

**NORTHERN  
CHAPTER  
H.O.G.**

# **CLASSIC LEGEND TIMES**

**Volume 12  
Issue 4**

**April, 2006**

## **TROUT FESTIVAL RIDE AND BLESSING OF THE BIKES—KALKASKA, MI**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH**

***Bundle up for the first organized ride of the season!***

***Optional breakfast at Flapjack Shack—9:30am***

***Ride leaves Classis Motor Sports at 11:00am***

## **FIRST ANNUAL SWAP MEET**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND**

***Where: Greg/Jeanette Sherman, 740 Fisher Rd.,  
Traverse City, MI***

***Time: 2pm to 6pm***

***Buy, Sell and Trade your Harley parts, accessories and  
clothing.***

***Hot dogs and chips will be sold.***

***Please direct any questions to Jeanette Sherman at  
275-5357 or [gsherman@coslink.net](mailto:gsherman@coslink.net).***

## Northern Chapter H.O.G. Officers

### **Director:**

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### **Asst. Director/Fr. Fred Benefit:**

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### **Asst. Director/Past Director:**

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

**January, February, March...APRIL!** We are entering our fourth month of 2006, and riding season is fast approaching! So, it's time to focus on the primary purpose of our chapter—to give each of us the incentive to take the covers off our Harley-Davidson motorcycles, meet up with others who enjoy the freedom and excitement of the road, and go ride and have fun!

It sounds like some of our members have already gotten started. A group of nine bikes and ten riders from the Northern Chapter has already taken a trip to Nashville, Tennessee to ride the Natchez Trace Parkway. Others have taken advantage of the first few warm days in March to put a few miles on their odometers around town. And a few have already made plans to attend one or more of the National HOG touring rallies scheduled this summer, including the National HOG annual rally being held this year in Billings, Montana.

**Our** first "official" chapter ride for 2006 will be April 29<sup>th</sup> to the Kalkaska Trout Festival. Weather permitting, please plan to join us for breakfast at 9:30 AM at the Flap Jack Shack across from Meijer's. Or, plan to work your way over to Classic Motor Sports by 11:00 AM. If you are a new member, this ride will give you a chance to introduce yourself to other riders and enjoy a wonderful group ride to Kalkaska. Many of you may be new to group riding, so plan on being at Classic in time for the group riding instructions that are discussed before each ride.

**Ladies** of Harley will be active this month with a dinner and "chick flick" night on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to join your fellow chapter members for the LOH "Progressive Dinner" on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. For new members, it will be another great opportunity to get to know your Northern Chapter family. And if you haven't made it to one of our monthly Chapter meetings yet, plan to join us for our April meeting at Peegeo's restaurant on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**It's** easy and fun to be involved in your chapter. With the riding season just ahead, take the opportunity to get involved and get to know your Northern Chapter HOG family! I promise you will make new friends and find out how much fun being involved can be!

**So,** let's say a fond farewell to winter and get ready to ride!

**--Paul Jarboe**

**Northern Chapter Director**

# TOM'S SAFETY CORNER

*YEAH! Spring was here, at least for a couple of days! Many of you have already enjoyed being out on your bikes. Be careful! There is a lot of junk on the roads, especially on the corners.*

**REMINDER: Basic Rider Course** available almost every weekend in Fife Lake, starting May 5th and running through July 28th.

**Experienced Rider Course** is scheduled for June 3rd, June 24th or July 15th in Benzonia.

See me for additional information, or go online to register at [www.ferris.edu/cpd/motorcycle](http://www.ferris.edu/cpd/motorcycle), or call 231-591-5819.

A day-long safety class is scheduled April 1st at Birch Run. If you are interested in attending, please give me a call.

**RIDE ON — RIDE SAFE — KEEP THE TIRES ON THE ROAD AT ALL TIMES!"**

Tom Whilden, Safety Director

## FROM YOUR MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR—PATTY GRUNDER

Shirt designs have been decided on and are available to order! Customized shirts are:

- Men's long sleeve Tee Shirt in white with custom Harley Owners Group graphic on the front and slogan "It's All About The Family" down the sleeve. Full size "Northern Chapter" logo screened on back. Price—\$30
- Short sleeve Tee Shirt in black with Flame and Eagle HOG graphics on back. "Northern Chapter" left chest logo. Price—\$25
- Men's long sleeve Henley in heather gray with HOG Eagle logo screened on left chest. Full "Northern Chapter" back logo. Price—\$32
- Women's scoop neck Tee in black with Harley Owners Group in script on left chest. "Northern Chapter" logo screened on back. Price—\$25
- Baseball Cap in black or olive green acid wash with "Northern Chapter" embroidered over back vent. Price—\$20
- Name Tags available for \$10.00
- Please add \$2.00 and \$3.00 respectively for Men's 2XL and 3XL shirts.

There are many more non-customized HOG products available, just stop in at Classic and see me. I have the catalogs available. I hope to make it with the catalogs to the next Chapter meeting.

I still have a limited number of the full color "Michigan Logo Northern Chapter" pins available for \$15 each.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I would enjoy hearing from you!

Thank you. **Patty Grunder, Merchandise Coordinator (231-943-9344 Ext. 641)**

## **NORTHERN CHAPTER—HARLEY OWNERS GROUP 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Thursday	April 6th	7:00pm	Chapter Meeting	Peegeo's
Tuesday	April 11th	5:30pm	LOH Dinner & Chick Flick	Jonathan B Pub
Tuesday	April 18th	7:00pm	Chapter Business Meeting	South City Limits
Friday	April 21st	7:00pm	Chapter Ride	Brady's-TC
Saturday	April 29th	11:00am	Kalkaska Blessing of the Bike (Meet at Classic)	Kalkaska
Thursday	May 4th	6:30pm	Chapter Meeting	Peegeo's
Thursday	May 11th	6:30pm	Chapter Ride	Cedar Tavern-Cedar
Saturday	May 13th	3:00pm	Progressive Dinner	See Newsletter
Tuesday	May 16th	7:00pm	Chapter Business Meeting	South City Limits
Thursday	May 18th	6:30pm	Chapter Ride	Sleepy Bear-Honor
Sunday	May 21st	TBA	Baldwin Blessing of the Bikes	Baldwin
Thursday	May 25th	6:30pm	Chapter Ride	Minerva's
Thursday	June 1st	6:30pm	Chapter Meeting	Peegeo's
Fri., Sat., Sun	June 9, 10, 11	TBA	Brimley Blessing of the Bikes	Brimley
Tuesday	June 19th	7:00pm	Chapter Business Meeting	South City Limits

### **NORTHERN CHAPTER H.O.G. "FYI" PAGE**

#### **Keeping an eye on what's happening around us!**

*April 29th (Saturday)—KALKASKA BLESSING OF THE BIKES*

*May 20th (Saturday)—BOYNE CITY MUSHROOM FESTIVAL*

*May 21st (Sunday)—BALDWIN BLESSING OF THE BIKES*

*June 3rd and 4th (Saturday-Sunday)—MANCELONA BASS FESTIVAL*

*June 9, 10, 11th (Friday-Saturday-Sunday)—BRIMLEY BLESSING OF THE BIKES*

*June 9, 10, 11th (Friday-Saturday-Sunday)—GREAT LAKES HARLEY ROUND-UP*

*June 24th (Saturday) CELEBRATION OF LIFE RIDE (Benzie County)*

*July 22nd and 23rd (Saturday-Sunday)—FR. FRED BENEFIT*

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF CHAPTER MEETING—March 2nd, 2006**

- ☛ National HOG Rally will be June 30th thru July 1st in Billings, Montana. Great Event!
- ☛ Seasoned Rider/Downed Bike Program in Birch Run in April. Let Tom Whilden know if you are interested in attending or need more details.
- ☛ Our Chapter Website is being reviewed/revamped. Comments and suggestions welcome. New password: PANTHER.
- ☛ Let Brian Zonskowski know if you are interested in becoming a 2006 Road Captain.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF BUSINESS MEETING-March 21st, 2006**

- ☛ Financial—\$2,500 in black. Chapter membership up to 158.
- ☛ A big THANKS to Claude Gersky and Gail Lane who will represent our chapter and carry our flag at the Club HOG event in Billings, Montana, during the parade.
- ☛ New Membership Directory will be available after June 1st. If you need to update your e-mail address or telephone number, please let Jeanette Sherman know by May 22nd.
- ☛ Our former Safety Director, Steve Szasz, will be returning from his travels in April. Expect to see him at a future Chapter meeting.
- ☛ Deb Widrig is recovering well from her recent surgery.

(A complete copy of the Minutes of the Chapter Meeting and Business Meeting can be obtained by contacting Cheryl Miller of Classic Motor Sports)

#### **Give Your Dreams Flight (HOG® Fly & Ride)**

There are so many benefits to take advantage of as a HOG® member, where could you possibly begin? How about picking an exotic location to explore on a Harley®, like ... Honolulu, Hawaii, or maybe Sydney, Australia. Sound like an impossible dream? Well, this is one dream the Harley Owners Group® can bring to life with the HOG Fly & Ride Program.

Full and full life HOG members (aged 25 and older) can choose from more than 40 great cities around the world and set out on an adventure of a lifetime. HOG Fly & Ride is easy and affordable. Check your *HOG Membership Manual* or visit [members.hog.com](http://members.hog.com) for a complete list of participating locations and more details on how to turn this HOG benefit into a reality.

#### **Looking Out For Each Other (Theft Reward and Decal)**

The Theft Reward Program is a HOG® benefit you hope to never have to use – but it's pretty nice to know that it's there in case you need it. HOG will pay a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and criminal conviction of anyone stealing a full or full life member's Harley®. Be proactive by placing your Theft Reward decal on your motorcycle. Find out more about this program and the rest of your HOG benefits by referring to your *HOG Membership Manual* or visiting [members.hog.com](http://members.hog.com).

**FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROGRAMS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HOG® WEBSITE**

# LADIES OF HARLEY



**TUESDAY, April 11th—5:30pm**

**L.O.H. DINNER and CHICK FLICK-Jonathan B Pub**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13th**

**L.O.H. PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

## **BRIMLEY BLESSING OF THE BIKES**

**JUNE 9TH and 10TH, 2006**

*This is a great weekend and is well attended by our Chapter members! If you're interested in attending, 20 rooms have been reserved at Willabee's in Brimley at \$60 (plus tax) per night. Please mention Traverse City Harley-Davidson when reserving your room.*

**ROOMS MUST BE RESERVED BY MAY 10, 2006.**

**CALL WILLABEE'S AT 888-248-3008.**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

**SATURDAY, May 13, 2006 — THEME: GREEK**

*Your hosts are as follows:*

*Appetizers—Julie Rosner (946-5650)*

*Salad—Raggs and Paula Mack (275-5403)*

*Main Course—Greg and Jeanette Sherman (275-5357)*

*Dessert, Drinks and Games—John and Deb Emanuel (943-3569)*

**PS—Your help is needed to make this a successful event.**

*PLEASE call one of the hosts listed above and offer your assistance!*



## **A LESSON LEARNED ... A LESSON SHARED**

*BY: Tara and Rich Baesch*

Perspective. When you get on a Harley, that's what you gain, perspective. You can spot fellow Harley riders from a distance because of that perspective. They have the look of sincerity gained from it, the walk of confidence because of it.

Yes, perspective, that is what we share. I never really understood the true meaning of that perspective until our most recent trip.

It all began in Miami. We were to begin a two-week vacation in Florida by meeting friends at a hotel in Miami. My husband, Rich, had spent five months in the cold Michigan winter locked in the basement customizing our new 2006 Street Glide. It was a one-of-a-kind bike. However, fate had other plans for us that day. We weren't in Miami ten minutes when our truck, our 4-place motorcycle trailer, and the 4 Harley's we were hauling, including our 2006 customized Street Glide, were stolen. Inside the trailer was all of our luggage and riding gear.

We were victims of crime. We felt traumatized, devastated, and had a feeling of helplessness. We come from a small northern Michigan town, where stories such as these are front page news. In Miami, the police officer did not even get out of his car to take the complaint.

We have learned several lessons. Perspective of crime in big cities such as Miami is much different. Remember that when you plan your trips. Make reservations at hotels that have security in parking lots if you plan on leaving your bikes or trailers parked.

We learned that insurance companies require that items you are requesting reimbursement for be mentioned in the police report. Police officers perspectives on the crime may be different than yours, and their narratives may reflect this. Communicate clearly to the police, and advocate on your own behalf in this regard. Don't take anything for granted, such as the fact that they will report the items stolen right away and search immediately. This isn't TV! We found out four days later that only one bike was reported stolen, and the police were still waiting for correct VIN numbers. Somehow they just hadn't gotten to looking them up yet, even though we gave them the information they needed.

Three weeks later, we are still dealing with the insurance companies, and have yet to be reimbursed. The insurance company has a different perspective on how much to pay for the customized bike. Cash value of the bike, then the chrome and no value for labor. It has helped that we kept all our receipts, another lesson. However, it is their perspective pitted against our perspective.

We learned many hard lessons during this ordeal. We have shed many tears, been physically pained, and have broken hearts. However, life moves forward. Two days after everything was stolen, we received a call that a very dear friend had died unexpectedly. It was then we gained a whole new perspective.

We lost just material things. We would ride a Harley again. We would buy new gear. We would never talk to our friend again.

In our small town, everyone from the UPS driver to the waitress at the local diner has heard our whole sad story, whether they know us or not. We have learned that we have a lot of friends. People we don't even know have been extremely kind to us, and we appreciate it all. From that perspective, life has been gentle.

We had a bad experience, gained a little perspective, and are turning the corner. Our "stuff" will be replaced, although, I doubt we will replace the bike right away. Our friend will be missed forever, but her spirit will carry on.

As for us, and the rest of our Harley friends and their perspective, well, we're just waiting for the weather to warm up a bit, and then we'll get our perspective back, just in time. After all, Harley riders have that special perspective, we all share it, it is one of peace, that when we get on the open road, all is well.

Rich and I will be gaining the perspective of peace, by riding our Harley, together.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Meet Lew and Char Kirchner. Lew has been our trusted Northern Chapter Treasurer for the past couple years. He is currently retired from Amoco Production Company where he worked as a Process Safety Manager. His other jobs have included an English teacher, an IT support geek, and a carpenter. In his off-bike time, he restores old cars. He also used to hike and did the Appalachian Trail in 2000. Every time he hikes for more than two weeks, his lovely wife, Char, seems to buy another car for him to mess with.

Char is a self-employed CPA who works way too many hours. In what spare time she manages to carve out, she sews (a lot), rides with Lew (not enough) and discovers cars for Lew to work on in what he can only assume is a cunning attempt to keep him home more.

Char and Lew have been married for 23 years. Their furry, verbally challenged children are Jack and Eoin (pronounced Owen).

They own two bikes; a '68 Triumph Daytona and an '03 Electra Glide Classic. The Harley runs.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

☺	<b>Sue Barner</b>	<b>4/3</b>
☺	<b>Frank Trojanowski</b>	<b>4/9</b>
☺	<b>Andy Peterson</b>	<b>4/15</b>
☺	<b>Bill Swift</b>	<b>4/15</b>
☺	<b>Chuck Gannon</b>	<b>4/16</b>
☺	<b>Dennis Svec</b>	<b>4/18</b>
☺	<b>John Welsh</b>	<b>4/22</b>
☺	<b>David Berg</b>	<b>4/29</b>

The Membership Directory will be available to all members approximately June 1st. If the information you want in the directory differs from that on your Enrollment Form, please notify Jeanette Sherman, before May 20th, with any corrections. Thank you.

## "GARAGE PARTY"

*The "Garage Party" has been well received. For those women who would like to learn more about riding, please join us (by reservation only) for the next "Garage Party" scheduled for April 18th. It is a general orientation for women to address the barriers and fears they have about motorcycling. This venue will allow any of our ladies, who currently do not ride, an opportunity to talk to other women about making the move from the back to the front of the bike.*

**For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact Barb or Patty at Classic Motor Sports**

**943-9344**

## CHAPTER WEBSITE NEWSLETTER

Username: newsletter

Password: Panther

We're on the web!

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

## MARCH CHAPTER MEETING DRAWING WINNERS

**50/50 WINNER—Bob Oliverius**

**MEMBERSHIP WINNER—Don Bedtelyon**

*(Don was not present-next month's value \$100)*

**CHAPTER T-SHIRT—Paul Jarboe  
(\$25 Gift Certificate from Classic)**





SPONSORING DEALER:

**CLASSIC MOTOR SPORTS**  
Don and Nancy Pishney

*Chapter Address:*  
3939 S. Blue Star Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684

*Phone:* 231-943-9344  
*Fax:* 231-943-4201

**NORTHERN CHAPTER**  
**H.O.G.**

**A NOTE TO OUR READERS:** For updates on Deb Widrig's condition, please refer to our website @

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

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

**Cathie Meyer-Looze—Kirt Kilbourne**

**Daniel Butler—Russ Martin**

**CONGRATULATIONS to**  
**CLAUDE GERSKY and**  
**GAIL LANE**  
**ON THEIR RECENT**  
**ENGAGEMENT!**  
**A SEPTEMBER 1ST**  
**WEDDING IS**  
**PLANNED!**

**MUNISING/PICTURED ROCKS**

*August 18th, 19th and 20th*

Our Activities Director, Paula Mack, is hard at work making plans for our summer schedule. On tap is a weekend chapter trip to Munising/Pictured Rocks in the Upper Peninsula. If you are interested in further information about this trip, please give Paula a call at 275-5403. Paula intends on reserving rooms in Munising and would like to get a feel for how many of our members might be attending.

**The BOYS @ BIG EAZY**



Jim Dow, Lew Kirchner, Dick Rusas,  
John Emanuel and Rich Baesch

**The GIRLS @ BIG EAZY**



Tara Baesch, Gail Yanska, Deb Emanuel,  
Cheryl Miller and Deb Ockert