

Chapter Membership Meeting
Harley Owners Group
Garden State Chapter
Morris County NJ
@ Garden State Harley Dealership
November 16, 2024

ATTENDEES

Director/Road Captain:	R. Breuninger / R. Seitz
Assistant Director / Road Captain	M. Chizmadia
Treasurer	B. Papetti
Secretary	DJ Lannigan
Head Road Captain	
Photographer / Road Captain	J. Gallios
Webmaster / Road Captain	M. Durenberger
Historian / Road Captain	J. Gennarelli
Membership / Activity Officer:	D. Borowsky
Safety Officer / Road Captain	H. Olbrich
AMA Rep:	D. Bannon

General Attendees

J. Andersen	L. Bakelmun
B. Bartick	R. Basile
V. Belcastro	S. Bischoff
M. Bishop	R. Blackwell
MA Breuninger	D. Butkovich
DA Bukovich	C. Carreira
M. Delarusa	T. Deming
P. Fortunato	P. Gallios
R. Hall	R. Hui
K. Hunt	M. Irula
B. Jones	V. Kellett
D. Lannigan	J. Larkin
D. Lawlor	S. Lawlor
J. Parisi	A. Paxton
D. Paxton	A. Perez
DJ Peterson	G. Rafuse
DA Ryan	D. Ryan
J. Sagarese	M. Schattner
P. Schneider	G. Seitz
V. Senia	D. Smith
N. Smith	W. Waltsak

Meeting Called to Order approx: 9:33 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by a Veteran

OPENING REMARKS / OFFICER REPORTS:

Director: R. Breuninger opened the meeting asking everyone for a moment of silence to remember/honor our good friend and Head Road Captain B. Gould who passed away very unexpectedly on November 3, 2024. He then asked that all keep her family in your prayers and he thanked all who helped put together such a beautiful memorial service and attended. He said "I'm sure we made B. Gould

proud; and how very much she will be missed. A Member then shouted... "LETS SAY HER NAME.. "BARBARA". R. Seits then said "and say it often".

- R. Breuninger then inquired if everyone had voted on their favorite Chicken Wing Restaurant. He reminded all members who attended any of the chicken wing restaurants to please vote for their favorite place and hand in their voting slips before they leave the meeting today.
- R. Breuninger next spoke about how the Dealership is hosting again, "Pictures with Santa". Members can bring their pups for a photo with Santa too. Dates for photos with Santa will be December 7th, 14th and 15th. From 11 AM to 2 PM. Chapter Group photo will be on December 15th at 11:00 AM. He also asked if anyone can volunteer to help with the photo sessions, on any of these dates, it would be greatly appreciated. MA Breuninger asked that members who wish to volunteer to please see her. She is coordinating this effort. It was mentioned that volunteers maybe asked to dress as an Elf.
- R. Breuninger also spoke about 2025 Membership sign-up. He announced that membership forms will be going out via the weekly email blasts, in early January 2025 (remember to check your spam box if not receiving). The reason forms are not being distributed in December 2024 timeframe is to hopefully prevent completed forms being returned with an incorrect year date (2024). He stated that forms need to be dated using **YEAR 2025**. It was also brought up that there is a new membership form for 2025. DJ Lannigan will follow-up on obtaining the 2025 form and provide to Webmaster, M. Durenberger.

Follow-up: DJ Lannigan has pulled down 2025 Membership form from National HOG website and form has been emailed to Webmaster, M. Durenberger – so he is ready to release forms via email late December 2024 / January 2025.

R. Breuninger then asked W. Waltsak to speak about the upcoming Turkey Trot. W. Waltsak shared that the Turkey Trot will be held on:

- November 24th, 2024
 - Breakfast at the Andover Diner, Rt. 206 (Andover) @ 8:00 AM
 - Then volunteers will head over to the ACME in Blirstown to pick up the turkeys
 - Need to be at the Church at 11:00 AM to drop off turkeys
 - Balance/remainder of turkeys will go over to "Stuff the Bus" at Shop Rite in Newton.
 - R. Seitz asked whoever can help/assist and has a Pick-Up / SUV, that can carry some turkeys be at the diner at 8:00 AM.
- Next, R. Breuninger then asked Member, P. Schneider, to share his story about a recent motorcycle accident he was involved in on Rt. 80, and how wearing protective gear saved his life that day. P. Schneider shared that he had just finished a Riders Pro Class and was on his way home, riding about 65 MPH, when a car came up on his side and moved over and hit him. He slid about 50 yards; bike slid about 100 yards. He showed everyone what his helmet looked like and the impact the helmet took that saved his head/brain. He also showed everyone the mesh jacket and pants he wore. Pants had the Kevlar protection in them which gave him an extra layer between him and the road. Even though jacket was a mesh jacket it still gave him another layer between him and the road as opposed to not wearing anything but a tee-shirt. He also said that he will always wear "leather" gloves with protecting his hands. He also encouraged all members to make sure they ride with a good pair of riding boots. He was wearing steel toe boots that day and from the sliding on the roadway, his one boot, the toe wore down to the metal.

He said, "doctors were amazed at his condition when he was brought in, thinking he would have been in a much more serious condition."

P. Schneider said that the injuries he sustained due to the accident were: broken arm / wrist, 2 broken ribs and allot of scratches/minimal road rash. Had he not been wearing the gear he wore that day his injuries would have been much worse, and he may have succumbed to his injuries.

WE are all "thankful" that P. Schneider came out of this accident and was able to share his story/experience to help chapter members be better/safer riders.

Treasurer: B. Papetti reported that the chapter's bank account is in good standing.

Secretary: DJ Lannigan spoke about the chicken wing voting ballots handed out to members when signing in. She asked all members, even those that didn't complete all 6 required wing restaurants, to vote for their favorite restaurant. She shared that the voting ballots will be tallied up and the restaurant winner of the wing challenge will be announced at the February chapter meeting. A ride will be placed on the calendar to visit that restaurant winner and present them with a plaque, sometime in the 2025 riding season. She also reminded any member who may not have signed in for today's chapter meeting to please sign-in, so they get credit for attending.

DJ Lannigan also reminded members that the 2025 membership forms will be going out via email in January 2025 and to please make sure when completing the forms to date them "2025". She also asked all members to please continue to keep their National HOG membership current. She reminded members that if their National HOG membership lapses, they can no longer participate with Garden State local chapter.

She also announced there will be another tee-shirt/name tag order. Sign-up sheet will be circulated during the February/March chapter meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Head Road Captain:

Membership Officer: D. Borowsky shared that the current active/paid members stand at 125. She asked if anyone has any ideas for activities during the winter months to please let me know. She is looking for ideas so chapters members stay connected during the off-riding months.

D. Borowsky also reminded members about the year-end dinner being held this evening at the Jefferson House, Lake Hopatcong. For those attending, please wear your Vests. Tickets are still available; \$50.00 Per Person; Start time is 6:00 PM; Theme is Cowboy; Line dancing lessons will be available.

Safety Officer: H. Olbrich started off with saying "what a great turnout". He continued with saying that "technically the riding season is now over but there is still plenty of ride time out there". He reminded all members to winterize their bikes.

He again spoke about the "Road ID" bracelet and that information is being shared in the weekly email blasts about this product. He stressed the importance of having something like the "Road ID" bracelet in the event of an accident and the importance of this item in aiding first responders/police in administering first aid during an accident.

H. Olbrich concluded with "2024 was a great riding season – remember to keep the rubber down".

Next, member D. Smith reminded all members that in the event of an accident sometimes when you get separated from your motorcycle, and your clothes start to deteriorate, sometimes your wallet may go in an unexpected place. If you are wearing the "Road ID" bracelet it's goes right with you to the hospital. He also suggested that a person might consider registering their blood type on it.

Member R. Seitz also stated that if you wear an "I Watch" or "Samsung watch", this same company makes the tag that goes onto the silicone band. So, if you're wearing an "I Watch" or "Samsung Watch" already, you don't have to have a separate band. Another member also spoke being able to purchase "Road ID" as a dog tag.

H. Olbrich again emphasized that he will continue to share "Road ID" discounts when they become available via email blasts.

Member G. Rafuse also shared with members that he rides with an Airbag Vest. The way it works is the airbag is tethered to the motorcycle. As soon as a rider is separated from the bike the bag expands, providing protection around the neck, rib cage and back. Another member spoke about an airbag vest he rides with which is NOT tethered to a bike but works in the same way that it expands when a rider is separated from their bike.

Historian: J. Gennarelli started off with sharing a picture of B. Gould that was taken on the Milwaukee trip last year (2023). He asked for EBoard approval in looking to blow up this picture to be displayed at the dealership in the room where chapter meetings are held – as a memoriam. **R. Seitz will follow-up regarding this request.**

J. Gennarelli then announced that he will be stepping down as Chapter Historian / Road Captain.

Next, J. Gennarelli spoke about a major charity event that was held back in the day – were the Chapter would look for someone like a local child with a medical issue; monies were raised / collected from various events held during the riding season and those monies were given to that child/family for medical bills, etc; He then shared a story about one particular year in which his friend's daughter was identified as the person in which monies would be raised for. This girl was critically ill at that time. He shared what the Chapters protocol was in identifying a person that monies would be raised for. If that person's chance of recovery was not good, the Chapter would move on to someone that they could help. But the decision was made that the Chapter was going to sponsor his friend's daughter. Unfortunately, she passed away, but the Chapter did raise money for the family. Since that time, it's been payback time for J. Gennarelli. He felt very strongly about what the chapter did and has been paying back ever since.

J. Gennarelli then shared another story... He said, "Two weeks ago, he led a chapter ride to Pennings. Unfortunately, during the ride they had to make a detour due to the brush fires happening in Northern New Jersey. While looking for another route we ended up at Blu Alehouse in Riverdale. Blu Alehouse used to be called, Rupperts. The original Harley dealership (Kinnelon) also used to be across the street from Blu Alehouse aka Rupperts. When we entered the restaurant, the Hostess ironically took us to the same room where we used to have our chapter meetings; turns out this is almost the same spot where he was elected Director, and here he was on his last ride, as Road Captain/Historian – I've gone full circle".

That's it...

J. Gennarelli was then presented with a "Past Officer" patch by Director R. Breuninger

Webmaster: M. Durenberger had nothing to report. All good.

AMA Rep: D. Bannon shared that the AMA Service / Safety award plaques had not yet arrived, so whoever is the Service / Safety winners, being announced at tonight's dinner... when the plaques arrive he will ensure winners receive their plaques.

Photographer: J. Gallios had nothing to report. D. Borowksy then "thanked" J. Gallios for capturing a beautiful year in the photos taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

Director, R. Breuninger presented Treasurer, B. Papetti with a "Past Officer" patch – as she is stepping down as Treasurer for the 2025 Season.

Director, R. Breuninger presented Safety Officer, H. Olbrich with a "Past Officer" patch – as he is stepping down as Safety Officer for the 2025 Season.

Director, R. Breuninger presented Director patch to R. Seitz who will be taking over as Garden State Chapter Director for the next 2-year term, starting January 2025. R. Seitz shared that he is looking forward to a great 2025 riding season. He then thanked members for all their prayers and well wishes during his health recovery.

Director, R. Seitz presented R. Breuninger with a “Past Officer” patch. R. Seitz thanked R. Breuninger for all his time / service during the past 4 years as Director and keeping the Garden State Chapter moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

D. Borowsky then announced that John W. who is a past member of Garden State and a Rescue Rider, will be coming back to Garden State. His favorite color is blue; she asked him “what do you ride”? His response was “yes”.

Director, R. Seitz then announced his Team/E Board for the 2025 Season:

Director, R. Seitz announced that Chapter Member M. Chizmadia will be taking over, full-time, as Assistant Director. M. Chizmadia was presented with the “Assistant Director” patch.

Director, R. Seitz announced that R. Breuninger will be taking over as Safety Officer. R. Breuninger was presented with the “Safety Officer” patch.

Director, R. Seitz announced that MA Breuninger will be taking over as Treasurer. MA Breuninger was presented with the “Treasurer” patch.

Director, R. Seitz announced that D. Paxton will be taking over as Head Road Captain. D. Paxton was presented with the “Head Road Captain” patch.

Director, R. Seitz announced that Photographer, J. Gallios will return.

Director, R. Seitz announced that Secretary, DJ Lannigan will return.

Director, R. Seitz announced Membership / Activity Officer, D. Borowsky will return.

Director, R. Seitz announced Webmaster, M. Durenberger will return.

Director, R. Seitz announced AMA Representative, D. Bannon will return.

Next, Member, V. Belcasteo shared with members that December 8th will be the Annual Toy Run. Sponsored by Blue Lives NYC; Registration starts at 8:30 AM @ the Bon Jovi Rest Area, Garden State Parkway. KSU @ 11:00 AM. Ride is police escorted traveling from NJ to NY (Rockefeller Center). Cost is \$25.00 Rider / \$15.00 Passenger. Need to bring an un-wrapped toy. For anyone who would like to participate.

Director, R. Seitz also shared that on November 30th is the annual Totowa/ Little Falls Light Parade.... for anyone that wants to attend, Going to meet at Dealership @ 3:00 PM; Looking to carpool to parade. If going – please dress WARM. NOT going if raining that day.

Lastly – A question was raised if there will be a memorial ride in B. Gould’s honor. MA Breuninger shared that B. Gould was cremated and that part of her ashes will be buried in her family’s plot in Madison, and part of her ashes w/flowers, will be given to the chapter to spread along a ride in the 2025 riding season (rides being considered are rides that she took the chapter on, or perhaps a ride that B. Gould dreamed about going on but did not get the chance) - TBD.

Director, R. Seitz asked if anyone is interested in being the Chapter’s Historian, please contact him.

Members, P Schneider, D. Smith on behalf of Member S. Smith and K. Hunt all thanked the chapter for the Gift Baskets that were sent during their health recoveries.

Next Chapter Meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2025

ADJOURMENT: 10:33 AM meeting was adjourned.

RAFFLE DRAWING: .G. Rafuse was the winner of the \$25.00 HD gift card. Ticket #1801792

*Mtg minutes prepared by DJ Lannigan