

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

February 2024
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**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE**

PG. 1

Board Directory
From the Director's Chair

PG. 5

Important ABATE
information
Safety article

PG. 7

Upcoming Rock WI ride info



**ROCK RIVER
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#3276**

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich

What's First on Your List???

February has had a lot of firsts. Here are just a few, and I bet you may have been around for one or two!



- February 21, 1804 – 1st Self-propelled steam locomotive
- February 8, 1920 – Boy Scouts of America was founded
- February 18, 1920 – Discovery of Pluto
- February 6, 1926 – 1st Donut Machine
- February 22, 1959 – 1st Daytona 500
- February 20, 1962 – 1st American to orbit the Earth
- February 9, 1964 – 1st appearance on TV by the Beatles
- February 7, 1984 – 1st Space walk

What will I do first? Well my "routine" has been and will likely look something like this. First, I need to call Wisconsin Harley Davidson and give them two weeks to get my bike out of winter storage (so planning and watching the weather is key). I'll take it easy on the way home, 45 minute ride along Hwy. 67 south and then east on Hwy. 18 around Waukesha and into New Berlin. Then a few trips to the nearby church parking lot to review some skills; turns, circles, tighter circles, figure eights, Y-turns, and straight fairly quick stops. Then a short ride to review watching other cars (and by the way have you noticed how many people these days are riding on and over the lines or through very late yellow (really red) lights?) Now it's time to take Lori to the church parking lot and then a short ride. Yup making those manuevers with a passenger feels a bit different so practice time is worth it. My first group ride has been our Pizza ride and this year that is EARLY, March 29th, so mark your calendar. After that comes some longer day rides with Lori, Rock Wisconsin rides starting with the Windy 9, Hodag Run, Ride Like a Pirate, and Rock the Rivers to name a few. This year I'd like to try one or two less planned rides. Take off, ride in some direction, keep making turns, experience new roads, stop for lunch, then dinner and then a no-name hotel-motel. Wake up and repeat, eventually finding our way home.

So looking forward to that first ride,

Ken

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

By: Carl Samppala

Future Members/Milestones:

Grandparents!

Lee & Karen Schmeling-A grandson Tatum Mitchell

Ken & Lori Kessenich-A granddaughter Eleanor Eileen

December 2023 Anniversaries

2 Year: Tamara Dietrich

January 2024 Anniversaries

2 Year: Jim Taticek

Rosie Taticek

Tammy Blankenheim

10 Year: Terry Tindall

Mileage:

Pete Puetz
150,000 miles



BAG TOSS TOURNAMENT

Want to play an outdoor game indoors?

Want to do something to help with cabin fever?

Want to have some fun doing both those things together?



Sign up for the **Rock River Bags Classic** on **March 8th**, held at Wisconsin Harley.

Enter alone and have a teammate assigned or come as a team of 2. NO EXPERIENCE needed, but you cannot toss a bag into a bike on the floor! Welcome beverages available at 6pm. Final registrations will be taken at the February Chapter meeting. Of course - there will be a fabulous prize for the winning team! Social time for contestants will be 6:00-6:30 and the competition will start at 6:30. Please enter via the service entrance.

NOTE: This event is for registered competitors only.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

The first year of offering advertising to our chapter member business owners has come to an end. If you would like your business featured in every newsletter, please let Lori Kessenich know either via email – lkessenich@gmail.com – or at the chapter meeting. The cost will remain the same at \$75 for the entire calendar year. You can pay by cash or check made out to Rock River Hog.

DON'T FORGET THAT H.O.G. CARD

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.

HAWAIIAN HOLIDAY PARTY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

By: Ken Kessenich

Many, many thanks to the holiday party committee for a wonderful and fun evening. Even though the temperature outside was only a mere 14 degrees, the décor inside made everyone who attended feel warm and tropical! Pass the Pineapple, the Hula relay race and the Big Kahuna Says will be remembered for a long while! Thank you to Steve Courtney for providing the music for the night. Gratitude to Amy Dey, Kris Droster, Kim Jalalian, Lori Kessenich and Janet Sam for their time, efforts and thoughtfulness that made this party a terrific success!



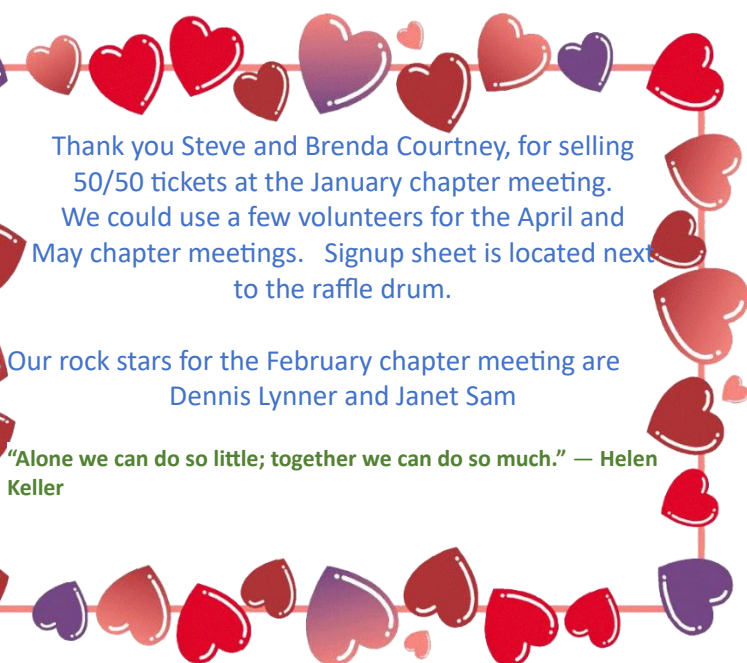
ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Wow! Can you believe we just survived that big snowfall of 18 inches. I had several trees that branches had broken off and other shrubs and things buried and flattened. After several days of running a chain saw the mess was cleaned up. I felt so bad for the people who had lost their power for days and had no heat. We were fortunate not to have lost our power. I'm here to tell you, I was shocked as to how warm it was into the fifties after that. How many times did I walk into the garage, glanced over at my bike and wanted to go for a ride. Then reality set in with all of the salt and brine the city had dumped on the roads. No way, no how was my bike coming out. I know that some people did ride during that time and that is their choice. Too much invested in my bike to have salt destroy it.

On a brighter subject, the ground hog didn't see his shadow, so that means spring is just around the corner. If we start our bikes now, maybe by that time they will have warmed up enough. Riding season will be here before you know it, and we have a great year of rides and events planned for you. So snuggle up and stay warm!

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting!

Jim "Muddy" Waters



It's almost time for the Riding season kick off!!!

The Good Friday Pizza Ride is just around the corner.

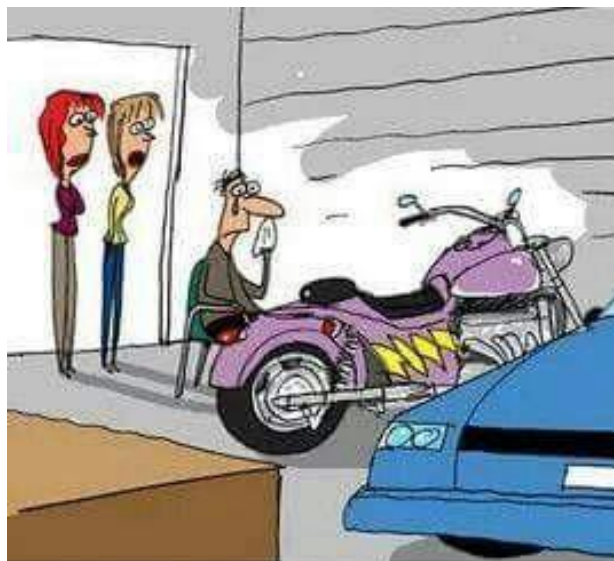
WHEN - Friday March 29, 2024 Rain/Snow/Shine...

KSU at 11 am from the best Dealership around, Wisconsin Harley, Oconomowoc. (Weather permitting).

WHERE - Pewaukee's best Pizza place, Park Avenue Pizza Company. 121 Park Ave, Pewaukee, WI 53072

WHAT – Pizza Buffet!! Includes-- Fresh Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, A variety of Pizzas, Soda, Tea or Coffee.

Cost - \$16/person. Sign Up and Pay \$ at Feb/March Chapter meeting.



"He has sat there all winter long crying and looking at his bike. Warm weather couldn't come soon enough."

THE DREADED ACCORDIAN EFFECT

Who doesn't like a good Polka song like "Beer Barrel Polka" or "In Heaven There is No Beer" (That's Why We Drink It Here)? Well, the Accordion has been around since 1829 and is recognized by nearly everyone in Wisconsin. The Accordion is usually accompanied by people polka dancing and enjoying a few German beverages.

When we ride our motorcycle, the "Accordion Effect" can get you dancing in a way that is NO FUN. The Accordion effect is the typical deceleration and acceleration of a vehicle as the vehicle in front decelerates and accelerates. It's like a slinky. And if you don't acknowledge the physics behind this group riding phenomenon, you will find yourself either swerving to miss the vehicle in front of you, rear-ending them, or losing control from locking up your brakes (Non-ABS).

The best practice when on a group ride is to obviously keep a safe distance between you and the rider in front of you but also pay attention to the group well in front of you (as far as you can see). Watch the group as a whole, do not get your attention locked onto the vehicle in front of you. If your group is accelerating, anticipate the "accordion effect" and try to keep acceleration smooth and steady. Same goes for braking; if the group ahead is slowing for any reason, try to decelerate smoothly and steady. Maintain that safe distance from not only the person in front of you but the group as a whole. Also, the accordion effect becomes more pronounced the farther back you are in the group. So, if you are in the back, be patient and attentive. This is also why it is best to have newer, less experienced riders up front.

Group riding with friends is a great time but it can have its unique challenges. Keep accel/decel smooth and steady, keep a safe distance from others, and most importantly keep your eyes up and watching the whole group, and you will find

group riding to be more relaxing and enjoyable. Keep the Polka Dancing for German Fest.

Ride Safe!

Dan Stammen



ABATE 1F WAUKESHA

At our last meeting I had the privilege of speaking to everyone about Lobby Day that ABATE of Wisconsin has been doing for a very long time. If you forgot, Lobby Day is this month on the 22nd. During my speech, a question was asked about do the Lawmakers listen and how effective ABATE is on getting Laws passed that favor all motorcyclists. Well here are some accomplishments that we fought for and had made into Wisconsin State Law.

45 second Rule. When you are at a stop light and there is no cross traffic at the intersection, you can proceed if you have been sitting for 45 seconds.

Profiling motorcycle enthusiasts for the clothes that they wear. Have you ever been wearing your riding apparel and been asked to leave a restaurant or other venues? Some have experienced that in the past. Well bill H.Res. 366 is a resolution that Congress sent a message to Law Enforcement agencies stating that they understand there IS a motorcycle profiling issue and recommending that they improve training programs to prevent it from happening.

Increased penalties for injuring or killing a motorcyclist from as low as \$83 up to \$1000 with a license suspension and mandatory training.

(continued on next page)

ABATE 1F con't

The Definition of a Motorcycle. Some years back the Slingshot was listed as a motorcycle.

Considering the Slingshot has a steering wheel, gas and brake pedals and a driver's seat, how is this a motorcycle. It took us quite a few years but we won.

The late John Wiedenhoeft was an ABATE 1F member that fought for 5 ABATE signs, Look Twice Save A Life in Delafield. He went to a number of Town Board meetings and because of John, riding around Delafield is a little safer.

There are so many more Laws that have passed because of ABATE's relationship built by going to Lobby Day.

So if you can, join us on 2/22/2024 for Lobby Day and help Make A Difference.

Thank You
Bob Buell Slowinski

ROCK WISCONSIN

-Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

Your Rock Wisconsin committee has been hard at it. Routes are being developed and hotels being blocked.

One thing that we are running into, is hotels are drawing a hard line on how long they will hold our room blocks. You may note that several sign-up and cutoff dates have moved up. SO, if you plan to join one of our rides, please sign up at the earliest possible date!

May kicks off the Rock Wisconsin season, with a ride to the **Windy 9** in Ohio. This collection of **(nine!)** motorcycle friendly routes is sure to provide lots of scenic routes and pleasant riding.

June finds us heading to northern Wisconsin as we travel to seek out the mythical **Hodag**.

Pleasant riding through the Wisconsin forests, as long as we don't meet up with the ferocious Hodag, await!

In July, we return to Northern Wisconsin, as we head toward Eagle River where we can '**Ride Like a Pirate**'. Arrr matey, perhaps some pirate's booty to be found? Join us and find out!

August, practice your favorite dance moves and see how you compare with the natural forms of dancing cranes. We're headed to the Baraboo area for a visit to the **International Crane Foundation**. Then off to enjoy the offerings of a local Pizza Farm.

Our season winds up in September, when we'll '**Rock the Rivers**'. This 3 day ride will find us following the Rock River south to the Davenport/Rock Island area, where it joins the Mississippi River. Then turning north, we'll follow the Mighty Mississippi to LaCrosse before we turn for home. We're working to have the Rock River-Illinois Chapter join us so we can truly ROCK the Rivers.

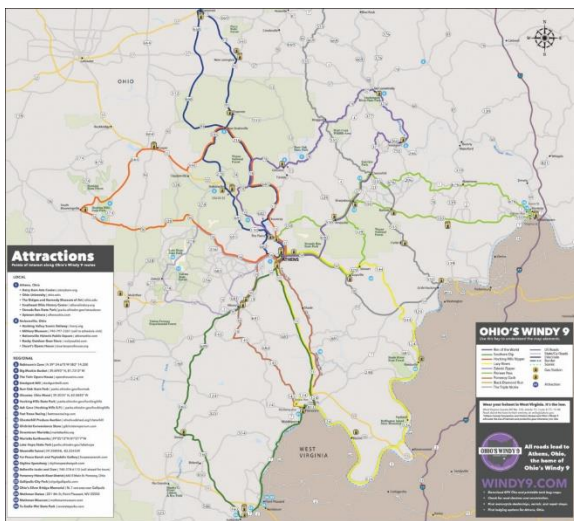
Please mark your calendars and plan to join us, you won't regret it!

See you on the road! *Carl*

2024 ROCK WISCONSIN RIDES				
Ride	Dates	Info Distributed at Chapter Mtg.	Sign Ups begin at Chapter Mtg.	
Windy 9	May 18-26	Feb	March	April
Hodag Ride	June 21-23	Feb	March	April
Ride Like a Pirate	July 12-14	March	April	May
Ride to the International Crane Federation + Pizza Farm	August 3-5	April	May	June
Rock the Rivers	Sept 6-8	May	June	July

WINDY 9

Rock Wisconsin presents our first ride of the 2024 riding season. Prepare for the curves ahead, we're headed to Ohio to check out the Windy 9! This collection of 9 motorcycle friendly routes offers scenic routes and an abundance of curves and elevation changes to make this a popular destination for motorcyclists. Check out the Rock Wisconsin table at the Chapter meeting for more info. Sign-ups begin with the March Chapter meeting. Ride dates are May 18th-26th.



MILEAGE UPDATE

The Ride 365 program runs January 1 to December 31 and as of the December Chapter meeting, we have 16 members who have ridden more than 10,000 miles in 2023!

Our Chapter as a whole has accumulated almost 456,000 miles. This total ranks us 47th nationwide and *first in the State of Wisconsin!* Participation includes 87 members, which gives an average 5,230 miles/participating member.

Some reminders:

If you have a passenger, they count also.

Remember to have both yours and their HOG number when your mileage is recorded

If you have more than one Harley-Davidson, you can count each one for your and the Chapter total.

You need to get the starting mileage and ending mileage recorded for each bike.

When you get your bike(s) out in the spring, have the mileage recorded. The ending mileage *does not* carry forward for the annual mileage.

RHINELANDER


– Hodag Ride

Friday June 21st to Sunday June 23rd.

Departing Wisconsin Harley Davidson for a beautiful ride along mostly 2-lane blacktop county roads with rest stops along the way and a nice relaxing lunch stop in Waupaca, WI, continuing to Rhinelander arriving between 4 and 5 pm. We will have an all-day ride with stops and lunch planned for Saturday which all will be invited to join or if you choose to venture out in search of the elusive Hodag on your own you can certainly do that as well. Sunday will have again a nice ride home with mostly 2-lane roads going through the Indian Reservation for a lunch stop at Doc's and a slightly more direct route home.



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IT'S TIME FOR SOME FUN!



Feb. 24th

**Puppy Meet & Greet
Intro to Customization
Workshop**

11 am - 1 pm

Mar. 16th

**Pre St. Patrick's Day
Shenanigans**

11 am - 1 pm

Mar. 23rd

Easter Egg Hunt

11 am - 1 pm

**BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM FOR
MORE DETAILS AND MORE FUN COMING YOUR WAY!**