

GOLD WING ROAD RIDER'S ASSOCIATION



Heart of Ohio Wings - Chapter OH-U2

May 2009

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OH-U2 Couple of the Year 2009
Vacant

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

05/02/2009	Saturday	Ride-N-Eat, 9:00 AM, depart from South Departure Point <i>Hillbilly Hot Dogs, Lesage, West Virginia</i>
05/08/2009	Friday	Poker Run Meeting, 6:30 PM <i>New Grand Buffet, Stringtown Road</i>
05/16/2009 ←	Saturday	Staff Meeting, 5:30 PM <i>Pine Manor Clubhouse, Grove City</i>
05/16/2009 ←	Saturday	Monthly Gathering, 6:30 PM <i>Pine Manor Clubhouse, Grove City</i>
05/22-25/2009	Friday-Monday	Memorial Weekend Camp & Ride <i>Rainbow Springs Campground, Loudenville</i>

JUNE

06/06/2009	Saturday	4 th Annual Cruising for Canine's Poker Run, Registration @ 8:30 AM <i>Start location AD Farrow SR 36/37 at I-71</i>
06/12-13/2009	Friday-Saturday	Buckeye Rally, <i>Wooster</i>
06/20/2009 ←	Saturday	Staff Meeting, 5:30 PM <i>Pine Manor Clubhouse, Grove City</i>
06/20/2009 ←	Saturday	Monthly Gathering, 6:30 PM <i>Pine Manor Clubhouse, Grove City</i>

JULY

07/02-05/2009	Thursday-Sunday	Wing Ding <i>Tulsa, Oklahoma</i>
07/15/2009	Wednesday	Midweek Dinner Ride, 6:30 PM <i>Ben & Joy's, Mt. Sterling</i>
07/18/2009	Saturday	Ride-N-Eat, 9:00 AM, depart from East Departure Point <i>Ride Route 555 ending at Redwood Restaurant, Belpre, Ohio</i>
07/25/2009 ←	Saturday	Staff Meeting, 5:30 PM <i>Pine Manor Clubhouse, Grove City</i>
07/25/2009 ←	Saturday	Monthly Gathering, 6:30 PM <i>Pine Manor Clubhouse, Grove City</i>

← Please note the change in date and/or location of the Staff Meetings and Gatherings.

May Birthdays

9th Vicki Wilson
 10th Robin Koontz
 30th Cheryl Brosher

May Anniversaries

1st Donna & Edward France
 5th Rob & Lynn Berridge
 6th Doug & Lynn Kerst
 8th Sheri Davis & spouse
 8th Mary & Thomas Diebel
 9th Andy & Jeanne Dudash
 18th Jayne & Mike Koontz
 19th Roy & Linda Jenkins

Chapter	Meeting Date	Time	Food Prior	Location	CD's #
OH-B3	1 st Saturday	9:00 AM	coffee & doughnuts	Obetz Community Center, 1611 Chillicothe Street, Obetz	(614) 833-4204
OH-Z2	1 st Wednesday	7:00 PM	dinner @ 6:00 PM	Byxbe's, 1502 W. William Street, Delaware	(614) 923-9649
OH-D3	2 nd Wednesday		yes	Sandy's Bar & Grill, 333 Millcreek Drive, Marysville	(937) 246-3221
OH-Q2	2 nd Thursday	6:30 PM		6906 Old Tarlton Pike, Circleville	(740) 474-1830
OH-F3	3 rd Tuesday	7:30 PM	dinner @ 6:30 PM	Fat Cat's Pizza, 1448 Ety Pointe Drive, Lancaster	(740) 654-7156
OH-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
OH-B2	2 nd Thursday	7:00 PM	potluck	Bellefontaine JVS @ The Inn	(614) 467-4524
OH-Y2	2 nd Tuesday	7:00 PM	dinner @ 6:30 PM	Papa Chuck's Restaurant, 375 Muskingum, Zanesville	(740) 453-0211
OH-U2	4 th Saturday	6:30 PM	dinner	Hilliard Library, 4772 Cemetery Road, Hilliard	(614) 563-9249
OH-Y	1 st Saturday	7:00 PM		Groves Church of Christ, 7740 Groves Church Road, Gambier	(740) 924-4780
OH-P2	3 rd Tuesday	7:00 PM		Church of Christ & Christian Union Fellowship Hall, 770 Jefferson Avenue, Chillicothe	(740) 993-2863

The History of Memorial Day

According to Professor David Blight of the Yale University History Department, the first memorial day was observed in 1865 by liberated slaves at the historic race track in Charleston. The site was a former Confederate prison camp as well as a mass grave for Union soldiers who died in captivity. The freed slaves reentered the dead Union soldiers from the mass grave to individual graves, fenced in the graveyard and built an entry arch declaring it a Union graveyard. This was a daring action for them to take in the South shortly after the North's victory. On May 30, 1868, the freed slaves returned to the graveyard with flowers they had picked from the countryside and decorated the individual gravesites, thereby creating the first Decoration Day. A parade by thousands of freed blacks and Union soldiers from the area was followed by patriotic singing and a picnic.

General John A. Logan was the principal speaker in a citywide memorial observation on April 29, 1866, at a cemetery in Carbondale, Illinois, an event that likely gave him the idea to make it a national holiday. On May 5, 1868, in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, Logan issued a proclamation that "Decoration Day" be observed nationwide, and so it was observed for the first time on May 30, 1868. This date was chosen because it was *NOT* the anniversary of a battle.

Many of the states in the south refused to celebrate Decoration Day, due to lingering hostility towards the Union Army and also because relatively few veterans of the Union Army who were buried in the South. A notable exception was Columbus, Mississippi, where both Union and Confederate casualties buried in the cemetery were commemorated on April 25, 1866, Decoration Day.

The alternative name of "Memorial Day" was first used in 1882. It did not become more common until after World War II, and was not declared the official name by Federal law until 1967. On June 28, 1968, the U.S. Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, moving three holidays from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The holidays included President's, Veterans and Memorial Days. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional May 30 date to the last Monday in May.

After some initial confusion and unwillingness to comply, all fifty states in the U.S. adopted the measure within a few years. Memorial Day endures as a holiday which most businesses observe because it marks the beginning of the "summer vacation season." This role is filled in neighboring Canada by Victoria Day, which occurs either on May 24 or the last Monday before that date, placing it exactly one week before Memorial Day.

Waterloo's designation as the birthplace took place just in time for the village's centennial observance. The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 587 on May 17th and May 19th, 1966 respectively, which reads in part as follows: "Resolved that the Congress of the United States, in recognition of the patriotic tradition set in motion one hundred years ago in the Village of Waterloo, NY, does hereby officially recognize Waterloo, New York as the birthplace of Memorial Day..."

On May 26, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a Presidential Proclamation recognizing Waterloo as the Birthplace of Memorial Day.

Chapter Director

Russ Ridgeway

My family had a major tragedy Easter week. My first cousin, Lisa, was killed in an automobile crash on the Lincoln Highway. Tuesday morning of Easter week, road conditions were terrible due to a late season snow in Minerva, just east of Canton. Another driver traveling on an intersecting road was unable to stop due to a steep incline and t-boned Lisa when she came through the stop sign. Lisa's vehicle was forced into the path of an on-coming tanker truck and she lost her life. Lisa was always sweet and loving so I was very bitter about the carelessness of the other driver.

Minerva is a small, close knit community and it showed through on Good Friday when over 1100 people came to show their respect and love for Lisa and the life she led. During the viewing and the funeral my aunt and uncle along with Lisa's husband Chris and his family had such compassion for the drivers of the car and truck involved in the accident. Everyone accepted the fact this was a no fault accident. It occurred to me I had let my personal grief blind my judgment of what was truly right and wrong. Seeing family and friends be so sympathetic and forgiving made me take a good look in the mirror and examine my own faith. How many times have we judged a situation incorrectly because our feelings cloud the truth of the situation?

The respect and love did not end there. Chris was married before meeting Lisa and had a son from his first marriage. During the service, his ex-wife gave witness about Lisa's life. She said one of the happiest days of her life was when her son called Lisa Mom. She was so happy her son had so many people loving and caring for him. She concluded saying her biggest regret was not having the opportunity to spend more time with Lisa.

Our Chapter has experienced a lot of internal bitterness the last several years. It's easy in the heat of the moment to look for the bad in people and situations. Seeing the reaction of the people at my cousin's funeral allowed me to take a step back and realize that faced with hardships, people are capable of extraordinary things. The sense of unity and friendship felt during that tough time is something we can all learn from. I challenge our Chapter to reflect on the love and compassion which was shared in the above events.

~ Let's Ride Together, Russ

Assistant Chapter Directors

Kevin & Rosemary McBeth

It is with great pleasure that Rosemary and I have accepted the ACD position in Chapter U2. Our lives are somewhat hectic, and this chapter represents our sole source of entertainment and adult interaction.

Rosemary has additionally informed me I am one of the sources of entertainment for the chapter! I will try to remain entertaining as the months roll by, and will endeavor to keep the chapter supplied with tasty, interesting cookies.

On another note, as much as we need to always think of people we would like to invite to join our chapter, we currently need to focus on asking anyone and everyone who rides anything from a Vespa to a 400 cubic inch Boss Hoss to come to our upcoming poker run. This is an easy sell; poker runs are synonymous with owning a motorcycle and this will be an opportunity for our chapter to provide some outstanding benefit to such a deserving charity. The very least we can do is to post one of the flyers on our workplace bulletin boards.

See you all at our next meeting. The cookie of the day will be Oatmeal-Raisin with Cream Cheese Icing..... YUM-YUM!!!

~ Kevin & Rosemary

It's a Dog's Life

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.
 Experience fresh air and wind in your face as pure ecstasy.
 When loved ones come home, run to greet them.
 When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
 Let others know when they are invading your territory.
 Take naps and stretch before rising.
 Rum, romp and play daily.
 Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.
 Never pretend to be something you're not.
 If you want what lies buried, dig until you find it.
 When someone is having a bad day, be quiet and sit close by.
 Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
 When you're happy, dance around and wag your whole body.
 No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout, go back and make friends right away.

Contributed by Carol Spartz / Author Unknown

Rider Education

Russ Ridgeway

Motorcycle crashes have continued to rise over the past three years and the percentage increase is even greater for motorcyclist fatalities as a result of those crashes.

Year	Accidents	% Increase	Fatalities	% Increase
2006	4235		157	
2007	4982	18	190	25
2008	4995	<1	210	11

We often claim we are particularly vulnerable to crashes with motorists because of the size of our motorcycles, which makes us difficult to spot. However, it is the motorcyclist who is in error more than 60% of the time, many of them involving speed or failure to control. A large percentage of the above crashes were single vehicle crashes, which means we are hurting and killing ourselves.

The number of motorcycle registrations has steadily increased over the past few years, suggesting the increased number of crashes and deaths could be attributed to the increase in motorcycles on the road. Another theory is an increased number of novice riders or re-entry riders who may need a refresher on motorcycle skills (although there are no specific statistics to back this up). The Ohio Department of Public Safety has started a new awareness campaign, **Ride SMART**, to cover all aspects of rider safety.

Sober: Even one drink can negatively impact your ability to ride safely. The safest and most responsible choice is don't drink and ride.

Motorcycle Licensed: Your bike and you should both be properly licensed.

Alert: Traffic and road conditions can change quickly, so you must always ride alert.

Right Gear: Wearing the proper gear can minimize your injuries in a crash. In 2005, 73% of the fatalities were riders without helmets.

Trained: Regardless of your experience level, enrolling in a rider education course can give you the tools to help keep yourself safe.

The new **Ride SMART** parallels the GWRRA levels program. These are important points to follow. Remember, having two wheels on the ground always makes your riding experience more enjoyable.

~ Spring is upon us so ride safe, Russ

Ride Coordinator

Leroy Witzel

How is everyone doing? Good?

Well, if you haven't gotten out riding this weekend, there is something definitely wrong. Temp right now is pushing about 85 and it's just great outside.

On April 25th, I ventured down to Marietta for a Road Captain Course. I've been the ride coordinator for a while, thought maybe it would be a good idea to see what I may be doing wrong or right. It turned out to be an interesting course. I knew most of the information but picked up a few things that were useful. I found out everyone should take the course whether they plan to lead a ride or be part of a group or team ride. It's a good idea to take it in early Spring because it refreshes the things you should and should not do during a ride. It was well worth the time and I wish others in the chapter could have joined me.

One thing of particular interest was pointing out road debris. Everyone knows how to point to something on the left track. What do you do for the right track? You don't stick your foot out to point. You do not use your right hand, you will slow down. You use the left arm, up over the helmet pointing with the first finger, to the right side. It was funny to be in the back of the group and see all the riders in front with their arms up over their helmet pointing to the right side. This is the proper hand signal for road debris in the right lane. When you see me do this, I will not be pointing at a bird over to the right.

Saturday, May 2nd is a ride to Hillbilly Hotdogs near Huntington, WV. We'll meet at the south point at 9:00 AM. Please go to their web sight and look at the dogs. They're huge and look really, really good.

I've traveled a lot of places in the last ten years and seen a lot of different things across this great country. A few years ago several of us went on a quest to see all the bicentennial barns in the 88 counties. When traveling to the different counties, it was amazing to me the amount of things to see right here in Ohio.

There's another chance to travel Ohio and see more of your own backyard. I am talking about the 2009 Chapter scavenger hunt. You should get the flyer from the website and looked at the places to go.

I've already started this venture with a team member. It's a lot of fun and you'll discover things you never knew existed in Ohio. For example, you have to find a road across a dam. This dam is huge and has been around since 1934. Do you know why an S bridge was constructed in the first place? How about just riding along a road and just happen to glance to the right and a grindstone is sticking out of the ground with a sign that says GRINDSTONE (hint: this one is going toward Marietta).

It's a lot of fun and you get to see Ohio. If you think you've seen it all, you just might rediscover something new. Get together with someone and see what's in your own backyard instead of traveling thousands of miles away.

Well, this is all for now, I've rattled along too much. See you out there riding. Motorcycles are not a hobby, they're an obsession!

~ LeRoy

Membership Enhancement Division

Terry Woodbury

The weather is looking up, so it is time to start riding. As you are out and about on the bike or on 4 wheels, it is time to get out and talk GWRRA. You have to realize we are not getting any younger, so we need to start recruiting the younger riders and sharing what we do to have FUN. Yes, it would be nice if they were all on Gold Wings, but you all know the average younger person could not afford a Wing. Think back (I know it may be hard for some!!) to what your first bike was..... How long did it take you to be able to afford your first Gold Wing. I know I had two other bikes before I finally got my Wing.

The point I am trying to get across is that the BIG push from National is RECRUITING. Yes, there may be others out there but, as an International Organization, we need to try and recruit the younger people, they are the future of GWRRA. WE ARE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER!!

Retention of current members is also a BIG thing coming from National. To have high retention in a chapter everyone needs to get involved, provide fresh ideas, and remember it is all about having FUN and FRIENDSHIP. So check your membership to see when it expires. Don't be surprised, you may get a reminder from me when the time comes for renewal.

One thing to keep in mind, "EVERY MEMBER MATTERS"!!

~ Your MEC, Terry

See if you can find the hidden image in this picture.....



Motorist Awareness Division

Sheila & Ed Greier

Due to a variety of reasons, I have not been able to get out much on my bike. However, today I was able to dust off the Shadow and we went for a ride this evening. Now Ed has been riding a bit more than I have so maybe our short ride tonight wasn't as exciting for him as it was for me, but I had a fantastic time.

With the temperature in the 80's and a light breeze; conditions were perfect. We didn't get in too many miles but that's not the point. Well maybe for Ed it was, but he's a guy and it seems most of the men I know who ride are very passionate about accumulating mileage. Anyway, I know lately I have been very irritated, short tempered at work and cranky, but within a few miles of being on the bike I could feel all of that tension just slip away. It was particularly satisfying to drive past the hospital where I work and know I did not have to go in there and put on my scrubs. What an incredible feeling as we made the turn past it and I gave a wave. Maybe childish of me, but I couldn't help but grin. Na-Na, Na-Na, Na, Nah!

We meandered around on the back roads west of town, into Plain City and West Jefferson, for an hour or so before ending up where every good bike ride stops off - a dairy bar. And if any of you have not had Handle's Ice Cream you do not know what you are missing. Nothing tops off the evening like a good ice cream cone, or in my case a root beer float. What a fabulous evening! Except for a ride out with all of our GWRRA friends, it couldn't have gotten any better.

Now, I have a throw pillow here at home with this quote on it: You never see a motorcycle parked outside of a psychiatrist's office. Sure makes sense to me. Apparently for my mental health I just need more bike time. Hmmm! I wonder if I can get my doctor to write me a prescription for it. If it works this well for me, cruising on a bike is almost certainly good for all of us. It will cure what ails us!

Oh! And by the way, **MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH**. So when you are out on your bikes for your mental health fix, please keep in mind we are not the only ones out on the roads. Wear bright colors and ride in a manner that makes you visible to those around you. Keep a space cushion around your vehicle to give you more room to maneuver and talk to your friends and co-workers about being aware of, and looking for, motorcycles sharing the roads with them. Ride safe and enjoy!



Ride Aware: Motorcyclists are Dying to be Seen

~ Sheila

Russ Ridgeway
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