

WingWords

APRIL 27, 2006

APRIL NEWSLETTER

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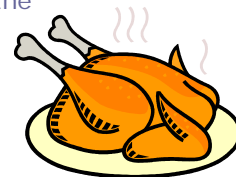
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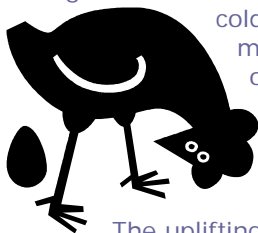


From your directors...

To say that our April gathering was regular would be stretching the truth like a rubber band (or should I say a rubber chicken?). The meeting started in a normal fashion by introducing any new members or guests, communications, and other business information. We were very happy to see an old face back—Jasper Norflet came by to offer his expertise with body health. Our guest, Don Garden, found us to be a fun-loving group although he may really be thinking we are totally crazy.



When our assistant director, Mark DeBarge, started going over the ride schedule, feathers started to fly. The first ride of the season—dubbed a Chicken Run—brought out over 20 riders. This is to see who is brave enough to weather the cold or plug in to be toasty warm. Longfellow, our chapter mascot, inducted those who "plugged in" to the "Royal Order of the Roasted Chicken." Members received a certificate and a rubber egg laying chicken. The whole room broke into an uproar that lasted for at least 15 minutes. This was a #1 meeting.



The uplifting attitude continued when it was announced that the profit from our Rays of Hope benefit dance totaled \$3,550. This makes our four-year total over \$12,000! What a feather in our caps! During our next monthly meeting on May 15th, we will be presenting a representative of Rays Of Hope the check from our hard work. We would like as many riders to attend the meeting with their bikes because Channel 40 may attend to film the presentation!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Darlene Clark for the outstanding job she has done as our Chapter's Fun Chairperson! She has officially retired from her position after many successful and fun events over the past several years. Also, at this time, we would like welcome and congratulate Sam McQueeney for volunteering to step up to the bat and become our new fun chairperson. Welcome aboard.



Just a reminder, May 7th is the Motorcycle Blessing. If you are planning to attend, please be sure to let us know so we can get an accurate head count so that there will be enough food. We want to make this an annual event so please consider going. More information on our "Events Link" at www.gwrramachapterd.com. Thank you.

Claude & Claire Pouliot

Chapter Directors

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Faith's Fun Link:

<http://www.urban75.com/Mag/bubble.html>

GWRRRA Websites!**Regional Website:**

<http://regionb.tripod.com/cgi-bin/webcal.pl>

MA District Website:

<http://www.gwrrama.org>

Chapter D Website:

<http://gwrramachapterd.com>

...and from the Assistant Director...

Ok, so I am sitting here on this Sunday wondering when the rain will stop, trying to come up with a subject for this month's newsletter. Well here we go! Now would be a good time to take a closer look at the bike and make sure that it is ready to go. You know—when was the last time that you did a really good check of your tires, brakes, oil, and battery? You really have to take them out and check the water level—don't just try to see if the level is up to the line. They tend to get stained on the inside and give a false reading. Is your Alternator actually putting out 13.8 to 14 volts more or less? How about the windshield? Does it need to be cleaned or replaced? When was the last time that you checked the fluids in your master cylinders? Ok! Enough of my ramblings for now! Hope that everyone had a great time at the April meeting and that all is well with everyone and their favorite ride.

Mark & Marie
Assistant Chapter Directors

...and a word about safety...

CRASH COURSE—TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED

I recently had my first crash on the street, and it happened because I was complacent.

While riding home from work on my usual route, I came upon a hill with a traffic light on the downhill side about a quarter mile from the crest. I know the light is there, but the traffic is never backed up farther than the bottom or middle of the downhill.

On this occasion, though, traffic was stopped just over the crest. I applied brakes hard with plenty of time to stop. The only thing I didn't notice was the sand on the road. When I hit the sand, my front wheel locked and the bike went down.

The upper left side of my helmet was scrapped pretty badly, but my armored leathers spared me from any serious injuries. Had I not been wearing protective gear, I surely would have been hospitalized.

I made it 37 years without a wreck, but I suddenly found out that I was relying too heavily on past experience on the road. I ride daily. I could easily blame the sand on the road, but that's only an excuse. It was definitely something I could have avoided, had I been paying closer attention.

Jack Gilroy
Chapter Educator

This excerpt was copied from the District Newsletter. Thought it would be interesting to all who ride...

From the District Directors...

Well it appears that riding season has finally arrived. The weather has been great and we are sure a lot of you have been out and around, enjoying your "toys". Please be extra careful of sand and "cagers" out there. It is not mid July, and the "cagers" haven't put their brains in gear yet to recognize motorcycles.

I had a "cell phone attached" driver make a left right in front of me crossing two lanes of traffic because he decided he needed fuel. I was going slow enough (not driving my age) and was able to brake without hitting him and his family. The air horns didn't phase him. We followed him into the gas station and politely asked him to be more cognizant of motorcycles because the next biker might not be so lucky and his young children didn't need to be witnesses to his unintentional murder of a biker.

There were no heated words, no anger. He just sat there with a "dumb" look on his face and sputtered back, "It is too early in the year for motorcycles to be on the road." I rest my point. There are many more out there that think like him, so be careful. The life you save could very possibly be your own.

This is going to be short because I have to go wax the bike and get ready to ride. Adrienne has to go to work and pay for it ☺ See you all on The road soon.

Ride Safe – Have FUN
Bill & Adrienne Lacey
MA District Directors, GWRRA

Wager against the Cager. For the past several months, motorcycles have not been on the roads and our road partners; the automobiles/cagers have forgotten our presence. If you see a cager, wager that they don't see you! Make sure you do eye contact and assume they probably will turn in your path anyway. It will take a few months to get used to use sharing the road with the four-wheel cagers again. Remember not to share the same space with them, they usually win! Consider all four wheelers as ragin' cagin's.

Monthly Features

Attendance: 28 Members
Guests: 2
New member:

Next Meeting: May 15th, 2006
B'Shara's, West Springfield, MA
7:30 pm

Biker Bakers: Mystery Baker!

If interested in helping let us know—we can use the help. A small payment is paid for supplies, and about 30 members come to a meeting.

April Birthdays

Marisol Colon	1
Bill Lacey	2
Paul Beaupre	8
Julio	21
Sandy Scheiblich	21

May Birthdays

Faith Blackwell	1
Robert Patrie	4
Don Dupuis	11
Claire Pouliot	29
Kevin Roach	30

If you're birthday isn't on our list, please let us know!

Claude & Claire

Classifieds / Articles for Sale:

Leather vest large w/American flag on the back \$35
Leather vest small \$35
Have them at my house (Claude) (413) 592-2007

'98 GoldWing. 16k miles. Used California Sidecar **recently** installed. Asking \$10,500. The bike is a burgundy red and quite good looking. Henry Ledger (The Dad) (413) 258-4083 Speak loudly please.
