

Goldwing Road Riders Association



Newsletter May '11

Happy Mother's Day!

PICTURE OF THE MONTH, CAN YOU GUESS WHO THIS IS?



Friends for Fun, Safety & Knowledge

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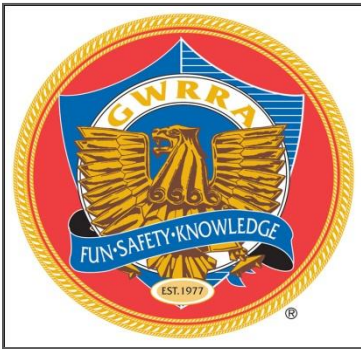
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From the Directors Chair



Every GWRRA chapter has its own personality, for anyone that's had an opportunity to attend a

chapter meeting somewhere else the differences are quickly self-evident. I'm sure Ed & Rhonda see the differences between us and MA-F but we won't ask them which one they like better (at least I won't, I'm afraid of what they'd tell me ☹) That said, I've heard time and time again Chapter A is a riding chapter that's our personality that's what we like to do the most – RIDE. We may not wear vests, we may not follow the 'norm' of some other GW chapters through-out the US but we have fun enjoying each other's company when we ride which is most every Sunday during the riding season. And once your ride leader (aka Chapter Director) takes a wrong turn, hours of teasing is sure to follow. Good thing Judy Burns pays me the BIG bucks. What's our official ride motto? *"It's not an official ride until we make a wrong turn and/or make a U-turn"*. All part of the fun.

[May is finally here and it's finally time to RIDE!](#)

We have a number of great new rides & destinations on our Ride Schedule this year. We also have our Photo Contest (thanks to Rich & Don) that has 21 different locations providing even more destinations that can be done whenever you get the urge to ride alone or with friends during the week or on weekends. As I write this, PAO has a ride planned tomorrow (Mother's Day) to ride to 3 of the 21 Photo Contest locations to kick the contest off. On June 26th, MA-A along with our friends at NH-A are teaming up for a combined chapter ride and picnic. We'll have lunch at another of the Photo Contest locations the Quabbin Reservoir Tower. Keep in mind, the Photo Contest was created so you can ride when opportunity strikes, the destinations will not all be traveled to during our official chapter rides this season.

Last month we got together for the final time this spring with our friends from NH-A for a fun evening of bowling and dinner. The high scorer was NH-A's own Scott Smith with a 102 with a close second from Alan, nice job! If we haven't overstayed our welcome and get an invite back we're planning to resume our inter-chapter bowling next fall.

Last Sunday several of us traveled down to RI-B's Kick-Off Breakfast, great turn-out, great food, great friends and what a beautiful sunny spring day for a ride home lead by PAO. What a way to start the 2011 official riding season. ☺

Our 10th, 20th & 30th of the month Ice Cream rides will start this month. The starting location is the same as all rides – Reading, MA Dunkin Donuts/REI parking lot at the intersection of Rt 129 & Rt 128. The rides start at 7:00pm weather permitting, a lead is chosen from those in attendance and off you go for a nice ride and ice cream. You can also see our web site for further details. <http://www.gwrrama-a.org/>

Coming up next on our official riding calendar is Venco's Open House on Saturday May 14 lead by Herve then on Sunday May 22 is the Covered Bridge Ride lead by Gardner. We will send out reminders with starting times well in advance of the ride.

Speaking of reminders, our Inspection Stickers are all due this month.

Another reminder, on Saturday May 21 & Sunday May 22nd NH-A will hold a Parking Lot Practice in Merrimac, NH. Mark Bennett is coming over from Maine to instruct the class, each class will have no more than 6 bikes. I know we have 2 members from Chapter A signed-up, I will most likely head help and lend a hand. Call Glenn Daniels (NH-A CD) at 603-261-8382 to reserve your spot. As of Saturday May 7th, there are only a couple of spots left so don't delay.

We'd like to wish all the mom's out there a very

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

As we gather around the BBQ with family and friends on Memorial Day later this month, thought it might be appropriate to explore the origins and meaning of Memorial Day. As time passes we tend to forget the true meaning of our observed holidays as it becomes blurred by commercialism.



- Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.
- The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states.
- The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).
- It is now celebrated in every state on the last Monday in May (as decreed by Congress with the passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971).

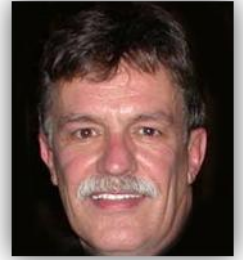
Lastly to my wonderful wife, wishing her a speedy recovery from her recent knee surgery. Get well soon the lawn's starting to look over grown and the Wing needs washing. ☺

So until next month, I hope we'll see you at one of our many chapter rides, gatherings and events.

There's lot's going on, there's a lot to enjoy with friends so get out there and ride - safely. *Kevin*

MA-A's official chapter web site: <http://www.gwrrama-a.org/>

Heads, You Win



The head is the seat of all your senses. The head and neck system is remarkable engineering, allowing the owner to swivel the head so as to see a full 360 degrees using peripheral vision, side to side tilt angle of more than 90 degrees, and a front to back tilt of nearly 180 degrees. A very useful range of movement. A careful rider will use almost the full range of movement while motorcycling. Let's go on an imaginary ride together.

We are riding down an empty road. Our head and eyes are up. We give every appearance of being alert. But are we? A careful rider will be alternately scanning two, four, and twelve seconds ahead on our path of travel and all around looking for hazards. The two second distance is the minimum following distance, intrusions into this space demands attention, you can't usually stop in two seconds but you can react. The four-second distance is the immediate path of travel, a space which allows the rider to prevent emergency maneuvers and may allow a full stop. The twelve second distance allows the wary rider to calmly evaluate upcoming conditions without experiencing the adrenaline rush which can occur in the other two zones. Experiencing near misses and being startled often by other users of the roadway are warnings of the need to pay closer attention and modify the hazard avoidance system being used. If you are not scanning the area for hazards, chances are that you are developing "tunnel vision" or "road glaze" or you are "day dreaming." Unless you are actively searching for hazards, a dangerous amount of time will pass before you will react when a hazard intersects your path.

Our imaginary road comes to a "T" intersection. After a brief head check for intersecting traffic, you rotate your head in the direction of your turn and allow the motorcycle to follow through. The operating principle here is: **Where you look, there you will go.** In "U-turn" situations this means literally looking over your shoulder. Practice this technique in a deserted parking lot by doing tight figure eights. As you rotate your head, scan the path of travel for hazards. Once the turn is engaged, your head should face the end of the turn with your eyes scanning the end of the arc for hazards. Use just your eyes to quickly re-scan the path of travel for hazards detected in your peripheral vision, looking for a clear path.

Keep your head and eyes moving like hazard-seeking radar; this will prevent your motorcycle from becoming a hazard-seeking missile. Use your head to communicate your intentions to the automobile drivers around you. Nod at them, motion them through intersections with a jerk of your head. They may see motion. Do not rely on "eye contact" to determine if they see you. What is perceived as eye contact may just be a glazed stare and in fact they may not see you at all.

Our road is now filled with sweeping curves. As you lean first left, then right, keep your eyes level with the horizon. You are still scanning for hazards. You are rotating your head from side to side to maintain directional control. **Remember, where you look the motorcycle will go.** One of the most common weaknesses in technique that novice and experienced riders have is the failure to turn their heads to look through a turn. Due to a lack of experience, they over-control the motorcycle because they fail to see the big picture. Novice riders tend to fix their eyes on the pavement just ahead of the front wheel's contact patch, especially when turning. As a result, they fail to turn in a smooth arc. They believe they are scanning the pavement for hazards, but any hazard that is seen two feet in front of the motorcycle is practically unavoidable. Hazard avoidance of course, requires the rider to look at the clear path around the hazard. **Where you look the motorcycle will go.**

Correct use of the head while riding a motorcycle is a subtle skill. A relaxed, alert riding posture is key to the enjoyment of motorcycling and effective risk management. Good posture will help the miles melt away and allow you to arrive more relaxed.

SCHEDULING & EVENTS

Monthly Meeting



Bertucci's

45 Walkers Brook Road
Reading, MA

Meeting:
Wednesday, May 18th @ 7:00pm
(dinner @ 6pm)

Up-Coming Ride/Events



Ice Cream Rides

10th, 20th & 30th of every
month!

Mike Lozzi	May 2
Carolyn Dever	May 9
UB Madden	May 12
Mike Traynor	May 14
Carla Lee	May 26

The Lee's	May 7
The Price's	May 12





APRIL WINNERS!

Item	Donor	Winner
Flashlight set	Sean McCarthy	Charlie Kay
Almonds	Dottie Wood	Allan Smeltzer
Bertucci's Gift Card	Kevin LeBlond	Frank Silveria
Animal crackers	Frank Silveria	Joan Houde
Home Made Bread	Allan Smeltzer	Sean McCarthy
CD	Rueben McDonald	Ed Porawski
DD Card	Rich Davison	MaryBeth Traynor
DD card	Billy d'Entremont	Joan Houde
Popcorn	Paul Sarty	Herve Houde
50/50		Sean McCarthy
10 free tickets May meeting		Allan Smeltzer
5 free tickets NL photo contest		Bill d'Entremont