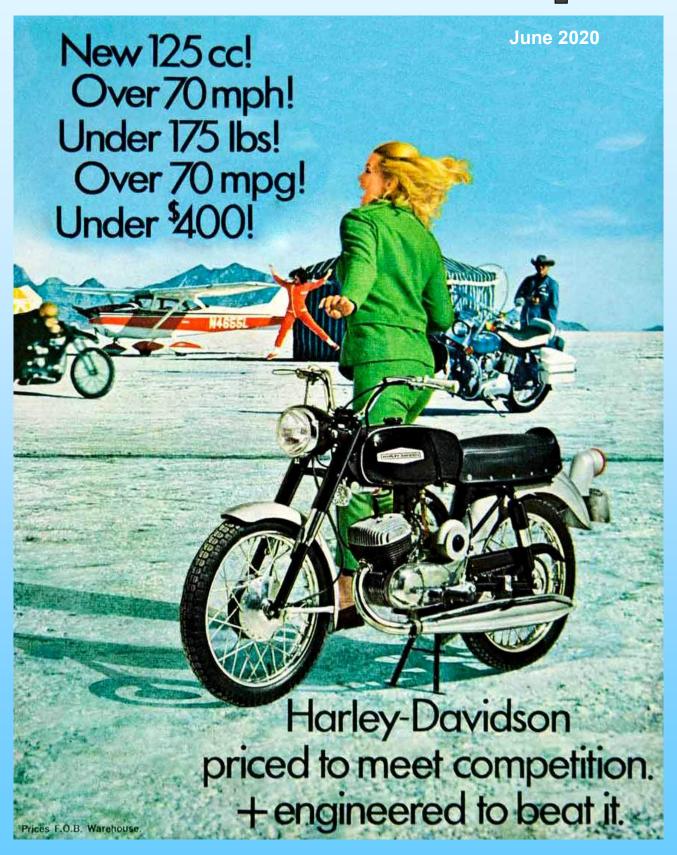
# The Stars and Pipes



**Fairfax Harley Owners Group** 



#### **EDITOR'S COLUMN**

First things first: Ride to Work Day is on the third Monday in June. So do it. Assuming you're back to work outside the house, of course.

The YouTube software knows I watch motorcycle videos and so has thoughtfully linked me to (1) How a motorcycle transmission works, and (2) How a motorcycle clutch works. These are wonderfully instructive videos. I'm an engineer, but there are engineers and then there are engineers. Whoever invented the transmission was a genius.

As for events in June, at this writing you are probably better off checking the calendar at fairfaxhog.com than arranging your weeks with predictions I can make in this issue! What are we doing in June? *It depends.* Word from Patriot Harley-Davidson is that the first HOGs meeting there won't be until July.

As of this writing (5/27) I am SO ready to do a HOGs group ride. It has been too long. I do a lot of solo rides and rides with a friend, but it's just not the same, you know?



#### **Stars and Pipes**

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

June 2020

Volume 22, Issue 5

Always make computer file backups! Somehow I managed to delete my *Stars and Pipes* directory on my desktop. But I had a backup on a USB drive. Whew!

Finally, I've been getting compliments on the newsletter. Thank you! One critic who is not so easy to please, however, is my son, who is a professional graphic designer. During quarantine he's been sharing my telework space. I've had him looking over my shoulder at my layouts, margins, use of white space, etc. He's also been giving me tips about cover art. His main tool of editing communication with his poor old father seems to be sarcasm. (By the way, <a href="Happy Father's Day">Happy Father's Day</a>!) Hopefully, in coming months you will see this newsletter looking better. My main interest is with content, but I want to polish up design.

#### Wes

COVER: The Harley-Davidson Rapido: It's little, it's affordable and it's a Harley! More about it in this issue. Notice the jumping gal in red and the hung-over guy on the left.

#### **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Fairfax HOG Family,

I cannot believe I am writing an article for our June newsletter and we have yet to have a Chapter ride this year! As I said in last month's message, our world has changed quite drastically in the last few months. And now, our country is experiencing untold violence at the hands of irresponsible criminals. These people are using social justice as an excuse to rob citizens of their livelihoods and communities of their peace and prosperity. I know all of you join me in praying for health, safety and normalcy to return to our lives.

We are holding our June officers' meeting outside in a local park as we continue to follow the social distancing guidelines. The officers and I are moving forward with anticipation for the day we can come together once again to ride and hold our events. We, along with Patriot Harley-Davidson, are looking at options for the June chapter meeting. We would like to break away from the webinars and find a location where we can practice health guidelines. Stay tuned and check your emails for this information.

My wife, Kathy, and I were talking about why we enjoy riding. Our reasons may be, in part, the same and yet vastly different, but it is a love that someone with only the cage experience will never understand.

For us it is the peaceful feeling we get traveling the back roads with the wind in our faces. Kathy, always being two-up, is always looking for wildlife in the surroundings! It is pure joy on the open road, relaxing, and spending time together away from all

the craziness in our world. Riding puts the world right again if only for a few hours!

When each of us rides, whether in a group or alone, we are ambassadors for Patriot Harley- Davidson, our FHOG Chapter and, of course, the greater Harley-Davidson family. We ride these beautiful

machines and routinely receive thumbs-up and smiles from onlookers as we rumble past. With our attire and our gear, we are literally walking billboards for all things Harley-Davidson. So, in the end, yes we are HD ambassadors. What we do speaks to people without realization. Let's be sure we are responsible riders and we keep the Harley culture in mind.

In doing so, we have the power to inspire the next generation.

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather and getting in some road time. Stay healthy and safe and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Until then remember: "We Ride as One." Ray Riddle



Ray and Kathy heading out somewhere

## A Message from your Regional Manager

20 May 2020

Well, I was hopeful that by now we would be back to a bit more normal life. I hope you and your families



are all safe. My fellow Regional Managers and I just finished the first ever online training for Officers, which was our way of delivering the cancelled Regional Officer Connection sessions. It went well and we are now trying to make this information available in the Officer Resources section on HOG.com. The virtual training does appear to have given us a new avenue to deliver content to all of you, so look for opportunities soon from me, to "meet" with you.

Now, on to the fun part. Likely you are asking yourselves, "what can I do to get my Chapter out riding more?" In addition to following local guidelines and your dealer's direction, think about new ways to provide your members a reason to be out riding. We have been talking about using destination challenges for a while now. Pick an interesting destination each week and encourage your members to ride there, in groups or solo, and post pics on their social media accounts. It might be a cool park, mural, sign, bridge, sunset, sunrise, giant tree, monument, beach, forest, desert, or any other location. Whatever it is, just pick something, promote it, and encourage the sharing of the experience. Posting pics on social media shows everyone the fun stuff going on in the Chapter and will get others engaged.

Also consider including the new 2020 RIDE365 destination challenges as an opportunity to plan and suggest ride destination: 50 Rides, One Nation, 10 Rides for '20 and the Dealership Check-In challenges. In addition to great riding, these challenges also offer prizes and rewards to participants. Read about them below and on H-D.com/ride365. All these approaches help your members to engage in the riding community while still maintaining social distancing. Sound like easy wins to me. Be safe out there. I look forward to seeing everyone out on the road soon!

PETE SCHWAB

H.O.G. Regional Manager - Southeast/West

### Memorial Day weekend 2019 and 2020 by Walt Herrity







#### RIDE365 gives your members reasons to ride!

With public gathering restrictions still making it challenging for many H.O.G. Chapters to plan and organize local group rides and other activities, H.O.G.'s RIDE365 program challenges are a great way to encourage your members to get out and ride and feel part of something bigger. As a Chapter Officer, you are a mentor, advocate and coach for the riding experience of your fellow members. Use your position as a bully pulpit and spread the word about all the tools and programs at your disposal to inspire your fellow members to enjoy the freedom and adventure of riding.

The rewards for participating in RIDE365 go far beyond the miles amassed or the achievement of prizes. Riding is fuel for the soul, something we all need more of in these challenging times.

As a reminder, here are a few highlights of the RIDE365 program. Find all the details at h-d.com/ride365.

Mileage Recognition: Keep track of your annual, lifetime, and Chapter mileage totals, because every mile counts!

Dealership Check-In: Earn points towards rewards by visiting authorized Harley-Davidson dealerships around the world.

10 Rides for '20: Explore America's highways, byways and backgrounds with a new selection of great rides every year. See how many you can check off your list in 2020.

50 Rides, One Nation: From sea to shining sea, these 50 epic rides, one per state, are worthy of any rider's lifetime bucket list.

H-D Visa Rewards: Eligible H-D Visa cardholders can earn up to 50,000 points and \$500 in cash rewards just for riding their motorcycle. Visit h-dvisa.com for full details.

#### Movie Review: On Any Sunday

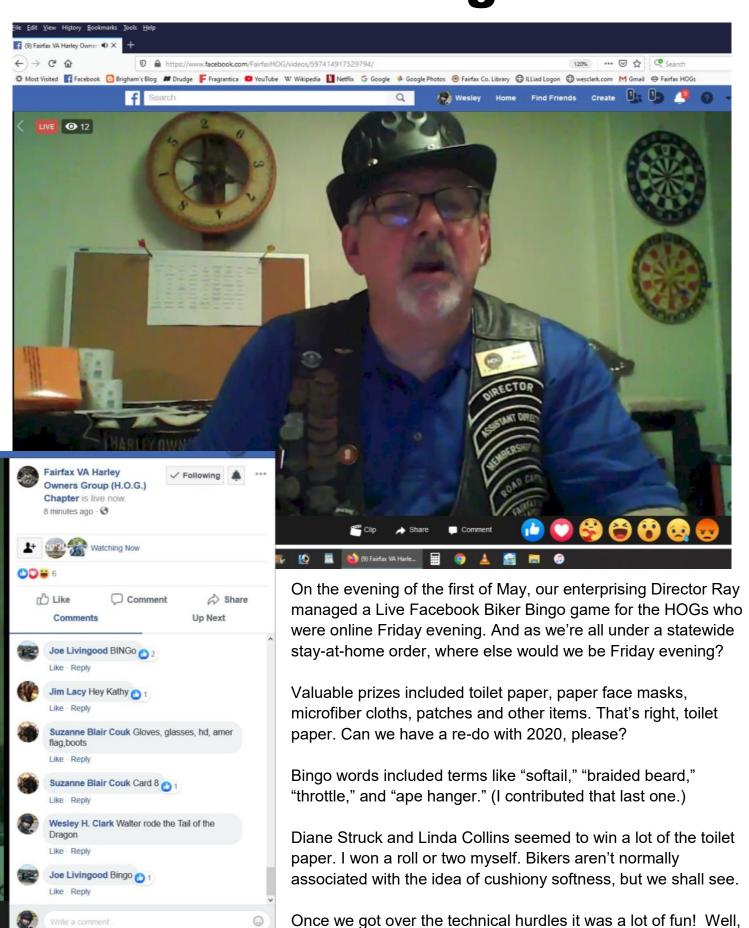
1971, Rated G, Director: Bruce Brown. Stars Steve McQueen, Dave Aldana, Mark Brelsford, Mert Lawwill, Malcolm Smith. Plot: A documentary about motorcycle racing featuring stars of the sport, including film star Steve McQueen, a racer in his own right. Produced by Bruce Brown, who gave us the fabulous surfing documentary, *The Endless Summer* (1965)

Somehow I got through the Seventies without ever getting on a dirt bike. And to this day I don't find dirt bikes especially appealing; I'm a street guy. But none of that matters: this is a fascinating documentary about the guys who find their passion on dirt, mud, up ridiculous hills and even snow. Bruce Brown's cheery commentary never lags, the action is pure motorcycle eye candy and somehow Brown got Dominic Frontiere to provide the upbeat music. Great stuff! Available via Netflix DVD.



McQueen, Lawwill and Smith.

# **Biker Bingo!**



it was for us. Ray said it was very hectic. - Wes

(2) ヘロ(1)

# **Chapter Meeting!**



# How many days in the past 7 did you take shower? Poll Results (multiple answers allowed): 7 43% 5 23% 3 23% 1 7% Can't remember last time I showered 3%

C.H. Lang opened the n what city?  Oll Results (single answer required):	e first Harley Dealership
Milwaukee	44%
New York	0%
New York Detroit	0% 22%

On the evening of May 13th, our tech-savvy Head Road Captain Joe Livingood headed up the monthly chapter meeting, proving once again that where there is a will, there is a way and an Internet connection.

We did poll questions once again. I got the one about Chicago correct, but guessed 1915 for the year the Detroit Police started using Harleys. The real year was 1908.

I shower ever day whether I need to or not. I'm married. —Wes

#### **RIDERS' PROFILES**

An occasional feature of the newsletter wherein we get to know our members...

Name: Walter Benjamin Herrity

Nickname: "Walt" (It's monogrammed onto my shirt if

you don't believe me. See?)

How long have you been in the Fairfax HOG

Chapter?: 2005

How long have you been riding?: Since 2005. There were some dirt bikes when I was younger, but I didn't have the money for a real bike until later.

Why do you ride?: I like to get out and feel the wind. It's like gliding on air. (Except when you're on a bumpy road.)

**Bike you currently ride:** 2017 Limited in silver and black.

Bikes you have owned: 2005 Standard

The Best Ride you have ever done: The Tail of the

Dragon, the whole thing.

The Worst Ride you have ever done: The infamous U-Turn Ride.

Quote: "I'm still here." (I can't use the first one Walt gave me. Ask him.)





Just because we can't meet physically together doesn't mean that all HOG instruction and interaction stops. Far from it!

On the Saturday morning (5/2) after Ray Riddle's Biker Bingo session Head Road Captain Joe Livingood and Safety Officer Joe "Fuggedaboutit" Zabel led us through the various group riding techniques that HOGs employ while on the road.

Recognize the problem, adapt and succeed could well be the HOGs motto for 2020...

# **HOG Activities in Quarantine**



"Here's a picture of my 2009 Road King Classic taken on 3 May in front of the Caleb Rector House in Atoka, formerly Rector's Crossroads. The stone house, built in 1801, is located at the Ashby's Gap Turnpike (now U.S. Route 50) near Middleburg. The Rector House is the current headquarters of the Mosby Heritage Area Association and one of the destinations on my planned 30 July Mosby Raiders Ride. " - Phil Butterfield



Below: Thomas
Zedan sent this one
in. "Together,
Alone. Barbie and
Zephyr doing their
part to protect one
another."



Luray, VA, May 25. This is the train station/visitor's center (closed). My Harley is at the left. A moped without a seat is at the right. This puzzled me greatly until I realized that the owner was sitting on the removable seat on the ground against the wall of the building, reading a newspaper. - Wes





The following participants are in these photos: Jack Causa, Vince DeVito, Ryan Gladieux, Joe Livingood, Lionel Ramos, Steve Shannon, Larry Zabel, Tom Zedan. Inset: Bob & Teri Diehl - social distancing.

# Hey, Joe

by Joe Livingood and Wes Clark



Hey, Joe... It's getting warmer outside and I'm thinking about heat. My touring class Harley, like yours, has the Engine Idle Temperature Management System (EITMS), the feature that shuts down the spark on one piston while idling at stop lights. I enable it when the weather becomes warm, but that goofy air compressor sound my engine makes is kind of embarrassing. Do you enable yours or disable it? And while we're at it, do you see real value to having an engine temperature gauge?

Yes I do use it, but only in parade routes (like the F-HOG Fairfax July 4th parade) or when I'm in a total bumper-to-bumper traffic jam headed to the beach or downtown for an event. Regarding the temperature gauge question, there is always value in having additional information about any potential problems while riding.

I'm also thinking of oil cooler maintenance. Other than being good about doing oil changes per schedule, which I do, is there anything special I need to do with the oil cooler on the front of my bike?

Keep it clear of any debris and inspect for any damage from rocks or road debris that could impact its performance. Also check your fluid levels regularly if you have a water-cooled bike. Batwing, fork-mounted fairing or shark nose chassis-mounting fairing? Which do you prefer and why? Not that I'm planning to trade in my Road King, but I've tested road bikes with both. Being a tall guy I think I prefer the chassis-mounted fairing simply because it puts the gauges, etc. further away from my face. I prefer to see the road!

It really comes down to personal preference and style and how much you are willing to spend and what you are looking for. I used to have a Road King myself, and thought about installing a fairing, but Lyndon Abel (former Patriot GM) convinced me to just buy an Ultra Limited and all my problems would be solved. For the record.....he was RIGHT!

Patches on vests... a lot of us were in the military and I suppose we halfway expect that there is some kind of rhyme or reason regarding where things go. Any advice or guidance?

Vests/cuts are just like each one of us, unique and should reflect our personalities. You vest tells a story, and each of us has a very difference story.

I'll probably have just one motorcycle, but do you have any observations about multiple motorcycle ownership? I can see one for long distance touring, a smaller and lighter one for commuting, an electric one or a dirt bike just for fun, etc.

It's a blessing (and a curse) to own two motorcycles. You will end up with a favorite, and that's just a fact. It's great to have an extra bike when yours is in the shop for some maintenance or when you have a friend visit from out of town and you want to go check out the sites downtown.

Joe is always happy to answer questions relating to motorcycles. You can do it via this newsletter or ask him personally. He's quite approachable. In fact, in my very first F-HOGs meeting when he learned I was a new guy he walked up, introduced himself, shook my hand and offered me his VISA card to buy whatever I wanted at P.J. Skiddoos down the street.

Okay, I kid.

But I wish I had asked him more questions so I wouldn't have to compose this silly filler text. - Wes

# Factory47 Ape Hangers: A Do-it Yourself Guide— If You Dare!

By Anthony Rahner



In all my years of riding, I have always been fascinated by motorcycles sporting ape hanger handlebars. Not only do they look badass, but they also provide added benefits, high-speed stability and a straighter seating position. This is especially good if you have neck and shoulder blade pain issues, numbness in lower arms and wrists, and are unable to ride long distances. To decide what height is best for your bars, it's important to consider the "riders triangle." The three points of the triangle are made by your contact with the seat, the handlebar grips and the foot pegs. When seated on your bike, lift up your arms with elbows slightly bent and hands in a fist shape as if holding onto bars, and take note of the position your body naturally takes. In general,

your hands will be most comfortable at some height below your shoulders, with hands spread slightly wider than shoulder width. Run a tape measure down from one hand to the height of the risers on your bike to get an approximate height that you find comfortable.

I consider myself somewhat mechanically inclined with no formal training or certifications. I'm basically a YouTube junkie when it comes to working on my bike. I purchased a 2017 Ultra Limited and have been looking to add ape hangers to the bike for the look and posture when on longer rides. I started looking on the Internet for ape hanger handlebars, pricing, and what it would take to put a set of 14" ape hangers on my bike. After my research it appeared that the cost for the bars and labor ranged between \$1,500-\$2,500, depending on the bars. It could go higher if I bought handlebar kits and/or custom bars. That was a bit pricey for me. I continued my search on the Internet and found Factory47 14" Assault black handlebars that were certainly badass. Factory47 went above and beyond to design the Assault bar: the handlebar is designed to fit stock risers and controls for any Street/Electra Glide. 2014-2020 models can use stock cables and wires up to 14", as shown in their YouTube video.

I watched the video and was amazed at the detail it provided and how they re-routed and extended the stock cables on the HD Electra Glide they were working on. They accounted for every inch of the stock cables needed to extend them through the bike frame to reach the front control connections. This did not require flushing your clutch or brake fluids. I thought who better than I could replicate such a job? I could not be happier!

I picked up my Factory47 14" Assault handlebars (\$450) at PHD using my Fairfax VA HOG membership discount (10%) and proceeded home. I fired up the YouTube video and started taking apart my fairing and disconnecting the wires per the video instructions. The video had a sort of soothing hipster sound as I started and stopped it to follow each step. I also took photographs of every step so I would know how to reinstall everything later. By the time I had completed the removal of the seat, saddle bags, gas tank, fairing, front controls, grips, front lights and rerouted/extended the

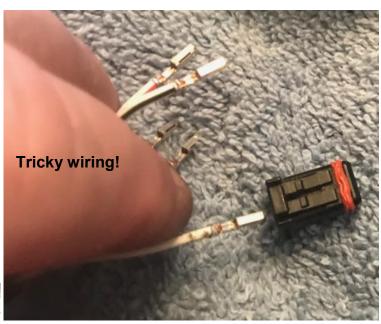
stock cables, my 2017 Electra Glide Ultra Limited was better suited for the county junk yard.

If I'd ever had a second thought, what the hell I was doing, now was the time. At this point, I started thinking of getting my trailer ready and towing it to Patriot HD to bail me out and have the handlebars installed professionally, but I pressed on. After the removal was complete and I was starting to get sick of that soothing hipster music playing in the background after repeating the video about 50 times, I started installing the grips and control cables into the handlebars.



The video does show a neat trick on how to get the control cables through the handlebars. I used a pull chain and a lightweight wire which worked well. What I didn't realize was that for every control cable, I had to remove the connections at the end of each cable using a safety pin to get each wire out so the cable would fit through the inside of the handlebar. The guy on the video seemed to whip through this step in 5-10 minutes, but it took me about 3 hours to get the connections off, the cables through the handlebars and the connections back on so it would be ready for installation.

One thing not covered in the video is that the H-D heated grip cables are not long enough to get through the 14" Ape Hangers and make the connection to the console. However, I was willing to give up the heated grips for the look and comfort, given I own a pair of heated glove liners.



About 10 hours into working on the bike I closed shop for the night and picked this back up the next morning. I started with the handlebar installation which also required placement, some pulling and stretching on the cables to get them into the front controls properly. Stress levels were high as the stretching and pulling made me think that I had disconnected something and when I put everything back together the bike would not start, but I continued. At this point there was no turning back.

After the handlebars were installed, I claimed a mild victory and continued installing everything I took apart, looking at the video and pictures I had taken for reassurance knowing that I had lost the heated grips. I finally got the gas tank on and was able to turn on the electric - everything lit up. I started the bike up and then tested all the controls and they seemed to work perfectly, but I noticed the engine light was on. After doing a Google search on the error message that my Ultra reported, I watched a YouTube video and was able to clear out the error messages. (Apparently, once you mess with the H-D connections, it throws out engine error messages.)

Next, the test ride! I started out on my driveway and everything sounded good. I started up the hill on my block and then realized that my throttle grip had started spinning. Now what? After returning to my garage and looking into the problem, I found that two small rods inside the end of the throttle grip had been flattened during the installation. I straightened them out and re-installed the end of the grip and everything was perfect. I could not have been happier with the installation.

My advice to you is that if you feel confident that you are able to follow directions, have a mechanical background, are patient, a risk taker, and don't want to pay for the labor - give it a shot. You will be impressed with the outcome and the comfort these ape hanger handlebars provide. Otherwise, I would highly recommend buying and having your new ape hangers installed by the professionals at Patriot Harley Davidson!

End result.

More trivia: The title character of the film, Rebecca, was inspired by a real-life 'girl on a motorcycle', the German racer Anke Eve Goldmann, a friend of the book's author, Andre Peyre Mandiargues. Goldmann designed her own one-piece leather riding suit in the early 1950s, and cut an amazing figure riding her BMWs in the '50s and '60s. - Wes



#### Movie Review: The Girl on a Motorcycle,

1968, Rated R (now), Director: Jack Cardiff. Writers: André Pieyre de Mandiargues (novel), Ronald Duncan (screenplay). Stars Marianne Faithfull, Alain Delon, Roger Mutton.

Plot: A married woman leaves her husband and zooms off on her motorcycle to see her lover.

...annnnd that's pretty much it. Yes, she is riding a Harley - an Electra Glide. And this being 1968, there are a lot of goofy psychedelic colors and polarization effects throughout. Fun fact: This was the first film to recieve an 'X' rating from the MPAA in the United States. (There's nudity.)

It's a boring film. In fact, I watched a lot of it in fast forward scrub.

But Marianne Faithfull was a pretty blonde when she made this, and so the flick has some visual interest. It's also cool seeing a chick on a Harley jet through small villages in Germany, France and Switzerland.



## **VESTED INTEREST: EDWARD MURPHY**

An examination of the various vests worn by F-HOGs—and what the patches signify. Send in a photo of yours!



### SOME VIDEOS OF INTEREST TO HARLEY-DAVIDSON BUFFS

The YouTube software has figured out that I'm interested in Harleys and has provided me with some links that I think you, too, will find interesting. As of this writing (late-May) I don't know how much longer the pandemic lockdown will continue, but if you are binge-watching TV here's some material to interest you! - Wes

"The New Harley-Davidsons Are Out of This World!" (circa 1958): If you have a hankering to see space maidens cuddling up to guys in tee-shirts, this



could be your *Star Wars*. (The tee-shirts feature what looks like black electrical tape, a style that never quite caught on.) This is a seriously dated and seriously hilarious old sales video.

"The FLH 1200 Electra Glide" (1976) - Now, I was alive in 1976 and I remember more color tones in the world than is represented in this video, but, hey, color film dye shift is a fact of life.

The LAPD Presents "Your Traffic Officer" (1948) - I like the sequence showing all the mechanical details of that 1948 police panhead.

#### Harley-Davidson Daytona Bike Week 1978 -

"Where Freedom means two wheels and a sunny day." Good comment: "Kinda weird not seeing anyone with a phone or taking pictures with their phones."

#### "Harley-Davidson Ten Motorcycles for 1980" -

This is mislabeled; it's really from 1973. It was shot in Wisconsin except for the night scenes (starting at the 4:34 point) which were shot in Los Angeles. I used to see films at the Pix when I was a kid, and M'Goo's was a place on Hollywood Boulevard I used to see all the time when I hung out there.

They used to have a window in front that purported to show a stack of gold bricks worth a million dollars. My ten year-old B.S. alarm went off when I noticed that the glass was always intact.

But I digress. The video is a cool production about the 1973 AMF Harley-Davidson lineup.



# **KNOW YOUR**



## **STAFFER!**

An occasional feature spotlighting our friends at the dealership...

Name: Ben Pellowe

**Title:** General Manager

How long have you been riding? 26 years

Why do you ride? It's relaxing, you can cut off the

world and just go.

Bike you currently ride: Any demo bike I want!

Bikes you have owned: Dirt bikes: Yamaha

TRT90, Yamaha TRT225, KTM 250SX

Quote: "A bad day on a motorcycle is better than a

good day at work!"

Best ride: Too many to count! Shenandoah Valley

in the fall is certainly a highlight.

Worst ride: Nothing really stands out. I guess I'm

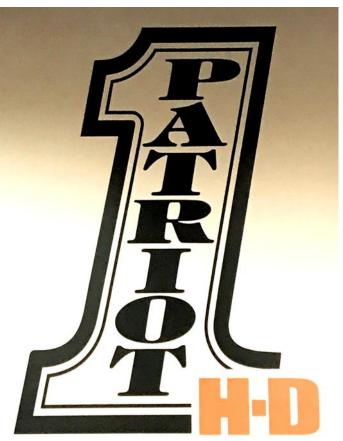
lucky in that way...

Vision for the dealership: I want to create a culture where Patriot Harley-Davidson is where people want to be. We want the atmosphere in the dealership to be fun, entertaining and laid back where we can all share our love for motorcycling and fellowship.

I want to see a more uniform approach with community involvement from our staff along with the F-HOG Chapter. Let's continue to both be good citizens in Fairfax.

We want to ensure that we are your dealer of choice before, during and many years after the sale. My goal is to build a long term relationship with our customers through excellent customer service and relationships built during and after regular business hours.





The new graphic art on the wall...

# NEED A MASK?



**ONLY** \$19.95



PATRIOT H-D HAS YOU COVERED

FIN GPS SECURITY SYSTEM
ONLY \$739

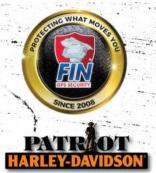
REGULAR PRICE \$1,299



PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY...
From Becoming Somone Else's

ALERT LOCATE RECOVER

\*See Dealer For Complete Details.







Conditions apply! Inquire at

Conditions apply! Inquire at dealership or call!





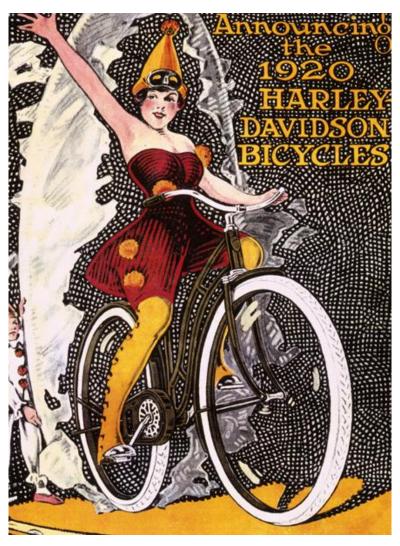
# 1920s HARLEY ADS

**By Wes** 

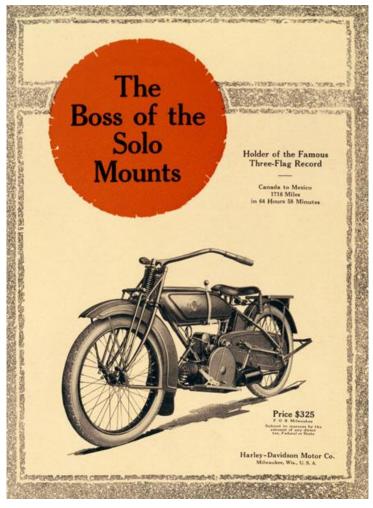
Left: 1920: I notice that a lot of the time in the 1920s, advertising was more art than ad copy. Apparently this one was created for sales in the Netherlands. Hey! Don't mow down our tulips! .

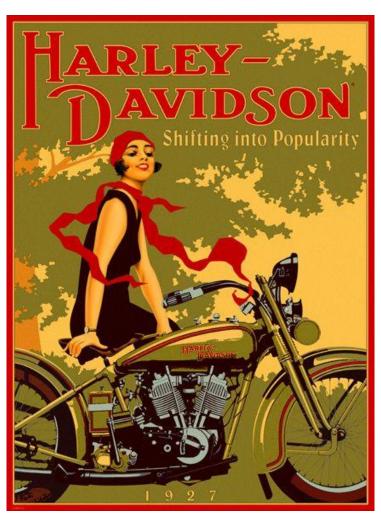
Bottom right: You have to admire the phrase "the Boss of the Solo Mounts." I've always thought Harleys boss, but I've never thought of a Harley in that way before. Nice graphics.

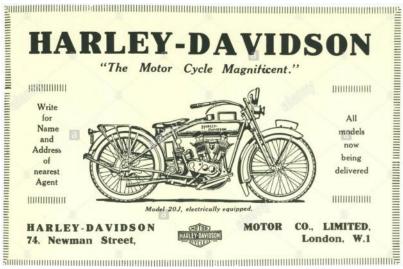
Bottom left: Yes, once upon a time Harley built bicycles, as this party hardy lass demonstrates.









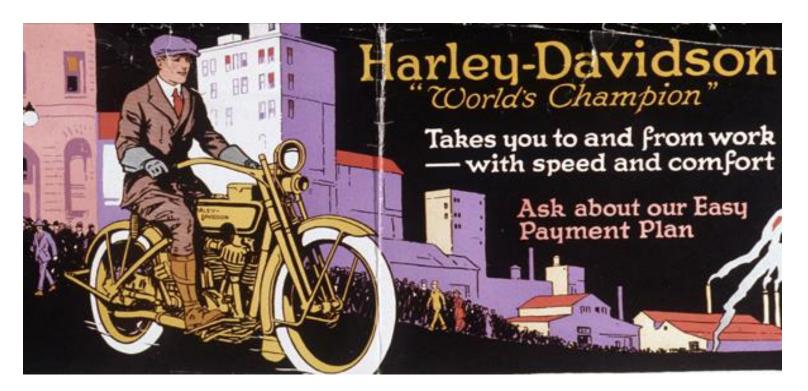


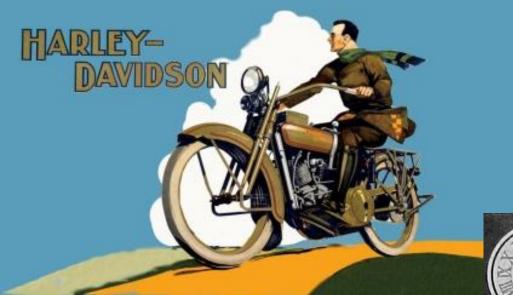
Left: 1927. When they painted these, do you suppose the artist thought, "Eighty years in the future people are going to want this on metal for their garages?"

Above: A British newspaper ad. Magnificent!

Bottom: 1924. Not strictly advertising unless you consider that big storefront sign. This was the first authorized Harley-Davison dealership in Sacramento, located at 508 J Street. Murray operated at this address from 1919 to 1931. Now it's H-D of Sacramento.







Above: At least he's wearing

gloves!

Middle: Sherlock Holmes!

Bottom left: Only \$235! You pay more than that now for a

windshield!

Bottom right: Save time!







One of the necessary skills in being a newsletter editor is knowing how to adapt articles for filler. This is something I ran back in the 1980s for a Civil War reenactor unit newsletter; Tom Fasulo was in another unit and gave me permission to use his text. Since bugs are a universal concern, it's useful information for bikers! (And it's pleasantly written.) - Wes

# B-1 Those Critters Away! by Thomas R. Fasulo

Entomologist and Civil War Reenactor

There has been a lot of concern expressed by reenactors about ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes and other flies, ants and other 6- and 8-legged creatures that we often come in contact with while in the field for a reenacting event. Some of the concern goes beyond just suffering stings and bites. Some of the aforementioned critters are possible vectors of diseases, some of which can be fatal. So let's ask Mr. Science (me) how to protect yourself against the bites and stings of various arthropods.

There are plenty of repellent aerosols, pastes,

dusts and such. The most common active ingredient in these is N,N-diethyl-meta-tolumide (DEET). This material was developed by the U.S. Medical Corps, and even they don't know why it works. However, recent research by an entomologist in the USDA labs here in Gainesville, FL shows that there *might* (emphasis on the might) be some connection between DEET and Gulf War Syndrome. The research showed that it takes more then just DEET (if DEET is even involved) to bring on the symptoms. However, this received a lot of play in the media. As a result, people are now leery of this proven repellent, and application instructions are more precise.

The absolute best way to avoid stinging or biting arthropods is to never leave your house. (However, if you are a sloppy housekeeper, this method isn't guaranteed.) I don't seem to have any problems being bothered by insects and other crawlies when I'm reenacting. I always thought this was due to professional courtesy, since I am an entomologist. Recently, I realized that all those annoying arthropods might be avoiding me for another reason.

Body odor. That's right... You need to smell bad to keep the insects away. Now we all smell bad at the end, and even in the middle, of an event. The secret is to smell bad from the start. In fact, the real secret is to smell bad days before the event.

Ever open a bottle of multivitamins? Remember how bad it smelled? It's the B-1 vitamin that gives off that smell. Ever hear of "Mosquito Tabs?" The camping and hunting stores sell them. If you start taking them days before going out into the wilderness, the mosquitoes aren't supposed to bother you.

Know what's in these expensive "Mosquito Tabs"? It's just the B-1 vitamin that costs three to four times more than at the health food store because it is in a different bottle.

You need to overdose on B-1 to saturate your body with it. When this happens your pores exude the B-1 smell and our favorites arthropods veer away to the guy or gal next in line. (Don't worry, people's noses aren't that fine-tuned and your relationship with your significant other won't be affected.) Now I said "overdose," but that's not possible because B-1 is a water-soluble vitamin. You can't achieve a toxic level because your body passes any excess out in urine after it reaches the saturation level. Only vitamin A and vitamin K are fat soluble. Too much of these (A and K) can be dangerous. (One piece of advice I remember is to never eat a polar bear's liver. It's so high in vitamin A that you can die almost immediately. This is why my reenactment unit in Florida never serves polar bear liver during a reenactment.)

My advice is to take your vitamins. Take plenty of B-1 in a good multivitamin. The books I have state that B vitamins are synergistic, that is they are more



potent when then when taken separately. They also recommend taking equal amounts of B-1, B-2, and B-6. Also eat Science to know that Big Macs, Diet Pepsi and Twinkies are not high in B-1

or even any other vitamins. Good sources of B-1 include dried yeast, rice husks, whole wheat, oatmeal, peanuts, pork, most vegetables, bran and milk. When I looked this up I was astounded. I eat all this stuff in quantity. Every morning I have brewer's yeast and organic peanut butter as part of my breakfast. I'm hypoglycemic and need a sugarfree, high protein breakfast to start me off in the



taken together morning. On days I don't eat peanut butter, I often then when have oatmeal. I love steamed rice and pork, and taken often have them together and independently. I eat plenty of the other stuff also. Therefore I must smell bad! (To the arthropods, anyway.)

taking equal B-1 is also called the "morale" vitamin due to its amounts of B-beneficial effects on the nervous system and mental attitude. Don't try and save money by buying cheap vitamins at the supermarket. Their quality varies well. You don't considerably. However, you also don't have to pay have to be Mr. top price at the local health food store. I get excellent top-brand name vitamins at discount know that Big prices from The Vitamin Shoppe.

And here is some more good advice. Don't pass this information on to anyone else. If everyone starting taking B-1 and eating these foods, we'd lose our secret protection. The arthropods, driven by starvation and lack of non-bad-smelling hosts, will hold their pheromone sensory preceptors ("noses" to non-entomologists) and attack *us*!

## Vintage Rides: The Harley-Davidson Rapido

The Harley/Aermacchi Rapido: The Milwaukee-Italy Connection

The ad on the cover says it all: "125cc! Over 70 mph! Under 175 lbs! Over 70 mpg! Under \$400!" Whhhaaat? Does this sound like any Harley-Davidson you're familiar with?



Fact is, it wasn't really a Harley. It was a re-badged Aermacchi Rapido marketed in the United States between 1968 and 1972. Aermacchi – as perhaps the name suggests – was an Italian airplane manufacturer who turned to building motorcycles after World War II as a way of filling the market's need for cheap transportation.

In 1960, Harley-Davidson purchased 50% of Aermacchi's motorcycle division, based in Varese, Italy. The Italian

branch of the brand was named "Aermacchi-Harley-Davidson" and the first bike produced was a variation of the Ala Verde model adapted for the American market. The intent was to complete with the flood of small, inexpensive Japanese bikes making their way into the States.

There were a number of small Aermacchi bikes sold as re-badged Harleys: Sprints, Sports, Bajas, the SX and SS line and my favorite, the 1972 Shortster. (There's real pride of ownership, huh? "I own a Harley-Davidson *Shortster!*" At least nobody can accuse you of compensating.) These re-badged Italian bikes were sometimes called "Spaghetti Harleys" in those dismissive days.

Getting back to the Rapido, it had a two-stroke single cylinder engine, an upswept exhaust and came in various colors including candy apple red, black, orange, yellow, blue and a metallic lime green that was exactly the same "Flamboyant Lime" color as my treasured 1964 Schwinn Sting Ray. A darker metallic green was also available; oddly, it looks like the very same hue as my 1968 Campus Green Sting Ray. Were Schwinn and



Aermacchi/Harley sharing paint or something?

There is no other word for the Rapido: they were *cute*.

The ad copy made reference to Timothy Leary's infamous 1960s advice: "The all-new Harley-Davidson Rapido gives you a neatly balanced combination of power, poise and precision... all engineered to move you out front and keep you there in style... *Tune in, Turn on, Tear out*!" Okkkaaaay.



One thing American Rapido owners had to get used to was a reversed control scheme: the shifter was on the right and the rear brake pedal was on the left. And forget potato-potatopotato; the sound of a Rapido exhaust is the same as described to me by a guy from my hometown who once rode a small motorcycle through a grocery store: WING-

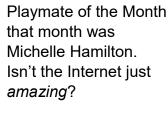
ding-ding-ding. (He was apprehended by the police. That stunt do not go well.)



If for some reason you just have to have a Rapido, they're still available via Craigslist and various autotrader Internet sites. NADA says that a 1968 in excellent condition will run about \$4,000; one in good condition will be about \$1,400. You can offer about \$500 for one in poor condition. If you want to see one in person, take a ride out to the Winchester Harley-Davidson dealership on Route 50; they have one on display. It may even be for sale.

I double dog dare you to take a Rapido out for an extended HOGs ride. – Wes

Fun fact: The Rapido ad on the cover is from the March 1968 *Playboy*. I got it via Google images. The



Right: That's Evel Knievel on a 1970 ML125S Rapido. It was in some movie.

Left: The mighty Rapido powerplant.





# MOTORCYCLE FREEDOM AND SAFETY ON THE OPEN ROAD (From the NHTSA)

Ride to Work Day, on the third Monday in June [June 15th this year, but I telework on Mondays—Wes] celebrates the joys of motorcycle riding. Whether you ride as part of your daily commute, for weekend fun, or as part of a community of riders, safety comes first. The unique freedom of the road that comes with motorcycles also comes with responsibilities — for your safety and for that of others.

We clearly have a great deal of work to do—both motorcyclists and drivers—to make riding safer. In 2015, there were 4,976 motorcyclists killed—an 8-percent increase from the 4,594 motorcyclists killed in 2014. Motorcyclist fatalities occurred nearly 29 times more frequently than passenger car occupant fatalities in traffic crashes per vehicle mile traveled. [I was at church when I told somebody that I had taken up motorcycling, and a lawyer said I was at 10 times more risk for an accident. I corrected him, "No, it's closer to 30 times." - Wes]

Safer motorcycle riding begins with helmets. Helmets saved 1,772 motorcyclists' lives in 2015. However, 740 more lives could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets. In States without universal helmet laws, 58 percent of motorcyclists killed in 2015 were not wearing helmets, as compared to 8 percent in States with universal helmet laws.

While the law varies from state to state, your use of a helmet should not. You are needlessly increasing your risk of serious injury or death by not wearing a helmet. Always wear a helmet that meets the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218. When shopping for a helmet, look for the DOT symbol on the back. That is the manufacturer's way of certifying that the helmet meets the DOT standard.

Safer motorcycle riding—and road safety in general—also means avoiding alcohol and drugs.

Forty-two percent of motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2015 were alcoholimpaired. Motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes were found to have the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired drivers than any other vehicle types (27% for motorcycles, 21% for passenger cars, 20% for light trucks, and 2% for large trucks). If you've been drinking, you shouldn't be on the road.

Drivers also need to respect motorcyclists, give them room, and look out for them. Drivers should understand the safety challenges faced by motorcyclists such as size and visibility, and motorcycle riding practices like downshifting and weaving to know how to anticipate and respond to them. Motorcyclists know that the freedom and exhilaration of riding is like nothing else. NHTSA wants you to be able to enjoy a full lifetime of that joy because you've chosen to ride safely—while wearing a helmet and while sober.



"Tough on the outside—soft and squishy on the inside."

# YOUR MOTO-ASTROLOGICAL GUIDE

It is an *established fact* that the positions of the planets at one's birth control and guide one's destiny. The following will assist you, the Harley motorcyclist, in understanding and accepting your heaven-decreed personality and riding traits. Your ride is in the stars! - Wes, 4/27 Taurus.

Aries (March 21 -April 19): The Ram. If you see a guy riding around in a parking lot with both feet a millimeter or two above the pavement for an extended period, you are seeing an Aries rider. This is the sian of the fearful, prissy, goody two-shoes biker who objects to swearing, smoking and any bugs whatsoever making contact with his helmet or fairing. Natives of this sign press creases into their

gloves and wear hair gel under their helmets.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): The Bull. Natives of this sign are without a doubt the noblest of all. Handsome and impressive, women want him and men want to be him. When a Taurean walks into a Harley-Davidson dealership you can hear his testicles clank together all the way back over by the coffee machine. Word has it that Chuck Norris tells Taurean jokes. There is no Harley too big,

heavy or imposing for him to ride easily. His bike? A Road King - of course.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20): The Twins. A skinny wretch of a man who gets blown off the seat the moment he hits 25 mph. 0% biker and 100% pendejo. More Fiat than Fat Boy, more Reliant K than Road Glide, more Studebaker than Softail. A Gemini never, ever waves back. He always buys regular gas, the cheapest tires and puts Wal-Mart oil in his Vespa. No gremlin bell will ever want to bother saving this guy from road hazards. Someday, somehow, he will die of cheapness.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22): The Crab. Beneath

contempt. He drives a car, and assures you that, someday, you will be involved in a horrific accident and wonders why you took up the sport in the first place. He kicks his dog.

Leo (July 23 – August 22): The Lion. The typical Leo thinks he's a master mechanic but is really a dealer in death. He doesn't know how to use a dipstick, he over-torques spark plugs so the heads crack, his

brakes never work after he has replaced them and, after a Leo does your recommended maintenance, the headlights come on when you try to blow the horn. The sickening sound of a fiberglass saddlebag falling off and skidding along the street at 60 mph is the calling card of the Leo. Not even ABS can save you if a Leo has worked on your ride.

**Virgo (August 23 – September 22):** The Virgin - a deeply unhappy individual.



Libra (September 23 – October 22): The Scales. This is the sign of the wannabe cop, so he makes sure that his Street Glide is painted black and white and has all sorts of vaguely law enforcementy-looking decals everywhere. Aviator glasses. His boots go up to his knees. This is a guy who pulls out a measuring tape to check your ape hangers. He tries to look like Erik Estrada on CHiPs but instead reminds people of Cheech Marin in *Up in Smoke*. He hangs out in police stations and fetches coffee.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): The Scorpion. What's that plastic-bedecked thing

incredibly annoying whine? It's a Scorpio on a sportsbike, doing 95 in a 35 mph zone. Word is, Scorpios mumble dismissive comments about Harleys even in their sleep. Your typical Scorpio wears a jacket covered with the names of moto companies, with a color-coordinated set of pants, helmet, gloves, and, probably, underwear. He says "duuuuude" a lot.

wears on a bike, and even a sustained 75 mile-anhour breeze is insufficient to properly air the guy out. The air cleaner on his bike turns brown on rides. A cloud of small flies follows him everywhere, and bikers in Sturgis can smell him by the time he reaches Milwaukee if the breeze is right. If you see a biker walk over to the gas station convenience shop, belch, pass gas and hoik snot out of his helmet while children look on, you've found a Capricorn. On group rides he's always, always appointed Tailgunner.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): The Water-Bearer, this fellow rides a water-cooled bike coming up fast in your mirror, accompanied by that that is always low on coolant and always poorly-

> maintained. His tires have as much tread on them as a slice of Oscar-Meyer bologna. His stop lights? The bulb's burned out. Brakes? There are none. The average Aquarian is so hapless that he requires a blood transfusion every time he gets on the saddle. If you've just heard the sound of a 900 pound bike crashing to the pavement because the kickstand wasn't properly extended, you've just encountered an



#### **Sagittarius**

(November 22 - December 21): A Centaur. A thoroughly nasty-looking old-school biker. You will get no credibility from this guy unless your shovelhead leaks oil, your pipes are so loud they cause ants to come out of their holes to dance and your manners thoroughly offend everyone. Somehow he manages to smoke a cigar at 75 miles an hour. His middle fingers are arthritic from overuse. Prefaces every major statement with the phrase "Back in the day..." A real pain.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): The Goat. He has never washed any of the clothes he Aquarian.

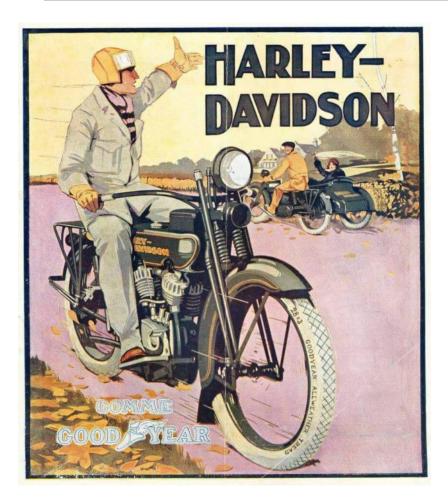
Pisces (February 19 - March 20): The Fish. This is the astrological sign of the Instagram biker who might put 100 miles on his bike in a year or two. Ride to Sturgis or Daytona? Why on earth would anyone ever want to do that? Piscean tires last forever, and after a very short time he's ready to trade his ride in for the next \$42,000 CVO that will feature prominently in photos taken in abandoned industrial landscapes on his social media sites. Perhaps needless to say, everything he wears has a bar and shield somewhere on it.

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

John Shepley
Rodney Coryer
Cliff Landsman
Joan McRorie
John Boaz
Theresa Diehl
Jim Lacy
Linda Collins
Roger Williams
Cliff Wilke
Kenneth Owsley
Barry Mark
Larry Latham
Andy Butts
Jon Anders



Eli Cortes Frank C. Proctor Jr. Holli Hurst David Danner Allen Foster Have a Wheelie Happy Birthday!





Hartman said in a news release."



#### etc. - A Bear and a Bike

Fauquier Times, 26 May 2020

"A lane of Lee Highway was shut down briefly Monday after a crash involving a motorcycle and a bear. The crash happened on the 5400 block of Lee Highway about noon on Monday, May 25, according to Fauquier County Sheriff's Office reports. A 2013 Harley Davidson motorcycle was traveling north on U.S. 29, north of Snow Hill Drive, near Telephone Road, when a black bear ran into the roadway.

"According to the crash report, the motorcycle operator slowed and swerved to miss the bear as it was running across the highway, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. James Hartman said in a news release. The motorcycle struck the bear, injuring the operator, Hartman said. The motorcycle operator, a 46-year-old Spotsylvania County man, was taken by ambulance to a regional trauma center, Hartman said.

"Witnesses reported seeing the bear run away from the crash scene, Hartman said.

"One lane of the highway was shut down for a short period of time, the sheriff's office said. Over the Memorial Day weekend, the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office had several reports of black bear sightings and several sightings of black bears around Fauquier County were reported on social media sites, sheriff's office spokesman Sgt. James

#### etc. - Kids on Bikes

Last weekend I saw a small child on a bike as a passenger which caused me to do some research. What follows is by Gregory S. Hooe at the law firm marksandharrison.com—Wes

"For avid motorcycle enthusiasts, riding may be the primary or even sole form of transportation on a daily basis. So, the question often comes up about how old passengers must be. Fortunately, in Virginia motorcyclists, there is no minimum age limit for passengers – at least for now. Of course, just because something is allowed, it doesn't necessarily make it safe.

"Virginia law makes no distinction about the age of passengers. So, it is not illegal to have a young child as a rider. However, all other requirements must be met. So, if your child rides as a passenger, the child must have a proper helmet with eye protection, foot pegs or a foot rest and a passenger seat. As a practical matter, you will probably not be able to find a helmet that would fit a child under a certain age. Likewise, if a child cannot reach the foot pegs or stay upright on his or her own, then you should definitely not take them riding."



If Poppa won't take us we'll just go ourselves.

# **THANKS TO:**

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Newsletter of the Fairfax, VA H.O.G. 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.
- 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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