

## From the Director's Chair



December, 2019

## Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the Non-Riding Season!

The holidays – and winter have officially arrived. That puts us squarely in that series of cold and frozen months we in Minnesota call the non-riding season. Right now, it seems like a long slog until spring and the first opportunity to fire up the bike but this time of year also represents an opportunity to look both back and forward (OK, that's January, but we are doing it now!).

As we put the covers on our bikes we often find ourselves thinking back to all the great rides we enjoyed last summer. Then, in a few short weeks we will be looking ahead to the fun we hope to have next season. As we do, we have an opportunity to be a bit more focused about our plans for next season. As you think back over the best ride of the past season, you may want to focus on a few specific things such as:

- What specific things made it your best ride? Was it the destination, the length, the other riders, the stops along the way or a new accessory you added to the bike?
- Was a different ride in the running for the best ride until the weather or a mechanical issue interfered?
- What needs to happen for you to recreate a similar ride next year?

Since the bikes will be parked for a while, there are some things we can do right now to increase the chances that next year's riding season will be a great one. Here are some things to think about as you watch it snow and dream of that first ride of 2020:

- Are there any accessories I want to add or any maintenance I need to complete as soon as it is warm once again?
- Is there a 2019 ride or ride destination I want to revisit?
- Was there an interesting ride I missed in 2019? If so, can I get it rescheduled in 2020.
- Now that I'm not riding and have a little more time, is there some ride or destination research I should complete?

Whether you buy-in to the resolution concept or not, the end of one year and the beginning of the next is always a good time to reassess, set a few goals and identify some of the riding-related things we want to accomplish in the coming year. It's also another way to help us get through the next few months, so here's to making some great plans for 2020!

Bruce and I want to wish all our friends on two, three and four-wheels a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthful 2020!

Bruce and Joanne Carlson  
Chapter N

**December Events:**

**12/1/2019** – Cookie Exchange – Scott and Sheila Neurauter's, 18540 Egret Way, Farmington, Mn 55024

**12/7/2019** – Monthly Breakfast Meeting - Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nicols Road, Eagan, Minnesota 55122 – 9:30 a.m.

**12/15/2019** – Chapter N Holiday Party - Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nicols Road, Eagan, Minnesota 55122 – 4:30 p.m. social time – 5:00- p.m. dinner

Second monthly breakfast – date and location to be determined.

## District Educator Newsletter



I trust everyone had a great Thanksgiving with lots of turkey and all the fixin's. Then came the football game and/or the much-needed nap after eating way too much!

I think most, if not all of you, have put your trusted Gold Wing away for its long winter nap. Seems the riding season was cut way too short this year and that winter is here even earlier than usual. Maybe that just has to do with my age since I've heard tales that the older you get, the faster the year goes. Of course, a lot has to do with your frame of mind – somedays I don't feel my age; somedays I feel younger and somedays I feel a little older!

As I announced at the District meeting in October, I am looking for an Assistant. An Assistant who would like to, one day, become the next District Educator. It would be my pleasure to share with an interested candidate what I do. I've been in this position for the past 5 years and I think that it's time to start *thinking* about retirement and let someone with fresh ideas take over. If you have any interest (or know someone who might be interested), please reach out to me. My contact information is below.

With the winter weather we've been seeing bits and pieces of, remember to give drivers a little EXTRA distance. I was driving to work one morning and wow, was it ever slippery out there! I had to remember what Scott had told me about driving a vehicle with ABS in the snow. That was.....make sure your wheels are pointed straight when you apply the brakes and the ABS engages. If you can do that, you will be able to steer the car. Most of you know that I ALWAYS listen to what Scott says, right? Well, in this case, he was correct. I was able to steer the car through part of a roundabout that morning. Of course, it also helped that I was in "weather mode" and driving slower than usual.

Scott and I wish you all a Joyous Holiday Season. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanza and.....Happy New Year! May all your dreams come true and may there be all the motorcycle related items you wish for under your tree!

Be safe out there!

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