

**ROCK RIVER  
CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**

December 2023  
Volume 23  
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**ROCK RIVER  
H.O.G. CHAPTER  
#3276**

## Rock River Board

### DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich  
director@rockriverhog.com

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Carl Samppala  
asst\_director@rockriverhog.com

### SECRETARY

Amy Dey  
secretary@rockriverhog.com

### TREASURER

David Urbaniak  
treasurer@rockriverhog.com

### HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN

Jim "Muddy" Waters  
roadcaptain@rockriverhog.com

### EDITOR/NEWSLETTER

Lori Kessenich  
editor@rockriverhog.com

### MEMBERSHIP

Betsy Boo  
membership@rockriverhog.com

### ACTIVITIES

Open

### SAFETY OFFICER

Dan Stamman  
safety@rockriverhog.com

### HISTORIAN

Carl Samppala  
historian@rockriverhog.com

### ROCK WISCONSIN

Carl Samppala  
asst\_director@rockriverhog.com

### SHINY SIDE UP

Candy Parr  
shinysideup@rockriverhog.com

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Theresa Leto  
photographers@rockriverhog.com

### WEBMASTER

Michael Draeger & Brandon Smith  
webmaster@rockriverhog.com

### H.O.G. Manager/Dealer Liaison

Leslie Smith  
[leslie.smith@wishd.com](mailto:leslie.smith@wishd.com)

### MERCHANDISE OFFICER

Jodi Politowski  
Jodi.Politowski@wishd.com

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Ken Kessenich

### Director's Article December 2023



Once Thanksgiving has passed, the turkey is gone and the Tryptophan has worn off, I really get excited for the upcoming holiday season.

The excitement came fast and furious this year as we celebrated Thanksgiving on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and then we had all the family over to celebrate Christmas on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>! So down came the fall decorations and up went all of Christmas. We bought our tree before Thanksgiving and brought it in on Saturday. I truly went Griswald this year with a 12 foot Canaan fir (a hybrid cross between a Balsam and a Fraser). Lights went on Saturday afternoon, ornaments Sunday and Monday and then on to wrapping all the gifts. I'm lucky to have a great partner to get all this done, and that reminds me what a gift we have in our chapter of excellent ride planners, leaders and sweeps.

This time of year there are plenty of things to keep our senses awake. I love **seeing** the neighborhood light up and thinking many people are excited and looking forward to all the holiday season brings. Our new motorcycle, "Maverick", is getting some lights of his own this holiday season. Those will make us more visible and provide extra safety.

With our tree up, lights on, and ornaments hung, every morning we wake up to the wonderful **scent** of our Christmas tree. We so enjoy that aspect of motorcycling like riding through the tunnel of trees, or past a Wisconsin farm, and even those you cannot see but smell when there is road kill nearby!

You know the song lyrics "..... who's been naughty and nice?" Well "Mav" is likely going to be both as he is also getting a new set of pipes. Quiet is nice, maybe louder is naughty, but again being **heard** triggers another sense in those around us and again increases our safety (and of course it just sounds great).

In the flurry of opening gifts by our 2.5 grandchildren, 2 children and their spouses, 3 grand puppies, and 2 cats we certainly enjoyed the soft **feel** of a sherpa lined shacket and fleece blanket, strength of a hunting knife, and the sheer power of a cordless circle saw. While riding in South Dakota this fall with morning temps at 50° we really appreciated the warmth of our heated jackets and the heated grips. The grand pups loved the **flavor** of their Christmas bones and Belle and Luna rolled and played with cat nip stuffies.

Yes I did say 2.5! We are anxiously awaiting a new "Baby K" coming between Christmas and New Year's.

I hope the article made **sense** 😊.

Enjoy the holidays!

Ken

# DECEMBER MEETING

## LOCATION CHANGE

When: Tuesday, December 19, 2023  
Time: 6:00 PM Social Hour  
7:00 PM Dinner, brief meeting,  
Flat Rocker awards  
Where: **Wisconsin Harley Davidson**

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## 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.

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## 50/50

Shout out to Candy Parr and Dawn Makowski for helping with the 50/50 tickets at November Chapter Meeting.

Our little elves for the December Chapter Meeting

will be Tim and Kris Droster.

Thank you!



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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS HERE

You can renew your membership at the December chapter meeting. You may also renew at the dealership. If you renew by December 30<sup>th</sup> (close of business at the dealership) the cost for membership is \$20. If you renew after that date it will be \$30. Cash or check made out to Rock River Hog are accepted forms of payment.

# HEARTFELT THANKS

Many thanks to all of you who brought food to the last chapter meeting. Your generous donations helped to keep the Oconomowoc Food Pantry stocked for those in need.

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## DON'T MISS OUT ON THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY PARTY

### Time to get your 'hula' on!

Join in the fun for the Rock River Chapter Holiday party, held on Friday, January 19, 2024 at the Ingleside Hotel. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, music, dancing, games and prizes included.

Cocktails: 6:00-7:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Member price: \$45.00

Nonmember price: \$65.00



The Hawaiian theme will help us feel like we've been transported to the tropics! While not required, please feel free to dress up!

So get out of the cold and warm up with good food, friends and fun!

Be sure to sign up at this Tuesday's meeting.



# SHOE BOX GIFTS

For those of you who are participating in the Wellpoint Shoe Box Christmas for kids, please bring your completed box, unwrapped, to the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Janet Sam will collect them from you. Thank you all for your kindness to offer a Christmas gift to children who may otherwise receive nothing.

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# FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER

The holiday party is quickly approaching, and I unfortunately will be out of town. Will you be in attendance? If the



answer is yes, I could use your keen eye and outgoing personality to get a few good photos. I'm looking for group and couples' photos, funny photos, dancing photos and maybe a few food pictures. Please review photos before sending to photographer. Not all photos will be posted in newsletter or put into slideshow for chapter meeting.

Please send photos to the Rock River Photographer.

Thank you and have a great time at the party!!



**"Let's encourage one another, as life is too short not to enjoy & support your Rock River Family"**

**Shine on! Be Kind! Shiny Side up!**

Candy "Sunshine" Parr

shinysideup@rockriverhog.com

**Happy Holidays from Shiny Side Up**

# MILEAGE UPDATE

The Ride 365 program runs January 1 to December 31 and as of the November Chapter meeting, we have 15 members who have ridden more than 10,000 miles in 2023!

Our Chapter as a whole has accumulated almost 427,000 miles. This total ranks us 37<sup>th</sup> nationwide and **first in the State of Wisconsin!** Participation includes 85 members, which gives an average 5,020 miles/participating member.

Some reminders:

- If you have a passenger, they count also. Remember to have their HOG number when your mileage is recorded.
- When you get your bike out in the spring, have the mileage recorded. The ending mileage **does not** carry forward for the annual mileage.

# FROM OUR HISTORIAN

**By:** Carl Samppala

## **New Members:**

Ken Baumann (left)  
Bob Tieberg (right)

## **Anniversaries:**

### **All 2 years**

Tim Harris  
Brenda Wegner  
Dave Wegner  
Alan Wisch



# EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK

By: Dan Stammen

Do you know the maximum weight your motorcycle should weigh? Also known as Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). When Harley Davidson designed your motorcycle, through engineering and testing, they determined the maximum your motorcycle should weigh when you are riding it. In your OWNERS MANUAL you will find a section that tells you what your Max GVWR is. It is also written on a warning label that is most likely located on one of the frames down tubes right in front of the engine. (Some locations may vary per model) There is also a weight limit set per axel, which is known as Gross Axel Weight Rating (GAWR).

These numbers are important because if you ride while over the GVWR or GAWR, you are at risk of component failure, stability issues and poor handling/ performance. All of which can lead to serious injury or death.

According to My Owner's Manual for my 2013 FLHX Street Glide, my motorcycles running weight is 822 lbs., and my GVWR is 1360 lbs., which leaves me 538 lbs. for accessories, cargo, riding gear, passenger and rider. After weighing myself in riding gear, stuff in the saddlebags, sissy bar, and Aux lights, Luggage rack, Phone Holder, GoPro's & batteries, and a duffle bag of clothes for a long weekend, I came in at 345 lbs. for a grand total of 1167 lbs. So, I guess with 193 lbs. to spare, the wife can still come along, but she can't buy anything.... Yeah Right.

Keep in mind all those accessories like Aux Lights, bigger seat, tool bag with tools, CB Radio & First Aid Kit can add up in lbs. However, some upgrades can save you weight like replacing the intake/exhaust system, suspension components, aftermarket wheels etc. Also keep in mind the load limit of your saddle bags and tour pack if you have one. Always try to balance the load from left /right

saddle bag and try to carry the weight down low. Having a stuffed tour pack and two more bags strapped on top, may make it interesting in the corners or when riding in a strong crosswind.

If you routinely travel at the limit or overloaded, pay attention to any odd feelings in the bikes handling and sounds. Be sure to have it checked out because something may be prematurely failing or damaged due to overloading.

## ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Wow, it's December and a few weeks till Christmas. We have already started the planning process for new rides next year. We have a great group of people that have volunteered their time to plan and lead rides with safety in mind as Road Captains. Interested in becoming a Road Captain or Road Guard? See me for an application.

With all of the hustle and bustle I thought you needed a little Christmas humor.

*What To Give An Optimist And A Pessimist*

*A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. The opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist.*

*Just to see what would happen, at Christmas time their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist's room he loaded with horse manure.*

*That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly.*

*"Why are you crying?" the father asked.*

*"Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken." answered the pessimist twin.*

*Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure. "What are you so happy about?" he asked.*

*To which his optimist twin replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere!"*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Hope to see you at the meeting or on the road.

Jim "Muddy" Waters

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL OF US  
HERE AT  
WISCONSIN H-D  
WE WANT TO WISH YOU A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MARK THOSE  
CALENDARS FOR SOME  
NON-RIDING FUN!

DEC. 16TH  
VENDOR MARKET  
9 AM - 3 PM  
&  
GIFT WRAPPING 10 AM - 3  
PM

JAN. 13TH  
CHILI COOK OFF  
11 AM - 1 PM




LOOKING FOR ONE OR TWO  
PEOPLE TO REPRESENT THE  
CHAPTER AT OUR CHILI  
COOK OFF JAN. 13TH  
PLEASE EMAIL  
[LESLIE.SMITH@WISHD.COM](mailto:LESLIE.SMITH@WISHD.COM)  
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!

DON'T FORGET OUR  
HOLIDAY HOURS

DEC. 17TH & 18TH  
10 AM - 4 PM  
DEC. 19TH - 22ND  
10 AM - 6 PM  
DEC. 23RD  
9 AM - 4 PM  
DEC. 24TH - 26TH  
CLOSED

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