



Wing Words

the rest of Colorado follows COL



FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE

May 2012

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Member Contributors this Issue

Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors
 Bob King, Rider Educator
 Becky Ackerman
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Next Chapter Gathering

Monday, May 7, 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: **Randall & Janet Drake**
 Coffee: Steve & Tami Bender

Words for Gold Wings!

by Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors

Greetings from your Directors!

I hope everyone has been taking advantage of some of this beautiful weather we have been enjoying. These warm, sunny days are made for riding. I know many of you have been out doing what we all like to do; RIDE.



We had a few events around the area for some to enjoy. Chapter A held a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on April 15th. As usual it was well attended by the Chapter L folks. They had some good food to share, and things from a coin drop to a silent auction to raise funds for the Chapter. I had the high bid for an item that Chris Ward from Chapter I donated to the auction, but SOMEONE out bid me at the last minute. That's okay, I know where she lives.

April 18th brought our monthly dinner ride hosted by the Plumhoffs and we had our Progressive Brunch ride on April 28th. A few of our members even rode up to Scottsbluff,

Nebraska to attend the Nebraska Chapter W fundraiser on April 22nd.

The month of May brings us a trip to the Vintage Moto Museum on the 12th, dinner ride on the 16th, Multi Chapter Bowling on the 19th, Region F Convention the 25th-27th, and Linda's Ride for Kids Spirit Night on the 31st.

I know many of you have some big plans for riding vacations this summer. Some are going to Wing Ding and beyond in July and others have trips to various places around the country. Now that we are into the heavier riding season I want you all to do something for me.....PLEASE BE SAFE! Don't forget to do all of the safety things we have all been trained to do, and come home safely. A great riding season is even better when all of our Chapter family rides without incident all season.

I also encourage you to share some of your experiences with us at our Chapter gatherings and have the opportunity to fill in some states on the map.

Good riding to all and we hope to see everyone at the May 7th gathering, if not before.

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

Group Riding*by Bob King, Rider Educator*

Motorcycling is primarily a solo activity, but for many, riding as a group -- whether with friends on a Sunday morning ride or with an organized motorcycle rally -- is the epitome of the motorcycling experience. Here are some tips to help ensure a fun and safe group ride:



Arrive prepared. Arrive on time with a full gas tank.

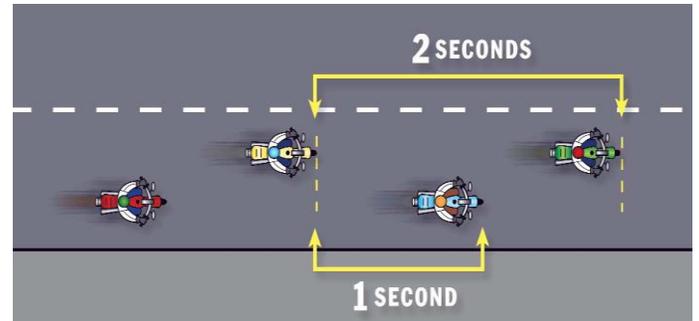
Hold a riders' meeting. Discuss things like the route, rest and fuel stops, and hand signals as appropriate. Assign a lead and tail rider. Both should be experienced riders who are well-versed in group riding procedures. The leader should assess everyone's riding skills and the group's riding style.

As in the military, formation is mandatory. Keep the group to a manageable size, ideally five to seven riders. If necessary, break the group into smaller sub-groups, each with a lead and sweep rider.

Ride prepared. At least one rider in each group should pack a cell phone, first-aid kit, and full tool kit, so the group is prepared for any problem that they might encounter.

Ride in formation. The staggered riding formation allows a proper space cushion between motorcycles so that each rider has enough time and space to maneuver and to react to hazards. The leader rides in the left third of the lane, while the next rider stays at least one second behind in the right third of the lane; the rest of the group follows the same pattern.

A single-file formation is preferred on a curvy road, under conditions of poor visibility or poor road surfaces, entering and leaving highways, or other situations where an increased space cushion or maneuvering room is needed.



Example of a Staggered Riding Formation

Avoid side-by-side formations, as they reduce the space cushion. If you suddenly needed to swerve to avoid a hazard, you would not have room to do so. You don't want handlebars to get entangled.

Periodically check the riders following in your rear view mirror. If you see a rider falling behind, slow down so they may catch up. If all the riders in the group use this technique, the group should be able to maintain a fairly steady speed without pressure to ride too fast to catch up.

If a vehicle wants to break through the group on a multi-lane road, give them space to safely do so. Close the formation once the vehicle exits the lane. If the vehicle does not move, cautiously and carefully pass to reform. Bikers do not own the road. Be considerate of other vehicles. Give them space. Novice and inexperienced riders should ride in the middle of the group until they are comfortable riding in a group. The Ride Captain(s) or those who have ridden the route should ride up front...again, not riders with big egos. Experienced riders should also be at the rear of the group...this is done to maintain order.

If you're separated from the group, don't panic. Your group should have a pre-planned procedure in place to regroup. Don't break the law or ride beyond your skills to catch up.

For mechanical or medical problems, use a cell phone to call for assistance as the situation warrants.

Birthdays and Anniversaries**Happy May Birthday to:**

Kenny Simons (May 4)
Jeanine Plumhoff (May 23)
Steve Cybuch (May 29)

**Happy May Anniversary to:**

Dennis & Anne Williamson (May 15)

Chapter L Looms Large in 2011 CHOY Program*by Ralph K. Spencer**District Chapter of the Year Champion*

Chapter L has officially been designated as the Colorado District's 2011 Chapter of the Year! Directors Fred and Linda Fisher have yet another reason to be extremely proud of their Chapter and specifically, Asst. Director Anne Williamson, who took the proverbial bull by the horns last year and came out on top once all her calculations had been verified.

Anne compiled just under one-half of all the points possible in the 2011 CHOY Program and easily met the Feb 1, 2012, deadline by submitting her completed paper work to Fred during the District gathering on January 28, 2012. Chapter L will be recognized for this achievement at the Colorado District Convention in August. However, Fred, Linda, Anne, and all of Chapter L deserve to be recognized now for sticking to this year long program, month-in and month-out, compiling the points necessary to win this prestigious award. While the rules prohibit Chapter L from looming large again in 2012, I expect great things from Anne or her successor in 2013.

Ride on, Chapter L – you are the bomb!!!

PURPLE SHIRT MEETING NIGHT, MAY 7, 2012!*by Linda Fisher*

Greetings from the girly side of Chapter L!

We need a new group photo for the website. I would really like everyone to be ready to smile your best smile and wear either our new Chapter shirt or some sort of purple shirt for the picture. We'll plan on taking the shot just before the break in the program. Let's show the rest of the district what a Great and Good Looking group we have. Fred and I are having a great time as your Chapter Directors and can't imagine a better group of friends and family to be with. Thank you all!

Chapter NE-W's Birthday Party*by Becky Ackerman*

Steve Randolph organized a ride to Chapter NE-W's birthday party in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on April 15th. Unfortunately, due to a family matter, he and Teresa were unable to attend themselves so all the rest of us, Dennis Williamson and Mike and I, set out to find the party by ourselves.

Our weather was calling for a windy warm day, but that doesn't mean anything in Nebraska or even Wyoming. It was 49 degrees when we left our house to meet Dennis on I-25 and the temperature dropped from there. Since I was a co-rider on this one, and remembered how much colder the back seat is, I bundled up appropriately with electrics. The guys were tougher and didn't think they needed much extra clothing.

Of course the wind blew and by the time we turned onto I-80 the guys were wondering why they didn't dress warmer. Mike at least had some extra layers on, but no electric gloves and his hands were freezing. Another rider who shall remain anonymous, had on jeans with no chaps and didn't discover until we reached our destination that the vents on his jacket were unzipped the entire trip and he was very cold. I had my electrics plugged in, turned on, and other than a brief stop when they quit working due to a loose connection, I was toasty warm and quite comfortable.

Chapter NE-W's birthday party was a lot of fun. We had an all-you-can-eat breakfast followed by a drawing for all the prizes chapter members had donated. Mike and I won nearly everything we put our tickets in for

plus one item another lady gave me out of the goodness of her heart. Dennis sat and watched. Wyoming Chapter B was there in full force and thankfully so, as the turnout would have been a little skimpy without them. We visited with Steve and Amy Hodges, Assistant Chapter Directors, and had a very good time.

On the trip home we were much more comfortable. The unzipped vents were now zipped closed, the wind was behind us or on our left side, and the sun was out more. However, I still had my electric pants on when we pulled in the garage. They weren't turned on, but I was still wearing them. It just didn't get that warm but we didn't let the cold spoil our fun. Wish more of you could have joined us.

Progressive Brunch—What a Trip!

by Fred Fisher

On April 28th, Chapter L held, what I think, is one of the nicest events we do; our Progressive Dinner (Brunch) Ride. Over the course of the day, we had 16 bikes and 25 people with us for the event.

First, I want to give a big thank you to our three hosts. We started our day from the Loaf-N-Jug and had a nice ride all the way up north to Loveland to the home of Rick and Joyce



Desserts, the most important part, were just a short 25 minute ride away at the home of Randy and Marsha Jensen in Roxborough. At the end of the day, we even got in some “on bike” games directed by the Jensen’s Son-In-Law, James.

We rode about 160 miles for the day and enjoyed some very good food at each stop. Thanks to all of those who provided it.



Elmore. There we enjoyed our appetizers and salads.

We then wound our way back south to the home of Steve and Tami Bender in Littleton for our main course dishes.

We have already started planning next year’s event. It was suggested that it be named after a common phrase--“Life’s Short, Eat Dessert First” will be the theme of the event next year where we will do just that. Dessert first, main course second, then a light salad or appetizer to finish off the day. Sounds fun! Looking forward to it already.



Line-up at Elmore’s



Line-up at Jensen’s



Fred Honors the Flag!



Ralph Spencer Competes for Show



Mike Makes Lemonade!



Dixie Cup Winners—Anne, Janet, & Dennis!

2012 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!

Future Events

May 2012

- Mon, 7th Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center
Refreshments – Randall & Janet Drake
- Sat, 12th Vintage Moto Museum Ride **Ackerman**
- Wed, 16th Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. – **UP FOR GRABS!**
- Sat, 19th Multi-Chapter Bowling Party 11:00 a.m.
- Fri-Sun, 25-27th Region F Convention, St. George, UT
- Thu, 31st Chick-Fil-A supports Ride-for-Kids (see attached flyer)
- Various Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2012 Ride Guide

Jun 2012

- Sun, 3rd Starr Kempf Windmills, Manitou Springs--**Fisher**
- Mon, 4th Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center
Refreshments – Fred & Linda Fisher
- Sun, 10th Ride-for-Kids
- Fri-Sun, 15-17th Multi-Chapter Campout, Buena Vista-**Williams**
- Wed, 20th Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. – **Ralph & Janet Spencer**
- Sat, 23rd DQ Ride- **Simons**
- Various Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2012 Ride Guide



Chapter L Officers and Staff

Directors	Fred & Linda Fisher	silverone@comcast.net	720-922-0789
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Colorado Chapters and District Staff



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Motorist Awareness-West	Nick & Ginny Hoppner	ginyornick@bresnan.net	970-964-4379
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Individual of the Year (2011-12)	Stan Smetana	stan@denver.net	303-903-4887



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