



**Harley Owners Group**

**Chapter 3811**

**February 2017**

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Welcome to **Worcester HOG's 2017** riding and having fun season!



## Chapter Meeting Information

**Worcester H.O.G. Chapter** meetings are held on the *first Tuesday* of the month at 7:30pm at the [Auburn Elks Lodge](#).

Come early and socialize! The typical agenda includes Officer reports, door prizes, 50-50 drawing, info on upcoming events, rides, guest speakers, and new member acknowledgments. **Please join us** and see why we have such a great following and have so much fun!

Bryan sending Chet off to *HOG Retirement* at December's meeting.



## Be a part of our newsletter!

Email your stories and pictures to:  
[editor@worcesterhog.com](mailto:editor@worcesterhog.com)

*All submissions become the property of Worcester H.O.G. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and content.*

Last years' **Ice Breaker** snow storm was a fluke, yet it didn't stop us nor our neighboring Chapters from having our annual season-opening good time! This is also our **Yankee Run kick-off**. Please join us!!





## From your Director

We've turned the corner and the 2017 riding season is straight ahead. The holiday distractions are behind us (hopefully Santa brought you some great goodies for your bike) and the chilly and generally snowiest void stands between us and spring, but riding season is in sight! I can smell it, taste it, and every atypically warm day creates a delusional sense of optimism.

Suddenly it seems that I'm running out of time to do (or even start in my case) those winter upgrade projects that it seemed I had an eternity to do back in November and December. Somehow it feels like riding season isn't all that far off. In fact, we should be riding by the time the next newsletter is out. Our *Ice Breaker* ride is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

And when riding season comes, how do I envision it? What do I see for Worcester HOG?

I've already had numerous meetings and conversations with our officers, Sheldon's management, and many of our members all in an effort to align, simplify and clarify how we do things, and to give our members the best possible riding experience and opportunities in 2017. Working very closely with Jim Evans and Chad, I've taken a critical look at what's working and what can be improved. I've sought (and will continue to seek) input to guide changes that will build on the already strong organization I was asked to lead.

They say "you can't please all the people all the time", definitely true. Some members would like to ride from sun-up to sundown but others have to work or can only ride a few hours so they can mow the lawn on a weekend. Some would like to ride on Sundays but others have church. Some prefer Saturdays but others want to see their grandkid's soccer game that day. The diversity goes on, so I would ask you to keep this in mind as you view and judge the options we hope to create. In fact I see "options" as the biggest key to success.

Working with our leaders I hope we can come up with options for everyone. If you know of an opportunity which might interest our members *PLEASE TELL ME* or our other officers or Road Captains so we can make it happen. It's really very simple – if we don't know, we can't try to make a difference. Spring is just around the corner, so become

## Worcester H.O.G Officers

<b>Director</b>	<i>Ken Karey</i>
<b>Assistant Director</b>	<i>Jim Evans</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Scott Johnson, Sr.</i>
<b>Secretary/Membership</b>	<i>Mark Zibel</i>
<b>Activities Officer</b>	<i>Richie Smith</i>
<b>Ladies of Harley Officer</b>	<i>Karin Karey</i>
<b>Head Road Captain</b>	<i>Roy Mikkelsen</i>
<b>Editor</b>	<i>Andy Foster</i>
<b>Safety Officer</b>	<i>Ken Corey</i>
<b>Photographer</b>	<i>Bruce Smyth</i>
<b>Historian</b>	<i>Paul Gunnerson</i>
<b>Events Coordinator</b>	<i>Kevin Colbath</i>

## Worcester H.O.G Road Captains

**Head Road Captain:** *Roy Mikkelsen*  
**Assistant Head Road Captain:** *Bill Zambarano*

<i>Alan Berthiaume</i>	<i>Ken Corey</i>
<i>Alan Froslic</i>	<i>Ken Karey</i>
<i>Alan Shea</i>	<i>Kevin Colbath</i>
<i>Arthur Pond</i>	<i>Mark Zibel</i>
<i>Chet Chludenski</i>	<i>Paul Gunnerson</i>
<i>Chet McDonald</i>	<i>Peter Bogren</i>
<i>Dave Eaton</i>	<i>Ray Robidoux</i>
<i>Ed McDonald</i>	<i>Richie Smith</i>
<i>Jack Grzyb</i>	<i>Tammy Lee</i>
<i>Jim Evans</i>	

## Yankee Run Committee

*George Gilligan, Ray Remillard,  
 Janice Fiske, & Sue DiPilato*

involved with *OUR* chapter and help us to make it all it can be.

*Ken Karey*  
 Director, Worcester HOG



<http://ridenewengland.com>

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## Assistant Director

Wow, February already! Just a month or so and we can begin to ride again in earnest. Are you getting ready? As avid or even occasional riders we spend a fair amount of time and money preparing our bikes for the riding season, but what about keeping *ourselves* in shape?

I'm not a big guy, so keeping my Ultra under control while backing up and during those awkward off-balance stops can be a bit challenging, especially when riding with someone special behind me as I usually do. I look at it as a combination of skill, balance, and strength mixed in with experience. I am certainly no expert, but I thought I'd share my thoughts with you on this.

Skill comes from knowledge and experience. So first off, if you're new to riding or ride thousands of miles a year, a skilled [Rider Safety Course](#) is a great way to hone your riding expertise. Listening to other riders and how they handle difficult situations is invaluable in my book. During the winter I try to stay up to date with the *HOG Magazine* safety stories and experiences, as well as review books I have received over the years on "heavy weight" bike control with practical suggestions and "What to do if.." scenarios.

At the start of the riding season, I do figure 8's in the street or a parking lot along with riding as slow as possible in a straight line. Both of these exercises require finding the sweet spot with the clutch and rear brake, which helps with those inevitable U-turns. Doing a few quick stops with feet on the rests until you stop gets you used to keeping the bike straight, important if you want to avoid those embarrassing moments at a light or backing into a spot when you have to struggle to stay up.

Strength and balance are key as well and can be improved by doing something as simple as deep knee bends (squats), push-ups and leg raises. Doing them consistently every day or so will give you the best results. *Work Out World* and *Planet Fitness* both have decent programs and aren't that expensive. *YouTube* even offers some good routines for isometric exercises. Any way you do it will really help when you find yourself in an "Oh Sh\*t" moment!

Here's to an early spring with a good dose of rain to wash the salt and sand off the road!

Jim Evans  
Assistant Director



## Secretary/Membership

While I'm not the type of person that counts the days until spring, I must admit that this unseasonably warm weather and all the motorcyclists I've seen out and about in CT and NY (where the roads are a lot less sandy) does have me thinking about hopping on my bike, enjoying the fresh air, good people, great sights and enjoying all that the open road has to offer. Yep, I guess you could say that I am totally ready to ride! And ride in 2017 Worcester HOG Chapter we will.

The transition in leadership from Chet McDonald to Ken Karey was nothing less than seamless. Great job Chet and Ken. And Chet, thank you for all that you did for the Chapter over the last few years! It was an honor working with you and I'll be forever grateful for all the things you have taught me! We hope that you enjoy the view from the cheap seats! Speaking of change, WOW, have we had some Chapter changes or what? A new *Assistant Director*, a new *Chapter Manager* (a first for us), and a new *Photographer*. Planning for the 2017 season is in full swing and I'm confident great things lie on the horizon for our Chapter.

Speaking of "our" chapter, renewals continue to come in fast and furious. Right now we are at 114 members and counting. The new master list is constantly being edited, the website & *Facebook* pages will be scrubbed/edited starting April 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure chapter-only participants. And the work behind the scenes continues forward. If you have not yet renewed, do so now! Please send or drop off your application to *Sheldon's Harley-Davidson*. Don't forget to make sure it is legible and fully filled out with your \$20 payment.

As we continue to move through winter and start thinking about spring this is a great time to make your list and check it twice. Figure out what you need or want to do to your bike this year, where you might want to ride (we need and welcome all of your suggestions) and what Chapter changes you might like to see. Take advantage of all that the *Chapter* and *Sheldon's Harley-Davidson* has to offer... it's all about riding and having FUN!"

RIDE SAFE & ARRIVE ALIVE.

Mark Zibel  
Secretary/Membership Officer

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## Ladies of Harley

LOH Report - January

A new year. A new start. A great time to reflect on the past year, take inventory of where we are, and where we want to go.

For many reasons, this past year has certainly been one to remember. Our country has gone through some challenges and changes. We have been divided by politics and race. In our democracy we have the right to free speech and the right to vote, but it seems this year these rights caused some great divides, even amongst friends.

In our Chapter, our members have diverse and varying opinions, lifestyles, and passions. I recognize that like our country, it's what makes us great. We don't share the same opinions or political ideas but we respect each other. We don't have to agree all the time, and sometimes we need to agree to disagree. We like and respect each other, but we don't always have to be on the same page. We need only remember the common denominators that bring us together. We love to ride, to laugh and have fun, to feel the wind on our face, and to discover that perfect road with daring curves and a spectacular view. It's awesome that we come from all walks of life, we support different ideas and beliefs, and we choose to be respectful to each other because we all share a passion for riding.

As we start this New Year as a HOG family let's remember what connects us. Let's choose where we go in 2017 with respect and kindness in our hearts. Let's look for opportunities to help each other, be there for each other, laugh, have fun, and do the right thing. When I think about our Chapter, I'm so proud of how much we give to others, and how much good we do. Thank you to so many of you who supported my recent trip to Nicaragua. It was an amazing trip that changed my life. I'm grateful to be able to help others. The Ladies of Harley are looking for new opportunities to do some charitable giving. Please let me know if you have ideas about where we can spread some kindness. Thank you for being generous, kind and fun!

Happy New Year!

Karin Karey  
LOH Officer



## From the Editor

My article starts with an assignment. Please turn to page 64 in *HOG Magazine* (038/2016) and read Ed Howell's *\$100 Dollar Ride* article "I was at Woodstock". Go ahead, I'll wait...

Welcome back, you read pretty fast actually. Turns out that "Sparky" and his neighbor Jim were on the same page as my wife and I last year. We had never been to the Catskills, and having limited vacation time it was the perfect place to go. This was our first venture into this fantastic area of small towns and state parks, and some righteous mountains.

I set up maps to cover as much of the area as we could in 5 days, most notable was *Platte Clove Road* which is a seasonal road also marked as *Rt 16*. This is a cool but hairy road that you have to try. At the start of it we met up with a young black bear, but he was having nothing to do with a photo op!

I didn't have *Bethel NY* on the map initially, I was 10 when Woodstock happened so what did I know. But once we got there we adjusted. The [Bethel Woods Museum](#) was fantastic, and walking the grounds where *Woodstock* took place instilled a vibe of peace and love after all this time. You wish you had been there, surely spoken by many!

Andy



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## Safety Officer

Time to think about *SAFETY* for the upcoming riding season!

We are working on two items for this purpose; ERC (experienced riders course) and Safety Saturday. Both of these are done in conjunction with and at Sheldon's. We have the entire weekend of May 6th & 7th.

At this time we have filled all 16 slots and are working on an additional class on June 3rd. If you are interested please contact me. The cost is \$135 but you will get some rebates from 'Mother HOG' and the Worcester Chapter. No matter how long you have been riding there is always something to be learned and you may even save some money on your insurance.

We are also working on the second annual Safety Saturday which will be held on April 8th. It will feature an in house poker run. So come out, learn something and perhaps go home with a prize. LOH will be holding their Easter Basket making on this date as well, so bring the entire family!

Ken Karey



## Historian's Article

Greetings fellow HOG members and Happy New Year.

Here we are in winter riding hibernation, but thoughts of spring and riding again abound in our minds. Winter gives me, as our chapter historian, time to do research... something I love to do anyway.

So I want to go back some 30 plus years ago to write about how *President Regan* helped out *Harley-Davidson* by imposing tariffs on foreign made motorcycles. A big part of the history of *Harley-Davidson* during difficult financial times. The tariffs were imposed in 1983 to help protect the only lone American bike maker still in the market. The Japanese bike makers, according to Japan's Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI), said sales of smaller-engine Japanese bikes jumped from 43% to the total of 60% in 1983 and later.

So President Regan imposed tariffs on the foreign made bikes. He raised the current tariff of 4.4 percent to 49.4 percent in the first year of the five-year program. By giving the sole American motorcycle maker some breathing room from competition to retool, Harley was able to get its act together, turn profitable, and even request the tariff protection be ended early.

Even though the *Harley-Davidson* of today faces sliding sales, dwindling profits, and stiff competition from *Polaris Industries*, which is stealing some market share with the *Indian Motorcycle* nameplate to go along with its existing big-bike, *Victory* brand, it isn't in the same condition it was three decades ago.

Presidential politics are raising the specter of protectionism as a valid policy option once more, but using *Harley-Davidson* as a case study to validate them indicates that perhaps the wrong history lesson has been learned. It is a different economic world today than it was back in the 80's, we shall see where this *political ride* takes us.

Anyway, it's a comfort to know that our new Vice President Mike Pence rides a Street Glide, my kind of guy! Watch our Vice President's Harley charity ride video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aAl4dSdaHg>



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## Yankee Run Stop

Well it's February, and we're getting closer to breaking out the bikes for the *Ice Breaker Run* which is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> and it is also the start of the *2017 New England Yankee Run season*. Mark your calendars to start riding with the 2017 books!

The progress of getting stops is well under way. So far 77 stops have signed up with a few that will need some prodding before we go to printing. Several new stops have been added along with some old favorites.

The books will go on sale at the *Ice Breaker Run* and are still only \$20.00! And the best part of the purchase is that the book is your ticket to the *Yankee Run* season-ending party on *Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>* where there will be great prizes, a fantastic meal, great entertainment, raffles, and plenty of games.

I wish to thank the *Yankee Run committee* members for their hard work. I would also like to remind our members that you can carry our application with you for the new stops that you may come across in your travels. The application is located on our website under *Members Only* via the *Documents* link. Thank you!

George for the Yankee Run Committee



## Sheldon's Corner

Hello Everyone!

I am writing to you at this time from Nashville, TN. We are attending Harley-Davidson's Winter Retail Readiness Event. In essence, it is a small convention mainly for Parts, Accessories and General Merchandise. Nevertheless, we are ramping up our efforts to consistently deliver world-class customer service every day.

We are excited about 2017 and I just want to take a few moments to hit on some key items. Our spring shipments of bikes are arriving now, so if you want a brand new 2017 *Harley-Davidson* come down and put your deposit on one. Gone are the days where dealers have an endless supply of bikes. We also have a few 2016s left in stock. Our events

calendar on [sheldons.com](http://sheldons.com) will inform you of all of our fun events this year.

We have modified our Priority Maintenance Packages to make them more affordable for everyone. You don't have to purchase the plan at the time of bike purchase, but if you do, you can finance it into your motorcycle loan along with Accessories and Clothing.

One thing that I want everyone to do is spread the word that when you purchase a Harley-Davidson from us, please make it known that you are a *Worcester HOG member* so you can receive all of the benefits you are entitled to. We have some new employees who may not know that you are a *Worcester HOG Member* and it is our goal to make sure that all *Worcester HOG members* purchase a bike from Sheldon's.

We will see you all on the *Ice Breaker Run*!

Chad & Bryan

## Tail Pipes

A shout out to the LOH wrapping crew last December, you girls ROCK!!



Friday Night Dinner on 1/20 @ Wild Willies, one of many thanks to Kevin Colbath!!



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