

Blue Knights®

Great Lakes Regional Conference Newsletter



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From Your Secretary/Treasurer
November 2009

Another riding season is over, and it's time to put our prized possessions away for the winter. In a back issue of the GLRC newsletter I found a great end of year maintenance article submitted by GLRC Safety Officer Thurlow Haskell. I thought I'd share his storage tips with you, so here goes:

Check with your MOM (motorcycle owner's manual) on the care and maintenance of your bike. Are you a few miles from the scheduled tune up? Why not now? Check your tires for spider cracks and air pressure. This may be a good time to replace that worn tire. Put the bike on its center stand or use a bike lift to get the weight off the tires (this prevents the tire developing a flat spot). Here are a few tips that'll keep your bike ready to hit the road in spring:

- 1) Check over your motorcycle for any mechanical problems. If you find something wrong consider fixing it now. Spring is a busy time for bike shops, and by addressing the problem now you can avoid long waits when riding season kicks off next year.
- 2) Change your engine oil and filter. Be sure to run the motor briefly to circulate the clean oil through the system.
- 3) Drain your float bowl (carbureted bikes) by running the engine, shutting off the petcock and letting the engine use up the fuel in the float bowls. Put fuel stabilizer in your tank and fill it up (all bikes); this prevents condensation in the tank. Run your bike with the stabilizer in it for a few minutes to get it through the fuel system.
- 4) Check your battery. Clean the terminals and connect it to a Battery Tender or a similar type trickle charger. If you remove the battery store it in a warm, dry location.
- 5) Take the time to wash and wax your bike. Dry it thoroughly and cover it with a breathable cover.
- 6) Store your bike in a draft free, secure location, and remove your registration or other papers from your tour pack.

Thanks for the tips Tee! Proper maintenance now will ensure your bike being road ready in spring.



*Random thoughts and deep musings
From the Mind of Wrongway*

Outlaw motorcycle clubs. We've all heard about them, and seen how our pop culture portrays them on programs like "Sons of Anarchy", but how much do you really know about them? This month I'm going to delve into the world of outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMG). The following information has been gathered from the 2009 FBI National Gang Threat Assessment report, the book *Hell's Angels* by Yves Lavigne (1995) and the web.

HISTORY OF OMGS

AMA sanctioned motorcycle clubs have been in existence as early as 1914, but the outlaw clubs came into their own shortly after WWII. Many veterans returning home from the war couldn't settle down to suburban living, and several formed clubs such as the Booze Fighters and the Market Street Commandos for the purpose of riding, drinking, and raising hell. Over the 1947 Independence Day weekend in Hollister California, and two months later in Riverside California riots broke out at AMA sanctioned motorcycle events, fueled by these clubs. Riverside Sheriff Carl Rayburn labels these rebel bikers as "outlaws," and from the mouth of an irate lawman a subculture was born. The AMA was quick to say that these "outlaws" represent only one percent of the motorcycling community, the outlaws responded by creating the "1%er" moniker, a badge of honor in the OMG world. Since then, numerous outlaw motorcycle clubs have formed, with several being absorbed or "patched over" by the larger national clubs, or "taken off the road" when they refused the takeover. The national clubs maintain a network of regional and local clubs, referred to as "puppet," "support," or "duck" clubs. Many of these smaller local clubs carry out the criminal activity for the benefit of the larger national clubs and are a source for new members. The growth of these OMGs and their increasing criminal endeavors has made them the subject of numerous investigations by law enforcement. While drug manufacture and trafficking is still the number one source of income for OMGs, they have been tied to such crimes as murder, assault, kidnapping, prostitution, extortion, weapons trafficking, motorcycle and parts thefts, arson and witness intimidation. As of June 2008 state and local law enforcement agencies estimate that between 280 and 520 OMGs operate at the national, regional, and local levels. OMGs range in size from a single chapter to hundreds of chapters worldwide. Current law enforcement intelligence estimates that more than 20,000 validated OMG members, divided among hundreds of OMGs, reside in the US. They've come a long way from their origin as "fun loving motorcycle enthusiasts."

NATIONAL LEVEL GANGS

For decades the major outlaw motorcycle gangs were referred to as “The Big Four,” those being the Hells Angels, Outlaws, Pagans, and Banditos. The 2009 NGIC identifies five gangs by name.

HELLS ANGELS

The Hells Angels MC (HAMC) is an OMG with 2,000 to 2,500 members belonging to more than 250 chapters in the US and 26 foreign countries, posing a threat on six continents. US law enforcement estimates that the HAMC has more than 69 chapters in 22 states with 900 to 950 members. HAMC produces, transports, and distributes marijuana and methamphetamine and transports and distributes cocaine, hash, heroin, LSD, MDMA, PCP and diverted pharmaceuticals. HAMC is involved in other criminal activity, including assault, extortion, homicide, money laundering, and motorcycle theft.

This gang formed in San Bernardino California in 1948, and adopted the winged death’s head as their emblem. Gang colors are red lettering on a white background, with the bottom rocker denoting the state the chapter hales from. Also referred to as The Big Red Machine, the HAMC is considered an elite gang in the OMG world. The 1970’s were a particularly violent decade for the HAMC, as they became embroiled in a war with the Outlaws MC. The 1980’s weren’t much better; the North chapter in Canada was wiped out *by their own members* when they were deemed “too wild” for the club’s own good. The bodies were dumped in the St. Lawrence Seaway after being gunned down in their own clubhouse. In spite of this, the club continues to be media darlings’, having starred in B movies in the 60’s, provided security for the Rolling Stones at the infamous Altamont concert, and even volunteering for duty during The Vietnam War. Past Oakland Chapter President Ralph “Sonny” Barger has become a pop culture icon and published author, and continues to be a major influence on the club to this day.

BANDIDOS

The Bandidos MC is an OMG with 2,000 to 2,500 members in the US and 13 other countries, and is identified as the fastest growing criminal threat in the nation. Authorities estimate that the Bandidos is one of the two largest OMGs in the nation, with approximately 900 members in more than 88 chapters in 16 states. Bandidos are involved in transporting and distributing cocaine and marijuana and producing transporting and distributing methamphetamine. Bandidos are most active in the Pacific, southeastern, southwestern and west central regions and is expanding in these regions to form new chapters and allowing members of support clubs to form or join Bandidos chapters.

The Bandidos were formed in 1966. The gang colors are red lettering on a yellow background (similar to the USMC), with the center patch being a machete and pistol wielding Mexican bandit. The Bandidos are a “sister” club of the Outlaws MC.

OUTLAWS

The Outlaws MC has more than 1,700 members belonging to 176 chapters in the US and 12 foreign countries. US law enforcement estimates that the Outlaws have more than 94 chapters in 22 states with more than 700 members. The Outlaws also identifies itself as the American Outlaws Association (A.O.A.) and Outlaws Nation. The Outlaws is the dominant OMG in the Great Lakes region. Gang members produce, transport, and distribute cocaine, marijuana and, to a lesser extent, MDMA. Outlaws members engage in various criminal activities including arson, assault, explosives operations, extortion, fraud, homicide, intimidation, kidnapping, money laundering, prostitution operations, and robbery, theft, and weapons violations. Its primary competition for territory is the Hells Angels.

The first chapter of The Outlaws formed in Chicago Illinois in 1959. Gang colors are white lettering on a black background, with a center patch being a skull with red eyes over crossed pistons, affectionately referred to as "Charlie." The club motto is "God forgives, Outlaws don't." Women are forbidden to wear anything with the club name on it except a "property of Outlaws" patch, which gives you an idea of their status. Since 1974 the Outlaws have been locked in a war with the Hells Angels, stemming from the murder of three Hells Angels in Florida.

MONGOLS

The Mongols MC is an extremely violent OMG that poses a serious criminal threat to the Pacific and southwestern regions of the US. Mongols members transport and distribute cocaine, marijuana, and meth, and frequently commit violent crimes, including assault, intimidation, and murder, to defend Mongols territory and uphold its reputation. Mongols has 70 chapters nationwide, with most of the club's 800 to 850 members residing in California. The gang also maintains chapters in Italy and Mexico. Many members are former street gang members with a long history of using violence to settle grievances. ATF agents have called the Mongols the most violent and dangerous OMG in the nation. In the 1980's the Mongols seized control of southern California from the Hells Angels, and today the Mongols are allied with the Bandidos, Outlaws, Sons of Silence, and Pagans against the HAMC. The Mongols maintain ties to Hispanic LA street gangs.

The Mongols also are referred to as the Mongol Nation or Mongol Brotherhood. The Mongols gang colors are black lettering on a white background. Their center patch is a scimitar wielding "genie" looking rider on a chopper. The gang literally shot into the national spotlight in 2002, following the infamous brawl with the Hells Angels in Harrah's casino during the Laughlin River Run. This clash left two Hells Angels dead from gunshot wounds, and one Mongol stabbed to death. Bloodshed continues to this day between the two gangs. The gang had been successfully infiltrated by the ATF, resulting in several arrests, but the gang has since resurged. An excellent book on the gang is *Under and Alone* by William Queen, the ATF agent who infiltrated the gang in 1998 and eventually became a full patch member and a chapter officer.

SONS OF SILENCE

The Sons of Silence MC is one of the largest OMGS in the US, with 250 to 275 members among 30 chapters in 12 states. The club also has five chapters in Germany. SOSMC members have been implicated in numerous criminal activities, including murder, assault, drug trafficking, intimidation, extortion, prostitution operations, money laundering, weapons trafficking, and motorcycle and parts thefts.

The Sons of Silence were formed in 1966 in Niwot Colorado. The gang is predominant in the Midwestern and southern US, as well as southern Germany. Their logo (a 1 piece patch) is an American eagle superimposed over a letter "A" arch (very similar to the Budweiser emblem), with the club motto "Donce Mors Non Separat" (Until death separates us) underneath the eagle. Gang colors are black lettering on a white background. Like the Mongols, the gang had been decimated by law enforcement, but has resurged.

Now you know a little about the major players in the OMG world. There are literally hundreds of smaller clubs out there, but not all of them are criminal enterprises (such as the Christian Motorcycle Club). That said, in order to move in the OMG world these smaller clubs either associate with one of the national clubs, or have "permission" to exist. The internet is a great tool to learn more about these gangs, but a word of caution: several of the national gangs allegedly have software to track who's visiting their web sites, so be careful poking around.

With all this in mind, why would **you** want to associate with these guys? How cool do you think you look with your arm around a man whose club is involved in everything from drugs to murder? Remember, these self proclaimed "outlaws" hate society and especially **us**. They stand for everything we as law enforcement fight against. They're not putting an arm around you for brotherhood; chances are they're gathering info on you to use later to discredit you and the Blue Knights. Remember what happened a few scant years ago in Sturgis between the Renegade Pigs and the Hells Angels? Outlaws and cops don't mix, even if we both wear vests and ride bikes. There's no love between OMGs and LEMCs, so don't put yourself in a compromising and quite possibly life threatening position by rubbing elbows with outlaw bikers. We're constantly fighting the "outlaw MC" label and trying to distance ourselves from the LEMCs who want to be on the fringe of this sub culture. Don't give the gang investigators any ammunition to use against us by associating with these outlaw clubs.

Next month we'll go in "the cut," and shed some light on the various pins, patches, and symbols that you see on OMG vests.

Ride with Pride,

"Wrongway" Dennis

IN MEMORIAM

James Marino – WI XI

Howie Jens- ILL XII



MISCELLANEOUS MUTTERINGS

I want to start out by welcoming the newest Blue Knights GLRC chapter to the fold. Wisconsin I (Madison) was chartered on . Welcome to the club!

Our Chairman Bill Drees continues to convalesce, and is making a slow but steady recovery. Please continue to refer any club business to Vice Chairman Bill Haylett until further notice; he's the Acting Conference Chairman until Bill D. gets back on his feet.

*There are still a few chapters that have not paid their 2009 GLRC dues. Please get them in to me so I can close the books on 2009. As long as I'm on the subject, you can start sending in your 2010 GLRC dues anytime! Remember, they're only **\$20.00**, and the money helps keep our conference running. If you're not sure if your chapter is current, drop me an e-mail and I'll let you know.*

*The new and improved GLRC conference patches are in. Through a great connection here in Milwaukee, I was able to get the patches made for a lot less than expected. They're selling for **\$3.00** a piece, and if you absolutely can't wait until the next GLRC and must have one (or several) they can be mailed out. You can check them out under the "Sales" section on the GLRC web site. Remember to make your checks payable to the GLRC.*

And finally, on behalf of the entire GLRC board I want to wish each and every one of you a safe, joyous and Happy Thanksgiving.

Ride with Pride,

*"Wrongway" Dennis Hafeman
GLRC Secretary/Treasurer*

2009 CRYING TOWEL CLASSIC - II

2009 CRYING TOWEL CLASSIC

**ROUND TWO OF THE 2009
CRYING TOWEL CLASSIC®**

**WILL TAKE PLACE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, AT**

**NEW ENTERTAINER'S PUB
5321 W. GREEN TREE ROAD
MILWAUKEE, WI**

**BAR OPENS @ 10:00AM
KICK-OFF SCHEDULED FOR 12:00PM**

**FOOD, SODA & GREEN 'N GOLD BEER
\$5.00/PERSON**

**COME AND SEE THE CRYING TOWEL FIRST HAND AS IT MAKES ITS BRIEF,
SEMI ANNUAL VISIT NORTH OF THE CHEDDAR CURTAIN**

**AS AN ADDED BONUS YOU WILL GET TO SEE IL X HIGH COMMANDER
JIM "MAC" MCCARTHY SPORTING HIS FAVORITE GREEN BAY PACKER
JERSEY FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, OUTSIDE OF THE PRIVACY OF HIS OWN
HOME!**

DIRECTIONS:

**FROM I-43; EXIT AT W. GOOD HOPE RD. AND GO WEST TO N. 55TH ST. GO SOUTH (L) FOUR
BLOCKS TO W. GREEN TREE RD. GO EAST (L) 1 BLOCK – NEW ENTERTAINER'S IS ON THE RIGHT.**

**FROM US 41/45; EXIT AT W. GOOD HOPE RD. AND GO EAST TO N. 60TH ST. GO SOUTH (R)
FOUR BLOCKS TO W. GREEN TREE RD. GO EAST (L) TO 54TH ST. – NEW ENTERTAINER'S IS ON
THE RIGHT.**