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& Knowledge

GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION

MICHIGAN*REGION D*CHAPTER MI-G***MIDNIGHT RIDERS

NEW NEW NEW >>>>>>> !!! PLEASE READ THIS !!! <<<<<<<< NEW NEW NEW

NEW MEETING PLACE, DAY, and TIME.

PLACE: U-HAUL 2752 Burlingame SW, Wyoming (directions on Page 3)

TIME: 8:00 AM

Look for the SUGGESTION BOX at our gatherings. Tell us what you would change, keep the same, and ideas for rides, etc.

For more information, or to be added to our phone tree, please contact one of our Chapter Staff. See page 2 for contact information. We hope to see you out there.....Ride Safely.

May 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May is Motorcycle Awareness Month				1	2	3 Parking Lot Practice Kenowa Hills HS
4 Breakfast at Susie's 9:00 AM	5	6	7	8	9	10 R2 Ice Cream Social Meet at 11:00 AM E. Beltline Meijer Gas
11 Happy Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17 ERC/ARC classes
18 ERC Class & Monthly Gathering 8AM L's Picnic in the Park	19	20	21	22	23 Cycle- Moore Weekend	24
25 Day Trip to Cycle-Moore Meet at Susie's 8:00 AM	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31

May Schedule
Sales, Rides
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GWRRA National Website http://www.gwrra.org	Region D Website http://www.gwrra-regiond.org/	Michigan District Website http://www.gwrra-mi.org
Chapter G Website www.mi-gmidnightriders.org	Stop by our website or the District or National websites to see what's new.	If you have any suggestions for the chapter site, e-mail Jim or C.J.
Ken and Rita Moffitt Region D COY Year 2007-2008 	Randy & Fay Vieu Chapter Mi-G's COY 2008 	Brad and Connie Garner Michigan Couple of the Year 2008 
During the Region D Rally held at Lebanon, IN. Ken and Rita, the Michigan District Couple, was selected as the new Region D Couple of the Year.	Randy & Fay, members of Chapter G Randy and Fay serve as our ACD's and now our Couple of the Year.	Brad and Connie Garner were selected as the 2008 Michigan District Couple of the Year at our 2008 Wingless Weekend. Please give them your congratulations when you see them.

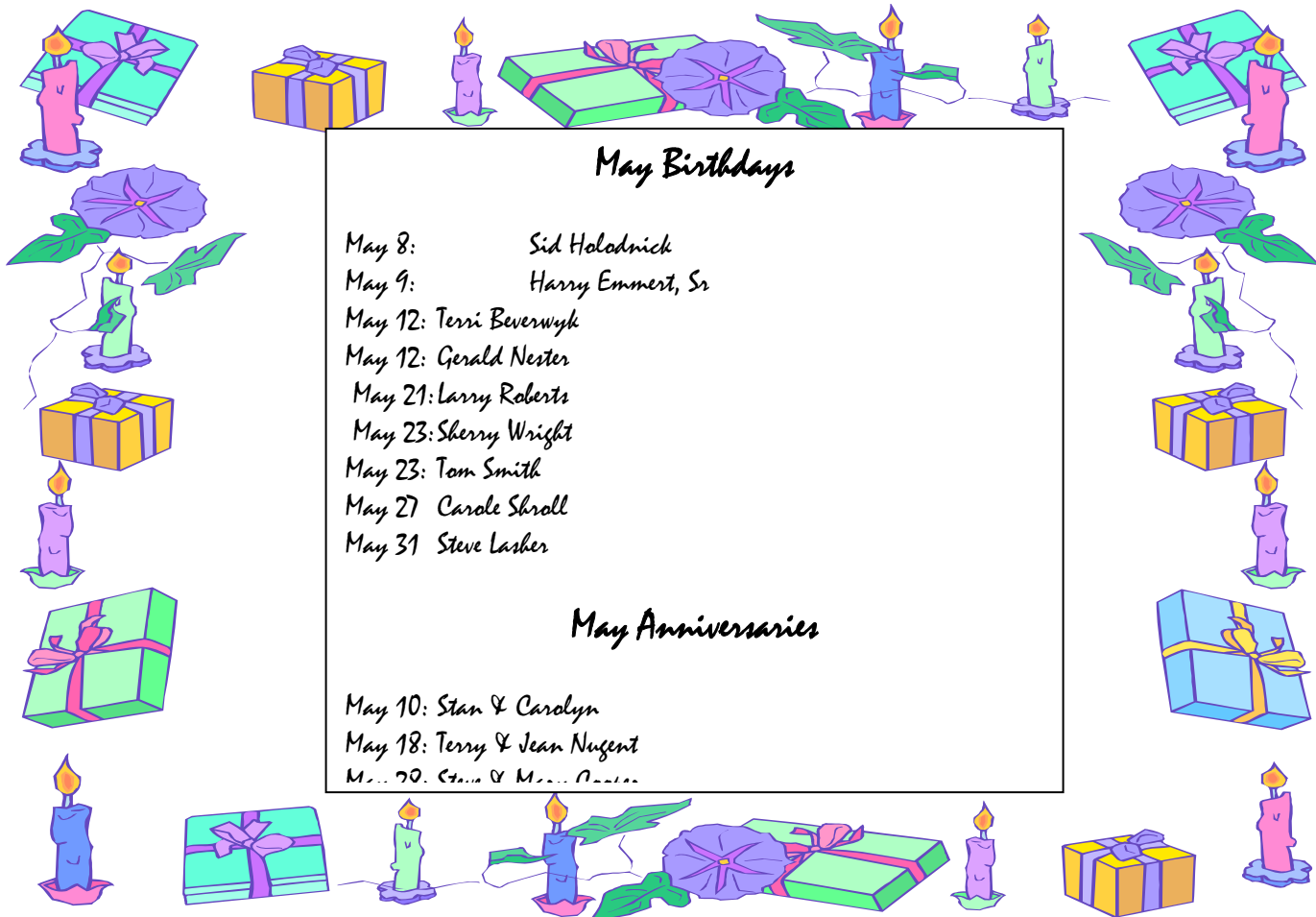
May Schedule

May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

- May 3: **Parking Lot Practice:** Meet at **Kenowa Hills High School** at **8:00 AM** for very important riding instruction and practice. Shake off the dust, and sharpen those riding skills for a safe and fun new riding season. KHHS is on Four Mile Road between Walker Avenue NW and Fruit Ridge Avenue NW on the north side of the street. **Please be aware the there is road construction on 4 Mile Road between Alpine & Walker NW.**
- Keep June 7th open for the Road Captain Course.**
- May 10: **R2 Ice Cream Social:** Meet at the **Meijer Gas Station** on the East Beltline at **11:00 AM.** This event begins at 2pm in Lake Odessa. We plan to take a leisurely run through some great country side to get to our destination: 3600 Tupper Lake Road
- May 17 & 18: **ERC and ARC classes:** Look for your letter in the mail if you have signed up for either the ERC or the ARC class.
- May 18: **Monthly Gathering** at U-Haul, 2752 Burlingame SW, Wyoming, MI. **8:00AM.** Doughnuts and coffee will be furnished by Chapter G. Come to learn what's NEW!!!
L's Picnic in the Park: After the gathering, we ride to L's Picnic in the Park.
- Chapter L, Capitol City Wings
Sunday, May 18th
Laylin, Park, E. Maple St., Mason, MI
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Bring Dish to pass & Table Service
Chapter L will furnish Hot Dogs, Buns, Condiments.
FREE, One 50/50 (help defray costs)
- Directions to the Gathering:**
From US-131, take the 28th St. Exit WEST, Go West on 28th St until you come to Burlingame SW. Turn Right on Burlingame, and U-Haul is on the Right side of the street.
- May 24,25,26: **Memorial Day Weekend at Cycle-Moore**
Camping and biking at Cycle-Moore. There is no scheduled ride. Just meet at Cycle-Moore to camp with your biker friends.
- May 25: **MEET** at **Susie's** for breakfast at **8:00AM** and **take a day trip** to Cycle-Moore. For those who don't camp, and depending on the weather, we may be riding to Cycle-Moore to visit our camping friends on Sunday.
PLEASE call Ezra Bostic for more details at 616-791-4587.

May is finally here with flowers blooming, birds singing, and even leaves on the trees, but best of all, bright, sunny days!!! All this means is that riding season has arrived in full swing, and we plan to RIDE!!! Aren't you excited? Are you ready? Some of us got our bikes ready in April at the coming out party. (Thank you, Lynne and Jan for hosting). Now that your bikes are ready, are you ready? Parking Lot Practice and the ERC/ARC classes which are scheduled this month, prepare us for a safer, more knowledgeable and a more fun filled riding season. And that is what we are all about.

Your Ride Coordinator,
Ezra Bostic



May Birthdays

- May 8: Sid Holadnick
- May 9: Harry Emmert, Sr
- May 12: Terri Beverwyk
- May 12: Gerald Nester
- May 21: Larry Roberts
- May 23: Sherry Wright
- May 23: Tom Smith
- May 27: Carole Shroll
- May 31: Steve Lasher

May Anniversaries

- May 10: Stan & Carolyn
- May 18: Terry & Jean Nugent
- May 20: Stan & Mary Ann

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For Sale:

1988 Gold Wing GI 1500: (31,000 miles)
 Bike has reverse, cruise, stereo with cassette, CB radio, intercom system, onboard air compressor, new helmets, new rear tire, newer seat with backrest, and armrests, also old seat, all luggage bags and bike cover. Added new battery and new caliper covers.
PRICE: \$6,000 (FIRM) Please Call: 616-835-0351

'81' Honda Silverwing - 30 K miles, 500 miles on new tires. Tune up, oil change, needs nothing. Excellent condition. \$1600.00 Phone : 878-3561.

If you have something to sell, please contact our newsletter editor for information. The email address is:
bosticez1@sbcglobal.net

Please remember to let the editor know when you would like to have the ad removed, especially if the item has been sold. Thank you.

Future Rides:

Start planning your 2008 vacation soon. Greenville, South Carolina is the setting for the 2008 WING DING. Let's get a group going to the 2008 Wing Ding. Sounds like fun!!! and a great ride!!!

Please email any rides to the following address:
bosticez1@sbcglobal.net

*** ~~~~~ **

Breakfast At Susie's on April 6

We had a great crowd this day

Some even road their bikes

Inside Susie's Café



What the Heck is MAD?

Due to the alarming increase of motorcycle accidents, Mike Wright, former President of GWRRA, saw the need to create an outreach program in our organization to become proactive in our communities in educating the public on "Motorcycle Awareness". Mike stated this in his June 2003 article when announcing "A New Division in GWRRA."

"Few of us could have foreseen the increased hazards imposed on motorcyclists in the past five years. Competition for road space is often fierce, especially during rush hours or on busy interstates and streets. Vehicle operators are more distracted than any of us could have imagined with cellular telephones, concentration on talk radio shows, and stereo systems so loud, outside noise is completely shut out of the inner sanctum within their vehicle. In our judgment, we have crossed into a new era that will need the cooperation of all highway users to cope with our modern-day traffic congestion. It is time to expand our focus beyond just our own Member/Riders and Co-Riders. It is time to take an active role in helping to educate other highway users that motorcycles and trikes share the road with them every day."

The main purpose is to have representatives from the Region, District and Chapter levels out there visiting community organizations like student drivers education classes, Elk, Kiwanis or Lion's clubs. Possibly even retirement communities or your local church group. Through the distribution of literature and conducting short seminars they will demonstrate the vulnerable position motorcyclists are in when sharing the road with the typical motorist. The goal is to leave them with a new attitude and awareness of our fellow motorcyclist. This sounds like a great idea.

I still had this nagging question of "Isn't this something that our Rider Education program could do?" so I called Bruce and Julia Malson, GWRRA Motorist Awareness Division Directors and posed the question to them. Bruce explained that National felt strongly that this is a much needed program and that having individuals in all levels of our organization focusing on promoting this program was essential for it to be affective. Rider Education already has a full plate and

is doing an outstanding job in educating our fellow members. It wouldn't be fair to put this extra burden of responsibility on our hard working Educators. The decision was therefore made to create this new division. Being heavily involved in Rider Education, as a MSF instructor, I tend to agree with their reasoning. Our Michigan Rider Education program is one of the best-run programs in GWRRA. Our Chapter Educators do an outstanding job working with our members in the continuation of their Rider Education. There is only so much time our Educators can volunteer, so to add the "Motorist Awareness" program to their plate would only mean that it would not get the time priority it would require to become effective. Having individuals in all levels of GWRRA focusing on this makes sense.

Another added benefit I see is the opportunity for our organization to shed a positive light on motorcyclists in general. Any opportunity the organization has to promote GWRRA and the wonderful people that make up this organization is a definite plus. The general public tends to have reservations about motorcyclists given all the "Bad Boy" images they have been exposed to over their lifetime. Any opportunity to discredit that image and demonstrate what a fun and generous organization we are is always a positive thing. Also, there is a good chance that there will be a few motorcyclists in the crowd that are unfamiliar with GWRRA and may be compelled to join this organization of ours. This is always a definite plus.

Ok, I buy into the need and reasoning of this new program. However, I still have the question of "Who is going to pay for it?" I know from personal experience in helping to create our "bumper stickers" the District gives to the membership for Motorcycle Awareness Month, it is expensive. It cost the District around \$1,200.00 to print 5000 bumper stickers. Chapters already are burdened with rising newsletter costs and other "doing business," related expenses. So is there going to be additional cost to the Chapters for literature and other related items?

According to Bruce Malson the answer is "No". The reason is because National has been able to acquire outside funding to pay

for the literature cost. To start with, MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) has given GWRRA a \$6,000.00 dollar grant to help launch this program. In addition ANPAC, "The American National Family of Companies" has partnered with GWRRA to foot the bill of producing all of the literature for this program. In recognition of their support, their company logo will be displayed on the literature. This is something I don't have a problem with when you consider the "Thousands of Dollars" it's going to cost them to pay for the literature. According to Bruce, some of the literature and seminar material will be available by May in time for "Motorcycle Awareness Month". You can find out more information on this and other related MAD information at <http://www.brucemalson.com> or email Bruce and Julia at bruce_a_m@msn.com.

Randy and Lori Westcott, Michigan District Rider Educators, are actively supporting this program as it has been newly reassigned under their direction. In November 2007, they appointed Former Sr. Chapter Directors Dan & Billye Dulyea as Assistant District Rider Educators to focus on restructuring this important program. Dan & Billye bring new excitement and enthusiasm as well as creativity to this project and look forward to getting the first phase off the ground.

There are many ways that we can approach Motorist Awareness and we have spent the past several months deciding the best direction to take it for the first phase. We finally decided to start by answering the question "What are the biggest problems facing motorcycle riders?" and working toward bringing this information to the public through Driver Education and Remedial Driver classes. We want to teach these students to "see" us in traffic and to know the risks of an accident should they follow too close, pull out in front of us or fail to yield the right-of-way when it is appropriate, thereby making the roads safer for all users. Should you have questions, comments or ideas, please feel free to contact Dan and Billye at (616) 893-5402 or (616) 893-5617 or e-mail angelwing1@charter.net.

Chapter Director's Ramblings

April's meeting had two good seminars, Team Riding & Trailing, conducted by a newly certified presenter, our own chapter member, Lynne Snyder. I thought both to be very informative and timely with riding season really kicking off. There was plenty of discussion, especially on the team-riding seminar. Everyone provided good feedback. I believe that, in the end, it was agreed that we need to have a pre ride meeting and discuss a plan for each ride. I also think we came away with a consensus that we need to have some established guidelines for our group rides. Things such as what to do when the group gets separated due to traffic lights in towns, stop signs, etc. After all, the idea is to have fun and be safe when we're on the road in groups. Structure will make the ride safer and more fun for all involved. CJ also gave us a tutorial on how to use the new calendar of events. Please give CJ feedback on what you want to see on your Website.

There are several good activities on the calendar for May, starting off with a parking lot practice on May 3rd at Kenowa Hills High School. I would encourage everyone to come on out for a fun day getting back in shape for this season's rides. On the 10th is Chapter

R2's ice cream social and I know everyone likes ice cream. Then we have the ARC and ERC classes on the 17th. Even if you didn't get signed up, you can always come on out and provide feedback to those of us who are participating. Who knows maybe they'll be a no show and you could sign up and have fun while learning. Then the next day, on the 18th is our chapter gathering and afterwards we'll take a ride to Chapter L's picnic in the park. It's a nice ride over to their event and we can practice what we learned at April's seminars. You could even bring your trailer and work on both subjects.

Don't forget to give us your ideas for rides, events, or anything that comes to mind. This is your chapter and we need you to participate to keep it fun. See you all next month and until then ride safe, I mean safely. Had to fix that or the grammar police would be after me ☺.

Jim & Julie Meredith

Assistant Chapter Director's Notes

Chapter MI-G's Mascot

How does our mascot help the chapter? Since we have been with the chapter, our teddy bear mascot has only been on a few rides. I understand that he is old and needs to be taken care of. Since he is the original, we do not want something to happen to him. That is why the chapter had a son born that can travel with the chapter and represent the chapter at all the functions that we go on. Last year, we saved K-2's mascot from the clutches of the terrible villains. How were we to know that a ransom was needed to get them back to K-2? Well, since then, we have learned all about the mascots, and what needs to be done with them. K-2 was out to get our mascot, and they did at our anniversary party. Fay and I along with the Hiebels went in search of our mascot at K-2's meeting. Fay baked some goodies for a ransom

When we got there, our mascot was there, waiting for us. He is home now waiting to go to visit another chapter, and have another group of Chapter G members to rescue him, if he is captured.

The fun of this is going to another chapter's event and getting our mascot back, and also kidnapping their mascot, so that they will have to come to our event and pick up theirs for a ransom. This way we all can become friends with other chapters and have fun with friends. So, the next time we are out at another chapter's event, look for their mascot, and try to bring it home with us. Then, we can get another chapter to come to one of our functions.

Randy & Fay Vieu ACD

Rider Education May 2008

I don't like to be all doom and gloom but I thought our Chapter Members might be interested in an excerpt from a recent newspaper article. This will give you something to talk about when your buddy decides that he doesn't want to wear a helmet. Maybe if he knows the following information it will help him make the correct decision (wearing his/her helmet) prior to riding. Len

Motorcyclist deaths spike as helmet laws loosen

By John Yaukey and Robert Benincasa, Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Death rates from motorcycle crashes have risen steadily since states began weakening helmet laws about a decade ago, according to a Gannett News Service analysis of federal accident reports.

As deaths have increased, so has the proportion of older riders killed. Dying on a motorcycle could soon become a predominantly middle-aged phenomenon, the analysis shows.

Most states once required all motorcycle riders to wear helmets. A trend in the other direction began accelerating after 1995, during the same period the federal government decided to stop withholding highway money from states without helmet laws.

As states weakened or repealed the laws, the percentage of riders who wore helmets began dropping. And fatality rates increased.

In 1996, 5.6 motorcyclists were killed for every 10,000 registered motorcycles, according to Department of Transportation (DOT) statistics. By 2006, the most recent data available, the rate had risen to 7.3, the analysis shows.

In raw numbers, the annual death toll rose from 2,160 to 4,810 over that same period.

Meanwhile, fatality rates for all other passenger vehicles have been falling, DOT officials say.

"The data are pretty compelling," said Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, herself an avid motorcyclist who

survived a crash thanks to a helmet she displays in somewhat battered condition in her office. "It's discouraging to see the (fatality) numbers going up. But at least people are talking about it now."

Two decades ago, 47 states required helmets for all riders. Today, 20 do. Twenty-seven states require helmets only for younger riders. Three — Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire — don't require helmets at all.

The analysis of data from the government's Fatality Analysis Reporting System of motorcycle deaths between 2002 and 2006 also found:

- About 42% of riders killed were not wearing helmets.
- Half of those killed lost control and crashed without colliding with another vehicle. Motorcyclists account for about 2% of vehicles on the road but 10% of all traffic fatalities, according to federal statistics
- Southeastern states had some of the highest fatality rates in 2006. Some of these states require all riders to wear helmets, but they also have long riding seasons that expose bikers to more risk over time.
- Nearly half of motorcyclists killed in 2006 were 40 and older, and nearly a quarter were 50 or older. The average age of those killed was about 38.

Transportation officials say the age trends reflect the growing popularity of motorcycles among older people with increasing incomes but decreasing physical dexterity and reaction times.

Too soon old, too late smart... (sic)

Ride Safely, Len.

May's Puzzle

Memorial Day

1 hnoor	2 readpa	3 glaf	4 icamare	5 ttaeistdsenu
6 evratne	7 dfmreeo	8 stnouiontci	9 ldsiero	10 rcotiaipt

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Answers to May's Puzzle

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|-----------------|----------------|
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| 2 parade | 7 freedom |
| 3 flag | 8 constitution |
| 4 America | 9 soldiers |
| 5 United States | 10 patriotic |



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