Wing Words

the rest of Colorado follows COL

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE

February 2014

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Next Chapter Gathering
Monday, February 3rd @ 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: Carl and Judy Williams
Coffee: Kenny & Lis Simons

Words for Gold Wingers!

by Fred & Linda Fisher, Directors

Greetings from your Directors,

As we start the year I am so looking forward to a fun year. Linda and I took a long bike trip last year but have decided to stay a little closer to home this year. Not that we won't be riding, we will just be taking several short trips instead of a big long trip.

This brings me to something; I was wondering how many miles do we ride. I know we covered 43 states, Canada and Mexico as a Chapter in 2013. I would like to know the miles we ride in 2014 while we fill in the map again this year. So, if you can, would you please record your 2014 starting mileage for me and I will keep a total for the year. You can email it to me if you like, or just get it to me at the next gathering. I know we have some states ready to be filled in on our map at the next gathering.
Due to the weather we were not able to do our New Years Day ride as planned. We did have 16 people show up to Beau Joe's Pizza for lunch. Anything for a meal together.

We had a very nice dinner ride on January 15th. More on that later in this newsletter.

On January 18th, we had a fabulous ride schedule meeting. We added many fun events and rides to our Chapter schedule to our District and Multi-Chapter events. Look for the 2014 Ride Book to be published soon.

January 25th brought us the Annual Colorado District Meeting. A great chance to meet with old friends and share ideas and plans for the upcoming season and beyond.

Of course February 1st brings the official change in District and Region leadership. I would like to officially offer my Thank You to Randall and Janet Drake for their years of service and dedication to the Colorado District. I'd also like to wish them

good luck as they move into their new position as Region "F"un Directors.
Lastly, I want to welcome our new District Directors; Barb and John Pons and their staff. I'm looking forward to continue working with them in the future.

With that, I'll close for this month.
Looking forward to seeing everyone at the February 3rd gathering, if not before.

Until Then….Ride Safe….Always.

Level Up! - Level 4

Submitted by Andrew C. Smith, Rider Educator

Well we discussed the 1st three levels in last month's article, Level 1 - "Safety by Commitment"; Level 2 – "Safety by Education" & Level 3 – "Safety by Preparedness". As we will discuss in this month's article, we will cover the most "Prestigious" level in the Rider Education Program, that of Level 4 – Safety by Enhanced Commitment and Preparedness.

This level represents the highest level of commitment by the Rider and/or Co-Rider toward safe riding and preparedness. This commitment is shown by a demonstrated history of safe miles, continuing education and current certification in **both** First Aid and CPR. These Master Tour Riders/Co-Riders are the finest examples to everyone of the highest level of commitment to safe motorcycle operation and preparedness.

The requirements for Level 4 are the most stringent of any level and require a much greater commitment to maintain. So, you ask why should I want to reach Level 4? Well to quote the *Rider Education Program Handbook* – "Being prepared to save a life is a high calling indeed! These individuals are shining examples to the rest of the GWRRA Membership. Others aspire to practice the same commitment as displayed by those who have attained Level IV. For that reason, because these individuals are ambassadors to the Members at all levels, GWRRA provides a special gathering to celebrate the Master Tour Rider commitment each year at Wing Ding. (GWRRA Rider Education Program Handbook, 11th Edition, January 2013)

All that said, "What do I need to do to become a 'Master Tour Rider'?"

Rider Requirements:

- Be a current GWRRA Member.
- Be a participant in Level III of Rider Education Levels Program and have been current in Level III for at least one full year.
- Have ridden a minimum of 25,000 safe miles (40,000 km).
- Be current in **both** First Aid and CPR certifications.
- Wear proper riding apparel at all times while riding. Proper riding apparel, a.k.a.: proper riding "gear" will include, at a minimum, a DOT approved helmet, eye protection, full-fingered gloves, over-the-ankle foot protection (boots preferred), with the balance of the body fully covered (leather or abrasion-resistant attire preferred; denim accepted.) Jackets or shirts should be a single piece of apparel and not be modular or zip-off unless designed for motorcycle use (i.e., no "riding sleeves"). Some have coined the acronym ATGATT standing for **All the Gear, All the Time**.

- Submit a completed Master Tour Rider/Co-Rider **Application Form (N.9)** with written recommendation from the Chapter Educator or other validating GWRRA Operations Officer along with the appropriate fee to your District Educator. The application will continue to final approval by the Region Educator. Once approved, the application is sent to GWRRA International Headquarters.

Co-Rider Requirements:

- Be current GWRRA Member.
- Be a participant in Level III of Rider Education Levels Program and have been current in Level III for at least one full year.
- Have ridden a minimum of 25,000 safe miles (40,000 km).
- Be current in both First Aid and CPR certifications.
- Wear proper riding apparel at all times while riding (see definition in the Rider section above).
- Submit a completed Master Tour Rider/Co-Rider **Application Form (N.9)** with written recommendation from the Chapter Educator or other validating GWRRA Operations Officer along with the appropriate fee to your District Educator. The application will continue to final approval by the Region Educator. Once approved, the application is sent to GWRRA International Headquarters.

Though Level 4 is the highest level in the program, GWRRA has recognized that there are Riders & Co-Riders that deserve special recognition amongst their peers.

These are the **"Senior Master"**; **"Grand Master"**; and **"Life Grand Master"**. For those Level 4 members that have remained current (Riding Course/Co-Rider Seminar and First Aid/CPR recertification requirements met) for increments of 5, 10, or 15 (and greater) years are awarded special recognition represented by a new patch.

* Note that simply fulfilling longevity requirements does not meet the requirements of this program. The applicant must remain certified/recertified for the time requirement. Having a Master number on the eligibility list does not automatically qualify someone for the Masters Recognition Program. If there is a time when courses are not current, or Membership expires, the Member need only rejoin GWRRA, recertify and remain current for the additional time required to make-up the non-current time.

Senior Master

Those Members meeting a minimum 5 years of active participation and continuous* recertification and who are cur-rent Members may be recognized and receive a Senior Master patch upon application to GWRRA.

Grand Master

Those Members meeting a minimum of 10 years of active participation and continuous* recertification and who are current Members may be recognized and receive a Grand Master patch upon application to GWRRA.

Life Grand Master

Starting in 2004, those Members meeting a minimum of 15 years of active participation and continuous* recertification and who are current Members may be recognized and receive a Life Grand Master patch upon application to GWRRA.

Rider Education + Motorist Awareness: A combination for a winning team!

Submitted by Sherry D. Smith, Motorist Awareness Coordinator, Colorado Chapter "L"

As we slowly start to think about the upcoming riding season, I thought it would be a good idea to go back over the three ideas that encompasses the Motorist Awareness Program. We will go over one each month starting with ***Conspicuity*, A Motorcycling Must**.
"He came out of nowhere," how many times have we heard that statement. We all know what to do. Wear bright colors (Andy and I have this one down cold), ride with your headlights on, and maybe modulate your brake lights. Yet, it stills happens. Motorist fail to give us the right-of-way, or even worst act like we are not even there.
Conspicuity means Be Seen and Be Heard: When we turn, when we brake, and using the horn. Make sure that vehicle knows you are there!

Tracking Mileage

By, Becky Ackerman; Chapter Ride Coordinator,

At last month's gathering, I mentioned something about keeping track of your yearly mileage. We used to do this every year within the Chapter and it was a lot of fun comparing one year to the next. I would be happy to keep track of this so if you would please email me or bring to the February gathering your mileage for the beginning of 2014 I can get started on it.
Stan Smetana had another great idea to tack on to this. Since he handles our chapter website, he said it might fun to include the states we've ridden in as the year progresses. He could put this right on our website. I concurred! I know Fred brings the map to each gathering for us to color in and Stan can probably get what he needs from that. So if you ride your bike in another state, please be sure to color in the map and make sure Stan is aware of your travels.
Let's have some fun with this and see what it looks like by the end of 2014!

January Dinner Ride *by, Fred Fisher*

On January 15th, we had a very nice group of 19 people meet us at the very nice Italian Restaurant, Abrusci's in Wheatridge.
I think everyone enjoyed the great food and company. They put us in a nice large room all to ourselves; where we had great service provided by our server, Ray.
We had our monthly chip draw where Tami Bender's ticket was pulled, but she pulled a white chip from the bag. At February's drawing you might have a 1 in 6 chance to win the draw.
Might be worth showing up for that one.

Thanks to all that came and enjoyed.

Thanks for the Memories

by, Becky Ackerman

Unlike some people I know who might take 6 vacations in their entire 70+ years and can tell you the color of the tablecloth on one particular trip in a certain restaurant, those of us in the GWRRA group have taken many and could care less about the tablecloth or if there even was one. And as we age and have more time to go on extended vacations, we are able to go even more. There will come a time when we are unable to continue these fantastic adventures and we'll only have our memories. For that we will be very grateful.

I started a habit some years ago to help me remember a lot of the little details you wouldn't normally remember on a trip. I took a journal or a notebook with me and every night I would write the highlights of that day. Each trip I took a different notebook and over the years they have become scattered as I didn't really have a plan for what I was going to do with them. And to make matters worse, I quit doing it altogether.

Just yesterday I stumbled on a notebook I took on a trip to the northwest in 2011. As I began to read the first day's notes, I realized this was the first big vacation we took a year and a half after my rotator cuff surgery, so it was very significant. Was I going to be OK and be able to ride for two weeks without any problems? The resounding answer was YES!

It is amazing how realistic that trip became and how much more I remembered just reading my notes. No, I didn't write an entire book. But each day I made note of the weather, the temperature when we headed out in the morning and the high for the day, where we were riding from and to. I was sure to explain the terrain we traveled, whether we followed rivers most of the day or were riding through the hills. And of course, anything significant, like the day a small creek overflowed from a storm the previous night and it flooded the highway we were traveling, mostly our lane. I read where we forded water 6 times and I finally figured out how slow I had to go and pick my knees clear up to my handlebars to keep my feet dry. (My fenders push the water even higher!) It was so much fun reading all about this trip and reliving a wonderful adventure.

I made note of the worst campgrounds we'd ever encountered and the best. If we had a fantastic meal I wrote down the restaurant and the town it was in. I was reminded to never stay at the KOA on the south end of Jackson Hole ever again if you have to use their bathrooms. The campground we stayed in near Garrison, MT where we were invited to join the local church congregation for a free BBQ dinner right on the property. We sat with a couple from Pensacola, FL who escape the summer heat by spending the summers in Montana each year, and the food was fantastic.

It reminded me of the 3 couples from New Jersey we met on a scenic overlook on the Northern Cascade Highway in Washington. Since they didn't have enough vacation to ride all the way from New Jersey and back, they had their bikes shipped to Seattle, flew there to pick them up and were riding all over the northwest and having a blast seeing new country. And they were young!

I read where we rode up Hurricane Mountain out of Port Angeles in the early morning without another car in sight for 14 miles of winding, twisty pavement through forest to above tree line with scenic views of the ocean behind us. How awe-inspiring the view was and how peaceful you felt looking out over the snowcapped peaks in the distance. It was very humbling.

In today's world, with all the electronic gadgets like laptops, tablets, etc., keeping a journal would be much easier than writing it all by hand like I did. So there really is no excuse not to do it. You will be amazed how much you forget over time and how much you will remember just reading your notes later on. Plus, if you decide that trip was so much fun you'd like to repeat it later on, you'll have everything you need to do it.

Do you recall who sang the song "Thanks for the Memories" on his weekly television show many years ago? I know I'm dating myself here, but it was Bob Hope. You'll be singing this song too once you read your journal and the many trips you've taken. You can bet I'll start doing this again on every trip we take going forward so I can also be thankful for the memories.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy February Birthday to:
Linda Fisher (12th)
Janet Drake (25th)
Tami Bender (26th)

Happy February Anniversary to:
Greg and Karen Tubac (7th)
Bob and Joyce Smith (14th)

Future Events

Feb 2014

Mon, 3rd	Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center Refreshments – Carl and Judy Williams
Sat, 15th	Chapter B Valentine Potluck Fundraiser, Grand Junction.
Wed, 19th	Chapter L Dinner Ride, – Carl and Judy Williams
Various	Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2013 Ride Guide

March 2014

~~Sat, 1st~~	~~Missile Silo Tour and Model Train Museum – Fisher's~~
Mon, 3rd	Chapter L Gathering, 7:00 p.m., Clements Community Center Refreshments – Ralph and Janet Spencer
Sat, 15th	Multi-Chapter: Adams Mystery Theater, Chapter E Leading
Wed, 19th	Chapter L Dinner Ride, – Hottinger's
Various	Other GWRRA Gatherings. Please refer to your 2013 Ride Guide

Date Change:

Please note there will be a date change for the March 1st ride to the Missile Silo/ Model Train Museum. Do to another group reserving the site; we will not be able to go on that day. I will be in contact with the operator soon and have a new date at the February gathering.

Chapter L Officers and Staff

Directors	Fred & Linda Fisher	silverone@comcast.net	720-922-0789
Assistant Directors	Bob & Christine King	bayoubobo@msn.com	303-463-4548
Rider Educator	Andrew Smith	redrockseducator@comcast.net	757-617-0734
Motorist Awareness Coordinator	Sherry Smith	savedby1too@verizon.net	303-923-8342
Treasurer	Tami & Steve Bender	bndrspndr@aol.com	303-972-8420
Membership Enhancement	Kenny & Lis Simons	kenneths419@gmail.com	720-685-0188
Couple of the Year (COY)	Andy and Sherry Smith	redrockseducator@comcast.net	757-617-0734
Chapter Member of the Year	Carl Williams	cawilliams2@comcast.net	
Awards & Recognition	Judy Williams	jcwilliams5@comcast.net	303-200-0262
Greeter	Ralph Spencer	ralph.spencer@onrr.gov	303-888-2705
Storekeeper	Dan & Vicky Kirk	redrider1951@comcast.net	303-358-6249
Ride Coordinator	Becky Ackerman	bikerbla@msn.com	303-988-0413
Newsletter Editor	Fred Fisher	silverone@comcast.net	720-922-0789
Ride Book Editor	Janet Drake	jdrake1111@aol.com	303-933-6073

Colorado Chapters and District Staff

Colorado Chapter Directors

Chapter A	Kraig & Linda White	kraigaw@msn.com	303-877-5709
Chapter B	Charles & Gatlene Grimsley	chapb_gwrrainfi@yahoo.com	970-268-5008
Chapter C	Les & Sharon Brown	lesandsharon@bresnan.net	719-372-6498
Chapter E	David & Gay Redline	dredline@me.com	303-506-7283
		gredline@me.com	303-549-0506
Chapter G	Dick & Fran Williamson	refmwi@gmail.com	970-347-8855
Chapter I	Don Cruzan & Cathy Luce	doncruzan@comcast.net	719-433-4875
Chapter J	Bryan and Emma Lape	cd@gwrraco-j.org	303-902-8570
Chapter N	Diana & Dave Bradley	dndbradley@comcast.net	719-671-6235
Chapter Q	Rich & Linda Fuller	rnlwing@juno.com	970-874-8830
Wyoming B (Northern CO)	Jim & Paulette Lysne	jameschynn3@aol.com	307-634-9176

Colorado District Staff

District Directors	Randall & Janet Drake	hookdondiz@aol.com	303-933-6073
Assistant District Directors	John & Barb Pons	coloadd@ponsjandb.com	(J) 303-396-5520
			(B) 303-406-8102
Treasurer	Mike & Becky Ackerman	bikermha@msn.com	303-988-0413
Rider Educators	Alan & Deb Gustafson	asawdust@comcast.net	303-690-3788
Motorist Awareness-East	VACANT		
Motorist Awareness-West	Nick & Ginny Hoppner	ginnyornick@bresnan.net	970-964-4379
District Trainer	Garry Howland	scout4life@sprintmail.com	303-337-2740
Assistant Trainer	Andrew & Sherry Smith	redrockseducator@comcast.net	757-617-0734
Membership Enhancement	Gilda & Bob McCorkle	purplegoose89@comcast.net	303-650-1473
Assistant Membership	VACANT		
Special Events Assistant	Donald Redline	yellowwing2@comcast.net	303-718-7619
Couple & Ind of the Year Coord	Rich & Donna Noah	rdnoah@pcisys.net	719-465-1880
Chapter of the Year Champion	Ralph Spencer	ralph.spencer@onrr.gov	303-888-2705
Newsletter Editor	April Hansen-Keppler	pahkwing95@aol.com	303-384-0476
Webmaster	Jim & Janet Wohlford	cogwrra@comcast.net	303-979-0196
Photographer	Kenny & Lis Simons	kenneths419@gmail.com	720-685-0188
Couple of the Year (2013-14)	Bob & Jan Wills	wingnusa@hotmail.com	720-333-0153
		wingnjeep2@live.com	720-351-6663
Individual of the Year (2013-14)	Bryan Lape	jblape@comcast.net	303-902-8570

Region "F"*un* Staff

Region Director	Anita & JR Alkire	jralkire@cox.net	619-741-8893
Assistant Directors	Keith and Teresa Morrison	Morrison-GWRRA@comcast.net	505-414-7239
Assistant Directors	Randall and Janet Drake	hookdondiz@aol.com	303-933-0673
Assistant Directors	Joyce & Rick Elmore	jelmore16@gmail.com	J cell 303-803-3748
		relmore2@gmail.com	R cell 303-803-5378
Assistant Directors	Cathy & George Diaz	geocatdiaz@sbcglobal.net	949-302-8664
Treasurer	Crystal Richardson	crystal@infinite-healing.net	858-541-1176
		Crystal.richardson@san.rr.com	Cell 619-929-6223
Educator	Dave & Dee Gormley	ddfroggy@aol.com	520-749-5653
Assistant Educator	Mike & Ruth Burke	mburke24@sbcglobal.net	209-536-5653
Assist Educator-Medic First Aid	Joel & Marti Winkler	jwinkler2@verizon.net	626-969-7386
		martwinkle@yahoo.com	
Assist Educator-Motorist Awareness	Mike & Barri Critzman	itsawingthing@hotmail.com	760-486-3405
Leadership Trainer	Ray & Sandi Garris	raygarris@gmail.com	602-404-6875
		wingedcoyotes@q.net	Cell 602-469-5440
Membership Enhancement	Lisa Capano & Bill Weiss	lisacapano@aol.com	720-890-8122
		Flyingace@qwestoffice.net	
Couple of the Year (2013-2014)	John & Barb Pons	john@ponsjandb.com	303-396-5520
		barb@ponsjandb.com	303-406-8102
Individual of the Year (2013-2014)	Robert Bray	robertbray2@aol.com	614-563-8722
Chapter of the Year	AZ-D (Mesa, Arizona)		