



Harley Owners Group

Chapter 3811

June 2017

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All of us at Worcester HOG mourn the passing of our dear friend Paul Bacon, yet we celebrate the life of a great man whose passion, integrity, warmth and generosity touched so many. We hope to ride with you again around the stars.



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

Perhaps it was fate that led me to delay writing my newsletter contribution to the very last minute this time around. Words of inspiration seemed lacking. However and sadly, the passing (just yesterday, as I type this) of our very dear friend and brother Paul Bacon inspired me.

Unlike many of you who've known Paul for many, many years, my friendship with him was brief - just a couple of years. But the significance of my friendship with him is not to be measured in time, but rather by depth and respect. You see, it took only minutes into a single conversation to know this man was special, a man of integrity, a man with a relentless work ethic, and a man with seemingly limitless generosity for those around him (humans & animals). I was lucky enough to have several such conversations with Paul and felt truly privileged to call him my friend. While I (and many others) will support his wife and family, I will miss my friend and wish him peace.

My article is not intended to be Paul's obituary, though I'm glad to have the opportunity to share my thoughts about him and acknowledge my respect for him. But his passing reminds me of something my family knows I feel VERY strongly about - the importance of living for today and letting friends and family know how important they are to me. I always say "*I plan for tomorrow, but live for today... NO ONE is promised a tomorrow!*" Social media is filled with quips saying "*Life is short, buy the damned ___*". The blank could be shoes, clothes, car, motorcycle, etc. Or "*Life is short, eat the damned ___*" - cake, pie, cookie, etc.

All of this is relevant in two ways; our riding passion and the notion that we are a Worcester HOG "family".

The phrase "ride and have fun" can sound cliché at times, but it is truly what our chapter is all about. We are ambassadors for Sheldon's Harley-Davidson as a consequence of our riding and camaraderie. We generate business for Sheldon's by wearing-out motorcycles and breaking them because we ride. It is not as our primary purpose, we ride because it is our passion. It makes us feel alive and free! It's how we choose to live life to the fullest and to enjoy the moment. We ride to fill our todays with an experience which energizes us, and with the hope of many tomorrows to do more of the same.

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>
Editor	<i>Andy Foster</i>
Safety Officer	<i>Ken Corey</i>
Photographer	<i>Bruce Smyth</i>
Historian	<i>Paul Gunnerson</i>

Worcester H.O.G Road Captains

Head Road Captain: *Richie Smith*
Assistant Head Road Captain: *Ray Robidoux*

<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*

We frequently refer to our fellow members as *the family* we choose to spend time with, celebrate with, and like now mourn with. In the end, we always seek to do what's best for the chapter, Sheldon's, and (hopefully) find ourselves better and stronger than ever before. These are most certainly my goals, and I would ask everyone to keep this in mind. Let's focus on what matters most and keep things in perspective.

Let's let Paul Bacon's passing remind us (as it did me) of the kind of person we ought to aspire to be and what's truly important. I wish you all many tomorrows and encourage you to embrace your Worcester HOG family, appreciate their differences and share the passion that unites us. Perhaps most importantly, I will conclude with the notion that we love ya' Paul Bacon.

Ken

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Assistant Director

I have been getting questions about the *Iron Adventure Run* so I thought I'd provide an update for quick reference.

One of 16 HOG Rally events this year, the [Iron Adventure of New England](#) will be held at *Loon Mountain* in Lincoln, New Hampshire on July 27, 28 & 29. The Gold Package registration is \$35 per person which includes admission, a shirt, and other trinkets. The Bronze Package is \$20 per person just for the event. Both receive a *surprise gift* if you register prior to June 29. After June 29, only the Bronze Package will be available through July 29. Don't forget, if you are a veteran be sure to register as such and if you need help registering call 1-800-CLUB HOG.

The rooms at the *Loon Mountain* host hotel are sold out, but there are other options available throughout the area with a shuttle bus running between the majority of them and Loon Mountain event center (check out the link below).

There will be 15+ guided rides, many still needing a road captain and/or sweep (directions are provided). There are non-guided rides with directions too. I plan to lead the ride to [Dixville Notch](#) on Saturday 9am - 4pm. Again check out the link below for all the rides currently on the docket.

After a day of riding, relax with biker games, Chinese raffles and nightly entertainment around fire pits and a bonfire. On Saturday night, the band *Déjà Vu* plus fireworks will give us a great send off.

The Iron Adventure will not succeed without many volunteers. As you know, volunteering is a great way to meet people, experience new stuff and share your knowledge and skills. Volunteers are still needed for various venues including registration/check-in, buffet entrance, demo truck, games, leading or sweeping a ride, etc. You can volunteer by contacting *Peter Guillette* via the below link or if the mood hits you while you are there, just let anyone at the event know you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to help out.

For on-line registration, schedule of events, rides and lodging click on this link & sign in:

<https://members.hog.com/website/hog-rallies/hog-rallies.jsp#/hog-iron-adventure-new-england-nh>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Jim



Secretary/Membership

No doubt the 2017 Worcester HOG riding season is well underway. For the most part *Mother Nature* has been cooperating and the fun just keeps on coming. So many choices, so many rides, so many events; where or how does one even start to figure out what to do? Heck, there are simply not enough hours in the day for us working folks!

Membership continues to grow, albeit at a slightly slower rate than we otherwise might want, but we are none the less still very healthy with 160 active members. This does not include the paperwork sitting at Sheldon's requiring my attention. Our meetings remain sharp, focused, on point, fun and filled! We've been averaging 65-70 people per meeting and our new venue continues to be a hit. Know anybody who rides and wants to have fun? Refer a friend! Better yet, if they are not on a Harley send them to Sheldon's. They have a bike for every budget!

Speaking of fun, how about the clarity we got from our officers who attended H.O.T. Training emphasizing the HOG way which is to "ride and have fun". Let us not forget to honor our 2 ½ rules. Does anybody remember them? If not, well, you'll just have to come to the next meeting as we will likely review them at that time.

Just a few *shout outs* to a few people who, without fail, keep us having fun; Bruce Smyth, AWESOME pictures, keep them coming! Richie Smith and the Road Captains/all those who have stepped up to lead rides, WOWZA! Sadly, I am a bit behind on this myself. Ken and Jim are doing all kinds of crazy work behind the scenes and let's not forget Andy Foster, the newsletter and website guru! Well done team, well done! Oh, I almost forgot, and he continues to be creative and informative, our Safety Officer Ken Corey! And speaking of safety, how about the people that just took the Advanced Riders Course. If you haven't, you should. Something you learn could very well save your life!

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

Secretary/Membership Officer

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Ladies of Harley

In April I had the opportunity to attend the Harley Officers Training in Buffalo, NY. It was a wonderful experience that allowed us to meet many officers from around the country and hear what other Chapters are up to! The thing I came away thinking was that HOG is really ALL about riding and having fun! That's it. Ride and have fun.

Those of us who attended came home with energy, enthusiasm, and full of new ideas to make our Chapter more fun and to try some new things. What we heard at HOT was that we should get to know our members better, and have more opportunities for our members to be involved with in the running of our Chapter. The Chapter should revolve around the wants and desires of its members. If people want long rides, we should plan long rides. If people want destination or overnight rides, we should plan those. We should all have a voice in our Chapter and take pride and ownership in it. By getting to know our members better we form stronger relationships and friendships. The more fun we have, the more likely it is that others will want to join us and our Chapter will grow.

After our May meeting we heard some rumblings that people were unhappy with the *potential change* that *may* occur in our Chapter. Without hearing our ideas or giving us a chance to better our Chapter, and with limited information, some were seemingly concerned.

Change can be difficult. Some of us don't like it, but life is not stagnant; there are changes that happen every day. We can't stop change, whether we want it or not. What we *can* control is how we react to change. Let's agree that change can be challenging, it might not be something we like, but can we at least give it a try before we decide it will be bad? It may well be good! We don't know until we try it. Like Mikey in the Life cereal commercial "Try it, you'll like it!"

This week, we lost our beloved brother Paul Bacon. Among the many things I loved about him was his love of life and the passion he embraced life with. I'm hoping we can channel a little "Bacon" as we move forward in our Chapter. Let's ride, have fun, and love every minute of it! Let's embrace the opportunity to change what we do to make our Chapter even better, or at least give it a try!

Karin



From the Editor

Apparently *Mother Nature* was not feeling very well in early spring, I guess even she has off times. As I write this (the day before Mother's Day) I'm still on my first tank of gas, but as I mentioned in my October 2016 article, it's okay... fun times with friends is not always measured by the odometer.

Speaking of fun times, I recollect taking my Dad on some rides before his passing several years ago. You could not have seen a happier man! He waved at everybody including the *too-cools* with the apes and paper mache helmets who never wave back. He loved it, and so did I. Good times.

We all know about wind therapy. My Harley rescued my Dad, at least for a short time, in his need for therapy. I'm glad I figured it out in time. Perhaps there's someone in your life that might benefit from an unexpected Harley experience?

We will miss you, Paul Bacon.

Andy



Safety Officer

Have you ever gotten ready for a Worcester HOG ride only to find out that it was cancelled? You look out the window and wonder *WHY*?

What is important to remember is we charge our Road Captains with the job of making a ride enjoyable while keeping us safe. To that end, they have a lot to consider when deciding if a ride should go on or be cancelled:

- They need to look at the weather at Sheldon's, where they are going, and where people come from. This includes, rain, wind and temperatures.
- What are the conditions going to be when everyone is riding home?
- They also have to consider the road conditions that the ride will be covering.
- What about where we are going, does it have a place to get in from the weather?
- Is it an event that will go on 'rain or shine' or is it a ride that can be postponed to a better day?

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We all, myself included, tend to second guess. Remember that our Road Captains do not take these things lightly and we should support their decisions.

A special *THANK YOU* to all the Road Captains that work so hard and spend so much of their personal time to help us "Ride and Have Fun"... SAFELY!!

Ken

Yankee Run Stop

I hope everyone had a great *Memorial Day* weekend and took the opportunity to remember those who gave us the freedom to enjoy riding the country side with friends.

Book sales are going well. A big thank you to the crew at *Sheldon's Parts Department* for helping with the sales of the Orange fun book. We've given away some nice gift certificates, two per month; Farmington Diner, Rose Garden, Brody's Diner, Coney Island and more to come.

Make sure you reserve the date of the party *with cash prizes*, it's in November this year on the 11th and remember, the Orange Book is your ticket in to a fantastic party with great food, dancing, games and prizes with great friends.

Looks like the weather is finally turning nice for riding, so get out and visit the stops in the New England Yankee Run Book all over New England. If you happen to be doing the [New England Dealer Tour](#) card check the YR Book for stops in the area. Oh, and congratulations to Janice and Dave on their new home for their new motorcycle!

George for the Yankee Run Committee



Sheldon's Corner

Hello Riders!

A lot of "rides" are happening everywhere. I do make time for some rides on occasion, when I'm not totally immersed in running the dealership.

However, I use my Harley mainly for everyday transportation. That way it is special for me to ride every day. I use it to go to the grocery store and to ride to work. My bike has signs of everyday use and it is built to be used

that way.

Transportation was the main reason *Harley-Davidson Motor Company* was created. I get as much enjoyment going to the grocery store, parking my bike on the sidewalk and filling it with groceries, as I do going on an organized ride. I guess what I am saying is, don't be afraid to use your Harley as transportation rather than leave it polished up all week long and only ride it on "rides".

The next time you come into Sheldon's, you will see that many of the employees ride to work and use their bike as transportation. The main investment you made is enjoyment. However, don't forget that your Harley is a very practical vehicle that is built to withstand the same demands as a daily transportation vehicle.

Ride to work... ride *everywhere*!

Chad



Head Road Captain Report

Well it looks like the warmer weather has arrived finally!! It seems we've had more cancelled rides so far this year due to the weather, it will be nice to get back to riding on a consistent basis for sure.

I wanted to congratulate those HOG members who took the Riders course at Sheldon's. It was a long hard day. Who knew just riding in circles and u-turns and quick stops could be so brutal. I am very happy that I signed up for it, and if any of you get the chance to take this course please do. There are things that I feel a lot better about now than I did before.

Our group had all kinds of weather during the course; rain, heat, sun, more rain, etc. Squeezing and pounding on the foot brake with ABS brakes on the wet surface was a trip. I learned my bike will stop in the rain when apply the brakes correctly. You gently squeeze the front brake and slowly on the foot brake at the same time and down shifting as well.

So again congrats all to those who attended the class on Saturday and Sunday, great job, and the instructors did a heck of a job as well to teach these HOGs new tricks.

As for the rides, please keep sending them in and we will get them on the ride calendar ASAP. And for those who are R/Cs

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please keep up the great work in leading our Chapter on some great rides to interesting places, and seeing some of our old friends as well.

Remember ***you don't need to be a Road Captain to LEAD a ride!*** You just need a destination to have some fun. If you have suggestions for rides please e-mail me at headrc@worcesterhog.com and we will see if we can get one of the best RCs around to lead it for you.

So, 'till we meet and ride again I have a few lines to leave with you.....WHO LET THE HOGS OUT!!!!!!

RIDE SAFE HAVE FUN & ALWAYS LOOK TWICE!!

Rich

Tail Pipes

Photos Galore!!

Visit our new [Photo Album](#) and discover the newly added links to *Bruce Smyth's Worcester HOG* photos!

Feel free to view and download your favorites...

Thanks Bruce!!

Congrats to the 2017 CPR Training class:



Walking with the beer goggles is always challenging:



Some of the LOH crew having fun on Safety Saturday 4/8:



Great pic from Mo's Fudge Factor ride on 4/23:



Another great pic from the Thompson FD ride on 5/20:



We hope you are getting the "picture" here. Please visit our [website](#) for a lot more pictures of *Worcester HOGs* having fun!

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