



**Memorial Day** is much more than just a three-day weekend and a chance to get the year's first sunburn. Here's a handy 10-pack of facts to give the holiday some perspective.

#### 1. IT STARTED WITH THE CIVIL WAR.

Memorial Day was a response to the unprecedented carnage of the Civil War, in which some 620,000 soldiers on both sides died. The loss of life and its effect on communities throughout the country led to spontaneous commemorations of the dead:

- In 1864, women from Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, put flowers on the graves of their dead from the just-fought Battle of Gettysburg. The next year, a group of women decorated the graves of soldiers buried in a Vicksburg, Mississippi, cemetery.
- In April 1866, women from Columbus, Mississippi, laid flowers on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers. In the same month, in Carbondale, Illinois, 219 Civil War veterans marched through town in memory of the fallen to Woodlawn Cemetery, where Union hero Major General John A. Logan delivered the principal address. The ceremony gave Carbondale its claim to the first organized, community-wide Memorial Day observance.
- Waterloo, New York began holding an annual community service on May 5, 1866. Although many towns claimed the title, it was Waterloo that won congressional recognition as the "birthplace of Memorial Day."

#### 2. MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LOGAN MADE IT OFFICIAL.

General Logan, the speaker at the Carbondale gathering, also was commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans. On May 5, 1868, he issued General Orders No. 11, which set aside May 30, 1868 "for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion."

#### 3. IT WAS FIRST KNOWN AS DECORATION DAY.

The holiday was long known as Decoration Day for the practice of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths, and flags. The name Memorial Day goes back to 1882, but the older name didn't disappear until after World War II. Federal law declared "Memorial Day" the official name in 1967.

#### 4. THE HOLIDAY IS A FRANCHISE.

Calling Memorial Day a "national holiday" is a bit of a misnomer. While there are 10 federal holidays created by Congress—including Memorial Day—they apply only to Federal employees and the District of Columbia. Federal Memorial Day, established in 1888, allowed Civil War veterans, many of whom were drawing a government paycheck, to honor their fallen comrades without being docked a day's pay.

For the rest of us, our holidays were enacted state by state. New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day a legal holiday, in 1873. Most Northern states had followed suit by the 1890s. The states of the former Confederacy were unenthusiastic about a holiday memorializing those who, in General Logan's words, "united to suppress the late rebellion." The South didn't adopt the May 30 Memorial Day until after World War I, by which time its purpose had been broadened to include those who died in all the country's wars.

In 1971, the Monday Holiday Law shifted Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday of the month.

#### 5. IT WAS JAMES GARFIELD'S FINEST HOUR—OR MAYBE HOUR-AND-A-HALF.

On May 30, 1868, President Ulysses S. Grant presided over the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery—which, until 1864, was Confederate General Robert E. Lee's plantation.

Some 5000 people attended on a spring day which, The New York Times reported, was "somewhat too warm for comfort." The principal speaker was James A. Garfield, a Civil War general, Republican congressman from Ohio and future president.

"I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion," Garfield began, and then continued to utter them. "If silence is ever golden, it must be beside the graves of fifteen-thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem the music of which can never be sung." It went on like that for pages and pages.

As the songs, speeches and sermons ended, the participants helped to decorate the graves of the Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

#### 6. NOT EVEN THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER CAN AVOID MEDIA SCRUTINY THESE DAYS.

"Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." That is the inscription on the Tomb of the Unknowns, established at Arlington National Cemetery to inter the remains of the first Unknown Soldier, a World War I fighter, on November 11, 1921. Unknown soldiers from World War II and the Korean War subsequently were interred in the tomb on Memorial Day 1958.

An emotional President Ronald Reagan presided over the interment of six bones, the remains of an unidentified Vietnam War soldier, on November 28, 1984. Fourteen years later, those remains were disinterred, no longer unknown. Spurred by an investigation by CBS News, the defense department removed the remains from the Tomb of the Unknowns for DNA testing.

The once-unknown fighter was Air Force pilot Lieutenant Michael Joseph Blassie, whose jet crashed in South Vietnam in 1972. "The CBS investigation suggested that the military review board that had changed the designation on Lt. Blassie's remains to 'unknown' did so under pressure from veterans' groups to honor a casualty from the Vietnam War," The New York Times reported in 1998.

Lieutenant Blassie was reburied near his hometown of St. Louis. His crypt at Arlington remains permanently empty. World War I fighter, on November 11, 1921. Unknown soldiers from World War II and the Korean War subsequently were interred in the tomb on Memorial Day 1958.

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# Director's Note

## Memories – Memorials and Motorcycling

In May our Nation sets time aside to reflect and remember during Memorial Day. We as individuals also recount the past.

Motorcyclist across all ages often are made up by a large portion of Veterans. We here in our local HOG chapter have a dedicated corp.

In May we celebrate Mother's day. In relation to tattoos, "Heart MOM" is a close second to a HD tattoo. We love MOM but we also love our Harleys. Go ride your Harley and take Mom for a ride. Enjoy both their company together.

In May – the nation also has a Memorial Police Week, with a big ceremony and roll call in DC for fallen officers. We here in our own chapter have lost parts of our HOG family of riders in past years. Let us take time to reflect on them and the joy we shared on the road. I wish to update our Memorial plaque and have some names to add. This will be done in May. If there is a name you know that is missing let me know.

While these event are somber, let us also take time to Celebrate the Great Roads and Past Rides we have shared with one another. It is Beautiful out on the Road - Lets Ride and Remember.

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## Assistant Directors Corner



Meet Jeff and Tami Clark.

I met this couple at a new owners dinner December of last year. We chatted and between Janet and myself, invited them to join our chapter. It was my intent to include a small bio of the two in this newsletter, but alas, time got in the way and I was unable to get it done. Needless to say, they are super people and a welcome addition to the chapter. Get to know them and we will all be richer for it.



[Royce Barnes](#)

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## Membership

We have an amazing Hog Chapter! It is amazing because of each of YOU!! Thank you for getting involved in various areas of our chapter, participating in our activities! We really are an extended family of friends who are passionate about riding Harley Davidsons!!

We currently have **227 Active** members in our chapter. Welcome to: Peyton Ahart, Mike Beasley, Jeff & Tami Clark, Lori Dickey, Kelly Cunningham, Sheri Haines, Billy Harrison, Richard Harkins, Jason & Sylvia Runions, Brian & Joy Shields.

The NEW INVITE cards are HERE! Be sure to pick up a few at HOG Central to pass along to those who want to see what HOG is all about! Be sure to put YOUR name on the back of the invite. If you refer someone who Joins our club, your name will be entered into our drawing at the Christmas party!



[Stacey Ann](#)

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# Activities



[Charlene & Paul](#)

With the warmer weather here, many of us have another item to add to the agenda...riding. I was looking over the calendars today and between work, softball, HOG, karaoke, photography, and everything else we have our hand in...I jokingly started to schedule time to sleep. I know Charlene and I aren't alone. It seems like we get so busy with life sometimes, we forget to stop and enjoy it. We truly understand how precious your time is, and appreciate you spending some of that we us...your HOG family. We have several things coming up in the near future and hope we will see you at whichever ones your schedules will allow.

- Celia Silkwood will be hosting a continental breakfast in her beautiful home at 1942 S. Doral Drive in Fayetteville at 9:30 AM. KSU will be at 10:45 AM. Keep watching your email, as well as our Facebook page as you never know when something might pop up that you want to attend. See y'all soon!!!

## Chapter Meeting— May 4th 9:30am

Come join in the comradery and fun.

## Chapter Ride

Led by Garry Raymond to the Steel Horse Rally in Ft. Smith. KSU ASAP following the meeting. Lunch at Rolandos then "open" time to visit the rally. Return home at your discretion.

GPX Map is at:

<https://maps.harley-davidson.com/share/rides/IBBtzNvIt>

## May 8th Dinner Ride 6:30pm

Please plan to join the first dinner ride for our Chapter this year. Pre-ride briefing and KSU at 6:30 PM. Dave Woods will lead us from PTHD to the Hiwasse General Store where our own Charlene and Paul Newell will be doing karaoke. The Ride Planner Link is <https://maps.harley-davidson.com/share/rides/cT0w14Wmp>

## GPS Training Ride Planner — May 11th 10am

Upstairs PTHD

See Details on our Facebook event page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/510695109462889/> (No login Required)

## GPS Training Myrouteapp — May 11th 2pm

Upstairs PTHD

See Details on our Facebook event page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/388978071933101/> (No Login Required)

# LOH Rides the Pig Trail — May 18th

Celia Silkwood will be hosting a continental breakfast in her beautiful home at 1942 S. Doral Drive in Fayetteville at 9:30 AM. KSU will be at 10:45 AM. Further details and maps will be provided in the very near future.

Keep an Eye on our Facebook Event Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2286019711610805/>

# Hot Sauce Run — May 18th

Departure will be from Workman's Truck Stop (Exit 78: I-49/Monroe) at EXACTLY 0030 on Saturday, 18 May. (Note: This is 30 minutes past midnight on Friday, 17 May). Stops for gas and restroom breaks will be in Russelville, Pine Bluff, and Greenville, MS. The goal is to arrive just before 0700 at Jim's Café, take photos, eat breakfast, and if desired, purchase a bottle or two of Gus Johnson's famous sauce. The trip is 350 miles one-way. The return will have a slight detour in North Little Rock, as the intent is to visit the Old Mill, from the opening scene in the movie "Gone With the Wind". The entire round-trip will be 706 miles. Arrival back in NWA will be approximately 4 p.m.

# Escape to New Orleans—May 30th –June 2

Four day ride starting Thursday, May 30. This is not Memorial weekend.

One of America's most haunted homes is on Myrtles Plantation. We will check out the history, mystery and intrigue of this 1796 plantation. Next stop is New Orleans Bourbon Street and the French Quarter. For those up to the challenge, we will check out Pat O'Brian's and the famous Hurricane drink. Don't forget to visit Voodoo and Bourbon Street Harley Davidson shops in the French Quarter area for shirts and souvenirs. These shops only sell motor clothes and merchandise. Our next stop is Vicksburg National Military Park and check out the USS Cairo Museum. The USS Cairo was a Civil War boat that sank in 1862, raised in 1964, restored, and now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Contact: Ron Lemke, email: [rlfargo@gmail.com](mailto:rlfargo@gmail.com)

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## Head Road Captain



Passing on HOG group rides.

What a jam-packed May we have. Lots of group rides and fun things to do.

I would like to share a couple of observations from our last group rides concerning group riding safety maneuvers.

**Chuck Yarbrough** Passing on two lane: in most cases there is no reason to pass on a two lane road with a group. Certainly if necessary we should use extreme caution but each rider is responsible for their own safety when passing. Move to the left side of lane, and when comfortable, move to the passing and speed up. Make sure you have plenty of space and don't cut off the vehicle you are passing to move back into your lane. Never signal for Riders behind you that it's ok to pass!



Moving to left side of lane in single file to comply with state law to avoid a disabled vehicle or emergency or law enforcement then back to staggered formation should be common sense.

Group riding and passing on four lane roads or divided highways: the lead RC and sweep RC should work together to execute this maneuver. The LRC needs to make sure that they can get the whole group to pass and stay together. The LRC should signal their intent and the sweep should move to the left lane to protect the group. Once the entire group has passed the vehicle and there is enough space for the sweep to return to the right lane, then the whole group should move right to complete the maneuver.

We should never immediately return in front of vehicle and cut them off, causing them to brake or shift lanes on a four lane or divided highway.

Remember, You are pulling a train.

Following this procedure will ensure safe group riding. Your Certified RC should know and follow this process.

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## *Secretary Scribbles* Interesting Information To Keep Us Safe



[Garry Raymond](#)

At the recent ROC (Regional Officer Connection) Conference participants were told that we are not to use bottom rocker patches along with the HOG logos on our vests. The following is an article that we have permission to share in its entirety. It addresses these issues.

### Why No Bottom Rockers?

The following article was originally published in the Fall 2011 issue of Chapter Officer News. Because officers change each year, it bears repeating ...

The Harley Owners Group" logos you wear on your vests and jackets are intended to be worn with only one rocker - a top rocker proudly displaying your local chapter name. Article X "Trademark License" (#4) of the Annual Charter for H.O.G. Chapters states: "The current H.O.G. eagle logo shall be displayed only with the official chapter name, which official chapter name shall be displayed above the H.O.G. eagle logo and within the official H.O.G. chapter chevron as depicted below."

Wearing a lower rocker conflicts with the trademark license granted with the Charter.

In the US the abbreviation "MC" or the wearing of a bottom rocker can have a special social meaning. It is often used to designate territory. It is reserved for the "MC" community and its members to designate affiliation to those mutually recognized in the "MC" world.

The vests and jackets of people wearing lower rockers may become objects needed by "prospects" of other (three-patch) motorcycle clubs as a requirement for membership. Since the very early days there has been an agreement between H.O.G. and many other motorcycle clubs, that as long as we do not authorize use of lower rockers, our vests and jackets will not be removed from our members. Norscot, our chapter patch supplier, does not, and will not, supply lower rockers. And, Harley Owners Group won't authorize a chevron to go below the large H.O.G. patch.

This is true even if the "3rd" rocker is not designating a territory and merely a nickname or club name. The use of a lower rocker violates the long lasting agreement that H.O.G. has had with the motorcycle club community.

Remember it's not only you that you affect by wearing a lower rocker but all of your brothers and sisters in H.O.G. Please follow the Charter and respect the above agreement to avoid putting yourself in conflict with those clubs that wear lower rockers. Wear the H.O.G. logo and your chapter chevron proudly ... don't wear a lower rocker!

By — Todd "THOR" Robinson, Regional Manager

Nametags -- please plan to order your nametags at the May Chapter Meeting. They are \$10 and come in either a magnetic or pin version. I recommend you order one of each.

HOG Merch Sub-Committee -- a huge thank you to Troy Adams, Delena McCurdy, Jim Moss, Sue Rakes, and Kareen Turner for volunteering to serve on this new committee. They will be responsible for stocking and managing the new display case that David Patterson and Troy Adams constructed for the "HOG Central Kiosk." Feel free to let them know if there are particular HOG items that you would like to see in the display case. Items will be offered for sale to members at reasonable prices. The HOG Merch Team will work closely with Warren Sherman and Melody Dean on this new endeavor. More information will be forthcoming.

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# Webmaster



Hello my fellow members. Normally I'm the guy behind the scenes but today I am coming out to give thanks.

At the last meeting I asked for volunteers to help out with creating new ways to communicate with you and refresh the look of our more established ways and come up with some new ones. Susan Housel and Chris Ehle stepped up to join me.

One of the first items we discussed was getting our Youtube® up and running. If you have any GoPro® or similar video that you'd like to share, please send it to me @ [Webmaster@pigtrailhog.com](mailto:Webmaster@pigtrailhog.com).

That also goes for any ideas or comments you may have on our communications with you. Whether it's E-Mail, Facebook®, Instagram®, Twitter® or a new form of communications we'd love to hear from you!

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# Ladies of Harley



[Annette Hans](#)

Ladies of Harley we have some great stuff planned this summer, May 18 our light breakfast at Celia Silkwood's home then we ride the Pig Trail. If you ride two up it doesn't matter, we still want you to go, you can even follow in a car! Coming up June 15 is our Mystery Dinner, don't miss it ladies this is only for you gals' and it's a blast. The Mystery Dinner is not a ride, it's going to be experience you'll love! We will have a sign up for both activities so we can get a count! More fun stuff to come!



[Deb Raymond](#)



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#### 7. VIETNAM VETS GO WHOLE HOG.

On Memorial Day weekend in 1988, 2500 motorcyclists rode into Washington, D.C. for the first Rolling Thunder rally to draw attention to Vietnam War soldiers still missing in action or prisoners of war. By 2002, the ride had swelled to 300,000 bikers, many of them veterans. There may have been a half-million participants in 2005, in what organizers bluntly call "a demonstration—not a parade."

A national veterans rights group, Rolling Thunder takes its name from the B-52 carpet-bombing runs during the war in Vietnam.

#### 8. MEMORIAL DAY HAS ITS CUSTOMS.

General Orders No. 11 stated that "in this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed," but over time several customs and symbols became associated with the holiday.

- It is customary on Memorial Day to fly the flag at half staff until noon, and then raise it to the top of the staff until sunset.
- Taps, the 24-note bugle call, is played at all military funerals and memorial services. It originated in 1862 when Union General Dan Butterfield "grew tired of the 'lights out' call sounded at the end of each day," according to The Washington Post. Together with the brigade bugler, Butterfield made some changes to the tune.

Not long after, the melody was used at a burial for the first time when a battery commander ordered it played in lieu of the customary three rifle volleys over the grave. The battery was so close to enemy lines, and the commander was worried the shots would spark renewed fighting.

- The World War I poem "In Flanders Fields," by John McCrea, inspired the Memorial Day custom of wearing red artificial poppies. In 1915, a Georgia teacher and volunteer war worker named Moina Michael began a campaign to make the poppy a symbol of tribute to veterans and for "keeping the faith with all who died." The sale of poppies has supported the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

#### 9. THERE STILL IS A GRAY MEMORIAL DAY.

Several Southern states continue to set aside a day for honoring the Confederate dead, which is usually called Confederate Memorial Day. It's on the fourth Monday in April in Alabama, April 26 in Georgia, June 3 in Louisiana and Tennessee, the last Monday in April in Mississippi, May 10 in North and South Carolina, January 19 in Texas, and the last Monday in May in Virginia.

#### 10. EACH MEMORIAL DAY IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

No question that Memorial Day is a solemn event. Still, don't feel too guilty about doing something frivolous (like having barbeque) over the weekend. After all, you weren't the one who instituted the Indianapolis 500 on May 30, 1911. That credit goes to Indianapolis businessman Carl Fisher. The winning driver that day was Ray Harroun, who averaged 74.6 mph and completed the race in 6 hours and 42 minutes.

Gravitas returned on May 30, 1922, when the Lincoln Memorial was dedicated. Supreme Court Chief Justice (and former president) William Howard Taft dedicated the monument before a crowd of 50,000 people, segregated by race, and which included a row of Union and Confederate veterans. Also attending was Lincoln's surviving son, Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 2000, Congress established a National Moment of Remembrance, which asks Americans to pause for one minute at 3 p.m. in an act of national unity. The time was chosen because 3 p.m. "is the time when most Americans are enjoying their freedoms on the national holiday."

Originally written by David Holzel 27 May 2018, <http://mentalfloss.com> .