



**Gold Wing Road Rider's Association
Chapter P
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
December, 2006**

PA District, Northeastern Region

**National Staff:**

Executive Director:
Melissa Nordoeff
623-581-2500 x212

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www.regionb.f2s.com

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724-588-3488

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610-539-5689

Chapter P Staff:

Chapter Directors:
Mark & Carol Forbes
412-221-0698

Gathering:

3rd Sunday of every month

Eat'N Park Restaurant

Route 60 & Manor Park Drive
Robinson Township, PA
412-787-8556

8:30am Breakfast / 10:00am Meeting

Birthdays:

Jayne Minsterman 1/2
Larry Meyer 1/3
Dennis Chisnell 1/7
Karen Miller 1/12
Roger Martens 1/20
Judy Byers 2/23
Florinda Rosemeyer 2/23

Assistant Chapter Directors:
Marty & Karen Miller
412-563-4920

Chapter Educator:
Andy Lucas
724-776-4309

Treasurer:
Bob Minsterman, Jr.
412-881-2500

Chapter Couple 2007:
Bob & Jayne Minsterman

Ride Coordinator:
Position Available

Public Relations:
Chuck Jack
412-963-8159

Newsletter Editor:
Jayne Minsterman
chapternews@yahoo.com

Event Coordinator:
Judy Byers
412-881-5979

Plaque Attack Coordinators:
Position Available

Goodies:
Karen Miller

Greeting Cards:
Jayne Minsterman

Webmaster:
Marty Miller
<http://www.chapterp.com/>

Kick Start

By Mark Forbes
Chapter Director



The first month of being your Chapter Director has been a whirlwind. I can clearly see that I have much to learn, but I am certain that with all the folks that are willing and able to help, I will be in the groove in no time at all.

The **Christmas Party** was last night and I can't speak for those that were in attendance, but, from my perspective, it was an incredibly fun and enjoyable evening. As always, the present exchange was entertaining to watch (*Rudolph's **blinking nose** had the most mileage moving from person to person*). Thanks to the folks that made cookies for the party. They were all very good. (*I should know...I think I tried them all!*) What was new for this year's Christmas party was the sing along that everyone participated in. We were all given instruments to play (*bells, triangles, cymbals, etc.*) and we accompanied Florinda on the piano to many renditions of Christmas favorites. (*The Grinch would have been driven crazy due to the "noise, noise, noise..." from our singing.*) I would like to thank all who helped make the Christmas party a grand success and a special thanks needs to go out to Judy Byers for her organization of this event. Thanks Judy!

In the newsletter for this month, please note the new Dinner Rides that are scheduled for the first quarter of this New Year. Most of these dinner rides have coupons in the Entertainment and/or Enjoy Books to help defray some cost. If you don't yet have an Entertainment Book, see Bob Minsterman for this year's copy.

Your Chapter P staff is trying to include "Speakers" that will educate us at the monthly Gatherings. Anyone who has knowledge directly or indirectly related to motorcycling would be welcome. If any of you know of a "Speaker" that would be willing to speak at one of our Gatherings, (*the Chapter will pay for their breakfast*) please let me or any of the staff members know.

'Til next time. Take Care.

Mark

Rider Education

By Andy Lucas
Chapter Educator



Riding Side By Side

I have been asked many times, "Are motorcyclists allowed to ride side by side in a single lane?" In Pennsylvania, it is legal to ride two motorcycles side by side in a single lane according to Pennsylvania Vehicle Code 3523. Operating Motorcycles on Roadways Laned for Traffic:

(a) Right to use of lane. All motorcycles are entitled to full use of a lane and no motor vehicle shall be driven in such a manner as to deprive any motorcycle of the full use of a lane.

(b) Overtaking and passing. The operator of a motorcycle shall not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

(c) Operation between lanes or vehicles. No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

(d) Limitation on operating abreast. Motorcycles shall not be operated more than two abreast in a single lane.

(e) Limited access highways. No motorized pedal cycle shall be operated on any limited access highway.

(f) Exception for police officers. Subsections (b) and (c) do not apply to police officers in the performance of their official duties.

From a legal standpoint, you can ride two abreast but, from a motorcycle safety standpoint, it is not the safest practice. There are many crashes when groups of motorcyclists ride together because they tend to ride side by side and follow the motorcyclist in front of them too closely. This cuts down on your reaction time and safety margin.

Give yourself a safety margin by splitting the travel lane into three separate lanes and riding staggered (rather than side by side). This gives you the space to maneuver around hazards such as potholes and debris on the roadway. You also want to keep out of any blind spots that

other road vehicles may have. When riding side by side, you lose many of your safety options and escape routes.

Is it legal to ride side by side in Pennsylvania? Yes.

Would I do it? No Way.

News from the District Director



"THE STONE AGE"

Hi everyone!

Planning for next year's Rally has already started and we will be looking for help and participation from **ALL CHAPTERS**. This is the only way our Rally will be a success and everyone can enjoy it. **SO REMEMBER, WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU TO HELP, SAY "YES"**.

Tom and Renee Wasluck will be coordinating all the activities for **THE FABULOUS 50's** program and believe me they have some great events planned. You will be hearing more from them regarding event details.

Our District fundraising activity for 2007 will again be a raffle with the top prizes being:

1st prize - 2007 VTX-1300-C Motorcycle or \$7,000.00 Cash.

2nd prize - 2006 Silver Wing (FSC600) Scooter or \$5,500.00 Cash..

(All taxes and tags are the responsibility of the winner.)

The tickets have been printed and will go out to the Chapter Directors soon. (Chapter P already has ours.) They will sell for \$5.00 each and we are asking **ALL** the **CHAPTERS** to support this fundraiser.

As last year, 50% of the net profit will go to charities, which will be determined by the Chapters in each of the four quadrants of the state.

Remember the more tickets your Chapter sells, the more money your charity will receive in your Chapter's name. We **need everyone's** help in this fundraiser.

We are still looking for a Chapter to host the **Keystone State Rally**. The Rally will be held at the Lancaster Host. We are looking for a Chapter willing to solicit ads for the Rally Book and obtain packet stuffers.

Just a reminder that the year 2007 will be our 25th District Rally so we would hope that all Chapters will get on board and make this the best of the best District Rallies.

We want to thank **Chapter K** who has volunteered to **HOST "ALL CHAPTERS"**. The event will be held the last weekend in July (26 thru 29) at the Philip Bongiorno Conference Center in Carlisle. For those of you who attended last year, this is the same location, which is a great place to hold this event.

We also want to thank **Chapter H** who has volunteered to **HOST "BXLAZY @ KNOBEL" for 2007**. Information on the dates that the event will be held will be forthcoming.

Forbes Facts

*By Mark Forbes
Chapter Director*

What is the process for the Couple of the Year (COY) Program?

The COY program, which is managed by the Member Enhancement Division, was started in 1988 as a way to recognize Members by selecting a couple that represents the best qualities and ideals of GWRRA and its Members. The program starts at the Chapter level with "Chapter COY," and then through a friendly "competition" process, COYs at the District, Region and National levels are selected and recognized. These COYs normally serve for one to two years. At the National level, the term "International COY" is used because the competition at that level includes Region COYs from both the U.S. and Canada. Chapter P's COY for 2007 is Bob & Jayne Minsterman.

What is a Field Event?

At rallies, you will hear about "field events." These can be both on-bike or off-bike. On-bike events are done at low speed (usually first gear) within a designated area and are designed for fun! Some are done with just the rider, and

others require a co-rider, such as when the co-rider tries to take a bite out of a hot dog that's dangling from a string overhead as they slowly ride by! Off-bike events are similar to on-bike events except they're done off the bike. Plaques, trophies and other similar forms of recognition are normally given to acknowledge the winners within each event.

What is a Mall Show?

This is a pre-scheduled "bike show" set up at a local shopping mall. This gives us an opportunity to set up and display our beautiful machines to the general public. It also assists us in recruiting new Members or Associate Members who may not otherwise have heard about us. (For more information, see the "Public Relations Guide" available from your Chapter Director or through the Member Enhancement Link on our Home Page.) This year's "Mall Show" is scheduled for April 15, 2007, and, once again, we will be combining our show with Chapter D.

High Mileage Contest

By Jayne Minsterman
Newsletter Editor

Congratulations to **Tom & Marilyn Banks** (16,953 miles) who took 1st place, **Ken & Denise Chudrewicz** (15,757 miles) who took 2nd place and **Roy & Shirley Hoak** (11,654) who took 3rd place in this year's High Mileage Contest.

Next year's High Mileage Program will be run differently and all Chapter members are being asked to fill out the Mileage Form that's included in this newsletter. Please return it to Jayne Minsterman, either at this month's Gathering or by mail. If mailing the form back, send it to her as soon as possible at 1145 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15210.

Jacks In The Box

By Chuck Jack
Public Relations

If you've read the newsletter this far, "That's a good thing."



*as Martha would say. If, while reading it, you've given any thought at all of the efforts by those who have volunteered mucho time and sweat to its creation, that would be an even better thing. Chances are, you haven't, as these monthly editions come your way with such regularity that, like sunrise and suppertime, you expect them without considering their genesis and how much work they entailed. Your monthly newsletter (a requirement of GWRRA) is crafted as a great labor of love, for the people, by the people and of the people who care about your organization and its activities. It's the **glue** that holds us together with its ingredients to be supplied by all Chapter participants. To help take the load off of those few selfless folks who make this thing possible, a plea for a renewed involvement was made at a recent Gathering to share your GW-related thoughts, ideas, experiences, etc. A recent or memorable trip would be an obvious submission. Maybe you have a favorite recipe or items for sale. Even a sage quote, goofy anecdote or some words of wisdom could make for interesting reading. So send them in; you'll make Jayne very happy and Martha would probably say, "...and that's the best thing!"*

*With that in mind, we felt that since it's been a while that JITB appeared in the Newsletter and in that period, lots of new folks have joined the fold, we'd offer an **encore** piece, pulled from the archives of "The Best of the Worst of JITB". If this goes well, maybe we'll grind out some fresh stuff. Enjoy!*

We're convinced that the term "Common Sense" is the King of Oxymorons. Maybe "Good Sense" or the folksy "Horse Sense" would be a better description of sane and rational behavior which we all know as anything but "common." This musing surfaced as we read a newspaper column by Dan Majors back in mid-December. Like us, Dan writes fluff, only the Post-Gazette PAYS him to do it. Because it's impossible to improve on his biting sarcasm as we relate and append his thoughts, he'll hopefully not mind us quoting his article. In the piece that caught our interest, Dan focused on a peculiar habit of motorists that

exhibit no sense at all; driving during periods of poor visibility without burning their headlights.

Major's column was written for and published on the Winter Solstice, December 21st, the one day out of 365 that has the least amount of daylight. In it he attributed a driver's refusal to turn on the lights to the flawed logic that "It can't be dark out, I'm still on my way home from work." Even though, by law, between the official hours of sunset and sunrise and whenever atmospheric conditions reduce visibility to 1,000 feet or less, "lighted head lamps" are required (PA MV code Title 75, Section 4302). He offers that during nightfall, the non-use of headlights is "like a large non-working neon sign that says, "I'm to dim to turn on my lights." He goes on to write about those that compromise by using their parking lights. That's like turning on a sign that says, "I'm almost smart enough to have my headlights on."

With absolute authority, Majors states "Scientific research has proven that darkness reduces visibility" and he provides his readers the following "simple" test: (1) Look at the cars in the other lanes. Find a car with its lights on and another with its lights off. (2) Which car is easier to see? (The answer will be the one with its lights on). (3) Which car would you rather be riding in? The one the other drivers can see or the one that is almost invisible?

While we're reading this we're thinking, "Dan's onto something here; something like – If they can see you, they probably won't hit you. But we're also thinking that his observations fell far short. Maybe turning on those headlights during other times makes for "horse sense" too.

Like it or not, Western PA is home to the second oldest average age group in the U.S. which coincidentally possess the next to oldest eyeballs. Peepers over 50 years old, unfortunately, lose their edge constantly. Compounding their loss of acuity are: dirty and rain splattered glass; vibrating mirrors; cloudy gray-on-gray days; blinding sun angles (especially during early fall through late spring); ever increasing traffic; inattentive and chemically impaired drivers and a host of other barriers to vision.

All of these beg for "good sense" to indeed become "common sense." Many countries including Canada (and eventually the U.S.) require full-time daytime running lights (similar to fully burning headlamps) and many States (now including Pennsylvania) mandate the use of headlamps when windshield wipers are in use. Thankfully, motorcyclists have for several years been un-equipped with a headlight switch, forcing us to a least exhibit "common sense."

Most of us though, are motorists first and motorcyclists second; we spend much more time in our cars and often times we're as visible as a stealth fighter. Next time on the road, observe the pros – the bus and semi drivers. Their humungous rigs are much easier to see but most up the safety ante with their lights on. Makes good sense.

Good Tidings At This Year's Christmas Party

by Shirley Hoak



Even though there was no nip in the air this past Sunday, the atmosphere was filled with festive tidings. Twenty-six Chapter members gathered at Peter's Place in Bridgeville for the Chapter P Christmas Party. All of the ladies came dressed in their favorite Christmas sweaters. Even the guys were looking dapper. However, I was disappointed that Bob Minsterman didn't have on his red Christmas suspenders but, once he showed me the Christmas tie he was wearing, all was made right.

We dined on prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, fish, rigatoni and various vegetables. For dessert, we had French Vanilla ice cream. Several of the ladies of the Chapter out did themselves with the selection of Christmas cookies that they baked. There were sugar cookies stacked up to form a Christmas tree, buckeyes, brownies decorated with Christmas icing, snowball surprises and mini cheesecakes just to name a few.

After dinner, it was time to have the annual steal the present game, which is always great fun. This year's big steal was the blinking

Rudolph nose for the guys; you had to be there to understand. The ladies had two favorite presents that were being stolen during the night. One was a beautiful gold-wrapped package and the other one had an adorable snowman on the top of it. It always amazes me how much time and effort everyone puts into decorating their packages, but that's what makes it so much fun. When the time came to open the gifts, everyone was happy with their choices.

As an added bonus this year, we did some Christmas caroling. Florinda Rosemeyer played the keyboard that Mark Forbes brought in from home. Florinda also passed out bells, symbols, chimes and other musical instruments so that we could accompany her. I must say that everyone was putting forth a gallant effort with their singing. At the height of the singing, the waitresses locked the doors and ran for their lives.

The Chinese Auction was a huge success again this year. I want to thank everyone who donated items for the auction. There is talk of changing it from a Chinese Auction to a Japanese Auction next year so that Denise Chuderewicz and Audrey Thompson-Haas won't win all the prizes.

The High Mileage Awards were given out. This year, Get Go gift cards were awarded instead of the plaques that were awarded in years previous.

Before we knew it, it was time for this wonderful evening to come to an end.

I would like to take this time to wish every Chapter P member a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. I know we are all looking forward to 2007 and the start of the riding season.

Helpful Tips

By Mark Forbes
Chapter Director

Unusual GL1800 Battery Charging Problem.

Jim Sadler from Australia tipped me off about this. No charge was going into his battery, even though the alternator was giving full output and the regulator checked out okay. Turns out his

cruise control fuse had blown and when this fuse blows the battery won't charge.

Spare Keys For GL1800.

The Honda Accord key blank is the same and can be used as a backup key for emergencies.

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How to Stay Young

By Shirley Hoak

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That's why you pay them.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop" and the devil's name is Alzheimer's.
4. Enjoy the simple things. Trust in the Lord.
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh till you gasp for breath.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve and move on.
7. Surround yourself with what you love. Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever.
8. Cherish your health.
9. Don't take guilt trips.
10. Tell the people you love that you love them at every opportunity.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away!

My Dog....

By Mark Forbes
Chapter Director



Everybody I know who has a dog usually calls him "Rover" or Boy". I call mine "Sex". Now, Sex has been very embarrassing to me.

When I went to city hall to renew his dog license, I told the clerk that I would like a license for Sex. He said, "I'd like to have one too." Then I said "you don't understand. I've had Sex since I was nine years old". He said, "You must have been quite a kid".

When I decided to get married, I told the minister that I would like to have Sex at the wedding. He told me to wait until after the wedding was over. I said, "But Sex has played a big part in my life and my whole world revolves around Sex". He said that he didn't want to hear about my personal life and would not marry us in his church. I told him everyone would enjoy having Sex at the wedding. The next day we were married at the Justice of the Peace. My family was barred from the church from then on.

When I went on my honeymoon, I took the dog with me. I told the hotel clerk that I wanted a room for my wife and me and a special room for Sex. He said "Every room in the place is for sex" I said "You don't understand. Sex keeps me awake at night". The clerk said "Me Too".

One day I entered Sex in a contest, but before the competition began, the dog ran away. Another contestant asked me why I was just looking around. I told him I had planned to have Sex in the contest. He told me that I should have sold tickets. "But you don't understand," I said, "I had hopes to have Sex on TV". He called me a show off.

When my wife and I separated, we went to court to fight for custody of the dog. I said, "Your Honor, I had Sex before I was married" The judge said, "Me too". Then I told him that after I was married, Sex left me. He said "Me too".

Last night Sex ran off again. I spent hours looking around town for him. A cop came over to me and asked, "What are you doing in the alley at 4 o'clock in the morning?" I said, "I'm looking for sex".

My case comes up on Friday.

The Power Of Prayer

By Shirley Hoak

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures of the nativity set. Immediately, he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the missing baby Jesus. He walked up to the little boy and said, "Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?" The little boy replied, "I got Him from the church". "And why did you take Him?" asked the pastor. The boy said. "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and told him that if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block.

The Christmas Wish

By Shirley Hoak

The Santa Claus at the mall was very surprised when a young lady about 20 years old walked up and sat on his lap. Santa doesn't usually take request from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him, so he asked her "What do you want for Christmas?" "Something for my mother, please" said the young lady. "Something for your mother? Well, that's very thoughtful of you," smiled Santa. "What do you want me to bring her? Without blinking she replied, "A son-in-law."

Reindeer Facts

By Shirley Hoak



According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow

antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November and mid December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blizen--had to be a female. We should've have known. Only women would be able to drag a fat man in a red suit all around the world in one night and not get lost!

Christmas Jokes

By Shirley Hoak

- Q. Do you know why Santa's so jolly?
 A. He knows where all the bad girls live.



- Q. If you are afraid of Santa Claus, what condition do you have?
 A. Claustrophobia.

Christmas Baking Tip

When making cookies, make a double batch and save half the dough in a Ziploc bag. Flatten it to ¼ to ½ inch thick so the dough fills the bag, then freeze. For a quick treat, pull out the dough, cut it into squares and bake.



MILEAGE FORM

GWRRA Member Name: _____ Member #: _____	
Make/Model/Year of Bike #1: _____	
Starting Mileage as of 12/17/06: _____	
Make/Model/year of Bike #2: _____	
Starting Mileage as of 12/17/06: _____	
I certify that this information is true and accurate. If found falsifying this information, I understand that I will be disqualified from all awards, certificates or recognition pertaining to the Chapter P Mileage Program.	
_____ Signature	_____ Date



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Dec. 17	Sunday	Gathering	Eat 'N Park Restaurant Route 60 & Manor Park Drive Robinson Township, PA	15	8:30 a.m. – eat 10:00 a.m. – mtg.
Jan. 11	Thursday	Dinner Ride	East Wind Chinese Restaurant (Entertainment Card #C54, Enjoy Card #116) 7 Parkway Center, Suite 110-B Greentree, PA 412-937-0554 RSVP to Judy Byers 412-881-5979	5	7:00 p.m.
Jan. 31	Wednesday	Dinner Ride	Rotelli (Entertainment Card #C10, Enjoy Card #87) Robinson Township, PA RSVP to Karen Miller 412-563-4920	5	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 22	Thursday	Dinner Ride	Paparazzi Italian Ristorante (Entertainment Card #C45, Enjoy Card #72) 2100 East Carson Street Southside, PA 412-488-0800 RSVP to Bob Minsterman 412-881-2500	5	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 27	Tuesday	Dinner Ride	Benihana 2100 Greentree Road Greentree, PA 412-276-2100 RSVP to Mark Forbes 412-221-0698	5	7:00 p.m.

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