



Friends for fun, safety and knowledge



Chapter "E" Bellevue

Chapter WA-E Web Address: <http://www.gwmra-wae.org>



Message from your Chapter Directors: Bob & Patty Spencer

Can someone tell us where our summer went? I can't believe September's already here! You know, they say "time flies when you're having fun" and we can attest to that, because we had a ball this summer. But not to worry. Our riding season isn't over yet. Fortunately we live in a part of the country where we can ride virtually all year long.....that is of course, if one enjoys riding in a little rain....ok, a lot of rain. Actually, providing the weather co-operates, we could potentially do a lot of riding over the next two months, before retiring our beloved machines to the garage for winter a rest.

This is a bittersweet time for all of us. We certainly don't cherish the thought of putting the bike away for the winter, yet we have so much to look forward to in the coming months. Within our chapter, we have our monthly breakfast meetings, dinner socials and game nights to keep us busy. We also have our chapter brunch in November and who would want to miss our Christmas party?

Other events to look forward to are Chapter D's "Festival of Lights" held in Montesano, Chapter I's "Casino Night" at Camp Murray and the "Bowling Challenge" hosted this year by Chapter "G" in Gig Harbor (I think we could and should take the trophy back! Anyone up for a little practice this winter?) Then in March we have "Surf Watch" which this year, will be bigger and better than ever before! After that, our spring riding season is just around the corner!

Let's all take advantage of this "down time" and these events, to get to know each other a little better, to strengthen our friendships and to reinforce our relationships with other chapters in our area. Think of it as a time to "Make New Memories" that you will cherish for years to come. So....The moral of the story?....."Don't go into hibernation this winter." There are lot's of fun things to do on the off season!.

Bellevue Chapter WA-E Breakfast

Our next meeting is:

Saturday, October 15th

We meet at the Paragon Hotel (old Ramada Inn) on the corner of 112th Ave NE and NE 8th just off 405 in Bellevue

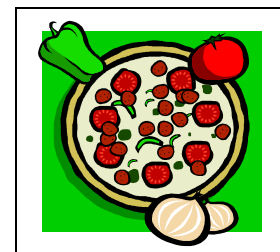
Breakfast/Meeting Hours:

Winter (October – April) 9 am

Dinner Social

Thursday,
September 22nd
6:30PM

California Pizza
Kitchen
595 106th Ave NE
Bellevue



Chapter Events

Chapter "E" Picnic September 4th

It may have been an overcast day, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the 30 plus members and family that attended the Chapter picnic at Joe and Freda Downs' "Holiday Hills Tree Farm" in Sultan. The weather for the most part was fairly nice with only a couple light showers. That is up until a few of the hardy souls that road, decided to head for home at around 6:00 p.m. I'm told they ran into quite a "gully washer."

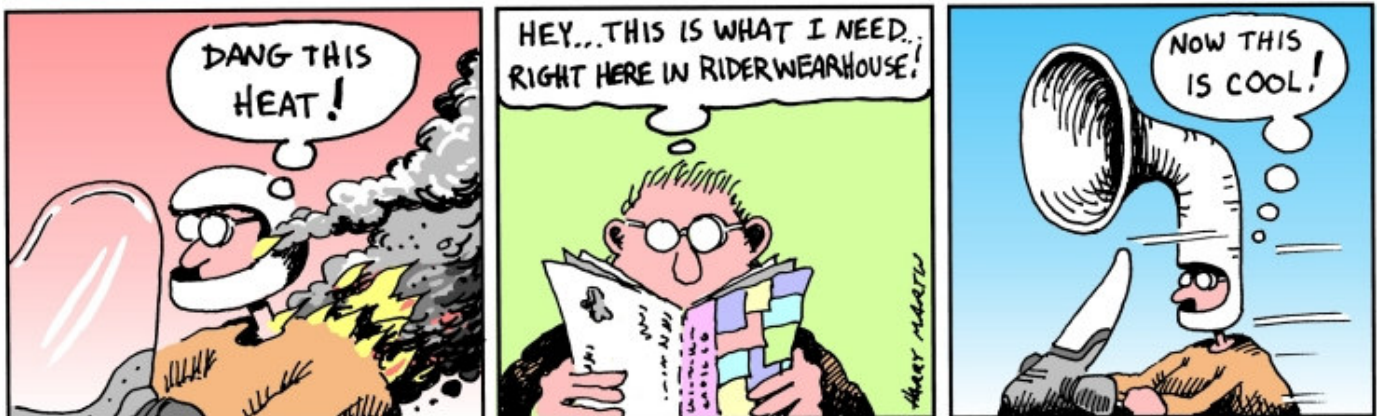
Besides eating (something we all do well) there were lots of games to play. We had horse shoes, volley ball, Bocce ball and the hit of the day...Frisbee golf. Joe had set up a nine hole course down through and over the rows of Christmas trees. He used large drums and hula hoop sized circles made from a garden hose, as targets. Each was marked with a flag to aim at and the object of the game was just like real golf. Get the Frisbee into the drum or circle in as few throws as possible. It was pretty comical early in the day, but by the time some had played their third round, they were getting pretty accurate. We even started playing "longest throw" and "closest to the pin" holes. David won "longest throw" and Ernie won "closest to the pin", however they both won nothing and liked it!

Neal Agachinsky kept busy most of the afternoon, slaving over the hot coals cooking up some mighty fine hamburgers and hot dogs, while Karen cooked up a huge pot of corn on the cob. Everyone brought something to share and as usual we had more than enough to eat. My personal favorite was the cheese cake that Jim and Christy brought. After we all had quit grazing, someone turned up the country music and David and Leah started practicing a few dance steps. Soon the tables were moved aside and we all...well most all of us took a few lessons from "Mr. Dance". Hey Leah! We think David's a keeper. You just don't let a guy that can dance like that, get away!

A big thank you goes out to Joe and Freda, for their hospitality, to Neal and Karen for hosting the picnic and to all four of them for their hard work organizing everything. It was a lot of fun and a perfect day!!

ROAD RASH ©2005 by HARRY MARTIN

www.HarryMartinCartoons.com



After meeting ride to Region I Rally August 20th and 21st

Immediately after a long breakfast and short chapter meeting, a group of us left for the Region "I" Rally in Port Townsend. As we left for the Edmonds ferry the skies were heavy and threatening to rain, but by the time we rolled into the fairgrounds in Port Townsend, the skies were blue and sunny. Already at the fairgrounds were the Thurgoods, McMahills and Herseys, who were all camping for the weekend. Immediately we noticed that Bob and Thess were not wearing our chapter maroon or district purple, rather they had on "Region Red". We were quickly informed that they had been crowned Region "I" Couple of the Year at a ceremony on Friday evening. Congratulations to both of you!! We are proud to have you representing us at the region level.

After checking in at the rally, we all road into town to do the "Walk About" and proceeded to eat our way from one end of town to the other. We had lunch at the "Nifty Fifties" and later in the afternoon we found an ice cream place that also had homemade pie. After stuffing our faces, Jim Pelican headed back to the big city and the Spencer's, Roberson's, Sigyarto's and Agachinsky's all checked into our motel. We hung out there for a while and then went to dinner with Mark and Tanya who had taken another long walk. We ate at a tiny little café near the marina and had to sit outside at the picnic tables as the four tables inside were taken. The food was just "ok".

After dinner Mark and Tanya left for home and the rest of us went back out to the fairgrounds for the closing ceremonies. We were all disappointed in the rally. There were only six vendors there and we had already seen all of them at our district rally two weeks before. Also, there was only a hand full of attendees from the rest of the states in our region. All in all, it wasn't worth the time, but we made the best of it. After all, we were with friends, doing the things we love to do, ride and eat!

After sleeping in on Sunday morning, we made our way to Chimacum where we stopped for breakfast at the only café in town. The café name was....you guessed it....the "Chimacum Café." After a long wait and a hearty breakfast, we headed out across the Hood Canal Bridge and on to Poulsbo where they were celebrating "Viking Days". We browsed through the art fair and a few shops downtown then made our way to Kingston where we caught the ferry to Edmonds.

After arriving in Edmonds, we took a few back roads that lead us up to Mukilteo where we asked a passerby to take our picture in front of the lighthouse thereby completing our first series of three lighthouses for our first "Lighthouse Tour" pin. (We had taken two others on a previous ride) By now it was approaching early evening so we decided to head for home, bringing to a close another fun day and weekend with friends.

What's on the Calendar?

September

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

8th

15th

22nd

22-23rd

27th

29th

October

Wash. Dist. Leadership
Training in Moses Lake.
Breakfast Meeting 9 am.
(begin winter hours)
Jillian's Sport Bar
WA-Q Halloween Dance
WA-F South Hill Mall Show
Dinner Social
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

3rd

10th

10th

17th

December

WA-Q Santa Parade
WA-M Christmas Party, Zilla
WA-D Festival of Lights
(tentative)
Breakfast Meeting 9 am.
Christmas Party at 6 pm.

Impromptu Rides

Lighthouse Photo Tour
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)

Chapter E Business

Birthdays & Anniversaries September



Neal Gutekunst	1
John Smith	10
Chuck Thuot	25
John Holter	28

Dave & Anna Hersey	9
Jim & Carolyn Wartchow	17



Chapter E Library

Please contact Mark Caldwell if you are interested in borrowing something for your reading or viewing pleasure.

- Book: Street Strategies by David L. Hough
- Book: Proficient Motorcycling 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

For Sale

2006 Entertainment Books

\$30.00

Save money on chapter dinner socials, travel, and much more.

If you would like to purchase one or have questions contact
Charlene or Steve Lee

Benefits Eastside Mothers of Multiples
Convention Committee
I'm off to Spokane this spring!

Rider Education

By Mark Caldwell

Jim Roberson found this article on the web and thought it was quite interesting. We are printing it under our "Educator Column" with the expressed consent of the author, Dave Preston, who heads up the Public Relations department at Cycle Barn Motor Sports. The article is a bit long but a good read.

The New 1%ers

By Dave Preston

Well, the killing season is winding down. By that I refer to the summer months, when tragically high numbers of motorcyclists fall prey to various horrors, many of them brought about by their own errors, and many of them young males on sport bikes.

Statistics? Ain't got none. I'm simply going by what the Seattle Times (admittedly a flawed source) chooses to print, but there are enough such sad stories you can almost write them yourself. Usually late at night, usually a young male, and usually a result of very high speed. They do not bother to mention alcohol, but you can fill in the blanks.

Beyond the loss, the sadness and the damage to property lie's the effects on the rest of us, particularly those who ride sport bikes. It all reminds me, as so many things do these days, of a time long ago and far away.

People in the 60s spoke often in hushed tones, of "the 1%ers." This phrase was minted by the Hell's Angels and others of their ilk, as they wreaked havoc on the reputation of all motorcyclists far beyond the reach of their numbers and of course, 1% was a grossly optimistic assessment of their bulk.

Sonny Barger of the Hell's Angels may or may not have been a master criminal, but there is little doubt of his genius in marketing. He parlayed sound bites and costumes with acts of incredible savagery by those claiming to be of his group and became an outlaw icon. Along with Billy the Kid and the James Gang his name and legend will live for centuries and the facts – well who cares about facts when you're dealing with legends?

He was assisted in large part by the California Highway Patrol, which issued dire press releases that stirred up the citizenry and also added heft and power to their annual budget requests. Then along came Hunter S. Thompson, a drug and booze-fueled "rebel" of a writer. His reporting of various misadventures with the Hell's Angels became and is a best seller. It was to literature what a train wreck is to transportation. People could not help but stop and take in the horrific details. And so, all three of these unlikely partners gained from their alliance.

At some point, Barger and others realized that the bad-ass image (and reality) had been milked for all of the coin available, and it was time to present a more respectable facade. Since nobody believed it, this also made good press, but over a period of time it actually worked.

Along with this came the organized response of the 99%, most notably by the growth of HOG Chapters. Same bikes. Same black leathers, but totally and completely different people of course. In a recent survey of high school students asked who they pictured as riding and owning Harley-Davidsons. The responses fell overwhelmingly into only two slots:

- "Greaseball thugs" (their words, not mine)
- Their grandparents

The authors of the survey, high school students themselves, made the point to Harley-Davidson's marketing department, that the group that young people did not see as riding Harleys – at all – was... young people, and that this should be a concern. Harley-Davidson's marketers chose to deny the validity of the survey, which ironically taught the young people more about the real world than did the actual assignment.

The 1%ers are still here, of course and in this area are represented by the Bandidos and other groups. I list the Bandidos first, because I know some of them and because they were the recent targets of a fairly massive ATF investigation that resulted in arrests and on-going legal cases. I have nothing personal against the Bandidos. I am opposed to the activities they are accused of, but in an era when "Innocent until proven guilty" is rapidly being replaced by "Jailed until we get around to charging you," it does not take a rabid civil libertarian to withhold judgment.

If you are a serious and committed motorcyclist, as opposed to a person who merely owns a motorcycle, you're probably concerned with the image motorcycles present to the great unwashed public and you serve as something of an unpaid missionary to the masses. As such, you have to realize that the greatest threat to the image of motorcycling today is not the 1%ers – but... the sport bike riders. Specifically, those sport bike riders referred to with the pejorative title of "squid." There are several explanations for the etymology of "squid." I have no idea, which one is correct, but my favorite explanation is that "SQUID" is an acronym for "Surely Quicker Until I Die."

Before you set your keyboard on fire typing a denunciatory response, please read to the end! First of all, sport bikes are my "home" motorcycles – the ones I enjoy riding the most. There is nothing inherently evil or criminal in the design of sport bikes and yet the most frightening sights I see on the roads these days usually involve sport bikes.

Try to think for a minute like a person who has never ridden a motorcycle. When such a person sees a motorcycle being ridden well, the visual image is frightening. You may be comfy gliding by them and changing lanes, but from inside the car you appear to be way too fast and on the verge of disaster. That is true if you are riding responsibly. Now imagine the impact of a "squid" passing at 85pmh or so, switching and darting between lanes, clad in shorts and a t-shirt, with the occasional wheelie lofted in for good measure.

People do not like being scared. Men in our culture are given a lot of subtle encouragement never to admit to fear. Anger and violence are OK, however. That is why many people, especially men, learn to hate motorcycles, all motorcycles, based on the actions of a very few – because that is simpler and more acceptable than thinking through the process of "Golly, the way that fellow rides really raises my fear levels."

The other day I was riding along in the commuter lane on my bike at a comfy 70 mph or so. Along comes Joe Squid with his girlfriend of the week on the back. He is weaving in and out of the busy traffic at about 85, but everyone he passes sees only the girl – because she is wearing some very short and very tight pink shorts in a terry cloth fabric – with a pair of very long and tanned, slim legs.

Ever seen skin after it has been abraded by asphalt at 80mph? I have – not mine thankfully – and it is a sight you will never forget. As I watched this little pink derriere disappear into the traffic ahead I became so angry! This clown and his ill-advised date were creating new motorcycle haters every mile. Worse, as a fan of the female form for decades, he was putting an item of great beauty in imminent peril. I had the image of them crashing, and I would come up, call 911, help the girl if I could and then kill the rider for being such a jerk!

What to do? Some of the problem is self-eliminating due to a few factors:

- The weather turns for the worse and the squids rarely ride in the rain and cold.
- Some of them are dead.

But spring will return so here are some ideas you could try:

- Be a good example. Always wear the proper gear – for you AND the passenger.
- Be aware of the perceptions of non-motorcyclists in cars, and try to frighten them as little as possible.
- Be a resource for people you work with – no, we do not all ride like that, and no, it is usually not that dangerous, and yes, the police do give tickets for reckless riding, etc.
- If you are somewhat older and an experienced motorcyclist, be open to young riders who may ask you questions. Answer, but try to avoid lecturing.
- Avoid lumping all sport bike riders into the "squid" bucket!

After all, I suspect most of us would have to admit that, back in the day, we did something squid-like at one time or another.

Ride safe, and ride often!

Dave Preston is the Public Relations guy for the Cycle Barn Motor Sports Group

Food for Thought

Things to do @ Wal-Mart while the significant other is taking his/her sweet time:

1. Get cans of cat food and randomly put them in people's carts when they don't realize it.
2. Set all the alarm clocks to go off at ten minute intervals throughout the day.
3. Make a trail of orange juice on the floor leading to the rest rooms.
4. Walk up to an employee and tell him in an official tone, "I think we've got "Code 3 in house wares," and see what happens.
5. Tune all the radios to a polka station; then turn them all off and turn the volumes to "10."
6. Challenge other customers to duels with tubes of gift wrap.
7. Put M&M's on layaway.
8. Move "Caution: Wet Floor" signs to carpeted areas.
9. Set up a tent in the camping department; tell others you'll only invite them in if they bring pillows from Bed and Bath.
10. When someone asks if you need help, begin to cry and ask, "Why won't you people just leave me alone?"