

Chelsea & Fulham HOG News



The Official Newsletter of the Chelsea & Fulham Harley Owners Group.

www.warrs.co.uk

Get down at the HOG Roast

On Sunday March 26th Chelsea & Fulham HOG held the British Summertime HOG roast down at Warr's.

Despite the grim weather forecast the day turned out nice and many members dusted off their leathers, cranked up their cycles and came on down to sample the delicious grub and chill out to the great jazz band.

The first in a series of C&F events planned for this riding season got underway at about 11 and by lunchtime the joint was rocking.

For many it was their first taste of C&F hospitality since they became proud Harley owners, and judging by their positive response we can be sure of some great attendances over the coming months.

In all over 200 meals were served washed down by copious amount of Becks beer and house wines. As well as Chelsea & Fulham HOG, the Chiltern Hills Chapter, captained by Bob Nash, came on down and were most welcome.

If you didn't make it down to join in the fun (why not?) you can check out some of the days action by going to the C&F HOG section at www.warrs.co.uk where you can see some more pictures from the event.

Don't forget to get your C&F members patches sewn on in time for the riding season. Available on line or from Warr's, they make great leathers even better!



President Clinton visits Harley-Davidson

President Bill Clinton turned up at the Harley-Davidson manufacturing facility in York, Pennsylvania to deliver a speech about defending free trade and supporting export growth.

Nearly 3,000 Harley employees heard first-hand what Clinton had to say about the Motor Company and International trade.

Clinton, wearing a Harley-Davidson black and orange race jacket spent nearly four hours touring the facility and talking with workers. He eventually departed the plant aboard a very large, expensive chopper—The Air Force one helicopter!

Clinton is the second U.S. President to visit Harley. Former President Ronald Reagan came to the facility back in 1987, to celebrate the company's success.

News & Views

Harley have just launched their own advanced rider training course. Based at the Royal Bath showground in Wales, the intensive courses cover everything from basic rider training to advanced manoeuvres. Call 01280 700101 for more info.

Pre-orders for 100th anniversary Harleys are very strong according to U.S. sources. Many dealers have already taken reserves on the 2003 models.

Chelsea & Westminster council are to install more bike bays in an attempt to increase green two wheelers and reduce car traffic through the borough. Looks like the penny is starting to drop.

One of Steve McQueen's fifties Triumphs is up for auction at Sotheby's in New York later this month. McQueen was an avid biker with a huge collection of bikes.

Rock legend Peter Green has been spotted at Warr's perusing the latest goodies from Milwaukee. Seems the talon fingernailed Fleetwood Mac founder has a penchant for things two wheeled. Shame he didn't discover the joys of biking a little earlier

in his spasmodic career, oh well...

The venerable Solex motorised bicycle is about to make a comeback. The Frenchman's answer to the fizzie is back and set to become a fashion statement with a new dedicated store opening in London soon.

Publishers Dorling Kindersley have just released a new H-D book titled "Ultimate Harley-Davidson". C&F think it's a good addition to the library.

Overheard at a well stocked famous Chelsea dealership this month; "Do they still make Harley-Davidsons then?"



Little known Harley facts...

Where does the term "HOG" come from when applied in Harley circles?

Well a long time ago, in fact back in the twenties Harley-Davidson had a unique racing team.

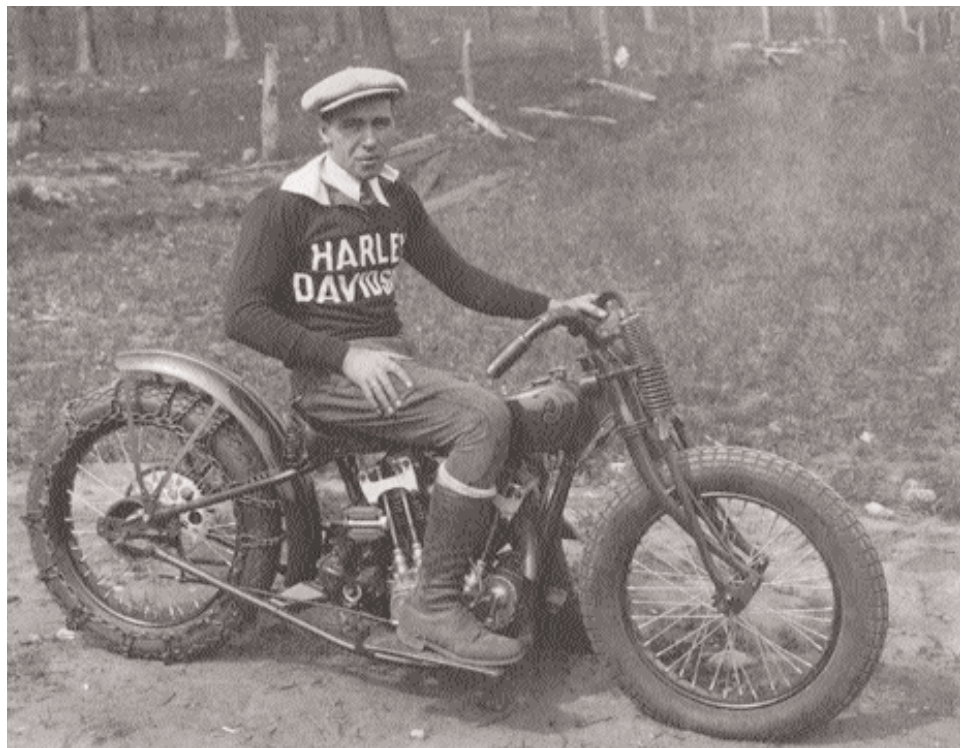
These were the days before paved circuits. Races were conducted on high speed board track ovals with banking of up to 60 degrees.

It was dangerous and dirty work but the rewards were high. Being a racer was akin to being a football star today and the circuits attracted huge crowds with every self respecting American town having their own board track.

Harley-Davidson were the kings of board track racing. Their team were known as the "Wrecking Crew" and they consistently out performed their many rivals with feats of skill and high speed daring.

Early on, one of the team members began bringing a baby pig dressed in harley garb to the race track. Ralph Weishaar carried the piglet, whose name was "Hog," around among the spectators between races.

The piglet became the crew's mascot and is credited with eliciting the use of the term "Hog" when talking about Harley-Davidson.



In the 1930's Harleys were made in Japan!

In 1931 Harley-Davidson licensed a Japanese chemical factory to manufacture a big twin using factory blueprints of the VL models of the time. Harley could then sell to the bike hungry Japanese and bypass the stiff import tariffs on foreign goods.

Where did Choppers originate?

Back in the early sixties custom car photographers noticed how bobbed bikes with long military sprung forks looked dynamic and stylish when photographed from a low angle.

It wasn't long before bike builders picked up on this and began to emulate the look by extending the forks to give a longer look.

The extended fork chopper looked cool, thus fanning the flames of popularity and encouraged builders to keep making their forks longer and longer.

How fast is the fastest Harley?

Harley-Davidson used to manufacture drone jets for target practice by fighter aircraft. Flying at speeds up to 700 mph these were without doubt the fastest H-D's.

However the true claimant was the late great Harley team racer of the early seventies Cal Rayborn. He piloted a bullet shaped Harley streamliner on Bonneville Salt flats in Utah, to a record breaking 265.492 mph. He used a Sportster engine and methanol fuel to power him and crashed two times in the attempt. In the end, laying on his back in the missile and unable to see anything but a black line painted on the desert floor which he had to follow, he cracked the world record and rightfully earned a place in the Harley history books.

Events

March 26th C&F HOG Roast

April 16th C&F Rideout to the South Coast. Turn up at Warr's ready to leave by 9am.

April 28th Cider Rally. Call 01935 850816 for further details.

May 14th Chelsea & Fulham HOG group photo. Meet at Warr's 9am, ride to Westminster Bridge, then on for a good breakfast.

June 1-4 European HOG Rally Loret de Mar, Spain. Call 01280 for further info.

And Finally...

Thinking about going abroad on your bike this year? Then check out the new universal fitment T-Bags luggage system. Designed to hook on the back of your sissy bar, they save space, are easy to take on and off, and can be used as a brilliant backrest for the rider if solo. U.S. stuntman **Bubba Blackwell** (great name) has beaten Evel Knievel's 25 year old record by jumping 20 cars on his XR750 Harley. **The new Blast 500cc Buell** has gone on sale in the U.S. aimed at new riders. Based on one half of a Sportster engine the Buell Blast has been well received by press and public alike. H-D UK are yet to confirm whether the bike will be available in the U.K. **On line speeding** digital cameras could be outlawed by the European Parliament who see them as an infringement of personal freedom. A decision is expected by June 2000. **The Old Kitemark** on British crash helmets is about to be dropped in favour of a new EC logo. **Got a story or idea?** Then drop us a line to: C&F HOG 611 King's Rd, SW6 2EL or e-mail j.warr@virgin.net