

"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.

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

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

February

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

March

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

April

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

October

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

November

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

December

3rd WA-Q Santa Parade
10th WA-M Christmas Party, Zilla
10th WA-D Festival of Lights (tentative)
17th 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