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MARCH / APRIL 2015

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THE RUN PIN, WHAT, HOW, WHEN AND WHERE...

By JT Hasley

As H.O.G. members we have some cool benefits which enhance our experience as a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Owner and H.O.G. Members.

As Members of H.O.G., the Official Riding Club of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, we often collect items to signify where and when we did a ride. We have Mileage pins, rally pins, H.O.G. event pins, Chapter pins and of course, our membership year pins. These pins come in different shapes or designs.

We sometimes have to ride through the dead of night, rain, sleet, hail, really great weather, extreme heat and cold to retrieve that run pin. We wear them on our jackets, vests and sometimes have a display in our garage or home. Yeah, show the world where you've been.

Why do we do this? At this time I will state the phrase "if I have to explain, you wouldn't understand".

It is the journey; it is about the ride either with your friends or on your own. It is going there and back and what ya did. The run pin signifies you were there, maybe even more than once.

A couple of programs we have where pins may be retrieved by H.O.G. members are the **U.S. H.O.G. Rally Program** and the **H.O.G. Pin Stop Program**. Yes two different programs and two different ways to get your run pin.

First the **U.S. H.O.G. State Rally Program** (which will be called in 2015 U.S. H.O.G. Rally Program). If you have been to one (if not, why?) you know these are H.O.G. Events for H.O.G. members that are planned by H.O.G. member volunteers. There is the pre-registration that will offer that symbol of attending the event, the run pin. Rallies vary in what they offer for the pre-registration fee, so please read the registration detail. As a side note; on-site registration at these H.O.G. Events may have pins available while supplies last. These pins are designed by the rally committees working with our H.O.G. art department to bring them to life. Do not be confused here; U.S. H.O.G. State Rallies are not where you get a free event pin. You can visit hog.com for information on 2015 H.O.G. State Rallies yet to be held.

Second is the **H.O.G. Pin Stop Program**. At many of the major motorcycling events, such as Daytona, Sturgis, Laconia, etc. H.O.G. has an area where H.O.G. members can drop by and pick up a free pin for that event. Yes, free event pin that is again a symbol you were there, you rode, and you experienced another adventure on your Harley-Davidson Motorcycle as a National H.O.G. member. Often there is another perk that is associated with these pin stops. Maybe a special product reveal or a party just for you the national H.O.G. member. No registration required to get your free H.O.G. Event Pin at these select

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COACH'S CORNER

Carol Phillips, a Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified Rider Coach, teaches the Basic Rider Course (BRC) at the Northern Virginia Community College. She is also the Chapter's Safety Officer.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) suggests that motorcyclists ask themselves three questions before they go riding.

- 1) Is your gear ready? Your gear serves three purposes – comfort, increases your visibility to other drivers, and offers protection. Is it time for a new helmet/goggles/visor/riding glasses? Do the soles of your riding boots still have good traction? What about your rain gear? Take an inventory and make sure the essentials are stowed in your saddle bag or are in a small luggage bag, ready to strap on the back seat.
- 2) Is your bike ready? A properly maintained motorcycle will allow you to enjoy the ride instead of worrying about its mechanical condition and your safety. A detailed safety inspection is critical since your bike has been sitting all winter. “T-CLOCS” is a handy reminder of a way to perform a thorough inspection:
 - a. T – Tires and Wheels
 - b. C - Controls
 - c. L – Lights and Electrics
 - d. O – Oils and Other Fluids
 - e. C – Chassis
 - f. S – Stands

Not mechanically inclined or don't have the knowledge, tools or time to perform an inspection? Whitt's Harley-Davidson Service Department has fully trained and certified mechanics who would be happy to do the work for you.

- 3) Are you ready? Right about now, after the weather we have had lately, I bet the answer to that question is YES!! We are all longing for warmer weather and pavement clear of ice, snow, sand, etc. Actually, the question refers to your mental/physical state. Did you get enough sleep the night before? Are you taking any over the counter or prescriptions medications that could affect your judgement? Are you upset, worried, angry about anything that will distract you from paying attention to road and traffic hazards?

While you should ask yourself these questions before every ride, now is the perfect time to get your gear and bike ready for the upcoming riding season. After all, you want to be ready to ride when the first couple of nice hours present themselves!

events. Check out hog.com for the remaining locations of the H.O.G. Pin Stops.

To recap, U.S. H.O.G. State Rallies and H.O.G. Pin Stops are two different programs. So, share all this with your membership to eliminate any confusion.

Another thought before I go, review member benefits and get all the National H.O.G. membership information at hog.com/benefits.

Travel well Brothers and Sisters and see ya on the road!

SPRING CLEANING

Spring is almost here at last. The hills and dales will so be singing with the sounds of motorcycles. That is, if you can hear them over the whine of chainsaws, the growl of chipper-shredders and the roar of heavy equipment. This spring will arrive on the heels of what has been a rough winter in many parts of the nation. An abundance of heavy snows and ice storms followed by the fabled March winds has caused a lot of damage to everything from trees and shrubs to houses, outbuildings and utilities. The warm weather of spring not only brings the motorcycles out in force, but it also begins the work of outdoor spring cleaning. This cleanup work can throw some surprises at us as we return to riding our motorcycles.

Professional crews, who maintain utility lines and right-of-ways, will shift this season from emergency storm repairs to maintenance and upgrades. They are out along the roads with flag persons and typically do a great job of keeping their work from creating road hazards. Ditto for the highway repair crews fixing the roads. A hearty thank you goes out to all of them for keeping our favorite roads debris-free and in good repair. Show them that thanks by watching out for them and giving the workers a wide berth when passing.

But, the winter damage extends beyond the roadside into almost every backyard along those roads and that is where the surprises start. Once all the trees and plantings are trimmed and the debris from structural repairs is gathered up, it has to go somewhere. Whether it is bound for the local dump or the mulch yard, it is likely to be piled into the back of a pickup, on a utility trailer or in a combination of both. Since mulch yards and dumps are often located out of town along smaller roads, it is likely those are the same roads you ride to get out of town.

Experienced riders know to always scan for surface hazards. If you happen to be riding behind vehicles hauling debris, watching for flying hazards is also wise. But you should also observe vehicles with a sharp eye. Is it overloaded? Can you see the driver in the side view mirror? Are the taillights obscured? Does the trailer have visible and working brake lights? Sadly, some folks will overload their vehicles to reduce the number of trips hauling yard waste. They may use an old trailer that has broken or absent brake lights, thus resulting in both the inability to see the traffic behind them and to properly signal that they are slowing or turning. Don't follow these

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UPCOMING EVENTS

(All calendar event subject to change)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE³

WHEN: MARCH 14TH

WHITT'S OPEN HOUSE / ROAD CLEANUP³

WHEN: MARCH 21ST

ROAD CAPTAIN MEETING AND GROUP RIDE CLASS¹

WHEN: MARCH 22ND, 10:30

WHERE: AMERICAN LEGION POST #10

KELLY'S FORD INN RIDE – KELLY'S FORD, VA.¹

WHEN: MARCH 28TH

CIVIL WAR RIDE TO APPOMATTOX¹

WHEN: APRIL 11TH/12TH

SKYLINE DRIVE RIDE¹

WHEN: APRIL 18TH

WEATHER MOUNTAIN TO HORSESHOE RESTAURANT¹

WHEN: APRIL 19TH

WHITT'S OPEN HOUSE³

WHEN: APRIL 25TH

WHITT'S SPRING POKER RUN³

WHEN: APRIL 26TH

ROUTE 11 CHIP FACTORY RIDE – MT JACKSON¹

WHEN: MAY 2ND

FRONTIER BBQ RIDE – FAIRFIELD PA¹

WHEN: MAY 3RD

ROCK'N THE RIBS RIDE – SHAWN'S BBQ¹

WHEN: MAY 9TH

TIM'S SEAFOOD RIDE – LAKE ANNA¹

WHEN: MAY 16TH

PUB ON THE HILL RIDE – GRIFFIN TAVERN¹

WHEN: MAY 17TH

WHITT'S OPEN HOUSE³

WHEN: MAY 23RD

RIDE TO ROLLING THUNDER³

WHEN: MAY 24TH

ALLMAN'S BBQ RIDE – FREDERICKSBURG, VA¹

WHEN: MAY 30TH

CAR SHOW³

WHEN: MAY 31ST

2 FOR 1 RIDE¹

WHEN: JUNE 6TH

IRON HORSE RIDE – CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK – CASS, WV¹

WHEN: JUNE 13TH/14TH

¹ CLOSED: are chapter events which are open to Manassas Chapter members and one (1) guest per member.

² MEMBER ONLY: are open only to H.O.G. members.

³ OPEN: events are open to chapter members, National H.O.G. members and other guests as desired.

vehicles closely. Allowing a generous following distance will give you the extra reaction time you might need to respond to surprise hazards. Remember, it only takes a second for one person's yard debris to become your road hazard.

THE FIRST MILES

Most of the rides we take on our motorcycle begin at home. Home is also the most likely final destination for rides that originate somewhere else. This means that each time we ride our motorcycle, we are likely to travel the first few miles around our homes. In all likelihood, we will traverse those same miles twice each day we ride. Following home, work is the next most likely origin for a motorcycle ride. So the same travel frequency applies to the first few miles around our place of work. As motorcycle riders, this is an important observation to consider in our personal risk management, especially in light of findings in the Hurt study published in 1981.

The Hurt study found that most motorcycle accidents happened within the first few miles of the ride's origin. Of the 900 motorcycle accidents studied, home and work were the two most common origins and destinations followed by shopping and recreation. It makes sense that since home and work are the two most common places most folks travel to or from, they would figure so high in an accident study. But, there is another commonality here well worth taking note of, which is the proximity to the ride's origin. The study showed a median pre-crash travel time of 6 minutes.

One could surmise that familiarity with those frequently traveled roads lowers a rider's situational awareness. Reduced awareness will impede a rider's ability to recognize and avoid a hazardous situation. Therefore, it would seem logical to make a conscious effort to be extra alert while riding on very familiar roads. It would also be wise to start each ride with your mind clear and fully focused on the ride and your surroundings. Wherever you begin your ride, make it safe from the first mile to the last.

END NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I have just a few more things to mention as reminders:

1. If you have any articles that you would like to submit for the next issue of The Hogwash the deadline is April 15, 2015. If you have any questions or need some help pulling things together please don't hesitate to [contact](#) me.
2. If you would like to have your photo included in the Chapter Member Photo Album please send a photo to [Brian Delhagen](#).

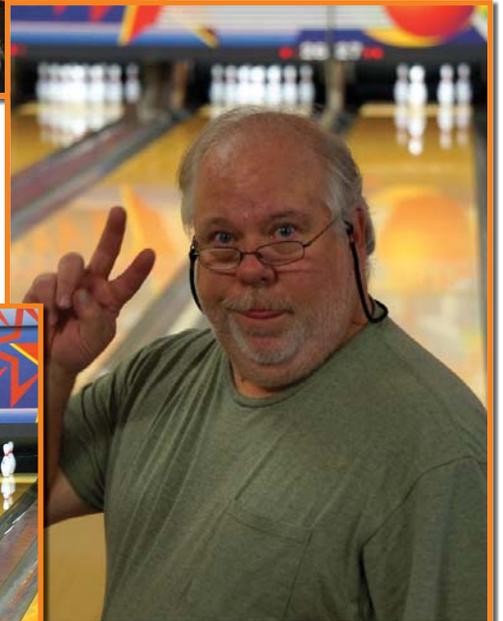
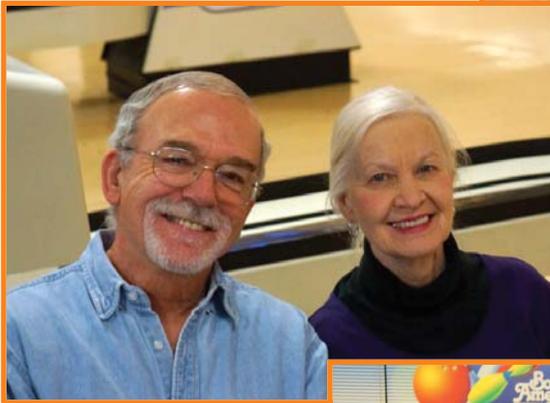
RECENT HAPPENINGS

H.O.G. BALL (MORE PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN HERE: www.flickr.com/photos/manassas_hog/sets/72157650083691537/)



RECENT HAPPENINGS (CONT.)

H.O.G. BOWL (MORE PHOTOS CAN BE SEEN HERE: www.flickr.com/photos/manassas_hog/sets/72157650323644670/)



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President

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Phone: 703.551.0043 • Fax: 703.670.3982
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Tulio Torres
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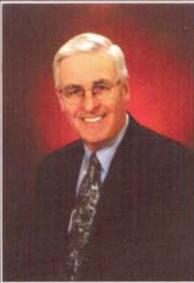
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