

HOGS on the HIGH SEAS

Story and Photos: Natalie Fairbrother

It took Dean and Debbie Anderson's life savings and endless hours of organizing, and begging and pleading with cruise lines to create Hogs on the High Seas, a seven-day biker-themed "rally on a ship," with sailings ranging between Florida, Mexico, Jamaica and the Grand Caymans.

There's a charitable aspect too, as the the HOHS cruise brings with it dialysis patients, and the medical equipment and supervision they need on board. It's a "cruise outside the box," to southern climes and all monies raised on the rallies go back to the HOHS Dialysis fund.

Did we mention it's also a crazy seven-day party! Canadian Biker Production Manager John Skipp was on board for the fun of the Mexican Riviera cruise while his significant other, Natalie Fairbrother, was there to file the report in photo caption format.



Photos from left to right or just follow the dots:

Bonus: Hogs on the High Seas hosts Dean and Debbie Anderson give away yet another bundle of cash.

Mexican Hog: I think it needs more chrome!

Just a few of the crew: Can you say Arghhhhh!

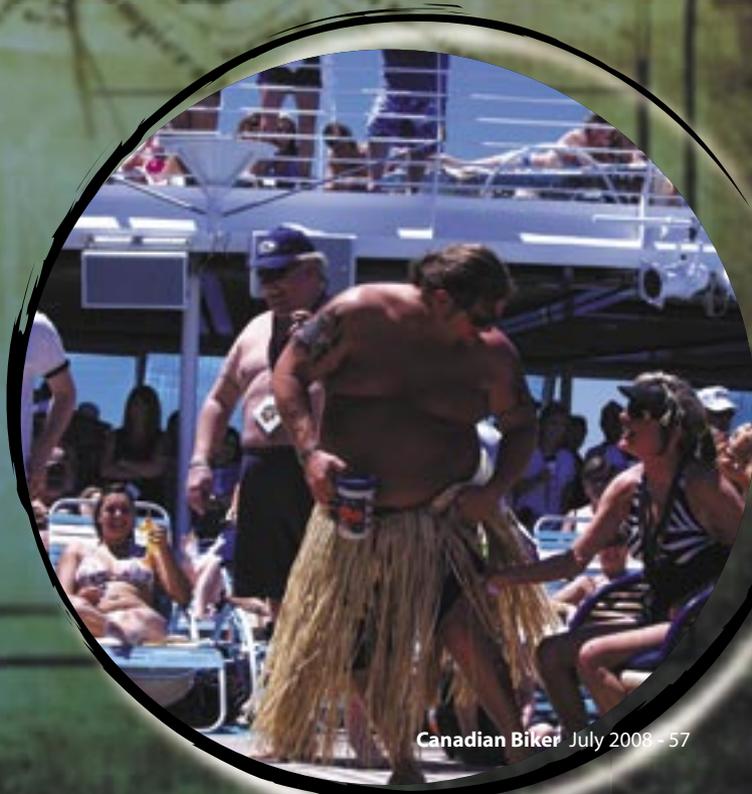
Going down: I would say brave biker, but he screamed the whole way down. So for the rest of the cruise he was known as "Screamin' Eagle!"

Consumer: "Really, you've eaten 30 of these?" I asked my fellow cruise guest. And no, I did not realize there is a right and wrong way to do a Jell-O shooter.

Prepped: A quick rub down in preparation for the "Sexy Biker Legs Competition."



Give it away: Each night, in addition to the cruise ship's own entertainment, HOHS vendors give away hundreds of dollars in prizes. Cabins for the following cruise are awarded, as well as thousands of dollars in cash. (Seriously, the 50/50 and bingo jackpots are HUGE!) The best part is that these games fund the dialysis patients' fees for the next cruise.



Photos from left to right:

Inclusive: Like any great rally there were vendors on the ship, selling everything from custom wheels, to handmade jewellery, saddlebags and even custom colour-matched fairings systems.

His real identity: Biker or Las Vegas PD member? Either way, nice sombrero.

They've got legs: More from the Sexy Biker Legs Competition.

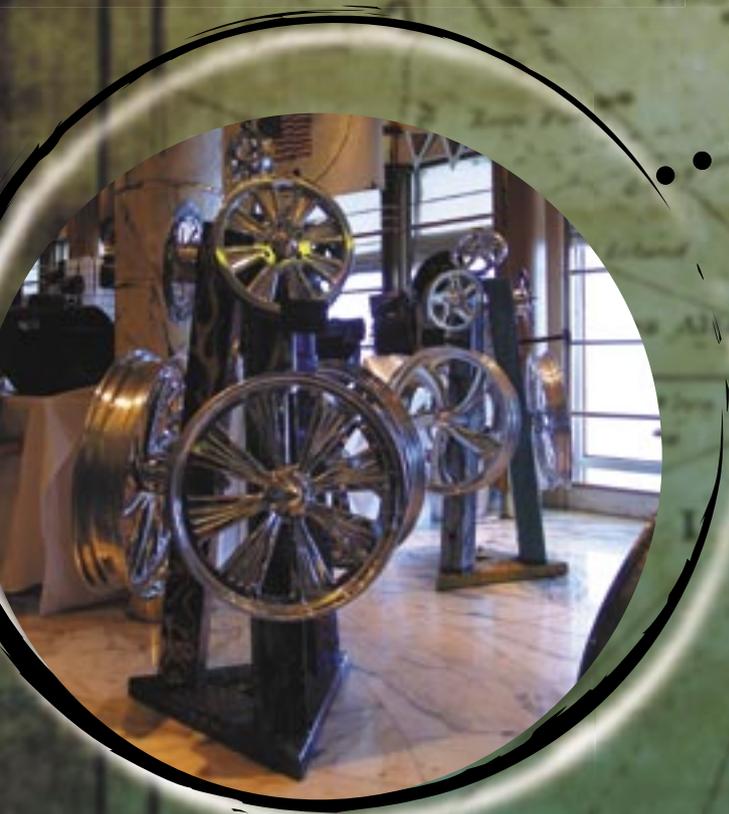
Neighbourly: Puerto Vallarta's local riding club, The Piratas, made sure we were having a good time. In fact, they insisted on it!

Blue's his colour: Hmmm ... we're not even drunk yet!

Flipper: Some of the local marine life was also taking part in the fun.

Second best: This gentleman (I shall call him Nacho) confided to me that he had been training all year long for the infamous "Belly Wacker Competition."

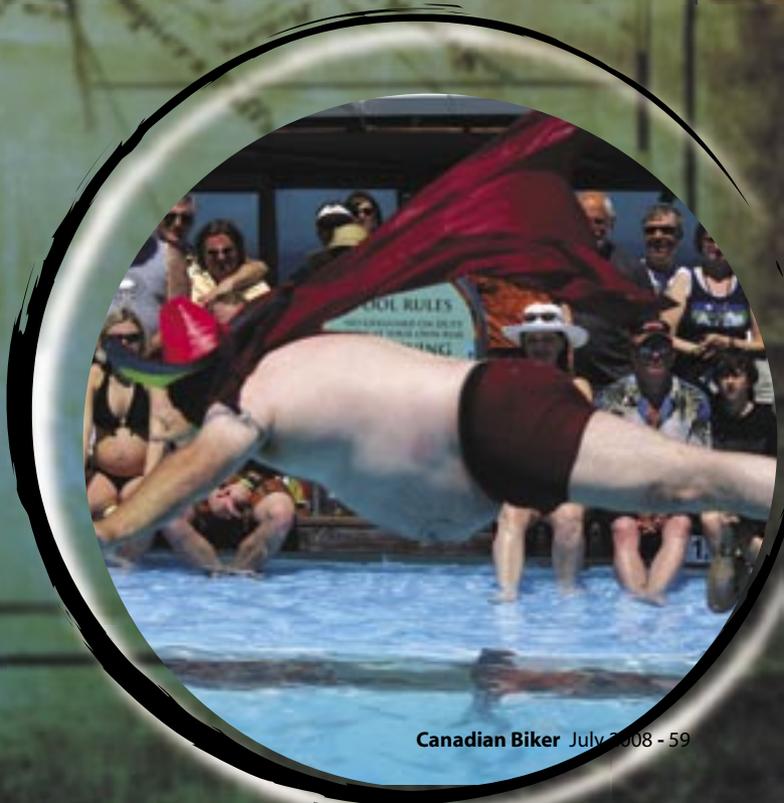
Sadly, he was beat out by the only female participant. I will give him a 10 for form though. OUCH!





Options: The Hogs on the High Seas Mexican Riviera cruise stops in Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta, while the Caribbean cruise has four tropical destinations. At each port you can either do regular tourist stuff, or take advantage of the Hogs on the High Seas designation, and attend one of their parties—a party like no other, let me assure you!

They really do go all-out and make sure the biggest and best features of each location is available to the Hogs group. This year, Steel Thunder Outfitters threw the Mazatlan party—1,000 bikers on the beach in a resort with live bass in the pool that you catch for a prize; pinatas full of prizes; Jell-O shots; donkey races; all you can drink, traditional Mexican fare, vendor booths, clowns and balloon hats, a live band and, of course, the local biker component joining us. Judging by the shape of some of us returning to the ship, a fabulous time was had by all.





Photos from left to right:

Get 'er done: Mazatlan and the Steel Thunder Outfitters party at the Holiday Inn. Billy sure knows how to throw a good one. A beachfront resort with all you can drink! Whoo-hoo!!

Doctor in the house: Billy from ST0 and Larry, one of the dialysis patients. "Hey, have I got a treat for you man!" enthused Billy.

Let's just say it involved prominent female body parts.

Dress code: Not sure you'd like a cruise due to all the stuffy dress requirements? No worries with Hogs on the High Seas cruises. The theme seems to be, the tackier the T-shirt the better. No formal gowns and tuxedos either, just wear your best leather gear and you're good to go. Ladies, make sure you bring your nicest "pirate wench" outfit. It will do double duty for Amigo Bingo and the Sexy Senorita contest!

Numbers: US statistics say that one in nine people will be on dialysis in their lifetime. One in nine! Those are high numbers. HOHS hosts Dean and Debbie Anderson encourage everyone to check their blood pressure, take their meds and live a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately it comes down to dialysis for some people, but at least there is one vacation out there for these patients. 

For more, visit
www.hogsonthehighseas.com



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