

WELCOME

Because Juneau is a land-locked community, it seems an odd place to find the highest number of motorcycle owners per capita¹. In 2006, there were 1,025 registered motorcycles in town, which all had to arrive by ferry or barge. With only 91 miles of road² to roam and barely 3 months of good riding weather, the bikers of Juneau have to be pretty hard-core. But Alaska has always attracted the hard-core: those who yearn for freedom and follow their own path, be it paved or no.

Sarah Asper-Smith, *Exhibit Curator*

1. According to Harley Davidson statistics

2. Thanks to David Haas of the Department of Transportation, who patiently counted the number of rideable roads in town.

JUNEAU MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Pictured above (L to R): Howard York, Lenore Anderson, Bert Whitfield, George White, Albert Fleek, Shirley Hoffman Fleek, Vincent Anderson, Gunnar Blomgren, Carl Hagerup, unknown

A photo from the 1930s shows a group of young men and women in perhaps the first documented motorcycle club in Juneau. This picture was taken in a building on Second Street that was a clubhouse and served as a moving storage area after the club closed down.

Photo courtesy of the Panhandlers MC, Southeast Alaska

JUNEAU ABATE (ALASKA BIKERS' ASSOCIATION TRAINING AND EDUCATION)

Juneau ABATE members meet at their annual event in Marine Park.

Formed during the winter of 2003 by Ken Brewer, Bob Valiant, and seventeen other like-minded motorcyclists, Juneau ABATE operates as a non-profit corporation. Dedicated to the education of motorcyclists and public awareness of bikers, ABATE offers training classes based on Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) guidelines. After taking this class, students are issued motorcycle licenses from the DMV, and become members of ABATE (currently numbered at 95).

Photo courtesy of Barb and Henry Wilson

JUNEAU HOG (HARLEY OWNER'S GROUP)

This shot was taken at the Mendenhall Glacier after a ride.

Consisting of 80+ members, the Harley Owner's Group meets every Saturday when the weather is nice for an open ride. The requirements for becoming a member of the group are that you must own a Harley, and also be a member of the national organization. The HOG chapter from Juneau takes trips together; recently some of the members rode from Juneau to Fairbanks for the state HOG rally. This year it will be held in Palmer.

Photo courtesy of Barb and Henry Wilson

NORTH STAR RIDERS

The North Star Riders assemble with friends who ride.

The North Star Riders formed in 1986 with nine members to promote biker safety and to upgrade the image of bikers. The group, which now consists of approximately 20 members, meets up to two times per month, travels to Whitehorse every year for long distance trips, and organizes charitable events. In 1992 the North Star Riders celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway by inviting bikers from all over to ride the highway. Those who sent pictures back to the group were rewarded with commemorative pins as well as memorable trips.

Photo courtesy of Dee and Terry Brenner

PANHANDLERS MC, SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Original members of the Southeast Alaska Panhandlers at their first clubhouse in 1979.

The only official motorcycle club in Southeast Alaska, (and also a licensed non-profit organization), the Panhandlers MC formed in 1978 out of a desire for camaraderie and a love of motorcycles. The members now consider each other family. The bikers meet weekly, go on group rides, raise money for charity, and party hard.

Photo courtesy of the Panhandlers MC, Southeast Alaska

TRAVEL

When the motorcyclists of Juneau want to go for a long ride, they cannot simply hop on their bikes and take off, as the roads will eventually come to a dead end. For a trip to last more than a day, they must employ a ferry or a barge to carry them and/or their bikes at least part of the way. Rallies, runs, and rodeos around the state and into Canada provide destinations, and alliances with other motorcycle groups and clubs provide camaraderie along the way.

CHARITY

Many motorcycle groups in Juneau keep charity at the forefront of their mission. The Panhandlers MC organize a yearly toy run for kids at the hospital and bike raffles, which raise money for different non-profit groups in town. The North Star Riders have collected money and food for families in need; they ride alongside athletes running the Klondike Trail of '98 Road Relay, to make sure all are safe during the 110 kilometer event, which lasts throughout the night.