

# Muletown News

Harley Owners Group

March 2010

Muletown

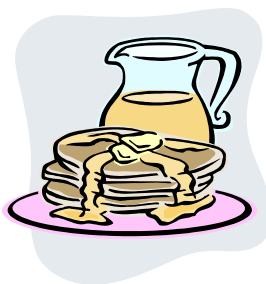
## A Change of Scenery

As we embark on another year of great riding, great eats and great camaraderie, it only seems fitting that we recognize the “change of scenery” you will see in the Chapter Leadership. First and foremost, the Chapter would sincerely like to thank outgoing officers Hope Conner (Ladies of Harley Director) and Eddie Campbell (Activities Coordinator) for their extensive service and commitment to the Chapter. The Chapter would also like to sincerely thank Arnold Conner, who has been the Assistant Director/Webmaster of the Chapter for the last 4 years, for his unwavering dedication and commitment to the Chapter during his tenure. It goes without saying that Arnold will be no less committed as he remains an officer of the Chapter in the continued position of Webmaster. Thank

you, Hope, Arnold and Eddie for your time and service to the Chapter. Without dedicated officers such as these, our Chapter would not be what it is today!

The Chapter would also like to take the opportunity to welcome some familiar faces into new positions. Ken Steverson has relinquished his duties as Treasurer to take over the responsibility of Assistant Director. Jay Morgan has assumed the role of Treasurer as well as continuing to be the Membership Officer. And the Chapter would like to announce new officer Rodney Schmitt who has taken over as Activities Coordinator. Welcome, Rodney! And welcome back to all the other returning officers! It’s great to have you aboard!

## ***Mark your calendars!!***



### **Muletown’s Annual Pancake Breakfast**

Saturday May 1, 2010

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Park Place Catering

All you can eat pancakes, sausage and breakfast beverages for just \$5.00.

### ***AND DON’T FORGET:***

This year anyone who purchases a ticket and has it stamped the morning of the breakfast will receive a 10% discount off of all in-stock motorclothes, parts and accessories at Harley-Davidson of Columbia. *This offer will be honored from May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup> and is not valid towards the purchase of motorcycles and the cost of labor. This is a one ticket per customer offer!*

Tell your friends and family, help sell some tickets and get a discount!

## Muletown H.O.G. Rules of the Road

With the riding season upon us it doesn't hurt to review our Muletown H.O.G. rules of the road for group riding. The goal of every Road Captain leading a Muletown ride is to make the rides as enjoyable and safe as possible for everyone participating but it takes the cooperation of every rider to make that a reality. Ride safe and enjoy.

- Arrive early with your tank topped off and your bladder empty.
- If you have special needs that will require attention during the ride make your Road Captain aware of your needs.
- If you bring a guest, advise the Road Captain and ensure that your guest signs a Release of Liability form. If the guest is riding his/her bike please make the Road Captain aware of their level of experience in group riding. Inexperienced group riders may be more comfortable riding toward the rear of the group where speeds are a little slower.
- We ride in a staggered column with the lead bike in the left 1/3 of the lane and the second bike in the right 1/3 of the lane.
- The rider in front of you and to your left or right has a right to the entire lane if needed. Don't crowd the riders in front of you. Keep a 2 second interval between you and the rider directly in front of you and a 1 second interval between you and the bike in front and to your left or right.
- Your Road Captain will use standard hand signals for turns, stops, etc. The Road Captain will also use his hands and/or feet to point out road hazards. It is **essential** that these signals be passed back by each rider.
- When riding in the group there is no passing within the group.
- Keep an eye on the rider in front of you but also scan the group several riders ahead.
- Be mindful of aggressive car drivers. Cars are bigger and harder so yield to them.
- Ride your own ride. Don't be tempted to try something that you feel is beyond your skill level.
- No rider is left behind. If the entire group fails to make it through a traffic light or if separated by traffic the last rider in the lead group will stop at a safe and visible location when the lead group makes its next turn and wait until the separated riders catch up.
- All group riders except the Sweep will ride with low beams on and auxiliary lights off.
- In the event of an accident, protect the injured rider.
- When the group arrives at its destination the ride is over. Riders may choose to return with the group or strike out on their own.
- The use of alcohol during a ride is not allowed. Alcoholic beverages and riding simply do not mix. Should a rider arrive under the influence the Road Captain may not allow the rider to participate in the group ride.

Ken Steverson

Assistant Director



Need some patches sewn or a zipper repaired on your chaps? Give Mrs. Kay Shaw a call at 381-7064. Mrs. Shaw recently replaced a zipper on my chaps and did a fine job. I'm sure she would appreciate the business.

## ***Muletown's Kicking!!***

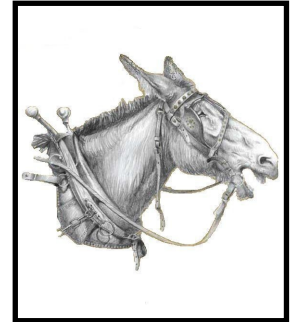
*The weather is warming and we are all itching to get active! As we start gearing up for a pleasant season of riding and camaraderie, we would like to hear your recommendations for planned rides, overnights and extracurricular activities.*

*We are looking forward to strong participation in our Annual Muletown Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser and Silent Auction May 1<sup>st</sup>. In conjunction with this year's Pancake Fundraiser we will be kicking off our first annual 50/50 Muletown Chapter Rummage Sale! So Start your spring-cleaning now and add some green to your pocket while contributing to the Muletown Treasury.*



*We have organized some new events and rides this year we hope you all will enjoy. One new event was our HOG Bowl, which was a great success. There is already a Mystery Tent Overnight Ride and joint Maryville HOG Chapter Overnighter planned so come on out and let's hit the highway!*

*Your ideas can be submitted on the "Ride Suggestion" link on [www.muletownrider.com](http://www.muletownrider.com) or [rschmitt@usit.net](mailto:rschmitt@usit.net). So keep your suggestions coming and remember... Screw it, Let's Ride!*



*Take care,  
Rodney A Schmitt  
Activities Coordinator*

### **CHAPTER MILEAGE CONTEST**

Back for 2010 is our chapter mileage contest. The contest for 2010 will start on March 1, 2010 and will end on November 20, 2010 at the completion of our annual Turkey Run. First place prize for each a male and a female winner will be \$100.00. A random winner will be selected from the rest of the participants for a \$50.00 prize. Members who want to participate should e-mail their name and starting mileage to [rschmitt@usit.net](mailto:rschmitt@usit.net).

### **50/50 Rule**

The Muletown Chapter observes the 50/50 rule. If there is 50% or more chance of rain, or if it is 50 degrees or less, a scheduled ride will be subject to cancellation. Please refer to the 'Weather Forecast' link on the Chapter website for the determining forecast.

*Going on a great road trip this year? Did you go on a great road trip last year? Share your travels with the rest of the Chapter. Muletown News is always looking for motorcycle related articles and information. Submit a summary of your trip including your destination, stops along the way, total mileage and what you liked best about your trip along with a handful of photographs for publication in the bi-monthly newsletter. If your road trip was a great one, let others know about it. Send the information to: [muletown.news@hotmail.com](mailto:muletown.news@hotmail.com)*

## MULETOWN CHAPTER #2033

### Membership Update

Can you believe how cold it still is? I sure can't! This winter cold has to go!

As we all get ready for the first meeting of the year I'd like to let you know we will have the 2010 membership forms available for early enrollment (Your National HOG Membership must be active) Upon your paid \$15 enrollment dues we will punch your card. Any renewal dues received after the March 2010 HOG membership meeting will be \$20, so be sure to sign up early!!



I'd also like to thank everyone for filling out the bio forms last year, they were very interesting to read and the pictures were great, a special thanks to Trish for including them in the newsletter.



The year-end 2009 membership was 73! As of now we have 42 signed up for the new year. Now that the weather is supposed to warm up, check over you scooter and make sure the tires are up to par, inspect for loose nuts and bolts, apply a good coat of polish and get ready for the first run of the year  
Let's put on our thinking caps and make those rides to places we missed last year and make them happen in 2010!  
See ya soon,

Peace, Jay Morgan  
Treasurer/Membership Officer

### **You Must Be Crazy To Ride A Motorcycle!**

*by Jackie Vaughan  
(Submitted By: Arnold Conner)*

"You have to be completely crazy to ride a motorcycle. Those things are dangerous!"

How often have we heard that? Zealous four-wheelers are bent on saving us from our own stupidity. Of course our bulbs are dim. Anyone bright wouldn't go near one of those two-wheeled death machines. "It's too risky," they intone piously.

In a small part, they are right. There is risk involved in operating a motorcycle. There's also risk involved in driving on a freeway, even in a tank. And it's purely insane to sleep on a waterbed if we have cats. The trick is to manage the risks and to not take dumb risks.

One of the main keys to managing risks is to take a motorcycle rider

course, and to keep the mental and physical skills we learn sharp. Many skills are lost in six months if they aren't practiced. Knowing good cornering and curve-riding techniques doesn't do us any good if we don't practice them.

Knowing our limits, the limits of our machines, and the limits of our environment and riding within those limits is also critical. We must remember that those limits change constantly and adapt our riding style to conform to them.

Superior riders never get themselves into situations requiring superior skills. Taking dumb risks is asking for trouble. If we keep pushing our limits, we will eventually exceed them, and the consequences can be devastating or even fatal. Riding faster and faster though a familiar

curve can spell disaster when we've pushed our traction to the limits and there's something unexpected in the road halfway through the curve. Riding fast in the rain just because we're in a hurry makes no sense when we know we can't stop quickly. Slowing down and putting distance between us and a hazard is sensible risk management. Replacing worn tires helps keep us safely stuck to the road.

Part of the challenge of motorcycling is risk management, and the sport wouldn't be very enjoyable if we wrapped ourselves in cotton and surrounded ourselves with a cocoon of safety devices. However, the sport is more fun if we don't have to worry about dangers we create for ourselves.

**EVENTS CALENDAR**


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<b>March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Chapter Lunch Ride: Clifton, TN	“A” Ride	(Closed Event)
<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Chapter Lunch Ride: Mike’s Catfish Café - Murfreesboro, TN	“A” Ride	(Closed Event)
<b>April 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Chapter Lunch Ride: Big Sandy, TN	“B” Ride	(Closed Event)
<b>April 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Chapter Meeting: Park Place Catering; Columbia, TN		(Open Event)
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Pancake Breakfast: Park Place Catering; Columbia, TN		(Open Event)
	Chapter Ride: Location TBD	“A” Ride	(Closed Event)
<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Chapter Meeting: Location TBD		(Open Event)
<b>May 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Mystery Tent Overnight Ride	“B” Ride	(Closed Event)
<b>June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup></b>	State HOG Rally: Chattanooga, TN		
<b>June 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Chapter Lunch Ride: The Junkyard Dog; Hohenwald, TN	“A” Ride	(Open Event)
<b>June 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Joint Chapter Ride with the Dragon Chapter: Maryville, TN	“B” Ride	(Closed Event)
<b>June 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Million Mile Monday: “Lick It Like You Mean It III”	“A” Ride	(Closed Event)

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“A” Rides: Rides of less than 200 miles roundtrip

“B” Rides: Rides of more than 200 miles roundtrip which may include overnight rides.

**CLOSED EVENTS** – Are those chapter events which are open to chapter members and one guest per member.

**MEMBER EVENTS** – Are events that are open only to H.O.G. members.

**OPEN EVENTS** – Are those chapter events which are open to chapter members, national H.O.G. members and other guests as desired.

**Muletown Officers:**

Bill Isom – Director  
 Ken Steverson – Assistant Director  
 Jay Morgan – Treasurer/ Membership Officer  
 Rodney Schmitt – Activities Coordinator  
 Jock Floyd – Secretary  
 Jerry Knox – Head Road Captain  
 Tricia Shearn – Newsletter Editor

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