



H.O.G.[®] OFFICER CONNECTION

Connecting officers to Harley-Davidson

FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS ISSUE OF H.O.G.[®] OFFICER
CONNECTION TO YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR H.O.G.[®] REGIONAL MANAGER

Everybody loves a road trip! Swinging a leg over your Harley and hitting the pavement in search of new horizons is an essential part of the motorcycling experience. Road trips are all about the spirit of adventure and thrill of exploration, and nothing represents that better than riding the famous Route 66.

Officially established on November 11, 1926, the “Mother Road” stretches 2,400 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles. Route 66 takes travelers on a trip through time and terrain that stimulates the imagination, harking back to a simpler era before massive concrete interstate highways dominated the landscape.

H.O.G. is celebrating the **Route 66 Centennial** with a pair of Touring Rallies that capture the freedom and adventure of this legendary road that has guided dreamers, travelers and riders for a century. Split into two segments, the eastern leg from Chicago to Amarillo wrapped up last month. In September, the western route picks up again in Amarillo and continues to Santa Monica, riding into history and honoring both the iconic road and the timeless journey it inspires. You can read more about the history of Route 66 in the latest issue of *The Enthusiast* magazine, which is being mailed to H.O.G. members this month.

Even if you don't find your way onto Route 66 sometime this year, I hope you do have the chance to make a road trip of your dreams this summer, however far and wherever it may take you. As always, thanks for everything you do to help make the Harley Owners Group the world's biggest and best riding club. Let's ride!



CHRIS HARRISON
H.O.G. Regional Manager - Western



Chrome Chapter Tip: H.O.G. Rally Attendance

One key step in the process of achieving Chrome Chapter recognition is to have at least 10 members of your chapter attend a H.O.G. event during 2026.

Sounds easy, right? Because it is. There are two ways to accomplish this goal: you members can attend a **free** H.O.G. Check-in at major event or **register** to attend a H.O.G. regional or touring rally or the H.O.G. National Rally (see the complete list of Check-ins and Rallies in the calendar below).

Meeting this requirement can also be easy for H.O.G. officers, because the planning at these events is already done for you and your members. All you need to do is spread the word and show up to ride. Easy peasy!

Learn more about the Chrome Chapter program by watching an **introduction video** from Bill Davidson and Tim Budzien [here](#). Download the **Chrome Chapter Recognition Program guide** from the [Chapter Resources page](#) to find out how your chapter can earn this coveted status.



Help Choose 15 for '27 Ride Challenge Destinations

H.O.G.'s "15 for" destination challenge is one of our most popular Ride 365 programs. Participants can visit a variety of destinations and attractions around the country ranging from historic sites to natural wonders, plus all sorts of fun, quirky and interesting locations in between. Whether they collect one destination per year or all of them, participants explore interesting locations, ride great roads and collect unforgettable memories. Participants also receive an exclusive challenge coin for each destination visited.

You can help us select destinations for the 15 for '27 challenge by sending your suggestions for places that combine the elements we're looking for: a unique location with great riding nearby. Whether it's a favorite local landmark or someplace more distant you've always wanted to visit, we're looking to share the best recommendations from our members with the rest of the H.O.G. community!

To submit your suggestions, visit the H.O.G. Stories website [here](#) and provide a short description of the destination and why you think it should be included in the 15 for '27 challenge. Please include any additional facts or history, suggested photo locations, route information and anything else worth noting.



How to Handle Challenging Group Rides

An inevitable aspect of managing a group ride of any size is dealing with riders of different experience, skill levels and expectations. Occasionally you may encounter riders who lack the skills to ride confidently in a group or display reckless behavior that jeopardizes the safety of others. Here are five tips to help address these challenges and keep your rides safe and enjoyable for all participants:

- **Place less experienced riders strategically.** Riding near the front help newer riders follow the pace and route without feeling pressured to keep up. Avoid putting them at the back, where they may feel pressure to ride beyond their abilities.
- **Manage pace, not speed.** Set an appropriate pace for the least experienced riders in the group. Encourage riders who want to ride faster to ride ahead and meet the group at the next stop.
- **Address problems directly.** If a rider is following too closely, making aggressive passes or riding unpredictably, speak with them privately at

the next stop. Keep the conversation focused on safety and cooperation rather than criticism.

- **Split the group.** Consider creating separate groups based on riding experience and pace. Splitting into a "touring" group and a "spirited" group can result in safer, more enjoyable rides for everyone.
- **Be willing to draw the line.** If a rider consistently engages in behavior that puts others at risk, the ride leader may need to ask them to ride independently rather than with the group.

Do you have more suggestions for managing challenging group ride situations? Please share them with your Regional Manager and we may include them in a future newsletter. For more tips, review the Group Riding section in the [H.O.G. Chapter Handbook](#).



Rally In the Black Hills

Join H.O.G. and Harley-Davidson from Friday, August 7, through Friday, August 14, in the Black Hills of South Dakota to celebrate the 86th [Sturgis](#)

Motorcycle Rally.

H.O.G. activities at the Pappy Hoel Campground, the official campground of H.O.G., include a member Check-In, biker games, and the members-only Party at the Pool. The campground offers [preferred pricing on wristbands](#) for H.O.G. members and is the starting point for a members-only ride. All H.O.G. events are open to members and a guest.

Harley-Davidson will also be set up at the Sturgis Community Center in downtown Sturgis with an additional H.O.G. Check-in, new product displays and free demo rides. Share the schedule and details below with your members.

H.O.G. Member Check-in (2 locations)

Visit both Check-ins to receive a rally token unique to each location. Members must present H.O.G. membership card to receive token.

- Pappy Hoel Campground/Full Throttle Saloon, [19942 SD-79, Vale, SD](#)
- Sturgis Community Center, [1401 Lazelle St., Sturgis, SD](#)
- Dates & Times: Friday, August 7 to Friday, August 14, 10 am to 5pm.

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Challenge

For those who love to ride, this challenge is a great way to explore the Black Hills. Visit 6 of 8 selected challenge locations and check-in digitally via the [H-D App](#). After completing the challenge, return to the Harley-Davidson activation at either the Sturgis Community Center or Pappy Hoel Campground by 3 pm on Friday, August 14, to receive a commemorative gift.

H.O.G. Member Ride

Saddle up for the Annual "Kick'n It Old School" ride to Devil's Tower. New this year, we're heading first to Alzada, MT, then to Devil's Tower and finally stopping for lunch at Stonehouse Saloon in Belle Fourche, SD, where the official ride ends. \$25 registration fee includes lunch and a commemorative ride T-shirt. Register [here](#) to reserve your spot!

- Pappy Hoel Campground - Full Throttle Saloon
- Sunday August 9
- Check-in and staging: 8-8:30 am
- Kickstands up: 8:30 am
- Registration closes July 26

H.O.G. Biker Games

Pappy Hoel Campground/Full Throttle Saloon. Wednesday, August 12, 3 pm.

H.O.G. Party at the Pool

The Pool @ Pappy Hoel Campground/Full Throttle Saloon. Thursday August 13, 6 pm



2026 H.O.G. Rally Calendar

H.O.G. Rally Spotlight: Iron Adventure Regional H.O.G. Rally, Ludlow, VT, July 16-18

Vermont's winding roads, rolling Green Mountains and scenic river valleys make it one of the best riding destinations in New England. During this rally, you'll explore charming small towns, historic covered bridges and stunning mountain overlooks on guided or self-guided routes that showcase the state's natural beauty. Evenings offer local entertainment, activities, and plenty of time to connect with fellow H.O.G. members, making it the perfect way to experience Vermont on two wheels.

2026 H.O.G. Touring Rallies

- 10 State H.O.G. Touring Rally, Lakeville, MN to Bossier City, LA, August 17-22
- Tour of Valor H.O.G. Touring Rally – Mobile, AL to Madison, WI, September 1-9
- Route 66 West H.O.G. Touring Rally, Amarillo, TX to Marina Del Ray, CA, September 22-28
- Ride Home H.O.G. Touring Rally, Hickory, NC to H-D Museum, Milwaukee, WI, October 14-19

2026 H.O.G. Regional Rallies

- Blue Ridge Rumble Regional H.O.G. Rally, Winchester, VA, June 17-20
- Iron Adventure Regional H.O.G. Rally, Ludlow, VT, July 16-18
- Cruisin the Catskills Regional H.O.G. Rally, Hunter Mountain, NY, July 23-25
- H.O.G. National Rally, Branson, MO, September 9-12

2026 H.O.G. Check-ins

- Laconia Motorcycle Week, Loudon, NH, June 13-20
- Spenard Bike Week, Anchorage, AK, August 2-9
- Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Sturgis, SD, August 7-14

- Four Corners Motorcycle Rally, Durango, CO, September 3-6
- Bikefest Lake of the Ozarks, Lake of the Ozarks, MO, September 16-19
- The Fall Ride, Sara Park, WI, September 18-19
- Smoky Mountain Bike Week, Maryville, TN, September 26-October 3
- Bikes, Blues & BBQ, Rallyard Bike Park, AR, September 30-October 3
- Biketoberfest, Ormond Beach, FL, October 15-17
- The Love Ride, Glendale, CA, November 8

More information and registration links for 2026 H.O.G. rallies are available on the [H.O.G. Rally site](#).



How to Submit Ride 365 Challenge Photos

Participating in H.O.G. Ride 365 Challenges like the Dealership Photo Challenge, 15 for '26, and 50 Rides, One Nation is simple, but members often don't know how to correctly submit the required photographs to receive credit for their accomplishments.

Photo submissions for these riding challenges must be uploaded to the member's profile at members.hog.com, not through the H-D App.