Gold Wing Road Riders Association

PA CHAPTER "G" – NORTHEAST REGION "B"

www.pa-g.org

August 2012

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If you wish to receive our Newsletter via e-mail, contact Dave Arnemann. By signing up for e-mail receipt, you will benefit by getting immediate notification when the newsletter is available. You will also save our Chapter the related publication and mailing costs.

Greetings from your Chapter Directors

Happy Fourth of July,

I cannot believe how fast the time is going by, seems like just yesterday we were planning the Poker Run. Here we are now getting ready for the State Rally (Oops Convention).

We still have a few rides to do and I am always looking for more rides to add to the schedule. We had a really nice ride down to the Elk Country Visitors Center for the Motorcycle Cruise In, despite what Mother Nature threw at us. I had a great time with all who went. Thank you!

A friend of mine has done an Ohio Light House ride and it sounded very cool, so I added it to the schedule on Saturday August 25th. Some of the Lighthouses you can only see from a distance. But there is a tour of the Fairport Harbor Lighthouse for a small fee, that allows you to climb the stairs to the top for a spectacular view. Lunch will be in the biker friendly town of Geneva on the Lake.

The District Convention/Rally the dates are September 6th, 7th, & 8th. We have been able to secure rooms for the membership for $94 + tax a night. Please be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible at 1-(717)-334-8121. Be sure to tell them you are with the Gold Wing Road Riders Association. There is also an on-line service with the hotel to make your reservations. These are the instructions that the hotel gave us for making Reservations online; Go to our Website at www.eisenhower.com and look for the Reservations button on that front page that says book. Press it, and then press groups. Enter the Group ID 6331 and the Password 37002422 and that should allow you to enter an arrival and departure date and choose from available rooms. Then, you just follow the prompts to make a reservation under the Group's special block and rate. The flyer for the District convention is available on the District Web Site: http://www.gwrrapadist.org/

The Summer Picnic/August Gathering, is also fast approaching August 12th at the Albion Fair Grounds, it will be at a different pavilion just across the park from our normal location. The Chapter will provide the Hotdogs and we would ask that all Chapter Members bring a dish to share. I want this to be a great social event, so come eat, talk, and relax with your Gold Wing Chapter friends.

Does anyone have an idea for a ride to anywhere for this riding season, if so please share so that we can get it on the calendar.

We have several dinner rides on the calendar, and Off Road Express is also having a weekly dinner ride to various locations on every Wednesday, so check it out. Our Chapter Dinner ride for August will be the Wednesday the 15th at 6:30pm to Bootleggers. In September we will move back to Saturday, we will be going to Country Foods in Corry on the 22nd.

Now for a more serious note. Randy and Bambi will not be able to move up to Chapter Directors at the end of the year due to too much on their plate. I have sent an email to Dana and Rick for some direction as to where we go. It comes down to what does the Chapter want to do? This is not the time to be silent, this will have to be addressed. We as a Chapter will have to decide.

I am still waiting to hear about any rides you might have in mind.

Hope to see you all around. Stay involved, it's your Chapter. What can we do together!

Ride Safe. Dave & Cindy
Chapter "G" Director

Support our Sponsors!

We have a lot of businesses sponsoring our Chapter. Look for their ads in our Chapter Newsletter. Whenever you get the opportunity; please support them and let them know that you are from PA Chapter G and thank them for their support

Patches, Pins & Clothing

To order patches, pins and clothing contact Dave Arnemann. Checks should be made out to GWRRA, Chapter G, but given to Don Weaver.

If you wish to order a vest, contact Barb Sherman (774-8657). You can either order from Dreamer Fashions or supply your own.

Dreamer Fashions
1895 W. Beresford Rd.
DeLand, FL 32720
1-386-740-9952

We have some stock in the Chapter yellow shirts.If you would like a shirt and your size is not in stock, other sizes can be ordered. We need an order of 12 shirts before they can be ordered from the company.

Some prices are as follows:

- Vest (from Dreamers) 27.50
- Large 10" logo 12.00
- Rockers for 10" logo 6.00 each.
- Small 4" logo 5.00
- PA Pins for Chapter Bars 5.00
- Chapter G Bars 2.00
- District Rally Pins for Bars 5.00

There are 3 Chapter hats available at 5.00 per hat.
If you have any questions regarding Chapter Clothing, Patches or Pins contact:
Barb Sherman – 774-8657

Additional Info:
Embroidery for vests & shirts can be accomplished locally here in Erie County at
Dream Catchers
8155 Platz Rd. 814-474-5031
Fairview, Pa.16415
Sheri Bawol is owner / operator. M – Fri 8 AM to 5 PM.
Brown pole building w/ entrance on the right side of bldg.
Best to call first to leave message / request.
Embroider "*Chapter G & Pennsylvania*" to back of vest and sew on ten inch patch is approx. $ 20.00..
Zap Font looks the best.

GWRRA Shirts & Jackets

By: Paul Wolfe

Marge Augustine has many matching GW shirts and jackets for anyone who would like them.
Large and XLg is the sizes.

Call her at 833-7907

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Chapter Dinner Ride

We have a Dinner Ride for Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at BootLeggers Restaurant near Harborcreek, PA at 6:30 PM.
We will meet at the restaurant just before 6:30 PM.
For a group ride, suggest we leave Off Road Express, Peach Street at 5:50 PM.

Contact Barb Sherman for Details or Sign_Up.

From your Chapter Couple…

We had a couple of great rides with the chapter this past month. The ride to the New Castle car show was a blast!

When you read this Kathy and I will most likely be somewhere in Canada on our way to visit our daughter in Montana. Our route is taking us up through Michigan, into Canada at Sault St. Marie, and then across the north shore of Lake Superior. From there, the Canadian highway toward Winnipeg, and then north to a small town in Manitoba called Flin Flon (look it up on a map). Then we turn west again and ride through Saskatchewan over north of Edmonton, then down to Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise, and back into Montana at Glacier National Park and "Going-to-the-Sun" Road. We plan to camp at several Provincial and National parks along the way. Wish us a safe and sunny trip.

Sorry, but we will be missing the Summer Picnic, but we do plan to be back in time to go to the PA District Rally and participate in out "Talent" show!

Hope to see you at our next Gathering.

Don & Kathy Weaver
2012 PA-G Chapter Couple

Saturday July 28th

Chapter Ride to Elk County Visitor Center

3 bikes and 4 riders set out from Off Road Express under cloudy skies. They meet up with 2 more bikes and 4 riders in Titusville. The trip east saw a few scattered sprinkles until they got to Cook's Forest, then the skies opened up, on went the rain gear. A few miles latter the rain stopped and the Sun came out, obviously. The rest of the ride to Benezette was just beautiful. Due to the on and off weather there were only about 50 bikes at the Visitors Center for the Cruise In. The Elk Country Visitors Center had been without power since Thursday, so none of the interactive displays were working, but it was still very interesting to see what all they have there. The ride back to Erie County was with a lot of rain, hail, and thunderstorms. The group waited out the storm in Marienville at a small restaurant. They still hit several pockets of rain on the rest of the trip home. The ride was great and would be nice to do in the fall with the leaves changing colors. Is anyone up for the ride in the fall?

Dave & Cindy
Chapter "G" Director

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Riding in the Rain

I have been thinking about this since my ride to Sturgis in June of 2010. Riding in the rain for 7 days straight is quite an experience. And it was one that I was not very well prepared for. Therefore I did some research to find out what other motorcyclists had to say about riding in the rain.

Multi-day motorcycle trips usually mean that you and your co-rider are going to get caught in the rain. Multi-day motorcycle trips also mean that both of you have to bring more gear with you to accommodate a wide variety of climates. As a result I would like to share a few tips I came across during my research and I would seriously recommend them.

Tip #1

Buy the right gear.

When you and your co-rider slip on the right rain suit you will immediately be dry and more importantly comfortable. This means both of you are concentrating and focused on the road and enjoying the motorcycle ride as opposed to thinking about how miserable it is in the rain.

Get the right gear and you'll find you can enjoy riding a lot more often. Right now since my trip in June I feel more comfortable riding in the rain because I took the time to purchase the right gear. Unfortunately I purchased it upon my arrival in Sturgis after three days of riding in the rain.

1. High quality rain suit (you get what you pay for and good ones are hard to come by)
2. Waterproof boots that cover your ankles (so water doesn't seep from above)
3. Waterproof gloves, preferably with one of those squeegees on the thumb to clean your visor.

I tell you what; after I got the right gear riding my Goldwing in the rain is no longer uncomfortable or miserable. Riding in the rain becomes a simple exercise in common sense and knowledge of the conditions around you. That's what we will talk about next.

Tip #2

The first 15 minutes after it starts raining are the slickest. Pull over and get some coffee.

This simple fact is because vehicles deposit oil, brake fluid, fuel and lots of other crud on the road over time. When it rains, all of this crud that was built up on the road mixes with the water and sits on top just waiting for your two wheels to hit it.

The best strategy to take is to pull over for gas, a coffee, whatever when it first starts to rain. Can't pull over? Just drive extra careful and slow during the start of any rain shower.

Tip #3

Avoid shiny-smooth surfaces, Puddles/potholes, rainbows on the ground.

Most obvious is anything metal (train tracks, man hole covers, metal grates on bridges). Less obvious is anything painted: lane lines, turn arrows, etc. I guarantee you that trying to stop on one of those giant painted turn arrows at an intersection is going to be much more difficult than plain old asphalt.

Another problem of a wet, rainy road is that you can't see what the road surface looks like. The stretch before a traffic light for instance: when it's dry, you can spot slippery looking places, but in the rain, you can't discern them anymore.

Puddles / potholes – it only takes one time to know how this one feels. Your cruise through a puddle and after it's too late you realize you just went into a pot hole that wants to suck you into the underworld. Avoid puddles if you can. Use caution and predict the possibility ahead of time.
Oil – it's everywhere and very illusive. Those little red and blue rainbows on the ground mean danger. Ride slow and straight up. If you're caught in the first rain following a few dry days remember the roads are covered with lots of oil and dirt that will be lifted from the surface in the first 30-60 minutes of a new rain. As I already mentioned it's time for the rider and co-rider to take a coffee break.

Tip #4

Slow Down!

In the rain surfaces are slicker than usual. This means your brakes are less effective, which means it's going to take much longer to stop when it's wet than when it's dry. Consider this, would you rather start fish tailing at 20 miles per hour or 40 miles per hour?
Aquaplaning happens when there is so much water on the road that the tires cannot guide it to the sides, which means that the tire no longer has contact with the surface of the road and the bike rides, as it were, on water. Fortunately the risk of aquaplaning on a wet road is much less than for a car. The tires of motorcycles are round instead of flat, which means they have a greater capacity to guide water to the sides. But if you ever see the rpm's rise quickly, you know that you should adjust your speed.

Tip #5

Ride behind one of the rear wheels of the car in front of you.

This has two benefits, first if the guy in front of you stops suddenly you will be able to swerve to a side and get a few more feet of braking distance.
The second benefit is, remember that watery sludge that we described? The car's wheel in front of you basically acts like a plow pushing all of the water on the road out of the way for a brief period of time. Take advantage of that dryer pavement.

Tip #6

If you are Unsure about traction, test it.

As it should be, traction is usually any rider's biggest concern in the rain. However wet pavement can offer significantly more traction than some riders think. If you're concerned about traction, take a few seconds to test it.
While riding at a moderate speed on a straight, level surface, feel for how much traction you have with your rear wheel (not your front!) by trying to lock it up. You're not trying to do a 50 ft skid here, just a brief test to see how much traction you really have.

Tip #7

Use a full face helmet, or buy a detachable face shield.

Rain drops hurt at 50 mph, ask any Harley rider. In fact, you will think it is hailing. If you and your co-rider ride with an open face helmet you'll want to get something to protect your face. Don't get caught with nothing to cover up with, you will both be pink in the face by the end of the ride.
A full face helmet is the best protection in the rain. Combined with a squeegee in your glove it will dramatically improve visibility. When your visors are not clean, it will have a bad influence on what you can see when it rains. Raindrops will stay as separate drops instead forming a single film. All those raindrops work as many lenses distorting car and street lamps impeding your ability to discern what is ahead. So Keep your visor

clean and keep the surface polished. You can use Turtlewax after cleaning. When you ride in the rain with a visor that has a clean, waxed, smooth surface the raindrops will form a single film of water which you can get rid of by turning your head to the side from time to time.

Remember this in one of my past articles? I used it and it was GWRRAte.

Road spray is always filmy and dirty, so you'll quickly become addicted to this low tech solution face shield squeegee. Worn on the thumb or index finger of your left hand and used intermittently when you need a brief clear look at something. However be careful of which finger you use or folks may take offense. VeeWipes make riding in the rain safer (and lots more fun) as well as keeping you moving. You'll probably give some away to rain riding companions, so have several in your tank bag. It can be trimmed with a pair of scissors for a custom fit. You can find it at www.aerostich.com

Another issue is fog. It can happen at the most inopportune time. So be prepared. Following is a tip to keep your faceshields and windshields free of fog.

Cat Crap is great stuff. Of course I am talking about the product you can buy to prevent glasses and faceshields from fogging; not the stuff that's provided freely by our furry feline friends. Cat Crap is a green, waxy substance that comes in a small red plastic tub, easy to slip into a jacket pocket. You rub it inside the faceshield with your finger and then buff with a dry cloth. It doesn't last forever, but is fast and easy to apply and is easily effective for several days. You can find it at www.outdoor.ekusa.com.

Tip #8

The rule of one action.

You should think about your tires and what I call the rule of "One Action". What do I mean by "One Action"?

In normal conditions we put our tires through many different stresses (or actions):

- We accelerate while turning (two actions)
- We downshift while coming into a turn (two actions)
- Shifting weight while turning and accelerating (three actions)
- etc

In the rain you should focus on only putting your tires through one action at a time. In other words, accelerate (one action) after you make a turn (one action). Downshift (one action) before you start to turn (one action). Don't combine actions on your tires together in the rain. Less tension on your tires in the rain is going to result in better traction.

Summary

I'm sure there are more great tips out there for riding motorcycles in the rain. These are the main ones I follow while riding when it's wet out.

I hope that rider and co-rider will find that riding in the rain safely is quite doable and even enjoyable if you get the right gear and put yourselves in the right frame of mind. Stay sharp and pay attention to your surroundings. Also always keep the lines of communications between rider and co-rider open to insure a safe ride. Two sets of eyes watching the road is very advantageous.

Guy Roussel-Dupré

August - 2012

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
12 **Gathering,** for Summer Picnic in Albion @ 1200 Noon	13	14 **Kathy Weaver**	15 **Dinner Ride** BootLeggers @ 6:30 PM	16	17	18
19	20	21 **Dolores Grega + Dave Groves**	22 Off Road Express, Dinner Ride at 5:30 - 8 PM.	23 **Staff Mtg** 6:30 PM Off Road Express	24	25 **Laurie Sanderson**
26	27	28	29 Off Road Express, Dinner Ride at 5:30 - 8 PM.	30	*31* Bike Night Downtown Erie 6 to 10 PM	0
0	0	0	0	0	*0*	0

September - 2012

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
0	0	0	0	0	0	1 **Don & Kathy Weaver**
2	3	4	5 Off Road Express, Dinner Ride at 5:30 - 8 PM. Steve Daley	6 Bill Hershelman for Sept. 07 PA State Convention	7 **Guy & Marijean Roussel-Dupre** PA State Convention	8 Marc Sanderson PA State Convention
9 **Gathering,** Shrine Club, 38th & Zuck; Breakfast @ 8am, Gathering @ 9am	10	11	12 Off Road Express, Dinner Ride at 5:30 - 8 PM.	13	14	15
16 **Lonnie & Barb Sherman** Carol Stockton	17	18	19 Off Road Express, Dinner Ride at 5:30 - 8 PM.	20	21	22 Chapter Dinner Ride to Country Foods Corry, Pa @ 6:30 PM
23	24	25	26 Off Road Express, Dinner Ride at 5:30 - 8 PM.	27 **Staff Mtg** 6:30 PM Off Road Express	*28*	29 Bob Walker
		********** . **********				

Please Note

The ride times listed here are the times we will be leaving for the ride. Please allow enough time to meet with the group and be prepared to leave at the appointed time. All times and events are subject to change

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