

Chapter Membership Meeting  
Harley Owners Group  
Garden State Chapter  
Morris County NJ  
@ Garden State Harley Dealership  
February 15, 2025

**ATTENDEES**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Director/Road Captain:        | R. Seitz       |
| Ass't. Director/Road Captain: | M. Chizmadia   |
| Treasurer/Road Captain:       | MA Breuninger  |
| Secretary:                    | DJ Lannigan    |
| Head Road Captain:            | D. Paxton      |
| Photographer/Road Captain:    | J Gallios      |
| Webmaster/Road Captain:       | M. Durenberger |
| Historian/Road Captain:       | R. Hall        |
| Membership/Activity Officer:  | D. Borowsky    |
| Safety Officer:               | R. Breuninger  |
| AMA Rep:                      | D. Bannon      |

**General Attendees**

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| A. Arboleda   | E. Arrabito       |
| L. Bakelmun   | B. Bartick        |
| R. Basile     | S. Bischoff       |
| M. Bishop     | R. Blackwell      |
| D. Butkovich  | M. Calandra       |
| C. Carreira   | S. Chizmadia      |
| M. Delarosa   | J. DeWald         |
| P. Fortunato  | P. Gallios        |
| J. Gennarelli | M. Gennari        |
| A. Gibbon     | M. Gibbons        |
| A. Guadagnino | R. Hui            |
| K. Hunt       | C. Irula          |
| M. Irula      | B. Jones          |
| J. Jones      | V. Kellett        |
| D. Lannigan   | J. Larkin         |
| S. Lawlor     | M. Mania          |
| G. Moore      | H. Olbrich        |
| B. Papetti    | J. Parisi         |
| A. Paxton     | A. Perez          |
| DJ Peterson   | M. Schattner      |
| P. Schneider  | G. Seitz          |
| V. Senia      | D. Smith Jr       |
| N. Smith      | A. Spadone        |
| V. Viglione   | M. Vogt           |
| J. Vorrasi    | B. Worden-Spadone |

New and/or Returning Members:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| G. Bakelmun   | J. Lombardo   |
| K. MacDevette | M. Marden     |
| N. Nicastro   | J. Weinheimer |

**Breakfast was served at approx: 9:00 AM;**

**Meeting Called to Order approx: 9:30 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chapter Member D. Smith.**

### **OPENING REMARKS / OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Director:** R. Setiz opened the meeting with “Good Morning Everyone” and Happy New Year and Welcome to an Exciting 2025 Season.

R. Setiz then shared that he needed to recognize and “THANK” the following:

- Garden State Dealership: for covering the costs of the wonderful breakfast that was served. He asked if Members... see Randi / Chris or Bobby, please take the time to “thank” them and let them know how much the Chapter appreciates them. R. Setiz emphasized that “Without the Dealership, the Chapter would not exist”. R. Setiz stated that the Chapter has an excellent relationship with Garden State Dealership, which is not the norm in all Chapters, and that we need to ensure our relationship continues to grow and stay strong.
- Next.... R. Setiz “thanked” M. Chizmadia, M. Durenberger, R. Breuninger and Randi for all their help and assistance in setting up for the breakfast.
- Next.... R. Setiz “thanked” all those members who volunteered their time in assisting with the Santa Christmas Photo sessions that took place back in December 2024. He explained that the Dealership was a bit short staffed at the time, and they needed help from the Chapter in handling / running the 3 day picture taking process. R. Setiz stated that the Chapter stepped up in a big way; everyone who volunteered came with a great attitude; came with a smile; made it fun; and the 3 days of “Photos with Santa”, turned out to be a great SUCCESS. “Thank You” all who volunteered.
- R. Setiz then “Thanked” specific Members on their collaborative effort (D. Paxton, MA Breuninger, R. Breuninger, M. Durenberger), in updating and distributing the survey that was emailed to Members in the last several email blasts. He explained that this survey is being used as tool to get input from “all” Members regarding rides Members would like to do in the upcoming season; places Members would like to go; to obtain feedback on what’s working and what’s not working; changes Members would like to see, etc. He shared that if any Member has still not taken the survey and would like to, that the QR code that was handed out upon arrival at today’s meeting will be the final opportunity to participate in the survey. R. Setiz emphasized that without this survey “we can’t do anything”, “we can’t change anything”. It’s an important tool.
- R. Setiz next reminded all Members about the weekly Tuesday night emails being sent out. He stated that this email contains important links; ride information; and very important general information to help Members stay informed of what is happening with the Chapter. Everyone that is a chapter member is on the email list. He encouraged all Members to please look for this email and most importantly.... read it. R. Setiz said a **“A HUGE THANK YOU”** to M. Durenberger for all his work and effort that goes into putting together this email and getting it out - every week. Right now 87% of members are at least opening it.
- R. Setiz then reminded any person who has not signed up for the 2025 season that the membership form link is still being included in the weekly email blasts, or you can see Membership Officer, D. Borowsky. So please sign-up. He emphasized that it’s important to be a member because we have some things coming up for this season and if you are not a member you can’t be part of it – it’s that simple.
- R. Setiz next reminded Members that for any overnight rides for the 2025 season - the “3 Ride of 50 Miles or More” Rule, with the chapter - still applies. This rule was put in place 2 years ago and it is still enforced; this rule has proven very valuable; it’s a vital rule for riding together safely and that’s why “we all ride so well together”. He shared that this rule needs to be met “every” year.

Road Captains will ensure there are enough 50 mile rides being scheduled before an overnight ride, to give Members the opportunity to meet and satisfy this rule.

- R. Seitz next shared that Guest Speaker, Brian Dealership Service/Parts Manager will be speaking at today's meeting talking about taking your bike out of storage; Next meeting will be John from Ride Like A Pro. He will present his program which the Chapter very much encourages. He mentioned discounts are given for large groups who sign-up.

**NEXT - Guest Speaker:** Brian Dealership Service/Parts Manager spoke about what Members should do when taking their bike out of storage for the winter.

- Change key fob battery
- Do a walk around bike; make sure no drips of oil, etc
- Check tire pressures
- Look at side walls of tires; look for cracks or dry rot; motorcycle tires last an average of 4 to 5 years depending on how you ride / where you ride and what temperature you ride in.
- Check all lights; brake lights; turn signals.
- When you start your bike make sure check engine is not lit
- Check engine oil – cold and hot
- Check your Service History – whether it's serviced by yourself; at Dealership; or independent shop; Most service should always be done every 5,000 miles for synthetic oil; 2,500 miles for base oil – just oil change... not the primary or transmission – that's still 5,000.
- Battery life – 3 or 4 years of battery life.
- For the first ride... take it for a short ride to "clear the cobwebs".

**Last item...** R. Seitz then informed Members that going forward "All Chapter and Eboard Meeting Start Times", will be changing from 9:30 AM to 9:00 AM.

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**NEXT** - R. Seitz then introduced the Chapter's "new" Historian – R. Hall.

**Historian:** R. Hall spoke about what he will be sharing with the chapter as far as "history" with the chapter. He shared that he was the first Director of Garden State; Then Bryne Scordino took over – his time was short; Then after that was K. Austin – who did a tremendous job in developing the chapter. R. Hall also shared that he was Treasurer at that time. He shared that he will present presentations at every chapter meeting that shows how Garden State evolved.

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**Assistant Director:** M. Chizmadia introduced himself to the Chapter. He shared that in the Spring of 2024 he was approached by R. Seitz to see if he would be interested in taking over the Assistant Director position. And of course, I said "YES". M. Chizmadia shared that he feels that Garden State Chapter is a great group of people; he said the camaraderie of the people in this chapter and the safety that is followed by everyone - is second to none. He next - "Thanked" R. Breuninger who led Garden State for the last 4 years as Director. And you can't forget MA Breuninger – who does so much behind the scenes work that many of us don't realize. She is truly an extraordinary person.

He next shared with the Chapter a new concept being introduced this year called "Feed the Pig". A volunteer lottery, being introduced from a North Carolina Chapter associated with D and DA Ryan. Some of the details he provided:

- Feed the Pig is a volunteer lottery (not mandatory)
- If a member would like to participate in the "Feed the Pig" lottery, at the time of sign-in, for a chapter meeting, there will also be a separate sign-in sheet (which will be manned by Assistant Director M. Chizmadia). Member would pay \$1.00 to participate in the "Feed the Pig" lottery and their name would be marked off on the "Feed the Pig" sign-in sheet.
- On the sign-in sheet that members' name is associated with a number.
- At the end of the chapter meeting, an "APP", called "random picker", will be used to select a number between 1 and the number of chapter members in the chapter. When number is picked... if member is present and participated in "Feed the Pig", that member will win the pot.

If the random picker picks someone who is not present or did not participate, then the pot rolls over to the next chapter meeting.

- Chapter members have to participate in EACH "Feed the Pig" in order to win the pot. All because a member participated in the last "Feed the Pig" – THAT PARTICIPATION DOES NOT ROLL OVER. ONLY THE MONEY ROLLS OVER.
- A new sign-in sheet for "Feed the Pig" will be produced for each chapter meeting. Number assignment may change based on current count of chapter members for future meetings. Even if the member list doesn't change it's still randomized anyway.

M. Chizmadia then shared that he is looking into putting together an overnight trip to HOWE's Caverns in Upstate New York. Total distance 1 way is about 180 miles... GPS is about 4-hour ride with no stops but chapter will be stopping; will stop about every 60 to 90 minutes for fuel/bathroom breaks with a lunch break. Will take a total of 6 to 7 hours to get there. They do have tour packages – more specifics to come regarding tours and lodging.

But here are some details:

- Pricing during peak season.... queen \$184; queen with a full is \$203; King \$224; Family \$279
- Looking at the June 21<sup>st</sup> weekend for trip
- 8AM Departure from the Dealership

**\*\*\*After much conversation the consensus from the Chapter is to make this trip a 2-night stay.**

**MORE TO COME.....**

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**Treasurer:** MA Breuninger started off with saying how good it was to see everyone. She then provided the current balance in the chapter's bank account to be in good standing which does include the generous gift from the Dealership (was a donation that was given to the Chapter for helping with the Santa Photos back in December). Thank you again to everyone who participated – because it does get noticed.

She then shared that the Chapter has purchased a new credit card reader – so that credit cards can now be used to purchase products / services, etc. It was a cost to the Chapter, but it was decided that it was needed and well worth it. It provides convenience to all Members when making decisions on payment method.

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**Secretary:** DJ Lannigan welcomed back all members. She then shared that anyone looking to purchase a Chapter T-shirt / Name tag... at the next chapter meeting an order form will be circulated for anyone looking to purchase. One change with ordering for this year is payment will be due at the time of "order". Orders will be placed once we reach the number of required items... to place an order. Will also look into possibly being able to order long sleeve shirts / sweatshirts.

She also asked if anyone knows of a member who might be going thru a health / personal issue, please let her know so the Chapter can send a basket of goodies .... It' just to show that we care / brighten someone's day.

Lastly, she asked all members to please keep their National HOG memberships current. She stated that if your National HOG membership lapse, you cannot participate with any local chapter – specifically Garden State.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Head Road Captain:** D. Paxton introduced himself to the Chapter. D. Paxton then shared that he and MA Breuninger are working on a memorial ride for B. Gould. This will be B. Gould's final ride with the Chapter. More to come on this.

He shared Road Captain items:

- With regards to Charity Rides – it was decided that the Chapter will ride together at the front of the pack. So members will ride at the front.
- This year Road Captains will share more information with Members about upcoming Chapter Rides... specifically length / total time of ride; miles, etc This will help Members better plan their day and make a decision if they want to partake in a specific chapter ride – or not. Will also aide those Members who need to meet the “3...50 mile ride requirement”.
- He then shared that Road Captain P. Gallios will be heading up this year's challenge – which is a Diner Challenge. There are currently 11 Diners that have been identified. Again this year 6 identified Diners is needed to be visited in order to earn a patch.
- April 5<sup>th</sup> is the first official Chapter ride. It's called the “Clear the Cobwebs” ride. It will be a short ride; do some nice local roads to give members that chance with getting re-acquainted with your motorcycle and riding together. He did indicate that if between now and then, we get any nice weekends – look for a possible pop-up ride. Watch your emails/facebook for pop-up ride information
- April 12<sup>th</sup> will be a ride to Table 9
- April 19<sup>th</sup> will be a ride to OMG Burger
- April 26<sup>th</sup> will be a ride to Apple Valley

He then shared Survey information... He thanked all who participated in the survey. He did again mention the QR code that was distributed at the start of the meeting if a Member still wants to participate.

Some key points taken from the survey:

- Everyone loves the friendship / camaraderie / safety – that has been gained from being a member of the Chapter.
- Most people like KSU to be early mornings.
- Most people want KSU between 8 AM and 11 AM for most rides.
- If riding to restaurants will make most rides between 60 to 90 minutes.
- Most people would like to ride highways, if it means going to further destinations.
- Did receive suggestions for new destinations (Road Captains will look into)
- Some people want all day rides
- Overnight rides - 1 or 2 a season. M. Chizmadia is working on one but if anyone has any other ideas for an overnight rides, please let D. Paxton know.
- There was NO requests for evening rides
- Want more detailed information about rides
- Additional merchandise options
- Comments were made about the rides ending at the destination... and wanting the ride to continue from the destination, home – so people don't feel isolated; unsure on how to get home, etc. **(However, It was also explained to Members that because Garden State is a dry chapter any member who consumes alcohol at a destination is not permitted to ride with the Chapter on the return trip. )**
- With all day rides the majority of people would like part of the return trip built into the ride.
- Another suggestion taken from the survey was to come up with a tool to give quitter members a chance to voice their suggestions that leadership could address at chapter meetings (AKA Anonymous Feedback).
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**Membership Officer:** D. Borowsky welcomed back all members and shared how many new members were in attendance:

N. Nicastro (favorite color green); rides a fat bob

G. Bakelmun  
K. MacDevette (favorite color green) rides a road glide  
J. Weinheimer  
M. Marden (favorite color blue) rides a streetglide  
Ed ??? first meeting  
J. Lomardo

Current active members stand at 84.

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**Safety Officer:** R. Breuninger gave a presentation on helmets. There are 3 components to a helmet... The outer shell; inner cavity; inner lining. What many do not realize is although helmets really don't have an official expiration date, the inner contents of a helmet does get hard and can stop performing as it gets older. Most helmets do have manufacturer dates listed inside of them, so when purchasing a helmet, you want to look inside the helmet for the manufacturer date or expiration date so you know you are not purchasing an old helmet. If you have a bad drop you definitely want to replace your helmet; a helmets life span is typically 5 years.

R. Breuninger also announced that anyone looking to attend a Stop the Bleed class he is looking to schedule a class, on a Sunday morning before riding season officially kicks off. More to come.

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**Webmaster:** M. Durenberger (was not called upon)

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**AMA Rep:** D. Bannon explained that 5 members are needed to be considered a Charter Chapter. Himself and R. Seitz are AMA Members. So he asked if anyone is an AMA member to please see him after the meeting. All he needs is Name, AMA number, Zip code and Expiration Date and then the AMA Application can be submitted. He explained that there are specific perks with being a Charter Chapter (Service Awards / Safety Awards to name a few).

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**Photographer:** J. Gallios introduced herself as the Chapter photographer. She said that any member taking pictures that would like them posted on the Chapter website / FB webpage, to send pictures to her. She asked that the new members in attendance stop by and see her so she can take their pictures and gather information about what they ride so photos can be posted. R. Seitz shared for the new members that photos are posted out on Facebook. It was confirmed that photos are not posted on Instagram.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Director, R. Seitz** reminded all that anyone interested in overnight rides – the official communication APP for overnight rides is “WhatsApp”. Works over every phone platform; 1500 people can be added to it. It's an easy APP to use for large chapter rides.

**Member, D. Lannigan** announced that Marley's is the winner of last year's ride challenge – which was the Chicken Wing Challenge. Road Captain DJ Peterson will be leading the ride to Marley's, who will be presented with a plaque – TBD.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Member, P. Gallios**, spoke about the “new” ride challenge the 2025 riding season. He announced that this year riders will be riding to various Diner establishments to sample diner food. Only 6 Diners need to be visited in order to earn a patch. A Flyer has been created listing all 11 Diners that have been identified

for this year's challenge. Flyer will be posted on the Chapters Bulletin Board at the Dealership as well as being included in the weekly email newsletter. Some Chapter rides might be incorporated to a destination "Diner". As was done last year, member photos taken in front of Diner signs, should be sent to Membership Officer, D. Borowsky.

**Member, D. Butkovich** announced that this year will be the final "Forever Friends" ride. September 21<sup>st</sup> is the date; Registration starts at 9:00 AM. Ride usually pulls out between 11 / 11:30 AM. T. Caserta said that she would be willing to come to dealership to give a presentation on Forever Friends. Director, R. Seitz will reach out to T. Caserta to schedule.

**D. Butkovich** also suggested maybe working in ice cream stops when returning from Chapter Rides.

**Next Chapter Meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2025**

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:27 AM meeting was adjourned.**

**RAFFLE DRAWING:** B. Bartick was the winner of the \$25.00 HD gift card. Red Ticket #34738-147

\*Mtg minutes prepared by DJ Lannigan