



Connecting Colorado



March 2019

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"

Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Region F, Colorado District, www.coloradogwrra.com



Motorcycle Adventures

By Joyce & Rick Elmore, District Directors

Welcome to daylight saving time everybody! I guess that means that, other than the occasional 'Bomb Cyclone', winter is almost over. At last, we can look forward to getting the bikes out soon and creating more fun adventures out on the open road.

As usual, please remember that the roads may not be completely safe during the early season. Remember to watch out for pot holes, sand/dirt, and occasional wet spots from melting snow. And, of course, ATGATT (all the gear all the time) so that even if something does happen, you are prepared as best you can to survive.

Speaking of adventures, our local Chapter G celebrated our 40th birthday on Saturday. At the meeting, we had the opportunity to look through some old photo albums the Chapter has saved for many years. It's fun to see how much has changed and how much has remained the same. In an album from 1985 we saw how, other than the newest bikes being GL1200s, the Chapter still did lots of fun

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stuff, pulled trailers, camped out, even wore silly costumes, and just in general celebrated life.

It was fun to see what was, in effect, a Chapter Directory that included a picture of the person or couple posed on their bike, with names, GWRRA numbers, date they joined the Chapter, and even CD handles if they had them. Not being too proud to borrow a good idea, we even found a fun concept for a contest to get us out and riding all around the state. The idea was to have a M-O-T-O-R-C-Y-C-L-E ride during the year.

The point being that the Chapters would plan a ride to cities in Colorado that started with the letters of the word "motorcycle" and take a group photo in

front of the post office or the city sign to document the event. I don't recall all the cities, but it was started with Milliken and included names like Otis, Yuma and Evans. It sounds like fun, so how about we make it a plan?

In the meantime, we are already looking at being quite busy this year, with plans for every month through August, including Wing Ding in Nashville. If you are planning to attend Wing Ding this year, we look forward to seeing you there. If we don't see you on the road before then, look us up in the GWRRA store as we will be working there all week.

Ride safe and be careful out there...



Motorcycle Nuts?



Basic and Advanced Rider Courses

By Earl Edwards, District Rider Educator

How do we stay proficient in our riding skills? How do we operate the motorcycle more smoothly? How do we protect our passengers and the ones we love on our motorcycles? Training and Practice...that's how we do it.

If you have already taken a class, and it has been at least three years, then you need to take it again. That where the *training* comes into the picture. We should *practice* every time we ride, if it is safe to do so. If not, practice in a parking lot.

So, what is covered in the riding course? Braking, Cornering and Swerving.

Braking: The ability to use both brakes effectively when stopping.

Cornering: The ability to push on the handlebars to make the motorcycle go right or left.

Swerving: The ability to make the motorcycle move underneath you, right or left, to avoid an obstacle in your path.



So, let's look for a class whether it is located in Denver, Colorado Springs or out of state, and get updated on our riding skills before the riding season.

WHY? Because jumping off the motorcycle or laying it down is not a motorcycle *skill* that can be practiced.

Only protect the parts of your body you would like to use for the rest of your life.



Ride...Ride...Ride!

By Jacques Perron, Ride Coordinator

After over five years in Colorado, I have learned that March is a transition month. As I am starting to write this article, it is 60 degrees outside and, apparently, we will get snow and blizzard tomorrow! Never sure what to expect as far as weather in March. It should get better as we get closer to Spring, and it is the time to start to prepare for the riding season.

Are you mentally prepared? Are you going to find a nice parking lot to practice some riding skills? Are you going to take some riding course? What about your motorcycle? Is it ready for the riding season? Maybe it is a good idea to go to the Colorado maintenance day on May 11 (9101 Monroe Street, Thornton, CO).

The various Colorado Chapters are planning several rides for the 2019 season. If you want to know more about those, visit the Colorado District Website.



You can find ride information for some Chapters under the following tabs: click on the green "Chapters" tab at the top of the home page and then under "Miscellaneous," click the link titled "2019 Chapter Ride Books."

If you want to join some of these rides, contact the respective Chapter Ride Coordinator. For Chapter A, contact Ron Fagler at wingfagler@comcast.net; for Chapter B, contact Barbara Romans at jnbroma@bresnan.net; for Chapter G, contact Steve Scholbrock at director@gwrranortherncolorado.org; for Chapter I, contact Don Benuska at ridered@springswings.org; for Chapter J, contact Doug Kile at djhome0803@gmail.com; for Chapter L, contact Becky Ackerman at bikerbla@msn.com; and for Chapter Q, contact Howie Peterson at acenpenny@bresnan.net.

Chapter A also wants to remind you about the Steamboat Springs Hot Air Balloon Rodeo ride in July (see flyer). The rooms are going fast, and you need to make your reservation early if you are planning to join.

Ride safe!



Another Distracted Driving Article

By Peter Kepler, District Motorist Awareness Officer

This is an update of our article in the March 2016 District Newsletter on distracted driving. The April 2016 issue of *American Motorcyclist* magazine had an article on "The Current State of Distracted Driving Laws - Staying Safe on the Road." Following are the highlights:



- While every road user faces some risks from distracted drivers, motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than car and truck drivers.
- Motorcyclist, like drivers, must limit their use of devices, such as GPS units, intercom, and stereos that take their eyes and focus off the road ahead. *This is especially important now with all the devices and apps on the new Gold Wings and other bikes.*
- Nearly 80% of crashes and 65% of near crashes involve some form of driver inattention within 3 seconds before the event (2006 NHTSA study).
- According to a study by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, sending or receiving a text message takes a driver's eyes off the road for nearly 5 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55 mph for the length of a football field.
- At any given daylight moment, about 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving.
- To address the problem, federal and state lawmakers are passing laws aimed at prohibiting activities, such

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as texting or making phone calls while driving, and increasing the penalties for distracted driving.

- The AMA supports legislation that increases penalty options available to the courts for cases in which distracted driving caused injury, death or significant property damage, including higher fines, license suspension, community service or jail time.

In Colorado, texting while driving is illegal for all drivers. Texting and/or talking while driving is illegal for drivers under 18. The Colorado legislature is currently considering a bill that would make texting or talking on a handheld device a primary offense that could result in a \$750 fine and 4 points on a license. On the CDOT web page, distracted driving is defined as “performing any in-vehicle task that takes attention and focus away from the primary task of driving.” The website includes the following statistics:

- ✓ Of the 203,827 motorists (assume this includes motorcyclists) involved

in a crash on Colorado roadways in 2013, an estimated 24.4% of those crashes were attributed to distracted drivers. *I’m sure these numbers are higher for 2018; haven’t gotten that information yet. Lots of information on the NHTSA website on highway use and crashes in all states.*

- ✓ Between 2008 and 2013, there has been a 9% increase in the number of crashes caused by distracted driving in Colorado.

CDOT is committed to reducing fatal injury crashes due to distracted driving and supports efforts to step up enforcement of cell phone and distracted driving citations. The GWRRA Motorist Awareness Program certainly supports CDOT’s and other agencies’ commitment and effort to reduce the incidence of accidents due to distracted driving by making the driving public more aware of motorcycles on the road and the consequences of crashes involving motorcyclists.

Ride Like Your Life Depends on It!





Scheduled Training

By Inez Scholbrock, District University Training Coordinator

It is springtime in Colorado; most days are still too cold, or icy, to ride. Now would be a great time to check over the bike and fix anything that needs changing. It is also a good time for you, as a rider, to attend some classes. There are two opportunities in April in Colorado for you to attend a fun, classroom day.

On April 20th there will be a day on the Western Slope. I don't have any other details at this time. Please save the date.

On April 27th there will be a day on the Front Range at Sun Honda at 88th and Washington. The day will include:



8:30am: R U Ready to Ride -What does it take for you and your machine to be in the best shape for a ride?

9:30am: Trailering - come ready to share stories, adventures and ask questions.

10:30am: High Side Scenarios - Videos will be shown and discussed.

1pm: Motorcycle Crash Scene Response - What is the most prudent way to respond to an on-the-ride crash?

2:30pm: Co-Rider - (Necessary for Levels) Class has been changed to a more interactive format.

Please see the flyer for more info or contact me with questions: inez.scholbrock@mac.com

GWRRR Instructors' Certification Course Scheduled

The Districts of VA and NC are co-hosting a Rider Course Instructor Certification Program (RCICP) in the spring of 2019.

The entire RCICP consist of two parts:

- 1) The Classroom Instructor Development Module (CIDM)
- 2) The Rider Course Instructor Training (RCIT).

a. The CIDM is a one day all classroom session to develop the presentation skills needed to present a GWRRR Rider Course. This session is similar to the University Training, but all Rider Course candidates must complete this training regardless of their standing as a Rider Education Presenter or a University Instructor. No motorcycle is required for this portion of the training.

b. The RCIT is 4 days of classroom and range. On the 4th day the Instructor Candidates will teach a GWRRR Rider Course. A motorcycle is required for all 4 days of this training. Candidates will be required to demonstrate their riding skill on the first of these 4 days. The RCIT for the Advanced Rider Course (ARC) and the Trike Rider Courses (TRC) are held separately. These are full days, typically requiring 10 hours of time each day.

The CIDM portion of this training will take place in Highpoint, NC on Saturday March 30, 2019. This session will be for **both** Advanced Rider Course Candidates and Trike Rider Course Candidates.

The ARC RCIT will be held April 24-27, 2019 in Roanoke, VA.

The TRC RCIT will be held May 8-11, 2019 in Roanoke, VA.

Please pass this information on to **all** members. If they are interested (and for more information) they should contact:

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2018-2019 Couple of the Year

John & Barb Romans (CO-B)

District Upcoming Events

Mar. 23 - WY-B Birthday Party, Cheyenne, see flyer

Apr. 20 - University Training Seminars, Grand Junction, see flyer

Apr. 27 - University Training Seminars, Sun Honda, see flyer

July 12-14 - Chapter A Steamboat Springs Balloon Festival Ride, see flyer

Oct. 12 - Chapter L Chili Cook-off Fundraiser, see flyer

Scheduled Rallies

Mar. 21-23 - Florida Dist. Rally, Altamonte Springs, FL

Apr. 25-27 - South Carolina Dist. Rally, Newberry, SC

May 16-18 - Texas Dist. Rally, Paris, TX

May 24-26 - California Dist. Rally, Minden, NV

May 30-June 1 - Missouri Dist. Rally, Branson, MO

June 6-9 - Idaho Dist. Rally, Kamiah, ID

June 27-29 - Wyoming Dist. Rally, Lander, WY

July 25-28 - NW Coast Dist. Rally, 100 Mile House, BC

Aug. 1-3 - Illinois Dist. Rally, Olney, IL

Aug. 16-18 - Multi-Dist. 4 Corners Rally, Ignacio, CO

Aug. 27-31 - Wing Ding, Nashville, TN

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