



# Wing Words

*the rest of Colorado follows COL*



## FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE

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August 2012

### Next Chapter Gathering

**Monday, Aug 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: **Mike & Becky Ackerman**

Coffee: **Steve & Tami Bender**

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### ***Words for Gold Wingers!***

by Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors

Greetings from your Directors!

This past month, Linda and I have been traveling a lot. Unfortunately, it wasn't on the bike. You see as much as Linda and I enjoy traveling on the bike, we feel that every 2-3 years we should take some time and travel with the kids and grandkids in the 4 wheeler. This was the year for that. We traveled to the San Francisco and Napa Valley area in California. A very beautiful trip and we saw some really neat places. Now not all was lost in regards to the bike. We did find some real nice twisty roads that I have filed away for future possible riding. We did drive down the famous Lombard Street in San Francisco. A must do, but next time on the bike. Really cool experience.



The past month was not one of our usual busy ride months for the Chapter. Several things caused this. First was the fact that several of the Chapter members traveled to Wing Ding and beyond. Because of a work schedule change by host Dan Kirk, the Baloney Ride was canceled. We will discuss a reschedule for this event at the next gathering. Throw in a dinner ride hosted by Dennis and Anne, Chapter J's Hummer of a Summer, and the Fairplay Burro Days ride,

and an Estes Park ride to finish off the month. Not really a bad month with all of the members traveling all over the country, but certainly not up to our usual standards.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the District Convention scheduled for August 16-18. As Chapter L is responsible for managing the door prize area, we are looking for volunteers to help us out. We will talk more about this at the August gathering.

Fall will soon be upon us. What I think is the best riding season of all, cool mornings, not quite so hot during the day, and the changing of the fall foliage. Riding heaven in my book. We will get the opportunity to see some of the color change in September as our host; Al and Jeanine Plumhoff lead us southwest to enjoy a ride on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. If you have not done this trip before, please do. If you have before, you know why. In a word... beautiful.

Of course, as you know, in Colorado the riding season never really ends, and the fun events will continue throughout the winter season. We are always looking for fun things to do during the riding off-season. Maybe a museum, a dinner theater, a movie, you get the idea. We want you to share those ideas. If you have an event you think we might enjoy, mention it at the meeting or bring it to Linda and me. We can get it on the schedule so that we can keep busy.

I hope to see you all at the August 6<sup>th</sup> gathering.

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

**Riding in the Rain**

by Bob King, Rider Educator

Some riders avoid rain, but others, especially in areas with more annual rainfall, learn to deal with it. And odds are if you ride long and far enough, sooner or later you'll be confronted with it, willingly or not.

If you think you may have to ride in rain, it helps if you think of it as essentially learning a whole new subset of skills. Accepting it, and seeing it as a challenge, not necessarily a threat can also help.

**Traction**

Rainwater makes even clean pavement less “grippy” and simultaneously prevents your tires from warming up as quickly or as well. What's more, if it hasn't rained lately, accumulated dirt and oils will form a slippery film until they are washed off. This could take a while depending on how hard the rain is falling.

And just as dry traction varies depending on the surface, so does wet. Some roads offer surprisingly good wet traction and others surprisingly bad. It's your job to figure out which is which and everything in between!

A way to test traction is to carefully and very briefly use the rear brake to the point of lock-up. This works in the dry too, and is a better-than-nothing gauge based on how easily your tire breaks loose. Do it on a flat part of the road - not on a crowned or cambered section, because the wheel will follow gravity and go out of line.

Hazard zones include repaired or tarred pavement, old slick asphalt, some concrete surfaces, debris washed onto the roadway, and intersections rippled or soaked with oil. Toll booths and concrete parking garages that get wet, but never washed clean can also be sketchy. And watch out for railroad, metal grates, expansion joints, and plates, which grip like Teflon. Rail tracks hit on an angle can steer your front wheel and instantly put you down. Likewise, painted crosswalks and lines can be very slick when wet, offer poor traction for cornering or braking, and it's best to run over them when you're vertical as well.

Naturally, on wet roads lowered speeds, and careful movements are the watchwords. Keeping a relaxed body and not a death grip on the bars also lets the bike do its thing.



Progressively use the brakes. Take turns and accelerate smoothly. Going up a gear can help prevent spinning the rear wheel.

Hydroplaning is less likely for a motorcycle's rounded tire than a car's, but the wider the tire, or the faster you go, the more you increase your chances of it happening.

**Vision and visibility**

In lieu of wipers, Rain-X helps on the outside of the face shield, especially at speed. Some sort of anti-fog may help on the inside. At lower speeds fogging and rain buildup are more likely. Ratcheting the shield up a notch helps vent, and if you absolutely can't see through the rain, raising it so you can see either through or under it may do the trick at low speed.

Eyewear with yellow or orange lenses may also help your visual acuity, especially for daytime rain riding.

Your fairing windshield should not be so high that you can't peer over it. Think about trimming or replacing it if you can't see over it.

Hi-visibility colors and reflective bits are better than black or neutral colors without reflection. If you fall on the road, you would want to be easily identifiable as a human, not a piece of tarp or invisible.

**Carve Out a Place**

Try to maintain a safe following distance, and get away from drivers who want to tailgate. Sadly, many drivers who tend to follow too closely will not suddenly amend their ways in the rain. A trick that may or may not work is to look back for a moment, and put an open hand up to the tailgating driver. An alternate to this is to make a one-handed pushing motion. Other riders find waving their hand back and forth, while reaching behind, works. Some drivers may not realize they are risking a person's life until you assertively but politely wake them up to this reality.

**Thunderstorms**

It is not advisable to ride if you are where lightning is striking. Riders have been killed or knocked unconscious while riding in lightning. The lucky ones wake up in a ditch.

According to NASA, Florida has twice as many lightning-caused deaths and injuries than any other state. Other states with a high incidence of lightning strikes are Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Colorado, and Texas. July is the peak month for lightning.

### Wind

A motorcycle is like a little sail. Full fairings and lighter bikes are especially susceptible to side winds. Be prepared to have to lean into the crosswind just to stay upright. But if leaning into the breeze, also be ready to compensate if the crosswind abruptly stops. Alternately, some riders have been known to parallel cars or larger vehicles to let them block

extreme crosswinds. Be careful not to ride in anyone's blind spot though, if you try this.

### Conclusion

A lot about how your rain riding experience goes is up to you. If, however, you are caught in a situation you feel is too much to handle, find the nearest safe spot to pull over. Otherwise, proactively teaching yourself to ride in the rain pushes back your fear threshold. Panic is the common denominator of all sorts of rider-induced crashes, so thinking about what you are doing, learning as you go, and not riding beyond the capacity of you or your machine is key.

## Rider Education Levels Program

by Bob King, Rider Educator



GWRRA's Rider Education Levels Program is a great way to make a commitment to riding safely and obtaining education. This article is the beginning of a regular feature to help everyone remember that they need to complete their paperwork. The following list of our Chapter members details those who are eligible and ready to progress within the Levels Program.

### Ready for Levels Advancement

Steve Bender	to Level IV
Tami Bender	to Level IV
Ronald Evers	to Level II
Laura Hudson	to Level II
Sherry Smith	to Level IV
Stan Smetana	to Level IV

### Needs to Update Their Safe Miles

William Douglas
Joyce Smith
Robert Smith

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### **Happy August Birthday to:**

- Deborah Pate (Aug 1)
- Bill Babb (Aug 4)
- Joyce Smith (Aug 11)
- Rick Elmore (Aug 12)
- Vernon Pate (Aug 17)
- Becky Ackerman (Aug 22)
- Peggy Willey (Aug 27)



### **Happy August Anniversary to:**

- Bill & Michelle Babb (Aug 17)
- Randy & Norita Berger (Aug 19)
- Al & Jeanine Plumhoff (Aug 19)

## Wingin' and a Dingin' in Indiana

by Becky Ackerman Photos by the Participants

Mike and I led a small group of Chapter L members back to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to attend Wing Ding. We were joined by Greg & Karen Tubac and Al & Jeanine Plumhoff. Once we were in Fort Wayne, Carl and Judy Williams joined us in their car. We left on Saturday, June 30 and traveled via U.S. 36 all the way to Indiana where we cut across the state to avoid as much interstate highway as possible.



Our trip included a couple of stops along the way where we visited the Geographical Center of the Continental U.S. in Kansas, and covered bridges in Missouri and Indiana. The bridge in Indiana was one which we could actually ride across.

The weather was dry and HOT all the way, which gave new meaning to cool collars and cool vests. The first day out we had threatening clouds building in the east late in the day and it looked like we were headed straight towards them. However, the storm moved north of us and we dodged the bullet. That night once we stopped and unloaded a shower blew through but we didn't mind that at all. We didn't encounter rain again until we were in Fort Wayne.

Monday afternoon we arrived in Fort Wayne. Tuesday morning we rode to Amish country. A stop in Topeka at the sale barn gave us a close up view of the Amish buggies and a chance to visit Amish farmers. From there we continued on to Shipshewana where we toured the Menno Hof museum to learn more about the differences between Hutterites, Amish and Mennonites and how they came to this country.

Lunch was at the Blue Gate and we had quite a lengthy wait. We were joined by some of Karen Tubac's family so we had a nice group. Since we had such a long wait to be seated, our time to shop was cut short drastically but we made the most of it.

Later in the afternoon we took a tour of the Amish countryside in an air conditioned van (we could have taken it in a buggy!)

and visited a cheese factory, noodle factory, quilt shop, a milking operation, and ended up in a farmhouse for a real thrasher's dinner. Our meal included homemade mashed potatoes and gravy, fried chicken, creamed peas from the garden, a green salad, bread, apple butter and strawberry jam, and 3 kinds of

pies...creamed rhubarb, cherry and pecan. Our hosts were very gracious and accommodating and the driver of our van told us more stories about the Amish than you can imagine. All in all, this day was truly an experience to remember.

Wednesday was our day to shop at Wing Ding so everyone went their separate ways. Mike and I ducked out for lunch and enjoyed the world famous Coney Island in downtown Fort Wayne. From there we headed back to the hotel and pool for a relaxing afternoon.

Thursday we rode to Auburn for a tour of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. Our docent was a 70-year-old lady who shared stories with us about the families involved in the factory. She had so much information to share with us that it made the tour so enjoyable, even for us ladies. She even gave me a suggestion for lunch just down the street a couple of blocks and it turned out to be a wonderful lunch stop.



Following lunch, Al and Jeanine continued on with us down the "original" U.S. 6 to the Windmill Museum just outside our home town. It was so hot but there was a real nice breeze at a covered picnic table where Jeanine and I parked ourselves while the guys strolled around the grounds. We were all done playing the tourist by then!

Friday everyone went their separate ways. The Plumhoffs headed home, Tubacs stuck around longer to visit with family, the Williams' drove on to Ohio to visit family, and Mike and I rode to our home town of Kendallville where we spent the next 3 days visiting our Moms and other family members. All in all it was a fun trip and we wish you could have joined us.

## Carter Lake Ride

by Carl Williams Photos by Kenny & Lis Simons

What a beautiful day Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> was! The all-week rains stopped and everyone was more than ready to R-I-D-E. There were 7 bikes including two from Chapter "J", **Barb Pons** and **Lee Peters**. **Fred and Linda Fisher** met us at the Loaf & Jug in their car with news that their bike needed a new battery, but they would meet us for lunch. The ride left after the 8:30 am Driver's meeting where the route map and directions were handed out, groups formed and a Tail Gunner selected.



The mid 60's temperature was ideal for riding the curvy roads including Golden Gate Canyon Road, Highway 119, Highway 7 skirting Estes Park and US 34 to Carter Lake for lunch at the *Windjammer Road House and Grill*. **Judy Williams** put together a great route full of two-lane roads with curves that begged you to "use the whole road". Since my lack of a sense of direction is legendary throughout all of GWRRA, Judy has become an expert in laying out routes that are challenging.



Ah, the *Windjammer* experience. We have eaten there several times in the past, but always during the week. When I called to let them know about our group coming on Saturday, I was greeted with "No problem. We have



two bartenders and a cook on duty". No reservations needed and I did not bother to tell her that we would not need either bartender. The *Windjammer* sits on the north edge of Carter Lake and is truly a "Biker Bar & Grill". The place is decorated in Harley stuff and the menu is full of food that starts with "Panhead this, Shovel that" and other Harley engine names. They also have a very large patio for outdoor eating.

Arriving around noon, the parking lot was empty so we got to park right up front. Fred and Linda Fisher greeted us as we rolled in. As we began to order, Harleys started to arrive in groups of three's and five's. I was pleasantly surprised that some of the Harley folks stopped and looked at the Wings. **Janet Drake's** trike attracted the most attention including a lady who seriously wanted to buy it! A number of our group thought the food was very good. However, because the place was packed after we ordered, it put a strain on the cook and our food came out in three separate groupings with increasing time between each group.

After lunch, the road south gave the group a spectacular view of Carter Lake with all the boating activity. You would think the water level would be high with all the recent rain we have had, but it actually looked very low. The rest of the route was less curvy, but very pleasant scenic back-roads. As we returned to the Denver area, folks were CB'ing their good byes as they broke off. **Mike and Becky Ackerman** announced that their ride on Saturday, August 11 would be one not to miss with more details at Monday's Chapter meeting. I, for one can't wait to go for another Chapter ride to have more FUN with everyone. Oh yes, be sure to ask Kenny & Lis how extra special their ride experience was!

## 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. **NEW RATE IS \$84 PER NIGHT!**

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.



### Future Events

#### **Aug 2012**

Mon, 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center <b>Refreshments – Mike &amp; Becky Ackerman</b>
Sat, 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Ride – <b>Mike &amp; Becky Ackerman</b>
Wed, 15 <sup>th</sup>	NO DINNER RIDE-SEE AUG 11 <sup>TH</sup> LUNCH RIDE IN LIEU OF DINNER RIDE
Thu-Sat, 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>COLORADO DISTRICT CONVENTION IN GRAND JUNCTION</b>
Sat, 25 <sup>th</sup>	Trail Ridge Road Ride- <b>Kenny &amp; Lis Simons</b>
Fri-Sun, Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> -Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup>	California District Convention, Mammoth Lakes, California
Various	Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2012 Ride Guide

#### **Sep 2012**

Mon, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	LABOR DAY-CHAPTER MEETING MOVED TO THE 10 <sup>TH</sup>
Sat, 8 <sup>th</sup>	Nine-Pass Ride – <b>Ralph Spencer</b>
Mon, 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center---NOT THE 3 <sup>RD</sup> ! <b>Refreshments – Dan &amp; Vicky Kirk</b>
Wed, 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter L Dinner Ride, 6:30 p.m. – <b>Vernon &amp; Deb Pate</b>
Thu-Sat, 27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>nd</sup>	New Mexico District Convention, Taos, New Mexico
Various	Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2012 Ride Guide

### **GL1500 & Trailer For Sale!**

Ride your dream! Beautiful 1998 Honda Goldwing SE and 2000 Bushtec Trailer, both black without pin-striping or murals (an open canvas, if you like). Only 47K miles, very well maintained, and always garaged. Usual SE upgrades plus many extras. \$10,000 Contact Bill at (303) 748-2671.





## 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
Ride Coordinator	Becky Ackerman	303-988-0413



## Colorado Chapters and District Staff

### Colorado Chapter Directors

Chapter A	Kraig & Linda White	303-877-5709
Chapter B	Dave & Sandra Geer	970-270-1508
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	Vacant	
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	Vacant	
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	<a href="mailto:jralkire@cox.net">jralkire@cox.net</a>	619-741-8893
Assistant Directors	Garry & Kerry Woo	<a href="mailto:gwoo225@comcast.net">gwoo225@comcast.net</a>	520-883-7155
Assistant Directors	Joyce & Rick Elmore	<a href="mailto:jelmore16@gmail.com">jelmore16@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:relmore2@gmail.com">relmore2@gmail.com</a>	J cell 303-803-3748 R cell 303-803-5378
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Educator	Dave & Dee Gormley	<a href="mailto:ddfroggy@aol.com">ddfroggy@aol.com</a>	520-749-5653
Assistant Educator	John Garrett	<a href="mailto:john@garrett.bz">john@garrett.bz</a>	951-679-4987 Cell 951-505-5335
Assist Educator-Medic First Aid	Joel & Marti Winkler	<a href="mailto:jwinkler2@verizon.net">jwinkler2@verizon.net</a> <a href="mailto:martwinkle@yahoo.com">martwinkle@yahoo.com</a>	626-969-7386
Assist Educator-Motorist Awareness	VACANT		
Leadership Trainer	Ray & Sandi Garris	<a href="mailto:raygarris@gmail.com">raygarris@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:wingedcoyotes@q.net">wingedcoyotes@q.net</a>	602-404-6875 Cell 602-469-5440
Membership Enhancement	Lisa Capano & Bill Weiss	<a href="mailto:lisacapano@aol.com">lisacapano@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:Flyingace@qwestoffice.net">Flyingace@qwestoffice.net</a>	720-890-8122
Region Store	Gay & David Redline	<a href="mailto:gredline@me.com">gredline@me.com</a>	303-549-0506
Couple & Ind of the Yr Coord	JoAnn & Jim MacLean	<a href="mailto:ka6vif@pacbell.net">ka6vif@pacbell.net</a>	661-251-5420 Cell 619-929-6223
Couple & Ind Yr Asst Coord	Bill Leach	<a href="mailto:mudwagon@cox.net">mudwagon@cox.net</a>	520-747-5276
Convention Vendor Coord	Larry & Donna Pickens		
Couple of the Year (12-13)	Mike & Ruth Burke	<a href="mailto:mburke24@sbcglobal.net">mburke24@sbcglobal.net</a>	209-536-1318
Individual of the Year (12-13)	Rocco (Don't know last name)	<a href="mailto:jprocco3@gmail.com">jprocco3@gmail.com</a>	916-743-2358
Webmaster	Tom & Lisa Evans	<a href="mailto:evans@att.net">evans@att.net</a>	575-652-3144