

**ROCK RIVER
CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**

May 2024
Volume 24
Issue No. 5
Chapter No. 3276

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ISSUE**

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Rock Wisconsin and upcoming
rides to follow



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

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ken Kessenich



Some things change, and some things don't. How do you look at change?

There are those that see changes as new opportunities, chances at having something for the better. Then again there are those who dislike change and may fear what it brings.

I'll be honest, I do like some things staying the same; however, especially when I keep an open mind I'm usually pleasantly surprised. Last fall my 2015 Ultra-Limited had 65,000 miles on it, I figured that I have about another 100,000 in me and I didn't really think it would get to 165,000. Thus, a change. Not only a 2023, but a Road Glide instead of the Limited – and I love it, a great change for me (and Lori!).



I've tried to upgrade my cell phone every few years and I recently upgraded it again and found it has some really amazing features. I'm sure I have only used one-fourth of them thus far! Back in the day, decades ago, I had a phone enabling me to make calls,

and maybe even text!!! My new one fits in an underwater housing and can take excellent pictures down to a depth of 130 feet. I'm planning on using that on our July vacation in water that is 33°F!!



Ken's old phone

While riding, frequently I enjoy recognizing the changes that are taking place around me. Sure, we all love seeing the fall colors, yet not hoping they get here too soon. I enjoy taking in the progress on building construction and water towers. The fields coming alive from barren dirt, last year's corn stalks, and maybe even a covering of water. Hopefully a bountiful harvest is just a season away. With my eyes on the road and the other drivers around me I may not see, but I certainly can smell the sweet aroma of budding lilacs. A few road construction projects have finished and the roll is so nice – yet others (too many others – remember you can call 511 or look to the D.O.T. website selecting "Projects and Studies" to see what, where, and for how long) seem to be going on way too LONG!

Change it up! And hope to see you at the meeting,

Ken

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING CHANGES

Don't Miss Out

Remember that our **May meeting** has been moved to **May 28th** to accommodate the large group participating in the Windy 9 ride. Same location and same time!

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! Stay tuned for some minor volunteer opportunities. 😊

FROM OUR HISTORIAN

By: Carl Sappala

New Members:

Jon Dietz
Wendy Krause
Brian Meier
John Lange
Scott Patrick



John Lange and Scott Patrick

April Anniversaries:

2 Year:

Bob Opichka
Dawn Opichka

5 Year:

Kyle Bingen
Sam Cryer

10 Year:

Betsy Boos

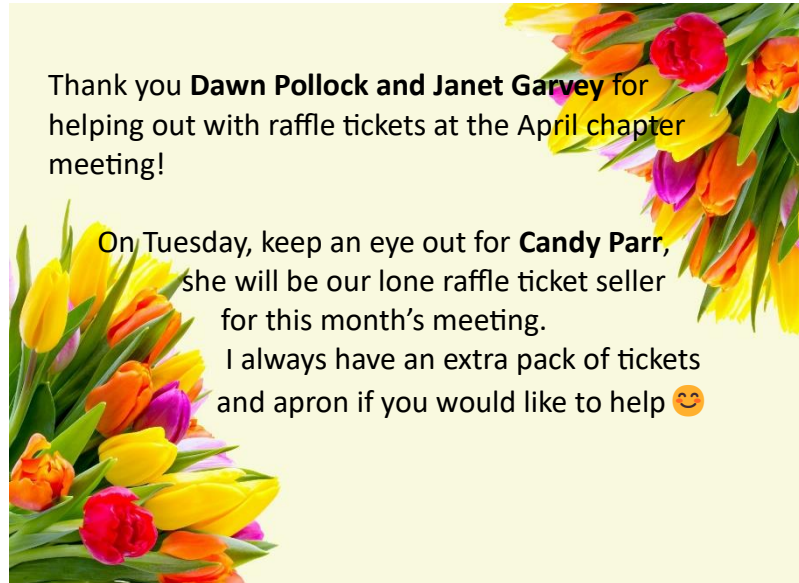
15 Year:

Dan Kurth

Thank you **Dawn Pollock and Janet Garvey** for helping out with raffle tickets at the April chapter meeting!

On Tuesday, keep an eye out for **Candy Parr**, she will be our lone raffle ticket seller for this month's meeting.

I always have an extra pack of tickets and apron if you would like to help 😊



2024 FLAT ROCKER NEWS

This year's Flat Rocker officially kicked off at the April chapter meeting. If you were not able to attend that meeting and perhaps don't have a printer, handouts will again be available to you at the May chapter meeting.

We hope you enjoy "The Good Old Days" without it aging you in the process!



ROAD CAPTAIN CORNER

Let the riding season begin! We did have our first Brunch Ride on May 5th; the weather was clear and sunny in the 60s, a perfect day. We had 39 people show up. They had a one-hour bike ride on a great route led by Road Captain Barry Phillips ending up at "The Lodge" S74W17096 Janesville Rd, Muskego, WI 53150. A great time enjoyed by all. Thank you to those who showed up. ***Be sure to see the collage from this event at the end of the newsletter!***

By the time you're reading this we also had on May 18th, Saturday – Bikes, Blessing, & the VFW. Staging: at the New Berlin VFW - 17980 Beloit Rd, New Berlin, WI 53146 1-hour Road Captain Dan Stammen led ride to Wisconsin Harley Davidson This is a fund raiser for the VFW. All net proceeds benefit the VFW Unmet Needs Program Registration. Bike Blessing was done at the dealership. Great route and event enjoyed by all. **(Dealership Event)**

We have so many more wonderful rides and events planned, mark your calendars for the following:

May 25th – Honor Ride (Dealership Event)

EVENT TIMELINE REGISTRATION 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

10:45 AM NATIONAL ANTHEM & PRESENTATION OF COLORS

KSU 11 AM

CAR & BIKE SHOW ARRIVAL & PLACEMENT 11: 15 AM 12:00 PM

CAR & BIKE SHOW BEGINS MUSIC FROM 12 PM - 3 PM

CAR SHOW JUDGING 1 PM - 1:30 PM

CAR SHOW WINNERS ANNOUNCED 2 PM MUSIC & EVENT ENDS 3 pm

May 31st, Friday -2 Amish Bakery Ride

This will be a Road Captain led ride. 8:30am Staging at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson dealership. KSU at 9:00am. About 70-mile scenic ride to Pleasant View Bakery in Dalton, WI, with 1

gas/comfort stop along the way. The bakery is CASH only. The parking lot is gravel. Picnic tables to sit and eat, port-a-potty on site. Inside bakery is small and room for less than 10 people at a time. Sometimes there's a line to get in. The bakery sells pies, breads, desserts, cookies, soft pretzel, jams, etc.

June 15th, Saturday -VOLO Museum Ride

Ride Back in Time!! Join your Rock River Road Captain Gary Malinowski for an enjoyable Day Ride to the VOLO Museum in Volo, Illinois. Saturday June 15, 2024, KSU from Wisconsin Harley @ 8:30 am. Volo Museum Admission gives you access to 10 buildings full of old cars, movie cars, boats, music marvels and SOOO much more.

See you at the Chapter Meeting or on the road!
Jim "Muddy" Waters

ROCK RIVER HOG CHAPTER BRUNCH RIDE

WHEN: **Sunday June 2, 2024 (Note: If it's raining, no ride)**

WHERE: Wisconsin Harley Davidson

TIME: 9:30 AM Staging and briefing.

KSU: 10:00 AM for the ride to Hi-Way Harry's.

We will take about an hour ride on a nice route. Sign-up sheets at the May Chapter meeting for head count only. Ordering will be done off the menu.

ROAD CAPTAIN RIDE – GETTING OLD IN MILWAUKEE

WHEN: Sunday June 9, 2024

STAGING: Kwik Trip #971 on Moreland Road

Arrive at 9:00AM KSU at 9:30AM

Visit the following Flat Rocker stops: 18, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 19 – Ending at the Oldest Custard stand in Wisconsin – of course!

“PILLION PERFECTION”

MASTERING THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE BACKSEAT RIDING.

At the last meeting I had a fellow Rock River HOG Member ask me to talk about “how to be a good passenger”. I am always happy to hear suggestions on topics people would like to know more about. I gave the topic some thought, and here are my top three suggestions.

First and foremost, Gear! Good protective motorcycle riding attire like- gloves, boots, eye protection, helmet, riding jacket etc. Have the proper clothing along to deal with the changing weather and to protect yourself from all the element’s motorcyclist face. Riding can be more enjoyable when protected from 60 mph, June bugs and road debris.

Second- establish good communication with your driver. You don’t want any misunderstanding when you are trying to tell your driver about that deer in the ditch ahead. If you are going to be a regular rider and you wear helmets, consider a quality communication system like Cardo or Sena. Being able to easily communicate without screaming takes riding together to a new level of enjoyment. I speak from experience on this one.

Third- A good passenger is like a sack of potatoes. If you just sit upright on the bike and not lean into the corners or worse, lean opposite of the bike through the corner, this will make the driver very happy. If you just sit straight up, the driver won’t hardly notice you are on the back. Try not to wiggle around or make sudden moves especially when you are at slow speeds like trying to park the bike or in the middle of a corner. If you start dancing to the music in the middle of a curve at 50 mph, you may not get invited along on the next ride.

There are a lot of tips for both drivers and passengers when it comes to riding two up. If you are new to riding motorcycles as a passenger, don’t be afraid to ask the driver questions. With a little

practice and communication, you will be working together like a well-oiled machine and carving your way through the Wisconsin country side.

Ride Safe.

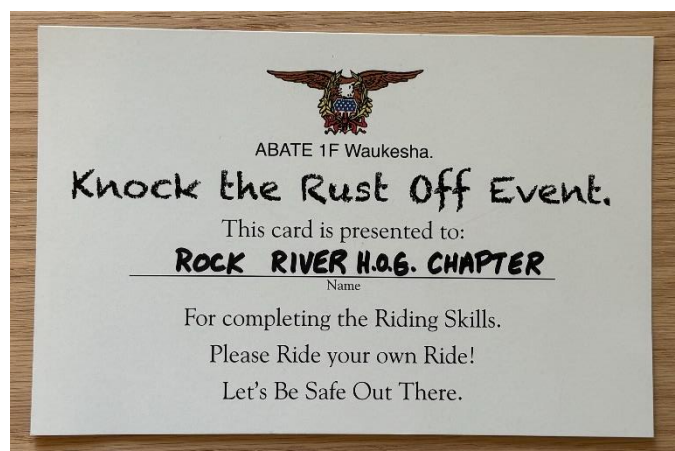
Dan

GREETINGS from ABATE 1F

I would like to thank everyone who came out for our 3rd annual “Knock the Rust Off” event. If you were looking at the forecast a couple days before you would have seen rain all day. But with a couple of prayers, the rain stayed away. The course that ABATE’s own Gary set up was very good practice to hone your skills for the upcoming riding season. We also had Wisconsin’s State Patrol officer John Kersten there for a Q&A session and show us everything that he has on his bike to keep our roads safe. As I said before, you aren’t happy to see the State Patrol doing speed control when you’re pushing the needle to the red. But when you’re stranded on the road, you thank God when their patrol pulls up behind you. From the feedback I received it was a good day.

Next year we will be tentatively having our 4th annual “Knock the Rust Off” event on April 28th. I will keep everyone posted once it’s locked and loaded.

Let’s Be Safe Out There!
BuellBob.



Be sure to see the collage from this event at the end of the newsletter!

ROCK WISCONSIN

-Carl Samppala

Hello Rock River Chapter!

I saw, on the weather the other day, that we are almost 12" ahead on our rainfall. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for some dry weather!

As I write this, we're getting ready for our first Rock Wisconsin Ride of 2024-Our trip to the Windy 9. Twenty eight members have signed up for this adventure.

The HODAG Ride and Ride Like a Pirate have both filled up, however, if you're interested in Riding Like A Pirate, check with us at the May Chapter Meeting. If there's interest in just coming along for the ride, we will look into additional hotel rooms.

Sign-ups begin for the International Crane/Pizza Farm Ride at the May meeting and look for information on how we will 'Rock the Rivers' being available.

See you on the road!

Carl

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

Rock the Rivers Ride
description follows on next page.



Rock the Rivers

Follow the Rock River from our dealership to the Mississippi River. Follow the Great River Road and wander home through some of Wisconsin's Driftless area!

Friday September 6th – Sunday September 8th

Rock Wisconsin invites you to "Rock the Rivers". We are going to take a pleasant ride along the Rock River leaving on Friday from Wisconsin HD. We will arrive in Moline, IL Friday evening in time to enjoy a dinner of your choice. On Saturday we will ride along the Mississippi River, have a buffet lunch at Breitbach's Country Dining, and from there you can hop on the Cassville Ferry (Cost is \$10 CASH per Motorcycle). There is a **2-mile hard packed gravel** road to the Ferry on the Iowa side. If you are not comfortable riding on the gravel, we have a route that takes you to Pikes Peak State Park and up the Iowa side of the Mississippi River and crossing over to the Wisconsin side in Prairie Du Chien. Our destination on Saturday will be in La Crosse. Sunday you will have the choice of heading home on your own or joining some for a Flat Rocker stop. Dinner is on your own for both nights. Local suggestions will be provided. Your \$20 deposit at time of signup will cover the cost of the buffet and coffee/soda. Refer to handout at the meeting for Flat Rocker stops included. Sign-ups will be taken at the June and July Chapter meetings.

Friday September 6th

- WISHD staging 7:00 and KSU 7:30am
- 221 miles

Saturday September 7th

- Staging 7:30 and KSU 8:00
- 225 miles

Sunday September 8th

- Staging 7:30 and KSU 8:00
- 200 miles

A QUICK UPDATE ON H.O.G. HAPPENINGS

Riding season is upon us and that brings opportunities for riding. HOG has regional rallies coming up. The closest one to us is in Chippewa Falls, based at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, June 6-8.

The organizers offer 12 guided rides and over 30 self-guided rides throughout the Chippewa and Mississippi River Valleys to give riders some of the best riding in the Midwest throughout the Driftless region of Western Wisconsin.

Check out the Early Bird Welcome at Chippewa Falls Harley-Davidson on Wednesday afternoon.

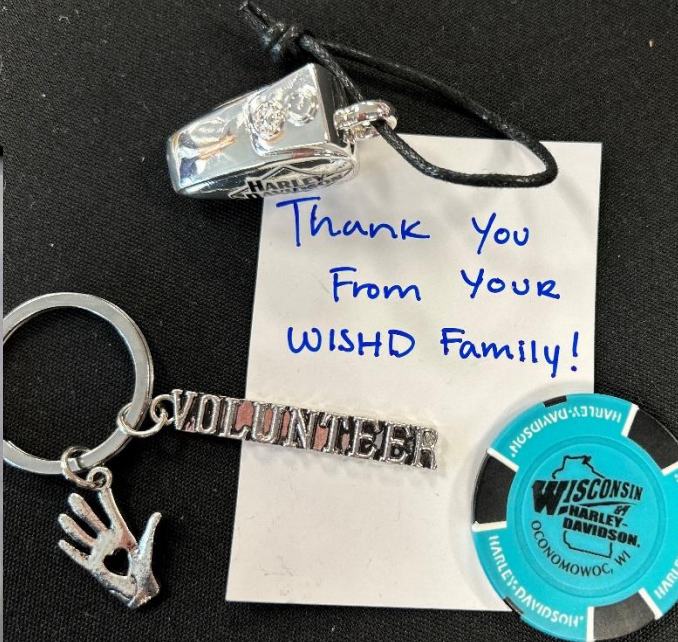
- Thursday night party at the fairgrounds with live music, food and beverage.
- Friday night H.O.G. House Party at Loopy's Grill & Saloon with live music, food and beverage.
- Saturday night closing party at the fairgrounds with live music, food and beverage.

On the Ride 365 mileage front, HOG has posted the 2023 results for the 'Plains' region. Our Rock River Chapter is ranked ninth in the region and second in the State of Wisconsin, with 431,093 miles. The Fox Valley Chapter ranked first with 446,301 miles. The regional winner was the St. Charles Chapter in Missouri, with 2,051,972 miles. For next year, the regions have been re-aligned, so we won't be competing with riders in the 'sun belt'.

Remember to have your mileage recorded at Wisconsin Harley-Davidson. For the annual mileage, you need to have your starting mileage recorded, as last year's ending mileage does not carry forward as a starting point. We will have a **mileage reading opportunity at the May 28th chapter meeting** if you ride.

Check out the wonderful collages on the next pages from the recent events of Volunteer Banquet, Knock the Rust Off, and the Cinco de Mayo Brunch Ride.

THANK YOU, THERESA LETO!!







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