Caliente H-D to get it worked on and the rocker gasket replaced, which solved that problem. I stayed in Texas that week for a work conference and visited with my sister and then left on Saturday morning the 16th in a rain-storm and rode through the down pouring rain all the way up Texas through Oklahoma and into Joplin, Missouri where I stayed the night and met Josh the next morning to ride old Route 66 from his day two down the Mother Road out of Chicago.

We went down a good bit of the old road and saw too many things to list in here, but we had a great ride coming across OK, TX, NM, and AZ. Had some great food, sorry no food pictures Judy! But we did take some pictures. We saw the set where Wild Hogs was filmed in Madrid, NM, and rode to the top of Sandia Peak overlooking Albuquerque, but decided the road down the other side, even though it looks like a State Road (SR 165), was not to our liking being a dirt road down the side of a mountain at 10,678 feet. So we took the other way around to get to Albuquerque. We stood on a corner of Winslow, AZ and saw a girl in a flatbed Ford there. OK, so it was a painting. We rode the longest stretch of the original Mother Road still standing from Seligman, AZ through Kingman and Oatman and then to Needles. We made it to Santa Monica and the end of the trail on 21st where our wives greeted us, saw the end of Route 66 together with us, and then we rode home to Ridgecrest. It is great to be back home in our quiet, but hot little desert town.





**Tom Lystrup**  
*Secretary*

Hi,  
To all our RAG members, it's great to have you onboard. To others, welcome. I hope all find enjoyment reading our newsletter and attending our meetings and ride events. 2009 has been a great riding year for me. I've racked up several thousand so far. The weather has been great for riding, even to far away locations such as Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah, but summer is definitely around the corner. I've stored my electric gear and brought out the hydrator jacket and camelback. Got to keep cool as warmer days come upon us. Did you get to the Biker's Blessing at the Calvary Church in May? This annual event is becoming more and more popular. Plan to attend next year and think about riding with us on Scooter's annual New Year's Day ride. The RAG board has planned several great rides and activities for this year. I've attended some memorable ones. I've started attending some Patriot Guard Rides and enjoying those as well. Check our calendars at [www.ridgecresthog.com](http://www.ridgecresthog.com) for upcoming events and plan to join us on a ride or participate in one of our many planned activities soon. Membership is up to 83 this year. Although we were not expecting so many, we are certainly happy to have you all with us this year. We have many returning members and several new members as well. It's great to associate with all of you at our monthly meetings and ride events. Any reason to ride is a good one. Have fun!

Tom Lystrup  
Secretary, Ridgecrest Activity Group



**John Brandt**  
*Editor*

*No Report this month*



**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*



**Denis Linck**  
*PAO*

*No Report this month*



June Birthdays



Michael Beck



Paul Begin



Hal Bennett



John Brandt



Billee Burchett



Lorelee Connally



Barry Hoyer



Dale Olmsted



Dale Polley



Josh Wilkerson



Rex Walraven



July Birthdays



Bruce Bartels



Debbie Brown



Chuck Cordell



Tommie Lawrence



Sandra Moore



Cheryl Polley



Jack Steimer



Cheryl Tallman



Rich Villarreal

## RAG General Meeting Notes

Date: 11 Apr 2009

**Meeting called to Order by:** Wade

**Time:** 0900

**Director, Wade Tallman:** Birthdays announced. Announcement for Bikers Against Diabetes June 14<sup>th</sup>. Raffle next month for Harley Motorcycle wall display. Survey results announced. Majority of survey participants favor more activities. Two charities were chosen. Toys For Tots and Women's Shelter. Boys and Girls Clubs will also be supported.

**Asst Director: Tracy Ackeret:** AV Harley now has a plaque to display RAG members names.

**Secretary, Tom Lystrup:** Membership is up to 78 with one returning member signed up today.

**Treasurer, Rex Walraven:** \$1600 in budget.

**Activities Director, Josh Wilkerson:** AV Harley announced "Screw it, Let's ride" program. Test ride any new 2009 Harley until end of May. Memorial basketball tournament for Cpl Wayne Geiger announced. LCDR Mike Stokes returning from Iraq. Meet at Mickey's 1045 today. River Run to Laughlin 22-26 Apr. Biker Blessing May 9<sup>th</sup>. Car Wash July 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Road Caption Coordinator: Bland Burchett:** Plans to standardize hand signals for the group are being made. Will post something to the website this week. April luncheon planned for RC's.

**Safety Officer, Stan Austin:** Inform Stan of any CL Police motorcycle stops that members think may not be related to 5100.12H. Ride safe.

**Web Master, Don McCauley:** Check recent slide shows.

**Newsletter Editor, John Brandt:** Newsletter is out.

**Photographer, Judy McCauley:** New camera coming.

**Historian, Crystal Liesman:** Working for KLOA. Nothing to report.

**LOH:** No comments

**PAO, Dennis Linck:** The week before the RAG meeting, listen for RAG group meeting announcement on Lizard Listing KSSI 102.7.

**Member comments:** Training video – Ride Like A Pro. Friction zone.

The next RAG General meeting will be May 9 at Charlie's in the Carriage Inn at 0900

## RAG General Meeting Notes

Date: 8 May 2009

**Meeting called to Order by:** Wade

**Time:** 0900

**Director, Wade Tallman:** New members welcomed. Birthdays announced. Biker Blessing is today at the Calvary Chapel immediately following this meeting. May 23 – Idle Spurs combined ride with AV HOG members.

**Asst Director: Tracy Ackeret:** AV Harley now has a plaque to display RAG members names.

**Secretary, Tom Lystrup:** Added 2 new members and one returning member today for a total of 83.

**Treasurer, Rex Walraven:** There is money in the budget for activities this year. Comments for possible activities are welcome. Sodas for Biker Blessing have been arranged.

**Activities Director, Josh Wilkerson:** July 18<sup>th</sup> Car Wash. Check monthly calendar on website for upcoming events and rides

**Road Caption Coordinator: Bland Burchett:** Hand signal quiz. All members are encouraged to learn group riding hand signals. Check out the group riding instructions for the AV HOG Chapter posted on our website at: [www.ridgecresthog.com](http://www.ridgecresthog.com)

**Safety Officer, Stan Austin:** No incidents this month. NAWA has a couple bikes to loan for the MSF course.

**Web Master, Don McCauley:** Updating calendar on website. Check the Activities Director Topics page for the latest info about activities. Received an email from Judy Gerard regarding Bikers Against Diabetes.

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

**Photographer, Judy McCauley:** New camera finally. Also mentioned that the Rey Spencer obituary was not posted in the DI, .

**Historian, Crystal Liesman:** Working for KLOA. Recommended Photo Bucket on line for sharing group photos.

**LOH:** No comments

**PAO, Dennis Linck:** The week before the RAG meeting , listen for RAG group meeting announcement on Lizard Listing KSSI 102.7. Dublin riders from Ireland will be visiting the US for a group ride. More details to follow.

**Member comments:** Scooter made an announcement for the May 9<sup>th</sup> Biker's 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 June 13 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**



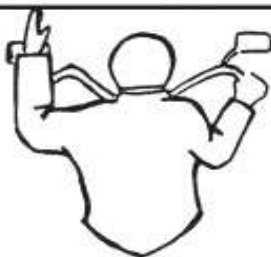
**Left turn**



**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/>



## Antelope Valley Harley-Davidson

1759 West Avenue J-12  
Lancaster California 93534  
Phone: 661-948-5959  
Fax: 661-942-4599  
Toll Free: 800-99harley

### Summer Hours:

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



## Upcoming Events:

### Thunder on the Lot

**June 13 - 14**

**Yosemite**

**June 26 - 28**

**Yard Sale**

**July 10**

**Car Wash and Pool**

**Party**

**July 18**



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