

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

October 2023
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H.O.G. CHAPTER
#3276**

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich



As I got dressed for the Colorama ride on the 7th and put on my chaps, heated jacket, leather jacket, face shield, you get the idea, it was a cool welcoming (42 degrees) to fall. Clearly change is occurring.

I think that change in some respects is why we live and enjoy Wisconsin. Those cool crisp fall days are not that bad. The changing colors are beautiful especially when you get that blue sky sunny day to view them. The **first few** snowfalls do seem beautiful, and finally as spring reemerges, life comes back to Wisconsin and the roads look inviting again.

We do have to change our routine a bit planning our fall rides. Leave a little later in the morning as the sun comes up dissipating the dew (or frost!). Home a little earlier as the darkness appears and the deer come out and sadly take those turns a little slower and less banked looking out for leaves.

I made a big change last month. I traded in my 2015 Ultra Limited for a 2023 grey Road Glide Limited. OMG – The torque is amazing, cruising in 5th or 6th and you need only roll on the throttle to quickly increase your speed. Downshifting is not needed to pass any longer. I'm really enjoying the light feel of the handle bars making turning so much easier (in my opinion only!). Lastly after just getting it, finishing the break-in, Lori and I went on the Driftless Dry ride. After arriving in Hillsboro, a number of us chose to add a little ride to Mauston to get a stamp for the Passport program. Friday was a beautiful sunny day and we were riding down smooth two-lane highway 82. I saw some semi-trucks approaching, and intentionally moved closer to the yellow (still safe, but). There was NO handle vibration from the wind as they passed. I love it. When riding out to the Black Hills a couple weeks and 1000 miles later, traveling on highway 90 and doing 80 mph I did think Harley could consider putting in a 7th gear!!

I usually ride until just before I think salt will be put down on the roads so I have some days, miles, turns and friendship left this season.

Some change can be good, some can bring challenges but overall change at least here in Wisconsin keeps us flexible.

What will you do when change comes your way?

Ken

ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

By Jim "Muddy" Waters

Road Captain Corner

I don't know about you, but I have had a great year riding on some awesome rides this year. How fast the riding season has gone. I have met many new people and enjoyed many happy times. This is my favorite time of the year to ride on a beautiful scenic ride on Wisconsin's backroads. The trees are downing their fall color and smell of fall is in the air. Overhead a flock of Canadian geese is navigating the high wind as they are heading south. The farmers are harvesting the crops from the fields. Oh My! How fortunate are we that we get to ride our bikes and take it all in. We get to do what many people will never have a chance to do or experience. I thank the good lord each and every day for allowing me to be part of such a wonderful chapter with such amazing members. Where else could I have a captive audience to tell a joke or funny story to? STOP GROANING!

With that being said.

Late one night, Trey, an inexperienced but very enthusiastic percussionist, was showing a friend his new apartment. He led the way to his bedroom, where there was a big brass gong.

"What's with the gong?" asked the friend.

"It's not a gong. It's a talking clock," Trey replied.

"A talking clock? How does it work?"

"Watch," said Trey. He picked up a hammer, gave the gong an ear-shattering pound, and stepped back.

Someone on the other side of the wall screamed, "Hey, you jerk! It's three in the morning!"

See you on the road or at the Chapter Meeting. ☺

Jim "Muddy" Waters

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

Carl Sampala

New Members:

Bill Morris

Anniversaries:

August

Jody Koepsell 20 years

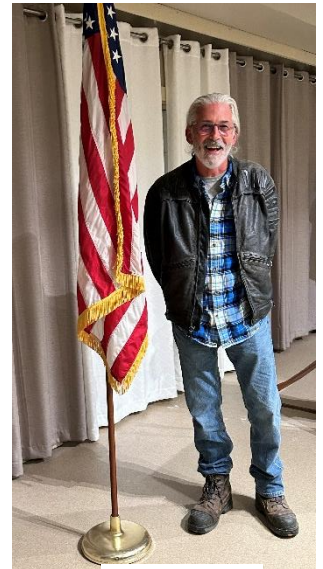
Monte Whitaker 15 years

Denise Runyan 2 years

September

Earl Carawan 15 years

Stacy Carawan 15 years



Bill Morris

BURN CAMP RIDE

Director Ken Kessenich presents the proceeds from the silent auction held at an earlier chapter meeting to the Burn Camp on the night of the ride.



THE HORROR!!

By Dan Stammen – Your Safety Officer

It is getting to be that time of year again. Time to start accepting the fact that this beautiful fall weather is going to someday be crappy cold winter weather. The chore of putting our sweet summer ride down for a long winter's nap suddenly becomes a priority. Some of those thoughts have to be planned out so when it is time to wake that sleeping beast in the spring, it will be ready to go and give you yet another perfect start to the 2024 riding season.

Here are a few tips before putting your bike in storage,

1. Clean your bike!!! Remove all those dead bugs and tar smudges. Treat the leather with a quality leather treatment and polish the chrome. Protect it from the little critters that would like to make your bike its winter retreat. Give that bike a thorough look over, and if anything looks wrong or questionable, get it to your mechanic now. Don't wait until spring only to find every mechanic booked up for 2 months.
2. Top off your tank and treat it with some fuel stabilizer. Topping off your tank will reduce the area available for condensation to form which is BAD for your tank. Plus, the tank will be full and ready to go on that first warm spring day.
3. Top off those tires. Also consider raising your bike off the floor for the winter. Use a proper motorcycle stand for your ride to get the tires off the floor. Tires lose air when in storage and if forgotten, it is possible to create flat spots on your tires if they sit on the same spot for months.
4. Change the oil before you store your bike for the winter. As the oil eventually breaks down through use, its level of acidity increases which can cause excessive corrosion and etching on the soft metal

components of the engine. Plus, it will be one less thing to do in the spring when you just want to ride.

5. Start looking to sign up for an [Accident Scene Management](#) (ASM) class. Why sit around bored all winter when you could be obtaining some valuable training. Grab some friends and make it a group event. Learning how to help a fellow rider after a crash is priceless. And ASM classes are fun! I've done them twice and always meet cool people and have a few laughs.

I hope this information comes in **handy...**

- Dan Stammen

RAFFLE TICKET VOLUNTEERS



Thank you to Steve and Brenda Courtney for helping out during the September Chapter meeting. They graciously stepped up when we had two volunteers that were unable to make it.

At the October chapter meeting your ticket sellers will be Rob Fehl and Tracey Iverson.

- Have fun!!

IN MEMORY

Our Rock River Chapter lost two of its members recently. Please keep the family and friends of Dewey Hembra and Terry Werderitz in your thoughts and prayers. May they rest in peace.

ROCK WISCONSIN

By: Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

As I write this, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is, you're reading this in the October newsletter and that means our 2023 Rock Wisconsin season has come to an end. The good news is, the majority of the committee members will be back and more rides are coming next year! In the meantime, we're taking September and October off to try and recharge our batteries and we'll be back at it in November.

We've heard from some of you with suggestions and ideas for future rides and we'll be sorting through them at our November Rock Wisconsin meeting. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with any of the Rock Wisconsin Committee members, Chapter Officers or Road Captains. They don't have to be a complete ride, maybe a destination or attraction that can be incorporated or combined into a ride. If you're interested in helping plan rides, to paraphrase the Marine Corps., we're always 'looking for a few good bikers' to join us.

We had great turnout this past year and I'd like to thank the following committee members for another season of great rides:

Dream Ride:

Mike Kirchner, Tim Droster and Jim Micale

Mackinac Island:

Karen Schmeling, Lee Schmeling and Carl Samppala

Apostle Islands II:

Tim Droster, Ron Patterson, Karen Schmeling and Carl Samppala

Driftless Dry:

Gary Malinowski, Barry Phillips, Ken Kessenich and Chuck Salamun

3 Rings and Many Wings:

Dwight Lehman, Virginia Lehman and Scott Kietzke

When you see any of these members, please let them know how much their efforts are appreciated.

See you on the road!

Carl

FLAT ROCKER UPDATE

All entries for the 2023 Flat Rucker must be turned in by **next Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at the chapter meeting or at the dealership before the close of business that day.**

Entries can be printed out as photos (label by number please), by putting them on a flash drive or SD card (these will be returned) or by sending a Google drive link.

I will be at a back table at the upcoming chapter meeting to collect entries. If you wish to go the Google drive route, please send to lkessenich@gmail.com.

Our hope each year is that you enjoyed the rides to get to the destinations and you have a new appreciation for all of Wisconsin's "wildlife."

- Lori Kessenich



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS FAST APPROACHING

ITEM #1

You can renew your membership beginning with the November chapter meeting and may also so at the December chapter meeting. A third option would be to renew at the dealership. If you renew by December 30th (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.

ITEM #2

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.

HELP THE HUNGRY IN NOVEMBER

If you will be attending the November chapter meeting, we would like to ask you to bring 2 non-perishable food items to help stock the local food pantry as the weather gets colder and the need arises. For your generosity, you will be given a raffle ticket for a Harley Davidson prize basket. It's such an easy way to help the community. Thank you ahead of time for your support.



BOARD AND OFFICER ELECTIONS UPDATE

The terms for the following positions are up at the end of the year:

2 year terms: Secretary and Treasurer

1 year term: Historian, Editor, Photographer, Shiny Side Up, Safety Officer, Membership

The members who currently serve in the above listed positions are willing to continue on for another term, but if you have an interest in serving in any of these roles, please contact Ken Kessenich before the end of November.

There is a need for someone to serve as the lead of **Ladies of Harley** and **Activities**. Won't you please consider volunteering for one of these? Perhaps consider getting a friend to do it with you!

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

for the

The Rock River Chapter Holiday Party

The Hawaiian theme will help us feel like we've been transported to the tropics!



APOSTLE ISLANDS RIDE REPORT

-By Carl Samppala

Our encore ride to the Apostle Islands started off with the threat of rain. However, after an initial morning of rain gear and some 'invigorating' temperatures to start the mornings, the weather turned to great riding weather.

Friday included a lunch break at the Wausau Mining Company and the afternoon portion included two Flat rocker stops and a quick 'Passport' stop in Arbor Vitae ending with our landing in Ironwood, MI.

Saturday, we headed out for Bayfield. Some had elected to take the Apostle Islands cruise while others chose to take the 'Low Speed Aquatic Transportation Vehicle' across to Madeline Island. On Madeline Island, we broke up into two groups, with one going clockwise, the other counter-clockwise. We passed each other at the far side and then met up to pick up our box lunches. Back to the mainland and as we staged, Muddy, our Head Road Captain, worked on his recruiting of future Road Captains, giving an orientation ride to this 'prospect' (Candy Parr's mother):



Tim Droster set up the route and led us on some great roads, winding up in Cable for some ice cream. The owner was a little puzzled about how a group of motorcyclists from Southeastern

Wisconsin had found him! Along our return route to the hotel, we stopped to see Hiawatha 'The World's Largest Native American Statue.'



Sunday morning's pre-ride revealed many people had been checking the weather forecast and Monday didn't look promising! A quick show of hands and we decided to continue with Sunday's ride, ending in Shawano and then head for home. Turned out to be a good choice, as we had great weather for Sunday, with Monday seeing over 2" of rain on the Milwaukee area.

DRIFTLESS DRY RIDE REPORT

-By Ken Kessenich

Another encore ride lived up to its name. It really was dry this time! The Hotel Hillsboro was home for two nights with a few brave soles taking part in Karaoke on Friday night.



Hillsboro Brewing Company was enjoyed by many for Friday's dinner, Bucknuckles is always a fascinating lunch stop (on Saturday) and hats off to Chuck Salamun for arranging a wonderful catered buffet dinner for the entire group on Saturday evening.

Riding highlights included a great tour of S&S Cycle, Inc., Reel Brothers in Mauston for a passport stamp, a few Flat Rocker stops, Wildcat Mountain, and the many beautiful roads of the driftless area valleys. (well we *did* encounter just a few bridges out, but flexibility was the key!)

PICTORIAL REVIEW



AUGUST CHAPTER PICNIC




COLORAMA 2023



LAST BIKE NIGHT OF THE 2023 SEASON



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hello FALL

WISCONSIN



OCONOMOWOC, WI

IT'S THAT SAD TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!
BE SURE TO GET ON THE LIST FOR STORAGE!
OR PLAN YOUR WINTER WORK!



**WE'LL KEEP YOUR RIDE
COZY FOR THE WINTER**



MARK THOSE CALENDARS FOR SOME NON-RIDING FUN!

And we're still working on more! So stay tuned!

OCT. 28TH 9 AM - 4 PM

COME IN COSTUME FOR A SPOOKTACULAR TIME -
WHEN YOU COME IN COSTUME AND RECEIVE
20% OFF LICENSED APPAREL

*CAN'T BE USED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS

NOVEMBER 24TH & 25TH
BLACK & ORANGE WEEKEND
(STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS)

DECEMBER 9TH
PICS WITH SANTA

DEC. 16TH
VENDOR MARKET

