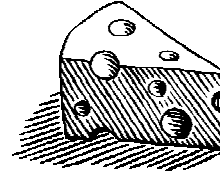
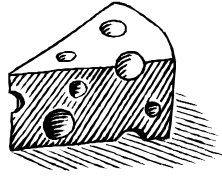


The Cheese Kutter

December



2009

Swiss Valley Chapter 1274

www.swissvalleyhog.com

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NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

WOW, has this year flown bye or what? Here we are in December already. Hopefully everyone got enough to eat for Thanksgiving, I know I didn't leave the table hungry. Hell, I still haven't left the table. Did any of you get a chance to ride in November? We put on about 500 miles during the month. It was a lot nicer riding in November than during the cold, wet month of October. I think our luck has run out though, by the sound of the future weather predictions.

During our November meeting, we decided to donate money to a couple of local charities that provide gifts for local kids. We donated \$100 to "Shop with a Cop", and \$200 to local "Toys for Tots". We also decided to donate to the Green County Food Pantry, the Merit Center, and Green County "BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS". We will decide at the December meeting how much to give to each. If anyone else has any other ideas of others in need, please come to the meeting and let us know, after all, it is money you helped raise. You helped raise it, so you should have a say in donating it too.

We have an Open House coming up at Kutter's in Monroe on December 12th. We will have a sign up sheet at the December 9th meeting. We need a couple of people each shift to wrap gifts, and a couple of people to run the bake sale. I'm sure Scott will have some awesome deals that day, so plan on attending.

We have most of our 2010 calendar planned, and will probably have that out to everyone by mid December. If you have any ideas for a great ride, please contact Leroy or myself, and we will try to fit it in somewhere. Maybe you have found a new restaurant or other neat place of interest, if so, we want to know about it. Let's make 2010 a great year of riding!! Sharing memories and friendships, that is what it is all about. Don't forget to renew your S V HOG Memberships early to have a chance to win a free membership.

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c/o Kutter Harley Davidson Shop
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www.swissvalleyhog.com

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR – continued.....

Have a great Holiday Season!!

Next meeting: 12/9 @ Turner Hall

Open House: 12/12 @ Monroe Kutter's

Holiday Party: 1/16/10 @ First National Bank (Monroe)

Happy Holidays!

Hokie, Chapter Director

Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

Minute by Minute.....

Swiss Valley HOG Meeting – November 11, 2009

Director Dennis Holcomb called the meeting to order. In recognition of Veteran's Day, Vietnam Vet Jeff Wright led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Hokie thanked veteran's for their service. He also said the 2010 calendar has been tentatively planned. Primary Officer Training has been set for April 8, 9 & 10, 2010.

Barb Smith read the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$2,917.93. Barb reported that in 2008 the HOG Chapter donated a total of \$3000 to local charities. WOW! Those charities were: Hospice, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Green County Humane Society, Merit Center, Food Pantry and the Soccer Field in Monroe.

The Chapter voted to donate \$100 each to "Shop with a Cop" and "Toys for Tots", both worthy charities that benefit underprivileged children during the Holidays.

Store Manager Scott Gollackson reminded everyone that Kutter will be closed from December 24 through January 12.

Safety Officer Jeff Wright is checking into the CPR/First Aid class to see if it is American Heart Association certified. (Isn't that precious?)

Kutter's Holiday Open House will be on December 12. The HOG Chapter will be hosting a 50/50 raffle, bake sale and gift wrapping (tips) with proceeds going to Monroe Women's Club Christmas Stocking Fund.

Fred Rice won the 50/50 drawing pot of \$17 (again!). Jody Jacobs and Fuzzy Karlen were both \$10 Kutter Gift Certificate winners.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rindy, Secretary

Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

Calendar of Events:

2-Months at a Glance

2009 Calendar of Swiss Valley Harley
Owners Group

Chapter Events available online at
www.swissvalleyhog.com

--January newsletter deadline--

December 25, 2009

--DECEMBER--

5th **Holiday Open House - Open**
Kutter - Janesville

9th **HOG Meeting - Closed**
7:00p.m.
Turner Hall - Monroe

12th - **Holiday Open House - Open**
Kutter - Monroe

--JANUARY--

13th **HOG Meeting - Closed**
7:00p.m.
Turner Hall - Monroe

16th - **Holiday Party - Closed**
First National Bank –
Monroe

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Meet the Member

*This month, become acquainted with
one of our chapter's members.*

Name: Ron Smith

When Did You Join Swiss Valley H.O.G. : April 2003

What Do You Ride: 2003 Ultra

Why Do You Ride: To spend quality time with my wife, to have fun with friends that enjoy riding as much as I do, and to feel the freedom of the open road.

What Was/Is Your Favorite Ride: Out west through the Rocky Mountains and driving the Bear Tooth Pass.

What Is Your Dream Bike: Screamin' Eagle/Ultra

What Is Your Dream Ride: Ride to Sturgis, continue to the Canadian Rockies through Glacier National Park, head to Vancouver B.C, ride down the West Coast, and then end up in Mesa, Arizona.

What Is Your Favorite Thing To Do When Not Riding: Spend time with our grandkids

What Else Do You Want To Share About Yourself – Your Family Or Riding:

December Birthdays

11-18 Tracy Meier

11-24 Curt Updike

Missed November Birthday

11-4 Deb Stagno



Road Captain Report

Well it seems like the time has arrived to tuck the bikes away for few months until the days get longer and the air gets warmer. In the meantime, we have been working on putting together the 2010 ride calendar. That can't come soon enough.

For anyone planning motorcycle rides anywhere in the United States, I have found MotorcycleRoads.US to be a valuable resource.

Until then, have a happy holiday season!

Leroy Rindy, Head Road Captain
Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD AT KUTTER FOR OUR ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE!



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Safety Officer Corner

Last months article ended with me pondering my mistake and thanking my lucky stars that I was still around. After some time passed I understood the reasons why this had happened. After years of driving automobiles, I had developed bad habits that I got away with in a cage, but were deadly when implemented on a motorcycle.

Motorists, particularly at traffic signs, pressure each other to react as soon as a signal changes or an opening in traffic appears. It's easy to become annoyed at others or have other motorists become annoyed at oneself for reacting to a signal change too slowly. Over time I had trained myself to get moving quickly to keep from annoying others behind me, bad habit #1

Bad habit #2 was the quick look to the right and left. My quick look was a mechanical action of looking but failing to comprehend the traffic situation.. I looked right at the semi and didn't see it because I was in a hurry to move away from the stop sign. This was a sobering realization. That truck was 80 feet long and weighed 80,000 pounds, how much bigger did it need to be for me to see it?

The pressure to react quickly, and a zero level of comprehension concerning oncoming traffic was a formula for disaster that fortunately did not occur, this time! I made up my mind that I had to change this situation if I wanted to stay alive.

Here's what I did!

Deciding that my life was far more important than whether motorists behind me were getting annoyed, I trained myself to forget about them and concentrate on the traffic picture by identifying what type of vehicles were approaching from both directions. At first I spoke this information aloud. Over time I dropped the talk but still looked, identified and then looked again. I don't allow myself to be in a hurry mentally, I believe that when I push myself in this manner, I make errors in judgement which can compound themselves and become deadly mistakes. I think that this experience resulted in a significant improvement in my alertness as a rider/driver and an improvement in my riding skills and I believe that the more skilled you are as a rider, the safer you are.

Take a look at your driving habits, are you caging it on your motorcycle?

Think safety throughout the winter!

Jeff Wright, Safety Officer
Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

