

Goldwing Road Riders Association

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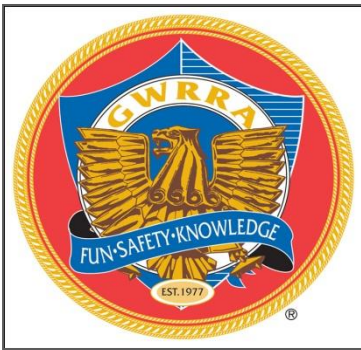
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Newsletter Jan '11



Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge



From the Directors Chair



***HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2011***

Welcome to the start of another great year! A year that will be surely filled with great rides, new places to explore, new roads to travel, new places to eat, new friends, old friends, new bikes & trikes, old bikes & trikes all wrapped around having fun, our chapter and it's many loyal members.

With the start of the new year, we have a new Assistant Chapter Director stepping up - Leo McNamara. Please extend a big Thank-You to Leo for accepting this vital role within the chapter. With Leo's appointment to ACD we have now ensured the chapter has leadership in place and a future once Georgia and I retire.

Speaking of retiring, did you know that as of January 1, 2011 the first of the official "Baby Boomers" born between 1950-1964, start retiring?

I'd like to share with you another harassing email I received last year from yet another apparent unhappy chapter member, I promised I won't mention Frank by name, so I won't. I'm not sure what he's trying to say, maybe you can help me figure it out? Think it has anything to do with the wrong turns I took while leading a few group rides this year? You think this job is easy? Good thing the pay and benefits off-set the harassment. ☺



Speaking of wrong turns, you all will be happy to learn that my Zumo "bit the big one yesterday" and will be headed back to Garmin this week for a full refurb. Maybe we can keep the wrong and U-turns down to a minimum this year while I'm leading rides. ☺

As some you may know we will be supporting Cycles 128 at the Northeast Motorcycle Expo in Boston on January 29 & 30th. We will have a table in their booth promoting the GWRRA, our chapter and providing technical expertise for any questions about the Gold Wing. Cycles is bringing a 2010 Gold Wing for the show, we'll set up alongside the bike so we can showcase the bike and our chapter. We're looking for volunteers to help staff the booth on

either day and for as many or few hours as you'd like. So far Sean, Georgia and I will be there for both days but we'd love to have some additional help during the day. Even if you don't have time to man the booth but will attend the show, please stop by and say "hi."



Who are those dapper looking members in those great hats? No not the goofy looking hats but the two handsome guys far right.

Thanks for the photo, Mike

So until next month - ride often and ride safe, well maybe not until next spring,

Kevin





What did I do and why?



What I did was sign my name to the contract to become the Assistant Chapter Director for Chapter A.

Why did I do it is not as easy to answer. There was not any one specific or compelling reason that I can look at and say that's why. In fact, I was scheduled to take the OCP course in May but at the last minute decided that being an officer was not for me so I didn't attend.

Starting in June there were family issues that prevented me from attending meetings or participating on the rides, which was too bad because between Lynne and I we hit the 50/50 for each of the three previous months. As a result I can't say my decision was based on something or things that happened over the summer. I would look at the Chapter website and see the help wanted signs. I watched as the rider educator position opened up with the tragic loss of Paul Green.

I kept thinking about being an officer but I just wasn't sure I would have the dedication and time needed to help Kevin & Georgia. But the idea that I wanted to contribute to the chapter kept

creeping into my thoughts. When I saw the notice that there was going to be an OCP course in Maine I decided to attend without letting Kevin know because I still was not sure. The course was very good in presenting the officer responsibilities, new procedures/rules to follow, removing the "old boy" network, the emphasis that GWRRA should always be after family and not be an overwhelming burden on any officer, swayed me once again to say to myself that I wanted to do it.

Then the email came! The dreaded email from Kevin, who in the bluntness of his honesty, discussed the responsibilities of the position and acknowledged the lack of help, which persuaded me once again to say NOPE, this is not for me and left me wondering why I ever thought about applying to be the ACD again. I was adamant this time; no way was I ever going to reconsider until I started really thinking about the email from Kevin. I looked at each item Kevin presented and started realizing that with some help each item would become less and less of a burden. Believe it or not I changed my mind once again...

Lynne and I attended the November meeting and we hit the 50/50 again!! I talked to Kevin and agreed to apply to become the ACD. Why am I writing such a drawn out missive for my first contribution to the newsletter? The reason is to let folks know that my path to this decision changed several times, but in the end the need to help and the knowledge that as a member of the team we can make the chapter better.

I'm asking any others in the chapter that are stuck in the process of indecision such as I was to consider being part of the chapter team. The more people involved the better the chapter will be. It doesn't have to be an officer position: you just need to make a contribution, big or small, that will help the chapter.

In any case, I look forward to assisting Kevin & Georgia in making Chapter A better for all and hope you will consider doing the same.

Leo

Assistant Chapter Director/Chapter "A"



RIDER ED 'GIMME 5'

TOPIC: Why Should I Take a Rider Course?

This question is one that many of us find easy to answer. What we may not understand is why anyone would need to ask it. There are some riders in each of our chapters that choose not to participate in an instructed Rider Course. Let's examine this and try to understand why, and look at what a Rider Course can do for you.

Some may say, "I've been riding for years. I don't need to take a class." Others will boast about the miles they have accumulated on two wheels and ask "what can they teach me?" Have you ever tried to persuade someone with that attitude that a Rider Course might help them be an even better rider? Their position can be so negative and so strongly put that you don't want to talk to them about the benefits of rider training. Sometimes, people hide their self doubt behind a curtain of confidence and bluster. Is it possible to have all the knowledge and skill necessary to avoid any accident? Well, if one chooses not to ride very far or very often, then perhaps it is possible. But I wouldn't want to bet *my* life on it!

Do you remember a single season in your riding career without at least one close

call or near miss due to another motorist's driving behavior? How about a single *month*? If you ride around the state or across the country, you expose yourself to many different situations that require anticipation of all the possible actions of other drivers. You have to be prepared to counter with the proper response - *whatever their action* - and do it in a split second! A motorcycle Rider Course helps prepare you mentally and physically to execute the kinds of maneuvers called for by a driver's unexpected actions. We look upon these classes as an opportunity to learn and improve our riding skills in a safe environment.

The instructors are trained to spot the little techniques during range exercises that riders tend to forget to employ on the road. They provide reminders to all students in a positive manner. Their trained eyes and constructive comments are geared to put each of us on the path to being the safest riders we can be. This can help with your attitude and performance on the road. Being reminded of the best techniques to execute different skills does not hurt at all. It is painless. The practice and coaching helps to improve our skills, whether we never knew the technique to use, or just need the

occasional reminder. Hey, who doesn't appreciate a reminder from time to time? Especially when it is about something you want to do correctly and safely, but may have just forgotten the best method.

In athletic training we are taught that practice makes perfect. And when you practice something you enjoy doing, it's just a lot of fun! Practicing motorcycle riding maneuvers in a closed parking lot with someone else (the instructors) monitoring the range to protect the riders from outside hazards helps you focus your attention on the task at hand - becoming a better rider!

On another level, taking a Rider Course will help you qualify for advancement in the Rider Education Levels Program, to Level II or above, or keep you current in your present level. And there is one more thing to remember about *all* GWRRA Rider Course offerings. Nobody fails! Everyone who completes the course receives a course completion card. There are no minimum performance requirements. You are asked to push yourself to improve your abilities. You won't get better at it if you don't try. Sign up for a Rider Course today. You will thank yourself later!

Ride Smart & Be Safe!

Bruce & Melissa Thayer

Former MI Asst. District Rider Educators

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Greetings once again from the Director's Chair!

Well, here we are almost another full year has come and gone, but not without the GWRRA members having a great riding season. We have seen a lot of changes this past year, and there will probably be some more changes coming down the road for 2011. I am sure that we will get through it all as a Team in 2011, and we will surely continue to have fun, do more rides and be safe as we are doing them.

Every member is very important, and we would certainly not have a District, Region or Chapter without all

of our members working and playing together as a TEAM. Your suggestions and input are very important to everyone, so don't be afraid to step up with your ideas and comments.

We have also had some great loses in 2010, members we will dearly miss, and never forget. We want to keep these members and their families in our thoughts and prayers for the coming year. We also want to keep our members in our thoughts and prayers, who have and are still going through treatments and surgeries of one kind or

another. Also keep our Armed Forces, women and men, in our thoughts and prayers, as they keep us safe by putting themselves in harm's way. God Bless them and their families.

Bob and I want to wish each and every one of you, a Happy, Healthy New Year, we trust that each of you had a wonderful Christmas Season. We look forward to 2011 working with all of you and having more fun and new adventures. Thank you for all you do for GWRRA, without you, our members we are nothing.

Thank You
Enjoy Safe Riding
Judy & Bob Burns
RI, MA, CT District Directors

SCHEDULING & EVENTS

Monthly Meeting



Bertucci's

45 Walkers Brook Road
Reading, MA

Next Meeting:
Wednesday Jan 19th @ 7:00pm
(meeting)

Up-Coming Ride/Events



BREAKFAST'S

January 2nd ~ Brother's
Wakefield, MA

January 16th ~ Deli King
Tewksbury, MA



Rob Lee
Kevin LeBlond

Jan 9th
Jan 9th

