



SQUEAKS & SQUEALS

Mid-Maine Lewiston Ch. #1980

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<http://www.mmlhog.org>

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Hi all! Spring is finally here, which means it's time to get our bikes ready to ride! Whether you perform the pre-season checks on your motorcycle yourself or have it done by a professional, here are a few things to make sure are checked (a full t-cloc's pre-ride inspection is recommended):

- Registration - let's make sure we're legal
- Lights - are they working?
- Tires - are they properly inflated, how's the tread?
- Brakes - do they work, what condition are the pads in?
- Battery - is it good, does it hold a charge?

Immediately following our upcoming April meeting, we will be doing our ride planning for the year. We're looking for overnight rides, sight-seeing rides, destination rides, and anything else you can think of! Remember that this year our chapter is celebrating its 35th anniversary. Let's think of activities we can do in honor of that. I'm looking forward to hearing some of the different ideas you have come up with.

We have special poker chips to commemorate the Mid-Maine Lewiston HOG chapter's 35th anniversary that will be unveiled at the April meeting. Standard Mid-Maine Lewiston HOG chapter poker chips are available for sale within the dealership.

Don't forget to make sure you are signed up for the Ride 365 program by providing your mileage to Scott Tanguay.

Let's ride & have fun,
John



Chapter officers attend training session

Officer Updates

Treasurers Report – Don Gabriel

As of February 28, 2025

Beginning Balance Checking.....	\$	2,048.65
Checking Deposits.....	\$	0.00
Checking Expenditures.....	\$	(1,613.50)
Ending Balance Checking.....	\$	435.15
Beginning Balance Savings.....	\$	3,425.22
Savings Deposits.....	\$	0.00
Savings Withdrawal.....	\$	0.00
Savings Account Dividend.....	\$	0.15
Ending Balance Savings.....	\$	3,425.37

Motorcycle Tips from the Safety Officer – Brent Tanguay

Following John’s point: With riding season in Maine approaching, it’s time to prepare your motorcycle. Whether stored during winter or parked for a while, a preseason safety check is crucial for a safe start to the season. Here’s a guide to get your bike ready and ensure road safety.

Preseason Motorcycle Safety Checklist: Get Ready for a Safe and Enjoyable Riding Season

1. Tire Inspection: The Foundation of Your Ride

Tires are the only part of your bike that touch the road, so checking them is paramount for your safety. Begin by verifying the tire pressure and adjusting it in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Improperly inflated tires can impact handling, fuel efficiency, and overall safety.

Next, inspect the tread for wear. If your tires have worn down too much, it’s time for a replacement. Also, check for any cracks, punctures, or other damage that could compromise your safety. Don’t forget to check the sidewalls for any bulges, cracks or cuts that could lead to a blowout.

2. Fluids: Keep Things Flowing Smoothly

Proper fluid levels are crucial to the performance and longevity of your bike. Here are a few key fluids to check:

- Engine Oil: Ensure your engine oil is at the correct level and in good condition. If it’s been a while since your last oil change, consider changing it before you hit the road.
- Check the brake fluid levels and make sure there are no contaminants. Dirty or low brake fluid can reduce braking efficiency.

3. Brake System: Stopping Power is Key

Brakes are essential for your safety, so inspect them thoroughly before riding. Check the brake pads for wear—if they are thin or uneven, replace them. Inspect the brake lines for leaks or damage. Make sure that both the front and rear brakes respond well during your test ride.

4. Battery Check: Powering Up for the Ride

Your motorcycle’s battery is vital for powering the electrical system, and it’s important to ensure it’s in good condition. Check the charge level, and make sure the battery terminals are clean and free of corrosion. If your battery is more than a couple of years old, you might want to replace it to avoid the risk of it failing during the season.

(Preseason Motorcycle Safety Checklist cont.)

5. Lights and Electrical System: Stay Visible, Ride Safely

Make sure that all your lights—headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals—are functioning correctly. Keep reflectors clean to ensure you remain visible, particularly at night or in low-light conditions.

6. Suspension and Handling: Smooth Ride Ahead

Your motorcycle’s suspension plays a big role in comfort and handling. Check the front forks and rear shocks for any signs of leaks or damage. Adjust the suspension settings if needed, based on your weight and riding style. Proper suspension settings will help you maintain better control, especially when riding over bumps or uneven surfaces.

7. Air Filter: Breathe Easy

A clogged air filter can restrict airflow to your engine, affecting its performance and fuel efficiency. Before riding, inspect the air filter for dirt, debris, or damage. If it’s dirty, clean or replace it to ensure your engine breathes easily all season long.

8. Drive System: Power to the Wheels

For chain-driven bikes, inspect the chain for correct tension and sufficient lubrication. Additionally, check the sprockets for wear and confirm they are in good condition. Belt-driven bikes should be examined for cracks or signs of wear. Proper maintenance of the drive system ensures smooth and efficient operation of the bike.

9. Exhaust System: Check for Leaks

Before heading out, inspect your exhaust system for rust, leaks, or any damage. A secure and properly functioning exhaust system reduces noise and ensures optimal engine performance.

10. Frame and Fittings: Tighten It Up

Give your bike a thorough once-over and ensure that all bolts, nuts, and fittings are tight. Pay close attention to the handlebars, foot pegs, and mirrors. Loose components can affect your control and handling while riding, so tightening them is essential for a safe ride.

11. Protective Gear: Safety First

Before you head out, check that your gear is in good condition. Inspect your helmet for any cracks or damage—if it’s old, consider replacing it for added protection. Make sure your gloves, jacket, pants, and boots are free from significant wear. Riding gear plays a vital role in your safety, so don’t skimp on quality.

12. Emergency Kit: Be Prepared

Finally, ensure that your bike is equipped with the tools and gear necessary for an emergency. Keep a small tool kit on hand for minor repairs, a first aid kit for unexpected situations, and always carry your phone and ID in case of emergencies.

Conclusion: Ride Smart, Ride Safe

By completing this preseason safety checklist, you will ensure that your motorcycle is adequately prepared for the road, and that you are ready for a safe and enjoyable riding season. It is important to remember that safety extends beyond the motorcycle itself—riding responsibly, wearing appropriate gear, and maintaining situational awareness are crucial for a successful experience on two wheels.

So, get out there, hit the road with confidence, and let the adventure begin! Stay safe and enjoy the ride!

Brent Tanguay
Mid-Maine Hog Chapter Safety Officer



**Happy Birthday to the following
Chapter members*:**

** Apologies to those we missed. Please contact Karen Tanguay so she can update our database*

January

Frank Welch, Jr 1/22

February

Ann Forbes 2/4
Jack Gaudet 2/6
Sharlena Biron 2/15
Stewart Harrington 2/23
Larry Saucier 2/24

March

Greg Foster 3/5
Janis Tanguay 3/16
Al Golden 3/19
Rita Moffat 3/23



New Let's Ride Challenge Celebrates Heroes and Rewards Riders

The 2025 Let's Ride Challenge™ Ride for Heroes takes the Harley-Davidson spirit one step further with a seven-month event celebrating our riding community while honoring our nation's Military, Veterans and First Responders. Riders across the country will log miles, earn rewards, and climb the leaderboard, all while supporting a \$1 million donation to charities serving those who protect us here at home. Open to all Harley-Davidson

riders, the challenge runs from March 28 to October 31, 2025, and offers collectible rewards at various milestone check-ins. The challenge culminates with five riders winning new 2025 Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Let's ride and make every mile count!

Let's Ride Challenge Rewards:

- Enter the Challenge to compete to win one of five new Harley-Davidson motorcycles
 - H.O.G. membership exclusive: Any H.O.G. member who wins a motorcycle will receive an additional \$5,000 cash bonus!
 - Let's Ride Challenge™ Sticker after first mileage reading
 - Let's Ride Challenge™ Coin after accumulating 1,000 miles
 - H.O.G. membership exclusive: H.O.G. collectible hat plus 2,500 bonus points after accumulating 5,000 miles
-

How to Enter:

- Register: Stop at Harley-Davidson® dealerships to register and get your first odometer reading. You'll need to get this first reading on or after March 28 even if you have already entered the 2025 H.O.G. Ride 365 challenge. Once you've registered, miles recorded as part of the Let's Ride Challenge™ will start counting toward your H.O.G. Ride 365 balance.
 - Ride: Hit the road and rack up miles
 - Engage: Interact with dealers and build your Rev Score
 - Win: The highest Rev Scores will ride away on a new Harley
-

Ride Planning Meeting – April 5th

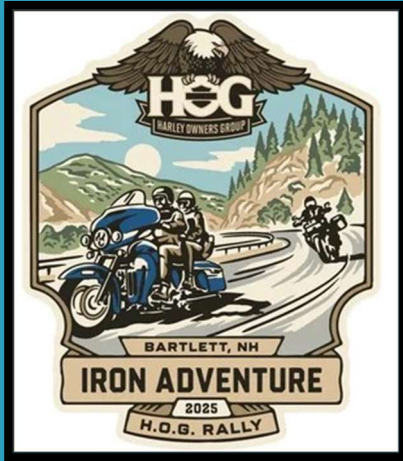
We are pleased to announce the upcoming Ride Planning Meeting on April 5th, immediately following the monthly meeting. This session is dedicated to outlining the details of our next journey.

The input of all members, whether experienced riders or new participants, is crucial in developing routes, pit stops, and overall itineraries. We will collaboratively brainstorm destinations, discuss safety protocols, and ensure that each mile of our trip is enjoyable and secure.

The meeting will feature detailed discussions, shared experiences, and comprehensive planning for a season of extraordinary adventures. We encourage everyone to contribute their ideas and be actively involved in the preparations for our motorcycle club's activities.

Lunch will be provided.

2025 Iron Adventure Rally



2025 IRON ADVENTURE RALLY
Save The Dates – August 21 to 24, 2025



Grand Summit Hotel at Attitash
Bartlett, New Hampshire

Hello everyone!

We have so much to share - get ready to **RIDE and PARTY** in August!!!!

REMINDERS:

Register for the Rally - hopefully you have reserved your rooms but you still need to register for the Rally. Go to your HOG account and then go to: <https://www.harley-davidson.com/us/en/content/hog/rallies.html> - find Iron Adventure Rally and register now

It is so much fun to be part of the action - **sign up as a volunteer** with Peter.Gillette@comcast.net

Attend the upcoming **OPEN MEETING - April 26th** at 1pm at Ocean State HD in Warwick, RI.

Here is one of the **guided rides** you can pick from over a dozen planned.

Attitash-Long Lake-Sebago Lake Loop

This area of NH and Maine has some great riding and scenic views. This cruise takes you east into Maine. The route goes around Long Lake and the northern part of Sebago Lake before turning back towards HQ via NH 153, the eastern part of the "Kanc" and Bear Notch Road for a 163 mile ride

We are happy to continue to work to bring you an exciting and interesting Rally in such a beautiful area.

Did you know that the "**Kanc**" as we locals fondly refer to the Kancamagus Highway, Route 112, in North Conway, NH, is one of the 50 Rides, One Nation <https://classicharley.com/50ridesonenation>

Most of our rides include all or some of this amazing highway in NH. It is not to be missed.



Please reach out if you have any questions or comments and be sure to attend our Open Meetings for more details as they become available. Also our Facebook page is another great source of information.

Barbara Harris
Rally Secretary

BINGHAM, ME
FALL FOLIAGE OVERNITE RIDE



Several members participated in an unforgettable Fall Foliage Weekend Overnight Ride on October 12-13th! Right after our monthly meeting at L-A Harley, we embarked on a scenic journey through the vibrant autumn landscapes. Along the way, we stopped at the New Portland Wire Bridge, where we not only learned that "back in the day" Skip Forbes had worked at maintaining the bridge but also received quite a history lesson about its construction. Our adventure culminated in an overnight stay at the cozy Bingham Motor Inn in Bingham, Maine.



NEW PORTLAND WIRE BRIDGE

THE NEW PORTLAND WIRE BRIDGE IS A HISTORIC SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN NEW PORTLAND, MAINE. THE BRIDGE CARRIES WIRE BRIDGE ROAD ACROSS THE CARRASSETT RIVER A SHORT WAY NORTH OF THE VILLAGE CENTER. BUILT IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY, IT IS ONE OF FOUR 19TH-CENTURY SUSPENSION BRIDGES IN THE STATE. IT IS ONE LANE WIDE, AND HAS A WEIGHT LIMIT OF 3 TONS. THE BRIDGE WAS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 1970 AND WAS DESIGNATED AS A MAINE HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS IN 1990.



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**BURN OFF WINTER
STUNT SHOW**
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CRUISIN' INFUSIONS

STUNTS BY
CROOKEDNORTHCREW
Riders in the store
at 9am for Q&A!

LA Harley Davidson

*While supplies last. Please drink responsibly. See dealer for details.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA
RUSH EDITION
APRIL 19, 2025 12PM - 2PM
B.Y.O.B (BRING YOUR OWN BASKET)

EGG HUNT TIMES
1ST - 12:00PM
2ND - 1:00PM
3RD - 2:00PM

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Check website for future events: <https://l-aharley.com/events>

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