



The Hogtown Lowdown

Chapter 0675
January/February 2003



Chapter Sponsor

Gainesville Harley-Davidson & Buell, Inc.

Gail Lytle, Owner

4125 N.W. 97th Blvd.

Gainesville FL 32606

(352) 331-6363

Chapter Officers

Director	Joan Brewer 495-3109 lizzie@gru.net
Assistant Director	Gary Docken 378-2287 gpdocken@juno.com
Secretary/Treasurer	John Boots 331-6363
Newsletter Editor	Susan Thrall 372-6440 links@afn.org
Photographer	Jim Waggoner 529-0447 suescatlady@cs.com
H-D Shop Liaison	Jim Mahaffey 331-6363
Activities Director	volunteer sought
LOH Officer	Dianne Everette 472-4127 hdbreeze@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Grant Thrall 372-6440 thrall@afn.org

Web Site www.gfhog.cjb.net



Director's Column



Hey Guys and Gals.....

Zoom-zoom-zoom

nope, that's not the sound of my motorcycle, that was the sound of last year speeding by. Welcome to 2003!!!

2002 was a lot of fun. We had numerous HOG rides and parties at Gainesville Harley-Davidson. Each time, everyone had a great time. We have some exciting rides planned for 2003. Thanks in advance to Grant and Susan Thrall for planning the rides. I hope to see you **all** out for the rides. We're always looking for more folks to be involved in HOG.

I would like to thank all of the officers for the tremendous job they did this past year. Had it not been for their continued support and hard work, the HOG events would not have been a success. Very special thanks goes to the editor of the HOG newsletter, Susan Thrall. She has done an extra great job. I look forward to getting the newsletter.

The HOG Alzheimer's ride was a success. While the weather didn't cooperate, as we wished it would, there were still a lot of brave souls who didn't care that it was 30 degrees and the wind was gusting at 40 mph. We raised over \$500 for the Altrusa House. This is such

a worthwhile cause and the director was very grateful for the donation. Read more about this in the newsletter.

Thanks again for everyone's support and I look forward to a very successful 2003.

Ride safe, Joan



Events/Rides Coming Up

by Susan Thrall

Saturday, January 18, 2003 Ride to Phishhead's in Lake City. Ride through beautiful backcountry roads with windy lanes and rolling hills (in Florida!) to Phishhead's Restaurant. Meandering ride up, direct route back. Ride will leave HD dealership at 11:00 am. In case of rain, ride cancelled.

Thursday, January 23, 2003 HOG meeting at dealership at 6:30 pm. Dinner afterwards at Pomodoro Café for those interested.

Sunday, February 16, 2003 Spend all your money on that gift for your Valentine? Then ride with us for some inexpensive entertainment and end up at Sandy's Place Sports Bar & Restaurant in Gainesville (5001 NW 34th Street). Great Greek and American food and lots of it. All items on menu less than \$10.00 and most items (except for four) less than \$8.00. Ride leaves HD dealership at 11:00 am. In case of rain, meet at Sandy's Place at 11:30 am.

Advanced Riding Course Information

Grant Thrall, GF-HOG Webmaster and Road Captain

Folks at HOG events have asked me about a Gainesville-HOG sponsored Advanced Riding Course. Well, we have one planned. But we don't have the dates yet, and the price will be set after we know the enrollment. The more riders enroll, the lower the price to each rider. Classes will be kept to around ten students. The price will be somewhere between \$50 and \$100. The course will take place on one weekend day. You provide your own motorcycle in the advanced course. You can take the advanced course without having taken the beginner course if you are a well-experienced rider.

What's the deal? Motorcycle Operator Safety Training Classes are offered at Beginner and Advanced level. After riding for about 30 years, I took the beginner class, learned a lot, and loved it. Five years and 45,000 motorcycle miles later, I am ready for the advanced class. I want to learn more. And, my insurance deduction has now expired from my original beginner class, and I want to save some money. Rumor is that Harley-Davidson gives \$50 gift certificates if you complete a safety training class, so the course is almost paid for by Harley corporate.

Ready to commit? Email me at thrall@afn.org and tell me to put you on the information list.

HOG Charity Benefit Ride

By Susan Thrall

Photos by Glen Zimmerman and Grant Thrall

Over \$500 was collected at the annual HOG charity benefit ride held on November 17th. Despite the cold, damp, 50 degree weather, tough motorcycle riders joined the approximately 70 mile trip through Florida horse country. The ride was led by Road Captain Grant Thrall and “navigator” Susan Thrall. The ride ended at Marjorie Rawlings Park in Cross Creek where a lunch with food from Publix Deli was served. Multiple door prizes were handed out.

November 17th dawned with drizzle and cool temperatures in the forties. However, by 10:00 the drizzle had stopped, but it was still cloudy. The group of hardy riders met at the Harley dealership beginning at 10:30 am with last bike out at 12:00 noon. The group ride left at 11:45 am. Almost all of the riders choose to join the group. Motorcycles of all types were welcome and a variety of riders showed up including many from ABATE and several who had heard director Joan Brewer’s interview about the ride on the radio the previous week.



The first riders at the dealership: Odessia & Mac McConaghy and Glen Zimmerman



Hardy riders gear up for the cool ride

Grant Thrall, along with Susan Thrall, led the riders south through Williston and then along a variety of backcountry roads past many horse farms. The group passed such exotic sounding horse farms as Emerald Meadows, Still Lake, Hidden Oak, American Eagle, and the famous Robert’s Quarter Horses. The group took a several mile roundabout around Robert’s Quarters Horses reputed to be the largest quarter horse facility in the United States. The ride ended in Cross Creek in Marjorie Rawlings Park.



One of the many gates into Robert’s Quarter Horses



Another great horse country vista

At the park, the sun came out in full force warming everyone. Lunch, consisting of fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, and giant cookies, was served. Then HOG director Joan Brewer handed out the many door prizes.



Catching a few rays to warm up at Marjorie Rawlings Park



Handing out one of the many door prizes

The money earned for the ride went to Altrusa House. Altrusa House is an adult health care facility for frail adults

including those with Alzhemier’s disease. (See November-December newsletter for more information on Altrusa House and their services and facilities.)



Director Joan Brewer gives check to Altrusa House director Mary Spade. Susan Thrall and Linda Henderson look on.

Special thanks go to the following people. Thanks to Linda Henderson and our ABATE friends who came out in full force; without them this ride would not have been a success. Thanks also to those ABATE folks who could not ride with us yet donated money to the cause. Thanks to Dr. Wayne Wallace who devised the original route through horse country (which was modified by road captains Grant and Susan Thrall) that meandered around some great areas and on some very scenic back roads and also for Wayne’s monetary contribution. (Where was Wayne? Read about Wayne’s ride through New Zealand later in this newsletter.) Thanks to Glen Zimmerman who took many photos of the ride and the picnic at the park. More of his photos can be viewed via the link on the HOG website. Thanks to Ivan Wallace who won the 50/50 prize money and immediately donated it to Altrusa House. Thanks also to Cecil Everette who coordinated the wonderful food from Publix Deli.

See more pictures on next page and on our HOG website at www.gfhog.cjb.net.



Stopping along the way for a break



50/50 winner donates winnings to Altrusa House



Food for the cold and hungry



Enjoying the warm rays



Everyone enjoys the fried chicken



Our ABATE friends who gave big support to the HOG benefit ride



Some of the tough riders



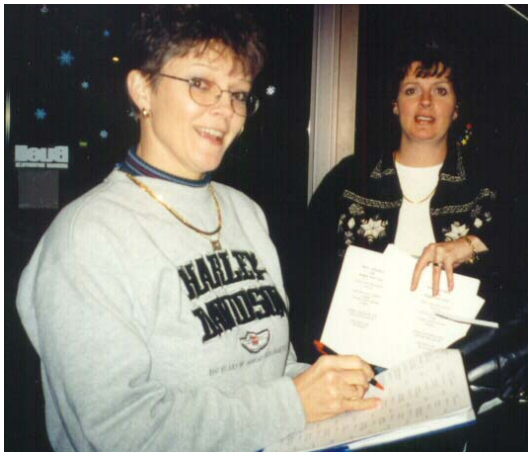
One of the many scenic roads in horse country

Annual HOG Party

Commentary and photos by Susan Thrall

Did you make it to the HOG party on December 21st at the dealership? If not, you missed some great people, good food, entertaining music, and some fantastic deals. The annual HOG members only party was held after hours at the dealership with most of the store merchandise being discounted for HOG members only. Gainesville Harley Davidson manager John Boots said such deep discounts were a once-a-year event limited to Gainesville Florida HOG members only.

Want to get in on the action next year? Join Gainesville HOG now. Membership form is later in the newsletter and also on our web site at www.gfhog.cjb.net.



Joan Brewer and Patricia Docken check Santa's list twice for HOG members only



Linda and Bob Elmore check out the bargain table



Grant Thrall and Mike Brewer really get into shopping



Paul Lytle at the check out counter waits to give great discounts to the next customer

A KIWI ADVENTURE

(No I am not talking about the fruit...)
by HOG member Wayne Wallace

(Editor's note: due to space limitations, Wayne Wallace's article has been condensed and split into two parts. Read the second part in the Mar/Apr newsletter. See all photos online on our HOG web site at www.gfhog.cjb.net.)

What I would like to share with you is a brief description of one of the most fantastic motorcycle trips you can undertake, down-under in New Zealand. All those amazing scenes of NZ on TV travel shows, and the "Lord of the Rings" vistas as well as the top outdoor destination ratings were all too convincing...and true.

A business opportunity was to take me to Australia and last spring, I asked several of my friends if they would like to join me in NZ, during December 2002, their summer, for an MC tour that was not to be matched. They were very compatible, had excellent riding skills and most important, good humor. Tom Kerkhoff, Harry Daniels and I work for the University of Florida, and a good Chicago friend now residing in Ocala, Roy Ells joined us. We all started to get serious about planning.

We contacted a number of outfitters, and selected NZ Bike, www.nzbike.com - a really comprehensive site, with prices and routes, and cool links. They were an award winning business, with a large inventory of late model motorcycles, reserve those Harley's very early if you go. They offered a very competitive rental rate, which is much cheaper than comparable US rental prices, including all taxes and insurance, unlimited miles,

and varies depending upon model and options required. We worked up a very comprehensive packing list since we were on a "self guided" tour and would literally be living off our bikes for the trip. No chase vehicles in this deal. The weather, though summer, would range from the 90's in the low lands of the east and to the north, to near freezing in some southern mountainous areas. Very serious heavy winds and rain can be a factor as well.

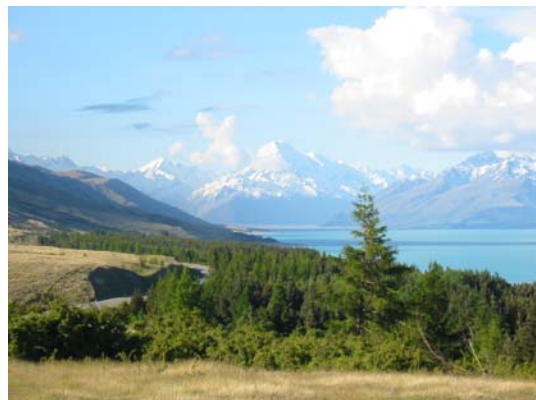
The group came together in Christchurch NZ, on the South Island, my favorite, on Friday Nov. 29th. We allowed at least a day and a half to recover from the jet lag, an absolute minimum, and picked up our bikes on a Saturday afternoon. The actual MC tour was to run seven complete days, the minimum to cover the high points on the premier South Island. The bikes were all recently serviced, cleaned and polished and looked like they were all ready for a sale. We did some test riding/orienting late Saturday afternoon, just to be sure that all was well (better to find potential problems now than off in the mountains...) and packed in all our gear onto the bikes. It had all fit!!

We had made some preliminary decisions about the route. The general one offered by NZ Bike was excellent since I had covered all that terrain on my last trip. Weather is always a factor on a MC tour, so we all agreed to adapt and overcome as needed since the South Island is basically split in half north to south with a serious mountain range.



The weather patterns alternate on each side of the range, typically good on one side and potentially bad on the other. We also decided to not reserve hotels in advance, preferring to move faster or slower as we wished, 200 to 250 miles daily, which worked out quite well for us. On the first day of the tour, we departed Christchurch, through flat farm lands, heading into rolling foothills filled with, yes, sheep herds (40 million sheep vs. 3.6 million people) and cattle ranches. The absolute green, rolling grasslands, impeccably clean countryside and well-maintained farms and homes are around every bend as the curves turn into more pronounced angles heading toward the interior lake country and Mount Cook. As we gain confidence in the bikes and ramp up our speeds (100KM top posted limit) we are taking in the reality that is NZ, especially as we crest a rise and look down upon a massive Lake Tekapo glistening in jade green/ blue tones, without a billboard, traffic jam or tacky roadside stand to be seen. We booked our first night in a lakeside resort and because nightfall is around 10PM, we decided to ride up the access road to neighboring Mt. Cook for

a dinner. This entailed around 140 miles round trip of extremely high cross cutting winds, fantastic glacier Lake Pukaki views and dinner at the very end of the road. We dined at the national park lodge, right at the base of the Mount Cook access, the highest peak in the snow covered glacial range at over 12,317 feet. We had to cover the seats of the bike with our jackets when we went in for our dinner because the native alpine parrot, the kea, the size of a football and the only alpine parrot in the world, loves to chew on rubber and MC seats. The buffet was the best meal of the trip and we had a wall of glass facing Mt. Cook during a clear sunset and better wine than we had anticipated. The ride back to the motel was again very windy, tilting the bikes pretty well, as we dodged at least 25 jackrabbits trying to commit suicide.



Continued in the Mar/Apr newsletter.

Join now! Fill out and return to dealership!



Chapter Membership Enrollment and Release Form

Chapter Name: Gainesville Harley Owners Group

Chapter #: 0675

(Please Complete all information Below)

Member Name _____
Address: _____ City, State, Zip Code _____
E-Mail Address _____ Date of Birth _____
Phone Number: Home: _____ Work: _____
Member H.O.G. Number _____ H.O.G. Expiration Date _____

I have read the Harley Owners Group Charter for local chapters and hereby agree to abide by it as a member of this dealer sponsored local chapter. I recognize that while my local chapter is chartered with H.O.G., it remains a separate entity solely responsible for its actions.

This is a Release, Read Before Signing

I agree that the Sponsoring Dealer, the Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.), Harley-Davidson, Inc, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, and my local chapter and their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (hereinafter, the 'RELEASED PARTIES') shall not be liable or responsible for injury to me (including paralysis or death) or damage to my property during any H.O.G. or H.O.G. Chapter activities, even where the damage or injury is caused by negligence (except willful neglect). I understand and agree that all H.O.G. members and their guests participate voluntarily and at their own risk in all H.O.G. activities and I assume all risks of injury and damage arising out of the conduct of such activities. I release and hold the 'RELEASED PARTIES' harmless from any injury or loss to my person or property which may result in from my participation in H.O.G. activities and/or event(s). I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MEANS THAT I AGREE NOT TO SUE THE 'RELEASED PARTIES' FOR ANY INJURY OR DAMAGE TO MYSELF OR MY PROPERTY RESULTING FROM, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, ANY H.O.G. OR H.O.G. CHAPTER ACTIVITIES OR EVENT(S)

Waiver of Rights Under State Statutes

I further agree to waive all benefits flowing from any state statute which would negate or limit the scope of this Release and Indemnification Agreement including, but not limited to, Section 15-42 of the California Civil Code which provides:

"A general release does not extend to the claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him must have materially affected this settlement with the debtor."

By signing this Release, I certify that I have read this Release and fully understand it and that I am not relying on any statements or representations made by the 'Released Parties'.

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

LOCAL DUES PAID \$ _____
(Dues not to exceed maximum amount prescribed in "Charter for Local Chapters", as contained in H.O.G. Chapter Handbook.)

CASH OR CHECK
(Please Circle One)

ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED
AND APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED.

When completed mail to
Secretary/Treasurer Gainesville H.O.G.

RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OR SPONSORING DEALERSHIP

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 New Year's Closed for Inventory	2 Closed for Inventory	3 Closed for Inventory	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Blow-Out Sale	18 HOG ride to Phishhead's – leave at 11:00 Blow-Out Sale
19 Blow-Out Sale	20 Blow-Out Sale	21 Blow-Out Sale	22 Blow-Out Sale	23 HOG meeting at dealership 6:30pm Blow-Out Sale	24 Blow-Out Sale	25 Blow-Out Sale
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2003

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Performance Fair & Sale Dyno Shootout
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Ten Years in Business Sale
16 HOG ride – end at Sandy’s Place Sports Bar – leave at 11:00	17	18	19	20	21	22 Pre-Daytona Party; HD Traveling 100 th Museum; Civitan Bloodmobile
23 See-the-real- Daytona ride (non-HOG)	24	25	26	27	28	

2003



Gainesville Harley Owners Group, Inc.

Attn: Susan Thrall, Editor

2605 NW 38th Street

Gainesville FL 32605