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SNMHOG CHAPTER MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Southern New Mexico H.O.G. Chapter monthly meeting is held at Los Mariachis Restaurant, 754 N. Motel Boulevard (across from the County Building). An organized ride to a variety of locations occurs after the meeting with the rally point starting at Barnett's Las Cruces Harley-Davidson. Please come out and join the group. Meeting starts at 9:00 AM on the 1st Saturday of the month.

**DIRECTOR'S EXHAUST (CONT.)**

The Tail of the Dragon is located in Deals Gap, a mountain pass along the North Carolina-Tennessee state line, bordering the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and near the Little Tennessee River. US-129 Dragon Harley Davidson (a must stop) is located at the NW tail of the Dragon and the Tree of Shame, Robbinsville, NC, is at the SE end. The Dragon has 318 turns and loop-backs in only 11 miles... think about that!

Before you attempt the Tail of the Dragon, please view these links first, they will give you some perspective:

[Tree Of Shame](#)

[Oopsy](#)

[Backsliding](#)

[Rollover](#)

[Ouch](#)

[Sparks A Flying](#)

Besides the Dragon, there are many side roads with loop-backs that are far less threatening, if you prefer. It's a great road trip and well worth taking!

As I mentioned, good planning means the difference between a safe enjoyable ride and an unsafe unpleasant ride. We all arrived back home without incident. Although we planned every detail, we could not account for the weather. Of the 3.5 days riding to our destination in Maggie Valley, it rained two days. Returning home, it was raining when we left, and continued to do so for our last 3.5 days.

Some tips: Do NOT go in May; ride at your own skill level; bring as few clothes as possible, they are not necessary, you'll be picking up T-shirts everywhere; and stay away from the boiled peanut, yes, boiled peanuts in the shell are everywhere and you eat the whole thing... they really suck!

Ride hard, ride free!

Rodney Mitchell

Assistant Director

SNMHOG Chapter 1610

**IF YOU GO WITH OLD ONE EYE TAKE A SHOVEL**

This is a story that happened 5 years ago. I have never told anyone because most people will think it isn't true, but if you were there you would know it is.

I had just joined the HOG chapter and was fairly new to knowing any of the members or what type of people they were. I sat next to Jo and Greg mainly because Greg had invited me to join. Anyway we get to talking, that's Greg and myself, and he suggests we go for an overnigher down to the Big Bend area and check it out. It sounded good to me so we lined up a 3 day weekend and headed out.

Our first day of riding got us into Alpine Texas. We found a reasonably clean hotel for the night and found a small restaurant with the biggest chicken fried steak I have ever seen, hanging off the plate, gravy you could have floated a small boat in. and 2 slices of Texas toast dripping in butter. Man, it was hard to finish but we managed somehow. After we ate we cruised thru town. That took a whole 3 minutes so we did it again. On the second lap Greg spots a small bar on the west end of town. Schlitz beer sign blinking over the door. Two P.O.S. sportsters dripping fluid of some type in the same puddle they were parked in the night before. Ranch trucks with deer guards along the curb. A true looking red neck bar. He flips a U-turn and lines up to park across the street. I follow his lead and park next to him.

Greg says" Let's have a night cap before we head to the hotel."

"Sounds good. Maybe they have a roll of Tums too" I say. We head on in and find a spot at the bar with no chairs.

We're standing there looking around at the crowd when the bar tender asks us what we want. Greg says "I'll have a Land Shark. The bartender says "What the f&\$#! is that? Some p*&^! beer? "Now everybody at the bar is staring at us like we don't belong there. Which we didn't but that's beside the point. Greg comments back "If you don't have Land Shark this isn't a real bar" and turns to head out the door. I scratch my head and follow. We head back to the hotel and call it a night.

The next morning we catch a light breakfast at the same restaurant as the night before and start off down the hill for Terlingua and Study Butte. If you have never been down to that part of Texas you haven't missed much. The ground looks like it is scorched. Nothing hardly growing if anything at all. Scorpion city for sure. We stop at the gas station at Study Butte and gas up and grab a couple of waters and nut snacks and head off in the direction of the park. Greg's park pass gets him in. 10 bucks gets me in and we're off to the races.

**IF YOU GO WITH OLD ONE EYE TAKE A SHOVEL (CONT.)**

Big Bend is really a nice place to ride. We got into the park and took a right which took us down to Cottonwood camp ground next to the Rio Grande. Mexico only 50 foot more. Bunch of boy scouts playing in the water. Scout master making sure none of 'em go AWOL to the other side. What a mess that would be. Explain to the parents that there boy is in lock up in Mexico and the Federales want a pretty penny for his release. Talk about the s%&# hitting the fan. We ended up hanging out under the trees with them most of the day. Too late to ride in any further and we got all day tomorrow for the main attraction so we head back to Terlingua for a room and a meal. Simple enough cuz there's only one motel and one restaurant. Yeah, I'm getting to the good part so hang on and shut up.

After dinner we head west towards Presidio just to drive a few miles and check out the terrain. Lots of side roads going wherever or nowhere. We head back and stop in Lajitas Tavern. What's the difference between a bar and a tavern? Beats me. This one had a Lone Star sign out front. Half burnt out. Looks like the same two scooters out front. Must be a popular model. Love that Duct tape. Greg rolls to a stop and gives me a head nod that we're stopping for one. Reluctantly I agree and dismount.

Inside it looks identically like the Alpine dive. Same cheesy set up except this one has a juke box playing country crap full blast. This time we grab a table. The waitress works her way over after visiting with 2 hillbilly looking guys that must be related to each other. Both calling the other Bubba. Greg asks for a Land Shark again and gets this dumbfounded look from you know who. Ok how about a Bud? You got that don't you? "I'll have one too." I say. 10 minutes later we get our drinks and being wise to the setting I pay our tab right then.

Over at another table I spot the biker boys. It wasn't the cut off jean jackets that gave them away, but the same duct tape used on their seats that was holding their boots together. They seem to have spotted us also and were talking to each other while the one with the rebuilt Tony Lamas was pointing his beer bottle neck at us. Yep, here they come.

"Aren't you the 2 guys from last night looking for some kind of wussy beer up in Alpine?"

Greg gives this guy a dead eye look, probably cuz it's a dead eye and easy to give and says "Aren't you the 2 losers riding those P.O.S. scooters dripping oil in the parking lot in Alpine?"

**IF YOU GO WITH OLD ONE EYE TAKE A SHOVEL (CONT.)**

That left them thinking of what the hell just happened. Did that guy just bust our chops or is he trying to be a friendly kind of guy?

“Greg, I think we should drink up and go.” I said. He says “Let’s just go.”

So we got up and headed out. We’re on the bikes and starting them up when the biker dudes come out the door and look our way. Greg drops it in first and takes off, speed shifts second with no clutch while he waves a finger at the two. Off we go with them in pursuit.

Back towards Terlingua Greg turns off on one of those dirt roads. I’m thinking we’re u turning and coming back for pavement but Greg’s stopping and getting off. Now in his tour pack he pulls out a pistol, maybe a Glock but definitely black, and waits for these two to ride up. I’m thinking he’s going to scare the shit out of these two when all of a sudden he shoots them both right off their bikes. Deader than all get out. No hesitation at all. Blood now mixing with the dripping oil.

And now you know.....Never ride with Greg unless you take a shovel.

Gary “Smokey” Wee
Activities Officer
SNMHOG Chapter 1610

H.O.G. Times

Southern New Mexico Harley Owners Group



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KIM'S CORNER

For the most up to date calendar of events please see the Barnett's Las Cruces Harley Davidson website:

<https://www.barnettslascruceshd.com/events>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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SNMHOG EVENTS

For the most up to date calendar of events please click the Calendar Link at the SNMHOG website:

http://www.snmhog.com/?page_id=320

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