

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

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

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich

Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a relaxing end to 2023. I'm excited to share with you my best news for 2024. Yesterday, January 10, my son and daughter-in-law welcomed their first child, Eleanor Eileen Kessenich, to this world. El and mom Kim are doing well and all are home today! I can't wait to meet her, but likely will have to wait a few years to give her a ride.



Now that I have had three opportunities to use my snowblower, I'm READY for spring. Speaking of the New Year, did you make any New Year's resolutions? With our chapter planning well on the way to provide you awesome experiences, perhaps you could resolve to:

- Check our websites calendar to look for events to participate in. Visit <https://www.rockriverhog.com/>, select login, using the login **Rockriver**, and the password **rrc3276**. Click on the "Events and Meetings" tab and then scroll through the list or I like to click "Calendar View" at the top left and then scroll through the months.
- Most of the Rock Wisconsin ride dates are already posted. Watch for the ride briefing at a chapter meeting about 3 months prior and then signup 2 months prior to reserve your spot and get your room.
- Road Captain rides are there too! Each Road Captain will lead one or more rides, most likely day, brunch, or evening rides.
- Join a brunch ride and fill your soul with some great roads, comradarie, and your stomach with some delicious food. Vern is setting up monthly reservations at various locations and our Road Captains will plan an enjoyable ride to the location. Routes home will be with friends or on your own.
- Require at least one but maybe two or three oil changes this year. This means more miles, more fun, friendships and some new experiences.
- Hone or learn a new game. Come to the **Rock River Bags Classic** on **March 8th**. More information in a separate article.
- Participate in the 2024 Flat Rocker (or up your participation). Theme and stops will be released as usual at the April Chapter meeting and conclude at the October Chapter meeting.
- Visit Wisconsin Harley Davidson and enjoy one of the MANY wonderful events that are planned for you in 2024. Check out the amazing vendors, enjoy some great food, maybe a beverage of choice and certainly reconnect with chapter members and other friends.
- Improve your riding skills or just "Knock the Rust Off". Dan, our Safety Officer, will be offering a session where you can prep for the season, learn some new techniques, and just be safer and more confident this riding season.
- Volunteer once or twice this year. There are plenty of opportunities from 50/50 raffle at our Chapter meetings, to helping out at a chapter event or the Welcome Home Rally at OUR Dealership.

There is so much to look forward to and I look forward to enjoying it with you!

Ken

JANUARY MEETING

LOCATION

WHERE: Ingleside Pavillion

WHEN: 6:00 PM social hour
7:00 PM meeting

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

By: Carl Samppala

Michael Mueller
(left)

Scott Groenwoldt
(right)



THANK YOU

Many thank to those of you that brought in a holiday gift shoe box. Your generosity delivered Christmas joy to many deserving children!

HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

There are a few spaces open to join in on the tropical fun at this year's Hawaiian holiday party on January 19th. You can sign up and pay at the chapter meeting or at the dealership before closing hours on Tuesday, January 17th. \$45/members; \$65/non-members. Appetizers, dinner, dessert, music, games and most of all 'I'M OUT OF THE HOUSE – FUN!'



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?

Come to 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. Registration at the January and February Chapter meeting or at the dealership on March 8th from 6:00-6:15 with bracket assignments from 6:15 to 6:45 and the tournament running from 7-8:30. Of course - there will be a fabulous prize for the winning team!

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.

ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope you all got what was on your wish list. In my case I must have been on the naughty list. I have never seen so much coal in my life. Do you have any New Year's resolutions? My New Year's resolution is to save up enough to buy a Velcro wall, and I plan on sticking to it.

Where is spring?

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 10:06 PM CDT
OMG to put that in prospective as of January 13, 2024, Spring will be here in the following days:
10 Mondays
10 Tuesdays
9 Wednesdays
9 Thursdays
9 Fridays
9 Saturdays
10 Sundays

As we start the New Year there are many exciting rides and events already on the calendar and numerous other things in the works. If you are a new member, check out the calendar. I am sure you will find enough things to keep you on your bike for as much or as little as you may want to ride. Now is the time to sit in front of the fireplace with a hot beverage and plan a trip or look for destinations to ride to on your bike.

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting!

Jim "Muddy" Waters

TO HELMET OR NOT TO HELMET

Do you like the challenge of trying to hold onto a "New Years Resolution" for as long as you can? I gave up soda for a whole 10 min. Maybe, to keep a New Years Resolution, you just need a "better alternative" to what you are trying to give up. Maybe I need coffee... Blah.

As your safety officer, (please hear me out) I would love to see those who choose to ride without a helmet to make a New Years Resolution and give the ole brain bucket a try this year. If you are an experienced rider and have been riding without a helmet for years, I get it, it can be hard to strap on a helmet. Blah.. So, I gave it some thought and here are a few of my "Better Alternatives" as to why a helmet can make your ride a better experience.

*Helmets can block the sun's glare and give you better visibility of the road and scenery. * Helmets can protect your face and eyes from bugs and debris (June Bugs) *A full-face Helmet can protect you from harmful UV Rays and sunburns. *Helmets are great for rain protection *Today's helmets have many options for Bluetooth music, communication, even videoing. *Some helmets even have a level of hearing protection. (60mph wind is 120dB, Schuberth helmets advertise their helmets reduce that noise to 82-85dB)

Lastly, with a more serious reason, wearing a helmet shows that you care for your family. Many people have sustained serious head injuries due to a motorcycle accident that could have been prevented if only they had worn a helmet. Assisting a person with cognitive disabilities as a result of brain damage has a large impact on the emotional and physical health of the caregiver. I don't think any of us want to put our loved ones in that situation.

I respect that it is our choice to wear a helmet or not, and I respect your choice! But, give it some thought.

Ride Safe my Friends!!

Safety Officer

Dan.



ROCK WISCONSIN

-Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

Welcome to 2024! If your New Year's Resolution was to ride more, look no further.

You can see from the list, at right, we have a full schedule ahead of us. This is in addition to the other rides our Road Captains are planning as well as dealer events and maybe even some pick up rides.

We start the year with what might be our most ambitious Rock Wisconsin Ride ever, 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.

Then, in June, it's off to northern Wisconsin as we travel to seek out the mythical Hodag.

Northern Wisconsin finds us returning in July as we head toward Eagle River where we can 'Ride Like a Pirate'.

August, we head toward the Baraboo area for a visit to the International Crane Foundation. With luck, we can see some cranes dancing before heading off to enjoy the offerings of a local Pizza Farm.

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end and that brings us to September, where we will 'Rock the Rivers'. This 3 day ride will find us following the Rock River south to where it meets the Mississippi River. Then turning north, we'll follow the Mighty Mississippi to La Crosse and there 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!

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	March	April	May
Ride Like a Pirate	July 12-14	April	May	June
Ride to the Crane Federation & A Pizza Farm	August 3-5	May	June	July
Rock the Rivers	Sept 6-8	June	July	Aug

50/50 NEWS



By: Theresa Leto

THANK YOU to Janet Sam for picking up the tickets and drum and to Dawn Makowski for filling in for me at the December chapter meeting. You both are my heroes! 😊 I heard that Kris and Tim Droster knocked it out of the park with ticket sales. You guys ROCK! Look for Steve and Brenda Courtney to purchase tickets at the January meeting.

IMPORTANT ABATE NEWS

One of our most important events is coming on 2/22/2024!
Lobby Day is 2/22/2024!
Don't forget the date 2/22/2024!

Every year it is a very important day for ABATE. On 2/22/2024 we get our opportunity to talk to our lawmakers in the State Capitol about our motorcycle rights! In all the years past we never really worried about the fuel we put in our motorcycles. But because our big brother, the Government, is pushing everything electric. We need to convince our lawmakers that we need to have a choice between electric and internal combustion engines that use 10% or less ethanol fuels.

If we lose this fight, you can say goodbye to your Motorcycle, Boats, Snowmobile's, ATV's, UTV's, and on and on. If 50 people show up to Madison and talk to the lawmakers, it may not make a difference. But if 1000 people show up, you know they are going to listen. So mark your calendar for 2/22/2024 and get on the bus, drive your car, or better yet you're your motorcycle (weather permitting) to our State Capitol in Madison!

We are meeting at the Denny's 2801 N. Grandview Boulevard, Pewaukee at 8:00am for those interested in eating breakfast before we get on the Bus.

Or you can meet at the Park and Ride on Meadowbrook Road in Pewaukee just off I 94 at 9:30.

The bus will be there hopefully by 10:00am, and leave shortly after that. PLEASE let me know if you're taking the bus because we need a head count to see if we need another bus.
See y'all there!

Thank You
Buell Bob - Bob Slowinski

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


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.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR BIKERS

1. Buy nothing unless absolutely needed in the moment.
2. Ride a ton more.
3. Ride your bike more than spending time looking at bikes.
4. Ride at least once a week.
5. Try to get to 2 new places during your particular riding season.
6. Disregard Number 1.

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new
2024
year

It's time to get ready for the 2024 Riding Season but first we've got some fun until we can ride!

Feb. 10th Annual Sip N Shop

Mar. 16th Pre St. Patricks Day Shenanigans

Mar. 23rd Easter Egg Hunt

Stay tuned for more cold weather fun!

Don't forget if you have winter work and aren't storing with us you can still get that fun done now!

We'll pick it up and deliver it! Be sure to call our Service Department to set your appointment now!



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