



Vee-Twin Rumbblings

Newsletter of the Central Vermont H.O.G. Chapter



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Learn about Lake Willoughby on pages 7-9
- Calendar of Events on pages 10 and 11

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VOLUME 36, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2023



Chapter Director—Jeff Demers

Greetings HOG Members!

“When writing the story of your life, don’t let anyone else hold the pen”. --Harley Davidson

For the September Social, we are planning the annual corn boil and attempt once again to hold Biker Games. We will start the festivities at 6:00. Mark Perry will discuss the upcoming Moose Ride.

Finally, we have had a few more breaks from the rain. Mother Nature (or was it the weather forecasters?) still had a trick or two for us. We

postponed the Poker Run because of expected thunderstorms... turned out to be a nice day. The following day we held the Poker Run and while the day started out as overcast, the afternoon was sunny and hot. The Hungry Bear Bar and Grill in Bradford had a good menu variety; something for everyone.

I’m a bit melancholy about the end of August. However, the riding season is not over! Autumn is often the nicest time of the year with slightly cooler weather, fall foliage, and seasonal foods. We have rides planned for most weekends in September. Stay tuned to the Wilkins Events page, the Central Vermont HOG Facebook site, and the newsworthy emails from Linda.

Is there a ride that you would like to take this fall? Or next year? Did you have a favorite ride from this year or years past? Send us a note at officers@centralvermonthog.com. We are always interested in new ideas and hearing about desires to repeat rides.

We are in the beginning stages of planning for the annual holiday party. We would like to incorporate your thoughts?

“Difficult Roads Often Lead to Beautiful Destinations. Let’s Ride.” – Anonymous

Safe, smooth, and fun riding for all!
Jeff



On the Horizon

Wilkins Harley Davidson:
Family-Owned and Operated Since 1947



WILKINS HARLEY-DAVIDSON

LABOR DAY RIDE & BBQ!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

RIDE STARTING AT 10:30AM
BBQ STARTING AT 12PM

Come celebrate Labor Day with a ride and BBQ! The ride will start and end at the dealership with a BBQ immediately after!

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

SUICIDE AWARENESS RIDE,

SPONSORED BY V-TWIN CRUISERS MC

Guest Speakers including Eleanor Keeler from Ele Keeler Counseling Leaving Wilkins Harley-Davidson at 10 a.m. Sharp for a short 2 hour leisurely ride.

All makes, All models encouraged to attend. Returning back to the dealership for a cook-out during the Wilkins HD Open House.

September is Suicide Awareness Month

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE 1-800-273-TALK1800

PASSION 4 PAWS

WILKINS HARLEY-DAVIDSON CORN ROAST AND SCAVENGER HUNT RIDE TO BENEFIT PASSION FOR PAWS!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

HELP US SUPPORT PASSION FOR PAWS WITH A SCAVENGER HUNT RIDE AND CORN ROAST!

Scavenger hunt stops and instructions will be announced the morning of the ride on our Facebook page at 9:30 AM sharp!

Get as many Scavenger Hunt items done as you can and arrive at the dealership no later than 2PM!

SCAVENGER HUNT WINNERS WILL RECEIVE:

- First place: \$150.00 gift card
- Second place: \$75.00 gift card
- Third place: \$50.00 gift card

**BIKE NIGHT AT
GUSTO'S BAR!**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST | 6-8PM
28 PROSPECT STREET, BARRE, VT

**JOIN US AT GUSTO'S FOR GAMES,
GIVEAWAYS, DRINKS, AND FOOD!**

Gusto's
AMERICA'S CUTE HILL

WILKINS HARLEY-DAVIDSON
HOLDING THE LINE SINCE 1914
HOG CHAPTER #5218

Wilkins Harley-Davidson

TACOS & TRIVIA

Saturday, September 23rd

NOON UNTIL GONE!

Come enjoy **free tacos** from 12PM until they're gone
and while you're here, try your hand at trivia!

WILKINS HARLEY-DAVIDSON
HOLDING THE LINE SINCE 1914
HOG CHAPTER #5218

Check the Wilkins/HOG Chapter events on the calendar on Wilkins website —
you do *not* need to have a Facebook account to see this calendar.
<https://www.wilkinsharley.com/events-calendar-harley-davidson-dealership--xcalendar>

**Please do business with this
sponsor (Chapter member Tom
Moore)!**

**T & T TRUCK
FOR HIRE**

802.224.1360

MONTPELIER, VT

Chapter Social—August 8th

Chapter Director Jeff Demers started off the August Chapter Social with the Pledge of Allegiance. He mentioned some of the upcoming rides, including the Poker Run scheduled for the 26th. The ride leaders were established and the members were asked to suggest restaurants that could be the meeting point for the three groups. The following were suggested: Lost Nation in Morrisville, Toziers in Bethel, Hoagies in Morrisville, and The Hungry Bear in Bradford. The winner of the vote was the Hungry Bear.

Devin Lacasse, Apparel and Licensing Specialist at Wilkins H-D, let us know that there will be ‘Toy Run After Party’ held at Wilkins and that the ride will be ending at Wilkins (unlike previous years). All were encouraged to participate.

Hannah Frigon, Motorcycle Specialist at Wilkins H-D, filled us in on her experience participating in the recent National H-D PanAmerica Walk Around Competition, which started in April and culminated in a final competition in Milwaukee—where she placed second overall. (Mike Grant was in first place). It all began with around 500 people who submitted videos of themselves in a simulated scenario of working with a customer named Terry who is looking at a Pan America. The goal is to help the customer find the right offroading bike. Comparisons were made between the H-D Pan America and similar BMW models. Contestants had zoom calls with the engineers who designed the PanAmerica. The top ten competitors were invited to Milwaukee (the top 2%) - Wilkins had two people in that group! (John Lyon was incredibly pleased to have Wilkins so well-represented!)

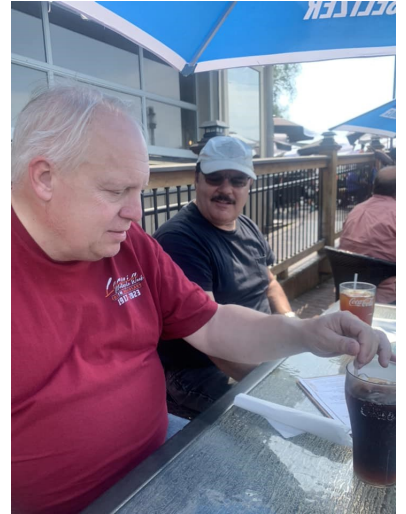
This was Hannah’s first time in Milwaukee. She (and the others) toured the Harley-Davidson University (a resource for sales people and mechanics) and The H-D Museum (where the University headquarters are located). Participants also stayed in Milwaukee for pre-events for the 120th Anniversary. Hannah test-road some bike models she hadn’t tried before.

She explained that the sequence of rounds in the competition were as follows: 1. Qualifying round: submit 2 minute videos of yourself greeting Terry and asking questions to clarify what is being looked for in a bike. 2. Preliminary Round: submit three 2-minute videos, pointing out features and benefits of the bike. 3. Knock Out Round: final walkaround of the bike, explaining details to the potential customer. Scores were given for the video and the competitor had to get a 90+ %. [I hope I got the details right on this. Thanks for sharing with us, Hannah! We all extend our congratulations for your notable success in this competition!]

Door prize winners were Hanna and Jeff. The 50/50 raffle was won by Scott Campbell. There was no winner of the monthly ongoing raffle—as the name drawn was for a member not in attendance.



August 20—Ride to East Side Restaurant
Ride leader: Tony Carrier



Poker Run - August 27
Ride leaders: Jeff Demers, Joel Delary, Trina Delary
Three groups with three different routes—all meeting at The Hungry Bear in Bradford, VT



Learn about a popular Vermont place to ride to: Lake Willoughby

Lake Willoughby is a lake in the town of Westmore in Orleans County in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, United States and is easily accessed on Rte 5A.

The lake's southern end is surrounded by the Willoughby State Forest. This state forest includes Mount Pisgah and Mount Hor, collectively "Willoughby Gap".

Lake Willoughby is a southeast trending basin. Willoughby is a glacial lake that is over 300 feet (91 m) deep in places, making it potentially the deepest lake entirely contained within New England, and second in the area to only Lake Champlain, whose deepest point reaches around 400 feet (120 m). Estimates for the lake's depth range from 300 feet (91 m) on the low end, to as much as 340 feet (100 m) on the high end.

The shoreline of Lake Willoughby almost resembles a Norwegian fjord, and as a result is a popular destination for photographers and tourists. The reason for this unique geology is likely due to the rock between Mount Pisgah on the east and Mount Hor on the west being eroded by an ancient valley ice lobe. This ice flow cut across the Willoughby granodiorite and adjacent metamorphic rocks. The ice flow may have exploited highly fractured bedrock along the margin of the Willoughby pluton or joint surfaces within the pluton.

Willoughby is listed as a National Natural Landmark. Willoughby contains rainbow trout (wild and stocked), lake trout, land-locked Atlantic salmon (mainly stocked), rainbow smelt, burbot, yellow perch, longnose sucker, white sucker, lake chub, common shiner, and round whitefish which is a native species of extremely limited distribution in Vermont. Steelhead trout (rainbow trout) are not native to the region, but were imported to Lake Memphremagog from the Pacific Northwest. They migrate up the Barton River and Willoughby River to the lake to spawn.

The sheer cliffs of Mount Pisgah and Mount Hor provide an environment conducive for arctic and cliff-alpine plants, as well as ideal nesting areas for the rare peregrine falcon.

More than 100 bird species have been recorded around the lake including thrushes, warblers, hummingbirds, jays, finches, loons, herons, and gulls.

Tiny steam boats operated on the lake for tourists from 1884 to the early 1900s when steam was replaced by the gasoline engine.

Devil's Rock, located on the Mount Pisgah side of the lake at a less than halfway point from the lake's southern beach, is a popular diving spot for daring locals and vacationers. It takes its name from a painted image of a devil on the front of the rock facing out toward the lake. It is also called Devil's Rock because when reflected in still water, the image of a skull lying on its side can be seen.

History of two Lake Willoughby properties, Sunset View and the Boulders Casino written by Harriet Fisher for Vermonter.com

Elmer Darling, a man from Burke who had become wealthy as proprietor of the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City, owned two cottages at the bend of the road near the south end of Willoughby Lake. In 1914, Darling, a public-spirited man, turned the cottage now known as **Sunset View** over to the Lyndonville **Village Improvement Society (VIS)**, rent free. It was to be used as a tearoom to raise funds for maintenance of the several parks in Lyndonville. Darling retained one cottage, Cragmere, for his own use. Later he improved the Tea Room by adding paneling and a fireplace.

The Boulders Dance Casino at Lake Willoughby

In 1921 Mr. Darling built **The Boulders** dance casino which he also turned over to the VIS rent free for fund-raising. A group from Orleans played there once a week for a few seasons. Harold Domina played trumpet; Philip Moulton, violin; Sadie Lothrop (later married to Domina) played piano; and Frank Clifford played drums. Sometimes Red Shepard joined with his trombone.

The VIS opening dance on Tuesday, August 3, 1921, in the new Casino was a huge success, with 475 people attending. The gaily lit buildings, and the moonlight shining through the trees and on the water, helped make the evening memorable. Dr. F.H. Davis, on behalf of the Society, expressed appreciation to Mr. Darling for his "kind act." Mr. Darling told about building the Casino and said he was pleased to see the opening event so successful. The grand march was led by Mr. Darling with Mrs. F.H. Davis, the president of the VIS. "Henault's [seven-piece] orchestra was the motive power for a good program of popular waltzes, fox trots, and one-steps, which lasted till one o'clock. Old, young, and middle-aged were present," reported the VIS.

The Boulders Tea Room

In those days there was no generation gap at dances. During intermission ice cream, soft drinks, and other foods were served from The Boulders Tea Room, which was connected to the Casino by a covered boardwalk. Car parking at the end of the lake was "excellently handled," said the VIS report, by John Stafford, Willis Blake, and James Shiletto. The floor manager was F.J. Willey, "always efficient and equal to the occasion."

Two VIS couples took charge of the dance each week, under a schedule that covered the whole season, June 1 to August 31. The VIS ran dances twice a week; Henault's orchestra played on Tuesday evenings, and the New Harmony orchestra on Fridays. Some of the other musical groups that swung the dancers through their paces over the years were The Black and White Orchestra, Toole's Orchestra, H. Guy Dunbar's Band, and the Royal Ambassadors

During one of its earlier years the Casino earned a profit of \$1,223.28; the Tea Room earned \$132.72. One year the two enterprises netted the VIS (Village Improvement Society) \$5,892. After 1926 when both facilities lost money, Mr. Darling recommended that the Casino and The Boulders Tea Room be leased to one person. A 1929 VIS report tells of hiring Frank Scribner of Miami, Florida, "one of the popular young men who was at The Boulders last year and who is familiar with the work." Also mentioned for a couple of years was Earl Davis, also of Miami. When Mr. Darling died in 1931, the VIS involvement at Willoughby Lake ended.

The Boulders Tea Room and Casino

David I. ("D.I.") Grapes of Lyndonville bought The Boulders Tea Room and Casino in 1935 and started developing the property. He acquired or built cottages across the road until there were 14 in all. He built a restaurant under the dance hall. To do this, the builders had to blast rock out from under the dance hall—a delicate procedure. Mr. Grapes died in 1943 and ownership passed to his son Clarence. Clarence was no stranger to furnishing amusement for people. He had, among other things, operated the Sunset miniature golf course, the Sunset bowling alley, and the Sunset ballroom, all in Lyndonville.

In addition to renting out the cottages, he offered a dining room, a gift shop, a tennis court, a dairy bar on the beach, and a croquet ground. Guests could play shuffleboard, pool, ping-pong, and other games. They could fish, hike, take a boat ride, attend The Boulders Theater, or just lounge around and read or rest. Swings were added for children's amusement. Clarence was also head chef. Elmer Darling had designed a boat, the Burklyn, named for his mansion on the Burke-Lyndon town line near East Burke. This motor launch was built for him in 1910 in Canton, Ohio, and shipped to a local station by rail and then by horses to Willoughby Lake.

The Mountain Maid

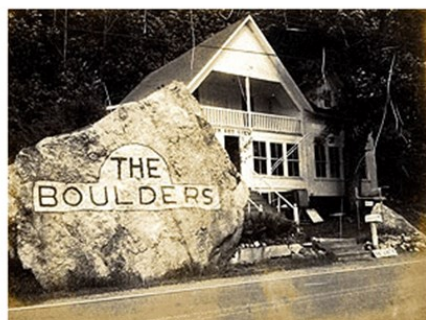
This 35-foot Mathews Day Cruiser was made of oak and mahogany, with brass fittings, and cupboards with etched glass doors. It was one of the first motor launches on the lake. D.I. Grapes' 1935 purchase of the Darling property included this launch. It was refitted with a fine Chrysler marine engine and renamed Mountain Maid. It was operated as a passenger boat for the enjoyment of the public. For a time, a young attractive girl called the "Mountain Maid" pointed out the rock "pictures" on Mt. Pisgah and Mt. Hor, and such places as Smugglers' Cave and Devil's Rock. Who was this Mountain Maid? No identification for the young woman is available. Later Clarence Grapes operated the boat himself, and for the enjoyment of his passengers, pointed out the "pictures" and related the history of how the lake was formed.



The Boulders Dance Hall 2006



View to the south 2006



"The Boulders" in it's glory days



Autumn 2006

Clarence died in 1969 and the property was eventually purchased by Ernest Robie of Bristol, New Hampshire. In 1975 two college students purchased the Mountain Maid, then in a somewhat dilapidated condition. The young men moved it to the Shelburne Shipyard where they hoped to restore it for use on Lake Champlain. In 1979 a courageous couple attempted to bring The Boulders back to life. Bruce and Mary Jo Scott of East Ryegate leased The Boulders and its furnishings with an option to buy from Ernest Robie. The Scotts and their three children, Christopher, Tonya, and Gregory, moved into the former Tea Room cottage now called Sunset View.

The Scotts spruced up the cottages in anticipation of receiving guests. Mary Jo “found all the charm and idiosyncrasies of the place,” and it was like “embarking on a veritable treasure hunt each morning,” she said. The Scotts wanted to restore the dance hall and offer dances two or three times a week. Despite its deteriorated state, they had confidence in the hall’s superior construction. They also hoped to show movies, open a coffee shop, a gift shop, and perhaps the game room for rainy days. They even hoped to reopen the restaurant, which was finished in wood similar to that in the dance hall above it. The gigantic mirror with its light fixtures shaded by stained-glass globes was still there. The large painting of Willoughby Lake by W.E. Snay still hung on the wall. Mary Jo was intrigued with the restaurant kitchen floor, which had been built at various levels to accommodate the ledges beneath. However, even courage, hard work, and faith proved to be unequal to the task.

The place had been allowed to go downhill for too long; the buildings had severely deteriorated. The Scotts were defeated by insurmountable governmental regulations, expensive repairs, and unexpected negative discoveries, such as the hole in the wall of the dance hall where a boulder had hurtled down from Mt. Pisgah, probably during a heavy rainstorm. The place was called The Boulders, to be sure, but the Scotts preferred that the boulders stay outside.



The Scotts had been drawn to Willoughby Lake by childhood memories and the magnetic beauty of the lake and mountains. They had honeymooned at the lake, and in later years had brought their children there for vacations. Perhaps these factors contributed to their case of “owner-itis”—dreams of what a place could be and memories of what it once was. The Scotts did not pick up their option, and The Boulders property went back to Robie.

The Scotts were disappointed but were not sorry they had tried. The venture had gained them new friends; they also had learned a lot about property management. They concluded the “adventure” had been “a unique and extraordinary vacation.” Now all the buildings have been sold off except two: the former Boulders Tea Room (Sunset View) and the Casino. The Casino is a reminder to those who can still remember dancing at The Boulders.

The Mountain Maid remains in dry dock at Shelburne Shipyard.

Calendar of Events for 2023—all rides & events are subject to change

This is a 'work in progress' - details and new events will be added as they are available

(Note: destination rides indicate the chapter ride ends at the destination)

*nonmembers will need to complete a release form for rides

Central Vermont HOG Chapter Socials, events, and rides (In blue)

Wilkins Harley-Davidson Events (In red)

Non-HOG/non-Wilkins rides/events (In black)

September

Saturday the 2nd Wilkins event: Labor Day Ride and BBQ Group ride starting at 10:30 a.m. BBQ starting at noon.

Saturday-Monday the 2nd-4th. Central Vermont HOG Chapter overnight ride to Beach Plum-Bentley's-Kennebunk-Laconia (two nights) Justen Elliott, ride leader. Complete details to follow—here are the basics: Ride starts from Jiffy Mart Bradford, VT Rt 5 & 25 Kick Stands up 8:45 AM SHARP, please arrive 15 minutes early. Ride will head to the coastline of NH with a stop at Seacoast HD, lunch at The Beach Plum on LaFayette Rd in Portsmouth, NH. The return route will take us to Weirs Beach Kellerhaus to build our own ice cream sundaes. From there we head to our hotel, Eastern Inn & Suites in N. Conway, NH—two overnights. Sunday, we will ride to Bentley's Saloon in Arundel for lunch, continue up the Maine coastline, to Walker's Point The Bush Compound in Kennebunkport, Fort Williams Park, and a few other sites, returning to North Conway for the night. Monday, we will ride through northern NH and VT with a stop at April's Maple, then on to St. J where the ride will end. Participants are welcome to come for the day ride, for just one night at the motel or 2 nights at the motel — take your choice.

Saturday the 9th Wilkins Open House event with Suicide Awareness Ride - Group ride leaving Wilkins at 10 a.m. Returning to the dealership for a cookout during the Wilkins HD Open House.

Saturday the 9th. Central Vermont HOG Chapter ride with Brandywine HOG. Joel DeLary, ride leader. Details to be shared via email.

Tuesday the 12th Central Vermont HOG Chapter Social 6:00 p.m. at Wilkins Pot luck with our annual corn boil. (Hopefully) we will be able to do Biker Games! Bring something to share for dinner.

Saturday the 16th Wilkins event: Corn Roast and Scavenger Hunt Ride to Benefit Passion for Paws. Scavenger hunt stops and instructions will be announced on Facebook at 9:30 a.m. on the 16th. Gather as many Scavenger Hunt items as possible and arrive at Wilkins no later than 2 p.m. Prizes will be awarded.

Thursday the 21st Wilkins Bike Night at Gustos, Barre, VT. 6-8 p.m.

Saturday the 23rd Wilkins event: Tacos & Trivia Tacos available from noon until they are gone! Try your hand at trivia while you are there!

Sunday the 24th Annual Moose Foundation Ride. Meet at Truth Performance in Essex at 9:30. The ride begins at 10:30. Donations happily accepted!!

Saturday the 30th Central Vermont HOG Chapter Kancamagus Highway/Foliage ride. Trina DeLary, ride leader. Details to follow.

October

Saturday the 7th Wilkins event: Zombie Run! 11 a.m.

Tuesday the 10th Central Vermont HOG Chapter Social 6:30 p.m. at Wilkins

Saturday the 14th Wilkins event: Biketoberfest 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beers, brats, games and prizes.

Saturday the 28th Wilkins event: Halloween Party 10 a.m. to noon.

November

Tuesday the 14th Central Vermont HOG Chapter Social 6:30 p.m. at Wilkins

December

TBD Chapter Holiday Party

Central Vermont Harley Owners Group

Sponsoring Dealership: **Wilkins Harley-Davidson, Inc.**

663 South Barre Road

Barre, VT 05641

802-476-6104

<http://www.wilkinsharley.com>

E-mail: Info@wilkinsharley.com

Chapter Meetings: **Second Tuesday of Each Month (except December)**

Usually at Wilkins Harley Davidson, Inc.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m.