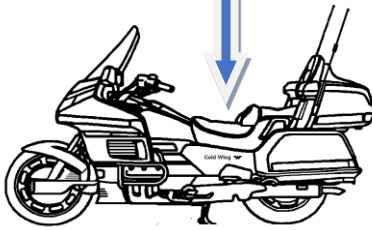


From the Director's Chair



November, 2018

Weather or Whether

A Continuation of the *Fun and Safe Ride, Start to Finish* Series

Over the last years, as a Chapter, we have enjoyed many fun, exciting and safe rides. Each time, as we prepared for our departure, we tried to get an accurate weather forecast for the day.

As you will likely agree, it's not the easiest thing to get a truly accurate forecast; especially with so many sources available. Having more options isn't always a good thing; especially when different sources can contain some significantly different forecasts.

Fortunately, I have only been on a few rides where, out of nowhere, the clouds seemed to "just open up" and everyone and everything ended up thoroughly soaked. At some point during those rides, I have occasionally asked some of those poor, soaked riders, why they didn't put on their rain gear. I have often been amazed at their answer. "We didn't have the gear with us on our bikes. We don't have a lot of space for rain gear and gambled that we wouldn't get wet." Ooops!!!

While that may be true for some of us, many people in our circle are fortunate enough to own a pull behind trailer. I would guess that most of these fine trailers could benefit from a good washing from time to time – at a minimum, a little water isn't going to hurt them.

What does ownership of a trailer have to do with rain gear? I'm going to go out on a limb a bit, and also be the poster child for planning ahead. With the Boy Scout motto (*Be Prepared*) in my head, I usually overpack just a bit. If a situation such as rain or an equipment problem arises, I want to minimize the negative effect on my ride as much as possible. In the case of heavy rain on a cool day, I want to have the flexibility to just go to the trailer and pull out the rain gear rather staying cold and wet for the remainder of the ride.

While some might see this as a luxury, I and my co-rider have reached the point where comfort and convenience are more important than showing the world how "tough" we are. Additionally, being cold and wet not only take the "fun" out of a ride, they are also distractions that can compromise our safety and cause us to make poor decisions. After all, I have a pull behind trailer so I have what I need to make as many rides as possible both **safe and fun**. If you have also have the luxury of a pull behind trailer are faced with limited on your bike, you might want to give it some thought the next time the forecast indicates a chance of rain.

Bruce and Joanne Carlson
Chapter N

November Events:

11/2/2019 – Monthly Breakfast Meeting = Cherokee Sirloin Room, 4625 Nicols Road, Eagan, Minnesota 55122 – 9:30 a.m.

11/14/2019 – Dinner Social – Davanni's – 8061 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie, Mn. – 7:15 p.m.

11/22/2019 – Fun Night – To be determined.

District Educator Newsletter



Here we are again everyone, another October is in the rear-view mirror. I'm sad to report that our riding season is either at an end or close to. What are YOU planning for the off-bike season? A cruise with friends/family? Maybe some other fun-in-the-sun trips? Maybe you plan to spend the winter months in hibernation, venturing out occasionally to attend a fun event with a local chapter? My plan is to do two things; I plan to go to Arizona sometime over the winter and I also plan to hibernate but also enjoy some of the events with my local chapters....and maybe a few others out of town! Whatever you plan, be sure you have fun!

I know most of our chapters have lots of fun things planned for the off-bike season. Check out the District Calendar to see what's happening. If you're looking for someone to present seminars and other fun modules, please feel free to reach out to either myself or Eric Purdy, our Minnesota District University Coordinator (aka our DUC). There are seminars out there that are both fun and educational and help you stay current in the Levels Program.

Speaking of the Levels Program, I will be working with our Chapter Directors to get each a list of their Chapter Participants that are involved in the Levels Program and what courses might be needed. Maybe a Co-Rider seminar or a Medic First Aid (MFA) class. As for Rider Courses, we continue to hunt for a lot large enough to host the Advanced Rider Course (ARC), but it seems every time something hopeful comes up, there's an issue or plans are in the works to build another office or condo building!

For those wondering about the Levels Program, allow me to explain a little about it. It's a program based on a commitment to safety and continuing education. There are four levels, and each has a different set of commitments:

- Level I – Safety by Commitment - Your commitment to riding safe.
- Level II – Safety by Education - 5,000 safe miles* and a Rider Course (single or two-up).
- Level III – Safety by Preparedness - Current in Level II; A Medic First Aid course (or other approved First Aid/CPR course); Carrying a First Aid kit in the Bike.
- Level IV – Safety by Enhanced Commitment and Preparedness - 25,000 safe miles*; Current in Level III for one (1) year; Commitment to ATGATT (All The Gear All The Time). Note that there is a fee for this level.

*Safe miles accrue from the time you join GWRRA.

If you're interested in learning more about the Levels Program, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is listed below.

It's November and we all know what that means.....I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you enjoy your turkey dinner (if you have one) and quality time with family and friends.

Till next time, keep the rubber side down and the shiny side up!

Joy Mattson
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