

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

April 2026
Volume 26
Issue No. 4
Chapter No. 3276

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ISSUE**

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From the Director's Chair

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Rock Wisconsin Information



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

Rock River Board

DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich
director@rockriverhog.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Rob Fehl
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 Boos
membership@rockriverhog.com

ACTIVITIES

Kris Droster & Theresa Leto
activities@rockriverhog.com

SAFETY OFFICER

Bob Slowinski

HISTORIAN

Besty Boos
historian@rockriverhog.com

ROCK WISCONSIN

Gary Malinowski

PHOTOGRAPHY

Vance Benton
photographers@rockriverhog.com

WEBMASTER

Michael Draeger
webmaster@rockriverhog.com

H.O.G. Manager/Dealer Liaison

Michelle Mather
michelle.mathre@wishd.com

Ken Kessenich

Today, right now, the weather is looking great. Currently 67° light winds and a high forecasted to be 76°. Now this is Wisconsin, so tomorrow it might snow; therefore, this article will be brief as I'm going on a ride!



They say April showers bring May flowers. We are working on ours right now.

Coneflowers and Poppy to add to our perennial beds, Marigolds, Sunflowers, Coleus, Basil and Rosemary to brighten up the yard and add some fresh flavors to our cooking.



Thinking of those April showers, there are a few things we need to remember as the riding season is upon us. Last year I crossed the 15,000-mile mark on our bike and over the winter it was time to be safer this year and add new tires. Have you checked your tread depth lately? If not, either use the "penny method" or a gauge to make sure you have more than 2/32". I just went out to the garage and found mine are now 5-6/32". You know that at some point this season you will be caught in the rain and that tread depth will provide

traction for you. I remember a Rock Wisconsin ride last year; we had three groups riding up and around Door County. During the day one group looked at the weather, checked their apps and headed back to the hotel dry. Another group pulled



over to put on their rainsuits and decided to wait it out, rode to a cheese store for samples and shelter; still they rode home with their suits on, but arrived dry. A third group also tried to wait it out and decided they had enough time to ride back to the hotel. Well, they meet an unfriendly Shelf Cloud just 10 minutes from the hotel. Arriving with their boots full and clothes soaked they were safe with a good story. That reminds me to find and load my rain suit back into my saddle bag because you never know when you will need it.

That shelf cloud can not only bring a LOT of rain quickly but also hail. On March 10th, Kankakee, IL had a hail storm generated by a severe thunderstorm receiving 6-8" hail stones. Windshields shattered, homes had holes in their roofs and interior cabinets ruined, cattle in the field were down from head impacts. Thunderstorms have significant up and down drafts; that's why planes try to fly around or over them. Rain falls to the ground but before it reaches the ground it can be sucked back up in an updraft high enough in our atmosphere to reach freezing temperatures. This process repeats over and over adding layers of ice to the hail stone. The Kankakee stones had dozens, if not hundreds of layers of ice. Next time it hails, run out (perhaps with a helmet on!) and collect a few, open them up and count the layers (I've done this with my grandchildren and they loved it). That will tell you how many times it cycled up and down in our atmosphere.

Time to ride,

Ken

CHAPTER NEWS MEDLEY

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, April 21, 2026
6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Meeting

WHERE: Ingleside

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

By: Betsy Boos

NEW MEMBER

(pictured at right)
Russ Wendt

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Years

Scott Patrick
John Lange

5 Years

Dave Baldwin

10 Years

Cheryl Dauphin

30 Years

Andy Blackburn



50/50



Thanks to all the Leprechauns that helped out for the 50/50 sales at the March meeting. They were good luck for some people. Look for Candy Parr and Scott Kietzke in April. If you'd like to help out, or have questions, you can message me at "Mark Knackert" (that's my husband, we share the account) or text me at 414 416 6772. Good luck

Dawn Jean

ABOUT THOSE SNAZZY NEW SHIRTS . . .

New chapter shirts have been designed and were on display at the March chapter meeting. They are a royal blue, dry fit short sleeve and will be available for viewing one more time at the April chapter meeting. There will be both men's and women's shirts in multiple sizes for you to try on before ordering. Members interested in ordering a shirt may sign up at the meeting. \$25 per shirt, payable by cash or checks made out to Rock River H.O.G.



FRONT



BACK

WHEEL AWARD PATCHES THAT NEED HOMES/VESTS

Did you volunteer in 2025? If so, then you received an award patch. There are 20 people that didn't make the January meeting so you did not receive your wheels from WIHD. I will bring them to the April Chapter meeting. Please see me in the front of the room by the 50/50 tub to collect your patches.

Thanks,
Amy Dey

SWAP MEET RECAP

We had 21 tables reserved in advance and were able to squeeze in two more at the last minute bringing us to a total of 23 tables. The venue was accommodating and service was excellent.

Although the foot traffic slowed down in the afternoon the morning was pretty steady. There was a wide variety of motorcycle-related items available for purchase including parts such as handlebars, exhaust, gears, pegs, shocks as well as clothing like coats, jackets, shirts, rain gear. Shoppers could also find housewares and décor items along with plenty of luggage bags and much more. Accessories like wallets, purses and jewelry were also available.

Thank you to everyone who reserved a table and to all the shoppers who attended. It truly is the participation of all of you that makes any event successful.

A special thank you to everyone that helped with the setup and clean up. Kris Droester staffed the chapter table and did a great job spreading the word about our chapter. I think she might have recruited a few new members!

Theresa & Kris
Activities



ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Road Captain Corner

Spring has arrived.

There is no other season that has an effect, much like a burst of energy, on the world at large more so than spring. Spring brings new changes, spring forgets lost opportunities, spring dulls past mistakes, spring creates new paths! This neighboring season of winter sounds synonymous with the fresh starts and great opportunities of our lives. That is why spring is celebrated and admired in all its natural beauties and promising features! Spring itself blooms a sense of happiness in our hearts with its arrival.

With the passing of each day excitement mounts when we can get our bikes out of storage and finally get on them and ride. I can't wait! Looking at our calendar, we have so many wonderful rides and events planned for this year.

May 16, Saturday – VFW Ride and Bike Blessing

Registration 10 AM -10:45 AM at the New Berlin VFW - 17980 Beloit Rd, New Berlin, WI 53146. KSU 11 AM for a 1-hour Road Captain led ride to Wisconsin Harley Davidson dealership. Registration costs: \$20 per bike (All net proceeds from registration are donated to VFW Post #5716. Payable VIA cash or check. Checks to be made payable to VFW Post #5716.) At the Dealership from Noon – 3PM there will be music, drinks, food and more.

May 17th Sunday – Brunch Ride

This will be the first brunch ride of the year, so come out for the ride, brunch and friends!

This will be a Road Captain lead ride to "The Early Bird" in Allenton, WI. Staging will be at Wisconsin Harley at 9:30. KSU at 10:00 arriving at the destination at 11:00. Breakfast is served all day, and you can order food on the Lunch Menu starting at 11:00 am. Great menu and fantastic food, with the highest price item only \$17 that I saw. The cost is on your own.

Signup will be at the April chapter meeting for a head count only.

PLEASE NOTE: If it is raining or there is a very good chance of rain, we will not be holding the ride.

Forgive me!

I was in the supermarket last night with my wife when she said, "You know, you really are lazy." I was shocked, I nearly fell out of the cart.

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting!

Head Road Captain
Jim "Muddy" Waters

FLAT ROCKER BEGINS "O" My!

The April chapter meeting hosts the unveiling of the 2026 Flat Rocker Challenge. Participants have 6 months to complete the minimum, the maximum or any number of stops in between to be eligible for prizes once the challenge concludes. It's a great way to offer you places and reasons to ride and to experience our state in a new way. The Google Maps and GPX files will be available the day *after* the chapter meeting on the website. "O" boy, here we go!

Not Able to Attend the March Chapter Meeting? Here's what you missed: (Also continued on next page)



Rock River Chapter welcomes Lisa Le, the new Marketing Manager at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson. Lisa is pictured with Jim "Muddy" Waters, Head Road Captain, and Ken Kessenich, Director.



As the meeting just happened to fall on St. Patrick's Day, Kris Droster provided us a wonderful handmade treat to celebrate. Thanks, Kris!



A generous leprechaun provided surprise gifts for one lucky lass (Kris Droster) and one lucky lad (Jim Wasilewski)

And then ... a hard working photographer leprechaun created a collage of shenanigans



ROCK WISCONSIN

Where Spirits May Hide

Friday May 22 to Sunday May 24

Join us for a leisurely ride to Iowa, with a stop at Sledgehammer's for lunch. Saturday includes a visit to the Field of Dreams and a spooky tour of Edinburgh Manor, an abandoned insane asylum in Scotch Grove and popular paranormal attraction. Sunday includes a stop at Crystal Caves for a tour or you can head home on your own.

Minnesota Driftless Area

June 26-28 Minnesota Driftless Area - Come and ride with us if you like twisty, hilly, rural roads. The main focus of this 3 day ride will be riding. Highlights include a stop in Gays Mills to get a picture to submit to HOG for a 15 for '26 challenge coin, Minnesota Historic Bluff Country Scenic Byway, Apple Blossom Drive, scenic overlooks, a ride through the Minduro Cut, and a ride through Wildcat Mountain State Park on Hwy 33. Join us you like riding awesome scenic roads!

Passport Tour

July 17-18 - If you like stopping at Harley-Davidson dealerships, this 2 day ride is the ride for you. With stops at several participating dealers mostly in the east-central part of Wisconsin (around lake Winnebago). Bring your Harley passport and get them stamped at the dealers for a chance to win some great prizes at the end of the riding season. Please refer to the attached flyer for this ride for additional information.

Sculpture Tour

July 31-August 2. - Rock Wisconsin invites you to tour FIVE (maybe 6) different sculpture gardens in Wisconsin. Each garden provides unique designs using different materials for their medium. Metal, glass beads, stone, fabrics, fiberglass and more! All while rolling along great roads. We have secured 25 hotel rooms and the cost will be \$82 Friday and \$85-\$95 on Saturday night (+tax). A \$20 deposit will hold your spot and be applied to admissions and/or lunch. Sign up at the May meeting and if space available, at the June Chapter meeting.

Ride

Where Spirits May Hide
Minnesota Driftless Area
Passport Tour
Sculpture Tour

Month deposits taken

March/April
April/May
May/June
May/June

NEWS FROM ABATE

Hello R.R. Family Members.

They say April showers bring May flowers, but this is ridiculous. We have had our fill of rain for the month and we still aren't even halfway through April.

Switching gears. On Saturday the 25th of this month ABATE 1F Waukesha is holding our annual "Knock the Rust Off" motorcycle skills training. Again, we are having Gary Klinker MSF certified trainer setting up our course. This is a great way to get your skill level up for the start of the riding season. We will be at Fox River Church S46 W24130 Lawnsdale Rd, Waukesha. It starts at 9:00am and wraps up around 12:00. Remember, All are Welcome. It's well worth it to attend.

Second gear. May is Motorcycle Awareness month in Wisconsin. We are done hibernating and we are getting out and riding. Unfortunately, those in cars are not used to so many of us out and about. So we hold Motorcycles Awareness Rallies across the state. We all gather at different locations and hold signs and walk along the sidewalk so cars can see us. We at 1F do a joint Rally with 1A Milwaukee. The date is May 2nd starting at the corner of Greenfield Avenue and Hwy 100. It starts at 10:00am till 11:30. 1F will be at the Park and Ride I-43 and Moorland Road. Starting at 12:00pm till 1:30pm. 1F will be having a cookout of Brats, Hotdogs and water. Plus you never know who might bring a treat. Please feel free to join us to help us make a point, We're Back!!

Let's Be Safe Out There!

May God Bless You! May God Bless America!

May God Bless our Troops and keep them safe!

Waukesha Strong!

BuellBob.



Welcome to the "Ride Wisconsin Challenge"
formerly known as the "Passport Tour"
Rock Wisconsin - Wisconsin Passport Tour
<https://wiharleydealers.com/ride-wi-challenge>

July 17th – 18th, 2026 (Friday – Saturday)
2 days and 1 night at the hotel

Have "your papers" ready! This year we are traveling north, up and around Lake Winnebago. We will participate in the new "Ride Wisconsin Challenge" and get some of your Flat Rocker stops.

After signing up, you will be e-mailed information regarding the hotel reservations. Our hotel is \$145 +tax per room. A \$20 deposit ride participation fee will be collected at sign up.



Friday July 17th highlights:

Staging will begin at 8:00 am at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson.
Briefing at 8:20 am. KSU at 8:30 am.

- Wisconsin Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Open Road Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Appleton Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Bull Falls Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Flat Rocker Stops (TBD)
- Rest/Gas Stops (TBD)



Saturday July 18th highlights:

Staging will begin at 8:00 am in the hotel parking lot.
Briefing at 8:20 am. KSU at 8:30 am.

- Doc's Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Vandervest Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Harbor Town Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Suburban Motors Harley-Davidson (HD – RWC)
- Flat Rocker Stops (TBD)
- Rest/Gas Stops (TBD)



H.O.G Connection – April 2026

By Rob Fehl



At the March Chapter Meeting I introduced HOG's new Chrome Recognition Program to you. The chapter officers and I would like your help in achieving this status in 2026. Below is a checklist of activities we as a group will strive to meet in 2026. Taking part is easy! All chapters are eligible, just get together and work through this checklist across the year. Make sure you submit evidence of your progress where applicable and keep in touch with your dealership as you go. Let me know if you have any questions.

CHROME CHAPTER RECOGNITION PROGRAM - ROCK RIVER HOG #3276 PROGRESS REPORT

What WE need to do / What we have done:

- Have a minimum of 20 members in your H.O.G.® chapter. – **COMPLETED-**
- Make sure key chapter officers complete the pre-coursework, then attend the Regional Officer Connection training and implement their chapter action plan. – **COMPLETED-**
- Submit an action plan for boosting engagement with the chapter to your H.O.G. Regional Manager.
- Minimum of half of your chapter membership must personally obtain two mileage readings within the calendar year.
- Agree to a process for approaching new H-D® motorcycle owners and introducing them to H.O.G.—take photographs to show how it goes in practice.
- Run four or more rides or events specifically for new Harley-Davidson® owners.
- Have 10 or more-chapter members attend a H.O.G. rally (Regional Rally, Touring Rally, National Rally or official H.O.G. check-in at a major event).
- Make sure a representative from your chapter completes the event survey, which will be shared with chapter officers at the ROC. We are particularly interested to hear about events and activities your chapter is enjoying.
- Share your activities—post about them on social media channels and share stories and/or photographs for the newsletter by submitting content through HOGStories.com or via the H-D App.

Once you have worked your way to chrome status, it's time to celebrate your achievements! Members can proudly share that their chapter has chrome status and encourage others to follow their lead. All chapters rewarded for their activity through the Chrome Chapter Recognition Program will receive a chrome chapter flag, which can be hung in their dealership or held up at events for group photos to salute every member's contribution towards this program. Members will also receive a commemorative patch so they can wear this accomplishment on their vests for all to see. Harley-Davidson is keen to highlight wins in this initiative, and successful chapters will be recognized in chapter communications and applauded at the Regional Officers Connection events. Chrome chapter recognition lasts for one year, so keep up the good work through 2027 to maintain your chapter's reputation and ensure that all members' efforts are celebrated.



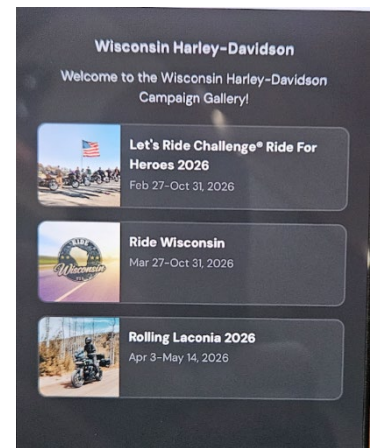
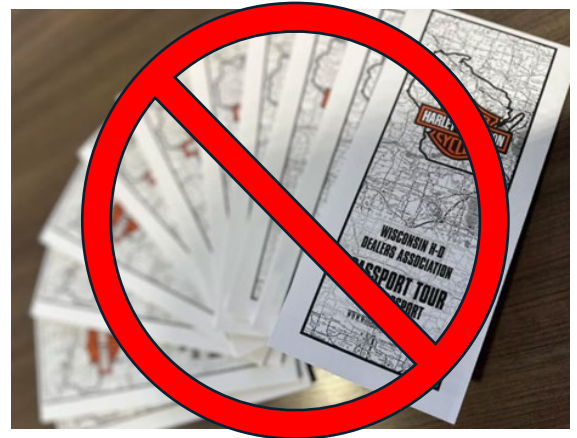
Welcome to the "Ride Wisconsin Challenge" formally known as the "Passport Tour"

The Wisconsin Harley-Davidson Dealers Association is changing things up this year and the "Passport Tour" is now the **"Ride Wisconsin Challenge,"** which is running in conjunction with the national "Let's Ride Challenge."

The "Let's Ride Challenge" is a **Ride for Heroes!** Every mile ridden helps drive donations for military members, veterans, and first responders, so we are proud to join a great cause!

The challenge this year has changed quite a bit, so the key details are outlined below:

- **Dates:** now through October 31st, 2026.
- Prizes are **BIGGER** than ever!
- ALL **19 H-D dealerships** in Wisconsin are participating.
- You must join the "Let's Ride Challenge" first, and then you can join the "Ride Wisconsin Challenge."
- You can **join when you visit any of the 19 participating WI dealerships** and scan their QR code for a mileage validation check.
- You increase your chances of winning by riding more miles and getting your mileage checked at as many or all of the participating WI dealerships.
- Mileage validation check-ins count for both the "Let's Ride Challenge" and the "Ride WI Challenge," so one visit gets you points for both!



Full Challenge Details and a printable dealership tracker is available to download from this website found [HERE!](#)

RIDE WISCONSIN CHALLENGE 2026



| # | DEALERSHIP | ✓ |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Appleton H-D | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Bull Falls H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Chippewa Falls H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Doc's H-D of Shawano County | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Great River H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Harbor Town H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | H-D of Madison | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | House of H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Milwaukee H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Northwoods H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Open Road H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Reel Brothers H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 | Rice Lake H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 | St. Croix H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 | Suburban Motors H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16 | Uke's H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17 | Vandervest H-D of Green Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 | West Bend H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19 | Wisconsin H-D | <input type="checkbox"/> |



2026

Rock River HOG Chapter

UPDATED: 04/15/2026

**** All Dates are Subject to Change ****

| January | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

- 13 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 13 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 13 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 20 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 31 6:00 - RRC Holiday Party

| February | | | | | | |
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- 10 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 10 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 10 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 17 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 21 8am - ROC Training

| March | | | | | | |
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- 10 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 10 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 10 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 17 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 22 12:00 - RRC Swap Meet (11am setup)

| April | | | | | | |
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- 3 11:00am - Good Friday Pizza Ride
- 5 Easter
- 14 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 14 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 14 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 21 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 25 9:00am - ABATE Knock the Rust Off

| May | | | | | | |
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| 31 | | | | | | |

- 10 Mother's Day
- 12 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 12 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 12 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 16 WI-HD Bike Blessing
- 17 RC Brunch Ride
- 19 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 22-24 Rock WI - Where Spirits May Hide Ride
- 23 WI-HD Honer Celebration
- 25 Memorial Day
- 29-31 Road America Motorcycle weekend
- 30 WI-HD CMA Ride

| June | | | | | | |
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- 6 WI-HD WI Hero Outdoor Ride
- 9 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 9 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 9 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 13 WI-HD Ride for Veterans
- 14 RC Brunch Ride
- 16 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 20 8:00am - Senior Ride
- 20 WI-HD Sound-Off Saturday & Sidewalk Sale
- 21 Father's Day
- 25-28 Abate Summer Hummer
- 26-28 Rock WI - Minn. Driftless Ride

2026 H.O.G. Touring Rallies

- Run to Daytona H.O.G. Touring Rally, Virginia Beach, VA to St Augustine, FL
- Spring Heat H.O.G. Touring Rally, Santa Clarita, CA to Chandler, AZ
- Route 66 East H.O.G. Touring Rally, Milwaukee to Amarillo, TX
- Open Road Posse Ride, Durango, CO to Mandan, ND

Dates

- February 23-27
- April 3-7
- May 16-22
- June 10-22

2026 H.O.G. Regional Rallies

- Cajun Country Regional H.O.G. Rally, Scott, LA
- Smoky Mountain Regional H.O.G. Rally, Maryville, TN
- Great Lakes Regional H.O.G. Rally, Chippewa Falls, WI
- Rocky Mountain Regional H.O.G. Rally, Durango, CO
- Blue Ridge Rumble Regional H.O.G. Rally, Winchester, VA

Dates

- April 16-18
- May 27-30
- June 11-13
- June 11-13
- June 17-20

2026

Rock River HOG Chapter

UPDATED: 04/15/2026

**** All Dates are Subject to Change ****

| July | | | | | | |
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| August | | | | | | |
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| September | | | | | | |
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- 4 Independence Day
- ** canceled - Harley Homecoming Rally**
- 11 WI-HD - Fire & Iron Ride
- 14 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 14 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 14 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 17-18 Rock WI - Passport Tour Ride
- 19 RC Brunch Ride
- 21 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 31-2 Rock WI - Sculpture Tour Ride

- 1 WI-HD Waukesha K-9 Ride
- 7-16 86th Sturgis Rally
- 11 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 11 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 11 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 16 RC Brunch Ride
- 18 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 22 5:30am - Sunrise Ride

- 7 Labor Day
- 8 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 8 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 8 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 13 RC Brunch Ride
- 15 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 17-20 Tomahawk Fall Rally
- 26 WI-HD Fall Fest

| October | | | | | | |
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| November | | | | | | |
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| December | | | | | | |
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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

- 4 RC Brunch Ride
- 13 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 13 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 13 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 20 6:00 - Chapter Meeting

- 10 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 10 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 10 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 17 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 26 Thanksgiving

- 8 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 8 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 8 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 15 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 25 Christmas

2026 H.O.G. Touring Rallies **Dates**

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|--|-----------------|
| 10 State H.O.G. Touring Rally, Lakeville, MN to Bossier City, LA | August 17-22 |
| Tour of Valor H.O.G. Touring Rally – Mobile, AL to Madison, WI | September 1-9 |
| Route 66 West H.O.G. Touring Rally, Amarillo, TX to Marina Del Ray, CA | September 22-28 |

2026 H.O.G. Regional Rallies **Dates**

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| Iron Adventure Regional H.O.G. Rally, New England | July 16-18 |
| Cruisin the Catskills Regional H.O.G. Rally, Hunter Mountain, NY | July 23-25 |
| H.O.G. National Rally, Branson, MO | September 9-12 |
| Ride Home H.O.G. Touring Rally, Hickory, NC to H-D Museum, Milwaukee, WI | October 14-19 |

