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Grunts & Squeals

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HARLEY-DAVIDSON®



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Harley Owners Group

Chapter 3811

Fall 2017

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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!

Be a part of our newsletter!

Email your stories and pictures to:
editor@worcesterhog.com

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





From your Director

I'm starting to reflect on 2017, not because it's over (hell no!), but simply because we've passed the halfway point and it's time to do a mid-year review of sorts. Maybe the ongoing mid-year review process at work (a 4-letter word to be sure) is behind my mindset too.

As noted in my last article, we've undergone leadership changes in several key positions within the chapter and I must say I've not been the least bit disappointed in my choices. I greatly appreciate the time and energy each officer invests on the chapter's behalf.

Perhaps most notably has been the fullness of our riding calendar. As a scientist in my work-life, I live by and love "data"... and the data is good. Our typical (but not exclusive) ride days are Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; 4 days/week. Looking at April-August, we've had rides at an average of 104% of our 4 days/week (71-124%). Jim Evans, Richie Smith, Ray Robidoux and Ken Corey have led almost half (44) of the 90 chapter rides organized through the end of August! A special thanks to them and all the Road Captains & ride leaders who've offered our members a broad spectrum of riding opportunities. Let's continue to fill our calendar for the rest of 2017! It ain't over yet, not by a long shot!

One question that gnaws at me is; "How can we generate MORE interest in riding?" After all, we are a riding group, right?! Yet, most rides are being shouldered by a few individuals and more often than not just a few folks show up for rides. Why is that? Why can we fill a room with 50-60+ members at boring (relatively speaking) chapter meetings and yet have just a handful show-up for a ride? I would genuinely like to know the answer to these questions and invite you to contact me and share your candid thoughts. The chapter leadership and I can't make things better if we don't know what you're thinking. Tell me, I'm always willing to listen.

And finally, I've alluded to consistently great attendance at our monthly chapter meetings during 2017. I'm really glad to see the sustained interest and support. We do our best to keep everyone informed and have a few laughs along the way.

Worcester H.O.G Officers

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

Worcester H.O.G. Road Captains

<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>Ed McDonald</i>	<i>Ray Robidoux</i>
<i>Jack Grzyb</i>	<i>Roy Mikkelsen</i>
<i>Jim Evans</i>	<i>Richie Smith</i>
<i>Jim Perry</i>	<i>Tammy Lee</i>

Yankee Run Committee

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

So my mid-year review of things is pretty positive and with LOTS of upside potential. Let's continue to work together to build and energize OUR chapter. We've got months of riding still ahead, so let's make the most of it. Remember why we're here, and part of this is to "ride & have fun!"

Ken



Assistant Director

I can't believe it's September already! It feels to me like the season has just gotten underway due to the number of uncooperative weekends. I envy those of you that have been

able to get out and put a lot of miles on your bike. Riding the badlands of Sturgis, the winding roads of the south, the wilderness and coast of the northeast, etc. All this grandeur and more is just the nature of our chosen lifestyle (or hobby), not to mention being part of the scenery for others to see... visions of [Easy Rider](#) in the longing eyes of the adults in mini-vans.

While riding in itself is very satisfying, therapeutic or whatever you want to call it, the camaraderie of group rides has a "coolness" of its own. Being part of a group of bikes, which most of those we pass are in awe of, is just plain *cool*. It is amazing how we can put aside all of our differences in life and politics to come together to enjoy the "freedom of the road". That's really what the HOG chapters are all about. People from all walks of life getting together to ride and enjoy the company of like-minded riding enthusiasts.

Part of my "job" is to help the Head Road Captain be sure there are enough group ride options for everyone's tastes. Last month we didn't have as many group chapter rides as in the past, but I know there were quite a few small group/individual rides posted on FB which is just great. If there is a destination or type of ride you would like to see us do, please let Richie, Ken or me know and we will work with you to make it happen.

Some say the best riding is about to come with the foliage etc. But the reality of riding in New England is (except for those hearty few that ride all year) that most of us only have 2-3 months of decent riding left this year. Don't put off the ride! I hope you'll be able to put plenty more miles on your bike either with Chapter rides or on your own. Long rides or short rides, day or night, whatever gets the wheels moving for you is what counts.

Oh, and I hate to say it so soon, but start thinking about what you did with the long-johns and heated gear.

Ride Safely My Friends,

Jim



Ladies of Harley

Where has summer gone? It seems it has passed way too quickly! Ken and I took a 2 week "Bucket List" vacation to

Alaska which was amazing! Both of us are feeling very disconnected, but we are hoping we can spend more time with all of you!

As the riding season begins to wind down (at least for us *fair weather riders*) I am looking forward to planning some other activities for our Chapter. I've always loved our Halloween party and hope we might continue this tradition if people are interested. I've also observed ladies at the *Harley Officer Training* and at the *Iron Adventure* sporting a lot of bling on their vests and wondered if we'd like to have a *ladies night* to bedazzle our Harley attire?!

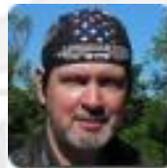
I am beyond proud of the charitable work our chapter has done this year. With the extraordinary help and generosity of John and Susan DiPilato, we have raised over \$1,800.00 for LOH. Of that, we donated \$750.00 to the [Heart 2 Heart Foundation](#) for the great work they do with families. Our Chapter also donated over \$1,200.00 to the [Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation](#) at the [Ride for Kids](#). We have yet to make a donation in honor of Paul Bacon, but we will be doing that soon.

I've been in contact with both the Boys and Girls Clubs of Worcester and Worcester Public Schools to see how we might be able to help out some kids. This will be a ride where we deliver something to one of these organizations. Stay tuned for details!

Thank you all, as always, for being the kind of people I'm proud to call my family and friends. I'm so grateful that we are able to "pay it forward" to so many deserving charities.

Enjoy the last days of summer.

Karin



From the Editor

As we ride our chapter's *mixed emotional highway* this year, saddened by the loss of two amazing chapter members *Paul Bacon* and *Ray Gauthier*, we *hurt*. Riding the good times, helping others, and bonding evermore as a Chapter, *helps*.

Seeing Ginny Gauthier with her camera at the [Heart 2 Heart Run](#) struck my wife Nina and I the same way; "Hey! There's *Ginny!!*" She has shown us all the definition of *strength*.

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A former Worcester HOG Director once said at a chapter meeting, and I'm paraphrasing here; "Take the time to help and comfort someone in need, it may be you that needs the help and comfort one day".

From my perspective, it would appear that we have this one down.

Andy

Roy and Scott checking in from Sturgis... 2017



Historian's Article

Greetings fellow HOG members,

Summer is about to end and we wonder; "Where did it go so fast"? Another year is flying by for us, this our 31st year as a chapter.

Many of our members have taken some wonderful trips across the country, others have stayed closer to home enjoying the many wonders that we have right here in New England. There is one place I want to highlight which is within reasonable riding distance, and many of you have visited there already.

In York PA we have the [Harley-Davidson Vehicle Operations](#) plant. My bike was assembled there, as were many of yours. Established as an assembly facility in 1973, the *Harley-Davidson Vehicle Operations* plant assembles the Touring, Softail, CVO, and Trike models. In 1992 it opened a state of the art painting division.

The York PA facility assembles more than 60% of the

motor company's motorcycles. Employees work around the clock to get new Harley's assembled and out the door to the H-D dealers.

If you haven't had a chance to visit the York, PA plant put it on your *bucket list*. Tours of the plant are available for you to see the best bike on the planet being built. The York facility covers more than 171 acres and has over 600 thousand square feet under the roof. It's something to marvel at! So if you haven't been there yet make it one of your destinations.

The York PA facility was scheduled to be downsized this year as the production of the Softail models will be moved to the Kansas City facility. The other models that are assembled there will continue, and about 800 employees will remain in York, PA and about 118 employees are scheduled to be laid off as of the end of July this year due to the Softail assembly move.

Paul

Yankee Run Stop

We've sold 155 books so far this year. The end of the year party is set for November 11th. Remember that *the book* is your ticket to the party, so if you plan on attending and haven't purchase it yet they are on sale at *SHELDON'S* Parts Department. There are no sales at the party.

Oh, and by the way... a big shout out to Sheldon's for helping with the book sales!

We have 3 more months of gift certificates coming and we have several potential stops for next year. There's still plenty of time to get some stops in. One stop I'd like to see everyone visit is [Sheepgate](#), they have been in the book forever and just appreciate the company so please stop and say "Hi".

We need to start getting ready for next year. If you've run across a stop that looks like a good fit for the book please email me at:

yankeerun@worcesterhog.com

Thanks for your participation!

George
Yankee Run Committee

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Sheldon's Corner

Tail Pipes

You don't have to "measure up" to be a Worcester H.O.G. member, we accept all sizes!

Hello Everyone!

By the time you read this, the 115th Anniversary model year has kicked off. How many American manufacturing companies can you name that have 115 consecutive years under their belt? Probably a few, but what an incredible story *Harley-Davidson Motor Company* has been for the past 115 years.

The dramatization "[Harley and the Davidsons](#)" did an excellent job of familiarizing everyone with the first 30-ish years of Harley-Davidson. Personally, I wanted to see more.

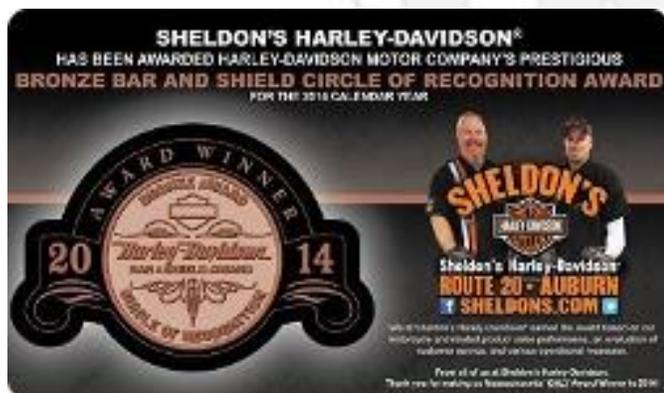
I've worked for "the Motor Company", I've been a customer, and now I own a Dealership with Bryan. It never gets old for me. There is nothing like riding a *Harley-Davidson*. I've ridden several other brands, but nothing compares to a Harley.

Next year there will be a semi-organized ride to [Milwaukee](#) that begins locally in Portland, ME which has an official lunch stop here at our Dealership on August 29th. Bryan and myself will join the group and ride our way to Milwaukee over the following few days. It is an open ride, so if you want a great experience, come ride with us!

Enjoy the rest of the riding season, the best is not yet here.

See you on the road!

Chad & Bryan



Ginny & Ray



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Some candid pics from the 2017 Iron Adventure... See our online photo album for more!

