



WILD PRAIRIE H.O.G.®

Chapter # 4428

www.wildprairiehog.com

Sponsored by:

Wild Prairie Harley-Davidson®

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1ST QUARTER - 2021

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Willy's Silly's
Chapter Director
Mark Willemssen
 Director.wphog@gmail.com

During the week I can be found running my sales route somewhere in Northern MN, helping gas stations and truck stops serve their customers with general merchandise. I always say I sell everything in a gas station except for food and drink, so if you are in need of some trinkets or trash there's a good chance, I may have them in my garage.

For one reason or another, I was approached last year and asked to throw my helmet into the ring and run for Director. Since I don't wear a helmet, I figured I was off the hook. A couple of weeks later, I was asked by someone else and thought maybe I should do it.

Being on the road most of the week I try to spend a large part of my weekends with family. My wife Jen and I blended our two families in 2018 and together we have three adult kids - Paige, Jonathon and Dietrich.

The Wild Prairie HOG Chapter is an amazing group of people and I felt like it was my time to give back a little to a group that had already given me so much.

I'm currently riding a 2018 Road Glide CVO and a 2014 Road King. I look forward to putting many more miles on them with all of you this summer. If there is anything I can do differently, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Flash forward to now and here I am your new Chapter Director! I couldn't be more excited with the opportunity! I've gotten the first couple meetings out of the way and some of my nerves have settled so I thought I would take this time to tell you a little about me.



Diane's Dares
Activities
Diane Osborne
 Activities.wphog@gmail.com

I first started (legally) riding motorcycle roughly 30 years ago on a Kawasaki Ninja. A high school buddy was fortunate enough to own a brand-new bike but had no money left for a car, so we worked out some sort of a ride share deal swapping back and forth with my car and his bike. To this day I still can't believe I never wrecked that bike. A couple years after high school, I finally bought my own bike and have had one ever since.

No update at this time.



Chaplain's Happenins
Chaplain
Curt Quiner
 Chaplain.wphog@gmail.com

No update at this time.



H.O.G. Hotline - 952-953-7430

For additional information on rides and events, check the *Wild Prairie HOG Chapter of Eden Prairie, MN* Facebook page.

Chapter Meeting Schedule

Second Thursday of every month at Wild Prairie Harley-Davidson. Dinner @ 6:15 pm, Meeting @ 7:00 pm

LOH® Meeting Schedule

Typically the third Thursday of every month, location TBD @ 6:30 pm. We communicate via private email and FB accounts.



Wild Prairie HOG & LOH Chapter members are simply the best people! At the end of November 2020, a few LOH members decided it would be a nice Christmas project to surprise the residents of New Perspectives, an assisted living facility in Waconia, with Christmas stockings. Once we committed to doing the project, a little voice in the back of my head was concerned that I might end up doing this on my own. Those concerns quickly faded when the request for help went out to the HOG & LOH members. This wonderful group of people responded with enthusiasm and generosity.

We had just about three weeks to make this happen. Thirteen chapter members quickly volunteered to "adopt" twenty-one seniors for whom they shopped for specific gifts. An additional eighteen members made monetary donations, totaling over \$1,100.00. We personalized forth-nine Christmas stockings, and an additional thirty stockings were stuffed with treats and snacks for memory care residents. Huge thanks to the chapter members who spent considerable time and effort on this project. Bryn Walsh, who works at the facility, provided insight on what the seniors liked, needed or wanted and she worked with the facility to help make this event happen. Pam Aase and Aimee Makres helped me work magic with glitter glue to put names on forty-nine felt Christmas stockings, which were then laid out on my pool table to dry. Sandi Hardy helped me with shopping for the remaining twenty-eight seniors. Then Pam, Sandi, Bryn and I spent many hours going over the gifts, wrapping items and filling the stockings. Sandi was also on hand to assist as one of Santa's elves for sorting, packing, loading and delivering.

We delivered the stockings on Tuesday, December 22nd, just in time for Christmas. As Sandi and I drove up and started unloading our "sleighs" the residents started to appear near the entrance, they were all curious about who we were and what we were doing. Soon after we arrived, Mike Aase (dressed as the big guy himself right down to the bells on his Harley boots) and his wife Pam arrived to help unload box after box of Christmas stockings. As the boxes were placed around a huge Christmas tree in the reception area, several residents had gathered. They were all smiling and asking what was happening. As Mike (aka "Santa") accompanied Bryn to hand deliver the Christmas stockings, we could hear the bells on his boots and the sound of "Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas" repeatedly as he walked up and down each hallway and engaged with each of the seniors. Pam, Sandi and I assumed the role of Santa's elves, keeping everything organized and

made sure Santa had the right stocking for each person. Within about two hours, everyone had their stocking, "Santa" had made many trips up and down the stairs and hallways and our vehicles no longer looked like Santa's sleigh. I heard from a reliable source that "Santa" was even asked for a kiss by a couple of the "young ladies" who received stockings!

A side note about the delivery process during a major COVID "second wave" as we were working on the stockings and making the delivery. The facility had asked that we practice safe handling guidelines throughout the process. So, we were careful to wear appropriate PPE. The day of delivery, we were especially careful since we were inside the facility. We all wore a medical grade mask under a more decorative one. Mike, as Santa, also had his beard and the Santa suit and gloves, so it was quite warm. For anyone who has ever visited or worked in one of these facilities, you may know that the temperature is often higher than most of us are accustomed to. Suffice to say, the chilly, outdoor air felt great as we were leaving the building.



While this project was a lot of work during a busy time for many of us, it was well worth the time and effort. It was heartwarming to see the look of surprise and the smiles on the faces of the senior citizens. It's been such a hard year for them, and this project definitely brought joy to both the residents and the staff at the facility. I'm hoping we can do something similar next year, preferably without a pandemic, to enrich the lives of others.

My heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered your time or resources to make this happen. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and that the coming year brings you peace, joy, prosperity and love. Happy 2021!



It was sure nice to see so many of you at the February Chapter meeting! Being in-person gives us all some semblance of normalcy and the sense of community we all enjoy.

My team and I appreciate your grace and openness as we welcomed 8 new members into our Chapter during that meeting. I hope you were as excited as I to see them all standing as they shared a bit about themselves. I watched as many of them enthusiastically interacted with current members before and after the meeting. Many found me after the meeting to say they appreciated the outreach, enjoyed coming and were excited to become involved.

THAT is what we strive for in the Spokesperson role. Our charter is simple: We serve as the connection between the dealership and the HOG Chapter to welcome new members into the WP HOG family.

I have a great team and they are the reason those new members were there. Each of them took the time to make calls to personally invite new members, introduce themselves and our Chapter, and offered to answer questions.

As you know if you spend time at the dealership or follow them on Facebook, there are always a significant number of posts showcasing the big smiles of new bike owners. Each of those individuals receive a call from a Spokesperson. In our current cell phone world, most of us don't answer calls from unknown sources. It can be hard to get ahold of people and I'm appreciative of the team for their diligence in calling and emailing to make sure all are welcomed.

The current Spokesperson team members are made up of both men and women riders from different backgrounds and varying degrees of riding experience. None of them are strangers to the dealership or our Chapter: Greg Anderson, Brent Aretz, Danese Brothen, Chris Hawver, Kevin Swecker, Cindy Werner, and Pam Aase. I'm humbled by their willingness to help. February was our first month actively working together and I look forward to the months ahead. If you've never had the chance to introduce yourself at a Chapter meeting, please find me and we'll make sure you are given an opportunity.

I am always open to adding team members. If you're interested in being part of the team, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. We'd love to have you join!

The following members were recognized as the top mile-eaters in the Chapter from the 55 members that reported 421,381 miles through the HOG Ride365 program in 2020:

Brad Koopmeiners	28,955	Road Glide Ultra
Herb 'Doc' Polzin	26,245	Road Glide Ultra
Jimmy 'Ard' Conklin	24,209	Road Glide Ultra
Frank Canney	22,255	CVO Limited / Ultra Limited
Mike 'Milkman' Aase	16,753	RG Limited / Heritage Springer
Brent 'Mongo' Aretz	14,762	Ultra Limited
John 'Rocky' Silbaugh	14,589	Street Glide
Ed Morrow	13,911	Ultra Limited
Aimee Makres	13,466	Ultra Limited
Trevor Stahl	12,484	Ultra Limited / Road Glide
Dave 'Butcher' Kane	12,370	Street Glide
Marc Hagberg	10,625	Dyna
Josh 'GM' Bebeau	10,600	Road Glide
Dave 'Big Sid' Sidler	9,704	CVO Road Glide / Fatboy
Danese Brothen	9,698	Road King / Street Glide
Bruce Bollig	9,150	Ultra Limited
Kris Myhre	9,030	Ultra Limited
Judy Hartmann	8,518	Dyna / Heritage Softail
Diane Osborne	8,320	Dyna / Road Glide
Kevin 'KK' Swecker	7,565	Ultra Limited
Dale Duerksen	7,271	CVO Limited
Rich McKagan	7,158	CVO Street Glide
Terry Kaeder	6,966	Ultra Limited
Jay Martin	6,930	Ultra Limited

There are many benefits to reporting your mileage to HOG Ride365, including individual lifetime and annual mileage recognition pins and patches, and helping the Chapter achieve recognition in our Region and well as Nation. Annually, HOG recognizes the top Chapters in total mileage in the Nation, average mileage per rider in the Nation, and total mileage in the Region. Living in the Midwest doesn't bode well for us in the total mileage in the Nation or average miles in the Nation because we typically ride less than six months a year. But I think we can give anyone in the Region a run for their money in the total miles in our region competition.

To begin tracking your mileage for Ride365 in 2021, please send an email to asstdirector.wphog@gmail.com and/or secretary.wphog@gmail.com with your name, make/model, VIN, HOG ID, and a picture of your current odometer reading.



Sane Sane with Kane
Head Road Captain
Dave Kane (Open)
 HRC.wphog@gmail.com



Bollig's Bucks
Treasurer
Bruce Bollig
 Treasurer.wphog@gmail.com

I was honored to be elected as the Head Road Captain of the Chapter during the November elections. However, my situation has changed, and I am unable to fulfill the duties of the position going forward. I am helping the team get the ride schedule out, and will stay involved until the Chapter can find a new Head Road Captain. If you are interested in this role, please see me or any of the Chapter Officers.

The team of Road Captains met on February 25th to put our preliminary 2021 Chapter Ride and Have Fun Schedule together. This year we are planning on having Monday night rides every other week, as well as Saturday rides every other week. They will be spread out throughout the month. Also, we will be declaring the first Saturday of every month as a New Rider Ride. This ride is meant for those who are new to riding, or those who are new to group riding.

Thanks to the forty-five of you that took the time to complete the Ride Survey that gave us your feedback on how you rode during 2020 and how you plan to ride in 2021 being that we are still in the midst of the COVID pandemic. We will take your input into consideration as far as distance and destination as we finalize and publish the schedule.

We are again planning a Group Riding Field Day in 2021. Those new to riding, and those new to group riding, should consider attending. Even experienced riders will learn something new; Safety Officer Chris Hawver guarantees it!

We are also planning to have a new Road Captain mentoring ride, as well as a route planning seminar by one of our best Road Captains to talk about best practices to consider when planning for a large group of motorcycles and their safety. If you are interested in becoming a Wild Prairie Chapter Road Captain, please see me or any of the Chapter Officers.

And last but not least, the Chapter is again planning a Chafed Butt Challenge for 2021 that will give you a reason to get out and see something different, with ten destinations and a bonus destination throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and possibly Iowa and North/South Dakota. Hopefully you'll be lucky enough at the end of the season to be rewarded with prizes and other recognition.

Soon we'll be riding!

Hi all! Hope you are staying warm! Last month I was able to help with the membership renewals and new member sign up. It was great to see all the familiar faces and so many new riders. As many of you know, renewals/new memberships are our Chapter's source of revenue. Thank you all for supporting the Chapter.

It was also nice to see many of you at the February meeting. I personally enjoyed the slide show with highlights of everyone's mileage achievements. Congratulations to everyone who turned in their miles. If you haven't done so already, please see Dave Sidler or Mike Aase to start recording your mileage; it is very easy to do, and it helps our overall HOG ranking.

Welcome to all the new members who attended the February meeting. I look forward to riding with you in the future. As we heard at the meeting, the riding schedule is very close to being completed. It will be exciting to see where we go next!



Dan's Digits
Membership
Dan Bednarshi
 Membershipwphog@gmail.com

Well, let's not do that again! 2020 was a hell of a year, with lots of disruptions to our lives, jobs, and our HOG membership. We had fewer planned activities and rides. This meant fewer opportunities to welcome new members. However, for those of you that stuck it out and started last year, welcome, it gets better I promise.

The Chafed Butt Challenge event was well received and participated in. One theory I heard was it was because of the pandemic and our canceling of many planned rides. I'm just glad a lot of you used it as a chance to get out there and ride. As I puttered around the state, I got to see a lot of different communities and responses to the pandemic, politics, and life in general. On a motorcycle, I feel more connected than in a car. I notice more and see more. It was a good chance to experience what other people think about things and remind myself that my opinions and thoughts are not the only ones out there. That people by and large are good and friendly. I'm glad that we have this group to share our enthusiasm for riding, I'm happy to see you all in meetings and I'm counting the days when we can ride again.



Sid's Tidbits
Assistant Director
Dave Sidler
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Rick's Bag of Tricks
Webmaster
Rick Carriveau
 Webmaster.wphog@gmail.com

"You Meet the Nicest People on a Harley?" Or something like that! Our Chapter is experiencing fantastic growth right now! This was evidenced in part by how many new folks stood up during our February HOG Chapter meeting. That was extremely heartwarming! I might be a little biased, but I don't know how any other Chapter could be much friendlier than we are. We have so many warm and welcoming individuals. Odds are that any new person that shows up to a ride or event will have several people that will chat them up and make them feel welcome. That's just one of the things I love that about our group! We're more like family than merely friends.

Not only do we have new members, but we have quite a few new riders! Some are new to the Chapter after a bike purchase and some have been around quite a while themselves. These partners of longtime members caught the bug while being a passenger and decided to grab their own set of handlebars! Again, absolutely fantastic!

As you may have heard, we're debuting some new rides this season geared toward new riders! These will be shorter rides with fewer riders to help those that may feel intimidated by large groups. They will get some miles and experience under their belts before jumping into the deep end. But as always, whether on a small or large group ride, please continue to show less-seasoned riders the utmost patience, and if necessary, offer constructive guidance and mentoring. Be kind and remember how excited you were that first season! Share in that excitement with them and plan to give them a little extra space, especially in the turns.

With the weather beginning to warm up, lots of folks are starting to think about spring riding. Bike sales at Wild Prairie are really heating up! This means we will continue to see new faces around. As current Chapter members and fellow Harley riders let's keep rolling out the welcome mat for folks and show them how fun it is to hang out and ride with us. That's just one small thing we can do to help preserve the future of our riding lifestyle.

Jen & I are beginning to lay out some riding plans for this year and are excited for what's in store. We're planning a road trip to a much warmer state in the convertible during March. While we're there, we'll be trying our hand at an Eagle Rider rental. I hope to have good things to say about the experience in the next newsletter! Fingers crossed. Stay safe, my friends!

Hello everyone, my name is Rick Carriveau and I am the new Webmaster for the Chapter as well as a newly inducted Road Captain. I would like to thank the members of our Chapter for giving me the opportunity to serve as an officer and I am looking forward to working with everyone to make this a great Chapter for all to enjoy and benefit from.

I grew up in Maple Lake, MN, a small farming community west of Minneapolis, and now own my childhood home that my grandfather built on the lake in 1942. My wife Deb and I have five adult children and we have five grandchildren, all under the age of 2 1/2, with grandchild number six on the way this coming September. Like many of you, I have been riding some sort of 2-wheeled cycle from an early age starting with minibikes to dirt bikes and then onto street bikes and heavy weight touring bikes. I currently ride a 2016 Velocity Red Street Glide Special that I purchased new in 2016. For me riding a motorcycle brings great joy, stress relief from the daily grind of the world and the comradery of riding with friends and other bikers. I am looking forward to our Chapter rides and other activities.



Mikey Likes It!
Editor
Mike Aase
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No update at this time.



Gigi's Giggles
Photographer
Gigi Nielsen
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No update at this time.



Rick's Recollections
Historian
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No update at this time.



Off-Course with Chris
Safety
 Chris Hawver
 Safety.wphog@gmail.com

Pondering the Beginning of 2021

We are on the backside of the winter doldrums, and on the cusp of spring. As we anticipate spring, we can plan to enjoy warmer temperatures, watching the tips of green plants bursting through the ground, and reading the Wild Prairie HOG Ride and Event calendar. Let us not forget the possibility of events happening like the Donnie Smith Bike show.

However, I encourage you to think about starting some activities now to get you prepared for the riding season. These include, and are not limited to:

1. Think about simple physical exercises to stretch your legs, middle and upper body. You want to be in shape to handle your bike.
2. Keep hydrated by drinking at least half your body weight number and convert to ounces of water each day. Remember if you drink any liquids with caffeine, you need to drink the same amount of water.
3. Put on your shopping list to secure a battery for your key fobs – bikes and cars.
4. Hands and feet: Find your gloves and riding boots, then use leather softener to bring them back to life. You may want to consider purchasing a new set of one or both.
5. Bike insurance: Make sure you've paid your premiums
6. License tabs: Find them and put them with your insurance card until you can place them on your bike.
7. Cornering and other bike maneuvers: Search on YouTube and enjoy the mental refresh.

For new riders, we have scheduled a Group Riding Clinic. After attending, you will be comfortable with group rides. In addition, for you long-time riders, if we cannot teach you something new, I will purchase your lunch.

Also, if you are interested in being a Road Captain, please contact me.

I look forward to seeing you at the Chapter happenings!

P.S. Elephant in the Room: We all handle stress differently, and this pandemic is stressful to just about all. Cut yourself some slack, recognize it is hard, what you are feeling is normal, and your response is very valid. Have compassion for yourself and others. We will all get through this, and as we do, consider giving others more grace than you receive.

Would you like to be part of the next newsletter?
 Send your story along with any photos to:

Editor.wphog@gmail.com

