

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

February 2025
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**ROCK RIVER
H.O.G. CHAPTER
#3276**

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich

SURPRISE!!



This week I was teaching SCUBA diving to high school students in Cedarburg. One of the things I love about teaching diving is seeing the excited expressions of my students (young and old) when they take their first breaths underwater, that first swim, and realizing that they can control themselves in this "0 gravity" environment. Are you ready to check out this surprise one day?

I'm looking forward to seeing the surprise look on my grandchildren's faces as they take their first plane ride, their first trip out of country, and their first snorkel in the ocean. Lori and I are taking all the family to Cozumel. I have been lucky enough to see the surprise in my children and their spouses while training them. This will be the first time all will be together diving and now for the beginning of the next generation of divers!

Our senses can bring us surprises as well. Last night we had our Rock Wisconsin, Road Captain, and Board meetings at Wisconsin Harley Davidson. I really enjoy walking through the door, my sense of smell makes me feel at home. Is it the leather?, the oil?, or new engines? And thinking of the sense of smell it is one of the things I love about riding a motorcycle. Riding down the road with the smell of freshly cut grass (that is not on the road!), passing that cow barn, and just the wonderful fresh air and being surrounded by it.

Remember that project I was working on for my newest granddaughter that I spoke of in my last article? Even though all the dimensions weren't provided, I think I have figured it out, finished all the pieces and test assembled it. Now it is on the finishing table and soon to be fully assembled, tested and ready for the surprise for Eleanor of the finished product 😊.

Are you ready for the Rock River Chapter surprises of 2025? Soon you will hear about the Rock Wisconsin rides across and out of our great state. Safety first – check out the options for Knock the Rust Off and group riding. Brunch rides are scheduled a Sunday a month from May to September. Road Captain rides and dealership rides and events will help to fill your riding season. I even hear the "Holiday party" for 2025 has a date set, venue planned, and considering themes already (I cannot tell you more as it is a surprise!)

With taking the family to Cozumel diving next week I'll be missing the chapter meeting. I know that Rob will do a great job running the meeting. Our chapter, to no surprise, experiences great rides and activities due to all the outstanding people who volunteer for everything from bartending and golf cart driving to all our rides and events and certainly our larger committee members and board members who give so much of their time.

I hope you enjoy some wonderful Rock River surprises this year.

Ken

ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER



What do we celebrate in February? What is this month famous for? Here's a short list of things and February facts that you should know!

The Romans and the Celts regarded February as the start of spring.

February comes from the Latin word februa, which means "to cleanse."

The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement that took place this time of year.

It is the only month to have a length of fewer than 30 days.

Though it's usually 28 days, February is 29 days long in leap years such as 2020, 2024 or 2028.

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC) by Numa Pompilius when the calendar was extended from ten to twelve.

Originally, February was made the last month of the calendar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.

The Anglo Saxons called February "Sol-monath" (literally cake-month), because cakes were offered to the gods during that month. February was also known to the Saxons as "sprout-kale" from the sprouting of cabbage or kale.

Having only 28 days in non-leap years, February was known in Welsh as "y mis bach", or the little month.

In Shakespeare's time about 400 years ago, the second month of the year was called "Feverell" while, in Isaac Newton's time one hundred years later it had become "Februeer".

The modern name, February, is only about a hundred years old.

With spring just around the corner, the riding season will be here before you know it, and we have a wonderful year of rides and events planned for you. So, snuggle up and stay warm!

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "john". I've renamed it the "jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the jim this morning.

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting!

Jim "Muddy" Waters

50/50

I would like to welcome Dawn Jean and thank her for offering to take over the 50/50 responsibilities which will leave me more time to focus on photography and activities. We are always looking for people to help with selling raffle tickets for our chapter meetings. Please consider signing up for one shift (one hour). We only have 16 more spots available for the rest of the year so don't wait too long. The sign up sheet will be next to the raffle drum and say "Hi" to Dawn while you are there. Our 50/50 ticket sellers for the February meeting will be Dawn Makowski and Janet Sam. See you at the meeting, Theresa



HOWDY THERE...

Well, tarnation – the Holiday Hoedown was one rootin' tootin' good time. Thank you to the planning committee of Kris Droster, Lori Kessenich and Theresa Leto for all their hard work. Many thanks also go out to the "extra crew" who helped that evening from set up, to serving, to take down: Amy Dey, Tim Droster, Ken Kessenich, Dawn Makowski, Michelle Mather and Janet Sam. Finally, Mark Makowski did an awesome job as the evening's music master. Look for a pictorial collage next month that highlights all the fun. Now, about that missing cowpie . . .

H.O.G Connection



February 2025

By Rob Fehl

One of my responsibilities is to keep you informed on all things HOG related and I would like to use this column to do just that! Whether it is just information being passed along about HOG events and programs or if you have questions regarding membership, I will try to find the answers to help you out.

Ride 365

We had 65 members participate in the Ride 365 mileage challenge. You can check your mileage and compare it to others in the region by clicking [here](#).

Here are the 2024 leaders for our chapter:

Rank	Name	2024 Mileage
1	Pete Puetz	20230
2	Tom Downing	17628
3	Tim Droster	14354
4	Carl Sappala / Kitty Knight	14353
5	Jim Micale	14311
6	Gary Malinowski	12307
7	Mike Mueller	12215
8	Jim & Denise Wasilewski	12212
9	Frank Van Dusen	11487
10	Chris Abel	9817
11	Rick Fauska	9742
12	Mark Knackert / Dawn Jean	9488
13	Scott Kietzke	9072
14	Tom Greco	8960
15	Rob Fehl / Tracey Iverson	8645
16	Collette Konkel	8086
17	Don Geisler	7744
18	Neal Dauphin	7686
19	Dennis Lynner	7506
20	Bruce Lavine	7490
21	Lee and Karen Schmeling	7390
22	Mark Kenyon	7294
23	Douglas Klanecky	7254
24	Kristine Droster	6823
25	Luci Wondra-Fauska	6735
26	Earl Carawan	6656
27	Jay Greenwald	6564
28	Cheryl Dauphin	6546

29	Daniel Stammen	5847
30	Barry Phillips	5550

Get Ready to Ride 365 in 2025

Now is the time to start thinking about the 2025 challenges and planning chapter rides and personal rides around them. Make sure to have mileage readings taken early and often throughout the year. At least two readings must be recorded every calendar year for the miles ridden in that year to count for annual challenges.

Participants in the Annual Mileage Recognition program can 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 can also be earned as miles accumulate, up to a maximum of 15,000 points (a \$150 value) every year. Members can now earn a unique challenge coin after logging 10,000 miles (lowered from 25,000).



HOG Helpful Tutorial Videos

To help educate members about H.O.G. benefits, Ride 365 programs, the Harley-Davidson App, and more, the H-D Membership team has created a series of tutorial videos covering a range of topics, including:

- H.O.G. membership benefits explained
- What is Ride 365?
- H.O.G. Ride 365 Destination Challenges
- Learn more have H-D Membership Reward points
- How to link your H.O.G. ID to your H-D Membership account
- Dive deep into the Groups feature of the H-D App
- How to create and share rides with the H-D App
- How to renew your H.O.G. membership

The tutorials are available in a convenient playlist on YouTube, which you can find [here](#). We encourage you to watch them to educate yourself and share them with your chapter members.

Parking Lot Hero!

Why do I need to practice parking lot maneuvers to be a better rider on the road? The road and parking lot are two completely different riding environments??

Great question! Let's just review some of what you learned in a beginner rider course. First, you have to know all the controls of the bike and how to use them. Items like the clutch, shifter, throttle, brakes, signal lights, horn. Get the proper riding gear, gloves, boots, jacket and helmet. Then you learn how to maneuver the bike. Before you know it, you and that freedom machine can accelerate, turn left and right at varying rates, swerve around obstacles and most importantly, come to a safe and controlled stop. Over time you become quicker, smoother and confident. You have impressed the instructors so much; they actually give you a motorcycle license.

Over the next few years of riding, things change. You now choose to ride around the block instead of doing the U-turn. You keep hitting those potholes, even though you see them from a mile away, (target fixation), when you enter the corner a little hot you tend to drift into the other lane when exiting the corner. Your confidence gets shook once in a while and you're not enjoying the ride. You're starting to wonder if you should be riding anymore. Sound familiar?

You need to get back to the basics and polish your skills. That is where the parking lot "slow speed maneuvers" play a vital role. The parking lot is a great place to safely build up your confidence while in a controlled environment. Get comfortable again with tight cornering, quick stops, obstacle swerve, cone weave, turn those big U-turns into tight "handle bar locking" U-turns. Being able to confidently execute the basic motorcycle operations, as a normal reaction rather than having to think it through, makes riding safer and much more enjoyable. Parking lot maneuvers are used every time you ride. Practicing them helps keep you ready for when you need them the most.

Ride Safe!!
Safety Officer
Dan Stammen

ABATE NEWS

Hello Rock River from ABATE 1F Waukesha.
February is an important month for us at ABATE.

Our Lobby Day is on Thursday the 13th and we are all set to push our agenda. First on our agenda is our Right to Repair. This will protect our rights to choose how we want to repair our motorcycles for those of us who like to do the repairs ourselves.

Next is protecting E 10 fuel or less for our motorcycles beside ATV/UTV, snowmobile, boats along with any small engine outdoor equipment. This is a must win for us to keep us riding for years to come. Using E 15 in vehicles or equipment that is supposed to use E10 will void your warranty.

Our last item is Consumers Choice. The bill will give us, the consumer, the ability to choose between buying an electric motor vehicle, or gas powered engine vehicle. We introduced this bill a couple years ago and had bipartisan support until it hit the Governor's desk and he vetoed it. Hopefully this time we can build enough support to override and veto from the Governor.

If you can't make it to Lobby Day I'm posting a list of our lawmakers from Waukesha County. Please feel free to email them and let them know we want to fight for our Freedom to ride our motorcycles, work on our motorcycles and buy a motorcycle that is powered by E10 or less fuels.

Julian Bradley [\(608\) 266-5400](tel:6082665400) Sen.Bradley@legis.wisconsin.gov
Rob Hutton [\(608\) 266-2512](tel:6082662512) Sen.Hutton@legis.wisconsin.gov
Chris Kapenga [\(608\) 266-9174](tel:6082669174) Sen.Kapenga@legis.Wisconsin.gov
Representatives
Scott Allen [\(608\) 237-9182](tel:6082379182) Rep.Allen@legis.wisconsin.gov
Barbara Dtrich Dittrich@legis.wisconsin.gov
Cindi Duchow [\(608\) 237-9197](tel:6082379197) Rep.Duchow@legis.wisconsin.gov
(continued on next page)

Dave Maxey [\(608\) 237-9183](tel:6082379183)
Rep.Maxey@legis.wisconsin.gov
Adam Neylon [\(608\) 237-9115](tel:6082379115)
Rep.Neylon@legis.wisconsin.gov
Chuck Wichgers [\(608\) 237-9184](tel:6082379184)
Rep.Wichgers@legis.wisconsin.gov

Upcoming events....

Knock the Rust Off hosted by ABATE 1F.

April 26th Fox River Church off of HWY 164.

Starts at 9:00am till 12:00.

(More information to follow in an upcoming newsletter)

P.S. It's FREE!!!

Thanks for your support!

Bob "BuellBob" Slowinski

ROCK WISCONSIN

The Rock Wisconsin Committee is in full swing planning and fine tuning this year's rides. While more detailed information will be forthcoming in the upcoming newsletters, below are the rides for 2025:

June 5 th -7 th	Made in Wisconsin
July 19 th – 21 st	Where Eagles Fly
August 15 th - 17 th	Passport Tour
September 5 th – 7 th	Crossing the Line

OUR NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, February 18, 2025
WHERE: The Ingleside
TIME: 6:00 – Social Hour
7:00 – Meeting

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

Betsy Boos

January Anniversaries

5 years

Kim Jalalian	Carl Samppala
Michael Polansky	Mark Erickson
Erik Beckett	Barb Beckett
Barb Brooks	Mark Sterle
Wayne Rossmiller	Randy Schultz
Lori Kessenich	Ken Kessenich
Brian Miller	Janet Sam
Jim Waters	Dan Sedlachek
David Doepke	Julie Doepke
Tom Greco	Ron Patterson
Amy Dey	Greg Bartrom
Rochelle Bartrom	Scott Kietzke
Ginny Radler	Theresa Leto
Karen Schmeling	Lee Schmeling
Mark Jorgenson	Vivian Jorgenson
Stan Urbaniak	Wendy Daum
Jim Wroblewski	Candy Parr
Doug Schalla	Barb Schalla
John Patrick	Cindy Patrick
Keri Yesko	Paul Radler
Amanda Couden	John Couden
Mark Knackert	Dawn Jean

15 Years: Bob Foote
20 Years: Greg Bare
25 Years: Lori Gunderson

February Anniversaries

2 Years: Kirk Topel

5 Years: John Kosanke
Julie Balthazor
Donald Geisler, Jr.
Dawn Makowski
Mark Makowski
Jim Fischer
Maria Kosanke

January New Members

Duane Meyers
Amy Woods
Jill Tausch
Norb Tausch
David Nelson

WISCONSIN



HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY



FEBRUARY 15TH
RIDE INTO 2025 EVENT
11 AM - 3 PM
MUSIC, SNACKS AND GIVEAWAYS!

SATURDAY MARCH 15TH
PRE ST. PATRICK'S DAY SHENANIGANS
11 AM - 1 PM
MARCH 29TH
SPRING EVENT
(STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS)



APRIL 5TH
SUPERSHOX WORKSHOP
APRIL 19TH
ANNUAL EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA
APRIL 26TH

RIDE SAFE MOTORCYCLE TRAINING SUMMIT
PRESENTED BY ABATE OF WISCONSIN



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

