

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

October 2025
Volume 25
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Chapter No. 3276

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The Last Ride ...



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

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich



Not just your fall colors! (part 1)

Remember grade school and learning about the electromagnetic spectrum? Invisible energy waves that bring you Apple music and SiriusXM, microwaves to quickly reheat your coffee, the UV rays that we keep blocking on those warm summer riding days, and of course what's in the middle of all of these??

R ● O ● Y ● G ● B ● I ● V

Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet - - The colors of the spectrum and those seen in a rainbow. Sunlight is composed of all of these so when sunlight shines on an object that object gets a dose of all of those colors. Which shirt is cooler on a summer day ride? A black HD shirt or a white WISHD one? Of course, the white, because black absorbs all the solar energy and converts it to heat, whereas the white reflects almost all that ROYGBIV energy.

So why is the Cardinal or Red Headed woodpecker so red? Because when the sun's energy lands on them they absorb all the sun's energy EXCEPT red – that is reflected and thus



you see red. And of course, tree leaves absorb ROYBIV and reflect the G in summer. As fall approaches, chemicals inside the leaves like chlorophyll, break down, revealing other pigments which reflect yellow, orange and red.

I like looking for the "hidden" colors. Have you seen a squirrel, deer or rabbit lately? They are all growing their "winter" fur and changing to darker colors. That helps them absorb more of the lesser sun's energy available to keep warm.



We have Elderberry growing behind our house. All the green branching eventually produce white flowers (*reflecting* all the sun's energy) and with a little pollination give way to green and eventually very dark berries *absorbing* all the sun's energy.

This time of year, apples, pumpkins of all sorts, squash, moss, mushrooms and more provide such a great variety of colors.

Until I can enjoy more colors elsewhere,

- Ken

CHAPTER NEWS MEDLEY

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, October 21, 2025
6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Meeting

WHERE: Ingleside

50/50

Thanks to Julie Ballhazor and Tina Olson for stepping up at the September meeting, especially since I was a winner. UUU WHOOO

I need one more 50/50 person for the October meeting. Just see me at the meeting if you can help. You can also message me at "Mark Knackert" (that's my husband, we share the account) or text me at 414 416 6772. -- Dawn Jean

FROM OUR HISTORIAN – Betsy Boos

September New Members:

John Marshall
Kelly Marshall
(pictured at right)

Not pictured: Todd Cort and
Chris Smith

October Anniversaries

Kathy Green – 2 years
Sale Opat - 5 years
Collette Konkell – 5 years



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

Membership renewal for 2026 will begin in November. Please make sure your ride waiver has 2026 on the top and paper work is signed. Thank you. You can sign up at the chapter meetings or at the dealership.

FLAT ROCKER ENTRIES DUE

All Flat Rocker entries must be turned in at the October meeting or at the dealership the day of the chapter meeting. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED

Printed pictures on paper, actual photos or flash/thumb drives (these will be returned) are acceptable. Lori Kessenich will be at a table collecting entries.

For those who went on the Crossing the Line ride, please make a note of that with your entries, as you will be credited with the Platteville stop due to the "Dairy Fest" parade blocking Main Street.

OPERATION SHOE BOX

Again this year, Operation Shoe Box will take place starting at the October chapter meeting.

This great cause helps Wellpoint Care Network, which has championed the restoration of families for more than 170 years. Their approach to healing is comprehensive, from prevention and early intervention services to crisis resources.

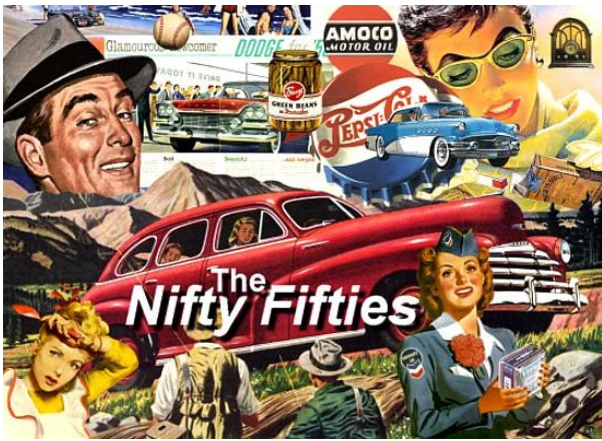
How you can help is very simple; you use any shoebox (do not wrap) and fill it with the suggestions from a list we will provide. We will provide gender and ages that will help you determine what to put in the box. You can spend as little or as much as you like.

I will be at the October meeting and have a table with what you may need and to answer questions. These gifts will be given to children in the metro area.

The deadline for these boxes will be at the November Chapter meeting.

Thank you for your continued help. Janet Sam

HAPPY DAYS HOLIDAY



Get out those cuffed jeans, white t-shirts and poodle skirts for it's time to "twist" into lots of fun.

WHEN: Saturday, January 31, 2026

WHERE: Elks Lodge in Waukesha

TIME: 6:00PM Arrival – Appetizers

6:45 – Dinner

10:30 – Last call for the bar

WHAT: Music, games with prizes, and just plenty of 50s fun!

COST: \$25 for chapter members

\$45 for non-members

Starting at the **NOVEMBER** meeting, sign ups and payments will be taken. This is a limited in number event, so be sure to reserve your spot early!



UPCOMING ELECTIONS

It's election time again for our chapter. The following Board positions are for one-year term ending on December 31, 2026.

Editor

Merchandise

Safety Officer

Sunny Side Up

Photographer

Activities

Historian

Head Road Captain

Membership

The following Board positions are for a two-year term ending on December 31, 2028.

Secretary and Treasurer

Please help us fill these necessary positions. Nobody does it alone. You will help to make an amazing team. Time commitment is one meeting per month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month that lasts about an hour.

Express your interest for any (or all!) of the positions above please by emailing your intent and a brief bio to our editor, editor@rockriverhog.com. Short biographies must be to the editor no later than **November 9th**. Those running for a position will have the opportunity to briefly speak at the November chapter meeting to introduce themselves and then elections will take place.

Wanted....

Riding season may be almost over however, it can also be time for a new adventure to begin. Every November, Rock River Hog Chapter members get the opportunity to become a board member and take on an officer's position. If you feel the need to be more involved in the direction the chapter is going, be sure



to talk to our director Ken Kessenich to see what positions are currently open and don't be afraid to step up to the task.

I have been your Safety Officer for the past two years and have enjoyed every minute of this experience. I have enjoyed researching and learning the many different aspects to Motorcycle Safety and sharing this information with all of you through my Newsletter articles and short speeches at the chapter meetings. This position has helped me to get to know many of you and I have enjoyed hearing many of your stories and suggestions for future topics.

I unfortunately have to step down from this position due to other obligations but encourage any of you to please step up and serve your beloved HOG chapter with continued reminders about the importance of motorcycle safety. We as motorcycle riders can easily become complacent and forget just how important it is that we respect the dangerous side of our favorite activity. You could be that person who is there to help us riders understand the new motorcycle safety products and available training that helps make us all better and safer riders.

If you are up for learning more about being a good motorcycle rider and are willing to share your wisdom, please do this chapter a great service and be the next Safety Officer. Thank You!

Safety Officer - Dan Stammen.

ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Having ridden on every one of the Rock Wisconsin Rides, Road Captain Brunch Rides, and dealership rides this year, I've enjoyed them all because of the hard work done by the Rock Wisconsin committee and the Road Captains. I met new members and travelled on back roads. The riding season passed quickly. I have met many new people and enjoyed many happy times. This is my favorite time of the year. 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 crops from the fields. I'm grateful every day to be part of this great

chapter with wonderful members. I want to thank all the Road Captains and Road Guards for the planning of routes, leading and sweeping these rides and keeping safety first. Like I have said more times than not, I am leading from behind.

NOTE: I'm looking for Road Captains and Road Guards. If you're interested, please see me for an application.

Here is one for you.

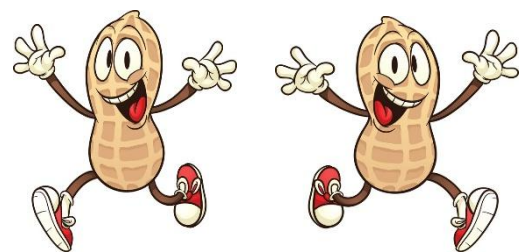
A guy walks into a bar after a long day at work and orders a drink. As he sits there mulling over his day, he hears a high -pitched voice say, "That shirt looks great on you!"

The man looks around, doesn't see anything, and returns to his drink, thinking nothing more of it. But then, a moment later, the voice returns, this time saying, "You seem like a really cool guy!"

Again, the man looks around, sees nothing, and returns to his drink, wondering if he should get checked out by a professional. Finally, when his nerves have cooled and he believes the voice is gone, he hears, "I bet your parents are really proud of you!"

He slams down his drink and calls over the bartender, "Hey barkeep! What's that voice I keep hearing?"

"Oh, those are the peanuts," the bartender replies. "They're complimentary."



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

Jim "Muddy" Waters - Head Road Captain

ROCK WISCONSIN

Please consider joining us starting in November. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Be involved as little or as much as you'd like. We'd love to add some new faces to our great group.

NEWS FROM ABATE

Happy Halloween RR. Yes it's that time of the year when the kids are looking forward to putting on their costumes and going house to house collecting candy. As adults, we buy a ton of candy to give out and get pumpkin spiced to death! Our riding season is winding down and we are starting to think about putting our bikes in hibernation. It's not our favorite thing to do but just think, 6 months from now we will be pulling our bikes out and getting ready for the 2026 riding season.

Shifting gears and something to think about...

Motorcycles account for one percent of all the miles traveled on Wisconsin roads. This year motorcycle accidents accounted for 20% of the fatalities on Wisconsin roads. Also, this year 55% of motorcycle fatalities are single bike crashes. These numbers are a wake-up call to all riders. 55% single motorcycle fatalities is a very telling statistic that some people were riding above their abilities. I don't have the complete stats on what caused the fatalities - perhaps a mechanical failure of the bike or a blown tire causing the rider to lose control contributing to the fatality. I'm sure a lot of us have read or heard on the news that a rider was traveling at a high rate of speed and lost control causing their death. Or maybe a rider was impaired causing their death.

For years now we have been preaching to all motorcyclists to ride your own ride, ride to your own abilities, don't drink and ride. But it seems to fall on deaf ears. ABATE is committed to do what it can to continue preaching about safe riding. From our statewide Safe Riding Training with MRF instructor Gary Klinker to 1F's local Knock the Rust Off we are doing our best to keep everyone safe. This winter let's all think about changing that 55% single motorcycle fatality statistic. Let's all go home after our ride!

Let's Be Safe Out There!

May God Bless You! May God Bless America!

Waukesha Strong!

BuellBob!



FALL FEST 2025



The Last Ride

With Highway 16 closed it gets very quiet at night. No headlights. No engines. Just the occasional fog rolling in like a tide of ghosts. Kind of spooky at times. The other night I thought I'd break the peacefulness with a midnight ride. Nothing better than the feeling of torque, a shimmer of chrome, and the growl of my Harley Twin Cam. Midnight rides are like a ritual—cleansing, thrilling, solitary. That night, the fog became thicker than usual. It clung to my jacket, muffled the roar of the engine. The road ahead twisted unnaturally, I've ridden this stretch many times but I don't remember these turns, like the road changed and it was trying to lead me somewhere else.

Then I saw another rider up ahead, barely visible. Black helmet. Black bike. Dim tail light. I throttled up to catch him, but he stayed just ahead of me. Every turn, every straightaway—always twenty feet ahead. I ran my Harley as hard as I could but just couldn't catch him. Then the rider veered off into the woods. I thought Oh Man! He just crashed! I stopped and ran into the woods looking for him. It was weird, No trail. No path. It was like the trees swallowing him whole. Suddenly my headlight flickered, the engine sputtered and then the bike died. The forest was silent. I got out my cell phone but noticed there was no signal, no time, no date. But I could use it for light. I kept searching for him and then I found the bike. It was a black Street Glide just like mine; it had the same phone holder, the same seat, but it was dirty and rusty. Like it had been sitting there for years. The air sure felt cold and thick with fog. I tried to look around but it was hard to see. I looked down and there was a helmet. In side it was a skull grinning back at me. I heard a whisper and it sounded like it was coming from the trees! It said, "You're late".... I took off running back to my bike and when I got to it I jumped on it and tried to start it. That's when I noticed it was the bike from the woods! Dirty and rusty but just like mine. I looked back towards the woods but the woods were gone. It was a sea of white fog!

Suddenly the bike started on its own! The engine revved and it took off like it was late for a race. I held on with all my might as that bike was tearing down the road, banging through the gears! I've never heard such a nasty sounding Harley. Ripping down the road I seen something ahead, there he was, standing on the side of the road at the edge of the bridge, the rider I was chasing. He stood there laughing with a big smile on his face and saluted me as I flew by. As I passed him, I looked forward and that's when I saw the end of me, the bridge was gone! The bike and I flew off the end of the road. We flew through the air down into the deep ravine. Just as I was about to hit the ground, I threw my arms over my face and BAM! I awoke from the terrible nightmare.

I sat up quickly and was covered in sweat. I had fallen asleep lying next to my bike on a creeper in the garage while changing the oil on my bike. I got up off the floor and went to the grab a drink from the garage fridge. I'm glad winter is almost here because I don't think I could ride for a while after that dream. Don't forget to plan ahead and get your bike looked at during the winter season. It's best to have it in tip top shape! You don't want to get stuck out on a foggy backroad with no cell signal. Well back to the oil change. Boy the bike sure needs a wash.....



H.O.G Connection – October 2025

By Rob Fehl



As we wind down our Wisconsin riding season, here are a few reminders for you:



Let's Ride Challenge / Annual Mileage Challenge

www.h-dletsride.com

Last month of the Let's Ride Challenge! Have you logged your October reading yet? We're a little over 300,000 miles - help us break 500,000! Finish strong and **grab your exclusive custom patch just for completing your October reading!** Let's prove that the weather is a little chilly weather won't stop true riders — keep those readings rolling!

Wisconsin Harley Davidson Rider Bucks

As the Holiday Season approaches, don't forget to use your WI-HD rider bucks! Wisconsin Harley Davidson appreciates your loyalty and wants to reward you with points for everything you do. Please talk to a sales associate to get signed up for the Rider Bucks rewards program.



Points	Coupon Description	Money Value
250	\$25 Gift Certificate	25
500	\$50 Gift Certificate	50
750	\$75 Gift Certificate	75
1000	\$100 Gift Certificate	100
1250	\$125 Gift Certificate	125
1500	\$150 Gift Certificate	150

Harley Davidson Loyalty Points and Rewards

Harley Davidson also appreciates your loyalty and wants to reward you with points for everything you do.



How it works:

Log into your Harley Davidson App and select your account icon in the upper left corner of the screen. Then press on the orange membership card. This will show you your total points earned so far and the respective cash value.

- **RIDING REWARDS – Get points simply for riding!**
- PURCHASES – Earn 4 points per dollar spent at participating dealers and online.
- Every 500 points = \$5 voucher
- Manage your points in the H-D App.
- Redeem your points online or at participating dealers for gear, accessories, bike service, and more.

Wisconsin Harley Davidson Rider Bucks

Wisconsin Harley Davidson appreciates your loyalty and wants to reward you with points for everything you do. Please talk to a sales associate to get signed up for the Rider Bucks rewards program. **Rock River HOG members receive an additional 10% discount at the time of checkout. Certain restrictions apply.**

- Each dollar spent on eligible parts/service/vehicle accessories is equivalent to a single reward point (service labor excluded).
- Customers must spend \$250 to start redeeming coupons.
- Points earned for bike purchase are capped at 1000 points.
- You even earn rewards on sale items which means sale or discounted items can earn reward points.
- Maximum points that can be earned are capped at 5000 points.
- Reward points expire annually every January 31st.

Points	Coupon Description
250	\$25 Gift Certificate
500	\$50 Gift Certificate
750	\$75 Gift Certificate
1000	\$100 Gift Certificate
1250	\$125 Gift Certificate
1500	\$150 Gift Certificate

2025 Harley Davidson's Let's Ride Challenge

Open to all Harley-Davidson riders, the challenge runs from March 28 to October 31, 2025, and offers collectible rewards at various milestone check-ins. The challenge culminates with five riders winning new 2025 Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Let's ride and make every mile count!

- **H.O.G. membership exclusive:** Any H.O.G. member who wins a motorcycle will receive an additional \$5,000 cash bonus!
- Let's Ride Challenge™ Sticker after first mileage reading.
- Let's Ride Challenge™ Coin after accumulating 1,000 miles.
- **H.O.G. membership exclusive:** H.O.G. collectible hat plus 2,500 bonus points after accumulating 5,000 miles.

How to Enter:

- **Register:** Stop at Harley-Davidson® dealerships to register and get your first odometer reading. The process is simple:
 - **Scan** the in-store QR code, **Enter** your odometer mileage, Get **validated** by a dealership employee.
 - You'll need to use this process to enter the challenge even if you have already entered the 2025 H.O.G. Ride 365 challenge.
 - **Once you've registered, miles recorded as part of the Let's Ride Challenge will start counting toward your H.O.G. Ride 365 balance.**
- **Ride:** Hit the road and rack up miles.
- **Engage:** Interact with dealers and build your Rev Score.
- **Win:** The highest Rev Scores will ride away on a new Harley.

2025 H.O.G. Ride 365 challenge

With H.O.G.'s Annual Mileage Recognition program, members earn valuable rewards for the miles they ride. Participants earn 1,000 H-D Membership points and a digital recognition badge on their online membership profile when they log 1,000 miles for the year, a \$10 value. Additional points and rewards, including certificates, patches and challenge coins are earned as miles are accumulated.

- Have your mileage checked in often at **Wisconsin Harley Davidson** by a salesperson.
- Every 500 points earned equals \$5, up to a maximum of 15,000 points (a \$150 value).
- Membership points can be redeemed electronically for purchases on H-D.com and at participating Harley-Davidson dealerships and are valid for three years from the date issued. See below on how to redeem your points.

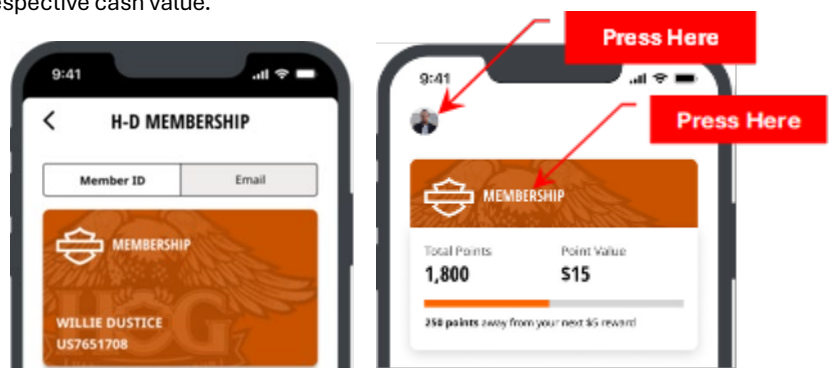
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- Every 500 points = \$5 voucher
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- Redeem your points online or at participating dealers for gear, accessories, bike service, and more.
- Wisconsin Harley Davidson IS NOT a participating dealership. – **PLEASE SEE Wisconsin Harley Davidson Rider Bucks Program**



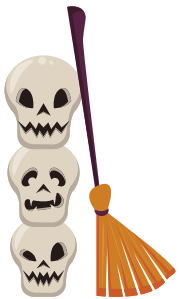
* Hello
OCTOBER

WISCONSIN



OCTOBER 25TH
PRE-HALLOWEEN BASH
DRINKS, TREATS, AND MORE!
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE EMPLOYEE
COSTUME AND
GET ENTERED
TO WIN A \$100 WISHD GIFT CARD
ALL DAY!

**TRICK
OR
TREAT**



OCT. 31ST
HALLOWEEN
COME IN COSTUME AND GET ENTERED FOR
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$100 WISHD GIFT
CARD

winter
IS
COMING.

STORAGE DROP
OFFS START AS OF
10/21/25!



do you love to wrap gifts??
Looking to fill the following
shifts on Dec. 20th:

10 am - Noon (1 wrapper)
Noon - 2 pm (1 wrapper)
2 pm - 4 pm (2 wrappers)

email - leslie.smith@wishd.com
if interested!



As always be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all updates and additions to our 2025 Calendar!

