



VOL 112

# CHAPTER NEWS



## December 2023



### Staying Focused

- Sean "Ole' Ticker" Branham - Director  
director@pigtrailhog.com

We have made it to the last month of the year. It is amazing how fast time flies the older I get. Speaking of time, we hope you all enjoyed celebrating Pig Trail HOG 10 years at the last meeting.

I was surprised at the number of founding members that are still part of the chapter 10 years later, and many who come from the previous chapter within the dealership. It was great seeing these people, as well as all the past officers and current members. I also enjoyed hearing from past Directors, David Patterson, Garry Raymond, and Chuck Yarbrough, who I have had the pleasure to serve under and learn from.

As we get ready to enter 2024, we will be entering with a full officer team and a couple new officers. We will recognize Becky, Scott, and Casey at the December Chapter meeting for their dedication and time served on the team. I also want to thank those who have made the decision to serve in 2024 as well as all the past members who have served as an officer or provided support to the chapter.

It is easy to see how many people have volunteered at some level over the years, when you look around and ask questions like we did during the celebration. You all have had a part in who we are as a chapter and a second family. Serving can take some of your time, can be tough at times, and takes effort. However, it can be very fun and rewarding as well. Truth is, it takes all of us to make this chapter great.

We want everyone to spend 90% of their time enjoying all the rides and events with no work put in to do so, however we would like to see 10% of your time serving, volunteering, or helping. If everyone would give 10% of their time, we would be 100% set for the year. If not, that is fine as we will adjust what we are doing and cut where we need to. Our main focus will always be the same and simple.... Ride and Have Fun. Everything else is fluff..... Ride on!

### Introducing Chris (Bones) Main

Hello, fellow riders. As announced at the November chapter meeting, I am the new activities officer for 2024. I am looking forward to continued fun times and adventures with a great group of people. For those who don't know me that well, I am and have been an avid rider for a number of years.

In a short time, we will have the 2024 planning meeting on Dec 2nd. All suggestions and attendance to the meeting are welcome. I ask that everyone have a little patience with me as I get my feet wet in this new position, but plan on giving it my all to help everyone enjoy some great times together. If you have any issues concerning activities in the future feel free to reach out to me. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the chapter in this manner and I will do my best.



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## Happy December

- Jeffrey "Sleepy" Bushey - Assistant Director  
asstdirector@pigtrailhog.com

As we enter the festive month of December, it's time to reflect on what winter signifies for each of us. For some, it's the season to carefully stow away the motorcycle, connecting it to a battery tender for its hibernation. For others, it signals the importance of preparing for cold-weather rides, ensuring our two-wheeled companions are serviced and ready for the chilly adventures that lie ahead. Regardless of where you fall on this spectrum, remember that you're an integral part of our motorcycle family.

Throughout December, we have several exciting events planned that cater to everyone, regardless of whether you're gearing up for winter hibernation or braving the cold for a ride. We will hold our yearly planning session on December 2nd, and I hope you are able to attend. This session is a unique opportunity for you to directly influence our plans for the upcoming year. Your input is invaluable, and we want to ensure that every member's voice is heard. It's not just a meeting; it's a chance to actively shape the future of our community.

The camaraderie doesn't stop there. Join us for our Yearly Party, a fantastic occasion to come together and share your passion for motorcycles with fellow chapter members. Engage in conversations about bikes, swap stories, and revel in the collective enthusiasm that binds us. Plus, who doesn't love the opportunity to win a few prizes along the way? It's an event where we celebrate not just the machines we ride, but the friendships and connections we've forged within our community.

So mark your calendars, gear up for the festivities, and make your presence felt. Your participation is not just encouraged; it's essential. Let's make this December a memorable one for our motorcycle family!



## What's Your Favorite Movie

- Sheila "Casper" Branham - Secretary  
secretary@pigtrailhog.com

According to IMDb, an online database with info and stats on movies, actors, etc., and writer of the article, Eric-Scissorhands, he lists the Top 100 Christmas Movies of All Time. Here's his top 10:

1. It's a Wonderful Life
2. Die Hard (Seems this has become popular in the last several years)
3. A Christmas Carol
4. Home Alone
5. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (Frosty was #77)
6. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
7. A Christmas Story
8. Miracle on 34th Street
9. Elf
10. Gremlins (What?.....Christmas?)

Here's a few more "What?.....Christmas?" movies listed:

- |                         |                    |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 12. Edward Scissorhands | 14. Trading Places | 32. Batman Returns |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|

It wouldn't be an article from me if I didn't include the thriller/horror genre: 😊

- |                   |                      |   |             |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|-------------|
| 25. Violent Night | 29. Better Watch Out | 33. Black Christmas (Silent Night Evil Night) | 37. Krampus |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|-------------|

Sit back and relax with a bucket of popcorn, your drink of choice, and your favorite holiday movie.



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# New Members for Christmas and a Happy New year!

- Toni Douglas - Membership  
membership@pigtrailhog.com

The Pig Trail Chapter is getting an early Christmas present from Santa by having our members join us for the Membership Drive and Activities Planning meeting on Saturday, December 2nd from 10AM-2PM at Pig Trail Harley-Davidson Dealership.

Whether your ideas come wrapped in bows or scribbled in scented markers, we want you and your suggestions to join us for the 2024 Activity Planning meeting. If you have an idea and won't be able to attend the meeting, then share it with a friend ahead of time. Psst – I can be your friend.

If you cannot attend the membership drive but you want to get the \$5 discount, you can pay for your 2024 membership at the cash wrap before December 2nd. You will still have to fill out a 2024 membership application and creed.

Spread some holiday cheer by welcoming New Members to the HOG Family! Whether it's stopping to say hello, inviting them on a ride or sitting next to them at a meeting/event, your support helps. Did you know that each time a new member is welcomed into the HOG family a Harley Angel gets its wings?

Welcome New Members!

- Mindy Adamson     Heath Grayson
- Ronald Herold     Tammy Mikkelson
- Todd Mikkelson     Greg Payne
- Michael Shields

## Introducing Jennifer Williamson

How YOU Doin'? 😊

Hello, fellow riders!

Starting in January, I'll be taking over the role of LOH Officer for Casey. A little about me: I was born in Chicago, and I've lived in our beautiful state of Arkansas since I was 5. I have 3 grown children, 2 grandbabies, and 4 dogs. I've been a teacher in Fayetteville for 17 years. I'm a Virgo, and I like TexMex and long walks on the beach...(just kidding.)



I'm excited to be working for and with you all to make this an amazing 2024 riding season for everyone! As I love riding my Sporty and 2-up with my friends, I'd like to plan several fun activities for the ladies of HOG.

BUT, I need YOU to help me! So, all of you ladies out there that have something you've always wanted to try, please email me at loh@pigtrailhog.com, and let's make that happen for you! I'm open to all ideas.

Additionally, I'd love for you to volunteer with me on our LOH Committee as we plan and bring these ideas to fruition. And, we thank you for your support (Bartles & Jaymes—dang, I'm old!)



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## Over and Out

- Becky & Scott Fite - Activities  
activities@pigtrailhog.com

Dear Chapter Members:

This is our last newsletter from being the Activity Officers for you, the chapter members. It has been a pleasure serving in this capacity. We have had some very good times on our travels with this group. When people come up and tell you how much they enjoyed the different trips, outings and such, it makes it all worthwhile! We love making people smile and surely want them to have a good time!

We want to thank our committee, Kellie Naylor, Holly Adams and Dorothy Murphy, for your help this last year. Thank you to Troy Adams, Polly Ingerson, Barb Becker and Kellie Naylor for filling in for us when we were absent. Also thank you to the Officers, past and present, y'all are awesome! Keep up the good work! Last but not least, David "Judge" Patterson for getting us back in this position and making me brave again!

The only remaining event left this year is the annual Christmas Party:

2023 HOG Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Holiday Inn Springdale/Fayetteville Area, an IHG Hotel 1500 S 48th St, Springdale, December 16, from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Music will be furnished by DJ Shrek from Galaxy Entertainment with a mixture of classic rock, rock and country with typical line dance tunes. The cost will be \$40.00 per person and tickets are now on sale at the cash wrap until December 12th at 5:00 pm. A gift exchange will be done with a gift of \$20.00 to participate. Come on out and celebrate!

Thank you to you all, Becky and Scott over and out..



## Almost Over

- Polly & Bruce Ingerson - Volunteer Coordinators  
volunteers@pigtrailhog.com

We are writing this on the morning after Friendsgiving. We enjoyed spending time and visiting with members of our HOG family. There are a number of members who didn't make it we had expected to see. Please know that you were missed.

After our Director Sean made some announcements, our waitress asked to speak. She is an immigrant who told us how very grateful she is to have come to our country and how blessed she is to be here. She became tearful at one point because it means that much to her, and we were all reminded how blessed we are to live in this great country, too.

Yes, the year is almost over, but there's still a number of events on both the HOG Chapter and PTHD calendars. Please check those out.

The final event that we as Volunteer Coordinators are invested in is the Chapter Christmas Party. Each month we have been keeping a record of volunteer points. If you want to know how points are awarded just ask so we can share this information with you.

At the Christmas Party this year for the first time, we are going to announce the names of the top four volunteers for 2023. Each will receive a pin and a PTHD gift card. Do you have your Christmas ticket so you can find out first hand? We hope to see you all there for fun, music and merriment.

And remember – it's almost over!



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## Tis The Season

- Beverly Rowland - Treasurer  
treasurer@pigtrailhog.com

It was Christmas Eve, and the air was live with holiday excitement. In the distance, carolers sang as they walked through the snow-covered streets. Families could be seen hurriedly wrapping up their last-minute presents.

Suddenly, a loud rumble shook the quiet night. It was the unmistakable sound of a Harley Davidson motorcycle. The engine roared as it approached, growing louder and more intense. People turned their heads, wondering who or what could be causing such a racket. As the bike came into view, it was clear that it was unlike any other. It was covered in shiny ornaments, tinsel, and brightly colored ribbons. Strangest of all, Santa Claus was perched atop the bike, his laughter ringing out through the night.

The jolly old elf waved merrily at the stunned onlookers as he expertly maneuvered the Harley through the snowy streets. (He was a graduate of the Riders Academy, after all!) He stopped in front of a cozy cottage with twinkling lights, hopped off the bike, and walked up to the front door. He placed a small, wrapped package on the doorstep before returning to his trusty steed.

The engine roared to life, and Santa waved goodbye to the curious family before disappearing into the night. The rumble of the bike faded into the distance, leaving behind a trail of wonder and delight. People stood in the street, marveling at what they had just witnessed. Some shook their heads, chalking it up to Christmas magic. Others whispered to each other about the strange sight, their eyes gleaming with excitement.

Wishing my HOG family all the beauty and magic this holiday season offers!



## Ride Your Ride

- Preston "Gadget" Mahan - Road Captain  
roadcaptain@pigtrailhog.com

As we enter the last month of 2023, I am reminded that we must be vigilant on making sure that when we are ride leads we must let the riders RIDE THEIR RIDE . As ride leads, we must ride according to the people in our group. We aren't in a cross country race. Our objective is to make all riders feel safe and that they have the best time they can . As your Road Captain, when and if you have a problem with someone, you need to address it with me. I'll be the one that passes judgment on the riders. All of our rides are meant for all levels of riders, from the beginners and the more advanced riders.

As we move into the final month of 2023 I realize we have had our ups and downs. I'm looking forward to making 2024 a great year for the Pig Trail HOG CHAPTER. With help from our members, I know we can do just that. We have two parades to participate in, and we also have Pig Trails annual Toy Run to show a strong support in . Let us not forget about our planing meeting, along with our membership drive on Dec 2nd . Plus, we have our annual Christmas party on the 16th of December so make sure you purchase your tickets at the cash wrap.

I would also like to take this time to welcome our two new officers to the team: LOH, Jennifer Williamson and Activities, Chris (Bones) Main. I feel that they both will bring new thoughts to the Chapter.

I myself look forward to many great things in 2024.



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## Safety Tips

- Mike Phillips - Riding Academy Instructor

Engine braking is when you use the compression of the engine to slow down the bike. This is done by shifting to a lower gear or simply rolling off the throttle. Engine braking is useful when done properly but can cause problems when abused. Some riders swear by engine braking. They use it all the time forgoing the regular brakes until they get to slow speeds. Some riders swear at it claiming it causes more problems than it helps. Both sides are right and wrong. Here are some pros and cons on engine braking.

The best reason for engine braking is that it will help slow the bike. Changing gears during a stop or approaching curves can keep the bike in the proper gear. It is helpful on long mountain descents to keep the brakes from overheating. It is best used when stopping or slowing in a smooth gradual way. Some riders think engine braking will make the brake pads last longer.

There are many cons to engine braking. Engine braking done improperly can make the motor over rev causing engine damage. This can happen if the over rev is very extreme. It may make brake pads last longer but pads are cheaper than engines. Engine braking can cause the rear tire to skid especially on slick, wet or poor traction conditions. Engine braking only works on the rear tire. Since 70% of stopping is with the front tire why not use all the braking you can. Engine braking does not work well in quick stops. Riders may struggle with braking plus changing gears and releasing the clutch several times during a quick stop all the time concentrating on the danger in front of the bike. The biggest problem with engine braking is it will not activate your brake lights. This is a real danger especially in heavy traffic, or on a group ride.

Engine braking is a personal choice. It takes time and practice to be good at it. Basic rider course does not teach engine braking because it is considered an advanced skill. Nick Lenatsch, AMA superbike racer and editor of Sport Rider magazine wrote, "The purpose of a downshift is to put the engine in the proper RPM range for the future whether that is a stop, curve or hill". I use engine braking in addition to my regular brakes. When you go to a lower gear and release the clutch you are committed. It is hard to adjust braking at that point. I feel I have more control with my brakes alone especially at threshold braking where minor adjustments may be needed.



## Happy Holidays

- Casey "Charmer" Conway - Ladies of Harley  
loh@pigtrailhog.com

Thank You to the volunteers who help prep and serve at the Veterans Luncheon. I appreciate all your hard work!

Thank you to our volunteers, so far, for the gift wrapping for the Children's Shelter. I will be sending out text reminders a couple days in advanced for the people who signed up. Lastly, I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please stay safe!



## Account Update

- Beverly Rowland - Treasurer  
treasurer@pigtrailhog.com

Pig Trail H.O.G. Chapter #2075  
Account Balance as of  
November 15, 2023

**\$5,288.56**



## The Bikeriders

- Michael "Grim" Douglas - Webmaster  
webmaster@pigtrailhog.com

Who is ready to go to the movies? If so, check out the trailer for the new movie called "The Bikeriders". If interested in seeing this film, then please reach out to me via email, or talk to me at the December chapter meeting. Once interest has been gauged, then we can plan a day and time for the group. Happy Holidays/Merry Christmas.



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# MOMENTS THAT MATTER



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