

June 2017

Harley Owners Group, Decatur, Illinois Chapter

2017 Blessing of the Bikes' Volunteers



Crowd gathered for the 25th Blessing of the Bikes.

Photos : Becky Burkham



From the Director:



Martha Kendall
Director

DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

As I am now enjoying the warm Illinois sunshine, especially after all the days of rain, I am anxiously awaiting the nice days to ride. And, nothing gets you ready to ride and spring to be here more than attending 'The Blessing of the Bikes'. What an awesome event. It was a beautiful day, with wonderful words, fellow riders, friends, and our very own aerial view from a drone. WHAT A DAY!!! The Decatur HOG Chapter really comes together for this event. This is a long day, a busy day, but a fun day and so rewarding to see all the bikes in attendance. As Director, I am so proud of all the members that volunteer and thank every one of them for helping. We are proud to be there for our dealer, Tim & Debbie Coziahr, and to support them in this enormous event.

The Decatur HOG Chapter has kicked off May with a breakfast ride to 'Talk of the Town' in Elkhart. Check the calendar for all the other events going on in May and join us for one or all of them. If you didn't celebrate Cinco De Mayo with us at the May social, you definitely missed a good time.

I highly suggest that all those who purchase a bike and receive a free one year HOG membership at least attend a social or a ride to meet us and find out what a good time we have. Hope to see you soon.

Come Join Us & Let's Ride
Martha



Cozi's Corner..... by Debbie Coziahr

Welcome to Cozi's Corner of this edition of Pipelines!!

We have had so much buzz about the Blessing of the Bikes again this year and as usual, a common comment is that the Blessing here is so organized, put together and smooth- unlike other Blessing events that our customers have attended.

Again, as usual, our contribution to those conversations is that "That's our HOG Chapter". We have just celebrated 25 years of BOTB and those early years were far different than they are today! We typically met at the dealership, went for a ride where we had pre-arranged to be blessed – like Spitler Woods Park- then went for another short ride and done. Then, after the fire and our move to Forsyth and open on Sunday, we had food for people, they were blessed and then some of our HOG members led whoever wanted on a



**Debbie Coziahr
Owner**

ride to end the day. Gary and Nancy Quandt, Ken and Stacey Long and Lance and Becky Gauble were part of starting that tradition up! When the "boom" came (as in the numbers of bikes and people who came) we couldn't keep up with the food deal so then it turned into a Blessing and a ride – once to Nelson Park, several times just to a restaurant. We have been invited twice to ride to Heartland Church for a meal and

entertainment and we have had an escorted ride in memory of Pastor B.G., to his church and back. Today we have digital pictures that are phenomenal, taken by Becky Burkham...a great video complete with a hard rock "Amazing Grace" done by Big Mike of WAND... We had beautiful weather this year, new friends and old came out in record numbers, the messages were meaningful and we could proudly say "Welcome to our 25th year of Blessing of the Bikes!"

Decatur Chapter
HOG.....Take a bow!!

Tim and I thank you all for making our event OUR event, HOG chapter and dealership, as good as it gets!! We hope you are as proud to be a part of it as we are !!!!

Ride safe, have fun....
Tim and Debbie

Decatur Chapter HOG.....

Take a bow!!

H.O.G. SCHEDULE – 2017

MAY

- May 6th – Breakfast Ride – 8:00 AM – Talk of the Town, Elkhart
- May 9th – Social – 6:30 PM – Cinco de Mayo/Mexican Night
- May 17th – Dinner Ride – 6:00 PM – Schooners, Bloomington
- May 20th – Day Ride – Sidney Dairy Barn, Sidney
- May 23rd – 6:30 PM – Officers' Meeting
- May 27th-29th – Memorial Day Ride to Jefferson City, MO, led by Ed & Flossy White

JUNE

- June 3rd – Breakfast Ride – 8:00 AM – Shannon's 5-Star Restaurant, Bloomington
- June 3rd – Day Ride – Homer Soda Festival, Homer, IL, led by Kevin Smith & Cassandra Ruggles
- June 10th – Picnic Day Ride – Monticello/Allerton Park
- June 13th – Social – 6:30 PM – Fried Chicken supplied by H.O.G. Chapter, bring a side or dessert
- June 17th-18th – Overnight Ride – Turkey Run/Covered Bridge Ride, IN, led by Gary & Jana Lamar
- June 21st – Dinner Ride – 6:00 PM – The Old Bank, Leroy, IL
- June 27th – 6:30 PM – Officers' Meeting

JULY

- July 1st – Breakfast Ride – 8:00 AM – Red Wheel, Monticello (possible ride afterwards)
- July 11th – Social – 6:30 PM – Hotdogs and Picnic Food – Hotdogs supplied by H.O.G.
- July 19th – Dinner Ride – 6:00 PM – Gabby Goat, Effingham
- July 20th-23rd – 4-Day Ride to Kansas City, MO, led by David Swartz & Trish Caldwell
- July 25th – 6:30 PM - Officers' Meeting
- July 29th – Day Ride – Evandy's Boatel, Naples, IL

AUGUST

- August 5th – Breakfast Ride – 8:00 AM – Yoder's Country Kitchen, Arthur (possible ride afterwards)
- August 8th – Social – 6:30 PM – Pizza Party sponsored by H.O.G.
- August 12th-13th – Overnight Ride to Psycho Silo, Princeton, IL, Led by Dan & Martha Kendall
- August 16th – Dinner Ride – 6:00 PM – Bayern Stube German Restaurant, Gibson City
- August 19th – Day Ride – Walnut State Park, Oakland, IL
- August 22nd – 6:30 PM – Officers' Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- September 2nd – Breakfast Ride – Rosebud, Pana
- September 2nd-4th – Labor Day Ride to Paducah, KY, led by Bill & Erin Valentine
- September 12th – Social – 6:30 PM – Good Old Fashioned Potluck
- September 16th – Day Ride – Spoonies, London Mills, IL
- September 20th – Dinner Ride – 6:00 PM – Bonanza, Lincoln, IL
- September 27th – 6:30 PM – Officers' Meeting
- September 30th – Day Ride – Thirty-Six Saloon/The Hog Pit, Rockville, IN

OCTOBER

- October 2nd – 8:00 AM – Breakfast Ride – Merv's, Blue Mound
- October 10th – Social – 6:30 PM – Chili Night
- October 14th – 15th – End of the Year Overnight Ride along the IL River, led by David Swartz & Trish Caldwell
- October 18th – Dinner Ride – 6:00 PM – Coney McKane's
- October 24th – 6:30 PM – Officers' Meeting

NOVEMBER

- November 4th – Breakfast Ride – 8:00 AM – Everyone's East End Grill
- November 14th – Social – 6:30 PM – Thanksgiving Dinner/Veterans' Recognition
- NO DINNER RIDE THIS MONTH
- November 28th – 6:30 PM – Officers' Meeting

DECEMBER

- December 2nd – Breakfast Ride – 8:00 AM – Diamonds
- December 5th – H.O.G. Christmas Dinner – 6:30 PM – Location TBA
- December 12th – 6:30 PM – Officers' Meeting/2018 Planning Meeting



Trish Caldwell

Jana Lamar

Activities Co-Directors

Well, we're into May but the riding season started a bit earlier this year than we are used to. YIPPEE!!

So far we've had some memorable dinner rides, though not all of them are memories we will cherish. Our breakfast rides have not disappointed, nor have the turnouts for those. And our socials, as always, have offered an abundance of great food and lots of laughs.

Unfortunately, our April 29th Day Ride to Walnut State Park had to be cancelled. Nobody had an ark handy, so we had to re-schedule that for later in the year. Mike Kovach and Julie Murphy will be leading that ride on August 19th, beginning with breakfast at the Red Wheel in Monticello.

The ride is anticipated to return to Coziahr HD in mid-afternoon. Details will go out via email when we are closer to the date.

And since nobody has yet seen fit to find that elusive ark, we again had to cancel the day ride for this past Saturday to the Dairy Barn in Sidney. Brian Buxton was planning to lead that one. If we can, we will work it back into the schedule later this year.

The day ride originally scheduled for August 19th has been moved to June 3rd so that we can enjoy the Soda Festival in Homer (as opposed to just the pop stand if we go in August). Kevin Smith and Cassandra Ruggles will be our leaders. The Soda Fest's mission is to "bring together family owned bottlers from all across the country to one place where you can enjoy their family traditions of flavor and fizz." It's a day-long event complete with a car show, BBQ cook-off, crafts, music and lots of food. There might even be some soda tasting in there somewhere. It all takes place in a traditional Americana setting. Sounds like fun!

This year's first overnight ride is quickly approaching as we head to Missouri for the Memorial Day weekend. Ed and Flossy White will be leading this ride and they are pros, so don't miss out on what will absolutely, positively be a great ride!

After that, we still have five more overnight rides scheduled for this season, taking us all the way into October. Sign-up sheets for the rides are on the HOG wall at CHD, along with take-away cards containing pertinent details, such as exact dates and hotel accommodations.

Included in this edition of Pipelines will be an updated calendar with the changes mentioned above as well as a few other, smaller changes. We attempt to put out an email before every event, big or small, to serve as reminders and simple communication of details so that everyone is on the same page and nobody misses out. If you ever have a question about an upcoming event, please feel free to contact me via email at sameoldtrish@yahoo.com or by phone at 521-7820.

Let's all enjoy a long, safe riding season this year!!

Trish

Safety Director

Hello fellow Riders! I am honored to begin my role as our Chapter's Safety Officer. My membership with the Decatur Chapter began in 20XX, and I am a Life Member of national HOG. To better serve you, I have recently completed H.O.T., Harley Owner's Group Officer Training. Riding has been a wonder and a thrill for me since I was a kid when I could occasionally talk the neighbor kids to letting me hop on their homemade mini-bike. From high school into early adulthood, I enjoyed four different Japanese motorcycles ranging in size from 90cc to 900cc's. After a LONG riding break, I ordered a new Ultra Classic in 2005, which is the bike I still ride today. It has taken me to Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. All that says is that there are still 41 other states I haven't ridden in, and I quietly yearn to ride in all of them! Yikes! Did I just really say that!? OK, maybe I'll stick to the Lower 48 for now!

With the start of a new year, there are always new laws that are enacted. A few which pertain to us as motor enthusiasts are below. I encourage you to pay close attention to the last two shown here as we could encounter them more often.

Each new law is identified by the House Bill (HB) or Senate Bill (SB) number that introduced the proposed legislation, followed by the Public Act number by which it is identified upon passage. The entire wording of the legislation may be found at Illinois General Assembly website, ilga.gov.

- Motorcycles may be equipped with a blue light or lights (of up to 1 inch in diameter) located on the rear of the motorcycle as a part of the motorcycle's rear stop lamp or lamps. HB 4105 (Public Act 99-0598)

- Route 66 license plates are now available for motorcycles. The proceeds support the Illinois route 66 Heritage Project. HB 4315 (Public Act 99-0865)

- A person riding a bicycle has all the rights applicable to the driver of a vehicle, including those regarding the right-of-way. HB 5912 (Public Act 99-0785)

- A driver approaching a disabled vehicle using hazard lights on a 4-lane highway must, if possible, make a lane change away or reduce speed if unable to change lanes. This law previously required this maneuver only for emergency vehicles with lights flashing. HB 6006 (Public Act 99-0681)

- A vehicle is required to stop before meeting or overtaking, from either direction, any school bus stopped on a public school highway, roadway, private road, parking lot, school property, or at any other location, including a location that is not a highway or roadway (rather than any location, including highways on public school property) for the purpose of receiving or discharging pupils. SB 2835 (Public Act 99-0740)

Safe travels!

Paul Gorden
Safety Director



**Brian Buxton
Road Captain**

Road Captain

We're off and running in another riding season when the weather has been cooperating. Our first overnight weekend is just a few weeks away. Ed & Flossy should have another great weekend of riding and interesting places in store for all. More good destinations to follow, please check HOG wall. Remember to keep Safety at the forefront when riding solo or in groups. The safety courses at Champaign are once again open for registration, I will let Paul keep you informed on that. Remember you can get reimbursed from HOG for the class fee. Hopefully you can join in on the rides this year, weekend or even a supper or breakfast ride. When riding with HOG, feel free to reach out to any Road Captain for any questions you may have. Generally there will be one or more on each group ride. Doug Dukeman, Dean Johnson, Dean Kendall, David Swartz, Bill Valentine, Eric Wade, Sanford Welton, Dave Burkham, Steve Groves & Safety Officer Paul Gorden. As mentioned previously, keep your National & Local HOG membership current or release forms will be available the day of the event. Let's all enjoy another year of riding and be safe.

Ride On!
Brian



Gary & Jana Lamar being Blessed



Erin Valentine
Secretary

Secretary

My mom was an amazingly good card player. She loved cards and said it was what got her through the loss of a daughter, and later, the loss of a husband. And through the trials put on her by another daughter who didn't always make the best choices in life.

But it wasn't just the game of cards she loved, because if that was all there was to it, Solitaire would have suited her.

It was the gathering of friends around the card table that gave her strength, and joy.

So when I think about the friends we have made while riding motorcycles, and the unforgettable trips we have taken, I am happy to report that friendships can and do survive the life changes that for many, will include taking that last intentional motorcycle ride.

Some of the friends we still enjoy are those we first met because of the H.O.G. Chapter.

They have since sold their bikes, sold or given away most of their H.O.G. wardrobe and accessories, but for us, they remain friends not because they once rode motorcycles, but because we genuinely like their company.

The conversation often goes back to trips of the past, and H.O.G. members who moved away, or passed away, or some who just sort of faded into obscurity. To motels we wouldn't return to, or restaurants we loved, and to sunshiny days on the bike when life's problems had no space in our heads.

To H.O.G. members who rode fast, or slow, or were rays of sunshine or complainers - they are all part of our memories.

So when you gather your friends around the fire pit, or on the barstools, or even around the rummy table, count your blessings that riding on two (or three) wheels and being involved in H.O.G. brought together a group of like-minded souls who might not otherwise have met.

And this summer, ride and have fun!

Dean Kendall

Tim Coziahr

Bill Valentine

Gary Lamar

