

Chapter Membership Meeting  
Harley Owners Group  
Garden State Chapter  
Morris County NJ  
Garden State Harley Dealership  
February 21,2026

**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:	S. Chizmadia
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	G. Bakelmun
L. Bakelmun	B. Bartick
R. Basile	G. Berry
M. Bishop	R. Blackwell
M. Brancato	D. Butkovich
DA Butkovich	M. Calandra
J. Calderon	E. Cohen
M. Delarusa	E. Deming
T. Deming	W. Drake
J. Gennarelli	J. Gennari
M. Gennari	A. Guadagnino
G. Hallock	R. Hui
K. Hunt	C. Irula
M. Irula	V. Kellett
J. LaMarca	D. Lannigan
D. Lawlor	M. Mania
M. Marden	K. McCoy Jr
G. Moore	A. Paxton
A. Protin	E. Protin
J. Sagarese	G. Seitz
V. Senia	K. Sheedy
D. Smith Jr	N. Smith
S. Smith	A. Spadone
V. Viglione	M. Vogt
J. Vorrasi	J. Weinheimer
B. Worden-Spadone	

**Guest:**

M. Cho

**Breakfast was served at approx: 9:30 AM;**

## Meeting Called to Order approx: 10:00 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chapter Member D. Smith Jr.

### OPENING REMARKS / OFFICER REPORTS:

**Director:** R. Seitz opened the meeting with “Good Morning Everyone” and “Welcome to a Happy 2026 Riding Season”. “Hoping this year, we start out with a little less rain and a bit warmer weather.”

R. Seitz 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 / Nicki / Chris or Bobby, please take the time to “thank” them and let them know how much the Chapter appreciates them. He next “thanked” Caterer - Jack’s Café (Vernon, NJ). He also gave “Thanks” to all chapter members who volunteered their time in the set-up of the breakfast meeting.
- Next... R. Seitz introduced the Chapter’s new Photographer, S. Chizmadia – who is replacing J. Gallios. R. Seitz shared that he is looking forward to seeing all the memories made from this year’s riding season... thru her photos.
- Next... R. Seitz shared that all chapter meetings going forward starting with March, will have a start time of 9:00 AM. He explained the reasoning for starting meetings earlier. This will allow ample time to hold scheduled chapter meetings and participate in a scheduled chapter ride on the same day.
- Next R. Seitz introduced **Guest Speakers B. and M. Budai**, who are both associated with the 911 Foundation. B. Budai spoke about the Foundation, as well as the scheduled America’s 911 Ride which will be held Friday, August 20th through 23, 2026. Items he spoke about:
  - o Ride starts in Shanksville, PA – with stop at the Pentagon, finishing up in NYC.
  - o Ride will leave from Harold’s
  - o Police Escorted ride
  - o EMT
  - o Breakdown Trailers
  - o Scheduled Lunch / Gas Stops
  - o There are plenty of lodging accommodation to choose from
  - o For riders that can’t attend all 3 days, riders are welcome to join in along the route
  - o Foundation asks for a \$250.00 donation fee (money raised goes towards scholarships for first responder’s children)
  - o Cards containing information about the America’s 911 Ride were passed out to members.

He also spoke about a 911 Ride which is being held on September 11, 2026 for members that might be interested in attending –

- o Departs from Harold’s Deli @ 6 PM
  - o Police Escorted
  - o Ride goes to the Jersey City 911 Memorial
- **NEXT - Guest Speaker:** Brian, Dealership Service/Parts Manager spoke about what Members should do when taking their bike out of storage for the winter.
    - o Change key fob battery
    - o Do a walk around bike; make sure no drips of oil, or signs that critters have made a home in your bike, etc.
    - o Check tire pressures
    - o 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.
    - o Check all lights; brake lights; turn signals.
    - o 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. Don't neglect maintenance.
- Battery life – 3 or 4 years of battery life.
- For the first ride... take it for a short ride to "clear the cobwebs". Don't ride in a desolate area by yourself / maybe ride with a partner.

**Last item...** R. Seitz talked about this year's overnight trip – which is scheduled for Washington, DC. Some items that R. Seitz shared:

- Trip is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2026 thru Friday, June 19, 2026
- Ride is scheduled to leave the Dealership on Monday @ 8 AM
- Members attending should know the "3"...50 mile ride requirement – will apply to this trip.
- Route to Washington DC – total ride time is 5 hours / 4 minutes – avoiding Baltimore (Rt 287 S to 78 W to 81 S to Rt 15.. coming down into Virginia) w/several stops along the way to gas up / bathroom breaks / lunch / stretch time.
- Director R. Seitz is lead; HRC D. Paxton will sweep; Assist Director M. Chizmadia will be wingman – with Road Captains sprinkled throughout the group; there will also be Rescue Riders on hand should they be needed.
- Hotel is the Comfort Inn Arlington at Ballston in Arlington, VA (covered parking); Link has been posted in the weekly newsletter where members can start to book their stay. May 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to book. For those that want to go on the ride but don't want to partake in any tours that require special clearances – deadline to sign-up / book hotel is May 18, 2026.
- Many restaurants in walking/ riding distance from Comfort Inn
- Metro is 12 minutes from hotel
- Comfort Inn offers a shuttle service
- There will be a planned ride from Hotel to Arlington National Cemetery to Fort Washington HD.
- WhatsApp Chat will be used to communicate for this trip; WhatsApp will be set-up once it's been confirmed who will be going on trip.
- *For certain tours (White House / US Capital / FBI HQ / Library of Congress / Supreme Court) - background checks / clearances are required – R. Seitz asked that any member who is interested in participating on these tours, please email him the legal name you will use to enter these establishments. G. Seitz will then submit members "names" to Congressman T. Kean. Kean's office will then email a link back to G. Seitz who will share with members attending; Members will be required to click on link and answer personal questions. Once information has been reviewed, R. & G. Seitz will receive response from T. Kean's office on members that will be allowed or not allowed on tours. Deadline to submit names of members who would like to attend is March 14, 2026.*
- **Again, for those interested in going on trip, but not attending tours, deadline to book hotel is May 18, 2026.**
- R. Seitz shared that he has Washington Tri-fold pamphlets that he can share with members interested in attending trip – that provide all information about the trip; dates; deadlines, etc.
- G. Seitz also shared with members that plan on attending trip – You need to ensure you bring VALID IDs (Passport; Real ID, Driver's License – nothing can be EXPIRED).
- Still thinking about a possible night ride into Washington
- Another tour members should consider is the Hop-On / Hop-Off Tours; Arlington National Cemetery – to name a few.

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**Assistant Director:** M. Chizmadia started off with welcoming everyone back. He shared that "it's amazing how quickly Yr 2025 went by; we had a great riding season; visited allot of cool places; stopped at allot of great places to eat; broke bread with one another; had great conversations – and it looks like 2026 is shaping up to be a really great year too. And hope to see all of you on lots and lots of rides this coming year".

He next reminded all members that if they have questions / suggestions – please come / seek out a leadership member to give us your ideas/suggestions. Leadership would love to hear what you have to say. We are always looking for NEW ideas.

He next said a big “thank you” was in order to Bobby and Dealership for sponsoring the breakfast; He “thanked” B. & M. Budai for their presentation on the America 911 Ride. And a huge “thank you” to R. & G. Seitz for all the work that has been done in putting together this year’s overnight trip to Washington, DC.

**He lastly “thanked” all chapter members for being a part of Garden State HOG Chapter.**

Lastly, he reminded members that the “Feed the Pig” pot was starting again for the 2026 season. He shared that in order to participate in today’s “Feed the Pig”, you had to be a registered/paid/active member, as of today’s Chapter meeting. So if you signed up today to be a member – you could not participate.

He reminded members that if they would like to participate in the “Feed the Pig”, at the time of sign-in, for a chapter meeting, there will also be a separate sign-in sheet. Member would pay \$1.00 to participate in the “Feed the Pig” and their name would be marked off on the “Feed the Pig” sign-in sheet.

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**Treasurer:** MA Breuninger started off saying how good it was to see everyone. She next said “there is always the money financial aspect in everything we do. But I will tell you about how kind the Dealership was to provide breakfast this morning. Let me also share that the Dealership also expressed it’s appreciation for us helping with the Santa’s photos by making a donation to us as well. The Dealership has been extremely generous in a time that we know it is tough to have a Harley Dealership. Our Dealership continues to be extremely generous and supportive to us. Let’s continue to be supportive of them”.

Couple of things we have been able to do because of funds coming in: several gift basket were sent to members; bought supplies for today’s breakfast meeting; but even before we had 17 new members join the chapter today, the current balance in the chapter’s bank account is in good standing – it’s a nice healthy balance to start off 2026 and that’s also considering the deposit that has been made to the restaurant we were will be holding our year end dinner.

Looking forward to a great riding season.

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**Secretary:** DJ Lannigan welcomed back all members. She first reminded all members to please keep their National HOG memberships current. She stated that if your National HOG membership lapses, you cannot participate with any local chapter – specifically Garden State. She reminded all members that National HOG and Garden State are 2 separate entities, and that Garden State memberships renew...calendar year to calendar year; National HOG Memberships renew... on the anniversary date that a member signs up.

She next spoke about Chapter Shirts / Sweatshirts / Name Tags – she explained that NORSOT is currently in negotiations with a new vendor that provides materials. She is hoping by the March chapter meeting she will be able to start taking orders for chapter items.

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’s just to show that we care / brighten someone’s day.

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**Head Road Captain:** D. Paxton started off with “Good Morning Folks, Great to See You All”. He started off with “thanking” all last year Road Captains; everything you did was assume, we did have a great riding season despite Mother Nature doing her best to get in the way. He also thanked all members for doing their best to arrive early before chapter rides to attend the “safety” briefings. He also shared that if there are any members interested in becoming a Road Captain to please come speak with him and if your not interested in being a Road Captain but have ideas for ride destinations, please come see him too.

He next shared the following:

- Starting this year on the weekly newsletter we will start to post milage distance and time associated with Chapter Rides.
- For the DC trip the three (3) – 50 mile ride requirement will be enforced.
- There are several charity rides planned for this year. For charity rides – the Chapter will ride together. For Rescue Riders – they will be sprinkled throughout the ride / may be positioned at the rear of the pack, but for the Chapter plan on riding together.
- March 21, 2026 – aiming for first ride of the season (weather permitting) – Clear the Cobwebs
- May 2, 2026 – CTC Charity Ride
- May 16, 2026 – Bless the Bikes at Williams HD
- June 6, 2026 – Puppy Rescue Mission
- September 19, 2026 – M. Bishop will lead ride for Pulmonary Fibrosis
- October 3, 2026 – Breast Cancer Ride (out of Williams) for J. Suto.

He closed out with sharing that he is “looking forward to a great season”.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership Officer:** D. Borowsky welcomed back all members and shared how many new members were in attendance: She next welcomed new members:

- M. Brancato (favorite color blue); rides a 2023 Road Glide
- J. Calderon (favorite color red); rides a 2014 Ultra

Current active members stand at 83.

She also shared that on Sunday, March 8· 2026 – at the Dealership (Upstairs) the Chapter is hosting a movie afternoon. Movie will be “Wild HOGS”; there will be snacks; start time is 12:00 / 12:30) – no cost to attend.

She also shared that on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Saddlebrook there is an ALS Walk; she is looking for members who might want to participate in this walk – whether that member might want to walk or just donate. Registration site not open yet – MORE TO COME. She asked that any member who might be interested to please reach out to her.

Lastly – she shared that November 14, 2026 – is the date the Year End Dinner has been scheduled; Dinner will be held at IL Palazzo. Price per person will remain the same as last year - \$50.00 pp.

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**Safety Officer:** R. Breuninger spoke about the three (3) – 50 mile ride requirement that all members must complete in order to attend any overnight trip. He said to help members better keep track of their mileage is why mileage information will be added to chapter ride information posted in the weekly newsletter.

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**Webmaster:** M. Durenberger shared that this year’s challenge will be a “Burger Challenge”; 10 locations have been identified – only need to visit 6 of the 10 locations. He also talked about a new APP that members will use to upload their photos when visiting a burger joint; APP will also allow members to vote on their favorite burger place once member has completed their challenge. M. Durenberger closed out with “thanking” HRC D. Paxton for the work he has done in putting together this new APP.

Next HRC D. Paxton talked about how the APP works: He shared that the way it works is you get to the location; snap a selfie picture and go onto website and upload picture. The APP looks for signage so please make sure you take a picture in front of the wording of the restaurant. Once 6 establishments have been visited – the APP will then let you vote on your favorite place. Link to access the APP will be posted in the weekly newsletter – MORE TO COME...

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**Historian:** R. Hall shared that he will be working on obtaining pictures of the original Garden State Chapter group. These pictures will be included in the Year End Dinner photo presentation. He shared how important that new members understand “who” the original members are and what has been done to bring the chapter to what it is today.

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**Photographer:** S. Chizmadia asked members to “please smile”.

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**AMA Rep:** D. Bannon explained that 5 members are needed to be considered a Charter Chapter. Himself and Director R. Seitz and 3 AMA Members are needed. 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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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**No old business**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Member, J. Gennarelli** shared a note he received from the Hawthorne Gun Club with members; Note was of appreciation about how much Hawthorne Gun Club enjoyed having Garden State Members visit their gun club. This was a Chapter Ride that was held last September 2025. J. Gennarelli then shared that he is looking to set-up another ride to the gun club for riding season 2026. Will speak with the Road Captains about getting ride on calendar.

**Director, R. Seitz** again “thanked” all who participated in helping with the Santa Photo session of 2025. Next, Treasurer MA Breuninger shared a card received from HRC D. Paxton’s family, who were visiting the US, from the UK, at Christmas 2025 and attended one of the Santa Photo sessions. They expressed their appreciation in having attended the Santa Photo session and to have met so many wonderful people / members.

**Member M. Bishop** shared with members a story about his brother’s fight with Pulmonary Fibrosis and because of this he shared that on September 19, 2026 there will be a Pulmonary Fibrosis ride; All members are invited to attend; Ride starts at the Lake Hopatcong Elks. Technically not a chapter ride – but all are invited; police led (2 hour ride). All money raised goes towards Pulmonary Fibrosis foundation. Director R. Seitz said anyone that is interested – a ride to the ride will leave from the Dealership and will ride as a chapter to the Elks. **More to come.**

**Director R. Sietz** next shared that “Next of Kin” (Emergency Contact) forms have been printed out and will be handed out at the March meeting. He asked that all members consider filling out a form and place form in their saddle bags (red envelope) for First Responders to find easily. Just something to think about.

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**“Feed the Pig” was held.** Pot currently stands at \$42.00. Random picker selected number 30. Number 30 was assigned to Member K. Hunt. K. Hunt was present but did not participate so the pot will roll over to the next chapter meeting scheduled for March 21, 2026.

**Next Chapter Meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2025**

**ADJOURMENT: 11:11 AM meeting was adjourned.**

**RAFFLE DRAWING:** G. Moore was the winner of the \$25.00 HD gift card. Red Ticket #34738-568

\*Mtg minutes prepared by DJ Lannigan