

Electric City H.O.G. Chapter #4769

February 2025 Newsletter By: Broadus B. King III

March 1st-8th H.O.G. at Daytona Bike Week

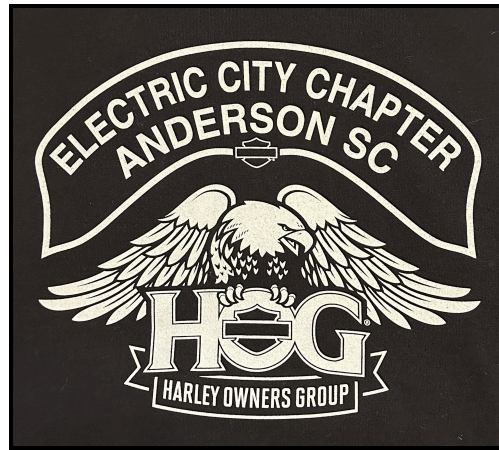
H.O.G. RIDE 365 Destination Challenges For 2025 (1) Manzanar National Historic Site, CA (2) Smiling Peanut, GA (3) Potato Capital of the World, ID (4) HOG Capital of the World, IL (5) World's Largest Ball of Twine, KS (6) Town of Hell, MI (7) Lynyrd Skynyrd Monument, MS (8) World's Largest Buffalo Statue, ND (9) National Memorial Arch, PA (10) South of the Border, SC (11) Park General Store, AR (12) Narrows Bridge at Lake Chocorua, NH (13) World's Largest Teapot, WV (14) Bishop Castle, CO (15) Mount Rushmore National Memorial, SD

Rides in February

- 8th, Fork Grove BBQ - Lunch Ride 11am-3pm
- 13th, Dinner Ride to Brothers Restaurant 5:15pm-7:15pm
- 15th, Sweetheart Ride - The Day After 11am-12pm
- 22nd, Timm's Polar Bear Ride 9am-4pm
- 23rd, Lake Lure Benefit Ride 9am-4pm

WHY ELECTRIC CITY?

BY: Tim Jones, Assistant Director



Did you ever wonder how the nickname we wear on our patches, shirts, vests, etc. came to be? For over a century now, the names Electric City and Anderson have been synonymous. Electric City has a proud history of being used by numerous clubs, organizations, and events as a recognizable name for happenings in and around Anderson. Well, there is a history:

1895

Electricity was generated and transmitted six miles from an experimental hydroelectric station on Rocky River into the city of Anderson, the first such transmission in the Southeast.

1897

Electricity was generated and transmitted eleven miles from Portman Shoals Hydroelectric Station on the Savannah River into the City of Anderson, another first.



photo by Broadus King

1897

Oliver Bolt connected his cotton gin to this new source of power, becoming the first gin in the world to operate by electricity.

1898

Anderson Cotton Mill connected to the new power generated by Portman Shoals becoming one of the first major industries in the Southeast to be operated by electricity.

1901

The General Robert Anderson Fountain was placed into operation near the courthouse, becoming the second fountain with underwater lighting in the nation. The fountain is still in operation and is currently located at the Anderson County Museum.



photo by Broadus King

1914

A potential giant in the hydroelectric business, Duke Power Company, bought Anderson Water, Light and Power Company, thus solidifying Anderson's connection to the generation of electricity, and forever tying the names of Electric City and Anderson together. Information provided by Don Williams

Thanks to the historical innovation of Anderson engineer William Whitner, electricity could be conducted by wire to mills throughout the county. Anderson was the first city in the United States to have a continuous supply of electric power, which was supplied by a water mill located in the high shoals area of the Rocky River in Anderson County.

William C. Whitner's Contribution:

William C. Whitner, a native of Anderson, played a crucial role in earning the city its nickname. After studying civil engineering, he conceived the idea of generating alternating current (AC) electricity using river water. His successful experiments led to the establishment of the first hydroelectric plant in the Southeast.

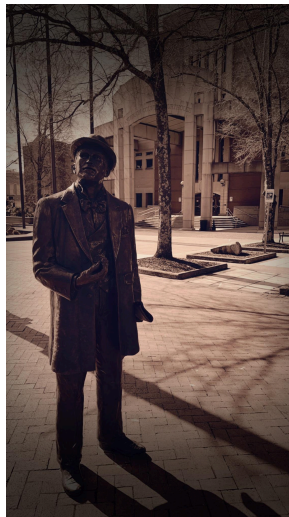


photo by Broadus King

Portman Shoals Power Plant:

The Portman Shoals Power Plant, established in 1897, was a significant milestone. It was the first hydroelectric facility to generate high-voltage power without step-up transformers, making it a pioneering project in the field of electricity.

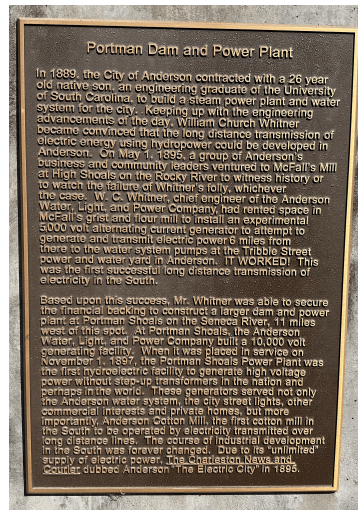


photo by Broadus King

Streetcar Line: The extra power generated by the Portman Shoals plant also powered a streetcar line in Anderson, which was a precursor to the Piedmont & Northern Railway.

Historical Marker:

There is a historical marker in Anderson commemorating its status as "The Electric City." This marker highlights the city's pioneering role in the transmission of electricity over long distances.

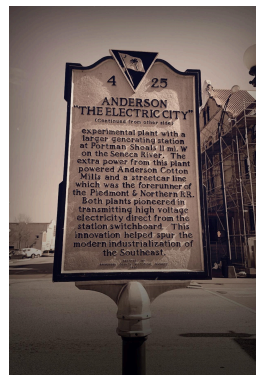


photo by Broadus King