

H.O.G. #4982

Ozark Mountain Chapter

www.ozarkmtnhog.com

2024 Officers

H.O.G. Manager: Nic Lowther

Director: Mike Vennekotter

Assistant Director: Matt Conde

Secretary: Valerie Goodnight

Treasurer: Ramona Conde

Safety Officer: Dwain Wilcox

Head Road Captain: Brent Emerson

Sargeant-At-Arms: Warren McDonald

Activities Officers: Brian & Kathy Harley

Ladie's of Harley Officer: Karen Ryan

Membership Officers: Corey & Nancy Elder

Merchandise Officer: Jeanne Randall

Chaplains: Gregg & Jeanne Randall

Historian: Jon Goodnight

Fundraising Officers: Scott & Kim Krepps

Food Team Officer: Antoinette Heitz

Photographer: TBD

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Vennekotter

Webmaster: Sherry Davis

Sponsoring Dealership

RENEGADE HARLEY-DAVIDSON

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Springfield, MO 65807

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January 2024



Director's Corner- Michael

Welcome to 2024, and, ready or not, welcome to the changes going on within our H.O.G. chapter. First of all, thank you to Warren, Shaun, Jeanne, Marty, Sherry, Lisa, Wayne, and Kasandra for all the hard work and countless volunteer hours they sacrificed to grow our club into what it is today. Fortunately, all those faces will still be around, and we will continue to enjoy celebrating and riding with them.

Looking at the list of Officers on the left margin, you can see that we have expanded our leadership team. We are no longer a small group – we have 165 members on our roster. By increasing our leadership team, we can distribute the work more efficiently and not burden just a handful of volunteers. It will take many hands to grow our club to the next level. If you want to become involved, speak up! There is always room for more at our leadership table.

We have 2 main goals for 2024 – we want to grow our membership to 200 members, and we want to break the 1-million-chapter mile threshold. Both are lofty goals, but both are very achievable. Nic and I are already discussing the “rewards” for our Chapter when we hit those goals – stay tuned for more exciting details.

Remember this:

“Membership has its privileges, but participation has its rewards.”



Assistant Director's Corner- Matt

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, as Ramona and I did. I am looking forward to this new year as the Chapter Assistant Director. I have big shoes to fill and am looking forward to having fun, riding, and getting to know each chapter member better.

Ride Safe



Secretary's Notebook- Valerie

Riding in a Group

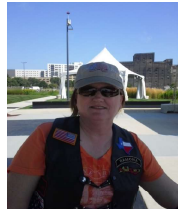
According to the National Safety Council, the deaths have increased by 19%, while death rates have increased 29% over the last 10 years bringing motorcycle fatalities at 30.05 per 100 million vehicle miles. Not to start with such scary statistics, but more the jumping off point for things that every rider should be aware of before joining a group ride. Education and awareness increase everyone's safety. This gives me the opportunity to go back to our own HOG Chapter 2022 Best Group Riding Practices for Members and Ride Leaders. So, if you haven't read it, I highly recommend you dig it out from wherever nook it was stored in and read through it. It reviews everything from learning to ride, planning and leading a ride, through to hand signals and how to ride in a group.

Who you ride with in a group matters. Riding with a group of friends is very different than riding with a group of strangers. This past summer, Jon and I embarked on our first HOG chapter ride, and it was a big one. Over 5,000 miles. There were eight motorcycles and nine people. Other than my husband, we had only met four of the others on the ride. The rest of them, we met at the pre-planning meeting. So, when we embarked on the ride, we were acquaintances...through rainstorms, gravel roads, road construction, and the dreaded U-turns, we became more than friends with all that entails! The point is you must know who you are riding with and what their experience is.

If you are a new rider (Congratulations to you) but get some experience under your wheels before you go on a group ride. It is important that newer riders ride to their own comfort and skill level. That is why most sources recommend having at least 1,000 miles of riding experience before thinking of joining a large group. Newer riders often go slower and fall behind giving openings for allowing cars into the group. Large groups (usually considered >8 bikes) can present difficulties in passing whether it is the group of bikes passing cars or vice versa. Cars sometimes will engage in risky maneuvers to either pass the group or make an exit. That is why it is important to stay together. Large groups do not have the right of way, we are still subject to obey all traffic laws. When leaving stop signs, some groups like to leave in a cluster which could result in a ticket. Left lanes are for passing, not cruising so groups need to not string out, but stay tight, get around traffic, and back in the right lane. Courtesy is also important. Being aware of our surroundings is key. When we take shelter under an awning from a storm, be aware of the businesses that are providing that shelter. Be sure that we are not impeding their operation.

This is why every chapter ride has a ride leader and a sweep. They work together to keep the group together and keep everyone safe. They have a meeting to review the ride with everyone to include the route, planned rest

stops/fuel stops, and overall communication. The main goal is to ride and have fun.



Treasurer's Purse- Ramona

Hi, I am Ramona Conde, your new Treasurer for 2024. I will work closely with Jeanne Randall during this transition as she will continue as the Merchandise Officer. The Chapter ended the year with a little over \$4,000. I look forward to serving you all in this capacity and working with the Ozark Mountain H.O.G. Chapter.

Let's keep riding and having fun!



Safety Corner- Dwain

Happy New Year to one and all!!! Hope everyone has had great holidays the past few months. The weather this time of year has been as usual, unpredictable, some sunny days, some brisk windy days, some rainy days, but regardless of the weather; we ride. So, with that being said, let's use these days to our advantage by preparing our bikes for the upcoming riding season. Lots of shops post good repair deals during this time of year due to a decrease in workload. Use this time to replace tires, fluids, repair leaks, batteries, and don't forget riding gear. Be alert to weather changes and road conditions. Let us all ride safely and defensively. Let us not forget about all the critters this time of year. Also, people use fireplaces more often and smoke covering the road can be just as thick as fog so be sure to maintain safe distances with other vehicles and always leave room for an emergency exit if the need should arise, but let's hope not!!!

Till next month, ride safe and secure and remember to always trust the rubber.

P.S.—if there is a safety topic that you would like to bring to the front line just email me at dwainwilcox@icloud.com or text me at 417-622-2228.



Road Captain's Seat- Brent

Let's Ride!!!

As we eagerly anticipate the commencement of the 2024 riding season, I extend a warm invitation for you to join me in navigating the New Members Orientation and contributing to the planning and organization of safe H.O.G. Chapter rides. Our aim is to expand our community by recruiting and mentoring additional Ride Captains and Ride Leaders, propelling our H.O.G. Chapter towards countless destinations and endless miles across this magnificent nation.

New for 2024.... The Frosty Knuckles Ride Challenge. Beginning today (January 1st through February 29th, the top 3 individuals who ride the most total miles during this period will win a coveted trophy to proudly display. You must register your starting 2024 miles at the dealership and then have your mileage read on/before February 29th. Trophies will be awarded at the March Social Meeting.

Let's embark on this journey together, revel in the joy of riding, and prioritize safety above all.

Tap Rack

Live to Ride, Ride to Live!



Activities Playground- Brian and Kathy Hartley

Brian and I would like you to know how excited we are to be the Activities Officers for the H.O.G. Chapter. We want the events to be fun, encourage riding, and foster community. This means we will need input from you. We welcome ideas and if you think of something that would be fun for the Chapter, please let us know.

Please turn in your 2023 Rider Challenge Books at the Membership Table (January 6th, January 13th) or at the Social Meeting (January 11th). Awards will be given out at the February Social Meeting. New books will also be available at the January Social Meeting. Thank you, Kasandra!

The 2024 Rider Challenge books will be available soon! Books are \$1.00 and will be available at our Chapter Social Gatherings. Get ready to start

earning points for mileage check-ins, chapter rides, chapter events, photo challenges, and more.

January 1, 2024 | Polar Bear Run Meet @ 12:30pm, KSU @ 1:00pm

If you didn't plan to go on the ride and you are reading this before 12:30 New Years Day, it may not be too late for you to join in the fun. Meet at Casey's on West Sunshine across from the Walmart. If you are reading this after participating, thank you for riding with us and get warmed up.

January 6, 2024 | Saturday Scoot Meet @ 9:00 am, KSU @ 9:30 am

Our first Saturday Scoot of 2024 is Saturday, January 6. Meet @ 9:00 am at Renegade's Lower Lot. KSU @ 9:30 am

January 6 - March 30, 2024 | Membership Table 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Every Saturday January thru March we will have a Membership Table setup at Renegade from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

January 11, 2024 | Chapter Social Gathering @ 6:00 pm, Fun/Meeting @ 6:30pm

This year, as in the past, our monthly Chapter Social Gatherings will be held on the second Thursday of each month through November. Meal starts @ 6:00 pm and Fun begins @ 6:30 pm. Join in the fun, win some prizes, get to know your fellow chapter members, and learn about upcoming Chapter Events. Be watching the newsletter and weekly e-blast for the menu, food you can bring, and special theme nights.

January 23, 2024 | Chapter Business Meeting @ 6:30 pm

The Chapter Business Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm in the H.O.G. Room. All are welcome to attend. Come for officer updates and information about upcoming events. If you would like to add an item to the agenda email Valerie at vgnight409@gmail.com.

January 25, 2024 | Service Clinic 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Service Clinic will be at Renegade from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Stop in, get a snack and learn from our experts.

January 28, 2024 | New Member Orientation 1:00 pm

"Brown Bag" your lunch to the New Member Orientation in the H.O.G. Room @ 1:00 pm. New Member group ride to follow (weather permitting). Ride brief @ 2:45 with KSU @ 3:00.

A LOOK AHEAD...Snapshot of February

Coming next month:

February 3 - Saturday Scoot

February 8 - Chapter Social Gathering

February 10 - Renegade Valentine Event

February 13 - Mardi Gras Event

February 15 - Service Clinic - 6:00 - 7:00 "Getting Ready for Spring"

February 25 - New Member Orientation

February 27 - Business Meeting

A Wider View...

Be Thinking how you can participate...

We will have another Chili Cook-Off March 2, 2024!

HOGS for Kids - We are planning to do more baskets this year. We will be collecting non-perishable food items throughout the year and doing more than one fund raiser event, so stay tuned for more exciting news and events.



Ladie's of Harley LOH Corner- Karen

Hi, my name is Karen Ryan. First and foremost, I want to thank Sherry for the work and energy she put into this position over the last couple years. She will be a tough act to follow. Hopefully, I will do half as good as she did! Don't look too closely because I will be punting through as I grow into this position.

If you don't know me here is a short synopsis: Mike and I were members of Kettle Moraine Chapter in Wisconsin until moving to Missouri 9 years ago. I was on the board with the Ozark chapter several years ago as Activities Director and Assistant Director. I look forward to serving again on the board and hopefully bringing some of my experience along with some new ideas. It may take me awhile to get rolling, so be patient.

This year, the dealership has decided to have Saturday Scoot rides every month on the first Saturday. People buy bikes year-round, so let's start those miles rolling and engage new riders from the very get-go.

For January we have the following LOH activities:

January 13, BLING YOUR THING, have a project you want to bling up and reflect your inner bedazzle, 10:00 am – noon in the HOG Room. Please call Valerie Goodnight for questions about the class- 417-861-1114.

January 15, BRUNCH BUNCH, we will meet at the dealership and decide where to go for lunch. Some months we will do activities, depending on the participants. Meet at dealership at 11:00. All are welcome (cages or bikes) for socialization and laughs.



Membership Corner- Cory and Nancy

It's time to **RENEW!** Make sure you renew your chapter membership starting now. You can turn it in at the social meeting or any time we have a membership table set up at Renegade H-D. Remember that everyone, to include spouses not owning their own bike, must also be a National Member to be a Chapter member.

National HOG Membership Anniversaries for January:

Robert A. (1 yr.), Angie A. (1 yr.), Dawn B. (1 yr.), Tim F. (1 yr.), Brian F. (1 yr.), Barbara G. (3 yrs.), Jeffrey G. (4 yrs.), Jon G. (1 yrs.), Valerie G. (1 yrs.), Rick G. (11 yrs.), Doug H. (1 yrs.), Matt K. (1 yrs.), Allen K. (16 yrs.), Lyn L. (3 yrs.), McKenna L. (1 yr.), Will N. (3 yrs.), William R. (1 yr.), Joyce R. (4 yrs.), Christina S. (1 yr.), Robert S. (7 yrs.), Bradley V. (1 yr.), Jackie W. (1 yr.), Dawn A. (2 yrs.), Edward M. (2 yrs.), Tony P. (3 yrs.), Pamela T. (29 yrs.), Malcolm W. (3 yrs.).

Please join me in celebrating the National HOG membership anniversaries of our friends.

Ozark Mountain HOG Chapter is now 165 members strong. It has been exciting to watch our membership grow. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining us, National HOG members may join our local chapter for an annual fee of \$20 per member.

As always, we also welcome everyone to our chapter social meetings, where they can inquire about membership and activities. If you recruit someone be sure to print your name on the back of the application, as well as in your book.



Fundraising Coin Purse- Scott and Kim

Happy New Year! So many exciting things to come. Scott and I will be heading up the fundraising activities this year - there are so many ideas rolling around in our heads. In the past we have been able to provide Thanksgiving meals for 10 families at Cowden Elementary. This year our goal is for 20 families. However, we feel with our amazing chapter we should be able to double that goal. Our hope is to eventually extend this hospitality beyond Thanksgiving meals to other holidays.

To start, we will be doing a food drive all year long. During every HOG social meeting, if you bring non-perishable items, you will receive an extra blue ticket for the gift give-away.

If anyone has any ideas or business contacts for donation purposes, please let us know. Our contact information is kkrepps23@gmail.com (Kim) or slk57jcvk@gmail.com (Scott). Giddy up in '24.....



Chaplain's Meditations - Gregg and Jeanne

Transition & Change

Peace, I leave with you, My peace I give unto you...

John 14:27

Let not your heart be troubled.

John 14:1

Transition and Change surround us constantly and even occur within us. We cannot escape them. Sometimes it's easy to accept transition and change. At other moments we struggle with transition and change. Words like, "*shift, passage, development, transformation, turn, and realignment*" describe transition. Synonyms for change include: "*alteration, variation, vicissitude, diversion, substitution, swerving, deviation, shuffling, fluctuation, wavering, modulation, alternating, exchange, mutation, modification, metamorphosis, transfiguration, adoption, transference, reworking, transmogrification, improvisation, revolution, conversion, regeneration, remodeling, veering, transubstantiation, reformation, revision, rearrangement, enlargement, renewal, removal, reversal, tampering, vacillation, resolution, metastasis, and reorganization.*" Reading these words evoke many thoughts, feelings, and emotions within.

Take the word "**metamorphosis**" for instance. It is the miracle process by which an ugly worm is changed into a beautiful butterfly. Few of us have

ever witnessed that process. A man once found a cocoon and took it home to watch it metamorphosis. There were obviously intense struggles within the cocoon. At times the movement was violent. Tiny muscles pushed bony wings against the confines of the cocoon, total exhaustion brought a deathly stillness. After a short time, the intense struggle would resume. Again, the little bones pushed against the walls of the cocoon. Muscles trembled and all hope seemed lost to death. This observant man, worried by the apparent failure and doom of the newly developing butterfly, took a pair of scissors and snipped the cocoon to release the butterfly. Free at last to fly, the butterfly was able to fly! But the maiden voyage was a total disaster. Too weak to fly it fell to the floor and died. You see, it is the struggle that builds the muscles to flap the wings to do what a butterfly does best...Fly! Like metamorphosis, changes and transitions in life can be beautiful or ugly. They can be exhilarating or painful. They can be challenging or risky. They can be peaceful or cataclysmic. They can be life giving or death taking; thus are the struggles with many transitions and changes surrounding life.

The changes and transitions in our lives are many and continual. In such moments of struggle, allow the words of David to become your counsel. *"Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun"* (Psalms 37:3-6). There is joy, contentment, and peace when you are willing to trust, delight and commit all your ways to Him.

Prayer

Father God, help me to trust you when I am going through challenging changes in my life. Holy Spirit, help me remember that the presence of God is always near me to guide me through all transitions that come my way. As I commit my way to the LORD, may my delight be in You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Food Team Serving Platter- Antoinette

Hi everyone. I am Antoinette, head of the food team. First off, I love to cook so this is my happy place outside of hanging with my hubby or riding my bike. I am planning to have a list of potluck foods for our monthly socials. I will also put the following months' signup out so we can plan ahead. Our next social into the new year is Thursday, January 11, 2024 @ 6pm. The food theme is Mac & Cheese. Get creative with it. Bring your favorite variation of Mac and cheese, sides to go with it, and of course don't forget the dessert! Please let me know what's you're bringing so I can make sure to share with others, so we have a good variety of food. I look forward to seeing all in the new year and the fun rides/events we get to share. My email is antoinettebevington@hotmail.com

For Your Reading Pleasure – Brian Hartley

I.W.T.R.M. (Part 1)

August 5, 2022, wasn't a typical Friday. Most people wake up in anticipation of the nearing weekend. I woke up feeling like someone was standing on my chest. After three hours of failed attempts to ease the discomfort, I decided to get ready for work. I rode my Harley Davidson Softail to the office. I had committed to help clean the office, so I vacuumed from the front to the back of the building and the twelve offices in between.

By now the pain was intense and I felt sick to my stomach. I checked my heart rate, and it was 164 bpm. I took it "easy" at my desk for the next couple of hours. I realized that I was having trouble focusing on my work. After finding that the nearest Urgent Care was only three turns away, I grabbed my helmet and let our office manager know I was headed out and I would be back in little while.

Funny thing, I passed a Springfield Police Motorcycle Officer on my way in and out of this clinic and other than hello never asked for help. This office was closed. So, I needed to find another one but I couldn't remember where the next closest clinic was. I had to break down and call Kathy and ask her to find the next closest one.

I was riding down Kansas Expressway realizing that my mind was not processing things correctly. I found myself speaking aloud the directions and commanding myself to check the mirrors and my surroundings. I made it to Urgent Care and explained my symptoms. Believe it, or not, I did not have to wait to get in even though there were people in the waiting room. It only took a few minutes before they told me they had summoned a new ride for me. It was not a cab, Uber, or Lyft. No, it was the fastest way to the ER...lights flashing and sirens blaring. I had told them I could ride but they had different ideas.

I will never forget the exodus of air from the room when the ER doctor nonchalantly says, "you've had a heart attack." Just as quickly as the air departed, a flood of emotions overwhelmed me. I didn't have time to process what was happening before I was being taken to have a stint put in my heart. When I returned from "dream land" I learned of the 100% blockage in the artery going to my brain. Well, that explains why I could not focus and why I had to speak to myself just to get where I was going.

Now, you are like me thinking boy those were some dumb choices. I know. There were so many times I could have been less stubborn, but I was sure I could power through.

As I began my healing and getting stronger, I told Kathy, "I Want to Ride More." I came out more determined to ride. As soon as the doctor cleared me to ride, I was back on the bike. My first trip was back to St. Louis to see the final game that Adam Wainwright, Yadier Molina and Albert Pujols would play together. Again, I rode to St. Louis the following week for the final game of the regular season.

This lays the foundation for what comes next. I.W.T.R.M - I Want To Ride More...Stay tuned.

**Please email Debbie at Debvenne@yahoo.com if you would like to submit anything for the newsletter!!!
Happy New Year!!**