



ADK HOG  
From the Director's Desk  
By Art Persons

*Adirondack HOG is sponsored by...*

**McDermott's**  
**Harley-Davidson**

CHECK OUT KARA'S CORNER! FOR DEALER NEWS.....

We'd like to wish a very special Happy Birthday to our very own Tom McDermott!



Hello ADK HOG! Spring will officially be here next week. The days will be longer with the time change. A sure sign of spring is McDermott's Cabin Fever Party. If we don't have any more freak snowstorms, maybe we can ride to Cabin Fever! The Chapter is planning a LOH Bake Sale, membership drive, Quilt raffle ticket sales, Ride 365 registration, & lots of other stuff. Come hang out & have a good time!

**Let's Ride!**



Ride 365 is a new HOG Member Mileage Recognition Program. You have to enroll with your dealer. HOG is giving out prizes for different categories. There are prizes for individual mileages, chapter mileages, & other stuff, so sign up before your riding season starts. Alise M. will need your vin # & current mileage for each bike you ride. You will be able to keep track of lifetime mileage as well as Ride 365 @ HOG.COM. Report your mileages to Alise monthly to keep our Chapter mileages updated & have fun!

At our Feb. meeting, we had some good discussions about membership renewals, rider safety training, & our Christmas & Awards Party. A committee is being formed to work on the Christmas Party. One thing we discussed is holding a membership renewal party at one of McDermott's Events in Dec. to help get renewals done in a timely manner.

The LOH Bike Blessing is coming up in Apr. as well as the start of our chapter mileage contest. More & more events are being announced for the Iron Adventure and the HD 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Registration for both events is now open, check it out at hog.com.

Dream about riding & having fun, Art P.

## Events and Activities

by Donna Persons

### UPCOMING EVENTS & BRUNCHES:

- **Sun., Apr. 22- 11am -LAST BRUNCH UNTIL NOV.!**  
Ambrosia Diner, Northway Exit 19
- **Don't forget the quilt Raffle!** \$5.00 per ticket and all proceeds go to support the Christmas families.

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in the Cabin Fever Party!



- **April Birthdays**
  - LouAnn Bala
  - Art Persons
  - Wanda Rouley
  - Emmett Bailey
  - Jill Sica Hunt
  - Tom McDermott (pictured below)
- **May Birthdays**
  - Daniel Boyce
  - Terry Fisher
  - Tina Gibbs
  - Elise Innett
  - Mike Mcguinness
- **June Birthdays**
  - Dottie Smith
  - Mickey Spiak
  - Norm Staalesen
  - Joseph Jazwinski
  - Debbie Harrington
  - Jerry Harrington
  - Dane Axen

*If you do not see your birthday here we may not have that information from your membership form or we may have missed you inadvertently. If you would like to be included in these announcements please let us know.*



## Assistant Director and Safety Officer

by Brian Irwin



Fellow H.O.G Riders,

Once again, I find myself typing a letter about getting on my motorcycle for an amazing season of riding, and the snow is falling outside! Really starting to believe Mother Nature is bi-polar!

In the spirit of maintaining a positive outlook, here we go. When (not if) the weather improves enough for us to get riding, I would recommend everyone remember it has been about six months since other vehicles on the road have even thought about looking for you. Watch the road conditions and more important, watch for drivers not watching for you. Always ride like you are

invisible to rest of the world.

I would like to review a few things that I hope will make all of our group riding experiences more fun while keeping us all as safe as possible. Firstly, in order to decrease some liability to our club, all road captains will be taking a moment at the start of each ride to make sure everyone is on a sign in sheet and give a short safety brief. Any riders who are not active club members or who have not submitted the annual enrollment and release form **MUST** sign a waiver form for every ride they attend whether they are drivers or passengers.

H.O.G provides each chapter with guidelines that we need to follow when on our group rides which I will cover in this month's safety section. Please bear with me, as much of this may seem like basic stuff if you have been riding in our group for a while, but, the basics need to be refreshed regularly in order to remain the basics.

### **Road Rules - Group riding**

Adirondack H.O.G 3220 group sanctioned rides use a staggered formation. We never ride side-by-side but rather in a formation that alternates riding in the left and right road tracks in single lanes. This allows riders the full use of the road without concern that another rider may be occupying the space to their side. Our lead Road Captain always rides in the left track to assure better visibility of the road and following group which will allow the group to see the traveled lane as well as the oncoming traffic.

Use a two second rule for following distance from the bike directly in front of you in the same track. You can determine your proper spacing (following distance) by picking a stripe in the road or other stationary landmark and counting two seconds from when the bike in front of you passes the object until when you cross that marker. One method of counting is to begin counting: "One-thousand-one" when the bike in front of you crosses your marker, "One-thousand-two." This allows for two seconds after the marker. The bike in front of you in the opposite track should be one second in front of you and the bike in the opposite track behind you should be one second behind you. Obviously, this rule is a guideline depending on many factors. If we are traveling at highway speeds, our spacing will be a bit greater than traveling in bumper to bumper city traffic. Use good judgement and common sense. Don't forget, if you leave enough room for a car to cut through our group, that is exactly what will happen.

If a rider knows they will be leaving the group, they should fall in toward the back of the group but in front of the tail road captain (sweeper), making sure to let the sweeper know they will be leaving the ride and peel off when leaving giving the thumbs up. Should a rider leave from the middle of the group and we are at or approaching a

stop signal, we can simply move up to fill in the vacated spot within the same track. If we are rolling on with no upcoming stop, fill the open spot by crossing over into the other track, making sure you communicate your actions with the rider behind you before moving over and don't forget that head check for your blind spot. By doing this, we are not passing the rider staggered to our front who may not have seen the rider leave the group. Keep in mind, some states do not allow riders to pass other riders in the opposite track.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Lead Road Captain**

The lead road captain is the leader of the ride. As the leader, they are responsible for setting the ride pace, which will be determined based on posted speed limits, road conditions, rider skill levels, weather conditions, number of bikes in the group, and traffic conditions just to name a few. The leader will set a slow initial pace after any stop to prevent an "accordion" effect of the group. Once the group is rolling in normal staggered formation, the leader may increase speed to a safe pace. The leader determines the lane of travel on a multiple lane highway. The leader is responsible for signaling all lane changes. The leader will execute lane changes with the assistance of the sweeper. When the leader signals for a lane change, it does **NOT** mean to immediately make a move in any direction. This is just the leader signaling his intent so everyone knows what will occur when he initiates a lane change. The leader will initiate the appropriate hand signal and turn signal which is passed back by the group so that the sweeper receives the signal and initiates securing the desired lane. The leader waits until the sweeper has moved into the desired lane securing it for travel by the group. When the lane is secure the leader will initiate his move to the secured lane. It is important that all the riders in the group wait to initiate their move until the bike in the opposite track immediately in front initiates their move first.

### **Tail Road Captain (Sweeper)**

The sweeper will be the last rider in the group. The sweeper may use any portion of the lane in order to be the most visible to the leader and maintain the best vantage point for any potential problems that may arise with the group. The sweeper is responsible for and will provide assistance to any rider that encounters problems and has to either slow or stop. The sweeper will have a cellular phone, small first aid kit, reflective vest to assist with any emergency, and knowledge of the next stop location if the group must continue on due to traffic safety issues.

### **Participating in the Group Ride**

- All riders are responsible for their own safety and must ride in a safe manner. Always perform a head check before changing lanes, passing, turning etc.
- Everyone must obey all speed and traffic laws at all times.
- Everyone is responsible for knowing all of the hand signals and for passing all signals back to the bikes behind them.
- All riders are expected to make sure their bike is in a safe operating condition, has a FULL tank of gas before the ride begins, and is ready to go. Performing a T-Clock inspection helps determine bike condition; "Tires, Controls, Lights, Oil, Chassis and Kickstand".
- All riders are responsible to signal the sweeper if they decide to leave the ride for any reason by waving good-bye or giving the thumbs up to indicate you are just leaving and are not in trouble.
- Turn off all spot lights except for the sweeper to help visibility of the sweeper for the leader.
- Consuming alcohol beverages before or during a H.O.G ride is not allowed. If you do, you will not be allowed to continue with the group.
- All rides end at a destination.
- Let a Road Captain know if you need assistance getting back. No one will be left stranded and have to fend for themselves.
- Rest stops will be varied but should not exceed one and one-half hours of riding between each. If you have any special needs, let the Road Captain know.
- If you have questions ask them. Your Road Captains cannot help you and cannot take corrective action if they don't know there is a problem.

## Hand Signals (Assistant Director and Safety Officer cont)

### Slow Down

The leader extends his arm straight with his palm side down and motions down to his side lifting and lowering his hand like patting something to signal to lower the group speed without coming to a stop. This generally is done to prepare the group for an area that is marked for a lower speed than the group is traveling or for another safety reason such as negotiating a slow curve.

### Speed Up (*Mike's favorite*)

The leader extends his arm straight out with his palm facing up and swings it forward to signal to speed up the pace of the group. Riders should accelerate smoothly up to the pace set by the leader while maintaining a proper interval.

### Stop

The leader signals the group to come to a stop by extending his left arm downward with the palm of their hand facing the group. The leader uses this signal in sufficient time to allow the group to make a smooth stop. Generally, this signal will be used at traffic lights, stop signs, or flag persons.

### Single File

When the leader extends his left arm straight up with the index finger pointing upwards, this indicates that there is some potential hazard in the path of travel that would be unsafe to pass in staggered formation. It is imperative that the group falls in directly behind and follows the leader in single file. The group should remain in single file until directed otherwise by the leader. While riding in the same track as the bike in front of you don't forget to maintain the two second spacing.

### Left Turn

When approaching a left turn the leader extends their left arm straight out, also signaling with the bikes left turn signal.

### Right Turn

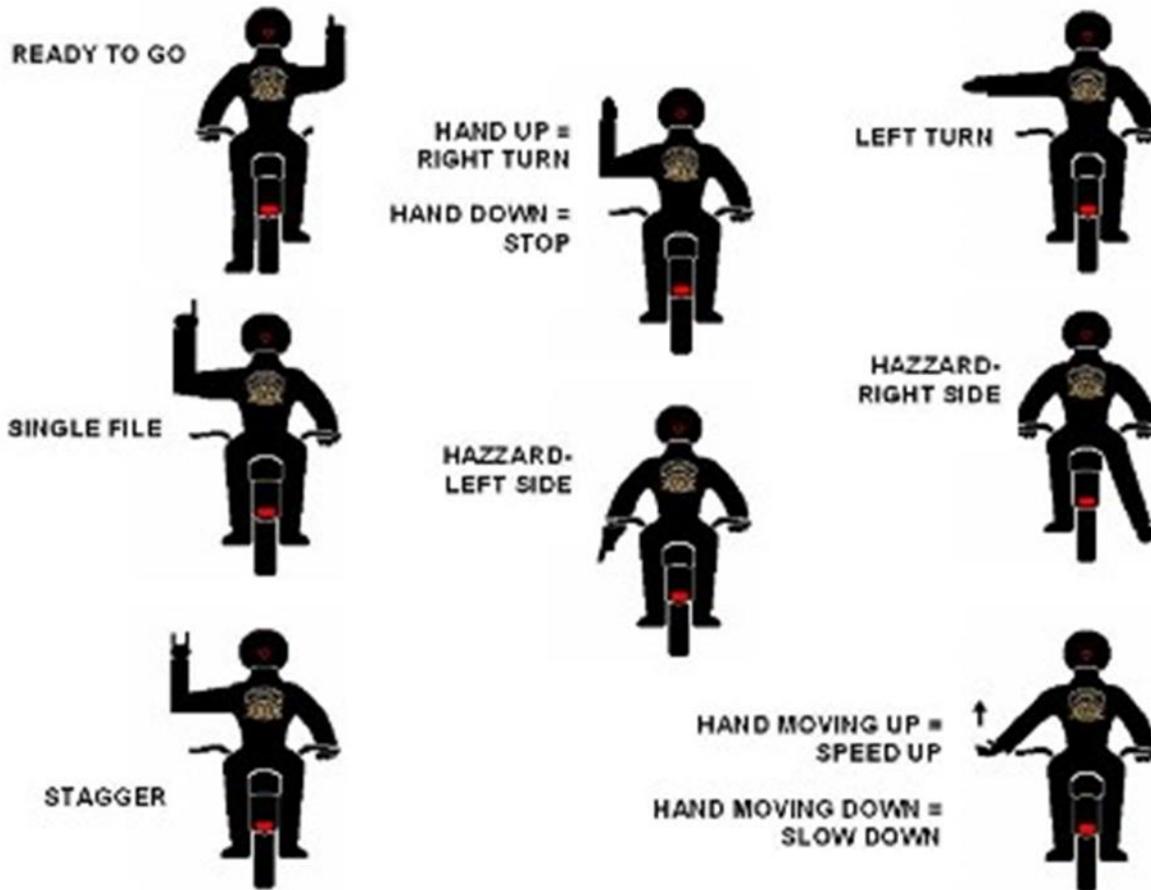
When approaching a right turn the leader extends their left arm out with the forearm pointing upwards at a 90-degree at the elbow. It will be done with a closed hand such that it is not confused for the single file signal and will also signal with the bikes right turn signal.

### Road Hazzard

When approaching a hazard in the road you should point the object out using your hand pointed downward in the direction of the hazard at a 45-degree angle. Use extreme caution if using your leg to point out a hazard as this technique could destabilize your motorcycle.

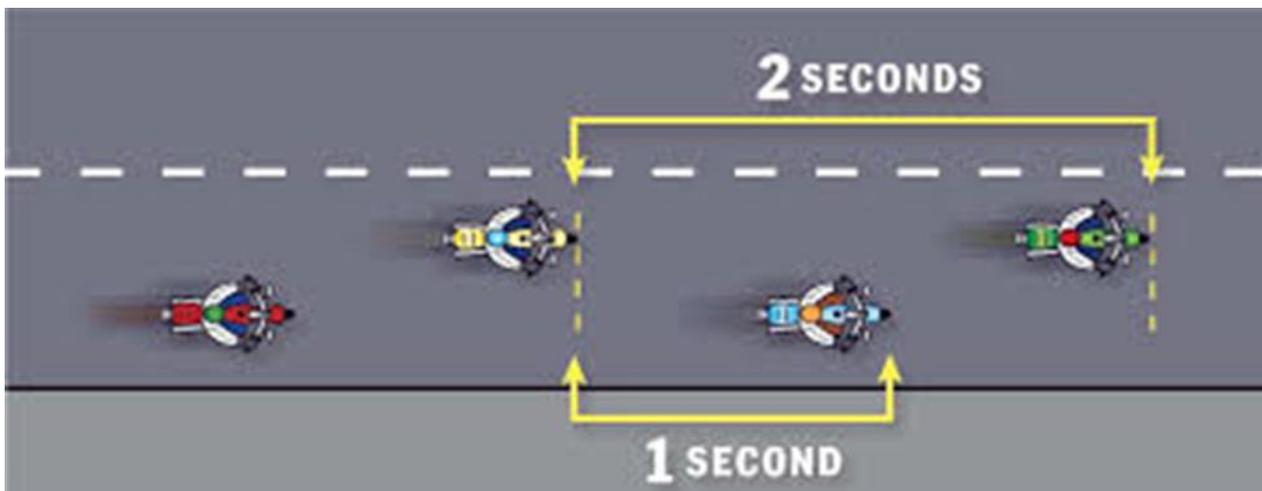
### Group Parking

When entering a stop location, the leader will identify a location large enough for all motorcycles to park in close proximity if possible. Ideally, we will maintain our formation, however, if required, we may need to stop and back in to have sufficient space. Be patient and allow time for the rider in front of you to safely stop and back in before proceeding by them.



### Staggered Formation

This signal indicates that it is safe for the group to resume riding in staggered formation after being in single file. When making this transition, be sure to allow the proper following distances and spacing. One and two second rule. This signal is made by lifting the left arm straight up and lifting index and pinky fingers straight up.



Thank you,  
 Brian Irwin  
 Your Assistant Director & Safety Officer  
 hog3220@gmail.com

## Head Road Captain and Historian

by Mike Bala

Well Bike Week has come and gone and here we sit waiting for riding season to start in the Northeast. So here is a look back at riding in warmer temps with friends....



Left: You can't do Daytona without riding the Loop. The Loop is a 33.98-mile scenic canopied road and a must do in both directions. To learn more: <https://www.daytonabeach.com/things-to-do/attractions/loop/>

Middle: We also enjoyed a meal at the Conch House Restaurant in St. Augustine, Florida- a new find for us thanks to George Pena. Great service and the best Mahi LouAnn has ever had! <http://conch-house.com/restaurant/>

Right: Stopped at Crabby Joe's for a "bite" to eat.....Guess who took on this beast of a burger?? Its known as the Crabby Joe Challenge, you'll have to ask Norm Staalesen how it was!

Bottom pics: Broken Spokes Saloon. Can't get enough of those free concerts during bike week. One of our favorites Hair Ball! Hair Ball is a rock and roll experience you will never forget- and yes, that is what it says on their website. It's the best two hours of your favorite rock and roll artists. Check them out here <http://www.hairballonline.com/news/>

A trip to Daytona is never complete without a trip to the Daytona Speedway. This time we watched Flat Track Racing.



Don't Forget the Bike Blessing Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at McDermott's Harley Davidson in Fort Ann. Check the calendar and facebook page for upcoming details on times. Hope to see you there. Make sure you have signed up for Ride 365 and get your mileage to Alise McDermott asap!

For historian this year I decided to try something new. I thought it might be nice to learn a little history about our members...

This month we are featuring **Jill Sica**.



**When did you first ride a motorcycle?** This will be my third riding season.

**When did you join HOG and which chapters have you belonged to?** Joined HOG in November 2017 and this has been the only chapter I have ever belonged to.

**What was your favorite ride?** the ride back from Laconia taking back roads.

**What was your first bike?** a 2007 XL883 Sportster- aka Daisy!

**How many miles do you ride in a year?** Last year, I put on 3500 miles. This year I would like to have at least 6000!

**Tip for Members:** Be safe, be kind and have a blast!

Are you interested in being featured in next month's issue? Contact Mike Bala.



## Kara's Corner

by Kara Woomer

**May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am! Sponsored by McDermott's Harley Davidson. Join us for the spring kick off! It's our first ever Toys for Tots Ride! \$20 donation per person! Register Early at McDermott's Harley-Davidson!**

More Dealer Happenings....

Sat., Apr. 28- LOH Bike Blessing & 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House-Sell Your Own Bike Day

May 12, ADXMX- 12 noon. Join McDermott's HD at ADK MX on May 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have all new motorcycles, Learn to Ride info and you can try our JumpStart (motorcycle simulator)

May 19<sup>th</sup> -October 20<sup>th</sup>- Coffee and Motorcycles -Third Saturday of every moth-networking opportunity with other riders. Bring your vintage bikes, custom builds, your brand-new ride, whatever you got- come join us for coffee and conversation.

## Lou's News! Website and Newsletter Editor

by LouAnn Bala

ADKHOG.com is up and running. All events will be updated on the website and newsletter as they are made available. If you have an event you would like to include, please let me know by email [balalouann@gmail.com](mailto:balalouann@gmail.com), facebook messenger or texting 518-321-2056. Anyone interested in submitting articles, or who would like to help with the website, please let me know! Check out the GROUP PHOTOS on the website.

We updated email addresses monthly, so if you have paid your dues you should be getting this. If you hear of anyone who is not getting this, please have them email me asap so I can add them to the list.