



Red Rocks Reporter



2013 International Chapter of the Year

January 2016

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Greetings from Your Directors

Tami & Steve Bender
Senior Directors



Well Christmas is over and we hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. A New Year is approaching with new beginnings. The weather has been cold and snowy, doesn't look like we will be riding any time soon. But, summer will be here before we know it.

We had our mystery dinner on Wednesday, December 16, at The Morrison Inn and had good food while dining with good friends. My ticket was pulled and I did not pull the red chip. (I'm waiting for more money)

We have a lot of activities scheduled within GWRRA: rides, training, rallies, gatherings, and fundraisers. We hope to get a lot of riding in this season. Our next gathering is January 4, 2016, and the District Officer Conference will be on January 30th. All are invited to attend, just let us know at our January gathering so we can advise District Staff on how many to prepare for.

Steve and I are looking forward to a wonderful New Year to spend with Friends and Family.

See ya in January!

Chapter L 2016 Couple & Individual of the Year!



Fred & Linda Fisher
Couple of the Year



Chuck Bellmyer
Individual of the Year

A Fresh Start

*Submitted by Andrew Smith
Rider Educator*



Twass the day before Christmas, and I am writing a rider education article for our January 2016 newsletter. Where did 2015 go? I know most of us had a very exciting and very busy year of riding in 2015. From the map on last month's newsletter we did an awesome job of hitting most of the 50 states.

This year I would like to challenge everyone in Chapter L to maintain their current Level in the Rider Education Levels Program (for all the Level 4 - Master Tour Riders) or to complete the requirements to advance to the next Level in the Program. It really is very easy.

I will be reviewing the status of all Chapter L members as we get started in 2016, and let each of you know where you are, and what your next step is to move up.

So why do we do this?

The GWRRA Rider Education Program (REP) is intended to make the motorcycle environment safer by reducing injuries and fatalities and increasing motorcyclist skills and awareness. The REP does not propose to have all the answers. However, our close-working relationship with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), as well as additional GWRRA programs and studies, has provided a wealth of information for use in establishing a comprehensive Rider Education Program. Through Commitment, Education, and Application, we can reduce our accident rate significantly. Listed below are several benefits of a fully implemented GWRRA Rider Education Program at the Chapter level:

- Increased rider knowledge
- Increased rider safety skills
- Prevention of accidents
- Reduced injuries
- Reduced fatalities
- Improved general public image of motorcyclists
- Enhanced enjoyment of motorcycle riding

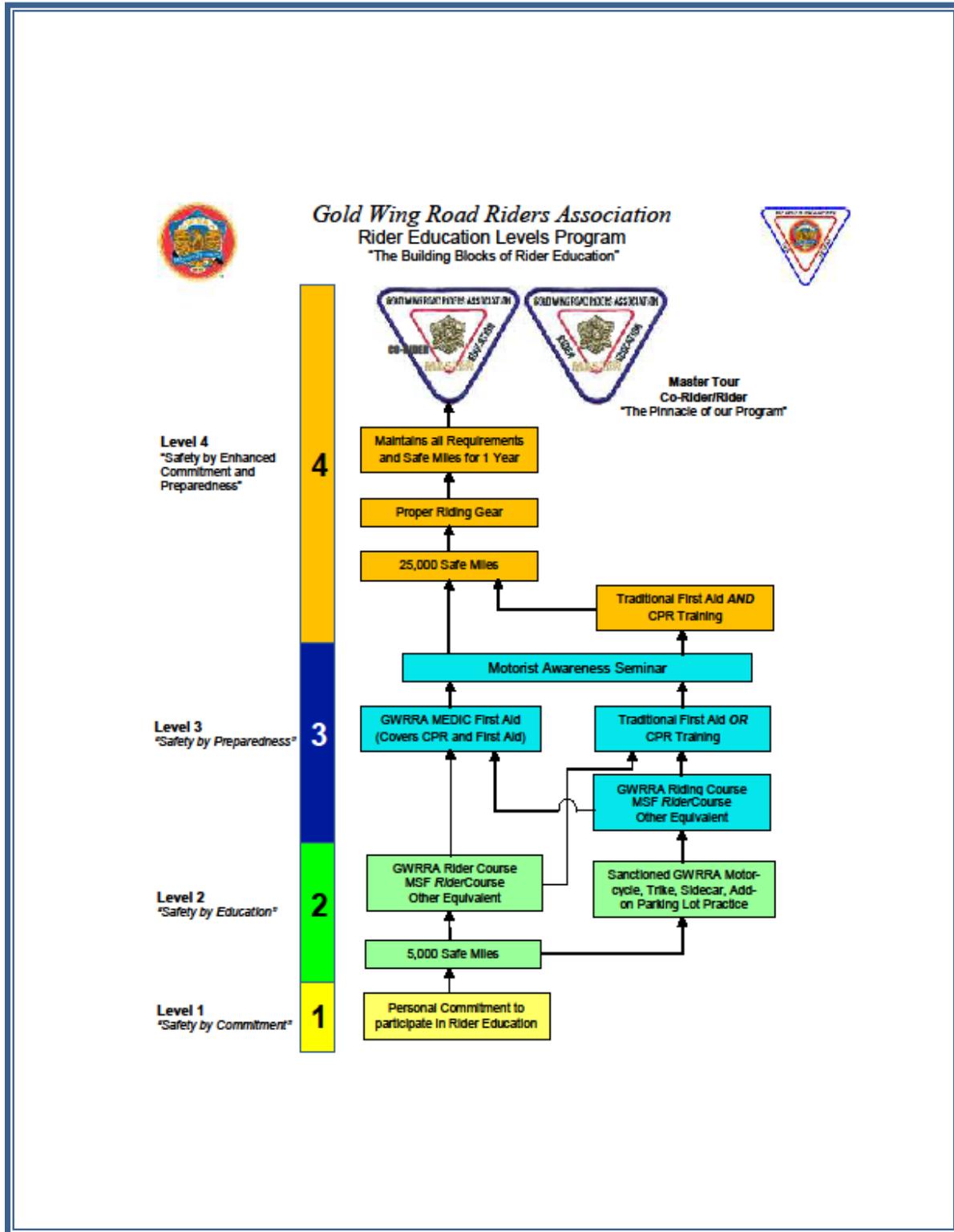
The motorcycle community is already realizing many positive benefits from the GWRRA Rider Education Program. Through the efforts of the Rider Education Officers and participation of the membership and others, we will reach our goal of establishing the safest motorcycle environment possible.

Basis Levels (1-4)

- Level I: Safety by Commitment - The first big step to success
- Level II: Safety by Education
- Level III: Safety by Preparedness
- Level IV: Safety By Enhanced Commitment and Preparedness



This chart explains the basics of each level:



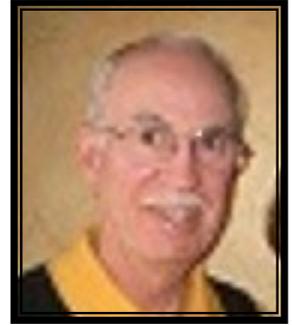
We will get more in-depth as we start the year!

Ride Safe — Have Fun!

January, January*by Nick Hoppner**District Motorist Awareness*

No, the title of this article is not a typographical error. I didn't stutter. But I did repeat myself for a reason, which I'll get to in the following paragraphs.

As I'm writing this for the January issue of our Chapter's newsletter, I couldn't help thinking about the first month, and what it's named for, and how it relates to Motorist Awareness.



January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days. The first day of the month, known as New Year's Day, looks both forward to new events and challenges and backward to consider how we all did in the previous 12 months. Indeed, it's altogether appropriate to consider January as a month to "look twice."



In ancient Roman religion and myth, **Janus** is the god of beginnings and transitions, and thereby of gates, doors, doorways, passages and endings. He is usually depicted as having two faces, since he looks to the future and to the past. (See the image of the two faces of Janus accompanying this article.) Although some folks think the month of January was named for Juno, another Roman god, I favor the opinion that naming it after Janus makes better sense.

The god Janus was also said to preside over the beginning and ending of conflict, and hence war and peace. The doors of his temple were open in time of war, and closed to mark the peace. As a god of transitions, he had functions pertaining to birth and to journeys and exchange, and he was concerned with travelling, trading and shipping.

So what does any of this palaver have to do with Motorist Awareness? It's really a good reminder that (especially during January when dirty, icy smears coat almost every vehicle's side windows and rearview mirrors) motorists should consider the example of Janus and look twice to save a life. At an intersection, look left, then right, then left and right again. Think of the article title—"January, January"—as you do so. It will be a little reminder of how to be sure there's not trouble/conflict/war coming quickly toward you when you least expect it.

Well-trained motorists realize that looking twice is a wise practice. And practice it you should! Sometimes, the most unexpected things can appear suddenly outside your vehicle even in January. Deer, elk, dogs, sheep, moose, snowmobiles, motorcycles, sidewise skidding garbage trucks—they all can come careening toward you when you least expect it.

So, this month, take a tip from your buddy Janus. Do twice as much looking for trouble and your year ahead will be more peaceful, more healthy, and more fun. Think "January, January."



Safe Driving Tips for Motorists

Submitted by Sherry Smith

Motorist Awareness

Not too many of us are on the roads these days; which makes it a great time for some reminders. This article is borrowed from *The Office of Traffic Safety* "A Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety"



About half of all motorcycle crashes involve a collision with another vehicle. In many crashes, the driver never saw the motorcyclist — or didn't see the rider until it was too late. There are many reasons why other drivers do not see motorcyclists.

- Most car drivers aren't familiar with motorcycles and don't look for them in traffic.
- Motorcycle riders often wear leathers which are usually dark in color and can easily blend into the background.
- Motorcycles are smaller than other vehicles, so they are more difficult to spot in traffic and can be hidden by other vehicles or roadside features.
- Daytime headlight use does not give motorcycle riders much of an advantage anymore, due to the widespread use of daytime running lights on cars.
- The smaller size and single headlight on the motorcycle make it more difficult for other drivers to judge a rider's speed and distance.

The Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center encourages everyone — drivers and motorcyclists — to practice these techniques to make motorcycling safer for everyone.

- When turning left: Most crashes between vehicles and motorcycles involve turning left at an intersection. If crossing traffic or turning left, look twice for motorcycles before turning.
- Blind spots: Motorcycles are easily hidden in traffic. Always take a second look over your shoulder — don't rely solely on your mirrors.
- Weather: Rain and sun glare can make a motorcycle "invisible." Take an extra moment to make sure the way is clear.
- Signals: Use turn signals. This allows the rider to anticipate traffic flow and find a safe lane position.
- Larger vehicles: Cars and trucks can conceal a motorcycle traveling behind it. Take an extra moment after a larger vehicle passes before beginning a turn
- Eye contact: Motorcyclists make eye contact often to feel confident that other drivers see them. Give a nod back to acknowledge them.
- Distance: Motorcyclists prefer to use a large space cushion, allowing them more time to react. Do not cut in front of a motorcycle and eliminate the safe following distance.
- Signals: Most motorcycle turn signals do not cancel automatically. If a cycle is coming, and the signal is flashing, wait a moment for the cycle to pass.

Additional Safe Driving Tips

- Watch aggressively for motorcycles.
- Search the traffic constantly and expect to see motorcycles.
- Check blind spots before changing lanes or merging, especially in heavy traffic.
- Double-check traffic at intersections before turning or pulling out.
- Motorcycles can easily be hidden in traffic. Look for a helmet above, tires below, or a shadow alongside a vehicle.



- Anticipate hazards that may confront the motorcyclist and predict how the motorcyclist may react to the situation.
- Poor road conditions, bad weather, flying debris, oil slicks, and heavy traffic pose high risks for motorcyclists.
- Allow a minimum three-second "space cushion" when following a motorcycle.
- Pick out a fixed object ahead of you. When the motorcycle passes the object, count off, "one thousand one, one thousand two...." If you haven't passed the same object after two seconds, your following distance meets the two-second minimum.
- In poor driving conditions, at higher speeds and at night, use a four or five-second following distance to give the motorcyclist more space.
- Watch out when turning left.
- Because motorcycles are smaller than other vehicles, it is harder to see them and more difficult to judge their approach speed in traffic.
- Share the road.
- Do not drive in the same lane as a motorcycle. It is unsafe and illegal.
- Treat motorcyclists with the same respect and courtesy you afford to other motorists.
- Observe and obey all traffic laws, signs and signals.
- Failure to obey and yield the right-of-way can result in the death or serious injury of a motorcyclist.
- Stay focused on the driving task. Inattentive driving is a major cause of vehicle-motorcycle crashes.
- Remove all possible distractions that can interfere with the driver's attention, and remove any objects that may block the driver's view.
- Looking Twice May Save A Life!

These are great tips!! Pass the word around!!

Let's Be Safe Out There...

In Memorium—Debbi Strauss



Sadly, we recently lost a past member of Chapter L. Debbi Strauss passed away after a short illness.

Debbi was born on July 1, 1949, and passed away on December 24, 2015.

Her husband, Ralph, said that Debbi loved the Gold Wing Road Riders Association and all the people in it.

Services will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016, at the Ft. Logan Cemetery, Section C. Ft. Logan is on the east side of Sheridan Blvd. about two blocks south of Hampden at 4400 W. Kenyon Ave, Denver. Area C is in the NW corner of the cemetery (<http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/maps/ftlogan888.pdf>)

All are invited to a Family & Friends Reception following the services. The Reception will be held at the VFW Post 4331, located at 5340 Marshall St, Arvada.

You will be missed, Debbi!

Making Plans for the New Year

Becky Ackerman
Ride Coordinator

As I sit here watching the snow fall on this Christmas Day, I think back to all the wonderful times we had this past year. We had some surprises on our chapter rides and lots of good times. New people stepped up to the plate and took charge of some activities new to them, which helped the chapter all the way around.



Looking forward to the New Year, I know there will be even more opportunities for chapter members to become involved in new ways. There are a myriad of things that need to be done and it takes a team effort to accomplish that. Give some thought to what you might want to contribute to help keep our chapter strong and viable moving forward. We can't all be followers. And the leaders can get tired of constantly leading without our help and support.

If you have an idea of something new you would like to try, even though you haven't seen it done in the past, don't be afraid to speak out and say something. I'm sure Steve and Tami will be anxious to hear from anyone who might be willing to take on a new responsibility in an effort to move our chapter forward.

With that said, don't forget to make plans for yourself and your family. When the snow is flying and it's too cold to ride our bikes, this is the time to get out the maps, do some research online and get some ideas on where you might want to travel in 2016. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to travel extensively know just how awesome our country really is and we can never say we've seen it all. So get busy making plans for your summer vacation so when the weather and roads are clear we are ready to ride.

Happy New Year!

Fort Michilimackinac

Becky Ackerman
Ride Coordinator

Over the past few months I have shared with you some of the stops we made on our trip across the country. One of those stops was at Fort Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City, Michigan. As many times as we've crossed the bridge over the years, we always rode right past the fort saying "the next time we're here we are definitely going to stop and tour it." Well, the time was right so we took the time to see what the fort had to offer. And boy, were we surprised!



Fort Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City, Michigan was originally built by the French in 1714-1715 to control the fur trade and European development of the upper Great Lakes. Michilimackinac was more of a fortified community than a military outpost. The colonial community was located both inside and outside the walls and the walls were expanded several times during the French and British occupation of the area. There was an Odawa (Ottawa) community along the shore when Fort Michilimackinac was built, but the Odawas moved 20 miles west to L'Arbre Croche (present day Cross Village) in 1741 when their corn fields were no longer fertile.

In the summer months the Michilimackinac population would swell (much like today) as voyageurs and traders arrived from Montreal and points east. Other trappers and traders would come to meet them from the interior, as well as hundreds of Native Americans.



The Church of Ste. Anne de Michilimackinac was built in 1743. The church was one of the buildings moved across the ice when the community was moved to Mackinac Island. Those parish records are still preserved at Ste Anne Catholic Church on Mackinac Island

During the French and Indian War, joint Native American and French forces from Michilimackinac traveled south to battle British and colonial American troops. On July 9, 1755 those forces, led by Michilimackinac's **Charles de Langlade** participated in the defeat of General Edward Braddock and a young **George Washington** at the Battle of Monongahela River in Pennsylvania.

The French garrison departed the Mackinac Straits at the conclusion of the French and Indian War and British troops arrived 1761. The French civilian community remained and encouraged the Native Americans to drive out the English. During Pontiac's Uprising in 1763, Native Americans defeated the British garrison, using the subterfuge of a bagataway (lacrosse) game to take the British unexpectedly. Many of the British were killed with some taken prisoner. The French population (which far outnumbered the British) was unharmed. **Alexander Henry** was one of the English fur traders who was taken prisoner and his journal provides a fascinating glimpse of life at Michilimackinac at the time, as well as the battle and his life with family of **Chief Wawatam** during the following year.

With Pontiac's Uprising's lack of success in Detroit, British troops were unopposed when they retook Fort Michilimackinac in 1764. Native American and British relations improved over the following years and by the time of the American Revolution, Indian forces from the region participated in the war on the side of the British.

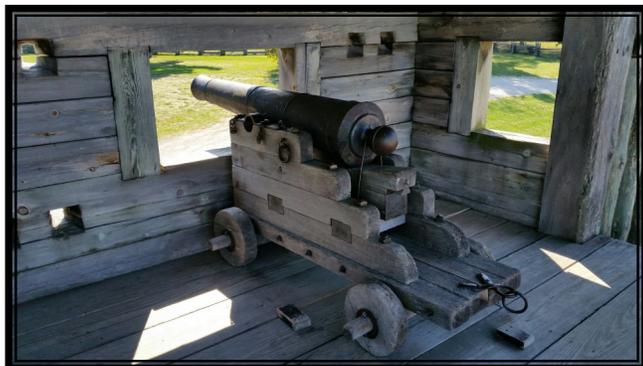
The most famous British Commander at Michilimackinac was **Major Robert Rogers** who was Commandant from 1766-1768. A colonial farmer from New Hampshire, Rogers created the French and Indian war unit called **Rogers' Rangers**. He was portrayed by Spencer Tracy in the movie *The Northwest Passage*.



Soldiers from the 10th Regiment of Foot were transferred from Fort Michilimackinac in 1774 and participated in the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775.

The Fort was relocated to the new [Fort Mackinac](#) on Mackinac Island during the American Revolution, with some of the buildings moved across the ice in the winter of 1780-1781. The remaining structures were burnt to the ground.

The immediate area was uninhabited for nearly 80 years until the community of Mackinaw City was started in the 1860s. The original 1857 plate laying out Mackinaw City preserved the Fort grounds as a park. In 1904 the city turned over control of the park to the State of Michigan and it became Michilimackinac State Park.



A WPA project erected a wooden palisade along the lines of the old walls and the replica was opened on July 1, 1933 with a pageant re-enacting the "massacre" of 1763. In 1959 archeological work at Michilimackinac began and much more accurate reconstruction of the Fort began in 1960. The work has continued every summer, making Michilimackinac the longest running archeological dig in North America.

Where will Chapter L Ride in 2016??

Okay! We have a blank map to fill in! Where will YOU ride this year? Be sure to let Randall know when you have ridden into or through one of our beautiful states! Let's FILL IT UP!!!!

We have added the following States to our Chapter's 2016 Travel List:

- Jan
- Feb
- Mar
- Apr
- May
- Jun
- Jul
- Aug
- Sep
- Oct
- Nov
- Dec



January Celebrations

Birthdays

Ron Evers	3
Bob King	21
Randall Drake	26

Anniversaries

Ralph & Janet Spencer	16
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Upcoming January 2016 Events

- Mon 4 Chapter Meeting
Refreshments by Benders
- Wed 20 Dinner Ride hosted by Benders
- Sat 9 First Aid/CPR by Chapter I
- Sat 16 MAD Seminar @ Chapter G
- Sat 23 LTP Chapter Life @ Fay Myers
- Sat 30 District Officer Conference

Colorado Chapter Gatherings

For information regarding Who, When, and Where, check your ride book OR go to the District Website at:

<http://www.coloradogwrra.com/Chapter/ChapterMeetings.htm>

Chapter L Officers and Staff 2015

Chapter Director	Tami & Steve Bender	Email	303-972-8420
Assistant Chapter Director	Chuck Bellmyer	Email	303-532-6630
Chapter Educator	Andrew Smith	Email	303-923-8342
Treasurer	Fred & Linda Fisher	Email	720-922-0789
Motorist Awareness Coordinator	Sherry Smith	Email	303-923-8342
Coffee Maker Extraordinaire	Kenny & Lis Simons	Email	720-685-0188
Membership Enhancement Coordinators	Vacant	Email	
Chapter Couple of the Year	Fred & Linda Fisher	Email	720-922-0789
Chapter Individual of the Year	Chuck Bellmyer	Email	303-532-6630
Ride Coordinator	Becky Ackerman	Email	303-988-0413
Greeter	Ralph Spencer	Email	303-888-2705
Storekeeper	Dan & Vicky Kirk	Email	303-358-6249
Ride Book Editor	Janet Drake	Email	303-933-6073
Newsletter Editor	Randall Drake	Email	720-480-2800

[Chapter L Web Site](#)



[Colorado District Staff](#)



[Region F Staff](#)



[GWRRA National Staff](#)



Medic First Aid & CPR Course

Sponsored by Chapter CO-G

When: Feb 20, 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.

Where: REA in Windsor
7649 REA Parkway

Cost: \$20 for Colorado GWRRA Members

RSVP: Hugh Curley
hugh@hughcurley.com
970-344-6053