



Smokin' Gazette

SPRING 2020

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News from our Director

STEVE CARAKER

What's Ahead of SMHOG in 2020

We started another year with some officer changes, a very healthy bank balance and hopes for less rain than in 2019! The Re-up Luau party in January was one to remember, followed by a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Souper Bowl Cook Off, and a St. Patrick's Day event. These days you never know just what Sandra Mims has up her sleeve for a good time! Even our monthly meetings are turning into standing room only affairs! Come join us at the meetings and the Queen's Café for Coffee and treats, the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. at Harley Davidson of Asheville. We meet on the Party Porch.

We've got some rides under our belt already with the fair weather we've been having so far this winter. We began with our Chilly Buns Ride on New Year's Day, Leap Day Ride, Kill Phil Ride, and the Loop Ride.

Our Road Captains have also reinstated the Skills training opportunities early this year. Not only do we want to provide you with places to ride, we want to offer some help to improve your riding skills and confidence. Big thanks to Mike Edney and Paul Fraga for putting in the extra effort in this program. Whether you're brand new to riding or a veteran, we all need practice to stay sharp and safe out there. There is just no substitute for practice.

Already this year we sent four officers to Charlotte for R.O.C. training. They were Diane Davis, Kristen Schweickert, Pat Harvey, and Tom Shantz. ROC is short for Regional Officer Connection. They just came back with great ideas to share in the near future.



We have our new chapter website up and running, calendar and all. The new site features a lot of what you are used to, but some improvements as well. A lot of the content will have pics from our rides and events over the years, so when somebody runs across our site, they get a great idea of just who we are, what we do and how much fun and reward we get from doing it! What we initially thought was going to be an unexpected expense has turned out to be a windfall for the chapter thanks to our dealership. Thanks to Steve Larson, Manager of HD of Asheville, it comes to us gratis. Much appreciated!

As you may know, this Chapter has historically supported the Smoky Mountain Toy Run and various Veterans charities. These efforts have built up over the years, and last year SMHOG put 200 bikes on the stage for the Eblen St. Nicholas Project! We also contributed to the N.C. Veterans Home in Black Mountain and sent a check over to the Viet Nam Veterans of Asheville to help them fund a local memorial.

Given the success of our fundraising efforts last year, we also helped Henderson County Toy Run and another Veterans group. Your special events coordinator Tom Shantz already has our largest fund raiser, the Car and Bike Show, well in hand for another successful year. And while I'm talking about Tom, a bit of great news here. Tom approached one of the charities we support, the Better Life Foundation/ Three Doors Down about a sponsorship opportunity for an event. In the course of that conversation, as Tom explained what we support, the Foundation gave a \$5,000 donation to basically double the contribution to the Toy Run effort!

So, as you can see this little riding club of about 200 members has a great deal of impact regionally for improving the lives of some of the folks in our area. With an excellent leadership team, hardworking members and a very supportive dealership, we all make a very positive difference, while having a good time and spending time with our friends. In all my years with public service and all the other groups I've been involved with, I'll have to say, this little Chapter is the most talented, giving, hardworking, fun loving group I've ever been connected to period... I am proud you let me lead you for a bit.

Thanks for what you do to make this club fun and rewarding,

Steve Caraker
Director SMHOG #3002





*Tom Shantz
Activities Officer
Special Events*



4th Annual SMOKY MOUNTAIN CAR & BIKE SHOW



Saturday Sept. 26th (Rain Date Oct. 3rd)

**4th Annual
September 26, 2020**

**Come on out for a
great time!**

**Cars
Motorcycles
Vendors
Food & Drinks
Live Music
Prizes
50/50 Raffle**



Chaplain's Corner

Juli Morgan



Chaplain's Corner:

Throw the First Stone

"So when they continued asking Him, He lifted up Himself, & said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." John 8:7

Earlier in the month, I went with my old friends in Christian Motorcycle to the Swannanoa Women's Correctional Center. Whenever we do a prison visit, we are truly appreciated by both the staff & inmates alike. We bring with us memories of the past, an "escape" in the present, & a hope for the future.

When people become incarcerated, (...& yes, they are still people) they feel like society has forgotten them. A lot of these women are not hardened criminals ... yet ... They made a big mistake. They were in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people. They were young & stupid, like we all were once. They sought what they thought was loyalty & love & ended up with deception. I'm not saying that they didn't do something to belong behind bars. But, we all need to be forgiven. And, if we are completely honest, we all could have been there, on the other side of the locked door.

It's funny. We go there to be a blessing & we all walk away feeling that we are the ones being blessed. The ladies look at our bikes, take pictures on them. They talk about when they rode, or when they will again someday. They feel like kids at a carnival for one moment in a really bad time in their lives. We tell them we have been praying for them; that we have not forgotten them. We find out, they had been praying for us all along. Why, you ask? Because they knew we would come; that we were coming.

And, speaking about blessings, thank you for giving me the honor of blessing 63 bikes at our last Chapter Meeting. Remember, I am always available at anytime To bless your motorcycle, pray for you, or anything you may be going through at the moment. I have access to a prayer chain that stretches across the United States for motorcyclists. Please let me know as soon as you find out that someone in our Chapter (or out) has had an accident, needs surgery ...etc... I will always be here for you as your Chaplain, your fellow motorcyclist, and your friend.

Keep the rubber side down, & the chrome side up!

-Juli Morgan, Chaplain



HOG Merchandise

Diane Davis



As your merchandise officer, I'm committed to serving my fellow chapter members as your point of contact when you need H.O.G. merchandise. Currently, we have in inventory a great selection of patches, pins, name badges, flags and mounts, key chains, as well as ladies' and men's tee shirts. If you want an item from the H.O.G. merchandise case, the ladies in motor clothes at the dealership can assist you. If we're at a chapter meeting, I'd love to help you, just let me know what you need! I'm encouraging everyone to look at the chapter merchandise selection that is available on this site:

<https://www.norscothogstore.com/HOG-categories/New-For-2020>

If there's something we don't carry that you'd like to have, please let me know. I'm so excited to work with you all over the next year!

Diane (Swag Hag!)



Large Jacket Patch

Much more available at the locked cabinet by the HOG office and the above link!



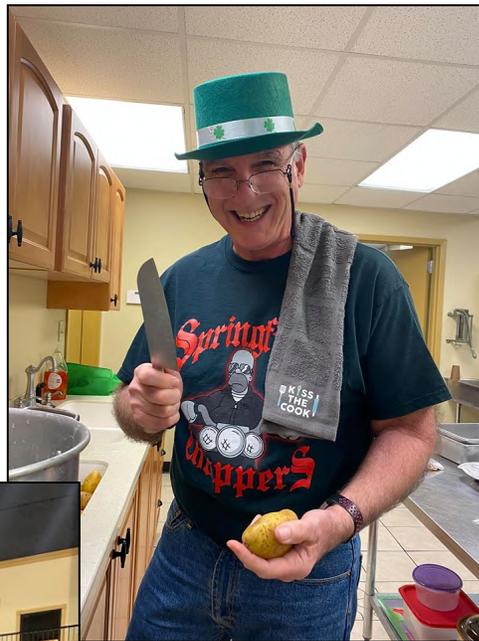
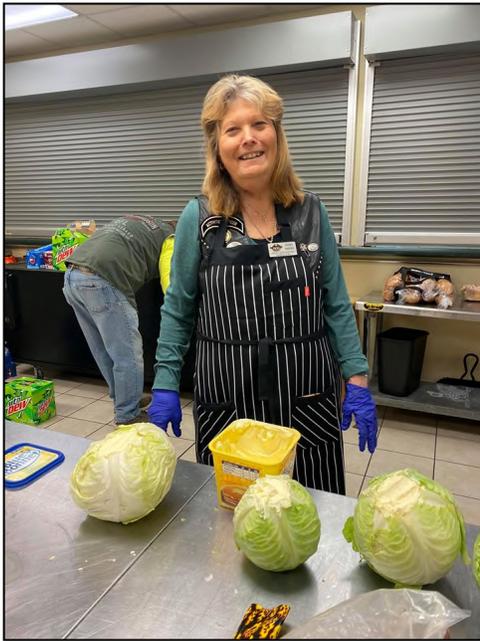


Corned Beef & Cabbage Plates
Drink included
12 noon until we run out!
Thank you,
Smoky Mountain H.O.G #3002
Proceeds Benefit Smoky Mountain H.O.G and its Charities.



EARLY MORNING COOKING!
Thank you Tom and Jeff!





A Summer Adventure

BY ROBERT SCHWEIKERT

Kansas? Why?

That's what Jeff asked, after I answered his question about if I had a trip planned this summer and where I was going.

Well, the answer was simple. The Evel Knievel Museum in Topeka KS, was going to be my destination for my week away, a.k.a therapy week. Finally in the week of Labor Day I had the chance to escape, after a Summer filled with a crazy business related travel schedule. After

getting home on Saturday morning after yet another Red-Eye, I packed and got my act together to leave on Sunday Sept. 2nd to head to Topeka Kansas. Since the ride is most often more important to me than the destination my route took me through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri and then into Kansas. On the way home from Topeka, KS I rode through Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Arkansas had to be on the route as I definitely wanted to check out the Ozarks, and it was well worth the "detour". While the interpretation of "steep and crooked" as some road signs read is quite different from what we would consider "steep and crooked", zig zagging my way across the Ozarks 3 times was lots of fun and provided great change from the mostly straight roads in the Mississippi River valley. Before arriving in the Ozarks I rode through the Bankhead National Forest in Alabama, and the Holly Springs National Forest and past Sardis Lake in Mississippi.



Arriving in Hot Springs AR, on day 2 the farthest West I had been with my own bike. Day 3 was my zig-zag day through the Ozarks and day 4 took me into Topeka KS. Before arriving in Topeka the rain caught up with me about 1 hour outside of Kansas City. Never the less, I stopped at the HD factory and it turns out I will be one of the last to have visited. I was in the Visitor Center on Wednesday, and Friday Sept. 7th was the last day the Visitor Center would be open. Somewhat of a sad occasion. The visitor center was cool, with lots of detail about how a bike is put together and about the paint process. From the plant I headed to Worth HD of Kansas City MO, before making my way West to Topeka, which is now the most westerly point I have been on my own bike.

Drizzle greeted me on day 5, as I rode the short distance from the hotel to the Evel Knievel Museum. The museum itself has only been open just over a year and I had found out about it by reading an article about something that mentioned the museum. At the time, I was still looking for a destination for this year's escape and thus it was found. So why is the museum in Topeka KS? Lathan McKay, an ex pro skate boarder and Evel memorabilia collector had dug up Evel's truck "Big Red" in Florida and was looking for someone to restore it. Via an acquaintance who knew that Classic HD in Topeka restored old bikes, a connection was made. Of course restoring a truck and a bike are totally different things, but the owner of Classic HD could not resist the temptation and declared they could do it, before he knew what they were getting into. Anyway, long story short, Lathan brought the truck to Classic HD and they



functioned as the "general contractor" for the restoration while also having some of their people work on the truck. The original painter of "Big Red" also contributed to the paint job. The owner of Classic HD built the building to house the truck along with Lathan's collection of Evel memorabilia. That's how the museum ended up in Topeka. It's a fun place and it includes a Virtual Reality jump. This completely messed with my head. The goggles and the headset told my brain that I was riding a motorcycle, while my body, sitting on a stationary motorcycle did not share the same sensation. I had to take a minute to get over the conflicting input, but it was great.

Classic HD has it's own collection of classic bikes on display in the dealership and that was an unexpected bonus. Some bikes are in the condition you would expect a 70 year old bike that had been used to be, others have been beautifully restored.

The next two days I spent riding home, with the weather improving about 1 hour into Missouri. I rode a long stretch of the Ohio River Scenic Byway in Illinois, took Kentucky 435 which turns into Tennessee 49 through the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. This was a fantastic stretch with cruise control set to just above 50, feet on the pegs and no car to slow me down for the whole stretch. Long curves made for a nice rhythm.



7 days, 2980 miles of smiles, less than 300 on the highway, it was a blast.

Later,

Robert

Another Adventure - More Flatness by Robert Schweikert

**ROBERT & KRISTEN
SCHWEIKERT**

With a week of vacation left over from last year that needed to be taken before the end of March, what better use could there possibly be then to go for a ride? While it's certainly a bit on the chilly side in mid March to go for long rides it's still good to be out and catch some wind therapy.

After my exploration of the flatlands last year when I rode to the Evel Knievel Museum in Kansas I came up with the idea to visit the Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum in Gibsland, LA for this trip. Stating the obvious first, yes the roads are mostly straight and the land is flat once one gets out of the eastern part of Alabama. Never the less, it is still pretty, and a more or less boring straight line ride has a nice calming effect on the head.

I left on Saturday March 16 in the late morning to give the air a bit of time to warm up. Heading south on the parkway the temperatures dropped quickly into the 30s as I climbed mount Pisgah. The reward, cool looking walls of ice along the way. Off the parkway at route 215 then onto Explorer Road and down the mountain temperatures rose just as quickly as they had dropped earlier. The rest of day 1 led me through Georgia and into Alabama. In Hanceville AL I stopped for the night after 370 miles on a day that started rather late.

This is where the it's flat and straight part of the story begins. From Hanceville AL I rode through Mississippi and into Louisiana where I stopped for the night in Arcadia, just 8 miles from Gibsland and the Museum.



Day 3 started with the short trip from the Hotel to the Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum. The ambush of the infamous couple took place a few miles outside of Gibsland. The museum itself is located in a building where according to the introduction I received Bonnie and Clyde had their last meal. 10 minutes after leaving the place they were dead. The museum tells the story of Bonnie and Clyde, holds lots of pictures and story boards. What is rather interesting is that the stories of the ambush, as told by 3 men that were part of the events do not match in rather significant ways. With all men that were part of the ambush having passed the truth will never be known. I also learned that there was never any conclusive proof the Bonnie ever killed any one.



After about 2 hours in the museum it was time to get back on the road. Traveled south and west to find roads that were not so straight that led me past Saline Lake and Black Lake in Louisiana, through the Sabine National Forest in Texas and into Orange Texas where I spent the night of day 3. If you've never been to Texas driving or riding, well if you like to go fast, that's the place to go. Even on a two lane back road the speed limit is 70.



From Orange my route took me through Port Arthur, TX and onto route 82. Not far from Port Arthur route 82 crosses the TX LA state line and it follows the coast. Yes, yes, straight and flat, but very beautiful. The horizon is dotted with not so beautiful oil drilling platforms and riding along the shore line with the Gulf of Mexico right there it is inevitable to wonder how long it will really take before all of it is under water.

All the communities along the road are of course built on stilts and those buildings that are not on stilts are probably the buildings that have made it through whatever the last storm was that hit the area. Past the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge route 82 comes to an end and route 35 took me north and back inland. Heading north and east I eventually ended up on route 15 which was a great ride. Route 15 runs close to the top of a levee along the Mississippi river. While flat, it's not straight. It was amazing to see how high the Mississippi was and the vast areas that are flooded. I crossed the river in Natchez passing from Louisiana back into Mississippi. From Natchez I rode a quick 90 mile loop that took me through the Homochitto National Forest with some hills and curves. I stayed in Natchez close to the beginning of the Natchez Trace Parkway.



Before getting going on the parkway the next day I visited the Grand Village of the Natchez, which was really a ceremonial site rather than a village. The visitor center there tells the story of the Natchez Indians and how they were eventually obliterated by the French.



With the exception of a few spots where the Natchez Trace Parkway gets close to population centers I was mostly alone on the road and after three hundred and some miles on the parkway it was time to stop in Florence AL. While there was still plenty of daylight left, there was not enough to make it all the way to end of the parkway, near Nashville and another 120 miles away. With no larger towns and potential stops for the night between Florence and Nashville it was time to call it a day.

A short ride from Florence to Tuscumbia AL, brought me to the Natchez

Trace HD dealer to take a look around and get the obligatory T-shirt.

After the stop at the dealership it was back to the parkway and head north to finish the rest of the tour. As the parkway enters Tennessee it gets more interesting with hills and curves and just outside of

Nashville the parkway ends. One great American road off the bucket list, check. From Nashville I wound my way to Chattanooga and my last stop for this trip.



Ice on my seat greeted me on the last morning of my tour and that was a clear indication that it was not a good idea to take the Cherohala Skyway home. I stayed in the valley following 64, 74, and 19 home.

What a great trip, sunshine every day, not a drop of rain, 2452 miles of smiles!

Later,
Robert



Robert with some of our HOG members.

**Coming up: WEEKEND AT TELLICO PLAINS!
JUNE 12 TO 14TH**

Join Robert and Kristen Schweikert and HOG friends for a weekend of riding and fun!

We will be going to Tellico Plains, TN and staying at The Lodge at Tellico Plains

<http://www.lodgeattellico.com>

Contact Kristen & Robert 401-241-3929

Spotlight

Diane Davis



Meet our Members!

Diane was born in Chicago on October 11. Her family moved to Maryland when she was very young. She attended George Washington University in DC, and after getting married, she and her husband owned a very successful ski shop in the area. "Why own a business like that in Maryland where there are no mountains?" I asked. Because that's where the money is!! Customers buy the equipment and then travel to the slopes out west or to Vermont. In DC, Diane rode with the Nam Knights of the Free State Chapter. After retiring from the ski shop, after getting divorced in DC, she moved to the Asheville area four years ago.

Diane has a daughter who lives in Maryland, and a son who lives in Chicago, both of whom she visits often. You will often find her also visiting her father in Naples, Florida. Her mother lives in the Asheville area that she sees frequently. Both her parents are active 85 year olds! She also has a half-sister in Cleveland, Ohio, who is a journalist there.

Diane got her first bike in 2012. She joined our Smoky Mountain HOG Chapter in August of 2018. Currently Diane rides a 2012 Dyna Superglide Custom. She says her best riding experience has been to Rolling Thunder and a ride to Myrtle Beach, but expects to have many more! We are happy to have her riding with us now!

If you see this beautiful, blue-eyed lady with fairy hair flying from underneath her helmet, you'll know it's our Diane!

Interviewed by Connie Conlan



Spotlight

Cliff and Shelley Dodson A Father/Daughter Team

2017

**HOG group #3002
traveling to
Rolling Thunder**



Smoky Mountain Chapter HOG is special in many ways, but we can probably boast one of the few father/daughter riding teams in the area! That would be the duo of Shelley and Cliff Dodson.

Shelley has a December 17th birthday, and I can commiserate with her when she says it's never quite the same as in other months, because everyone is so occupied preparing for the holidays. She's the middle child of Cliff and Terri Dodson. She was born in Aiken, South Carolina and has an older and a younger brother.

She graduated from high school in Monroe, North Carolina, where her favorite subjects were the several computer classes she was in. Her most favorite TV show was "Friends". She enjoys reading the latest book by James Patterson, puzzle books of all kinds, playing with the family golden retriever, Max and absolutely loves music by Kenny Chesney.

Shelley is a seasoned rider and she's a regular on chapter rides all over North Carolina, Tennessee and has over ten Rolling Thunder patches on her vest, including the latest one in 2019. As she puts it, "Unless I'm on the back of my dad's Harley, that bike won't crank"!!

Cliff Dodson's biography reads like he's running for President in 2020!! A native of Durham, NC, he has a June 7th birthday and he's a typical Gemini over-achiever. After graduating Durham HS, he enlisted in the Marine Corps infantry, serving most notably in Viet Nam "I" Corp area, the most dangerous area in the country where his unit defended their station in 67-68 and throughout the Tet Offensive.

Once out of the Marines, he started on his education with a vengeance! First, he got his undergraduate degree at Pembroke State, then a Masters degree from the University of Georgia in Education Administration and an Education Specialist degree from Clemson University. He has also completed some course work on a PhD. at the University of S. Carolina.

He's been a science teacher, an assistant principal at the junior high level, and a high school principal in S. Carolina before serving as Superintendent of Schools in Buncombe County for 24 years!

By his side through all this has been his wife of 52 years, Terri. Is there a special patch for gals like her?

Cliff got his first bike in 1968---a Honda 350. He currently rides a 2014 Street Glide and has been a chapter member for 19 years.

Cliff has kept true to the spirit of the Marine Corps, keeping himself fit and mentally sharp always. On one occasion, he hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia all the way to Maine. Thanks to his organizational skills, the chapter rides to Rolling Thunder have been exceptionally successful. Thank you, Cliff---it was my honor to interview you.

Interviewed by
Connie Conlan

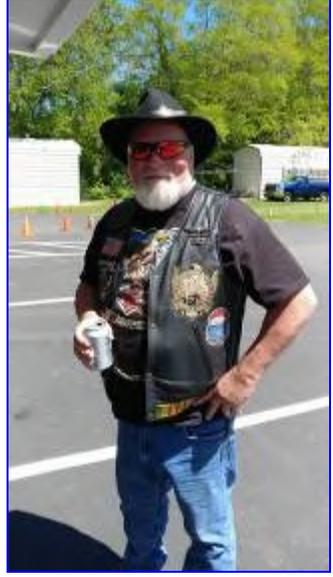
Shelley and Cliff Dodson



Spotlight



HANK BROWER



HOG members, old and new!

Hank was born at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on January 20, so he's a true military brat. At 17, he enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne as a parachute rigger. For the next three years, he found himself at Cam Rhan Bay, Vietnam.



Cam Rhan Bay, Vietnam



He left the military on his return to the States, and moved to Florida, where he lived for over thirty years. He ran a Marina, Hospital Plant Operations, plus worked at installing APEX telephone systems.

Hank has a 14 year old son, Matthew, whom he shares custody of with his former wife. He has one sister and three half-sisters.

Hand got his first bike, a Hadaka Ace 90 at fourteen that he terrorized the sand dunes around the St. Petersburg area with while honing his riding skills. His most memorable ride was one that he and his dad took from St. Pete to Key West. He's also made several rides to Rolling Thunder in Washington, DC, including the Inaugural Ride.

Hadaka Ace 90
Stock photo, 1966



After moving back to North Carolina, Hank joined our Smoky Mountain HOG Chapter in 2012. He currently rides a 2003 Heritage Softail Anniversary Edition. Hank lives in Fletcher.



Spotlight



Getting to know our Members, Old and New!

Our Chaplain, Juli Cardamone Morgan was born December 4 at West Point. Her dad was a 20 year veteran of the Army and also served an additional 20 years as a civil servant. She has one brother and three sisters, all living in the New England area.

Juli attended Sacred Heart Catholic school from grades K-8 and then went to James I. O'Neill High School grades 9-12. She grew up in an Italian neighborhood, a real tomboy, joining in the rough and tumble games her brother and the other boys in the 'hood played. After graduation from high school, she got an Associates degree in Cosmetology, which she has put to good use, working in two nursing homes and also styling the hair of home-bound patients, which she finds very rewarding.

Juli raised 5 kids as a single mom, so don't mess with this gal- - she's fearless! She has a son in Raleigh, a son in Cary, and another son in Greensboro. Her youngest daughter lives in Massachusetts and her oldest daughter lives with her in Canton.

She has been a member of Christian Bikers since 2013, and was happy to accept the post of Chaplain to our Smoky Mountain HOG Chapter in 2015.

Juli loves to garden, cook, and she plays a mean game of chess. Her most memorable ride to date has been with Bikers With Boxes in 2017, sending much needed items to kids overseas. She currently rides her beloved Sportster 883 Superlow. Thank this busy lady with the hazel eyes and naturally curly hair for her prayers over all of us and our rides at our next chapter meeting. She deserves it!



Juli with the
Bikers With Boxes riders,
2017.
(Front row, kneeling, 7th from left.)

Juli Morgan



Always volunteering!

If you were at the Accident Scene Training this past Saturday, Feb. 22, you probably noticed some regular HOG members missing! They were in "Saturday School" over in Charlotte for the **Regional Officer Connection** to make our HOG chapter even bigger, better, stronger! We appreciate their attendance at this conference for US!



The FAB 4



These Officers attending 2020 ROC are Diane Davis, Tom Shantz, Pat Harvey and Kristen Schweikert.

**REGIONAL OFFICER CONNECTION
CHARLOTTE, NC
FEB. 22, 2020**

Last, but not least....

Coronavirus Rules:

BE ADVISED:

- Avoid crowded spaces = Ride Motorcycles
- Do not use public transportation = Ride Motorcycles
- Well ventilated spaces are virus free = Ride Motorcycles
- Protect your nose and mouth = Ride Motorcycles
- Recommended use of Gloves = Ride Motorcycles
- Try not to touch contaminated surfaces = Don't let anyone touch your Motorcycle
- Avoid shaking hands = Do not remove your gloves when getting off the Motorcycle
- Keep a Safe distance from people who sneeze or cough = Ride Motorcycles
- Maintain a positive and prudent attitude = Only way to ride a Motorcycle

***Feel Free to Share this Important Information**