

Black Sheep

HARLEY-DAVIDSONS FOR CHRIST M/M

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NOTE: We have printed the highlights of this month's newsletter in "pink" in order to remind the rather distracted male members of our species that something special is happening on the 14th of this month. (You've been warned boys! Don't blow it!) ♥

Bike of the Month

Matt Gardner (San Antonio, TX BSHDFC)



DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS!



Meet Holly-Davidson! She's a 2000 Harley-Davidson Night Train that has been customized with a FAT nacelle front end and fenders. She is the correct "black" paint with red and green flames. (That's a new one!) The red and green reminded my wife of Christmas so that's where the name Holly came from. This Softail was even "Miss November" in the "Snap On Tools" 2010 bike shots calendar. ♥

Black Jack Run (For Downed HOG Members)

Don Wiseman (So. Ca. West Regional Director)

Our northern California chapters led the way with their downed biker events which raised hundreds of dollars for downed HOG members who were hospitalized. Our first effort for such an event will take place on Sunday, August 26th at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. Why are we announcing this so soon? Because first impressions are everything and we need for all So. Ca. members to get this first time event on their calendars NOW!

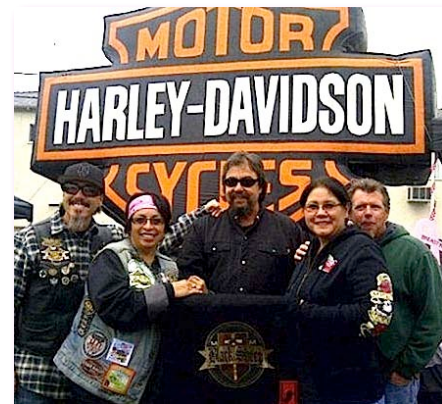


15 Southern California Harley-Davidson dealerships have agreed to support this event and we are sure that more will follow. Black Sheep's primary ministry is Harley Owners Group (HOG) and so this event is at the heart of all that we do. The event will

include a ride to Griffith Park from each supporting dealership, live music with "2AZZ1", food and motorcycle novelty vendors and more! You can follow the development of this event in this newsletter and on Facebook. Go to: www.facebook.com/events/246572572057507 or visit our website at www.blacksheepdfc.org/chapters/southern-region-california/black-jack-run-rally. You can also contact Don Wiseman at: (310) 613-0689 or email at: Dndwismn@yahoo.com ♥

Celebrating New Growth

Black Sheep chapters are defined as: Five members representing three or more families organizing in a new geographical area. We are please to introduce our third Orange County (CA.) chapter which will be known as "Fullerton/OC North," led by president Fernando Castillo (far left). Other members include (L to R) Marilyn Castillo, Martin Olmedo, Mona and Mike Roberts. BSHDFC celebrates 18 So. Ca. chapters and three developing areas. ♥



Good Words for 2012

Kevin Kohler (Pres. Central PA)

The great thing about every New Year is ... it's new! Did you ever realize that our lives are full of new beginnings? Your first day at school, first driving lesson, first date, first real job with a pay check, your wedding day, your first child or grandchild; they all mark the day of a new beginning. Whether you have good memories or bad memories of these events, they are what they are and cannot be changed. I thank God that with every New Year there is a new beginning. It is the opportunity to seek new accomplishments and strive for new goals.



What most people do not realize is that there are two steps to every new beginning. First, you have to let go of the past. Good memories or bad, for some people the past has a death grip around their neck that hinders every new beginning they face. They are always singing the song "Oh the past was so great!" or "Nobody knows the trouble I have seen"! With every new beginning I think that we need to "tie up the loose ends of the past" first. We may need to make something right with a loved one or to ask forgiveness of a friend. Maybe we need healing of a broken heart or need to ask for God's forgiveness. Accepting that the "past is the past" is not easy for some, but it must be done to "pave the way for the future". I have a motto on the wall of my office that reads "The future is purchased by the present", quoting the 18th century author Samuel Johnson.

Paving the way for the future, the second step to a new beginning, is about the choices we make today. Every New Year presents the opportunity to make the right choices that will lead us to a bright future. May I dare to ask, when is the last time you evaluated the choices of your life? Not the choices of the past, but the ones of your future. What path are they leading you on? My goal for 2012 is to strive to live the words of the apostle Paul in *Philippians 3:13-14*: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." ♥

International Leadership Summit 2012

It seems strange to be talking about ILS2012 already, but it's just four months away and people are starting to ask. The dates are **May 3rd, 4th and 5th**. There will be an informal mixer on the evening of the **2nd** and we will conclude about noon on the **5th**. Book your flights accordingly.

ILS2012

We will once again be hosted by the Lamb's Fellowship in Lake Elsinore. Every Black Sheep chapter must be represented by at least one member. **Start raising money for the trip NOW!** Anybody can come; members and non-members alike. Look forward to a weekend filled with music, food, riding, speakers, seminars, a bike night and a Saturday morning banquet. ILS is our annual meeting. Members come from all over the United States and abroad. ♥

2012 Dates We Have So Far...

Laughlin, NV River Run - April 25th - April 29th
BSHDFC International Leadership Summit (ILS) - May 3rd-5th
West Coast Thunder in Riverside, CA - May 28th
Mid-West BSHDFC Rally in Columbia, MO - July 6th - July 8th
Sturgis - August 6th - August 12th
So Ca BSHDFC Black Jack Run/Rally at Griffith Park - Aug. 26th
Rocky Mountain BSHDFC Rally Durango, CO - Sept 7th-9th.
Ca. State HOG Santa Maria to Sacramento - Sept 11th-15th
Street Vibrations in Reno, NV - Sept 26th-30th
Biker West Coast in Madera, CA - October 6th-7th
HELP Ride in Temecula - End of October
Support Our Troops in Temecula- 1st Saturday in December

*"I will never think of Valentine's Day the same ever again!
In fact, I think I'm going BLIND!"*

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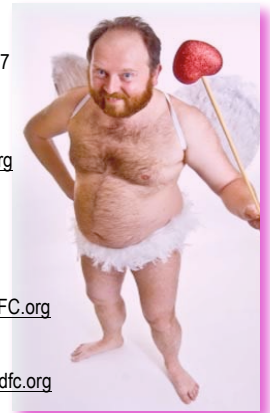
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IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT?

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**"WHO SAID WE
CAN'T RIDE ALL
ALL YEAR LONG?"**

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Black Sheep Boogie (Recorded)

Two years ago, Marty Edwards wrote "Black Sheep Boogie." (Reminiscent of Chuck Berry's twelve bar classic "Johnny B. Good.") Last year, Craig and Mary Durst (2AZZ1) gave the tune some class and credibility with their band. This year, the group recorded the song in a professional studio and asked Marty to sing the lead vocals.



The recording will be a part of a complete album Craig and Mary are currently finishing up which will include "biker friendly" tunes (such as a BSHDFC favorite - "She Wants to Ride"); all of which is a slight detour from their roots of smooth jazz. Hopes are high that the project will be completed by ILS2012. (Top: Craig, Mary and Marty in the Burbank studio. Bottom: Marty busts a gut!) ♥



**Something's wrong
with that boy!**



Have You Been Paying YOUR Dues?



There's no real story here – just a great photo of a father and his two sons. Pictured in the middle is “Cujo” – our president of the Atlanta, GA chapter. We're thinking about using this photo on our reminder notices to those behind on their annual dues. (Note the cool BSHDFC tattoo on Cujo's right forearm.) ♥

BSHDFC Mentorship 2012

By now, every chapter and every area contact should have received mentorship packages. We are already receiving an overwhelming “thumbs up” and appreciation for this new ministry preparation tool.



Unlike previous years, it's going to take a little more than an application, a check and a pastoral reference to join BSHDFC. The mentorship program is a 5-7 month process whereby a prospective member (not to be confused in any way with the word, “prospect”) learns to understand, embrace and prepare for motorcycle ministry Black Sheep style. A senior member of BSHDFC is assigned as a mentor to a person (or a class of no more than 5 prospective members) interested in joining the flock. Together, they will watch 10 short videos, study 10 lessons, spend time in the saddle and in ministry opportunities for 5-7 months. An application is filled out and all references are called, but no dues or fees are paid until a

rider has completed the course.

We often hear, “But when do I get my patch?” One more time: It's NOT about the patch! (If you're looking for a trophy to show your grandkids, join a bowling league!) It's about the right person, with the right heart who has counted the cost, considered the investment of time, money and hard work - and is sure they're ready to be a missionary on two wheels. If you think you're ready for us, let us know. ♥

The Black Sheep Pledge

I am compelled by the Spirit of God to unite with Black Sheep; Harley-Davidsons for Christ.

I understand this is a MISSION and that I am now a MISSIONARY.

I understand that H.O.G. is our primary mission field , but that we will share the love of Christ with any who will listen.

I understand this is a ministry in which I serve and not a club to which I merely belong.

I commit, therefore, to be involved and active in my local chapter to the best of my ability.

I commit to grow daily in my walk with Christ and His Word.

I commit to support and attend my local church regularly.

I will submit to my Black Sheep leaders and pray for them often.

I will submit to the spirit of our Statement of Faith and Bylaws.

I commit to speak the truth in love, forgive when wronged and never participate in gossip or divisive behavior, for we are the body of Christ.

I commit to serve, sacrifice, give, listen, love and ride in the name of Christ, so help me God!

I am a Black Sheep; different and set apart for Christ and His Kingdom.

May God give us favor in our mission and keep us safe as we ride.

To Him be all of the glory, amen. ♥

Let's Make A Deal!

Marty Edwards (BSHDFC Founder)

Christians who think they are perfect (or just better than “those sinners”) are seriously misinformed. Non-Christians who think all Christians are hypocrites are equally misinformed AND just looking for any easy excuse to dismiss the claims of Christ...so knock it off!



I've been in the “people business” for nearly 40 years (and that's longer than Dr. Phil). What I'm learning is that the problem isn't “Those damn Democrats!” or “Those dirty SOB Republicans!” The problem isn't the Mexicans, black people, white people, yellow people or little blue Smurfs! The problem is PEOPLE! Rich people, poor people, tall people and short people!

In the past, I have voted for both Republicans AND Democrats. I currently have friends that come in all shapes, sizes and colors. I have been hurt and cheated by the best of them all. Someone I'm sure I would like to have lunch with said, “The more I work with people, the more I like my dog! (Dog's are awesome, aren't they? They're faithful and love you no matter what!)”

So, let's make a deal. If you're not a Christian, fine! I will respect you and listen to what you have to say – and we can still be friends. (By the way, I'm not looking for a CHRISTIAN plumber or a CHRISTIAN heart surgeon. I just want to know that both of them know what they are doing!) And if you once met a Christian who judged you or cheated you or thumped you on the head with a big Bible, don't judge us all by that one person. I might be different!

“Don't judge me!” is a pretty misunderstood sentence, by the way. As a Christian, I don't “judge” anyone. I do, however, have a responsibility to (a) tell people about the claims of Christ and then let them decide and (b) “speak the truth in love” to my Christian brothers and sisters when they stop acting like Christians. But to “judge” is to make a final judgment, and that's God's business.

Jesus said, “God loved the people in this world so much, He sent His one and only Son [to die on the cross as a payment for our sin] and whoever put their faith in Him would not need to die but could have eternal life.” He went on to say, “God did not come to condemn the world, but to save the world.” Jesus said, “He who believes is not condemned, but he who does not believe was born condemned [Because everyone is a sinner and needs a savior].” That's my paraphrase of the Gospel of John 3:16-18



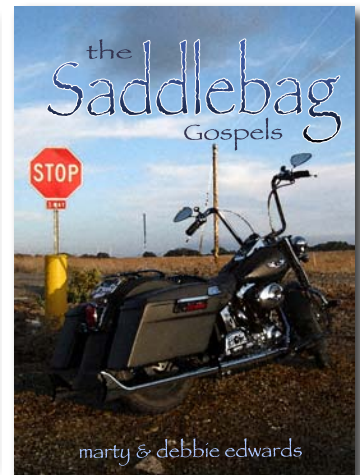
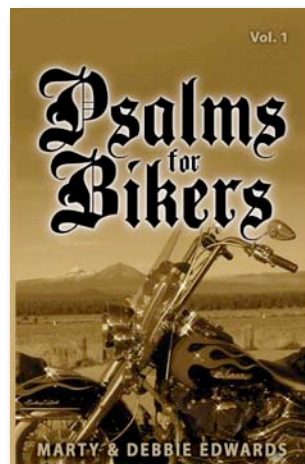
I know what the Jews believe. I know somewhat about the Hindus and the Muslims. I've studied the Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses in depth. I have concluded for myself that the claims of Jesus Christ are true. I am, therefore a Christian; a follower of Christ. But before YOU dismiss the claims of Christ - just because you were overcharged by a Christian contractor or cut off on the freeway by someone with a “fish” sticker – check it out for yourself! Why? Because the claims of Christ are too important to dismiss just because you once met a Christian you didn't like! (Hey! I once met a real jerk who was riding a Harley-Davidson, but that didn't stop me from riding!) The claims of Christ include AMAZING benefits for those who believe and HORRIBLE consequences for those who don't. You owe it to yourself to check it out for yourself.

You'll meet some really nice Christian people along the way – and some religious knot-heads, but none of us died for your sins. Jesus did! And He's cool through and through! He loves you just the way you are – and too much to leave you that way. ♥



Books For Those Who Ride

Available at Amazon.com or www.BlackSheepHDFC.org



Psalms for Bikers and **The Saddlebag Gospels** were both written by Marty and Debbie Edwards. Each book takes excerpts from the Old Testament (Psalms) and New Testament (Gospels) stories and illustrates them with stories from the road. The stories are short (2-3 pages) and include photos of fuzzy, leather clad people.

Both Christians and non-Christians have enjoyed these books. They make a perfect gift for anyone who rides a motorcycle. ♥