



Dean and Debbie Anderson



Hogs on the High Seas

photos by GWEN ROBERTS

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Like most seasoned riders, Dean and Debbie have been to the BIG rallies several times. They still loved the events but they felt their hobby was becoming stressful, expensive and even boring. Something had to change.

They decided to offer a completely new rally alternative. An event that would breathe new life, fun, and adventure into the word "rally". One of the largest cruise ships in the world had everything they were looking for. One set price, great weather (usually 80 - 85 degrees) and if it rains, the option to stay inside the floating city and wake up the next day 300-480 miles away.

For many it will be the adventure of a lifetime, for others their first glimpse of the Caribbean, for everyone the most fun you have ever had at a rally. Big business has taken over the rallies. Rooms, vendor space, food, parking, everything is double or triple the price it was the week before the rally. This will be the least expensive seven-day rally.

IN DEAN AND DEBBIE'S WORDS...

There are hundreds of charities worth donating your time, effort, and money to. We knew from the beginning our small contributions to other major charities would be absorbed in the cost of daily operations. We also realized we could not cure a long standing disease or medical condition. We wanted to choose a charity that received very little attention, funding and medical advances. We wanted to see fast results and wanted our passengers contributing the funds to see the results as well. The key word is SEE.

Our cause is kidney dialysis for several reasons. Unlike other diseases, there is NO cure for kidney failure, unless a rare perfect kidney donation is received. To prolong the patient's life a few more years they must be tethered to a machine that cleans the entire blood supply. Dialysis also robs them of their strength and finances. A patient must undergo dialysis every 2 to 3 days just to stay alive. This restraint leaves them very little or no opportunity to travel.

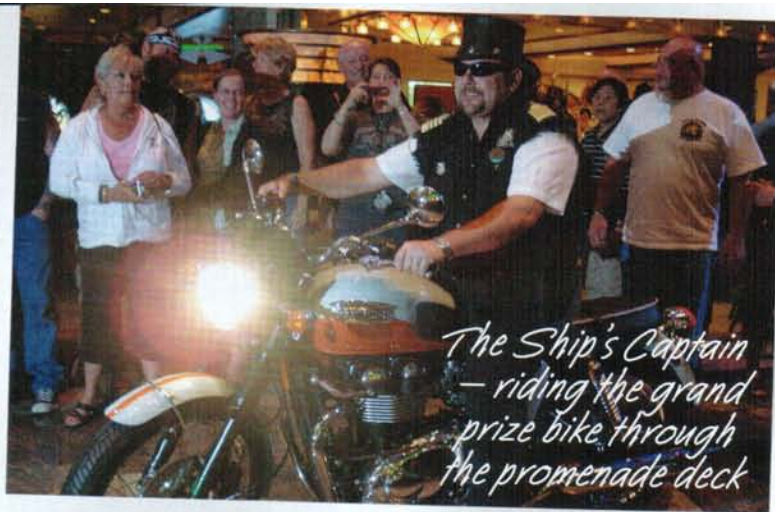
Our goal was to provide an opportunity for motorcycle enthusiasts or

their friends on dialysis to attend our HOHS (Hogs on the High Seas) rallies. We want to give the patient a chance to travel, spend some valuable time socializing with a couple thousand new friends and hopefully having the time of their lives.

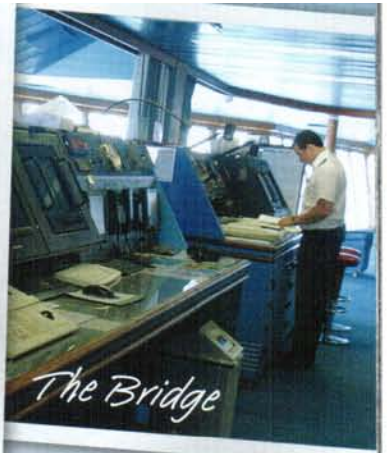
We discovered there were a few medical companies that provided kidney dialysis aboard cruise ships and whether at sea or land it is costly, to the tune of upwards of \$10,000. We contracted the services of Dialysis at Sea, to provide the Dialysis services to our HOHS Rally passengers.

Most insurance companies will reimburse the dialysis patient after the cruise, but the patient has to pay the total cost of the treatments upfront. However, we were stunned to discover that uninsured military vets and Medicare patients didn't qualify for re-imbusement through the Veterans Administration or Medicare for receiving the very same treatments they would receive at their home dialysis treatment centers. We couldn't stand for that...Plan B.

In 2003, we announced our dialysis



*The Ship's Captain
— riding the grand
prize bike through
the promenade deck*



The Bridge

patient charity idea at our first Annual Hogs on the High Seas Rally. Response was overwhelming. Eight hundred and five rally participants contributed \$8,270.00 to help meet the contracted price of the dialysis treatment company. We paid the balance of \$10,000. which did not pay for the treatments that cost, \$495.00 per visit, with usually three treatments per week, per patient. This also did not cover the cost of the cabins, which were \$2,500 each.

At our 2004 Western Caribbean Rally, our 1367 rally participants contributed \$31,771.00. Enough to pay for the dialysis staff, equipment rental, etc. (\$10,000) plus treatments for all 14 dialysis patients and half the cost of their balcony cabins.

In 2005, our Alaska rally passengers donated over \$16,000 to our Dialysis fund and our Western Caribbean passengers donated over \$68,000 toward helping make our Dialysis patients vacations a reality.

Our Alaska 2006 Rally passengers donated another \$18,084.82 and our 2006 Western Caribbean Rally had 1500 passengers who entered the games and most generously donated back a portion of their cash winnings, raising over \$110,000. Now we could also pay for their airfare from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada plus give each dialysis passenger \$400 spending money during the cruise.

During our 2007 Western Caribbean Rally, with nearly 1,750 rally passengers we raised a phenomenal \$182,895 for the Kidney Dialysis Fund from a Poker Walk, 50/50, Tattoo Contest, (10) Raffle Cabins,

HOHS Auction, Bike Raffle, and generous cash winners who gave back a portion of their winnings. That's an average of over \$100 per passenger. During those events our passengers had great odds of winning over \$302,000 in cash and prizes.

Our 1st Mexican Riviera Rally in 2008 had 1,000 rally passengers who raised a total of \$90,608.00 for the HOHS Dialysis Fund followed by our 2008 Western Caribbean Rally with 1,565 rally passengers onboard that raised \$120,339.48 and gave our largest dialysis group yet (16) another great vacation.

Earlier this year our 2009 Mexican Riviera Rally raised a total of \$54,242.00 with the November 2009 cruise being almost sold out.

TO QUALIFY AS A DIALYSIS PASSENGER FOR OUR RALLY:

- You must currently be receiving hemodialysis treatment.
- You must be a motorcycle enthusiast. If you no longer ride because of your medical condition, a past picture of you on a motorcycle or copy of an old motorcycle registration card with your name on it may be required.
- If you have not, nor have ever been, a motorcycle enthusiast you must have a friend or relative that is and they must provide the same proof as above.
- If you meet the above qualifications, call us by phone at 1-800-444-8795 to register as a dialysis patient.

If accepted as a patient the HOHS Dialysis fund will pay

- Each patient's dialysis treatments,

which are \$ 550.00 per treatment. An average of \$ 1,650.00 per patient per week.

- Each dialysis patient's half of a E1 deluxe category balcony stateroom Average price is \$1,300.00 in the Caribbean or equivalent amount toward another cabin category of your choice. Balcony cabin pricing may very depending on the HOHS rally you are attending.
- Dialysis patient's airfare if flying, from anywhere within the continental U.S. and Canada.
- On-Board medical staff and equipment, which costs \$10,000.
- The HOHS Dialysis fund will also pay \$400.00 toward shore excursions of your choice.
- That's an average of over \$4,050.00 per patient to ensure you have a vacation of a lifetime.

If accepted as a patient you will be responsible for the following:

- Each Dialysis patient is responsible for a second person (caregiver) in the cabin at an average cost of \$ 1,300.00
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance Average cost of \$130.00
- Transportation cost to the ship for the second person in your cabin.

You must book your cruise through Hogs on the High Seas.

Treatment and medical information will be done in conjunction with Dialysis at Sea.

www.dialysisatsea.com
www.hohsdialysisfund.org



A SHIP load of fun!

story by GWEN ROBERTS

Like many rallies and events you rarely get to personally meet the organizers and rarely have nothing in common with them. Meeting Dean and Debbie Anderson on the other hand is like meeting old friends and they are probably going to be two of the first ten people you will meet when you arrive for your HOHS rally.

Debbie and Dean are both motorcyclists and this rally is their creation. They are the sole developers, the chief, cook and bottle washers of this event. They will be out and about at every event or party you attend during the cruise. Personally I don't know when they sleep.

With our yearly trade show season starting in early December and drawing to an end in mid-April, we are really drained by the end of it. It was at this time that there was another High Seas Rally planned on the Mexican Riviera. As enticing as that sounded, it meant I would miss the last two Toronto shows and the rest of our team would have to pick up the slack. Knowing how much fun these rallies are, I got over the guilt very quickly.

Joining me on this High Seas Rally would be my 16-year-old daughter. I felt this would be a good bonding time for Emily and I...you know; a mother and daughter trip, lounge on the deck chair, read a good book, get a tan...yes it all started off fine and dandy just as I imagined.



Hollywood

We boarded the plane and in no time it seemed we were flying over the Grand Canyon and were genuinely excited about this bonding time together—well, I was.

Arriving at our hotel in Los Angeles and checking our schedule of

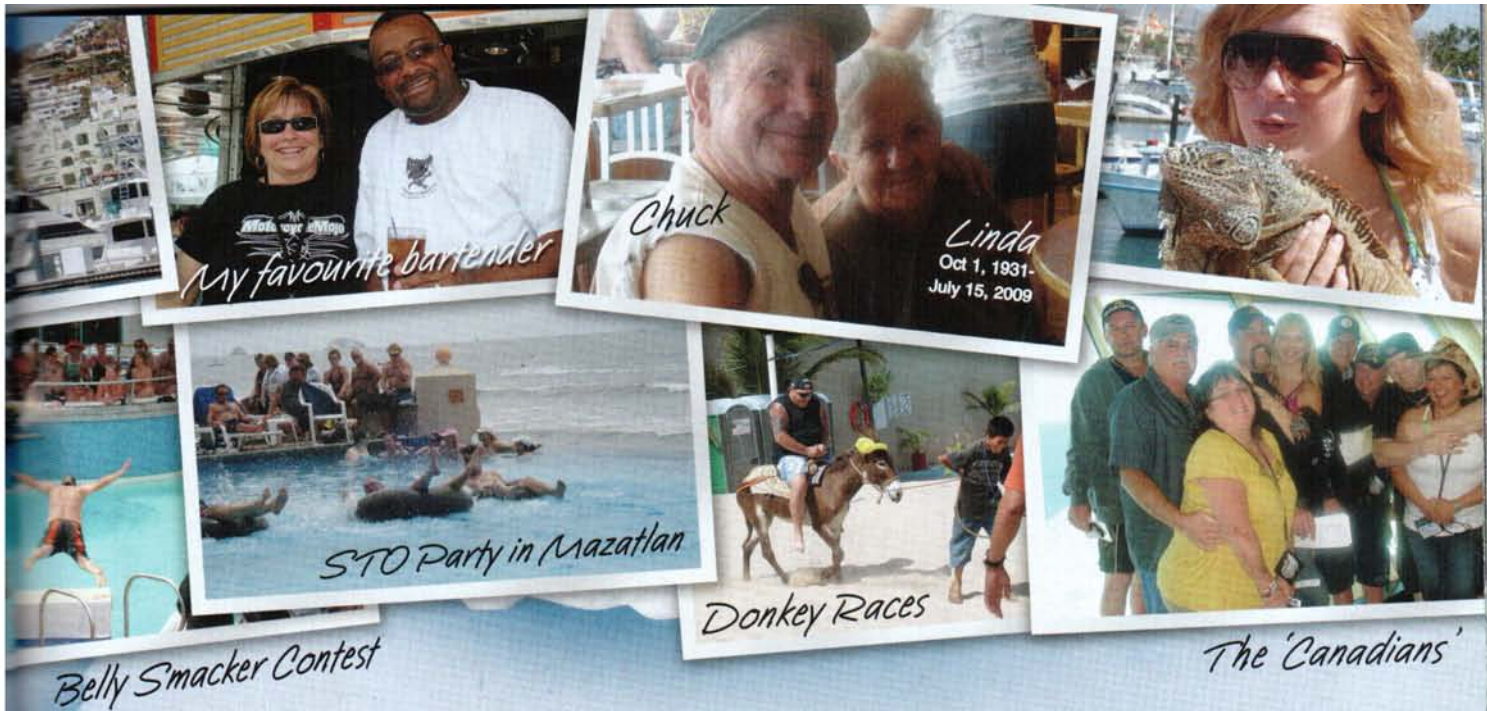
events, we realized we could squeeze in a quick trip to Hollywood on Sunday morning prior to getting on the ship. What a fun experience that

was, especially checking out the handprints and footprints of the stars at Grauman's Chinese Theatre. I took a moment and stood and reveled in Red Skelton's footprints—one of my favourite comedians and artists.

With our four hours in Hollywood coming to an end, we took a quick trip back to the dock and boarded the Mariner of the Seas, our home for the week. It was the same ship I had been on in November so I kind of knew my way around...or so I thought.

I was noticing more and more bikers and worried that Emily might not have such a good time hanging out with us old folks, since the average age of a HOHS rally is 52, but I was confident I could keep her occupied. Then I noticed more and more teenagers...unmmm 'spring break' I thought.

Before the ship left the dock I now realized that our bonding time was on



Belly Smacker Contest

hold—what was I thinking? Emily had her own agenda and it didn't include me—instead, it included about 250 other teenagers.

Well, I could either stay in my cabin, relax on a deck chair or better yet, wander up to one of the 16 bars on the ship and make some friends, which was exactly what I did.

In no time Karen, Robert (B for short), Joyce, Shorty, Mike, Heather, Chuck and Linda included me in their group, and the guys became Emily's ship dads helping me keep an eye on her.

I really can't say enough about these rallies. They are so well organized with daily prize-give-a-ways from on-board motorcycle related vendors to cabins raffles on other HOHS cruises, 50-50 draws, poker walks, plus every person who purchases a HOHS rally ticket has a chance to win a bike at the end of the cruise. This year it was a Triumph Bonneville Limited Edition #38 of 650, and the winner was Michael Sweringen. It was his second HOHS rally.

There are many crazy contests and games during the week that range from 'best beard' and 'biker-bingo' to the ever popular 'belly smacker contest'—which has been won by women a few times. These are all part and parcel of

what makes this rally so unique and helps brings everyone together.

I was fortunate to be invited for a tour of the ship's bridge, to see what goes on behind the scenes.

The on-shore party stops are one-of-a-kind. On this rally we set sail out of Los Angeles with our first stop at Cabo San Lucas where we partied at Cabo Wabo (Sammy Hagar's bar). The following day we were in Mazatlan at Steel Thunder Outfitters for an all-inclusive beach party. Donkey races, live bass in the swimming pool, parasailing—it was a huge party and our group had a most entertaining ride back to the ship in the back of a pick-up truck. Day five we landed in Puerto Vallarta and Carlos O'Brians was the place to be. The on-shore parties are loads of fun and don't worry about losing track of time, Dean and Debbie even check the washrooms at the end to ensure they don't leave anyone behind.

Roy Riley provided us with non-stop entertainment keeping everyone smiling with his colourful jokes and anecdotes.

As with any cruise there are also many opportunities to book excursions. On shore in Mazatlan, Emily decided to try a zip line through the jungle which also included a tour of a Tequila factory.

The moment you arrive you are greeted and handed a welcome HOHS custom embossed keepsake folder containing a pin, crest, passport holder, temporary tattoos to get you in the

mood, customized plaque for your door and upon entering your room—a bottle of Champaign awaits you. Nothing is second-class at this rally.

The dress code aboard this ship is motorcycle attire—even the waiters during dinner wear motorcycle t-shirts.

As Debbie and Dean put it...our goal is to provide the most fun you can have at a rally. By keeping our rally size small in numbers (under 3,000) you will meet and make friends with more motorcycle enthusiasts at our rallies than any other.

I personally have to say that I have kept in touch with people I have met at both rallies I've attended. Lea and Brandon and Scott and Laurie were friends from the first rally and now the gang from Arizona. We look forward to the day we can actually meet on solid ground and go for a ride together.

Dean and Debbie...you put on a great event and should be very proud of how many dialysis patients you have helped out. It really makes you feel good when you hear first-hand from the dialysis patients on-board how thankful they are for the opportunity to travel.

The only thing missing on the Hogs on the High Seas Rally is more Canadians—I did meet some of our readers from Ontario, BC and the Yukon at this last rally but there are a lot more of you out there and whether you book this rally as a dialysis patient or as a HOHS 'crew member' you will have a ship load of fun and see the results in person. **MMM**