



INDYWEST CHAPTER 0023

Chapter News April 2015



Happy Easter!



WORN TO BE WILD

A new display at the Harley Davidson Museum



Cycle Queen jacket by Harley-Davidson, 1950s

The black leather jacket is one of the most recognizable pieces of motorcycle gear. Its form and function are closely associated with riders, but there is a lot more to the story of this classic and universal garment.



WWII aviator jacket with custom paint, 1940s (On loan from a private collection.)

The biker jacket traces its roots back to open-cockpit transportation, such as early automobile drivers, motorcyclists, and aviators. During World War II, flight crews were protected by durable leather outerwear during missions. Their jackets were also a blank canvas perfect for customization, and were often painted to match the planes or denote membership in a particular squadron. Pin-up girls were popular images during World War II, undoubtedly reminding servicemen of the homefront.

In 1947, Harley-Davidson introduced a duo of black leather jackets, later known as the Cycle King and Cycle Queen. The belted waist and zipper cuffs shut out the wind, while the angled D-shaped pocket provided easy access while riding. These features quickly became standard, with the “King” and “Queen” appearing in Harley-Davidson® catalogs and advertisements for decades, including today.



Clear PVC jacket by designer Comme des Garçons, 2011

While the black leather jacket came to be synonymous with the Harley-Davidson® brand, many other manufacturers also produced the iconic silhouette. During the 1950s, as the rebel persona emerged in popular culture, companies such as Schott and Langlitz, as well as department stores like Montgomery Ward and JC Penney sold examples featuring slash pockets, notched collars and diagonal zippers.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the black leather jacket was adopted and adapted by a punk youth subculture. The same form and function once favored for protection was personalized with paint, studs, chains and slogans to send a message of individuality and rebellion. From here, the jacket moved from the mosh pit to the fashion runway. While a clear PVC Comme des Garçon jacket does not offer the same protective features as leather, it reinterprets the classic shape in a unique way. Biker-inspired jackets are seen season after season, giving models an edgy look that is then transferred to streetwear sported by celebrities and regular folks alike.



Tag of a jacket made by Buco, 1950s (On loan from a private collection.)

- The black leather jacket has transitioned from functional gear worn by pilots and motorcyclists to a statement-making garment available to everyone. Worn to be Wild will feature many seminal examples ranging from rare functional jackets to those worn by Hollywood characters and musicians, along with photos, catalogs, and other related ephemera.

OUR SPONSOR:
IndyWest H.O.G. Chapter
0023
IndyWest Harley-Davidson
6201 Cambridge Way
Plainfield, IN 46168
Ph: (317)-279-0062
Fax: (317)-279-0069

National H.O.G. Office
(800) 258-2464

Director/Editor:
Mike Meloy
rsrmeloy@hotmail.com
(765)-386-6355
**Assistant Director/
Treasurer:**
George Herzog
gah1993@gmail.com
(317) 328-0633
Secretary:
Vanessa Dolden
vrdolden@sbcglobal.net

Fellow Members,

Spring has finally arrived! If you haven't done so already, it's time to get your Harley out of the garage, clean it up, get it over to IndyWest for any needed service, and do some riding!

I'm excited -our Chapter is really growing this year! So far we have 10 new members and three past members rejoining. I'd like to welcome new members Rob Coffman, Lee Faletic, Richard Holderfield, Mitch Miller, Danny Phillips, Randy Renback, Tracy Schuttler, Jay and Tammy VanDyke, David Warner, and returning members Greg and Nancy Davis, and Mike Spivey. We look forward to riding and having fun with all of you this year!

Thanks to the Chapter officers who met recently and put together the monthly Chapter ride schedule (I will email a copy soon). Due to requests for some shorter rides, we are going to try something different this year. We will have a few two option rides which will consist of a 1-2 hour ride to a destination and then offer the option to return with a 1-2 hour ride or continue on a longer 3-5 hour return ride. We will try this two option on our breakout ride which is scheduled for 10am Saturday April 18th (rain date Sunday April 19th) and our destination is the 36 Saloon in Rockville.

Ride safe,

Mike Meloy

March Chapter Meeting



