

Chapter Membership Meeting
Harley Owners Group
Garden State Chapter
Morris County NJ
@ Garden State Harley Dealership
September 12, 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 (<i>Absent</i>)
Membership/Activity Officer:	D. Borowsky
Safety Officer:	R. Breuninger
AMA Rep:	D. Bannon (<i>Absent</i>)

General Attendees

R. Adametz	G. Bakelmun
L. Bakelmun	G. Berry
M. Bishop	B. Blackwell
D. Butkovich	J. Calderon
C. Chludzinski	W. Drake
J. Gennarelli	M. Gennari
C. Harwell	R. Hui
K. Hunt	C. Irula
M. Irula	J. Jones
V. Kellett	D. Lannigan
M. Marden	A. Paxton
A. Perez	A. Protin
E. Protin	DA Ryan
D. Ryan	G. Seitz
M. Simon	D. Smith Jr
S. Smith	J. Troast
M. Vogt	

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:03 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chapter Member M. Irula. Next Chapter Member D. Smith Jr asked everyone to bow their heads and take moment of silence for the people that were lost 25 years ago on 9/11 and for all our brothers and sisters who can no longer ride with us.

OPENING REMARKS / OFFICER REPORTS:

Director: R. Seitz opened the meeting with "Welcome Everybody and just like that we made it to September".

He next gave a quick recap for those who did not participate in the "Empty Sky Ride" on 9/11:

- 18 Chapter Members attended

- Weather was perfect
- NJ State Police did a fantastic job in escorting
- Safety Officer R. Breuninger did a fantastic job in leading the riders to Harolds in Edison
- Total of about 300 bikes
- He stated that this event/ride is a very humbling experience and if you ever have a chance to participate, please do. It's a very emotional ride.
- Thanks to B. Budai who is one of the main organizers who works in putting together not only this ride but the other 9/11 rides to the other crash sites.
- WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Next Director R. Seitz called on Member M. Bishop and asked M. Bishop to share some details about the Pulmonary Fibrosis Fundraiser / Charity ride which is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026 and why this fundraiser is so important to him. M. Bishop shared how Pulmonary Fibrosis has affected his family, with some of his family members passing away from this disease, but also how a current family member battling Pulmonary Fibrosis was fortunate to receive a transplant and is doing well today. M. Bishop shared the following details about the fundraiser / ride:

- Charity Ride will last approx. 1 ½ Hour
- Live Music
- \$20.00 Donation
- \$10.00 Patches for Sale
- KSU from the Dealership at 8:30 AM to Lake Hopatcong Elks in Mt. Arlington, NJ (Official Chapter Ride to the Elks)
- Registration starts at 9:00
- All proceeds benefit Pulmonary Fibrosis awareness, research and support

Next Director R. Seitz welcomed back members from North Carolina... Welcome Back D & DA Ryan. He shared that they would be the lead and sweep for today's ride to the Long Valley Brew Pub. Looking forward to a great route and good food. He then said that based on Sunday, 9/13, weather prediction it's been decided that the ride to Artie's Bar & Grill will be cancelled. Looking to reschedule this chapter ride for Sunday, September 20, 2026.

Director R. Seitz then recognized Members M & C Irula, who are relocating to New Orleans. Director R. Seitz conveyed to the Irula's... "that we wish you both all the best; and know how much you will be missed". He closed in expressing to M & C Irula... "make sure you visit us if your ever back in the NJ area".

Next Director R. Seitz focused on the Eric C. Blohm Charity ride, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2026. Some details shared:

- He asked that his Officers report to the dealership between 8 and 8:15 AM.
- Any member who would like to volunteer for parking / set-up, etc. please be at the dealership between 8 and 8:30 AM
- MP Fire Department will handle grilling
- Registration will start at 9:00 AM
- KSU at 11:00 AM
- Treasurer / RC MA Breuninger will be lead for this ride
- Chapter Members should park on the side of the building; will be riding as a chapter in the front.
- HCR D. Paxton will be riding in the rear, along with Rescue Riders
- The route for this ride will be the same as the Puppy Rescue Mission Ride
- Police Escorted (MP Motor Officer is working on securing other Motor Officers to assist with ride)

Director R. Seitz next spoke about the B. Gould Halloween Ride, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2026. Some details shared:

- There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for best decorated bike
- Members are encouraged to dress in costume (please no capes)
- Looking to coincide the Chapter's Halloween's festivities with the Dealership's festivities
- KSU 10:30 AM
- Lunch will either be at the dealership or a restaurant (more to come)

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Assist Director: M. Chizmadia opened with “Good Morning All”. “Where did the summer go?” “It’s been a phenomenal riding season”. He next “thanked” all the Road Captains for all the hard work being done in putting together some fantastic rides.

Next - He talked about how much work, thought and time goes into making the chapter the best that it can be. He encouraged all Members who may have ideas, suggestions, comments or even criticism – to please convey their ideas or even criticisms to any Officer. We are always looking for new ideas, etc.

Next Treasurer MA Breuninger asked if any Member has a “shore” point / destination in mind (i.e. visiting a lighthouse, etc), please let the Road Captains know. She said that we don’t necessarily ride to the shore but getting a glimpse of the beach / ocean, in the off-season, would be a nice place to visit.

- Member V. Kellett suggested riding to Cape May on October 3rd for “The Race of Gentlemen”. This event is a living history event, celebrating America’s Racing & Hot-Rodding heritage.

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Treasurer: MA Breuninger reported that the current balance in the chapter’s bank account is in good standing. Based on the account balance, she reported that she anticipates the Chapter will be able to continue to make small donations to the Charities that we support.

She next shared that anyone looking to attend this year’s “End of Season” dinner, she is accepting payment (cash/credit or check). Cost remains the same as last year - which is \$50.00 per person.

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Secretary: DJ Lannigan asked that members continue to keep their National HOG memberships current.

Also anyone who has ordered a chapter shirt / sweatshirt or name tag, please see her for pick-up.

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Head Road Captain: D. Paxton opened with “Good Morning Folks”. Still have some good rides planned as we wind-down the season.

He shared the following about some upcoming rides:

- Sunday, 9/13 ride to Artie’s Bar & Grill will be cancelled; rescheduling this ride to Sunday, September 20.
- D. Paxton will be leading the ride to the Elks for the Pulmonary Fibrosis Fundraiser / Charity ride. This will be a straight run directly to the Elks.
- Leaf Peeper Overnight ride is scheduled for September 25-27, 2026 (Ride is Full)
- Eric C. Blohm Charity Ride, Saturday, September 26, 2026
- Hawthorne Gun Club – September 27, 2026
- Williams H-D Breast Cancer Awareness Charity Ride – October 3, 2026
- Will continue to post upcoming October ride schedule in the weekly email newsletter

Next, member J. Gennarelli shared that for any members who might be interested in going on the chapter ride to the Hawthorne Gun Club on September 27, KSU at 10 AM from the dealership. Director R. Seitz reminded members who might be attending this ride, who are bringing their own firearm – please ensure your firearm is not loaded; Firearm should be stored in one saddle bag / locked and ammo in the other saddle bag / locked. If a member needs assistance with transporting firearms / ammo on that day, please see Director R. Seitz.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership/Activities Officer: D. Borowsky shared that the chapter is currently at 113 active / paid members.

She next shared that Members D and DJ Lannigan were celebrating a wedding anniversary today, 9/12. The Chapter broke out in song wishing the Lannigan's a "Happy Anniversary".

She next reminded members November 14 is when the Chapter's Year End Celebration will be held. Place will be "IL Palazzo" located in Wanaque, NJ. Party starts at 6:00 PM; Price will remain at \$50.00 per person. Food / Awards / Give-A-Ways / Dancing / Fun. Please see Treasurer MA Breuninger to provide payment.

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Safety Officer: R. Breuninger gave a safety presentation on "riding on leaves" and how to safely navigate". Some tips:

- Try to ride over wet leaves in a straight line rather than turning or changing direction
- Maintain a relaxed grip
- Brake with Caution / Care (sudden or excessive breaking can cause wheels to lock and slide)
- No sudden movements
- Slow roll when going into curve
- Avoid abrupt throttle changes
- Avoid sharp steering
- Smooth breaking
- Use a little more rear brake, than front brake
- If rear brake locks up – STAY ON IT
- Reduce engine torque to the rear wheel
- Use traction control if your bike has this feature

Treasurer MA Breuninger also provided some tips about night riding since the days are now getting shorter:

- Be more aware of your surroundings (riding at night changes surroundings significantly)
- Look for animals crossing into the roadway
- Watch your speed when taking blind corners
- Sun glare can be something to deal with
- Ride with amber or clear glasses (made sure you have a pair on your bike)

Be Safe Out There!!

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Webmaster: M. Durenberger announced that the burger challenge will end October 12, 2026, so please make sure you get out there and eat your burgers; take your pictures and upload them so you can finish the challenge.

He also announced that the email newsletter for the week of 9/14, will be sent out on Wednesday, 9/16.

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Historian: R. Hall was absent.

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Photographer: S. Chizmadia asked if any member wants a picture of themselves with another member, please let her know and she will be happy to take their picture.

Treasure MA Breuninger followed up with asking any Member who is going on the leaf peeper ride, please take lots of pictures.

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AMA Rep: D. Bannon was absent.

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OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Member D. Smith Jr spoke about the America's 911 Ride and what a great experience it was. He talked about the route that was taken. He stated that anyone who may be interested in participating next year, please register early; book hotel early. This is a very well-organized ride. If any member is interested and has questions about this ride, please speak with D. Smith Jr.

Membership / Activities Officer D. Borowsky also mentioned that Member J. Parisi say's "HI"; He's thinking about everyone and misses everyone.

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"Feed the Pig" was held. Pot currently stands at \$40.00. Random picker selected number 44. Number 44, was assigned to Member M. Gennari, who was present at the meeting but did not participate, so the pot will roll over to the next chapter meeting.

Next Chapter Meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2026

ADJOURMENT: 9:49 AM meeting was adjourned.

RAFFLE DRAWING: A. Paxton was the winner of the \$25.00 HD gift card. Red Ticket #34738-735

*Mtg minutes prepared by DJ Lannigan