

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

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

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich

Welcome to spring 2024. Officially it begins on Tuesday, March 19, at 10:06 PM. Coming out of winter we already notice the days are getting longer. On this day, the Spring or Vernal Equinox, we have exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. From here on out until September 22nd we will have more daylight than darkness and that means more daylight riding time!



To me the beginning of spring also means a fresh start and rejuvenation. From the new annuals and perineals I'm starting from seed to the new set of irons I'm sizing up to help regain my golf game, and of course the motorcycle rides this season (remember if your bike is in storage at WISHD you need to give 2 weeks notice to pick it up – and the Pizza ride is March 29!).



Lori and I are looking forward to participating in the Windy 9, Hodag Run, and Rock the Rivers to name a few of the longer rides our chapter offers (remember that signups for the Windy 9 and Hodag Run will be at the March Chapter meeting). We know (sorry insider knowledge that comes out in April) that many of the Flat Rocker stops will provide opportunities for short and long rides to new places on new roads as we discover more of Wisconsin's uniqueness. I've heard of a different kind of ride that we are going to try to do at least one of this year, a "Right – Left" ride. If I understand it correctly I'm packing the bike for a weekend (or just a day) and heading in some direction and then periodically turning left or right. All I know is that we will not be going straight east for long!



We are looking forward to new trips beyond motorcycling this year meeting new or hanging with old friends. We are headed to Iceland in July. A land of geothermal energy, volcanoes, it sits on top the Mid-Atlantic ridge where two tectonic plates spread, one toward Europe and another toward North America. Yup the Atlantic ocean is getting wider! The Silfra fissure offers a unique SCUBA dive between these plates with the warmest water of the year; hopefully 34°, which I plan to enjoy. Have you considered the Cabo trip? 80° in January of 2025 seems like a great way to welcome the New Year.



Oh, speaking of the Vernal Equinox, if you're waiting for that perfect time to balance a raw egg this one day, this one minute of the year, I have to tell you that it is a myth! Yes our planet is right between the moon and sun, yes the length of day/night is perfect 12/12 hours, but

- Ken

ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

As I'm writing this article (March 11) Spring will arrive in **8 days 4 hours 53 minutes.**

We can only hope that all the snow and salt is gone so we can start our riding season. *Ladies and Gentlemen, start your engines!*

NOTE: Everyone: If you haven't looked at the 2024 calendar on the Rock River Hog Chapter website you need to do so, especially new members. We have a ton of rides and events planned for this riding season so the calendar will be updated each month with new rides / events.

New members:

Now is the time to start thinking about the new riding season. I can remember when I first joined the chapter, I didn't know anyone and had no one to ride with. This is your chance to pick a ride and join a group going on a planned route led by an experienced rider. I found that it was a great way to meet people and went on roads I had never been on before. I felt safer riding in a group than by myself. You will find that we have very welcoming people in this chapter, and we all want to ride safe and have a good time.

NOTE: If you ever have questions regarding an upcoming ride, please do not hesitate to talk to me or any of the Road Captains.

Upcoming rides:

March 29 Good Friday Pizza Ride.

April 27 Saturday Knock the Rust off.

I can't help myself enjoy the following:

A woman brought her Saint Bernard to the vet. She said to the veterinarian, "I'm concerned that my dog is cross-eyed. Is there anything you can do for him, Doctor? Will he be, okay?"

"Well, I'm not sure." Said the vet, "Let's have a look at him."

The vet picked up the dog and examined his eyes.

Finally, she said, "I'm going to have to put him down."

Stunned, the woman exclaimed, "What? Why would you do that? Just because he's cross-eyed?"

The vet replied, "No, because he's really heavy."

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting!

JIM "MUDDY" WATERS

Head Road Captain

Good Friday Pizza Ride

WHEN - Friday March 29, 2024 Rain/Snow/Shine...

KSU at 11 am from the best Dealership around, Wisconsin Harley, Oconomowoc. (Weather permitting). You can come in your car also!

WHERE - Pewaukee's best Pizza place, Park Avenue Pizza Company. 121 Park Ave, Pewaukee, WI 53072

WHAT – Pizza Buffet!! Includes-- Fresh Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, A variety of Pizzas, Soda, Tea or Coffee.

COST - \$16/person. Sign Up and Pay at the March Chapter meeting.

SAVE THE DATE FOR KNOCK THE RUST OFF EVENT

APRIL 27, 2024 at 9:00AM

At the **FOX RIVER CHURCH** in Waukesha

Take advantage of this perfect opportunity to practice skills that were hibernating all winter and then go on a ride to fine tune them. ABATE will be leading this event but don't forget to look for our Safety Office, Dan Stammen there too!

This event is FREE!

MOTORCYCLE vs. AIRPLANE?



Some of you may already know this, but I am a private pilot with a few added endorsements like Tailwheel, Complex

and High-Performance Airplanes. This means I can fly a wide variety of single engine general aviation aircraft. There are many Quotes of Wisdom in aviation to remind us pilots about the constant responsibilities we manage while flying. One of my favorites is, "Aviation in itself is not inherently dangerous. But to an even greater degree than the sea, it is terribly unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity or neglect."

Motorcycle riding and flying are two of my passions. To continue to fly I am required by law to pass a medical exam, a flight review every two years, and I have to prove my proficiency at flying in order to carry passengers with me. (Flight Logs) There are many more rules & requirements but I only have so much room to write.

Motorcycles on the other hand - we get our motorcycle endorsements and we can pick any size bike, any amount of horsepower, ride in any weather and carry anyone we want with us, without ANY added training or medical exams. We rely on our judgment to get us through. Here is another saying I like to remember, "Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgment."

Motorcycling & flying are two awesome and life inspiring activities that can both have serious consequences if not respected. Aviation requires constant education and readiness while motorcycle riding requires one driver's test. To be fair, I know aviation has MANY more opportunities for advanced training than the motorcycle community SO, that is why we need to take every advantage we can to obtain the extra training when it IS

available and practice our skills on a regular basis. Get in those parking lots and practice your slow maneuvers. Make an effort to attend the "Knock the Rust Off" with Abate or anyone who is offering some advanced riding classes. Practice the good judgment you have learned over the years. Slow it down, wear better gear, and watch your dietary intake. Stay Healthy and Enjoy the Ride!

I wish you all a great riding season!

- DAN STAMMEN

RIDE LIKE A PIRATE

By: Mark Knackert

Well, we are not really going to ride like pirates because if we wore patches it would affect our depth perception and that is not safe. We are going to take a



pleasant ride to Eagle River leaving on July 12th. We will arrive in Eagle River Friday evening in time to enjoy a local fish fry or dinner of your choice. The evening will be spent around the fire enjoying the comradery and laughs. On Saturday we will ride the north woods, or you can take in some of the local attractions. Saturday afternoon around 3:30 we will meet back at the hotel and head over to the Pirates cove where we will board the ship for our 2-hour cruise. We can bring beverages of our choice and snacks. The only rule is that anyone over indulging will need to walk the plank. After the ride, it's dinner and back to the hotel for another evening of fireside comradery. Sunday you will have the choice of heading home or joining some of us on a Rock Wisconsin stop adventure. (we will know where that will take us when the stops are revealed) Where we will spend that night is to be determined. Monday we will return home stopping at more Rock Wisconsin stops along the way.

ROCK WISCONSIN

-Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

If you're like me, the nice weather we've been having has really gotten you wanting to ride.

Rock Wisconsin shares that feeling and we can't wait to get going with our rides!

We've teased you with information on the Windy 9 and the Hodag Rides at the February Chapter meeting and we hope you're planning to ride with us.

The March Chapter meeting will be sign-up time for these two rides and we'll have information if you want to 'Ride Like a Pirate' in July.

April and May will have information on the International Crane Ride and then the Rock the Rivers.

So, hopefully you've gotten your calendars marked, your trusty Harley ready and limbered up, because we're going to do some riding!

Please plan to join us, you won't regret it!

See you on the road!

Carl

2024 ROCK WISCONSIN RIDES				
Ride	Dates	Info Distributed at Chapter Mtg.	Sign Ups begin at Chapter Mtg.	
Windy 9	May 18-26	Feb	March	April
Hodag Ride	June 21-23	Feb	March	April
Ride Like a Pirate	July 12-14	March	April	May
Ride to the International Crane Federation + Pizza Farm	August 3-5	April	May	June
Rock the Rivers	Sept 6-8	May	June	July



ROC TRAINING

Last month, six board members attended this year's ROC Training presented by H.O.G. held in Brookfield. New information was presented and there was time to collaborate with other chapters and share ideas.



Board attendees L to R: Betsy Boos, Amy Dey, Candy Parr, Carl Samppala, Ken Kessenich and Dru Urbaniak

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

By: Carl Samppala

New Members:

January

Tor Millonzi
Tina Olson
Doris Berndt

2023 Mileage

10,000-10,999:

Tim Droester
Karen Schmeling
Lee Schmeling
Denise Wasilewski

11,000-11,999:

Sharon Wolff

12,000-12,999:

James Wasilewski

13,000-13,999:

Jay T. Greenwald
Pat Downing
Tom Downing

14,000-14,999:

Michele Fassbender
Craig Fassbender
Jim Micale

15,000-15,999:

Frank VanDusen
Kitty Knight
Carl Samppala

Pete Puetz-17,757



Tina Olson and Doris Berndt

FLAT ROCKER TO START SOON

This year's Flat Rocker Challenge will be unveiled at the April chapter meeting. All materials needed for the challenge will be available after the meeting.

50/50 NEWS

Thanks to Dennis Lynner and Janet Sam for helping out at the February Chapter Meeting. Keep an eye out for John and Cindy Patrick. I'm sure they will have a few winning tickets available for you to purchase at the March Chapter Meeting.

FOR SALE AT THE MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

If you'd like a Rock River long sleeve shirt and/or our own customized Rock River Poker Chip, stop by and see Candy Parr. T-shirts are \$25.00 for chapter members and Poker chips are \$3.00

DON'T FORGET THAT H.O.G. CARD

Please bring your H.O.G. card to each chapter meeting you attend. This verifies your membership and qualifies you to win the "Pays to Attend" prize given out at each meeting.

BAGS TOURNAMENT

By: Theresa Leto

The first annual Rock River Chapter Bags Tournament was held on Friday, March 8th. 8 sets of boards were placed all around the entire dealership. It was a fun evening with our biker family. Thank you to Wisconsin HD and Leslie Smith for helping make this event possible. The collage below shows a few highlights from our bags tournament.



LOBBY DAY RECAP

The wheels on the bus went round and round all the way to Madison. Unlike last year, we made it to Lobby Day on one bus.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in coming to support our efforts. If you were there for the first time, hope you enjoyed the experience and that you will be joining us next year.

Our points we lobbied for are Fuel Choice, Protecting E10 or less gasoline, Right to Repair, Vehicle Data Recorder and Anti-Profiling. We made very strong points on all of them. Unfortunately, because of scheduling issues we had to use a smaller room than we would have liked. The fortunate part of having a smaller room was we had people sitting in window sills filling the room. It really looked impressive from my point of view. Even though Lobby Day is over we don't stop contacting our lawmakers. You can still call, email or go to town hall meetings and make your voice heard. This fight is for us to have our freedoms to ride, repair and keep our privacy to ourselves. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at My3rjs@gmail.com or call or text my cell at 414-406-7972.

Thanks for your support of ABATE. -- Bob "BuellBob" Slowinski



JOIN US FOR "TASTE TO HOPE"

- A fundraiser for The ALS Association - WI Chapter

Hey friends and foodies, it's back with a twist! We're thrilled to invite you to a spectacular evening of delicious bites, beverages, & more! Let's come together for an unforgettable night while making a difference!

Date: Saturday, April 20

Time: 6pm to 9pm

Venue: Muskego Circle Community Center
S63 W13694 Janesville Rd. Muskego, WI 53150

Ticket Details:

\$20 pre-sale

\$25 at door

Order your tickets online here- <https://bit.ly/3SS3lvY>

Purchase by check- Make it payable to Passport to Hope and mail to: In Care of Throttle Travel S63 W13646 Janesville Rd. Muskego, WI 53150

Purchase by cash- Stop by Cities Edge Salon (S63 W13646 W Janesville Rd) OR text Carrie Schmidt (414)303-6348 for more information on available pick-up locations.

Your ticket not only grants you access to tasty treats & beverages, silent auctions, 50/50, raffles, dancing & more but also contributes to supporting ALS research and creating hope for those affected by this challenging disease.

Let's UNITE for a night of compassion, community, and HOPE! Spread the word, bring your friends & family, and let's make "Taste to Hope" a night to remember. Together we can make a difference!

Don't miss out on this chance to have fun and contribute to a meaningful cause. See you there!

WHOLE H.O.G.

A quick update on H.O.G. happenings. At the February Chapter meeting, we talked about updates to the **Ride 365** program and, sure enough, changes have been made.



First off, somethings that haven't changed:

You (and your passenger) still need to have your beginning mileage entered (on or after January 1) and a second mileage entered (on or before December 31). As in the past, last years ending mileage DOES NOT carry forward for the **Ride 365** annual mileage, but will for your lifetime mileage. You still need to have your mileage officially entered at a Harley-Davidson dealer (Wisconsin Harley-Davidson should be your first choice, of course). Points may be redeemed at participating Harley-Davidson dealers or online at H-D.com. Also, you must make sure your HOG ID is linked to your account at H-D.com/membership or via the H-D app.

Now a few of the changes:

In the past, service would enter the mileage. Now, the sales staff is your point of entry. Previously, points were awarded at 2500 and 10000 miles. For the coming year, points are awarded at 1000, 2500, 5000, 7500, 10000 and 15000 miles. Points, once recorded are valid for 36 months. In the past, they expired rather quickly, generally by the end of the quarter in which they were issued. However, one important item to note is they are limiting the program to 121,000,000 points, first come first served, so it is in your interest to stop in and have them entered sooner rather than later. As I write this, the 'available' points have already dropped to 120,867,000!

To redeem your points, you will need to have the H-D app on your phone. Unfortunately, the exact procedure is not clear at this time and Leslie is trying to track down that information. Stay tuned for updates!

Another item you may hear about as you renew your national membership, is HOG is no longer issuing new cards. Future trends suggest you will need to, again, download the H-D app and the info will be there.

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DEALERSHIP FUN!

Mar. 23rd

**Easter Egg Hunt & Season
Opener**

11 am - 1 pm



**DON'T FORGET
APRIL IS HELMET
MONTH!**



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 18TH

BIKES, BLESSINGS & THE VFW

REGISTRATION 10-10:45 AM

BLESSING 10:45 AM

KSU 11 AM

CAN'T MAKE THE RIDE?

BLESSINGS ON SITE AT THE DEALERSHIP

START AT 11 AM!

MAY 25TH

HONOR CELEBRATION



WISCONSIN



OCONOMOWOC, WI

**BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM FOR
MORE DETAILS AND MORE FUN COMING YOUR WAY!**