



Gold Wing Road Rider's Association

Chapter P

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

September, 2006



PA District, Northeastern Region

National Staff:

Executive Director:
Don & Cindy Brock
800-843-9460

Region B Staff:

www.regionb.f2s.com

NE Region Director:
Jere & Linda Goodman
908-874-5698

District Staff:

District Director:
Bob & Marcy Gabriele
215-547-3417

Asst. District Directors:
Chuck & Evelyn Stone
814-652-6554

Phil & Jan Paylor
570-836-5285

Dennis & Pam Milford
724-588-3488

Byron & Baerbel Wilds
610-539-5689

Chapter P Staff:

Chapter Directors:
Roy & Shirley Hoak
412-331-6141

Asst. Chapter Directors
Mark & Carol Forbes
412-221-0698

Asst. to Asst. Chapter Directors:
Marty & Karen Miller
412-563-4920

Chapter Educator:
Andy Lucas
724-776-4309

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

Chapter Couple 2006:
Bob & Jayne Minsterman

Ride Coordinator:
Position Available

Public Relations:
Mark Forbes

Newsletter Editor:
Jayne Minsterman

chapterpnews@yahoo.com

Event Coordinator:
Position Available

Plaque Attack Coordinators:
Joe & Mary Pallotti
412-331-6859

Goodies:
Karen & Stacey Miller

Greeting Cards:
Jayne Minsterman

Webmaster:
Marty Miller
www.chapterp.com

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:

Roy Hoak 9/3
Carol Horne 9/6
Michael Mignella 9/6
Denise Chuderewicz 9/10
Bob Wolfe 9/30
Carol Forbes 10/15
Rich Eagle 10/19
Susan Mignella 10/21
Mary Pallotti 10/22
David Lacey 10/22
Pat Meyer 10/24

The Hoak Times

By Roy Hoak
Chapter Director



Hello Everyone!

Well, here we are in the month of September already. I always felt that this month was a month of transition. Summer is over...the kids are back in school...it is the time for us all to take a deep breath and maybe slow down.

The long-awaited Keystone State Rally is now over and, in the coming months, there will be a change at the top. The announcement of Chuck and Evelyn Stone as our new District Directors beginning in November was wonderful news. Our own Chapter will be having a changeover in a month when Shirley and I will be handing the reins to Mark and Carol Forbes as the new Chapter Directors.

I, myself, am hoping that things will be slowing down so that I can participate in some of the upcoming events that the Chapter has scheduled. September also brings the change of seasons with Mother Nature putting on a brilliant display of colors for us. There is definitely a chill in the air, the days are getting shorter and I know that some of us will be thinking about putting the bikes away soon. I promise you though that there is still a lot of riding time left for this year.

Last year, some of the best ride participation came when I just had the wing-it rides. I will keep you posted of when, and if, we have wing-its this year.

Pizza in the Park will once again be held in October, more details in the newsletter and at this month's Gathering. Also, keep in mind that we are still I need of donated items for the Chinese Auction that will be held at our annual Christmas Party in December.

Until next month...

this is the Rainman Roy!!!

Rider Education

By Andy Lucas
Chapter Educator



Check in, don't check out

Have you ever caught yourself on the road wondering what you were doing for the past couple of minutes? It happens to many of us when we are thinking about something other than where we are and what we're doing ... and that's when crashes can happen! In fact, 68 percent of all crashes occur during the first 12 minutes of a trip, and 57 percent happen during a trip of less than five miles when the rider has other things on his or her mind.

Mental preparation is an essential part of managing risk when riding. Take a few minutes to check your motorcycle and gear before you ride. Even when nothing needs to be adjusted or fixed, the time you spend will help to focus your attention on a safe ride ahead.

It's also a good idea to plan your ride before you set off. Based on your intended route, what hazards might you most likely encounter? Where will you have to deal with intersecting traffic? What lanes will you want to be in to follow your intended route? Where will you park at your destination? While traffic conditions may cause you to adjust your plan once you're under way, the act of creating a ride plan reinforces your mental focus so that you can effectively manage any risk.

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Forbes Facts

By Mark Forbes
Assistant Chapter Director

GWRRA Benefits

“Did you know...”

What is a Ride?

All Day or Weekend Ride: As the name implies, this is generally a scenic trip that is planned well in advance and includes several meals and normally quite a few miles (over 100 per day).

Dinner Ride: Most Chapters have scheduled dinner rides (year-round by bike or, in bad weather, by car) to their favorite restaurant. Normally, these rides will be scheduled at least a month in advance and the schedule published in the Chapter Newsletter or in the "Annual Ride/Activity Schedule" that many Chapters prepare. These rides will start from a designated point, but the meet/departure times may vary. The ride may be a short one directly to the restaurant, or it may be a longer ride with a stop for dinner at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the ride.

Ice Cream or Dessert Ride: This is similar to a "dinner ride" except, as the name implies, it is normally a shorter ride (such as after work) and a stop is made for some sort of dessert (ice cream is a big favorite of many GWRRA members, especially Mike Mignella and Larry Meyer).

Miller's Mentionables

By Marty Miller
Assistant Chapter Director

On August 17, Karen, Stacey and I headed up to Cranberry for Chapter D's monthly Gathering. Stacey was looking for some saddle time so we let her ride her bike up there. We got there just as the meeting was getting ready to start. We didn't win the 50/50 or anything else like we usually do when we visit another Chapter.

On Thursday, August 24, our alarms went off at 4:30am so we could be on the road by

6:00am. For a change, we left on time. Karen, Cassie and I took the car so we could deliver the cases of food that the Chapter was donating. Stacey saddled up and we were on our way. I even hooked up a CB so I could communicate with her during the trip. We went down Route 51 and then followed 981 up to Mt. Pleasant. We picked up Route 31 and followed that to Bedford where we got on Route 30. After eating breakfast in Breezewood, we got on the turnpike and followed that to Route 283 that took us down to Lancaster. After following Route 30 for a couple miles, we arrived at the Lancaster Host about noontime. Stacey was really ready for a break at that time. The registration table was already open so we checked in and then proceeded to get all the food out of the car. Karen went and got all the patches from Steve. I went and walked around the vendor area while Stacey and Karen helped with registration in the lobby for about two hours. Then it was finally check-in time, our room was finally ready. At about six o'clock we headed on down to the taco party where there was anything you wanted to make a great taco. Being that Stacey was the youngest rider and she wouldn't be there Friday, Bob gave her the award at the taco party. Stacey had to be home in time for drills at the National Guard by Saturday morning.

Early Friday morning, Cassie had us up to go for a walk. She loved walking around someplace different. After breakfast, we once again headed for the vendor area to see if there was anything new. While I was walking around the vendor area, I came upon a 1800 that was all tore apart. The owner said that there were no brake lights. At first, I was not going to get involved but I like a good challenge. One person gave me a test light and another had a manual. The problem was the connector under the seat had gotten too hot and was not making contact. I believe this problem occurred because the owner did not put a trailer isolator on his bike. The extra draw from his trailer lights is what burned this connector up. So, if

anyone is considering pulling a trailer, please use an isolator because it could save you a lot of grief down the road.

No sooner than I got done fixing the bike, it was time to take Stacey home because it was already two o'clock. Stacey found out first hand why we made her take safety classes. As we were going up the 7-mile hill outside of Somerset, a person squeezed her out of her lane. She slowed down and blew the horn but the guy in the car was in another world. He acted like he did nothing wrong just like a typical cager. There were signs that said left lane ends 2500 feet but I guess people from Virginia can't read. We made it home about seven o'clock and Stacey was happy we were home.

Karen went and walked around the piñata parade after we left. She said some Chapters really put in a lot of time doing their piñata. Friday night, Karen went to the Fiesta and sat with Chapter Y. Bob gave out some more awards like the oldest rider and the largest Chapter in attendance. I hope Chapter P can do better next year with the theme being the Fabulous 50's. There were also awards for the best hat and the best chili.

On Saturday, my day started at 4:30am and I left for Lancaster at 5:30. I arrived at the hotel at 9:15 after stopping for gas for 15 minutes. It was kind of like a Randy Plaque Attack Ride if you get my drift. We walked around and went to the COY competition that lasted about an hour and a half. There were some really good candidates. At the banquet, we sat with Chapter Q and we had a great time. Our table was the first table to be called for dinner so that was really nice. At the banquet, there was a tribute to Bob and Marcy as they are stepping down as District Directors. Our new directors will be Chuck and Evelyn Stone; they are from Everett, PA (down by Breezewood). We would like to wish them good luck and look forward to working with them in the future. Chapter O's couple were picked as the 2006-2007 PA COY. Steve and Carol who were this year's couple will be taking over Dave and Bonnie's duties as

COY Coordinators for Pennsylvania. Steve and Carol will also be representing Region B at the COY competition at next year's Wing Ding in Billings, MT.

The District has one more year to fulfill its contract with the Lancaster Host and then, if we can find a suitable location, we could go somewhere else. I know some people don't want to go back to the same place but its not really about the location, it's the old friendships you renew and the new ones you make.

On Sunday, we woke to lightning and thunder. We watched the radar for the best time to load the trailer and leave. It rained off and on all the way home with the worst rain coming between Bedford and Somerset. All I could think of was where was Roy. It rained so hard at one point that I was only going 40mph and I could hardly see the road. We arrived home at 11:00 and then went to a picnic to finish out the day.

It was an expensive and tiring rally. I logged 1060 miles in four days using 33 gallons of fuel between the bike and van. Stacey used only 6.5 gallons to go 530 miles that works out to a little over 81mpg. I wish my car or Wing could do that good. We also had turnpike tolls that came to \$54. That was Stacey's first big trip and she really liked it.

On Sunday, September 10, the Chapter had its summer picnic. We had a pretty good turnout because it was a beautiful day. We sat around and ate and ate and ate. There were some really good desserts. At the end, we sang happy birthday to Denise as it was her birthday. We all had a great time.

By the time everyone reads this, there will be pictures of the Lancaster Rally and of the Summer Picnic posted on the website so stop by and take a look.

Pizza In The Park Party

By Jayne Minsterman

We're having a Pizza in the Park Party on Thursday, October 5, 2006, at 6:00pm. We will be dining at Kolich Grove in North Park. The Chapter pays for the pizza and the soda. Everyone's welcome and we hope to see you there. We'll be taking a head count at this month's Gathering so we know how many pizzas & soda to get. If make it to this month's Gathering, please call Jayne Minsterman at 412-881-2500 prior to October 2, 2006.



Enjoy and Entertainment Books

By Marty Miller

Assistant Chapter Director

The Chapter has begun selling both the Enjoy and Entertainment Books. Buy one or both for yourself or get a few to give as a presents--they make excellent gifts. The books sell for \$25.00 each. The profit from these fundraisers will go toward Chapter functions like the Christmas party and picnics. Why not get your's at this month's Gathering?

Summer Picnic

By Jayne Minsterman
Newsletter Editor

This year's summer picnic was held on September 10, at Parcell Grove in South Park. Twenty-four members and one dog (Cassie) of the Chapter "P" family attended. If you missed it, you missed a good meal and a fun time.

We ate hamburgers and hotdogs (cooked by Chef Ken), potato salad, macaroni salad, broccoli salad, 3-bean salad and baked beans. For dessert, there was apple cake, chocolate cake, white cake and rum cake. If you've never attended a Chapter event where the side dishes and desserts were made by fellow Chapter



members, you don't know what you're missing. We have some excellent cooks among us!

Surprisingly, the weather was gorgeous even though Rainman Roy attended!

Chinese Auction

By Shirley Hoak
Chapter Director

Shirley Hoak has begun collecting items for the Chapter's annual Chinese auction (held at the Christmas party). If you have anything you wish to donate, we would appreciate it. Nothing is too big or too small. Please bring all items to the Gathering or, if the item is too big, we can make arrangements to have it picked up. This is an event that everyone looks forward to and it makes a small amount of money for the Chapter.

A Side Trip to Michigan

By Shirley Hoak
Chapter Director

On Friday, August 25, 2006, I decided to take my brother Bob up on his invitation to come up to Michigan for a long weekend. So, we left Pittsburgh heading for the great outdoors. Since we had left later on Friday than we wanted, we decided to take the Interstate for awhile, thinking this would make up for the time lost. This looked good on paper, but we were only on Interstate 79 for a few miles when the traffic came to a stand still. We heard on the CB from the truckers that were going southbound this was the longest traffic jam they had seen in a long time. It seems that there was an accident up ahead plus construction and everyone had to merge into one lane. Great, now what do we do? Luck was with us, Roy could see that the exit for Evans City was not too far ahead of us and we were able to exit. Once we were off the Interstate, we took all back roads along Lake Erie into Ohio around Toledo and up into Michigan. It was a very scenic ride along Lake Erie. We spent the night at Port Clinton, Ohio, right on the lake.

The next morning, it was sunny and bright. We later learned that Michigan was having severe thunderstorms that morning. I guess Roy's black cloud was looking for him (don't worry it caught up with us later). We arrived mid-afternoon at Waldenwoods Resort. It is located about 25 miles west of Ann Arbor, Michigan. We had a small cabin right on the lake. Since the lodge was located right next to our cabin, we got to watch an outdoor wedding take place. We spent the next four days relaxing. Roy got to fish every day since my brother left a boat for him to use whenever he wanted. My brother, who retired last year, is now working for the summer months as a camp helper in campgrounds or he could pick a

national park. There is a huge demand for mostly retirees that want to work these parks. He gets a lot of perks doing this. Besides getting to tour the United States, he gets to work with some great people and have fun doing it. Something Roy and I will keep in mind when we retire. He is looking at Maine for his next year's choice. Maybe a side trip up to Maine is on the agenda for next year.

Roy's black cloud found us on Sunday afternoon while we were in the pool. We had showers on and off and a steady rain on Monday. On Tuesday, we put our rain-gear on and headed home, with the rain showers following us the whole way back to Pennsylvania.



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Sept. 16	Saturday	Ride	Pennsylvania High Point Ride Meet at Bridgeville Kings	5	9:30 a.m.
Sept. 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.
Oct. 1	Sunday	Ride	Clarion Autumn Festival Meet at Wexford Kings	5	9:30 a.m.
Oct. 5	Thursday	Staff Meeting	To Be Held At The Pizza in the Park Party		6:00 p.m.
Oct. 5	Thursday	Pizza Party	Pizza in the Park Party Kolic Grove, North Park	5	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 7-9	Saturday- Monday	Overnight Ride	Chapter D's Mystery Ride See Chapter D's Website	25	
Oct. 9	Monday	Dinner Ride	CiCi's Pizza Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA	5	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 15	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.
Oct. 22	Saturday	Ride	Coopers Rock West Virginia Meet at Bridgeville Kings	5	10:00 a.m.
Oct. 26	Thursday	Dinner Ride	Max's Allegheny Tavern 537 Suisman Street Pittsburgh, PA	5	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 1	Wednesday	Staff Meeting	TBA		7:00 p.m.
Nov. 6	Monday	Dinner Ride	Penn Brewery 800 Vinial Street Pittsburgh, PA	5	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 16	Thursday	Dinner Ride	Hard Rock Café Station Square	5	7:00 p.m.
Nov. 19	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.
Dec. 6	Wednesday	Staff Meeting	TBA		7:00 p.m.
Dec. 10	Sunday	Christmas Party	Peter's Place Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017	50	TBA
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.

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