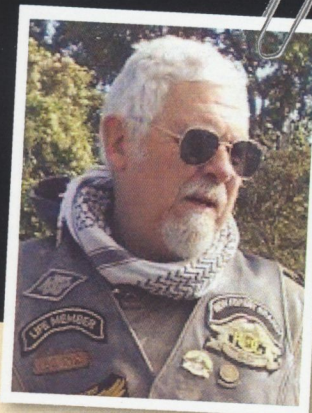


# MEET THE MEMBER

## Interview with Guns – one of the very first members of New Forest HOG®



**Editor:** Hello Guns, many thanks for agreeing to be interviewed for Let's Ride magazine. As you have been a member of New Forest HOG® for many years it seemed a good idea to find out a little more about you.

**Guns:** Hi All, thanks for asking me to answer some questions.

**Q1. When did you first join New Forest HOG and how has it changed across the years?**

A1. Dr Bob invited me to a meeting at a pub in Dorset one night. Dr Bob was a HD mechanic at 3 Cross Motorcycles and he asked me to go in order to discuss setting up a HOG chapter. None of us can remember where this was. Present were Dr Bob and Gloria his wife, his friend Brian, Will Stefano (who became the first Director), another mechanic and another couple of people we cannot recall. This must have been the winter of 89/90. All the original committee were HDRCGB members and the New Forest region rep "Captain Mannering" was on the committee as a liaison officer. All the Directors of the first UK Chapters were also HDRCGB members. Over the years the membership has changed a lot. We built up to some 750 members at one time. Originally we did a lot of camping but now we mainly use hotels, which suits me.

**Q2. You have quite an interesting nickname, how did it come about?**

A2. My nickname Guns comes from 1969 in the year I was in the original group that formed a backpatch club. We had 'legal' names. I was into Guns.

**Q3. What Harley do you ride now and what has been the favourite one you owned?**

A3. I have 3 bikes. The yellow Road King Custom 1584 with 30K miles used for touring; the black Road King Custom 1450 with 69K and have just bought back my favorite FXSTC 1989 with about 140K which I am rebuilding with its 4th paint scheme.

**Q4. What interests and hobbies do you have other than riding your Harley?**

A4. I am into history and a member of the NT and EH and take my Father out each Monday. I am also into military history and also collect metal ships. I

had about 5000 ships but have been selling them off, there was too much money tied up in them when I could have more bikes. I still have a large library.

**Q5. Tell me a little about your riding experience, what has been your favourite ride/ route and why?**

A5. I have been riding for 48 years with the usual mix of British and Jap bikes but after watching Easy Rider it took 20 years and a remortgage to get my first 1988 FXSTC. The best road I have ridden is Beartooth Pass in the Rockies, which is like riding in the Alps but 4 times bigger. I passed a Wolf trotting along the road one year then came across an Elk blocking the road, they are big.

**Q6. Can you tell us something interesting about yourself that most members won't know?**

A6. As a child I collected Dinky and Corgi cars. I worked in a toy shop and had my wages in kind. In about 1975 my Father rang to ask what I was going to do with the stuff in the loft. I sold the collection for £850 to a dealer in Christchurch and bought an 850 Commando I had a 750 already but you need 2 to keep one on the road.

Well that's all folks see you on the road. Cheers Guns.

**Editor:** Wow, what a great insight into you and your biking history, a little about our heritage at New Forest HOG® and also a little about your other interests and hobbies. Many thanks for sharing this with us Guns.

