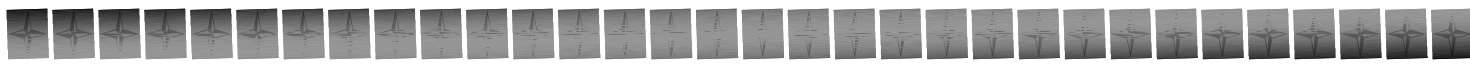




# Black Sheep

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California  
State Rally:  
July (10)11-12th  
Santa Maria, Ca.  
Save the Dates Now!

Members and  
non-members  
welcomed!



OUR MISSION  
and VISION is  
to introduce Jesus  
Christ to the world  
of motorcycle riders  
for the purpose  
of making more and  
better disciples  
through the ministry  
of the local church.

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MORE  
STATE  
LEADERS  
COMING  
NEXT  
MONTH!

**BLACK SHEEP IS A FAMILY ORIENTED,  
HOG FOCUSED, CHRIST CENTERED  
MINISTRY SINCE 1999**

### "Good-Bye For Now" To A Good Friend

Saturday rides just won't be the same without John Thornton. At the age of 38 John succumbed last month to complications from liver failure. He was laid to rest on January 11<sup>th</sup> in Murrieta, California. Several hundred people came to say good-bye – for now – until we meet again on "the other side." Thirty-five bikes followed the coach to the graveside right after Marty Edwards delivered the final message. John's son David bravely read the eulogy while wearing his father's vest and colors. Close family friend and Black Sheep member Sean Goetz led the pack of bikes to the cemetery riding John's late model Fatboy.



John sold a precious classic rod to buy his Harley. He was committed to the mission and ministry of Black Sheep. John served for a year as vice-president of the Temecula chapter under the leadership of President Denny Coggins. John was well known and loved by the flock. Even though medications and medical paraphernalia followed John wherever he went, he never complained or asked for special treatment. John was a biker through and through! His long lanky legs protruding from his low Fatboy will be greatly missed! ←

**UNAUTHORIZED reproduction and distribution of the newsletter would really be appreciated!**

## Introducing Our National Board

May we introduce you to the national board of our organization. They include (from left to right) Marty Edwards (Founder/National Pres.),



Marty Enniss (Vice-Pres. Front Row), David Kentish (Vice-Pres), Sandy Abrego (Treasurer. Front Row), Denny Coggins (Secretary.), Dominic Armato (Treasurer), Larry Machado (Secretary). The board meets twice a year and receives quarterly financial reports for accountability. ←

## Protect Yourself From “Biker’s Ear.”

You want to be sure to protect your hearing as you ride. The wind can have a devastating affect. Three bikers pulled over for a little rest stop. First one says, "Windy isn't it?" Second one says, "No its Thursday"! Third one says. "So am I. Lets go get a beer!"

The same thing happened to Morris, an 86 year-old biker who went to the Doctor to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm. A couple of days later the doctor spoke to the man and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?" Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doctor: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'" The Doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said you got a heart murmur. Be careful." ←

## Meet Jonathan & Wyenema Pierce

“Hog Head” and “Lil’Pig” are just two of our members who come from an increasing number of riders from the Midwest and East. Jonathan and Wyenema (their real names) live in Decatur, Tennessee and have been members of our flock for over a year. While Southern California is the birthplace for Black Sheep, our members now hale from such distant lands as Oregon, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. It’s easy to support the mission of Black Sheep when your chapter buddies number thirty or



forty, but our hats are off to those members who are out there starting from scratch! Thank-you for your faithfulness to Black Sheep! ←

## Praying For One Another

It’s not just a religious exercise. We believe in prayer! It’s people who have a relationship with God Almighty sharing their hearts with Him and then listening for direction. God ALWAYS answers our prayers. Sometimes the answer is “yes” and sometimes the answer is “no” or perhaps, “not now and not the way you expect,” but God always hears and answers.



We’ve prayed in the past for many of our members who have been sick or preparing for surgery. Big Al in San Jose and Ron Gossett in Murrieta both came through heart transplants aided by the power of prayer. Tall John came through major back surgery and gives God the glory for his healing. Now we ask for you to pray for “Smokey.” He is pictured here with his wife Darla. Both are brand new members of the San Joaquin chapter. Smokey is about to go through the biggest trial of his life; chemotherapy for throat cancer. He has been given 6 months to live – but that would be up to God, wouldn’t it? So join us as we lift Smokey up before God and ask for His divine intervention. And Smokey – we love you! ←

## A Great Strength In Numbers

“My name is Phil Chudoba... I'm a Harley rider, and I've met you [i.e. Slow Dog] a couple of times at Quaid [Harley-Davidson] and at events in the Temecula/Murrieta area. My daughter Lara works at Bearly Sweets [John Thornton’s coffee shop – see page 1]. Over the past couple days, she has been mourning John's death along with the rest of us.

I was unable to attend the funeral because I've been deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. However, I wanted to drop you a note to let you know how moving it was for my wife and kids to see the support of the Black Sheep at John's service. You have a great group of brothers and sisters. John was an honest and kind man. I remain very grateful for the respect and patience he showed my daughter. Know that my Marines and I are praying for John's family during this difficult time, asking God to pour out His healing grace upon them. In our line of work, we know that there is great strength in numbers... and so we join you in prayerful solidarity.

Semper Fidelis/Phil

[Editor’s Note: We include the letter above in this month’s newsletter to encourage you in regards to John’s death and to remind you to pray for those who are in our military. Phil Chudoba is pictured on the following page along with his fellow Marines. Phil is the first rider on the left.] ←

## All Because Of You!

This ministry exists because of people like you! Members and non-members alike, as well as a number of churches, send monthly gifts to support the work of Black Sheep. Because of you, the Good News is going out to those who ride, that there is

a God in Heaven Who loves His people! Thank-you for your generosity and faithfulness to Black Sheep H.D.F.C. ←

Eternity has two choices: heaven or hell. If we choose to accept God's free and loving gift of Jesus Christ, then we'll find eternal life on the other side. If we choose to not believe or rebel and do things our way



## Ready Or Not Here It Comes

by Marty "Slow Dog" Edwards

Someone just sent this to me: "Life has many choices. Eternity only has two. What's yours?"

Once again, with the passing of our friend John Thornton, we are reminded (like it or not) that everyone dies; sooner or later, one way or another – it's coming. It's not a question of "if" we die, but "when." We don't even get a chance to choose "how" but we do get to choose what will be waiting for us on the other side.

In life we can choose who to marry, if to marry, how we will treat our spouse and even if we want to get a new husband or a new wife. We choose our careers and determine if we will be people of truth and integrity or people out just "to make a buck." We can choose the car we will drive, where to live, what to do with our free time, what to eat and drink and how to dress. But death? Well, there's simply no choice there. It's coming – ready or not!

We all start off the same: wet, pink, (usually) bald and screaming our newborn heads off. Cute as we may be, we're all sinners even though we haven't done anything wrong. That's because it's not a matter of "having sinned" but of "having the seed to sin." And as we all well know, everyone ends up sinning. The price for sin is death – separation from God for eternity. But God loves us and wants us and so he sent His son Jesus Christ to die on the cross as our replacement – a sacrifice for the sins that we committed.



then we can choose ourselves right into a godless hell. Don't do it! Nobody parties in hell baby! And eternity is a length of time that will blow your mind if you think about it long enough. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ today! It's the best choice you will ever make!

Answer me this, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" If you're ready to surrender your life to Christ, see if you can pray this prayer and mean it. And if you pray this prayer, let me know!

"Father in Heaven, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for my sins. I believe that You raised Him from the dead. I know that I am a sinner. I want to accept what Jesus did for me on the cross and I want to surrender my life to you right now. Thank-you. Amen."

My number is (909) 600-2694.  
My email is [SlowDog@BlackSheepHDFC.org](mailto:SlowDog@BlackSheepHDFC.org)

Ready or not, here it comes. Make the right choice! ←

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual California State Rally Set

One hundred Black Sheep and friends scurried across the hot desert floor last July with one common goal: Bishop, California. Evaluation sheets passed out at the end of the event revealed that the weekend was a smashing success. The one complaint that we heard time and again was "It's too hot!" So this year we're headed for the coast: Santa Maria California.

Original plans to hold the event in Pismo Beached were scrapped when we discovered that (a) Pismo merchants were not eager to work with us since they were guaranteed solid bookings with or without us and (b) room rates hovered near \$200 a night. Santa Maria, on the other hand has provided us with luxury accommodations for the same price as last year! Ride the coast or the mountains. Visit Hearst Castle or ride to the little Scandinavian town of Solvang. Meet Black Sheep members and their friends from all over California. Reserve the dates now: July (10) 11-12. More details in our March issue! ←

## There Seems To Have Been A Kriss Kross!

Debbie Stegeman, faithful member of the Temecula chapter, is in the process of establishing a business directory for our membership. It's called "Kriss Kross!" You and your business may be located by name, type of business, discounts offered to members and for the potential of bartering (i.e. trading services and/or products for the same.) Those listed include automobile leasing, attorneys, real estate brokers,

electricians, massage therapists and more. This directory is open to all members from all chapters and states. If interested, contact Deb by phone (909)678-9456 or by email at [GETADRM@MSN.COM](mailto:GETADRM@MSN.COM). ←

## Black Sheep's First National Summit

It started like everything else with just an idea. The idea was shared with members and friends. Emails began to come in confirming that it was a terrific idea. "Let's do it!"

Last year Black Sheep in California took a quantum leap forward when presidents and vice-presidents of California chapters gathered for a "President's Prayer Summit" in Murrieta. For about 30 hours, leaders of California's Black Sheep met to pray and plan and re-capture the vision for this ministry. It was a good idea! But now, with a recent growth spurt on a national level, our national president is now calling for a national summit. "We're doing everything we can to manage growth without quenching it," says Slow Dog. "We need to pull our 'nomadic' leaders together from all over the country. We need to come together for a bonding of the vision and mission in our hearts and minds." The idea is to introduce West coast presidents with those leaders who are starting chapters in other states. The target date for the summit is sometime this September and will most likely be held in the Midwest.

## You've Probably Got Too Much Chrome...

- ...if your darkest sunglasses aren't dark enough anymore!
- ...if your bike has doubled in value and is only a month old!
- ...if you've been reported to the FBI as a UFO!
- ...if you don't need to use your lights at night!
- ...if your riding buddies are complaining of snow blindness!
- ...if the dry weight of your bike exceeds 1500 pounds!
- ...if you spend more money on chrome polish than you do on gas!
- ...if you can name every chrome part in the catalogue without looking!
- ...if nobody is asking what you want for Christmas anymore!
- ...if when it rains you always ask, "Why are the gods doing this to us?"
- ...if your wife has been talking with an attorney!
- ...if your local HD dealership is sending you "thank-you" notes!
- ...if you're a yuppie biker!

## Pomona Valley Black Sheep



Chapter President Mike Alvarez: Second from the left



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