



Wing Words

the rest of Colorado follows COL



FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE

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February 2011

Member Contributors in this Issue:

- Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors
- Carl Williams, Rider Educator
- Ralph & Debbi Strauss, Couple of the Year
- Mike & Becky Ackerman

Next Chapter Gathering

Monday, Feb 7, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Gathering at 6:45 p.m.

Columbine Room, Clements Community Ctr
1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood, Colorado

Gathering Refreshments & Coffee

- Refreshments: **Ralph & Debbi Strauss**
- Coffee: **Linda & Fred Fisher**

Words for Gold Wingers!

by Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors

Greetings from your Directors!

Even though I have not had time to ride the bike, this has been a pretty busy month. We have visited a couple metro area Chapters, attended



some events with Chapter L, attended the District Officers Meeting, and have gathered and filed all of the proper paperwork to keep the Chapter operating.

At the District Meeting we covered a variety of topics. There was an Officer Certification Program update to keep officers current on their training.

We discussed planned events and duties for the Region and District Conventions. We will discuss all of these opportunities at our next gathering on February 7.

Now that all of the administrative things are done for now, it's time to get to planning what we are all interested in..... riding.

Awhile back, a list of possible rides that we could do this riding season was sent out to many of you. Please take a look at the list and consider volunteering to lead one or two rides this season. If you think you are not qualified to lead a ride, you are wrong. It really is not that difficult. Later in this newsletter, you will find the first of three planned articles about leading rides. The first article will cover some basics and be about planning a day ride, the easiest of rides.

Speaking of events, we had a few cold month activities in January. A dinner ride hosted by Linda and me, and a tour of The Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Both of these items will be covered later in this newsletter.

Not much else to cover here, but we will probably have a pretty busy gathering on February 7th. Hope to see you all there.

Until later.....Ride Safe.....Always.

Secrets for High Fuel Mileage

by Carl Williams, Rider Educator

"I get such great fuel mileage on my Gold Wing that I have to drain gas out when everyone else is fueling up!" Wouldn't it be great if everyone got such fabulous mileage?



I came across an article written by Dick Taylor from Columbus, Indiana, that might be helpful for achieving "Fuel King of the Hill" award at your next Chapter meeting.

Let's first concentrate on your driving style

- Downshift more and use brakes less
- Every stoplight is not a drag-race opportunity
- On-ramps, for a Wing, don't require full-throttle
- Anticipate stops and start slowing down before the last second
- Don't wind'er up in every gear just because the gears are there to use
- Get into high gear as soon as possible

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy February Birthday to:
 Teresa Randolph (Feb 1)
 Linda Fisher (Feb 12)
 Janet Drake (Feb 25)
 Tami Bender (Feb 26)



Happy February Anniversary to:
 Greg & Karen Tubac (Feb 7)
 Bob & Joyce Smith (Feb 14)

- Use cruise control whenever possible
- Keep your throttle hand steady instead of rolling it back and forth

If you are really bent on winning Top Dog status try these suggestions.

- Maintain your Wing per Honda specifications, particularly making sure that the brake pads do not drag, the carbs are synched and oils are fresh.
- Reduce the windshield height to a minimum to reduce wind drag
- Drive in high gear most of the time
- Keep your maximum speed between 45 mph and 55 mph
- Turn off all unnecessary lights and electrical accessories to reduce the energy demand on the alternator
- Keep highway boards and pegs folded in.

These were the key suggestions mentioned in the article. There are a number of other technical tricks and accessories "designed" to reduce fuel consumption on the market, but many are not proven to work by independent testing so be cautious.

When all else fails in achieving that mystical 50 miles per gallon goal, just remember all the miles and miles of great memories your Gold Wing provided to you and your co-rider. After all, many us think that is more important than achieving "Fuel King on the Hill".

Always ride smart by riding safe!

Chapter Couple of the Year Steps Up!

by *Ralph & Debbi Straus*

2011 Chapter Couple of the Year

We are honored to be selected your Couple of the Year for 2011. We want to step up to the plate and help Fred and Linda as much as possible. One of our new duties is that of recognizing birthdays, anniversaries, and other occasions with the appropriate cards. We encourage you to contact us at any time if you feel a card or kind word would be helpful to a Chapter or GWRRA member.



Another one of our duties is to be in charge of filling the basket that will be raffled at the District convention in August. We will be promoting this at every meeting and asking for donations. At this time, we do not know the theme of the basket. Some ideas we are suggesting are gift cards to national restaurants, cash, homemade items, packaged candies, jewelry, and anything related to motorcycles or motorcycling. Any suggestions would be appreciated and please mention your suggestions at the meeting. We would like to have 100% participation from Chapter L and make our basket the best at the District convention.

Thank you!

Another Mascot "Visits" Chapter L!



What can we say, but other Chapter's mascots just LOVE to visit Chapter L. Here is a picture of the better 20% (Debbi is the better 80%) of our Couple of the Year, Ralph Straus, retrieving Chapter J's Mascot, Jack, on January 26 from Deb Gustafson.

Survey for Our 2011 Christmas Party

Yes, we are starting our planning for the 2011 Christmas Party and would like your input on last year's party and any suggestions you may have for improving our next one. Please think about the following:

1. What did you like about last year's party?
2. What didn't you like and why?
3. What suggestions do you have for this year's party? Remember, we can always use new ideas and helpers to make it a success.



Also, checking around we have concluded that we need to keep it on Sunday, due to the amount of money needed per person for any other week-end day. The hotel did not charge a room fee for the place we had this past year. We may be able to move to a different location in the hotel.

Please take a few minutes to jot down your comments and ideas and bring them to the next meeting. Be sure to put your name on the paper.

January's Dinner Ride

by Fred & Linda Fisher

On January 19, 2011, we had the first Chapter L Dinner Ride of the New Year. We were scheduled to have 29 people join us. But, due to very bad weather conditions we had a hardy 18 people meet at Bennett's Barbecue on 52nd and Wadsworth. The food was good, the company better, and the BEST for last, BOB KING walked away with all the chip bag money.

The weather took a turn for the worse about 2 hours before we were to meet. But, many forged ahead and had a good time. See you next month when Ralph and Debbi Strauss host the ride.

Planning a Day Ride

by Fred Fisher



The obvious first step in planning a day ride is to determine a destination. I mean if you don't know where your destination is, how can you plan a ride?

But that's not always an easy step. There are a few things to consider before setting a destination. First, is there interest in your ride? If you are planning a ride to watch your Granddaughter compete in the local spelling bee, you might be disappointed in the interest. Or if you set a dinner ride to a sushi bar, you might not have a big turnout. Not that sushi is bad, but it might not have a big following.

The second thing to consider is accessibility. If your destination is 20 miles down a gravel road or to the top of Loveland Pass in January, neither is probably a good idea.

Now it's time to plan. You can use various ways to determine a route. Paper maps, other road guides, online maps, even your GPS. I almost exclusively use Google maps. This is just personal preference, and using any other method is fine.

Since you have a destination, determine about how long it will take. I first determine the time frame with NO stops. This is the length of time it would take if you didn't stop for any reason. Now we all know this is not going to happen, but it will help

determine how many stops you need. If it's a full day ride, you will need a food stop. Fuel and potty stops should be scheduled about every 2 hours. Be flexible on stopping, as not all bikes get the same mileage and not everyone can go for 2 hours without stopping for various reasons.

If your destination is time sensitive, be sure to allow extra time for a stop you might not have planned. Better to arrive early than to be late for the start of an event.

Stop times can be a little difficult to figure out sometimes. If you have a small group of just a few bikes, a stop could be only 10 minutes to fuel, use the restroom, get a drink and be ready to go. If you have a large group, these stops can take as much as 20-30 minutes. Lunch breaks can be 60 to 90 minutes depending on the group size and type of restaurant. I find it best to communicate any time limits to your group BEFORE you stop. Tell them this needs to be a quick stop and they will get their duties done and be ready to go.

Next, you need to relay the start point and time to all of the riders. Once you have met up, it is important to have a group talk before a ride. I first identify my tail rider, with whom I have discussed the ride beforehand. The two bikes that MUST know all of the ride details are the lead and tail rider. I then share ride details to all riders. I separate bikes into riding groups and identify the order of groups.

I go over the route with everyone and point out any concerns I might have. Concerns might include any road construction, traffic issues, or other obstacles that I might know about. I will also convey the planned stops. Then I remind everyone that if the need arises that they need to stop FOR ANY REASON, don't hesitate to speak up. Remember, safety is the most important thing on all rides. If a rider is distracted because of any reason, that rider is a danger to himself, and the rest of the group. If you want, you might print out some of the route and stop details and hand them out to the riders.

When you lead the ride you must think of the diverse group of riders that are with you. Are they experienced? Do they have a radio? Are they comfortable with the roads on your route, be it interstate or twisties? You might ask these questions and address each at the pre-ride briefing.

Rides for the Ride Guide!

by Mike & Becky Ackerman

Hi, Chapter L members! We are trying to help with the Ride Book but we need some rides and activities! **Publishing the "Ride Guide" has been postponed till March so we can "fill it up" with rides!** After all, it IS our "Ride Guide." So, we have a challenge for all of you. Take a look at the attached list (PLEASE PRINT A COPY OF THE LIST AND BRING IT TO OUR FEBRUARY 7 MEETING) and see if there is something on it you would be interested in leading or organizing. Or, maybe you have a new idea that isn't even on there and that's great. Check your calendar and choose two dates you would be available to do so (1st choice and 2nd choice) and come to the meeting prepared to add it to the "Ride Guide." Note the special dates we already have something scheduled. If you can do this homework ahead of time, it will make it so much easier for us to actually nail down real dates and print it in the "Ride Guide."

If you are new to leading a ride and don't quite know what to do, we are here to help guide you through the process. We were new at one time (forever ago!) and know what that feels like, so don't hesitate to call us (303-988-0413) and ask for some assistance. Let's make this a year to remember with Chapter L!

District Spaghetti Dinner



Come one! Come all! Enjoy some good food and great company! Mark Saturday, February 12th on your calendar. The Colorado District is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner from 5:00pm - 8:00pm at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 7755 Vance Drive, Arvada. Tickets are \$10 each if pre-purchased, and \$12 at the door (children 6 & under eat free). Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, drinks, and dessert.

We are giving away one set of Dunlop Elite 3 (front & rear) tires at the dinner. You must attend the dinner and buy drawing tickets for the tires.

As an example, if you have an inexperienced rider on a mountain ride, you might need to slow the speed a bit so you don't leave them behind. All of these things need to be considered.



It's now time to ride.

The riding is the easy part, especially since you get to lead. You set the pace, see everything first, get to the gas station first, get to the restroom first..... See my point? It's good to be the ride leader. Everyone should do it.

If you are trying to put a ride together and have a question about something, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

We Need a NEW Group Picture!

Have you looked at www.RedRocksWings.org (under "Meet Us") lately and noticed that: 1) about 10 people pictured therein are off to other Chapters or other things in their lives; and, 2) a LOT of our new regularly attending members are NOT pictured? WE NEED A NEW GROUP PICTURE for our web site. So, please come to the February meeting prepared to have your picture taken with the whole group for our web site. Thanks for your help!

Future Events**February**

Mon, 7th Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center
Refreshments --Ralph & Debbi Strauss
Wed, 16th Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. --**Ralph & Debbi Strauss**
Various Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2010 Ride Guide

March

Mon, 7th Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center
Refreshments --Steve & Tami Bender
Wed, 16th Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. --**Vernon & Deb Pate**
Various Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2011 Ride Guide (coming soon)



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Directors	Fred & Linda Fisher	silverone@comcast.net	720-922-0789
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Couple of the Year (COY)	Ralph & Debbi Strauss	ralphanddebbi1@comcast.net	303-862-6947
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Colorado Chapters and District Staff



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Colorado District Staff

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Individual of the Year (10-11)	Donald Redline	YellowWing2@comcast.net	303-718-7619



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Special Events Coordinator	Pam & Jimm White	pambones@hotmail.com	505-896-3879
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Convention Vendor Coord	OPEN		
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