

# Rockstar HEG Chapter

#4352



## Newsletter

October 2021



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## We're Looking Forward to Arrival of Our Northern Friends



Hello fellow Rockstar H.O.G. Chapter members. As the weather begins to cool, those of us who are permanent Florida residents are starting to dust off our leathers. At the same time, we welcome back our members from the North as they start returning to Florida. We've missed you. We hope to see you on upcoming rides and events.

If you missed the September General Membership Meeting you missed a lot of information regarding survey results, rides, events and activities, and schedule changes. See the Activity Director's article in this newsletter for more detailed information.

I would like to thank all members who participated in two important surveys. Your input is important and the Board and the Strategic Planning Committee are working on prioritizing your comments so we can address what is most important to you first.

Here are the results of the Strategic Planning Committee's survey:

- Are social activities important — 60% was the average ranking
- Interest in Outdoor BBQ's — 75% was the average ranking
- The importance of Bike Safety Training — 70% said it important
- Interest in Evening events — 58% was the average ranking

- Interest in overnight rides — 50% was the average ranking
- Interest in longer rides — 60% average ranking
- Interest in national park rides — 60% average ranking
- Interested in rides to and from the destination — 66% average ranking

In addition, many significant written comments were received. The Strategic Planning committee has combined like comments and created these four comment categories:

Rides, Environment, Covid and Social.

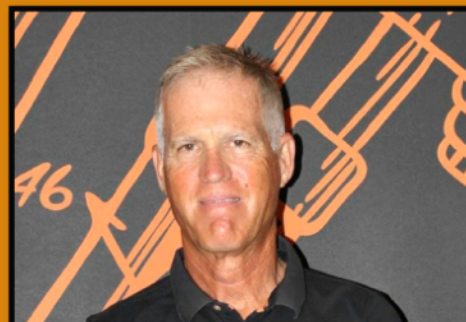
They will now prioritize the comments within these categories and recommend changes and action to the Board.

Following the cancellation of the November Chapter Anniversary Party, your Board also conducted a member survey. The subject was Social and Special Events. Without going into the detail of every question, the result was clear. Members want outdoor meetings and events. When food is served, they want a buffet-style meal.

The Board will respond to members' comments as swiftly as possible. For example, October and November General Membership meetings will be held outside at Rockstar H-D. December's meeting will be held at Lakes Park in Fort Myers. Watch for more details.

I anticipate 2022 will be a year of many changes. Stay tuned. And enjoy the ride.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS





# ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



## Welcome New Rockstar H.O.G. Members!

Thanks to everyone who turned out in their masks for the September general membership meeting; just a reminder that our October meeting will be outside at Rockstar Harley-Davidson. Please bring your own chair or use one of the dealer's seats.

We had some new faces at the September meeting: A big H.O.G. welcome to Rich Ennis, Stephen Despin, and Scott Sheppard.

We've had a few Chapter members who took the Collier – S.M.A.R.T. class (Safe Motorcycle and Rider Techniques.) It was offered at no cost by deputies with the Collier Sheriff's Motor Unit. Attendees said it was very intense. As I mentioned at the meeting, I was too late in trying to sign up for the November class but was able to register for a future opportunity.

Chapter member Terri Brown, the first female student in the local training, said she'd do it again in a heartbeat.

"It was incredible," Terri said. "They teach you about turning your head to make sharp turns, how to ride into a curve, hand signals and the proper way to slow down traffic when we are group riding to keep it safe."

Chapter Road Captain Larry Burgess is another class graduate. Says Larry: "The S.M.A.R.T. course is the next step in motorcycle training every biker should

utilize after the basic training course required by the state of Florida to obtain an endorsement on your driver's license. Even seasoned riders would find this course to be challenging to their current skills, especially the slow maneuver techniques. I highly recommend this course for every H.O.G. member. It is my personal goal to take this course or one like it every one to two years."

The training is held on a Saturday and Sunday. Some of the first day on the tarmac involves navigating cones at slow speeds. As many of us know, slow speeds can lead to toppled motorcycles.

How to protect that costly investment? Fortunately, it can be as simple as well-placed pool noodles cut to protect the engine and saddlebag guards, or for about \$30, you can buy plastic sleeves shaped to snap onto engine and saddlebag guards. These sleeves will protect against scratches and scuffs, as I know firsthand. Some riders use zip ties to help secure their Pro Guards just to be safe. These can be ordered from Amazon, where they got positive reviews.



Steve Marshall







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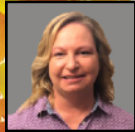
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This Could  
Be You !







# YOUR CHAPTER ROAD CAPTAINS



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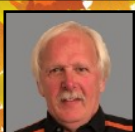
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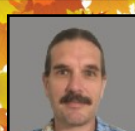
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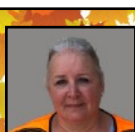
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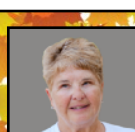
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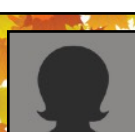
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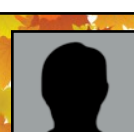
Join Us on a Ride!  
Two Rides per Week  
See Calendar for Dates & Times



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THIS COULD  
BE YOU !  
TALK TO BOB HOTOVY  
ABOUT TRAINING



THIS COULD  
BE YOU !  
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ABOUT TRAINING

ALL RIDERS AND THEIR PASSENGERS ARE WELCOME ON OUR RIDES.



## Get Ready for Lots of Activities Coming Up Soon!



As always, thank you to all of you who volunteered to help with our opportunities to grill for our dealership and all of our Chapter activities!

Be sure to thank your road captain if you enjoyed your ride! Our road captains put a lot of effort into planning and leading our rides. Please let them know you appreciate their efforts.

Thank you to Gary Mayer for setting up the Triple Tree Room for our Chapter meetings and making sure that everything is back in order when we are finished. Our room is always ready when we arrive!

Following are the dates we have the opportunity to grill for our dealership and make some money for our H.O.G. Chapter in October:

- Sunday, October 3rd, Sizzlin' Sunday: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Setup: 10:00 AM
- Saturday, October 9th, HOGTOBERFEST: Noon – 5:00 PM, Setup: 11:00 AM
- Sunday, October 10th, HOGTOBERFEST: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Setup: 10:00 AM
- Saturday, October 16th, Grill N Chill: Noon – 5:00 PM, Setup: 11:00 AM
- Sunday, October 24th, HOGOWEEN: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Setup: 10:00 AM
- Saturday, October, 30th, Grill N Chill: Noon – 5:00 PM, Setup: 11:00 AM

We appreciate all of you who volunteer to help! Come join us for a fun day of grilling and working together!

Unfortunately, the Sunrise/Sunset Ride was cancelled last month, for the second time, because of concerns about Covid. This was an opportunity to spend a couple of days with members from our sister chapters

in Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale. We will try to organize this again.

We are fortunate that the largest Oktoberfest in Florida, and one of the largest in the United States, is celebrated right here in our area, at the German American Social Club, on Pine Island Road, in Cape Coral:

- 300-Foot-Long Tent
- Three Stages, Continuous Music, International & Domestic
- German & Domestic Food
- Continuous Potato Pancake Grilling
- Lots of Desserts
- Beer & Other Drinks
- Vendors & Carnival Rides
- Eat, Drink & Have a Great Time!

We are meeting in the Big Tent at 5:00 PM, Saturday, October 23rd. Bring your appetite, dancing shoes and your dedicated driver. We are going to celebrate Oktoberfest! More information and a sign-up sheet will be available at our Chapter Meeting on October 10th.

We ride every Wednesday and every Saturday from Rockstar Harley-Davidson. Please be there by 9:00 AM so we can sign you and your guest(s) into our system. Our rides leave at 9:30 AM, unless we publish a different time on our calendar or in our "Weekly Blast." We have a lot of places to see and a lot of things to do! Don't be concerned about "Rider's Choice Rides." This is your opportunity to tell us where you would like to go! We want to go there with you!!!

If you have any ideas or suggestions for destinations, please tell me!

Thank You, again, to all of our road captains for leading us on great rides! Thank you to all of you who volunteer to help with our chapter activities!

Have a great month! Ride with a Smile!





# SECRETARY'S REPORT



## Highlights from Board of Directors Meeting - September 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the ROCKSTAR H.O.G. CHAPTER Board of Directors was called to order at 5:30 PM on SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 by Fred.

FYBR – T-shirt sales sold by chapter have brought in \$380. Volunteer and updated FYBR spreadsheets emailed to members of the board. John Leone working on firetruck pull. Kevin contacted Fred's Award shop for possible trophies for the firetruck pull. NCH sponsorship possible. Beverages and lunches secured. MTII has been contacted for the Ft. Lauderdale Drill Team. Informative emails have been forwarded to Cierra. More raffle items needed.

Steve Marshall introduced as new Assistant Director. Jerry Sowka in training as photographer.

Police Rodeo happening at dealership on September 25th. Fred has been asked to secure volunteers from 8 am to 2 pm.

Preliminary report from the Strategic Planning Committee was given by Anne Leone. Following discussions regarding the report, there were four categories of interest. They are RIDES, CHAPTER ENVIRONMENT, COVID and SOCIAL. Each sub-category will be considered by the board and tackled by the committee. Each board member got a copy of the

survey to study. It was determined that some issues can be immediately solved and others may take more time and planning. Kevin made a motion to approve four categories. Susan seconded. Anne did a great job in presenting the report.

A social activities survey was emailed to 278 chapter members.

Sixty members opened the survey and 52 members responded. Outdoor activities and meetings were most important to members. The Board voted to hold the October and November general membership meetings outdoors at Rockstar Harley-Davidson.

Plans for the December meeting were discussed. It is being held at Lakes Park and a pizza dinner, drinks and entertainment were discussed. Video December meeting seems like a good idea.

Kevin made a suggestion that we forecast where to hold outdoor meetings in 2022.

Treasurers Report – Kevin gave information regarding the chapter financial status.



Susan McDonald



The Collier County Sheriff's Office is offering a two-day free course designed to enhance your motorcycle safety and riding abilities. Course dates are October 9-10, and November 6-7. If dates are filled, put your name on a list for future classes.

Send an Email message to Sgt. Robert Reuthe at [3817@colliersheriff.org](mailto:3817@colliersheriff.org) to reserve your spot.



# MEMBER PHOTOS







# LADIES OF HARLEY MESSAGE



## Here's a Look at October-themed Harley-Davidson History

As motorcycle riding became popular in the early twentieth century, so too did endurance contests and races. Harry Ward, the author of a 1912 Washington Times article, provided a glimpse into Harley-Davidson's integral role in building bikes for endurance rides. On October 13, 1912, Washington-area motorcycle enthusiasts participated in the National Capital Motorcycle Club's endurance race. Due to bad weather, just nine riders participated in the first endurance run. The two Harley-Davidson motorcycles in the race finished with perfect scores.

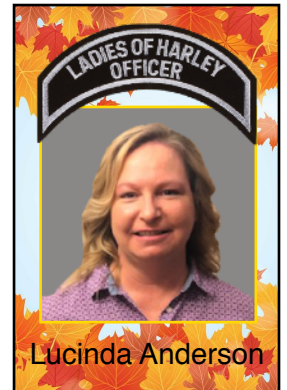
Harley-Davidson became an icon for perfect scores in endurance races. According to Ward, the world-famous Harley-Davidson motorcycle became known as "The King of the Road," and even more, gained a positive reputation as "100% Perfect," or "The Greatest Endurance Motorcycle on the Market." Harley-Davidson motorcycles had earned a perfect 1,000-point score at the Seventh Annual Federation of American Motorcyclists Endurance and Reliability Contest just four years earlier, which only added to the prestige for this American motorcycle brand.

Harley-Davidson quickly emerged as a builder of reliable, quality motorcycles after Milwaukee residents William S. Harley and Arthur and Walter Davidson started it in a shed in 1903. Not long after, the company adopted a logo that would become recognizable just about anywhere, the "Bar & Shield," which was created in 1910. The firm concentrated on building reliable machines that could handle endurance rides. The perfect finish that a couple of Harley-Davidson riders earned in Washington on October 14, 1912, came as no surprise. Originally, Harley-Davidson started out with a single-cylinder engine, as that is what they could fit on the bike frame. It would not take long for the team to introduce an engine that would be able to produce more power;

adding a second cylinder, the V-twin. Named for the 45-degree angle at which the cylinders were configured, this design would become an icon of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The firm's V-twin model, which came out in 1909, proved to be quite successful.

As business ramped up with each subsequent event victory, so did the need for a much larger manufacturing facility. The small shed producing motorcycles in Milwaukee in 1903 soon grew into a six-story manufacturing facility. The factory manufactured bikes, as well as spare parts and accessories. Not only did the American motorcycle manufacturer gain immense popularity in the United States, but they also secured their first export to Japan in 1912.

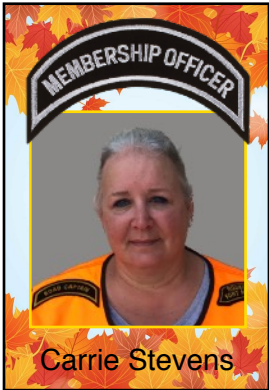
Harry Ward's article in October of 1912 not only shed light on just how popular the "King of the Road" would become but helped to publicize the dependability that this machine offered in endurance races. Constantly looking for new innovative designs, Harley-Davidson upped the ante with their iconic V-twin motor and offered spare parts, which was a first for the company. By branding the motorcycle with distinct "Bar & Shield" logo, people would begin to associate Harley-Davidson with endurance and victory. Dominating the industry, and a true recognition of their reliability, Harley-Davidson became a major supplier to the military. In fact, in WWI the military purchased more than half of the motorcycles produced by Harley-Davidson. Motorcycle clubs began to pop up everywhere, and to this day, the legendary Harley-Davidson continues to flood the market with remarkable success.





# MEMBERSHIP & GOODWILL

## New Registrations and Renewals Now Being Accepted



Carrie Stevens

As of now, we have 310 members, 60 Ladies of Harley.

A Chapter membership renewal form is now active on our website. It is fillable on your computer, but you'll need to print it out to return it to the Chapter, along with your 2022 dues payment of \$20. Note the new form requests your AV

number and your birth month and day. Please make your printing legible. Thanks in advance for your support.

We need to make sure you have an AV / VIB number. If you do not have one, please see the receptionist and

she can hook you up with one. This is what we use to sign you in on rides and meetings. This is very important so I can update our system.

If you are not receiving the weekly blast, please reach out to me or Susan McDonald, our Chapter secretary. We could have an error when listing your email, or unable to read some handwriting.

Recommended sites to check out:

- National H.O.G.: [www.hog.com](http://www.hog.com)
- Dealership: [www.RockstarHarley.com](http://www.RockstarHarley.com)
- Chapter site: [www.RockstarHOG.com](http://www.RockstarHOG.com)

See you out on the road. Ride Safely!

## Member Spotlight

### Meet Mike Buonagurio

He has been riding motorcycles for 54 years.

Mike's first bike was a 1968 Suzuki Intruder 800cc.

He now rides a 2019 Harley-Davidson Tri-Glide.





# SAFETY OFFICER'S MESSAGE

## Motorcycles Can Make You Happier...and Hard of Hearing

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends that workers should not be exposed to sound levels above 85 decibels in an eight-hour work day, and notes that noise levels of 100 decibels become damaging to the ear after just 15 minutes of exposure.

Testing done by researchers from the University of South Alabama and William Patterson University, using an acoustically engineered dummy head and microphones, found that at speeds above 40 kph (about 25 mph), wind noise surpassed any noise from the motorcycle. At the highest speed tested, 120 kph (about 74 mph), noise exceeded 100 decibels at all the frequencies they measured.

Put those two facts together and you get this: If you ride your motorcycle at highway speeds for more than 15 minutes without ear protection, you're damaging your hearing.

### Why earplugs make you safer

Our ears are not designed to work at 100 decibels. Humans didn't evolve in an environment where we were riding motorcycles, operating chain saws, working in factories, etc.

And that's why earplugs don't reduce your safety. Earplugs don't "block out" sounds you need to hear, such as sirens, other vehicles, horns blowing, and so on. They reduce the overall sound pressure so that your ears can operate in a more natural range. This

lets you distinguish sounds better. You're more likely to hear that siren because your ears aren't overwhelmed with 100+ decibels of pressure.

There's another way wearing earplugs makes you safer. When I began using earplugs, I immediately noticed that I felt much less fatigued, especially on long rides. We're all more likely to make mistakes when we're tired. Using earplugs improves your odds.

### So which earplugs should I buy?

Disposable foam earplugs work fine for most people. The key with foam earplugs is using them correctly. Roll them tight, insert into the ear canal and let them expand to fill the space. If they feel loose, try again. Tugging upward and backward on the top of your ear with one hand while inserting the earplug with the other is helpful for many people because it straightens the ear canal.

Other kinds of earplugs are also available, up to custom-molded plugs made just for you. The good part is that none of the options are expensive, except for the custom-made earplugs, so you can experiment with different kinds and find what works best for you.

The sooner you begin taking steps to preserve your hearing, the better the results will sound.







# CHAPTER EVENT SCHEDULE

GUESTS WELCOME at ALL CHAPTER EVENTS



## Weekly Rides



### 2 Weekly Rides

Wednesday - Road Captain's Choice

Saturday - Scheduled Destination

See Calendar Insert for Dates & Times

## Monthly Events

- ◆ Road Captain Planning Meeting - 1st Thursday
- ◆ BOD Meeting - 1st Monday
- ◆ General Membership Meeting - 2nd Sunday
- ◆ Chapter Grilling @ Rockstar H-D - Various Weekends

See Calendar Insert for Dates & Times

## Annual Events

Rockstar H.O.G. Chapter is involved in several charity rides, memorial rides and events throughout the year.

Read this newsletter, our calendar, our Facebook page and our website for up-to-date information and scheduling.

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[rockstarhog.com](http://rockstarhog.com)



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