



Black Sheep

HARLEY-DAVIDSONS FOR CHRIST

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Sturgis, SD: Observations of a Grateful Rookie Rider

by Don "the Happy Rooster" Edwards (San Francisco NOMAD-BSHDFC)

This was my first multiple day ride and the only opportunity I have had to spend an extended time with my brother for over forty years. Marty left from Murietta and I from San Francisco. Both of us had a rough start as my bike broke down and his bike was blown off the road before even meeting up the first night at Carson City. My brother and I learned three new things about each other during those eleven days. For one I always rise very early and he sleeps in or at least he tried. I was dubbed "Rooster" by him after only the third day. Two, he likes to bring camping equipment but prefers to carry it to the motel room instead of setting it up outside. Three, I usually ride at or slightly above the speed limit. He reminded me that his "Slow Dog" name wasn't referring to his IQ, but I would have never anticipated being passed by a truck towing a house on the interstate.



When we arrived at the Wheaton college campus on Thursday afternoon, we were greeted by Black Sheep from several states. I wish that we had had more time just to hang there as the facilities, surroundings and Mark's hospitality were all awesome. *Continued on page two...*

Don't Ask God...Unless You Expect to Receive

by Linz Phillips (Colorado Springs BSHDFC)



Two years ago, I was walking down the wrong tracks, separated from my wife and kids, flirting with disaster, and living for myself. During the five prior years of separation, I fell in love with motorcycles and the biker world, and thinking I was one *bass ad*. But I also knew in the back of my mind that my season of foolishness would end up with either me being obedient to God, or listening to the "trumpets" calling me home. Either way, I asked God to take over. I was done making a mess of my family's and my life. *Continued on page two...*

Black Sheep In Sturgis

Photos by Mark Cruse, Marty Edwards and Kent "Hawkeye" Hunter



Black Sheep WILL return to Sturgis in 2008 with a strategic model for mission! ~SlowDog

Shovelhead Blues

by Bryan Duncan (Riverside, CA BSHDFC)



Murray Moore is a Canadian biker and concert promoter in Chilliwack, British Columbia. I was replacing another artist who couldn't make Murray's annual "Back to Blues" festival this weekend. It was all bikes and a blistering kind of blues that I can hear all day... but it wasn't the highlight of this trip. No, it was the opportunity to take Murray's '81 Harley-Davidson Shovelhead for a spin across the valley floor.

The offer to ride a Harley came about an hour and a half before I was to go on stage. I couldn't pass up cruising the back roads of some of the most beautiful country in the world. But I had no idea what I was in for. Now, I own a 2003 Harley-Davidson Softail with all the amenities of a cruise ship! So, even the word "shovelhead" to me, conjures up the image of an old K28 steam locomotive.

Murray is all of 5'4" with the look of an early California prospector from the Gold Rush days. His son handed me a brain bucket and a pair of old work gloves like he was handing me the keys to the city. "There's no official turn signals on this bike" he smiled, "so you need to use plenty of hand language!" I noticed that there was no windshield or floor boards, no heel shifter and no front brake to speak of either.

The bike just seems to hiss at you even sitting still...like a dragon...with raw fang like forks and a tiny headlight, a greasy chain driven, lowered, locomotive! It was just plain mean, a conglomeration of Harley parts from the past decade. All black of course with Christianeaze "Tattoos". It was a warhorse with chinks in the armor.

I fired her up and within seconds I discovered it was a four speed with a shifting distance to the next gear set at about six inches...pulling my leg off the steel peg. The chain drive whipped forward with the striking blow of a medieval battle ax! I had no idea in kilometers how fast I was going at this point, but it didn't really matter because the speedometer didn't work either! Nevertheless, I was instantly speeding down a two lane black top whizzing past corn fields and dairy farms with a fellow biker. My eyes were tearing up for lack of decent eyewear and the emotional exhilaration of a freefall sky dive!

I was thinking..."I might not come back for the show. I'll either be killed or I'll love it too much to turn around." Within thirty minutes we were at a mountain lake retreat staring at this awesome Canadian Glory... and on private property it turns out. We met the security guard - nice guy too! Then it was a flat out race to get back under a full moon and cover of darkness to walk onto the outdoor stage. I discovered something new about Canada with all of that water and forestry. There are a lot of little flying bugs! See, that's where a windshield would have come in handy! ●

Observations of a Grateful Rookie...(Cont. from page 1)

Was it just my imagination or did anyone else notice that...

- Most BMW riders appeared as if they had just left the autobahn and were free of anything strapped to their bike?
- Most Goldwingers pulling trailers looked homeless and needed to bungee even MORE stuff on top?
- The best looking Harleys were on trailers?
- Just because a town was listed on a map, it didn't mean anything or anyone was actually there?
- A 400 mile one day trip has no mathematical relevance to a 4 day 1600 mile trip?
- The mileage to Sturgis is much longer than the exact same route returning home!
- Jeans will last a week, underwear and socks won't?

- Massive black clouds and lightning are far more intimidating on a bike than in a car!
- Aches and sore muscles take about 12 hours to arrive after dumping your bike?

Was it just me or did anyone else...

- Find themselves in awe of the God's beautiful creation along the way?
- Have many riders approach you about your patch and its meaning?
- Notice that the Gospel was offered on almost every block of downtown Sturgis?
- Be relieved to get home, but the minute you arrived you were sorry that the ride was over? ●

Don't Ask God... (Cont. from page 1)

Well, that's where Black Sheep entered the scene. After moving back to the city in which my wife and kids lived, I ran into a "patch" during a visit to a local church, then again a few weeks later during a community church ride. At the same time, my marriage counselor suggested I get involved with a ministry. A few months later after visiting the Black Sheep booth during Arizona Bike Week and talking to Slow Dog and Walker, I decided that joining Black Sheep was an innocuous enough ministry that I could join without getting too involved. That's when God started working on my family life. A few weeks after joining Black Sheep, I moved back home and over time my family, including my estranged kids, forgave me. I wanted more. God was giving me courage to wear the name of "Christ" and Romans 1:16 ("I am not ashamed of the gospel...") on the center Black Sheep patch. The next big step was adding the "Jesus is Lord" patch to my vest. That was followed by serving as VP for the ever-expanding Phoenix, AZ chapter. Next was becoming president of the Phoenix chapter, followed by splitting the chapter and becoming president of the new Arrowhead chapter. Along the way, God increased my boldness to share the gospel with complete strangers, pray for others, and follow after His commands.

That is where God does miracles. In preparing my heart through service with Black Sheep, I applied for a position with Compassion International, in Colorado Springs, CO, an Evangelical poverty relief agency - in short, a full-time ministry position. After receiving an offer from Compassion International, I talked and prayed with Steve Grace (our Aussie brother) about the position during the Western States Rally. Amazingly (that's how God works), Steve actively promotes child sponsorships through Compassion Australia. The decision was a no-brainer and God's miracle in my life was complete!

So, take a back-slidden biker, add some righteous sanity, the Black Sheep, prayer and some Grace (Steve and God's), and a miracle can happen. And if that isn't enough, Colorado is ripe for Black Sheep. I look forward to continuing the Black Sheep ministry in a new state, with a new set of brothers and sisters, and new mission field. Oh, and thank you for your prayers. Love you all! ●

So. Ca. Regional BSHDFC Director Appointed

As the national ministry continues to grow, our national leadership must be freed up to travel beyond our So. Ca. origins. With more than a dozen chapters, hundreds of members, dozens of monthly events including a monthly So. Ca. regional breakfast which draws nearly 200 riders, So. Ca. Black Sheep remains a very busy place. The answer? Appoint a regional director just for the Southland.



May we introduce you to Don Wiseman, president of the South Bay chapter of BSHDFC in So. Ca. Don has done a terrific job in South Bay, but will need to leave local leadership behind for regional responsibilities. The job description of a regional director includes: casting vision and maintaining focus of our mission, serve as a liaison to the national office, provide care and resources for chapter presidents and train and deploy leaders to develop new chapters. Don Wiseman is a wonderful man of God, passionate about living and sharing Christ and is committed to the purpose and mission of Black Sheep HDfC. ●

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● = Chapter President ○ = Area Contact

Photo Below: The Inland Empire chapter had just completed a "blessing of the bikes" at Quaid Harley-Davidson in Loma Linda, CA. We're not sure what Arnold Payne (IE Pres) did to hurt his back. Was he blessing bikes too hard?



Photo Right: No. Ca. Regional Director Sandy Shoemaker (L) welcomes Todd Carter (Sacramento) into the flock at this year's Western States Rally. (We like Todd's hat better!)



New Chapter In Big Bear, CA

Located just a few thousand feet ABOVE San Bernardino, CA is some very beautiful country; pine trees, fuzzy squirrels and a great big beautiful lake! Meet the members of our brand new Big Bear chapter! And sitting on the beautiful green Softail below are chapter organizers Bob (pres) and Carol Bradford. ●



Leave A Little Room For Margin

by Slow Dog

Have you ever wondered why books and magazines don't crowd the text right up against the edge? It's because our brains can't take it! We need a little space between articles and between the photographs for our brains to breath.

I've done a lot of advertising for churches and retail. Churches, in an effort to be "thrifty," will stuff all they can into a 2"x 2" square ad until nobody wants to read it. They'll include the church phone number, address, service times, the pastor's name, education degrees, sermon title and on and on. Yuck! When I was designing ads for my church, there was usually one big picture (either funny or intriguing) and then a caption. At the bottom, in small letters, was our church name and phone number. I figured if they liked what they saw they would call.

Margin is that seemingly unnecessary space that is oh so very important. And not just in printing! Margin is the shoulder on the road. Margin is giving yourself thirty minutes to get to work when you only need fifteen. Margin is leaving enough room in your mouth to chew and swallow. Margin is NOT pushing everything to the absolute max!



I know you can ride at 80 mph on the freeway – but can you stop? I know that it is legal in California to split lanes on the freeway - leaving as much as 3-4" of space between your mirror and the one on the Hummer! I know you're a real "iron butt" and can cover a thousand or more miles in a day – but why? For a pin? A tee-shirt?

Margin is good for the books. Margin is good on the bike. Margin is good for life. Slow down...make space...take a breath...leave room for margin. It's a good thing. I love you guys! ●

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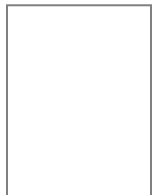


So. Or. BSHDFC joins our honorary member Mike Salvestrin to raise money for Spinal Bifida!



Join Mark Cruse and Illinois members for breakfast this Saturday!

Walt Fletcher (WA) and others around the country have had a difficult time convincing the local DMV that our initials are not obscene!



G O D
 B L E S S T H E U S A !

