



The Hogtown Lowdown



Chapter 0675
November/December, 2003



Chapter Sponsor

Gainesville Harley-Davidson & Buell, Inc.

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Director's Column

Hey Gang.

The year is winding down fast. 2004 will be here before you know it.

We have several new HOG officers starting in 2004. Two positions that have been vacant for a long time are finally filled: Secretary/Treasurer and Activities Officer. We are looking forward to some great activities and rides.

November is the month of our annual charity benefit ride for Altrusa House open to all riders. This year's ride promises to be great fun riding the Florida countryside with the trees changing colors. More info later in the newsletter. Let's have a great HOG turnout for this HOG sponsored event!

Don't forget the Christmas party on Dec 20th. Great bargains - but for HOG members only!

Ride safe

Joan



Annual Charity Benefit Ride

By Susan Thrall

Sunday November 16th is our annual charity run. This year we are riding to raise money for Altrusa House of Gainesville. Altrusa is an adult day care facility; it gives help to caregivers who need a safe and happy place for those in their care during the day – whether it's so the caregiver can go to work or run errands or just have some needed "alone" time.

Last year the cold weather kept many HOG members from riding. Luckily the ABATE members came out in full force to support our run. This year, let's make it a ride with many HOG members participating. This event is open to all motorcycles of all types.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes the map of the ride (or a group –led ride if you prefer), a wonderful lunch at Altrusa House after the ride prepared by Publix Deli, and lots of chances at door prizes. This year's theme is Autumn's Colored Leaves Country Ride.

First ride out is 11:00 am at the dealership and last ride out is 12:00 noon. Grant and Susan Thrall will lead a group ride for those interested leaving at 11:45 am from the dealership. Lunch will be at the Altrusa House which riders will be able to tour, at 1:30pm.

Come out and support your HOG chapter and this worthy cause.



What: Annual benefit ride for Altrusa House

When: Sunday November 16th

Time: First bike out at 11:00 am

Last bike out at noon

Group-ride at 11:45 am



Where: meet at Harley dealership; finish at Altrusa House in NW
Gainesville

Who: Open to all motorcycles of all types



Gainesville Harley Owners Group – New Officers

By Susan Thrall

Starting in January several people will be beginning as new HOG officers. Joan Brewer will remain president for one more year. The new officers are as follows:

Vice President: Larry Cisco

Secretary/Treasurer: Traci Holmes

Activities Officer: Dennis Trimble

HOG newsletter and Web site: Gainesville Harley-Davidson will be taking over these slots.



Some photos of our most recent HOG meeting. Welcome to newest HOG member Ron Dietz (pictured below left) who joined Gainesville HOG at this meeting.





Thank a Vet on Veterans' Day

by Susan Thrall



To our Veterans and all those currently serving in the Armed Forces:

Thank you for serving our country
 Thank you for protecting our freedoms
 Thank you for defending us
 Thank you for all the sacrifices you and your families have made during
 your service
 We honor you this day! Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Women Riders

By Susan Thrall

This collection of short stories by North Central Florida's finest women motorcycle riders came about when I was watching a TV show portraying some women riders riding through the desert in 100+ weather wearing bikini tops. Either this was entirely posing for TV, or these women riders are crazy. Just as there are men posers, there are women posers too. The contributors to the below stories are local women riders that have it much more together than anything I have seen on TV. We know

the men like seeing those Harley Davidson motor clothes fashion shows with women models that don't know the difference between a Fat Boy, and a boy that is fat. But, these are not women motorcycle riders. So, what is a women motorcycle rider?

I asked in the last newsletter for real women riders who owned and rode their own Harley-Davidson motorcycle to write me about their experiences. Below are their very interesting narratives.

Real Woman Rider by Dianne Everett

It all started when my husband helped provide lunch from Publix for the 95th Anniversary riders. My husband asked me to bring the kids by to see the motorcycles as they rode in for a lunch break at the Harley shop. When we arrived, I decided to stay and watch too. Boy did that change my life! I couldn't believe all the Harleys that the bikers customized to fit each personality! And speaking of personality, the cool bikers weren't bad either! I realized I was missing out on a lot of fun. First I told my husband I wanted to learn to ride my own Harley; and then we went and told Ray Lytle. Ray gave us some really good advice and welcomed us to the family. Thanks Ray! (I miss you.)

Ray recommended we sign up for the safety course before going any further. So we did. Did I say safety course? I meant Biker Bootcamp! We took the class in August and it was 120 degrees in the shade. But alas we passed fourth and fifth out of a class of twelve. After that

we purchased a Kawasaki 454 Ltd. "rat bike" to practice on. There was no way I wanted to drop a Harley while learning to ride! (Knock on wood, I have not dropped any bike.) Some women take various amounts of time to learn how to ride. Some take two weeks, some two months, and some take two years; while others never get the hang of it. I was of the two month variety. I practiced in parking lots getting my slow maneuvers down before ever venturing out on the road in traffic. Once I felt confident, there was no holding me back.

Now I would have to say that my dear husband was a wonderfully patient teacher and gave me great encouragement and instruction. We had a blast practicing in the parking lot and then going home and talking "Harleys" for hours. Boy, are we dreamers. And it's fun sharing a dream together. I also gained a few Internet friends, mostly female, but a few male, who gave me great encouragement and support also. I

had biker babe friends in Georgia, South Dakota and Wisconsin cheering me on literally every day! I tore up the Internet studying all I could about riding a Harley. There was no question, it had to be a Harley! I even started my own web page for newbie riders so I could give back all my Internet friends had given me.

I've been riding since 1998. First on the "rat bike" and then I moved on to a black 1996 Sportster 1200. I loved that bike, and really bonded with it. It was a dream to ride up in the mountains with our friend Dave Berkes who lives in Blairsville, Georgia. I cried when we sold it and as I was crying into my husband's work shirt, he asked me if I was getting mascara on his shirt. I said, "No, just snot." Then my new real red and diamond ice 2002 Low Rider arrived and I said, "Sportster? What Sportster?" The Low Rider is the only brand new vehicle I have ever owned and I LOVE

it! I loved riding Deals Gap on the Low Rider. I was able to leave the chopper boys behind scraping their pipes while I took the curves with ease. I can't wait to do that again!

What gotta-haves do I gotta have for my bike? CHROME and lots of it! And FLAMES! My husband and I have really enjoyed customizing our bikes together. I have also enjoyed making all the friends I have met through HOG.

What keeps me riding? I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT! I just know that I really enjoy riding and the confidence I feel knowing not many women ride motorcycles, let alone Harleys. It's a major adventure and something my husband and I enjoy dreaming about together. A lot of men wish their women would ride their own. There was no question about that for me. Riding on the back? Now that really scares me! No way! Dianne Everett rides her own!

Why do I ride a motorcycle? By Joan Brewer, Director Gainesville Harley Owners Group



I've been asked to tell why I ride a motorcycle. I can say, why I ride a Harley-Davidson.

I know this sounds strange, but I owe this to the Shriners. When I was a small child, my father was very active in the Shriners. We traveled all over the state of Florida, to attend parades. Sad to say, my father didn't ride one of the big Harley's, that always give you goose bumps, but a mini-bike. Yeah, that's right, my father was 6'2" and rode a mini bike. The good thing about the mini bike was that my father owned it and allowed my brother, sister and I to ride it. Being the tom-boy that I am, I just loved it.

While at the parades, all of the Shrines would stay at the same hotel. The kids would gather around the Shriners who rode the Harleys and watched them polish the bikes and warm them up prior to the parade. At that time, I knew, when I get old, you know 40, I was gonna have me a Harley.

So, thank you Shriners for making me have the desire to ride a Harley.

Currently I ride a Hundredth Anniversary 1200 custom. I love riding for the freedom I feel while riding. I also enjoy the reputation at work of being a “motorcycle mama”. I have met the

nicest people and have had the best experiences while riding my motorcycle. It’s great!



Article contributors Susan Thrall and Joan Brewer

My Motorcycle Adventures by Susan Thrall



I never had any interest in riding motorcycles. They seemed dangerous and expensive. So when my husband decided he wanted to consider taking up motorcycle riding again (he began riding in high school and motorcycles were his primary form of transportation in college), he thought he would, just for fun, take a beginners Motorcycle Operators Safety Training Course. He signed me up too. This was in the summer of 1997 in Longmont, Colorado.

It would be an understatement to say I was not at all happy with him when he signed me up. It was worse the first night in the MOST class.

I can still hear my response to the instructor on the first night of class when he asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell why they were taking the class. To a one, they all said they were very excited about the class and were looking forward to a weekend of fun in the class. When it came my turn I said, “I don’t want to be here. My husband is making me take this class. Motorcycles are dangerous. And I am not going to have any fun.”

Well, that threw down the gauntlet for the instructors. From that point they paid a lot of attention to me making sure that I was enjoying myself. And despite what I thought, I really did. I loved tooling that small Suzuki 125 around the parking lot going through the various exercises

that constituted the MOST Beginners class. At the end of the weekend I had decided that I wanted to motorcycle and that I had to buy a Harley. My husband was just expecting that I might want to ride on the back of his motorcycle and if I took the class I would not be afraid to ride with him and I would be a safe passenger. Boy, was he mistaken!

When I started riding, my husband Grant was my greatest supported and helper. He showed infinite patience as I rode at least a 100 miles around our subdivision practicing the basics, and then taking me out onto the real roads on longer and longer rides. He helped me lower my 1998 Dyna Convertible twice so that it would fit me properly and I would feel more comfortable on it. He installed many pieces of chrome and leather to make my bike uniquely mine. He taught me many of the mechanics of motorcycle maintenance.

Since I started motorcycling, I have advanced to leading groups of motorcyclists (mostly men) on 150 to 250 mile rides around north central Florida. I have taken the Advanced MOST course. I have traveled the most arduous of routes through twisty-turny mountains.

I like motorcycling from both the driver and the passenger perspective. As a “driver” I get to go where I want, often leading the pack, feel a great sense of accomplishment, and – I have to admit – receive the admiration of many who are surprised that a women is operating such a large motorcycle. As a passenger I can relax more and let my mind wander and really look at the scenery and not have to bother paying attention to the road. Motorcycling showed me that I could learn new things no matter how old I had become- for me it was a significant accomplishment.



**What are you waiting for? Mark your calendars now!!!
Don't miss the HOG Annual Charity Benefit Ride!!!**

Sunday November 16th, 2003

First bike out 11:00 am

Last bike out: 12:00 noon

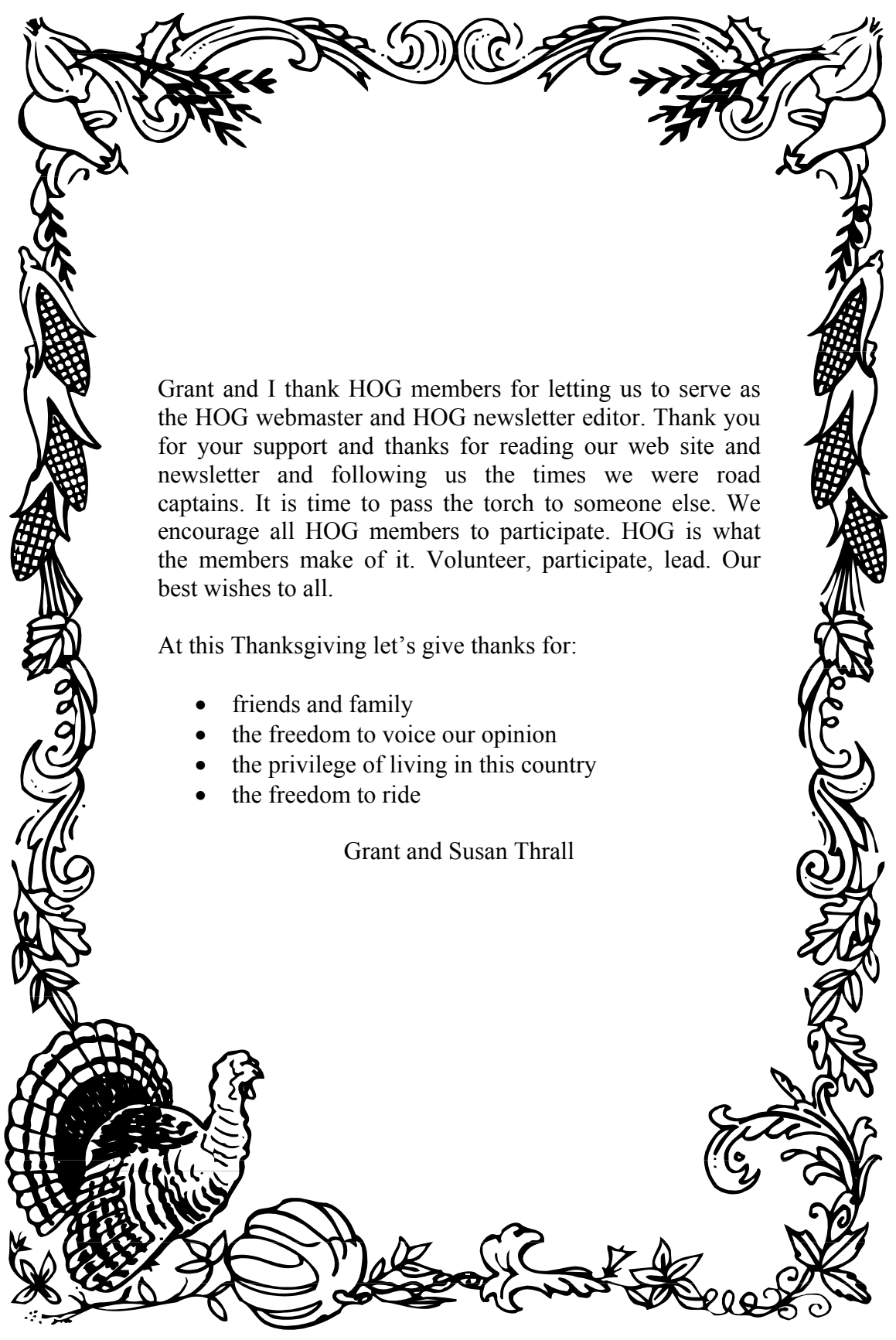
Group ride leaves at 11:45 am

Lunch at 1:30

\$10 for a great ride, great scenery, beautiful country roads; great food; many door prizes

Open to all riders and motorcycles!!





Grant and I thank HOG members for letting us to serve as the HOG webmaster and HOG newsletter editor. Thank you for your support and thanks for reading our web site and newsletter and following us the times we were road captains. It is time to pass the torch to someone else. We encourage all HOG members to participate. HOG is what the members make of it. Volunteer, participate, lead. Our best wishes to all.

At this Thanksgiving let's give thanks for:

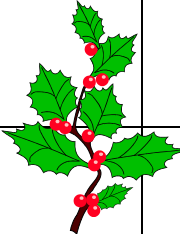
- friends and family
- the freedom to voice our opinion
- the privilege of living in this country
- the freedom to ride

Grant and Susan Thrall

November

<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
9 Bikers on Parade	10	11 Veterans Day 	12	13	14	15
16 HOG Benefit Ride 	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving 	28	29
30					2003	

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		2	3	4	5	6 ABATE Toy Run 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 HOG Party at Dealership 
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas 	26	27
28	29	30	31			2003



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