



The H.O.G. Tells

ELECTRIC CITY CHAPTER #4769

Web Address: www.electriccityhog.com

July – Aug. 2017

Sponsored By: Timms Harley Davidson of Anderson
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Trail Braking Safety

BY TIM JONES

Trail Braking and Counter Steering

Picking your way through traffic at low speed is one of the hardest things we have to do as riders. Managing a heavy, unwieldy motorcycle while watching out for drivers requires complete attention, strong situational awareness, good hand-eye coordination and, sometimes, an extraordinary sense of balance. We can't help you with the first three, but here's a trick that'll help make threading through cars less like walking a tight rope: drag a little back brake.

Doing so smooths out power delivery and preps you for emergency stops, of course, but by pushing the front end down as you accelerate and easing the bounciness that occurs as you move between acceleration and deceleration, it also seems to help with lateral balance. Maybe that's because it allows you to focus on only side-to-side movements, without backward and forward heaves. Or maybe it's simply the added smoothness. But it really will help you eliminate wobbles and uncertainty at walking-pace speeds.

To do it, don't just stomp on the brake lever and hold it there, graze it with your toe and keep a minimal amount of pressure. Barely enough to provide a little friction, just enough so you won't coast if you were to pull in your clutch. Go try it – it works.

Grab a lower gear as you're braking, let the clutch out quickly, and revs temporarily spike as the engine struggles to catch up to the rear tire's speed. Downshift too quickly and you'll lock up the rear tire due to the engine's compression. This limits how hot you can come into a corner, since you need to manage decreased rear wheel traction as you begin to turn. The solution? Rev matching. By blipping revs to match rear wheel speed, the engine doesn't need to catch up all of a sudden.

Simple to explain, but takes some practice to get right because it's all about timing and feel. You're braking with two fingers, right? Good, use the others to quickly blip the throttle after you pull in the clutch and downshift, spiking revs to where you think they'll be in the lower gear. If you get that right, you can just let that clutch spring back out to seamlessly engage that lower gear. You should be able to maintain consistent brake force while blipping. That, plus knowing the amount of throttle to apply and the right revs to reach is where the practice comes in. So go do that and you'll be rewarded with smoother riding, everywhere, but especially when flying into corners.

Trail Brake for Faster, Safer Cornering

Whoa, whoa, whoa? You mean you brake in a corner? Yep, and it'll make you both faster and safer. Here's how and why.

Applying a motorcycle's front brake will slow you down. Of course. And, in doing so, it'll compress the front suspension and shift the weight onto the front tire, expanding its contact patch and increasing its grip. That has the dual effect of making the bike steer quicker and making it so you can push the front end harder. Together, that adds miles per hour.

You should really learn how to do this in the safe environment of a race track, or practice facility, where there are no cars around, where vision is good and where falling down won't necessarily kill you.

Just brake a little later into a corner so you'll still be on the brakes a little as you begin to turn. Feel good? Brake a little later the next time and a little later after that. Eventually, after much practice, you'll get to the point where you're hitting the apex at pace, just as you let go of the last little bit of front brake and begin to apply a little throttle. That's right, no coasting, you swap brake for throttle at the apex.

Later braking means more time spent accelerating on the straights means faster lap times.

It also helps with safety. Because the front suspension will already be compressed, the front tire's contact patch already maximized, you'll be able to use that brake lever to tighten or widen your line, without upsetting the bike. That pays huge dividends on the road, where you often come around a blind corner to spot a patch of gravel or similar. Trail braking will help you avoid that obstacle in a safe, fluid, smooth manner.

Be aware of the grip a tire has available. Leaning and braking both require grip from the same, finite source. The more you lean, the less you can brake and vice versa. As you near max lean, you near max grip. As you near max brake, you also near max grip. Cross the two and you'll be laying on the ground, watching your bike cartwheel through a gravel trap.

Is This Corner Tightening Or Opening Up?

You're in a blind corner, wondering when you can start getting on the throttle. In the absence of other visual references, simply look at the horizon point where the two sides of the road appear to meet. If that point is holding a steady distance from you, the corner is continuing at a constant radius. If it's moving towards you, the corner is tightening. If it's moving away from you, the corner opens up and you can begin accelerating. Sound like magic?

Steer Left to Go Right

Counter steering. It's the most often misunderstood, but most commonly practiced riding skill out there. If you ride a motorcycle or bicycle you already do it.

Its way simpler than its counterintuitive nature sounds. Go out to your bike; sit on it with both legs firmly on the ground. Now, turn the bars to the left. Which way does the bike want to fall? Yes, to the right. Look at the front wheel, you're creating a point, with it on one side and the bike's main body on the other. The bike wants to fall towards that point.

Out on the road, if you're successfully managing to not bounce off every tree, car and building, you're already doing it, just subconsciously. Consciously practicing it will enhance your control over the bike and the speed at which you're able to turn.

To do it, go practice in a big, empty parking lot. Ride along at 25 mph or so and give the bar on the inside of the direction you want to turn a little nudge. You'll turn. Next time, nudge it a little harder. Then go out on the road and start incorporating that into your riding. There you go, you've mastered the art of the counter steer. Works on a bicycle, too, so feel free to practice it there first.

Look Where You Want To Go

Car veering into your lane? Tight corner catch you out? Obstacle in the road? Look at the gap, where you want to be, the spot on the track you want to reach, not at the hazard or car or obstruction. Your body and the bike will follow. Consciously think about this, force yourself to do it if necessary, it works. Practice doing it, this will save your life

Use Your Knees

You've likely heard or read somewhere that, for better control, you should keep your weight off your hands while riding. But, when you're braking heavily, it can be hard to keep that weight off your hands. The solution? Grip the tank firmly between your knees, and then relax your upper body. Stomp Grip or a similar product that gives your legs better purchase on the tank can be a huge help here.

Tim Jones

Director – Electric City HOG

Note: credit for this article goes to Mike Savage, Safety Officer for Dallas Texas HOG Chapter 1869.

I enjoy reading Mike's articles from time to time and especially wanted to share this one. To ride your bike more comfortably makes for a much more pleasurable ride. That's what we are all about. Hope you enjoy reading this as I did...and Let's Ride!!



Riding with the Head Road Captain

Riding with the head Road Captain – July 2017

Hey, I hope everyone is having a great summer so far. Fortunately, it hasn't gotten too hot (yet) and riding has been fun as opposed to when you're drenched with sweat and your undergarments are sticking to you. Having said all that, and, yes, I've said it before, please make sure you stay properly hydrated for all of your summer activities. It's best to drink plenty of water before you spend time in the heat. Waiting until you realize you're feeling the effects of dehydration may be too late. Try to drink a couple of glasses or bottles of water before going out and at least 8 ounces each hour you are exposed to the heat. And, by the way, there is no good substitute for good ole H2O. Sports drinks help but not like water. Stay away from highly caffeinated drinks when you're hot and sweating.

If you find yourself getting light headed, blurred vision, weak, or just plain crappy find a cool, shady place ASAP and sip on some water or crushed ice. Make sure you're ok before continuing. Otherwise get some help (call me). Use good common sense in everything you do. Seems like there is a real shortage of that these days. No, I'm not talking about you.

Don't forget to let your road captains know that you appreciate the time and effort they take to ensure fun, interesting, and safe rides.

Practice your skills and challenge yourself to stay focused. A better rider is a safer rider.

See you down the road soon. Ride safe and have fun.

Ken



ELECTRIC CITY HARLEY OWNERS GROUP #4769
Minutes of the July 1, 2017 Chapter Meeting

Meeting called to order by Tim Jones at 12:20 pm

Opening prayer was given by George Turner

Pledge of Allegiance was led by JB Clifton

Roll Call (JB Clifton) Enrollment 134, Members Present 50, 3 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. Brain Freeze Ride to Follow
- **July Birthdays** – July Birthdays recognized by singing “Happy Birthday”
- **Whole Hog** – 40 rooms are Blocked off. October 6-8 in Beaufort. See FB for more info
- **Welcome** – Willie G – Timms’ New Parts Manager

Tim Hill (Assistant Director)

- **New Member** – Janice Cline welcomed to the chapter.

Pam Waitekus (Treasurer's Report) Tim Jones reporting

- **Financial Report** – Beginning Balance of \$4621.58, and an ending balance of \$4954.45 (of which approximately \$937 was collected for Calvary Home), and LOH balance of \$543.

Gary Clemons (Secretary)

- **Great Job Road Captains** – Thank you to all of our road captains for getting all of the Member Ride Sheets and Ride detail sheets to me in a timely manner.

Beverly Munns (Activities Committee)

- **Calendar** – Check the ECHOG calendar for rides and events

Melissa Clemons (LOH Report)

- **LOH Meeting** – July LOH Meeting 18th at 6PM.
- **Bowling** – Monday July 10th at 7pm.
- **Conceal Carry Purse Raffle** – A conceal carry purse was donated by Beverly Munns. LOH will be raffling off this purse and the proceeds will go to Quilts of Valor. The ticket will be \$1. See Melissa Clemons for details.

Ken Higginbotham (Head Road Captain & Safety Officer)

- **Road Captain Ride Assignment Sheets** - Ken asked that all road captains turn in assignment sheets in a timely manner.

Joe Kinsland (Volunteer Coordinator)

- **Bike Night** – No new information at this time.

Parts Talk

- **Willie G from Timms** – joined us for a discussion on the parts department at Timms’ and answered many questions from our chapter members.

Drawings

- **Chapter Pride:** \$10.00 won by Scott Cline
- **Winner of \$25.00 gift card donated by Timms HD:** Julie Smith
- **Door Prize Winners** of \$20.00 gift cards: Denise Higginbotham and Janice Cline
- **50/50 Winner of \$75.00:** Was won the John Minor who donated the money to Calvary Home for Sleeping bags for camp

Meeting adjourned 12:35pm

Submitted by Gary Clemons, Secretary



ELECTRIC CITY HARLEY OWNERS GROUP #4769 Minutes of the August 1, 2017 Chapter Meeting

Meeting called to order by Tim Jones at 7:00 pm

Opening prayer was given by JB Clifton

Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Barton

Roll Call (JB Clifton) Enrollment 135, Members Present 59, 3 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 August meeting.
- **August Birthdays** – August Birthdays recognized by singing “Happy Birthday”
- **Whole Hog** – 40 rooms are Blocked off. October 6-8 in Beaufort. See FB for more info

Tim Hill (Assistant Director)

Pam Waitekus (Treasurer's Report) Given By Tim Jones

- **Financial Report** – Beginning Balance of \$4954.45, and an ending balance of \$4537.47 (of which approximately \$1002 was collected for Calvary Home), and LOH balance of \$578.

Gary Clemons (Secretary)

- **Great Job Road Captains** – Thank you to all of our road captains for getting all of the Member Ride Sheets and Ride detail sheets to me in a timely manner.

Beverly Munns (Activities Committee)

- **Calendar** – Check the ECHOG calendar for rides and events

Melissa Clemons (LOH Report)

- **LOH Meeting** – August LOH Meeting 15th at 6PM.
- **Bowling** – Monday July 14th at 7pm.
- **Conceal Carry Purse Raffle** – A conceal carry purse was raffled off. Robert Redman was the proud winner of the purse. \$108 was raised and donated to Quilts of Valor.

Ken Higginbotham (Head Road Captain & Safety Officer)

- **Tire Wear and Proper Braking** – Ken went over the importance of a pre-ride safety check including inspecting tires for wear and proper inflation. He also went over proper braking techniques.

Joe Kinsland (Volunteer Coordinator)

- **Bike Night** – Thursday August 3rd.

Motor clothes Talk

- **Donna Blackwell Finance and Insurance Manager from Timms** – joined us to discuss new and exciting things happening at Timms
- **Red Tag Event** – 15 pre-owned bikes must go. Service Department specials on Stage III and IV engine builds and 0% interest on extended warranties.
- **Heidi Easterlin** – Is now the Motorclothes Manager. Discussed the advantages of shopping during the Tax Free Weekend
- **Robin Winshester** is no longer in parts. She has moved over to the Service Department as the new Service Advisor.

Drawings

- **Chapter Pride:** \$10.00 won by Joe Hames but with no ECHOG items on person the \$10 went back into the pot
- **Winner of \$25.00 gift card donated by Timms HD:** Joe Kinsland
- **Door Prize Winners** of \$20.00 gift cards: Tina Delk and Robert Redman
- **Other Door Prize Winners** – Jay Nichols (Sturgis coin and koozie), 10 Power Back-Up Units won by the following: Rex Allen, Jeannie Jensen, Jimmy Turner, Mark Miller, David Barton, Linda Wilson, James Ward, Joe Kinsland, Ken Klein, Jay Sanders.
- **50/50 Winner of \$_____:** Was won the Steve Sutherland

Meeting adjourned 7:48 pm

Submitted by Gary Clemons, Secretary



Historian

Luanne Jones (Historian) – Please check out our dedicated Facebook site for albums/pictures and details of our rides at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1058735334162011/>

FYI- The HOG photo albums at the dealership have been put in storage due to remodeling that has taken place at the dealer.

Our Facebook site is being used to share our most recent past events.

Road Captains, Please send ride sheets to Gary Clemons with your sign in sheets and he will forward ride sheets, for your convenience, to Luanne Jones

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.

GARY	CLEMONS	864-238-0626
MELISSA	CLEMONS	864-340-2265
SCOTT	CLINE	864-723-2584
FISH	GUFFEE	864-844-4174
KEN	HIGGINBOTHAM	864-313-5178
BRENDA	HILL	864-544-0120
TIM	HILL	864-554-0121
TIM	JONES	803-463-9758
RAY	KEIPER	864-353-8993
JOE	KINSLAND	864-423-8688
STEVE	McCULLOUGH	864-224-8479
TAMI	MEALOR	864-979-8944
JOHN	MUNNS	864-483-4294
DALE	PERRY	864-356-4688
CHERYL	SANDERS	864-221-0416
GEORGE	TURNER	864-642-5639
JOHN	WAITEKUS	864-356-2718

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

Have you signed up for the ECHOG Update/Reminder? Check with Tim Hill for more info.

LET'S MAKE OUR NEW MEMBERS FEEL WELCOME.





Chapter Officers

Director	Tim Jones	
Asst. Dir.	Tim Hill	
Secretary	Gary Clemons	(864)859-8095
Treasurer	Pam Waitekus	(864)348-7204
LOH Officer	Melissa Clemons	(864)859-8095
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	
	Jay and Cheryl Sanders	
Chaplain	George Turner	
Historian	Luanne Jones	
Photographer	Tim Jones	
Volunteer Coord.	Joe Kinsland	

Home

Cell

(803)463-9758
(864)554-0120
(864)238-0626
(518)281-8763
(864)340-2265
(864)353-8993
(864)934-0403
(864)313-5178
(864)313-5178
(864)314-1221
(864)483-4294
(864)221-0416
(864)642-5639
(864)202-0991
(864)463-9758
(864)423-8688

H.O.G. Meeting

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

L.O.H. Meeting

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



One of Tim in the riding competition at Cookeville



Winning HOGs from the Cookeville events

