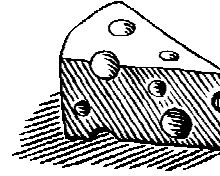
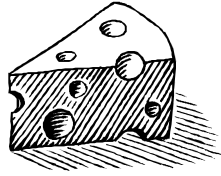


The Cheese Kutter

April



2010

Swiss Valley Chapter 1274

www.swissvalleyhog.com

"WELCOME HOG'S"

The Swiss Valley HOG Chapter and Kutter Harley Davidson of Monroe, Wisconsin would like to send out an open invitation to any group or HOG Chapter looking for a ride destination for the summer of 2010. Come ride with us, we would love to share our piece of Southwestern Wisconsin with you. There is a lot to do if you choose, or just sit around and drink beer and eat cheese with the locals if that is your style.

We have two local breweries that have tours available. The Minhas Craft Brewery is located in Monroe, and 15 mile to the north is the New Glarus Brewing Company, known for its "Spotted Cow". If two aren't enough, within 70 miles to the west are two more breweries that have spent millions of dollars on restoration projects in the last few years. The Star Brewery in Dubuque, Iowa and the Potosi Brewing Company in Potosi, Wisconsin are also great destinations that also have nice restaurants within. If wineries are more your style, we have many small local wineries within 100 miles of Green County as well. And what goes great with beer or wine? CHEESE!! We have some of the world's best cheese makers located right here in Green County too. Tours are also available at many of these facilities if you so desire.

Maybe all you want to do is ride? Southwestern Wisconsin is a great place to do just that. Most of our roads are paved and pretty well maintained. We have many with rolling hills, with or without the curves and twisties, whichever you prefer. Whatever your riding style is, we can find it for you. My feeling is, "no one knows the area you live in better than the neighborhood HOG Chapter". We live and ride these roads every day we can, and we would love to share them with your group. If any of you are coming to Southwest Wisconsin during 2010, please contact us at www.swissvalleyhog.com, we would love to show you around. We have enough members that work various shifts and days that we should be available to lead you on any type of ride you may want to take. I know I have contacted other Chapters as we travel, and this has been a great way to use the HOG organization to meet new friends and find great places to ride.

The Swiss Valley HOG Chapter would like to share our love to ride with anyone coming to our area in 2010. Please contact us anytime and share in the camaraderie that makes this organization so great and unique. Contact us via our website, or e-mail me personally at: hokie@wekz.net. I look forward in hearing from many of you. Have a great summer of riding!

NOW, LET'S RIDE!!

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A couple reminder notes.....

The "Group Riding Video" will be shown at the April meeting.

Sign up to help at the Spring Open House in the HOG Corner.

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well, the boys and girls state basketball tournaments are over, the snow has melted once again, is Spring finally here? According to the calendar, Spring arrived on March 14th, so get ready to ride. Some of you may have gotten out on a few short rides already? I know I have been out twice for a couple of short rides. It felt great to get out again to ride and hear the roar of the engine. Make sure you give your bike a once over before you head out. Check your tire pressure, oil levels, and all of your cables and electrical connections before you venture out. You never know what might have happened while it was in Winter storage. You can never be too careful.

At our March meeting, we discussed some ideas for our Spring Open House at Kutters, which will be held on May 22nd. We will have a sign up sheet in the HOG Corner, so please stop by and sign up for a 2 hour shift. We will need people to sell 50/50 tickets, grill food, work the Flamethrower Cafe, and help with other events. The more people we have volunteer to help, the easier it is on every one else.

We are going to do a few things over the entire summer to give us a reason to ride. Starting April 1st and running until September 30th, we are going to do the "A, B, C's of restaurants". We are trying to encourage people to get out and ride and enjoy the summer. Rules and details will be on a separate page in this newsletter. Please print it out and keep with your bike. Scott has made this well worth one's time to participate. The other rides we will be taking are part of what I'm calling a "BUCKET LIST". Between now and the end of our April meeting, write down someplace you would like a group ride to go. Try to keep it between 4 - 6 hours of riding, (at the most), maybe even some 2 - 3 hour rides mixed in. You don't have to lead the ride unless you want, just give us a destination. At each monthly meeting, we will draw a destination out of the bucket, and that will be where the ride goes the very next Saturday. Anyone is welcome to attend, guests will have to sign an insurance waiver, but everyone is welcome. We will meet at Kutters at 9:45 AM for a preride meeting, and depart at 10:00 AM. Anyone who is at Kutters at 10:00 AM and wants to go on the ride can go. There might be 3 or 4 people, there might be 10 or 15, we won't know until the day of the ride, just show up and have fun. We will try to e-mail the destination to the club after the meeting so those who could not attend the meeting will still know where the ride is going. I have a few places in mind, hopefully many of you will contribute to the list as well. It is "your club", so put some names in the bucket. The bucket will be at Kutters during the month, and at each meeting. We will try not to duplicate a ride. Not everyone will be able to make each ride, but hopefully you can make a few of them and enjoy the camaraderie of others that love riding as much as you do.

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**Swiss Valley
Harley Owners Group
c/o Kutter Harley Davidson Shop
129 6th Street
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www.swissvalleyhog.com

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR – continued.....

All Primary Officers and a few others of us will be attending POT in Milwaukee on April 9th & 10th, so we might have some other fun ideas to report on, and other events to participate in. Plan on attending the April meeting to begin the "FUN OF 2010".

Primary Officers Training: April 9th & 10th @ Milwaukee
Next Meeting: April 14th @ Turner Hall
Bucket List Ride: April 17th @ tba
Next Dinner Ride: April 29th, organized by Dave Wehinger

Enough is enough, LET'S RIDE!!

Hokie, Chapter Director
Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

Minute by Minute.....

Swiss Valley HOG Meeting – March 10, 2010

Director Dennis Holcomb opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance. Hokie reminded everyone that their 2010 Swiss Valley HOG Memberships are due as of January. Those not renewing will not receive the newsletter after March.

The Activities Committee and Road Guards met prior to the 7 PM meeting to discuss upcoming events, especially the Kutter Open House, May 22.

A group-wide activity that was introduced to the club by Hokie was the ABC's of Restaurants. Scott said Kutter would donate a \$200 gift certificate for the grand prize, followed by a \$100 & \$50 gift certificate furnished by the HOG Chapter for second and third prizes, respectfully.

Hokie introduced a guest speaker, Mike Cowan who is from the Freeport Journal Standard. He is working on the Spring/Summer 2010 publication of a bi-annual magazine, *The Trail*, which highlights activities from the northern Illinois & southern Wisconsin areas. It is a lovely magazine that showcases local events, restaurants, lodging and stories. It is a free publication, funded by local Chambers of Commerce, that is distributed to approximately 25,000 people. Lots of the magazines go to the Chicago suburbs.

Mike was very interested our Chapter's community involvement and wants to highlight our Chapter in the upcoming issue. We were asked to submit information to him, as well as a map of favorite traveled roads on our bikes. Make sure you look for the Summer 2010 issue. We'll make sure we have a stack of them in the HOG Room at Kutter after they hit the press!

The State Rally was spoken about. It is combined with Minnesota. Dates are June 20-24.

Calendar of Events:

2-Months at a Glance

*2010 Calendar of Swiss Valley Harley
Owners Group*

*Chapter Events available online at
www.swissvalleyhog.com*

--May newsletter deadline--

April 25, 2010

--APRIL--

9th- **Primary Officer Training**
10th **Officers**
Milwaukee

14th **HOG Meeting - Closed**
7:00p.m.
Turner Hall - Monroe

29th - **Dinner Ride - Closed**
6:00p.m.
Organizer: Dave Wehinger

--May--

7th 8th- **Kutter 25th Anniversary**
9th **Rally**
Kutter - Janesville

12th **HOG Meeting - Closed**
7:00p.m.
Turner Hall - Monroe

16th - **Dinner Ride - Closed**
6:00p.m.
Organizer: Steve Jacobs

22nd - **Spring Open House - Open**
Kutter - Monroe



Minute by Minute.....continued

There will be a stop in Duluth and the ride ends up in Dubuque, Iowa. Many prizes will be awarded at the rally. Contact Steve Jacobs if you would like more information.

Treasurer Barb Smith read thank you cards from the Monroe Women's Club Christmas Stocking Project (we donated \$150) and from Big Brothers/Big Sisters (we donated \$500). Barb also mentioned BB/BS is looking for mentors in Monticello. Contact BB/BS if you can help out.

Secretary Kathy Rindy said the club has 50 members, still anticipating 2010 renewals from more.

April 3 will be the MVP party from 5:30 – 8 PM in Janesville.

Store Manager Scott Golackson said he was contacted by United Way and Habitat for Humanity who inquired if we would/could do a fundraising activity for them. We are talking about ways we can contribute to them.

Scott mentioned making plans for some activity to take place during Cheese Days in September. Those plans are still in the works.

Safety Officer Jeff Wright reminded everyone out doing some early season riding that people aren't used to seeing bikes out yet, so use extreme caution. Nine people are currently registered for the CPR class at Blackhawk Tech. Ten people are needed to hold the class. Let Jeff or Scott know if you are interested in taking the class.

Head Road Captain Leroy Rindy spoke a little about the Road Captain Meeting held prior to the club meeting. Leroy reminded everyone that "Group Riding Video" is going to be shown at the April meeting. This is a good refresher for everyone who is interested in doing group rides in 2010. Fuzzy will be bringing the video equipment for the club.

50/50 was won by Jeff Wright (\$31), Dave Wehinger and Dennis Holcomb each won a \$10 door prize gift certificate.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rindy, Secretary
Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Finally – I think winter is over! The snow is gone..., warmer temperatures..., and I have been receiving information on the state HOG rallies. Here are a few:

www.wisstatehogrally.com - June 20 - 24

www.ilstatehogrally.com - June 3 – 5

www.ohstatehogrally.com – June 17 – 19

Keep the shiny side up!

Steve Jacobs, Assistant Director
Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

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Road Captain Report

Hi everyone. WELCOME TO SPRING and another riding season! Sounds like the end of the week will be near 70 degrees. That will sure feel good. I'm sure a lot of us will be getting out and riding again.

I started talking last month about group riding. I would like to continue this month, covering the actual ride. For new members or those who have not been on many group rides, we do ride in a staggered formation, with the lead bike being in the left lane. We try and have a 2 second space between the bike in the front of you and 1 second space between the bike to the right or left in front of your bike. It is important not to crowd anyone, but it is also important not to leave big gaps because this spreads the group out too much.

We do use hand signals and it is important to pass them along to the rider behind you, otherwise riders at the rear of the pack may not know what is happening. If anyone has bike trouble or needs to stop for any reason, they should pull off the road and the sweep will stop and help them, while the rest of the group should continue on to the next stop or a safe place to pull the group over.

Also, when we have a rest stop, it is important to use the restroom and gas up or grab a snack as quickly as possible so that we can be ready to leave when the group is ready.

If you have a preference where you ride in the group, whether it be in the front, rear or inside or outside lanes, please let the ride leader or sweep know prior to the ride.

We will be showing our group ride video at our April meeting and I would like to encourage everyone to attend so we can watch and discuss group riding before our first ride gets here.

Hope to see everyone at the April meeting and enjoy riding!

Ride safe,

Leroy Rindy, Head Road Captain
Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group

April Birthdays

4-19 Bob Brown
4-23 Steve Lee





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129 6th Street
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Questions? Contact
jodyj@aeroinc.net

Happy Easter

Safety Officer Corner

Well, it's the third week of March and people have already been out enjoying the somewhat nice riding weather. My bike will be done soon and by the time you read this I will have been putting on some miles. Unfortunately the middle of March was deadly for 2 motorcyclists here in Wisconsin. I don't know the circumstances of these fatalities, but it's sure to be error on the part of the bike rider or the driver of some vehicle involved. This is not an auspicious beginning to the riding season and serves to focus us on the need for vigilance when we ride or drive on Wisconsin highways.

I hope for a safe riding season ahead for this chapter and also for all of our brothers and sisters on two wheels. Last year the fatality toll was 84 motorcyclists killed in Wisconsin alone, an improvement over 2008, but completely unacceptable. We shouldn't be happy or rest until that number is zero. I realize that this may be an impossible number to reach but the important thing here is to not give up.

Relative to that I suggest that you all become safety officers and preach the gospel to whoever will listen, especially youthful riders and riders with limited experience. Talk to them about motorcycle handling, what to watch out for on the road, how to ride safely in the city and country environments. Give of yourselves to others so they might benefit from your experience. It costs nothing and you may save a life by a simple suggestion.

Last month I spoke about looking for motorcycles by reminding myself every time I get in my car to be aware. Now that bikes are hitting the road I look for them at every opportunity regardless of where they are on the road. This has been an effective strategy for identifying bikes when I am making a right or left turn. The more you look for them, the more you see them, which I believe reduces the possibility of making a serious error. The last thing I want to do is pull out in front of a motorcycle and hurt someone.

Be careful out there as you become used to riding again, watch out for debris on the roads, sand, gravel, manure, dirt and possibly even black ice this early in the year. Be skeptical of cars at intersections that might turn into your path or cars parked beside the road whose driver may not see you and pull into your lane.

Most important of all is your attitude; think and practice safety on your bike. Give yourself that extra margin of safety and arrive at your destination without mishap.

The riding season is underway, I'll see you out on the road!

Jeff Wright, Safety Officer
Swiss Valley Harley Owners Group