

SPRINGER BRIEFS IN CRIMINOLOGY

Thomas Barker

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs as Organized Crime Groups



Springer

SpringerBriefs in Criminology

For further volumes:
<http://www.springer.com/series/10159>

Thomas Barker

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs as Organized Crime Groups

 Springer

Thomas Barker
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY
USA

ISSN 2192-8533 ISSN 2192-8541 (electronic)
ISBN 978-3-319-07430-6 ISBN 978-3-319-07431-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-07431-3
Springer Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

Library of Congress Control Number: 2014940065

© The Author(s) 2014

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed. Exempted from this legal reservation are brief excerpts in connection with reviews or scholarly analysis or material supplied specifically for the purpose of being entered and executed on a computer system, for exclusive use by the purchaser of the work. Duplication of this publication or parts thereof is permitted only under the provisions of the Copyright Law of the Publisher's location, in its current version, and permission for use must always be obtained from Springer. Permissions for use may be obtained through RightsLink at the Copyright Clearance Center. Violations are liable to prosecution under the respective Copyright Law. The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

While the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication, neither the authors nor the editors nor the publisher can accept any legal responsibility for any errors or omissions that may be made. The publisher makes no warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein.

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Contents

1 The Nature of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs	1
Introduction	1
Conventional and Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs	1
Text Box 1: 13 Rebels Motorcycle Club	2
Wino Willie Forkner	3
Boozefighters MC	4
Hollister Motorcycle Incident/Riot 1947	4
Riverside, California 1948	6
2 Hells Angels Motorcycle Club and the One Percenters	9
Introduction	9
Ralph “Sonny” Barger	10
The One Percenters	11
3 Criminal Organizations	13
Introduction	13
Selection and Socialization Process	14
Organized Crime Entities	15
4 Criminal Organization Continuum of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs	21
Text Box 2: Big Jim Got His Wish	22
5 Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs	25
Introduction	25
The Big Five One Percent Biker Gangs	26
Hells Angels Motorcycle Club/Gang	26
Bandidos Motorcycle Club/Gang	27
Outlaws Motorcycle Club/Gang	29
Pagans Motorcycle Club/Gang	30
Sons of Silence Motorcycle Club/Gang	32
Puppet/Support Gangs	33

Text Box 3: Puppet/Support OMGs in Canada 33

Text Box 4: Pagans MC Retaliation Against Titans MC
(Hells Angels Puppet Club) 33

Major Independent Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs 35

 The Mongols MC 37

 Warlocks MC 39

 Vagos Motorcycle Club 41

 Wheels of Soul Motorcycle Club/Gang 43

6 Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Violence 45

 Introduction 45

 Text Box 5: Rules to be Followed when in the Presence
 of a One Percenter. 46

 Legacy of Violence 47

7 Conclusion-Organized Criminals Without Borders 53

References 57

Chapter 1

The Nature of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs

Introduction

Any discussion of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs (OMCs) begins with the central question concerning their fundamental nature: Are they motorcycle clubs, that is; voluntary social organizations built around the love of motorcycles and “riding free” who happen to contain “some” criminal members, or are they criminal gangs whose members ride motorcycles and are organized and devoted to crime for profit. Fifteen years of research and the available literature and scarce data lead to the conclusion that there is no easy answer to this question. Some well-known outlaw motorcycle clubs, such as the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, the Bandidos Motorcycle Club, the Outlaws Motorcycle Club, the Pagans Motorcycle Club, the Sons of Silence Motorcycle Club, and their support clubs, vehemently argue that they are clubs and not gangs. The organized criminal behavior of these clubs and their members belie their self-serving arguments. Law enforcement sources argue that all outlaw motorcycle clubs are criminal gangs engaged in organized crime. That general statement is accurate for the “clubs” mentioned above and several others to be discussed but may not to apply to some outlaw motorcycle clubs. The search for an answer to this conundrum begins with an examination of the differences between conventional and outlaw motorcycle clubs.

Conventional and Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs

Since the first American “motor-drive cycle,” the *Indian*, was built in 1901 in Springfield, Massachusetts, motorcycle riders have formed clubs based on their common interest in riding the iron machines (Hayes 2010). The first motorcycle clubs were composed of foolhardy men racing these dangerous and unwieldy machines; then, in 1903 the fledgling American motorcycle scene changed dramatically. In 1903, the Harley Davidson Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, began building a motorized bicycle that changed the machines, the way the

machines were used, and brought about a sea change in the composition of the riders and how they grouped together. Harley began dominating sport motorcycling racing and then became in the 1920s a means of transportation and pleasure riding rather than racing (Davidson 2002).

Motorcycle riders changed as women and other family members began riding as the side-car allowed the entire family to share the motorcycle experience. The clubs they formed also changed. In 1924, the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) was formed and provided the main motorcycling racing sanctioned body and soon began promoting what was known as Gypsy Tours that were, “statewide, good-clean fun, jamboree-picnic soirees, which proved to be the ground-seed for events like the yearly Sturgis Rally (Hayes 2010, p. 43). The AMA would play a huge role in the definition of outlaw motorcycle clubs. By the 1930s, the AMA had chartered, i.e., sanctioned, 300 conventional clubs. These clubs represented the “responsible” motorcycle riders and often had strict dress codes and rules on acceptable behavior. Clubs that obtained an AMA charter were considered legal clubs; the other clubs were classified as “outlaws” (Wolf 1999). The “outlaw” label in this case meant non-AMA, not criminal. The AMA needed a way to differentiate its members from “the wild ones,” who in a sense represented the lunatic fringe of motorcycle riders. However, the deviant label had consequences; outlaw clubs were prohibited from participating in AMA events. The conventional, or AMA, motorcycle clubs began a tradition of sponsoring mixers, charity events, hill climbing contests, and promoting responsible motorcycling as a family activity that still exists (see Text Box 1).

Text Box 1: 13 Rebels Motorcycle Club

The 13 Rebels Motorcycle Club, a conventional club established in 1937, touts itself as a family-oriented motorcycle club adhering to the conventional principles of No Drugs, No Crimes, No Intimidation, Support our Military, Support of Community, Support our Community, Support our Brotherhood, and Have a Good Time. Their Motto according to their website is “Not to bully the weak. Not to fear the powerful. (www.13rebelsmc.org).”

In a glaring departure from the outlaw motorcycle clubs, the 13 Rebels MC publicly state in their Code of Conduct that members will not sell drugs or commit crimes and any member convicted of these offenses will be expelled from the club. This conventional club, as is characteristic of all conventional clubs, does not claim any territory. On the other hand, territorial/turf disputes lead to violent disputes between and among outlaw motorcycle clubs.

At about the same time groups of motorcycle riders began to appear in the motorcycle-friendly weather of Southern California (Barker 2007). Depression stricken “Okies” looking for work and riding motorcycles because they were

cheap transportation appeared on the scene. Although most were loners who rarely stayed in one town for long, some banded together in the squalid Southern California industrial districts and formed loose-knit “outlaw” motorcycle clubs. Riding together in groups, these outsiders worked menial jobs and lived a deviant lifestyle of drinking and rowdy behavior, with some dealing in stolen motorcycle parts and other criminal pursuits (Yates 1999). Harley Davidson motorcycles were the most popular and abundant bikes at that time, so Harleys became the motorcycle of choice for these groups—for both possession and theft. These outlaw clubs were more criminal gangs than motorcycle clubs and quite different in dress and behavior from the conventional AMA clubs. Their appearance and behavior foreshadowed the development of what are know today as outlaw motorcycle gangs and one percent bikers.

At first, outlaw clubs were not much of a threat to conventional motorcycle clubs or the image of motorcycle riders in general, but this changed in the late 1940s. Following World War II, outlaw clubs began disrupting AMA sanctioned events and the label “outlaw” motorcycle clubs took on a new meaning and changed the public image of motorcycle riders. “Wino Willie” Forkner has come to be representative of the change and the men who brought it about.

Wino Willie Forkner

A hard-drinking “Wino Willie” joined the 13 Rebels Motorcycle Club, an AMA conventional club, and rode with them for two years before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After Pearl Harbor, the dipsomaniac Forkner joined the Army Air Corp and was soon manning a .50-caliber machine gun on a B-24 Liberator for the next 30 months. In the summer of 1945, the hell-raising Wino Willie returned to California and re-joined the 13 Rebels Motorcycle Club. It was not long before Wino Willie’s hell-raising behavior, possibly intensified by his wartime experiences, and the conventional behavior of the 13 Rebels clashed.

Forkner, according to his widow, Teri, was like many of the returning veterans “back from the war and letting off steam (Bill Hayes Video Interview: The Original Wild Ones 2003).” “Letting off steam” for these veterans meant riding their bikes and drinking together. In the summer of 1946, Forkner and his drinking buddy and fellow 13 Rebels’ member, Blackie, were “letting off steam” in their favorite watering hole, the All American Bar, when they decided to show up at a 13 Rebels sponsored quarter-mile race in San Diego after an all-night drinking session (Reynolds 2000). Thoroughly plastered and frustrated, Wino Willie decided to liven up what he and Blackie considered to be a boring race. Forkner drove his bike through the wooden gate leading from the parking lot onto the racetrack. The drunken Forkner burst onto the track in a shower of shattered wood and loud applause from the spectators who shared his view of the race. Forkner roared down the straightaway and made four laps around the track before losing control and turning his bike over. The whirling dervish was promptly arrested and

hauled off to jail. After a weekend in jail, Forkner pleaded guilty to trespassing and being drunk and disorderly. He hitchhiked back to Los Angeles and faced an enraged group of 13 Rebels members. The club members demanded his 13 Rebels sweater and threw him out of the club. The unrepentant Forkner reportedly returned the sweater after defecating on it (Reynolds 2000, p. 36). The evolution to one percent outlaw motorcycle clubs had begun.

Boozefighters MC

The angry Wino Willie decided to put the 13 Rebels and the raceway fiasco behind him by drinking and sulking at the All American Bar (Reynolds 2000; Barker 2007). Forkner began drinking with three other veterans. The four inebriated bikers decided to form a new motorcycle club, but could not come up with a club name. Overhearing the animated discussion, an All American Bar regular lifted his head off the bar and called out in a drunken stupor, “Call it the Boozefighters.” All the drunks agreed that was a perfect name for the new club. During the following weeks, Wino Willie and his fellow Boozefighters recruited 16 additional members. The Boozefighters even applied for AMA membership, but were turned down by the AMA president, who allegedly remarked: “No goddamn way I am giving a name like that a charter (Forkner 1987).” One year later (1947), three charters [chapters] of the Boozefighter Motorcycle Club had formed in Los Angeles, San Pedro, and San Francisco.

The Boozefighters MC was not the only outlaw motorcycle club formed by ex-servicemen “letting off steam.” World War II veterans joined outlaw clubs and called themselves the Galloping Geoses, the Pissed off Bastards of Bloomington, Satan’s Sinners, and the Market Street Commandos. Conventional clubs used simple and innocent sounding names like the Road Runners, the Glendale Stokers, and the Side Winders. On occasion, these conventional clubs engaged in reckless street races, but their behavior was harmless compared to the sometimes violence prone behavior of the new outlaw clubs (Yates 1999). To further distinguish themselves from AMA club members who wore ties and racing caps, the outlaw club members were unkempt in appearance and rowdy in behavior. The stage was set for the creation of a new label—the one percenters. One event is considered to be the incident that created a new social definition/label for outlaw motorcycle clubs.

Hollister Motorcycle Incident/Riot 1947

The events; real, imagined, and contrived of the Hollister Incident “riot” that took place in the small California town of Hollister during the July 4, 1947 weekend led to a staged photograph, which inspired a short story that led to a movie, which influenced a genre of biker movies and media publicity that ultimately constructed

a new label for outlaw bikers. The West Coast town of Hollister, California was chosen as the site for an AMA sanctioned gypsy tour and would draw in bikers from across the country. Hollister was [and still is] a big motorcycle town in the 1940s, with 27 bars and 21 gas stations. However, the town had only seven police officers. Hollister held its first AMA gypsy tour in 1936 and held regular motorcycle races and hill climbs; therefore, city officials were not expecting any problems at the 1947 rally, sanctioned by the AMA and sponsored by the Salinas Ramblers Motorcycle Club, an AMA affiliated club, and the Hollister Veterans Memorial Park Association. They were not expecting the horde of outlaw bikers who were preparing to descend on their bucolic small Northern California town.

Members of all three Boozefighters MC chapters made plans to attend the motorcycle rally. The Los Angeles members, including Wino Willie, met on Thursday at the All American to prepare for the ride to Hollister. Preparation included drinking at the All American, riding to Santa Barbara for more drinks, and then riding to San Luis Obispo, where they became too drunk to go on. The Los Angeles Boozefighters “slept it off” in a bus terminal for three hours and roared off to King City, where they stopped at a liquor store to finish “preparing” for the ride into Hollister. By the time they arrived in Hollister, several thousand motorcyclists were already there and thoroughly “prepared.” It was not long before intoxicated bikers turned the blocked-off main thoroughfares into drag racing strips and stunt riding exhibitions.

Conventional motorcycle club members were at the nearby Bolado Racetrack, which was filled to capacity for the scheduled AMA motorcycle races. Meanwhile back in the chaotic downtown Hollister area, the hardcore bikers of Wino Willie’s new club, the Boozefighters, and the other hell-raising outlaw clubs were driving the town’s seven police officers crazy. The “wild ones” had barricaded both ends of San Benito Street, the town’s main thoroughfare, and turned it into a drag strip. Newspaper accounts report that bars were wrecked, and drunken bikers threw beer bottles out of upper story windows and off roofs. Soon the jail was filled to capacity with drunken outlaw bikers, including Wino Wille. While the commotion was going on, a photographer for the *San Francisco Chronicle* decided to take a picture portraying the debauchery of the out-of-control bikers. For some reason, he staged a photograph even though there were plenty of drunken motorcyclists available. He persuaded a clearly inebriated biker in a leather jacket coming out of a bar to sit on a Harley Davidson motorcycle and the photographer piled empty beer bottles underneath the bike. The picture never appeared in the San Francisco newspaper, but it would become one of the most famous pictures in motorcycle history after the Associated Press picked it up and printed it in *Life Magazine*.

On Sunday night the Hollister police called for help from the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Forty CHP officers arrived at dusk. The CHP Captain in charge threatened to use tear gas on the bikers and then began herding the bikers, most of whom were ex-servicemen used to following orders from superior officers, toward the end of town. The captain spotted a group of musicians unloading instruments for a dance at the American Legion Hall and ordered them to set up in the street on a flatbed truck and play for the crowd. The crowd started dancing and

continued into the night under the watchful eyes of the CHP. While the drunken outlaw bikers danced, the local Chief of Police went to all the bars and closed them down. The alleged “riot” was over, but the exaggerated and distorted publicity of the incident was just beginning. The resulting national media blitz that followed the alleged Hollister “riot” would create a moral panic and a new “folk devil”—the outlaw biker. The next motorcycle “riot” would forever solidify outlaw bikers as the lunatic fringe of motorcycle riders.

Riverside, California 1948

A July 4, 1948 weekend AMA sanctioned gypsy tour rally attended by more than 1,000 drunken motorcyclists recreated the Hollister scene; this time with violent consequences. The cyclists used traffic lights as starting signals for drag races and blocked off streets for the racers and spectators. While the bikers were drag racing and partying, an Air Force officer with his wife, trying to get through the crowd, honked at the pack of drunks blocking the road. The frenzied mob descended on his car smashed the windows, leaped on his hood and top, drug the Air Force officer from his car, punched him, and manhandled his frightened wife (Reynolds 2000). While this was occurring, one of the drunken riders wiped out on his bike, killing his girlfriend, who was riding with him. Boozefighter Motorcycle Club members were in the area but not involved in any of the alleged incidents. However, local newspapers reporting the incident carried pictures of two Boozefighter club members drinking beer and sitting on their bikes. The caption under the picture read that they were members of the same group who “started the Hollister riot the previous year (Reynolds 2000, p. 60).” Reportedly, law enforcement officials remarked that most of the motorcyclists at the Riverside rally had behaved well and were law abiding; they opined that the trouble came from a small percentage of “outlaw” groups attempting to disrupt the rally. Apparently, this is the first time that the label “outlaw” was used to separate the “wild ones” and their clubs from AMA affiliated motorcycle clubs. The national story coming on the heels of the Hollister “riot” led to a motorcycle story that created a genre of low-budget exploitation films that would cement outlaw bikers as folk devils and a part of modern pop culture.

In 1951, *Harper's Magazine* published a short story by Frank Rooney entitled “Cyclists Raid.” The story an exaggerated account of the Hollister “riot” would have been forgotten except for the movie it inspired—*The Wild One*. The short story’s plot is about an unnamed motorcycle gang taking over and terrorizing a small town somewhere on the West Coast. Filmmaker Stanley Krmaer read “Cyclist Raid” and decided to make a movie based on the story. He, writer Ben Maddow and film star Marlon Brando spent three weeks interviewing former Boozefighter Motorcycle Club members before filming started (Stidworthy 2003). The resulting screen adaptation ushered in a new genre of biker movies.

The 1954 movie, *The Wild One*, starring Marlon Brando, who lead a group of motorcyclists named the *Beetles*; and Lee Marvin, the honcho of an unkempt band of black jacketed bikers the *Black Rebels*, became a cult movie and solidified the image of outlaw bikers as folk devils spreading their cultural lifestyle and dress throughout the world. After the film's release, hundreds of American bikers would emulate Brando and co-star Lee Marvin in dress, behavior, argot, and mannerisms. Outlaw biker expert Arthur Veno asserts that motorcyclists across the Western world "saw the Hollywood version of an outlaw motorcycle rebel" and copied their attitudes, clothes, disrespect for society, and the way they treated women (Veno 2002, p. 30). According to Veno, motorcycle clubs in England, Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark, and Italy mimicked the screen outlaw bikers. The next evolution of outlaw motorcycle clubs comes with the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club.

Chapter 2

Hells Angels Motorcycle Club and the One Percenters

Introduction

Following the adverse publicity that accompanied the Hollister “Riot,” one of the veteran’s outlaw motorcycle clubs, the Pissed Off Bastards of Bloomington had disbanded. Reynolds (2000) contends that Arvid Olsen, a former squadron leader with the legendary World War II “Flying Tigers” of China suggested the name “Hells Angels” for a new motorcycle that he, Otto Friedell, and several other former Pissed Off Bastards of Bloomington members decided to form in 1948 in San Bernardino, California. The new members chose as a logo a grinning skull wearing a pilot’s helmet with attached wings. A decade later the name and logo would be adopted by a group of motorcycle riding young toughs and thugs in Oakland, California completing the outlaw motorcycle club, one percent biker, to criminal gang/association progression for the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club under the leadership of Ralph “Sonny” Barger.

The newly formed Hells Angels Motorcycle Club spread throughout California as nomadic members moved from one city to the next. The nature of the membership also changed. The 1957 Sacramento Hells Angels chapter, called charters by the HAMC, was formed out of a motorcycle club called the Hell Bent for Glory Motorcycle Club. Two teenage thugs, James “Mother” Miles and his brother Pat, started this outlaw motorcycle club. This signals that what was occurring throughout California; namely, the breaking of the connection between World War II veterans and the establishment of outlaw motorcycle clubs. Mother Miles, called “Mother” because he was considered to be a “righteous” biker, was extremely popular among the burgeoning California Hells Angels clubs and the other “outlaw” clubs popping up throughout the state. When he was killed in a head-on-crash with a truck, his funeral made *Time Magazine*, and was led to the grave by a procession of 300 + bikers, led by Sonny Barger. In addition to the Hells Angels clubs, there were representatives from other clubs such as the Hangmen, Crossmen, Gladiators, Falcons, Thunderbirds, Mofos, and Marauders (Hudson 1966). The new California HAMC chapters forming at that time were more like separate clubs operating autonomously and independent of each other, often not even

Fig. 2.1 Hells Angels Logo.
Source Department of Justice
(www.justice.gov/criminal/orcgs/motorcycle.html)



knowing of the existence of the others. On man, Ralph “Sonny” Barger is credited with bringing the chapters together and creating the largest and most crime involved outlaw motorcycle club in the world.

Ralph “Sonny” Barger

Sonny Barger grew up in the blue-collar jungle of Oakland, California, and joined the Army in 1965 with an altered birth certificate (Barger 2000). Less than a year later, the Army discovered his actual age and discharged him, but the brief service time made Barger technically a veteran. When he returned to Oakland, there were numerous conventional motorcycle clubs and several disorganized clubs like the Oakland Panthers. Barger joined the Panthers but soon left because they were too tame and did not provide enough action.

The excitement seeking Barger found a new wild bunch of young motorcyclists with whom to ride. The wild group had no name and was searching for an appropriate identifier. One of Barger’s riding buddies “wore a modified Air Force-like patch he’d found in Sacramento, a small skull wearing an aviator cap inside a set of wings (Barger 2000, p. 230).” The young “outlaws” thought the patch was cool and decided to name their club Nomad Hells Angels after the patch. In April 1957, the newly formed Nomads Hells Angels had patches made based on the design, which later became the easily recognizable and copyrighted HAMC deaths head (see Fig. 2.1). Sometime later Barger claims to have met another biker wearing the very same Hells Angels patch. His newfound friend filled Barger in on the history of the Hells Angels club formed in San Bernardino in 1948. Barger’s indoctrination included the naming of the other California chapters, and the rules, regulations, and procedures for becoming an official chapter. Angels from the

SoCal (Southern California) visited the quasi-Oakland Hells Angels. A series of meetings later and the official Oakland Hells Angels came into being. In 1958, Sonny Barger became chapter president then he progressed to National Hells Angels Motorcycle Club president and changed the HAMC forever.

Although the basic organization of the Hells Angels model was in place when Barger became chapter president and national president, under his leadership and guidance new rules were added pertaining to prospective members, club officers, and the induction of new charter/chapters. Barger also engineered the movement of the HAMC from crimes against public order to organized crime for profit (Barker 2007). Even Barger admits that the 1960s and 1970s was the “gangster era” for the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club, he writes in his autobiography that he sold drugs and got into “a lot of shit” during that period (Barger 2000). With Barger at the helm, the Hells Angels expanded nationally and internationally and became and spread their criminal tendrils throughout the world. The first HAMC expansion outside the United States occurred in 1961 when a Hells Angels chapter was established in Auckland, Australia. The first European chapter was granted in London, England in 1969. Today, the Hells Angels have chapters on every continent, except Antarctica. The Hells Angels along with several other American-based Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs (Bandidos, Outlaws, Sons of Silence, Mongols, Warlocks, and Vagos) are transnational organized crime threats (See Barker forthcoming). The outlaw motorcycle club under Barger would complete the progression to the one percent label for outlaw bikers.

The One Percenters

The Vice President of the Oakland Hells Angels Motorcycle Club at that time was George Wethern, a high school dropout who had received an undesirable discharge from the Air Force, once again showing the break in the earlier tradition of World War II veterans. Wethern reports that a meeting of outlaw bikers was called at the home of the Frank Sadilek, the president of the San Francisco Hells Angels chapter. At the meeting were Hells Angels leaders from across the state and former warring outlaw biker club members from the Gypsy Jokers, Road Rats, Galloping Gooses, Satan’s Slaves, the President’s, and the Mofos. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss police harassment but soon turned to recent comments by the AMA. According to Wethern “To draw a distinction between its members and us renegades, the AMA had characterized ninety-nine percent of the country’s motorcyclists as clean-living folks enjoying pure sport. But it [AMA] condemned the other one percent as antisocial barbarians who’d be scum riding horses or surfboards (Wethern and Colnett 1978, p. 54).” The outlaw bikers at the meeting decided to adopt the one percent label as a tribute and not an insult (Wethern and Colnett 1978). They chose a 1 % patch to demarcate them, or set the boundaries between them and the “outsiders” or law-abiding public and conventional motorcycle clubs (see Fig. 2.2). Wethern and Ralph “Sonny” Barger were the first

...We are complete social outcasts—outsiders against society. And that’s the way we want it to be. Anything good, we laugh at. We’re bastards to the world and they’re bastards to us
Unidentified Hells Angels member quoted in Hudson, 1966.”

Fig. 2.2 Social Outcasts



Fig. 2.3 OMC Colors (Bandidos and Pagans) with 1 % Diamond. *Source* Department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/orcgs/motorcycle.html)

to get “1 %” tattoos. Since that time Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs throughout the world are also known as one percent (1 %) clubs and most members wear the 1 % diamond somewhere on their sleeveless denim vests and sport the 1 % tattoo somewhere on their body (see Fig. 2.3).

Chapter 3

Criminal Organizations

Introduction

How many of these Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs or one percent (1 %) clubs are, or could be classified as criminal gangs or criminal associations are difficult to accurately determine? Reliable information on deviant groups is difficult and especially so when the group is known to be secretive, criminal, and vicious. Thus far, the available literature on outlaw motorcycle clubs does not provide for a clear answer to the question. The answer varies from none are criminal gangs/criminal associations (Hayes 2011), espoused by members or supporters of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs, to all are criminal gangs declared by law enforcement agencies and associations such as the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association (IOMGIA), the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC), and the US Department of Justice (DOJ). Realistically, the first answer—none—is too restrictive and flies in the face of available evidence of organized criminal activities and violence in the extreme by well-known 1 % clubs, some who have their roots in the prison subculture or are made up of members who are all convicted felons. There is also a disturbing trend in some outlaw motorcycle clubs to allow members to join without owning or riding a motorcycle based on their criminal abilities and propensity for violence, including murder. These new members are thugs and “bikers without bikes” (Barker forthcoming). The answer that all Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs are criminal gangs commonly voiced by law enforcement groups and agencies is faulty because it is too broad. There are outlaw motorcycle clubs or chapters of these clubs that identify themselves as one percenters who engage in the criminal activities common to the 1 % lifestyle (drug taking, violence, and individual criminal behavior) but may not be involved in organized criminal activity, i.e., working as a collective to seek profit from crime or engaging in violence in the extreme. My research and the available literature and data indicate that it is an empirical question depending on the clubs or chapter of a club’s placement on a criminal organization continuum.

Whether or not any particular outlaw motorcycle club or a chapter of an outlaw motorcycle club is a criminal gang lies along a criminal organization continuum

depending on two dimensions: the extent of the club members' involvement in organized crime and whether or not club's officers' and leaders are involved in the planning and execution of these criminal activities. These two dimensions will separate clubs with criminals in it from criminal gangs whose members are working as a collective to seek profit from crime. Because of these social dynamics involved, the selection and socialization process common to outlaw motorcycle clubs and the resulting formal and informal group networks of criminal actors are paramount to an understanding of outlaw motorcycle club organized crime involvement.

Selection and Socialization Process

The selection and socialization processes common to all motorcycle clubs ensure the perpetuation of the deviant subculture and provide the support system for varying degrees of crime and violence in clubs or chapters of clubs. Only "righteous bikers" who live as bikers 24/7 and who would "fit in" and support club values, are invited to become prospects and begin the socialization process. One author describes this righteous biker as one who is "tough, paid his dues, ready to fight, hard drinker, dooper, and shit kicker (Joan 2001, p. 65)." The more criminal the club the more likely that only prospects who demonstrate criminal propensities or certain criminal skills would be invited to join. It is very common for clubs to conduct extensive background checks, in an attempt to identify known snitches, informants, and police officers or their agents who maybe seeking membership. If accepted as a possible member, the neophyte begins his probationary process that may take several years in some clubs. The club uses this probationary period as a testing period to ensure that the prospect supports the core values of outlaw bikers (love of biking, love of brothers, and love of club) and is not a snitch, or undercover police officers. At the end of the probationary period a vote among members is taken, most clubs require unanimous consent, to allow the probate to become a member or patch holder. Included in this last stage is an initiation process that has been used by some outlaw clubs to insure that the prospective member is not a cop. Law enforcement officers cannot commit a crime to effect a penetration of an outlaw motorcycle gang. Unwanted sexual intercourse such as pulling a train on an unwilling, intoxicated, or unconscious female, or cunnilingus on a female is rape. Committing a violent assault or taking drugs are also crimes. Therefore, gangs have included these acts in their initiation ceremonies as a further screening hurdle. Obviously, murder is the ultimate test and some thoroughly criminal outlaw motorcycle "clubs" have required the heinous act. Jay Dobyns, the ATF agent who infiltrated the Arizona Hells Angels, and his fellow undercover officers "faked" the murder of a rival club member in order to gain entry to the Skull Valley, Arizona Hells Angels chapter (Dobyns and Johnson-Shelton 2009). The end result of the socialization process is the awarding of the club patch or "colors" a symbolic representation that the wearer is a member of the club and becomes his most cherished possession. Losing one's colors or having them taken away by rival

club members is considered a mortal sin among outlaw bikers. Over time the selection and socialization process with its accompanying peer group support facilitates the individual and group behavior of its members and creates the social networks essential to the formation of criminal associations organized for profit through criminal activities.

Organized Crime Entities

Cooperation among criminal actors and networks of criminal actors is important to an understanding of organized crime entities, especially those that cross spatial boundaries, because crimes, such as drug, weapons, and human trafficking; protection rackets; organized retail theft, extortion rackets, disposal of stolen goods, gambling, prostitution, and the production and distribution of pornography, require social networks, structure and organization to be successful. For example, to engage in drug trafficking on a consistent basis there has to be a social network of criminal actors to produce, import, and distribute the drugs. Once produced and distributed to markets the drugs must be sold and proceeds collected; someone/s has to protect the criminal organization and keep out competitors; the money must be laundered, and members paid. To facilitate this social network, there must be some hierarchy of actors with identifiable duties, a criminal structure and organization.

The most notorious example of an Outlaw Motorcycle Club operating as a criminal organization occurred in Montreal, Canada where the Quebec Hells Angels Nomads Chapter tried to monopolize the Montreal drug markets. The 1994–2002 war between the Hells Angels and the indigenous Rock Machine MC resulted in over 150 deaths, including several innocent victims. During the “Quebec biker war,” the Hells Angels Nomads Chapter operated a criminal organization run by a “Table of Six” who made all the decisions on what scale cocaine and hashish purchases should be made by the gang. One hundred and seventy-six bikers were indicted in 2009 for conspiracy, participation in a criminal organization and murder. As of March 2014, fifty are still awaiting trial for their participation in the biker war. A special tunnel with a reinforced structure was built connecting the holding area to the courthouse where the Hells Angels cases from this war were being tried.

Canada authorities have recognized that some outlaw motorcycle clubs are in effect criminal organizations. The Province of Manitoba has declared the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club to be a criminal organization (CBC News 2014). This is the first government agency, not court, to do so in North America. The move makes it easier to prosecute civil (asset forfeiture) and provincial court cases against the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club. The process to declare by law that the HAMC was a criminal organization was based on evidence collected from Canada, information from organized crime experts and court findings from across Canada and included an independent external review panel. The Manitoba Province in

Structure and Rules

Citing evidence from numerous Canadian trials, Province officials documented that the HAMC is highly structured to ensure conformity to club rules, prevent infiltration by rival gangs or law enforcement, and to maintain effective criminal operations. They also presented trial evidence indicating that Hells Angels chapters are not independent entities but conform to rules promulgated at the highest HAMC levels.

Membership

HAMC membership consists of an elaborate structure of full patch members, hang-arounds, official friends of the club, and associates. There is an incremental process of selection, and progression to become a full patch member. This process takes years and tests the prospective members loyalty and commitment and attempts to prevent infiltration by law enforcement officials. Photos of prospective members were distributed to Hells Angels chapters across Canada in an attempt to identify snitches, cops or other unwanted members. It is common practice in Canada, the US, and other countries for full patch members to use associates, support club members and even street gangs to commit and facilitate crimes to insulate themselves from police or rival gang members.

Colors

All OMGs have “colors” designating gang membership. The colors for the Hells Angels consist of the term Hells Angels, the club’s death head logo and red and white lettering. The “colors” are trademarked in numerous countries, including the United States. Only full patch members can wear the “colors” and attend club meetings and vote on club issues. Canadian courts have ruled that “the power of the patch” is used to intimidate and create fear in the public and gang rivals and facilitate criminal activity. There is evidence that drug dealers join the Hells Angels and other OMGs in order to get “the patch.” Some Canadian courts have declared the OMG “colors” to be forfeited as offense related property.

Clubhouses

Clubhouses are the base for each Hells Angels chapter. Canadian courts have noted that these HA clubhouses are generally fortified and equipped with strong security measures. According to Manitoba officials, Canadian courts have ordered Hells Angels forfeited as instruments or proceeds of crime in Ontario (Toronto, Thunder Bay, and Oshawa), Halifax and Quebec. Several other clubhouses have been seized pending criminal property forfeiture applications. Manitoba and Saskatchewan have used provincial laws to order the clubhouse fortifications as public safety threat.

Fig. 3.1 Hells Angels model of structure and organization. *Source* CBC News 2014

Intelligence Gathering

In Canada, Hells Angels and their associates have been found with counter surveillance equipment to detect police listening devices, sensitive justice documents on rivals and police investigators.

Associates

The Canadian Hells Angels use other criminal organizations to commit crimes or facilitate their own criminal activity. These criminal organizations include support/puppet gangs who are also used to identify potential new members. The Manitoba Hells Angels have moved up several of their support club, the Zig Zag Crew, members to full patch status. Support club members have also been used in the motorcycle gang wars that occurred in Quebec, Manitoba and Ontario.

Fig. 3.1 (continued)

their documentation pointed to the well-known HAMC structure and organization, Hells Angels' Model, used by OMGs worldwide, as evidence of their criminal organization (Fig. 3.1).

Australia has also taken action against its indigenous and American-based outlaw motorcycle clubs, treating them as criminal organizations. Queensland, the second largest state in Australia, has taken an aggressive and controversial move against its 26 bikie (Australian term for bikers) gangs. The 26 bikie gangs include the American-based Hells Angels, Bandidos, and Mongols and many large indigenous OMGs, such as the Rebels, Commancheros, and Coffin Cheaters. Following a violent brawl at a Gold Coast restaurant, known as the "Broadbeach Bikie Brawl" where dozens of bikies wearing club colors were involved, new laws; the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act-2013 (VLAD), Tattoo Parlours Act-2013, and the Criminal Law (Criminal Organizations Disruption) Amendment Act-0213 (CODA), provide for new offenses, increased penalties, stricter bail laws, and increased power for law enforcement agencies (<http://www.qld.gov.au/law>). The VLAD act provides for significant mandatory sentences for members and associates of criminal gangs who commit designated serious offenses as a part of their participation in a gang, such as a "criminal bikie gang." A unique twist to the new law is that courts can reduce the mandatory sentences if the accused cooperates with law enforcement. Clearly, the intent of this is to encourage bikies "ratting" out their brothers. Under CODA, the Queensland attorney general is empowered to declare certain organizations as criminal organizations. All 26 of Queensland's outlaw motorcycle clubs have been declared criminal organizations. The act also created a new criminal offense "participants in a criminal organization being knowingly present in public places." The law forbids the wearing of "colors" or other bikie gang designations. Furthermore, three or more members of a bikie club declared a criminal organization can be arrested

for being together in public places. The law prohibits criminal organization members from being at a banned location, such as bikie clubhouse or recruiting another person for membership. The police have increased powers to search without warrant where the accused person is a known or suspected to be a member of a criminal gang. The Tattoo Parlours Act bans members of a criminal organization and their associates from owning, operating, or working in tattoo parlors, a very popular source of income and employment for bikers. The bikie clubs are mounting a very vigorous challenge to the constitutionality of these laws and it make take years for all the cases to be settled and to gage the effect of the new laws. In Victoria, Australia's most populous state, Chief commissioners have the power to ban individuals from casinos and race tracks for their criminal history or other evidence that warrants exclusion. Over 100 bikies from the Bandidos, Rebels MC, and Commancheros MC have been banned by Victoria police.

In the United States, since the 1960s when the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club became involved in drug trafficking, the HAMC and many other outlaw motorcycle clubs have been labeled criminal gangs/organizations and attracted the attention of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies (Barker forthcoming). A 1982 law enforcement report listed the criminal activities of major outlaw motorcycle gangs as manufacturing and distribution of narcotics, prostitution, weapons-related violations, extortion, murder, arson-for-hire, pornography, protection rackets, loan sharking, interstate transportation of stolen property and stolen vehicles, and insurance fraud (Davis 1982). The Ohio Attorney General listed 29 Outlaw Gangs, including the Hells Angels, Outlaws, Pagans, Avengers, and Iron Horsemen, operating in Ohio (Organized Crime Consulting Committee 1986). On the national level, the FBI began targeting outlaw motorcycle clubs in 1981 under the Organized Crime Program and RICO (Racketeer Influenced Corruption Act). The FBI defines a criminal organization as a group of individuals with an identified hierarchy and network engaged in significant criminal activity (McFeeley 2001). Clearly, this definition fits many Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs. The RICO statute allowed for the prosecution of outlaw motorcycle clubs operating as criminal gangs/associations following the enterprise theory of investigation that calls for identifying the hierarchy and network between members. To prosecute a criminal gang (street gangs, prison gangs, motorcycle gangs, and drug trafficking organizations) under RICO requires demonstrating that (1) an enterprise exists (gangs by definition qualify as enterprises); (2) that the enterprise affects interstate commerce; obviously any trafficking in contraband and stolen property meets this criteria; (3) that the defendant was associated with the enterprise (colors, tattoos, and avowed membership prove association); (4) that the defendant engaged in a pattern of racketeering activity; (5) that the defendant conducted the racketeering activity of the enterprise by committing at least two racketeering activities (examples include any act or threat involving murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson robbery, bribery, extortion, dealing in obscene matter, or dealing in narcotics or dangerous drugs) with in two years of each other (Barker 2012, p. 272). Numerous Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs/Gangs have been prosecuted and convicted under RICO since 1979. Since 2008, there have been at least 14 Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs that

have been declared criminal organizations after conviction of RICO (Racketeer Influenced Corruption Act) violations: Mongols MC (2008), Chicago Outlaws MC (2009), Galloping Gooses MC (2009), Pagans MC (2009), Highwayman MC (2009), American Outlaws Association—Outlaws MC (2010), Bandidos MC (2011), Wheels of Soul MC (2011), Sons of Silence MC (2012), Devil Knights MC (2012), Hells Lovers MC (2012), Phantoms MC (2013), Devils Diciples (2013), and the Hells Angels (2013) (Barker forthcoming).

Chapter 4

Criminal Organization Continuum of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs

As stated whether or not any particular one percent outlaw motorcycle club or chapter of a club is considered an adult criminal gang lies along a criminal organization continuum depending on the members' involvement [individual, group, and club] in organized crime or whether the officers and leadership are involved (see Fig. 4.1). Therefore, we can infer that on a Criminal Organization Continuum, any Outlaw Motorcycle Club can vary from those where criminal activities are a product of the deviant individuals who are members and their criminal behavior is not known or of concern to other club members and it is not structured or organized. Members in these clubs or chapters of clubs live the deviant lifestyle common to the saloon society milieu observed in biker bars and rallies, but they do not engage in serious criminal behavior. In some of these clubs, members who do engage in serious crime risk losing their patch and membership, especially when their behavior brings unwanted attention to the club. Clubs of this nature are true outlaw motorcycle clubs. The Canadian Rebels, studied by Wolf (1999) and described in his seminal work on outlaw motorcycle clubs before the Hells Angels MC assimilated them, fits this classification. More research is needed to identify other outlaw motorcycle clubs that fit this category.

Moving along the Continuum of Criminal Organization we encounter clubs where a small group/s of members engage in criminal behavior, including some that is organized and structured. They are social criminal organizations. Other club members know what is going on but do not engage in these organized criminal activities; however, their silence and inaction gives tacit support and increases the likely situation where criminal behavior will continue and progress. Complicating the existence of small groups of criminals operating with tacit support is the supposed Biker's Code of Brotherhood that is analogous to the purported Code of Silence in police agencies. However, in reality this Biker Code of Brotherhood is more rhetoric than reality, especially in "clubs" that become gangs. The same thing is true in police agencies that become criminal organizations (Barker 2011). The advent of RICO prosecutions has shown that the old saw of "Honor Among Thieves" is a myth. Criminals arrested under the RICO racketeering statute facing long sentences or life without parole know that the "first rat" gets the best deal.

Clubs	Social Criminal Organizations	Gangs
(Individual & small group crime)	(Group/cliq̄ue crime with tacit approval)	(Crime as a collective)

Fig. 4.1 Continuum of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs as criminal organizations

“Clubs” become social criminal organizations through the selection and socialization process and in all likelihood will evolve into criminal organizations unless the members or law enforcement takes some action. Their number in the world of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs is also an empirical question; however, social criminal organizations provide the basis for evolution into adult criminal gangs.

Those clubs or chapters of clubs in which all, or the majority, are involved in organized criminal activity at the direction of the leadership coalition are examples of criminal organizations and adult criminal gangs organized for profit through crime. They are “clubs” in name only (see Text Box 2).

Text Box 2: Big Jim Got His Wish

James “Big Jim” Nolan, founder and President of the South Florida chapter of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club is alleged to have said “I’d rather be an Outlaw in the penitentiary than some jerk on the street.” In 1989, the career criminal with numerous convictions and prison sentences got his wish; he was sentenced to 50 years in federal prison for leading the motorcycle “club” on a 15-year (1970–1985) spree of murder, rape, extortion, kidnapping, and prostitution. During the 14-month RICO trial, at the time longest running federal criminal trial, evidence revealed that during his 15-year reign; “club” members murdered 10 people, including three Hells Angels MC members. The Outlaws Motorcycle Club chapter supported itself as a criminal enterprise through proceeds from prostitution, extortion, and drug trafficking.

Daniel “Snake Dog” Boone describes in detail how the Warwickshire (England)-based Pagans MC [no relationship to American-based Pagan’s MC] became a criminal organization selling drugs (Thompson 2011, pp. 77–78). In the 1970s, the club’s leadership decided that the club would begin selling drugs. At a club meeting, a small bag containing five grams of amphetamine was set in front of each member. Each member was told the street value of the drugs and told that at next weeks meeting each member had to return with that sum of money. They were told that they could use it themselves or share it with others if they wanted to

no one was going to stop them. All the leaders wanted was the money—the club was now a criminal organization.

The examples cited above are a few of the “real life” illustrations of supposed motorcycle clubs and their leaders acting as criminal enterprises. Many one percent Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs of all sizes in the United States and throughout the world; based on their history of involvement in criminal behavior, as seen in published autobiographies, members’ criminal history, indictments and court decisions, limited research, and media reports fit in this category (Barker forthcoming). They are Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, that is, criminal organization.

Chapter 5

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

Introduction

There is agreement among the authorities and biker experts that five outlaw motorcycle clubs are considered to be criminal gangs and identified as the Big Five—Hells Angels, Bandidos, Outlaws, Pagans, and the Sons of Silence. These five gangs are the largest in membership and numbers of chapters in the United States and the most crime prone. Size of the gangs is subject to debate as some gangs like the Mongols and Vagos expand. Rightly or wrongly, these biker gangs are considered to be the most dangerous and most likely to engage in violence and criminal activities in a structured and organized manner. Based on their past and present violent and criminal behavior, this reputation is well earned. These motorcycle gangs, except for the Pagans MC, have expanded outside the United States and are a serious international crime problem.

The Big Five One Percent Biker Gangs

Hells Angels Motorcycle Club/Gang



Source The department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocjs/gangs/motorcycle.html)

The Hells Angels MC (HAMC) is by all accounts the most prominent and numerous national and international motorcycle gangs. This gang is also the most violent and crime prone Outlaw Motorcycle Gang. Law enforcement estimates put their membership at 2,000 worldwide and 700 in the United States (unnamed BATF Special Agent). The gang is also known as “Local 81” after the placement of the letters H (8) and A (1) in the alphabet; “The Big Red Machine” and the “Red and White” after the colors of their patches. Supporters and associates are allowed to wear Local 81, Big Red Machine, and Red and White patches and other support gear, but not the Hells Angels (without the apostrophe), which is a registered trademark worn only by patched members. Their puppet/support clubs are the only one percent biker clubs/gangs allowed to wear red and white patches; anyone else caught wearing the same color patch is subject to losing it after a stomping or sometimes a killing. Wearing red and white colors is considered to be a serious transgression and act of disrespect to the gang. The gang’s logos, the winged “death’s head” (seen above) is also protected by copyright and can only be worn by patch holders.

The actual number of Hells Angels charters [chapters] is unknown and probably unknowable by outside the gang sources. The official HAMC website—www.hells-angels.com/?HA=charters—lists 353 charters worldwide with 286 charters in 40 countries outside the US and 67 charters in the United States (Fig. 5.1).

Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, England/Wales, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Russia, Bohemia, Portugal, Chile, Croatia, Luxembourg, N. Ireland, Hungary, Dominican Republic, Turkey, Poland, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Thailand, Latvia, Lithuania, Caribbean and Serbia.

Prospects—Romania, Slovakia, Japan, Estonia and the Ukraine.

Fig. 5.1 Hells Angels Charters outside the United States. *Source* www.hells-angels.com/?ha=charters Found on June 29, 2013)

The HAMC’s first expansion outside the United States occurred in 1961 when a charter was established in Auckland, Australia. The first European charter was established in London in 1969, followed by Zurich, Switzerland in 1970, Hamburg, Germany in 1973, and Paris, France in 1981 (Haut 1999). At the present time, HAMC has more charters outside the United States. Accompanying their international expansion has been the creation of criminal networks with other transnational organized crime groups such as the Columbian cartels, the Italian mafias, and Asian-based drug trafficking organizations (Nicaso and Lamonthe 2006). It is alleged that the Canadian Hells Angels have been importing hashish and heroin from the UK since the 1980s (Nicaso and Lamonthe 2006).

Bandidos Motorcycle Club/Gang



Source The department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocjs/gangs/motorcycle.html)

There are conflicting versions concerning the formation of the Bandidos Motorcycle Club/Gang. The most often quoted version following the disillusioned veterans theme says that former Marine and Vietnam veteran, Donald Eugene Chambers formed the Bandidos somewhere in Texas in 1966 and chose the Marine Corps colors of red and gold and the “Fat Mexican” logo (Hayes 2011). A second version offered by biker and former Bandidos leader, media celebrity and author,

It was 1965, headed back to the U.S.A. from an annual trip to the Bullfights in Sonora, Mexico, Don Chamber's and his friends stopped at a local Cantina. When they entered, a patron asked the waitress, "Who are those guys.?" The waitress answered, "That's DC and his American Bandidos"—hence the name. In March of 1966, THE BANDIDOS MOTORCYCLE CLUB was born. The Southwest Houston Chapter soon followed the Houston Chapter or "Mother Chapter". A year later, riding back from that annual trip as full patch Bandidos, a problem occurred with the Federales in Mexico and Bandido Sunshine was killed, and that was the last time the Bandidos went to Mexico. With hundreds of Chapters across the USA, Central and South America, and Thousands of members with a Worldwide following the Bandido Nation is strong and thriving.

Fig. 5.2 Formation of the Bandidos Motorcycle Club. *Source* www.bandidotexas.com/index_more.html

Edward Winterhalter (2008) disputes this version. Winterhalter accepts that Chambers is a former US Marine but states, "[Chambers] was anything but a disillusioned Vietnam vet. The closest he got to Vietnam was watching the news. Whether he [Chambers] was disillusioned or not is a moot point; it sounds good in print and gels with the clichéd portrayal of bikers. In society's collective consciousness, anybody who starts or joins an outlaw motorcycle club must be disillusioned, disturbed, antisocial, or rebelling against something—perhaps all of the above (Winterhalter and De Clerco 2008, p. xiv)." Winterhalter also disputes the selection of colors by Chambers. He says that the original colors were red and yellow inspired by the poisonous Coral snake and the southern expression "red and yellow, kill a fellow." The colors were changed to red and gold years later. The official Bandidos website has a totally different version of the Bandidos formation (Fig. 5.2).

Another area of controversy concerning the founding of the Bandidos is their original purpose. Law enforcement sources allege that the Bandidos MC was formed as an outlaw motorcycle gang, not a club, to control drug trafficking and prostitution in Texas. Winterhalter disputes this explanation; however, he acknowledges that Chambers was convicted and sentenced to life for a drug-related double homicide in 1972. Ronnie Hodges took over as president and expanded the criminal activities of the Bandidos. Hodges forged links with Columbian and Cuban drug dealers who supplied them with cocaine and perfected the manufacturing of high-quality methamphetamine. Whatever the original purpose for forming the Bandidos MC, there is ample evidence to support that the Bandidos MC is a criminal organization. Every national president of the Bandidos MC has been convicted of a felony, usually drug trafficking, and been sentenced to prison. Internationally the Bandidos MC has been heavily involved in criminal

USA, Germany, France, Belgium, Thailand, Spain, Australia, Norway, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Indonesia, Channel Islands, Ukraine, Denmark, Malaysia, Russia, Serbia, Costa Rica, Singapore, Estonia, Romania, and Bosnia.

Fig. 5.3 Bandidos Motorcycle Gang Worldwide Locations. *Source* www.bandidostexas.com/index_more.html Found on June 30, 2013)

activities, including the internecine murder of eight fellow Bandidos, one a chapter president, outside a hamlet of Shedden, Ontario, Canada on April 8, 2006. The unproven allegation, so far, is that this incident was an internal cleansing ordered by the Bandidos International President in Texas.

Since it’s founding in 1966, the Bandidos have expanded throughout the United States and internationally. The gang’s first European expansion was in 1989 when the Bandidos “patched over” [assimilated] the Club de Clichy in Marseille, France, igniting a war with the Hells Angels. The Department of Justice (2011) estimates that there are 2,000 to 2,500 Bandido members in the US and 13 other countries. The official Bandidos MC website lists chapters in 23 different countries but does not list the chapters in each country when last checked (see Fig. 5.3). This fast growing outlaw motorcycle gang is most active in the Pacific, Southeastern, Southwestern, and West Central regions of the United States.

Outlaws Motorcycle Club/Gang



Source The Department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocgs/gangs/motorcycle.html)

According to their national website, <http://www.outlawsmc.com/>, the Outlaws MC is the oldest outlaw motorcycle club, having been established in 1935 as the McCook Outlaws Motorcycle Club “out of Matilda’s Bar on old Route 66 in McCook, Illinois just out of Chicago.” This motorcycle club was quite different from the Outlaws motorcycle gang of today. A picture of the original McCook

Outlaws Motorcycle Club appearing on the Outlaws MC national website shows a benign group of young men and women, none of whom appear to be wearing colors. By the late 1960s, the Outlaws Motorcycle Club, like the Hells Angels, had evolved into an outlaw motorcycle gang. The last three national/international presidents are currently serving life sentences for their RICO racketeering convictions.

The DOJ (2011) estimates that this OMG is slightly smaller than the HAMC and the Bandidos MC with an estimated 1,700 members in 20 US states and 12 foreign countries. A check of their website, www.outlawsmcworld.com/, on June 30, 2013 lists 108 chapters in 24 states. That is larger than the 67 chapters [chapters] listed by the HAMC. The website lists 124 chapters in 23 countries, not as many as the HAMC with 286 chapters in 40 countries, although the Outlaws claim on their website that they are the largest Outlaw Motorcycle Club in the world. It is interesting to note that both the HAMC and the Outlaws MC have more chapters outside the US than in the US.

The Outlaws MC also identifies itself as the American Outlaws Association (AOA) and the Outlaws Nation. This criminal motorcycle gang is the dominant OMG in the Great Lakes region. As is common with all outlaw motorcycle gangs, the Outlaws MC are involved in the production, transportation, and distribution of methamphetamine. They are also involved in the transportation and distribution of cocaine, marijuana, and to a lesser extent ecstasy. The HAMC and the Outlaws are bitter enemies and have a long history of violence towards each other.

Pagans Motorcycle Club/Gang



Source The Department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocgs/gangs/motorcycle.html)

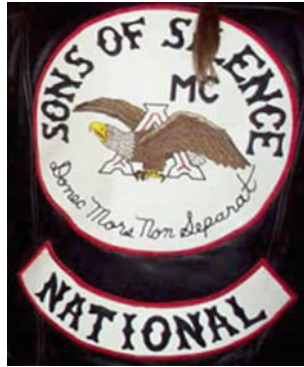
The Pagans MC, a fierce one percent biker gang with ties to organized crime groups in Philadelphia, Pittsburg, and New York, did not start out as a one percent club, and disillusioned veterans have no place in their early history. Lou Dobkins, a biochemist at the National Institute of Health established the club in 1959 in Prince

George's County, Maryland. Tradition says that the original 13 members wore white denim jackets with Surt the pagan fire giant carrying a flaming sword logo on the back. The original members rode Triumph motorcycles. Their benign beginning did not foreshadow what the club would evolve into. According to an early member and Long Island Pagan's chapter president who earned his college degree in prison and went on to become a journalist and college professor, by the late 1960s the Pagans had become "the baddest of the ass-kicking, beer drinking, hell-raising, gang-banging, grease-covered, roadkill-eating 1960s motorcycle clubs....(Hall 2008, p. 7)." During the 1970s, the fierce fighting club became an extremely violent criminal organization under the leadership of John Vernon "Satan" Marron. The club expanded in the 1980s into 900 members in 44 chapters from New York to Florida (Southeastern Connecticut Gang Activities Group 2000; Jenkins 1992; Lavigne 1987), with their expansion came increased criminal activities.

Pagan membership appears to be dropping since the high point in the 1970s, as a result of law enforcement pressure, competition from other biker gangs (particularly the Hells Angels), and internal dissension. Seventy-three Pagans MC members, most in leadership positions throughout the Northeast, were arrested after a bloody battle between them and the Hells Angels MC at a bike show in Plainview, New York (Kessler 2002). The battle left one dead, three wounded by gunfire, and seven stabbed and beaten. Three of the Pagans national leaders, members of the Pagans Mother Club—national leadership group—were arrested and later pled guilty to several federal charges. In all, 73 Pagans were convicted or pleaded guilty to several federal charges and received sentences ranging from 27 to 63 months (Kessler 2002). The fight was in retaliation for the HAMC patching-over Pagans in New York. The battle and the depletion of Pagan members and leaders led to an infusion of Hells Angels into the Delaware Valley, particularly Philadelphia. The Hells Angels moved into Philadelphia and patched-over Pagans in this traditional Pagans stronghold, setting off a war between the two clubs.

The Pagans have the general reputation among bikers as being very reclusive and having little to do with other clubs. Their proclivity for violence reinforces this reputation. In addition, their heavy involvement in criminal activities, particularly organized crime places them in the criminal organization/gang category. The Pagans MC does not have a national website, although there is a website for jailed Pagans MC New York (www.hometown.aol.com/JAILEDPAGANS/). The Department of Justice reports that the Pagans are the most prominent OMG in the Mid-Atlantic region and are involved in distribution of cocaine, methamphetamine, and PCP (DOJ 2011). Most of the Pagans chapters are in the Northeast United States—New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. The Pagans MC are the only Big Five Motorcycle Gang that does not have any chapters outside the United States, although there are rumors that they are attempting to establish a presence in Canada.

Sons of Silence Motorcycle Club/Gang



Source The Department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocgs/gangs/motorcycle.html)

The Sons of Silence MC (SOS MC) also did not start out as a one percent biker gang. Bruce “The Dude” Richardson in Niwot, Colorado founded the club in 1966. As was common in the 1960s during the time of the military draft and the Vietnam War, Richardson was in the military (US Navy); however, there is no evidence that he had been to Vietnam or was a disillusioned veteran. The club appears to have been formed as a “drinking” social club. As the club evolved into a criminal gang, Richardson left the club. Today, the DOJ (2011) reports that the SOS MC is an outlaw motorcycle gang with 30 US chapters and five chapters in Germany. Club members, according to the DOJ, have been involved in a wide range of criminal activities, including drugs and weapons trafficking.

The SOS MC patch is unique and different from the traditional one percent three-piece patch. The patch itself is one big center patch with the Latin saying “*Donne Mors Non Separat*”—Until Death Separates Us—appearing on the bottom of the center patch.

The Sons of Silence MC have tenuous relationships with several other Big Five clubs. The Bandidos have had a chapter in Denver since the early 1990s. The clubs are on “friendly terms” and list each other on their websites, but the Hells Angels—enemies to both clubs—patched over a local Denver motorcycle club and established a chapter in Denver, causing concern about a biker war (Foster 1999). In 1980, the national vice president of the Sons of Silence killed the national vice president of the Outlaws MC in Indianapolis (Foster 1999). In an interesting turn of events, on June 19, 2003, members of the Hells Angels, Outlaws, and Bandidos attended the funeral of Leonard “JR” Reed, who was the Sons of Silence president for 22 years (www.bikerlife.com/notices.html). According to the article (posted on bikerlife.com), Reed was well respected by other clubs and had been seen as a peacekeeper.

Puppet/Support Gangs

Puppet/support gangs are outlaw motorcycle clubs affiliated with a dominant Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (see Text Box 3 and 4). The puppet/support clubs do the bidding, including criminal activities, of the dominant gang, serve as potential recruitment sources and provide cannon fodder in the wars between clubs/gangs. As is common with prison gangs, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs acting as puppet/support gangs give a portion of their illicit gains to the dominant OMG. The Nomads chapter of the Quebec Hells Angels required each member of their puppet club, the Rockers, to give a 10-percent tithing or a minimum of \$500 (Sanger 2005). The larger or dominant OMGs will handle the wholesale distribution of drugs, and the puppet clubs will conduct the dangerous retail sale, thereby insulating the dominant club members from prosecution. On occasion if the subordinate club member is caught committing a crime and demonstrates that he “has class” (keeps his mouth shut and takes the fall), he will be rewarded by becoming a “prospect” for the club.

Text Box 3: Puppet/Support OMGs in Canada

...outlaw motorcycle gangs for example do have a formalized structure for dealing with its support crime groups [puppet clubs]. Essentially these supportive crime groups are used to train the younger generation, identify those candidates with the potential to become full-fledged members, as well as exclude undesirables. In this kind of relationship, the advantage for the dominant is that the subordinate one further insulates the dominant group’s members from the day-to-day criminal activities that would bring them into direct contact with the authorities or their rivals. Other benefits for the dominant group include the payment of money, goods, and services they receive from members of the subordinate group.

Source CICS (2005)

Text Box 4: Pagans MC Retaliation Against Titans MC (Hells Angels Puppet Club)

A Pagans MC member was indicted for arson after allegedly burning down Bad Water Bill’s Barbeque Barn in Strasburg Virginia. The Pagan member from Florida allegedly torched the restaurant because the Titans Motorcycle Club was scheduled to host a bike show at Bad Water Bill’s. The HAMC and

the Pagans MC were at war because of the Hells Angels into an area considered Pagan territory.

Source DOJ 2009.

CW (confidential informant) stated that the Red Devils continued and sole purpose is to support the HAMC through several facets, including increased membership, conducting drug and prostitution debts, extorting jobs and acquiring and maintaining weaponry and narcotics on behalf of HAMC members.

Fig. 5.4 Red Devils MC. *Source* BATF Search Warrant Affidavit 2003

The Caribbean Brotherhood MC is a HAMC puppet club in Curacao that supplies cocaine from the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia) to the Hells Angels in Europe (Sher and Marsden 2006). The Red Devils MC proudly announces on their website that they are an “Official 81 support club.” The Red Devils list 121 chapters in 16 different countries—Germany (59), Australia (2), Belgium (10), Brazil (3), Bosnia Herzegovina (4), Chile (1), China (1), England (2), Italy (3), Luxemburg (2), New Zealand (1), Singapore (1), South Africa (5), Sweden (6), Turkey (8), and USA (8) (<http://reddevilmc.com/main/>) (see Fig. 5.4).

The Black Pistons MC is the largest puppet/support club for the Outlaws MC. It is estimated that the Black Pistons MC has 70 US chapters and an unknown number of chapters in Canada, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, and Norway (see Fig. 5.5). The website for the Black Pistons Great Britain (www.blackpistons.co.uk/history.php) reports that the Black Pistons MC was first established in Germany in 2002, then at the Daytona Bike Week in March 2002 the Satan’s Syndicate MC of Columbus, Ohio patched over to the Black Pistons MC, becoming the first Black Pistons MC chapter in the USA. This is an example of an OMG formed overseas and expanding to the United States, even though it is a puppet club for an American-based OMG. There is an unknown number of additional Outlaws MC puppet/support clubs including the Foresaken Few MC and the small local Undertakers MC of Lexington, Kentucky. The Undertakers MC post on their website “We are a motorcycle club and are **PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE OUTLAWS MC AND THE BLACK AND WHITE WORLD...IF IT AIN’T BLACK AND WHITE. IT JUST AIN’T RIGHT!**” (emphasis in the original).

The Bandidos Nation lists their puppet/support clubs on their national website. There are 22 puppet clubs listed on the Bandidos website in the “Red and Gold” section (see Fig. 5.5); however, Winterhalder (2005) the only former Bandido author lists 47 Bandidos “support clubs in 13 states with 929 members. In August 2012, the founder and president of Los Homeboys, a Bandidos support gang, was

Fig. 5.5 Black Pistons MC
 Source The Department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocgs/gangs/motorcycle.html)



Fig. 5.6 Red and Gold World-Bandidos Puppet Clubs

Amigos MC	Asgard MC	Bandaleros MC
Blazes MC	Campesinos MC	Comancheros MC
Compadres Mc	Companeros MC	Destralos MC
Diablos MC	Gringos MC	Guardian MC
Guerrillos MC	Hermanos MC	Hombres MC
LA Riders MC	Lones MC	Los Mados MC
OK Riders MC	Pistoleros MC	Regulators MC
Zapata MC		

found guilty of conspiracy with intent to distribute heroin. He was part of a drug trafficking organization between the Bandidos MC and the Medellin drug organization throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex (DOJ 2013) (see Fig. 5.6).

The puppet/support clubs of the Pagans include the Tribe MC, Last Rebels MC, and the Shore Dogs MC. All of the Pagan MC subordinate clubs are easily identifiable because they wear a “16” on their cut (16th letter in the alphabet is P). Support clubs for the Sons of Silence MC are reportedly the Silent Few MC (Arkansas), Silent Rebels MC (Louisiana), Silent Thunder MC (North Dakota), American Iron MC (Denver, Colorado), and the Deuce’s Wild MC (Greely, Colorado).

Major Independent Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

Independent outlaw motorcycle gangs are considered to be those that are not listed in the Big Five and are not a puppet/support club of a Big Five club. Because of the jealousy of their territory by Big Five clubs, it is not easy to be an independent club.

Independent clubs operate in areas where there are no Big Five clubs, or in the same area with permission, but this is often a tenuous relationship. Outlaw motorcycle gangs must maintain complete dominance over their territory or disband—take their colors off. There is no other option. Big Five Clubs have been known to challenge all clubs wearing a three-piece patch in their dominant territory even Law Enforcement Officer's motorcycle clubs (LEO MC's) which often act and behave more like outlaw bikers than cops. On this point, most outlaw clubs feel as if LEO clubs want to dress and behave like outlaw bikers they should be treated appropriately. This challenge extends to wearing "protected" color combinations on patches. All bikers know that red on white is Hells Angels "protected" color combinations as is black on white for the Outlaws MC and red on yellow/gold for the Bandidos.

The Big Five Clubs and the major independents control their territory and claim oversight of all other club's, especially one percent biker clubs. They take it very serious when someone or a club challenges their perceived superiority. The majority of biker wars occur because of territory issues or access to crime markets, particularly drugs. Independent clubs are often on friendly or tolerated terms with a dominant club; however, they may be at war with another club. For example, in Virginia the Florida-based Warlocks, an independent club, are on "friendly" terms with the Hells Angels but at war with the Pagans. The Mongols are on friendly terms with the Pagans, Bandidos, and Outlaws throughout the United States but are at war with the Hells Angels everywhere. The Hells Angels, being the largest outlaw motorcycle club and the one with the most publicity whose members display what is considered, by the other clubs, to be an arrogant and bad attitude are continually at war with most of the other clubs.

The Mongols MC are an example of an independent club that operates in the same area as clubs that claim dominant status, but they due so because of their ferocity and willingness to use violence. The Hells Angels and the Mongols MC fought a 17-year war over the wearing of the California bottom rocker. The Hells Angels said that they were the only motorcycle club who could wear the California rocker because they were the dominant California club. The Mongols objected and went to war. After 17 years of murder and mayhem between the clubs, a truce was signed in 1977. Under the terms of the truce, the HAMC retained their Southern California chapters (Monterey, Orange County, Riverside, Fresno, Ventura, San Diego [Dago], and the original chapter and now mother chapter, San Bernardino [Berdo]), and the Mongols MC promised not to establish chapters in Northern California. The Mongols MC were granted a free reign over the rest of Southern California and "allowed" to wear the California rocker. The truce has not stopped the violence between the gangs. A recent altercation took place at Harrah's Casino in Laughlin, Nevada on April 27, 2002, resulting in the deaths of one Mongols member and two Hells Angels as well as numerous injuries. In May 2005, the president of the Hells Angels San Diego chapter was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to racketeering charges for conspiring with other HA members to kill Mongols (AP August 16, 2005). Other clubs challenge the Hells Angels. The longtime California independent club, the Vagos, is

challenging the HAMC in California, Nevada, and Arizona. The Vagos are also challenging the Bandidos in New Mexico.

Other major independent clubs, in terms of chapters, membership and geographical expansion are the Warlocks (national and international), Mongols (national and International), Vagos (national and international), and the Wheels of Soul (national). Smaller independent clubs, such as the Avengers MC, the Breed MC, the Devils Disciples MC, and the Iron Horsemen, operate in limited geographical areas.

The Mongols MC



Source The Department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocjs/gangs/motorcycle.html)

The Mongols MC started as a Chicano prison gang in East Los Angeles in 1969 [Mongols website says December 15, 1979 in the city of Montebello, California] and formed an alliance with La Eme, the Mexican Mafia. Many of these early members had never owned or ridden a motorcycle. It appears that the Mongols MC were formed to be and still is a criminal organization. The Mongols MC official website makes the following statement:

He [Reuben “Doc” Cavazos, former National and International President] has been blamed for turning the club into one of the largest criminal organizations on the West Coast of the United States during his time as president. In order to bolster the gang’s ranks, he also recruited members of street gangs [Cavazos, himself, had been a member of the notorious LA street gang, the Avenues] into the club, much to the disgust of the old school bikers. He was voted out of the club on August 30, 2008 during a meeting in Vernon,

California, due to the majority of the membership believing that he was stealing from the club and provoking a war with the Mexican Mafia (Out Bad—www.mongolsmc.com/chapters/usa).

[An alternative explanation for the expulsion of “Doc” Cavazos from the Mongols MC is that he “flipped” on the Mongols and pled guilty at trial and admitted that the Mongols MC was a drug dealing enterprise.]

The gang is still predominately Hispanic, especially in California, with a large number of street gang members according to an ATF agent who became a patched member and rose to the rank of secretary-treasurer of the San Fernando Valley chapter (Queen 2005). The Mongols are a particularly violent motorcycle gang due to the large number of former gangbangers in their chapters. Former Minnesota Governor, Navy Seal, and media celebrity Jesse Ventura was a member of the Mongols MC in the early 1970s when he was stationed at the naval facility at San Diego but claims that he did not participate or hear of their criminal activities (Queen 2005).

The Mongols and the Hells Angels, in addition to the 17-year war they fought over the bottom California rocker mentioned above have been bitter enemies for decades, but nothing compared to the events that took place in Harrahs Laughlin Casino mentioned earlier, at about 2 am on April 27, 2002. Both gangs were in Laughlin, Nevada for the annual River Run when a contingent of eighty Hells Angels staying at one casino invaded the Harrahs casino and engaged about forty Mongols on the casino floor among numerous citizens shooting craps, playing slot machines and having a good time.

The entire vicious melee was recorded on security camera’s showing a scene of chaos, murder and senseless violence and becoming a national and international phenomenon. When it was all over one Mongol and two Angels were dead. There were about a dozen bikers and innocent citizens treated in the hospital. Six guns and fifty knives of all descriptions were recovered from the floor of the casino. The heroic actions of the first two responding police officers brought most of the violence under control until reinforcements poured in. Six members of each gang were convicted for their part in the riot, but most of the more serious offenses were reduced, and 35 participants had their charges dismissed for a variety of legal errors. The security tape is now part of training tape shown in police conferences and police academies.

The official website of the Mongols MC lists 106 chapters in 14 US states and 8 countries outside the United States—United States: Arizona (2), Arkansas (1), California (49), Colorado (4), Florida (3), Montana (1), Nevada (2), New York (1), Oklahoma (6), Oregon (6), Pennsylvania (2), Utah (5), Virginia (1), and Washington (1); outside the United States: Australia (8), Mexico (1), Norway (4), Spain (1), Germany (4), Thailand (2), Malaysia (1), and Israel (1) (www.mongolsmc.com/chapters/usa).

Doc Cavazos, the National Mongols MC president, mentioned above, was convicted as a result of an investigation known as Operation Black Rain. On October 21,

Fig. 5.7 Mongols Fight Song

*We are Mongol raiders, we're raiders of the night
We're dirty sons of bitches, we'd rather fuck and fight
Hidy, hidy, Christ Almighty, who the fuck are we
Shit, fuck, cunt, Mongols MC!*

2008, Mongols' President Cavazos and 79 other Mongols were arrested after a three-year investigation where four undercover officers infiltrated the gang. The indictment alleged 86 counts of murder, attempted murder, assaults, hate crimes, gun violations, and drug trafficking. It was alleged that Mongols members in continuing the war with the Hells Angels had killed and assaulted numerous Hells Angels in California. It was alleged that senior Mongols member, including the national president, traveled to Atlantic City, New Jersey to meet with Pagan members [the Pagans are considered to be the dominant club in the area] to form an alliance to allow for expansion into the Northeast. The hate crime allegation involved, according to the indictment, that the Mongols MC is "...racist and hostile to the presence of African-American in bars or clubs where Mongols are present, or African-Americans in the presence of females associated with Mongols or Mongols members (see Fig. 5.7)."

Warlocks MC

There are at least two one percent biker gangs with the name Warlocks. There is also a Warlocks MC in Detroit that is not a one percent biker club. In the United States, there is a Florida-based Warlocks MC and a Pennsylvania-based Warlocks MC. They are not affiliated with each other.

Pennsylvania Warlocks MC

This one percent biker gang is clearly proud of its racist nature and touts on its website that the club is "ALL WHITE! RED AND WHITE." They go on to say "...the club is now probably the only one percent club in America that retains a membership which is, racially, identical to its original members....we have in the past experimented with token non-white, but found it unproductive and self-destructive (<http://www.theoriginalwarlocksmc.com/allwhite.htm>)." Bowie (1942, pp. 21–22) says that the Pennsylvania-based Warlocks came into being in the summer of 1967 when a group of Philadelphia "young toughs" formed the club and elected a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms. They formulated rules and chose as their insignia a multicolored caricature of a harpy—mythical minister of divine vengeance. They declared themselves to be a one percent club and wore the one percent diamond on their denim vest. Three tattoos were mandatory—a swastika, a naked lady, and the words "BORN TO LOSE."

Members had to be male, between 18 and 35, own a Harley, and have committed a felony—theft, rape, or murder—to be considered for membership. The last criteria make the Pennsylvania-based Warlocks MC a criminal organization at formation.

The gang has been a significant crime problem in the Delaware Valley since the 1970s. The Pennsylvania Crime Commission (1980) reported that the regional Warlocks and the regional Pagans were the major motorcycle clubs in the southeast region of Pennsylvania. Both clubs were known for their violence and acted as enforcers for La Costa Nostra families. The report listed 22 Warlocks members by name. One of those listed, Bobby Nauss, was a 1970s serial killer, drug dealer, and the subject of a book and an HBO movie (Bowe 1994). In 1995, a Franklin County, New Jersey Police Sgt. Ippolito Gonzalez pulled over two Warlocks members on a traffic stop just after the two had committed a burglary. One of the two Warlocks, Robert “Mudman” Simon shot the police sergeant twice, because he did not want to go back to prison. Mudman was quickly arrested, pled guilty, and sentenced to death (Anon April 3, 1997). He was later stomped to death by a fellow prisoner who claimed self-defense and was acquitted. In 2008, the Warlocks were alleged to be involved in methamphetamine manufacturing operation in Berks County Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania-based Warlocks have several chapters in New Jersey (State of New Jersey 2004). A 1989 New Jersey Commission of Investigation report put the membership range from 60 to 136 with chapters in Philadelphia—the mother club, southern New Jersey, and Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The latest information reports that the Pennsylvania-based Warlocks have five chapters in Pennsylvania and additional chapters in South Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.

Florida-Based Warlocks MC

According to their national website, the Florida-based Warlocks MC was founded aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Shangri-La* in the Mediterranean Sea in the summer of 1966 (www.warlocksmc.net/about.html). The 13 original members all “fanatic motorcycle enthusiasts, who liked to party,” chose the orange Phoenix bird as their logo. Each of the 13 members was to establish a chapter in their hometown when they retired from the Navy. Only one of the sailors made good on their promise to establish a chapter, Grub from Orlando, Florida. He founded the first chapter in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, and soon moved it to Orlando, where it is now the mother chapter.

The official website lists 38 chapters, thirty-one (31) in the United States: Florida (11), South Carolina (7), Virginia (4), West Virginia (4), New York (1), Ohio (2), Minnesota (1), and Georgia (1); and seven outside the United States: Germany (2), England (3), and Canada (2). There are now at least three Warlock chapters in Canada. In the United States, the chapters are divided into three regions—Northern, Central, and Southern. The Northern Region chapters are located in Brooklyn, New York; Martinsburg, West Virginia, Mt. Jackson,

Virginia, and Charlottesville, Virginia. Central Region chapters are in Florence, Columbia, and Greenwood, South Carolina. The Southern Region chapters are located in Cocoa, Orlando, Seminole, Brooksville, and Melbourne, Florida (BATF Search Warrant Affidavit 2003).

The Warlocks even though they have extensive membership applications and background checks and a membership process of hangaround, probate, and then membership, have been penetrated several times by law enforcement officers. In 2003, two BATF special agents became patched members; one became his chapter's Road Captain, an appointed officer position (BATF Search Warrant 2003). In 1991 during an investigation dubbed Operation Easy Rider, four undercover federal agents (BATF) and a Volusia County, Florida deputy sheriff became patched members. One of the special agents became president of the Fort Lauderdale Warlocks chapter, which he set up on instructions from the Warlock national president. The special agent recruited the other undercover agents to join him. They became an all-police one percent biker club. This was not the first all-cop one percent biker club. In the early 1970s, the Long Beach, California Widow Makers Motorcycle Club was made up of six undercover BATF agents (Queen 2005). This was the first undercover operation on biker gangs on the West Coast.

The Warlocks and the Pagans and the Outlaws are bitter enemies. In 1991, the International Outlaws President Harry "Taco" Bowman, murdered the National Warlocks President.

Vagos Motorcycle Club



Source The Department of Justice (www.justice.gov/criminal/ocgs/gangs/motorcycle.html)

The Vagos Motorcycle club/gang, aka The Green Nation, was formed in 1965 in San Bernardino, California, also where the modern day Hells Angels came into being. Allegedly, Hispanics who were refused membership in the Hells Angels

Fig. 5.8 Vagos Mission Statements i

Mission Statements
Experience and share brotherhood.
Share our passion for riding motorcycles.
Protect and promote our way of life.
Motoreycling. Brotherhood. Loyalty. Friendship.

because of their ethnicity formed this gang. The gang was originally called the “Psychos.” According to the official website (<http://vagosmcworld.com/>), the name Vagos comes from the Spanish term meaning “traveling gypsy” or a “street-wise person that’s always up to something.” The club logo Loki is the Norse god of mischief. The website says that it was designed by an incarcerated member. The Vagos MC is one of the few motorcycle gangs/clubs that publish Mission Statements (see Fig. 5.8).

The website reports that there are chapters in ten US states: Missouri, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, California, Arizona, Hawaii, Utah, Oregon, and Idaho; and international chapters in Sweden, Germany, Mexico, Canada, and Costa Rica. There is also a chapter in Nicaragua. The former president of the Nicaragua chapter, Ernesto Gonzalez, was convicted of murdering the President of the San Jose chapter of the Hells Angels during a fight at a Sparks, Nevada casino September 23, 2011 (Newton 2013). The Vagos MC has been involved in criminal activities since their formation, and this has increased in recent years. In 2006, 700 agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF) and local law enforcement officers began making arrests for federal and state firearms and drug violations in five Southern California counties following a three-year investigation of the Vagos MC. The operation called Operation 22 Green—green is the gang’s color and 22 corresponds to the V letter in the alphabet—was, at that time, the largest law enforcement coordinated action ever conducted in Southern California. Among those arrested were seven chapter presidents, one secretary, one treasurer, and seven sergeant’s-at-arms (Anon 2006). Ninety-five weapons were seized along with some illegal drugs, \$6,000 in cash, and two stolen motorcycles. Law enforcement spokespersons proclaimed that the Vagos MC had been dismantled, a claim often made after large operations against OMGs. As usual, this claim was soon found to be premature and erroneous. One of the characteristics of criminal organizations are that they can in time replace the absent leaders and continue. A recent law enforcement operation was named Operation Pure Luck (Fig. 5.9).

Before Operation Pure Luck was all over, law enforcement officers from Las Vegas, ATF, U.S. Marshalls, Henderson, Nevada; North Las Vegas, Nevada; Los Angeles County Sheriffs office and the Montebello, California were involved in the arrests and investigation. Outlaw bikers, including high officers, from the following gangs were in taken into custody: the Vagos, Bandidos, Green Machine,

This four-year multistate and multiagency federal, state and local law enforcement operation was named Pure Luck because an undercover infiltration of the Vagos MC by Las Vegas police officers expanded beyond all expectations and led to arrests in Nevada, California, Utah, Arizona, Texas, New York and Hawaii (Blasky, June 27, 2013; Synder and Taylor, June 27, 2013).

Fig. 5.9 Operation Pure Luck

Wicked Riderz, and the Chosen Few. The 32 bikers indicted were charged with a variety of state and local charges ranging from drug trafficking to theft and insurance fraud.

Wheels of Soul Motorcycle Club/Gang



Source <http://www.wheelsofsoul.mc.net/>

The Wheels of Soul Motorcycle Club/Gang (WOS) although predominately black is a multiracial national motorcycle club that was established in Philadelphia, PA in 1967 (<http://wheelsofsoul.wordpress.com/>). The website says that they have a four-piece patch made up of three “rockers” (Wheels, Of Soul, and Location) and the “wing and wheel” center patch. This national outlaw motorcycle gang has chapters in at least 20 states. The gang has a violent and criminal reputation. A coordinated federal and state investigation into the criminal activities of the Wheels of Soul MC began in 2009 after a robbery and murder in St. Louis, Missouri by members of the gang. The investigation led to a number of arrests and convictions:

1. Eighteen members of the Wheels of Soul Outlaw Motorcycle Gang were indicted and arrested and alleged “...between 2009 and the present time, the Wheels of Soul Outlaw Motorcycle constituted an ‘enterprise’ engaged in racketeering activity as defined by the federal RICO statute, and that the eighteen charged current and former members conspired to commit

racketeering acts in furtherance of that ‘enterprise’ (DOJ July 12, 2011).” The list of the eighteen included National and Regional officers of the Pennsylvania-based gang.

2. Two WOS members were convicted and sentenced to prison. One, a former WOS vice president, admitted to attempting to kill two different individuals in separate incidents in Chicago, ILL in 2009. He admitted that he committed the offenses to increase his status in the Wheels of Soul Motorcycle Club a criminal enterprise (DOJ May 29, 2012).
3. Three members of the WOS (two from Chicago and one from Denver) plead guilty to racketeering conspiracy charges in the United States District Court in St. Louis. The two WOS members from Chicago admitted to trafficking in crack in furtherance of the Wheels of Soul criminal enterprise (DOJ January 27, 2012).
4. A former President of the Midwest Region of the Wheels of Soul admitted to engaging in numerous acts (distributing crack, attempting to killing members of rival motorcycle clubs, transporting pipe bombs from Kentucky to Chicago) in furtherance of the Wheels of Soul criminal enterprise (DOJ March 1, 2012).
5. The President of the Kentucky Chapter of the Wheels of Soul, a Correctional Officer at the Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange, KY, admitted that he agreed to manufacture pipe bombs, which he knew would be used against rival motorcycle clubs in the Chicago area (DOJ July 20, 2012).

Chapter 6

Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Violence

Introduction

Violence in the extreme is a disturbing characteristic of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs throughout the world. Australian outlaw biker expert Arthur Veno (2009) opines “Violence is central to club life, It’s implicit in the rules, the way members live, and their interactions with other clubs (p. 139).” One percent outlaw motorcycle clubs and their members have been fighting with each other as individuals, groups, and clubs since their formation and this legacy of violence continues unabated today. These altercations have ranged from kidnappings, sneak attacks, and ambushes to street rumbles between groups of competing gangs to shootouts and bombings in public places. Their victims have included fellow gang members, rival gang members, and innocent men, women, and children of all ages. They have nailed women to trees, burned gang members alive, forced overdoses, bombed, shot, stabbed, and beaten others to death. The extension of the one percent culture and life-style outside the United States has been met with violence and resistance from as indigenous one percent clubs not in awe of their foreign interlopers. The wars and violence between competing American and home-grown biker gangs in Canada, Australia, Europe, and the Balkan countries have exceeded those of other organized crime groups in terms of the dead and injured; weapons used; and the public settings in which they took place. Adding fuel to the fire of increased violence, the US outlaw motorcycle gangs have carried their “at home” enmities for each other with them as they expanded and fought with each other over territory, crime markets, trafficking routes, and real and perceived incidents of disrespect.

Violent, or potentially violent men, are selected for membership and then the gang facilitates their violence (Barker, forthcoming). A good many of those selected have always been “bullies” and their bullying increases behind the protection of the pack. Others have been “bullied” and seek protection behind the “power of the patch.” These “cowards” must keep their fears hidden from their new group. After selection, the prospective member is observed and scrutinized through a long probationary period to ensure that they are willing and able to use violence. If the neophyte, or for that matter any club member, at any time shows fear or a

reluctance to engage in violence when called upon to; he will be cast out of the club, often violently.

The biker gang members' world is a dangerous world for them and the others who live in it. Violence and victimization is a normal part of all gang members' life. This applies to street gangs, prison gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs (Barker 2012). Gang members, of all descriptions, are at an increased risk of being a target for robbers while engaging in trafficking crimes, retaliatory attacks from rival gangs, defending turf or territory, protecting the gang against disrespect from other members in their violent social milieu. They are also at risk of violence from other gang members when discipline is meted out for real or perceived violations of formal or informal rules or when they try to leave the gang. This potential for violence is enhanced by the possession of weapons at all times and the use of drugs and alcohol. Unfortunately, violence or the potential for violence extends to all those who innocently or unintentionally encounter them. The "bullies" among them look for the opportunities to show their "toughness" by having their brother's finish the fights that their mouths or attitudes get them into. Courage for them comes in the beer they drink or the drugs they take and the presence of like-minded intimidators. Those who travel and visit in the same "bar-room" milieu of the one percent biker must be continually on guard for potential violence (see Barker forthcoming). David Nichols, noted motorcycle expert, author of several biker books and editor-in-chief of *Easyriders*, the premier motorcycle magazine, makes this clear in his "Rules to be followed when in the presence of a one percenter:

Text Box 5: Rules to be Followed when in the Presence of a One Percenter

...never touch a one percenter. Never touch a one percenter's cut or vest. Even brushing by a in a crowded room could get you beat up. [the author has seen this happen]

Never touch a one percenter's motorcycle unless you enjoy getting yourself a proper beating.

Don't think that wearing a support shirt buys you anything. You are not a member, you are a civilian. Never wear support shirt anywhere that a warring club can see it, or you're dead meat. [There are numerous examples of non-one percent motorcyclists and "citizens" being brutally beaten or killed for violating this rule.]

Keep your thoughts to yourself. Until you show yourself as being about something and not one of the walking dead [citizen], one percenters don't give a shit what you think.

Never disrespect a one percenters ol'lady (girlfriend or wife). Period.

Never interrupt two or more patch holders when they are having a conversation. This is disrespectful." *Source* Modified from Nichols 2012, p. 111

Nichols also gives some valuable advice on how, or how not, to look at a one percenter: “Never ‘eye fuck’ [engage in a long stare] a one percenter. Act respectful and sincere around bikers. Don’t challenge them with your eyes...or anything else for that matter. It will just end up getting you thumped (Nichols 2012, p. 67).”

The rules outlined by Nichols are not without merit, especially considering that when one outlaw biker begins “thumping” a real or perceived transgressor all his “brothers” present are expected to jump in no questions asked. Outlaw bikers are notorious for ganging up and “putting the boot” to others for any perceived act of disrespect. A real problem exists when the uninformed or gullible “citizen” are purposely or accidentally in the presence of an outlaw biker and do not know the rules or know there are rules or there is a problem. They, the one percent bikers, decide when and if there is a problem. Victimology studies have always found that many become crime victims because they are in locations where they should not have been or with people they should not have been with.

There are some outlaw motorcycle club members who are so dangerous and violent that any contact with, no matter how innocent or benign, is problematic. An enforcer for the Victoria, Australia Hells Angels with the nickname of “Skitzo” [a certain clue to his erratic behavior] was arrested for punching a 62-year-old woman in the face during an argument over his lost dog (Oakes June 5, 2013). Skitzo’s dog ran away during a storm and was found by a woman who put up posters of the dog in the neighborhood trying to find the owner. Skitzo saw the posters and went to the woman’s house and took umbrage when she asked for proof of ownership, a not unreasonable request; so he punched her and took the dog. Two armed bikers showed up at the woman’s house later and told her not to report the assault to the police. She ignored them and reported the assault. Skitzo was charged and found guilty of the assault and sentenced to prison because he was already on probation for a previous act of violence. A recent example of random one percent violence occurred in what is considered a safe area for all motorcyclists, outlaw or not. Two Hells Angels member, wearing their colors, severely beat a 22-year-old biker sitting at the bar in Johnny’s Bar, a historic biker bar considered to be the birthplace of the American biker in Hollister, California, during the annual Hollister Motorcycle Rally (Beardsley 2013). The young man was talking to his friends when he was sucker punched by one Angel and then kicked by both when he was on the floor. Witnesses and the victim had no explanation for the unprovoked attack.

Legacy of Violence

What follows is an illustrative, not exhaustive, chronology of selective examples of outlaw motorcycle violence. The examples include several from outside the United States. The one percent culture traces its beginnings to events in California but that culture and tradition transcends national boundaries today.

- 1967 A 18-year-old prostitute Christine Deese was hung “Crucifixion Style” nailed to a tree for withholding \$10 from her Florida Outlaw Motorcycle club pimp.
- 1968 The first known club sanctioned execution of another Hells Angels Motorcycle club member occurred when another 21-year-old member was force fed barbiturates after being convicted by a club “Kangaroo Court” for stealing Hells Angels president Sonny Barger’s coin collection.
- 1969 A young black man, in what appeared to be a racial incident, was viciously beaten, stamped, and stabbed to death by Hells Angels members at a Rolling Stone’s concert at Altamont Race Track in California. The Hells Angels Motorcycle Club was hired to be security at the concert.
- 1971 A battle between the Breed MC of Akron, Ohio, and the New York Hells Angels at a motorcycle show held at the Polish Women’s Hall in Cleveland, Ohio left five bikers (four Breed and one Hells Angels) dead and 20 injured. The warring bikers went after each other with knives, clubs, and chains.
- 1972 Donald Eugene Chambers, the founder of the Bandidos Motorcycle Club, and two other Bandidos members killed two El Paso drug dealers for selling them bad drugs.
- 1973 Three bodies, two men, and a woman were found buried in Ukiah, California. Acting on a tip from a Hells Angels member involved in the murder of the two men, the police dug up the bodies on the property of the former Oakland Hells Angels Vice President.
- 1977 Margo Compton, a prostitute who had agreed to testify against a California Hells Angels president, and her two twin 6-year-old girls were killed by two Hells Angels prospects. The prospects were told that they would receive their “patches” for the murders. One of the killers bragged that he killed the children while they held their teddy bears.
- 1980 Two Danish indigenous outlaw motorcycle gangs go to war over who will be the Denmark Hells Angels chapter, leaving eight bikers dead.
- 1983 In London, England six member of the Road Rats MC and 24 members of the Satans Slaves battled each other at an event sponsored by the Hells Angels.
- 1984 On September 2 (Father’s Day) 1984 in a suburb of Sydney, Australia, heavily armed members of the Bandidos MC and the Commancheros MC fought at a swap meet, leaving seven dead; six bikers and an innocent 14-year-old female bystander.
- 1984 In Lennoxville, Canada, other Hells Angels members murdered five members of the North Hells Angels chapter over a drug dispute. The murdered Angels were using the drugs instead of selling them.

- 1986 Two members of the Louisville Kentucky Outlaw Motorcycle Club killed a Hells Angels member from Anchorage, Alaska, in Louisville. The Angel, a former member of the Outlaws MC, was home on a visit.
- 1986 Two Hells Angels members, on orders from their chapter president, murdered Billy Grondalski, a former member who quit the motorcycle club and his two children. One of the children killed was a 5-year-old girl who had her throat slit by a Hells Angel she called Uncle Chuck.
- 1989 A member of the North London Road Rats MC callously and without reason shot the founder of the Cycle Tramps MC in the back of the head, killing him, while the two clubs were drinking together in a pub.
- 1989 In a brutal attempt to establish a chapter, members of the Bandidos MC assassinate the President of the Club de Clichy MC, a Hells Angels support club, in Marseilles, France, igniting a war with the Hells Angels MC. Two years later, Hells Angels killed the vice-president of the new Bandidos chapter.
- 1991 The International President of the Outlaws MC murdered the National President of the Warlocks MC.
- 1994–1997 In what is called the Great Nordic Biker’s War, the Hells Angels MC and the Bandidos MC fought for control of the Scandinavian drug markets. The war took place in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. The gangs used machine guns, hand grenades, rocket launchers, and car bombs, resulting in 11 murders, 74 attempted murders, and 96 wounded.
- 1994–2001 This Montreal Biker War is the worst, in terms of dead and injured, in organized crime war history and resulted in 160 killed, 175 attempted murders, 200 wounded, and 15 disappearances. The war between the Rock Machine MC and the Hells Angels MC was for domination of the drug trade. The war was brought to an end after a public outcry over the accidental death of an 11-year-old playing in a nearby schoolyard. The child was struck in the head by shrapnel from a car bomb. During the war, two virtual “killing machines” racked up incredible number of victims. A hired hit man for the Rock Machine MC admitted to 27 murders during the war. Yves Trudeau, a founding member of the Quebec Hells Angels, murdered 43 people during the war. Quebec Hells Angels leader, Maurice “Mom” Boucher, was convicted of first-degree murder for the ambush murders of two Canadian prison guards, one the mother of a two children. The murders were a brazen attempt to frighten the Canadian Criminal Justice system.

- 1995 A New Jersey Police sergeant pulled over two Pennsylvania Warlock MC members and was shot to death by one of them who was on parole and did not want to go back to prison.
- 1996 The leader of the Danish Hells angels killed the leader of the indigenous Bullshit outlaw motorcycle club.
- 1997 Six people were wounded when warring members of the Outlaws MC and the Australian Odin's Warriors MC fought it out in the Queensland City of Mackay.
- 1998 In the United Kingdom, a battle between the Outcasts MC and the Hells Angels MC resulted in the deaths of two Outcasts members.
- 1998 At the World's Cup Championship in France, the Potsdam, Germany Hells Angels vice-president, and four others beat a French police officer unconscious and left him for dead. The officer was in a coma for days and left the hospital unable to work, blind in one eye, and has difficulty speaking.
- 1999 In Adelaide, Australia, three Australian Rebels MC members were murdered in front of their clubhouse.
- 2000 Three members of the Bandidos MC were killed in Lahti, Finland when three cars loaded with Finish Cannonballs MC members drove up to a pizzeria at lunch time and opened fire. There were other diners in the restaurant when the shooting started; they were not injured or killed.
- 2002 On April 27, 2002, at the crowded Harrah's Casino in Laughlin, Nevada members of the Hells Angels MC and the Mongols MC started fighting sending patron running and hiding under tables. The resulting brawl left one Mongol stabbed to death and two Angels shot to death.
- 2002 Seventy-three Pagans MC members were arrested after a bloody battle between them and the Hells Angels MC at a bike show in Plainview, New York. The wild brawl left one dead and three wounded.
- 2004 In San Antonio, Texas, a Bandidos MC sergeant at arms known for his bad temper and violence stabbed to death a former International Boxing Federation Super Flyweight Champion after an all night drinking session. The Bandido said the former champion disrespected him and "nobody disrespects a Bandido."
- 2004 In another example of internecine Hells Angels murder, the vicious president of the Amsterdam Hells Angels alleged to have committed 11–15 murders himself was tortured and killed by his brother Angels after a "drug rip-off" of a Columbian drug cartel. In a curious perversion of rules to live by, drug rip-offs are specifically forbidden by Hells Angels rules. Supposedly, drug rip-offs will damage their reputation in the outlaw world.

- 2006 An example of Bandido MC internecine murder occurred in Shedden, Ontario, Canada when six Bandidos executed eight of their Bandido brothers. Allegedly, the murders of the Canadian Bandidos were committed following instructions from the Bandido national headquarters in Texas.
- 2006 A self-employed contractor wore a Hells Angels support T-shirt into an Outlaws MC hangout and was shot to death by the sergeant-at-arms of the New Hampshire Outlaws.
- 2007 A member of an Hells Angels support club shot and killed an Outlaws MC member in the parking lot of the Crazy Horse Saloon in Forrest Park, Georgia.
- 2007 A Hells Angels MC member returning from the annual UK Bulldog Bash was shot off his bike and killed by members of the British Outlaws MC. Six Outlaw MC members waited in ambush along a roadway waiting for any Hells Angels MC member to pass by. Seven Outlaw MC members, the entire chapter, were sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a man they had never met.
- 2008 In a callous disregard for innocent citizens, members of the Hells Angels MC and the Outlaws MC fought each other in the UK's Birmingham International Airport. Up to 30 gang members assaulted each other with knives, machetes, hammers, and brass knuckles, as terrified travelers raced for safety.
- 2008 Members of the Hells Angels MC and the Mongols MC fought with each other in A Special Memory Chapel in Las Vegas, Nevada after both groups showed up at separate weddings. Two Mongols were stabbed and the chapel was trashed.
- 2009 The leader of the Swedish Bandidos MC was sentenced to prison for his part in bombings aimed at witnesses against the gang.
- 2009 In another airport brawl, member of the Hells Angels MC and the Comancheros MC engaged in pitched battle in the Sydney, Australia Airport leaving one dead and several injured. Gang members flew into the airport on the same airplane and called for reinforcements prior to landing.
- 2009 Two members of the Maine Outlaws MC shot a member of the Hells Angels MC on orders from the Outlaws National President. The attempted murder was in retaliation for an assault and robbery of two Outlaws by Hells Angels.
- 2011 The President of the Nicaragua Vagos Chapter killed the President of the San Jose Hells Angels chapter in Sparks, Nevada casino.

- 2012 In Brisbane, Australia a member of a street gang was shot and killed by two Bandidos. The street gang was reported to be “muscling in” on the Bandidos drug running business.
- 2012 In Queensland, Australia, 53-year-old innocent woman was wounded in a shoot out between a Bandido and a Hells Angel in a shopping center.

Chapter 7

Conclusion-Organized Criminals Without Borders

As the examples of OMG violence have demonstrated, American-based Outlaw Motorcycle expanded their reach and criminal activities outside the United States. American-based biker gangs have become more criminal as they established ties and interlocking criminal networks with indigenous outlaw motorcycle gangs in Australia, Canada, Europe, and Asia, allowing their drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime to transcend US borders. They are truly global criminals (Barker forthcoming). Early in their development, American-based outlaw motorcycle gangs were described as the “only organized crime group developed in the United States (without ethnic ties) that is exported around the world (Smith 1968, p.54).” Several American-based outlaw motorcycle gangs are now considered to be transnational organized crime groups with criminal networks established with the Italian Mafia, Columbian and Mexican cartels, and the Chinese Triads (Barker 2007 and Barker forthcoming). International organizations such as Europol, Interpol, and the United Nations recognized the international crime threat of American and native or indigenous outlaw motorcycle gangs in the 1980s. A 1984 Interpol report documented that the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club had chapters in 11 countries—seven Western European countries (Great Britain, West Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, France, and Austria), Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States (Interpol 1984). Since that report was published the number of Hells Angels chapters and those of other American-based gangs have grown exponentially see Table 7.1. Today, we are beginning to see “home-grown” Canadian, Australian, and European outlaw motorcycle gangs expanding beyond their boundaries and even to the United States (Barker forthcoming).

According to the official club 2010 websites, there are seven American-based outlaw motorcycle clubs with 484 chapters located in countries outside the United States (see Table 7.2). Those seven outlaw motorcycle clubs/gangs are Hells Angels MC, Bandidos MC, Outlaws MC, Mongols MC, Vagos MC, Warlocks MC, and the Sons of Silence MC. As testament to their international expansion, the Hells Angels, Bandidos, and Outlaws now have more chapters outside the United States than in the US: Hells Angels MC—64 US chapters, 183 outside US; Outlaws MC—93 US chapters, 161 outside the US; Bandidos MC—102 US

Table 7.1 American-based biker gangs outside the continental United States by country-2010

1. Argentina	3	22. Italy	6
2. Australia	30	23. Japan (Okinawa)	1
3. Austria	7	24. Liechtenstein	1
4. Belgium	20	25. Luxembourg	1
5. Bohemia	2	26. Malaysia	1
6. Brazil	3	27. Mexico	4
7. Canada	37	28. Northern Ireland	1
8. Channel Islands	2	29. New Zealand	2
9. Chile	1	30. Norway	24
10. Costa Rica	1	31. Portugal	3
11. Croatia	1	32. Philippines	1
12. Denmark	23	33. Poland	7
13. Dominican Rep.	1	34. Russia	13
14. England/Wale	40	35. Singapore	1
15. Finland	10	36. South Africa	5
16. France	36	37. Spain	7
17. Germany	116	38. Sweden	25
18. Greece	1	39. Switzerland	6
19. Hungary	1	40. Thailand	7
20. Holland	9	41. Turkey	1
21. Ireland	9	Total	484

Table 7.2 American-based gangs by chapters—US and outside conus

Gang	United States	Outside Conus
Hells Angels	64	183
Outlaws	93	161
Bandidos	102	125
Mongols	76	3
Vagos	24	3
Sons of Silence	13	6
Warlocks	13	2
Total	385	484

chapters, 125 outside the US (Table 7.2). In 2010, these chapters were located in 41 countries across the globe. Using 2010, figures we see that Germany has 116 chapters of the Hells Angels, Bandidos, Outlaws, Sons of Silence, and Warlocks. There are also a large unknown number of indigenous outlaw motorcycle clubs/gangs in Germany. England/Wales is next with 40 chapters of Hells Angels and a Warlocks chapter. Canada in 2010 had 37 chapters of Hells Angels and Outlaws. There were two Bandido chapters until one chapter killed eight members of the other chapter and the US Bandidos disbanded the surviving chapter members after they were convicted of the murders. There are now three Canadian chapters of the Warlocks MC. Rumors are floating around in the biker community that the

Mongols and the Pagans are attempting to establish chapter in Canada, but right now they are just rumors.

The international expansion has had profound effects on the clubs/gangs. As we have seen the Hells Angels, Bandidos, and Outlaws have more chapters and members outside the United States. Often new international members do not meet the “established” criteria for membership. There are instances where some new members do not even own motorcycles or are former police officers. Several of the “bikers” murdered in the Canadian Bandido Massacre were “bikers without bikes” and one of those charged and convicted for the murders was a former police officer, a strict no-no. This is not the only example of “bikers without bikes” or former police officers becoming members as the clubs become more like criminal organizations and less like motorcycle clubs. The international clubs have gained influence and power as they outnumbered their American “brothers.” All new Hells Angels full patch holders must be approved by the Hells Angels leader’s council at the yearly international run. The Canadian Bandidos chapter that caused the Bandido Nation so much grief was only approved because of pressure from their European allies.

The American-based outlaw motorcycle clubs/gangs have become more violent toward each other as they fight over territory and drug markets in the US and overseas. The American-based outlaw motorcycle clubs/gangs have become serious organized crime threats in their new host nations. This expansion and spread of organized crime activities and violence is on going and has led to other American-based outlaw groups to consider establishing chapters outside the United States to take advantage of the business opportunities of crime for profit. And, now we are seeing the reverse occur—outlaw motorcycle clubs/gangs from Canada, Australia, and Europe expanding into the United States and other countries.

References

- Anon. (1997, April 3). Biker is sentenced to death for killing officer. *The New York Times*.
- Anon 16. (2006, March 10). LE arrests 25 Calif. motorcycle gang leaders and associates. *Associated Press*.
- Barger, R. (2000). *Hell's Angels: The life and times of Sonny Barger and the Hell's Angels motorcycle club*. New York: William Morrow.
- Barker, T. (2007). *Biker gangs and organized crime*. Newark, NJ: Anderson Press, a member of the LexisNexis Group.
- Barker, T. (2011). *Police ethics: crisis in law enforcement*. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas.
- Barker, T. (2012). *North American criminal gangs: Street, prison, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and drug trafficking organization*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
- Barker, T. (Forthcoming). *Biker gangs and transnational organized crime* (2nd ed.).
- Beardsley, C. (2013, July 10). Severely beaten at local bar in Hollister during motorcycle rally weekend. *WorldNow*.
- Blasky, M. (2013, June 27). Investigation of motorcycle gang lead to 32 indictments. *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.
- Bowe, B. (1994). *Born to be wild*. New York: Warner Books.
- CBC News. (2014, February 21). Hells Angels marked as criminals by Manitoba Justice.
- CICS. (2005). Outlaw motorcycle gangs. *Criminal Intelligence Service Canada-2005*.
- Davidson, W. G. (2002). *100 years of Harley-Davidson* (p. 2). Boston: Bulfinch Press.
- Davis, R. H. (1982). Outlaw motorcyclists: A problem for law enforcement. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 51, 13–22.
- Department of Justice. (2011). *Motorcycle Gangs*. US Department of Justice. <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/oggs/gangs/motorcycle>
- DOJ. (2009, June 11). Florida man indicted for setting 2003 fire that destroyed Strasburg, Virginia Restaurant. US Attorney's Office, Western District of Virginia, Press Release.
- DOJ. (2009, June 3). Two more motorcycle club members plead guilty to meth conspiracy. US Attorney, Western District of Missouri.
- DOJ 2. (2012, August 24). Federal jury convicts drug trafficking organization leader in heroin distribution conspiracy. US Attorney's Office, Northern District of Texas, Press Release.
- Dobyns, J., & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). *No Angel*. New York: Crown Publishing Company.
- Forkner, W. (1987). Easyriders: Video interview. Cited in Reynolds, T. (2000).
- Foster, D. (1999, October 18). Actions speak volumes for sons of silence arrests for guns, drugs thwart biker gang's attempt at new image. *Denver Rocky Mountain News*.
- Hall, J. (2008). *Riding on the edge: A motorcycle outlaw's tale*. Minneapolis, MN: MBI Publishing and Motorbooks.
- Haut, F. (1999). Organized crime on two wheels: Motorcycle gangs. *International Criminal Police Review*, 28, 474–475.
- Hayes, B. (2010). *American biker: The history, the clubs, the lifestyle, the truth*. Birmingham, MI: Flash Productions.

- Hayes, B. (2011). *The one percenter Encyclopedia: The world of motorcycle clubs from Abyss Ghosts to Zombie Elite*. Minneapolis, MN: Motorbooks.
- Hudson, J. (1966). *The sex and savagery of Hell's Angels*. Great Britain: Green Leaf Classics.
- Interpol. (1984). *Motorcycle gangs*. ICPO-Interpol General Secretariat.
- Jenkins, P. (1992). The speed capital of the world: organizing the methamphetamine industry in Philadelphia. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 6(1), 18–19.
- Joans, B. (2001). *Bike lust: Harleys, women, and American Society*. Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Kessler, R. E. (2002). Feds: Pagans to Take a Plea Deal/Nearly All of the 73 Bikers to Face Prison for Brawl. *Newsday*.
- Lavigne, Y. (1987). *Hell's Angels, taking care of business*. Toronto: Ballantine Books.
- McFeeley, R. A. (2001). Enterprise theory of Investigation. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 70, 19–25.
- Newton, M. (2013, July 24). Vagos lawyer: Hells Angel killing self defense. *KTVU.com and AP Wires*.
- Nicaso, A., & Lamonthe, L. (2006). *Global Mafia: The New World order of organized crime*. Toronto, CA: Macmillan.
- Nichols, D. (2012). *The one percenter code: How to be an outlaw in a world gone soft*. Minneapolis, MN: Motorbooks.
- Organized Crime Consulting Committee. (1986). *1986 Report of the Organized Crime Consulting Committee*. Ohio Attorney General.
- Pennsylvania Crime Commission. (1980). *A Decade of Organized Crime*. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Queen, W. (2005). *Under and alone: The true story of the undercover agent who infiltrated America's most violent outlaw motorcycle gang*. New York: Random House.
- Reynolds, T. (2000). *Wild ride: How outlaw motorcycle clubs conquered America*. New York: TV Books.
- Sanger, D. (2005). *Hell's witness*. Toronto: Penguin Group.
- Smith, B. W. (1998). Interpol's "Project Rocker" helps disrupt outlaw motorcycle gangs. *The Police Chief*, 65(9), 54–56.
- Southeastern Connecticut Gang Activities Group. (2000). *Pagans Motorcycle Club*. www.segag.org/mcggangs/pagans.html
- State of New Jersey: Commission of Investigations. (2004, May). *The Changing Face of Organized Crime in New Jersey—A Status Report*.
- Stidworthy, D. (2003). *High on the Hogs: A Biker Flimography*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company.
- Synder, R., & Taylor, J. (2013, June 27). Four-year, multistate probe of Las Vegas motorcycle gangs brings 25 arrests. *Las Vegas Sun*.
- Thompson, T. (2011). *Outlaws: One man's rise through the savage world of Renegade bikers*. Hells Angels and global crime, Penguin Books.
- Veno, A. (2002). *The Brotherhoods: Inside the outlaw motorcycle clubs*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Veno, A. (2009). *The Brotherhoods: Inside the outlaw motorcycle clubs*. (3rd edn). Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Wethern, G., & Colnett, V. (1978). *A Wayward Angel*. New York: Richard Marek.
- Winterhalder, E., & De Clerco, W. (2008). *The assimilation: Rock machine become Bandidos—Bikers against the Hells Angels*. Toronto: ECW Press.
- Wolf, D. R. (1999). *The rebels: A brotherhood of outlaw bikers*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Yates, B. (1999). *Outlaw machines: Harley-Davidson and the search for the American soul*. New York: Broadway Books.