

CALIENTE HOG #2013

Calientegram – 25Nov18

ODDS and ENDS

The weather held for Saturday and a dozen or so bikes ventured out to meet “the Sisters”. 300 or so miles later and back in time for supper, the crew made it back to Caliente. A lot of tired but extremely happy smiles showed that this was yet another great ride. Great job to Towne and Brian for making it happen.

Some folks are already making plans for Lone Star Rally 2019. Never too early to get reservations set up.

The Roy Maas Christmas Tree is up. I encourage Chapter Members to participate. See the receptionist at the Dealership for details. Deadline to have the UNWRAPPED presents back to the Dealership is 4 Dec.

Merry’s and Cici’s gifts to the Chapter are on display at the Dealership. They are incredibly awesome and will grace anyone’s home. These will be given away on 22 Dec. A ticket of chance for either one is only \$5.00. I can’t say enough how beautiful these items are. Consider the sheer amt of time both of these Chapter Members put in to make these. Make sure you give them a thumbs up!

It is time to start renewing your Annual Chapter Membership for 2019. Your paperwork also serves as your ride waiver for the year which is a ***H.O.G. requirement***. POC is any Chapter Primary officer but the belly button hub for all the spokes is Diane, our Membership Officer. Her email is membership@calientehog.com. A good time to knock this out will be at the 1 Dec Chapter Social. Even if you have a membership via a bike sale and you have several months left, we are required to have a new one to cover the ride waiver requirement for the new calendar year. Please swing by the meeting to make this happen.

RIDE CALENDAR:

2 Dec – Looks like a ride to celebrate and understand the historical German influence here in South Texas. Details coming.

15 Dec – Details coming

We will continue to primarily plan rides on the 2nd Sunday and 4th Saturday of the month but will adjust as holidays and other events conflict. I am looking at taking the Chapter to three rides a month starting in Jan. Stay tuned.

EVENTS:

1 Dec - **Chapter Social** 10:30 am – Caliente Dealership

- **Road Captain Meeting** - 8:30 am – Caliente Training Room
- **New Member Orientation** - 9:30 am - Caliente Training Room
- **Fundraiser** – Caliente Dealership - 11:00 am – 4:00 pm – Volunteers needed to help with our Chapter fundraiser

6 Dec – Caliente Bike nite at the Whiskey Tree.

8 Dec – **Christmas Party!** Leon Valley. Tickets are available now. POC is Diane, our Membership Officer. Her email is membership@calientehog.com . Cost is \$20 per person. This is an adult function. If you are a single member of our Chapter, you can bring an adult, non-member guest. Deadline to purchase tickets will be 1 Dec at our Chapter Social.

17-24 Dec - We will start **Gift Wrapping** at the Dealership the week of 17 Dec. We have 140 or so Chapter Members. If I can get an hour or two (or more) from most of you, this will be painless and will add some funds to start our Chapter off right going into 2019. Traditionally, the hardest times for me to fill will be during the days, Monday thru Friday as I know most of us still have day jobs. Evening hours tend to fill up fine. We tend to go from noon to close on most weekday days but will adjust based on what I get for volunteers. On Fri (?), Sat, Sun, and Mon, we will go open to close. I will have a sign-up sheet up at the 1Dec Chapter Social. Please roll up your sleeves and help out.

5 Jan 19 – **Chapter Social** 10:30 am – Caliente Dealership

DON'T FORGET: Volunteering, attending meetings (Social, RC meetings & Officers meetings), participating on chapter rides, will get you tickets for chances to get great prizes at the HOG Christmas Party.

Group Riding reminders/tips – Practice makes perfect. Remember the days where you learned to drive a stick shift in a car or truck? Initially it was pretty daunting. Sniff, sniff, - yep - someone is learning to burn, I mean use a clutch. Your parents took you out to drive the neighborhoods, around the parking lot at Kmart, and everywhere in between. After a short time, it became second nature. Then you got to work on “hills”. After a while, even starting from a dead stop on a hill ‘usually’ didn’t cause too much anxiety.

However now you have a 600+ pound motorcycle and you got this shifting thing down pat. Kinda... All up until you come in for a full stop at a light while still in 5th or 6th gear. Uh oh, now you are furiously trying to downshift from a dead stop. Mortified, most of you will fail and will pull out from the intersection in 3rd or 4th gear and revving the bike multiple RPMs just to get it to move and then quickly trying to downshift so you don’t stall the bike. Your backseater asks “what’s wrong?” and may offer to hop off and give you a push however you reply, “nothing....must be some bad gas” or some other lame excuse. Of course, your backseater and those around you are snickering as they know all too well what just happened (as most of us have had brain farts before and have done the same).

Ok... that is the issue but here is the cure. Should you be afflicted with brainfartitis and realize that this is what you just did here is how you get out of it. You could fall over and claim that you just got hit by a meteorite but most will see through that. If caught, you might have to turn in your man or woman card. Instead, while holding your (front) brake , slowly let out on your clutch up until it engages in that next lower gear. Then pull back on the clutch and repeat downshifting until you get down to 1st gear. With the brakes on, you aren’t going anywhere and unless you let out too much clutch and stall the bike, most will never catch on as most folks will assume that you went from 2nd to 1st missing neutral and you are now trying to find it. With practice, you can go from 6th to first in just a few seconds... If you can get through the initial panic, try to remember this and give it a try.

Frank Knapp
Director, CCSA