



***THE OFFICIAL RIDING CLUB OF
HARLEY-DAVIDSON®***

***MILWAUKEE H.O.G.® CHAPTER
NEW MEMBERSHIP PACKET***

Updated 2/2020

Welcome!

Jerry "Big Jer" Degroot, Director

Hello,

My name is Jerry DeGroot, aka Big Jer, and I am the Director for the Milwaukee Chapter. I'd like to welcome you to the Milwaukee HOG Chapter. Founded in 1985, we are recognized through-out HOG as one of the first and oldest existing chapters. We are proudly sponsored by the House of Harley-Davidson.

I believe a great HOG Chapter is where lasting relationships are formed, laughter is heard, and long-lasting memories are made. We are after all, a large, extended family.

We are a family-oriented social group. There are a great number of diversified folks that make up this chapter. No matter what type of riding you do; a daily rider, a rider when you get off work, or a coast-to-coast rider; you will find there are plenty of people from all walks of life who will extend a hand and welcome you as a friend. We have also gained many friends from other Chapters in different states, countries, and continents.

I am proud to say we are recognized for our safe and well-organized rides. Since we do not want anyone riding impaired during our rides, we promote zero-alcohol and drug-free rides --safety is our number one concern-- of course, once the ride has ended, you are free to do whatever you choose.

In addition to Chapter rides, we take pride in being a contributor to our surrounding community by supporting local charities through group-rides and fund-raisers, or by volunteering our time.

In closing, *"Let's ride and have fun!"*

See you on the road,

- *Big Jer*

Donna Wieczorek, Member At Large

My name is Donna and I am the Milwaukee Chapter Member at Large.

I'd like to welcome you to our Chapter and let you know that one of our Chapter Ambassadors will be contacting you very soon. Our Ambassador will be your tour guide through all things related to our Chapter. They will talk with you and explain to you how our Chapter can help make the most of your Harley-Davidson experience, and how you can get the most out of our Chapter.

I have attached some information to help make sure you have everything you need to make this Chapter your home.

Thank you for joining the Milwaukee HOG Chapter. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Road Captains, and the general membership, we look forward to riding with you!

- *Donna W*

Preventive Maintenance

We compiled this list to ensure you are connected with all the avenues of communication the Milwaukee Chapter has to offer. Please take the time check over this list to ensure you have all the information at your fingertips.

Website

Please make yourself comfortable exploring the Chapter website. It can be found at milwaukeechapter.com. There you will find the chapter calendar, information about events that may be going on, and sign-ups for different rides and activities. Click on an event on the calendar for more information about that event and links to sign-ups. You will also find Board of Directors' contact information, feel free to reach out for any additional information.

Newsletter

Around the first of the month you will receive your Milwaukee Chapter newsletter, the Chrome Chronicle, via email. The Chrome Chronicle contains announcements about future events, Chapter and event updates, pictures and sometimes stories of past events, and of course some fellow Chapter member stories and adventures. We encourage you to submit your stories and adventures! Also, watch for our eblasts in your inbox.

**** IMPORTANT**** if you do not receive the Chrome Chronicle: first check your spam folder, if you do not find it there please email memberatlarge@milwaukeechapter.com or membership@milwaukeechapter.com.

Facebook

Please go on Facebook and search for Milwaukee HOG Chapter or use this address: facebook.com/MilwaukeeHOGChapter. You will need to hit the thumbs up or like button to ensure you will receive notifications and posts. We use social media to announce pick-up rides, to cancel rides due to inclement weather, and for notification of other fun activities and events. We have found this to be our fastest way to get information out to the members. You do not need a facebook account to view our facebook page and its updates, however you won't get push notifications from our fb page if you don't have a facebook account.

Chapter meetings

Milwaukee Chapter general meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every Month

Location – Root River Center/Swaggers Sports Bar and Grill
7220 W Rawson Ave. Franklin, WI 53132

If you would like to dine with us at Swaggers, please be there by 5:30.

Social hour @ 6:00

Meeting @7:00

Ladies of Harley Meetings

LOH meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every Month

Location – Mia Sports Bar and Grill (Spring Garden)
1716 W Layton Ave. Milwaukee WI 53221

If you would like to dine with us, please be there by 5:30

Meeting begins @ 7:00

Nuts and Bolts

Mileage Program

The Chapter uses the beginning mileage and ending mileage for every year from Jan 1 through Dec 31. It doesn't matter how many miles you ride, 1 mile or 10,000+, everything counts. This is submitted to National HOG for their Ride365 program. Each year Chapter mileage patches are given to all participants, A 10,000 mile pin will be awarded to anyone that reaches 10,000 miles or more for that riding season. We also have annual Chapter high-mileage awards. Forms are located on the website and are also available at monthly Chapter meetings. Any questions contact Tiger Lady Jayne Z, our Chapter Mileage Coordinator, at: jayne_tgwth@sbcglobal.net.

Ride365

Ride365 is a HOG sponsored mileage program. It is a great way for HOG and the Milwaukee Chapter members to keep track of miles, and get recognized for doing what they enjoy: riding!! *Ride365* has lifelong mileage recognition, along with many different and fun challenges you can participate in: the Chapter challenge, a monthly challenge, and check-in challenge.

Simply go to HOG.com to register. Mileage can be validated at House of Harley-Davidson staff. Fill out the *Ride365* form, turn it in to Mark McClain (our Chapter Manager) or to Tiger Lady Jayne Z. **Note: You will need your National HOG #, bike VIN Number, and bike odometer reading.**

Patches, rockers, and name tags

Merchandise is sold at the monthly chapter meeting, before and after the Chapter meeting.

Ride Hot-line

When the weather is not cooperating, you can call the ride hot-line an hour before the ride is scheduled to leave. This will let you know if the ride is still on or has been canceled. 414-988-7090.

Ride Cards

The Milwaukee Chapter also has a ride card program. Every time you ride with the Chapter you can have your ride card initialed and dated by a Road Captain or Officer at the ride. When certain milestones are achieved, you will receive a pin or if you have the pin, progressive mileage rockers. Ask one of the Road Captains for a card on your first ride!

Nonmembers are Welcome on Rides

FYI – If you would like friends, family or minors to occasionally go on a ride with us, but they aren't members...they are more than welcome! They do not have to be a Chapter member. However, we do require them to fill out a release form before the ride. Forms are located on the Chapter website, or you can ask a Road Captain for a copy. Of course, we'd like them to become members too, so we encourage you to talk to them about becoming a member of the Milwaukee Chapter too!

Chapter Terms and Phrases

Ambassador – They are your Chapter tour guides, a point of contact for new members. You will see a neon yellow epaulet on their shoulder. Feel free to approach them with any questions, comments, or feedback.

Eblasts – These are informational emails that come out occasionally letting you know of events coming up, reminders, perhaps something that may require a sign up, or news that may need to be shared.

Group Riding Class – This class is designed to show how the Milwaukee Chapter rides as a group, not to teach you how to ride a motorcycle. We encourage you to participate in the class and the following ride to learn how we do things as a group. Maybe you aren't quite comfortable riding in a group yet, or perhaps you are a newer rider, or you're experienced but not sure how we ride in our larger groups...This class and ride is perfect for you. Many people take it over and over, as it's a great refresher of the group riding environment. We encourage everyone to attend at least once, and classes are scheduled every spring and early summer. There is some classroom time with a great ride afterward that puts into practice the classroom information. There is no cost for this class, they are courtesy of the Milwaukee Chapter.

KSU – “Kick Stands Up” refers to the time that we actually leave for the ride. This is normally a specific time that can't be adjusted, and in some cases, like parades, is very precise. You need to be ready to kick-off no matter what at that moment. --Come KSU, you should have with full gas tanks and empty bladders.

LOH – Ladies of Harley – They promote & support the ladies in the Chapter riders and passengers. They plan group activities, help and support volunteering where needed, and plan the rides for the LOH rides. You do not need to ride your own bike to participate in LOH.

Member at Large – Assigns an ambassador to the new members and may answer any questions you may have. If needed, they are also the liaison between the Board of Directors and the members. If you have issues, questions, or concerns that you may feel uncomfortable addressing directly to the Board, or you would like to provide feedback to the Board but remain anonymous, the Member at Large will represent you. The Member at Large can be reached directly or through any of our Ambassadors.

Pick-up Ride – A ride which has not been pre-planned and led by Road Captains. These rides are usually planned by fellow Chapter members or the Chapter, it may be a spur of the moment ride asking if you would like to join them. You will find these rides posted on our Facebook page, because they are usually last minute. Please feel free to come join us.

RC or RCs – Road Captains, or Safety Officers, are the team that tries to ensure safety for all our riders by planning and executing fun yet safe rides. They have completed advanced rider courses, along with accident scene management classes. They carry first responder kits with them in case of an emergency and use hand signals and radio communications to manage the ride and route. You can identify them on rides by their yellow safety vests, and events by the red epaulet on their shoulder.

Volunteers – This is a very important part of the Chapter. You will hear the officers asking for help when they need volunteers for events and various activities. Volunteering is fun and very rewarding. This is the *best* way to meet and get to know your fellow Chapter members. No Experience is necessary, you will be shown whatever is needed that day. If you can only volunteer for a short while, or may need to sit, that's ok, we are more than happy to make accommodations for our amazing volunteers.

50/50 – This is a way for the Chapter to raise funds for activities, door prizes, and charitable gifts. You can buy 6 tickets for \$5.00. Half goes to the Chapter, the other half is divided into 3 amounts: 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place ... tickets are drawn, and monies are distributed back to the Chapter members. You will find someone selling these tickets at all of our events. At Chapter meetings they are usually located at the tables around the perimeter of the room. At other events you may find people walking through the crowds selling tickets.

Now, Let's ride and have fun!