
Zumbro River Valley H.O.G. Chapter

Wind Noise

Issue No. 2 | June 2025

Safety, Sunshine & Summer Rides

by David Eberle, Director

Not too long ago, we were all grumbling about the cold, wishing for warmer days and clear roads. Well, the sun answered—and now we find ourselves doing our best to stay cool as the temperatures climb. Remember: stay hydrated, take breaks when needed, and don't push it in the heat. Your safety comes first.

Now that June is here, the ride calendar is heating up right along with the weather. The hills are alive with color (and pollen!), and our schedule is quickly filling with great opportunities to hit the open road. I look forward to riding alongside each of you and making more unforgettable memories with our H.O.G. family.



Let's not forget our core mission: **"Ride and Have Fun!"**

These words are more than a slogan—they're the heart of our Chapter. But to truly live them out, we all need to do our part, especially when it comes to safety.

This month, I want to take a moment to address an important topic: **drinking and riding.**

Yes, we're Harley riders—and the classic image of the rough-and-rowdy biker is well known. But times have changed. Today, we're not just riders—we're smarter, more responsible, and more community-minded than ever. And the statistics speak for themselves:

- **26%** of motorcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2023 were alcohol-impaired (BAC of .08 g/dL or higher).
- **41%** of motorcyclists who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2023 were alcohol-impaired.
- **36%** of all motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2023 were speeding.
- **6,335** motorcyclists were killed in traffic crashes in 2023, representing **15%** of all traffic fatalities—the highest number since at least 1975.

At our Chapter, safety is a top priority. That's why **alcohol is strictly prohibited during any organized ride**, and **anyone who has consumed alcohol before or during a ride will not be permitted to participate**. These guidelines are in place not just to follow best practices, but to protect every one of us on the road.

Now, with that said—**we're all adults**. On some occasions, our rides may conclude at restaurants or venues where alcohol is served. Let me be clear: **once we arrive at the final destination, the official H.O.G. Chapter ride is considered concluded**. If you choose to enjoy a drink at that point, that is your personal decision—but please know that from that moment forward, **you are no longer riding as part of the Chapter event and assume full responsibility for your actions**.

We trust each other to make smart choices. There's nothing wrong with relaxing and enjoying the camaraderie—just be sure it's done responsibly and after the ride is safely complete.

Let's keep making memories on the road—safely, responsibly, and with the full-throttle joy that only our H.O.G. family can deliver.

Ride safe. Ride smart. And always, Ride and Have Fun!

Catchin' Up

Check Out Our New Website!

We're excited to announce the launch of our new Chapter website:

www.zrvhog.com

The site is your one-stop destination for ride calendars, event updates, Chapter news, photos, and member resources. It's mobile-friendly, easy to navigate, and designed to keep you connected with everything happening in our H.O.G. family.

Bookmark it, explore it, and check back often—we'll be updating it regularly.

See you online and on the road!



May Meeting Notes

The meeting came to order around 10 on May 10th. There were 7 (couple of new) members and me- the 2ND CHAIR.

Discussions centered around rides and destinations. The ride on the 24th has taken place and sounds like there was a nice turnout.

Discussions were then about the rides on June 28th and July 26th

Talked about going to Mexican restaurant in Chatfield Time and details can be ironed out at the June meeting on June 14th



We are looking for the following HOG officers:
Membership Officer, Activities Officer, Head Road Captain, Road Captains

We also need your photos and event information, and a "Meet a Member" volunteer!

Email director.zrvhog@gmail.com or mikehintz66@gmail.com

Chit Chat From the 2nd Seat

by Charlie Milligan - Chapter Safety Director

HOWDY HOGERZ' As Eddie Cochran sang in 1958: *Well I'm a-gonna raise a fuss I'm a-gonna raise a hollar, just a workin all summer just to try an earn a dollar!* This may not mean a lot to us but Memorial Day weekend is kinda the start of summer. Along with summer startin, we will be draggin the ol' motorcycles out to start ridin. I know some have already got a good start on puttin some miles on but for many this may be the "opening" day. I attended a drivers training class for "OLDE FARTS" a while back. Granted, it was for cages (cars), but there was lots of information presented that is important to motorcyclists too.

Did you know that 70% of all injury crashes happened on rural roads? The worst times for these crashes was late afternoon and early evening. Both those stats coincide with the areas and times I enjoy riding as I am sure is echoed by many in the club. The primary causes of these crashes were

1. Driver inattention
2. Failure to yield
3. Speed
4. Following too close

The instructor presented THE 5 P'S of DRIVING:

1. **Prepare**-make sure you and your bike/car are ready for the road (check your tire pressures)
2. **Patience**-chill, be cool, whatever you call it, take it easy
3. **Polite**-yield the right-of-way, get there safely
4. **Predict**-look 12-15 seconds in front of you, watch tail/brake lights for possible situations ahead
5. **Prevent**- don't drive aggressively, leave 3-6 seconds between you and the vehicle in front of you, learn counter-steering to avoid objects/situations in the road ahead

S'pose that's about enough for now. I was the safety guy for so long it is hard for me to not pass on tips I come across or learn. Think I could write a book on all I have learned doing this. I am wondering if there is anyone in the class that is/was involved with CPR training or just demonstration and would be willing to give a short demonstration to the club at one of our meetings. Just a thought, no obligation.

TTFN, Charlie **Let's Be Careful Out There!**



Run Along the River Recap

On May 24th, the Zumbro River Valley H.O.G. Chapter embarked on a ride that reminded us all why we fell in love with the open road in the first place. Our "Run Along the River" journey began under clear skies at Back Home Harley-Davidson, with throttles twisting and spirits high.

We rode north on Highway 61 toward Red Wing, carving through rolling hills and hugging the curves of the mighty Mississippi River. Along the way, the landscape opened into a painter's dream—towering bluffs, lush green valleys, and shimmering river bends that seemed to stretch into forever.

Bald eagles soared overhead as we crossed into Wisconsin, where the road whispered stories from the past.

Every turn brought fresh air, scenic overlooks, and the kind of beauty that only the river valley can deliver. It was more than just a ride—it was a moment suspended in motion, where the journey itself was the destination. Our adventure concluded in Winona, MN, where we gathered at Mangos Mexican Grill for good food and even better company. Laughter and camaraderie filled the air, as we shared the day's highlights and made plans for the next escape.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for this unforgettable ride. If you missed it, don't worry—there's plenty more ahead. Check the ride calendar at www.ZRVHOG.com, and come ride with us. And watch out for those dead Tesla's sitting in your lane!

Because out here, where the road meets the river, freedom has a soundtrack—and it rumbles.

Meet a Member



Mike Hintz

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

Hello fellow ZRV H.O.G. members, my name is Mike Hintz, and I am your chapter secretary. You may hear some people call me Henry, it isn't part of my name or anything. It came about because of how many "Mikes" there are in the world! Walk into a crowded room and yell "Mike" and ten guys will say "what?" How many Henrys do you know? I was born in a military hospital in Germany and my mom told me there were 7 Michaels in the nursery!

My wife Molly and I just celebrated our 37th anniversary and live on Lake Zumbro. We have four adult children and 6 grandchildren with number 7 is on the way! We own the Crossroads, Airport View and Kasson License Bureaus and both are still working in the offices, providing all your vehicle registration and driver licensing needs (hint, hint!) I worked at KTTC as a technical director for 26 years. I also was a volunteer firefighter in Stewartville for 22 years. We enjoy traveling and are big Vikings and Wild fans.



My current ride is a 2020 Ultra Limited in zephyr blue, nicknamed "Midnight". I have owned a variety of street bikes over the past 40 years, all bigger bikes starting with a 1977 KZ1000, a couple of Gold Wings, a Victory spaceship, I mean Vision, an Electra-Glide and now my current Ultra. I enjoy riding just to ride, my bike is my car in the nicer months, I ride to work frequently. Sometimes it may take a couple hours to get home after work, nobody says you have to go straight home. Molly and I do like to go on dinner or ice cream runs after work. I enjoy going on longer trips, but don't consider myself an iron butt. Molly and I have taken multi-day trips to South Dakota, Missouri, and Arkansas with our friends and family motorcycle group. We trailer down and do day-trip loops. I'm not a speed nut, the wind in my (lack) of hair, good company, good roads and scenery are what I enjoy!



I am happy that this chapter has started! Looking forward to hanging out with like-minded people who enjoy motorcycling for what it is. Be Safe!

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

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mikehintz66@gmail.com

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

CALENDAR

June 15th
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

June 21st
Travis Donze Memorial Ride
Rochester Eagles Club 9a

June 25th
Ride to Eat-La Cantina Arcos
Leave Back Home H-D @ 530
Dinner at 6:30

June 28th
Backroads to Bucknuckles
Leave Back Home H-D @ 10am

July 12th
Chapter Meeting 10am
Back Home H-D

July 25th
Stewie Cruisers Bike Night
5pm-8:30pm

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H.O.G. Chapter**

Our website is LIVE!! Check it out!!

www.zrvhog.com