

# Rockstar HOG Chapter #4352



## Newsletter

July/August/September 2023



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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## Great Rides, Rallies And More Being Planned



Hello All, and Happy Summer! I hope you are all enjoying our summer riding season and making some fun adventure trips. We have had very good participation on our Chapter Rides and enjoy the time spent with our Members and Guests. Our Road Captains have taken us on some pleasant routes and to some very good destinations. Thank you to our

Road Captains for the time and effort they put into planning and leading our rides.

Thanks to all of you who have Volunteered to help with our grilling opportunities and support our sponsoring Dealership, Rockstar Harley-Davidson! We appreciate all of your help and the opportunity to work with you and get to know you better. We are thankful for the opportunity to make a little extra money from our grilling tips to help support our Chapter activities.

Thank you all who support our Chapter activities and help us put them together. We appreciate every volunteer and everything you do!

Please welcome our new Chapter Safety Officer, Neale Hanson. Neale is replacing Steve Marshall, who is moving back to Virginia. We thank Steve for his efforts for our H.O.G. Chapter and wish him the very best! Neale is retired from Harley-Davidson, moved to Southwest Florida, and rides some very special Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Our Easter Bunny Toy Run was a lot of fun! The children and staff at Golisano Children's Hospital were very grateful for all of our gifts and the opportunity to see the bikes and riders.

Earlier this year we talked about a weekend getaway ride to Key Largo. The ride would leave on a Friday, stay at a beach resort for 2 nights, and return on Sunday. This continues to be a work in process. Watch the weekly blast and website for updates.

Our trip to the Leesburg Bike Fest was great to do again and hopefully we can continue this in the future.

The Bikes Beaches and Bridges H.O.G. Rally is Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Clearwater, Florida. This is a Regional H.O.G. Rally and the first H.O.G. Rally in Florida since 2016. This is a great opportunity for us, as it's only 128 miles or 2 hours from Rockstar Harley-Davidson.

There will be a Rockstar H.O.G. Chapter Ride to the Rally on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Register for the Rally at [hog.com](http://hog.com). Full details and registration links for all H.O.G. Rallies are available on the H.O.G. Rally Site. If you are interested in going please make your reservations early. A Rally Hotel List will be on our website. The Host Hotel is almost full. There are 2 more Rally Hotels with group rates. In addition, the Rally is approximately 3 miles from the St. Petersburg Airport. There are several airport hotels.

Please contact me if you have questions or plan to go: 239-770-8202 or [justbobret@gmail.com](mailto:justbobret@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you on our Wednesday and Saturday rides and at our Chapter Meetings. Enjoy your summer and please send us your ideas for any riding adventures or opportunities!

Have a Great Summer! and, Ride with a Smile!

Just Bob





# ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



## Updates

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen of HOG!

Here we are in sticky, hot, rainy season in Southwest Florida. Already half of the year has passed. We've been having a good turnout for our rides considering our seasonal members aren't here. Speaking of our seasonal members, all of you participate and are very active when you are here. We want you to know how much you are appreciated. Thank you!

One of our long-time members and board member, Steve Marshall has moved back to Virginia to be closer to family. Steve will be sorely missed by our chapter. A big thank you to Steve for all his contributions. We wish him well on his new adventure.

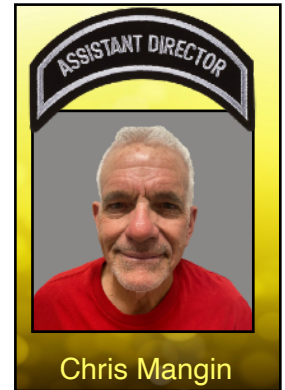
There are a couple overnight trips planned for the end of summer and beginning of fall. A national H.O.G. rally in Clearwater, FL in October and a trip to Key Largo in the Aug-Sept time frame.

If interested, please contact our director, Bob Hotovy or our activities director, Curt Wellington for details. These will be fun trips!

Our Christmas party arrangements have been finalized, so Save The Date of December 2! The party will be at the Cape Cabaret in Cape Coral featuring dinner, music, & dancing. Watch for sign up details.

In closing, again if you have any suggestions for rides, activities or anything that makes your H.O.G. experience more fulfilling and enjoyable, please let any one of our officers know. We are always looking for new and exciting things to do.

And always remember, LIFE IS A JOURNEY, ENJOY THE RIDE!





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Ladies of Harley**  
 This Could Be You

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# CHAPTER ROAD CAPTAINS



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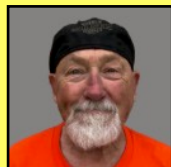
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**This Could Be You**

**ALL RIDERS AND THEIR PASSENGERS ARE WELCOME ON OUR RIDES.**



# HEAD ROAD CAPTAIN

## Report From the Head Road Captain



Larry (Smiley) Shorter

Hello all. I Hope all is going well with everyone. These past three months we have had a lot of rides. Recent ride destinations include Sebring, Everglades City, Clewiston, Okeechobee, Marco Island, Cape Coral and just about *everything* in between.

I would like to thank all the Road Captains because without them we wouldn't have great organized safe rides.

We have made a change on summer Wednesday rides to be "Riders Choice". Several Road Captains are seasonal residents which means we have fewer Road Captains in the summer. "Riders Choice" basically means there may, or may not be, a Road Captain showing up on a Wednesday ride. Riders present can decide on a destination and then one will lead the ride. Don't let this discourage you from showing up on a Wednesday. We can still ride and have fun. If there are no road captains present, I have asked Jack to collect the VIB numbers and he will send them to me to log in all the riders.

As for the statistics, we now are doing yearly stats starting from October 2022 through May 31st, 2023. For that period, the total rides were 74. The average number of riders per ride is 11. The average trip miles destination is only 76 and average round trip miles per ride is 121. Lastly the total miles for all riders is 102,780.

I would like to recognize the Road Captains who have led the most rides. Bob (Just Bob) Hotovy with 16 leads and 13 sweeps, Lawrence (Smiley) Shorter 14 leads and 9 sweeps, Maury Wiese with 9 Leads and 2 Sweeps.

We are always looking for more Road Captains. If you would like to learn more and may be interested in joining our crew, please contact me or Bob (Just Bob) Hotovy.

We also have changed the KSU to 9:30 am instead of 10:00 for now.

Be sure to thank all your Road Captains.

With that I would like to wish you safe and exciting rides and miles on your bikes.

Larry (Smiley) Shorter





# MEMBER PHOTOS



# Florida HOG Rally

## October 4 thru 7, 2023

### Clearwater, Fl

Visit Facebook page at:

<https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092680470424>



Drill Teams

Police Demos

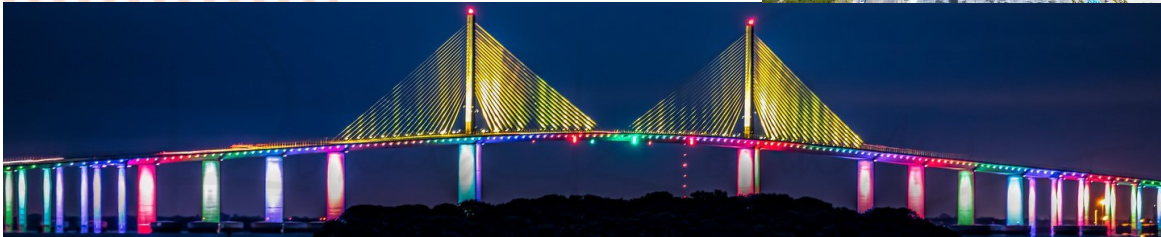
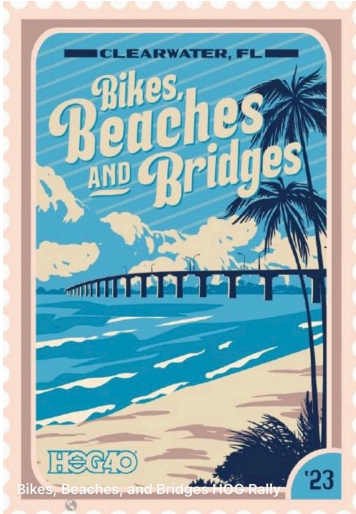
Guided Bike Rides Daily

Self Guided Bike Ride

Scavenger Hunt

Poker Run

Daily Entertainment  
at OCC Road House



### Samples of Guided Rides. Included in your 2023 Registration.

The Directors Ride will be to Der Dutchman Amish Kitchen in Sarasota. This ride will take you over the Skyway bridge and into beautiful Sarasota Florida. We invite you to join us for flavorful foods, simple comforts and rural charm along with a great company.

Join our Road Captain as he takes you on The Five Bridges Ride. On this breathtaking ride you will ride the local bridges and enjoy the beautiful views of Tampa Bay, Clearwater and St Petersburg. There will be opportunities for pictures and a stop at the Sunshine Skyway Bridge .

This Guided Beach ride will take you through town to Gulf Blvd where beauty awaits. Enjoy the blue green water of the Gulf and sandy beaches on this ride while looking for clues to the Scavenger Hunt along the way..







# ACTIVITIES OFFICER REPORT

## Watch Flash, Website, And FaceBook for Upcoming Activities

Well, the spring has turned to summer and the snowbirds have gone giving the roadways a break.

The chapter had a great spring with many weekly rides to various places and restaurants where members got to know each other. This culminated with a trip to Leesburg Florida in early May, where hundreds of bikers gathered to rally and enjoy music, food, and the scenery. Only a small tornado on the east coast of Florida hampered our fun, but not much!

Myself, I'm taking a break and heading back to Ohio for a summer wedding but will be thinking about rides and planning for the remainder of 2023 and into 2024.

Look for a survey in the fall that will ask our membership about the type of rides, destinations, time on the road, etc., which will help us in the planning. Along with current plans mentioned in the Directors Article another possibility is a day trip to Busch Gardens in Tampa.

Be safe riding and until next time.....

Curt Wellington



Curt Wellington





# MEMBERSHIP & GOODWILL

## Key Membership Information



A big Welcome to all our renewed and new members to the Rockstar H.O.G. Chapter 4352! We currently have 125 active members and we continue to grow with NEW BIKE OWNER program in place.

For those of you who are not aware of this program: If you purchase a brand new bike, Harley Davidson will issue you a free one year membership to the National Harley Owners Group after all the paperwork has been submitted and approved. Then it gets even better!! Rockstar Harley Davidson, T.M.C. will cover the cost of your first years membership to our local H.O.G. Chapter #4352.

It will be up to each individual rider to maintain their memberships annually after that first year to each

respective organization. The National H.O.G will send you renewal notification prior to you actual renewal date unless you set up automatic renewal or become a LIFE MEMBER.

Our local chapter annual renewal campaign is always January of each year. A new application and Release form must be **LEGIBLY** completed, signed, and turned in along with your \$20.00 dues. Please keep in mind that your National H.O.G. membership **MUST** be current to maintain your local chapter membership.

You may contact your National H.O.G by calling: 1-800-258-2464 or use the website: H-D.com/HOG

One of the perks of becoming a National H.O.G. member is Roadside assistance: 1-888-443-5896 (24 hours a day)

Our local website is [www.rockstarhog.com](http://www.rockstarhog.com) and our mailing address is: Rockstar H.O.G Chapter 4352, 9501 Thunder Road, Fort Myers, Florida 33913





# SAFETY OFFICER'S MESSAGE



## Motorcycle Riding in the Rain

Riding your motorcycle in the rain can be both safe and fun, as long as you're prepared with the right skill set and gear.

### Choose the right gear.

Good waterproof apparel, like a rain suit (two-piece or one), gloves, boots, can keep you warm and dry in even the most persistent storm. High-vis isn't the most stylish, but in conditions of reduced visibility it increases the chance that other drivers will see you. Something to keep in mind as you shop for gear. Waterproof gear tends to add warmth on its own, but if rain is in the forecast, consider bringing multiple thinner layers that you can add if you get chilly. Another often overlooked piece of the gear puzzle is the helmet, which should be equipped with an anti-fog visor (i.e. Pinlock) and either leave the tinted shield at home or bring along a clear spare; the last thing you need is a darkened view of a wet road.

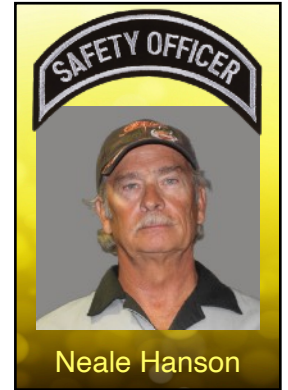
### Ride smoother and smarter.

There is one word to remember when riding in the rain: **smooth**. When it's wet outside, everything you do on your motorcycle should be smooth, from throttle adjustments to braking to cornering. Keeping your bike as upright as possible will reduce the chances of it sliding out from underneath you if you hit a slick spot. Increase your following distance and use your engine to help decelerate, braking smoothly.

### Be wary of intersections

Intersections are dangerous enough when you're on a motorcycle, and unfortunately the rain makes things worse. They're a collection of hazards: slippery oil spots where cars stop and idle, painted lines that can become like ice when wet, and of course plenty of drivers who might not be paying as much attention as you.

Roundabouts are especially tricky and can be slippery not just at the entrances and exits but also throughout the circle. Approach slowly to avoid having to brake suddenly, stay smooth, and limit your lean, and you'll come out the other side right side up.



Neale Hanson

### Watch out for surprises

When it's wet out, situations that are nearly harmless in the dry can turn into unpleasant surprises. Keep an eye out for manhole covers, sealer pavement (tar snakes), painted lines, and fallen leaves, all of which are like black ice when they're wet. If and when you do encounter any of these traction inhibitors, check first if there is a line that you could easily take around them. If not, resist braking or accelerating hard and roll over them without making any aggressive inputs. Standing water is another potential hazard and is especially dangerous on the freeway where speeds may prevent you from slowing in time to avoid hydroplaning. Water will of course pool at low points, which on freeways is often the left-most lane where the concrete barrier prevents it from draining. Avoid using that lane and watch cars ahead of you for signs of water spray so you can spot problem areas in advance.

### Find a dry line

Although this may seem obvious, it is amazing how many people are seen riding in an area of the lane that is wet even though an adjacent area is dry.

Over time, and as you practice these riding tips, you will find that rain riding (and even touring) can actually be satisfying, not to mention make you a better and more confident rider.





# CHAPTER EVENT SCHEDULE

GUESTS WELCOME at ALL CHAPTER EVENTS



## Weekly Rides



### 2 Weekly Rides

Wednesday & Saturday

KSU at 9:30 AM (Usually)

See Calendar Insert for Dates & Times

## Monthly Events

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

See Calendar Insert for Date & 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)



@RockstarHOG