

GOLD WING ROAD RIDER'S ASSOCIATION



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U-2 Couple of the Year 2008
Doug & Lynn Kerst

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Heart of Ohio Wings - Chapter U2

January 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

01/01/2009	Thursday	Annual Polar Ride, 10:00 AM <i>Hometown Buffet @ Mill Run</i>
01/13/2009	Tuesday	Midweek Dinner Ride, 6:30 PM <i>Der Dutchman, Plain City</i>
01/24/2009	Saturday	Staff Meeting, 5:00 PM <i>Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road</i>
01/24/2009	Saturday	Monthly Gathering, 6:30 PM <i>Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road</i>

FEBRUARY

02/07/2009	Saturday	Ride-N-Eat <i>Details TBA</i>
02/13-15/2009	Friday-Sunday	Cabin Fever <i>Crowne Plaza Hotel, 6500 Double Tree Avenue</i>
02/18/2009	Wednesday	Midweek Dinner Ride, 6:30 PM <i>Joe's Crab Shack, Sawmill Road</i>
02/28/2009	Saturday	Staff Meeting, 5:00 PM <i>Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road</i>
02/28/2009	Saturday	Monthly Gathering, 6:30 PM <i>Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road</i>

MARCH

03/07/2009	Saturday	Ride-N-Eat <i>Details TBA</i>
03/19/2009	Thursday	Midweek Dinner Ride, 6:30 PM <i>Pig Iron Grill, North High Street, Clintonville</i>
03/28/2009	Saturday	Staff Meeting, 5:00 PM <i>Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road</i>
03/28/2009	Saturday	Monthly Gathering, 6:30 PM <i>Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road</i>

December Birthdays

8th Chris Holmes
 11th Joe Roberts
 26th Russ Ridgeway
 27th Cyndi Riehle
 29th Jeanne Dudash

January Birthdays

2nd Linda Jenkins
 8th Lynn Berridge
 11th Sharon Streeeter
 13th Carrie Koontz
 21st Paul Brosher
 24th Betty Huss
 24th Jim Montgomery
 28th Dolly Roberts

December Anniversaries

2nd Jim & Cindy Montgomery
 5th Doug & Sharon Streeeter
 28th John & Vicki Wilson

January Anniversaries

None listed

Chapter	Meeting Date	Time	Food Prior	Location	CD's #
B3	1 st Saturday	9:00 AM	coffee & doughnuts	Obetz Community Center, 1611 Chillicothe Street, Obetz	(614) 833-4204
Z2	1 st Wednesday	7:00 PM	dinner @ 6:00 PM	PJ's Pizza, Sunbury	(740) 397-0312
D3	2 nd Wednesday		yes	Sandy's Bar & Grill, 333 Millcreek Drive, Marysville	(937) 246-3221
Q2	2 nd Thursday	6:30 PM		6906 Old Tarlton Pike, Circleville	(740) 474-1830
F3	3 rd Tuesday	7:00 PM	dinner @ 6:30 PM	Annie's Cheesecake, Main Street, Lancaster	(740) 746-9120
O	3 rd Thursday	7:00 PM	dinner @ 6:00 PM	Stacy's Buffet, 79 North to 30 th Street, then west	(740) 928-4616
B2	2 nd Thursday	7:00 PM	potluck	Bellefontaine JVS @ The Inn	(614) 467-4524
Y2	1 st Saturday	5:30 PM		Alfred S. Carr Center, 1035 Beverly Avenue (off SR 60 North), Zanesville	momabear40@hotmail.com
U2	4 th Saturday	6:30 PM	potluck	Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road	(614) 563-9249



Chapter Director

Russ Ridgeway

Chapter U2 will be meeting at the Hilliard Library starting January 2009. The address is 4772 Cemetery Road and should be a familiar location for some folks in the Chapter. We will once again be able to bring theme foods to the gatherings.

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge", the motto of GWRRA, is more than just words on a page. "Friends for Fun" is the primary reason most of us joined this organization. We wanted to share our love of riding with others and through those rides we have made new friends. But more than just riding, we have the extra opportunity once a month to gather with friends for good food and fun times. For those of you who missed the October Gathering, we had some fun times. At every gathering we have a meeting, the Pledge of Allegiance, announcements and a Safety Topic, the remainder is for fun (for us it's a potluck dinner and fun).

Since GWRRA cares about its family, there is another important part to the motto, "Safety and Knowledge". The more knowledge we have about motorcycles, riding gear and riding practices, the better equipped we are to be safe out on the road. We all want to ride home on the same wheels from which we left. The Levels Program is a very important part of the GWRRA commitment to that part of the motto. One of our chapter goals in 2009 is to have 100% of its members at Level I. The only requirement to be Level I is a commitment to "ride safe", something I'm sure we all feel about riding.

I would like to announce our chapter has a new Master Rider among us. At the Officer's Meeting in November, Terry Woodbury was awarded Level IV. Congratulations Terry on your achievement. I hope there will be more members who strive for this top level.

Also at the November Officer's Meeting, Doug and Lynn Kerst gave their first speech on their journey to become District Couple of the Year. They are one of only two couples competing this year. Mark your calendars, their next presentation will be at Cabin Fever (February 13-15).

Mid-week dinner rides are back! Many of us cannot make weekend rides, so we have reintroduced the mid-week rides to area restaurants. The days of the week rotate between Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to allow for maximum participation. If you have a weekly commitment on a particular night you're not left out.

Buckeye Rally is back in Wooster this year and being hosted by Chapter I. Do you know the name of the historic highway through Wooster? Please visit the chapter website for the 2009 calendar of events. Not all rides have to be on the calendar. Call a fellow member, maybe someone you've never ridden with, and say, "Let's ride tomorrow."

There will be new incentives to come to the gatherings and events, but you'll have to participate to know what they are. Most of us found our way into GWRRA by the invitation of friends to chapter events. Bring a friend or two with you to our events this year. Like you they may just join.

~ Let's Ride Together, Russ

Assistant Chapter Directors

Doug & Lynn Kerst

We wanted to let the chapter know we did a good job for the COY competition at the officer's meeting in November. Several chapter members gave us good luck. Lynn did a better job than I did for the speaking presentation and we both did great on the question / answer part. We hope some of the chapter members will go to Cabin Fever to see us win the district COY. We are looking forward to competing in the finals for the district.

We hope everybody had a great and safe holiday season. We are looking forward to the great weather ahead so we can get back out and ride.

Lynn and I are looking forward to visiting other chapter's auctions and wanted to remind you other chapters support our auction and we should return the favor. I know from the past, most of them are on Saturday mornings or evenings.

We are so sorry winter and the snow are coming quicker than we wanted. We were both looking to ride a couple more times before we had to put the bike up for the winter months.

~ Doug & Lynn



Hidden Image

Our motorcycles are stuck in storage right now while we wait for a "180° turn" in the weather.

Good luck finding the image!!

Rider Education

Interim - Robin Koontz

The world is full of nuts, and a few of them are going to ride their motorcycles now and then until Spring 2009. Not I. The grand ol' steed is garaged and winterized. While it may be OK during the day, it has been getting cold enough at midnight to put moisture on the road surfaces, thus making it far more slippery than I want to risk for a 20 mile jaunt home from work, at freeway speeds.

For the braver souls, I hope you take into consideration the risks of riding during a winter in central Ohio. Granted, the actual number of days with snow are few, black ice can be had any time the temperature is 32 degrees or colder. And that is most of December, January, and February.

Riding when it's cold is not too difficult. Bundle up, cover your face with a balaclava or similar, even use electrics if your bike is so outfitted. Reaction times will be slower, due to the bulkiness of your accouterments and sluggishness of frozen hands and limbs. Not to mention the fact your brain slows down when your body temperature declines – read: Hypothermia.

Personally, I hate the cold. Give me 90 degrees and I'm a happy camper. The military taught me a lot about surviving in arctic conditions, but I still hated it. It is hard to get motivated to wake up and get out of your comfortable, warm sleeping bag that has six inches of snow on it. So why do I live in Ohio and not Arizona or Florida? I grew up here, and I would lose my seniority in the Post Office if I transferred. Or, I could just be too lazy to move.

So, if you are going to ride this winter, be careful. Wash that salt off your bike ASAP, or it will eat anything aluminum – wheel rims, frame on the 1800, and more. It's not good on chrome, either. Don't ride past the point of where you get too frozen to move. Riding a bike requires both feet and hands to coordinate actions. It is real easy to overshoot a curve and go off the road in the cold, because you are too sluggish to charge into the curve and countersteer correctly.

Winter is the time to do your classroom education like CPR/1st aid, going to seminars like the ones at Cabin Fever, Safety Saturdays and Sundays, The Region D Work Shop on March 29, 2009, and other chapter's gatherings. CPR and 1st Aid certifications from Medic First Aid® and Red Cross are good for two years. Some of you are due for renewal, so let me know who you are so I can schedule a class for February. Re-certification takes about four to five hours.

~ Robin Koontz
Retired Former Senior Rider Educator
filling in temporarily, and wishing for a heat wave

Ride Coordinator

Leroy Witzel

Hi Folks:

Another Christmas has passed and a new year is upon us. I am sure you all had great holidays and probably ate too much like I did. But hey, that's what part of the holidays are all about. Right?

I really enjoyed the Chapter Christmas Party. Thanks to all who made the reservations and preparations for the party. It was really great. Congratulations to Russ Ridgeway for winning the high mileage award this year, 10,812 miles.

Also, thanks to everyone who sent in their mileage this year. For those who did not send in mileage at the end of October for next year's mileage, you can still send it to me and I will keep it for next year.

We brought back chapter dinner rides for 2009. The rides got dropped because not many people were showing up for them. So let's all make a real effort to go to as many as we can. There are also a couple of incentives to show up. I am sure some of these incentives will be discussed in the newsletter so I will not go into detail. You will have to show up for rides for other details. It was especially nice the way we chose the rides at the Christmas Party. Everyone has a chance to get a dinner ride in.

As many of you know, I had the good fortune of acquiring a 1976 GL1000 LTD with only 1261 miles on it. The bad fortune is it sat in a garage for more than 30 years and has pinpoint rust on all the chrome and other parts. Mechanically, the only major trouble was the carb, bad fork seal and frozen up rear brake. I have worked out all the bugs and it is running great. It runs like a new motor after the good carb rebuild, but hey, it is a new motor. My winter project this year is rechroming the entire front end of the bike and redoing the front gold spokes and gold rim. I will give updates on the progress later.

I did find a new motorcycle group that is kind of interesting to me. Go to <http://www.yearroundriders.com>. Membership is very loose and entertaining to read about. All you have to do is ride your bike year round, and that is not a requirement. The only real requirement is to stop at all lemon aid/koolaid stands you see while you are riding. This is for the children. Check it out.

~ Leroy
Your ride coordinator

Membership Enhancement Division

Terry Woodbury

Well, it looks like Fall is here. I was at the District Staff Meeting on November 15, 2008, with a few other chapter staff members. They've come up with some nice things to do next year, a couple of new programs have come down from National, and they are dealing with renewal of your membership and recruiting incentives.

Starting January 1, 2009, National has come up with a way to entice members to renew their membership. If you renew for three (3) years you are eligible for prizes. These prizes are drawn quarterly plus they will have a grand prize. You can read more on the National web page.

National is implementing recruiting incentives for current members only to recruit NEW members only. For every 2 new memberships, individual or household, a current member recruits, they will receive a \$5.00 gift certificate they can use for goodies, membership renewal, or Wing Ding registration. There are no limitations on how many certificates a member can earn. This program has been incorporated in the existing "Find-A-Friend" and "Recruiter of the Year" programs. There are some restrictions on the certificates and you can read more about them on the National web page. This will be an ongoing incentive, recruitment program and will be re-evaluated in 2 years.

With Fall/Winter here it shouldn't stop you from having FUN with the upcoming events the chapter has scheduled. By the time you read this we will have had our Craft/Bake Sale/Auction, Christmas light trip to the Zoo, and our Christmas Party. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

~ Your MEC, Terry
See you next year

Motorist Awareness Division

Sheila & Ed Greier

With the rate of motorcycle/car accidents on the rise due to the increase in motorcyclists on the road, just what is it we have to do to get noticed? Two-thirds of all bike accidents are caused by the other motorists failing to yield the right of way to the motorcyclist. It's the often heard declaration of, "I just didn't see him."

Conspicuity starts and ends with us. Things that help us stand out while on the road are bright color bikes, clothes and helmets, riding with lights on, and proper use of turn signals, horn and braking. Proper lane positioning can also help in letting others see you. Place yourself in the lane where others can see you in their mirrors and create space cushions between you and others to give yourself plenty of room to maneuver quickly out of the way if needed. Also, it seems a great big fairing is a plus. Bikes with fairings are less likely to be in a crash where the other vehicle violated their right of way. Hmmmmm? So maybe I should trade my Shadow in for a Gold Wing.

Or maybe we can all be like these riders in Sidney, Australia. I'm sure they have no trouble being seen.

I guess the questions here isn't, "Can you hear me now?" But

"CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

~ Sheila



Stripped for action ... the bikers on their 'now notice us' ride

For more information on this ad and a video that is the full commercial go to: <http://www.bikepacofidaho.org/education.htm> and scroll down the page till you get to Bikers Buff up Campaign. What a great sense of humor these Aussies have!

Newsletter Editor

Roxanne Shull

Well, another year has come and gone, another year older, I wish I could say another year wiser. Many things happened in our world in 2008, and many things happened in our GWRRA world as well. This time of year always tends to bring on feelings of nostalgia. I'm especially reminded, on an almost daily basis, of my age since AARP is hell bent on killing trees in my honor.

While the majority of the population does not like change, it's inevitable. I've been a member of U2 for several years now and witnessed many changes in our chapter, some due to leadership, some due to location changes, and various other reasons. Some of those changes are good, some of them not so good.

The one thing I have a difficult time accepting is the general lack of camaraderie in our chapter. From the very first chapter gathering I attended, one of my first impressions was the size of some of the egos I encountered. Not one to confuse ego and self-confidence, I was really surprised at what I saw. At almost every gathering I heard "this is how it's always been done", "we've always done it this way", "we're doing it this way because we always have". I guess that comes back to what I mentioned earlier, people don't like change, even if it is inevitable.

This chapter isn't about you, it's about us. What happened to doing things for the greater good? What happened to working together to accomplish great things as a group? My personal thought is there is no place here for your ego, but plenty of room if you're inclined to work together towards doing great things. And great things we can do. We are a group of educated, intelligent people who through our efforts could have an effect on this world in some small way.

It's easy to sit back and criticize the happenings in the chapter, and we can most all agree it takes much more effort to get involved and make things better. So what do you want your legacy to be as a member of Chapter U2? Do you want to be remembered as a pot stirrer? Or do you want to be remembered as the person who rolled up their sleeves, dug in, and helped along the way?

Here is one last thing to consider..... If there's a problem and you're not helping solve the problem, then quite frankly, you're part of the problem. I look forward to accomplishing great things with my fellow chapter members in 2009!!

~ Happy New Year, Rox

Newsletter Update

In the March 2008 newsletter, the Rider Education article was a story of a friend's son who attends college at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy in Canada. In the winter the Canada lakes freeze and become roadways (like the Ice Road Truckers). My friend's son and three classmates were driving on the lake to a nearby town, the same lake they drive across to go to class every day. The young man experienced a life changing event when the mini van he was driving fell through the ice. He and the other front seat passenger survived while the two passengers in the back lost their lives.

Shortly after the March article, the young man, while attending class, was arrested and jailed for two counts of homicide. His family was contacted and had less than 24 hours to raise bail money (more than most people make in a year) and get to Canada. After months of meeting with various lawyers and Canadian prosecutors, he was able to plea bargain.

He is now serving 6 months of house arrest on the campus of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Academy. His legal fees, which were paid by his parents, were staggering. Although this story could be about how this young man never lost his faith during this ordeal, or how he ministered to the people he spent time with in jail, it is actually about a parent's love for their children and the sacrifices that go along with that love. Our faith is often tested, at times to a point beyond belief. It is these times, as difficult as it is to conceive at the moment, which strengthens our faith and helps put life truly in perspective.

~ Russ

What I Learned Riding with Harley Riders

Jack Riehle

Recently our Ride Coordinator invited chapter members to join him on an AD Farrow sponsored ride, the 83rd Annual Harley Davidson Endurance Ride, scheduled November 23rd. I wondered if Leroy had bumped his head when he fell off his bicycle last summer. Didn't he know Harley riders don't mix well with Wingers? I had nightmarish visions of hundreds of black leathered, tattooed, bearded, Do-Ragged bikers throwing rocks and sneering at 2 lonely Goldwings as we rode into the AD Farrow parking lot. This scenario was augmented by my imagined cat-calls from this rough group, calling attention to the sissies riding "rice-rockets" as we rolled in. In addition to THAT, the November 23rd weather forecast was for temperatures in the mid teens in the AM. Well, that was just nuts, wasn't it? Who in their right mind would ride 250 miles in weather like THAT? Well, I can tell you I put the scheme in the insane category and firmly rejected the whole idea straight away.

As the week wore on I thought about the ride, looked at the weather and wondered if I really wanted to ride in cold temperatures with "Hell's Angels". I started taking inventory of my cold weather gear. Could I dress warm enough? Winter gloves, leather chaps, leather coat, two layers of special socks, new riding boots, face cover balaclava, army issue woolen scarf, turtleneck, a wool sweater..... yeah, that would do it. Right? In the end, I decided to go on this crazy adventure and overcome the Harley rider's sneers with my "charm", but expecting the worst.

I arrived at AD Farrow at 7:45 AM, the parking lot was empty, and I admit to some trepidation being the first to arrive. As I turned off the 1800, I noticed the temperature was an icy 17°. I need not have worried about attendance, they came in groups of 2 to 6 and filled the parking lot. By 8:20 AM, 88 motorcycles had arrived. Men and women of every size and shape on Harley's of every description and vintage. I definitely felt out of place but there were 3 Goldwing riders besides me. Some of the hard core bikers wore no helmets, in true Harley fashion, and some did not have a windshield. Now THAT is hard core! No windshield, no helmet, 17°, geeze. Two of these bearded bikers, with Marine Corp patches on their vests, sneered at the idea of windshields as if they were for girls. I had to admit I was impressed with these tough guys, while also thinking it was just plain crazy. I shook my head in pity for the poor saps, sending up a silent prayer of thanks for my fully faired 1800, and went inside to register.

AD Farrow provided Tim Horton's coffee by the gallon and a huge assortment of fresh donuts. To my surprise, I was greeted warmly with smiles. My nightmare of unfriendly sneers and ridicule never materialized. I imagine anyone dumb enough to come out in 17° weather deserved some level of respect. The ride was free, but the turkey dinner at the end cost \$20. Everything was well organized with 2 release forms. I scooped up a map, a ride card, a dinner ticket and headed out to pre-heat my seat.

Ten minutes before the 8:30 AM, departure the ride captain, dressed in perfect "Sons of Anarchy" garb, held a thorough safety meeting that consisted of this is where we're going, this is how we get there. A gas stop in Zanesville, lunch in Coshocton, comfort stop in Loudonville. Our ETA at AD Farrow for turkey dinner was 3:00 PM. "If you have any trouble, just pull off and our sweep team will stop to help you." "Remember, ride your own ride no matter what the group is doing and keep it safe." "Remember, this is IMPORTANT, absolutely NO alcohol or drugs of any kind on this ride." He was NOT smiling, I could tell he meant it. Then he said, "The weather is only going to get better as the day

wears on!" This time he WAS smiling. "Any questions?" "Ok, let's go have a great ride." He mounted his bike, thumbed it to a deafening roar and moved to exit the parking lot. Everyone started forming behind him, 2 by 2. I was amazed everyone knew what to do, except me of course, so I just followed along. After a number of bikes were in formation he pulled into traffic on Broad Street and headed east. The remaining bikes followed as space permitted and joined the lead group, 2 abreast, all the way through town and onto I-70 without a hitch. The "unstructured gaggle" headed east on the freeway with 88 bikes in one long choreographed line. I noticed everyone was all together, even through town, and it occurred to me THIS was by no means a gaggle!

We made the trip to New Concord in moderate traffic. Traffic that would normally give a GW group of 7 or 8 fits with vehicles forcing their way into the group. Picture this: 88 motorcycles stretched nearly a quarter mile, riding in close staggered formation, 2 second spacing. There wasn't a single gap in the line. This was a diverse group, not from a single club or group. No one told us to ride that way, it is simply what these people do. This was ride discipline to dream about and it was fun, it was safe, and I can tell you it was impressive to see! Since this was my first ride with the Harleys, I seemed to be the only one who was not clued in on the rules or ride plan, and yet, it was SO natural and so easy it seemed obvious what was going on and I how I should ride. I felt right at home.

When I fell in with the group, about 6 bikes back from the ride captain, I wondered how we were going to communicate without radios. I didn't have to wait long to find out. Five minutes after we departed the ride captain threw his left arm straight out, indicating he was making a left turn. The bikers in front of me imitated the gesture, as did I. I looked in my mirror and could see the hand signal repeated by every rider down the line. A few minutes later, the ride captain held up his left arm bent at the elbow with his index finger extended straight up indicating his intention to turn right and all the riders followed suit. When we came upon 2 Amish carriages the signal came to slow down and go single file until we were past the horses. Road dirt was noted by holding out the foot on the side the dirt was located to warn the rest of the group.

The point of this is to share how a large group of bikes made a 220 mile ride in complete safety without a hitch and for 7 hours not a word was spoken on the road. The group rode together in solidarity and safety, and at the same time rode in complete solitude. I had never seen these hand signals before but every one was perfectly clear. I can tell you I enjoyed the ride discipline and communications in the biggest group of riders I have ridden with since Honda Homecoming.

So what, you say? I have always secretly felt superior to Harley riders. After all they ride noisy, inferior machines and are all about the hard drinking, out-law image and the "look over function". WE have GWRRA, the most advanced technology, use radios for communication, and ride the best engineered machine in the world. All the best people ride a Goldwing. Or so I thought.....

The lesson in this for me: Notwithstanding the different way we dress and the preference in motorcycles, we have far more in common than separates us. These guys know how to put on a ride and how to be safe even without radio communication. I made new friends and found acceptance where I did not expect to find it. We clearly go about riding in a different way than Harley riders, but our way is not necessarily better, just different. The main lesson for me is simply this: You can have a lot of fun riding motorcycles with others who dress differently, have different customs, different bikes and do it with a small amount of effort or organization.

~ Jack Riehle

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