

---

## Zumbro River Valley H.O.G. Chapter

---

# Wind Noise

---

	Issue No. 1   April 2025	
--	--------------------------	--

---



---

### Spring Into Safety and Adventure

**by David Eberle, Director**

As the last of the Minnesota snow melts away and the roads begin to open up, that unmistakable excitement returns—riding season is finally here! But with spring riding comes a few extra challenges. Slick roads, leftover salt and gravel, and unpredictable weather can catch even the most seasoned riders off guard. Before you hit the throttle, take time to inspect your bike, gear up properly, and ride with extra caution. Let's make safety our first destination this season—because the best rides are the ones we all come home from.

We're kicking things off in style this year with a scenic group ride on April 27th through the stunning Driftless Area along the mighty Mississippi, with a stop for lunch at Bucknuckles Saloon in Alma, WI—a favorite local gem! And that's just the beginning. Over Memorial Day weekend, May 25th - we're thrilled to welcome our sister chapter from Effingham, Illinois for a joint ride—can't wait to meet you all and share the road! With a full calendar of local events, charity rides, and weekend adventures ahead, there's no shortage of chances to connect, ride, and create lasting memories. Whether you're in it for the winding roads or the great company, these rides are about more than just the miles—they're about the bond we share as Harley riders.

Zumbro River Valley H.O.G. is proud to be one of the newest chapters in the region, and we're growing every day. No matter your experience level, if you've got a Harley and a hunger for adventure, you belong with us. We're building a community of riders who support one another and embrace the joy of the open road. If you're looking to ride more, connect more, and be part of something awesome—this is your invitation to join the journey.

**Ride smart, ride safe, and keep the spirit alive—zoom with ZRV!**

---

---

# Catchin' Up

---

## Ride to Eat Recap

In March the group met at Crooked Pint in Rochester for an evening of good food and good company. It was a chilly evening but some hardy souls from the dealership rode their trusty steeds anyway. The group met at Whistle Binkies on the Lake on April 16th..

Future Ride to Eat gatherings will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Next time is May 28<sup>th</sup>. Riding from Back Home Harley, kickstands up at 5:30pm. Headed to Good Sports in St. Charles.



Dinner Crew at Crooked Pint



The brave souls from Back Home H-D



## April Meeting Notes

About 10 people joined us at Back Home Harley-Davidson for our monthly meeting. The big topic of discussion was the announcement of H-D CEO Jochen Zeitz retirement and other changes at the motor company. Mike Hintz has stepped up and volunteered to be our chapter secretary. The group decided to have Ride to Eat on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month starting in May. There was discussion about the content of the newsletter moving forward. It will be a work in progress! Back Home Harley Davidson owner Paul Gutman stopped in and chatted about our sister chapter in Effingham joining us for a ride Memorial Day weekend. Watch Facebook for details. Director Eberle shared his experience from the H.O.G. Chapter leadership meetings in the Twin Cities. Our chapter meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at Back Home Harley-Davidson starting at 10am.

---

---

# Chit Chat From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seat

by Charlie Milligan - Chapter Safety Director

---

*"I'm a gonna raise a fuss, I'm a gonna raise a holler"!!* Thanks to Eddie Cochran for his song *Summertime Blues* for this month's musical intro-or something like that. Yeah, I think we all are ready for some good summertime ridin' weather. We got kinda spoiled with some of the fine weather days we've had for this time of year.

By now, I'm sure many/most have gotten their bikes out. I saw a guy in the parking lot a while back doing turns, stops, and in general just practicing on his bike. I thought it was such a good idea I had to stop and tell him! If you haven't done anything like that, it is a good idea to give it a try. Ya might surprise yourself! How about that NEW bike? Shiny, lots of chrome, fancy paint. Heavier than the last one? Taller than the last one? WAY different than the last one? Better to find out in the parking lot than on the street!

Not only is it a good idea to sharpen your skills, but it may point out some problems with your bike before you hit the road on a trip. How do the brakes work? Any unusual noises or vibrations? You DID check the tires, I'M SURE!! All the lights, signals and indicators work? Got a couple of numbers for ya. Last year in Minnesota, there were 76 motorcycle fatalities. WAY too many. As far as I am concerned, any is too many. So far this year, there have been at least 7 fatalities, too early to do any projections as every year is different.

There are 8.8 million motorcycles registered in the United States. Minnesota has just shy of 210,000. This is DOWN from some 240,000 as of late 2015. California, Texas and Florida have the most as I write this. A very good bit of advice gained from reading about motorcycle accidents and causes is "when worrying about your safety, look first to yourself"! Examine your riding skills, how prepared are you for an emergency? (need some training, I am in contact with the scheduler at RCTC about an experienced rider class just for us) How well do you know your motorcycle? About 1/4 of the motorcycle accidents are single vehicle with the motorcycle colliding with the road or some other fixed object. Then, as is now, the biggest risk in multi-vehicle accidents is another vehicle violating the motorcycle's right of way. A good thing to keep in mind when riding is that no one sees you. The guy making the left hand turn does not see you. The teenager behind you is not aware of you at the stop light. The car pulling out of the side street thinks the road is clear. Eliminating any chance of an accident is probably out of the question, however, training, experience, protective gear, and overall familiarity with riding and your motorcycle can dramatically reduce the chance of, or reduce the severity of an accident.

I must inject a word of caution here. On July 1 of this year, lane filtering and lane splitting MAY become law! Yes, they may as of the status of the law right now. However, there is a movement to repeal this law (HF 663, SF 910). Please contact your legislator and share your opinion!

And above all: *Let's Be Careful Out There!!*

---

---

# Meet a Member

---



## David Eberle

"Wildcat"

Director-Zumbro River Valley  
H.O.G. Chapter

Say hello to David Eberle, better known around the chapter as "Wildcat." David earned his nickname thanks to his spontaneous spirit and offbeat adventures—he's known to jump on his bike at a moment's notice and head off on long-distance rides with no set destination, just the open road and a full tank.

With over 25 years of riding experience under his belt, David currently serves as Director of the Zumbro River Valley H.O.G. Chapter, a role he stepped into shortly after relocating to Rochester a year and a half ago. He's now on his fourth Harley-Davidson—a '23 Street Glide Special he calls Sofie. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, David works as National Sales Manager at Hormel Foods in Austin, MN, overseeing beloved pantry staples like Hormel & Stagg Chili, Hormel Tamales, Herbox Bouillon, and House of Tsang sauces. With more than three decades in consumer goods sales and marketing, he brings both leadership and enthusiasm to everything he does.

David's favorite place to ride? The Driftless Area—especially the stunning stretch along the Mississippi River. For a perfect day ride, he heads down the Great River Road to Galena, IL, which he says offers "unbeatable views and curves that never get old." When he's not out riding, David enjoys spending quality time with his family—his wife Shannon, son James, stepson Greyson, and stepdaughter Lillie, who he's proudly teaching how to ride. Just another way Wildcat is helping build the next generation of Harley enthusiasts.



---

# For more information...

---

## Who are we?

The Zumbro River Valley H.O.G. chapter #5538 was started in October 2024. We are sponsored by Back Home Harley Davidson in Rochester, Minnesota. Our chapter meetings occur monthly on the second Saturday at 10 am.



## Contacts

### By Mail

Back Home Harley Davidson  
Zumbro River Valley H.O.G. Chapter  
7180 US-14  
Rochester, MN 55904

### Director

David Eberle (EBB-urr-lee)  
director.zrvhog@gmail.com

### Assistant & Safety Director

Charlie Milligan  
charlesmilligan@hotmail.com

### Secretary & Wind Noise Editor

Mike Hintz (like hints)  
mikehintz66@gmail.com

Other positions available,  
double signing bonuses now!  
Contact David Eberle :)

## CALENDAR

April 27<sup>th</sup>

Lunch ride to Bucknuckles  
Start at Back Home H-D,  
Kickstands up at 10am

May 10<sup>th</sup>

Chapter meeting 10 am

May 11<sup>th</sup>

Mother's Day

May 24<sup>th</sup>

Saturday Run along the River  
Red Wing to Winona  
Lunch at Mango's

May 28<sup>th</sup>

Ride to Eat night  
Ride to Good Sport Bar & Grill  
St. Charles  
Leave Back Home H-D at 5:30

June 14<sup>th</sup>

Chapter Meeting 10am

Follow us on



**Zumbro River Valley  
H.O.G. Chapter**