

**ROCK RIVER  
CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**

August 2024  
Volume 24  
Issue No. 8  
Chapter No. 3276

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THIS  
ISSUE**

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From the Director's Chair

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upcoming brunch ride

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**ROCK RIVER  
H.O.G. CHAPTER  
#3276**

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Ken Kessenich

I know the news states some Harley Davidson manufacturing will be moving to Thailand. From my reading it includes the Pan America and the Sport series comprised of the Sportster, Nightster and Nightster Special.



One place I can tell you where there seem to be **NO** Harley Davidsons is Iceland! Lori and I took a bucket list vacation this past month and circled the island. We saw a number of off road capable bikes, similar to the Pan America, but nothing else. There is no Harley dealer, and not one HD t-shirt with Iceland on it! You'll note we did not drive across the island as there are NO roads to do that and **NOBODY** lives there



as it is too harsh an environment. I guess the smaller bikes could provide an advantage because gas was over \$9/gallon.

On the forward thinking side, the island's energy is 100% green. 70% coming from hydroelectric (lots of snow = ice/glacier and melting = rivers, thus electricity abundant and cheap). The other 30% of their energy (and most of their hot water) is supplied via geothermal.

Island is home to about 14,000 breeding Puffins who spend a month or two there and then the rest of the year are floating and eating at sea. The hummmm of the Puffins was amazing as we walked so close to them. Ask Lori to play a video she took and listen!



When we decided to take the trip I researched SCUBA diving in Iceland and one unique opportunity stood out. As you may know Iceland is a hotspot island like the area of Yellowstone and the island of Hawaii. It sits right on top the Mid-Atlantic ridge and is latterly divided almost in half with the



eastern portion moving toward Europe and the western portion moving toward the United States. I got to dive in the crystal clear cold (36°) waters of the Silfra fissure and was able to touch the North American and European continental plates at the same time!

Continued on next page

Did I mention that we were there in the heat of their summer? Besides the cold water diving, other areas are ice chilled as well, where glaciers are calving and releasing icebergs to the sea. Remember that when looking at these only 10% is above the water with 90% below. You need to be careful because as they melt they become top heavy and will flip over!



I wonder if this trip would fit in your bucket? See you at the meeting!

Ken

## ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Wow, we are off to a great start to our riding season. The Hometown rally was great. I hope you were able to attend and if you volunteered, I want to thank you for supporting the dealership. July was a great month for riding. I went on the Rock Wisconsin Ride (Ride Like a Pirate Ride) to Eagle River, WI July 12-13. We rode on a Pirate Ship for 2 hours sailing on 5 of the 6 lakes in a chain. Very enjoyable ride and it was enjoyed by all. On day three July 14 while most headed home, a group of us (6 bikes and 8 people) went to several Flat rocker stops. We crossed into the UP of Michigan and eventually 300+ miles later ended up in St Croix Falls, WI. Great roads and scenery. The next day, July 15, we woke up to rain and the group

headed for a couple more stops. After an hour and a half of riding in the rain I decided to pull the plug and took the highway straight home while the group continued.

I went on another Rock Wisconsin Ride (Hodag Ride) to Rhinelander, WI July 19-21. We had 16 bikes and 20 people that rode some awesome roads. On the second day we were at the Northwoods Harley Davidson in Arbor Vitae, WI when the skies turned dark. It was decided to cut the route short and head to the hotel before it rained. We made it to the hotel and within 30 minutes the sky opened up and we got one and half inches of rain. The ride home the next day was great.

Attention all new members, if you have never been on a Rock Wisconsin Ride you are missing out on some really great rides. Consider going on one of the rides to meet new people and enjoy some great riding experiences. I stated on the last ride how fortunate we are that we are able to do what we do on our bikes. Thank the Lord.

### NOTE: Brunch Ride

#### August 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunday – Whisky Ranch in Delevan, WI

This will be a Road Captain lead ride for brunch. **(Note: No ride if raining)**

Where: Wisconsin Harley Davidson

When: August 18, 2024. Time: Staggering at 10:00 AM,

KSU: 10:30 leaving for a Road Captain ride for about an hour on scenic roads to the Whiskey Ranch restaurant in Delevan, WI. This will be an off the menu brunch at your own cost.

A man was admitted into the hospital because he swallowed eight plastic **horses**. His condition is now **stable**.

I stepped on some **cornflakes** this morning. I guess I'm a **cereal** killer.

See you on the road or at the Chapter Meeting.

Jim "Muddy" Waters

# FROM OUR HISTORIAN

By: Carl Samppala

## Anniversaries:

### 2 Year:

Paul Dickson

### 5 Year:

Rick Christian

Kris Droster

### 25 Year:

Scott Drath

### 30 Year:

Debra Erickson

## SUNRISE RIDE



The Sunrise Ride will be on August 24th at 5:30 AM.

Departure will be from the old Hardees on Hwy 83 and I94.

Additional information will be presented at the August chapter meeting.

# AUGUST CHAPTER MEETING

Just a reminder that the August chapter meeting will be back at the Ingleside.



June – Dawn Makowski and Michelle Mather

July – Dawn Makowski and Tina Olson

## Thank you!!

August – Kim Jalalian and Candy Parr

September – Rob Fehl and Tracey Iverson

Want to see your name printed in the newsletter?

I still have a few spots open for this year 😊

## IN REMEMBRANCE



Chapter member Norbert Schlidt passed away in July. Please keep Norb's family in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you to all chapter members who helped Norb's son, Mike, ride Norb to his final resting place.

## Sometimes it's the little things that count..

During the last couple Harley Homecomings, I have made it a priority to spend time at the Harley Davidson Demo truck and try to ride every model they have in the lineup.

This year the Nightster 975 really took me by surprise. It got me thinking about what it must be like if I was new to motorcycle riding and I was looking for an entry level motorcycle. Or- What if that heavy touring bike was getting to be too much to move around the older I got..? Would the Nightster be a good bike to keep me riding?

I currently own a 1993 883 Deluxe, which most people consider to be a beginner's bike. Many people also think of the Nightster 975 as a beginner's bike. So naturally I thought I'd compare the two.

WOW, I was amazed! The Nightster 975 is so different compared to the entry level bikes of yesterday. It was smooth, fast, good suspension, ABS brakes, traction control, Drag Torque Slip Control (DSCS) Tire Pressure Monitoring system, 4 inch TFT Screen, under seat fuel tank (lower center of gravity), 3 riding modes (Rain, Road, Sport) and Cruise Control!! I felt the ergonomics of the seat, mid-controls and wide handle bars made it feel light, easy to maneuver, and very nimble and well planted to the road. The Nightster was way better than the ole 883. This bike also has a list of options from Harley Davidson to further Taylor the fit of this bike to your size and rider comfort. Heated Grips, windshield, forward controls, detachable saddle bags with luggage lid locks just to name a few.

When I was done riding it, I thought, what a great bike for new riders. This motorcycle is full of great features and is a great riding platform to learn and grow their skills on. However, I believe this bike also has the ability to give the experienced rider the performance (91 HP) and easy to handle size, to keep you riding for many years to come. Sometimes getting back to the roots of motorcycling, and keeping it simple, can be more fun than you remember. Today's High-Tech entry level motorcycles have really come a long way with enhanced safety features. Take a Nightster for a ride and let me know what you think.

Ride Safe.

Dan Stammen



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### Happy 'brunchers' at the Anchor Inn



### New Berlin 4<sup>th</sup> of July 'paraders'



# ROCK WISCONSIN

-Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

Unfortunately, I bring sad news this month. We're almost done with the 2024 Riding Season ☹️ But cheer up, after taking September and October off to recharge our batteries, the Rock Wisconsin Committee will be starting up again in November.

July and early August has been busy. In addition to the New Berlin 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, a brunch ride to the Anchor Inn in Edgerton and of course the Harley Homecoming Rally, I hope you've found time to do some of your own rides. Maybe a few Flat Rocker stops? That bucket list trip out west? Or...?

Rock Wisconsin has been trying to do its part. Our first ride in July, was our 'Ride Like a Pirate Ride'. Mark Knackert and his team put together a truly fun weekend. We had 21 bikes/trikes carrying 28 people. We had a great route, great weather (except for a pop up shower on Saturday afternoon) and a very enjoyable cruise. Unfortunately, no treasure laden Spanish Galleons for us to plunder. Maybe next time? A bonus day (Monday) was added and several of us continued further north in search of Flat Rocker stops.

Next up was the re-scheduled HODAG Ride. As you may recall, this was re-scheduled from its original June date due to weather concerns. As you might expect, this created some scheduling conflicts so several people had to drop out.

August found us riding toward Baraboo for a visit to the International Crane Foundation. Jim Micale put together a nice route to include a crossing of Lake Wisconsin at Merrimac. I must compliment Jim on his timing, as we rolled up to the waiting area, the ferry was just arriving and we barely had time to shut off our engines. On the north side we made the turn into Devils Lake State Park. This is always a great ride, although many people apparently had similar thoughts, as the park was quite crowded. After a Flat Rocker stop at the Circus World Museum and lunch at the Broadway Diner and we were off to check out the cranes.

Our last ride, the 'Rock the Rivers Ride' is next up. This ride will be September 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. Looking at the team on this one, I know it'll be a good one.

Please consider joining us next year. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson. If you have ideas or suggestions for routes, destinations, etc., please feel free to pass them along.

See you on the road!

*Carl*

# Pictorial Review of Chapter Events

**A huge thank you to Theresa Leto for being such a terrific chapter photographer.**

**Senior Ride** - 27 bikes and 45 senior riders. Wow – how these folks love this day! Thank you to the New Berlin Police Department for their assistance with this heartwarming event. Check out this link to see more:

<https://youtu.be/DKTSfHr9AHl> Thank you to Dan Stammen for this!



**Left: Getting Ready to mount up.**



**Right: Timmer and happy passenger**



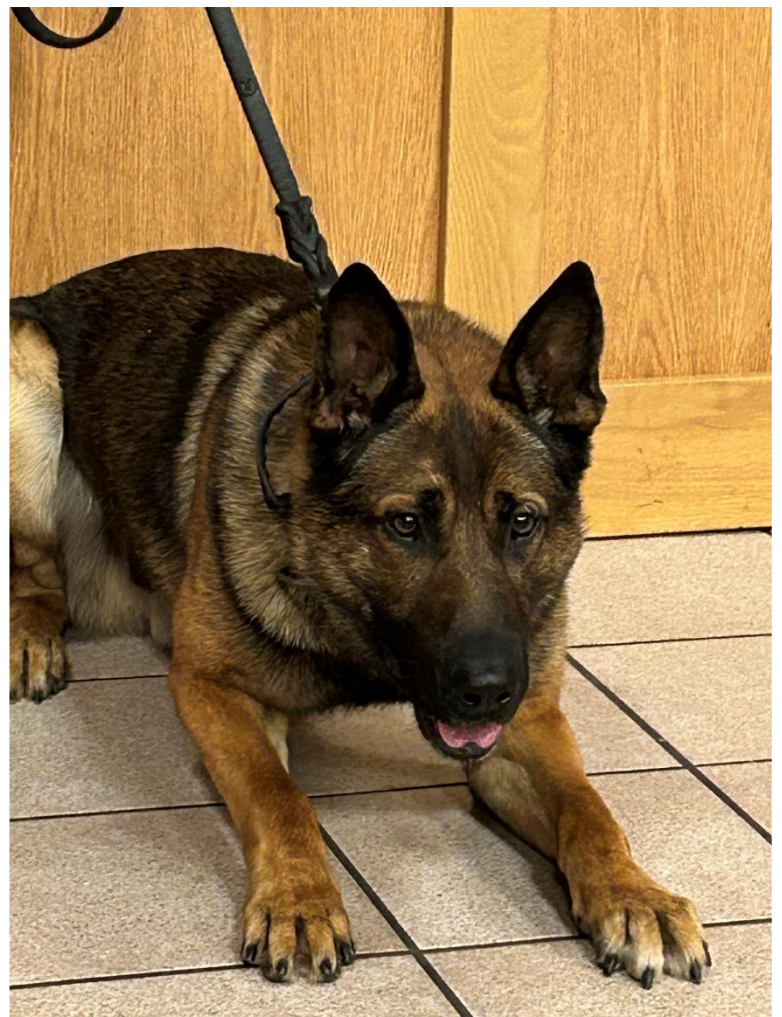
**The Regency graciously provided a tasty lunch for all.**



**June chapter meeting at Wisconsin Harley Davidson. Thank you to Leslie for hosting and to all grillers and servers!**



**The Rock River Chapter proudly presented donations to the New Berlin Motorcycle Unit and the Oconomowoc Canine Unit.**





**RIDE LIKE A PIRATE**

# HODAG RIDE



*Hodag*  
2024




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# WISCONSIN



summer's

# NOT OVER!

## parking & garbage help

### NEEDED FOR NOT RALLY RALLY!

#### UPCOMING EVENTS!!

- August 21st Bike Night with Dirty Canteen
- September 7th Medal of Honor Ride
- September 14th Ride for Recovery
- September 18th Bike Night with Detour
- September 22nd Project 22 MKC Ride

Watch for a separate email with a link for parking and garbage help needed for Friday August 30th and 31st!

**WISCONSIN**  
OCONOMOWOC, WI

**MOTOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON CYCLES**

**the NOT RALLY RALLY**  
LABOR DAY WEEKEND  
FRIDAY AUG. 30TH & SATURDAY AUG. 31ST  
9 AM - 6 PM  
FOOD, MUSIC & MORE!

FRIDAY MUSIC FROM - HEADRUSH 11 AM - 2 PM  
CHASIN MASON 3 PM - 6 PM  
SATURDAY MUSIC FROM - VINTAGE GROOVE 11 AM - 2 PM  
ALMIGHT VINYL 3 PM - 6 PM

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