



Desert Wind

Chapter
#1665

Harley Owners Group
Antelope Valley Chapter
Ridgecrest, CA

Sept/Oct
2010
Volume 16
Issue 5

Proudly Sponsored by:

Antelope Valley Harley
Davidson
1759 West Ave J12
Lancaster, California
(661) 948-5959
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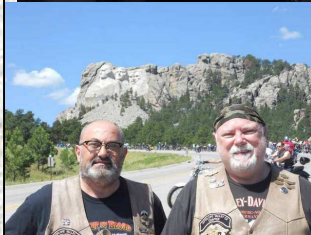
September Meeting
Saturday
September 11, 2010
09:00AM

October Meeting
Saturday
October 9, 2010
09:00AM

Meetings Held at
Charlie's in Ridgecrest

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STURGIS 2010



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**

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Ladies of Harley
Photographer
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Historian
Safety Officer
Road Capt. Coord.
Webmaster
Treasurer
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Judy McCauley
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Crystal Liesman
Stan Austin Jr
Mike Moore
Don McCauley
Sandra Moore
Barbara Austin



Tracy Ackeret
*Ramblings from
Silk*

Greetings once again,

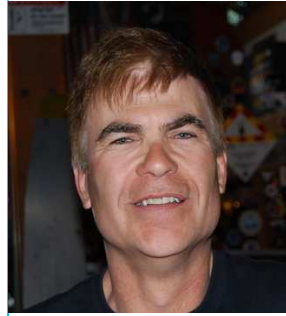
Once again its time to set down and put together a few words for my newsletter input. It's been a really good few months. We have had quite a few rides. We went to Crazy Otto's after last months meeting, sorry I could not be there but work called and I could not get out of it. I am glad that we had a lot of our members ride over to Greg and Tracy Wilson's house before the August meeting to "escort" them to our meeting. Greg and Tracy will be with us for a few more months. I am going to miss them as I am sure everyone will. They have been good friends. If and when Debbie and I get to the land down under we will make sure that we look them both up.

I would like to take a few minutes and thank a few board members. We have a couple board members stepping down. Bland is stepping down as Road Captain Coordinator and Josh is stepping down as Activities director. Both have done a wonderful job and I want to thank both of them for giving their time to our group. I am sure they both will enjoy sitting in the crowd just enjoying our meetings. When I took over as Director back in January from Wade I asked them both if they would stay on in their positions for a few months till I was able to figure out what I was doing and find someone else to take over. I thank them both. I also wish to thank Mike Moore for stepping in as Road Captain Coordinator and Stan Austin Sr. for stepping in as Activities director. Both have been on the board before. I look forward to working with them both as we move forward. I also wish to thank Wade for stepping in and running the August meeting in my absence. Normally the Asst Director would run the meeting but Paul and Crystal were in Hawaii on vacation so I asked Wade if he would be willing to step in for me for the meeting. I hear he did a good job so it seems he didn't do a total brain dump when he handed me the reins at the Christmas party last year.

We have several things coming up in the next few months. We have our annual picnic on September 17-19 at Lake Diaz. We are going to have a poker run in association with the picnic. The poker run will be on Saturday September the 18 starting at the Jack in the Box in Ridgecrest. There will be 4 other stops with the last one being the campground at Lake Diaz. We have several lunch and dinner rides planned for the next few months, check the RAG calendar and see which of these rides you might want to participate in. We always have a good time on our rides so come out and join us. Coming up in December we have our annual Christmas party once again. We are having it at the Carriage Inn once again. Sandra is heading the committee for the Christmas party and from what she has told me we are going to have another fun time. If you can attend I would like to see as many of our members at the Christmas party as we can get.

Ride safe and ride often

Silk



Paul Liesman
*Still a Volleyball
Dad*

We had an excellent turnout for the Whitney Portal breakfast, no surprise there. 16 bikes, 21 RAG members. Randy & Kim were supposed to be at the Olancha gas station and fall in line with us , but we passed them North of Cartago, so they turned around and caught up.

Josh and Deb showed up about half an hour after the rest of us, and of course Josh claims we left early. But Roland was no where to be found for the only RAG ride he seems to join in on.

The food at the Portal was excellent as always. And we talked to a couple from New York who were riding the west coast. Don took their picture with their pancake (we regulars know how big they are), so they could show their east coast friends how real mountain people cook!

The ride home was NASTY. After filling up at the Lone Pine Chevron, I set out alone to go home through Panamint Springs, hoping the wind was not blowing. I remembered from having my 50th birthday bash at Panamint Springs, that the wind could be blowing in RC, but be dead calm in Panamint. But that was not the case. It was definitely blowing and blowing hard. Got sand blasted a few times, but got through it.

Anyways, the California State HOG rally is coming up the end of September. I plan on helping with the pancake breakfast at the shop in Lancaster. My plan is to spend the night in Lancaster at one of the hotels next to the shop to be up early to assist in any way I am asked. If you are interested, let me know.

Until next time,

Paul



"Pines to Palms"
September 28 – October 2, 2010
[Rally Update](#)

Hello H.O.G. Chapter Members:

The California State H.O.G. Rally is shaping up to be an amazing event. If you haven't yet registered for the rally, you are missing out on some really good pre-event fun. Make no mistake, this rally is about riding . . . yep, that thing we bought our Harley-Davidson's for . . . getting out there and visiting as many awesome places as possible. The rally website has been updated with new information on what we're doing, so please visit the site at www.castatehogrally.com and check it out.

To begin with, we could not put on this rally without the generously and support of the following dealerships and their H.O.G. Chapters who will be feeding you along the way:

Jamestown Harley-Davidson & the Jamestown H.O.G. Chapter
Monterey County Harley-Davidson & the Monterey Bay H.O.G. Chapter
Santa Maria Harley-Davidson & the Santa Maria H.O.G. Chapter
Bakersfield Harley-Davidson & the Bakersfield H.O.G. Chapter
Lancaster Harley-Davidson & the Antelope Valley H.O.G. Chapter
Corona Harley-Davidson & the Circle City H.O.G. Chapter
San Diego Harley-Davidson & the San Diego H.O.G. Chapter
El Cajon Harley-Davidson & the El Cajon H.O.G. Chapter

In your official rally guide you will also be introduced to the many dealerships who will be making your rally such a great event. From water stops to passport stamp stops, there are dealerships and H.O.G. Chapters all across the state who have helped make this year's rally possible.

What does your \$50.00 rally registration include? If you pre-register before August 11th, you are guaranteed to receive a rally tee shirt and pin, passport and rally guide, as well as the closing ceremony dinner. In addition, numerous meals are being hosted by dealerships and their H.O.G. Chapters along the way. Please note that while you will be able to register on-site for the rally you are not guaranteed some of the items such as the rally tee shirt and pin, passport and rally guide that are included in a pre-registration. Those "included" items are available on a first come first serve basis for those registering on-site. Hotels are also not included, but Hotel Bell Housing (their link is located on the home page of the rally website), stands ready to assist riders with their lodging needs. Hotels on both ends of the rally (Jamestown and San Diego) are offering extended stay rates so that riders can enjoy the experience of the local area.

One of the new components to the rally this year is the State-Wide Rally Passport Game. There are 58 Harley-Davidson dealerships participating in the passport game. As soon as you register, you will receive a passport so that you can go out and start collecting rally stamps. The more stamps you get over the course of the summer, the more opportunities you have for prizes at the end of the rally.

Jamestown Harley-Davidson has arranged for a special pre-event train ride at historic Railtown 1897. Known to be the "movie" train, many famous movies have been filmed there. What better way to start the rally experience than to step onto a real Iron Horse of 1897, take a great ride in the foothills of the Sierra's, step off the train at the end and go right into the Railtown 1897 grounds for the Opening Ceremony of the CA State H.O.G. Rally. Timing of the train ride couldn't be better.

We have several chapter challenges planned for this event. The first one is a Chapter Passport Challenge. A chapter can purchase a Rally Passport and any chapter member can obtain passport stamps from the participating dealerships in the game. Talk to your Assistant Director about the rules of the game. Like the individual rider game, the more stamps a chapter passport has, the better the opportunity for a "cash" prize for the chapter at the end. The second and third chapter challenges will be determined by the greatest number of members from a chapter who depart from Jamestown (touring ride) and Riverside (multi-dealership poker run) respectively. The winners of each of these two chapter challenges will win a 3' x 5' rally flag with the state rally logo. Wouldn't that be nice hanging in your H.O.G. room?

As you can see, the CA State H.O.G. Rally is really taking shape. Can't do the entire ride from Jamestown to San Diego? We've got you covered. You can start your rally experience in Jamestown, Atascadero, Bakersfield or Riverside. This will give you the opportunity to step into the rally at any point along the way. With all the included meals along the way, this is shaping up to be one of the best rallies for the buck in 2010.

So, what are you waiting for? Love to have you ride with us. Let's fill up that building in San Diego at the end of the rally with the best H.O.G. Riders in the world.

See you at the rally!

Bill Davis
Rally Coordinator
rallycoordinator@2010hogrally.com
760-644-2118



**Judy Gerard
&
Tommie
Lawrence**
Double Trouble

No Report this month



Sandra Moore
“.5“
Treasurer

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

Lake Diaz, CA

2010

ANNUAL HORAG PICNIC



September 17th-19th



Texas Style BBQ



Poker Run!
From
Ridgeroot



Lake Diaz
Poker Run
Contest



Opportunity Drawing!



Camping!

Sep. 18th Only

- **Picnic FREE!**
- **Poker Runs \$\$**
- **Drawing FREE!**

Sep. 17th – 19th

\$\$

Sites Reserved

This is a closed HORAG/AV 1665 Event. The picnic and opportunity drawing are free to HORAG members. Campsites at Lake Diaz have been reserved, members must pay for their own site. Picnic includes meat, sides, chips, and soft-drinks. Poker run details will be sent via email to all members. COME ON OUT AND HAVE FUN!

Date: 7/10/2010

Meeting Called to Order by Tracy Ackeret at 0900

Director, Tracy Ackeret: Introduced guest Fred O(?) who rides a 2003 Police Special. Second car wash will be 4 September 2010 to raise money to offset the cost of the Christmas Party, come help wash cars and have some fun. Bland is trying to put together a pool tournament as an alternate type of fund-raiser and fun group activity. The board had some thoughts of good will type activities, with no cost to club members, but assistance to the community: 1. RAG collect old eye glasses from all the members, set a meeting date and invite the Rotary Club over to receive the glasses; 2. donate blankets, bath supplies and other items (Crystal to get a list together) from around your house to nursing home patients; 3. Wall raising for Habitat for Humanity, approximately 50 people will be needed for this event, will invite AV. 24 July 2010 event at the fairgrounds, advertised as a Harley night, with a \$10.00 entry fee and during intermission anyone interested can ride their Harley around the track in an impromptu race

For Road Captain - The RAG Board reviewed Kim Geiger's qualifications and approved her becoming our newest Road Captain.
For Secretary - 86 members, Barry & Loretta Hoyer rejoined – welcome back.

For Activities – Today after the meeting we are taking flowers and a card to Rex and Anita. The lunch ride to Foxy's has been cancelled. Next weekend's ride to Peggy Sues departure time has changed to 0700, at JIB, to try and beat some of the heat and Paul will lead the ride. The ride after the August meeting is to Crazy Ottos in Rosamond. 28 August is the Whitney Portal Ride.

Asst Director, Paul Liesman: Cal-State Rally, Riding tour, starts in Jamestown, CA and finishes in San Diego, CA. The event starts 28 September 2010 and the participation Fee is \$50.00, which includes some meals and extras. Paul has volunteered to head up the Pancake Breakfast on 1 October at the Lancaster Harley Shop as part of this event and will be looking for volunteers to assist him. Thinking about going down the night of 30 September. Paul thanked Judy Gerard for putting together "Wayne's Ride" for the Million Mile Monday. Discussion was held about having this ride every year on the Sunday prior to Million Mile Monday.

Secretary, Tom Lystrup: Not Present

Treasurer, Sandra Moore: Sandra is planning a Christmas Party Committee meeting in August and she wants to start selling tickets at the October meeting.

Activities Director, Josh Wilkerson: Not Present

Road Captain, Bland Burchett: Not Present.

Safety Officer, Stan Austin (junior): In light of Rex and Anita's mishap, turn on all your lights and give yourself the best chance to be seen. DUI check point in Ridgecrest tonight, so beware, except Dwight as it will be past his bedtime.

Web Master, Don McCauley: Website mostly caught up and cleaned up. Will put the Lone Pine, Beatty and Gold Point pictures up soon.

Newsletter Editor, Debbie Ackeret: The Newsletter has been e-mailed and Deb had hardcopies of RAG and AV Newsletters at the meeting.

Photographer, Judy McCauley: No report

Historian, Crystal Liesman: Whenever anyone goes on a ride, please download the ride forms from the web-site, complete them, and send completed forms plus a few pictures for the yearbook.

LOH, Tommie Lawrence/Judy Gerard: 20-22 July 2010, ladies only (motorcycles or vehicles) ride to Solvang. The plan is on the HOG website ride planner.

POA, Barb Austin: No report.

Member comments: Wade – Looking for volunteers for the Maturango National Anthem Parade of Flags on 16 October 2010, and the 9-11 March of 1000 Flags.

Notes: The next RAG general meeting will be 8/14/2010, 0900 at Charlie's in the Carriage Inn.



Tom Lystrup
Asleep at the Wheel

Yosemite, King's Canyon and Sequoia National Park Ride 2010

25-28 June 2010

I had a great plan together for this ride to Yosemite, King's Canyon and Sequoia National Parks this year. The ride would be spread over four days and encompass about 3 miles round trip. As everyone knows, things don't always go according to plan and this trip would be no exception.

There were several riders going together to Yosemite from our local riding group, then we all would split up and go separate ways. Those that stayed together ended up riding back together for the most part. We made the obligatory stop for lunch at the Mobil station on 120 (Tioga Pass road). The pork tenderloin (extra pepper) and carrot cake were fabulous. Next, we headed into Yosemite. After the brief stop, John and I left the group and headed over to see Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir and the O'Shaughnessy Dam. The rest of the group headed to Oakhurst, where we would catch up to them for dinner later.

The ride to Hetch-Hetchy was excellent and the dam and reservoir were amazing. There was a lot of water coming over the spillway which turned into a roaring torrent that shot out over the side of the gorge below in an amazing waterfall and spray that created rainbows and mists that coated the other side of the canyon and fell back into the gorge in a thousand trickling waterfalls. After getting some great photos, John and I then headed toward Oakhurst. We stopped at the tunnel overlook for some quick pictures of Yosemite Valley and immediately headed out. I entered the tunnel first and gunned it, creating a deafening roar that I later heard had startled the tourists. When I looked back to see if John was following, he wasn't. I slowed down and he caught up soon thereafter. Later he confessed his delay, he'd forgotten the shiny side up rule. On the road to Oakhurst, traffic was heavy and slow and there were several places where the pavement turned into gravel. I was happy my plans would not be taking me back over that road again. We arrived at the hotel in Oakhurst and met up with the rest of our group for some great Italian cuisine.

For Saturday, some of the group were going to take the tram around Mariposa Grove and see Glacier Point, but I had different plans. John and I were heading north on 49 to 4 (Ebbett's Pass), then to Markleeville, then take 89 north to 88 (Kit Carson Pass) then down to 49, and back to Oakhurst. John and I made it easy to Jamestown on 49, near where 4 and 108 converge. We stopped for a late breakfast. The little café was full of people, but the food came fast and was very good. We finished up and began to leave. Pulling out of the parking lot was more of a challenge than I could manage in the gravel and I tipped my bike over. John quickly helped me get vertical again (not the first time I'd forgotten the shiny side up rule) and we headed off.

We next took 4 east toward Markleeville. Nice road with lots of sweepers, minor traffic, beautiful scenery. The pines and mountains covered in snow were awesome. After cresting Ebbett's Pass, we stopped for some pictures at a beautiful lake where fisherman were catching quite a few trout. Then we continued on to Markleeville, where the first change of plans occurred. Looking at the remaining tread on my front tire, I thought I might be pushing it to expect to complete the trip with spare tread. Looking at the GPS, I figured it was only about 40 miles to the Harley shop in Carson City. John agreed to the plan change and off we went. This was just the first change of plans. We got to the shop about 1330 and they quickly got the bike into the service shop to have new tires installed. The shop gave me a good deal on a set of Dunlop 402s and they said they would be done in a couple hours. I figured that would give us enough time to get back to Oakhurst before dark, but my figures would turn out to be wrong. By the time they were through with my bike, it was 1630. This was a little later than I expected, but it could not be helped. Change of plans number two.

We decided it would be best to head down 395 to Sonora Pass (108) and take that back to 49. Neither of us wanted to negotiate the road under construction through Yosemite again, especially if it would be in the dark. So we headed south on 395 toward Topaz Lake and past Walker and took Sonora Pass. What a challenging route Sonora Pass is! Steep 26% grades on the way up, tight windy curves, traffic including a bus or two and a truck being pushed by a trailer, gave our bikes and us a real workout. After cresting Sonora Pass, we came into some thick forested areas, mountains covered in snow, streams running by the side of the road and open meadows. There were plenty tight twisties and sweepers to enjoy. After all this, the road opened up and became very smooth, with gradual sweeping turns right and left that we could easily negotiate at 60 mph or so. We rode these sweepers for about an hour or so. It was amazingly fun and traffic was non-existent. About Coulterville it got dark. We finally made it back to Oakhurst about 2130 and had a late dinner at a great little Chinese place. In all, an excellent day's ride, the new tires made the ride effortless and the change of plans worked out as well as could be.

Continued on page 15



Rex Walraven



Family and Friends,

Here's an update on our healing and recovery. BTW: if you are no longer interested in these updates, just let us know and we'll take you off the list.

We went to the docs in Redlands yesterday, 3 Sept, thank you Aunt Dorothy for driving and Anita's mom for letting us use the Crown Vic, made for a fairly easy trip, although it never is real easy when you can't move your leg very much.

Anita has been given the green light to do as much as she is comfortable with although there are still going to be things that are difficult and painful. She's been advised - one step at a time and if it hurts, then take it easy and work up to it. Her bones are healing well, although the tibia still has a ways to go. Because of the rod in her leg, she can put weight on the leg without harming the bones. She will work at getting off the crutches so she can pass them to me. Anita is still only working part time and will be for a while until she can get back to 100%. There's a balancing act of trying to do just enough to keep from going stir crazy (like I am sometimes) and assisting her clients. She does so much work around the house just to take care of me, it's like she has one full time job and her part time one. I cannot thank her enough for all that she does for me.

As for me, we thought we would be scheduling my next surgery as I was doing good at what the doc asked me to do, move my leg to the 45 degree mark on the brace I have. Well, now he wants me to move more, of course, with the help of dreaded "Physical Therapy" three times a week. There are two goals; one is to see if we can work it up to flex 90 degrees in a months' time. Also I need to extend my knee to a 'straight out' position. Right now there is way too much swelling still in the knee to look at surgery. In the doctor's opinion, I may not need surgery if the ligaments in my knee are good enough to keep it from being too wobbly. If it bends and holds and the pain is not too much, then surgery may not be in the 'near' future. So I won't be putting any weight on it for this month. The Doc doesn't think we could do an MRI because of the metal plates that are holding my tibia together being too close to the bottom of my knee. He is getting me a custom fitted brace that I may need to use for up to two years, especially if he does have to do surgery. The doctor made the statement that, "there's no cook book recipe for the steps we need to take."

The miracles that God provides us are overwhelming. Of course we were told that I would need multiple surgeries to fix all this in the hospital, based on the severity of the damage without a good look inside the knee. Of course God knows that and He knows how to make things the way He needs them each and every time too. So I will work with a PT and see what God can do with this and go from there. Take one step at a time and let God place our steps and we will move forward with our faith and our hope in God.

It is still a long road, but I hope to be putting weight on my leg next month after our next appt on the 4th of Oct..

We hope this update finds each of you well and we are very grateful for the love and support we feel from everyone.

God Bless, Rex and Anita



Stan Austin Jr.

“ Mikey ”

“Safety Stan Jr. “

Safety Stan Jr. ~ Group Riding ~ Ride smart.

When you ride in a group it is unquestionably your first priority to take care of yourself - to ride within your limits and the limits of your bike, regardless of what the rest of the group does. That's often been described as 'Riding your own ride'.

But you ARE in a group and that means some new responsibilities and behaviors apply. You ride at the speed the group rides, you stay in the lanes chosen by the lead bike, you stop when and where the group stops. Sounds a lot like you are riding THEIR ride as much as your own, doesn't it?

In business, management has recently come to realize that 'team work' is not always the best way to get things done. Sometimes it is better to work as a group of collaborators than as a team. A motorcycle drill team is a clear example of team work - everybody is expected to do no more nor less than what is required by the boss to get the job done. Independent thought is valued, but only to the extent that it contributes to the team doing its job.

When riding in a group there is certainly some team work going on, but each and every person in that group is expected to 'ride their own ride'. Doesn't that sound just a little bit different to you than each person being expected to do whatever it takes to make the team effort successful?

In collaborative efforts the assumption is that each individual is expert/proficient in some specialty while generally being able to function in team efforts. That is a very subtle difference in attitude. For example, in a collaborative effort, it is not unusual to find debate about what should be done next as each individual contributes based on their expertise. What IS unusual in a collaborative effort is that there is any rancor in these debates [well, there are sometimes rather harsh arguments, but the point is that each member is heard and contributes based on their specialty.] Each member RESPECTS the expertise of the other members and will generally defer gracefully to that expertise. Further, in a collaborative effort the group will do what the boss (lead bike) tells them to do unless there is a good reason not to.

The result is that almost invariably you have the best of the best from the best, though it looks like team work.

Back to motorcycling in a group ... some in the group have more stamina, some have better night vision, some have better navigation skills, some have better familiarity with the surroundings, some have better emergency preparedness or EMS training, some are better diplomats. You get the picture.

Respecting the skills and uniqueness's of each of the rest of the team results in getting the best of the best from the best. Respecting yourself is riding your own ride. Respecting the others is collaborative group riding. The group leader/road Captain in a well functioning collaborative effort has certain responsibilities, each of the rest have theirs, and with respect, together they all decide on the best way to do things for the group.

Rather than the lead bike making all the decisions for the group, in a collaborative effort, he/she will consult with the others and give serious consideration to the expertise therein. Strategic decisions (destination) remain the leader's responsibility while tactical decisions (how) might well come from the members. Dictatorship it's not. Nor is it a drill team. Rather, it is a group of 'professionals' engaged in a cooperative effort designed for the benefit of all. Safe arrival and a good time with maximum contribution and participation by each may look like team work, but is more.

This is merely a proposed way to organize and function in a group. I posted it to invite you to think about it and, possibly, to create a new dynamic in how we all function when riding as a group.



Bland Burchett
Bowler Extraordinaire
Spokes

Follow the leader until they do something stupid :)



Barbara Austin
PAO

Did you hear or see our ads?



Crystal Liesman
Historian

Get those Ride Reports in!!!



Judy McCauley
Show me the bugs in your teeth

Keep Smiling for the camera !!!



Debbie Akeret
Silks Lady

Your reading it!!!!



Don McCauley
Web Talker

Please visit our website



**New Road Captain
Coordinator**

Mike Moore



New Activities Director

Stan Austin



Josh Wilkerson
J-DUB



All,

It's been a great run supporting the group as a volunteer board member for the last 5 years and most recently as the Activities Director. The HORAG is one of the best, if not THE BEST, group in the country and it's due to its membership and the heart that you all put into it. With that said, this is my last distribution of the activities as I'm stepping down as a board member and passing the duties of Activities Director to Stan Austin Sr. Stan brings a lot of HORAG experience to the table and will be able to dedicate the appropriate amount of time to the position as he is retiring from the base in the near future, I guess that's what older lucky guys do and I'm quite jealous. From this distribution on out, Stan is your point of contact. The activities email

horag.activities@gmail.com is still your input to Stan Sr. and the board for suggestions, comments, and general communication so please keep using it. See ya in the peanut gallery!

Here's what's up this month...

- 09/02/2010** **Cruise Night** – 18:00 Nickolettie's Patio 1110 N. China Lake Blvd. Ridgecrest, your choice at this place, grab some of Nick's chow and drink or meander over to the Espresso café for something a bit more eye opening and on the fancy side.
- 09/04/2010** **HORAG Carwash** – 07:30 setup at the Southeast corner of China Lake and Ridgecrest Blvds. Carwash opens at 08:00 and goes to approximately noon. Please bring anything you have that may be needed such as YOU, glass cleaner, car soap, paper towels, tire brushes, etc. Every little bit helps. Dennis Linck has the drying towels, wash box, and hospitality trailer. All volunteers who contribute their time from start to finish will receive a discount on their Christmas Party tickets. This event is for the Chapter and all proceeds will go to offsetting the Christmas Party expenses and prizes. All volunteers are needed and welcome.
- 09/04/2010** **Jethawks Harley Night** – 19:00 at Jethawks Stadium in Lancaster. The shop has reserved 40 seats behind the home team dugout for \$6.00 each. The bikes will take a lap around the field as part of the opening ceremonies. There are hotels within walking distance for those who wish to stay in the area after the game. Head on out to the ball game and show your support for both the AV/HORAG 1665 group and the Jethawks! For further information and tickets contact Tracy at tackerette@ccis.com.
- 09/06/2010** **Labor Day Weekend** – “Work sucks, lets ride!” Enjoy the holiday if you're lucky enough to have it off.
- 09/10/2010** **Board Meeting** – 18:00 at Casey's Steak and BBQ 1400 N. Norma Ridgecrest, CA. This is a no host meeting in the back room with dinning and drinks available from the menu for purchase. Social hour begins at 18:00 with the board convening at 19:00. We have 20 seats reserved.
- 09/11/2010** **HORAG Chapter Meeting** – 09:00 at Charlie's Pub located in the Carriage Inn 901 North China Lake Blvd. Ridgecrest, CA. Breakfast is available beginning at 08:00 for those with a morning appetite. See ya there!
- 09/11/2010** **March of 1000 Flags into Freedom Park** – Bike escorts requested and as much participation as possible. This is a non-HOG event but a great one to take part in. Please contact Wade at stank22@aol.com or Tracy at tackerett@ccis.com for details.
- 09/12/2010** **Lunch Ride** – Cold Springs Tavern 5995 Stagecoach Rd. Santa Barbara, CA. Meet at JITB Ridgecrest at 08:30. For further details contact Tracy at tackerett@ccis.com.
- 09/12/2010** **AV Chapter Meeting** – 09:00 at the Knights of Columbus 719 W. Avenue M Lancaster, CA. All interested meet at JITB (That's “Jack-in-the-Box” for all of you that just went “Where???”) Ridgecrest, CA at 07:00. Bikes roll out at 07:15. Keep an eye out for Silk at the Mojave Chevron! Meeting was moved due to the Labor Day Holiday weekend.
- 09/16/2010** **Cruise Night** – 18:00 Baskin Robins 962 N. Norma Ridgecrest, CA. Lets close out the summer and the hot weather with a nice quadruple scoop of your favorite flavors!

Continued on page 12

Activities continued from page 11

- 09/17/2010** **HORAG Campout** – Lake Diaz annual campout and picnic. 10 Sites are reserved from the 17th through the 19th for those choosing to stay over. Camping is a great way to avoid the ride home if you've enjoyed the picnic a little too much. Friday night is "Finger Food Pot Luck". Bring your favorite shareable FF dish if you want to join in. I'm looking at wings myself, no really, I'm looking at some right now. Check online with the Lake Diaz Campground for check-in/out times.
- 09/18/2010** **HORAG Anniversary Picnic and Poker Run** – 13:30 Lake Diaz Campground. This event is free to all HORAG members and includes Texas Style BBQ Beef, Bratwurst, sides, chips, and soft drinks! There will be a free opportunity drawing as well as "Red Neck Horseshoes" just for the fun of it! Ride on out and celebrate the HORAG with fellow members. Maybe the free food will entice Rollin to ride out of town...
- 09/18/2010** **Main Poker Run** – This is the main run departing from Ridgecrest. \$15.00 entry for rider and \$10 for passenger or second hand. Pot will be split between high and low hand 60/40 respectively. All proceeds from the run will be awarded to the two winners. For more details, contact Stan Jr. at stan.austin22@gmail.com. The more hands the bigger the pot so don't be shy!
- **Ridgecrest:** 08:00 – 09:00 Jack in the Box
 - **Trona:** 08:30 – 09:45 Espanza Family Restaurant
 - **Panamint Springs:** 09:15 – 10:30 Resort
 - **Olancho:** 10:15 – 11:30 Ranch House Café
 - **Lake Diaz:** 10:45 – 12:30
- 09/18/2010** **Little Poker Run** – This run is local to the Lone Pine Area (About a 20 mile round trip) for those of us camping out at Lake Diaz on Friday Night. More details to follow as Dwight and Randy are still putting this one together...
- 09/25/2010** **Mountain Twisties Ride** – Tom's leading an adventurous mountain run as the name implies. Tom is currently out of pocket on a four corners run, not the place down the road but the four corners of the United States, and will have details on the "Mountain Twisties" when he gets back. For more information you can contact Tom at lystrup@verizon.net.
- 09/30/2010** **Cruise Night** – 18:00 Nickolettie's Patio 1110 N. China Lake Blvd. Ridgecrest, your choice at this place, grab some of Nick's chow and drink or meander over to the Espresso café for something a bit more eye opening and on the fancy side. Wow, three in one month!

Upcoming Events

- The Ridgecrest "Relay for Life" (RFL) is scheduled for Saturday, 2 Oct 2010. Location will be at Cerro Coso Community College Track & Field, start time is 0900. This is the first call for team members to support the HORAG team goal of having someone on the track the entire 24hrs. For further information contact Bland at bland43056@yahoo.com.
- October 15th through 17th; Paso Robles Wine Harvest Weekend and Morro Bay Kickin' it Run. Take your pick for location on this one as all bikes will run out together taking 58 West out to the vineyards and coastal areas. Run up the coast, kick back at the hotel, tour the wine country, or mix it up with a bit of everything, it will be a great run this year! Hotel space is already filling up in the area so check out the enclosure for lodging and event information.
- Maturango/Olde Town Days – 16 October 2010. The group has been requested to participate in this event and will be hosting biker games, displays, etc. for the public. Please contact Wade at stank22@aol.com or Tracy at tackerett@ccis.com for details on how you can join in. It's a blast if you've never done it and the public gets a real kick out of our bikes.

House Keeping

- Please check out the Directors Page at www.ridgecresthog.com for additional topics of interest including details on how to help out the Ridgecrest Long Term Healthcare facility that is always in need of items.
- **face-book** – Don't forget about the group Face-Book account just for HORAG members to share stories, pictures, feedback, etc. We encourage all members to accept friend requests to the site to keep up to date on events, what's happening with fellow members, unscheduled pickup rides, and last minute changes in activities. All comments are welcome as long as respectful and considerate of all group members. If you haven't received a "Friend Request" just do a FB Search for People on "Ridgecrest HORAG" and send in a friend request so we can get you confirmed. It's really easy to sign up if you don't have a FB account, fun and easy to use, and a great way to enhance your group experience. Hope to see you soon on the Friend List! Questions on this or any other topic can be sent to HORAG.Activities@gmail.com.
- Please email any suggestion to HORAG.Activites@gmail.com so we know what you want to do in the upcoming year or just have input/feedback. We're looking for lunch and dinner runs, overnights, day trips, non-riding activities, etc. so be sure to get your ideas in. This is YOUR group and we run based on your input.
Have fun, stay involved, and ride safe!
J-Dub

The Pumpkin to Sturgis

Chapter 1

The Plan:

It's Easy, ride to Las Vegas, NV then Salt Lake City, Utah, to Cheyenne, WY and STURGIS, SD from Sturgis to Yellowstone, MT so Vikki can see the park and ride through Elko and Reno, NV then home. 1 week. But.....the phone rings ...Vikki's brother Britt would like to join us for the trip. Yea! Sure company on the road is always welcome. The phone rings...Scott and Katie McGarty tells me they would like to go along too. Yea!! Sure what the heck. Company on the road and all that. So we are now a group and must have a MEETING.... Well it turns out Katie is a travel agent and can get great rates on rooms; she has laid out a route that is slightly different, but saves us all a bunch of cash.

The Plan 2:

It's Easy, ride to Reno, NV ,free room and food, then to Elko, NV for the next night then into West Yellowstone for 3 days, then on to Cody, WY and from there to Bland and Billie's place in Pine Heaven, WY just 60 miles from Sturgis, 4 days to see friends and places, get "T" shirts and HOG Pins. Ride back home by way of Cheyenne and Evanston, WY, St.George UT, LasVegas, NV and Ridgecrest 2 weeks. Hay I'm flexible.....

Chapter 2

The Trip:

It's Easy, meet at Pony Espresso, kick stands up at 06:30. We ride out of Ridgecrest on the 31st of July, bright and early ,who can sleep we are going to STURGIS weeee. I take a time out and pretend to be important. "I will lead.. Scott and Katie follow, Britt sweeps" . The Pumpkin pulls to the Right? Some extra weight from Vikki's 6th pair of shoes no doubt, maybe her 60lb suitcase or 2 20lb carry-on bags or the ice chest and 3.5gallon gas tank on the back of the sidecar! What the heck I can live with it. Hay I'm flexible...

We get gas in Bishop. My shoulders are telling me a different story, pulling on the left handlebar and pushing on the right handlebar to stay straight is not what I was hoping for But...Hay I'm flexible.

Lunch at the Mobil Station in Lee Vining. If you have never been here you should plan on having lunch here great food (under statement). From here we ride to Minden NV. Sandy my favorite sister-in-law's place for a break and short visit. I take Advil and its back on the road heading for Reno and our first stop for the night after 340 miles. Linda and Greg (Katie's friends) have Rum and Coke and homemade Taco's ready for us when we arrive. "Thanks Katie" what a great host and hostess. We all sleep soundly and are up early eager to continue the adventure. To see new ground. But first we have to get a group picture you know put on your "biker face". Then Advil and we are on the road to Beautiful down town Elko, NV a short 288 miles what an easy day ,shoulders are tight ,Bikes are running great ,spirits are high, life is good.

We are up early, and excited about the next destination, West Yellowstone MT and the National Park 435 miles. A short ride and first stop for breakfast, gas up and head for Twin Falls Idaho, But wait ,the Pumpkin doesn't want to idle, she is OK at 3k rpm ,we pull in to the Snake Harley Dealership and they take the pumpkin right in, 5 minutes later tell me this is a common problem with the fuel line being too long " pin holes" from rubbing on the bottom of the gas tank. Harley changed the length but not on 2002 baggers until later ."Give us an hour and we will have you back on the road". Cool, Vikki's eyes light up "SHOPPING", we have lunch and the pumpkin purrs like a kitten. Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Rexburg. G and A stop (Gas and Advil) next stop West Yellowstone. Britt has the GPS and likes being sweep but he lets us know the hotel is just on the left of the stop light. You know this wouldn't be in the story if it was true. Yup to the Right... Right on the corner is the Stagecoach inn, going around the block we arrive safe and sound at this historic Hotel. Turns out we have underground parking. We have been on dry roads and only see the rain clouds behind us.. So far.

Vikki and I share a room with her brother "Britt " who turns out to be a world class snoring champion... OMG the room vibrates ,small children cry, Car alarms go off, nothing and no one could have prepared us for this sleepless night. Damn straight we are up early without sleep.

But you know.. Hay I'm flexible.

First day in Yellowstone Vikki and I and Scott and Katie are off to Gardener MT for a white water raft trip. Britt "the puss "passes. Now if you ever thought about taking a raft ride through the rapids I can tell you "Do it". What a fun thing to do, our guide was great a new grad from Boston working for the summer as a river guide was a hoot, great knowledge of the river and area, we took the 8 mile trip, next time it will be an all day trip. We ride back to the Stagecoach for dinner and Cribbage .I don't seem to be able to beat Katie. No really .She kicks my butt.

The second day in Yellowstone. All of us ride the top loop of the Yellowstone park .We find construction every day but this time its muddy slow and a mile long. The park is spectacular and there are wild critters all over the place. People stop their cars in the middle of the road to take pictures causing "Bear jams" , "Elk Jams", " Mystery Jams " as in what the heck are they stopping for now ? Patients is a virtue .

The third day we all ride the lower loop, Old Faithful is right on time. The falls are beautiful, and we have Buffalo in the road ,Yup " Buffalo Jams".

Back at the Hotel its dinner and... I just can't beat Katie at cribbage. I turn my attention to strong Rum and Coke. Randy Brown calls to let us know he and Debbie are at the Xanadu camp grounds, just outside of Sturgis, in the rain.

Continued on page 14

The Pumpkin to Sturgis—continued from page 13

We are up early in the morning with just a short ride to Cody WY only 133 miles away. This gives us our first real chance to see the sights and of course shopping. We are staying at the Irma Hotel (Irma is Wild Bill's daughter), it is an old historic land mark and they cater to Bikers. Vikki and I have souvenir pictures taken. We have dinner at the bar and retire to the rooms for cribbage and I just don't understand how Katie does it. I cry myself to sleep... again. The morning sun helps to dry the bikes, from the overnight rain, the Hotel provides towels for this and then.

The Pumpkin has a dead battery. Crap, the mud and rough construction must have gotten to the wiring on the sidecar. I disconnect the bike wiring from the sidecar. Britt, "my new hero", gets jumper cables, we jump start the Pumpkin and we are off. To test the theory we ride to Sheridan WY before shutting the Pumpkin off. She restarts, great lets have breakfast. We can track down the short when we get to Bland and Billies. We stop in Gillette WY to shop for supplies for the five of us for four days. Now Vikki is a champion packer and brings two count them two shopping carts out of the grocery store. Katie, Scott and Britt all hide. They wait for me to stop shaking my head. Somehow Vikki manages to get everything into the sidecar and climbs on the Pumpkin behind me. Damn she's good at this . The Pumpkin groans and starts to move. I now wonder if we can get it to stop. We ride past Moorcroft to Pine Haven and pull up at our destination, Bland and Billies spectacular Cabin. Wow we made it. Tonight the pool table and hot tub," Screw Cribbage "it's a dumb game anyhow. Tomorrow Sturgis.

Vikki and Katie(the card shark) put a great breakfast together for us. We clean the bikes up ,I can't find the short in the pumpkin so we leave well enough alone ,she is running fine without the lights on the sidecar. We all pose for a" biker picture "and it's off to Sturgis. The road is dry the sky is blue and there are more bikes than cages on the road "oops". I just missed the turn off for Sturgis. We will just go on to Rapid City, get our HOG pin, and stop in Sturgis on the way back . I hear someone say they "can't get away from people from Ridgecrest". It's Mike and Patrice they are at the Rapid City Harley dealership getting souvenirs too. Scott and Britt buy accessories for their bikes, Katie and Vikki find " T "shirts. The HOG pins I find out are in Sturgis this year so we are out of Rapid City and on our way to have lunch and see the sites. Sturgis is a zoo, people watching at its finest.

We park the bikes and join the mob on the streets we are really lucky and find a restaurant with a 5 chair table right in the front window . The parade of people going by keeps us guessing" what next? ". After lunch its souvenirs, HOG pins "T" shirts and after about an hour of shoulder to shoulder people we head back to the Cabin and peace and quiet.

After dinner Katie lets me win a game of Cribbage to keep peace in the group. However the victory celebration includes Pool ,Hot tub, Rum and Coke and a good night's sleep.

Morning breaks clear and sunny. The plan is to see Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse today. After Breakfast we head out. Topping the gas tanks off in Moorcroft we ride to Newcastle and on to Custer City.

Coming in to Custer I watch the Pumpkins Amp gage drop from 14 to 12 to 8 to.. Oh crap. I pull in to the Exxon station. I call Jeff my son to see if anyone in his group has a trailer, no such luck. Vikki calls AAA and Scott starts to hear noise from his bikes engine. Scott and Katie head to the Dealership in Rapid City. Britt continues on to Crazy Horse and Mount Rushmore and will meet us in Rapid City.

Enter... Larry the tow-truck driver. Larry loads the pumpkin on the flat bed

gives us the history of Hill City and a non-stop history of his childhood. Larry is a proud native of South Dakota and entertains Vikki and me on our way to the Dealership .Unloading the Pumpkin we push the bike into line behind 30 or more bikes. My son greets me with a cold beer." Doon" one of the service writers has one of the tech's take a quick look and tells me the stater is the problem. This lets me know I'm done riding for the day. Scott is in line a few bikes ahead of me. Britt takes Vikki to the airport to rent a car, it will be tomorrow afternoon before the bikes are repaired. Scott ,Katie, Vikki and I get in the rental car and head back to the cabin for the night.

Disappointed ?yes. Remember flexible and tomorrow is another day and I decide we need to all see the Devils Tower before going after the bikes. From the Tower we drive to Crazy Horse and Mount Rushmore for pictures and to give the dealership time to finish the repairs. Back in Rapid City Scott gets the good news, Just a lose cover over the Sparkplug . \$100.00 per hour to find it. The pumpkin gets the needed parts and is back up and ready to roll. Britt takes off for the cabin , Scott and Katie takeoff for the UPS place, they send unneeded stuff home, and then the Cabin .I follow Vikki to the airport to turn in the rental car, and we head for the cabin. Tomorrow we will start for home.

Chapter 3

Getting back Home

Leaving the fantastic cabin and heading for Cheyenne WY the adventure seems to have been too short. The day is warm and clear, fewer and fewer bikes on the road as we get further from Sturgis. We find the Historic Plains Hotel, have dinner and call it a day. Next morning we are awakened by the fire alarm. Thankfully no fire just an alarm. Britt says it's our "mandatory wake up call." From Cheyenne to Evanston WY goes by without incident. We are up and on the road to St. George UT.

The weather is getting hotter by the mile. In the afternoon we all use the "wet vest" to stay cool. Pulling in to the Best Western we check in to our rooms and head for the pool to cool off. We order dinner and Britt decides to skip staying in Las Vegas tomorrow and ride straight home in the morning. I agree to go with him. Scott and Katie plan to spend a couple of days in Las Vegas before heading for Ridgecrest. We say our goodbyes to them. At 05:00 Britt and Vikki and I fire up the bikes setting off car alarms and make a hasty retreat out of the Best Western heading for Primm NV for breakfast. From Primm to Barstow before the heat of the day. Topping off the gas tanks in Barstow we ride to Cramer Junction and home. 4,000 miles without rain. Would we do it again ? In a heartbeat.

Dwight, Vikki, Britt, Katie & Scott.....

Rider's Edge

Antelope Valley H-D's Rider's Edge Courses took a short hiatus during the month of August as the Antelope Valley Fair takes precedence, With September coming up very soon we have two New Rider Courses and one Skilled Rider Course being offered. The NRC class dates are 9/9/10 – 9/13/10 and 9/23/10 – 9/27/10. Classroom sessions are held at the AVH-D Dealership and the riding sessions are conducted at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. The registration fee for the NRC is \$395.00. The SRC is scheduled for Saturday, 9/18/10. The SRC is a one day, 6-7 hour class and includes lunch. The class will be held at the AV Fairgrounds. Participants will bring and ride their own street-safe motorcycle. The registration fee for the SRC is \$150.00. Current AV HOG members or graduates of the AVH-D Rider's Edge NRC are offered a \$25.00 discount All classes are limited to 12 participants and are filling up quickly. Call the Dealership, (661) 948-5959 or you can also register online at www.AntelopeValleyHD.com.

Denyce Evert, Site Manager

Antelope Valley Harley-Davidson/Buell

Yosemite, King's Canyon and Sequoia National Park Ride 2010—continued from page 7

Sunday morning we got up, ate breakfast and headed for King's Canyon. Not the straight shot you might imagine down 41, we took some of the back roads. We went around Bass Lake then took Auberry down to 180 and on into King's Canyon. Arguing with the ranger about what the Annual Pass covers and doesn't cover is a waste of time. John paid his share and later said my argument with the ranger was worth the admission price. We stopped at Grant Grove and walked around some of the biggest trees in the world. The President Grant Tree is about 300 feet tall. Next we entered the canyon and found lots of sweepers and twisties. We stopped at the King's Canyon Lodge for some refreshment. Here they have the oldest still working gravity gas pumps in the US maybe the world. They date back to 1929. Next we stopped at Grizzly Falls and took some more pictures. I got a few photos of the King's River as we were riding next to it. The King's River is a thundering torrent of water racing through the canyon at amazing speed. Our next stop was Roaring Falls. Not a very high falls, but the amount of water coming down this falls is inestimable. There's no better word for the falls. Roaring says it all. We then headed over to the Cedar Grove Lodge, our destination for the night. The presentation by the ranger on bears was entertaining, but geared toward kids, and the only entertainment in the canyon. There are no TVs in the rooms. No cell phone coverage and WiFi is very limited.

Monday we headed out of the canyon for Sequoia and our return home. As we were climbing out of King's Canyon I noticed John's back tire flashing white with each revolution. At Hume Lake we gassed up and had a snack for breakfast. I looked closer at John's tire and pointed out to John that he had already worn through the first set of cord on his back tire. Although John thought his tires would last for the trip, his back tire had a different idea. It had had enough. It was time for plan change number three. No matter, I'd seen all of Sequoia before so this change was no big deal. I reprogrammed the GPS for Visalia where I knew there was a Harley Shop. We made it to the shop okay, but it was closed. We found a cycle place that had a tire for John's bike and a guy close by that could install it. Man was it hot in Visalia and the humidity was up as well. John and I walked to a nearby taco shop for lunch. When we got back the bike was done. With the tire installed we took off, when John noticed his back brake did not work. We returned to the guy that installed the tire. After working on it for some time, the determination was that his master cylinder had gone out and adjusting the caliper just a little to reinstall the brakes during the tire change, was enough to affect the operation of the back brake. Bleeding the brakes did not work. There was nothing for John to do but ride home with no back brake. I soaked and donned my hydro vest as did John. John had some trouble not being able to use his back brake, so we took it slow. John felt he was slowing me down and asked me to continue on without him. I wanted to make sure he made it back okay, so I stuck with him. We got to Bakersfield where the Harley Shop was again closed. We gassed up and John insisted I go ahead alone. I did not want to leave him, but he insisted he did not want me to follow him and that he would be okay. It was time for plan change number three. I felt bad that John did not want me to ride with him, but I wasn't going to follow him if he didn't want me to. Change of plans number four. I headed off without him to 178 east through the Kern River Canyon. There was hardly any traffic. The temperature got cooler with the altitude change and cloud cover. I took some more photos of the ride back through Kern River Valley and coming down from Walker Pass. I had a pleasant ride and made it back about 1730. It was a great ride all in all. It's always a good idea to have a ride plan, but this trip I found out I need to be flexible for a number of reasons. The number in this case was four.

Tom Lystrup



September Birthdays



Barbara
Austin



Megan
Howard



Debby
Linck



Don
McCauley



James
Pavlicek



Vikki
Thompson



Patricia
Turbide



Greg
Vincent

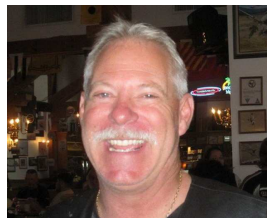


John
Weaver

October Birthdays



Kelly
Ambrecht



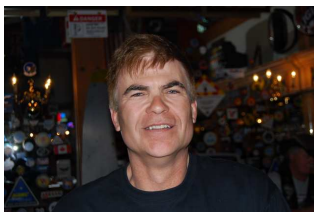
Paul
Bruer



John
Cain



Mark
Keller



Paul
Liesman



Tom
Lystrup



Mike
Roberts

September 2010

Monthly Planner

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October 2010

Monthly Planner

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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

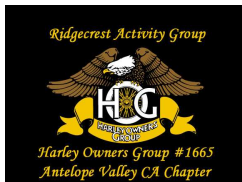
Sunday/Monday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Service Hours

Sunday/Monday – Drop Off Only

Tuesday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Desert Wind News
9236 Lime Ave
California City, CA
93505

Sept/Oct 2010
Volume 16 Issue 5
Antelope Valley Chapter
Ridgecrest Group

Upcoming Events:

Lunch Ride—Cold Springs Tavern

September 12,2010

RAG Picnic - Lake Diaz

September 17–19, 2010

Mountain Twisties

September 25,2010

CA State HOG Rally

September 28—October 2,2010

Relay for Life

October 2–3 , 2010

After Meeting Ride—Rock Inn

October 9, 2010

Paso Robles/Morro Bay Run

October 15–17, 2010

Maturango Days

October 16, 2010

Lunch Ride—Greenhorn Grill

October 23, 2010