



# GRUENE



*Harley-Davidson*®

NEW BRAUNFELS, TX



News

[www.gruenehog.com](http://www.gruenehog.com)

## Director's Corner:

Dear Fellow Gruene HOG Members,

Maybe I should start out by saying family members, because that is what I believe we are ... family. I hope you are enjoying your summer, even though it has been much too warm for me. I also hope that you have enjoyed our time together as much as I have enjoyed being with all of you. Since we are all brothers and sisters, I hope we always have each other's back, both on the road and otherwise.

I have put a small article here that I hope will be a checklist for you guys to a pre-ride check of your bike and yourself before hitting the road. I know this is very important because if you have ever done an Iron Butt like I have, it is crucial. We have been extremely lucky so far in only having very minor accidents, with no major injuries, and I want to keep it that way.

### How to Perform a Pre-Ride Safety Check

Six Tips That Could Save Your Life

**Breaking down or having a part rattle loose is no way to end a ride. Doing a quick "pre-flight" safety check is an easy way to avoid frustration out on the road. All you need are five minutes, a tire gauge, and a dose of diligence. Perform these simple steps before every ride and you'll be safer and less likely to need your HOG or AMA membership's roadside assistance to get home.**

*Check your rolling stock:*

Tire pressure is critical to handling, traction, and wear, so make sure your pressures match the sticker on the swing arm. Rotate the tires and inspect for nails or damage.

*Look for loose fasteners:*

No wrench required here—just use your fingers to make sure the axles, axle pinch bolts, fork pinch bolts, rear set and muffler fasteners, and drain plug aren't loose.

*Verify fluid levels:*

Check your oil level and cast a glance at the front and rear brake reservoirs to see that they're full. If your radiator cap is accessible, make sure there's sufficient coolant.

*Check your hoses:*

Run a hand along your brake lines and radiator hoses to check for bulges, cracks, or abrasions. **Grasp the radiator-hose clamps and wiggle them to make sure they're tight. (if you have a twin cooled motor.)**

*Suspension check:*

Inspect the fork stanchions for damage, and run your finger along the seals to check for leaks. Eye the shock shaft



Howard Armstrong - Director, Gruene H.O.G. Chapter / Road Captain

(s) to see if they're oily, which could indicate a blown seal.

*Lights, action!*

Click the ignition on and check your lights. That includes the tail and brake light, turn signals, and headlight. Finally, make sure that starter button works, and hit the road!

***After you get going, pay attention and do not let yourself wonder. It only takes a second for tragedy to strike!***



## Director's Corner, con't:

We have had so much fun so far, this year, and I hope we have had an assortment of events that has been inviting to all members. Our Caribbean Cruise, our Ride Around Texas Iron Butt for Children's Charities, the Annual HOG Roast, and so many others. If you have not had a chance to come to Bingo or our bowling nights, you really have missed out. I know we are a riding association, but we want everyone in the family to enjoy our fellowship, even if they don't ride or ride very little. My other officers have been the backbone of this organization, and without them we could not have done anything worthwhile, and I would have been lost. Without them and all of the Road Captains, as well as those of you that have volunteered for many events, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I would also like to thank our dealer, Gruene Harley Davidson, for the great support they have shown us. All the way from the porters in the back to Smitty, our General Manager, thank you. We cannot forget our Chapter Manager Raymond Shockey, who has helped me immensely being our key to communication between us and the dealer, and acquiring many gifts for our meetings and other activities. Thank you all very much. I hope we will give our dealer the support in return that they have given us. Loyalty and respect is always a give and take thing, and you cannot expect either one without giving from yourself.

I only have six months to go as your Director and have considered it an honor and a privilege. Ronnie Atkinson will be taking over and I hope that each of you gives him the support you have given me. Our finances have done well so far, this year and I hope we have an even better Christmas party this year than we had last year. I still have an open-door policy and if any of you have any kind of concern or idea, please come to me and discuss. I may not agree, but I will keep an open mind and listen. Keep the rubber down and the wind in your face. Much love to all.

**Let's Ride and Have FUN!!!!!!**

Warm regards,  
*Uncle Howie*



# Safety First



By Richard Marhofer:

*Safety Officer/ Road Captain*

## Riding in the Heat of Summer

Right now we are in the Dog Days of Summer (July 3 - August 11)

Dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke are serious matters, and can sneak up on you before you're aware of what's happening. So it pays to know the warning signs, how to react when you experience them, and, most importantly, how to prevent them from happening in the first place.

### *What are some warning signs?*

1. Feeling a little weary
2. Heavy sweating
3. Extreme weakness or fatigue
4. Dizziness, confusion
5. Nausea
6. Clammy, moist skin
7. Pale or flushed complexion
8. Muscle cramps

### *How should you react if you experience warning signs?*

1. If you should ever start to feel dizzy or lightheaded while riding, pull over safely as quickly as you can find some shade or air-conditioning, and get hydrated.
2. If symptoms persist, pour water over your head and neck.
3. Elevate your feet to help increase blood flow to your brain.
4. And don't go back out on the road until you're 100 percent sure you're recovered.

### *How can you prevent dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke?*

1. Stay hydrated! This may be the single most important thing you can do when riding in the heat. Not just to keep you comfortable but to keep you safe. When your body becomes dehydrated, bad things start to happen. The old axiom "Drink before you feel thirsty" certainly holds true on a motorcycle trip. If you wait until you start feeling symptoms of dehydration, such as leg cramps or a racing heart, it may be too late to keep it from getting worse before it gets better.
2. The risks presented by sun exposure can be reduced by liberal application of a quality sunscreen. Be sure not to overlook places like the back of your neck, your face, and the backs of your hands, and your throat.
3. Keep your body parts covered from direct sunlight. The wind draws moisture from exposed skin, even as it provides a cooling sensation. This helps deplete your body's water supply.
4. Sometimes it's best to plan your riding to avoid the heat. Get up early and pile on the miles before the sun has a chance to heat things up too much. Plan to arrive at your final destination for the day in the early afternoon.



Taking advantage of some shade on the Colorado Bend State Park.

Source: HOG Magazines #7 & #31

# Sunshine Kids Ride



By **Connie Gambino:**  
*Chapter Member, Participant*

Sunshine Kids from across the United States and Canada gathered in San Marcos, TX for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Hill Country Adventure. Along with floating the river, visiting SeaWorld, Schlitterbahn, and a party at the Ranch, the kids got the opportunity to participate in a police escorted 35-mile motorcycle ride through the hill country. Many of the Gruene HOG members participated in the Saturday event.

After lining up at Dick's Classic Cars in San Marcos, the kids and their nurses and/or care providers were presented the opportunity to choose which bike and rider they wanted to be their escort. There were plenty of choices available including bikes both big and small, trikes, slingshots and even a few convertible classic cars.

The ride left out of Dick's by highway 12 to Purgatory Road. It came down 306 through New Braunfels and then proceeded to Hoffmann Ln. The group made a left and took Hunter road (1102) north. The ride finished at San Marcos BBQ where the kiddos were introduced to some true Texas BBQ. Everyone had a fabulous time.

For more information about the Sunshine Kids Foundation please visit:  
[www.sunshinekids.org](http://www.sunshinekids.org)



# Member Road Trips

By Ken Marx:

*Asst. Quartermaster /Chapter Member*

## *Riding the Halls of Fame*

Finally retired this last year and I have always wanted to visit the various Halls of Fame around our country. So what better way to see them than on our Harleys.



Lunch stop at Paige Roadhouse.

decided to start close for the first trip and found the Texas Country Hall of Fame in Carthage, Texas.

We decided to ride to Nacogdoches and found a sweet bed and breakfast there.( The Hardeman Inn) Highway



21 is a great road with almost no traffic and piney woods all the way. The route takes you through Davy Crockett National Park.

The Hall of Fame is apparently not quite a large attraction. We were the only ones there so had a personal guided tour. It started out as the Tex Ritter Hall of Fame and his son John Ritter apparently donated most of the material. Each year they have a concert in August for the new inductees. Part of it is a showcase for new talent. The Hall has a juke box with all of songs of all of the artists and you



get to pick what to play as you go through the museum.

Carthage is a sweet little town and the town square has great shops and a wonderful little diner.

We spent the day there and back to Nacogdoches. Most of the town is closed during the week and we were there Monday and Tuesday so choices were limited. But the Fredonia Hotel was across the street. It is a retro 50s hotel completely redecorated in the furniture of that time period. Looked like something out of the Rat Pack era. The food and bar were great.

A great learning trip for our first Hall of Fame.

# New Member Spotlight



Welcome to our Newest Members of Gruene HOG!

Burke Hannibal  
Paul Camden  
Frank Pomeroy  
Rob Gilley

Once a quarter, the chapter holds its new member dealership and safety ride orientation. Welcome! We hope to see you at our upcoming rides, events and meetings.

Membership is always open. If you know of someone that would enjoy Gruene HOG, invite them to a HOG Chapter Social held on the first Saturday of the month. Also feel free to bring guests to any of our sponsored events or contact **Lynn O'Farrell** at [membership@gruenehog.com](mailto:membership@gruenehog.com)



Orientation tour of our sponsoring dealership, Gruene Harley-Davidson.

Burke Hannibal, Paul Camden, Frank Pomeroy (back) Rob Gilley and Mary Gilley (seated)

Out on the orientation ride lead by Richard Marhofer (Safety Officer) and sweep Howard Armstrong (Chapter Director)



# Texas Ironbutt Ride

By Russell Hrcir:

*Quartermaster / Head Road Captain*



ing a -9 degree wind chill riding at 75 mph. We found ourselves frozen to the bone in Childress Texas where we pulled into a WalMart to buy more layers to keep warm. Road construction and heavy traffic added to the challenges in making good time and squeezing in rest. But we prevailed!

We are three ordinary, biker guys that decided to combine our love for everything motorcycle and giving of ourselves to those who's struggles are beyond anything we have had to comprehend. We are proud to have raised over \$1,500 for Autism, Down Syndrome, Dravet Syndrome, and SMA. We thank all those that supported us with donations, prayers and encouragement!

## Ride around Texas for Charity

The idea came in 2015 when I found out about a charity ride for a child with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Charity rides are typically 50 miles and \$20 to participate. The ride Howard Armstrong, Gary Wilkerson and I went on was through the Iron Butt Association; a 3,100 miles in under 85 hours, trip around the perimeter of the Great State of Texas!

Fewer than fifty people have completed this feat and now Greune HOG has three who can claim this bragging rite!

We started out in Victoria, Texas and proceeded to follow the map all around the state. (See above)

I was simply amazed by the beauty that God created in just one state. We experienced the beauty of Port Boliver, the pine trees of East Texas, the plains of the Panhandle, the majesty of Big Bend, the full length of the Rio Grande, the sands of South Padre Island and the vastness of the farmlands. I was so blessed to be able to make this ride for so many good causes and be able to witness God's glory right in front of me for four days.

We were definitely challenged on this ride. We hit a cold front that was moving fast and strong, creat-





# Ladies of Harley

By Cheryl Pantermuehl:

*LOH Officer*

## Biker Babe or Leather Skinned Old Lady

So you're a biker babe. You think you look cute on that bike with your hair just right, your makeup all perfect, nice golden tan, all is good, or is it? We need to take care of ourselves so we don't turn from biker babes to leather skinned "old ladies". You can take good care of your hair and skin and still be cute doing it.

If you aren't wearing a helmet, put some conditioning spray on your hair before a ride (it can be rinsed out after your ride); you need to protect your hair from the harsh elements. If you have a problem with frizzing, you can still look great just spritz a little hairspray and put your hair in a ponytail; bandanas also help with preventing the hair from frizzing everywhere. You can rinse out your hair when you get home, what a great conditioning treatment while you ride.

It's really important to remember face coverage; make sure you use makeup with sun block and moisturizer. If you wear lipstick use more of a balm over a traditional lipstick. Revitalizing lip balm with SPR 20 is very hydrating especially on those days you're riding in colder weather and your lips tend to chap more.

**Apply sunscreen generously and re-apply every two hours.** Sunscreen is a must for any motorcycle rider. The wind blowing on your face can be deceiving because it makes the sun not feel as hot; giving you a false impression you're not burning your skin. You're just much at risk for skin damaging rays as when standing still in the sun. Don't neglect your neck including the sides of your neck and any other exposed areas. Your ears can show a lot of aging, so make sure you apply sunscreen there too.

**Go big with sunglasses; wear large wrap-around dark tinted sunglasses or goggles.** These will cover a larger portion of the eye area so that you squint less, providing better wrinkle

prevention.

**Wear sun protective clothing.** While it's always fun to be sporting a Harley Davidson t-shirt, it's more important to protect your skin from the sun and not have to hassle with reapplying sunscreen. Wear a long-sleeved UV-protecting shirt. Find one that is lightweight and has vents under the arms to keep you cool.

One of the best way to prevent your skin from the hardships of the road is to use a wind-shield or protective face shield! Getting dirt, road debris, bugs, windburn on top of sun, sweat and oil can really take its toll on your skin, so protecting your skin with a shield will help tremendously.

Once you are finished riding for the day, wash your skin with a mild low foaming, sulfate-free cleansing gel to remove dirt, debris and oil from riding. Use a hydrating and cooling gel-based mask to calm redness from wind and sun as well as deliver moisture deep within the skin to keep it smooth and healthy.

Happy Riding!



# Ladies of Harley Con't

## 5 Great Ways To Drop Your Motorcycle (so you can avoid it in the future)

Low or no-speed parking lot tip-overs; learn what NOT to do to stay upright

By **Tricia Szulewski, Assistant Editor and MSF Rider-Coach**

The intention here, of course, is to share some of the ways to drop a motorcycle so that you understand what **NOT** to do. In other words, learn from these mistakes.



### 1. Ride a bigger motorcycle than you can handle:

New riders who are still developing basic skills should choose a motorcycle that is small and light enough that they can hold it up if it starts to tip over. Most bike drops by newbies happen in parking lot and **slow-speed situations**, so being able to catch the bike before it hits the “tipping point” is very beneficial for new riders. More experienced riders should have developed the **skills necessary to ride and hold up a tall bike** even if they can't get both feet on the ground.

### 2. Ride extremely slowly

Motorcycles are like bicycles; as they gain speed, momentum helps them stay up. There's nothing more difficult than trying to balance a bike that's several hundreds of pounds while barely moving.



### 3. Stop with the handlebars turned

As soon as you turn the handlebars, all two-wheeled vehicles naturally want to fall over. So make it a habit to come to a stop with the handlebars squared off each and every time you come to a stop.



### 4. Forget to put your sidestand down

Almost every rider we know has done this at least once. It happens. It's embarrassing, but not lethal. Remember to make sure the sidestand is not only down, but that it is all the way forward before leaning the motorcycle. I've seen a number of bike drops because a stand wasn't down all the way when the rider went to dismount.



### 5. Stop on a sloped or slippery surface

Even if your motorcycle fits you to a “T,” when you **stop on a hill**, a slope, a divot in the road, or an oil slick, your feet may not be able to get a firm foothold. Always be looking ahead to where you will be stopping the motorcycle and where you'll be placing your feet. Avoid uneven and slippery surfaces as much as you can.

Be Safe Out There Ladies!



# Musings

## THINGS MY MOTORCYCLE HAS TAUGHT ME.....



People ask us why we ride a motorcycle. For those who have experienced the joy, no explanation is necessary; for those who have not, no explanation is possible.

Four wheels move the body; two wheels move the soul.

Most motorcycle problems are caused by the nut that connects the handlebars to the saddle.

You start the game of life with a full pot o' luck and an empty pot o' experience. The object is to fill the pot of experience before you empty the pot of luck.

Saddlebags can never hold everything you want, but they CAN hold everything you need.

Sometimes it takes a whole tank full of gas before you can think straight.

A bike on the road is worth two in the shed.

Respect the person who has seen the dark side of motorcycling and lived, and still rides.

A good mechanic will let you watch without charging you for it.

Sometimes the fastest way to get there is to stop for the night.

Always back your bike into the curb and sit where you can see it.

There are drunk riders and there are old riders, but there are not many old, drunk riders.

People are like motorcycles; each is customized a bit differently.

When you're riding lead, don't spit.

A friend is someone who'll get out of bed at 2 a.m. to drive his pickup to the middle of nowhere to get you when you're broken down.

Catching a yellow jacket in your shirt @ 70 mph can double your vocabulary.

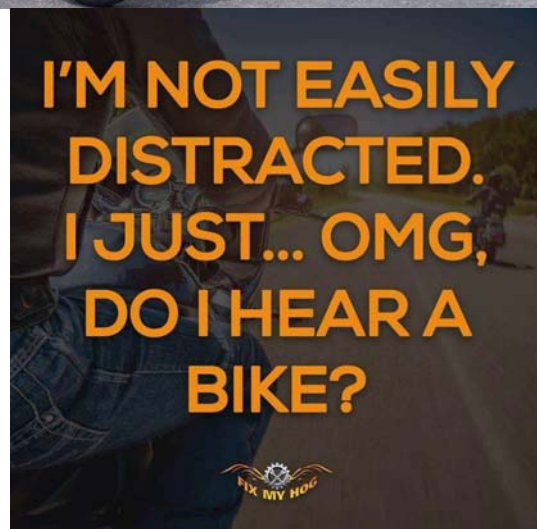
Catching a yellow jacket in your helmet will triple that special vocabulary.

Everyone crashes. Some get back on. Some don't. Some can't.

If you ride like there's no tomorrow, today will be a BLAST!

You can forget what you do for a living when your knees are in the breeze.

(Author anonymous)



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Here is a listing of department managers of Gruene Harley Davidson, sponsors of our H.O.G. Chapter.

**General Manager: Adam "Smitty" Smith**

**Motorcycle Sales - Albert Benavidez**

**Motorclothes - Stacy Smith**

**Parts Department - Carlos Guzman**

**Service - Joanne Urban**

**H.O.G. Membership - Raymond Shockey**