



# Desert Wind

Chapter  
#1665

Ridgecrest Activities Group  
Antelope Valley, California  
**Harley Owners Group**

Feb/Mar  
2009  
Volume 15  
Issue 1

Proudly Sponsored by:

Antelope Valley Harley  
Davidson  
1759 West Ave J12  
Lancaster, California  
(661) 948-5959  
[www.AntelopeValleyHD.com](http://www.AntelopeValleyHD.com)

February Meeting  
Saturday  
February 14, 2009  
09:00AM

March Meeting  
Saturday  
March 14, 2009  
09:00AM

Meetings Held at  
Charlie's in Ridgecrest

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*Harley Owners Group*



**\*\*Ladies of Harley  
Position is still open!!  
Contact Wade Tallman  
if you are interested.**

**HARLEY OWNERS GROUP #1665  
ANTELOPE VALLEY CA CHAPTER,  
RIDGECREST ACTIVITY GROUP**

**Sponsor:  
Antelope Valley Harley Davidson  
1759 West Ave J12  
Lancaster, California 93536  
(661) 948-5959**

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<u>Secretary</u>	Beverly Smith
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<u>Ladies of Harley</u>	Monalisa Garcia
<u>Photographer</u>	Marc Smith
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<u>Historian</u>	Pat Espinosa
<u>Safety Officer</u>	
<u>Road Capt. Coord.</u>	Jeff Bayard
<u>Webmaster</u>	Richard Longworth
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<u>Membership Coord.</u>	Ruthie McCollin

**RIDGECREST ACTIVITY GROUP**

<u>Director</u>	Wade Tallman
<u>Asst. Director</u>	Tracy Ackeret
<u>Secretary</u>	Tom Lystrup
<u>Editor</u>	John Brandt
<u>Ladies of Harley</u>	
<u>Photographer</u>	Judy McCauley
<u>Activities</u>	Josh Wilkerson
<u>Historian</u>	Crystal Liesman
<u>Safety Officer</u>	Stan Austin
<u>Road Capt. Coord.</u>	Bland Burchett
<u>Webmaster</u>	Don McCauley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Rex Walraven
<u>Membership/PAO</u>	Dennis Linck

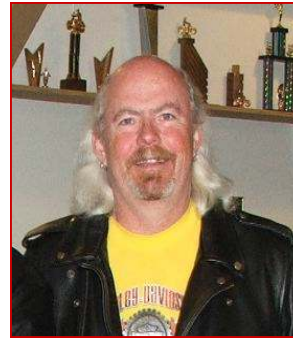


**Wade Tallman**  
*Wind in my Hair*  
*(Wind across the Bald spot)*

Its month 2 in the new year! We're looking for some great weather and rides this year. The winter was for the most part "mellow". If you didn't make the meeting in January we are trying to do things a little different as far as rides. Looking to ensure there is something following each meeting and then leave open slots for others to add as we go. Overnighters are being pushed...got an idea, want to do a little leg work for the club...see Josh and lets look for new places to go. The "Annual" Cabin Fever ride is next on the list...maybe this year it will get above 45??? Bland has the lead-looking for a good group to hit the road to Beatty.

We are in the membership drive mode also....we had 3 or was it 4 brand new members sign up last month. Remember one of the perks of being a member is you get to take advantage of having the shop come up here and pick up and drop off your bike for any work that needs to be done (very cheap!!). A good number used it last year...I'm getting ready to do it....wish those back tires lasted more than 9K miles.

Keep the shiny side up and the rubber down.



**Tracy Ackeret**  
*Ramblings from Silk*

Greetings everyone,

This is quite a new experience for me, usually I am the one putting the newsletters together at this point of the month but this time I only have to put my thoughts down in writing and send them to John for him to arrange in the newsletter. I have no doubt that John will do a wonderful job with the newsletter. I have enjoyed the last three years of doing the newsletter and wish John all the best with it. I want to thank everyone for the kind words about the newsletters I have done, it really means a lot knowing that all the hard work is appreciated. I also want to once again remind everyone that the newsletter is for everyone not just the board members, if you have anything that you want put in, just send it to John. Don't worry about spelling or grammar, that's what spell and grammar check is for, just put thoughts down on paper and send it to him.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January there was a memorial service in Lancaster for one of the AV members, Leroy Coker. Several of us went down for the service. It was a rainy ride down. I met up with Wade, Bland, Ike and Dwight at Marie Callendars for breakfast, then we went over to the shop to meet up with the others from the AV chapter for a short ride over to the service. There was actually a very good turn out for the service despite the rainy weather. It was nice to see that so many turned out for it. If you never had the pleasure of meeting Leroy he was the safety officer for the AV group and the best way to describe him is to say that he was a character. He was very passionate about safety and if he saw you doing something he thought was not safe he would not hesitate to tell you. He will be missed I can assure you.

I have not done as much riding as I wish the past couple months, last year I was riding a lot more in the winter but due to way too many reasons I have not had much time since about thanksgiving. I am really looking forward to getting back to more riding. I am not sure how much others have done but I want to remind everyone to make sure that your bikes are ready for riding. If your bike has been sitting as much as mine has, you need to take a bit of extra time to make sure that everything is ok for riding. We don't need anyone having problems due to not taking a few extra minutes to check things over.

Take care and keep riding

Silk



**Josh Wilkerson**

**J-Dub  
Activities**

**Ride Story  
Contributed by:  
Hal Bennett**

### **Harley Begins Production of Snowmobiles!**

I couldn't even think of toping this one and I just had to get Hal's trip report in the newsletter. He has provided a great example of the spirit of Harley and the passion that keeps us riding! Keep sending in your stories and we'll get them in their own section of the News Letter. Good on ya Hal and John! Glad to see it all worked out. Cool ride! Pun intended. Here it is as written. Enjoy! - J-Dub

Me and John Cain took a little ride back in December. We left Ridgecrest on Monday the 15th around 0645 in a cold light rain. We didn't even make the Searles Station cutoff before the rain turned to ice and snow - back to Ridgecrest and Kristy's for a cup of joe and a re-plan. 30 minutes later we're on the 14 heading to the highway 58 junction. Still raining... We scoot over to Kramer's junction and decide to break out the heated gear at the Burger King there. Snow is all around us; I-15 is closed from Barstow through Cajon Pass south. We press south and take the air express cutoff over to Rt. 66. to downtown Victorville and pickup CA-18/247 going through Apple Valley, Lucerne Valley and east towards Yucca Valley. About halfway between Lucerne and Yucca Valley the snow begins to fall pretty good with snow and ice accumulating all over the bikes and two foolish riders. Decision time - 20 miles back or 20 miles forward? Snow and ice each way! We elected to follow a pair of Wal-Mart tractors using great care to stay in their tire tracks, towards Yucca.

We get within 5 miles of Yucca Valley and CA-62 - our path to I-10 and east when our snow plows pull off at a Spirit station and we wisely follow them. It's still snowing. The Wal-Mart truckers come over and begin talking to us - "I never would have believed it if I hadn't seen it for my self" they said. "God damn amazing. Only on a Harley!" they said shaking their heads. We learn that the 8% grade into Yucca is closed so we're stuck for the time being. I am hating life right now - my waterproof gloves should have really been marked as super-absorbent sponges. I have no feeling in my hands. My feet are just as bad, and I swear that when I get home new gloves and boots are at the top of my priority list. People are taking pictures of the two Harleys with the massive snow and ice build up on them - it's caked between the cooling fins even on the header pipes if you can believe that! We get some gas and head into the attached pizza joint for food, hot coffee and lots of warm air. An hour and a half later we see traffic once again moving along the road, so mounting up we gingerly head down into Yucca Valley through light rain/snow mix. In Yucca we learn that CA 62 through Morongo Pass is closed for snow, but is expected to open around 3:00 PM. Fine, we'll go sit in line and wait. It's at this point that John learns a valuable lesson; while a Sportster is lighter than a Road King, great care should still be exercised when applying the front brakes on packed snow and ice. Yep, one quick squeeze and down he goes. At that slow speed it would be more fairly judged a tip than drop, and since nothing was broken or bruised save an ego, it made it easier for me to laugh. 20 minutes later a CHP comes by and over his loud speaker we hear that the pass will be open in 30 minutes -- for 4x4s vehicles WITH chains only. Damn.

We backtrack a mile or so to a KFC for some major re-planning and warm air. Still a light rain/sleet/snow mix and I note that we are the only two idiots riding bikes in this crap. We continue to be big hits with the Harley fans and cage bound fellow riders. While at KFC, I get on the phone with my wife who does a great job searching weather and CALTRANS sites. We learn there is a break in the weather, and a significant band of light rain is just minutes away. From the locals we learn that we can take CA 62 east where it will eventually run into the I-10 about 130 miles distant. Temperatures are hanging around 34-37 degrees and darkness is just an hour or so away. Off we go, bound for Twentynine Palms for some new gloves and then on to Desert Center, I-10 and Blythe.

We make Blythe at 9:00 PM, and after a quick Popeye's meal, liberal use of the restroom hand dryer and some Chevron premium gas we're off to Phoenix in a light rain and temperatures in the high 40s. Two hours and twenty minutes later we arrive in the Phoenix area; we dip in for gas and some coffee at a Waffle Shop. Crossing the AZ border we not only picked up an additional 5 MPH in the speed limit, but a pesky 25-30 mph cross wind for most of the way. We did finally outrun the rain about 40 miles outside of the Valley of the Sun, so something did work in our favor. It's 1:00 AM now - we gained an hour with the time change when we decide that Tucson is only two more hours away. Smooth sailing most of the way minus the usual road construction on I-10 around Tucson. I pull into my mom's driveway at 3:00 AM. It's been a hell of a day and the total mileage clocked with the re-routing and re-tracing was 735 miles.

After four days in Tucson seeing family and friends it's time to head home. John and I rendezvous on Tucson's south-side at 08:00 and begin the track back to Ridgecrest. Return was pretty much uneventful, albeit cold. We were home around 7:30 PM and clocked 615 miles. So the punch line is that each bike logged ~1350 highway miles out and in for a combined 2700 miles.

#### Lessons Learned:

- Plan your trip with several alternate routes just in case.
- Don't anticipate weather -- you'll guess wrong.
- Harley rain gear rocks!
- If you think your leather gloves are REALLY waterproof you're a fool.
- Even the best gloves with a liner worn under will still get cold soaked in 30 minutes with temps below 35 degrees.
- Heated gear with thermostat is a must for long distance cold weather riding.
- Full face helmet ventilation is equally important in the winter as it is in the summer.
- Low flow helmets won't defog a face shield.

Hal





**Bland Burchett**  
*Spokes  
Road Captain Coord.*

Welcome Ride Fans

It's going to be another great riding year ahead of us and as your new Road Captain extraordinaire, I want to assure you that I'm fully aware of the responsibilities and that my Ride Pre-Briefings will consist of a little more than:

“Keep Up”

OK, maybe on those special occasions that's all is needed and let me explain:

- You KNOW each and every rider
- All riders KNOW the route and where you are going
- Your group is small...less than 3
  - More than 3 needs a “Mid Group” Lead/RC to provide the passing cushion break for auto's.

So, I hope you understand that what appears to be a “Cavalier” attitude isn't. The message I want to get across to every body who takes on the responsibility to lead a group consisting of more than “Me, Myself and I”, understands the responsibility and KNOWS each and every rider's skill level.

Do you know the “Rubber Band” Effect? Stay tuned for the next news letter and I'll explain how its more than the energy required to give your o'school teach a welt on the cheeks.

Bland



**Don McCauley**  
*Web Talker*



**And His Lovely  
Co-Star**

**Judy McCauley**  
*Show me the bugs in your  
teeth*

**RAG HOG Website Host server is located at [www.catalog.com](http://www.catalog.com):**

Our RAG HOG host server account renews in February 2009: \$184/year.

In the past...catalog.com made certain **account management statistics** available: such as...throughput downloaded by visitors [in bytes]...total disk space available...disk space free...etc. They've removed reasonable limitations on throughput and disk space...so no longer provide statistics.

Number of RAG HOG Website Visitors Counted: The RAG HOG home page visitor **counter** at the beginning of February was approximately 26,700. In the future...I'll provide month-to-month counter data.

**RAG HOG Websites Posted:** Since the last newsletter...the following webpages have been posted.

Bagdad Cafe and Route 66 Museum in Barstow  
-17 January 2009

RAG HOB Christmas Party  
-20 December 2008

RAG HOG at the Elk's Club Annual Christmas Parade  
-13 December 2008

RAG HOG Christmas Basket  
-21 December 2008 (pictures by Marc...Stan...and Ms. Georgia Peach)

Toys for Tots at the Fair Grounds  
-6 December 2008

Relay for Life  
-4 October 2008 (pictures by Billee and Bland)

**Judy and Don**



**Stan Austin**  
*Safety Stan*



Hello fellow HOG'S! It looks like I am back or should I say I have not left yet. As most of you know I was still on the board as past Director but now I am back to where I started as safety. First thing is if anyone would like to step up and take on this job just give me the word, I will let you have the job. A heart felt good by to Dave and Chris Hunter. They have moved to Texas as Dave has taken a job there. The Hunters were hard workers who always supported the group. So long and safe riding! For the out-going board members we say thank you for the jobs you performed and we hope you keep supporting the group. Last, a thank you to Sandra Moore and her helpers who put on two of the best Christmas parties we have had. Next year's party is already in the works and the date is on our web site, so plan on attending.

It is that time of the year to pay our dues, I hope all of you sign on for another year and I hope more of you join in on the rides. There is going to be many more rides this year. We are not so much concerned with numbers but with riding and having fun. Please do join in on the fun and rides we will have in 2009.

The following is some safety info to get the year off right. If you have questions or concerns please e-mail or catch me for a word and I will try to help you.

#### FROM NTSF WEB SITE:

**If you're ever in a serious motorcycle crash, the best hope you have for protecting your brain is a motorcycle helmet. Always wear a helmet meeting the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218. Look for the DOT symbol on the outside back of the helmet. That is the manufacturer's way of certifying the helmet meets the DOT standard. A certified helmet also will have a permanent inside label identifying the manufacturer and providing information about the care and use of the helmet. Helmets meeting FMVSS 218 weigh around three pounds; have a thick polystyrene-foam lining; and sturdy chinstraps. ANSI or Snell labels are voluntary indicators of helmet quality. Don't leave your helmet behind on short trips because it could be a deadly mistake. Some motorcycle helmets, in addition to offering protection to your head in a crash, include plastic face shields that offer protection from wind, rain, insects, dust, and stones thrown up from cars. If your helmet doesn't have a face shield, be sure you wear goggles because eyeglasses won't keep your eyes from watering, and can easily fall off.**

**Arms and legs should be completely covered when riding a motorcycle, ideally by wearing leather or heavy denim. In addition to providing protection in a crash, protective gear also helps prevent dehydration. Boots or shoes should be high enough to cover your ankles, while gloves allow for a better grip and help protect your hands in the event of a crash. Wearing brightly colored clothing with reflective material will make you more visible to other vehicle drivers.**

**Experienced riders know local traffic laws - and they don't take risks. Obey traffic lights, signs, speed limits, and lane markings; ride with the flow of traffic and leave plenty of room between your bike and other vehicles; and always check behind you and signal before you change lanes. Remember to ride defensively. The majority of multi-vehicle motorcycle crashes generally are caused when other drivers simply didn't see the motorcyclist. Proceed cautiously at intersections and yield to pedestrians and other vehicles as appropriate. You can increase your visibility by applying reflective materials to your motorcycle and by keeping your motorcycle's headlights on at all times, even using high beams during the day.**

**Alcohol and drugs, including some prescribed medications, negatively affect your judgment, coordination, balance, throttle control, and ability to shift gears. These substances also impair your alertness and reduce your reaction time. Even when you're fully alert, it's impossible to predict what other vehicles or pedestrians are going to do. Therefore, make sure you are alcohol and drug free when you get on your motorcycle. Otherwise, you'll be heading for trouble.**



Tom Lystrup

As your new secretary, let me say welcome to a new Year in the Ridgecrest Activity Group and thank you for your support in advance. I look forward to helping the group out in any capacity necessary. I enjoyed many rides and activities with the group last year and look forward to another year filled with fun activities. Let the rides commence.  
Tom

Oh yeah – As secretary let me ask you to pay particular attention to the following announcement:  
To avoid extra cost for late enrollment, get your membership applications filled out along with the survey and bring them to the next RAG meeting at Charlies, on Valentine’s Day at 0900 along with \$20. Both forms are posted on the website at [www.ridgecresthog.com](http://www.ridgecresthog.com).  
Thank you



Rex Walraven  
Semper Fi  
Treasurer

*The treasurer’s report is provided at the monthly Chapter meeting and is available from the Treasurer upon request.*



Crystal Liesman  
Historian

*No Report this month*



Denis Linck  
Membership/PAO

*No Report this month*



John Brandt  
Editor

*I would like to thank Susan for providing the 2008 RAG HOG Yearbook, it is excellent!!*



# **RAG Meeting Notes**

## **1/10/2009**



**Meeting called to order by Director Wade Tallman at 9:00am**

**Director, Wade Tallman:** Welcome to new members. Please get your applications for 2009 turned in to avoid the late fee. Also fill out the survey.

**Asst Director: Tracy Ackeret:** Welcome to 2009

**Secretary, Tom Lystrup:** New membership forms as well as survey forms are on the website thanks to the Web Master Don McCauley. Remember to update your HOG membership for this year as well. RAG Application will not be received without current HOG membership proof.

**Treasurer, Rex Walraven:** Collected membership applications and survey forms.

**Activities Director, Josh Wilkerson:** Several rides have been planned for 2009. Check calendars on the website.

**Road Captain Coordinator: Bland Burchett:** Looking forward to some great rides in 2009.

**Safety Officer, Stan Austin:** Watch intervals on rides. Keep together. Stan is available to answer questions about new base passes.

**Web Master, Don McCauley:** Computer is back up to speed. Check website for latest updates. Annual and monthly calendars have been updated.

**Newsletter Editor, John Brandt:** Turn in your updates for the newsletter cut-off date Jan 31st.

**Photographer, Judy McCauley:** Need a new camera

**Historian, Crystal Liesman:** No comments.

**LOH, Anne Haber, Barbara Austin:** Tommy volunteered to do the silent auction and yard sale again this year.

**PAO, Josh Wilkerson:** No comments.

**Member comments:** None.

**Notes:** The next RAG board meeting is: 13 Feb, 6:00 PM at Josh & Debbies place - 141 W. Mojave Rose

The next RAG General meeting will be 14 Feb at Charlies in the Carriage Inn at 0900.





## Service Department Specials

Good through 3/31/2009

Now's the time to start thinking about getting your bike spruced up for the spring riding season. Don't wait until our Service Department gets busy and there's a two week wait. Take advantage of the off season and get that project done now! Here are a couple of examples of what our Factory Trained Technicians could do for you. Can't get down here, will pick up and deliver your bike from Ridgecrest for only \$15.00.

### Oil & Filter Change and 25 point inspection.

**\$45.00**

- Genuine H-D Chrome oil filter and up to 4qt of oil
- Regularly \$85.00  
(Upgrade to synthetic oil for only \$20.00 more)

### Chrome Front Fork Leg Packages for 2000 and later Touring Bike installed.

**\$200.00 off**

- Full kit includes Chrome sliders, spacers, axle caps, upper covers, seals, oil.
- Regularly \$856.94 for 2007 dresser now \$756.94

Have something else in mind that you don't see, then **make up your own special**, take **20% off the Parts and Labor** for any in stock parts installed by our service department!

(Offer not good in combination with other discounts or offers.  
Pick up and delivery based on two bikes with \$150.00 of work)

*Bagdad Café and Route 66 Museum*



*Christmas Party 08*





*Christmas Parade 08*



*Christmas Basket Delivery*





# Toys for Tots at Fairgrounds



# Relay for Life







February Birthdays



Ike Bridgeman



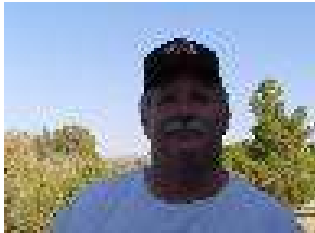
Micah Hall



Brit Hartzell



Clint Lawrence



Wade Tallman



Steve Wainscott



Debbie Wilkerson

March Birthdays



Char Bartels



Doug Gerard



John Lelis



Judy McCauley



Doug Smith

# UNIVERSAL MOTORCYCLE HAND SIGNALS



**Start your engines**



**Stop**



**Go ahead and pass me**



**Bikers ready**



**Hazards on the road**



**Don't pass me**



**Stop your engines**



**Turn off your turn signals**



**Single riding**



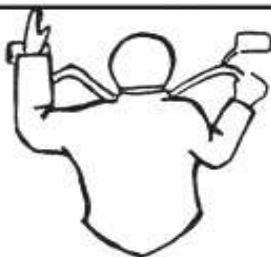
**Left turn**



**Slow down**



**Staggered riding**



**Right turn**



**Speed up**



**Time for a pit stop**

# Motorcycle Web Links

**Antelope Valley HD website**

[www.AntelopeValleyHD.com](http://www.AntelopeValleyHD.com)

**AV Hog Website**

<http://www.avhog.org>

**HD Home Page**

[http://www.harley-davidson.com/hd\\_main/hd\\_home.isp](http://www.harley-davidson.com/hd_main/hd_home.isp)

**Motorcycle Safety Foundation**

<http://www.msf-usa.org/>

**Ridgecrest Activity Group**

<http://www.ridgecresthog.com/>

**HOG Chapters**

<http://hogchapters.net>

**Maps**

<http://www.mapquest.com/>

**Harley Owners Group**

<http://www.hog.com/>

**California DOT-Road & Highway Info**

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/>



## Antelope Valley Harley-Davidson

1759 West Avenue J-12  
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Toll Free: 800-99harley

### Winter Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday: 9am to 6pm  
Sunday: 9am to 5 pm  
Monday: Closed



## Upcoming Events:

**Valentines Dinner at  
the Lodge**

**Feb 14**

**Cabin Fever Run to  
Beatty**

**Feb 20 - 22**

**Lunch Run to Peggy  
Sue's in Barstow**

**Mar 14**



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