

Rode Hard Riders, The Beginning

In the Spring of 2010 Jerry Fruge', a member of the Knights of Columbus of St Joseph's Catholic Church in Loreauville approach me to help put on a Motorcycle Poker Run to enhance a Church event, The Tailgate Cook-off, the funds raised from the Poker Run did not go to the church, but to another organization supported by the Knights of Columbus, the Iberia Parish Special Olympics. Jerry, my wife Debbie, and I were the three original members of what was at the time just a small "Group" of bikers.

Jerry solicited the help and advice of the Bayou Country Riders; a MC Club well know for putting on the most successful Poker Run in the area. The president of the BCR, Swamp and his girlfriend, Debbi B. where a tremendous help in teaching us how to be successful in our endeavor. Debbi B. even managed our registration that year, (later Debbi B. join the RHR and was a member from April 2015 until June 2017).

Sometime during the summer of 2010 Jerry brought James Landry into our group to help promote and carry out the event. Also, at about the same time the Bayou Country Riders tried to recruit Jerry and I to join their club. There were several reasons we both had for declining the offer to join an MC Club and these reasons later came into play when we made the decision to form our own organization that today is the Rode Hard Riders, Inc.

For me, the most important reason was, my wife Debbie was a very important part of who we were and what we were doing and she was always with us, Jerry, James, and I agreed we would not do anything if we had to leave Debbie behind, so when we first talked about forming a Club, we all agreed it would have to be **"Co-ed."**

Something else that was very important to all four of us, Jerry, James, Debbie, and I, was reputation. One of our goals was to dispel the "Biker Stereotype" and build an organization that would be well respected, not only in the biker community but in the general community as well. The RHR is a direct reflection of its members and for us to have a good reputation as an organization we need for our members to strive to have good personal reputations. We are a fun-loving group that cuts-up a lot, but we understand, there are things that can be misinterpreted and some things do not need to be posted to social media.

The third reason we formed the RHR the way it is, we do not tell our members what they can are cannot wear (as long as it does not reflect badly on the club), or what they must ride (as long as it is safe). We do encourage our members to wear our Club Shirts to promote the club (if you represent the RHR in a good way) but no one is required to wear a Club Shirt at any time. In 2014 the RHR became an "RC" Club which means we have an "Approved Patch", but no one is required to wear the patch, not even our officers, it is completely a personal decision. We do not care what you ride, but it is important how you ride, safety is very important within the RHR.

On October 27, 2010 the Rode Hard Riders was started as a "T-Shirt Club", later to become incorporated and to also become an RC Club, though our values and principals have been challenged a couple of times we have endured with those values and principals intact.

Founding Member

Ed Oubre