

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

September 2025
Volume 25
Issue No. 9
Chapter No. 3276

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Rock WI Recaps/Chapter
Pictorial Review



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

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich

On the Road Surprises – Nature at Its "Best"

The beautiful fall weather has hit. Brisk mornings, warming mid-days, and quickly cooling evenings will carry us through until we need to store our bikes for the winter or trailer them south! This past weekend I was able to enjoy a great weekend with chapter members riding the Rock Wisconsin – Crossing the Line ride.

Winding roads crossing the Wisconsin and Illinois border many times as we eventually made our way to Galena, IL. Two groups totaling 25 bikes/trikes followed this path of past days stagecoach rides. Fortunately, most of ours were paved!

I had the pleasure of leading a tight riding group of bikes/trikes on the way down over hills and around corners. After just cresting one hill there were three deer in the middle of the road; I think having a conversation while chewing their cud. They were not walking or moving, thus the quick group warning and hitting both brakes hard. No impact but I was truly ruining their morning cud break.

Again, on the way home nature had its calling. Leaving at 8 AM, traveling mostly east, the sun was low in the sky making clear vision tough, especially when transitioning from sunny to the shadow tree covered pavement. Around a turn a beautiful group of Thanksgiving's best were slowly walking across the road ahead of me. At least this group had the intention of moving, not like the deer on Friday. Breaking, downshifting, and a brief horn blast hurried them across the road. Our group continued to roll along making great time; however, nature was not yet done. Miles and hours down the road, from the ditch on the left a large bird took off slowly and flew right in front of me and fortunately just above me. Those riding behind were sure I was in for a collision with what turned out to be a BIG turkey.

Whether it's eagles, red-tailed hawks, or turkeys, deer, squirrels, or chipmunks, nature can really surprise us and we need to always be ready to enjoy it – safely! If you like riding the "Driftless Area" of Wisconsin, make sure to take time to plan a trip to north western Illinois as that too, is part of the driftless area and provides stunning views of hills and stream dissected valleys.

Hope to see you at the chapter meeting,

Ken



ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Oh my, September is here already, how can that be? The trees I noticed are starting to change colors. I love the fall with the brisk mornings and warm afternoons. Riding the back roads with all the fall colors is just the topping on the cake.

So, did you have a chance to participate in any of the following rides? Rock Wisconsin Passport Ride August 15-17, Road Captain (James Emery) led ride Wisconsin Big Cat Rescue August 23rd, or the Road Captain (Tim Droster) led Bruch Ride on August 24 to The Mine Shaft in Hartford? We had a good turnout for all of these, and they were very well organized with a good ride and great scenery enjoyed by all.

On September 11-14 there is the HD Fall ride, Tomahawk.

Sunday September 21, 2025 - Brunch Ride

Ok this is your last chance to go on a Brunch ride this riding season. We will be having another Road Captain (Barry Phillips) led Brunch Ride on September 21st. This 1-hour + ride will take you on some scenic roads eventually ending at Ron's Cozy Corner in Oconomowoc for brunch.

09:00 - Staging at Wisconsin HD

09:30 – KSU

NOTE: NO RIDE IF RAINING

Saturday September 27th, 2025

Mark your Calendars for Fall Fest at Wisconsin Harley Davidson. Join us Saturday September 27th for the Annual Fall Fest Ride. Support needed for a family in need! Help Us Help Adam Sutton's medical bills due to a motorcycle accident. \$5 per rider will be donated to the Sutton family benefit, plus you'll receive a ticket into a big giveaway basket!

The Fall Fest Ride will be going to the VFW in Horicon. After refreshments and bathroom break, the ride will head back to Wisconsin H-D!

Ride Staging starts at 8:30am – Groups will be leaving 9am / 9:30am / 10am / 10:30am

See you on the road or at the Chapter Meeting.

Jim "Muddy" Waters

SUNDAY BRUCH RIDE

Sept. 21, 2025

KSU @ 9:30 from Wisconsin Harley.

(Weather Permitting)

Brunch will be at Ron's Cozy Corner in Oconomowoc after a Road Captain lead ride through the countryside just north of Oconomowoc. The route will take you down some enjoyable backroads and along some Rock River flowage to a wonderful little restaurant with great food and friendly service. This is the last Brunch ride for the year so let's make it a great one.



CHAPTER NEWS MEDLEY

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, September 16, 2025

6:00 PM Social Hour

7:00 PM Meeting

WHERE: Ingleside

50/50

A big Thank You to Janet Sam for doing 50/50 at the August meeting. Along with great food we had big winners.

I need one more person to help sell 50/50 tickets at the September meeting.

If you need to contact me you can 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

August New Members:

John Marshall

Kelly Marshall

John Cort.

FLAT ROCKER ENTRIES DUE

All Flat Rocker entries must be turned in at the October 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.

Let's Keep the Gallery Growing— Everyone's Invited!

Hey everyone!

Just wanted to drop in and give a huge shoutout to all of you for making our chapter awesome. Every time I scroll through the Rock River Chapter Facebook page, I'm amazed by the snapshots you share—whether it's a gorgeous view, a selfie with friends, a cool place you stopped at or a moment to remember. You're the reason our chapter is bursting with life and adventure!

Haven't shared a photo yet? There's plenty of time.

Your photos help us connect and remind us there's beauty in the everyday—no professional skills needed! Every shot is a piece of our shared story, and together, we're building an album full of memories.

Haven't shared a photo yet? There's plenty of time.

Theresa Leto
Photographer

Split Happens.....

A few people have asked me about the new motorcycle lane splitting law in Minnesota and many do not understand how the law works. Most just figured the bikers would have to be nuts to even try such a thing. So let me help clarify a few things in case you are ever in Minnesota or another state that allows lane splitting/filtering. You may find it to come in handy if you are in a hot & humid traffic jam.

First let's define the difference between lane "Splitting" and lane "Filtering."

Lane Splitting is riding between cars on a two-lane section of road where both lanes of traffic are headed the same direction as the motorcycle rider and the cars are moving.

Lane Filtering is riding between cars on a two-lane section of road where both lanes of traffic are headed the same direction as the motorcycle rider and the cars are stopped.

Both lane filtering and splitting have rules which the rider must follow and those rules will vary between the states that allow it. For the most part, the rules have the safety of the motorcyclist in mind. For example, in Minnesota, lane splitting is allowed at no more than 25 mph and no more than 15 mph over the speed of traffic, which can be very helpful in a jam scenario. Lane Filtering, cannot be performed faster than 15 mph which is primarily used to move motorcyclist to the front of cars at a traffic light rather than leave them susceptible to being rearended. Whether you are lane filtering or splitting, you must ride between cars and not on the shoulder of the road.

There are other rules in these states in regards to where you are allowed to lane split/filter and if you are riding in these states, (CA, UT, AZ, MT, MN) and you wish to exercise these **voluntary** riding procedures, I recommend you check those rules before you perform these maneuvers to avoid unwanted traffic violation citations. The list of states that are looking to allow Lane Splitting/ Filtering is growing.

I for one am a fan of the lane filtering which reduces the chance of being rearended while sitting at a stop light. I hope to see these rules to be added to the Wisconsin lawbooks someday.

Ride safe everyone!

Dan Stammen
Safety officer.



Beyond Open Roads: A Passport Adventure

On **Saturday, October 11th from Noon to 3 PM, Wisconsin Harley-Davidson® and Throttle Travel are teaming up for a first-of-its-kind event** that combines the freedom of the open road with the excitement of exploring new destinations.

You will receive a passport and a map when arriving at the dealership. Follow the map to fill your passport. Each stop on the map is a new “destination,” and completed passports are entered into drawings for one of two prizes. Think of it like a ride — only this time, the journey is inside the dealership.

Beverages will be available for purchase. The event is free to attend, family-friendly, and a great experience for all ages, unless you like the adults-only travel experiences.

Be sure to mark your calendar and join us.

NEWS FROM ABATE

Greetings RR members. Blink your eyes and BOOM it's September. Still a lot of riding season left this year. In my opinion, it's the best time of the year to ride. Cooler temperatures and Mother Nature will be painting the trees with brilliant colors. So, don't let a little cooler temperature keep you from exploring the best riding in Wisconsin.

We at ABATE always keep an eye on any regulations that lawmakers come up with that will restrict our freedoms to ride. Fighting for E10 or less and any laws that will make it too restrictive for us to ride. California Air Resources Board C.A.R.B is pushing for Internal combustion engines I.C.E to disappear. They are pushing their agenda and hoping other states will copy their efforts. The latest efforts are that motorcycles are being tested for emissions at lower RPMs. They want to start testing at higher RPMs because everybody rides them “much more aggressively.”

All motorcycles manufacturers have a set Speed/Shift table to follow. By changing this it changes the emissions all motorcycles produce. So C.A.R.B will eliminate more motorcycles on the road. I know it's California, but if we don't pay attention to who we vote into office in Wisconsin, it can happen here too. I bet a lot of you didn't know about this, did you? Now you know why ABATE is so important.



Let's Be Safe Out There!

May God Bless You! May God Bless America!

Waukesha Strong!

BuellBob.

Not Receiving the Newsletter?

If you are not receiving the monthly chapter newsletter, please stop by the membership table at the chapter meeting or email Betsy Boos (email listed in the Board Directory) that your email is correct. Be sure to also check your spam or junk folder as each individual's email is set up differently and not all new entries go into an inbox.



IN MEMORIUM

Dave Bastin

Born October 19th 1956. Deceased July 20 2025

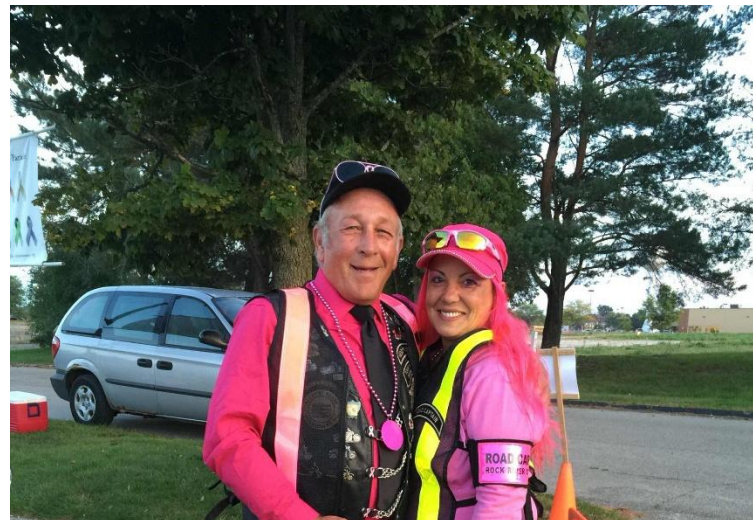
Let me start off by saying, writing this brief memoir for Dave was challenging and rewarding. I interviewed a handful of current and former chapter members of the Rock River HOG Chapter. I only knew Dave for a couple of years. He was my Head Road Captain for one year. I knew he had a rich history with this chapter and was passionately involved with the Breast Cancer Ride done by this chapter for many years. In fact, everyone I talked with including his girlfriend of 17 years Tracy Kinski said he lived for that ride. I was told that Dave would already start planning the following year's ride even before the current year's existing ride was even done. Some of the dates were hard to come by because of past record keeping. To the best of my research, Dave joined the Chapter in 1999 and received his 20 year patch in 2019 according to one former member. He was extremely proud of that accomplishment.

Dave was a man who loved shenanigans including his ritual of becoming a blood brother using ketchup instead of real blood when becoming a Road Captain. Shenanigans aside, Dave was deadly serious about rolling up his sleeves and getting the job done, especially with his road captains and especially with ensuring a safe and fun breast cancer ride. He had me lead the Milwaukee Chapter Road Captains on one of the breast cancer rides. Dave's rule was "do the speed limit or plus 5 mph more". Well, I don't know if it was a setup or if the Milwaukee RCs are just pathetically slow, but I would do the speed limit and these clowns would disappear in my mirrors. I had to basically go twenty miles under the speed limit or lose my group. My friends in the back reported to me they never got past third gear. When I arrived back at

the dealership, Dave was laughing and busted up when I told him he teamed me up with turtles-lol!

Dave's heart broke when HOG insisted all chapters stop doing charity rides and thus the end of the breast cancer ride. The other common comment about Dave was he would give the shirt off of his back to help a chapter member out. Dave would always give a safety brief at the chapter meetings that was dryer than a popcorn fart, but it always had very useful information. Tracy told me his passions were the chapter, the breast cancer ride, and Christmas. Dave had a landscaping business and he hung Christmas lights in the winter for his clients. He loved all things Christmas. This chapter is in existence because of people like Dave Bastin! Many loved Dave and everybody respected him. Thank you for your service, Brother Dave. RIP!

Matt Dawson



ROCK WISCONSIN RECAP

Rock Wisconsin - Wisconsin Passport Tour Recap

This was a trip that utilized three different challenges brought to you by the Wisconsin Harley-Davidson Dealers Association (Passport Tour), Harley Owners Group (50 Rides, One Nation) and your very own Rock River HOG Chapter (Flat Rocker). We had 26 motorcycles and 31 willing participants on this weekend challenge.

On Friday, we split up into three smaller but “efficient” groups to tackle the challenging day. The weather was perfect, 80 degrees and sunny. By the end of the day, we had stopped at 4 Harley Dealerships to have our passports stamped, 2 Flat Rocker murals and one pizza party at the Iron Buffalo Saloon in Menchalville, WI. At the end of the day, we found refuge in the small town of Kewaunee, WI at a hotel with an amazing view of Lake Michigan. The night concluded with some crazy stories of how this well-oiled machine managed to accomplish the tasks of the day.

Saturday started out as a warm sunny morning, but the fear of some storms had the groups on high alert. We started the day with a beautiful ride up the coast of Lake Michigan headed to the Door County peninsula. The day’s tasks at hand included four flat rocker stops, one 50 Rides, One Nation stop at the famous Al Johnson’s restaurant (no goats to be found) and a stop by the Wisconsin Motorcycle Memorial to remember our lost family and friends. By the time we all got back to the hotel for the evening, our spirits were not dampened as the night was filled with stories of how everyone “patiently” dealt with the tourist traffic throughout the small towns of Door County, hunkering down at random places to wait out the heavy rains, impromptu lunch stops, ominous shelf clouds, riding through Alaska and cruise ships on Lake Michigan!

Soon Sunday was upon us, the rain had passed, and the air was cool. We all gathered for one last goodbye as we headed out in various directions. The main task of the day was one more Harley

dealership for another stamp in the passport and a “relaxing” ride home.

Others ventured out to find some more Flat Rocker murals on the ride home.

By the time the weekend was over, all the challenges that were planned were accomplished. All the unplanned challenges were overcome and conquered. A good time was had by all.

A special thanks to the following Road Captains who helped with this ride:

Tim Droster, Barry Phillips, Ken Kessenich, Jim Waters, Jim Micale, Mark Makowski

Wisconsin Passport Tour Committee
Rob Fehl
David Nelson
Chris Pollock

Rock Wisconsin – Crossing the Line Recap

September 5-7 brought the Rock Wisconsin season to a close with the Crossing the Line ride. The point of the ride was to continually cross between the two states enjoying the roads less traveled on. This is an actual documented motorcycle ride that begins in Freeport, IL, but first we had to get there! Beautiful country roads led us to three Flat Rockers on the way down and after the gas stop in Freeport, the entire group enjoyed lunch at the Route 20 Bar and Grill. The Grant Motel outside of Galena was the ultimate goal, where an outdoor fire was enjoyed by most.

Saturday morning’s route took us north back into Wisconsin for 2 more Flat Rockers and the afternoon route took us south to the Hog Capital of the World in Kewaunee, IL to get the H.O.G. challenge coin.

Sunday’s ride home had us paralleling the Wisconsin/Illinois border on awesome roads until we crossed back into Wisconsin one last time for a stop in Monroe for the Warhol cows Flat Rocker. Overall, chilly mornings led to sunshine and great riding and managed to get us all home for the Packer game!

A special thanks to the following Road Captains who helped with this ride:
Barry Phillips, Jim Waters, Jim Micale, and Mark Makowski

Crossing the Line Committee
Ken Kessenich
Rob Fehl
James Emery

PICTORIAL REVIEW of RECENT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Chapter Picnic – August 29, 2025



Thank you to our grillmasters,
Wisconsin Harley Davidson and all who
brought desserts to share!



Dockhounds Game – August 23, 2025



Brunch Ride – August 24, 2025



Wisconsin Passport Tour – August 15-17, 2025



Crossing the Line Ride – September 5-7, 2025



H.O.G Connection – September 2025

By Rob Fehl

As we wind down our Wisconsin riding season, don't forget to stop by the dealership and get your mileage recorded. Rumor has it that the "Let's Ride Challenge" has surpassed their goal of 50 million miles and Harley-Davidson will be donating \$1 million to organizations that support our nation's heroes. For more information, please click on the link below.



Let's Ride Challenge / Annual Mileage Challenge

www.h-dletsride.com

The 2025 Let's Ride Challenge™ is a Harley-Davidson initiative, running until **October 31**, that encourages riders to log miles on their motorcycles while supporting military, veteran, and first responder heroes. Every mile ridden contributes to a \$1 million donation from Harley-Davidson to these organizations. Riders can earn rewards, climb mileage tiers, and compete for a chance to win one of five new Harley-Davidson motorcycles.



An excerpt from the recently published (hardcopy) issue of "The Enthusiast" that really hit home for me.

Dear H.O.G. member,

Welcome to the latest issue of The Enthusiast — a magazine made for riders, by riders.

It's not just a collection of stories. It's a reflection of the roads we ride, the people we meet, and the pride we share in being part of the Harley-Davidson family. For Harley Owners Group members like you, this isn't just a hobby. It's a way of life.

You're not just part of the Harley-Davidson story. You are the story. You live it every time you throw on your jacket, start the engine, and chase the horizon with purpose. You carry forward a legacy built by generations who believed in freedom, discovery, and the power of showing up — for each other, and for the road ahead.

Harley-Davidson has never been about standing still. It's about pushing forward, evolving, and living wide open. And that spirit — that restless fire — lives in every mile we ride and every story we share. You can hear it in the rumble of an engine, and you can feel it even more in the community we've built at rallies, rest stops, and roadside pull-offs around the world.

This magazine is a celebration of that community. It's your stories, your photos, your pride. So join me — in these pages, on the road, and in the next chapter of this incredible legacy we're still writing — together. See you out there.

Bill Davidson

VP and Global Brand Ambassador, Harley-Davidson



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.

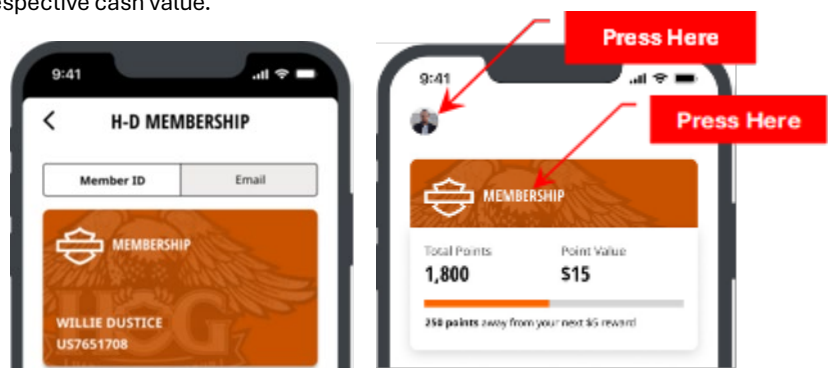
Harley Davidson Loyalty Points and Rewards

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 IS NOT a participating dealership. – **PLEASE SEE Wisconsin Harley Davidson Rider Bucks Program**



SEPTEMBER

★ WE NEED
your
★ SUPPORT! ★

WISCONSIN
MOTOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON
CYCLES
OCONOMOWOC, WI

FALL FEST
Saturday,
Sept. 27th

FOR A FAMILY IN NEED!
LET'S HELP ADAM SUTTON
AND HIS FAMILY
RAISE MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS FOR MEDICAL
BILLS DUE TO A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT.

MUSIC, FOOD, RIDING, AND MORE!

RIDE TO HORIZON VFW

THEN HEAD BACK FOR SOME FUN!

Staging starts
at 8:30 am

KSU at 9 AM / 9:30 AM / 10 AM /
10:30 AM

RIDE PROVIDED BY



Bake Sale

Bakery



just
BAKED

RAFFLE

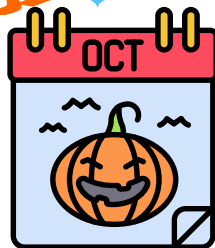
Adventure
Begins →

\$5 PER RIDER WILL BE DONATED TO THE SUTTON
FAMILY BENEFIT PLUS YOU'LL RECEIVE A TICKET INTO
OUR BIG GIVEAWAY BASKET!



Mark
your
Calendar

JOIN US



OCT. 11TH
BEYOND OPEN ROADS

OCT. 25TH
PRE-HALLOWEEN BASH

OCT. 31ST
OCONOMOWOC BUSINESS HALLOWEEN



Follow Us
FOR MORE



AS ALWAYS BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR ALL
UPDATES AND ADDITIONS TO OUR 2025 CALENDAR!

