



Desert Wind

Chapter
#1665

Harley Owners Group
Antelope Valley Chapter
Ridgecrest, CA

Nov/Dec
2011
Volume 17
Issue 6

Proudly Sponsored by:

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

November Meeting
Saturday
November 12, 2011
09:00AM

December Meeting
Saturday
December 10, 2011
09:00AM

Meetings Held at
Charlie's in Ridgecrest

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MORRO BAY 2011



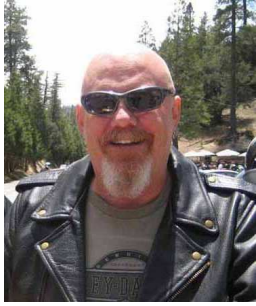
Another wonderful
Morro Bay ride!!!

Harley Owners Group

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

**Sponsor:
Antelope Valley Harley Davidson
1759 West Ave J12
Lancaster, California 93536
(661) 948-5959**

Director	Tracy Ackeret
Co-Director	Jeff Bayard
Asst. Director	Mike Moore
Co-Asst. Director	Joe Perea
Secretary/PAO /Membership	Barbara Austin
Co-Secretary	Heidi Nelson
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Co-Editor	Steve Ryono
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Co-Ladies of Harley	Susan Smith
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Co-Photographer	Marc Smith
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Co-Activities	VANCANT
Historian	Crystal Liesman
Co-Historian	Pam George
Safety Officer	Stan Austin Jr.
Co-Safety Officer	Kenneth Blair
Road Capt. Coord	Randy Geiger
Co-Road Capt. Coord	Don Smith
Webmaster	Don McCauley
Co-Webmaster	Richard Longworth
Treasurer	Sandra Moore
Co-Treasurer	Lynne Gentry
Co-Membership Coord.	Ruthie McCollin



Tracy Ackeret **Ramblings from** **Silk**

Greetings once again,

Hello once again, as I sit here writing down my ramblings this time it has turned cold outside. Yeah I know it's supposed to do that this time of year. Unlike Mike who likes this time of year I am not a fan. I much prefer to be warm then to be cold. I still ride in the cold; this morning when I got to work it was 32 degrees. However just because I am not willing to give up my bike for the winter does not mean that I have to like the cold weather, it just means that I have to wear lots of layers of clothes.

Deb and I have been doing quite a bit of riding since the last time I sat down here to type up another one of my newsletter input. We went to the Cal State HOG Rally in beautiful Monterey. I always enjoy riding up there. The ride up there was good but being on the beautiful peninsula is always a treat. We had done the Cal State Rally last year and had a great time. Last year it was what was billed as a riding rally. The rally started in Jamestown, up in gold country and ended up in San Diego. It was called the Pines to Palms Rally because you got everything from Pines to Palms. We met a lot of really good people on last year's rally and got to hook up with some of them again this year. So in that respect it was nice to see them again. However I have to say that if the rally hadn't been in Monterey we probably wouldn't have gone. After last year any rally would have had big shoes to fill to come close to what they did last year. I much prefer to ride from place to place then to ride to a place and ride out during the day from there. I have heard that the group that put together the 2010 rally is once again bidding to do the 2012. If they get it and it's another riding rally then you can count on Deb and I being there. Otherwise we will probably pass unless it's in another place like this year.

A couple weeks after we got back from the rally it was time once again for Morro Bay. This is another ride that we enjoy mostly due to the location. Morro Bay is a beautiful place and to make it even better you get the ocean. We look forward to this ride each year and this year was great for the most part, (sorry Mike and Sandra). I like seeing the number of people that we are getting on all our rides. This has been a great year for that.

As we get closer to 2012 we will once again be having our yearly planning event. We will be getting together on the 9th of December in place of our normal board meeting and be putting together our ride calendar for the next year. I think this has worked out good as it gives people a place to look and see what's coming up and what they want to go on. If you have any suggestions for rides next year let one of the board know or plan on joining us for the planning meeting. We are going to try to plan on new places next year and some old standbys also. I want to make this chapter fun for everybody so let us know what you want.

Coming up in the next couple months we have a lot going on. We will be giving our toys that we have collected all year to the Marines on the 19th of November. We need lots of people and bikes to show the Marines who we are so come join us at the Carriage at 9am. I want to give a great big thank you to all that have brought toys this year. You all have made this a fantastic year and I know there will be many happy faces at Christmas because of you. In December we have our annual Ridgecrest Christmas Parade and thanks to one of our new members we are promised a better place this year so we don't have to dodge land mines in the road. A great big thank you to Teri for that one. Then after that we have our Christmas party which is always a good time. So in closing I want to thank you all for making this another great year and let's keep it going next year and make it an even better year.

Silk



Mike Moore
Where's the Meat?

Well summers finally over and Autumn is upon us, and for my money this the best time of year to ride. The Fall season also brings our annual ride to Morro Bay and what a trip it was this year! The fun began when I woke up Friday morning a bit of an upset stomach, no problem I thought it's probably just something I ate and it will pass. I have a ride to lead so lets go. We meet up at the J-Box as planned, all 18 bikes and 31 riders! The plan was to leave at 0700 and I caught a fair amount of grief for wanting to leave so early but as it turned out it was a good thing that we did. After our pre ride brief we were kick stands up at 0710, I was a little off my game because I wasn't feeling good, anyway we were a little late but we were off to Tehachapi to meet Tracy and Debbie and Paul and Vickie from AV which brought the total numbers to 20 bikes and 35 riders! When we arrived we took a break and I was feeling worse, I knew in my heart that I should go home but I'm no wuss and I've got a ride to lead! We head out for Buttonwillow, our next stop and as we're heading into Bakersfield Don McCauley taught us all that it's not a good idea to hit your kill switch while riding down the freeway, but no harm no foul and we continued on to our next stop. When we get to Buttonwillow it's time to gas up and take long snack break, and now I'm feeling really bad! As everyone is relaxing and talking I'm thinking that I need to go to bed or die and at that moment either one was fine with me. I'll spare you the gory details, but I got a little boost after suddenly getting an empty stomach behind an olive tree and we pressed on, I'm half way there I can do this. About an hour out of BW as started through the switch backs on old 58 another problem came up when Hal's battery decided to crap out on him. As the group helped Hal get his bike jump started I asked Wade to take over the lead because I couldn't go on anymore right then and we would catch up later. I ended up laying in the dirt next to my bike for what seemed to be at least an hour but thankfully we were not alone, because Paul and Susan Bruer stayed with Sandra and I for the rest of the day and for that we owe them a huge Thank You! After getting back on the road we caught up to the group after about 10 miles because Hal's battery completely died on him and he was stuck. They waived the four of us on and Wade and Mike Roberts rode into Gary Bang HD in Atascadero to buy Hal a new battery and take it back to where the group was waiting with Hal. I'm not sure how far they rode but where Hal broke down is not close to Atascadero. After a couple more rest and re-hydrate stops for me Sandra and I and The Bruer's finally made it to Morro Bay. After 9 hours of the most miserable day of riding in my life I finally had my bed and that's where I went as soon as we got checked in. Later that day the rest of the group arrived safe and sound. Everyone went out and had a good time that night at Legends, I even started to feel a little better and was able to join them at Legends for a while although I could only drink 7-UP what a bummer.

Saturday came and some of us stayed around town but most people went on day rides to various locations and by all accounts had a great day. That evening most of us got together for dinner at Rose's Landing, sorry for that, it can definitely be scratched off the list for places to eat in Morro Bay. During dinner Sandra started to feel bad and went back to our room, it seems what I had I passed on to her, sorry honey:(She was sick all night and all day Sunday she stayed in bed. As folks were leaving and heading home we decided that it would be best if Sandra and I stayed another night. A little while later Hal and John Cain came by our room and said that they would stay another night also and ride home with us on Monday. When I told Sandra this she said this is exactly why she joined this group. Monday morning came and Sandra was feeling a lot better and the weather was beautiful and we all had a very nice ride home.

This trip just solidified why I think the Ridgecrest HOG Group is the gold standard for HOG groups.

Mike



**Activities Director
Stan Austin**

Where do you want to ride too !!!

So my HOG friends we find ourselves in Nov. 2011 and most of this year has gone fast. Weather is starting to slow events down and we will need to give more attention to road conditions as storms come our way. Please check the HOG web site for events as Don McCauley works hard to keep it current. The Dec. meeting will be a busy one with the general HOG meeting in the morning followed by the parade and ending with our always-great Christmas Party. If you do not yet have your tickets call Sandra Moore or be at the Nov. meeting. If you want to be part of the HOG Board for 2012 please get hold of Tracy and let him know you wish to help, let's get some new people in there for a change.

Please ride safe keeping the rubber down and your head up.
Stan



Stan Austin Jr.
"Mikey"
"Safety Stan Jr."

Remember T-CLOCK as a great Pr-ride.

- T - Tires & Wheels
- C - Controls
- L - Lights & Electrics
- O - Oil
- C - Chassis
- K - Kickstand

Hope all of you have a good time on the rides we planned this year.

RIDERS EDGE

PLEASE CHECK AT THE SHOP FOR UPCOMING DATES:

Skilled Rider Course. Cost for current R.A.G. HOG members is \$125.00 (regular price is \$150.00).

The New Rider Course .

Thanks for your support,

Denyce



Randy Geiger
Road Captain Coordinator

“Mr. I Got Nothing”

***Keep the rubber side
down and the shiny side
up !!!***

It's hard to believe that 2011 is essentially history! For the Ridgecrest Area Group 2011 has seen some great things happen, including our membership breaking 100 and a significant increase in number of riders participating in our monthly rides. 4 new Road Captains were sworn in this year, Kim Geiger, Betty Biros, Hal Bennett and yours truly. Road Captains have a tremendous responsibility planning rides and making sure the group arrives at our destination safely. So to our 14 Road Captains I want to extend a great big thank you for your dedication to our group and making each ride fun and safe!

Speaking of safe rides, the latest edition of HOG Magazine ran an article about group riding titled “Group Dynamics.” I hope our membership had the opportunity to read it. I found it very informative. I have read the article a couple of times and each time I find some point that I can relate to. The article covered several issues related to group riding including communications, formation riding, maintaining the integrity of the group, how to handle intersections, freeways and passing. I will cover communications for this article and reserve other components for future newsletters.

Communications: It is absolutely vital that Road Captains create an environment within the group that encourages communication among all members. Many dynamics exist within a group ride and it is essential that members feel comfortable enough to make their specific concerns known. When Kim and I joined the group in 2009 we had little experience riding and absolutely no experience group riding. The Road Captains asked about our experience and comfort levels and placed us in the formation that best suited our riding abilities. As a result, Kim and I were able to learn the in and outs of group riding, mitigate some of the apprehension of the new experience and enjoy the rides. The pre-ride briefing is a great time for the Road Captain to determine what concerns riders may have. As your Road Captain Coordinator I can say with confidence that your Road Captains encourage everyone to talk with them about any issues pertaining to the ride. During the ride briefing the RCs will make sure everyone is familiar with the destination, have plans in place in for the typical problems that may occur, such as break downs or the group splitting up due to heavy traffic or other factors. In the event of a break down no rider (s) will be left alone to await help. A Road Captain or other designated rider will remain with the disabled riders until help arrives and a safe disposition is confirmed.

Arguably, the most important communication tool is not verbal; it is the hand signals and the riders' familiarity with them. The hand signals are designed to send immediately recognizable messages to the group of a change in conditions, direction or potential hazard. Every one of us is responsible for knowing the hand signals. They are included in every issue of our newsletter. During some down time while recovering from a motorcycle injury several years ago I made myself familiar with the hand signals by creating a power point presentation. Yeah, the presentation is simple and some may consider it silly. It was built around the lowest common denominator in the audience – me! But, that's how I became familiar with the hand signals and it was mildly entertaining to this very simple guy! If anyone would like a copy of it I would be happy to email it to you. You can learn the hand signals and get a laugh at my expense! That's all I have for now concerning communications. I encourage all of you to bring up any concerns or suggestions at the meetings so we can all continue to draw from the wealth of experience in our group. In future articles I will discuss the other components of group riding. Since this is what we all do, ride together, I feel it is important to visit these issues as often as possible.

Randy

“ Old Guys Rule “

AV HOG Ridgecrest (formerly RAG HOG)
General Meeting Minutes
10 Sep 2011

Meeting called to order at 0905 by Stan Austin (Sr)

Director, Tracy Ackeret – Not present

Assistance Director, Mike Moore – Not present

Treasurer, Sandra Moore – \$4K in account. Christmas Party flyers are on the tables and we will be selling Christmas Party tickets at the October and November meetings. Since we have over 100 members, tickets will be sold to members only first. Since we have so many members, the gift exchange will be 1 gift per couple/single. The Christmas Party is 10 December, the same day of the meeting.

Secretary, Barb Austin – 113 total members, which includes our 4 honorary members.

Activities, Stan Austin – Still have 3 AV cookbooks for sale. 3 September was the car wash and we made \$450.00, thanks to all who helped. The September AV Lancaster meeting will be held on the 11th because the first Sunday is during the Labor Day Holiday weekend. There is a ride to Newcomb Ranch after the meeting. 17 Sep is our picnic and poker run, with camping at Paradise Cove 16-18 Sep. 24 Sep is the lunch ride to Panamint Springs. 1 October is the AV Chapter picnic at the Lancaster/Palmdale Knights of Columbus. The Morro Bay ride will be the weekend of 14-16 Oct 2011, always a great ride. Day ride to Pioneer Village on 22 October. The AV Harley shop bought chapter coins and they are for sale at the shop. Our next meeting is 8 Oct. Beatty Days is 28-30 Oct.

Editor, Debbie Ackeret – The Sep/Oct newsletter is out via e-mail and Deb has hardcopies. Provided birthday cupcakes for the September birthdays. Dennis and Diane our guests today from AV Lancaster. After the 2 Oct AV meeting, which will be at the shop, there is a Fallen Hero's Ride. One set of patches left.

Historian, Cris Liesman – Rode her own bike in and around Sturgis, and thanks to Bland, got to pass a vehicle, which meant kicking it up to 85 mph, just while passing safely.

Safety, Stan Austin (Jr) – Nothing to report

Photo, Judy McCauley – Nothing to report

Webmaster, Don McCauley – Not present

LOH, Judy Gerard – Not present

Road Captain, Randy Geiger – Not present

Member comments:

Bland Burchett – Relay for Life will be 1-2 Oct 2011 at the college. He and Billie will need help setting up the campsite, walkers, and help tearing down. Paul bought a new tire pump and repair kit, which was needed on the Sturgis trip by Bland, but Bland stated it was not fun to learn how to use it on the side of the road.

AV Diane – After the September meeting, AV Lancaster LOH will be having a poker run and HOG event at the AV Harley shop. On 23 Oct, AV Lancaster will be having a swamp meet at the shop; tables are available for \$25.00

J.D. Biros – Gary Goodwin is in the hospital with severe injuries.

Today is the Parade of 1000 Flags, commemorating 9-11-2001. Marc, Paul and Josh rode in this event to represent the group.

The next RAG HOG general meeting will be 8 October 2011, in Charlie's, at the Carriage Inn.

AV HOG Ridgecrest (formerly RAG HOG)
General Meeting Minutes
8 Oct 2011

Meeting called to order at 0902 by Tracy Ackeret

Director, Tracy Ackeret – Charity Giveaway – Alicia from the Women's Shelter was present to accept our donation. Introduced Bill and Teri Anderson our new members, who were attending their first meeting, but had already made a few rides. AV meeting is 6 Nov. There is a Veteran's Day Parade sponsored by the R/C Chamber of Commerce on 12 Nov 2011 at 0900, same day/time as our meeting, so we won't officially participate, but will let members know about it. The Christmas Parade is the day of our December meeting. We will be up close to the front of the parade this year. The same evening will be our annual party. In lieu of doing food baskets, we will donate money to the Salvation Army and specify it is for holiday food baskets. The AV shop had coins made and Tracy will have some at the meeting tomorrow for sale. The coins are \$5.00, and the shop only wants \$3.66 back for each coin. We are planning to have the Marines at the Nov meeting to donate all the toys we have collected for Toys for Tots, Hal offered to talk to the MAD CO. We have collected an amazing amount of toys, thanks to everyone for their overwhelming generosity. There is an after meeting ride to Tehachapi on the 12th to the Red House BBQ.

Assistance Director, Mike Moore – Introduced visitors, Fred & Sandra, Dennis & Diane from AV, John Weaver's wife Judy, Ben's gal Paula, and Matt visiting from England. Morro Bay ride meet at JIB at 0630, depart 0700 sharp. Weather will change during ride, so dress in layers. Mike will lead, with Dwight as sweep. Sunday on the trip home, Wade will lead any interested persons to Lemoore for the Blue Angles Air Show. Welcome back Pam Sanders, riding for the first time since her surgery.

Treasurer, Sandra Moore – \$4K in account. Christmas Party flyers are on the tables and we are selling Christmas Party tickets today and at the November meeting, or contact Sandra to purchase tickets by 30 Nov. Since we have over 100 members, tickets will be sold to members only first. Since we have so many members, the gift exchange will be 1 gift per couple/single. The Christmas Party is 10 December, the same say of the meeting. Gary is improving, he will be under going physical therapy and should be back east until after the start of the calendar year.

Secretary, Barb Austin – 113 total members, which includes our 4 honorary members. Reminder, I won't be at the Nov meetings, Betty Biros will take minutes and handle secretary stuff.

Activities, Stan Austin – The Morro Bay ride will be the weekend of 14-16 Oct 2011, always a great ride. Day ride to Pioneer Village on 22 October. Beatty Days is 28-30 Oct.

Editor, Debbie Ackeret – Will be asking for newsletter inputs by the end of the month, e-mail to follow

LOH, Judy Gerard – 22 Oct ride to Pioneer Town, will be a day ride sponsored by LOH. Giveaways went to Dale Polley and Kathleen Hartzell

Safety, Stan Austin (Jr) – Kick'n Country food drive at Fury's today. Car and motorcycle show, entry fee is a can of food.

Photo, Judy McCauley – Bought new camera, Nikon with 23 power zoom, 5th camera since taking "photo" position

Webmaster, Don McCauley – Reminder to everyone our website address is ridgecresthog.com

Road Captain, Randy Geiger – Not present

Historian, Cris Liesman – Not present

Member comments:

Hal Bennett – trying to set up a make up trip to Whitney Portal on 29 Oct 2011, with planned departure from IYK 76 at 0830.

Bland Burchett – Raised \$1500.00 for the Relay for Life team. We walked a total of 109 miles. Thanks to everyone for helping.

Diane (A/V) – 22 Oct 2011 the AV shop is having a swap meet starting at 0800.

Chuck Cordell – Ridgecrest raised ~ \$120K for Relay for Life, thanks to all. Next Friday, 14 Oct, there is a fundraiser for the Frisbee granddaughters at the Pizza Factory.

Deb Moore – The picnic and camp out was awesome, good entertainment and food. Special thanks to Wade for brining is boat.

Bruce Bartels – Today the brewery is having their Oktoberfest from 1000-1800.

Scott Covert – Son had such a great time at the picnic, he wrote a school essay about the event.

Wade Tallman – Thanks for helping to raise \$320.00 for the hospital Pink Ladies and Blue Boys by the sale of the Community Dinner tickets and donations.

The next RAG HOG general meeting will be 12 November 2011 at 0900, in Charlie's, at the Carriage Inn.

NEW TO THE NEWSLETTER

MEMBER PROFILES: Short bio's on Our Members in this months Newsletter we have write-ups from Activities Director, Secretary and Members.... Hoping to have more with each Newsletter. If you want to be featured in the newsletter please send me a short bio and I will try to work them in over the next year.

Deb

Silks Lady

RAG HOG Editor

Barb & Stan Austin

Stan, born and raised in Bakersfield, and Barb, born and raised in Ohio, met here in Ridgecrest and have been married for 33 years. Stan has ridden different types of motorcycles all his life and Barb had never ridden until Stan bought his first Harley in 2002. Barb, deciding she wanted a more comfortable seat, bought Stan a new Ultra Classic in late 2004. Since then, they have traveled across the U.S to the east coast, then down to Florida (Key West) and back across the south, via Interstate 10. They have ridden all over the west, including trips to the Rockies, Glacier National Park, Sturgis, Yellowstone, Laughlin, Las Vegas, 7 passes of the Sierra's, Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion National parks, and a great trip to Alaska through Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Alberta, and Yukon Territory Canada, and Idaho with Don and Judy McCauley. Stan and Barb have made several great friends since joining the RAG HOG and enjoy being active in the group and on the board. Stan said he never had the fellowship of riding with any other motorcycle and that is what he enjoys most about the group.



Scott and Amy Covert, married for 22 years. They have lived in Ridgecrest since kids in the early 70s. Have owned other bikes but got our first Harley (05 road king) last December. Since then, we have put almost 10,000 miles on the bike. Joined the rag hog in January, got off to a rocky start with a blown rear tire on the 395 new years day, on our way to Domingos...but got back on the road and have made most of the rides, including Yosemite. We have a bunch of boys, the youngest being 14 yr old twins...one of whom is already addicted to Harleys. Amy has been on the school board for the last 10 years, and Scott works at the plant in Trona since 1994... We enjoy spending time with our kids, riding, hanging out with other riders, shooting, and getting inked.



Crystal Liesman
Historian

Get those Ride Reports in !!!



Judy McCauley
Show me the bugs in
your teeth

Keep Smiling for the camera !!!



Debbie Ackeret
Silks Lady

Your reading it!!!!



Don McCauley
Web Talker

Please visit our website



Sandra Moore
“.5 “
Treasurer

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



Barb Austin
Secretary/PAO

**Did you hear or see
our ads?**



Judy Gerard
Schoolmarm
LOH

**Check your wallet or purse !!!
You just never know with
Schoolmarm !!!**

Ridgecrest Area Group
HOG Christmas Party
10 December 2011 at the Carriage Inn

***Tickets Go On Sale
at the October Meeting***

***Gift Exchange* - One Gift per Couple
and One Gift per Single Person***

*No Host Bar - 6:00 pm
Western Buffet Dinner -
6:45 pm*



Appetizers & Dessert!

*Door Prizes, Grand Prize
& Centerpiece Drawings
Throughout the Evening***

***** Must Be Present To Win***

ATTENTION!

*We are changing the gift exchange
to keep a better pace at the party.
We are asking that you bring only
one gift per couple and one gift per
single person.*

*This means that only one person per
couple (your choice) will get up to
exchange one gift.*

*Of course, the single person will still
get up to exchange their one gift.*

Guidelines regarding gift exchange gifts are:

- 1. Gifts must be new.*
- 2. Gifts are generally \$10-\$15 with no maximum.*
- 3. Gifts can be humorous, but tasteful and new.*

***There is no obligation to participate in the gift
exchange, however, if you do participate, please
bring a gift to receive a gift.***

RAG HOG After Party

Dec. 10th 2011 ~ 10:30pm~1:30am

After the primary Holiday party at Carriage Inn.

Ridgecrest Elks Lodge ~ 201 E. Church Street

Bring a snack or munchies to keep you fueled.

*We will have our own private bartender, pool table,
big screen TV,*

a juke box to dance with your ladies!

**Enter at the front door by flag pole,
you will need to sign in as guest of Bill & Teri Anderson,
as this a fraternal Lodge.*

For more information, email Debbie A. or Teri A.

Gizzmoe and The Pumpkin

August in the desert is time to look north to the mountains for relief from the heat.

Vikki and I decide on Seattle this year for our vacation trip, we both have family in the Seattle area. We decide to crow-hop from home to Fresno to see her mom then Redding to stop and pick-up my son and his girlfriend then to Penn Valley to visit friends and see my youngest daughter then to the coast and north to Washington.

Vikki's brother Britt asks if he can join us and I reluctantly agree to have the world champion snorer on the road with us again this year. Sharing rooms saves us money but sleep deprivation can be expensive. Britt turns out to be great company on the road, rides well and is a constant source of entertainment.

The plan is to leave on Saturday August 6th and stop for a short visit in Fresno then on to Redding for the night. I get off work at 1600 on Friday and since we are packed and ready to ride what the heck we split. Britt checks his I-Pod and lets me know the road is clear, temperature in Tampa Bay 87 degrees. Rain predicted in Scotland and there is a fire in West Yellowstone. We ride out of Ridgecrest in 103 degrees of heat. I tell myself it's just Britt and his "Gizzmoe."

Britt has his mom's address in Fresno on the I-pod so I lead ?? After a fuel stop in Bakersfield Britt lets me know that I was going 68.39 mph averaging 3.39 mph over the posted limit we have traveled 4.734 miles further by G.P.S. than the Speedometer shows. I shoot up 99 and I'm Jazzed. The Pumpkin is running great and keeping up with traffic. Nearing Fresno Britt takes the lead and we find our hotel and then we visit with Vikki and Britt's mom have dinner and call it a day.

In the morning we ride to Oroville for the night at my brother-in-laws place and meet up with my son Jeff and Kym his girlfriend. Jeff leads to Penn Valley in the morning, we visit with friends and my youngest Daughter Autumn. Then its off to Redding and Jeff's new place.

Spending the next day there exploring the property and checking the bikes. Jeff Bar-B-Q's we drink tell stories and Vikki tries to knock herself out with a head-butt to a low ceiling in the bathroom. No noticeable permanent damage, other than a goose-egg over her eye. I see no differences in her behavior. I am a trained professional and after an extensive examination determine she will live.

It's Tuesday and we get an early start for the coast. Britt checks the I-pod. The weather is on our side with clear skies, dry roads and light traffic. Highway 299 is a great motorcycle road with few straight sections. It's a workout for the sidecar but well worth the effort. Our next stop is Gold Beach Oregon for the night. This is the first test as we are all staying in the same motel suite two bedrooms and one bathroom. Surprised we all sleep through the night and get up early to continue the adventure.

The Oregon coast is awesome, uncluttered beaches, beautiful trees and light traffic. We find our motel at Astoria with a great view of the bridge, have dinner delivered, throw down some Rum and Coke and call it a day.

Tomorrow we will cross the Columbia river into Washington.

Crossing the bridge Vikki is blessed with a present from above. Angels must have been watching out for her as a Condor dropped a load on to the windshield of the sidecar just missing her open helmet. Well maybe not a Condor but not a Sparrow. Welcome to Washington where everything is Green. Britt takes the lead and before you know it we are in a trailer park. Yes he is just following his G.P.S. and lord knows it can't be wrong. I restrain my son who has violent intentions but I convince him the G.P.S. won't fit where the sun don't shine. We are some how afforded a great view of Mt. Rainier while finding our way back to modern civilization and the highway to Fall City where my oldest Daughter lives. Arriving at Joe and Juliana's place early in the afternoon we are surprised to have been in Washington State all day and not a drop of rain. My Daughter and her family welcome us and we get a subdued family photo.

We have been trying to straighten out Britt but he is just a cutup and ruins all the fun. In the morning Britt is off to the local dealership for a new front tire and souvenir shirts. Vikki does domestic chores. Juliana (my Daughter) and I are off to get me new sandals and some bonding time. Back at Our base camp copious amounts of Beer flow and the Bar-B-Q provides nourishment for all. The following day Joe (my Son-in-law) plays tour guide and takes us on a scenic trip to Wenatchee National Forrest and Leavenworth, a Bavarian town like Solvang. The road is full of Bikes as the locals take full advantage of the great weather we brought with us.

There is talk of great financial wealth if I stay in the state, but in the morning we load the Bikes and bid a fond fair- well to family and the state of Washington, and wouldn't you know it the clouds move in right behind us and rain is predicted.. Britt checks the G.P.S. goes on line and informs me of the road conditions, construction projects we will encounter and temperature to expect. I restrain Jeff after all it's not like he is going to lead us to the next Trailer Park. You know some times I can be so wrong. Britt takes the lead and we head for Mt. Saint Helen. Britt checks the G.P.S. and tells me there is a straight road that will take us right by the mountain. O.M.G. this turns out to be the worst road in the nation. Not a straight section from the time we turn on to it and it just gets worse as we go. The surface is craters and ditches, bumps and jumps. The sidecar tire came off the ground more than I wish to count. This bone jaggig 10 mile section of machine destroying anarchy finally comes to an end just before I consider joining forces with Jeff who tells me "they will never find the body". Britt survives to lead another day. Once back on the highway I find my sense of humor and an evil grin crosses my face as I tell Vikki how lucky her Brother is. The Columbia River is covered with wind surfers and kites as we ride to the destination for the day the Dallies and separate accommodations for all. You know keeping the peace and all that.

In the morning, Fire forces a change of plans, the smoke and road closures dictate an Eastern deviation, we still encounter heavy smoke and falling ash as we ride to Bend Oregon and a well deserved great lunch at Mc Graths Fish Place. >From here we ride to Crater Lake.

This is spectacular deep Blue Lake, with an excellent straight bump free, smooth highway leading to and from the lake. From the lake we ride to Klamath Falls for the night. The Pumpkin has developed a spongy rear brake so in the morning I find break fluid.. Bleed the brakes and we are on our way back to Jeff's place. We go over the bikes and discover the Left rear bracket for the exhaust system on the Pumpkin is broken. The head pipe is also broken and the sidecar shock has taken a bite out of the inner fender. Jeff and I get out the bailing wire and secure the muffler for the ride home. Britt shows me the G.P.S. picture of the road to Mt. Saint Helen. Yup... it is a straight line all right. Some how I feel better. A few beers later and I hear a crash in back of me, turning around I see Britt sitting on the floor with broken chair parts all around him... Karma...I feel even better. But he isn't done yet, right after dinner he does a header into the gravel and now looks like he has taken the beating suggested just a few days earlier.

In the morning we say our goodbyes to Jeff and Kym and ride South with a stop in Susan Ville for lunch. After lunch we ride through Reno and Carson City with our last night on the road at Topaz Lake Lodge and Casino. Now we are thinking of home so we leave Topaz at 06:00 freeze our butts off and stop in Bridge Port for breakfast and a hot cup of coffee. The weather worms up and we continue South on highway 395 and pull in to Bishop stopping at the Bakery and then Lone Pine for gas. Ike Bridgeman and Josh Wilkerson are there and are heading north we say "high and bye" and head for home.... 3200 Miles ...14 days on the road, it doesn't get any better than this.

All said and done. I want to thank Britt for going with Vikki and I, like I said, He is great company on the road, Rides well and is a constant source of entertainment.

Dwight



Barry's Retirement Celebration Ride

I finally officially retired from my DoD contractor job on August 31. This was a move I had been planning for quite a while. I wanted to see how it would feel to be able to wake up whenever I wanted (instead of letting an alarm clock dictate my life) and hop on the bike and head to parts unknown on a whim. Such was the case on Wednesday, September 21. After all, life wasn't getting any shorter. I broke out the map, briefly studied it, and decided that I had never been to Ely, NV. Need I say more? The destination was now firmly fixed. All I had to do was pack a couple of changes of clothes and I was set.

I didn't pull out of the driveway until 9:30 AM. I didn't see any need to leave any earlier than that since, now that I'm "retired", time ain't all that important anymore. The front wheel pretty much did all the work leading the way and all I had to do was follow it. We, the Road King and I, headed North on 395 for a couple of hours until a stop for gas in Bishop. Then we took Hwy 6 out of Bishop towards Montgomery Pass and points North. The road was good and we encountered very little traffic. That's always a good thing in my book. It increases my chances for survival. I must admit, I was a little apprehensive concerning refueling opportunities. I wasn't sure what, if anything, might be available in Tonopah. I hadn't been there in over 15 years. I figured I might be able to coast in to Ely if I put the cruise control on economy cruise. Folks, there's several gas stations in Tonopah including a big multi-bay Chevron as you enter town. I was worried for no reason after all. Sometimes things work out in our favor. Another 170 miles and I would be in Ely. Somewhere on the route I see rain clouds off in the distance but it looks like I'm heading in a direction to miss them. NOT!!! I'm wearing a short-sleeve T-shirt. A few miles later the road changed direction and pointed me toward the biggest & baddest rain cloud of the bunch. Just as luck would have it it started sprinkling then got a little heavier. I contemplated pulling over and donning the rain gear (fortunately I brought it with me this time) but decided to wait and see what would happen next. The rain let up and I was once again basking in the sun. It felt pretty dog-gone good at this point.

This is where the adventure part of the story kicks in. It is now 5:30 PM when I pull into Ely and stop to top off with gas. I got directions to the Best Western and headed there. I had checked online the night before and saw that there were vacancies there. Like a fool, I didn't bother making any reservations though. I like to gamble occasionally. Guess what! The "NO VACANCY" sign was lit up. Oh well, that'll teach me, huh. I headed to a couple of other hotels in town and was told that they were also full. Even Motel 6 was full. The guy behind the counter said I might find something in Lund which was 35 miles South on Hwy 318. Okay, I don't have a set-in-concrete itinerary, so off I go. I pull in to the gravel parking lot of the only motel in Lund and saunter off to the office. I'm standing there waiting while this truck driver is in the process of checking in. Five minutes pass then it's my turn. The lady behind the counter tells me that the truck driver just took the last room. Now, why the hell couldn't she have said something 5 minutes ago? The truck driver says there's an old 50s style motel in Alamo, which is another 110 miles further South, and he's never seen it full. At this point I'm about ready to go for broke and just head to Vegas which is only another 100 miles past Alamo. I finally get to Alamo, it's now 9:00 PM. Amazingly, they have a room available for \$43 but it's next to the highway (lots of truck traffic all night). For \$48 I could have gotten a room farther back from the highway but I was being a cheap-skate. I walked about ¼ mile down the road to a 7-11 type store and got some dinner. I hadn't stopped to eat all day and was quite hungry by this point. Real smart, huh? I finally manage to fall asleep around 11:00 PM and am wide awake at 6:00 AM the next morning. I can't wait to get home and sleep in my own bed again. I load my stuff on the bike, turn my key in at the office, go get some gas, and finally get the hell out of Dodge, I mean Alamo.

I head North on US 93 until I get to NV 375 (the Extraterrestrial Highway) and head back towards Tonopah. I made an obligatory stop at Rachel and took pics of the highway sign. I didn't bother stopping in Rachel, I just wanted to press on. I stopped in Tonopah at the casino for some breakfast and a little gambling. I was feeling like a big spender from the East and put \$20 into a penny machine. A few minutes later I walked out with \$109. You gotta "play big to win big". Or so I've heard. Time to leave. I top off the gas tank and head South on US 95 towards Beatty. They were doing road work just outside of Goldfield and had traffic stopped for maybe 10 minutes. Seemed like an eternity. It was time to pull over and shed some clothes, it's starting to warm up nicely. Finally I make it to Beatty and head West through Death Valley. It was 110 degrees in Stovepipe Wells as I pulled in there for some hydration at 1:30 PM. Only another 100 miles and I'll be home, thank God. I'm getting pretty tired of sitting on a motorcycle by this point. I have to stop in Trona for another Gatorade break. With a little luck I can make it the last 25 miles to Ridgecrest. I finally pull into the driveway around 3:30 PM, park the bike in the garage, and then head for the beer cooler. Home at last!

Regardless of my lack of planning for a place to stay in Ely, it was still a great adventure. I almost felt like a pioneer discovering new territory. I logged 995 miles total for the trip. Not a bad two day impromptu ride. Once you get out of Bishop on Hwy 6, all the roads I travelled were well maintained two lane roads with little traffic. You traverse several 5,000+ ft. passes on the route as well as 7,000+ ft. Montgomery Pass.
RIDE ON!!!

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSER!!

Well as some would say "tis the season", that's right, the season of Holiday cheer is here.

We have an amazing 2011 Holiday line that has something for everyone! Antelope Valley Harley-Davidson. Starting November 1st, 2011 you'll receive a free gift with your qualifying purchase of \$300.00. So make sure you start this shopping season on time this year, as we all know these collector's items are LIMITED. We will be also be starting off the Season November 19, with some great Holiday event. We will be having a live music, raffles prizes, and much more. So please keep watching our web-site for all new and exciting events to be added. Our Management team would also like to remind you that sometimes it's hard for friends and family to pick out Holiday gifts, so we can make it easy by setting you up what is called a wish list in our computer. That's right any part, accessory, and motor clothes you may be interested in is at your friends and families finger tips. As always, our staff here at Antelope Valley Harley Davidson looks forward to assisting you with all your Parts, Service, Sales, and Motorclothes needs.

A THANK YOU FROM OUR UK VISITOR !!

Hi Tracy,

Matt here from the UK ... firstly a big thank you to you and the club for making me most welcome last Saturday! Travelling alone this was much appreciated so please pass it on. Also a big thank you to Mike for the ride up to Lone Palm, meeting the sheriff and lunch!

After leaving you guys the rest of my trip consisted of Death Valley, up to Boulder City (NV), down to Kingman and Oatman, onto Lake Havasu City.. back up to 29 Palms, from there to Barstow and Victorville, down to Oceanside, then San Diego, back up through highway 1 via Laguna Beach, Huntington, Long Beach, Venice right into Santa Monica and my journeys end .. So I put a few miles in :-)

Please pass on my email address to anybody who fancies dropping me a line.

Ride safe y'all!!

Cheers

Matt James

Pictures





November Birthdays



Debbie Ackeret



Randy Brown



Randy Geiger



Loretta Hoyer



Crystal Liesman



Dennis Linck



Marc Sanders



Christian Ray



Rollin Sublett

December Birthdays



Stan Austin Sr.



Judy Gerard



Robert Haber



Karl Howard



Robert Lindeman



Bruce Moore



Mike Moore



John Schatz



Dave Turbide



2011

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 AV HOG Meeting Side Car Rally Daylight Saving time Ends 2am	7	8	9	10 Flex Day NAWS	11 RAG HOG Board Meeting Mike & Sandra Moore Veteran's Day (Fed)	12 RAG HOG Meeting After Meeting Ride to Tehachapi
13	14	15	16	17	18 Cruise In Starbucks	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day (Fed)	25 Flex Day NAWS	26 Toy Drive @ Dealer
27	28	28	30	>Side Car Rally Griffith Park CA >Tehachapi ride Meet Inyokern 76 10:30 >Starbucks 927 South China Lake Blvd 18:00		



2011

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
>Elks Christmas Parade Meet Las Flores Ave 10:00 >RAG HOG Christmas Party Carriage Inn 18:00				1	2	3 HOG Christmas Party
4 AVHOG Meeting	5	6	7	8	9 RAG HOG Annual Planning Meeting Flex Day NAWS	10 RAG HOG Meeting Christmas Parade Christmas Party
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Open House @ Dealer Flex Day NAWS	24
25 Christmas Day	26 Christmas Day (Fed)	27	28	29	30 New Years Eve (Fed)	31 New Years Eve

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

<http://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.mapquest.com/>

Harley Owners Group

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

California DOT-Road & Highway Info

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



Antelope Valley Harley-Davidson



Store Hours

Sunday/Monday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Service Hours

Sunday/Monday – Drop Off Only

Tuesday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

LOOK AHEAD:

***11/11—6:00 PM RAG Board Meeting—
Mike & Sandra's***

***11/12— 9:00 AM—RAG Meeting—
Charlie's Pub***

***11/12—After Meeting Ride to Red House
BBQ—Tehachapi***

***11/19—9:00 AM—Toy's for Tot's— Car-
riage Inn Parking Lot !!!!***

12/3—AV Christmas Party

12/4— 9:00 AM—AV Meeting—Lancaster

***12/9—6:00 PM RAG HOG 2012 Ride Plan-
ning Meeting—Stan & Barb's***

***12/10 9:00 AM—RAG Meeting—Charlie's
Pub***

12/10 Ridgecrest Christmas Parade

***12/10 RAG HOG Christmas Party—
Carriage Inn***



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California City, CA
93505

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