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## Some good Advice

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Green Bay H.O.G. Chapter Focuses on Motorcycle Safety

With May being Motorcycle Safety Awareness month, the Green Bay Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) Chapter knows the importance of safety when planning and riding in a large motorcycle parade such as the June 3rd Packerland Ride. This annual event raises funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. "We try to plan a ride that is as safe as possible and to minimize disruption to the general traveling public," says Randy Murdock, Green Bay, who is the head road captain for this year's ride.

As head road captain, Murdock works with various public and law enforcement agencies to choose the safest scenic route. "For this year's ride, we begin at McCoy's Harley-Davidson on Highway 41 and Velp, travel to Kewaunee, and end at the Oneida Casino," Murdock says, "So for the best ride, I needed advice and cooperation from the Green Bay Police Department, Brown County Sheriff and Highway Departments, Kewaunee County Sheriff and Highway Departments, Ashwaubenon Public Safety Department, and Oneida Tribal Police. It's a group effort."

The Packerland Ride has attracted as many as 2000 riders. For a safe motorcycle parade of this size, the route mostly travels on paved country roads. It is planned around road construction sites and it minimizes left turns to avoid crossing traffic lanes. Also, the parade speed is kept slow to keep the riders together and reduce the "rubber band effect." As a final safety precaution, a group of Green Bay H.O.G. chapter members sweeps stones and debris off the road on the day before the ride.

"Even with all our planning and preparation," adds Murdock, "It's still up to the individual rider to be aware of everything that is going on around them during the ride. That includes front, side, and behind. They have to be attentive and be courteous to other traffic on the road, giving way when necessary."

Scott Semrau, Green Bay H.O.G. Chapter Safety Director, emphasizes that a large ride such as the Packerland Ride is for experienced riders and passengers. "If you bought your bike the week before the ride, it's better to get some riding experience before joining a big motorcycle parade or carrying passengers." Semrau recommends at least 6 months of experience riding a motorcycle before allowing a passenger onto it.

Green Bay H.O.G. Chapter member Gene Rousseau has been an instructor at NWTCA's Basic Rider Course for 3 years. Rousseau encourages courtesy to other traffic when riding in a large group. In addition, "When riding in a group of any kind, the lead rider should take the left side of the lane, otherwise they are blind to what may lie ahead. In

addition," Rousseau adds, "staggered formation makes cornering safer and maximizes the safety margin between you and the bike ahead of you."

All H.O.G. members are encouraged to take a motorcycle rider safety course and are eligible for up to a \$50 tuition reimbursement, paid in the form of a H.O.G. bonus coupon, upon successful completion of the course.

Why a bike parade? The Packerland Ride motorcycle parade raises public awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. It also offers motorcycle riders of all makes and models the unique experience of participating in Wisconsin's largest organized bike parade north of Milwaukee.

Harley-Davidson established the Harley Owners Group in 1983 in response to a growing desire by Harley riders for an organized way to share their passion and show their pride. Our mission is a simple one: "To ride and have fun." The Green Bay Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) is the local non-profit chapter of Harley-Davidson motorcycle enthusiasts who organize many social events throughout the year to promote the enjoyment of Harley riding and motorcycle safety.

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## Harley-Davidson MDA Fundraising Events Net Big Results

Milwaukee, WI (May 12, 2006) - Harley-Davidson's 2006 fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) received a huge boost recently with the contribution of more than \$1.6 million through four major events. The events were organized through Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Harley-Davidson dealers, HOG chapters and MDA staff and their volunteers. Harley-Davidson and MDA's top national fundraising event was held the weekend of May 6 and 7

as \$843,000 was raised during the 19th annual Eastern Harley-Davidson Dealers Association Ride for Life in eastern Pennsylvania. Also that weekend, the 13th annual Milwaukee Black-n-Blue Ball raised more than \$500,000 for MDA. The Milwaukee Black-n-Blue Ball is the largest motorcycle ball in the country. Additional top fundraising Black-n-Blue Ball events were held in Grand Rapids (more than \$200,000) and Detroit, Michigan (\$100,000). Harley-Davidson executives attended and participated in all four events.

Harley-Davidson dealers, customers, suppliers and employees conduct fundraising activities for the Muscular Dystrophy Association throughout the year. Activities include pledge rides, fundraising events, motorcycle raffles and pin sales.

Harley-Davidson has been a national sponsor of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and has raised more than \$55 million since 1980. The funds raised support life-saving research, comprehensive medical care for children and adults with neuromuscular disease, and MDA summer camps.

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