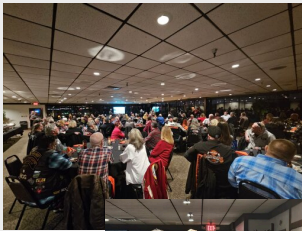


# H.O.G. Trails

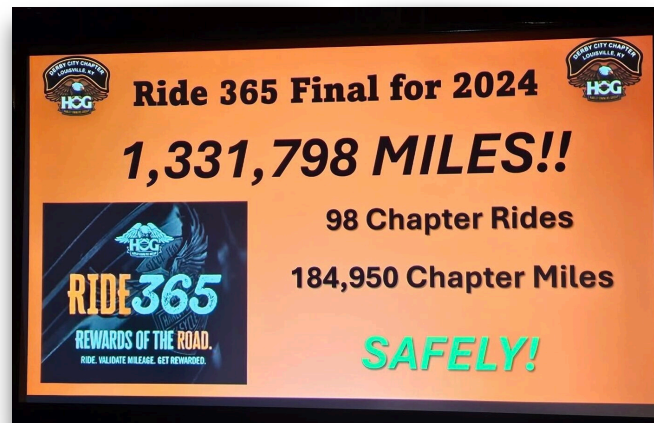
Screw it, Lets ride!

## Member Benefits:

### Annual Kickstart Party celebration!



### Our own Wind Therapy Challenge!



## Kickstart To Spring!

It's been a long winter for most of us and we're ready to ride again! DC HOG members had a fantastic year of riding by putting in over 1.3 MILLION MILES, and we hope to surpass that in 2025!

The Kickstart Party is our official beginning to ride planning including the 2025 Wind Therapy Challenge, in its 3rd year, created by our own Jen Jones. As always, King Fish was delicious and a beautiful venue. There was an abundance of prizes, awards and good times. We all extend gratitude for the planning of events by Kathy Jordan and our Schipper Team at Bluegrass H-D.

Now, Let's Ride!



## Feature Article:

### *The Harley-Davidson Itch*

**By: Sherry Weir,  
a.k.a. "Patches McRider"**

"I can't go with you guys...I don't ride a Harley."  
Have you ever heard friends make that remark? I did just that, ten years ago.

My husband, Ted, purchased a new Harley-Davidson "Ultra" during the summer of 2014 and joined the Derby City HOG Chapter, thereby, gaining new riding opportunities.

After every ride he came home so energized and raving about this great group of people and wanted me to attend the chapter meetings and ride with them. Skepticism totally clouded my vision because I rode a bright green Can Am "Spyder", not a Harley-Davidson.

The following season, we attended the 2015 Derby City HOG Kickstart Party at the dealership, where all the motorcycles were moved over to make room for tables, adorned with a Hawaiian theme, even a Hawaiian backdrop for pictures.

Of course, I was mesmerized by a charming bulldog named Willie, also dressed in a blue Hawaiian shirt, as he congregated among the party goers. The people were more than just motorcycle riders, they whole-heartedly enjoyed one another's company, and I felt myself wanting to be a part of this camaraderie.

I started attending the monthly chapter meetings with Ted and making new friends at each gathering. Then the Spring weather finally greeted us, we rode our motorcycles to the meetings, where a ride usually followed.

Bruce Heichelbech repeatedly invited me to ride with the chapter, but I remained skeptical about not cruising on a Harley-Davidson, until I finally accepted the challenge for a Sunday afternoon "Welcome to the Family" ride.

The chapter members accepted me and my bright green Can Am "Spyder". I soon became an Associate HOG member under Ted, with my very own...member number.

Each time I walked into the dealership, ***The Harley-Davidson Itch***, consumed me. I desired ...to shift gears, feel the vibration and hear the ...rumble as I cruised down the highway...to be a part of this motorcycling camaraderie.

Two shiny "Freewheelers" set on display...and I couldn't help but sit on one nearly every visit. Finally, the decision to purchase one got the best of me, however,...I didn't have enough strength to engage the hydraulic clutch.

I left disappointed... For two months following that disillusionment, I implemented hand strengthening exercises each day. Finally, ...(in) September, the new 2016 Freewheeler models arrived...and Evan Schipper gave me the opportunity to see them. I sat on the black one and squeezed the clutch...I did it! I could finally engage the hydraulic clutch.

A few weeks later, I rode that shiny black "Freewheeler" home...I was now a genuine Harley-Davidson rider. Today, I am a Lifetime HOG member and just received my ten-year HOG...patch, and I am also the proud owner of a 2024 sharkskin blue "Road Glide 3".

Ask your friends who ride Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki or Can Am motorcycles to join you on a chapter ride, especially (on) a Sunday Ice Cream ride or a midweek lunch ride. Just being associated with the Harley-Davidson community makes you want to be a part of the excitement.

The dealership sponsors so many fantastic events, so invite your friends. ***The Harley-Davidson Itch*** is more than just the motorcycle, it's also the camaraderie, the people and the enticing fun. When you ride a good looking H-D motorcycle, people notice.





Keep up with [www.HOG.com](http://www.HOG.com) for the latest ride Challenges. This is the “Dealership Photo Challenge”. Visit at least 10 US H-D dealerships within a year, take a picture with your Nat’l HOG membership book, your bike AND the store name to get a commemorative pin and patch.

There is a special one this year that ends March 31, and that is to visit “3 HD store locations” within “250 miles”, by “RECORDING the Ride” on your H-D App.

## **DESTINATION CHALLENGES**

We know the ride itself is the journey, not the destination—but sometimes we love having a place in mind. Ride 365™’s three destination challenges provide a full range of exciting rides to iconic destinations.



**Be a DC HOG member! DCHog.com**

**Do the exciting Harley-Davidson Ride Challenges!**

**HOG.com**



**Upcoming event at BGHD:**

**April 26, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Fern Creek F.D. Crusade for Children Ride!**

