

# HARLEY OWNERS GROUP

## PITTSBURGH CHAPTER #2224

February 2017

[WWW.PITTSBURGHOG.COM](http://WWW.PITTSBURGHOG.COM)

Sponsored by: Three Rivers Harley-Davidson, 1463 Glenn Avenue, Glenshaw, PA 15116; 412-487-3377  
[www.threeriversharley.com](http://www.threeriversharley.com)

### *Greetings from Director Patricia Donovan*

Welcome to February. One more month closer to spring! Many of us rode on the 21st of January! Who woulda thunk that! It was worth getting the new trike a little dirty just to be out there dodging the potholes.

We have lots of activities planned for the upcoming month thanks to our very active board members. Please join us for the fun, comradeship and commiseration of not being able to ride. We have the Cabin Fever Party, Sunday Brunch and first Road Captains' meeting. If you are thinking of a great ride, join the meeting and become a Road Captain.

Many of your officers are headed to one of the Harley Officer Training sessions in February and March. These are fun meetings where you meet other chapter officers and come back with great ideas. And the party is fun too!

Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events

Pat Donovan



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Here is hoping that our friend, Phil, promises us a spring and riding season just around the corner!



## Now THIS looks fun!!!



### *Say So Long To Victory!*

As was announced by George at our January HOG Chapter meeting, Polaris has announced that it will be ending production of its Victory line of motorcycles.

Dealerships will receive assistance from Polaris in dealing with existing stock. Polaris will also continue to provide parts for 10 years. Service and warranties will continue to be honored as well.

Because Victory has been struggling with maintaining profitability in the strong motorcycle market, Polaris has decided to focus on the Indian motorcycle while ending the Victory run.

Polaris looks to increase profits in the Polaris and motorcycle divisions through this mainstreaming effort. Customers with questions or concerns regarding this decision may contact Polaris at 866-521-1683.

## Safety First!

As more and more people become motorcycle enthusiasts, the chances for accidents and fatalities also increase. In fact, the odds of being in a motorcycle accident have actually been estimated as 27 times more likely than that of having an accident while driving a car! Regardless of this statistic, there are very logical things motorcyclists can do to increase their chances of avoiding or surviving these situations.

First, riders must know their capabilities. Can you keep your feet flat on the ground while sitting on your bike? Are the handlebars and controls easily within your reach? Is the bike manageable, or is it too heavy for you?

Next, be sure to carefully select your helmet. Workers at Three Rivers Harley Davidson have been trained specifically to assist you in fitting a helmet to provide you the most protection. Using a properly fitted helmet can increase your odds of survival in the event of an accident.

Finally, keep in mind that practice makes perfect. Taking an approved motorcycle safety course can prepare you to feel safer when you are riding. It will also help you understand how to perform emergency moves, practice riding in atypical situations, and it will give you an opportunity to communicate with other bikers and to share questions and ideas.

A special benefit of belonging to the Pittsburgh HOG Chapter is that we are fortunate to have wonderful, experienced riders and road captains ready to assist whenever needed. JJ Donovan as our head road captain and Hal Deily as our Safety Officer are planning excellent rides and opportunities to increase your skills. All members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities they have planned in order to promote safety for all.

## *In case you missed it....*

Our monthly HOG Chapter meeting was held Thursday, January 12 at Monte Cello's Restaurant on Babcock Boulevard. It was quite an eventful evening featuring a changing of the guard, awards galore, and lots of great information shared with all.

As most of you know, with each ride, members are given the opportunity to purchase a playing card, which is recorded by JJ. At the end of riding season, JJ, with help from Bob Burt, reviewed the cards, and determined the best poker hand for each participant. The winner then received ½ of the pot collected throughout the riding season. We are happy to report that the winner of the 2016 poker hand was....Tom Moore! Tom had a full house of nines over fours, and won \$168. Congratulations, Tom!

JJ also gave out the annual Iron Britches Award, for the person who puts on the most miles over the course of the year. This year, we had 8 people enter, but only 5 actually reported their final mileage by sending a photo of before and after odometer readings. In 5<sup>th</sup> place, we had Jeff Goerlich with over 10,000 miles. 4<sup>th</sup> place was Vince Gavin, who rode over 13000 miles. Todd Havecott rode over 16,000 miles (on 2 bikes!), which earned him 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Dan Cromeans rode a whopping 19,000+ miles and took runner-up honors. And our 2016 Iron Britches winner? Wil Demshar, with over 20,000 miles!!! Yikes, some of our behinds hurt just thinking about that! Wil will have his name engraved on the Iron Britches trophy, and has earned bragging rights for the rest of this year. If you would like to challenge our riders next year, it's easy. Simply contact JJ Donovan, Head Road Captain, and provide him with a photo of your odometer reading. But watch out - many have already been riding in 2017, thanks to the great weather. It's a long year, though, so jump on the bandwagon and join the fun!

We also received lots of great information from our new Safety Officer, Hal Deily. Hal mentioned that because some of our motorcycle skills tend to deteriorate in the winter, there are things you can do in your car to hold onto those important skills. First, practice keeping your eyes up and down the road, noticing tree lines and guardrails. Second, be aware of your following distance, which should be 2-3 seconds minimum. Remember that the way you drive is often the way you ride. Hal's third tip is to flash your brake lights. Don't brake hard, but rather slow down and lightly tap the brake lights, leaving space when you stop. And of course, always be on the lookout for escape routes. As Hal explained, a better DRIVER can be a better MOTORCYCLIST.

The final award was given to three of the members with perfect attendance in 2016. There were 8 members with 100% attendance, and following protocol, three names were pulled randomly to each receive a \$25 gift card from Three Rivers Harley Davidson. Our winners for this year included Ed Varasse, Donna Scullion, and Bill Huey.

With all the excitement that evening, the meeting drew to a close, and members enjoyed friendship and conversation before heading back home. We hope to see many more of you at our next month's meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.



## From the Members...

*(Submitted by Lori Jones - I encourage any members to share articles, if they so wish - I NEED HELP!!!)*

Some of the best information we can get regarding bikes, service, accessories, etc. often come from our fellow members. This has been the case for me when asking a few members for information regarding heated gear.

Last February, one of our fellow HOG members was kind enough to show me his Harley Davidson heated gear. Dan has the heated jacket and pants and even let me try the coat on. He shared how much he loves his gear, and that it enables him to ride in all sorts of weather. I was hooked!

Next, I spoke with several members who have purchased heated liners rather than the fully heated jackets and pants. While there are many off-brands available, Three Rivers Harley Davidson carries the Harley brand of both heated gear and heated liners, and can assist anyone interested. I know what I want now for my birthday! And I want it all - jacket or liner, pants or liner, gloves, socks, you name it! Don't be surprised if I finally make it for Light-Up Night this year! 😊



## Laughter to chase the chills away! *(Silly stuff found online...)*

### *The Lord and the Biker*

A biker was riding along a California beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish."

The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii so I can ride over anytime I want."

The Lord said, "Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things.

Take a little more time and think of something that would honor and glorify me."

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand my wife. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied,

"Do you want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

### *This One is for Jan Varasse:*

A motorcycle patrolman was rushed to the hospital with an inflamed appendix. The doctors operated and advised him that all was well. However, the patrolman kept feeling something pulling at the hairs on his chest. Worried that it might be a second surgery the doctors hadn't told him about, he finally got enough energy to pull his hospital gown down enough so he could look at what was making him so uncomfortable. Taped firmly across his hairy chest were three wide strips of adhesive tape, the kind that doesn't come off. Written in large black letters was the sentence: "Get well soon..... from the nurse you gave a ticket to last week."

## Get your motors running...head out on the highway! Looking for adventure, in whatever comes our way!

With spring soon to be heading our way, many of us will be turning our thoughts to vacations on our bikes. While it's easy to pack for a trip when using a car or truck, or even an airplane if one is willing to pay the extra luggage fees, trips on a motorcycle require more thought and planning, in order to carry everything on 2 or 3 wheels.

While we often learn through trial and error, I thought it would be helpful to at least provide some simple tips for packing for a motorcycle trip.

1. Be sure to budget space for things you may need to pick up on the way, such as souvenirs, food, and/or beverages.
2. Put ID on every bag you pack. Include your name, address, phone, email, and even your basic itinerary of where you are going and where you came from. The best packed bags sometimes do ninja rolls onto the highway, so it's better to be safe than sorry.
3. Be smart about what you take. If it has major sentimental value or would be expensive to replace, leave it at home.
4. If you are taking any sort of medication, it would be in your best interest to also bring along a doctor's note, especially if you will be travelling out of the country.

Once the basics have been planned for, it is time for the logistics to be considered. Start thinking about where you will put EVERY item, whether it is in your saddlebags, on your person, or strapped onto your luggage rack. Important items to take might include:

Maintenance tools and safety equipment, first aid kit, water bottles, snacks, drinks, sunglasses, warm and cool clothing, helmet (many places still have helmet laws - plan accordingly), gloves, rain suit, boots, and rain covers for boots, a towel or two, headbands and/or bandannas, a couple changes of clothes depending on where you will be going and the length of your trip, male and/or female hygiene products, thin and thick socks, bathing suit, binoculars, cell phone and charger, camera, batteries, knife, small plastic bags, copies of health insurance and motorcycle insurance, and your preference in toiletries, which might include tissues, shampoo/conditioner/soap, toothpaste/toothbrush/floss, moisturizer, laundry detergent or coins for a laundry, comb or brush, sunscreen and lip balm.

Other items which can be purchased in travel sizes include hand sanitizer, insect repellent, glass cleaner, paper towels, and a sewing kit.

Only you can know what you need for the specific trip you are planning. The above lists are simply for your consideration. And don't forget to have that bike checked thoroughly prior to departure, fill that tank, and check or change the oil.

Taking a trip on two or three wheels may seem like an exciting, yet daunting task, but with a bit of preplanning, it can be a trip like no other. Just get out and have fun!



← (NOT quite what they had in mind, Todd...)

## A Focus on HOG 2224 Friends

### Focus on: Wilai Gould and Lee Berkey!

Wilai and Lee are a fabulous couple who love spending time together on Lee's 2009 CVO Ultra. The couple has been dating for a number of years. Wilai, a self-employed cook, Avon lady, and cleaning person, has family in Thailand, a son in Pittsburgh, and 2 grandsons. Lee, who is an HVAC contractor, has a son in Nashville and a daughter in Fairfax Station, VA. Lee has ridden motorcycles since he was a teen and Wilai rode scooters in Thailand before becoming a passenger on Lee's bike. While Lee's longest motorcycle trip was to Sturgis (3 times!), Wilai has traveled with Lee to Rolling Thunder most of the recent years. Lee had a humorous story about one trip to Sturgis, where he had to return home alone, and made entire return the trip from South Dakota in 2 days!

Lee (a chapter member since 2003) and Wilai (a chapter member since 2011) both enjoy chapter rides, socializing, meetings, camaraderie, and the 50/50 drawings. ☺ The best ride they have taken with the HOG chapter was an overnight to the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and Benezette. They would love to sometime see the chapter ride to the Gibson Guitar Factory outside Allentown, PA. (So would I!!!)

Lee and Wilai are most looking forward to getting back to riding again this year, as they missed most of last season due to Lee's foot surgery.

If you don't already know Lee and Wilai, stop by and introduce yourself! They are wonderful people!



love is...



... when your babe's on board!

### Focus On: Karen Cassidy!

If you ever attend a meeting and see a member with a huge smile that never ends, chances are you have spotted Karen Cassidy. Karen is married to Jack (for 43 years this month!!!). They have a daughter and granddaughter who live in Florida. Karen keeps busy cleaning houses and babysitting. She is also a former Bell Telephone employee.

Karen reported that Jack's first motorcycle was a 1974 Honda 500 four-cylinder bike, which was purchased just after the couple married. They now ride a beautiful blue 2014 Electra Glide Limited, which many of you may recognize from when Three Rivers Harley Davidson brought it to a meeting a couple of years ago. Karen and Jack have taken the bike all the way to Daytona and the Kennedy Space Center on a trip with Bob and Mary Burt. They had so much fun!

Karen and Jack have been members of the Pittsburgh HOG Chapter for about 7 years. They most appreciate the people, the rides, and of course, the food. They reported that the best ride they have gone on with the Chapter had to be the trip to Maggie Valley, led by former member Jim Mathie. If they could choose one place for our Chapter to plan a ride to, Karen immediately responded that she would love to ride to the New England states. Road captains, anyone interested in planning that trip?

Karen is super excited about the big event coming up on St. Patrick's Day this year. That is when her daughter from Florida will get married to the man of her dreams! We all wish Karen, Jack, and their daughter the best wishes for a wonderful future.



# Introducing the Milwaukee 8!

If you have spoken with members who purchased a new 2017 Harley, you may have heard of the “Milwaukee 8”, and how fabulous it is going to make riding. But how much do you really know about this mechanical wonder? It is quite different from the Twin Cam probably found on your current Harley. Below, you will find a number of differences between the Twin Cam and the new, powerful Milwaukee 8.

1. As of September of 2016, the Milwaukee 8 is the engine that will power every 2017 H-D Touring and Trike models of Harley.
2. The Milwaukee 8 provides 10% more power/torque than the engine it replaces.
3. It provides quicker acceleration, even though it weighs the same as the engines it replaces.
4. The Milwaukee 8 provides improved fuel efficiency thanks to an increased air flow and combustion. It is expected to deliver up to 11% better fuel economy.
5. It offers reduced heat absorption and an improved exhaust design, resulting in increased comfort for drivers and passengers.
6. This new technology offers a smaller footprint to improve rider legroom. In turn, this will make it easier for many riders to reach the ground.
7. The updated rubber mounting of this engine combined with a single internal counter balance, will eliminate up to 75% of primary vibration when idling, making both rider and passenger more comfortable.
8. The Milwaukee 8 includes lighter valves, a single camshaft, and improved driveline components, which results in the elimination of mechanical power-train noise. While the mechanical noise is eliminated, the bikes will still retain their powerful exhaust tones.
9. The charging system of this engine will allow for more output to the battery when idling. As a result, it will provide exceptional power which may be needed by riders for accessory lighting, audio, and heated gear.
10. Finally, the new styling of this engine provides a sleekness that still provides the heritage of H-D’s Big Twin engines.



## ***News from JJ Donovan, Head Road Captain...***

Please be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, February 11, for the first Road Captains meeting of 2017. At this meeting, road captains and anyone interested in becoming a road captain will hear what is required of them, a safety review, and then the road captains will have names randomly drawn to select dates and destinations for their desired trips. We need our road captains to schedule both long and short rides, in order to accommodate all members' interests and skill levels.

This meeting, held at the Monte Cello's smaller private room, will begin promptly at 12:00 noon, and lunch will be served. If you have any questions regarding this very important meeting, please contact JJ Donovan at 724-344-2927.



## **CHAPTER RIDE POLICIES**

**NO** alcohol or prohibited substances are acceptable prior to or during any Chapter sponsored rides. The ride(s) is considered to be over when the kick-stands are down upon reaching the predetermined destination. Any person(s) who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or prohibited substances will be asked by the Road Captain not to participate in the organized ride.

A release/waiver form **MUST** be signed prior to participating in the organized ride. A signed Chapter Membership Enrollment Form & Release is considered to be on file for current Pittsburgh H.O.G. Chapter members. A parent, step-parent, or legal guardian is the **ONLY** persons able to sign a release form for minor children. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, any other relative, or friend **CAN NOT** sign a minor release form. The Road Captain has the authority to cancel the ride based on weather or unforeseen circumstances. Whenever possible, cancellations will be posted on the Message Board of the Pittsburgh H.O.G. Chapter website and/or members may be notified by e-mail from the Editor.

If you have access to the Internet there's a lot of information about riding available on the H.O.G. Members Only Website. Just log on and click on the Plan Your Ride tab at the top of the page. The most important part of any ride is to get to the destination safely. If you have any concerns you should talk to the Road Captain before the ride begins. Being a novice motorcyclist or having little experience with group riding should also be mentioned to the Road Captain. This is not meant to single you out but rather to make sure you are comfortable and enjoy the ride.

## NEWS FROM ACTIVITY OFFICER, ALICIA SUESS:

Alicia states that this might possibly be one of her favorite events. She is inviting everyone to please join her for an enjoyable Sunday brunch at Max's Allegheny Tavern on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. The brunch includes breakfast items, omelets made to order, entrees, and cold salads. Adult cost is only \$13.95 per person! Please RSVP Alicia by February 5<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend: [asuess81@gmail.com](mailto:asuess81@gmail.com).

This should be lots of fun! Many of us attended Lynette and Adam's baby shower there, and enjoyed the wonderful food. It is easy to get to with on-street parking not usually an issue on Sundays. Max's Allegheny Tavern is located at 537 Suismon Street, Pittsburgh's North Side.

<http://www.maxsalleghentavern.com>



Please join us in wishing the following members happy February birthdays!

- Glenn Hilton – Feb. 14
- Albert Kucharski – Feb. 15
- Joe Rizza – Feb. 15
- William Huwe – Feb. 16

*Happy Anniversary*



We would also like to wish the following members a Happy Anniversary this month:

- Jack and Karen Cassidy – 2/16
- Chris and Alyson Cochran – 2/29



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- 11:30AM** - ALL CONTESTANTS NEED TO BE REGISTERED. ALL FOOD NEEDS TO BE COOKED AND SET-UP BY THIS TIME.
- 12PM** - JUDGING & TASTING WILL BEGIN
- 2:30PM** - WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

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**Celebrating 10 Years In Business 2007-2017**

# IMPORTANT!!!

Membership renewals are now due! They must be turned in to Cari Moore, Membership Officer, no later than February 28 in order to remain in good standing. Attached along with this newsletter, you will find the membership form which you may print out. Please complete and return to Cari, along with your \$20.00 membership dues. Questions or concerns?

Cari Moore, Membership Officer

[Cari01s11moore@yahoo.com](mailto:Cari01s11moore@yahoo.com)

412-427-4565

*Dates to Keep in Mind! Looking ahead, the chapter has numerous important dates to add to your calendars!*

**February 4** - Memorial for Rock's wife, Dorothy Bader, at 11:00 AM, St. John's Lutheran Church, 920 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh 15237

**February 5** - RSVP due to Alicia Suess regarding Sunday Brunch scheduled for Sunday, February 12: [asuess81@gmail.com](mailto:asuess81@gmail.com)

**February 9** - Monthly HOG Chapter meeting at Monte Cello's 7:30 PM

**February 11** - Road Captains meeting - Monte Cello's - 12:00-3:00 - Lunch will be provided

**February 11** - TRHD Sweetheart Party - Three Rivers H-D - 4:00-6:00

**February 12** - Annual Chapter Brunch - Max's Allegheny Tavern - 11:00 AM

**February 17-20** - Visit Three Rivers H-D at the Pittsburgh Auto Show

**February 25** - Chili Cook-off - Three Rivers H-D 11:30 AM

**March 4** - Second Road Captains meeting - Monte Cello's 12:00 PM

**April 15** - Angie Berkey Memorial Ride - Time and Location to be determined

**April 23** - Annual Blessing of the Bikes - More information to follow

**May 26-29** - Rolling Thunder - More information to follow



## 2017 Chapter Officers

**Director:** Patricia Donovan

[pjdonov@zoominternet.net](mailto:pjdonov@zoominternet.net)

724-996-5520

**Assistant Director:** Bob Hoffmann

[blksoftail@comcast.net](mailto:blksoftail@comcast.net)

412-877-4456

**Treasurer:** Bill McCarrier

[wmccarrier@zoominternet.net](mailto:wmccarrier@zoominternet.net)

724-355-2393

**Secretary:** Chyrel Klaas

[chyrel883harley@gmail.com](mailto:chyrel883harley@gmail.com)

412-931-3542

**Activities/Events Officer:** Alicia Suess

[asuess81@gmail.com](mailto:asuess81@gmail.com)

412-638-1289

**Head Road Captain/Historian:** JJ Donovan

[jjdonov@zoominternet.net](mailto:jjdonov@zoominternet.net)

724-344-2927

**Ladies of Harley Officer:** Ruth McCarrier

[rmccarrier@zoominternet.net](mailto:rmccarrier@zoominternet.net)

724-287-6139

**Editor:** Lori Jones

[scott\\_and\\_lori@live.com](mailto:scott_and_lori@live.com)

724-766-2359

**Safety Officer:** Hal Deily

[deilyhal@gmail.com](mailto:deilyhal@gmail.com)

412-849-4938

**Photographer:** Larry Szramowski

[larry@szramowski.com](mailto:larry@szramowski.com)

412-427-2609

**Membership:** Cari Moore

[Cari01s11moore@yahoo.com](mailto:Cari01s11moore@yahoo.com)

412-427-4565

**Webmaster/Media Officer:** Bill Kerr

[bkerrone@gmail.com](mailto:bkerrone@gmail.com)

412-370-1619

***Please note!*** Events listed in the calendar are subject to change. All information contained in this newsletter, calendar, or website is accurate and complete at the time of publication. Since much of this information is subject to change at any time for a variety of reasons it is recommended that you check your e-mail account frequently especially prior to leaving your home to participate in a Chapter Ride. If you do not have an e-mail account, information may also be verified by contacting the Road Captain for that particular Chapter Ride.

## Don't Miss Photo Fun!

**You can view photos from a variety of Chapter Activities by visiting:**

<http://hogchapter2224.shutterfly.com/>

## HOG Chapter Meetings

Regular monthly Chapter meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 pm. (Many members choose to arrive anytime after 6, in order to enjoy dinner and companionship prior to the meeting.) The meetings are held in a private room at, Monte Cello's, 2198 Babcock Blvd., Ross Twp., 15209, 412-821-0600. Food and refreshments are available before, during, and after the meeting at your own cost. There will be a 50-50 drawing each month with proceeds benefiting the Pgh. H.O.G. Chapter.

## *Attention All Members and GUESTS*

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE ATTENDANCE SHEET WHEN YOU ENTER THE MEETING ROOM**

Everyone in attendance will receive a door prize ticket. Prizes may vary from month to month. All Pittsburgh H.O.G. Chapter members that are present and signed in are also eligible for the monthly rollover drawing. The drawings will take place at the end of the meeting. Good luck

## Editor's Note

We would greatly value input from the members regarding the newsletter. Please feel free to send photos, suggestions for articles and comments to the editor's email.

[scott\\_and\\_lori@live.com](mailto:scott_and_lori@live.com)

## Chapter Stats

As of January 24, 2017, the Chapter has 85 active members (61 men & 24 women) plus an additional 71 members needing action, for a total of 156 members. Our January meeting attendance included 54 members and 2 guests.

