



## *Brandywine Bullet*

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**Volume 6 Issue 6**

**December 2024**

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### **Winding Down** by Alan R.

It's hard to believe 2024 is almost over. Thanksgiving was over a month ago and the winter holidays are upon us. Before we know it we will be celebrating 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 past year. It was an experience that will not be forgotten. There were good times, 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 the members that helped lead rides, those that helped with different events, the Dam Run volunteers, and all those who 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 this chapter would not be the great group that it has become.

The past year has been a testament to the spirit of camaraderie that defines our "riding family". From the breathtaking scenic rides along winding roads to the heart-pounding events that brought us together, we've forged unforgettable memories. We have navigated challenges and celebrated triumphs on and off the road while continuing to build the chapter.

Reflecting on the past year, we've achieved remarkable milestones. The dedication and commitment of each member has made these accomplishments possible.

### **Winding Down** (cont.)

Our group expanded to 120 members this year, welcoming passionate riders from all backgrounds, and enriching our collective experience.

With the remaining days of this year we all hope to ride more than our 2023 collective of 533,000 miles, and we're not that far away from beating it. We have exceeded expectations and this year really has solidified our HOG reputation as a group that rides. The year is not quite over yet, so remember to always check the website calendar for updates or cancellations and new rides. It's also a good idea to check Facebook and the website before leaving for a ride to see if any last minute changes have come up.

As I now move into another year of being your director it's time to get ready for the 2025 riding season! I am excited as we gear up for the year ahead and anticipation fills the air. We already have a few rides planned for 2025 and more exciting events, rides, and opportunities to deepen our connections. I encourage everyone to attend the monthly HOG meeting to learn more about what is happening in the chapter beyond the rides. We're eager to make a positive impact in the community so stay tuned for more information about our upcoming rides and events.

Remember, it's not just about the destination, but the exhilarating journey we share as a community of passionate riders.

I wish you and your family the best for the holiday season as well as a happy and prosperous 2025. Ride safe and strong.

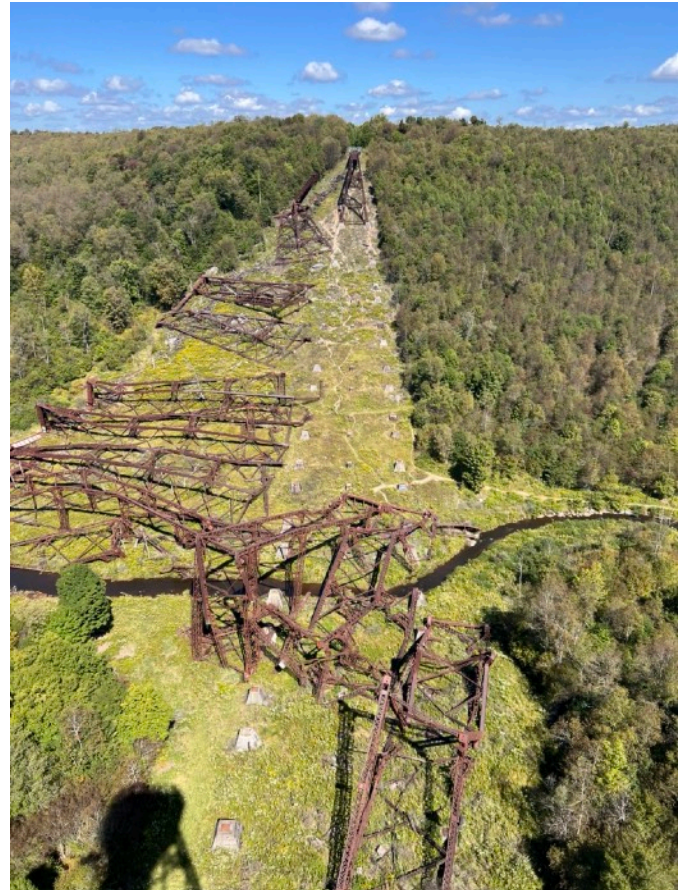
## **A September to Remember** by Erin McQ.

In early September, Dave and I hopped on Ruby and headed out on a ride. We had a plan and packed for a few days, but as we set out, we found ourselves zig-zagging across Chester and Lancaster counties, covering some of the most beautiful roads I've ever seen. Had it not been for the motorcycle and the scavenger hunt, I don't know that I would have ever stumbled upon these hidden gems!

After checking off several scavenger hunt items, we hit the highway and headed north. Our first stop was Horsepower HD in Williamsport for a dealer check-in, and then we hopped back on the road toward Clearfield, PA. Clearfield is a quaint little town nestled along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Fun fact: Clearfield is known as the "Gateway to the Alleghenies" and has a history of coal mining and railroads that shaped its development. We had a great meal at the Dented Keg before calling it a night! Day one totaled 340 miles.

On day two we got up at a reasonable hour —Dave was kind enough to let me sleep in a bit, which also meant the sun came up enough to keep us warm on the road. We left Clearfield and headed to DuBois for a dealer check-in at DuBois Harley Davidson, a cool store with an old-fashioned vibe. While we were there, a couple was picking up their brand-new 2024 Street Glide, which they won with a \$20 ticket at the local firehouse! DuBois is a great little town and has a rich history tied to the timber industry. Fun fact: DuBois is home to the world's largest elk herd east of the Mississippi River, so it's a great spot for wildlife lovers.

From DuBois, we headed out across Route 6 to Kinzua Bridge State Park. The Kinzua Bridge was once the tallest railroad bridge in the world, until it was partially destroyed by a tornado in 2003. Today, the remaining part of the bridge is a popular hiking destination, offering stunning views of the valley below. It was surreal walking out on the remnants of the bridge and hearing stories from locals who remember it before the tornado. Mother Nature certainly has a way of leaving her mark!





## A September to Remember (cont.)



Next, we set our sights on the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, which was truly stunning. Fun fact: The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, officially known as the Pine Creek Gorge, stretches over 47 miles and is up to 1,450 feet deep in some spots. It's sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of the East" and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding wilderness. It was so peaceful there—you could hear the sound of Pine Creek flowing far below us, which made the silence even more powerful. I only wish we could have visited when the fall foliage was at its peak! We didn't spot any eagles, but the beauty of the gorge made up for it. From there, we headed to Mansfield for the night. Our 200-mile day was filled with sights we won't forget, and we ended the evening with a quick grab-and-go dinner at Sheetz, watching people come and go.

Day three began with another ride along Route 6, heading straight to Baer Harley Davidson for a check-in. If you're ever there, make sure to check out their custom bikes. The owner is known for modifying



his own rides, and the Ultra Limited in the showroom was an impressive sight with 14 speakers—talk about cranking the tunes on the road! From Baer, we took back roads to Electric City HD in Scranton for another check-in. Fun fact about Scranton: It's home to the famous Electric City sign, which is one of the first electric signs in the world, installed in 1910. It's a nod to the city's history as an industrial powerhouse and the

birthplace of American electric power.

Along the way, we stopped at an incredible overlook high above the Susquehanna River. It felt like we were on top of the world! With clear skies, we could see for miles. After taking in the view, we continued to Pocono Mountain HD, where we grabbed a late lunch before heading home. Nothing like a few back roads between dealer check-ins to see the sights!



We made it back home just before dark after three days of exploring Pennsylvania. We ended up with 7 dealer check-ins and 860 miles, but it was the memories and experiences that truly made the ride unforgettable!



# Biggest Threat to Motorcyclists? Cars Turning Left

By Christopher South



A safety instructor follows a student on Motorcycle Rider Training's course in Englishtown.  
Photo credit: Motorcycle Rider Training

Two motorcycle accidents less than three weeks apart that took the lives of two Cape May County residents were classic examples of the most dangerous situation motorcyclists face on the road.

In both cases there was a collision between a motorcycle and a left-turning automobile.

According to nolo.com, a legal issues website, "Collisions between cars making left-hand turns and motorcycles are common, and often deadly."

Nolo.com quoted the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, which said in 2021, "In 43% of all fatal crashes involving another vehicle and a motorcycle, the other vehicle was turning left at the time of the crash."

Rideapart.com lists a car turning left in front of a motorcycle as "the most common motorcycle accident," as did cellinolaw.com. Rideapart.com explained that the car either misjudges the

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## Biggest Threat

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motorcycle's speed or simply fails to see the motorcycle and turns in front of it at an intersection. Personalinjury-nmiami.com reported, "In 2020, there were 2,741 fatal crashes between vehicles and motorcycles, with 1,158 of these accidents involving the other vehicle turning left."

On Sept. 12, the driver of an SUV was making a left turn into a sports complex and was struck on the passenger side rear portion of her vehicle. The accident took the life of the motorcycle operator, Addiel Ortiz, 31, of Millville, and of the SUV's passenger, Easton Beisler, 9, of Ocean View.

On Oct. 2, Robert Pfaff III, 40, of Villas, was killed in a collision involving a vehicle that was turning left into a marina parking lot. Pfaff's passenger was critically injured.

The websites cited, and others, describe the typical situation as being when the motorcycle is traveling straight through an intersection and the passenger or commercial vehicle is turning left. Rideapart.com referred to a psychological factor for such accidents, saying that in some cases, "a driver looking for cars perceives merely an absence of cars, not the presence of a motorcycle."

Robert Zurich, of Motorcycle Rider Training in Englishtown, said a similar phenomenon occurs when a motorcycle is riding behind a much larger vehicle, such as a tractor-trailer. He said whether psychological or an optical illusion, a car driver might not see the motorcycle and pull out in front of it. Because a motorcycle is smaller than an automobile, it is less visible to other drivers. Add other factors, such as distracted drivers and speeding, and the motorcyclist is always at a disadvantage, he said.

According to motorcyclezombies.com, "Motorcycle safety is ultimately the rider's responsibility. You need to be prepared for the most dangerous situations. That includes recognizing and avoiding them before they happen, reacting properly when they do, and keeping yourself protected."

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration site says 6,218 people were killed in motorcycle accidents in 2022, an increase of about 1% over 2021. The number of motorcycle accidents increased about 3% over the same time period. Nearly a quarter of motorcycle

accidents involve fixed objects and not other vehicles. Electric bicycles are not considered motor vehicles.

Regarding left-turn accidents, Zurich said, "We cover that very clearly" in Motorcycle Rider Training's course.

Zurich, who has been riding a motorcycle since 1964 and has been teaching motorcycle safety for more than 28 years, said they teach motorcycle riders the "12-second rule."

"You need to be searching 12 seconds ahead, have multiple escape routes, and build a strategy," he said.

He said in the last fatality where he was present, a left-turning car broadsided a motorcycle.

"The driver just didn't see him and cut across the left lane to get through a barrier cutout," Zurich said. "It happened on Christmas Eve."

He said the accident was 100% unavoidable. "That is the only one, as an examiner, that was completely unavoidable," he said.

Zurich said Motorcycle Rider Training teaches motorcyclists very explicitly that they are invisible to motorists. "We're smaller, less conspicuous," he said.

He referred to his example of the tractor-trailer where there is an 18-wheeler, a motorcycle and a car in the same lane. He asked, if you are in the car, what are you going to see? He said the average motorist will focus on the tractor-trailer and adjust their distance from the back of the large vehicle.

He said the biggest problem is that the public is not aware of motorcycles on the roadway. However, in New Jersey, there is another significant problem with motorists.

"In New Jersey, drivers have no patience,

there is strictly no patience," Zurich said.

He gave a personal example with regard to stop signs. According to N.J.S.A. § 39:4-144, any driver approaching an intersection marked with a stop sign must bring his or her vehicle to a complete stop within 5 feet of the nearest crosswalk or stop line.

Zurich said he once came to a stop at a stop sign and a motorist behind him ran into him. The driver, he said, jumped out of his car and started yelling at him. He said there happened to be a policeman nearby, and he stopped to see what had happened.

"This idiot stopped!" the car's driver said.

The policeman told the motorist Zurich had done what he was supposed to do.

"But there was no one coming!" the driver protested.

Zurich said these kinds of incidents are covered in the course his company offers. He said students are required to take a five-hour online course before they even come to his school. As a result, New Jersey accepts his company's certification in lieu of a test.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, 35% of those involved in accidents on motorcycles never bothered to get licensed.

Zurich said the state Motor Vehicle Commission evaluates the school, adding that it takes the better part of a year to become certified as a coach for motorcycle riders.

Motorcycle Rider Training is located at Raceway Park, 230 Pension Road, Englishtown, NJ 07726, 732-905-7448.

Contact the reporter, Christopher South, at [csouth@cmherald.com](mailto:csouth@cmherald.com) or 609-886-8600, ext. 128.



## In Memoriam, Ron Webb Sr. by Curt B.

Ron joined the chapter back in the fall of 2023. He enjoyed riding with the group and especially had a good time on the trip to Niagara Falls in 2024. While on the trip north Ron started feeling poorly. Turns out he was battling leukemia and didn't know it yet. His illness advanced quickly and he could not ride with the chapter for very long. In November his family and the chapter bid him farewell as he went home to be with his savior.

Some of us had the opportunity to attend the celebration of his life held at Mt. Joy United Methodist Church in Wilmington, DE and then escort him to the cemetery. I think all of us were blessed to have been a part of that day and will remember Ron as a great man and friend.



"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."



## **Eight More to Go!!!** by David G.

The 50 Rides, One Nation challenge offers opportunities, and sometimes great excuses, to explore locations you may not have ever considered. Plus, all the random routes and sites to explore along the way make for an interesting journey. On our HOG display board in the dealership there is a 50 Rides, One Nation display map. Each state piece set in place on the map represents a state a member or multiple members have visited. Below the map on the HOG board there is also a list of members who are participating in the challenge that gets updated quarterly.

The idea of the challenge is to ride to a specific location in each state designated by Harley-Davidson. Take a picture of yourself with a current membership guide cover at that location and submit it online to complete that state's challenge. Once you have completed a challenge/state and it has been accepted by HOG send me a picture of your challenge coin or a copy of the verification from HOG. If it's a new state no member has been to yet, the puzzle piece will then get placed on the map. All of the official rules and regulations can be found at the HOG Ride 365 website.

So far nineteen chapter members have participated in the challenge, been to forty-two states, and have collectively visited 229 states. Make sure to check out the map and member list on our display board at the dealership.

Any questions about the program or the great locations let me know. David G. at [gunlefinger@yahoo.com](mailto:gunlefinger@yahoo.com) or 484-609-0951.

### **Members participating in 50 Rides as of 10/24/2024**

42 individual states were visited by 19 members for a combined total of 229 state visitations.

Curt B - 31 AL, AR, CT, DE, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, WI, WV & VA

## **Eight More to Go!!** (cont.)

Dave Go - 4 DE, MD, NJ & NY

David Gu - 22 AZ, CO, CT, DE, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MS, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, UT, WV, VA & VT

Kent E - 4 MD, PA, WV & VA

Ed F - 9 DE, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, TN, WV & VA

Charlie H - 5 DE, MD, PA, WV & VA

Francis H - 1 TX

Megan H - 1 TX

Deb J - 2 DE & NY

Mac McC - 37 AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IN, IA, IL, KY, KS, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NY, NH, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, VT, WI & WV

Jo McC - 36 AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IN, IA, IL, KY, KS, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NY, NH, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VT, WI & WV

Mike McG - 18 CT, DE, FL, IN, KY, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, VT, WI & WV

Joyce M - 6 AZ, DE, KY, MD, MS & UT

Chris P - 10 CT, MD, NH, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT & WA

Patty R - 15 CT, DE, NJ, NY, OH, PA, MA, ME, MD, NH, OR, RI, VA, VT & WV

Tom R - 15 CT, DE, NJ, NY, OH, PA, MA, ME, MD, NH, OR, RI, VA, VT & WV

Alan R - 12 CT, DE, OH, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, WV, VA & VT

Flora R - 1 OH

Joe W - 9 CT, MD, NH, NY, PA, RI, WV, VA & VT

## **What's not to love about a party?** By Curt B.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December members of the chapter gathered at Renzi's to celebrate the holidays together. It was a fun evening with great food by the caterers, yummy desserts provided by John and Tina S., and door prizes for all. There were plenty of laughs and time to just talk with friends.

The drawing for the flag-poker chip holder raffle was also held during the festivities. The owner of Renzi's pulled the winning ticket, and the lucky winner was Curt B.





## Classified Ads

In our classified ads you will find items for sale or services provided by members or offered by businesses that know motorcycles and riders. You may just find something you need. If you would like to have an ad in our newsletter, please send your info to Curt at [crbarr55@gmail.com](mailto:crbarr55@gmail.com).



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Do you have a business or service that you would like to let our membership know about? Just get in touch with Curt B. and you can be part of the classified ads. See the officer list on the next page for Curt's contact info.



## Motorcycle Riding Companions ...How You Can Choose Yours Wisely

Your motorcycle riding companions can make the difference between an extremely pleasing experience and a joyless -- even unsafe -- motorcycle trip. This is especially true when you take off on a multi-day trip with one or more riding companions. Traveling too long and too far with the wrong riding partner can wreck your trip and make you crazy. Now, when I say riding partner or motorcycle riding companion, I mean the person traveling with you on his or her own motorcycle. I don't mean your "significant other" sharing the same seat with you on the same motorcycle. That's a different kind of partnership you'll have to figure out for yourself. I'm talking about the importance of finding a kindred spirit whose riding style and temperament fit yours.

Traveling with the right person has as much to do with safety as with enjoyment. When two riders have very different riding styles and they can't find a happy medium, nerves can unravel. The need for one rider to continually speed up to keep up or otherwise ride outside the limits of his or her abilities or comfort zone is distracting and dangerous. On the other hand, a rider who can safely take the turns at speed and likes to travel at a fast clip must make allowances for a much slower rider. Continually looking in the rear view mirror for your motorcycle at your riding companion can become a dangerous distraction. I know of two riders in particular who, after five days of traveling cross-country together, split up and went their separate ways rather than continue riding with each other. One guy just couldn't cope with the other's tendency to ride too fast and take chances.



Over the course of a trip, many other factors can make the difference between fun and aggravation. Some riders want to ride, ride, ride for hours...while others would rather stop often for a Dairy Queen or to take in the sights. Some riders must fill up their gas tank every 150 miles... while others can go for 300 miles or more between refills... Some riders would rather camp out at the end of the day...while others would rather stay at the Holiday Inn.... Some riders can't decide where they want to go and how they want to get there...while others plan their route and stick to it throughout the day. For me, long distance riding has been a largely solitary experience. And that's the way I like it.

However, over the years, I've lucked out with motorcycle riding companions. Actually, I've had some of the most enjoyable and memorable motorcycle touring experiences while traveling with other riders. For about six years in a row, my friend, Don, and I took a series of one- to two-week-long motorcycle trips. We traveled all over the United States, camping out just about every day and in every conceivable location where we could pitch our tent. In addition to being good friends, we had similar riding habits, abilities and tolerances. We didn't mind riding long distances, often in lousy weather, or camping in the rain. We enjoyed visiting small towns and eating in local diners and cafes. Rather than camp out in legitimate campgrounds or stay in motels, we often pitched our tent in unusual, solitary places. Occasionally we'd spend a day or two hiking or fishing rather than riding. And we always found lots to laugh about.

## Motorcycle Riding Companions (cont.)

Every now and then, our spirit of adventure got the best of us. Such as the time we drove down an unmarked dirt road in Yellowstone National Park to find a nice campsite well off the beaten track. About a mile into the woods, we saw such a spot. It had been raining and we were still wearing our rain suits when we parked the bikes and started clearing a patch of ground for the tent. During the process, the two of us picked up each end of a heavy log to move out of the way. Suddenly, a swarm of bees came streaming out of the end of the log I was holding. When I suddenly stared at Don with panic in my eyes, he thought I'd seen a bear or some other creature attacking him from behind. Before I could say a word, he dropped his end of the log and sprinted past me. I did the same and raced him up the gravel road we'd just rode in on. There we were, two jerks in yellow rain suits and rubber boots, looking very much like oversized beach balls running through the Montana woods. And me frantically waving my hands over my head to ward off the bees.



Many years later, I joined my cousin, Dennis, and a group of riders up from Florida on a trip through New England and Nova Scotia. This was a new experience for me because I'd never ridden with a group or traveled without camping gear. These folks liked to eat well, stay in nice motels and hotels and relax in a Jacuzzi at the end the day. I must admit, I quickly got very comfortable with this routine. We all traveled well together and made allowances for each other's personal needs and riding habits. Some riders had their wives along and were extra concerned about the ladies' comfort. They wanted them to enjoy riding two-up over the long haul. We would stop about once an hour to fill our tanks or for meals or just to take a break. We traveled an easy 250 to 300 miles a day and made sure we had a comfortable place to stay each night. Evening meals together were lots of fun with

lots of laughs. Unfortunately for me, I had to split from the group to head home early. When we separated somewhere on a back road in Nova Scotia, I definitely felt alone. I missed the camaraderie.

All in all, I'd say that traveling solo on your motorcycle emphasizes the inherent freedom of motorcycle touring and travel. You can ride at your own pace, stop when you want, go where you want and stay where you want. However, you'll also get lots of enjoyment when traveling with one or more riders who you get along with and who make the ride that much more fun.

But, remember...when it comes to selecting your motorcycle riding companions...choose wisely. Your safety and sanity depend on it.

Author unknown; <https://www.motorcycle-gear-and-riding-info.com/motorcycle-riding-companions.html>



## 2024 Leadership team

Please contact any of the officers listed below if you have questions or concerns about the chapter or an upcoming ride or event.

### HOG Manager

Saunde B.  
[610 558-3331](tel:6105583331)  
[saunde@hannumshd.com](mailto:saunde@hannumshd.com)

### Director

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### Assistant Director

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### Treasurer

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### Head Road Captain

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### Web mistress

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Meet the 2025 leadership team at the upcoming chapter meeting on January 18, 2025 at Brandywine Harley-Davidson at 8:00 am.

## Brandywine Harley-Davidson

### Contact us

1241 Baltimore Pike  
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

 [610.558.3331](tel:610.558.3331)

 [info@hannumshd.com](mailto:info@hannumshd.com)

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### HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Wednesday - Friday	10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday	Closed



## 2025 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM AND RELEASE

Chapter Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Nat'l H.O.G. Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date of National H.O.G.® Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the H.O.G.® Chapter Charter and hereby agree to abide by it as a member of this Dealer sponsored Chapter.

I recognize that while this Chapter is chartered with H.O.G.®, it remains a separate, independent entity solely responsible for its actions.

### **THIS IS A RELEASE, READ BEFORE SIGNING**

I agree that the Sponsoring Dealer, Harley Owners Group® (H.O.G.®), Harley-Davidson, Inc., Harley-Davidson Motor Company, my Chapter and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents (hereinafter, the **"RELEASED PARTIES"**) shall not be liable or responsible for injury to me (including paralysis or death) or damage to my property occurring during any H.O.G.® or H.O.G.® Chapter activities and resulting from acts or omissions occurring during the performance of the duties of the Released Parties, even where the damage or injury is caused by negligence (except willful neglect). I understand and agree that all H.O.G.® members and their guests participate voluntarily and at their own risk in all H.O.G.® activities and I assume all risks of injury and damage arising out of the conduct of such activities. I release and hold the **"RELEASED PARTIES"** harmless from any injury or loss to my person or property which may result from my participation in H.O.G. activities and EVENT(S). I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MEANS THAT I AGREE NOT TO SUE THE **"RELEASED PARTIES"** FOR ANY INJURY OR RESULTING DAMAGE TO MYSELF OR MY PROPERTY ARISING FROM, OR IN CONNECTION WITH, THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR CHAPTER DUTIES IN SPONSORING, PLANNING OR CONDUCTING SAID EVENT(S).

### **WAIVER OF RIGHTS UNDER STATE STATUTES**

I further agree to waive all benefits flowing from any state statute which would negate or limit the scope of this Release and Indemnification Agreement including, but not limited to, Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides:

"A general release does not extend to the claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor."

By signing this Release, I certify that I have read this Release and fully understand it and that I am not relying on any statements or representations made by the **"RELEASED PARTIES"**.

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CHAPTER**