



GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION Hart City Wings Communicator



INDIANA CHAPTER O2



ELKHART, IN.

March 2009

Edition Two Hundred two

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CHAPTER POET

Deb Whetstone

FROM YOUR CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Mike & Margaret Knepple



Happy March Everyone.

Did you all enjoy the bit of Spring we had last week. I know Maggie and I sure did. If it wasn't for all the salt and sand on the roads yet I know we'd have had the bike out. For those of you that are out and about on the bikes be careful this time of year. Remember cars aren't watching for you, not to mention all the pot holes in the roads.

We have a great Chapter. Thank You Everyone for everything you do. You are what make this Chapter so much fun. I know I'm going to be long winded this Month but we had a lot going on.

If you missed our March Meeting, you missed seeing our friends that visited.

Chapter D2 and B2 were there to capture the plaques. And Chapter H was there just to visit us. D2 did take home both plaques when they gave their travel mileage they had traveled the furthest. As always, it was nice to have visitors at our meeting. Bobby Newman was there to talk about the Ride for Kids. He shared a wonderful update about one of the Stars that had surgery again. Of course he shared a corny joke too. We have been very busy since our last meeting so here are the highlights of our events.

Started with getting ready for Winter Rendezvous finishing the float, and practicing our skits. Before we knew it, it was time for our pizza night and dress rehearsal for our skits for Winter Rendezvous. Great pizza and plenty of other goodies to eat. Thanks to Rod and Judy for picking up the pizza. I think the entire Chapter had sore sides from laughing so hard watching the guys perform their skit. The ladies were great too. A lot of hard work went into getting it all ready. I hope I don't forget anyone but Thanks to all those that put forth their talents to pull this off. Wolfie and all the guys you did a great job. Deb for writing it all up for us, all the lady's for their input about us matching. Maggie for her hard work so our chairs matched. Thanks for the Ladies Group all you ladies and Denny were great. Kathy C. and Judy for putting it together. All the people that worked on getting the costumes sewed. Thanks Maggie for all your hard work on the float, she has some real talent. And to everyone else that put the finishing touches on it. Cathy R. had the scrapbook finished up and it was great. Looking thru it made me smile just remembering all the rides, and silly things we did last year.

Then we were off to Indianapolis for Winter Rendezvous. On Friday a few played cards, games, and just visited with all other friends. We were resting up for the talent show later that evening. The ladies did their skit first and they did a great job. They sang and danced their way thru the 50's and 60's. Denny as the Lone Ranger was great. It was a winner in our book. The guys were about mid way thru, standing back stage waiting for our Q from Rich. All we could hear was everyone laughing. So we knew Wolfie was out there.

The guys all had a great time doing the Drill Team. And what can I say when we saw our wives coming out to serve our drinks. They were a sight in their robes and shower caps. Cases, Heckamans and Clarks had a surprise skit they put together. Most of us did a double take to see who it was with the guys walking across the stage. Judy was great. No one was sure who it was at first. Great jobs guys with the skit.

Chapter O2 received several prizes that weekend. The Drill team took 1st place for comedy. The Chapter took 1st place in the Grand Parade, 2nd place in the 50's sock hop Theme, Peoples choice in the table decorations, Andrea got 1st place in the Trivia. Wolfie and Connie took 1st place in the Trike Pulls, and Rod R took 2nd in the trike drag.

Thank you to the entire Chapter for making this a memorable Winter Rendezvous. I know not everyone could go but everyone was there helping put everything together. If you weren't able to make this year hope you'll be able to make next year.

We also visited B2 in Marion Indiana to pick up the Region D Plaque. We did this right after Winter Rendezvous. We had visited at Winter Rendezvous and had a great time at their meeting. We are hoping to meet up with them on one of their rides that they have planed later this year. Keep your eye on the calendar.

We had our Nelson's Port-a-Pit Chicken Sale March 7. Thanks to everyone that was able to come out and help sell Chicken. We'll have more on this next month.

We are still setting our Calendar so if you have an idea for a ride or event just let us know. Remember to wear your Green.....**Happy St Patrick's Day Everyone.**

Until next Month Be Safe,

Mike and Maggie

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the 1st Thursday of each month at Bennigan's in the Ramada Inn, off Cassopolis and the toll road. Dinner @ 6:30, meeting @ 7:15 PM

DINNER RIDES are every Thursday night May-Sept. (except meeting night). Meet in the Amberwood Terrace parking lot on CR 17. Leaving promptly at 6:30 PM

FROM YOUR ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Wolfgang and Connie Gless



Hello to All;

March is here and with all luck, the weather will change for the better. Winter Rendezvous has come and gone. I do believe we all had a very good time and are looking forward to next

year. We did great in the competitions bringing home many first places. Go O-2

Please note the following, we and I mean the Lawn Chair Drill Team have been invited to attend the Spring Wing Warm Up this year with paid registration, of course they want us to perform. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend because of previous made plans but I would sure like to see the Team members attend and yes, the Team would be asked to perform the routine that took first place. I am sure someone else can step up and be the Drill Master.

As I am writing this article we have just finished up with the annual Chicken Sales Fund Raiser and even in the down economy we sold all that we ordered, 572 half's I believe. The weatherman had predicted heavy rain for the entire day; well it did rain, heavy at times but only towards the end of the sale. At the end we still had customers driving up but we were out of chicken, maybe we need to look at ordering more next year?

C.P.R. class is coming up fast (Mar 14th) at Bennigan's starting time is 09:00 and will last about 5 hours. You will be able to order lunch off the menu. Those attending will learn a very useful skill.

The District Staff meeting is March 21st in Anderson, IN. at the Church of God. I believe Mike & Maggie and I are going. Anyone else that would like to attend is of course welcome. Also on the 22nd of March, will be the 9 Pin No Tap bowling tournaments in Noblesville IN. Anyone attending?

Over the last month we traveled to 2 chapters for a visit and brought home both the District & Region traveling Trophies. We did not keep them long though as 3 chapters came to visit us at Thursdays meeting and spirited them away. Looks like we will have to make a visitation in the future and try to retrieve one or both, hopefully we will be able to ride this time.

I believe that is all for this month, ride safe and dry.

Wolfgang & Connie

FROM YOUR CHAPTER EDUCATOR

Bob Chute



LEARN TO SEE

SEE is another valuable acronym to add to your mental toolbox. Where T-CLOCS is employed to assist with the pre-ride checking of the motorcycle, and FINE-C gives you a handy way to remember the engine starting routine, **SEE** gives you steps to protect yourself in

mixed-traffic scenarios. **SEE** breaks down like this:

- Search
- Evaluate
- Execute

Search

Search refers to the process of scanning aggressively for potential hazards. Remember good searching extends beyond what is immediately in front of you to include everything 12 seconds in the distance, as well as the areas to the sides and behind you. Check your mirrors frequently and use head checks to monitor blind spots. Many motorcycles have convex mirrors, but they can distort your sense of how far away an object actually is.

Your search efforts are most effective if you are able to prioritize the elements of the traffic environment. There are three primary categories of information that should be monitored as part of your search activity: 1) Traffic control devices and markings; 2) road characteristics and surface conditions; and 3) other roadway users. Any one of these three can be more or less important than the others, depending on the situations. Monitor all three of them together, shifting focus as the situation demands, and you will have the information necessary to ride safely.

Remember, the most common area for conflict between yourself and other roadway users is an intersection. This is where different vehicles cross paths and where communication between roadway users is most critical—and also most confusing. A common motorcycle/automobile crash occurs at an intersection when an oncoming vehicle turns left into the path of an approaching motorcycle. Before you enter an intersection, search for oncoming traffic that might turn left in front of you as well as traffic from the left and right and even behind you. Because of this, using the SEE techniques is especially critical at intersections.

As you approach an intersection, search for the following:

- Traffic approaching from behind
- Oncoming traffic that might turn left in front of you
- Traffic from the right

Pay special attention at intersections with limited visibility. Be equally aware of visually "busy" surroundings that could camouflage you and your motorcycle.

Next month we'll look at "EVALUATE"



RECRUITER & RETENTION

Joann Gabbard

Please send your renewals to Joann and she will forward them to GWRRA. We want to keep everyone current and enjoying the many benefits of membership in this great association. Due in April 2009 is Denny and Brenda Heckaman, Mark and Carol Skinner, Robert Stratton.

Got an item that you would like to sell? Advertise it here in the "For Sale" listing of the newsletter. This publication is seen state wide and could help to locate someone that is looking for your item.

Your Chapter Store Representative:

Cindy Norman

Chapter items for sale:

Hats \$13.00

Chapter Flags \$12.00

Gold Wing Clocks \$15.00

Various pins, patches etc. also available. See Cindy for details.



FOR SALE: An Eclipse heated vest. Size Large. Perfect for extending that

riding season or just adding some extra comfort when riding early or late in the day. Asking \$75.00 OBO. Call 574 273-3001

FOR SALE: 1990 GL 1500. Light blue with matching trailer. Excellent condition, regularly serviced. Pin Striping by Charlie Bussard on both bike and trailer. Loaded with accessories. Also, two Gerbing electric heated coats with controllers, 1 Large, 1 XL. Call: 574-259-2393 or 574-276-6340 for more information.



Region D Traveling Plaque

On Wednesday, February 25, 11 members of Chapter O2 traveled to Marion to attend B2's monthly meeting and obtain the Region D Traveling Plaque.

At 4PM Knepples, Skinners, Cases and Vern Daly met at Heckaman's house to join up and ride together to Marion. Relatively speaking, it was a warm day with the temperature, by the time we got to Marion, in the 50's. We were joined, at the Serloin Stockade, by Rummels, who were already in the area earlier in the day.

After an enjoyable meal the meeting got under way and Chapter O2, represented by Mike Knepple, was presented with the Region D Traveling Plaque.

When the meeting concluded members of both chapters chatted for a while and then we headed home.

One thing you might want to mark on your calendar. On May 16, B2 is going to have a ride to Bonneyville Mill Park and then on to Essenhaus restaurant. O2 has been invited to join them. More details will be posted in the newsletter when we find out times, etc.



Winter Rendezvous Pictures

I would have liked to put WR pictures in the newsletter this month, but there were SO MANY there was no way I could decide what ones to put in. You can see them at the following web site courtesy of Rod Clark

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=rjcfamily&target=ALBUM&id=5306124439888238369&authkey=J8P4YZu0Qgc&authkey=J8P4YZu0Qgc&eat=email>

Avoiding the phrase "I don't have time...", will soon help you to realize that you do have the time needed for just about anything you choose to accomplish in life. **Bo Bennett. "Year to Success"**

Meeting Notes:



Mike opened the meeting to one of the largest crowds we've had in a long time. There were 32 O2 members present and 25 guests. Guests included Bobby Newman (Ride for Kids), seven from Chapter H (Goshen), eleven from D2 (Ft. Wayne) and six from B2 (Marion).

Mike wanted to thank everyone who participated in or helped with the various activities at Winter Rendezvous. Everyone did a great job with whatever their involvement was in order to make O2's participation a success. O2 took several honors including a first in the Grand Parade, First in the Talent show, first in the Table Centerpiece and second in the 50's Sock Hop Theme. Also, Andrea Streling took first in 50's trivia; Connie and Wolfie took first in men's and women's Trikepull; and Rod Rance took Second in Trike Drag. Congratulations to all.

Kathy Case handed out Mickey Mouse ears to all the girls who participated in the skit and certificates to all who attended WR. Each certificate, along with having a picture of each participant/couple contained a short narrative personalized for each couple.

Bob Chute, Chapter Educator, spoke about the hazards of road debris, whether it be sand, gravel, leaves or debris from other vehicles. He also related an incident where a shredded tire punctured a fuel line and spilled diesel fuel on the road creating quite a hazard. Now that riding season is starting again we all need to be reminded to be aware of these hazards. He also handed out a laminated version of the T-CLOCKS sheet for everyone to carry in their bike. He also announced that Sue is now officially his co-educator for O2. Congratulations Sue.

Wolfie spoke briefly about upcoming events, the main one of which is the Chicken Sale on Saturday March 7. The sale starts at 10AM with a breakfast at Callahan's at 8AM. He also reminded everyone about the First Aid/CPR class on March 14 at 9AM at Bennigan's.

Mike mentioned several upcoming state/district events. March 21 - Indiana District Spring Meeting, Anderson, IN; March 22 - Nine Pin bowling, Noblesville, IN; March 28 - Spring Training, Toledo, OH; and May 28 thru 30 - Spring Wing Warmup, Greensburg, IN.

Both Dumbo and Udderly Fantastic will be staying with their current guardians as both were "forgotten" this month.

Chapter D2 claimed both the Indiana Traveling Plaque and the Region D Traveling Plaque, which O2 just obtained from B2 on February 25. Well, we had 'em for a while. See the article on page

Lastly, Bobby Newman was here to talk about the upcoming (July 12) Annual Ride For Kids event which, as before, will be held at Pinhook Park in South Bend. Handouts for the event were on the table.

Please get pictures to Cathy Rummel for the Scrapbook. You can also e-mail digital pictures to Vern Daly for possible inclusion in the newsletter, space permitting.

If anyone has **crushed cans** to turn in please get them to Frank Case or Jim McPhail to help with the Chapter funds.

Thursday Night Dinners

Meet at the restaurant at 6:30

Mar 19 . . Doc Pierces (Mishawaka)
Mar 26 . . Mad Anthony's (Elkhart)
Apr 09 . . Bruno's (South Bend)
Apr 16 . . Hunter's (Elkhart)
Apr 23 . . Hacienda (Goshen)
Apr 30 . . Texas Roadhouse (Elkhart)

What's Coming Up

Mar 14 . . First Aid/CPR Class (Bennigan's 9:00 AM)
Mar 21 . . Spring Officer's Meeting (Anderson)
Mar 22 . . Nine Pin Bowling (Noblesville)
Mar 28 . . Region D Workshop (Toledo, OH)
Apr 19 . . Blessing of the Bikes (Nappanee)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

None In April

Birthdays:

April 5 . . . Bob Chute April 16 . . Eric Homan
April 27 . . Cari Duricki April 30 . . Jim Van Laecke

A Note From Your Editor

If anyone has an idea for something they would like to have published in the newsletter please feel free to submit it to me for consideration. Examples might be a motorcycling event that you attend, or even a trip or ride you may have been on that you think others might be interested in doing. As the editor I reserve the right to make the final decision as to appropriateness, or to edit the submission for content or length before publication. I would ask that you e-mail it to me as an attachment done in most any of the currently popular word processors like Word, Works, Notepad, Wordpad, etc. Thanks, and I look forward to your articles.



Save those pop tabs for next year's Ronald McDonald Ride. Let's make the 2009 Ronald McDonald Ride the best one yet!

Winter Rendezvous

By Deb Whetstone

When it's the middle of winter and you want something to do
Just look forward to heading out to Winter Rendezvous
Up early on Friday...no one can wait
We heard that this year was going to be first rate
Checking in at the Marriott and getting the hospitality room ready
We counted on Mike and Maggie to keep everything going steady
Clarks and Heckamans brought their "kitchen" except for the sink
And the Margaritas that they brought along were going as fast as you could blink
Euchre was fun Friday afternoon
It just seemed to be over way too soon
The vendors, the games, and later the talent show
Although we got a little apprehensive with "Gabbard Time" you know
But all went well and we all did our best
And the men's drill team got an encore request
The Mickey Mouse team did a great job with the Lone Ranger riding his way to fame
However it's a good thing our Michigan people were there to yell "Get a room" because Cari was enjoying her favorite "Old Flame"
With the Drill Team the people in the audience laughed until they had tears in their eyes
And with those "Wonderful Outfits" the guys wore it was really not a surprise (Hike em up)
Boom Chuga Luga became the theme for the weekend you see
As each and every one of our guys was "All they could possibly be"
Then what was that announcement we could hear?
O2 had a "Hussy" on stage and we greeted her with cheer
Yes, our very own Judy Clark turned into a vivacious woman of the night
But what Brenda and Kathy pulled out of their "Tops" was totally out of sight (You've got those little things)
The men were all right there to walk by our hussy's side
And you could tell Rod had the most pride
Then off to the hospitality room, who could ask for anything more
We surely enjoyed each visitor as they walked thru the O2 Hospitality Room door
Our King Of The Road Denny made a presentation to Jim W from tightwad USA
Yes even though we tease you Jim we wouldn't want you any other way
That was day #1...would you think we could have any more fun?
Well of course you do...we're Chapter O2
The next day was the Euchre Tournament and also the big Trike Pull
Connie and Wolfie both did a great job and won their titles back in full (You're #1!!!)
Rod Rance came in at second place
But jumping the light took him out of the race
Then it was dinner time and our centerpieces were on the table to see
The judges had a hard time choosing because they were once again all they could be
Then it was time for the parade and the other festivities too
Getting dressed up in our fifties attire was such a fun thing to do
So Rich and Judy got up on the float and shared a soda together
We all walked thru two times around and our night once again couldn't be better
We participated in a few new things and appreciated getting the chance
Some of us stayed for a while afterwards and attended the dance
Cheryl Rance was cutting a rug as she danced into the night
And Kathy Case came out on the dance floor with us and did everything just right
The "Hussy" danced with her husband and all the world was right
Yes, Judy, we will always tease you about those "Little Things" that night
Our last night in the hospitality room
And Margaret relaxed and started to bloom
She crawled under the table to get to where she wanted to go
And the rest of the story we all know
The shower was full of women and Mike
You can ask him about that if you like
Yes everything we did was in fun
And we hope we passed our O2 enthusiasm on to everyone
On Sunday, closing ceremonies were quite nice...yes the state staff did a wonderful job each day
The hugs that we got as we left the room were something special I'd say
So although we are done with another year
We will always remember this one with great cheer!!
The only thing that was missing from the very start
Was the presence of Max and Darlene and Carol and our favorite _____
So if you didn't get the chance to get to Winter Rendezvous
It surely is something that next year you should look forward to

The Saga of the Traveling Plaques

As you are all aware, from the article in last month's newsletter and the one in this month's, O2 obtained both the Indiana Traveling Plaque on February 8th from Greenwood's Chapter L2, and the Region D Traveling Plaque on February 25th from Marion's Chapter B2. Well, the glory was short lived as, during O2's March monthly meeting, more than one chapter was present to try to claim either or both trophies. That honor went to Fort Wayne's Chapter D2 which showed up with 11 members at the March 5 meeting to claim BOTH traveling plaques. Congratulations to D2, and thanks to everyone from all three chapters who made the trek in order to attend our meeting this month. It's always great to have other chapters visit with us. Don't be strangers. It's always good to see all of you whether you're after a traveling plaque or not.



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