Looking forward to seeing you for our open house for the dealership on March 21st then the HOG open house on the 28th! Sign up to see if you can win a BSHD shot glass. We will also have our rendition of Biker Olympics', prizes and more!

I'm SUPER excited to celebrate our 15th anniversary!! We are really going to celebrate and have a good time!- like the “Kool and the Gang”!

Thanks Tina and Jim for organizing the St Patrick’s Day events, thanks again to everyone that got out and enjoyed the day with us, and a great big thanks to Big Sky Harley for your hospitality!

Now new stuff!!!! March 28th we are hosting our first annual Big Sky Harley Owners Group "OPEN HOUSE" !! This event is open to all members and their friends, family and quests. Please plan on joining us for a great evening. Your officers and myself have planned a full evening for you to make this a very memorable chapter event. We will have a no host bar with finger foods and snacks. Fashion show ( if you are interested in being one of the models let us know). A mini golf tournament as the main event with tons of prizes and our DJ Travis playing your favorite music!! Question. Do you know what makes a great event fun? Answer---You!! Please join us. Lots going on now, try and keep up. LOL! Scrabble and the “RIDE OF 89” all kicking off.  

- Mick
This year is off to an awesome start. We’ve had a fabulous February event, and a magnificent March ride. If you folks haven’t participated in one of these, you’ve missed out. HOWEVER – we have a lot in store for you. NOW – I KNOW some of you were out there taking pics last weekend, but I haven’t seen any of the photos sent through to me so I can include them in this year’s holiday slideshow. WHY NOT?! Send them to my cell phone!! Don’t have the number? Here it is – 781-5143. Program it into your phone! There’s a LOT coming up this year, and you know you’ll want to see a great recap. PLUS, the best ones will make it to future years’ shows. There’s nothing like watching the slideshow, looking back, remembering events, remembering friends. - Elizabeth

Mike Young - Safety Officer

Riding season is getting underway! Here are a few tips to keep you safe.
1. Research the motorcycle laws where you plan to tour. See: HOG Travel Guide;
2. Check you bike insurance declarations page for adequate coverage for you, your passenger, and the bike;
3. Check weather forecasts and road reports for your planned route;
4. Inspect your bike thoroughly using the TCLOCS methodology;
5. Are you and your passenger properly outfitted with protective gear? Boots, helmet, gloves, long pants etc.
6. Train your passengers in proper riding technique and safety practices. (feet on the boards and hang on tight!)
7. Bikes and booze don’t mix. One beer, glass of wine or mixed drink metabolizes at the rate of one drink per hour!

Have a great, accident free 2015 riding season!

Bob Bourgeois – Secretary

At our March Chapter Meeting, we had a request to pass on our notifications/flashes/etc. by text. Great idea.

Hhhhhmm. Brian purchased this support a year ago but, it didn’t get enough participation to be feasible. have an idea, if you want to be put on a text mailing list. I can simplify, then forward our email traffic as texts. I will need to get the e-mail address associated with your text account.

Send a TEXT to bigskyhog@gmail.com, include your name. I can capture your address and add you to a mailing list. I am ready to start as soon as I have recipients. - Bob
On St Pat’s day, we are entered to participate in the annual St Pat’s day parade. It has been a while since we participated in a parade and I view this an opportunity to showcase our chapter. The parade begins at 3:30 on the 17th. I will send additional details as we move closer. Lets show Great Falls who we really are. Shine em up, wear your green and join us for the parade. As always, fly those colors!

Stay tuned for information concerning the Huge Open House we are working on for the end of this month. Bring your smile cause your gonna need it!

As we move forward though 2015, we will continue to polish the old, and add new and exciting events. Hope to see you all at the meeting, and on the road this year. ride safe, ride big

Jim Olson - Activity Director
Ride Bells

Traditionally motorcycle riders have given each other bells as a symbol of friendship and respect.

Origin of Biker Bells

The true origin of the biker bell may have ties to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. In the 1930’s the Jackpine Gypsies Motorcycle Club was formed in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The rally started as a half-mile dirt-track race, with a few racers and small group of about 200 onlookers. It is said that a bell was given to entrants to pin on their shirt as a token of entry—much like a button or wrist band might be given today.

Commemorative Bell

One traditional application of motorcycle bells has been as a commemoration to a fallen friend. A brass bell is hung from the left side of the swing arm of the motorcycle. Each time the bike is cleaned, and the biker is bending down to polish the bell, they are reminded of their lost loved one.

Biker Bell History

Legend of the Gremlin Bell

As the story goes, an old gray-beard was riding home from Mexico, with saddlebags loaded full of toys and trinkets for some kids. As he rode he thought of rides past, epic journeys with long lost friends. In the small beam of his headlamp he thought he saw something. As he rode on it appeared again, this time there were more of them. Tiny little creatures that seemed to dart in and out of the beam as fast as the wind. They were dark little dodgy spirits, quick, and all but translucent in the moonlight—they were road gremlins. Before he could react they were on the bike. As he mashed on the brakes the front tire blew, and the old rear drum brake that had served him well for years locked up.

When he came to he was nearly ten yards from his bike. One saddle bag had been torn loose and was lying next to him in the cold, hard packed dirt. In the light of the moon he could see his bike, the little spirit like road gremlins dancing on top. He raised himself up to his elbows, where he could see them more clearly, and they caught a glimpse of him too. That’s when they began to approach. Slowly, almost curiously, they stalked towards him. As they advanced he picked up the only thing that was within reach, the saddle bag, and began to wave it at them trying to keep them at bay. From inside the bag came a ringing noise.

He noticed that if he shook the bag the little gremlins would fall back, plugging their ears in retreat. He quickly unstrapped the bag and dug out two sleigh bells from a set of toy reindeer buried in the bag. As he knelt there shaking the bells the gremlins retreated off into the darkness.

As if attracted like a moth to a flame, two staggered lights approached from the distance, and came upon the lone rider in the darkness. To the lone rider they seemed like angels coming upon him with wings, guided by the sound of the bells. The two riders helped the old gray-beard brush himself off and gather his belongings. They set up camp and talked long into the night, about the old man’s brush with the road gremlins, and of many rides past. The old man offered to pay, but as-is biker tradition, the two men would not accept any form of repayment.

In the morning the men helped the gray-beard patch his tire and limp to a little service station in the next town. Again, as they prepared to go their separate ways, the men refused payment. The old man had suspected this, so in the early morning hours just before dawn, he had awakened and attached two bells, one to each of his angel rider’s bikes. As the old man watched his new friends roll out of the dusty service station driveway, he thought he could hear the ringing of bells over the low rumble of the bikes.

Epilogue - There are many variations of the ride bell legend, and almost as many ways to tell it as there are bikers to tell the tale. Like many other time honored stories of past, in the beginning it was passed on through word of mouth, from one biker to the next.

In a way, this story is just like any true biker, it doesn’t matter how you dress it, the core of the story remains. Protection is offered in the generosity of friends or in random acts of brotherhood along the road. The spirit of camaraderie and brotherhood between bikers is what the ride bell encompasses.