



# The H.O.G. Tells

**ELECTRIC CITY CHAPTER #4769**

Web Address: [www.electriccityhog.com](http://www.electriccityhog.com)

## July 2016

Sponsored By: Harley Davidson of Anderson
Charles B. Timms, Jr. and sons Owners
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Anderson, SC 29621
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### DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Hello members! For this month's topic I could discuss the weather, that's always of interest to motorcyclists. We may be able to complain about the heat, but we sure can't complain about too much rain (in Anderson anyway).

I want to write about a greater topic, our membership and how we gain and maintain the numbers we have.

Sam Klein, Sr. Regional H.O.G.® Coordinator – The Americas, has said he would like to open up a forum to share best practices as to how Chapters recruit new members. He will post submissions that are shared in the next issue of Officer News. This came from HOT (Harley Officer Training) sessions and apparently some Chapters really struggle with adding new members.

I often think about our recruitment efforts, but have to admit it seems to me we do pretty well with our growth rate.

We set up a table at the Dealership during Demo Days and a few other occasions over time but don't feel they proved to gain a lot of new members. So, how do we do it? What is our "secret" for adding new members if we are not doing the mass recruiting table at events?

I honestly believe we do such a great job recruiting due to the actions and attitude of our existing members. It also helps greatly when the new members have a positive experience to share with their friends once they have joined.

Overall, here at Electric City H.O.G., we do have certain criteria for those who join to have that positive experience. It's how we gain those that want to stay and share the positives of being a member with others. I think you all will agree some of those

criteria, besides the requirement of being a National H.O.G. Member, fall within the following categories.

1. You must enjoy socializing with other Harley owners who are willing to share with you the love of riding. Also, be prepared to meet a few folks who quite possibly will become lifelong friends.
2. You should like riding together in a group and be respectful of fellow riders during those rides. Sometimes it's nice to just take off by yourself or significant other and head out to destinations unknown (or known). Once you experience comradery in a group ride, it becomes addictive.
3. You must be willing to practice and adhere to safe riding habits. Adhering to the Chapter ride guide, for example, is a category that is of a great importance and a must. We care about our friends just like family.
4. You should enjoy visiting great destinations on your Harley, knowing you are in a group of friends with common bonds.
5. You should enjoy the occasional meal out with friends. We find some great places to eat out on the road and call it a reason to meet, ride and eat (we do this one well).
6. You must like to have FUN! This is our specialty, whether participating in rides, events, overnight or benefit rides, Chapter parties or just attending a monthly meeting to share stories and catch up with friends on what is going on within our H.O.G. family.

I think our secret is out! Our members, new and old, love to share their pride in being an Electric City H.O.G. member so much they just can't keep it secret. I think our members can spot a potential new member anywhere, whether it is in church, at work or just anywhere motorcyclists gather to have fun, ride and socialize.

Being a local H.O.G. Chapter member is not for everyone, and I understand that as well. There are many local MC's in our area, and I'm sure they have their own criteria's as well. Some of our members may ride with a group of "just friends", and I respect that as well. It proves the "experienced comradery" theory exists.

As to our recruiting, having a wall at the Dealership showing off our Chapter's existence with pride in pictures, trophies, calendar of events is a great asset. It's a prime location and way to gain the interest of those who love riding Harley's but yet haven't had exposure to a local H.O.G. Chapter. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and so many times I see new owners getting their bikes serviced sitting in the lounge at Timm's watching the rotating photos of our fun on rides and events being shown.

Add to all this our Dealer discussing the free ECHOG Chapter membership with new bike purchasers who have never joined. Add one of our members stirring up a conversation with folks at bike night or elsewhere and sharing our secret. Add customers being at the dealership when one of our group rides stages to take off and wondering or asking as to "what's that all about", and learning it is a group of friends off to have a great time together.

Overall I'm proud of the job we do with recruiting. I think our membership will easily grow at an even greater rate than before.. I think we have a pretty good formula here in Anderson, SC.

As to sharing our "secret" with the forum, I don't plan to share ours with them. Ours is not a systematic process. We cannot force our members to have a great experience. I don't believe recruiting is a "one size fits all". I don't believe it is about quantity over quality. I believe we all should strive to improve and do better every day, and I also believe if you have something that works very well, why fix it. Just keep those positive experiences readily available for those who wish to join.

As Director, I can't help but share my honest feelings. One of the greatest feelings I share and feel is my pride in our family of members, as well as the same atmosphere with our sponsoring Dealer. I think everyone has seen the posts and pics on Facebook from Timms whenever someone purchases a bike saying "welcome to the Timms family". Let's all continue to keep that tradition and show our "welcome to the Electric City H.O.G. family" whenever a new member joins us. I think we will be just fine.....and Lets Ride!!

Tim Jones



### **Riding with the Head Road Captain**

Riding with the head Road Captain/Safety Officer

Has it been HOT or what? HOT and dry. We are still seeing good participation on our rides so we obviously have some hardy riders in our group who are serious about putting in the miles. Our road captains know that everyone has other things going on and sometimes can't make the rides but we do enjoy it when we see a nice size group. It kinda makes all that pre-work seem worthwhile. But, for the most part, our guys love riding so it really doesn't feel much like work to put a good ride together.

I touched on hand signals at the July meeting and just want to review that topic. The main purpose was to emphasize distinguishing between the signals for a right turn and single file. The right turn signal is the left arm in line with the shoulder, a 90 degree upward bend at the elbow, and an open hand or closed fist. Signal single file by a fully extended raised left arm and the index finger pointing upward. Also, if we are traveling in curves and you feel uncomfortable riding in the staggered formation you should signal for single file and make the proper adjustment in spacing. Always ride within your comfort zone.

Safety wise, with more riders on the roads due to the warmer weather, we're seeing more accidents. Please practice safe riding and driving techniques on your bike and in your car. Stay focused on operating the vehicle. That should be your first priority. There are too many opportunities for distractions but there is nothing more important than staying safe. And always be alert, observing what is going on around you prepared to make a defensive or evasive maneuver. The life you save may be your own.

Ride safe and have fun.

Ken

Ken Higginbotham

**NOTE: Ken was nominated by Tony Long and selected to receive recognition as a "Guardian of the Ride". This national safety award is presented by Allstate Insurance Company. Ken will join the other four national winners in August at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Congratulations Ken !!!!!!!**



**ELECTRIC CITY HARLEY OWNERS GROUP #4769  
Minutes of the July 5, 2016 Chapter Meeting**

**Meeting** called to order by Tim Jones at 7:00 PM

**Opening prayer** was given by George Turner

**Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Steve Jensen

**Roll Call (JB Clifton)** Member Enrollment 119, Members Present 59, 3 New Members and 11 Guests

**Approval of Secretary's Minutes as published in Newsletter** No additions or corrections

**Officers Reports**

**Tim Jones (Director)**

- **Welcome** – Tim welcomed everyone to the July meeting.
- **July Birthdays** – Acknowledged members who have a birthday this month by singing Happy Birthday.
- **Charity Fund Raiser** – Total of \$805.00 has been raised so far this year.
- **Veterans Presentation** – Tommy Forest spoke about the Quilts of Valor organization. The organization has given 1,040 quilts to veterans. The Anderson chapter has 42 volunteers. They meet every Monday and have presented 120 quilts within 1 ½ years. Tommy along with Rebecca West, Lynda Hempel, and Pam Waitekus presented three of our veterans with quilts. Recipients tonight included JB Clifton and Mike Graham for their service in the Air Force, and Steve Jensen for his service in the Navy. Thanks to Pam Waitekus for her part in honoring our veterans.

**Tim Hill (Assistant Director)**

- **New Members** – Andy and Stephanie Bagwell; Wade Owens. Andy is an Army veteran and Wade an Air Forces veteran.

**Sherry Partain (Treasurer's Report)**

- **Financial Report** – Balance of \$2,644.47 and LOH balance of \$291.43.
- **Items for Purchase** – Sherry has patches and one brown hat available. She also has ordered the black ladies shirts (extras ordered are one - medium, one – large, and one – x-large).

**Lyn Guffee (Secretary/Webmaster)**

- **Participation Sheets** – Reminded the Road Captains to turn in their participation sheets or e-mail them.

**Melissa Clemons (LOH Report)**

- **LOH Meeting** – Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 07/19/16. Meetings are held 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at Sue's Wings & Things (eat at 6:00 and meeting begins at 7:00). Potential speaker to discuss Christmas stockings for sexually abused kids.
- **Gatlinburg Trip** – Information regarding rooms at the Days Inn is available if anyone is interested. Gary Clemons will lead the group out at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 07/15/16.

**Other Business and Drawings****Ken Higginbotham (Head Road Captain & Safety Officer)**

- **Safety** – Ken demonstrated the difference between hand signals for single file (left arm and index finger extended straight up) and right turn (left arm out and bent at 90% angle). Ken also stated that riders should ride in their comfort zone. If you feel that you need to ride single file, signal single file and the riders behind you should follow. Other hand signals: slow down (arm extended out with open palm, move up and down); stop (arm extended straight down with open palm); and hazard in road (on left, point with left hand – on right, point with right foot).
- **Ride Safe** – Ken reminded riders that we lost three riders in Anderson this week. Statistics show that about half of all motorcycle accidents are the fault of the rider. In 2014, about 42% of the motorcycle accidents were single vehicle accidents. When riding/driving, "that is what you do". You are operating a weapon of mass destruction. Be alert. Find ways to communicate and encourage others not to drink and drive.

**Beverly Munns (Activities Committee)**

- **Rides** – Some of the upcoming rides include 07/08 – Dutch Oven; 07/09 – Cherohala Skyway; 07/12 – McGee's; 07/15 – 07/17 – Gatlinburg weekend; 07/19 – LOH meeting. ROMEO rides are not just for men. Check calendar for upcoming events. There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> pick-up on Highway 76 in Long Creek for the Cherohala Skyway ride. Lunch will be a pizza buffet in Rosman, NC and diner will be at Rumor Has It in Clayton, GA.

**(Historian)**

- **Historian Position** – Historian position is available if anyone is interested.

**Drawings**

- **Chapter Pride:** \$10.00 won by J.B. Clifton
- **Winner of \$25.00 gift card donated by Timms HD:** Pam Waitekus
- **Door Prize Winners** of \$20.00 gift cards: John Waitekus, Mark Miller
- **50/50 Winner of \$85.00:** Beverly Munns

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by Lyn Guffee, Secretary



## Historian

Luanne Jones (Historian) – July, 2016

Position available! If there is anyone out there that has the time to take over this task, I and the Chapter would greatly appreciate it? Any takers? Contact me soon. Hate that we're so behind again, I just not giving it the attention it needs! Life as a Realtor and family are keeping me very busy!

In the meantime, Road Captains, don't forget the Riding Detail sheets go to me, and the Sign In sheets go to our Secretary, Lyn Guffee. Just bring to next Chapter meeting or you can email to: LuanneJones58@gmail.com.



Melissa Clemmons has been updating the ECHOG Directory --- watch your emails for the latest copies.

Steve M. encountered some wild dogs while riding with his son along the Foothills Parkway. Be careful.

Below is a list of the Road Captains and their cell number that we have in the ECHOG Chapter. This list would be good to keep with you when we are on a ride. Contact the Road Captain if you get separated from the group or you are having trouble.

TIM	HILL	864-554-0121
FISH	GUFFEE	864-844-4174
KEN	HIGGINBOTHAM	864-313-5178
TIM	JONES	803-463-9758
RAY	KEIPER	864-353-8993
JOE	KINSLAND	864-423-8688
STEVE	McCULLOUGH	864-224-8479
JOHN	MUNNS	864-483-4294
NEWT	PARTAIN	864-556-9872
GEORGE	TURNER	864-642-5639

**• CHECK CALENDAR FOR FUTURE RIDES AND EVENTS**

**LET'S MAKE OUR NEW MEMBERS FEEL WELCOME.**



**Chapter Officers**

Director	Tim Jones	
Asst. Dir.	Tim Hill	
Secretary	Lyn Guffee	(864)261-8442
Treasurer	Sherry Partain	(864)224-9584
LOH Officer	Melissa Clemmons	
Newsletter Editor	Ray Keiper	(864)225-2671
Webmaster	Lyn Guffee	(864)261-8442
Head Road Captain	Ken Higginbotham	
Safety Officer	Ken Higginbotham	
Membership	JB Clifton	(864)225-2934
Activities	John & Bev Munns	
	John & Pam Waitekus	
Chaplain	George Turner	
Historian	Luanne Jones	
Photographer	Tim Jones	
Volunteer Coord.	Joe Kinsland	

**Home**

**Cell**

(803)463-9758
(864)554-0120
(864)934-0403
(864)985-1198
(864)859-8095
(864)353-8993
(864)934-0403
(864)313-5178
(864)313-5178
(864)314-1221
(864)483-4294
(864)348-7204
(864)642-5639
(864)202-0991
(864)518-0326
(864)423-8688

**H.O.G. Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month  
 Fuddruckers  
 100 Destination Blvd  
 Anderson, SC 29621  
 Eat: 6:00 PM Meeting: 7:00 PM

**L.O.H. Meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month  
 Sues Wings & Things  
 SC 81 & I-85 Exit 27  
 Eat: 6:00 PM Meeting: 7:00 PM

**Tim Jones, Director**

