GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER PA-E

CHAPTER "E" HOMEPAGE: <u>WWW.GWRRAPAE.COM</u>

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July 2022

July Gathering Sunday, July 10

Bill's Golfland

August Gathering Sunday, August 14

Cedar Creek Park

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Where We've Been

June 5 – Sunday—June Gathering - This month's Gathering was held at **Eagles Landing Restaurant**. Sixteen members made it to the Gathering, but the highlight of the day was the After-Gatherng ride. Read the Editor's section for further details.

June 9 - Thursday - Gianelli's - Twelve members made it to Gianelli's. This place never fails to provide a good meal. As usual, we closed the place.

June 15 - Wednesday - Country Custard Cottage - It was really hot, but we were surprised only six members showed up for ice cream. Lee put the rest of us to shame by polishing off a rather large banana split.

Jun 18 - Saturday - PA District Ride-In & Pig Roast - Six members made the trek for the Pig Roast. Read the Editor's section for further details.

June 22 - Wednesday - Serendipity Tea Room - The women went for tea and men spent the afternoon at the Speers Street Grille. Six members were involved and everyone had a really good time.

June 25 - Saturday - Spring House - The event was cancelled.

June 26/27—Hillbilly Hot Dogs - See Editor's section for details.

June 30 - Thursday– Kerbers Dairy - Eight members appeared to partake in a classic ice cream feast at Kerbers. It was hot, so the licking was fast and fierce.

Where We're Going

July 6 - Wednesday - **LaEda's Restaurant** - The address is 1723 Grand Blvd, Monessen. Meeting time is 6:30PM.

July 10 – Sunday - June Gathering - This month's Gathering will be held at **Bill's Golfland**. The address is 209 Bills Lane, Route 51, Belle Vernon. Weather permitting, there will be an after-Gathering ride. An explanation of the change to Bill's Golfland can be found in the Chapter Director's section.

July 14 - Thursday - Sarris Candies - This is an ice cream/candy only ride. The address is 511 Adams Ave, Canonsburg. Meeting time is 6:30PM.

July 23 - Saturday - Butler Bikes & BBQ - Butler County Farm Show Grounds - The address is 625 Evans City Road, Butler. Group will leave from Denny's in Belle Vernon at 10:00AM.

July 28 - Thursday - Mingo Creek County Park - The address is Rte PA-136, Finleyville. We're meeting at 12:30Pm at Pavilion #4 in the Park. Everyone should bring their own picnic basket with food, drinks, plates, cutlery, etc. The Chapter is not providing anything except the meeting location.

Aug 5 - Friday - Hopkins Store - The address is 1751 Browns Creek Road, Nineveh. The meeting time is 5:30PM.

Aug 9 - Tuesday - Cracker Barrel - The address is 154 W Pennsylvania Ave, New Stanton.Meeting time is 6:30 PM

Aug 14 - Saturday - Annual Picnic - Cedar Creek Park - The address is 453 Evergreen Drive, Belle Vernon. The Gathering will be at 1:00Pm, with the meal to follow. The Chapter will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, plates and cutlery. Everyone should bring a covered dish to serve eight.

From the Director's Chair

Howdy Folks,

Well June has come and gone; July is supposed to be very hot! Lois and I just got back from Dolly Wood in Pigeon Forge Tennessee. We had a very nice time walking around the park and taking in the free shows. We also toured the town which had a lot of stores to shop in for the little ladies. I myself indulged in the great home cooking at all the country restaurants, I must have put on at least 5 pounds. The weather was hot. The temperature was 103 each day. We were glad to get back to our air condition cabin in the woods at the end of the day.



We must change our gathering location once again do to staffing issues. Our new location for our Sunday July 10th gathering will be at Bills Golf Land on Route 51 in Rostraver Pa. The gathering will start at 9:30am. You can order breakfast and drink. You will need to order your food at the order window, where you will get a number. When your food is ready, they will call your order number. You can get free refills on your coffee by going back to the service window. We have a room that we can close off for a private gathering. Lois and I are trying our best to satisfy our group. Trying to keep the cost down for a hot breakfast is hard to do with the rise in prices. If you have any suggestions, please fill free to contact one of the chapter officers.

I will have flyers on the table for up-and-coming events at the gathering. If you have plans to attend the District Rally, the application with all the info will be at each gathering for your convenience. If you have any articles or stories for the newsletter you would like to share with the chapter, please contact Jim or myself.

Until we meet again Happy Trails, Renny DiBartolomeo











From Our Webmaster

Motorcycle Safety Facts to Consider

The motorcycle is a uniquely American icon. For many people, it is a symbol of freedom – the freedom to go where you want and when you want, unhindered by everyday responsibilities. It is a symbol of the open road. It is ideal for a culture that is always on the move. It represents the romance of movement and the possibility of discovery. A motorcycle is a way to see what's over the next hill, around the next bend, and just down the road.



In spite of all the romance and the symbolism, a motorcycle is a powerful

machine that's capable of causing injury and death if not operated correctly. In this article, we're going to look at some little known motorcycle safety facts. These facts are meant to engage your interest and educate you so that you're going to be a little more aware of some of the things that you can do to make your next trip on your bike a little safer.

The chances are that if you're involved in a motorcycle accident, it will involve a car. Nearly 75% of all motorcycle accidents involve a collision with an automobile. In over 60% of these accidents, the driver of the car is at fault, usually by violating the motorcycle's right of way.

This means that if you want to stay safe and avoid an accident, you need to constantly be aware of the vehicular traffic around you while you're riding.

When the driver of a car violates a motorcycle's right of way, it is usually because the driver failed to see the motorcycle, or saw the motorcycle when it was too late to take corrective action. This means that as a motorcycle driver, you need to be aware of other vehicle's blinds spots. You need to avoid these blind spots whenever possible. When avoiding a blind spot isn't possible, then you need to spend as little time as possible in the spot.

Less than 25% of all motorcycle accidents are solo collisions, that is, the motorcycle colliding with a stationary, non-vehicular object like the roadway, a pole. or a wall. Nearly 70% of all solo collisions are caused by operator error, things like letting the bike slide out and falling, or excessive speed causing under -cornering during a turn. Less than 10% of all solo collisions are caused by equipment failure, like a tire blow out, or by roadway obstructions, like potholes. This means that if you want to stay safe, you need to make sure that you are observing a safe speed for the road conditions that you encounter.

The majority of motorcycle accidents occur within five miles of the victim's home, usually on short trips involving errands, or pleasure drives with family or friends, and usually occur within minutes of leaving home. This means that you have to take the most care on your motorcycle when you are most comfortable and in the most familiar surroundings. Oftentimes, being close to home on a route that you know well can cause you to drop your guard and become less vigilant. This lack of vigilance is what causes the accident.

Most motorcycle accidents occur at low speeds. The average speed of a motorcycle prior to an accident is less than 30 mph and nearly 20 mph at the time of impact. Very few accidents occur at high speeds.

This means that you need to more aware of traffic conditions and the road when you are traveling slowly than when you are traveling at a higher rate of speed. Just as you can get complacent when close to home because it's comfortable, you can also get complacent about safety when you're moving relatively slowly. The slower speed lulls your mind into thinking that conditions are safe. This, in turn, causes your guard to drop and an accident is the result.

Almost one-half of all fatal motorcycle accidents involve alcohol. This means that you can never drink and safely operate a motorcycle. Alcohol causes the same lapses in the judgment of distance, in reaction time, and in coordination to a motorcycle rider as it does to the driver of a car. In addition, alcohol also affects

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balance which is essential to being able to control a motorcycle. Drinking and driving a motorcycle is a good way to end up as a statistic in more ways than one.

Motorcycle accidents of all types usually result in injuries. Ninety-eight percent of accidents involving another vehicle resulted in injuries to the motorcycle operator. Ninety-six percent of solo motorcycle accidents also resulted in injuries to the operator. In nearly 50% of both types of accidents, the injuries were severe.

Furthermore, the percentage of injury severity increases with speed, engine size, and alcohol use. This means that you always have to be aware that a motorcycle places the operator in a more vulnerable position when it comes to an accident than the driver of a car. A motorcycle operator is more exposed and therefore suffers greater trauma when a collision occurs.

The use of a helmet is the most important safety step any motorcycle operator can take. Riders without helmets are 40% more likely to suffer fatal head trauma and three times more likely to suffer brain injuries from accidents than riders with helmets.

In addition, most fatal injuries that result from a motorcycle accident involve the head and neck. The use of a helmet greatly reduces head and neck injuries. As a result, fatalities from these injuries are also greatly reduced. This means that you should never get on a motorcycle without a U.S. Department of Transportation certified helmet.

Not surprisingly, motorcycle operators who do not have a license or are driving on a revoked license are more likely to be involved in an accident. So are operators who have not participated in some type of motorcycle safety program. This means that it is in your best interest to take a motorcycle safety program to learn how to reduce your risk of accidents as a part of obtaining your motorcycle license.

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From the Editor's Desk

Finally, A Nice Day

After the June Gathering, four couples agreed that an after-Gathering ride was most appropriate. As is always the question, "where do we go". Well, in keeping with Chapter E tradition, off we headed down Route 51 South to hit Route 40. Our first stop was Ohiopyle. The place was busy, but we were able



to

find parking and set up the next leg of the trip. After some brief discussion, it was decided to have lunch at the Braddock Restaurant. We had passed it on the way to Ohiopyle, so I knew it was just down the road a



short piece. Just before leaving, Moe said he was familiar with the area and knew a shortcut over some back roads to the restaurant. I've come to learn that the word "shortcut" means different things to different people. To Moe it means a great ride on some back country roads, not necessarily being concerned which direction you are heading. And that's exactly what he delivered. After about a ninety minute ride to backtrack 10 miles to the restaurant, we arrived at the Braddock Restaurant.

The food was excellent and the portions were enormous. I had

originally talked to Moe and Steve about taking on the Homewrecker challenge (eat three pounds of hot dog and fixin's in twenty minutes) at Hillbilly Hot Dog, but after watching those two polish off a leisurely lunch, I knew the Homewrecker would not be a problem.

On the ride home, Kathie and I both agreed this would be one of those jaunts we would file away and remember fondly on another day.

PA District Ride-In Pig Roast

Chapter N was the host chapter with their Director, Maryann, being the primary chef. When we arrived, it

was obvious much thought and many hours had gone into the planning and execution of this event. There were Chapter N members strategically placed to direct us to parking and registration, and to assist in any issues that might arise. There were games, door prizes, gift baskets, a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction to keep us busy while we waited for the roasting pig to reach perfection.



We arrived early so there was plenty of time to meet with friends from around the state we hadn't seen in a while and to strike up new acquaintances as

well. Except for the occasional 25 mile per hour gust of wind, one of which dismantled a canopy, the day was flawless.

When Maryann announced the pig was ready, it was really something to see the masses huddle around the smoker to see our dinner emerge. You'd have thought no one had ever seen a roasted pig before. And since everyone brought a covered dish, there was more than enough delicious food for the sixty attendees. At the end of the meal, everyone there was glad they came, except for the pig, of course.

After a full day of fun and frolic, we came away with a few thoughts. First, Maryann and her team from

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From the Editor's Desk (Continued)

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Chapter N did themselves proud in presenting this event. It was very well organized and well worth the time they invested. Second, if you're ever having a bad day, give Sonya, the Assistant Director, a call. Her enthusiasm is boundless and very contagious. And finally, it's these events that make membership in GWRRA worth it. When people ask us why we are members, an experience like today is at the top of our list, great ride, good food and lots of friends.

The only thing that was overlooked is that Maryann forgot to announce the date for next year's roast. As soon as she does, we're marking our calendar, and you should too.

Not What We Planned

We had been planning the over-night trip to Hillbilly Hot Dog for a number of weeks. Our plan was to tour West Virginia on Saturday, stay over at Summersville, have lunch on Sunday at Hillbilly Hot Dog and then meander home. Weather looked like it was going to be hot, but bearable, but no one hestitated to go. There were six couples scheduled to make the trek. Our starting point was the Sunoco station on Morgantown Road south of Uniontown. About 9:30 AM, people started arriving and the usual conversations ensued. The last couple arrived around 9:45 AM, so after a brief meeting to discuss the day's activities, we began our departure. Len & Patsy were in the



lead, Steve & and Amy were second in line followed by Kathie & me, Moe & Carla and Wally & Sharon. As we pulled out of the gas station a Ford F-150 truck pulling a trailer inserted himself between Len and Steve. We sat at the light for a minute and made the left turn towards Route 43. As we started up the grade, the truck with the trailer slowed down and pulled off to the side of the road. It appeared as if he recognized his position in our group and was letting us go around him so that we could get back together. That was not the case. Just as Steve & Amy began passing the truck, the driver turned his wheel sharply to the left and began pulling across the lane. The driver later explained to the police that he was trying to make a U-turn. The collision was unavoidable. The truck basically hit them broadside and pushed them across the road about fifteen feet. By the time I was able to get to them, both were lying on the pavement, motionless, with obvious head injuries. Even though both were wearing helmets, those helmets were torn off from the impact.

Within seconds there was a mass of people rendering aid. As luck would have it, there were three nurses at the scene to render assistance. The ambulances arrived, stabilized both of them and immediately transported them to the WVU Ruby Trauma Center. As of Sunday morning, both were still in ICU. Steve's injuries were less severe and he was to be moved to a regular hospital room. Amy had been intubated

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and placed in an induced coma, but her prognosis was good.

As of this writing, Steve is home recuperating from head and rib injuries. He has no recollection of the accident. Maybe that's a good thing. Amy is still in the hospital, but is out of ICU. Her primary injury in bleeding on the brain, but the doctors are hopeful for a full recovery.

When this kind of thing happens, in retrospect, we always want to analyze the incident and extract some message. So what can be learn from this tragedy. Well, unfortunately, I don't think there are any pearls of wisdom can be extracted that we already don't know. First, cagers are going to do stupid things. In this instance, the driver decided he needed to be going in a different direction and so he tried to turn around. As it turns out, the police ended up arresting the driver for suspected DUI, so his stupid decision was made much earlier when he decided to get behind the wheel after a successful Friday night bender. Second, we must realize that we must be vigilant and make every effort to ride safely, including proper attire. Yes, Steve and Amy were hospitalized, but no one can predict how much more severe their injuries may have been had they not been wearing their helmets. Finally, and this is probably the most disconcerting message of all, no matter how diligent we are, accidents are going to happen. It is just a risk associated with the activity we choose. That being said, we should still maximize our efforts to ride safe and make it home at the end of each ride.

Best wishes to Steve and Amy for their speedy and full recovery.

End of an Era

"It's been a Great Ride" was the mantra for the GWRRA's founding couple as they announced the closing of GWRRA. Their announcement came as part of the opening ceremony of this year's Wing Ding in Shreveport. They indicated that participation had dropped to around 10,000 membersfrom a high of 82,000, and current membership just wasn't enough to sustain the organization in its present configuration. Doors will be closing at the end of July. Members will receive a pro-rated refund of the dues that they have paid, and liability insurance for the districts and chapters will continue through December, 2022. In the short term, this means Chapter E will continue with all activities through the remainder of the year. What happens come January has yet to be determined.

There have been discussion that some group may take up the gauntlet and attempt to transform the current organization into a more viable operation. Again, only time will tell, but we'll be watching.

Good News Just Keeps on Coming

Japan has recently announced a new set of emission standards to address the global warming crisis. As a result of this and more stringent standards in Europe, the four major Japanese motorcycle manufacturers, Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha and Kawaski announced they will be removing 200 different models that cannot meet the new emission standards. This is only important to us in that some models of the Goldwing appear to be on the "cut" list. Details on exactly which models of the Goldwing will survive are unclear, but if you haven't been thinking about an electric motorcycle, now might be a good time to begin that thought process. As more details are available, we will pass them along.

Happy 4th of July!!! Hard to believe, eh? July is just around the corner. Reading the Chapter Newsletters, I see you are all getting out for rides. Nice!!

Note: Beer is cheaper than Gas. Drink...Don't Drive!

Let me start by clearing up my adventurous trip to Altoona last month. You may recall, I booked a room, got an upgrade to a two-room suite with a jacuzzi tub, then got the cost of the room returned to my credit card. I did not call anyone as I was afraid they would take it all away. While I still have no clue why we were upgraded, the mystery of the returned cost has been solved. I got my credit card bill and there were TWO charges for that room. They must have discovered their error and

returned the money to me before I even knew about it. Still no clue as to why we were upgraded. Still not gonna ask.

A Weasel walks into a bar. The Bartender says, "Wow, I've never served a weasel before. What can I get you?" "Pop," goes the Weasel. Yeah, I know but I like it!

Glenda & John Leib reported on the Couple of the Year Fun Day in last month's Gazette, I want to add my two cents this month. Kudos, congratulations, outstanding and a bunch more superlatives on a wonderful, entertaining and informative day. As always, the Clearfield Methodist Church were exceptional hosts. Their homemade soups are WOW!! Glenda & John had the day planned with fun activities and games. Gerry & Bonnie VanArt gave an informative module, "Chapter MEC- My Enthusiasm Counts." The discussions that came out of the module gave me a lot to think about. Bonnie did an excellent job with the presentation. Jus a wonderful day amongst friends.

With the rise of self-driving vehicles, it's only a matter of time until there's a country song where the guy's truck leaves him.

After the Fun Day, Barb & I stayed the night in Clearfield, then headed west to visit Chapter N's Monthly Gathering in Sandy Lake. Jim & Kathie McClintock, District Treasurer, met us at the motel. Finally got to meet face to face. We had a lengthy discussion on District finances and the PA District Rally. While Barb & I were going to meet Chapter N for dinner, guess who got the time wrong. They ate at four, not five. Soooo, we missed dinner but made it in time for the Gathering. A real nice turn out. Another great, welcoming

Group. Barb & I had a wonderful time!! A lot of laughs. I even remembered to get a Group Picture for a change. At the end of the Gathering, like all gatherings I've attended, there were a few drawings. I did not win a door prize. The 50:50 was not much better. After the first two were drawn from the same corner of the room, I yelled "hold it" before the last drawing and ran to that side of the room and sat down. I motioned for them to proceed. Didn't work, I failed to win again. I stamped back to my seat. Then one of the Members came round and handed me a real nice GW Napkin Holder as a consolation prize *(see picture)*. It's real nice. I like it!! As I said, a good time was had by all.



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Doctors say drinking eight glasses of water a day helps your skin look younger. Drink eight glasses of wine a day and you don't give a darn how old you look!

After all the traveling and visiting in May, we have stayed closer to home in June. That all changes the second half of the month as Barb & I are headed for Gatlinburg, TN for a vacation. We no sooner get back from there and head to Pittsburgh to visit the PA District Rally Motel, The Marriott, to scope things out There are also several meetings set up with locals to discuss our Rally. I will have a lot to update you on for the August Keystone Gazette.

I decided to make sure my wife woke up with a big smile on her face this morning. Now I can't have Sharpies in the house anymore!

Speaking of the Rally, it is progressing really well. Chapter Ads are rolling in. Chapter Assignments have been sent out. I've got a line on some entertainment. With a two year absence, I think there are a lot of you out there ready to come back and PARTY!!! I know Barb & I are.

One thing I usually forget is to talk about upcoming District events. Shame on me. So let me begin by saying I am really bummed out we are going to miss Chapter N's Pig Roast. When you get to know me, you will understand how much I would love to be there. See their flyer attached in this Newsletter. Unfortunately, the deadline has passed to be able to sign up. I do want to wish them well.

Next is All Chapter East being hosted by Chapters C & K on July 8, 9, and 10 in Mechanicsburg. Barb & I are looking forward to meeting a lot of people for the first time as this will be our first official visit to a District Function as your District Directors. As always, it will be a ton of fun. With June 15th the deadline to sign up, you're probably too late if you haven't and are reading this.

A man with Huge Grin approaches a Priest. "Bless me Father for I have sinned," he says. "I spent the week with seven beautiful women." "Do not fret my son," says the Priest. "All you need to do is take seven lemons, squeeze the juice into a glass and drink the juice." "Will that cleanse my sin from me?" "No, but It'll wipe that silly smile off your face!"

Well, it is Friday night before we leave on our trip as I'm trying to clear up everything I need done. Keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down and enjoy this weather we are starting to have.

Till next time, Dennis & Barb Smouse GWRRA District Directors Pennsylvania



PA District now has a ARC-RCI

Congratulation goes out to Peter Grillo from PA-Y on recently completing the ICC -ARC and becoming a Certified Rider Course Instructor for ARC on 6-4-2022. It is people like yourself that allow GWRRA to continue presenting its award winning, world class Rider Education Program.

Remember, ALL THE GEAR ALL THE TIME. (ATGATT)

Most of all ride safe and have fun.

Your PA District Educators

Gerry and Bonnie Kerkeslager











July Birthday Wishes!

- 11 Helene McQuillan
- 18 Carla Hlatky

July Anniversaries!

- 21 Tom & Helene McQuillan
- 31 Steve & Amy Hlatky

REMINDERS

If you have any suggestions for rides or activities, please contact Renny, Sam or Jim.

Any changes or corrections in personal data (address, phone, email, birthday, anniversary) should be reported to Jim.

The PA District Rally scheduled for September 8-10, 2022, is still on the calendar. This may be the last Rally, so get your registrations in. Flyer attached.



