

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

June 2024
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**ROCK RIVER
H.O.G. CHAPTER
#3276**

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich

Whether or not we ride sometimes depends on the weather or just your point of view or need.

Thinking back to my last chapter ride, The Windy 9, I think we pretty much had it all. The morning of staging it was 50° degrees and some had their heated jackets plugged in. As we rode south the day warmed up quickly, the plugs were unplugged and later a layer came off. Later yet another layer came off and we were all riding with smiles and comfort.

Another day we left our hotel for one of the loops with shirts or light jackets. The weather was mostly clear and by mid-morning we had taken off what we could or would! The temperature rose to 92°; smartly everybody was drinking plenty of water and adding fresh coats of sunblock.

At night a group of budding junior meteorologists all gathered looking at their own phones and their preferred weather apps to decide on if we should just plan a hotel party for the next day or ride. After several hours of conversation and consternation, the discussion was tabled til the morning. At breakfast we gathered and looked at the radar making our best guess that we could make one loop and get back before the rain hit. We did ride and we did make it back for lunch. Then at lunch the junior meteorologists created a pm forecast and out we went for another loop, finishing a very successful day of enjoyable riding on wonderful roads.

Then there was West Virginia and the Moth Man museum. Actually, just another beautiful morning with spectacular roads and countryside, but while looking at fantastic murals on a flood wall and checking out the museum, we could see "something" was coming and we were not going to miss it. We thought there was a break and there was a dealership not too far away, so off we went rain gear ready. We made it to the dealership, got inside and WOW did it come down. Glad dealerships keep welcoming us and allow us to take refuge. The worst passed, we headed out, but had to endure about 15 minutes of rain. Arriving back at the hotel, we all discussed how the drops must have been huge as we all felt the sting.

Yet another beautiful day of 74° and sunny we were riding along, and in one particular stretch we rode through an explosion of Cottonwood seeds. People's faces were itching, many were sneezing and coughing. At the next rest stop a few people mentioned their discomfort and quickly others chimed in and it seems the entire group was affected. Fortunately, riding further along everything was fine!

Finally, our vacation was coming to a close and the two-day ride home began. Day 1 was perfect with a stop at a "50 Rides One Nation" location. Unfortunately, Sunday's first leg was dry but then it rained, and rained, and continued to rain all the way home. All in all, I'd say if you can weather the weather, there is a lot of great riding to be done.



UPCOMING JUNE CHAPTER MEETING

DON'T MISS OUT!

Keep in mind that our **June meeting** will be at our dealership with both food and beverages provided. 50/50 raffle will be 100% payout too! Thanks in advance to those of you who stopped up to see me after the last Chapter meeting and volunteered to help out. If you missed the May meeting and have a chance to help, feel free to bring a dessert item to share.

REMINDER: Bring your H.O.G. card and check in upon arrival with Betsy to get your dinner ticket. Guests welcome but their cost would be \$10.00.

Social hour begins at 6:00 PM Beverages provided

Food serving begins at 6:45 PM

Short meeting to follow picnic supper



50/50

Thank you, **Lori Kessenich** and **Kris Droster**, for helping out at the last minute. Unforeseen circumstances left us without 50/50 tickets sellers for our last meeting. Lori saw the need for help and stepped right in. Not long after Kris arrived, she grabbed an apron and stepped in to assist.

You ladies are AWESOME!!

Our raffles peeps for June's meeting will be **Dawn Makowski** and **Michelle Mathers**.

NEW BERLIN 4th of July PARADE



Join some of your fellow riders in celebrating the 4th of July by participating in the New Berlin Parade. As we've done in the past, we'll be staging at Pallas Restaurant (1657 S. 108th St, West Allis, WI.), KSU 11:30 am with a ride to New Berlin. Please make plans to come early and enjoy breakfast before riding to the parade.

Have a parade flag? Make sure you're flying it!

Questions? Contact: Carl Samppala (414)217-1368 or email: asst_director@rockriverhog.com

THERE WILL BE NO JULY NEWSLETTER

If there is any important information that needs to be shared with the chapter, please contact Carl Samppala.



"I TOLD YOU THEY WOULDNT THINK WE WERE THE HOTTEST THINGS TO LOOK AT THIS SUMMER!"

ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

How can it be June already? Let me tell you about some great rides that happened last month.

The Honor Ride was held on Saturday May 25th, with over 130 bikes participating. A Police Officer escorted ride from Wisconsin Harley to the Wisconsin Memorial for a ceremony for **remembrance of those who have died in service to our country**. Afterward the ride returned to Wisconsin Harley. This ride was put on by the Combat Vets group and it was a great ride.

May 31st, Friday -2 Amish Bakery Ride

This was a Road Captain led ride by Gary



Malinowski staged at the Wisconsin Harley-Davidson dealership. There were 18 bikes and 25 people enjoying

a 70-mile scenic ride to Pleasant View Bakery in Dalton, WI. The bakery sells pies, breads, desserts, cookies, soft pretzel, jams, etc. A great time was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to those who showed up.



June 2nd, Sunday – Hi-Way Harry’s Brunch Ride

This was a Road Captain Brunch ride led by Muddy staged at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson dealership. KSU: 10:00 AM for the ride to Hi-Way Harry’s in Johnson Creek. There were 7 bikes and 11 people that took about an hour ride on a nice route. We had some great food and conversations. The event got good feedback from many participating.

June 9th, Sunday – Milwaukee 8 – 1

This was a Road Captain Ride led by Ken Kessenich to the 2024 Flat Rockers stops in the Milwaukee area. There were 17 bikes and 1 car participating. Great weather, everyone enjoyed a safe ride winding through Milwaukee and especially the event ending at Gilles Custard.



Getting ready to accomplish Milwaukee’s Flat Rocker stops.

June 15th, Saturday -VOLO Museum Ride

Ride Back in Time! This was a Road Captain Ride led by Dan Stammen for an enjoyable 160-mile day ride to the VOLO Museum in Volo, Illinois. Staged at Wisconsin Harley @ 8:30 am. Lunch was at McHenry VFW, shopping at Wood-stack Harley Davidson and ice cream in Walworth. The people attending enjoyed access to 10 buildings full of old cars, movie cars, boats, music marvels and SOOO much more. This was a great event and enjoyed by all the participants.

The following are a couple of upcoming rides:

July 7th, Sunday – Anchor Restaurant Brunch Ride

This will be a Road Captain lead ride for brunch.

(Note: No ride if raining)

Where: Wisconsin Harley Davidson

When: July 7, 2024, Time: Staging at 10:00 AM

KSU: 10:30 leaving for a Road Captain ride for about an hour on scenic roads to the Anchor Restaurant in Edgerton, WI. This will be an off the menu brunch at your own cost.

Signup will be at the June and July chapter meeting for head count purposes.

July 21st, Sunday - Slinger Speedway Bike Night (Ride TBD)

Inviting the Rock River HOG chapter members to attend the Slinger Speedway Bike Night benefiting HOGS for Heroes. It's Veteran's night, so there will be a veteran's midway featuring local organizations that support veterans.

The \$38 event ticket includes track admission, VIP bike parking, plus brats/hamburgers, bags of snacks, taco dip/chips, potato salad, soda/beer (Keystone Light)/water served in the private VIP indoor/outdoor Lynch Pavilion in located in turns 1/2. And of course, there will be some good racing! Attendees can go for a guided pre-race pit tour and are also invited to participate in pre-race ceremonies followed by a group ride around the track. American Legion riders will be presenting the colors, and the HD Hooligans will be doing a demo race, and there will be a raffle for a ride in the pace truck. It's a lot of fun, and a good way to support HOGS for Heroes and other local veteran organizations. Tickets can be bought online TBD. Time of event TBD. Signup sheets will be at the June and July Chapter meetings.

All members please look at the calendar and check out all the rides coming. If you have never gone on a group ride what a great chance to do so. You will meet new friends, see wonderful scenery, and travel down great roads. As always if you ever have questions about our rides, please do not hesitate to ask me or any of the other Road Captains to get your answers.

See you at the Chapter Meeting.

Jim "Muddy" Waters

WORRY FREE WEDNESDAY RIDE

Wednesday July 10th, 2024

Staging at Wisconsin Harley Davidson

@ 12:30 pm, KSU @ 1:00 pm.

Nice scenic ride to Mullins Short Stop Drive-In (Columbus, WI) for an Ice Cream and rest stop.

Continue from Mullins to Aztalan State Park (Jefferson, WI) for a Flat Rocker Stop.

Then returning to Wisconsin Harley in time for everyone to make their own way home for dinner.

FLAT ROCKER UPDATE

Flat Rocker information can be found on the website. It's never too late to begin working on the chapter's yearly scavenger hunt. After all, you have until the October chapter meeting to participate. The whole purpose is to offer ideas of places to ride as well as to see and learn things that are new to you about our state.

Flat Rocker stop #40 – The Gates of Heaven Synagogue.

The zip code is incorrect on the GPX file if you use that method. You can use the spreadsheet listing of all 48 stops as it is correct there (53706)

Summertime Snake Charming

Yeah!!! The riding season is pretty much in full swing now. So is road construction season. Boo.. But hey, who doesn't love a newly paved road. However, with budget cuts and conservative spending by most municipalities, many roads are getting the Tar Snake treatment. To be clear, Tar Snakes are the dark black lines of crack sealant that can become very slick in the rain and also soft and loose feeling in the heat. Tar Snakes can be very alarming to a motorcyclist when you get a quick unexpected wiggle in the middle of a corner. There are a few things to remember when dealing with Tar Snakes.

First is to remember the basics of cornering on a motorcycle. Always look "through" the corner. This means not only do you look where you want to go but, you also "scan" the road ahead of you for any possible obstacles. We should always be on the lookout for things like potholes, gravel, oil stains, grass clippings and large sections of Tar Snakes.

Second, keep plenty of speed and lean angle in reserve. What I mean is, if you take it easy through the corners you will have more time to adjust your projected path and still have the ability to apply more/less lean angle to avoid obstacles. If you enter a turn at or near your personal/motorcycles limits, you may not have the ability to adjust your path and navigate around the hazards.

Third, Stay Calm.... It can be very easy to become tense or even fight the motorcycle when you lose traction for even a split second. Trust that you will regain traction as soon as you clear that Tar Snake or narrow strip of gravel. Keep your head up and **always look to where you want the bike to go.**

Be smart when you ride and always keep your skills and abilities ahead of the motorcycle. Manage your risk.

Ride Safe. – Safety Dan

Ride Report- Windy 9

By Carl Samppala



Saturday morning started off on the invigorating (some might call it chilly) side, as we rode to staging wearing our heated jacket liners. We were staging at the Kwik-Trip in East Troy, to head out on maybe our most ambitious Rock Wisconsin ride yet, a trip to Ohio's Windy 9.

Twenty-six Chapter members had signed up and we would be met by two guests when we landed Sunday night at our hotel.

Our route took us south from East Troy into northern Illinois and then further south to Dwight, ILL where we turned eastward. Gas/comfort stops and a lunch stop followed until we landed in Portland, IN at the Holiday Inn Express where we were able to recharge for the next day of our trip.



Sunday, day two, had us riding to the National Museum of the United States Air Force, near Dayton, OH. The museum is laid out in several wings, with each devoted to a particular era, such as World War I, World War II, Vietnam, etc. We spent roughly half a day there, but could have easily spent two! Perhaps this will be a future Rock Wisconsin Ride? We proceeded to our destination, the Holiday Inn Express in Athens, OH, where our 'base' would be for the next five days. At our hotel, we were greeted by two of Don Geisler's cousins, from Louisiana, who would be riding with us the rest of the week. Guess they heard about the Rock Wisconsin rides and couldn't pass up the chance to ride with us!

The Windy 9 is made up of nine motorcycle friendly routes that begin and end in Athens. Ranging from 60 to 100+ miles, these routes offer elevation changes, curves and scenic views. The Rock Wisconsin team had put together organized rides

for Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday were left 'open', so participants could do their own thing and also an allowance for inclement weather. We needn't have worried about the weather, and except for a short time Wednesday afternoon, the weather exceeded everybody's expectations. Clear, blue skies with temps in the upper 80's & low 90's on Monday and Tuesday and 70's the rest of the week.

Our Monday ride took us east, following the banks of the Ohio River, to Marietta, OH. From there we headed north, following the Muskingum River to Zanesville, OH. Along the way, we stopped to check out

'Big Muskie'. Big Muskie was a dragline



crane used for coal mining. The bucket, at right, is all that remains. It could scoop up 325 tons of dirt, equivalent to a two story house and it could do this every 60 seconds!

In Zanesville, we visited Fink's Harley-Davidson and lunched at 'The Barn'. Our return trip was along Ohio's 'Triple Nickel' (Ohio Route 555), 90+ miles of ups, downs and curves. It's billed as the most technically challenging road in the region, but the Rock River Chapter handled it with ease! Several of us were able to get a picture for the '50 Rides One Nation' challenge, as the Triple Nickel is one of the challenges. Unfortunately, the Triple Nickel was where we had the only down moment of our trip. One of our trikes blew out the rear end and needed to summon a trailer for the ride home.

On Wednesday, our led ride was a combination of the 'Lazy Rivers' and the 'Southern Dip' routes. Included was a stop in Point Pleasant, VA and a visit to the Mothman Museum. Point Pleasant also showcased some rather impressive flood walls adorned with murals depicting colonial times. This may have been some sort of omen, as when we left Point Pleasant, we ran into the only rain we experienced during our time in Ohio. We were able

to 'hide out' at Baxter's Harley-Davidson in Bidwell, OH and when we started back the rain had, for the most part, passed through.

Friday was the last day and our ride was to the Hocking Hills State Park. Again we were blessed with beautiful weather and as if the roads to the park weren't enough, the park offered several hiking trails, caves and waterfalls to explore.



As with all good things, this trip had to end. We wound up breaking up into two groups, one heading directly home and the other heading off to some additional 50 Rides photo ops.

If you weren't able to join us on this ride, please consider some of the upcoming Rock Wisconsin Rides. And be sure to let us know if you have ideas for next year's rides. Maybe the Southern Dozen? How about some Appalachian Back Roads?

Moth Man



FROM OUR HISTORIAN

By: Carl Samppala

New Members:

Alan Ball
Jeff Krueger
Michael Geiger
Scott Van Zandt
Craig Stevens
Guillermo Martinez-who became a member in 2023 and attended his first Rock River Chapter Meeting tonight!

Anniversaries:

2 Year:

Michelle Mather

25 Year:

Skip Mueller
Kathy Mueller



New Member Craig Stevens (left) with Guillermo Martinez

Saddle Bags to Shorelines: Cabo Wabo Shindig Rally

As we start our riding season, it's hard to imagine the cold bite of brutal Wisconsin winters. But, imagine this: it's mid January and your trading in your shovels, boots and mittens for sandy toes, sunny skies and a visit to Cabo Wabo Cantina.

Throttle Travel invites you to the "Saddle Bags to Shorelines" trip from January 22-29, 2025. Enjoy your stay at Riu Palace Baja California in Los Cabos, with whale watching, world-class fishing (catch and eat if you so desire), resort activities, group games or relaxing by the pool.

Contact us now to guarantee your mid-winter escape to paradise!
Dream of sunnier skies and secure your spot today!
Dawn Makowski
admin@throttletravel.com
414-640-6002



SADDLE BAGS TO SHORELINES

ROCK WISCONSIN

-Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

As I write this, we've completed our first Rock Wisconsin Ride of 2024-Our trip to the Windy 9. You can read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

Next up is the HODAG Ride, June 21-23, followed by Ride Like a Pirate, July 12-14. For those of you participating in the Flat Rocker contest, our ride teams are trying to include some stops for you.

If you've been trying to travel on your own, you've probably found that hotels are a BIG snafu! Trying to find hotels that are appropriate (for motorcycles) and reasonably priced became an obstacle that we couldn't overcome. So, the International Crane/Pizza Farm Ride has been shortened, from 3 days, to a day trip, Saturday August 3. We'll be providing information and do sign ups at the June meeting.

Sign-ups for 'Rock the Rivers', September 6-8 will begin at the June meeting.

See you on the road!

Carl

2024 ROCK WISCONSIN RIDES				
Ride	Dates	Info Distributed at Chapter Mtg.	Sign Ups begin at Chapter Mtg.	
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	June	June	July
Rock the Rivers	Sept 6-8	May	June	July

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HELL☀️
Summer

UPCOMING EVENTS!!

June 22nd
Dawgs & Hawgs Ride
Ride for Veterans
Music from Diamonds & Lead
Noon - 3 pm

June 26th
Bike Night with FooFoo Dolls
6 pm - 9 pm

June 29th
Hemp Fest at Steel Tank
Brewing
3 pm - 9 pm

parking
help

NEEDED FOR
HOMECOMING!
If you haven't signed up there
is still time! Please consider
taking at least one shift as we
are in desperate need for help
with parking!
If you have any questions
please email
volunteer.wishd@gmail.com

**Can't help during Homecoming? We
have other opportunities to volunteer!**
**Looking for help bartending June
22nd 10 am - 4 pm!**
**Email leslie.smith@wishd.com
if you're interested.**

**I'll be sending out a link for other
opportunities to volunteer for some
other events we're having!**

