

"FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY AND KNOWLEDGE"

## Chapter "E" Bellevue



January 15th, 2005

**Bellevue Chapter WA-E Breakfast / Meeting Hours:**

**Summer (May – September) 8 am -- Winter (October – April) 9 am**

**We meet at the Ramada Inn on the corner of 112th Ave.**

**NE and NE 8th just off 405 in Bellevue.**

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### *Message from your Chapter Director:* **Ernie and Sue Sigyarto**

As we look forward to the coming year, we need first to give thanks to our Staff and Members for a fantastic 2004. We've enjoyed many great rides, events and the joy of sharing with so many good friends. The Christmas Party was a great tribute to the fun year we've enjoyed. What a way to end the year. The location and facility worked out so well. We received many compliments on the hall, the food and everyone enjoyed the program. Who could forget Mini Me and Bad Santa? We're still trying to figure out who those guys were. We look forward to having our Christmas party this year in the same location. We've already reserved the date.

Sue and I have been your CD's for nearly two years. And, of course nothing lasts forever. April will be the end of a memorable two years for us and we will be stepping aside to allow for new direction and new energy. However, it's not April yet and we still have much to do. It would be appropriate for anyone interested in stepping into the CD position, to let Sue and I know. We plan to make the announcement as to who our successors will be in February and begin a process to achieve a seamless transition in April. It has truly been an honor to serve as your CD's.

We have three events that we'll be at least hosting in some way; the Bowling Challenge in February, the Surf Watch in March and the "We Made It Through Another Winter" party also in March. In our January Breakfast Meeting, we have a special guest that Mark Caldwell has arranged for. David Hough will be joining us for a question/answer Motorcycle Safety discussion. Also, it's getting time for another Game Night and we will be starting our Bowling Socials. And, this is just the beginning of what we're confident will be one of our finest and funest years.

## After Chapter Meeting Ride

Our After Chapter Meeting Ride for January is our guest and speaker, the world renowned motorcycle safety expert and author, David Hough. He will be joining us for our Breakfast Meeting and will lead a question and answer session on Motorcycle Safety.

**Remember** to bring your questions for author and riding expert David Hough to our meeting on Saturday. Take a minute to write them down so you have them with you. It's a frustrating feeling to be sitting there trying to remember the question you were going to ask, only to have it come to mind after the speaker has left. So write it down, and put it in your wallet so you know you'll have it with you.

## Dinner Social

The Dinner Social for January 27th is at the Rock Bottom Brewery in Bellevue. The address is 550 106th Ave NE, Bellevue. Take the same exit as the Chapter Meetings but continue on NE 8th to 106th. Turn left and it is past the Good Guys store on the left side of the street. If you go past the restaurant there is underground parking in the same complex and the restaurant will validate parking for up to 2 hours.

## Rider Educator

### Group Riding Revisited

By Mark Caldwell, Chapter Educator

This month we are having, or by the time you get this will have had, another Road Captain course. There are many great things covered in the course for the benefit of those who are interested in leading a group ride. But there are also many important things covered for those who don't want to lead, but just want to participate. I thought I'd take some time to review just a few of the basics of group riding. Some in the chapter have been doing this so long that maybe they do things out of habit and forgot the basics. So just like it's a good idea to take a riding skills course to stay fresh, let's review some of the skills specific to riding in a group.

First, and most important, is to remember that just because you are riding in a group does not mean that you abandon responsibility to the group leaders. **You are responsible for your own safety.** Ride your own ride, and if that means you need to leave the group in order to stay within your own riding comfort zone, then do so and don't let anyone peer-pressure you into riding in a manner you feel is not safe for you.

Goldwingers have an advantage in group riding because so many of them have CB radios for communicating with other riders. But remember that some may not have radios, so everyone should know a few basic hand signals such as: One finger raised means ride single-file in-line behind the lead; Two fingers raised (often the index finger and pinkie to make it clear) means ride in staggered formation; Pointing down to either side indicates a hazard in the road on that side. There are many other hand signals, but these are the most commonly used. One other important hand signal is to raise your arm in the air, make a fist and then pull down as if you were pulling a trucker's air horn, or an old pull-chain toilet, for those that remember that far back. As you might guess, this indicates that you need a rest stop.

Speaking of the staggered formation, the way that works is that the lead bike should be in the left track. Bike number two is about one second behind, but offset by being in the right track. Bike three is one second behind bike two and offset back into the left track. This puts bike three two seconds behind the bike which is in his same track. And so on throughout the group. For the group's safety, you should maintain that lane position consistently; however, absolutely break out of position if there is a question of safety. For example, break position to avoid road hazards. You also break out of staggered position in order to pick the best line through a corner. Then once through the corner, retake your staggered position.

If riding in inclement weather, double the gap between bikes. However, also try to keep the gap down to the recommended space so that other drivers are not tempted to pull into the middle of your group. If other vehicles get into the group, whether from expanded gaps or from the group being broken up by a traffic signal, continue to ride as if you are now two or more small groups until the vehicles leave the group. Automobile drivers tend to recognize that they are the intruder in a group and will want to get out when they have a good opportunity. Stay calm and relaxed and continue riding safely. If the group gets separated by a large margin, the lead bike may find a safe place to pull over and wait for the group to reassemble before moving on.

There are several other important skills that I just can't fit in this article, such as how to change lanes as a group, and how the technique is different when riding in heavy traffic than it is riding on the open road. If you haven't had a chance to practice this, be sure to contact me or one of our experienced Road Captains and we will be happy to explain the process.

Riding in groups has several advantages. For example, there is some safety in numbers. Specifically, a group of bikes is easier for other drivers to see than just a single bike. And of course, just about anywhere we go we have more fun when we have our GWRRA Friends along. Whether in a group, or on your own, Ride Safe and come back again.

## Photo Album

Please keep the photos coming. Give them to Rick or Sue Gustin for our album. If you have a digital camera, print out the best for our album.

## Rides

### **Festival of Lights Trip to Montesano – By Jim Roberson**

On Saturday, December 11, Jim and Karen Roberson met up with Ernie and Sue Sigyarto, John and Barb Smith and Bob and Patty Spencer to travel down to Montesano and visit Chapter D and attend the Festival of Lights in Montesano. The trip down was uneventful and when we arrived we were greeted by Bruce and Sandy McMahill. Chapter D had chili, hot dogs, baked potatoes and a host of other goodies ready for everyone.

After eating a late lunch we looked at the decorated motorcycles from Chapter D and Chapter I before they left for the parade. We then went to downtown Montesano where we visited some of the local businesses

and the bazaar and secured our viewing location for the Festival of Lights parade. This is small town America at its finest. The whole town appeared to be involved in the festivities! The parade began and there were the usual city officials and honorees, local bands, the decorated motorcycles from Chapter D and Chapter I, which had won the Mayor's trophy, a huge decorated grocery cart, horses, dogs, you name it; it was in the parade. If you have never seen a decorated logging truck or a decorated cement mixer, you have to go to the festival next year. They are the hit of the parade.

After the parade, we went back to the school for an excellent potluck dinner and to visit with friends from other chapters. We left for home shortly after 8PM arriving back in Bellevue at the park and ride around 10:30. It was a great trip and we look forward to going again next year!

## Chapter "Check-Out" Material

Below is a list of materials available for check out from the Chapter. If you would like to check out any, please contact your Chapter Educator.

- Book: Street Strategies by David L. Hough
- VHS: Co-Rider from GWRRA (2002)
- VHS: Gary Sanford's Slow Speed Cycling Seminar
- VHS: Part 1: Helmet Effectiveness (Hurt Report); Part 2: Co-Rider from GWRRA (Pre-2002)
- VHS: GWRRA & Safeco present Touring & Braking / Trailering (1996)
- VHS: Buying Motorcycle Helmets (Snell Memorial Foundation)
- VHS: Basic Maintenance of the 1500 Goldwing with Andy MacDonald
- VHS: Advanced Maintenance for the 1500 Goldwing with Andrew MacDonald
- Report: Fatal Single Vehicle Motorcycle Crashes, October 2001
- Report: Drowsy Driving and Automobile Crashes
- Report: Impaired Motorcycle Riding: What Motorcyclists Think About Alcohol and Motorcycling, February 2001

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### January Birthdays

02 Leah Gray  
06 Pete Croot  
22 Steve Lee  
23 Lorraine Ogden  
24 Darrel Kruize

### January Anniversaries

24 Jim Roberson  
26 Jo Croot

### February Birthdays

04 Bob Thurgood  
09 Wanda Kruize  
25 Rick Lawrence

### February Anniversaries

Please see Jim and Karen Roberson for any additions or corrections.

## Ads and Needs

## CALENDAR OF CHAPTER EVENTS

PD pre-registration date  
\* WA-E scheduled event

### 2005 Calendar of Chapter Events

PD pre-registration date  
\*WA-E scheduled event

#### January

8<sup>th</sup> Road Captain Course at Bob and Thess's home, 9 am.  
9<sup>th</sup> Chapter D Visitation, Aberdeen, 9 am.  
15<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting with David Hough, 9 am.  
\*22<sup>nd</sup> WA-I Casino Night, Camp Murray Armory, 5:30 to 10 pm. PD: Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>  
27<sup>th</sup> Dinner Social, 7 pm.

#### February

5<sup>th</sup> WA-F Valentines Dance. PD: Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
12<sup>th</sup> Game Night at Sue and Ernie's home, 6 pm.  
19<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 9 am. / hosting the Bowling Challenge, Noon  
24<sup>th</sup> Dinner Social, 7 pm.  
26<sup>th</sup> District Rider Ed. Workshop in Buckley. 8 am.-5 pm. PD: Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>

#### March

\*4-6<sup>th</sup> Surf Watch 2005 at Ocean Shores (1-800-448-2433)  
11-13<sup>th</sup> WA-D & I Mall Show  
19<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 9 am. / hosting We Made It Through Another Winter party at Russell and LeeAnn's home. Noon to ????  
19<sup>th</sup> WA-G Auction  
19<sup>th</sup> WA-V St. Patty's Dance (Canx.)  
24<sup>th</sup> Dinner Social, 7 pm.  
26<sup>th</sup> Horizon Seminar

## April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> WA-L,M,R,S Multi Chapter Gathering
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Game Night at Neal and Karen's home, 6 pm.
- \*9<sup>th</sup> WA-C Early Spring Fun Run, Smokey Point, PD: Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 15-17<sup>th</sup> WA-Q Elma Rest Stop
- 16<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 9 am. Ride to Bodacious BBQ in Granite Falls
- 16<sup>th</sup> WA-K First Birthday
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dinner Social
- 29-1<sup>st</sup> WA-B Governor's Run

May (Thursday night 6 pm. XXX Ice Cream Socials in Issaquah begins May 5<sup>th</sup>. Please wear your XXX T-Shirt on the 5<sup>th</sup> if you have one.)

- 6-8<sup>th</sup> First Alderwood Chapter E Mall Show (date tentative)
- \*14-15<sup>th</sup> WA-M BBQ and Fun Run
- 19-22<sup>nd</sup> WA-S Victoria Days
- 21<sup>st</sup> Breakfast Meeting 8 am (begin summer hours) Pioneer Park (Rodney)
- 27-30<sup>th</sup> WA-L Desert Spring Fling

June (Thursday night 6 pm. XXX Ice Cream Socials in Issaquah every Thursday)

- 3-5<sup>th</sup> WA-R Blue Mt. Rendezvous
- \*4<sup>th</sup> WA-D Duck Hunt
- 10-12<sup>th</sup> WA-Q Elma Rest Stop
- 17-19<sup>th</sup> Oregon District Rally
- 18<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 8 am. Ride to Roslyn (Rick Gustin)
- 22-25<sup>th</sup> Can Am Rally PD: June 1<sup>st</sup>.

July (Thursday night 6 pm. XXX Ice Cream Socials in Issaquah every Thursday)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gustin Ride and BBQ beach party.
- 4-7<sup>th</sup> Wing Ding in Indiana
- 8-10<sup>th</sup> WA-M Hobo Feed
- 9<sup>th</sup> Diablo Lake Adventure
- 16<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 8 am. Fort Worden
- \*17<sup>th</sup> WA-A Mystery Ride
- 23-25<sup>th</sup> WA-M Multi. Ch. Camp Out
- 28-30<sup>th</sup> Wash. Dist. Rally in Lynden (360-384-8881) PD: March 1<sup>st</sup>

August (Thursday night 6 pm. XXX Ice Cream Socials in Issaquah every Thursday)

- \*7<sup>th</sup> WA-F & G Mt. Run
- \*13<sup>th</sup> WA-Y Riddler Run
- \*18-21<sup>st</sup> Region I Rally, Port Townsend
- 20<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 8 am. Poulsbo Art Fair
- \*26-28<sup>th</sup> WA-P Oyster Feed

September (Thursday night 6 pm. XXX Ice Cream Socials on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> only. Please wear your XXX T-Shirt on the 8<sup>th</sup> if you have one)

- 2-5<sup>th</sup> Idaho Dist. Rally
- 2-5<sup>th</sup> WA-B Ocean Beach Camp Out
- 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter Picnic at the Agachinsky's Noon to ???

7-11<sup>th</sup> WA-M North Cascades Loop  
11<sup>th</sup> Ride for Kids  
17<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 8 am. Ride to Black Diamond Bakery  
22<sup>nd</sup> Dinner Social  
\*25<sup>th</sup> Oyster Run

#### October

8<sup>th</sup> Wash. Dist. Leadership Training in Moses Lake.  
15<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 9 am. (begin winter hours) Jillian's Sport Bar  
\*22<sup>nd</sup> WA-Q Halloween Dance  
22-23<sup>rd</sup> WA-F South Hill Mall Show  
27<sup>th</sup> Dinner Social  
29<sup>th</sup> Game Night

#### November

4-7<sup>th</sup> Rest Stop South Bound Smokey Point.  
5<sup>th</sup> LaConor Art Fair 10 am.  
11<sup>th</sup> WA-M Veteran's Day Parade  
13<sup>th</sup> Chapter E Brunch  
17<sup>th</sup> Dinner Social  
19<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 9 am. 2006 Calendar Planning Meeting

#### December

3<sup>rd</sup> WA-Q Santa Parade  
10<sup>th</sup> WA-M Christmas Party, Zilla  
10<sup>th</sup> WA-D Festival of Lights (tentative)  
17<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting 9 am. Christmas Party at 6 pm.

#### Impromptu Rides Pool

Mt. Baker (approx. 300 miles)  
Fall Color Ride  
NW Trek / Picnic  
Vancouver BC (Rodney)  
Woodland Park Zoo / Picnic  
Apple State Run Photo Tour  
The Sound of Music in Leavenworth overnight (Contact Leah Gray)

## Region I / District Volunteer Leaders / Staff

#### Web Sites:

WA-District: <http://www.gwrra-wa.org>

Region I: <http://www.BigSkyRegionI.org>

## Chapter WA-E Member E-Mail Addresses:

Chapter WA-E Web Address: <http://www.gwrra-wae.org>  
\*indicates new or changed e-mail entry