

**ROCK RIVER  
CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**

May 2023  
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**ROCK RIVER  
H.O.G. CHAPTER  
#3276**

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Ken Kessenich

As I begin to write this month's article, I saw a pop-up that it is Teacher Appreciation Week. You may know that I spent 33 years teaching high school physics, engineering, biology .....!! I realized that not as a teacher, but more so as a lifelong "student", I may not have shown my appreciation for all those that have taught me so much and contributed to who I am today.



I think of my high school physics and SCUBA diving teacher, Marcel Lachenmann. My friends and I sat in the front row for his class and on day one he walked in, looked at us, and walked out! He taught us the math and the concepts but let us have fun with the application. I recall making a "blow gun" out of metal conduit, a wooded dowel, and a nail driven through the dowel. To prove gravitational free fall, we calculated how much our "dart" would vertically drop by the time it hit the back bulletin board. We carefully sighted and placed a target on the back wall. We missed our target, but managed to lodge the "dart" through the bulletin board and another inch into the plaster wall! Then there were projectiles -we found a new "launcher" for a steel marble, then tested, measured, calculated and placed a metal garbage can in the back of the room. Even a blind person would know our calculations were right on – but so did the teacher across the hall!

I took his love of learning having my students throw their favorite objects off the 5 floor of Pius XI H.S. We blocked off the street with students and videotaped watermelons, cantaloupes, tomatoes, etc. as they were thrown as far as the students could and fell to the street below. Taking video and adding it to some software, we proved all fruit and vegetables fall at the same rate. Newton, I appreciate you!

Then I think of the learning opportunities we have now. Quickly I think of listening to Dan, our Safety Officer, at chapter meetings or reading his articles. Yes I've had the bike out, and done some yearly "get to know you again" by heading to the church parking lot to practice turns, stops, take offs – but I'm really looking forward to the Knock the Rust Off on May 19<sup>th</sup>. I chose to attend an Advanced Rider Safety course to learn additional skills and be a safer driver for both Lori and me.

And then there is you. I appreciate learning from each of you. Our group riding safe strategies and riding opportunities including Rock Wisconsin, Thursday Free Riders, Road Captain led rides, Flat Rocker, and more. Your destinations, travel advice, and shared life stories make our chapter a wonderful place of learning and life improvement – Thank you.

Who do you appreciate and have you told them?

Ken

# ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

**Let the riding season begin!** We did have our Bike Blessing on May 7<sup>th</sup>; the weather was clear and sunny in the 70s, a perfect day. We had 39 people on 27 bikes show up. They got blessed and had a one-hour bike ride on a great route led by me ending up at Hi-Way Harry's for a buffet. A great time enjoyed by all. Thank you to those who showed up.

Looking at our calendar, we have so many more wonderful rides and events planned for May.

Mark your calendars for the following:

## May 19<sup>th</sup> - Knock the Rust Off

**When:** Friday, May 19, 6pm – 8pm

**Description** Join us for a safety briefing, season-beginning bike strategies session, and a relaxing hour ride practicing our best chapter riding form. Meet in the parking area near service at Wisconsin Harley Davidson.

## May 20<sup>th</sup> – Bikes, Blessing, & the VFW

**When:** Saturday, May 20, 9am – 3pm

**Description:**

Staging: Meet at the New Berlin VFW - 17980 Beloit Rd, New Berlin, WI 53146

1 hour Road Captain led ride to Wisconsin Harley Davidson. This is a fund raiser for the VFW - \$20 single rider, \$30 w/ passenger. All net proceeds benefit the VFW Unmet Needs Program.

Registration: 10-10:45

Blessing: 10:45

KSU: 11:00

## May 27<sup>th</sup> – Honor Ride

**When:** Saturday, May 27, 9am – 3 pm

See description of the ride on the Wisconsin Harley Web site – News and Events page.

See at the Chapter Meeting and let the riding begin!



# FROM OUR HISTORIAN

Carl Samppala

## New Members:

Richard Oliver  
Matthew Rebek  
Alyssa (Ally) Cryer

## February 2023 Anniversaries

### 20 Year:

Jodi Howland

## April 2023 Anniversaries

### 2 Year:

Dave Baldwin  
Jonathon Green

## Mileage:



## Stan Urbaniak

100,000 miles

## Dawn & Mark Knackert

200,000 miles



Ally Cryer

# FROM YOUR SAFETY OFFICER

Dan Stammen

As you all probably know May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. This is when we remind people to “Watch for Motorcycles” as we get back on the road after a long winter break. All we can do is help make ourselves seen (bright clothing, good lane position, good spacing etc.), ride like we are invisible, and be ready at all times to take evasive actions due to inattentive drivers. Always look for your way out of a bad situation.

Another thing we as motorcyclists have to be on guard for is those pesky *Odocoileus Virginianus*, (aka White-Tailed Deer). In Wisconsin the Deer vs. Vehicle accidents spike during May, June & October, November. During May and June, the doe are dropping their fawns and tend to be on the move when the mamas are trying to get away from the young ones (can't imagine why...) and the horse flies and mosquitos that tend to make anything in the woods go a little stir crazy. During May and June, you also see much more motorcycle activity as compared to October and November so obviously May and June are the worst times of year for Motorcycles vs. Deer accidents. The latest “complete & official” report I could find on Vehicle vs Deer in Wisconsin was from 2017 with 19,900 reported vehicle-Deer accidents. Of those, 211 were motorcycle-deer accidents resulting in 6 fatalities and 66 serious injuries. That's a 33% chance that a motorcyclist vs Deer will end in a fatality or Serious injury. Yikes!

So, if you are enjoying a sunset ride or getting on the road early in the morning, be extra cautious of the Bug-Eyed Beast that can jump out and ruin your day. I can't tell you what to do if you encounter a deer but I think the best advice I ever heard was, “Head right for them, they're faster than you think.”

Seriously though, squeeze those brakes, hold on tight, don't swerve and I'm praying for yah. – Dan

## COMING UP AT MAY'S CHAPTER MEETING . . .

**May 16, 2023 At the Ingleside Pavillion**  
**6:00 PM Social Hour**  
**6:00-6:55 PM Silent Auction**  
**7:00 PM Meeting**

**See the pages later in the newsletter for items that will be up for bid on a silent auction basis. All proceeds will be donated to the Burn Camp.**

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**Flat Rocker handouts will be available if you would like to participate but weren't able to attend last month's meeting.**

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### **Meet the Dealership!**

Come and converse with Brian Hess, Business/Finance Manager at Wisconsin Harley Davidson. Brian has worked at WISHD for 4 years and previously in the chemical industry. He was looking forward to enjoying more of what he was doing, so he started as the detail and delivery person and has quickly advanced to assume more responsibilities. Brian rides a 2016 CVO Street Glide with his wife as his passenger enjoying great roads more than reaching destinations. They recently experienced and have taken a great liking to riding in the Ozarks.

**Continued on the next page**

## Coming Up at May's Chapter Meeting - continued

### Time to Rock a Rock River Chapter T-shirt

See our NEW Chapter T-shirt! A purple long sleeve that will be excellent for spring and fall riding and also provide good sun protection in the summer. \$25 for any size, place your order at the chapter meeting or by emailing Leslie Smith. T-shirts will be distributed at the June chapter meeting. Payment is by check or cash.



### Rock River Chapter Tent volunteer!

Do you have 2 hours to give to help our chapter raise our activities awareness and help benefit local charities? Of course you do, please see Leslie Smith at the meeting to sign up. We need to work together to keep our chapter strong!

### Chapter Poker Chip

Get your Rock River Chapter Poker Chip and benefit a local charity at the same time. We are selling these poker chips at Wisconsin Harley Davidson events under our "Chapter Tent"

## FISH BOIL RIDE

July 22, 2023

Mark your calendars! We're planning a ride to Fitzgerald's in Genoa for a delicious fish boil. Please join us for a pleasant Saturday afternoon ride through Southern Wisconsin. Fitzgerald's features an all you care to eat fish boil and also your choice of chicken or ribs.



We will take sign-ups at the June Chapter meeting. A \$10/person deposit will be collected.

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## FLAT ROCKER 2023

If you visit one of this year's Flat Rockers' 'animals' and have a helpful tip to share about taking the picture or the nuances of that stop, please contact Lori Kessenich at [lkessenich@gmail.com](mailto:lkessenich@gmail.com) so I can put that information in the newsletter and it can be shared at the chapter meetings.

**Case in point** – Stop #39 is now eliminated from the hunt. Sadly, the cheese shop had to close down (even though the 'Google' didn't know that) and the mouse is gone. Thank you to the group of 4 that shared that with us.

**REMINDER:** An updated yearly calendar can be found at the chapter website at <https://www.rockriverhog.com/> Click on Events and Meetings

# ROCK WISCONSIN

BY: Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

We're fast approaching the kick-off Rock Wisconsin ride, the Dream Ride. We started sign-ups for this ride at the April Chapter meeting and there are still some openings. Don't be left out!

On the horizon are the rides to Mackinac Island and the Apostle Islands. We'll have information at the May Chapter meeting and begin sign-ups for these at the June meeting.

We start sign ups two Chapter meetings prior to the ride, with information available the meeting prior to beginning sign ups, so stay tuned!

See you on the road!

## DREAM RIDE

BY: Tim Droster

Rock Wisconsin proudly invites you to a "Dream Ride."

**When: Friday June 9, 2023 to Sunday, June 11.**

We will be leaving Wis Harley with **KSU at 8am** on June 9 and returning on June 11. Friday will be a leisurely ride down to Iowa. Saturday will be loaded with stops at The Field of Dreams film location, Poopy's bar for lunch, and American Pickers. If there is time, we can check out JP cycles. Sunday will be a visit to the National Motorcycle Museum, or you can head home on your own. After the museum you can ride back with the group, or on your own. I plan on getting back somewhere around 6ish. A deposit of \$20 will be required if you are interested in joining us.

2023 ROCK WISCONSIN RIDES				
Ride	Dates	Info Distributed at Chapter Mtg.	Sign ups taken at Chapter Mtg.	
Dream Ride (Iowa)	June 9-11	Mar 21	Apr 18	May 16
Mackinac Island, MI	July 28-31	May 16	June 20	July 11
Apostle Islands II	Aug 11-14	May 16	June 20	July 11
Driftless Dry	Aug. 25-27	June 20	July 18	Aug 15
3 Rings and Many Wings (Circus World-Baraboo and EAA-Oshkosh)	Sept 8-9	June 20	July 18	Aug 15



# MACKINAC ISLAND RIDE

**July 28-31, 2023**

Continuing the island theme we started with our Apostle Islands ride last year, Rock Wisconsin is heading to Mackinac Island.

All of Mackinac Island is listed as a National Historic Landmark. You'll be able to walk amongst the shops (fudge, yum!!), tour Fort Mackinac where you can interact with the costumed interpreters or take an island tour on a horse drawn carriage.

We will be leaving Friday July 28 for a leisurely ride to the Escanaba, Michigan area. Saturday, we will continue to St. Ignace, Michigan, where we will land and be able to transit to Mackinac Island for an afternoon (and maybe into the evening?) of adventure. Sunday, we're planning to ride across the Mackinac Bridge and ride through the Tunnel of Trees. We'll then re-cross the bridge on our way home, spending a night in Harris, Michigan. Monday, July 31, we'll complete our return home. Of course, if you like, you can head home on your own on Sunday or Monday.

Sign-ups begin with the June Chapter meeting. We are charging a \$20/person deposit.

# APOSTLE ISLANDS RIDE

**August 11 – 14, 2023**

Mark your calendars for our Rock Wisconsin encore trip to the Apostle Islands. We'll be leaving Friday August 11 and returning Monday August 14. A pleasant ride up on Friday with continued riding on Saturday to Bayfield, where you can either catch the cruise around the Apostle Islands, or, if scenic riding is your preference, we will have a group crossing

over to ride around Madeline Island. Sunday, you will have the option of heading home on your own or continuing as part of our group as we ride across Northern Wisconsin, landing in Shawano. On Monday, again you can 'do your own thing' or continue with your fellow Rockers.

For those in the Flat Rocker contest, we're mapping out several photo stops both on the way there and back.

If you weren't able to join us last year, here's your chance to join in! We will start sign-ups at the June Chapter meeting. A \$20 deposit will be collected at the time of sign-up.

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## SAVE THE DATES

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – Franklin Fourth of July Parade

July 4<sup>th</sup> – New Berlin Fourth of July Parade

July 8<sup>th</sup> – Senior Ride – Regency in New Berlin

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Q: What do Harley riders put on pancakes?

A: Hog cabin syrup

Q: What do you call a Harley Davidson rider who drives all over the road?

A: A road hog.



## Silent Auction – May Chapter Meeting ONLY – Must be present to win.

A chapter member experienced a loss and is willing to donate, for a RRC auction to benefit the Burn Camp. You can add your bids to the silent auction item sheets between 6pm and 6:55pm at the Chapter meeting.

Soft, black, leather man's jacket with metal zipper front closure; size L. Miller Lite sponsor jacket for H-D 105th Anniversary. Quilted lining with two inside pockets--one zippered. NEVER WORN.



Men's black leather vest, size 42. Leather side lacing for fit adjustment



Black, leather H-D man's vest; size XL. Inside pocket. Leather lacing up the sides for fit adjustment.



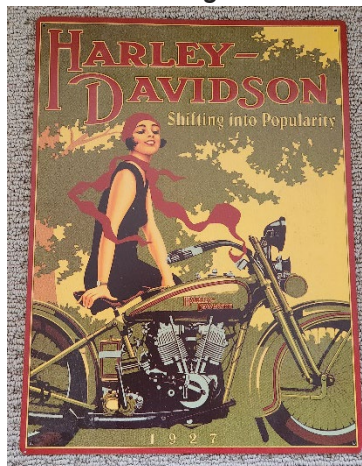
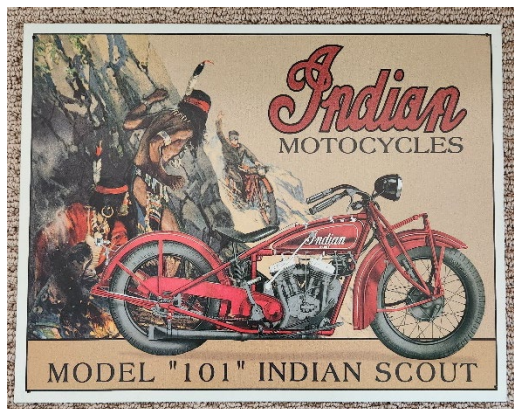
Men H-D brown, suede leather man's jacket; size XXL. Embroidered back lists H-D V-Twin generations from 1903 to 1984. Metal zipper front closure with leather placket banner to resist wind penetration. Insulated lining. One inside vest pocket. NEVER WORN.



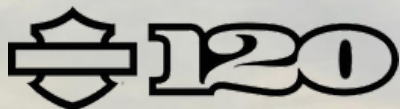
Woman's black leather vest size XL. Inlaid red suede roses on front and back. Two Inside pockets



Signs - These have been displayed indoors--no weathering.







**HELP US HONOR OUR VETERANS  
WITH TWO RIDES THIS MAY**

**MAY 20TH**

**BIKES, BLESSINGS & THE VFW**

**9 AM - 3 PM**

**MAY 27TH**


**HONOR CELEBRATION**

**9 AM - 3 PM**

**REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE IN STORE  
OR ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER EVENTS**

**VOLUNTEER SIGN UP HAS STARTED  
PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US THIS YEAR  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE  
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME BY EMAIL AT  
[LESLIE.SMITH@WISHD.COM](mailto:LESLIE.SMITH@WISHD.COM)**

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