



## **EDITOR'S COLUMN**

Does one ever actually *enjoy* East Coast summer humidity? You sort of adapt, but that's it.

When I first got my air-cooled Harley I was a bit worried about how hot it would be riding atop that big v-twin engine, but this is my third summer riding it and have discovered that the only time heat is a big deal is when I'm sitting at a light or in bumper-to-bumper traffic, which, fortunately, isn't all that frequent. So it's no big deal.

I did <u>a solo ride to Romney, WV</u> the other day and hit no fewer than four clumsily-flying cicadas. At 60+ MPH it's like getting hit with rocks! Those bugs are big! Anyway, their pervasive squeaky fan belt noise has subsided as I write this and they'll be gone for another seventeen years. Good riddance!

I watched an interesting YouTube video recently: "<u>How to</u> <u>trigger traffic lights on a motorcycle - stop getting stuck at red</u> <u>lights</u>." Did you know that in addition to induction loops municipalities can also use video, infrared and microwaves to detect vehicles?

A friend alerted me to <u>the coolest folding motorcycle trailer I</u> <u>have ever seen</u>. It's called the Ozi Concept and it's French. \$3,112. (*Zut alors*!)

Do you want to know what senility is? I'll tell you what senility is. I was at the 6/13/21 Bikes and Breakfast event in Clifton, VA and took a video. <u>It's here</u>. I came across a 2003 silver Road King with a sidecar that I was very impressed with (at the 4:17 point). I mentioned this to F-HOG chapter member Kim Allen, whom I met on the street. He told me, "Wes, that's *my* bike. You've seen it before. In fact, you and I went on F-HOGs rides when I rode it." When he mentioned this, I thought about it and remembered that, yes, this is his bike. *That's* what senility is.

This month we've got another page showing the Titans of Hollywood riding motorcycles, a book review of a book for



## The Stars and Pipes

A publication for the members of the Fairfax Harley Owners Group (F-HOG) in Fairfax, Virginia

July 2021

Volume 23, Issue 6

complete nerds, a look at the wonderful world of balloon bikes, Harleys in Cuba, an historical page about delivering the mail via Harley and the usual assortment of stuff I use to pad these newsletters out. As always, I stand by to assist with your hard-to-fulfill need for Harley and motorcycle trivia and exotica.

## Wes

COVER: An image composed with Microsoft Image Composer version 1.5; software which had its end of life many years ago. I have been faithfully using it since 1998, despite the fact that my graphical artist son has been begging me to abandon it. I know it, I like it, it runs, why switch?



I didn't know Neil Young liked motorcycles...

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

F-HOG's riding season has begun and there are no excuses now; disconnect that Harley from the battery tender, dust it off and go ride!

Many of you have already done the ride to the chapter's Ironhorse Roundup recently. Great camaraderie, amazing rides and roads, fantastic weather, enjoyable food, safe riding and having fun was all part of the week in North Carolina. Oh, yes, the chapter did tame the Tail of the Dragon! In fact, many of the members tamed the Dragon several times! I cannot speak for everyone, but it is a very beautiful part of the country



to explore on a motorcycle. Visit the F -HOG website or Facebook page to view many pictures posted by members.

F-HOG still has many rides scheduled for this month and lots more coming. It is never too late to put together your own ride and submit it to our chapter's officers.

Speaking of rides, did you know there is a "National Motorcycle Day?" The second Friday in July is the day to celebrate everything about Harley-Davidson. It is a day to hop on and savor the freedom of the open road. But

that is not all - this day is much more. It is a day to celebrate motorcycles and everyone who rides them, driver or passenger. It is also a time to enjoy being a member of a Fairfax HOG.

Do you hear the road calling? Sure, you do! July is a great time of year to celebrate this holiday. The weather is perfect for riding, and it is the perfect time for taking a vacation. Take a couple days off, or a whole week. Pack your bag. Now get on your Harley-Davidson and ride off, wherever the road takes you. We do encourage you to bring a friend or two. It is always much more enjoyable when you have company.

We Ride as One

### A Message from your HOG Regional Managers

As we enter the height of the riding season here in early June, it's beginning to feel a bit like a degree of normalcy has returned to life after nearly a year and a half of anything but normal. It feels great to be back out on the road again, riding and meeting with members at H.O.G. rallies, making Chapter visits, and generally getting our butts in saddles and boots on the ground again after far too long. This is an exciting turning point for us as things open up and we are getting more involved in events around the country in person.

Of course, the safety of our staff, our riders, and our communities remains at the forefront of our consideration as we approach each of these upcoming events, so we will continue to consult with rally coordinators and adhere to local health guidelines to inform our participation in events throughout the year.

There are also some changes coming in the H.O.G. Regional Manager field team here in Milwaukee. As many of you know already, Western and Southeastern Regional Manager Pete Schwab was recently called up to active duty by the United States Navy for the next two years. We will be announcing a new member of the team in the coming weeks to fill in while Pete is on deployment, but in the interim, Paul Blotske and Bruce Motta are splitting up those regions and are your points of contact for assistance with questions about H.O.G. programs and Chapter operations.

We are thrilled to be back visiting and riding with our members, and we thank you for all you do as officers every day, and particularly for the hard work you have done to provide great experiences for your fellow H.O.G. members during these very challenging times. We'll see you on the road soon.



PAUL BLOTSKE H.O.G. Regional Manager - Midwest

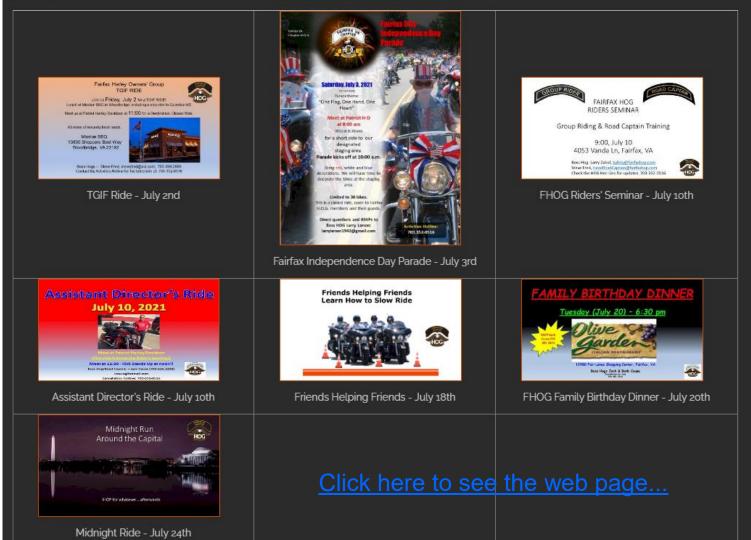


BRUCE MOTTA H.O.G. Regional Manager - Eastern 414-526-1381 |

# JULY RIDES AND EVENTS!

July 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27		29		1	2	3
					TGIF Ride - 11am	Fairfax Independence Day Parade - 8:30am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Fairfax HOG Officers Meeting - 6:30pm				Bike and Hike - Sky Meadow State Park - 8:30am
						FHOG Riders' Seminar - gam
						FHOG Assistant Director Ride - 12pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Monthly Chapter Meeting - 6:30pm			Goose Nest Ride
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Friends Helping Friends (Short Ride After) - gam		FHOG Family Birthday Dinner -				Midnight Ride - 12am
		6:30pm				FHOG Drill Team - 11am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						Abe Lincoln Gettysburg Ride - 7:30am

July 2021



# The F-HOG Chapter Members! (as of 8 June 2021)

FIRST NAME		Gregory	Derosa
Lyndon	Abell	Vincent	Devito
Robert	Abood	Raymond	Diaz
Lee	Adams	Theresa	Diehl
Timothy	Alexander	Robert	Diehl
Kim	Allen	Christopher	Dinenna
Gomaa	Aly	Bud	Downey
Michael	Anderson	Claudia	Droste
Denise	Anderson	Jim	Egbert
Victor	Astudillo	Alejandro	Fernandez
George	Billy	Robert	Flowe
Thelma	Billy	Gregory	Ford
Larry	Blakely	Anne	Foster
Barbara	Blakely	Allen	Foster
Scott	Blevins	Steve	Fred
Mary	Boaz	Aaron	Freese
John	Boaz	Tim	Freese
Troy	Bowling	James	Gehrke
William	Branch	Andrew	Gibson
Nikki	Breece	Justin	Glass
Matt	Bressler	Walt	Going
Robert	Brotten	Derrick	Gonzales
David	Brown	David	Graham
Joshua	Cagney	Teresa	Guillen
Steve	Campbell	Guillermo	Guillen
Barb	Causa	Joseph	Guzman
Jack	Causa	Mounir	Hadiji
Edward	Cavanaugh	John	Hall
Wesley	Clark	Kira	Harrell
Linda	Collins	Neville	Harris
William (Bill)	Connor	Nancy	Heath
Susanne	Cook	Paul	Heine
Robert	Cool	Joshua	Hempel
Suzanne	Couk	Bernard	Herrity
Lorrie	D'Amico-Branch	Michelle	Herrity
Dave	Danner	Walter	Herrity
Jacqueline	Daum	Patricia	Hill
GARY	DAUM	Leslie	Hill
Bob	De Haven	Kurt	Hurst

# The F-HOG Chapter Members! (as of 8 June 2021)

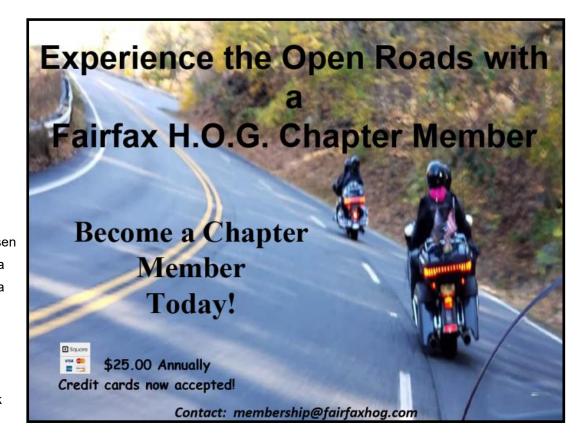
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	Richmond	Miller
Holli	Hurst	Gerald	Miller
John	lannarelli	Robert	Morrison
Clement	James	Lynne	Morrison
Richard	Johnson	Sheri	Morrissette
Darren	Karbowski	John	Morrissette
Gene	Klopf	Ed	Murphy
Jim	Lacy	Richard	Oduber
Linda	Lacy	Kenneth	Owsley
Lauren	Larson	Dava	Owsley
Vi	Larson	Mark	Page
Scott	Larson	Joe	Paige
Adriana	Latham	Salvatore	Palatucci
Larry	Latham	Stephen	Parker
Mary	Lawson	Peter	Pasek
Richard	Ledbetter	Troy	Pearsall
Philip	LeMessurier	Gary	Peters
Michaela	Lemessurier	Sam	Piper
Robert	Lemieux	Rick	Pishalski
Frank	Lewis	Oliver	Pluntke
Alex	Lewis	Anthony	Rahner
Susie	Livingood	Michael	Reeder
Joseph	Livingood	Edna	Rendon
Richard	Louie	Rick	Richardson
Ruby	Lowe	Kathy	Riddle
Chris	Lyons	Ray	Riddle
Micki	Lyons	Karen	Rolfe
Ken	Lyons	Philip	Rolfe
Dennis	Madtes	Susan	Sandler
Stephen	Mahoney	John	Sarnosky
Marin	Mandradjiev	Edward	Schatz
Herb	Mannis	Patricia	Schmid
Mary	Mannis	Courtney	Scott
Steve	Marshall	David	Sechrest
Manuel	Medina	Nate	Seymour
Scott	Meier	Steve	Shannon
Ruben	Mendez	Melissa	Shaver
Max	Menendez	Lewis	Shepley
Bruce	Mersereau	Gene	Shorts

# The F-HOG Chapter Members! (as of 8 June 2021)

#### FIRST NAME

#### LAST NAME Simonds

Chad John Simpson Skakum Roy Skelly Jerry Small John Arland Smith James Stocking Struck Diane Swan Christopher Paul Taylor Test User Van Deusen Stephen Villanueva Raymond Villanueva Axel Viola James Martin Virgilio Rosetta Virgilio Jackie Walker Warzybok John White Jim Eric Wickman Wierzbicki Gregory Bruce Wynn Kris Young Jo Zabel Larry Zabel Thomas Zedan



"Riding my motorcycle around L.A. is like my own video game. But unlike many folks at the wheel, I am occupied with getting where I'm going and keeping myself safe. Most people are applying makeup, texting, and checking out the beauty in the next car." - Hugh Laurie









Chapter Meeting Wednesday, 9 June 2021











Ride to Jill's House Saturday, 12 June 2021













Ride to Jill's House Saturday, 12 June 2021

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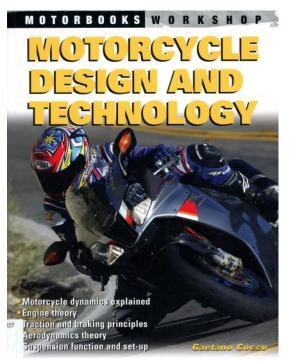


## **BOOK REVIEW**

by Wes Clark

*Motorcycle Design and Technology* by Gaetano Cocco (Motorbooks International, 160 pgs., 2004) <u>The Fairfax County</u> <u>Library system has this book!</u>

Do you like math? The answer to that question will reveal whether or not you will like this book, considering that it's highly technical. It's...daunting - and I have an engineering degree!



I think I'll spare you any text excerpts and simply reproduce some of the illustrations to create the world's laziest book review:

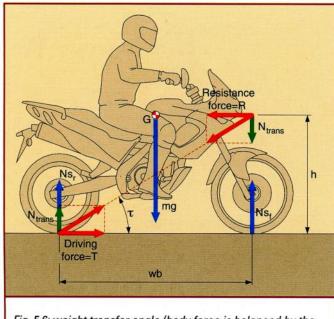
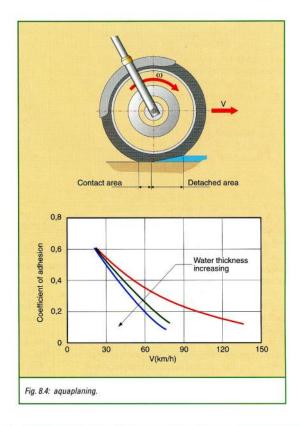
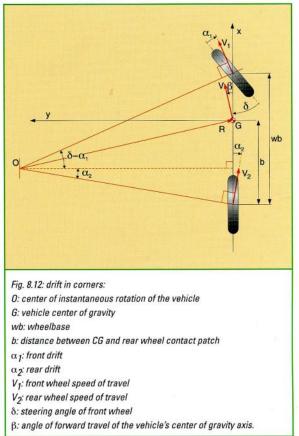


Fig. 5.6: weight transfer angle (body force is balanced by the static reactions on the tires).





Will you like this book? I can give the evasive answer Abraham Lincoln once offered when a fellow was fishing for complements: "Those who like this sort of thing will find that it's the sort of thing they like."

But the library has it if you like force vector diagrams...

# **BALLOON BIKES**

People are wonderful, creative beings. Here's a concept I bet you haven't thought about: Balloon Motorcycles. Why? Why ask why? Just look. - Wes



I think they were going for the classic big Harley v-twin here. It sort of looks like a Road King/FLH except for the front fenders, which suggest Indian.



A Ducati, do you suppose? It has a big red tank.



A chopper! I can't see Dennis Hopper on it, however...



This one is very rudimentary. I guess we can refer to it as a naked bike. Huge functional kickstands!

Above: Side view of the bike above. The engine is skillfully done!



Wheelies are dangerous. Especially when you weigh 15 times more than the bike.



Above: Cool biker bystanders...



Hey! It's an old Harley springer with an exposed primary! Below: No, I don't get it, either. "Frito Lay?"





Above: "B.O.T."?



Above: Balloon motorcycles are everywhere - even in stores.



We all know about the island of Cuba, right? About how it's pronounced "KOO-bah" by the natives and was "CUE-ber" by JFK, that they manufacture cigars that are desired the world over and that there's a huge inventory of 1950s American cars kept alive by devoted garage mechanics? As it turns out, there are also vintage Harley-Davidsons to be found there, according to this 2018 article by Yahoo news. Let's check them out...

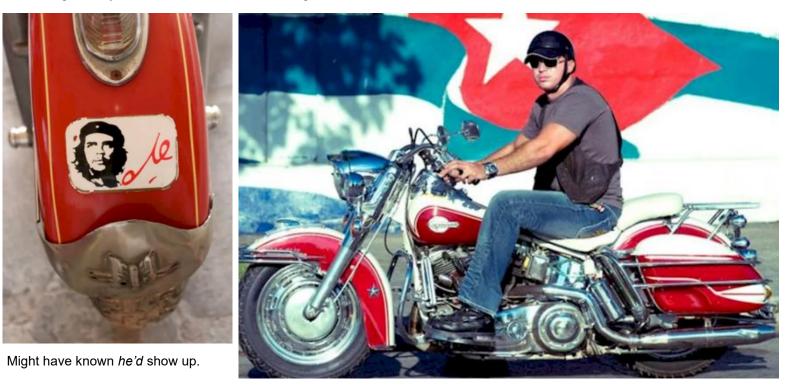




**Left:** A leggy Cuban gamin poses on the pogo seat of a great old Harley V-Twin with flag.

**Above:** I like the rig this enthusiast has attached to the rear of his bike.

From the article: "...there are around 170 Harley owners in Cuba, but not all the bikes on the island are in running condition ... around 120 of the bikes are operational throughout the country, and the rest, well, you know, ran when parked. Much like the country's fleet of aging, mid-century Detroit iron, the paucity of new parts has made keeping the Harlistas' old bikes running quite a challenge." I say initiate a humanitarian effort to get new old stock to the island...

















Further reading: "<u>Cuban Thunder: Harley-Davidson in Cuba</u>" by Tracey Eaton.



# **RIDERS' PROFILES**

### A feature of the newsletter wherein we get to know our members...

Name: Josh Hempel

How long have you been in the Fairfax HOG Chapter? I joined in May 2021

How long have you been riding? bought my first bike in March 2016

**Why do you ride?** It's my primary mode of transportation. I ride for fun because I enjoy the scenery, the physical engagement from technical rides, and the clearing of the mind when on an open road.

Bike you currently ride: 2020 Road Glide Special, Blue (shown below)

Bikes you have owned: 2016 Fatboy S, Denim Black (shown below)

**The best ride you have ever done:** 5 days from Houston, TX to San Diego, CA on the Fatboy with a rest day in the middle for hiking in the Grand Canyon.

**Quote:** "The chief task in life is simply this: to identify and separate matters so that I can say clearly to myself which are externals not under my control, and which have to do with the choices I actually control. Where then do I look for good and evil? Not to uncontrollable externals, but within myself to the choices that are my own . . ." - Epictetus, Discourses, 2.5.4–5











## **RIDERS' PROFILES**

### A feature of the newsletter wherein we get to know our members...

#### Name: Allen LeMessurier

**Nickname:** I've never really had a nickname, but the closet thing to one was bestowed on me by this chapter: "Texas Allen," because at one time we had a number of Allens in F -HOG.

How long have you been in the Fairfax HOG Chapter? Almost 10 years

How long have you been riding? A little over 10 years.

Why do you ride? I ride now for the freedom, the exhilaration, the adventure, the camaraderie and the solitude. I started riding due to Divine Inspiration I received after my late wife passed away suddenly and unexpectedly after our 22nd anniversary dinner. I woke up that morning three months after she had passed away, inspired to go get the Harley she always wanted. It was therapy then, and still is today.

Bike you currently ride: 2017 CVO Ultra Limited.

**Bikes you have owned:** 2011 Fat Boy and 2014 Ultra Limited.

The Best Ride you have ever done: All of them.

**Quote:** "Just remember...wherever you go, there you are." - Buckaroo Bonzai





# KNOW YOUR PATRIOT STAFFER!

Name: Petra (pronounced "PAY-tra") Koustenis

Position at PHD: General Merchandise Manager

Nickname: Pete

**How long have you worked at PHD?** Technically, since 2003, but I took a little "leave of absence" from May 2016—May 2020, due to an opportunity to manage multiple Harley locations. It was a great learning experience and within that time frame, I worked with Ben Pellowe along the way, who is responsible for my return. I came home to PHD last year, making my total time at PHD 14 fabulous years.

How long have you been riding? 18 years

Why do you ride? I ride for the camaraderie and the feeling of freedom and empowerment.

Bike you currently ride: '93 Softail Custom

**Bikes you have owned:** 2005 Sportster, 2013 Street Glide, '93 Softail. My '93 is by far my fave!

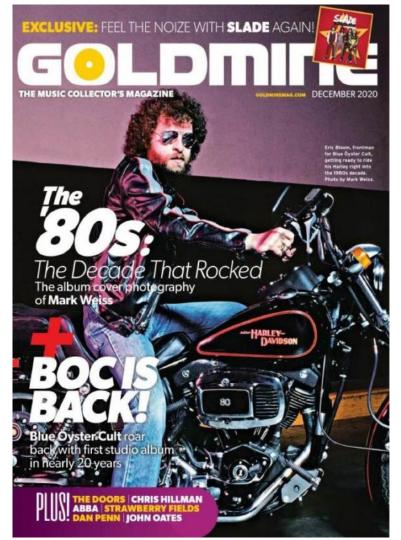
**The Best Ride you have ever done:** Fairfax to OBX, taking our time and making it a 2-day ride. It is not a long ride but taking back-roads, visiting good local eats, breweries and wineries, stopping at many of the powerful VA/NC/OBX historical sites along the way, all while riding with great company, was the best ride I have ever experienced. Fun, sun & chill!!!

**Quote:** "Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else."

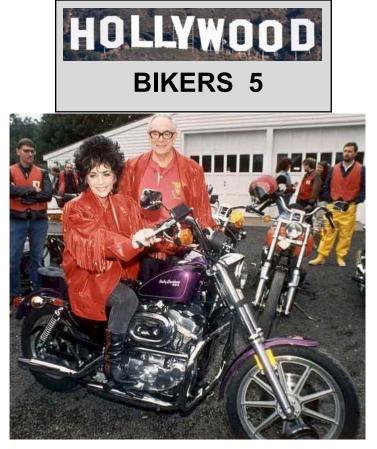








**Left:** Okay, I'll admit: As "stars" or "Hollywood" are concerned, this fellow probably doesn't qualify. He's Eric Bloom, the lead vocalist of one of my all-time fave rock bands, the Blue Öyster Cult. (Think, "More cowbell!") And he's on a Harley. And that's enough for me.







Above right: That's Elizabeth Taylor, on a 1988 883 Harley "Hugger" given to her by multi-millionaire publisher Malcolm Forbes; it's in purple to match her perfume box, which in turn match her celebrated violet eyes. She rode with Forbes' club The Capitalist Tools.

Left: Blues Brother Dan Aykroyd rides a Harley on the Atlantic City Boardwalk.

Below right: Brad Pitt's custom Harley.

Below left: Singer Pat Boone on his Harley. And I have a mesh riding jacket exactly like his!

Previous page: Hugh Laurie!





Another great historical image from <u>shorpy.com</u>! "Foss, Oklahoma, 1907. Mail carriers, mode of transport: Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Photograph taken by my great-grandfather, Edward M. Blunck."





The models above used to be known as "the Silent Gray Fellows."

The bike at right seems to also be a Harley except with a different engine. I'm not sure of the bike at the far left of the large photograph. Is that a Harley or some other make?





# JULY BIRTHDAYS

Michelle L.	Herrity
Mary	Lawson
Susie	Livingood
Mounir	Hadiji
Denise	Anderson
Linda M.	Lacy
Diane	Struck
Paul	Coughlin
Ray	Riddle
Gary	Peters
Lionel L.	Ramos
Marty	Smith
Kurt	Hurst

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# The Stars and Pipes

## The Newsletter of the Fairfax HOGs Chapter





#### Who we are

The Fairfax H.O.G. (F.H.O.G.) Chapter began in 1999 with an organizing committee of four. Today our membership nears 800 riders and passengers, people from every walk of life with the full spectrum of riding experience. According to figures on the Harley-Davidson web site, as well as an article in Fortune magazine, a Harley owners' average annual income is \$80,000 and the average age is 46. Most F.H.O.G. members have discretionary income, are professionals, like to eat out and travel, and have insurance, real estate and other needs. In other words, the *Stars & Pipes* newsletter is a great way to advertise your business!

#### **Advertising Guidelines**

- We welcome any advertiser not in direct competition with our sponsoring dealership, Patriot Harley-Davidson.
- All ads must be tasteful in content (no profanity or adult content). F.H.O.G. may, at its sole discretion, decline to accept and publish a submitted advertisement. In such case, any funds tendered by the prospective advertiser for the refused ad will be refunded promptly.
   Advertising content is the sole responsibility of the advertiser and will be run as submitted; ads are not proofed.
- Advertising content is the sole responsibility of the advertiser and will be run as submitted, ads are not proofed.
- Ads can be camera-ready, however electronic format is preferred. If ads are submitted electronically, accepted file types are jpeg, tiff, eps, doc or pdf. Resolution must also be at least 200 dpi (no screen dumps from the internet, otherwise graphic content is pixelated and doesn't print well. No gifs accepted). Word, Photoshop, Illustrator, PDF or QuarkXpress files accepted. Note: ads generated with logos, images, etc. must include the original linked graphics with the layout file in order to print properly; contact the editor if there are any questions: editor@fairfaxhog.com. Simple ads can be designed for an additional fee of \$25—contact the editor prior to the monthly deadline.
- Payment in full is due with ad; if ad precedes payment, it will not be run until payment has been received. Checks should be made
  payable to Fairfax H.O.G.

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Advertiser's Signature:					

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