

H.O.G. SNOUT BIG SKY CHAPTER 2641

Volume 14, Issue 09



Oct., 2011

Sponsored by:
Big Sky Harley-Davidson
Brian and Tami Moen
4258 10th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 727-2161
www.bigskyharley.com

Director
Sam Steffan
(406) 788-6891
samiam01@bresnan.net

Assistant Director
Jim Hoffmann
jimkarenhoffmann@msn.com

Treasurer
Cheryl Turner
jeffturner9@bresnan.net

Secretary
Shannon Hurd
shannonrh@yahoo.com

H.O.G. Slop:

Elizabeth Moore, Editor

This month, we bid adieu to our dear friends, the Chambers. Nan and Darrell have been an integral part of this chapter and have become quite a fixture in the short time they have been with us.

They have both served numerous years as Chapter Officers, and put in a lot of time to help make our 2008 State Rally a success. We will miss them terribly, but wish them the best of success and happiness in their new life in Colorado Springs.

Besides, that will give us all an excuse for a trip south.

Bona Fortuna, Darrell and Nan – we love you!

Speaking of Chapter Officers, we're getting close to the end of the year. This has been my FIFTH year as Chapter Newsletter Editor, and THIRD year as photographer, and I have loved every word, paragraph, photo, etc.



However...it's time for someone new to step up and add their particular talents to both offices. In a word, Folks, **I need a break.**

Don't get me wrong...I treasure every month that I've been able to provide you guys and gals with the news of what's going on. It's just time for me to let somebody else take the helm.

There are many of you out there who have been hesitant to step up, or don't think you have the time. Let me tell you – it doesn't really take that much time, and to know that you've made a difference in the Chapter, is an extremely rewarding feeling.

We have an exceptional chapter, and we have a lot of exceptional people who are members. We know you're out there. Volunteer a little of your time, and make a difference. You won't regret it.

Director's Notes:

Sam Steffan – “The HOG-Father”

Well it looks like Mother Nature has put away her bikini and drug out her woolly Long Johns for the year. As the days get shorter and the evenings cooler we find ourselves approaching our cooler weather events. The first being our annual Hogtoberfest, with Rudy's famous Bar-B-Q, which will be held on October the 29th. The pig's ass and beans will be served at high noon. I am sure that Big Sky will have many specials going on that day also. That way you can spend a full day in town just goofing off. You may even spot a new bike that you want.

Next is our annual Toy Run & Christmas party for the kids of Big Brother/Sisters, which will be held on 10 Dec., in conjunction with our Dec. meeting. They are in the process of compiling a list of kids for us, which should be avail by the November meeting, so that you can get your shopping done early this year.

Filling out the rest of the Dec 10th day of activities will be our annual Chapter Christmas party. Putting a new twist on things this year, we will host the party at the dealership, with it being complete with catering. It will be a very casual affair, focusing on come as you are and enjoy the evening. Spend an hour or all evening; enjoy some eats, B.S. a little and renew old friendships for an overall good time. Entertainment will be provided by Steve Keller, coupled with our annual slide show of members' various follies of the past year along with chapter events (send photos to our Editor, Elizabeth).

Best of all it is free to the membership, as long as your dues are paid-up. Your only cost will be for the libation in which you chose to indulge. I am sure that a good time will be had by all. Watch for “Hogfather Flash” updates and check the HOG bulletin board.

Again - it is that time of the year, when, just like the Marines, we are looking “For a Few Good People”.



2011 Officers - left to right: Ron Rust (Road Captain); Sam Steffan (Director); Ron Mora (Road Captain); Elizabeth Moore (Editor); Bill Decker (Road Captain); Cheryl Turner (Treasurer); Linda Decker (Membership); Jim Hoffmann (Asst. Director); Nan Chambers (Webmaster); Mick Myskewitz (Activities)
Not Pictured: Doug Davenport (Safety)

As you guessed, it is again time for Officer selection for the chapter. I am sure that we have a whole bunch of talented members out there just itching to fill an Officer position. So get up off of your posterior and step forward. You may just find out what a rewarding experience it can be and you may discover a few members you didn't know existed. Grant you it will require a little of your time, but the payback and friendship are worth it.

If by chance this year you have taken an extra ordinary or unique trip this year. Sit down and write about it, and share it with your fellow riders via the newsletter. As the cooler weather arrives, there are still some nice ride-able day's left. But watch out as it seems like

this time of the year some of our back roads become pockmarked with the infamous” Montana

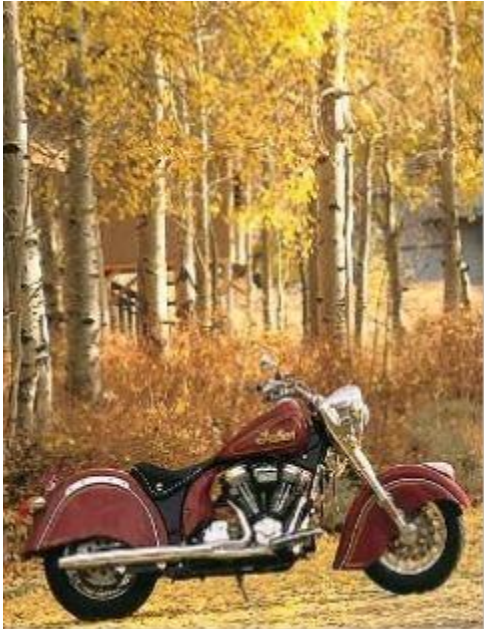


Chughole” - some of these can produce some very dogging experiences. These, along with the wandering wildlife can be very challenging as our daylight hours slowly dwindle away. So keep you heads up, and eyes wide open, as we want to see you all at the Christmas party, other Chapter functions and most of all, in the coming year.

Assistant-Director’s Notes:

Jim Hoffmann

October 2011 Newsletter



It is what some may call the best time of the year for riding. The weather is just right and the sights and aromas are fantastic. Keep in mind as you take your iron horse out this fall that there are dangers that may be lurking out there; wet areas that may be icy especially in shaded areas, leaves or pine needles on the road that may cause you to slip, and mud and gravel from side roads as vehicles come onto the pavement; to name a few. Be alert as you ride and enjoy the ride!

Two weeks ago on a Friday night after the weekly HOG Waller I looked at my bride and said we need to go for a ride tomorrow. She was all for it and so we planned on heading for the southwest part of the state. We left the next morning not really knowing the route yet and headed for Helena on over McDonald Pass to Garrison Junction. At that point it was decided to go on to Drummond and south to Philipsburg as that was some territory we haven’t ridden in for a long time. After getting to

Drummond around noon, and of course our stomachs thought our throats had been cut, we stopped at a local establishment, the Rough Stock Saloon, to relieve our thirst and fuel up our bodies. The food was great (the best burgers & fries), beer cold, and the locals were fantastic! After a while we saddled up and headed on to Anaconda through some beautiful scenery.



Just outside of Anaconda we turn onto route 569, as we were told by many it was worth taking for the views. The scenery was indeed beautiful but the road was rough so had to slow down a bit which probably wasn’t bad as we could then enjoy the surrounding beauty of the countryside.

We then came to highway 43 and headed toward Wisdom and on to Jackson and the Hot Springs which was our final destination. We arrived rather early in the afternoon and got registered into the #1 cabin next to the bar entrance. **BIG MISTAKE!** We had a few brews and visited with an interesting gentleman from Wise River for a few hours before we had a wonderful dinner at the lodge. Now back to the **BIG MISTAKE...** around closing time it got **REAL** loud as everyone walked past our window or decided to shoot the breeze outside our window well into the wee hours of the morning. Needless to say we didn’t get a good night’s sleep but still we were ready to get going in the morning and headed to Wise River via a cut across (now paved) going thru some of the most beautiful country that we have seen in a long time.

It was a brisk morning and we took our time to enjoy the scenery and had breakfast in Wise River. It was another one of those great places you just fall into and enjoy the food and locals. After breakfast it was on to Butte, Helena and home to my easy chair. What a fun weekend we had.

Did I mention that my loving wife rode two up with me this trip? Something she never does unless it is a short trip from the hotel to dinner or across town. Well she did and kind of liked it but I told her not to get used to it as she had a new ride coming soon and she would have to go back to riding solo. Somehow I don't think she will mind that at all.

Ride Safe!

Assistant-Director's Assistant's Notes:

Karen Hoffmann



This isn't my first Harley, but I don't think I have ever been *so* excited about a motorcycle as I am about my new 2012 Tequila Sunrise/HD Orange Street Glide!

When my "Sunrise Special" first came in I, like any true Harley rider, started ordering parts and accessories to add to my new beauty! The most important of which was a matching inner fairing in the "Tequila Sunrise" color to replace the stock black inner fairing. I figured it would take a while for the fairing to get in, so I was ready to pick up my bike Saturday and take a ride, as is.

What a surprise to find, when I got to this month's meeting, that my bike had all the extras including the inner fairing on the bike. It was sitting in the shop with orange balloons attached to the handlebars (thanks Bob!!). I walked into the shop for the meeting, looked at the bike and then did a double take!!! It was "totally" ready to go!

5 of us joined Ron Mora for the planned ride to Choteau and back. When we started out, it was cloudy and gray. Not the best for viewing the amazing paint job on the bike. When we come out of John Henry's at Choteau, the sun was shining and there my bike sat in all its glory! I made all the guys come take a look before we took off again for Great Falls.

Thank you Harley Davidson for introducing a new custom color that really "pops" and thanks to everyone at Big Sky Harley Davidson for making my new bike purchase really special! A special thank you to Jim for allowing me to ride "2-up" US3063899 with him the last of September to Jackson Hot Springs. I know it was a big sacrifice on his part, Bless him!

Ride Safe and Ride Often!

Karen Hoffmann

Membership Director's Notes:

Linda Decker

I am sure everyone has heard by now that Darrell and Nan Chambers are leaving our family. That darn Nan had to go and apply for a job in Colorado Springs, and then had the nerve to accept the job when it was offered to her. What was she thinking? Really though, congratulations Nan, I am sure they saw in you what we all have. You two will be greatly missed. Thank you for all your support you have given this Chapter.

So fellow members, we have a big task ahead of us. We need members to fill their shoes. If anyone has the talent and know-how to maintain this Chapter's web page, please get a hold of one of the officers. As for Darrell's shoes, you have to have a big heart, a great sense of humor and know how to BS.

Speaking of filling shoes, we are looking for fresh faces and fresh ideas for next year's officers. If anyone is interested in an officer position for next year, please contact Brian or Sam.



Security Director's Notes:

Doug Davenport

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, Addressing Vehicle Overload

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) is defined as the maximum sum of the weight of the motorcycle, accessories, cargo, rider and passenger. GVWR is listed in the Owner's Manual and on the motorcycle information plate on the frame down tube. GVWR may be the same for models within a family but due to differences in vehicle weight per model, the amount of weight you can add safely for the rider, passenger, accessories and cargo will vary, sometimes by a considerable amount.

Motorcycles are designed and tested within the confines of the GVWR and overloading places additional stress on the chassis, wheels, axles and brakes. Several issues can occur and lead to component failure or malfunction if your motorcycle is overloaded. Some examples are:

- Handling and braking issues or;
- Catastrophic tire failure, such as tread or sidewall cracking, component separation or blowout



Adding to the overload issue is that riders far too often operate motorcycles with underinflated

tires, which reduces tire load capacity. According to some sources, for every 4 psi a motorcycle tire is underinflated, it reduces the safe load carrying capacity of that tire by 80 pounds.

Under inflation also allows for excessive sidewall flexing and increases rolling resistance, resulting in elevated heat, excessive and irregular tire tread wear, tire cracking and potential tire component separation or failure.

In addition to GVWR, another term you should be aware of is Gross Axle Weight Rating or (GAWR). GAWR is the maximum amount of weight that can be carried on each axle. The GAWR is also shown on the information plate on the frame down tube and in your Owner's Manual. Exceeding the GAWR for either axle can affect stability and handling as well as component parts and braking efficiency.

Symptoms of Overloading

Indications your motorcycle is overloaded include:

- Excessive cargo strapped to the vehicle
- Broken luggage rack or sissy bar
- Tire cracking in the tread or sidewall
- Tire bulging
- Accelerated tire wear
- Poor handling or braking performance



Options to address Overloading

The most effective and cheapest way to avoid symptoms of overloading are to maintain tire pressure in the recommended setting as either indicated in the Owner's Manual or as listed on the tire sidewall and ensure the combined weight of rider, passenger, cargo and accessories does not exceed the GVWR.

If you find yourself in a continuous situation where your combined weight of rider, passenger, cargo and accessories exceed the GVWR, then perhaps it is time to consider trading up your current bike to one with a higher weight carrying potential or GVWR.

In closing

It is extremely important for you to know your GVWR for your motorcycle and if you are likely to exceed it. Your well-being depends on everything working correctly when you are on the road. Take the time to look up and understand your GVWR and GAWR. You might be surprised as to what you discover.

I will see you on the road.

BON VOYAGE:

My Bon voyage to you Darrell and Nan (The Chambers) :

May the wind in your faces remind you both of our reluctant farewells as we see you leave.

May the tail wind be your guardian angel from the Big Sky on your long journey and new adventure.

Thank You for the extra effort you both have put forth in making the Big Sky Chapter the Best.





To you Nan, for the outstanding web site and time put the forth during the 2008 State Hog Rally.

To you Darrell, Master Chef extraordinaire, for the marathon hours you put in feeding the HOKA HEY challenge riders. Your breakfasts are the best coupled with your humor.

You both will be “Missed”, but “ Never Forgotten” as you will always be...
“BIG SKY HOGS”!

The Hogfather



Need a patch sewn on that leather vest or jacket? [Linda Heggem](#) - 452-2425 - will sew patches for a donation to MDA.

Newsletter Comments or Questions?

If you have any questions, comments, or contributions concerning the Big Sky H.O.G. Newsletter, please contact Elizabeth at 781-5143, or by e-mail at emoore@3riversdbns.net.

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

50/50 – Jay Mullennax – winnings were donated to Breast Cancer Awareness

Door Prize Winner: Mike Babcock

Hidden HOG Number: Marina Little – not present





Footnote: There is a donation box at Big Sky Harley for Breast Cancer Awareness. Please drop in what you can when you visit the dealership.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Big Sky Harley-Davidson & Buell or those of the Harley-Davidson Corporation. This newsletter is intended for the entertainment of the Big Sky Harley Owners' Group.



**Big Sky Harley-Davidson
Attn: Big Sky Montana H.O.G.
4258 10th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405**