

The Missouri State H.O.G. Rally and how we won it for Sedalia.

During the 2010 Mo State H.O.G. Rally in Columbia, Mo, during my last term as Chapter Director, Larry and I were both approached by members of other chapters asking when we were going to have the rally in Sedalia.

There had been a couple of pretty good reasons why we had not in the past. Because of the dates being fixed every year and these dates bumped against the MS 150 (a yearly bicycle ride for Muscular Dystrophy) came to Sedalia and used up most of the motel rooms.

Also, it was widely thought that since we have the Missouri State Fair Grounds in Sedalia, we had free access to a wonderful facility. Well, it is a wonderful facility but it belongs to all in the state. Not just Sedalia. And the administrators of the Fair Grounds cannot let one group use the facilities for free because then everyone should be able to use the facilities for free. So, if we use the facilities at the Fair Grounds they must be paid for. And this is going to be paid by money put up by the Convention and Visitors Bureau who collected money from the community to support the rally through the rally committee.

But, we do have the backing in advertising dollars from the Missouri State Fair to send out 15,000 post cards, one to every H.O.G. member in the state of Missouri. Of this 15,000 only about 33 percent belong to a chapter. So we are doing this to entice those non-chapter members to attend. If only 10% would attend, we would have 1500.

This does two things; it lets 15,000 people know things go on in Sedalia as well as entice attendees.

So, now we had some financial backing and we now have the ability to have different dates for the rally and the MS 150 does not come to Sedalia any more. So, we figured we could make a shot at having the rally.

There are very specific guidelines for submitting a proposal in the Chapter Handbook. We studied these requirements and made an ally and a friend of Carolyn Crooker of the CVB (Convention and Visitors Bureau) {you may have seen her and Connie Smith of the Sedalia Chamber of Commerce at their table outside registration at rally}. She was excited about the rally coming here from the beginning. She stepped up immediately and arranged meetings for us with the Mayor, the Chief of Police, the Chamber of Commerce and numerous business leaders. All of them shared the excitement of the rally coming to Sedalia.

She also contacted motels, hotels, restaurants, and local businesses who have totaled 132 who will give at least a 10% discounts to arm band wearing rally attendees.

We got our ducks in a row and had our proposal ready in the time required to send to Leah Whaley, our Regional H.O.G. manager. We could only submit the proposal if she approved. She did.

So, on May 14th, we (Larry, Carolyn, Connie, Mary Elaine Horn the Mayor of Sedalia, Greg Boswell and I went to Columbia to present our proposal to the other chapters.

This is a very political activity and we took gifts and mementos from Sedalia to be passed out to the other members.

Carolyn dressed up in "Ragtime" apparel, the Mayor was a "Biker Chick", and Greg Boswell dressed as a cattle drover who doubled as a train robber. Our theme was "Welcome to Sedalia, Missouri, Home of Rails, Trails and Ragtime."

The only other city to make a presentation was Springfield, Mo. The rally has been there before and we really hoped that would be to our advantage as Sedalia has not had the rally.

Each city gets about 15 minutes to make their proposal. We wanted to put on a good show for them and luckily we got to go first.

Each dealership gets one vote and each chapter gets one vote. After both presentations were made, we sweat bullets until the voting was finished. And, we won!

So now what happens? The 2011 rally is history and there are some finalities that must be done before that committee is finished.

The 2012 committee will take over in October of 2011 to prepare for the Sedalia rally in 2012. We will have to go to a training session before we begin to learn all the ins and outs of holding the rally.

Be sure and read "So, you got the State H.O.G. Rally bid.....Now What?" on page J-23 of the Chapter Handbook for 2011. An excerpt is; "the state rally is an independtly run event. In situations where there may be a local Harley-Davidson dealership or Harley Owners Group chapter, they will definitely be involved with the rally if they wish to be, but the rally operates soley under the control and direction of the H.O.G. Regional Manager (Leah Whaley), through the volunteer rally committee, and is a state wide activity."

Also, be sure to read Chapter Participation on pg. J-3 of the Chapter Handbook. "The Chapter Assistant Director acts as the liaison with the State Rally Committee".

But most important, the chapter is to have a good time as the other chapters attending the rally. And hopefully, all will volunteer to help assure the success of the rally.

The rally committee has the responsibility to ensure this happens. But without the preregistration and volunteers, it cannot be done or cannot be done very well.

Your rally committee for 2012 is:

Rally Committee

(Representation from 3 Chapters)

Rally Coordinator

Brian Black

huskers7071@hotmail.com

573-586-7221

H.O.G. Life Member, Director Ozark Mountain Chapter of Lebanon for 4 years (2006-2009), Road Captain for 8 years (2004-2011), State Rally Volunteer Coordinator for 2 years (2009-2010). Rally Coordinator (2011). Served in the US Army for 23 years and led organizations from as small as 7 to as large as 100.

Rally Treasurer

Don Dickey

573-774-0418

I have been a HOG member since 04/2002, member of Central MO Sedalia Chapter since

04/2002. Legislative Officer 2010 and 2011. Road Captain 2010. Rides a Fatboy. Work for State of Missouri, Supreme Court, as the Chief Deputy Clerk (13 years). Primary responsibilities include all administrative aspects for the Supreme Court; supervise all accounting functions, security, building

management, law library, Office of Attorney Enrollment, Office of Publications, Office of Certified Court Reporters, human resources, payroll, Office of En Banc and budget/legislative issues.

Graduated with a BS degree in Accounting and a BS Degree in Computer Information Systems from Columbia College.

Site Coordinator

Rick Yeager

For Rick Yeager, motorcycling is a lifetime adventure. His father, J.R. Yeager, started working on motorcycles in the basement of their home in the early 1950's and opened the Harley Davidson dealership in 1956. He became the owner of Yeager's Cycle Sales in 1982 until he retired in 2007. Rick started racing motorcycles at the age of 10 and raced until the late 1980's. He has promoted AMA Grand National races for more than 10 years and currently promotes motorcycle races at LA Raceway, a local 3/8 mile dirt track. Rick has attended every Missouri State H.O.G. rally, several other state rallies and national rallies. His love of motorcycling runs deep through his veins and still rides many miles on his 2010 Harley Davidson Ultra Limited.

Rally Secretary

Janet Simpson

[<woodyandjanet@fairpoint.net>](mailto:woodyandjanet@fairpoint.net)

757-871-0451

H.O.G. Life Member, Current Webmaster/Editor/Photographer Greater Kansas City Chapter

Past Positions Held: Secretary (GKC) 6 years, Past State Rally Secretary 1 year.

Events Coordinator

Woody Simpson

woodyandjanet@fairpoint.net

573-375-0035

H.O.G. Member for 7 years, H . O . G . Current Director Greater Kansas City Chapter (GKC) - 2 Yrs

Past Positions Held: Assistant Director GKC 2 years, Head Road Captain GKC - 1 year, Road Captain GKC - 1 year.

Past State Rally Event Coordinator 2 Years.

Registration Coordinator

Reed Hickam Registration Coordinator for the 2011 State H.O.G. Rally, past Director of the Heart of America Chapter in Columbia.

H.O.G. Member

Volunteer Coordinator

Tony Sahlfeld

tony_sahlfeld@yahoo.com

660-563-5129 or 660-233-3160

H.O.G. Life Member, Director Central Missouri Sedalia Chapter for 10 years. Harley-Davidson Volunteer Safety Coordinator for Missouri and Oklahoma for 10 years. Captain (Ret) U.S. Air Force from 1966-1986.

So, if you have any ideas about making the 2012 rally the greatest ever, please funnel them through Kevin Boyer, our Assistant Director. Or get them to Rick or I and we will get them to the committee.

But most of all! We hope to see you at the 2012 State H.O.G. Rally in Sedalia, Mo. for the best rally you have attended in your life!