



Brandywine Bullet

Volume 7 Issue 4

December 2025

Year end thoughts by Alan R.

It's hard to believe the year is almost over, Thanksgiving is a memory, the holidays are upon us and in just a few days it will be New Year's Day!

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support and allowing me to serve as your Director for the year. It was an experience that will not be forgotten. There were good times and difficult times and those when I just wanted to give up, but with the support of the other officers and members of the chapter things always worked out.

I also wish to thank the many volunteers that helped make this year successful. From members who helped lead rides to everyone that helped with events, and those that helped out behind the scenes. Without you this chapter would not exist. And let's not forget our sponsoring dealer! Without Saunde and the staff of Brandywine Harley-Davidson and the Media store this chapter would not exist.

The year is not quite over yet, so remember always check the website and calendar for updates, cancellations, and new rides. Also always check Facebook and the website before leaving for a ride.

Again, thank you for the experience of being your Director it has overall been a good time!

As we all move forward into the new store and new chapter there are a lot of unknowns that we have to take on.... One thing we do know is Hannum's of West Chester is almost ready for us all and I personally can't wait until it opens. Now let's get ready for the 2026 riding season!

A long term look at our riding

The year's end seems like a great time to look back over the history of chapter riding to see where we started and how far we have come. Listed below is the annual ride data from the start of the chapter to the December 2025 meeting.

2019

41 rides were completed with 222 members attending for 25,044 miles.

Note: 2019 was a partial year for the chapter with the first ride happening on July 17th of that year.

2020

72 rides were completed with 624 members attending for 109,946 miles.

2021

81 rides were completed with 845 members attending for 183,870 miles.

2022

79 rides were completed with 843 members attending for 175,218 miles.

2023

59 rides were completed with 655 members attending for 128,596 miles.

2024

51 rides were completed with 530 members attending for 114,117 miles.

2025

44 rides were completed with 475 members attending for 117,040 miles.

Note: These 2025 numbers include the group ride to New England, but the data is as of the December meeting and is not the final for the year.

15 for '26

Each year HOG selects 15 places of interest for riders to visit and the new list for the 2026 riding challenge has already been rolled out. Some riders find chasing the sites a fun challenge. When you ride to one of the destinations snap a photo of yourself holding the current HOG membership guide and then submit the photo to HOG on the members website. HOG will then send you a pewter challenge coin to recognize your accomplishment. You can also check your progress on this and other challenges on their website.

Here are the fifteen sites for 2026 so you can plan treks to see some or all of the sites.

2026 sites

1. [O.K. Corral](#)
2. [Route 66 – End of the Trail](#)
3. [Nation's Smallest Post Office](#)
4. [Gemini Giant](#)
5. [Bridge of Flowers](#)
6. [Jolly Green Giant Statue](#)
7. [Uranus, Mo Town Center](#)
8. [Wright Brothers National Memorial](#)
9. [Big Muskie Bucket](#)
10. [Blue Whale of Catoosa](#)
11. [Historic Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary](#)
12. [Cadillac Ranch](#)
13. [Iwo Jima Marine Memorial](#)
14. [Wisconsin's Dragon](#)
15. [Leavenworth, WA](#)

If you are reading the newsletter online, each site listed above is a link to that specific site to get more info.

Here's the link to HOG's page that explains the challenge in more detail -
<https://hogstories.harley-davidson.com/15-rides-for-2025/>



The chapter leadership would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to the new dealership opening soon and riding many miles together in the year ahead.



For some riders, this is a sign of good things to come. Sign is located along the Lewis and Clark Highway, Route 12, in Kooksia, ID.

50 Rides, One Nation by David G.

50 Rides, One Nation is part of the HOG Ride 365 program, but at its heart it's a recipe for exploring America and a road map to a lifetime of epic journeys.

The map that has been displayed (and will be again) at the dealership represents the states Brandywine HOG chapter members have visited and completed the requirements for the 50 Rides, One Nation Program. So far twenty-three members have participated, been to forty-seven states and have collectively visited 292 states.

If you are not familiar with this part of Ride 365 talk to me or Curt B. to learn more about the program.

Orange indicates states visited and how many members have participated in the 50 Rides One Nation Challenge for each state.

3 Alabama

Alaska

3 Arizona

3 Arkansas

California

4 Colorado

14 Connecticut

17 Delaware

4 Florida

5 Georgia

Hawaii

1 Idaho

4 Illinois

5 Indiana

3 Iowa

6 Kansas

7 Kentucky

2 Louisiana

12 Maine

16 Maryland

13 Massachusetts

3 Michigan

3 Minnesota

5 Mississippi

5 Missouri

1 Montana



Beartooth Pass Summit is the 50 Rides destination for Wyoming.

4 Nebraska

1 Nevada

14 New Hampshire

14 New Jersey

1 New Mexico

16 New York

4 North Carolina

3 North Dakota

11 Ohio

3 Oklahoma

4 Oregon

14 Pennsylvania

14 Rhode Island

4 South Carolina

3 South Dakota

4 Tennessee

5 Texas

5 Utah

13 Vermont

11 Virginia

2 Washington

12 West Virginia

4 Wisconsin

2 Wyoming

Updated 8/18/2025

Holiday Fun for everyone

On December 13th, even though the weather forecast was a bit threatening, the chapter had a great turnout for the annual holiday party. Forty-six members and spouses gathered at Renzi's to celebrate the holiday season. Renzi's has hosted us the past few years and always provides a great dinner. The evening began with time to visit and catch up with friends followed by a buffet dinner. After dessert there were door prizes to be awarded. All of the prizes were donated by members or by the dealership. Many thanks to those who contributed and to all who attended and made the evening a special time.



A chance to catch up with friends.



Door prizes await their winners.



Glenn wins a warm scarf in Harley colors!



Parting gifts for all from the Reyburns.

Winter riding safety tips from Ride Vision

Cold weather winter riding is something almost every motorcycle rider around the world will experience either on purpose, or by accident. And when you're sitting at your desk, reading an article about it, it might not seem like that big of a deal...

However, cold-weather riding is a unique situation that demands your respect as a rider, and your knowledge of how to safely navigate it. Riding while cold has been proven to decrease both mental and physical capacity, and also negatively affects motorcycle function as well.

So whether you're simply a normal rider who wants to be prepared for getting caught in the cold at some point (eventually we all are) or you're one of the few, the brave, and the possibly insane motorcyclists that ride year-round — **these essential cold-weather riding tips are for you:**

7 Essential Cold Weather Winter Riding Tips for Motorcyclists

1. Check the Forecast

This may seem like common sense but you'd be surprised how fast a perfectly sunny day can turn into a dangerous riding situation. Checking the weather only takes moments, and lets you know what to expect throughout the day. Another important reason to check the weather is to accurately **calculate the riding temperatures that you'll be exposed to** while at speed. According to the U.S. National Weather Service, riders can calculate the motorcycle wind chill by using the chart at right.

Riding Speed (mph)	Air Temperature (°F)									
	15°	20°	25°	30°	35°	40°	45°	50°	55°	60°
25	-4°	3°	9°	16°	23°	29°	36°	43°	49°	56°
30	-5°	1°	8°	15°	22°	28°	35°	42°	49°	56°
35	-7°	0°	7°	14°	21°	28°	35°	41°	48°	55°
40	-8°	-1°	6°	13°	20°	27°	34°	41°	48°	55°
45	-9°	-2°	5°	12°	19°	26°	33°	40°	47°	54°
50	-10°	-3°	4°	12°	19°	26°	33°	40°	47°	54°
55	-11°	-3°	4°	11°	18°	25°	32°	40°	47°	54°
60	-11°	-4°	3°	10°	17°	25°	32°	39°	46°	54°
65	-12°	-5°	2°	10°	17°	24°	32°	39°	46°	53°
70	-13°	-6°	2°	9°	16°	24°	31°	38°	46°	53°
75	-13°	-6°	1°	9°	16°	23°	31°	38°	46°	53°
80	-14°	-7°	1°	8°	16°	23°	30°	38°	45°	53°
85	-15°	-7°	0°	8°	15°	23°	30°	38°	45°	52°

CYCLEFISH
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2. Layer Smarter (Clothing)

When it comes to layering protocol — the best strategy is to *layer smarter, not thicker*. An effective layering strategy would be:

- Wicking Layer:** A thin, wicking, athletic-material layer to prevent dampness and saturation.
- Insulating Layer:** A thin mid-layer of wool, polyester, or a blend to trap heat and provide insulation. This could be anything from a long sleeve T-Shirt to a light sweater.
- Insulating Layer:** A second, thicker insulating layer, possibly with a hood or thin helmet-friendly head covering.
- Waterproof Shell:** A waterproof, breathable shell with covered seams (most textile motorcycle jackets are waterproof or can be waterproofed).
- Neck/Head Protection:** An often-overlooked element of staying warm, products like the Aerostich Windstopper help to keep this area warm.

When selecting your clothing for a cold-weather ride it is always smarter to overcommit than under. You can always unzip layers, or remove them entirely if you have storage areas on your motorcycle.

Remember to include layering for your legs and feet too, and strive to never use layers that are too thick for you to move comfortably in.

Timely Tip: *If there is a priority in how/what to layer, your core would be it. Keeping your body core warm and dry will go a long way to ensuring the rest of you is too.*

Remember — it is MUCH harder to warm back up than it is to maintain your body heat, be sure to address any temperature issues before they start affecting your performance!

3. Heated Motorcycle Gear

The advent of heated gear was a game-changer for riders everywhere. And while we haven't become impervious to the cold, with heated gear we're very close to it. Heated gear is available in a variety of forms, including pants, socks, gloves, vests, and jackets. Most gear hooks up to a standard 12V battery (though some have their own battery source), and control systems can even be integrated directly into the fairings to cut down on awkward hanging pieces or ugly wires.

It's highly suggested to consider having a heated jacket or vest stored within your motorcycle at all times. These thin layers fit within most insulating layers, or can even take the place of them to help keep your core warm.

Heated or high-quality gloves are crucial to keeping your hands warm as well, which is essential for maintaining good motorcycle control.

Timely Tip: All gear, even heated gear, should either be waterproof or covered by a waterproof layer.

Becoming wet is one of the quickest ways to lose body heat!



4. Motorcycle Effects

Riding in the cold can affect the machine as much as the person riding it. In cold conditions, tires become harder and consequently lose traction. In cold weather, there may also be sleet, snow, ice, frost, or even new cracks or holes in the road. Because of this, rider lean angle must be decreased (as if you were riding in the rain) and extra precautions need to be taken while navigating corners or calculating stopping distances.

Top motorcycle elements to check before, during, and after a cold-weather ride are:

1. **Tires:** Cold weather means cold tires, which means decreased traction. One way to protect against the effects of cold weather on motorcycle tires is to ensure that they're in good shape. Tires should have ample tread, be at the correct pressure, lack any type of bulges or rot, and be less than 5 years old. Tire pressure should always be checked before every ride.
2. **Fluid:** Maintaining correct fluid levels should also be on your pre-cold-weather ride checklist. Coolants are often rated for specific temperatures, and some motorcycle manuals will call for different oil weights in different riding conditions.
3. **Battery:** Proper battery function should be confirmed before riding to ensure you don't get stranded when stopping. Carry a battery jump starter just in case.

Timely Tip: Weaving back and forth is not an effective way to build heat in your tires. Quick acceleration and deceleration will, but be aware of traction limits and road conditions.

5. Motorcycle Modifications

In today's world there is an almost endless amount of safety and comfort-related modifications riders make to their bikes. Some top cold-weather riding related ones are:

1. **Larger Windscreen:** Any blockage of airflow over your body will help to reduce lost heat.
2. **Lower Fairings:** Same as above, more body protections means more retained warmth.
3. **Handguards:** Take a tip from the dirtbike riders and invest in a set of quality handguards to block the wind from your handgrips.
4. **Handlebar Covers:** A step up from handguards — handlebar covers are an insulated layer that furthers your hands' protection from the cold.
5. **Heated Handgrips:** Installing a heated handgrip system is simple and cost-effective.
6. **Heated Seat:** Though more common in cars than in motorcycles, heated seats are an available modification option for many makes and models.



6. Mental Checks

Knowing how to spot the warning signs of cold-induced fatigue can truly mean the difference between life and death for a rider. These beginning warning signs of hypothermia while riding can include:

1. **Slowed** reaction times.
2. **Stiffness** in the hands and legs, loss of mobility.
3. **Decreased** mental clarity, “zoning out” or missing road signs.
4. **Shivering.**
5. **Difficulty** naturally taking deep breaths.
6. **“Hunched”** or lowered posture while riding.

Any combination of these symptoms can indicate that your mental and physical capability to ride a motorcycle has begun to decrease, which is a serious issue that needs to be addressed as quickly as possible to prevent further decline.

Timely Tip: *Always increase visibility and following distance when riding in cold weather. It's often difficult to judge when riding ability may be impaired, and larger safety margins can help to compensate.*

7. Quick Fixes

Most riders don't intend to ride in cold weather. More often than not riders are caught off guard by a sudden storm or decrease in temperature. In these situations, a few well-used “hacks” can help you to heat up and get home safely.

1. **Pushups:** When we become cold our blood vessels constrict, decreasing circulation to our body. A temporary quick fix could be to stop to execute a set of pushups and/or jumping jacks. It's essential not to over-exert yourself when doing this however, as sweating will greatly increase the speed at which you become cold again.

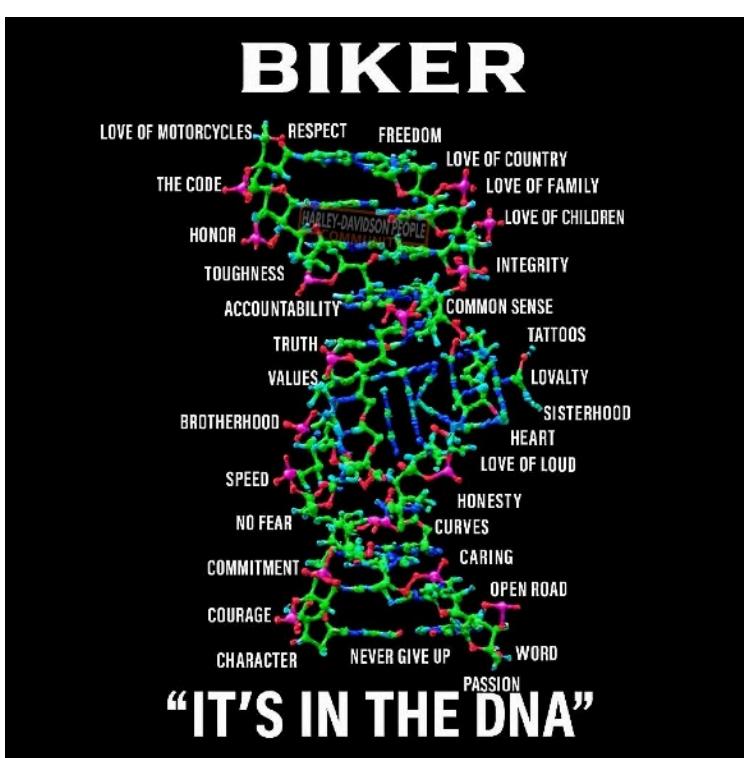
2. **Atypical Insulation:** If you're caught off guard without enough layers then it's likely time to make an impromptu purchase. Many gas stations will sell warm layers, but even newspapers or garbage bags will make an acceptable (albeit not fashionable) temporary fix.
3. **Have a Snack:** Eating is a fun way to temporarily heat your body, as the act of digestion burns calories, which creates heat. Ideally, your snack would be or include something warm.
4. **Know When to Stop:** One of the most important skills a motorcyclist can have is knowing their limits. If you begin to have signs of impaired function, have an improperly prepared motorcycle, are caught in unexpected weather, or simply are too tired to continue — find a place to stop for the night and start fresh in the morning (using a tow service if needed). *Bottom line: Ending a ride safely is always better than pushing the limits and risking a crash.*

Without a doubt, cold-weather riding can be rewarding and exhilarating. However, it's important to use every safety-resource that you can to stay safe while on the road.

It's important to recognize when conditions are too hazardous to ride, and while riding it's essential to always perform both motorcycle and self-checks to ensure optimal performance from both man and machine.

Often a rider won't even realize how much the cold is affecting them until they have a close call or experience significant issues. Learning how to recognize warning signs and address cold-weather challenges is crucial for anyone on two wheels. Ride Safe!

The full article can be found at <https://ride.vision/blog/7-essential-cold-weather-winter-riding-tips-for-motorcyclists/?srsltid=AfmBOooOeEsht-aT6apwgel0lfqXBFPL-PmhluRTDbU4zqxaZwX-5Qzy>



2026 Chapter meeting dates

January 17th
 February 14th*
 March 21st
 April 18th
 May 16th
 June 20th
 July 18th
 August 15th
 September 19th
 October 17th
 November 21st
 December 19th

Monthly meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. Keep an eye out to see the location of the meeting as that has yet to be determined, for January at least.

* - The February meeting is being moved to the second Saturday of the month due to ROC training.

Hannum's H-D is on the move!

Just in case you haven't heard, both the Brandywine and Media stores have closed their doors in preparation for the opening of a new site in West Chester. The news is exciting and everyone is looking forward to welcoming familiar faces to the new location. Keep checking on the Hannum's FB page and website or the chapter's sites for updates about the opening in 2026.



The last Brandywine HOG meeting in the Media store.



Staff photo at Media.



The new home of Hannum's H-D in West Chester.

See if you can unscramble the motorcycle words in the list below.
Some items are two word answers. Answers are on page 12.

Motorcycle Mania

ENSAARDLHB

LDEDSA

AGS AKTN

OFOSRDTBAO

TELTHOTR

KABRES

UCHCTL

TRINAIMNSOSS

AMEHOTTECR

IARMRPY

EVIRD LEBT

SRMPEDTEEOE

NCNGERSTEITREOU

SDEDLA ASBG

ALUTEOGRR

DNLWSDIIHE

SEDERNF

YAIWGHH PEGS

EHGILHDTA

TRUN LGISAN



Chapter Leadership

The current leadership team will be kept in place until the new store opens officially in 2026 and all matters have been figured out. We'll do our best to keep you up to speed on what is happening. For now there will be no apparent changes to how the chapter functions and we look forward to getting out to ride



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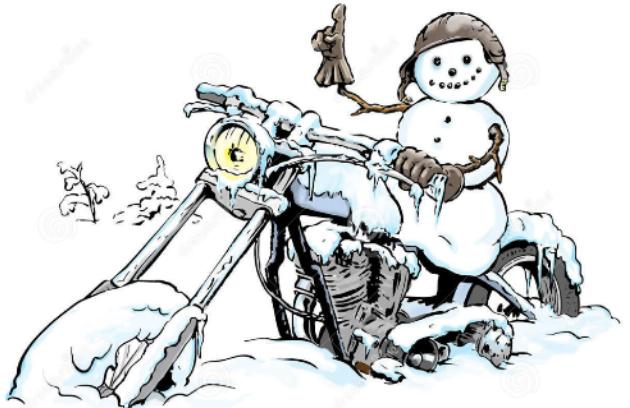
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Answers to Motorcycle Mania.