



Sandlines

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sand Dollar Motorcycle Club

January 2019



CHILI RIDE
aka: Frozen Butt
January 27
Starts at
AL's
9AM



President's Corner

President Speaks Robert Woods

Sandies, it's been one of the rainiest months that I can remember. According to the news our area is about 2 feet above normal rainfall for this time of year. It has rained every day this week and most of last week, too.

I sincerely hope every one of you had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. Well, with the new year we have a lot of rides planned. We just need for the weather to be a bit more cooperative. I want to thank all the Sandies for their efforts that led to the Sand Dollar M/C being named as Second Place in the nation for the American Motorcyclist Association Motorcycle Club of the Year award. This award goes to all the club members, not just some. It takes all of us to make a club.

I know it's early but we need to start thinking of door prizes for the upcoming poker runs this year - as of right now we have 4. One more thing, we are picking up a few new members this month so welcome them to the riding club around. Til next time stay safe on the road.

Robert



Birthdays January



IF YOU SEE THESE SANDIES THIS MONTH, WISH ALL OF THEM A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY....

**David (Munchkin) Bernauer
Dave McCauley
Chris (The Mitchell) Mitchell
Tommy (Mr. PITA) Nieft
Dawn Hill**

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The Sand Dollar Motorcycle Club is a Chartered AMA organization. The Sand Dollar Motorcycle Club is open to all motorcyclists irregardless of riding experience or brand of motorcycle, as long as they share the Club desire to ride safely and have a good time riding.



We wish all these couples a very special wonderful and joyous anniversary

Lee Matson and Lisa Parr

**“Last ride of the Year”
to Stockton, AL and the Stagecoach Café
Steve Gardinier**

I took the chance and hit the road at 7 this morning headed for the Stagecoach in Stockton AL. I dressed warm and dry, I was pretty much waterproofed - gloves, boots, pants, jacket - Not a drop would touch my skin. So off I went headed west on I-10. At 9AM I rolled into the StageCoach Cafe and just as I suspected, only a handful of bikes were there. By the way, I arrived dry except for road spray and a bit of a drizzle. No hard rain! NONE. I WIN AGAIN! YAY ME!

As I sat waiting with others for lunch to start (10:30) I chatted with others and looked at some bikes. Today there were not many unique bikes with the exception of a Honda ST1300 with dual GPS/tablets on the handlebars, and a trunk with a gas tank as part of the trunk. The bottom of the trunk would probably hold about a gallon, maybe two, just the thing to get you to the next gas station. And a silver container mounted aft of the riders foot with a hose going up. No, it wasn't for that! It was water for the rider, not water FROM the rider! Other than that there was the usual assortment of GW's BMW's and the odd Kawasaki, Suzuki, etc. - about 25-30 altogether.

Lunch was pretty good, as always. The desserts just about did me in! Delicious. Outside more bikes had arrived. While I sat there even more rolled in. But some were leaving right after lunch too. I'm guessing the count would be around 100-150 total for the day. Not bad for a dark, windy, wet day. Lots of the bikes were locals.

I sat for a while talking to some of the riders. Most were there for lunch, some for breakfast, some for breakfast and lunch. I felt the temperature change as the rain completely stopped. I decided that I had best head back. Riding in wet gear with dropping temps is no fun.

I arrived home around 1pm. BTW gas in the area is \$2.01 at the interstate and 1.94 to 1.99 in Bay Minette, \$1.97 in Stockton.



What's Happening

Breakfast before our Rides..... Joe & Eddie's Restaurant (Across from Goofy Golf) 8:00 am. A note, Joe's has a bunch of new Wait staff, when you walk in and sit down, put your order in right away. Don't wait for other Sandies to join you. We leave at 9 am period.



Tuesdays... We will be getting together on our non- business meeting Tuesday's at a location To Be Announced by our famous "Cat Herder", so watch your emails, time as always: **6:00 PM.**

Our Business Meeting Time Has Changed !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our Meeting will at The Okaloosa Fire Dept. Training Room, 2nd Floor 9:00 am, 1st Sunday of the Month, Ride to follow.

The Weekly Dining-In is now changing regularly. Watch the email for updates from George. The weirdness is always on Tuesdays, always starts around 6, and there's always a good crowd.

Frozen Butt Ride & Chili Cook-off..... In **January, the 27th** to be Exact..... Another Sandie Event, hopefully it will be cold for the Ride. This one is were we ride no matter what the temperature, we have ridden (not far) when it was 17 degrees F. No one said we were the sharpest spoons in the drawer and we are Damn proud of it . Hopefully we can get some Sandie's to make Chili. The Best Chili Contest it is awesome by the way. We end up at Edna's house and warm up, then head home. You can always justify it by saying your testing your Cold weather gear. Real Sandies don't need no stinking excuse, we aren't that bright. We take our Chili over to Edna's the day before.

WE BE DO'N DINNER RIDES

The Sandies eons ago used to do one dinner ride a month, more than that and it got real thin on participation. The Dinner Ride will be a Mystery Dinner Ride. That means the Roadie leading it knows were it will end up. Now if you have certain dietary needs and/or a picky eater, just contact the Road Lead and find out just where.

A couple of remembers, we use the Sandie table method, parties of 4 or 5 or 6, don't let the restaurant folks, unless they have the space, set-up one mass table. It works better for the wait staff and kitchen. Speaking of wait staff, Sandies if you get good service and the kitchen screws up don't take it out on the wait folks. Traditionally wait people really are not in love with Motorcycle Clubs cause they are crappy tippers. We on the other hand have quite a few places where we are really appreciated, let's keep the good feelings rolling.



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Minutes from Sandollar M/C Business Meeting December 2, 2018

Robert Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Secretary's Report: Sam read the minutes from the Nov. 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Sam read the treasurer's report. The report was approved with a unanimous voice vote.

Road Captain's Report: George gave the Road Captain's Report for Dec. & Jan. Please call or text George at 850.244.0376 with any questions or comments regarding the ride schedule

Save the Dates:

12/15/18 – Christmas Party
12/30/18 – Last Ride of the Year
12/31/18 – Ride into New Year

1/26/19 – Take Chili to Edna's
1/27/19 – Chili Cook-off Ride

Old Business:

Tuesday night get together – time has been changed to 5:30ish p.m.

2019 Poker Runs - there will be 2 poker runs in 2019 – Bunny Run and Pumpkin Run – donation will still be made to Sharing and Caring. Dates for the runs are

Bunny Run – April 20th
Pumpkin Run – Nov. 2

New Business:

Our club is in running for the top riding club award at AMA's annual meeting on Dec. 8th. A photo shoot for the awards will be planned.

Ideas on how to raise addition funds for our charities –

John G will check with Destin Common's on their non-profit fund
Schedule poker run stops at different shops for a donation (\$60-\$75)
Make sure flyers are distributed at dealerships

There being no other business for the good of the club the meeting was adjourned at 9:55AM.

Easy Beef Enchiladas

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. 80%+ ground beef
- 1 - 19oz can enchilada sauce
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup shredded Mexican/Fiesta cheese
- 10 - 6 inch flour tortillas (package of 10 or more)

Directions:

- Heat Oven to 375 degrees F.
- Lightly grease 13X9 Inch glass baking dish.
- Brown beef in skillet until thoroughly cooked and drain.
- Stir in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of sauce and 1 cup of cheese
- Spoon enchilada filling onto 10 tortillas, roll up and place seam side down in baking dish.
- Pour remaining enchilada sauce over top of enchiladas, then sprinkle remaining cheese on top of entire dish.
- Bake in preheated oven for 15 to 20 minutes
- Serve, makes 10 servings.



The Best Chicken Fried Steak

Ingredients:

- 4 cube steaks (about 1/3 lb each)
- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp fresh ground black pepper, divided
- 2 tsp kosher salt or sea salt, divided
- 1/2 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 2 -3 tsps Siracha Sauce (the original with the Rooster on the bottle) or to taste
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil



Chicken Fried Steak Gravy:

- 4 tbsp grease
- 4 tbsp flour
- 2 to 3 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

In a shallow bowl, whisk together flour, one teaspoon black pepper, one teaspoon salt, paprika, onion powder, garlic powder, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.

In a separate shallow bowl, whisk together buttermilk , Shiracha Sauce, and eggs. Set aside.

Pat cube steaks dry with a paper towel, removing as much moisture as possible. Season with one teaspoon of salt and one teaspoon of pepper. Let sit for 5 minutes and pat dry again with paper towel.

Dredge the cube steaks in the flour mixture, shaking off excess, then dredge in the buttermilk-egg mixture, letting excess drip off, and then once again in the flour mixture, shaking off excess.

Place breaded cube steaks on a sheet pan or metal rack and press any of the remaining flour mixture into the cube steaks making sure that the entire steak is completely coated. Let sit for 10 minutes.

Preheat oven to 225 to 250 F.

Chicken Fried Steak, continued.

Meanwhile, heat vegetable oil in a heavy skillet or large cast iron skillet over medium high heat. How much oil you need depends on the size of your skillet. You want it to be about 1/4-inch deep. We aren't deep frying the steaks, just shallow frying.

Test the oil by dropping a bit of the breading into in. The oil should sizzle and bubble around the breading. Look for the oil to be glistening but not smoking - about 320-340 degrees F. Now we're ready to fry.

Place two steaks into the pan at a time and fry for 3 to 4 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Do not flip more than once or the breading will fall off. Do not fry more than two steaks or the pan will be too crowded and the breading will fall off.

Remove steaks from pan and drain on paper towels. Place in preheated oven. Turn skillet heat to medium.

Chicken Fried Steak Gravy

Pour the remaining grease into a heat safe bowl or glass measuring cup (I used my Pyrex). Do NOT scrape the skillet clean. We want all of those bits of yumminess to remain in the skillet so they can flavor the gravy.

Add back in 4 tablespoons of the grease to the hot skillet.

Whisk in flour and continue whisking for two to three minutes or until nice and golden brown.

Combine the cream and milk and slowly drizzle in about 2 1/2 cups into the skillet, whisking constantly. It might look a little crazy right at the beginning, but it will all come together.

Continue whisking and bring the gravy to a simmer. Cook until the gravy is smooth and creamy, about 5 to 7 minutes. If the gravy gets too thick, add in a little more milk. Season with salt and pepper to taste. (Mine didn't need any salt but LOTS of pepper!)

Serve chicken fried steak with gravy and mashed potatoes and your favorite green veggies or with eggs and hash browns in the morning. (My personal favorite by the way)

I just made this on Saturday with pork - it was fantastic

George

A Legend is Born
(An OBSC* Legend but Still...)
George Engler

Fellow travelers on the Sandie road to predilection: it is Official and in spades - the world thinks members of the Sand Dollar Motorcycle Club are *Obviously Bat \$#!t Crazy (OBSC). Yes, Virginia, the Sandies, the same Sandies that help the Elderly: the Same Sandies that ride as a Club and have, since the year 2000, ridden over 2 million miles; the same Sandies who, since 1990, have donated over \$85,000 to local charity in money, goods and services. Well, today The Sandies in front of an audience of over 300 people were noted for being Obviously Bat \$#!t Crazy. I hope my telling of the tale of today will do it the justice (or injustice) that it deserves. I know the videos and pictures done by spectators, The Daily News and camera crews from local TV affiliates are either cringe worthy or "Oh- my-god-did-they-really-just-do-that?!?" fabulous.

I had thrown out the idea that Sam and I were going to do the Pelican Plunge on January 1st /New Years day – which is where people of questionably levels of sanity would plunge into the Gulf of Mexico. On purpose.

Now, the Gulf of Mexico in January is hardly icy but it is nonetheless still pretty damned cold. Well some Sandies said, "Heck yes, I'm going too!" Sandy S. was first, followed quickly by Dona L, Robert W, Haley W, and Marie S.

The big surprise was when Pat 'Breadtruck' G said "I'm going!" I thought to myself, "Ya know, there are quite a few Sand Dollar M/C members who are a few ants shy of a picnic – a couple fries short of a Happy Meal – the hamster's not working the wheel, ya know?"

Sam and I drove in the truck, I may be a Sandie but I had no desire to ride home on a motorcycle in wet clothes in January. That's crazy, right? Who on earth would do such a thing? And then I spotted a single motorcycle sitting all by itself in the parking lot.. I thought, "Now, what kinda fool would ride a Motorcycle to a January swim in the cold waters of the Gulf? I look closer, "No, it can't be, that's 'Breadtruck's' new ride!" I began to get the inkling that this might not turn out to be just another dip in the Gulf. Saw Robert, Sharon and Haley holding down a table on the deck. Coming around the corner like an out of control freight train none other than Sandy S. Oh, this already is sliding out of control, what cements it was when Dona L and Harold L showed up. Following on their heels is JoeJoe, The Sandie Chronicler of our many wayward adventures. Oh great, not only will you have the written and verbal accounts, but there will be pictorial evidence, too. Don't these Sandies know that you can use pictures in Court? If all of these folks weren't enough to scare the Devil, up walks Frank W and Marie B. Now not to say that Marie cut quite the figure but a Green Tutu and Green tights? Let's just say she stood out in a crowd of people who would stand out in a crowd.. More and more folks are showing up, many are staring at us. Why? I wonder..[It should be noted at this point that the author of this article was wearing a large Afro wig. Rainbow colored. With horns... Ed.]

I look up and Sam, Dona, and Marie are in the water and Sandy S. is standing in ankle deep water, already. The WEAR Cameraman notices and swings the camera on the Sand Dollar Crewe of Chaos (which made the 5 o'clock evening news, by the way!). They blew the whistle and it was total pandemonium. Right here is where the Director would stop the film and I would do a voice over.

I must point out in the video link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ig8kBSQNqrs&feature=youtu.be>

That attempted drowning of the guy in the Ultra Cool Horny Hat (me) is clearly visible. Dona knocks me down Sandy steps on me and Marie helps. Fortunately for me Sam saved my life. (Or was it Sam who pushed me down?) Well in spite of all their tag-team efforts to hold me back, I survived - WhooHoo !

This was the best New Years; I can't remember when between the Ride into The New Year and The Pelican Plunge I have had so much fun in many years. Throw in a bunch of OBSC friends and it was an utterly fantastic New Years.

Remember that the Sandie Business Meeting is First Sunday of the month, Jan 6th. 2019



LOOKING BACK 2018 IN A NUTSHELL Steve Gardinier

It all started at Midnight, Dec 31, 2017. Really, it did! The last Sandie ride of the year and the first Sandie ride of the year were only minutes apart. As our club is one of, if not the only, club that rides into the New Year, I try my best to be there for it. What better way to start a year than by riding from one year to the next. We do it in all kinds of weather, warm, cold, colder, rain, even snow once!

But that is what kicks off the New Year for me. From there it's riding whenever I can wherever I can. I have to admit, age has taken a bit of a toll on my riding. For instance I can no longer do the Triathlon escorts, as much as I liked doing them; I have to give them up. My eyesight at 4 in the morning is not the greatest and with an adult on the back of the bike weaving around hundreds of bicycles takes just a bit better hand/eye coordination than I'm sometimes capable of. So those are off my riding lists.

Poker runs, Sand Dollar Poker Runs, remain as one of my favorite riding events of the year. Seeing all the Sandies turn out, all our biker friends, some we don't see all year except for the runs, is great. If I work a checkpoint I get to chat with them as they pass through. Catch up on things with friends and make some new ones as well. And don't forget riding to and from the checkpoints and following our Captain of Concrete from point to point to pick up signs and the other folks at the checkpoints. Of course when we return to the main arena the work starts. It's amazing nobody complains, they just do the job and keep moving. I really do enjoy it all.

Weekend rides are also a big fun event. Whether it's to a place to eat (99% of the time) or to an overnight destination, we all seem to be drawn together as club members on these. Some destinations are planned ahead of time. But others are more spur of the moment. Instead of being on the calendar months ahead, someone comes around and says "hey how about we go to---" So we do. Sometimes these rides are to eat and other times to more adventurous places. The Battleship Alabama, the Ferry at Fort Morgan, Bradley's Store in Tallahassee, and others. No matter when or where, if the weather is somewhat rideable, there is always a group heading out.

Club meetings - Yes, I know, most are BORING! But every now and then we actually do good things. We plan events ahead of time, we plan rides, and we plan new skills exercises and more. Yes it involves sitting in a meeting room for an hour or half an hour. One of the more important things we plan is where to eat lunch that early. Sometimes we just have to ride for an hour or so to get to a lunch spot. Don't you hate that? Plan to eat then have to RIDE to EAT! Yup, that's us.

The Club Newsletter is always looked forward to, even if sometimes it seems all the articles are by George or me. No problem though, so long as Jim M has the ability to pump them out and add stuff we're good to go. M2 has done a marvelous job editing (even my articles need "minor" corrections from time to time). George's articles? Well I'll just say, I don't know how M2 finds that much time to edit those! But heck, the

recipes alone are worth the price of entry!

Other trips: personally, I enjoy taking at least one long trip a year. While on the road I try to keep a journal and periodically send it to M2 to work his magic editing for the newsletter or email blast from George. In any case, other members take trips also and some chronicalize (is that a word?)* them in the newsletter. Sometimes articles are newsy type things or tips and advice on how to ride better, make your bike better, and just enjoy riding more.

Want to know what the best part of being a Sand Dollar is? All of you Sandies are the best part! No I'm not kidding, every one of you are something special---in a good way. I've never met a Sandie I didn't like. The extracurricular activities, suppers, Tuesday tire kicking and more - all are enjoyable. I try not to miss any of them but stuff happens and sometimes I miss one or two - but when I do, I miss seeing all of you. So there, my secret is out. I actually like you guys! Now don't tell anyone.

The "I got your back" attitude of the Sandies is a really good thing. Anytime a Sandie needs help other Sandies are there. Whether it's for moving or fixing something, someone always steps up. I personally have had several of you help me out in the last year. You know who you are and I thank you.

I must mention the diversity in our club. Not just the diverse people, but the bikes! I once counted the number of bikes on a Sunday ride and told George that the brands of bikes on the ride outnumbered the different colors! Now THAT is diversity!

Yes, the number of bikes in the club outnumbers the members! Surprised? Not really, we like, we love, we eat, dream, and breathe motorcycles. Look around the club. Someone with only one motorcycle or someone who wants only one motorcycle is a rarity. We all start with that one bike. Then we modify it somehow and end up either hating it or loving it. If we hate it we get another bike. Sometimes we end up with both until the one we hate either becomes loved or sold. If we love the bike we tend to look for a newer model of that bike. I know I do. I have 4 bikes. Let me state that differently. Hello, my name is Steve and I love motorcycles. I love the looks the ride and the designs, I love them so much I now have four of them. Yes I know I can only ride one at a time. But sometimes I want to ride this one, then that one and the other and the other. One day in the early summer of 2018 I actually did ride them all in one day. Just because. Yes, I have MBS (Multiple Bike Syndrome) and am happy I do.

I know others who have more than one or two, some have quite a few. But even those with just one secretly desire at least one more that is bigger, smaller, faster, more powerful, more gadgets, etc. Then one day that person sees what he/she wants and has the funds to grab it. They are now infected with MBS. And no, it's not a bad thing, but it can be contagious so be careful and wash after every ride. If you don't, you could catch it.

I know this article was supposed to be about looking back, and that is what I did writing it. All the great, and sometimes not so great, things that the club members did this year came flooding back to me writing this.

SpectreSteve

*No. [Ed.]



Tim's Last Ride

George Engler

No, it's not Tim's "last" Ride. It's Tim's last ride of the year. It was simply one of the best we have had in quite a while. 235 miles of riding on some of the best roads you could put your tires on.

First, it was cold, not bad cold, just cold. But as a Sandie, one of my riding heroes is Capt. Cupcake. He is the standard to which we all aspire when it comes to cold weather riding. Supposedly real motorcyclists don't need such things as heated grips, Hippo hands, heated seats and don't forget heated clothes. Well let me tell you The Cupcake is a nom de plume I wear with very warm pride. So for Saturday it was the Cupcake model for both Sam and I.

[Ed. Note: any motorcyclist who wears electrically heated gear during cold weather is known as a "Cupcake." Cupcake was once a term of derision but the Cupcakes themselves refused to be insulted and just smile warmly back at their would-be tormentors. So now the term is merely a descriptive label and does not bring shame upon your family. Ed. Is also a cupcake. There, Ed. Has outed himself as a cupcake and Ed. Is not ashamed]

I pulled up to AL's and there was a Harley there on a center stand. Yep a real, no BS, center stand with a Harley attached to it. This was probably only the second Harley on a center stand I had seen in over 58 years of riding. I looked up and coming toward me was Gregg Lynd himself. We haven't seen Gregg in quite a while, it was really great seeing Gregg. It seems Gregg and Jackie sold the house, put stuff in storage so they could travel. Bought a 40 ft. RV and have set out to see the USA. Gregg said with their F-150, the rig is a whopping 60 ft. long. Now that's as long as some 18 wheelers with trailer. We were glad that he could drop by.

Soon Robert Woods (The Pres) and Tim (Da Prince) White arrived (and dressed for a cold ride I might add.) Robert has the heated gear that every Sandie Cupcake uses at this time of year. Tim had some last minute road instructions as Tim was the chief Cat Herder on this journey.

As we got ready to leave I noticed a white Honda car pulling out from the street next to AL's Garage. All of a sudden you heard a horn and that awful crunch you hear when a car has run into another car. Tim, Robert and Gregg ran over to see if they could help. Fortunately there were no major injuries; the Fire Dept. was there in less than two minutes. Seeing that all was well in hand it was time for our Quest. As Sandies the eternal Quest for food is our life's mission. The Knights of the Round Table had the Holy Grail. We Sandies have a Quest for Incredible Fried Chicken, hey a quest is a quest there buddy.

Waiting for us on 85 & 123 was none other than Sandy S and Tommy N. Yep, two more Sandies on this most important Quest. Now it was seven Sandies on our Quest, this glorious Quest for Fried Chicken.

Glorious it was, the sky was a beautiful blue, the roads twisted and dipped and turned. It was a wonderful 100 miles to the destination of our Quest - the Amazing Grace Café in Dozier AL, where the fried Chicken is known throughout the realm to be so sublime.

Dozier AL was incorporated in 1907. When we drove into town it was obvious the town had seen much better times. Main Street was at one time very prosperous lined with important buildings and raised sidewalks. The Amazing Grace Café was once a gas station and has been converted to a café. It's small but oh the smells coming from the kitchen, heaven should smell so good. As we sat down and waited, we had gotten there a bit early, you see. When the food line was opened I noticed Tommy had done a Jo-eJoe. Pushing, elbowing everyone ahead of him to get to the front. Well not that dramatic but Tommy was in front. By the time I got to the chicken, there it was one wing left on the white meat side. Fortunately Sam had saved a piece for me. At the checkout there were some homemade cookies. Tim got this huge chocolate chip cookie; Tim had the same look on his face he gets with doughnuts. Soon it was time to head home, Tim took us on a route that involved a U-turn, it was now a no doubt Sandie adventure.

The route home was every bit as good as the route to Dozier. The day was one of those days that made you so happy you ride a motorcycle. Tim outdid himself laying out the day it was simply a magnificent riding adventure. Thank you, Tim, for the fabulous day, it was a wonderful day to be a Sandie.

Next Saturday, Dec 29 is the traditional, "The Last Ride of the Year" to Stockton AL, This year will be the 21st Annual ride to the Stagecoach Café' in Stockton. Many years ago, several long distance riders from different parts of the country agreed to meet at the small and unassuming restaurant simply to get in one last big ride for the year. It has since become a large event with as many as 900 motorcycles attending on a good year. You'll encounter every kind of person and motorcycle you can imagine and it's quite an interesting event. Even if you don't enjoy people watching, there will be good fried chicken so the ride is worth it and to get the full experience we need to be there well before 11 am. We will leave AL's at 7 am, it's a good 125 miles away, so we need to leave early. If you've never been you should go, its one heck of an experience. If the weather is nice you will see motorcycles from all over the US. Prizes are awarded to the person who traveled the farthest, as well as the youngest and oldest attendees The difference from other motorcycle events is that at Stockton everyone of these motorcycles were ridden from those far away states at the end of December. These are REAL motorcycle people, many of whom are Cupcakes, so there's that..



Visit to the WW II Museum part 1

Ya know what it's like, all of sudden you sit bolt upright in bed and realize you may have made a Big mistake. When I had my "aha" moment I was sitting in the front seat of JoeJoe's station wagon. JoeJoe is the only 21st century person with a modern station wagon that I know. You can call it a crossover etc. But kiddos it's a station wagon down to rear facing jump seats. How did I get there you ask, musingly? Well we were supposed to go to the AMA Awards Banquet in Columbus, Ohio. But a funny thing happened as we were getting off work and planning. A snow storm developed along with freezing temperature. Since we are true Floridians and JoeJoe's Boston born blood has gotten real thin, we decided to stay south of I-10. So, what do we do with two "Snow Days" in Florida? I mean three Florida folks missing work,(we were off work anyway), because of snow is pretty weird. Well JoeJoe says "why don't we go to the World War 2 Museum in New Orleans"? Sounded good to Sam and to seal the deal JoeJoe offered to drive, folks we have a sale.

Sam had appointments Thursday so Friday it was. We left at Sandie Road Trip Time on Friday. What - you have never heard of SRTT, (pronounced sirit)? Sandie translation: O Dark Thirty. My 'Saul on the road to Damascus' moment happened in Bay St Louis: What - you never heard of 'Saul on the road to Damascus'? You know, when Saul had his epiphany, the big ka-boom aided by God. Name change and everything - you know - THE Moment. Happening at a place called Bay SAINT Louis was kind of a "Moment" too, right?.

Okay, what it was, was that I suddenly realized it was Dec 7, Pearl Harbor Day, the day WW II started for the United States. Here we were, in a station wagon, that iconic symbol of American Road trips, hurtling toward the WW II museum on Dec 7. Now we are on a real Road Trip, Sandie style. Well, we started out obviously clueless as to the significance of the day and its effect on the place we were headed. If that don't say Sandie Road Trip nothing would I guess.

Okay we are heading to New Orleans, a place where I in my misspent youth had a terrific time. But now that I was a mature adult, nay older citizen my wants were dramatically different. Instead of looking at drinking and being friendly to the ladies as an Olympic Sport. My needs had become much simplified, safe place to park and a close bathroom. The parking in New Orleans is an adventure in and of itself. Rule number one: if the parking spot of your choice looks perfect for you. Danger Will Robinson! It's a trap! It's like "there is something wrong with this water hole." The local natives are shying away for a reason. Parking in New Orleans is a game of life and death, if you got a spot you have to defend it from all intruders oh and the NOLA PD, too. Park in the wrong spot and NOLA police wreckers are mere seconds away. In fact they're HIDING around the corner waiting for you to get out of sight, oh, and the natives will turn you in to NOLA PD in a flash. Actually a nanosecond is way too long for the locals, especially if you're sporting an out of state tag.

Our first parking spot was "Wow a great spot in this semi empty lot with no meters or parking apps". Remember parking survival rule # 1, "If it's too perfect a spot , Pilgrim you just might be in trouble". I kept looking around, spotted a construction worker "Hey, is it okay to park here"? "Sure no problem" Now remember the NOLA nanosecond theorem. As I was thinking hard on this, the guy gets a change of heart . "No, you can't park here it's a construction site". Obviously the guy was from out of town. Cause a local would have waited until we were out of sight and called the Wrecker, his buddies would then yuck it up as the schmuck from Florida's car is towed away, then everyone high fives. In case you ask it ain't cheap to get your car out of impound. Every New Orleans Uber, Lyft and Cabbie can take you blind folded to the police car impound lot.

We did find a pay lot, 4 hours for 15 bucks plus tourist tax, only a couple of blocks from the Museum. We were lucky enough to get the last spot before the lot was closed to any folks fleeing the Curse of The NOLA Police Wreckers.

Walking toward the Museum complex we realized how much the Museum has grown it's now a complex of buildings. When we visited the last time it was one building and was still called the D-Day Museum. Now it's four huge buildings and more being built, remember our construction worker with a conscience? This is one incredible grouping of buildings more than befitting honoring "The Greatest Generation". Being Dec 7 the place was crowded with a bunch of school kids and old folks. Some there to remember a different time when they were young and had the world by the ass. The young thinking they had it made, a chance to get out of school. We stepped into the main hall ,OMG was an understatement. We stared up to a sky filled with C-47's, Mustangs and Thunderbolts. Directly in front was a Higgins Boat known as a landing ship. Gen. Eisenhower called it "one of the main reasons we won the war". The Higgins was designed and built in New Orleans as was the famous PT Boat.

George



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January 2019



Calendars are Subject to Change
Please check your Email Regularly

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Business Meeting & Lunch 9 AM OIFD	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 SKILLS 8: 30 AL's 9 am Range	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Snowball Fun 9am AL's	21	22	23	24	25	26 Take Chili to Edna's
27 Chili Ride 9 am AL's	28	29	30	31		



February 2019



Calendars are Subject to Change
Please check your Email Regularly

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Business Meeting/ Lunch 9am Okaloosa Island Fire Station	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Ride to Somewhere 9 am	11	12	13	14 	15	16 Saturday Adventure AL's 9 am
17 Open	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Skills 9 am Range 8:30 AL's	25	26	27	28		