

Intermountain Chapter HOG (1255) Historical Report 2014

Officers:

Director: Bill Smart

Editor: Charle Knoblock

Assistant Director: Mason Clarke

Safety Officer: Chuck Cox

Secretary: Lori Sirs

Equipment Officer: Pat Bryant

Treasurer: Rick Polenske

Lead Road Captain: Jim Moore

Activities/Vol Coordinator: Karen Peterman

LOH Coordinator: Shelley Berns

Membership Coordinator: Sal Guerrero

Sponsor HOG Manager: Dave Thomas

Photographer/Historian: Valerie Moore

Member at Large: Herb Weston

Ass. Photographer/Historian Dale Shaw

Shannon Weston

Webmaster: Scott Beale

Ted Wenzel

Tom Reeb Jr.

Harley Officer's Training:

Conducted February 28 – March 1 in Las Vegas NV. Attended by Mason Clarke (Assistant Director), Karen Peterman (Secretary), Shelley Berns (LOH Coordinator), Sal Guerrero (Membership Coordinator).

Membership:

Starting Membership: Unknown (as of January 1, 2014)

New Memberships: 29 (does not include late renewals)

Ending Membership: 267 (as of December 31, 2014)

Chapter Rides:

Twenty-seven Road Captains planned, organized, and conducted 28 rides. There were no reportable mishaps.

Cooking Events:

Pancake Feed: 1

BBQ: 3

Board Activities:

January:

Mark briefed the board on Shelley's intent to suggest the chapter's LOH support the Women's and Children's Alliance after Pat donated his winnings from a 50/50 drawing to the organization. It was reported that the organization rarely receives cash donations. Support would include the LOH organizing a charity ride supporting the organization.

Mason introduced the idea of organizing a before-meeting dinner to offer a choice for those unable to attend the traditional after-meeting dinner. He will gauge interest and report back to the board.

February:

Pat suggested the board consider renting the chapter's trailer out to members. After discussion it was decided doing so could create liability issues. Disapproved

Sal briefed to board on the various capabilities of My Chapter Manager (on-line administrative membership management tool). He asked what the board thought about allowing full read/review rights for all chapter members. No action taken.

Sal introduced a two column ride roster for use by road captains during rides. Chapter members initial by their names on the forms to provide a record of who participated in each ride.

Charle proposed the monthly newsletter become a quarterly document since there hasn't been enough information forwarded to him. Ted offered some ideas on how the current newsletter format and how it can be changed. A motion was made to table the decision to go to a quarterly document and create a survey to get membership feedback on how the newsletter can be improved. Approved

Mason reported back to the board about the before-meeting dinner. Since there seemed to be enough interest based on informal inquiries before the last membership meeting, a dinner will be arranged before the March or April meeting as a trial run.

March:

Todd presented the chapter with a request to help with the MDA ride; stating in the past we have supported it and the Dealer will support it fully, either way. The Board has some time to think this over; it would be helpful to have an answer next month. The date of the ride has tentatively been set for July 19th, however, if the chapter would like to take a significant role and the date needs to be moved, this is flexible. As a reminder, the MDA local chapter does the lion's share of the work. We would primarily need to assist with registration and the ride stops. The ride was not held for a couple of years, but was re-instated last year; Todd thinks it would be nice to have the ride come "home" to the chapter. Karen and Shelley would be willing to be the liaison between the chapter and the MDA if the board decides to take an active role in supporting the

ride. They will get a write-up soliciting help/support from the General Membership and forward this to Lori to disseminate via email.

Pat briefed the board that the chapter's trailer registration renewal was coming due and proposed the chapter consider selling the trailer. After discussion it was determined that the lack of use justified selling it. It was determined the chapter's general membership will have first opportunity to purchase the trailer. If it does not sell this way, it will be listed for sale to the general public. Approved

Discussion was held about the potential of the chapter taking the lead on the MDA charity ride this year. There is no current plan to plan/support a ride for them this year and in reality, it may mean spreading ourselves too thin to support multiple charity rides in addition to Chapter activities. Disapproved

Shelley proposed an open LOH charity ride the weekend of September 13/14th to benefit the WCA (Women's & Children's Alliance). She also proposed that chapter members collect toiletry items from hotel rooms to donate to the organization. We have supported this charity in the past. Approved

Shelley proposed providing blank cards at the next General Meeting to encourage members to make suggestions about events, and to share ideas about what they would like to see happen/not happen with the chapter. Approved

George Patmas solicited chapter support for a charity ride to support a local family who has been affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). Boundaries and parameters of non-official chapter events were reviewed; George is able to advertise and promote this as a non-chapter event. Additionally, he was encouraged to do research about liability and also about legalities about managing the money raised. No further board action proposed.

Shannon made a motion to support the WCA for our one yearly charity ride. The board and chapter are encouraged to support the dealership in this ride. Karen and Shelley volunteered to serve as liaisons between the dealership and the chapter. Approved

April:

May:

There was discussion about making a final decision about selling the chapter's trailer. It was determined after discussion to sell the trailer via silent auction with a starting/minimum bid of \$1800. Bids will be accepted from the membership beginning at the May General Meeting, where it will be announced. This will also be announced in the newsletter. The winning bid will be announced at the June General Meeting. The winner need not be present to win. Approved

Mason shared the results, comments, and suggestions made as a result of the newsletter survey. These related to: More articles from a variety of members, request for more pre/post-ride write-

ups, more LOH information, more safety tips, information about members (“meet a member”), including more pictures from rides, removing the LifeFlight info, removing the name tag photos, and ways to deal with the perceived “secretive” nature of the Board. These were discussed at length as a board; their responses and suggestions will be written up and submitted to the newsletter editor for publication in the next newsletter.

There was discussion about the importance of having a single chapter member being responsible for securing the Food Permit and being a contact person for the Health Department. It was suggested that we create a position (not on the board, but subject to the chapter) – Food Safety Coordinator. Because of the knowledge and experience, he has gleaned, Mark Berns was appointed unanimously by the board to this new position. Approved

June:

Bill Shrum: Rick brought in a guest to discuss tax filing and answer questions that the board has. Bill explained the 2-step process filing paperwork with the State and then Federal agencies to become compliant. The process to date is that Bill filed an extension on our behalf using an EIN that was on file. However, that was an invalid number so we were assigned one by the IRS. We will now be completing the paperwork to become incorporated, as a non-profit, social club, 501 (c) 7. It is the recommendation of National HOG as well as our dealer that we file taxes annually. The simplest path at this point is to start filing from this point forward and not worry about previous years. It is not likely that we would be audited or asked to file retroactively. Once questions were answered, Bill left the meeting and allowed for discussion amongst the board; all questions were answered to the satisfaction of the board members present. Of note, Bill has agreed to be our accountant when his services are needed. A motion was made to follow the recommendations, current and future, of the accountant. Approved

Rick will not be continuing on as Treasurer next year. He made a motion that the election for Treasurer be made several months before our general election. Bill suggested we include the position of Secretary as Lori also will not be able to continue on as secretary. It was noted that this early election required a change to the bylaws. The protocol for changing the bylaws was discussed. Discussion about whether a one-time early election required a bylaw change commenced. A motion was made to simply hold the elections early without bylaw revision was made. Approved

Mason shared information about past expenses/costs for the After-Christmas Christmas Party. He also has been looking into venues and dates; current discussion is focused on venue and cost of the party. Consideration was given for room rental, band, food, gratuity, and cost of the open bar to the members. A suggestion was made to solicit information from the members about importance of key features (having a block of rooms at the hotel on-site, cost of drinks). Mason will create a survey for the members regarding preference for a classier (hotel) venue where drinks may cost more, vs. Elks Lodge where drinks were cheaper but less fancy, and their preference for Friday vs. Saturday night for the event. Board members will forward any additional thoughts/questions to Mason in the meantime. Mason also suggested we have a

satisfaction survey after the party to get feedback from attendees while it is fresh in their minds.
Approved

A few ideas were shared about giving back to the membership. Specific discussion and recommendations were tabled until the next board meeting. Rick will bring a copy of the Budget to that meeting.

With respect to a previous motion passed to pay (\$45 per member) for chapter Road Captains to attend the Accident Scene Management class, there have been 11 who have signed up so far. There are four remaining slots available. A motion was made to reimburse Ric Tallada (Road Captain) for the class he already paid for. Approved

July:

Mason briefed the board on the After-Christmas Christmas Party survey. The members who participated, showed a clear preference for holding it at a hotel rather than the Elks in Nampa (2:1 margin) and on a Saturday rather than a Friday (4:1 margin). Mason has secured the venue for January 24th, and the band has been booked, as well. Our budget for the event is \$2500. Mason proposed we form a Christmas Party Planning committee of 5-6. Approved

Discussion was held regarding early morning rides that begin at the Dealership before it opens as there are no restrooms nearby. Brief discussion was held giving consideration to having a Port-a-Potty on the dealership premises to accommodate riders. However, this idea was summarily tabled for now. One suggestion was considering alternate starting points; this will be addressed at next year's Ride Planning meeting. Road Captains are always free to begin and end their rides where they choose.

August:

There was some concern about the member who is interested in running for the Treasurer position being married to a dealership employee. The member been cleared by Mark Dukes (sponsor) to be considered for the position.

Lori reported that we no longer have a copy of Office Suite after the Secretaries computer was repaired. Rick thinks he has the discs. A motion to purchase the Office Suite if the disks cannot be found was made. Approved

September:

Mason briefed venue for the Christmas party charged a room deposit fee for the party on the club's card. Costs are still being factored in; it looks like the cost to members will be \$15, with the club contributing \$2600. The committee has been busy planning decorations and such and

they are leaning toward a Mardi Gras theme. The committee is also leaning toward having fewer, but higher quality door prizes.

Lori shared that the Office Suite software was located and installed successfully on the club computer.

Mark has \$111 left from the Steak Roast Ride. There was some discussion about whether to deposit this to the chapter's account and possibly earmark it for the Christmas Party fund or donate it to the WCA. A motion was made to deposit the funds into the chapter's account.

Approved

Scott briefed the board that the funeral for Wayne Mai (chapter member) will be this Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Nampa, on 404 Nectarine Street. This is a member who passed in a motorcycle accident on the previous Saturday. Scott proposed we make this information available to the chapter so that those who want to attend, can. Mason will contact a member of the family to see if the family is okay with the membership being notified. If members do attend, they should wear their colors. Of note, the IMHOG chapter was mentioned in Wayne's obituary. Approved

Shelley briefed she received our certificate of insurance including a bill for the liability insurance for the WCA event, in the amount of \$180. Discussion was held regarding how to allocate funds to cover this and review of guidelines from the bylaws. A motion was made to pay the insurance policy for this event and not try to pass it on the WCA. Further discussion stressed that this does not set a precedence for assuming the cost of insurance for other rides in the future. Approved

October:

Val spoke with the representative from the nursing home from a previous motion to provide charitable support. They are very excited about our support of the residents for the Holiday Run. Donations, including cash, are welcome. The dealership will be purchasing a Wii system. Discussion was held about the chapter potentially purchasing some games for the Wii. We will hold off until donations are accepted and take care of as much of the list of requested items as we can. Pat made a motion to donate any leftover soda from our last cooking event to the nursing home. Approved

Rick offered some feedback from the general membership about being mindful of the number of charities we support, and also the location of these as our members come from all over the Treasure Valley and very likely already support charities of their own apart from the club. We do have a protocol for members who want to solicit funds for a charity. However, as a board, we need to be mindful of the wishes and opinions of the members, which the board represents. There was a clarification made about the difference between allowing outside organizations to solicit funds/support from the members, and financial support decided on by the board. Individual chapter members who want to promote a charity event need to go through the board, as it contained in our bylaws. Outside organizations still have the option of coming to our General Meeting and letting people know about their event.

Mason provided an update on Christmas Party planning. Shannon proposed to add a Photo Booth to the event. This was very popular last year. The cost of this would be \$300; as this is above the budget already set, Shannon made a motion that we pay for the photo booth. Mason also shared that Mark Dukes would like to contribute to the party as well. The committee is leaning toward fewer, but higher quality gifts for door prizes. The theme will be Mardi Gras. Photo Booth approved.

Shelley shared a suggestion from the suggestion box. The request was not entirely clear, but has to do with one of the Senior Centers and a Christmas tree. An email will go out to the membership to have the interested party clarify their suggestion regarding the Christmas tree.

Bill initiated discussion about the Eagle's having a pay-as-you-go dinner the same night as our meetings as a means of raising funds. While it is understandable that they would like our business, it also cuts into our meeting space. Bill will speak with Cary (lodge representative) about the space issue, although we do appreciate their invitation.

Bill briefed the group on the recent sale of Jerry's State Court Café to the owners of Moon Diner. Since the new operating hours would not support our meetings. Mason recommended Raedeen's and agreed to make the arrangements. Approved

November:

Mason briefed on gifts for the Christmas Party. The annual gift costs of \$350.00 will be coming out of the Christmas party fund while the director's gift card (\$100), volunteer gift card (\$75) and ride ticket gift comes from the chapter's general fund.

Herb suggested that we make a donation of \$100 to the Boise Holiday Parade committee. Approved

Sal suggested that we send out an email with the application and release form because it is not linked. Sal has funds for renewals but not the signed waiver forms. Sal will hold the funds until the waivers are received. Rick made a motion that the memberships of new people joining after October 15th will be covered for the remainder of the year and the entire following year. Approved

Shannon presented the question about the Christmas Party price since new people have not paid in the entire year. Should new members pay the higher price? A motion was made to have new members receive full benefits and receive the member price for the dinner. Approved

Bill had a conversation with a couple of members regarding the HOG Facebook page. Members expressed negativity. Shannon has tried to discontinue her Administrative rights but has failed. It appears that anyone can add people. Chuck will research and advise about Facebook guidelines. Rick suggested that Mark Dukes should appoint the Administrator and will manage it. Scott indicated that there is a HOG National social media guidelines and there is a social media position at the board level. Mason will research and advise about National guidelines. Shannon will lock down the page tonight.

There was some discussion about the rudeness of some of Raedeen's staff during our first board meeting at their restaurant. It was suggested to move future board meetings to Idaho Pizza. Bill offered to make the arrangements. Approved

December:

Rick briefed that the chapter completed filing taxes for the previous 2 years. We don't file state taxes because we are tax free organization due to Not for Profit status.