



# Wing Words

*the rest of Colorado follows COL*



**FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE**

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**March 2012**

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**Member Contributors this Issue**

- Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors
- Bob King, Rider Educator
- Becky Ackerman
- Ralph Spencer

**Next Chapter Gathering**

**Monday, Mar 5, 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: **Kenny & Lis Simons**
- Coffee: **Steve & Tami Bender**

**Words for Gold Wingers!**

*by Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors*

Greetings from your Directors!

I’m writing this the day after one of the warmest days this winter. Yesterday it was 60+ degrees outside. Today, there’s 9 inches of snow on my back porch.



Just as fast as the weather can turn bad, it can turn great, and as we get closer to spring, the good days will soon outnumber the bad. That’s when the fun will begin.

At the last gathering, I introduced Becky Ackerman as our new Chapter L Ride Coordinator. As in the

past, Becky jumped into the job with both feet. She brought with her, an extensive list of possible rides and trips. She asked just about everyone in the room if they would pick and lead one of the rides. I believe, if my count is correct, we came away with 12 new rides or events to add to our schedule for this year. Great job Becky! Thanks so much for your continued enthusiasm.

Linda and I will not be at the March gathering, as we are headed to Arizona for a NASCAR race and to take a little vacation. Dennis and Anne Williamson will be directing the meeting in our absence. I’m sure they will do a fine job. We will be back in time for the District IOY-COY Spaghetti Dinner on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

We have a bunch of events coming up this month. These include the aforementioned Spaghetti Dinner, the Horizon Class on March 24-25, and the Wingless Casino Day on March 31.

Linda and I will be taking the Horizon class later this month. This will be our first time taking it, but have heard nothing but good things about it. The GWRRA web site says this about the Horizon Program:

*The Horizon Program is a fast track overview of the core LTP curriculum with "hands on" training of practical applications, and an excellent class for potential CDs 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. Members learn about how to have FUN in GWRRA in a challenging day and a half course filled with lots of surprises. It is typically conducted during the winter/early spring months and not during riding season. It is an interactive program—the*

*more everyone participates, the more everyone learns!*

Sounds like a very interesting class and I encourage everyone to attend. For more information and to register, you can contact Garry Howland, the District Trainer, at [scout4life@sprintmail.com](mailto:scout4life@sprintmail.com)

GWRRA offers many training classes of which you can take advantage. This is just another benefit of your membership.

Remember to go to the March 5<sup>th</sup> gathering and support your Assistant Directors! We will see you at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> gathering, if not before.

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

## **Pre-Ride Inspection**

*by Bob King, Rider Educator*

Riders who consider the enormity of risk reduction will often start considering the options available to them, and the principle method of reducing risk is through preparedness. These methods of preparing for an encounter are basically through preparing our body using shielding such as long pants, long sleeves, leather clothing, boots, gloves, and helmets. Mental preparedness is addressed through formal education (MSF, and others), reading information and experience. The purpose of formal education is to increase the learning curve of the rider to the point "negative experiential learning" occurs less frequently or not at all. In other words the hope is that riders will "crash" less while learning what does work, and will ride more safely through learning correct techniques. Following all these principles the rider should be able to succeed at most tasks necessary for proper operation of a



motorcycle. None of these techniques will help if a rider hops on a bike, and drives away into the sunset with a poorly inflated tire.

There is no technique capable of solving a mechanical break-down when it is ignored. A rider will always be the captain of his own destiny, and the mechanical condition of a motorcycle should be thoroughly checked out prior to each ride. No other motorized vehicle on the road leaves the operator at so much risk as a motorcycle.

**T-Tires, Wheels and rakes**  
**C-Controls**  
**L- Lights and Electronics**  
**O- Oil and Fluids**  
**C- Chassis**  
**K- Kickstand**

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation provides the most comprehensive lists of items to inspect through their T-CLOCK inspection acronym: Tires & Wheels, Controls, Lights, Oil, Chassis, and Kickstand.

**T-** Tires, Wheels and Brakes: Check tread depth, wear, weathering, bulges, and embedded objects; check air pressure; check wheels for bends or cracks; wheels for out of round, check bearings for free

play; and check brakes to determine that each brake alone keeps bike from rolling.

**C- Controls:** Look at levers and pedals for broken, bent, or cracked parts; be sure mounts are tight; check cables for frays or kinks; check hoses for cuts, cracks, leaks, bulges, chafing, or deterioration; be sure hose routing doesn't interfere with steering; and check throttle to be sure it moves freely, snaps closed and doesn't rev when handle bars are turned.

**L- Light and Electronics:** Check battery terminals for clean and tight connections; check headlamps for high and low beam operation and aim; check left and right, front and back turn signals; check mirrors and adjust; and check wiring for pinched or frayed wires and be sure wiring doesn't interfere with steering.

**O- Oil and Other Fluids:** Check fluid levels; and check for leaks.

**C- Chassis:** Check frame for cracks; check accessory mounts; check handlebar movement for full travel; check front forks for smooth travel; and check the drive shaft.

**K- Kickstand:** Be sure the spring is working properly to pull it up and keep it up while riding; and check for cracks or bends.

After the long winter without riding (or riding infrequently), it is easy to sometimes forget the basics. Make pre-ride inspections routine and automatic. It doesn't have to take more than a few minutes and should be done before every ride.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy March Birthday to:

Christine King (Mar 2)  
Ralph Strauss (Mar 20)  
Greg Brown (Mar 21)  
Steve Bender (Mar 27)



### Happy March Anniversary to:

Kenny & Lis Simons (Mar 15)

## Game Night at the Ackerman's!

*by Becky Ackerman*



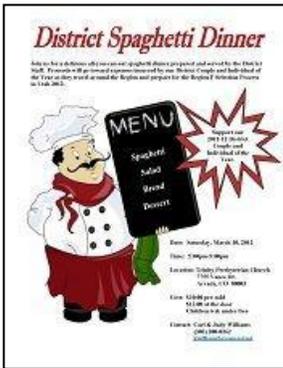
February 11<sup>th</sup> was a cold, winter night but you'd never have guessed it from the atmosphere in our house. We were joined by eight couples from Chapter L for our first game night in a long time. The games were preceded by a potluck dinner, which everyone contributed to, and there was plenty of food for everyone.

It didn't take long for everyone to decide what games they wanted to play and I was happy to see that everyone participated. We ended up with 3 tables playing Hand and Foot, a card game, and one table playing CLR, a dice game. Believe it or not, the 5 playing CLR were so rowdy the rest of us could hardly hear each other!

We had enough time to visit throughout the evening and catch up on the latest. Thanks to everyone for making this a fun, eventful evening.



## Support 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.

## Let's Talk About the Oskars

by *Ralph Spencer*

No, not THOSE Oscars! And not the 1991 movie, *Oscar*, with Sylvester Stallone and Don Ameche, which you all should see, but not many of you have! Nor am I alluding to the Oscar Madison character played by Walter Matthau in the 1968 production of *The Odd Couple*. The Oskar I want to talk about is Oskar Blues, which is where Dennis and Anne Williamson took a group of us on Sunday, February 19, for the first ever Chapter L "Mystery Dinner Ride" that took place during the day – and on a weekend!!!

What is it they say about change being the only constant??? Most of us (7 bikes, 9 riders, 1 car = 11 people) met at the Loaf and Jug at 10:00 a.m. for riding instructions and were off at about 10:05. We rode to Boulder via Highway 93, turned right on Table Mesa, made our way to Highway 119 north (a common route to get through

Boulder) and, before you knew it, we were at Hover Road and 119 in Longmont looking at a 40 foot (painted) can of beer with the OSKAR BLUES logo shouting at us in 5-foot high letters! We knew we had arrived! However, Murphy (of Murphy's Laws) had also made the trip and focused on Steve Randolph.

Steve had barely got his bike where he wanted it in the parking lot when he realized that he could not release his 'Reverse' button. His bike was locked in place and he could not even start it with the 'Reverse' button stuck in the 'On' position. After trying to release the button by spraying an untold number of substances on it from various Chapter L contributors, with no success, Steve went into the restaurant. We were joined by Mike and Becky Ackerman, Fred and Linda Fisher (in cars), Joyce Elmore (on her bike), and

Melinda Meier. All these folks had been at the Chapter G meeting (Melinda is the Chap G Newsletter Editor) who then made a beeline for Longmont following the 8:00 a.m. breakfast and 9:00 a.m. meeting at Johnson's Corner.

Oskar's food was excellent and the servings plentiful, especially if you opted for the one-time \$9.99 Buffet. I can personally vouch for the venison-buffalo-elk chili, with no cheese – YUM! In compliance with Chapter L Mystery Dinner tradition, \$1 tickets were sold, Jeanine Plumhoff's ticket was drawn, and moments later, a red poker chip appeared out of the bag and "Lucky" Jeanine was \$112 richer (our condolences to Bob King, who was favored to repeat his \$100+ win of 2011 but could not make this particular ride)!

Meanwhile, back to Murphy, I mean Steve, who had returned to his bike after ordering his meal. After pressing the 'Reverse' button 177 more times, it released - but Murphy was still around and Steve could not stop pressing quickly enough and pressed it back in place, where it stuck once again!!! However, Steve's spirits were buoyed with optimism and after 84

more very deliberate attempts, the button released and Steve was able to stop pressing in time to keep it released - and all was well in the universe!

Following this great lunch, eight of us got behind Mike and Becky's Super Bee and followed them to an amazing



Chapter L Riders at Oskars

place, *Cheese Importers*, recommended by Greg and Karen Tubac, who had just been there the previous day. At Greg's recommendation, we kept our jackets on as we walked through *Market Europa*, the old world retail store featuring the largest walk-in

refrigerated cheese and cured meat market in Colorado - yes, it was cold! We also resisted temptation as we inspected a broad selection of (expensive) European house wares and linens, and even checked out their authentic French café. Hey, as someone once said, it doesn't take much to fire the Chapter L rockets, right???

Many thanks to our hosts, Dennis and Anne, who once again managed to coordinate a fantastic ride in the middle of our Colorado winter. You guys are the bomb!!! And by the way, those other Oscars/Academy Awards were on ABC on Feb 26 at 5:00 p.m. Hope you enjoyed 'em!

## District Convention in Grand Junction!

Don't forget! 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.

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!



### Would YOU wear PJs for a Night Out?

Not only did we have a great time at the Ackerman's on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but a repeat on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Williams'! Who would have thought that you could get a bunch of Gold Wings to show up in their pajamas for a party? Wait! Guess you can get Gold Wings to do just about anything if food is on the table! Carl and Judy served some homemade Sloppy Joe's and everyone brought a side dish or dessert. NO ONE left hungry, that's for sure!

Five+ couples showed up in their PJs! Amazing how relaxed you become wearing those PJs—at least till the games started! After eating, we retreated to the lower level and proceeded to play games. Seems we had some leftover business from a couple weeks earlier. We had two tables of Hand & Foot and one table of CLR, again. It's hard to change things when you are having fun. Visiting and playing games seems to fit together well in the cold winter air. All agreed that a PJ Party was fun and relaxing. Just wait till next year!



**Future Events****March 2012**

- Mon, 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center  
**Refreshments – Kenny & Lis Simons**
- Wed, 18<sup>th</sup> 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

**April 2011**

- Mon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center  
**Refreshments – Steve & Tami Bender**
- Wed, 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. – **Al & Jeanine Plumhoff**
- Various Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2011 Ride Guide



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