

**ROCK RIVER  
CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**

January 2026  
Volume 26  
Issue No. 1  
Chapter No. 3276

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Swap Meet information



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

## Rock River Board

### DIRECTOR

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### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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### SECRETARY

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Open

### HISTORIAN

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historian@rockriverhog.com

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Jodi Politowski  
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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Ken Kessenich

Have you experienced the roads of Kentucky? I



planned a route on one of our chapter adventures and lead a group to Maker's Mark Distillery from East Louisville. We left our hotel on a two numbered highway (ie. 60), then three (362), and four (1865) and finally getting closer to the



distillery, I took an unnamed road as a shortcut. About half way down the road my sweep, Muddy, asks if this is a road or a golf cart path! I too was concerned

that General Lee would be coming over the next hill with nowhere to go! We did pop out right next to the entrance to the distillery. Lori and I have also enjoyed taking the car and traveling around Kentucky looking for some good bourbon. Kentucky also has amazing horse farms, so we decided to visit/tour and learn. Did you know that January 1 marks the official "birthday" of all Northern Hemisphere Thoroughbreds? Regardless of when each horse was born the prior year, they all turn one year older on this day.



Well, that brings me to January 1st and to what so many of us do -make resolutions for the New Year. I think it was over two years ago when I told Jonathan Green that I was soon to quit my "real job" and that I would be joining him on the breakfast rides. Well, before I "retired" I had already started a part time job at Woodcraft working retail and teaching woodworking classes. Then there was the continuation of me teaching SCUBA diving and doing training dives most Tuesdays and Thursdays through the summer (a.k.a. riding season). I think you get where this resolution is going. My resolution #1 - I will make some of those this season. Road Captains have provided guided brunch rides every month of the season, and yet I was usually doing SCUBA Open Water pool trainings or helping Massachusetts with the green energy engineering curriculum and well, too many other things. #2 - I will make some of those brunch rides this summer as well. Of course there are the Rock Wisconsin rides. Last year it was so great to see some chapter members who have never participated in one go on a ride or two and having such a great time. I will continue to enjoy those opportunities and I hope you will too. Finally, #3 - when the weather is not quite right, or the destination is just too far, we plan to trailer our bike (for the first time) to at least one further destination in the U.S. to get an early start on the riding season or just extend the riding season

I know most of us make these and I know many people never follow through with what they resolve to do. I'm asking you to help me keep my promise to myself and maybe join me or other chapter members in doing what we do, Ride, Volunteer, and Have Fun.

What will you do new this year??

Ken

# CHAPTER NEWS MEDLEY

## UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
6:00 PM Social Hour  
7:00 PM Meeting

WHERE: Ingleside

**Be sure to attend the  
January meeting  
because...  
IT FEELS GOOD TO BE  
APPRECIATED!**

At this January's meeting, everyone who volunteered in 2025, will be recognized with the beginning of the Rock River Chapter incentive program. Those members who qualify will be awarded either silver or gold wheel patches. For those members who volunteered for both the chapter and dealership challenge coins will also be presented. These are a great addition to vests or jackets or plaques to not only reflect how awesome YOU are in giving of your valuable time, but they also reflect how active our chapter is.



## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

Membership renewal for 2026 can still be done in person at January's chapter meeting. The membership fee is \$20 through the end of January.

We will be implementing the sign waiver only. If ALL your information is current and there are no changes in anything, you may skip the member application. If you have changed anything, fill out the application.

You can also sign up at the dealership. Thank you.

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## HAPPY DAYS HOLIDAY PARTY Reminders

For those of you who are attending the party, here is a final reminder of the specifics:

WHEN: Saturday, January 31, 2026

WHERE: Elks Lodge in Waukesha  
2301 Springdale Rd  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
Park in the back/lower portion of the building.

TIME: 6:00PM Arrival – Appetizers  
6:45 – Dinner  
10:30 – Last call for the bar

WHAT: Music, games with prizes, and just plenty of 50s fun!

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to all the 2025 50/50 winners! The December meeting had some big money winners.

Be sure to get your 50/50 tickets at the chapter meetings and best of luck to all our members in 2026.

See you at the January meeting. - Dawn Jean

# SWAP MEET IS COMING

## 2026 Rock River Swap Meet

The swap meet will be Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-5pm at the New Berlin VFW Post. 17980 Beloit Rd, New Berlin. Set up will begin at 10:00am - one hour prior to the event start time. We will have approximately 20-25 tables available. The swap meet is free to attend and open to the public.

If you are interested in renting a spot (8-foot table), the cost will be \$20.00 for chapter members and \$30.00 for non-chapter members. Please make checks payable to ROCK RIVER HOG CHAPTER.

A sign up list will be available at the next chapter meeting (January 20th). If you cannot attend that meeting, please email Theresa Leto at [tletto1@wi.rr.com](mailto:tletto1@wi.rr.com) with your name and contact information to reserve your table. The deadline to reserve your table will be March 13th.

Start gathering your motorcycle gear, parts and accessories and join us for a fun day of buying, selling and connecting with fellow enthusiasts! Even if you don't have items to sell, come and browse the great deals and enjoy the community.

- Theresa Leto

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## 2025 FLAT ROCKER WRAP UP

Statistics from the 2025 Flat Rocker:

Total participants	27
Full sweep of stops	3
Qualifiers for the Bagger Category	9
Qualifiers for the Sportster Category	9
Qualifiers for the Side Car Category	9

# ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Head Road Captain - Jim "Muddy" Waters  
So, it's January.

(From Lesley Kennedy article re: January Surprising Facts)

F. Scott Fitzgerald might have said it best in *The Beautiful and Damned*; "January, the Monday of months." The year begins with optimism, bowl games and, perhaps, a Bloody Mary buffet to soften the impact of the night before. But for much of the country, freezing temperatures, short days and the post-holiday slump have cemented January's reputation as the height of winter doldrums. Still, the month has its own quiet marvels: a brilliant meteor shower, a candy-colored ice festival and even the invention of the King Cake.

January was named for the Roman god Janus, known as the protector of gates and doorways, which symbolize beginnings and endings. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other with the ability to see into the future. What a fitting symbol for this first day of the year; this month is our door into the new year.

On January 15, 1919, a 50-foot-long storage tank burst in Boston's North End, unleashing 2.3 million gallons of molasses. The sticky flood raced through the streets at up to 35 miles per hour, toppling buildings, derailing a train and killing 21 people while injuring 150.

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.

*I never thought that orthopedic shoes would work well for me.*

*But after trying on a pair, I stand corrected.*

Hope to see you at the next chapter meeting!

# WE HAVE A WINNER!

Chapter member, Doug Klanecky, won a prize this past year by participating in the Wisconsin Harley-Davidson Dealers Association Passport Tour! His prize was one tire and installation valid through the end of 2026. Congratulations, Doug!

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## NEWS FROM ABATE

A Very Happy New Year to the R.R family. The book of 2025 is closed. Christmas came and went and New Year's is a blur. Welcome to 2026 and here we go!

Lobby Day is Tuesday, February 17th. It's the most wonderful time of the year for ABATE. It's our opportunity to sit down with our lawmakers and discuss topics that we feel are most important to keeping our freedoms to ride. To be honest, almost every topic we are discussing with lawmakers can affect a host of other enthusiasts such as ATV's, UTV's, boaters, Classic Cars enthusiasts. In fact if you have a gas powered lawn mower, weed wacker, chainsaw or leaf blower you will be affected as well.

Right to Repair is a bill that would allow you to have access to information that will help you repair any of the items you have. Independent repair shops will be a thing of the past if we fail.

We would like E10 or less fuel available at every gas station. From motorcycles to anything powered by a gas engine they all require E10 or less to operate. Don't believe me?? Just look at your gas cap on any small engine that needs fuel

We would like a law to pass that prohibits government regulation on vehicle sales based solely on fuel. Making sure our Freedom of Choice is not taken away on what we want to buy. Because once we lose our freedom of choice, it will be hard to get it back.

Come join us and help us fight for our Freedom to choose.

If you are looking for something to do on Sunday the 25th of this month, come join us for a social event at the Thirsty Duck on Main Street in Sussex. It starts at 11:00 and we have reserved 2 lanes for Duck Pin Bowling starting at 12:00 until 1:00. The good times will keep rolling after so stick around and enjoy your Sunday Funday!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 28th. Are you thinking of watching curling at the Olympics? Well, we are going Curling on March 28th at the Kettle Moraine Curling Club. This starts at 9:00am and ends at 12:00. \$20.00 a person and you can pretend you're in the Olympics! Please bring a dish to pass for lunch. Hope to see you there.

To keep updated on events and info from ABATE, you can check out every Friday our TGIF on 1F's Facebook page.  
Miss a little, miss a lot!

Let's Be Safe Out There!

Waukesha Strong.

BuellBob.



Thank you to everyone who helped those in need for Operation Shoebox this year!



December 16, 2025

Janet Sam  
707 N Grand Ave Apt 502  
Waukesha, WI 53186-4884

Dear Janet,

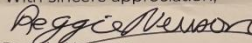
Thank you for the many ways you showed up for families through Wellpoint Care Network's Diapers for Dads initiative as part of our 2025 Annual Campaign. We are deeply grateful for your generosity, your time, and your care.

Through your involvement with the ABATE Wisconsin / Rock River HOG Chapter, you helped provide diapers, blankets, and several shoeboxes of gifts—each one thoughtfully prepared and warmly received. In addition, your presence at the event and your willingness to help distribute gifts made a real difference for the families we served.

Because of you, fathers and their children experienced moments of dignity, connection, and joy. Your hands-on support helped create a welcoming, respectful environment where families felt seen and supported.

Thank you for giving so generously—both in resources and in time. Your kindness and commitment truly strengthened this effort.

With sincere appreciation,

  
Reggie Newson  
President & CEO  
Wellpoint Care Network

*This letter is not intended to serve as a tax receipt.*

## H.O.G Connection – January 2026

By Rob Fehl

### 15 for '26 Ride Challenge Destinations Revealed!

We asked and you answered: for 2026, nearly half of the 15 for '26 Ride Challenge destinations were chosen from suggestions submitted by H.O.G. members. Ranging from the famous and familiar to the unknown and undiscovered, this year's list is a curated selection of some of the most inspiring, interesting and downright quirky attractions America has to offer.

- O.K. Corral, Tombstone, AZ
- Route 66 - End of the Trail, Santa Monica, CA
- Nation's Smallest Post Office, Ochopee, FL
- Gemini Giant, Wilmington, IL
- Bridge of Flowers, Shelburne Falls, MA
- Jolly Green Giant statue, Blue Earth, MN
- Uranus Missouri Towne Center, St. Robert, MO
- Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kill Devil Hills, NC
- Big Muskie Bucket, McConnelsville, OH
- Blue Whale of Catoosa, Catoosa, OK
- Historic Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, Petros, TN
- Cadillac Ranch, Amarillo, TX
- Iwo Jima Marine Memorial, Arlington, VA
- Wisconsin's Dragon, Gays Mills, WI
- Leavenworth, WA

### 2026 H.O.G. Touring Rallies

- Run to Daytona H.O.G. Touring Rally, Virginia Beach, VA to St Augustine, FL, February 23-27
- Spring Heat H.O.G. Touring Rally, Santa Clarita, CA to Chandler, AZ, April 3-7
- Route 66 East H.O.G. Touring Rally, Milwaukee to Amarillo, TX, May 16-22
- Open Road Posse Ride, Durango, CO to Mandan, ND, June 10-22
- 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, TBD
- Route 66 West H.O.G. Touring Rally, Amarillo, TX to Marina Del Ray, CA, September 22-28
- Ride Home H.O.G. Touring Rally, Hickory, NC to H-D Museum, Milwaukee, WI, October 14-19

### 2026 H.O.G. Regional Rallies

- Cajun Country Regional H.O.G. Rally, Scott, LA, April 16-18
- Smoky Mountain Regional H.O.G. Rally, Maryville, TN, May 27-30
- Great Lakes Regional H.O.G. Rally, Chippewa Falls, WI, June 11-13
- Rocky Mountain Regional H.O.G. Rally, Durango, CO, June 11-13
- Blue Ridge Rumble Regional H.O.G. Rally, Winchester, VA, June 17-20
- 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 365

We had 55 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 2025 leaders for our chapter:

#	First Name	Last Name	2025 Miles
1	James	Wasilewski	21543
2	Denise	Wasilewski	21543
3	Thomas	Downing	15798
4	Michael	Mueller	15035
5	Tim	Droster	13600
6	Pete	Puetz	13234
7	Scott	Kietzke	12454
8	Gary	Malinowski	10769
9	Scott	Patrick	10234
10	Robert	Woods	10091
11	Thomas	Greco	9108
12	John	Lange	8410
13	Bill	Witt	8205
14	Mathew	Rebek	7673
15	Donald	Geisler	7656
16	Tracey	Iverson	7561
17	Rob	Fehl	7561
18	Mark	Knackert	7536
19	Dawn	Jean	7535
20	Wayne	Graham	7456
21	Dennis	Lynner	7389
22	Matt	Toepfer	7369
23	Neal	Dauphin	6751
24	Caitlynn	Mckara	6735
25	James	Emry	6735
26	James	Micale	6671
27	Kristine	Droster	6665
28	Cheryl	Dauphin	6539
29	Patricia	Downing	5431
30	Andy	Blackburn	5376



# THANK YOU, WISCONSIN HARLEY DAVIDSON FOR HOSTING OUR DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING!



2026

Rock River HOG Chapter

UPDATED: 01/13/2026

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

January						
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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

- 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

- 10 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 10 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 10 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 17 6:00 - Chapter Meeting
- 22 11am - RRC Swap Meet

April						
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June						
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28	29	30				

- 3 TBD - Good Friday Pizza Ride
- 4 Easter
- 14 5:00 - Rock WI Meeting
- 14 5:45 - Road Captain Meeting
- 14 6:15 - Board Meeting
- 21 6:00 - Chapter Meeting

- 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 - Iowa Ride
- 23 WI-HD Honer Celebration
- 25 Memorial Day
- 29-31 Road America Motorcycle weekend
- 30 WI-HD CMA 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 WI-HD Event TBD
- 21 Father's Day
- 25-28 Abate Summer Hummer
- 26-28 Rock WI - Minn. Driftless Ride

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

Run to Daytona H.O.G. Touring Rally, Virginia Beach, VA to St Augustine, FL	February 23-27
Spring Heat H.O.G. Touring Rally, Santa Clarita, CA to Chandler, AZ	April 3-7
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Rocky Mountain Regional H.O.G. Rally, Durango, CO	June 11-13
Blue Ridge Rumble Regional H.O.G. Rally, Winchester, VA	June 17-20

2026

Rock River HOG Chapter

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

UPDATED: 01/13/2026

July						
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30	31					

September						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 4 Independence Day
- 9-12 Harley Homecoming Rally
- 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
- 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

TBD WI-HD Not Rally Rally Weekend

- 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						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 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

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 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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- 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

**WISCONSIN**  
MOTOR HARLEY-DAVIDSON CYCLES



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**JAN. 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION**

**11AM - 1 PM**

**FEB. 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**SIP N SHOP**

**11AM - 1 PM**

**MAR. 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**ASM CLASSES**

**MAR. 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**PRE-ST. PATRICKS DAY**

**SHENANIGANS**

**ALL DAY**

**new year, new gear!**

**be sure to watch every week**

**for specials in motorcycle clothes geared**

**towards getting you ready for**

**your next riding season!**

**Reminder**

**WISHD Rewards**

**expire Jan. 31st!**

**Be sure to stop in**

**and use those points!**



**AS ALWAYS BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR ALL  
UPDATES AND ADDITIONS TO OUR 2025 CALENDAR!**

