

**ROCK RIVER  
CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**

April 2023  
Volume 23  
Issue No. 4  
Chapter No. 3276

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

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Ken Kessenich



Spring into something new this Year. April has been a month of surprises. Normally when I think of the start of April, I quickly imagine all the jokes and pranks that have and will be played. During the month, I always look forward to the family gatherings at Easter.

One motorcycle family tradition, our Pizza Ride, did not disappoint. In preparation for the ride, on Wednesday I took the cover off my bike which was tightly tucked against a garage wall. Rolling the lift away from the wall I pumped up the height of the jack to make it easy to check my tire pressure. I know when I put it away in November, I had the proper 36/40 psi. Yet during the winter, I found that each tire had "lost" about 5 psi, so I added air before I lowered it off the lift and started it up. Waking up Friday morning I was not surprised it was 26 out, but pleased that by staging it was a warm/sunny 44 degrees. Arriving at our dealership there was no surprise when both Lauren and Jeff were happy to check in my mileage and get my 2023 H.O.G. Ride 365 off to a good start. The hour ride to the Mineshaft took us down many great roads in surprisingly good condition for this time of year.



I can't wait for the Flat Rocker to start this year. Being surprised by new roads leading to new "features" all across Wisconsin provides opportunities to see "things" I have never seen before. The next time you stop in the dealership be surprised by our 2023 Chapter Poster on the wall. We are working to expand our chapter membership. Look for our Chapter Poker Chip coming soon. We plan to sell these at dealership events and of course at the rally to raise money for our local charities.

Of course, the warmer weather has been a wonderful surprise. I'm sure it is just a tease and will not last, but to enjoy a few days on the back patio with afternoons in the 70's and even an 80 is amazing for this time of year. The surprising weather has provided the opportunity for Lori and I to be comfortable riding the roads we enjoy and finding new ones. Tomorrow, I have an 8:56 tee time to get the golf season started. I'm hoping for a good surprise in the scoring department!

See you at the chapter meeting,

Ken

# FROM YOUR SAFETY OFFICER

## Give Me a Brake!!

The front brake on most motorcycles does approx. 70-80% of the braking. Rear brakes can vary in effectiveness depending on the type of motorcycle. (Sport vs. Cruiser) The ability of our brakes is basically determined by two factors.

First, have your brakes been well maintained?? Brake pads and rotors on a typical street cruiser can easily reach temps of 600+ degrees under normal conditions. With two people and baggage along with sudden braking for a traffic backup and those temps can climb even higher. If that heat transfers through the brake caliper and boils your brake fluid, (approx. 280-350°F) your brake fluid can break down and become thick, gummy and less effective. Everyone wants their bike to go, but more importantly, you want it to stop! Harley Davidson highly recommends changing the brake fluid every 1-2 years. Your brakes truly are the most important system on your bike. Take care of them.

The second factor that will determine your braking ability, is you. That's right you! When is the last time you practiced an Emergency Stop? Do you even know what it feels like to "squeeze" those brakes hard? If you have anti-lock brakes, have you ever felt the brake lever/pedal vibrate when the anti-lock brake pump kicked in? During your last actual emergency stop, did you remember to down shift? Nothing worse than avoiding an accident only to watch that car in your rear-view mirror come barreling down on you while you fight to find first gear and escape.... How about trail braking? Trail braking comes in handy when that corner turns out to be a little tighter than you thought. Not sure what trail braking is, Google it. Trail braking is a good technique to know. What if you come around a blind corner only to find a car doing a U-turn? (Straighten up and "squeeze" the brakes, don't slam on them) If you don't practice these types of maneuvers once in a while you won't be prepared when the time comes to use them. It is time to learn how to best use those brakes, for the worst situations.

Ride Safe & Have Fun!  
Dan Stamman

## 50/50

Our raffle ticket volunteers for April are Janet Sam and Dawn Makowski. Thank you, ladies!!

Next month look for John and Cindy Patrick for your raffle tickets.

---

## FROM OUR HISTORIAN

BY: Carl Samppala

### New Members:

Guillermo Martinez

### March 2023 Anniversaries

#### 2 Year:

Brad Burdette  
Mark Castonguay  
John Cone  
Renee Cone  
Mark Kenyon  
Edwin North

#### 25 Year:

Jutta Hansen

#### Mileage:

Gary Malinowski                      100,000 miles

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**REMINDER:** An updated yearly calendar can be found at the chapter website at <https://www.rockriverhog.com/>  
Click on Events and Meetings

# H.O.G. Regional Officer Connection in Iowa

BY: Candy Parr “Shiny Side Up”

Last month 6 of your officers drove out to Iowa and attended a **1-day R.O.C.** for training, reminders of resources and brainstorming new ideas to enhance our H.O.G Chapter members’ experience.

The best was hanging out and getting to know our fellow rockers on the trip and meeting new H.O.G. friends from different states and from our own backyard ie Suburban Motors attended.

We did brainstorm breakouts with other in like positions that we hold. We exchanged ideas, contact info, and discussed some challenges we have overcome.

**Topics of:** Back to the basics-Engagement-Communication- Growth of our Chapter-Brainstorming on Best Practices to serve our Chapter & our Dealer - RIDE & HAVE FUN.



## Attendees:

Carl, Dru, Ken, Amy, Betsy, Candy



The first night we were hosted  
by Metro Harley Davidson

# MEET THE DEALERSHIP

BY: Ken Kessenich

Please join us during the social hour and meet BJ Lavota. He had been the Finance Manager at Wisconsin Harley Davidson for three years and has now transitioned to the role of Sales Manager. He has been riding motorcycles since a teen, currently enjoying his 2015 Heritage. His riding passion focuses on riding in different directions and picking roads to ride, not necessarily a destination. He enjoys an early morning round of golf (don’t bet against him – he is a 12 handicap {that means he is pretty good!}) then either a ride or yard work. BJ has traveled the world competing in kick boxing as a two time World Champion.

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## Flat Rocker 2023 Starts NOW

(well at the Chapter Meeting)

Pick up all information at the Chapter Meeting or from our Chapter website, [www.rockriverhog.com](http://www.rockriverhog.com), later in the week.

- 2023 Flat Rocker color cover
- 41 destinations – List organized by state quadrant
- Harley Ride Planner .gpx file available for download from the website
- Google map link to all locations from the website

Most of all – HAVE FUN AND ENJOY SOME NEW SIGHTS!

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## TIME TO ROCK a ROCK RIVER CHAPTER T-SHIRT

We will have on display and be taking orders for our Chapter T-shirt! It will be a purple long sleeve that will be excellent for spring and fall riding and also provide good sun protection in the summer.

# ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

With the first day of spring, when the awakening earth puts on its garment of green, and the warm, fragrant air fans our faces and fills our lungs and appears even to penetrate to our hearts, we experience a vague, undefined longing for freedom, for happiness, a desire to run, to wander aimlessly, to breath in the spring. The previous winter having been unusually severe, this spring feeling was like a form of intoxication in April, as if there were an overabundant supply of sap.

We're all traveling through the passage of time in this world, and we are all strolling through sweet seasons in our lifetime. We are all creating timeless memories everyday with the ones we love, whether we know it or not. It's important to appreciate the little things in life, and may we add our own sense of joy, love, and beauty to them.

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. Please refer to the following ride information that follows.

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting!

Jim "Muddy" Waters

## Rock River Hog Chapter Bike Blessing and Brunch

When: **Sunday May 7, 2023**

**(Note: Rain date May 21, 2023)**

Where: Wisconsin Harley Davidson

Time: **9:30 AM** for bike blessing.

KSU: **10:00 AM** for the ride to Hi-Way Harry's.

We will have Sign-up sheets at the April Chapter meeting.

The price of the brunch (collected at the restaurant) is:

Adults – 22.95

Senior Citizens (55 and up) – 20.95

This price includes all of your non-alcoholic drinks (soda, coffee, tea, milk and juices (Excludes virgin drinks & Sprecher's Root Beer). A \$2 charge was added to the price as we had to pay to reserve the room. It is a buffet style brunch, and you are more than welcome to help yourself as many times as you would like!

## VFW Ride and Bike Blessing - no limit

Road Captain led Ride.

When: **Saturday May 20, 2023**

Where: Hoepfner-Horn Bros VFW Post 5716

17980 W Beloit Rd New Berlin, WI 53146

Time: **10:00 AM** for bike blessing and then a ride to Wisconsin Harley Davidson

More details to come when available.

We will have Sign-up sheets at the April Chapter meetings.

**Note: If you can't make the April chapter meeting, you can show up the day of the VFW ride and join in on the fun.**

## DREAM RIDE

BY: Tim Droster

Rock Wisconsin proudly invites you to a "Dream Ride."



When: **Friday June 9, 2023 to Sunday, June 11.**

We will be leaving Wis Harley with **KSU at 8am** on June 9 and returning on June 11. Friday will be a leisurely ride down to Iowa. Saturday will be loaded with stops at The Field of Dreams film location, Poopy's bar for lunch, and American Pickers. If there is time, we can check out JP cycles. Sunday will be a visit to the National Motorcycle Museum, or you can head home on your own. After the museum you can ride back with the group, or on your own. I plan on getting back somewhere around 6ish. A deposit of \$20 will be required if you are interested in joining us.

Sign up will begin at the April meeting.

## SENIOR RIDE

Thank you to Tom Greco who will be taking over the planning of the Regency Senior Ride in the loss of John Manka. Tom will be speaking at the April chapter meeting to provide information. Please reserve the following date as the seniors look forward all year to ride with us!

When: **Saturday, July 8, 2023**

**Approx. hours of 8:30 to noon**

# ROAD CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION



Chapter member and Road Captain Gary Malinowski has found a DOT website that has a map with all future road construction projects, rather than just a list of road names. Gary says it's not a very intuitive website, but you can

get a map view of upcoming road construction in Wisconsin.

It's a great tool for planning trips and having a bird's eye view of where the road construction is. The main downside of this map is it doesn't show road names until you zoom waaaaay in. Also, it doesn't include county roads construction, only state, federal, and interstate highways.

A couple of tips:

1. You can filter by year. On the left is a column of icons in blue. The filter icon looks like a funnel. Click that, then select "construction year" on the left, then a list of years will show up (not in order). Select the year you want to see and the map should update.
2. The road construction projects will be a blue line on the map. If you click on a blue line, it will bring up a pop up box with the details of the project.
3. Sometimes you will see a long blue line, but it's broken up into multiple projects.

This link will bring up the map:

<https://data-wisdot.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/WisDOT::construction-projects-6-year-1/explore?location=43.252116%2C-89.429929%2C9.00>

# H.O.G. MEMBERSHIP

BY: Carl Samppala

As I write this, we are at 235 members. That is a credit to all of you for creating an open, welcoming and friendly Chapter! However, we've heard from several members that National HOG doesn't have them listed as part of the *Rock River* Chapter. We want *all* of you to be a part of this great Chapter and to do that we're going to ask for your help, as we can't do it alone. We need you to verify with National HOG that you are listed as part of the correct chapter (Rock River, of course). To do that, you need to call National HOG at 1-800-Club-Hog (1-800-258-2464). The members we've heard from seem to be primarily from KMC that have joined Rock River, but there may be others.

We've also become aware that some members have been issued new HOG numbers when they renew their National HOG membership. So, when you receive your new HOG card after renewing, verify the number hasn't changed. This appears to be most likely to happen if you wait until the month your membership comes due or worse, if you let it lapse. Again, a call to National HOG will be needed to make sure that your anniversary pins and rockers as well as lifetime mileage follow you.

Also, if you're a member of more than one chapter, please verify that your mileage is credited to Rock River. If you've set up your account at HOG.com, log-in to the Ride 365 section and scroll down to "Chapter Standings." It should show "3276-Rock River Chapter Oconomowoc, WI". If not, please select edit and update. You can also do this with a phone call to National HOG.

While we're talking about mileage, if you have a passenger, when you have your starting and ending mileage recorded, remember to have *both* of your HOG numbers available. Your passenger gets credit for the miles you ride as well. This includes lifetime mileage awards and more importantly, eligibility for the promo cards that are provided at various mileage intervals.

# ROCK WISCONSIN

BY: Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

Riding season is fast approaching. Have you been out yet?

With the riding season fast approaching, so are the Rock Wisconsin rides. We start sign-ups for the 'Dream Ride' at the April 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting.

We start sign ups two Chapter meetings prior to the ride, with information available the meeting prior to beginning sign ups, so stay tuned!

The April launch of the Flat Rocker stops is right around the corner and like you, we're anxiously awaiting them. As we find out their locations, we'll try and include stops for group photos.

See you on the road!

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## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

2023 stickers will be available at the April chapter meeting. Stop by and see Betsy to get yours to add to your H.O.G. card to help the dealership process your transactions more efficiently.

## APRIL'S CHAPTER MEETING

Please note that the chapter meeting (Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>) will be at the Ingleside but in THE PAVILLION.

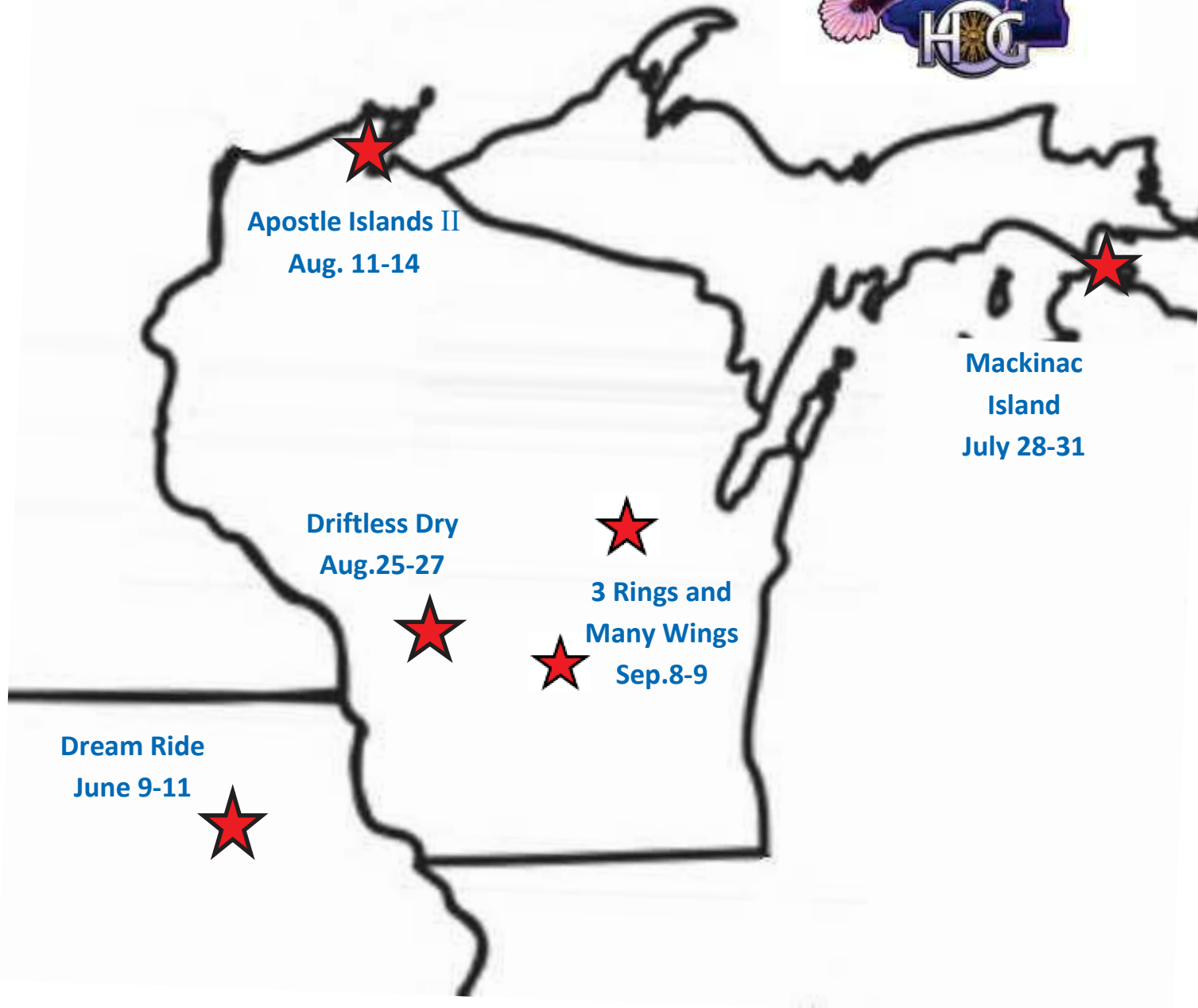
2023 ROCK WISCONSIN RIDES				
Ride	Dates	Info Distributed at Chapter Mtg.	Sign ups taken at Chapter Mtg.	
Dream Ride (Iowa)	June 9-11	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 16
Mackinac Island, MI	July 28-31	May 16	June 20	July 11
Apostle Islands II	Aug 11-14	May 16	June 20	July 11
Driftless Dry	Aug. 25-27	June 20	July 18	Aug 15
3 Rings and Many Wings (Circus World-Baraboo and EAA-Oshkosh)	Sept 8-9	June 20	July 18	Aug 15

Wow, spring is just around the corner!



# Rock Wisconsin 2023

*Come ride with us!*



*Camaraderie is the spirit of friendship and community in a group, like the camaraderie of soldiers at war who keep each other upbeat despite the difficulty of their circumstances. Who is a comrade? A close friend or a fellow soldier — in other words, someone who comes to mind when you say, "We're in this together." Camaraderie is a feeling of trust, a bond created by a shared goal or experience — you don't have to be best friends with everyone in the group to know you have their support.*

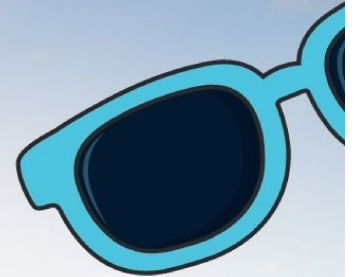
# WISCONSIN



OCONOMOWOC, WI



## HELLO SUMMER! DEALERSHIP HAPPENINGS



**MAY 13TH  
COOKIES & BIKES**

**11 AM - 1 PM**

**MAY 20TH**

**BIKES, BLESSINGS & THE VFW**

**9 AM - 3 PM**

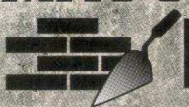
**MAY 27TH**

**HONOR CELEBRATION**

**9 AM - 3 PM**

**VOLUNTEER SIGN UP  
STARTS THIS MONTH  
EVERYONE HAS BEEN SENT THE LINK VIA  
EMAIL LAST WEEK  
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING  
I WILL BE AT THE MEETINGS EARLY AND  
STAYING LATE TO HELP ANYONE THAT  
WANTS TO SIGN UP**

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