



Gruene HOG Newsletter

February 2014

The Trip Home

Tina and I wanted to take a medium length ride to somewhere we had never been before to try her new Deluxe and just spend some time in the wind. After searching the internet for cities in Texas that had a Harley dealership in them, I noticed there was one in Big Spring. Sounded a little strange to me due to its size and location. It is a town in the middle of west Texas whose heyday has long since passed and population is dwindling. I was born there and had moved to Arlington when I was very young, but my mother's kin were still there. So, as a child, our family would go every couple of years to visit "The old farm" where my mother was born and to see all of her relatives.

I clicked on the Big Spring Harley website link and was kind of shocked at what I saw. Right there in the middle of the page was a sign that said "Oldest Dealership In Texas, Since 1929." I knew, right then, that was where we were going. I checked the distance and asked Tina about a 317 mile ride. She agreed and off we went.

We left on a Saturday morning with perfect weather and everything was great. No traffic, blue skies, full tanks and all day to do nothing but ride. When we got to San Angelo, it was time to stop for fuel before the final leg into Big Spring. As we were filling up our bikes, I noticed a nail in my rear tire. My brand new rear tire that was replaced a day before in Gruene. Ugh. A brand new tire with a nail in it. I checked the route chart that was taped to my tank and we still had 87 miles to go to Big Spring on desolate Hwy 87. I didn't know where the San Angelo dealership was and thought we may be able to limp into Big Spring, so off we went.

About half way there, we noticed some wind powered generators and pulled over to take some pictures and also to check my rear tire. The pressure was still good, which put me at ease that we were going to make it to Big Spring without issue. After a short rest, off we went to find the oldest dealership in Texas, and get another new rear tire.

Once we made it to the dealership, I was a little uneasy. The shop is very small and had

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR...

Hey Y'all... I hope this message finds you in good health, and gearing up for a great riding season. The temperature is getting right, the days are getting longer, and we live in the greatest place inside the greatest state in the world! As I sit here thinking about this column, I started to ask myself what H.O.G. means to me, and I want to share my thoughts and experience with you.

Even before I started working at Gruene Harley-Davidson, I've had a longstanding relationship with H.O.G. I've been a member of several different H.O.G. Chapters, and have seen a lot of differences in the overall experiences there from the way our chapter is. From a pure riding perspective, I can honestly say that none of the chapters that I've been involved with have had the luxury of so many great rides and destinations so close to their front door. That in itself would be enough for most, but doesn't make a chapter great. Perhaps it's the sponsoring dealer? We are very lucky to have the commitment from Gruene Harley-Davidson to become more involved in the chapter, have better access to information, and some really cool perks. All that said, it makes our chapter good, and different from others, but it still doesn't make it great.

Ok, maybe it's the Christmas Party? The Meetings?

NOPE... here's what makes this chapter great.

H.O.G. is not about a flag, a vest with a patch, or about a bike, it's all about you, your dreams, desires, goals and ideas. This chapter is awesome because of our members. I look forward to rides and events not just for the ride or the destinations, but equally for the camaraderie and the stories, the fellowship, the brotherhood, and even the jokes. I look forward to going places I've never been, or cruising roads I've been on a thousand times, with my friends and extended family. All of us come from such different backgrounds, experiences, and places that the conversation is always fresh fun and interesting. The officers have a renewed commitment to continue listening to and learning from our members. The ideas that were collected at the first meeting for rides from the membership have given us plenty to add to the calendar, and we're always leaving the doors open for more. Our chapter is continually growing, and we're seeing more activity from our members. Thank you all for welcoming our new members, and making them feel like they "Fit in" right from the start. It's you that makes this whole thing special. Thank you!

See you down the road!

Jon Magill



Safety 101 by Matt Gardner, Safety Officer

You probably already heard of the term "TCLOCK." If not, it's a basic checklist to visually check over your bike each time before you ride.

T=tires, C= controls, L=lights, O=oil, C=chassis, K=kickstand.

This month we will talk tires.

Tires are your link to the road, the connection between you and the asphalt.

A very few square inches of contact is all there is to keep you in control.

Air pressure is important but don't forget about the general condition of your tires. Needless to say, this is not an area to skimp. You don't want your bike up on cinder blocks in your brother-in-laws backyard using a screwdriver and vise grips, if you know what I mean. Depending on your riding style, type of bike and various other factors, on average you should get about twenty thousand miles on a front and ten thousand on the rear.

Tread depth is only one factor to consider, age is something few of us may be aware of. Those little numbers on the side of the tire actually do mean something. The picture on the right shows the ones you need to be concerned with. In this case, 0304 means this tire was made the third week of 2004. After time, the composition starts to change. Cracks, dry rot and hardening of the tread can easily compromise traction. Less than 3/32 of an inch tread depth replace them. If your tires are over five years old, replace them. Period. A good and reputable service center will keep you informed on your tire needs. Also beware of "online discount" tire distributors, as they may sell you tires that have been sitting on a shelf way too long.

Remember Shiny Side Up!



The Ride Home...continued

a staff of four. One accessories attendant, one cashier and two mechanics. There were, maybe, five bikes on the floor. I was thinking that there is no way they are going to have a 240mm rear tire for my Rocker. I showed one of the mechanics the nail and he pulled it out. No air sounds were coming out! He said I was fortunate, but to put me at ease he would spray some soapy water solution on the tire to show me that no air was coming out. He sprayed as I stood there, eyes wider than they had ever been, and then it happened. Bubbles. My stomach sank. I asked in an almost rhetorical like manner if he had any Rocker tires in stock. He said he had 2 and he could get it changed in about an hour! I was shocked and elated. Tina and I cooled off in the dealership, visiting with the staff, buying T-shirts and walked outside where I saw THE sign. Tina took my picture next to the sign and before we knew it, the tire was replaced and we were good to go.

The next day we decided to see what there was to do in Big Spring. Well, there was nothing to do in Big Spring. We rode past the old farm where my mother was born and hit a museum in downtown that has the world's largest steer horn, 10'6". Time to head back to the Hill Country. On our way back, I looked in my rear view mirror to see Tina doing a U-turn, so I turned around to see where she was going. As I pulled off the rode, I saw what she did. Do you know that the Garden of Eden is in Texas! I had no Idea. We had our picture taken there just to prove it. That trip back home was one of the best we have taken and we made a lot of good memories. I wonder what the next adventure holds?

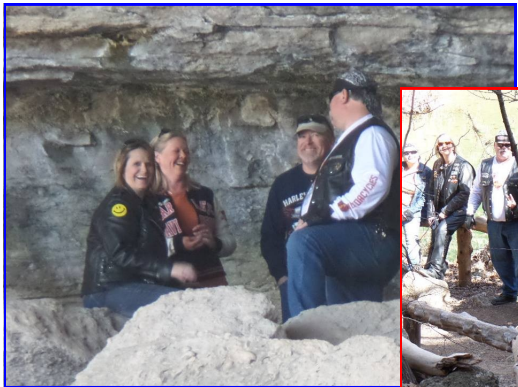
By Joel Anderson



If you had a great motorcycle adventure, write it down and send it to editor@gruenehog.com. If it gets used, you not only get 10 punches on your punch card, but you also get entered in a quarterly random drawing for a \$100 Harley gift card!



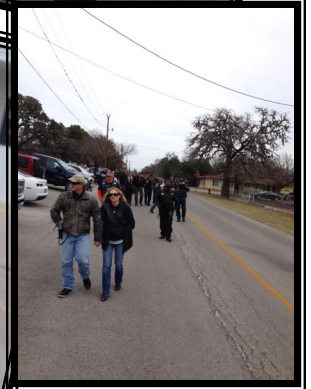
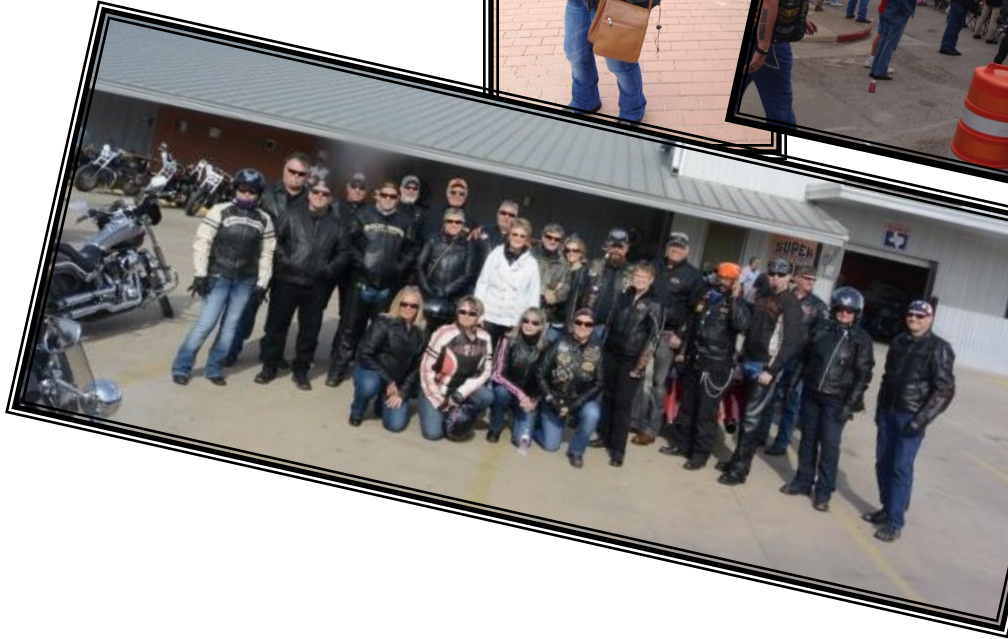
February started off with a ride to Luckenbach. While we were there, Marta took some of us across the bridge to see some massive trees. I've been there many times and never even knew they were there. Just goes to show you, you never know what's around the next corner.



Another ride went to Hamilton Pool Nature Preserve.



The ride to the Bandera Mardi Gras looked like it was a lot of fun too!



“Bobby G. Bacon, age 85, went to be with the Lord on February 4, 2014 in New Braunfels, TX. He was born on June 3, 1928 in Glenrock, Wyoming to George & Stella Bacon, Sr. He was retired from the U.S. Air Force after 23 years as an Air Command Teacher. He was a loving father, grandfather, great grandfather and friend who will be dearly missed for his Strength, Opinions, Faithfulness, Strong Will, Motorcycle Heritage, American, Soldier and Passion for Life. He met many people farming as a child in Missouri, hitchhiking at age 15 in Montana to Washington, serving his country in Okinawa, constructing buildings in Texas and riding his motorcycle over 1 million miles in Mexico to US to Canada; we all love him. Bobby said he lived a wonderful life and he would not have changed it for the world!!! Bobby was preceded in death by his older brother George Bacon, Jr. and was survived by his 5 children Spencer, Linda & husband Matt, Ronnie & wife Gay, Cindy and Robert & wife Roxana. He loved all 11 of his grandchildren Andrea, Micah, Rachel, Sam, Peter, Christopher, Jacque, Melissa, Jenny, Donald, Kristin. He also loved, prided and knew ALL the names and birthdates of all his 36 great grandchildren, including one named after him, Bobby C. Bacon.” - An awesome number of HOG and PGR members showed up to show their last respects. These pictures only show a few.

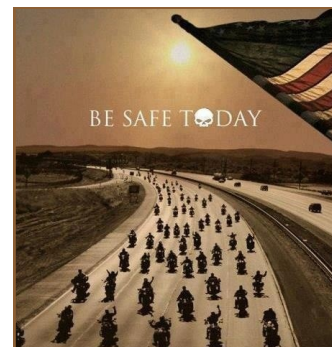


Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Mar 6th LOH Bling Party @ Gruene Harley Davidson
- Mar 9th Chapter Ride to Pecan Street Brewing in Johnson City
- Mar 15th Commemorative Airforce Ride in San Marcos
- Mar 16th Chapter Ride to Nutty Brown Café in Austin
- Mar 23rd Chapter Ride to Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in Cuero
- Mar 29th Chapter Ride to The Painted Churches of Texas
- Apr 5th Chapter Meeting @ Herbert's Taco Hut



As always, check the latest Ride Schedule for specifics and updates. When going on a Chapter Ride, **arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time** for Safety Briefing and make sure you have a full tank!!



Gruene Chapter Officers

Jon Magill - Director
director@gruenehog.com
Marta Roberts - Treasurer
treasurer@gruenehog.com
Michelle Scirone - Activities/LOH
activities@gruenehog.com/ladies@gruenehog.com
Curt Carter - Historian/Photographer
historian@gruenehog.com
Matt Gardner - Safety Officer/Editor
safety@gruenehog.com/editor@gruenehog.com
Paulie Panamarenko - Webmaster
webmaster@gruenehog.com

Mike McFalls - Assistant Director
assistantdirector@gruenehog.com
Sheila Victoria - Secretary
secretary@gruenehog.com
Joe Gonzales - Membership
membership@gruenehog.com
Ken Graham - Quartermaster
quartermaster@gruenehog.com
Walter Grier - Head Road Captain
headroadcaptain@gruenehog.com
Rick Roberts - Sgt. At Arms
sergeant@gruenehog.com

