

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION Hart City Wings Communicator



INDIANA CHAPTER O2



ELKHART, IN.

April 2011

Edition Two Hundred Twenty Six

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RONALD McDONALD RIDE

Jim & Carol McPhail

CHAPTER POET

Deb Whetstone

FROM YOUR CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Wolfgang & Connie Gless



Hello to All;

April is here and the weather is looking up, well at least starting to. In the past month we have had our fund raisers, The Pound Auction & Nelson's Chicken Sales and the Chapter is financially stable for another year. Another Spring District Meeting has come and gone and the next big state event will be Spring Wing Warm-Up, so if you want to have some fun in Greensburg IN. plan to go on May 19 to 21.

On March 12th, Chapter members attended a surprise party for Rich Durecki at the Whetstone's house to celebrate his 1 year surgery anniversary with at least 2/3 of the chapter in attendance. It looks like the surprise was a success. As always, we all ate too much, but we had a good time.

On March 19th we had the Chapter Bowling Party at Country Club Lanes in Elkhart. We had about 17 people present to bowl 3 games each and, as usual, Judy did a great job planning and executing the party. This year was also a first for a very strange game of Bowling. Did you ever roll the ball through your team member's legs, or sit down and attempt to roll the ball, or use your weak arm to roll the ball. It goes on and on, but all had fun and that is what it's all about.

March 27th was a cold but sunny day and 2 couples attended the butterfly exhibit at Meijer's Gardens in Grand Rapids, MI. If you haven't been there in the past, you should try to go. It is a great place to visit and the butterflies were interesting to see. Walking through the butterfly house was very beautiful and hot, like a tropical forest. It should be noted that this place is growing every year. We were joined by Rich's brother, sister, and their spouses and after the tour we were joined by our granddaughter, Jenna. We all went to a very nice restaurant for Dinner and then home.

Fifteen members attended the Card Party at our house on the 2nd of April. We had a great dinner and then divided up into 2 groups, 1 group played Dominos and the other played cards. I do believe all had a good time.

As we all know with the warmer weather, we will soon be out and riding. I know I am ready. Let's all get our bikes in tip top shape so when the weather permits we can ride. If anyone wants to plan a ride, day long or longer, please feel free to present it at a meeting or just start the phone tree if it is a spur of the moment ride. Those can be a lot of fun also.

On April 23rd we will again have a Bake Sale at North End Cycle. Please bring a few baked items to sell and if at all possible, (NO RAIN) we will try to have a small bike show at the same time.

One last item, our condolences go out to Tammy VanLaecke and the rest of Jim's family. Jim will be missed by the Chapter, God bless. Till the next ride, ride safe and stay dry.

Wolfgang & Connie
CD

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the 1st Thursday of each month at the Elk's Lodge on Bristol St. just west of Cassopolis St. Dinner @ 6:30, meeting @ 7:15 PM

DINNER RIDES are every Thursday night May-Sept. (except meeting night). Meet in the parking lot BEHIND Discovery Middle School on Ash Road. Leaving promptly at 6:30 PM

FROM YOUR ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Jim & Deb Whetstone



Greetings Fellow Chapter 02 Members,

By now, most of us have had an opportunity to get the bikes out and feel some wind in our face. However, we are still waiting for

warmer and drier weather to really enjoy our rides. Maybe by the time you read this newsletter you will have had the chance to really give the bike a good workout and hone up on your riding skills.

On a sad note: One of our fellow Chapter members, Jim Vanlaecke has passed away. Please keep Tammy and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Let see what we have coming up!

April 17th. Blessing of the bikes in Nappanee at 11:00am at Duerksen Farm Park, north of US 6 on CR 7

April 21st. Bravo Café, Osceola

April 23rd. Bake Sale & Bike Display @ NEC Start time 9:00am

April 30th. Parking Lot Practice 11:00am (Rain Date May 14th.)

May 7th Run for the Son – 9:00 to 1:00 ride leaves at 10:30 (Lake County Fairground Crown Point)

May 13th thru 15th – Is the 39th Annual Blessing of the Bikes in Baldwin Mi. The Blessing will be held on Sunday the 15th. at 10:00am

May 15th. CPR certification starts at 1:00pm, where the Elks Lodge on Bristol. (Our regular meeting place)

May 19th – 21st. Spring Wing Warm Up (Greensburg, IN)

Just to note: There are a couple of dates to remember,

June 26th – Scavenger Hunt (2:00pm) more to follow.

July 16th – Progressive Dinner ride – more to follow.

That's about it for now!

Happy trails to you until we meet again,

Your ACD's Jim & Deb

FROM YOUR CHAPTER EDUCATORS

Bob & Sue Chute



QUICK TIPS: MSF's Guide to Group Riding

Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but for many, riding as a group -- whether with friends on a Sunday morning ride or with an organized motorcycle rally -- is the epitome of the motorcycling experience. Here are some tips to help ensure a fun and safe group ride:

Arrive prepared. Arrive on time with a full gas tank.

Hold a riders' meeting. Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals (see diagrams on next page). Assign a lead and sweep (tail) rider. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures. The leader should assess everyone's riding skills and the group's riding style.

Keep the group to a manageable size, ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, each with a lead and sweep rider.

Ride prepared. At least one rider in each group should pack a cell phone, first-aid kit, and full tool kit, so the group is prepared for any problem that they might encounter.

Ride in formation. The staggered riding formation allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern. A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering/leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.

Avoid side-by-side formations, as they reduce the space cushion. If you suddenly needed to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so. You don't want handlebars to get entangled.

Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror. If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so they may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.

If you're separated from the group, don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.

For mechanical or medical problems, use a cell phone to call for assistance as the situation warrants.

Make A Difference



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:

- 1 - Teal Goldwing jacket, quilt lined, size small \$20.00
 - 1 - GWRRA 3-In-One jacket, size small \$40.00
 - 1pr - Cruiserworks waterproof lace type boots
Womens size 7, like new \$20.00
- 269-641-7562

FOR SALE:

I have an extra large GWRRA 3-in-one just like the one listed above that I bought from Max but it's too large for me. I will sell it for \$30. This combo jacket is really warm and very versatile. You can wear the two pieces together or just the "liner" or just the outer shell. Both pieces have GWRRA logos and lettering. It originally sold for around \$150 from GWRRA and it is in like new condition. 574-259-3508

A Special Note From Tammy

Tammy VanLaecke wishes to pass along thanks to all the chapter members who attended Jim's memorial service.

You have to think anyway, so why not think big?

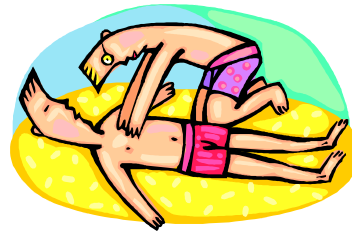
-- *Donald Trump*

Parking Lot Practice

PLP will be held again this year at the same place as previous years, the church on CR 20 by the US20 overpass. Starts at 11:00 and you will need your driver's license, proof of insurance and proper riding gear. Since Bob and Sue are now official PLP facilitators there will be a certificate given for completion of the session. Rain date for this event is May 14th.

CPR Class

Wolfie will be instructing a CPR class on May 15th starting at 1PM at the Elks Lodge in Elkhart (our regular meeting place). Attending this class will earn you a two-year CPR certificate.



O-2 Bowling Party

Saturday, March 19 was the date of O-2's annual bowling party. This year's party took on an Emeril theme and was "kicked up a notch." The first and third games were standard bowling, but the second game had a twist to each frame. Maybe you had to bowl with the opposite hand, bowl sitting down, or even bowl between the legs of your teammates. Regardless of the frame, many laughs accompanied each bowler. Perhaps the funniest was the "strut" frame, where each bowler had to do a special strut then bowl. Obviously, scores for this game were down about 30 points from the other games..well, except for Rich, whose score for crazy bowling was 20 points higher than on standard bowling!!! Way to go Rich.

After bowling, everyone adjourned to JoJo's for pizza and conversation, and where prizes for various accomplishments were also awarded.

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. None are due in June

Meeting Notes: By Vern Daly



Wolfie opened up the meeting to about 21 chapter members and three guests.

Don Griffie was here to talk about an upcoming event, the Rally For Hope. This is a rally to benefit the children and families of Hope Ministries. It will be held on August 6th and will start at Jordan Automotive on E. Jefferson in Mishawaka. Registration begins at 9AM and first bikes out will be at 10:30. Should be a fun ride and money goes to a good cause.

EJ and Georgia Ford were there to speak about the upcoming Ride for Kids on July 10. Meeting place is Pinhook Park in South Bend. Registration starts at 8:00. Ride starts at 10:00.

Reviews were given for several of our recent events including the Pound Auction and the Chicken Sale which both did very well and will allow the chapter to continue supporting our sponsor charity, RMD House.

Also discussed were the recent Bowling Outing, the trip to Meijer Gardens, and Rich's Surgery Anniversary Party. Rich wouldn't verify whether or not he was REALLY surprised, but he sure acted like it.

Bob Chute gave the Rider Ed presentation where he talked about upcoming ARC classes, many of which are full. There is still room at Rensselaer on June 11 and 12, and Akron on July 16 and 17. If you want to attend any of these contact Bob. He also reminded everyone, now that riding season is starting, to be mindful of the usual early season hazards such as debris on the roads, especially sand out on the county roads.

Again, as in the past, Wolfie and Connie will be making visits to surrounding Chapters to promote the Ronald McDonald House Ride in September. If you'd like to accompany them on one or more of these visits contact Wolfie or Connie for dates and times.

Wolfie also talked about upcoming neighboring chapter events, which are all listed in the What's Coming Up Section. It looks like there are a lot of really good events this summer.

Bruce McLeish gave the Ride Coordinator report. Thursday rides will be starting in May. The signup sheet was passed around and a few of the slots were filled, but there are a LOT still open. Please be thinking about leading a ride and getting signed up for the slots you prefer. You can contact Bruce to find out what is still open. I'm sure he will have the signup sheet at each monthly meeting. With so many members not riding any more it's getting harder to fill the slots. Step up and lead a ride.

Rich gave Udderly Fantastic to Jim Whetstone for being the only one to stop and help Wolfie when he ran out of gas after last Thursday's dinner in Niles.

Jim also won the Dumbo award for Bowling out-of-turn at the Bowling Outing. I think this is a first for someone to get both awards at one meeting.

Be sure to save crushed cans for the chapter. Jim McPhail or Frank Case will take those. And don't forget to get pictures to Cathy Rummel for the scrapbook.

Thursday Restaurants

Below is the last non-ride dinner. Be there at 6:30.

Rides start in May.

Apr 21 . . Bravo Café (Osceola)

Thursday Dinner Rides

Meet behind Discovery School. Leave promptly at 6:30

May 12 . . Jim Whetstone

May 19 . . Vern Daly

May 26 . . Tom Whalen

What's Coming Up

Apr 23 . . Bake Sale & Bike Display @ NEC

Apr 30 . . Parking Lot Practice 11 AM (Rain Date May 14)

May 7 . . CMA Run for the Son Lake County Fairgrounds
9:00 to 1:00 Ride leaves at 10:30AM

May 19 - 21 . . Spring Wing Warm Up (Greensburg, IN)

May 15 . . CPR Class Elk's Lodge, Elkhart 1PM

June 4 . . Bike Show @ Hayden Honda

June 6 - 11 . . Americade

June 11 . . Chapter H Fun Run Blessin Haus 9:30

June 25 . . Roadrunners (R2) Rally for ANNA Rensselaer

July 3 . . GWRRA Night at the Races (U) Ft Wayne

July 6 - 9 . . Wing Ding 33 (Knoxville, TN)

July 10 . . Ride For Kids (Pinhook Park, South Bend)

July 16 . . Progressive Dinner

Aug 06 . . Rally For Hope 9AM @ Jordan Ford, Mishawaka

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

May 1 . . Denny & Brenda Heckaman

May 20 . . Larry & Donna Johnson

May 26 . . Jim & Deb Whetstone

Birthdays:

May 5 . . Mark Skinner

May 26 . . Deb Whetstone

May 29 . . Candice Rance



Save those pop tabs for next year's Ronald McDonald Ride. Let's make the 2011 Ronald McDonald Ride the best one yet!

April Item: Office needs
Copy Paper, filing folders,
stamps

Chapter 0-2 Bingo poem By Deb Whetstone

It's a brand new year for Chapter 0-2
And only the finest safety chrome will do
0-2 has a Birthday Party once per year
And also a lot of Scrapbooks that we hold very dear
Ice cream is great when we do a run
And when our group is together it is sooo much fun
When we have our chicken sales Lucy can't hide
And we love heading out to a dinner ride
Our group has a lot of caring friends
And it seems like friendships are there to the end
Our Goldwing motorcycles have brought us together
And we wear our helmets in all kinds of weather
Now our favorite old fart has gone to Florida for the winter cold
But he'll be back well before the Ronald McDonald Ride I'm told
We decorate our bikes with pretty lights that shine
And the boots that we get from Cruiserworks are really fine
We like to play games at our parties and tell stories too
Our Michigan friends take us on rides it's a wonderful thing that they do
Someone in the group is always sharing whether its food or time
And the Meetings we have are so sublime
A great gathering we enjoy is the Corn and Sausage Roast
And for the Pound Auction our auctioneer is a fabulous host
But the memories we make are so dear
So let's make many more in the upcoming year!



2011 Ride List

Here is the 2011 Thursday Evening dinner ride list as of the April meeting.
If you want to lead a ride please contact Bruce McLeish

May 12 - Jim Whetstone
May 19 - Vern Daly
May 26 - Tom Whalen
June 9 -
June 16 -
June 23 - Wolfgang Gless
June 30 - Rich Durecki
July 14 -
July 21 -
July 28 -
August 11 -
August 18 - Jim Butler
August 25 - Rich Durecki
Sept 8 -
Sept 15 -
Sept 22 -
Sept 29 -





RIDER INSURANCE PROMOTES MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

SPRINGFIELD, N.J. – Rider Insurance is joining with federal, state and local highway safety, law enforcement and motorcycle organizations in proclaiming May as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month”. By increasing safe riding and cooperation between motorists and all other road users, we can reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on our nation’s highways.

Nearly 50 percent of all motorcycles involved in fatal crashes collided with other types of motor vehicles. It is important to remember that motorcyclists are more vulnerable than those in other types of vehicles. Motorists should always look for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections. It is just as important that riders be visible to other motorists and obtain proper training and licensing, wear the appropriate protective gear, and always respect the rules of the road.

In recognition and support of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, Rider Insurance will be giving away hundreds of dollars a day in motorcycle safety apparel and motorcycle training courses throughout May on Facebook. The promotion will kick off at 10 am on May 1, 2011 and everyone who “likes” Rider Insurance’s page on Facebook is eligible to participate. Details can be found on the Rider Insurance website, www.rider.com and on the Rider Insurance Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rider-Insurance/66182707468>.

Rider will also be introducing new “Watch for Motorcycles” decals and reflective helmet stickers. They will be available at the Rider booth at various motorcycle events and motorcycle dealerships throughout IN, MD, NJ, OH, PA, and WV free of charge. For event locations, go to www.rider.com/motorcycle_community/motorcycle-events.html and for participating motorcycle dealerships near you go to <http://www.rider.com/accessDC/login.asp>.

In addition to direct promotions, Rider will continue to support other individuals and organizations in their efforts to promote safety awareness through the Rider Insurance Bleiwis Family Foundation and general corporate donations and sponsorships throughout the riding season. If you are planning a motorcycle safety awareness event, please contact events@rider.com.

For more information on Rider Insurance or to get a quick quote, call 800-595-6393 or visit www.rider.com.

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