



Wing Words

the rest of Colorado follows COL



FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE

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February 2012

Member Contributors this Issue

Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors
Bob King, Rider Educator

Next Chapter Gathering

**Monday, Feb 6, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.
Folks start showing up at 6:45 p.m.**

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

Gathering Refreshments & Coffee

Refreshments: **Ralph Spencer**
Coffee: Steve & Tami Bender

Words for Gold Wingers!

by Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors

Greetings from your Directors!

I must admit, the members of the Chapter never cease to amaze me. Here we are, not a month into 2012 and this Chapter has four states colored in on our 2012 riding map. I believe this is what makes Chapter L the best. We have a great group of adventurous people that really enjoy riding. It seems too, that any old excuse will do. Just take off and go. It is, after all, about the ride.



At the next gathering, we will be sharing details of the recent District Conference. Information about events of other chapters in the district and updates on the happenings from all around the District, Region, and National.

One event that we will be getting more information on is the Colorado District Horizon Class that will take place on Saturday and Sunday, March 24, 25. The Horizon Program offers a Leadership Training Program curriculum with "hands on" training of practical applications, and an excellent class for potential Chapter Directors and staff. Horizon is also a great class for the general membership to learn more about teamwork, self-awareness, interpersonal communication, and building better chapters. The class lasts for a day and a half and is scheduled to take place in Golden.

You may have heard me state in the past, "This is your Chapter!" I would like to take a minute and expand on that statement a bit. Linda and I may have the title of Chapter Directors, but it is not really our job to direct or dictate anything to you. We are here to help you have some fun, help you get some training to make your riding safer, and to provide you with information that might help you learn something about yourself, your fellow members, and some about GWRRA life in general.

With that, we are here to work for you. We encourage you to come to us with your ideas and even your complaints. I'm not naïve enough to think that we are doing everything perfectly. I'm sure we have done some things that have upset some people, but trust me; nothing was done to intentionally upset anyone. If we have done something you don't like, please let us know. If we can fix it, we will, or at least let you know why we can't. We think we have a great group of people in

Stop It!

by Bob King, Rider Educator



Learning to ride a motorcycle opens up a whole new world of freedom and adventure. Learning to stop your bike properly in both routine and emergency situations is an absolute essential part of the freedom.

Let's start with a brief review of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) "SEE" strategy:

Search: Actively scan the area ahead of you (12 seconds ahead) for potential hazards and developing situations.

Evaluate: Gather information and anticipate problems. Predict what may go wrong and prepare yourself to react.

Execute: When a situation requires you to react, adjust your speed, adjust your position, and communicate your intentions when possible. Staying on top of this strategy at all times can help you turn a potential "emergency" stopping situation into a routine one.

To stop most effectively in any situation, it is important to understand your motorcycle's braking system. Some motorcycles feature linked or integrated braking systems-in which both front and rear brakes are controlled, to varying degrees by either the rear brake pedal or the front brake lever. Standard means the front brake is controlled by a lever on the right grip and the rear is controlled by a foot pedal near the right foot peg or board.

this chapter and welcome your views, ideas, and suggestions.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February 6th gathering where we can provide you more information on these, and many other things.

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

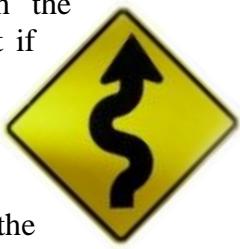
With ABS available on some bikes, this option adds sophisticated electronics to keep the wheels from locking-up on hard breaking. ABS is not a substitute for proper braking technique but instead gives you a larger margin of error in an emergency.

To achieve maximum braking in most situations, simultaneously squeeze the front brake lever and apply the rear brake pedal as you keep your body centered. Keep your eyes up, looking ahead not down; this will help you keep the motorcycle in a straight line. Don't be afraid to use the front brake. Remember: about two-thirds of your stopping power comes from the front brake. Just be sure to apply it smoothly and steadily to avoid locking up the front wheel.

Rear wheel skids are more common during hard braking situations than front wheel skids. If your rear wheel locks up, the thing you should NOT do is panic! The proper reaction depends on whether your front and rear wheels remain in close alignment. If you feel the rear wheel start to "fishtail" the best course is to ride it out. If you release the rear wheel while sliding sideways, the tire can regain traction suddenly, causing the motorcycle to straighten suddenly and cause a dangerous "high side" crash. Instead, keep pressure on the brake pedal while doing your best to keep the motorcycle moving in a straight line. Relax your body the best you can-avoid taking a vise-grip on

the handlebar, while keeping your head and eyes forward.

The safest way to stop is with the motorcycle in a straight line. But if you find yourself in a situation where you must stop in a curve, there are two ways to approach it. If your speed and road traffic conditions permit, straighten the motorcycle and square the handlebars before applying the brakes and stopping the motorcycle in a straight line.



If conditions don't allow you to straighten the motorcycle (e.g., there's a risk of running off the road in a left-hand curve or oncoming traffic to deal with in a right-hand curve) a different technique is called for. As you continue to steer through the curve, apply the brakes smoothly and gradually. Apply greater brake pressure as the motorcycle slows and the lean angle is reduced. To the best of your ability, as conditions allow, straighten the motorcycle just before coming to a complete stop.

Somewhat related to these situations is "swerving" to avoid an obstacle. It can be tempting in an emergency to want to swerve and brake simultaneously-DON'T! Swerving uses a lot of traction, and applying the brakes while swerving can easily cause a skid and crash.

Remember that the weight of a passenger (even a light one) will affect your stopping distance. Also, the weight distribution of cargo can in turn affect how the front and rear brakes perform. In the event

of an unexpected or emergency stop, let your passenger know what's happening so he or she can brace for the forward momentum.

Use the SEE strategy to scout potentially hazardous road surfaces that may affect your braking ability. Worn pavement, loose surfaces or debris, crack sealant, tar strips, and of course, ice, snow, mud, moss, and leaves will seriously compromise your ability to brake effectively. Adjust your speed if necessary and be prepared to take longer than normal to stop.

At an intersection, be aware that there may be oil on the road surface where cars stop frequently. Especially if it's raining, oily spots can cause a dangerous situation when you put your foot down. Keep your motorcycle as vertical as possible, and don't assume the sole of your boot or shoe will have its normal amount of traction.

Remember your motorcycle will most likely stop much faster than a car or truck behind you. Stay aware of who's following you and how close. In the event of a sudden stop, check your mirrors and don't stop more quickly than you need to if someone is close behind. If there's a collision, they will likely get the ticket, but you will suffer the bulk of the consequences.

Stopping is not as fun as going. But, when you find yourself in a high-risk situation, the ability to stop quickly and safely may just save your life.

Sources: The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's guide to Motorcycling Excellence

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy February Birthday to:

- Teresa Randolph (Feb 3)
- 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)

Supporting the Couples and Individuals of the Year!

Come one! Come all! Enjoy some good food and great company! Mark Saturday, March 10, 2012, on your calendar. The Colorado District is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to support our District Couple and Individual of the Year Program. The dinner will be 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. For tickets, see your Chapter Couple or Individual, or Carl & Judy Williams.



District Convention in Grand Junction!



Planning ahead can always be fun, especially if it includes planning to attend your Colorado District Convention. The 2012 Colorado District Convention will be in Grand Junction on Aug 16-18, at the Clarion Hotel, 755 Horizon Dr. Call 970-243-6790 for hotel reservations. Be sure to ask for the GWRRA rate of \$89.

Our theme this year is the “Two Rivers Rendezvous.” Grand Junction gets its name because it sets at the confluence of the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. In the 1800s, trappers, frontiersmen, and Indians would “rendezvous” in this area to trade their furs and goods.

Outside Grand Junction is the beautiful Grand Mesa area. At 10,000', Grand Mesa, the largest flat-top mountain in the world, rises more than a mile above the valley floor. On a day ride, you can discover aspen and spruce groves, flowered meadows and over 200 cool clear lakes. We plan to have a guided ride to this mesa during our convention.



Don't delay! Those who register for the Convention AND reserve a room at the Clarion BEFORE Memorial Day 2012 will be put into a drawing and you could win one night's lodging! Submit your registration to Mike Ackerman and make your hotel reservation soon!

A Great Road to Wing Ding

Rumor has it that there is still room and rooms if you want to travel to Wing Ding with the Ackerman's in July. Events include a tour in Amish Country, visiting a world famous "Coney Island" eatery, and a car museum. It promises to be a highlight of your riding career. So, if you want to have a GREAT TIME, talk to Mike and Becky about joining up. Time is of the essence, and you won't regret going on this ride!

Future Events**February 2011**

Mon, 6th Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center
Refreshments – Ralph Spencer

Wed, 15th Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. – **Dennis & Anne Williamson**

Various Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2011 Ride Guide

March 2012

Mon, 5th Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center
Refreshments – Kenny & Lis Simons

Wed, 18th Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. – **Ralph & Debbi Strauss**

Sat-Sun, 24-25 **Colorado District Horizon Class Sat, 8am-5pm; Sun 8am-2pm**
More details from Garry Howland, District Trainer

Various Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2011 Ride Guide

**Chapter L Officers and Staff**

Directors	Fred & Linda Fisher	720-922-0789
Assistant Directors	Dennis & Anne Williamson	303-239-8187
Rider Educator	Bob King	303-463-4548
Treasurer	Mike Ackerman	303-988-0413
Chapter of the Year Coordinator	Dennis & Anne Williamson	303-239-8187
Couple of the Year (COY)	Kenny & Lis Simons	720-685-0188
Individual of the Year (IOY)	Bob King	303-463-4548
Awards & Recognition	Judy Williams	303-200-0262
Newsletter & Ride Book Editor	Randall & Janet Drake	303-933-6073
Membership Enhancement	Ralph & Debbi Strauss	303-862-6947
Storekeeper	Dan & Vicky Kirk	303-358-6249
Chapter Album	Position Available	

Colorado Chapters and District Staff**Colorado Chapter Directors**

Chapter A	Kraig & Linda White	303-877-5709
Chapter B	Dave & Sandra Geer	970-434-9677
Chapter C	Les & Sharon Brown	719-372-6498
Chapter E	Bill Weiss & Lisa Capano	720-890-8122
Chapter G	Dick & Fran Williamson	970-347-8855
Chapter I	Butch & Linda Shelley	719-495-5741
Chapter J	John & Barb Pons	303-396-5520
Chapter N	Mike & Debbie Rose	719-250-1988
Chapter Q	Dawn Vaillancourt	970-316-1720
Wyoming B (Northern CO)	Jim & Paulette Lysne	307-634-9176

**Colorado District Staff**

District Directors	Randall & Janet Drake	303-933-6073
Assistant District Directors	Butch & Linda Shelley	719-495-5741
Assistant District Directors	Mike & Dawn Vaillancourt	970-316-1704
Treasurer	Mike & Becky Ackerman	303-988-0413
Membership Enhancement	Gilda & Bob McCorkle	303-650-1473
Assistant Membership	Charles & Gaylene Grimsley	970-640-6133
Rider Educators	Alan & Deb Gustafson	303-690-3788
District Trainer	Garry Howland	303-337-2740
Special Events & Couple of the Year Coordinators	Carl & Judy Williams	303-200-0262
Special Events Assistant	Donald Redline	303-718-7619
Chap of the Year Champion	Ralph Spencer	303-888-2705
Newsletter Editor	April Hansen-Keppler	303-384-0476
Webmaster	Jim & Janet Wohlford	303-979-0196
Photographer	Kenny & Lis Simons	720-685-0188
Motorist Awareness-East	Kraig & Linda White	303-877-5709
Motorist Awareness-West	Nick & Ginny Hoppner	970-964-4379
Couple of the Year (2011-12)	Ralph & Debbi Strauss	303-862-6947
Individual of the Year (2011-12)	Stan Smetana	303-903-4887



Region “F”un Staff

Region Director	Anita & JR Alkire	jralkire@cox.net	619-741-8893
Assistant Directors	Garry & Kerry Woo	gwoo225@comcast.net	520-883-7155
Assistant Directors	Joyce & Rick Elmore	jelmore16@gmail.com relmore2@gmail.com	J cell 303-803-3748 R cell 303-803-5378
Treasurer	Crystal Richardson	crystal@infinite-healing.net	858-541-1176 Cell 619-929-6223
Educator	Dave & Dee Gormley	ddfroggy@aol.com	520-749-5653
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Medic First Aid Coordinator	Joel & Marti Winkler	jwinkler2@verizon.net martwinkle@yahoo.com dnovitt@yahoo.com	626-969-7386 520-296-7369 Cell 520-465-1262
MAD Program Coordinators	Dave & Sandie Novitt		602-404-6875 Cell 602-469-5440
Leadership Training	Ray & Sandi Garris	raygarris@gmail.com wingedcoyotes@q.net	602-404-6875 Cell 602-469-5440
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Membership Enhancement	Lisa Capano & Bill Weiss	lisacapano@aol.com Flyingace@qwestoffice.net	720-890-8122
Region Store	Gay & David Redline	gredline@me.com	303-549-0506
Public Relations Coord	Joann & Jim MacClean	KA6VJF@pacbell.net	661-251-5420
Public Relations Co-Coord	Ken Freeland	kjfreeland@aol.com	818-403-6729 Cell 818-370-3572
Couple & Ind of the Yr Coord	JoAnn & Jim MacLean	ka6vjf@pacbell.net	661-251-5420 Cell 619-929-6223
Couple & Ind Yr Asst Coord	Bill Leach	mudwagon@cox.net	520-747-5276
Convention Vendor Coord	Bud & Dot Kapp	hekapp@k2g.com	623-434-6560
Couple of the Year (11-12)	Dave & Dee Gormley	ddfroggy@aol.com	520-749-5653
Individual of the Year (11-12)	Rich Mason	rvmason@charter.net	561-315-5213
Webmaster	Tom & Lisa Evans	evans@att.net	575-652-3144
Newsletter Editors	Tom & Vicki Lorenz	webetv@socal.rr.com	714-968-4393