



September 2004 Newsletter



GWRRR Region N
Kentucky Chapter
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Chapter Director

Jim Rippy

502-231-7134

jim.rippy@insightbb.com

Assistant Chapter Director

Steve Hamm

502-240-0283

Steve_hamm@bellsouth.net

Chapter Educator

Don Willi

jammerjenny@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Mark Wimsatt

502-261-7456

j-mar@iglou.com

Ride Coordinators

Don & Renee Vier

vgm@insightbb.com

Newsletter Editors

Steve & Bernie Hamm

502-240-0283

behamm@bellsouth.net

Technical Coordinator

Kenny Spear

502-935-7903

spearservice@bellsouth.net



Chapter director's column

By Jim Rippy

The Blast

The Blue Grass Blast for 2004 is only one week away. Have you made plans to attend? The Blast is one of the year's must see, must do events. The Blast is a two-day affair (Aug 27, 28) that actually begins with an ice cream social and Karaoke poolside on Thursday evening Aug 26. Friday night there will be a USO Dance in the International room at the hotel and a bike light show later. Veterans, if you can find all or part of that uniform and it will still fit, bring it for the dance.

We have our chapter rally assignments for the Blast. See below for the work assignments. We could use some volunteers to help sell 50/50 tickets for a while during the rally. If you would like to help please give me a call or let me know at our next meeting. I would like to thank those who

have volunteered their time and effort to help make the Blue Grass Blast of the best rallies of the year.

If I have not been able to get hold of you and you are still holding rally raffle tickets please give me a call. These were due in Aug 1 and I still have some outstanding tickets. We need to get these to Rich as soon as we can.

ERC on September 11

Some of us have signed up for the ERC on September 11. This will be a great chance for you to advance your rider ed level. I talked to the school on Monday of last week and they still had slots open for that day. This is the new ERC, it's only 6 hours long including both classroom and roadwork. Cost is \$70 and your time. Bring your own bike and proper riding attire. The registration form may be downloaded from our Web Site at www.gwrrakya.org.

Riding Attire

And, just what is proper riding attire? Proper attire for any GWRRR or MSF sponsored events is helmet, eye protection, long sleeve shirt or jacket, long pants, over the ankle boots, and full finger gloves. This means if you want to ride in the light parade or any on bike event at the Blast you must have on proper riding attire. In the past we have had people turned away, angry because they showed up at a rally event to ride in shorts, short sleeve shirt, no gloves, etc. Don't be disappointed by having this happen to you.

See you all at the meeting on the 21st. Bring some ideas about a chapter picnic. We would like to have our September 18th meeting at the picnic. We have suggestions of McNeely Lake Park, Vettiner Park or Jeffersontown Veteran's Memorial Park.

BLUEGRASS BLAST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

- GOODIES TABLE/POKER RUN - Friday 2 to 4 pm—Steve and Bernie Hamm
- CONCESSION STAND—Friday 2 to 3 pm—Bob Rucinski
- DOOR PRIZE TABLE—Saturday 10 am to 12 noon—Mike Lebre and Kenny Spears
- CONCESSION STAND—Saturday 9 to 10 am—Kathy Lebre
- BIKE SHOW—Saturday— Don and Renee Vier
- RIDER EDUCATION TABLE—Don Willi and Jim Rippy

Riding, riding, riding

Ride Recap By Bernie Hamm

On July 18 we experienced our first Mystery Ride of the year with Bruce who took us through some beautiful Indiana countryside before we ended up at French Lick Springs Resort for a late lunch. The food was great and so was the company. After leaving French Lick, we stopped again at the Ranch House for dessert. By the time we arrived home later that evening around sunset, I think we all weighed 10 pounds more. Thanks for a great ride, Bruce!

On July 24 we rode to the Bread of Life Café just outside of Liberty, Kentucky. If you have never heard the story of the folks who run this restaurant, you should check it out. It is owned by the Galilean Home for Children. This special family has fostered or adopted several hundred children from around the world who have been the victims of abuse, neglect and worse. Some of them have suffered horribly and are now in a loving, nurturing environment. The proceeds from the restaurant help to support their efforts. The food is excellent down home country fare. We made a special stop on the way at the longest covered bridge in the state of Kentucky.

Our August 8 ride to Lincoln's birthplace and boyhood home was wonderful. We have been blessed with perfect riding weather this month. Several bikes rode to Bardstown for a buffet lunch and then to Hodgenville.

On August 14 we rode to a little place near Washington, Indiana which is home to a small Amish Community. We ate at a scrumptious buffet, and while the ladies shopped, the men sat comfortably on the porch of the restaurant. We were able to see the residents of this community working in the hay fields with horse drawn farm equipment. Make a note, however, if you are riding in horse and buggy country, most horses are frightened by motorcycles—even quiet Goldwings.

Can't wait to see what the fall weather brings. We've experienced a little bit of October in August. Hope the weather holds out for more enjoyable riding!

Stay safe!!! Bernie



On our way to the Bread of Life Café (above)

Possum Junction on the way to French Lick on our Mystery Ride. (right)

View inside the covered bridge (left)



BEGINNER RIDERS FIRST RIDES

Chapter Educator – Don Willi

What should a Beginner start out with as their first bike? That is a good question that can be hard to answer depending on a persons motor skills etc. But here are some things to consider when buying that first bike for the beginner.

- A first bike should not have so much power that it can easily get you into trouble that you don't yet have the skills to get out of.
- A first bike should be mechanically sound.
- A low seat height would be the best so you can have both feet on the ground with your knees slightly bent. Easy for stopping, having a solid footing on the ground when needed.
- Your feet placement should not be out so far that it will be a lot of leg movement to get your feet back to the ground when you stop. Some bikes have feet pedals way out there and this doesn't give you very good control when starting out.
- A low center of gravity in a bike gives you much better control.
- Starting off by going to a MSF beginners course is the best thing to do when learning to ride a motorcycle.** We have a few women in our chapter that did it right, by starting out and going to a beginners approved MSF course. As you know Kathy now rides her 450 Honda Rebel on many of our rides and does just great with it.
- Use the buddy system when riding. This is to say, ride your bike with another experienced rider on their bike keeping proper distance. It is fun to talk about the ride afterwards and learn from the ride, things that you both did well and things that can be improved on. Besides, it's a whole lot more having a buddy to ride with.

Here are some examples, in my opinion, of some starter bikes to consider. These bikes can be picked up at a reasonable cost. By taking good care of your new bike and maintaining it, you may just get the same money back in return for what you pay it for when you sell it.

For the person who wants the versatility of a standard motorcycle, the **Honda Nighthawk 250** is a good choice. The Nighthawk is attractive and practical. Its 234cc sohc parallel-twin engine and 5-speed transmission gives it adequate performance. Its laced wheels and drum brakes front and rear should make it economical. The gas tank holds 4.3 gallons, enough to go a long way on a 250. The Nighthawk's seat height is 29.3 inches. It weighs 287 pounds.

The best selling motorcycles today are cruisers. The **Honda Rebel 250** is that company's entry. The same engine and transmission that powers the Nighthawk powers this mini cruiser. Strangely, the Rebel cruiser has a shorter wheelbase than the standard Nighthawk, but weighs in 19 pounds heavier (at 306). It gets a disc brake in front, which is a real improvement, and laced wheels. Fuel capacity is 2.6 gallons. The seat height is only 26.6 inches, and the center of gravity is lower than the Nighthawk's. For reasons known only to Honda, the Rebel lists for \$200 to \$400 less than a Nighthawk. The

450 Honda Rebel is a fine choice as well. With its gentle throttle response, it favors very well.


Today Scooters are becoming very popular. This past week, I got a chance to ride my friend's **Honda Reflex 250** which is an automatic. I was so impressed with this little rascal as it powered me up to 55 in a matter of moments without even feeling a gear change. It has an Automatic V-Matic™ belt drive system. It is a smooth transition as it gets up to speed. I had so much fun on this but I always felt like I had to pull in the clutch when I started coming to a stop. There is no clutch to



pull in on. It was also hard getting use to putting my feet down too. ha ha!! Yes, trikes make you that way! This little 250 Honda Reflex scooter has a lot of storage space and gets about 70 mpg. Don't be surprised when you see me on its big brother the Silverwing next summer. People are traveling on these now as well!!!

Finally get a friend or two to go with you to help you with the purchase of your new bike. Make sure he or she is a safety conscience friend and believes you should get proper training from an approved MSF course when starting out. Bring other friends that know a lot about the motorcycles and can repair motorcycles. Both friends can help you with riding the bikes and checking the bike's operation. Don't buy the first bike you see, take your time and look at many of them. There is one out there for you!! There is a **Used Motorcycle Evaluation Guide** that would be good for you to use when looking for that first bike. It can be found at: <http://www.clarity.net/%7Eadam/buying-bike.html>

Happy and safe riding!!!! Don Willi



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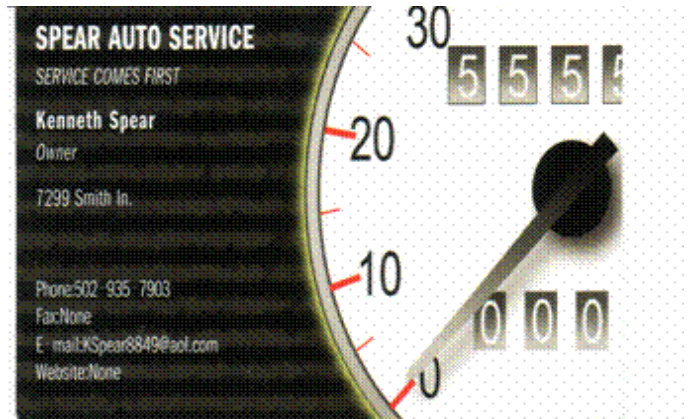
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ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC

On Saturday, September 18 we will have a chapter picnic along with our monthly meeting.

Please check the chapter website at www.gwrrakya.org to confirm the time and place for the picnic. Or call Jim Rippy or Steve Hamm or any other staff member to confirm the time and place.



September Ride Schedule

Each month we will be having a *mystery ride* by one of the members. No one will know the destination except the one arranging the ride.

All meeting places will be at the new meeting place at Taylor Towne Center. – Taylorsville Rd and Snyder Freeway

THUR. Sept. 2—Dessert Run—Barrel O Fun—Smyrna Road—Meet at 7 pm.

SAT. Sept. 4— Brown County, Indiana—A day of riding and browsing the shops. Meet 8:30 AM

SUN. Sept. 5—Ride out Old Frankfort Pike, lunch stop and then ride the beautiful scenery out Paris Pike.

NOTE: THIS IS A HOLIDAY WEEKEND. WE WILL DISCUSS IF THE GROUP WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN OVERNIGHT TRIP RATHER THAN RIDE SAT AND SUN.

WED. Sept. 8—Bike Night and Mike Linning's—Dinner Ride—meet 6:45 pm

SAT. Sept. 11—MSF Class. Those planning to take the class meet at 8 AM to ride to Papa John's Stadium

SUN. Sept. 12—Mystery Ride by Don Willi. Meet at 12:30 PM (NOTE: if this time interferes with people's church schedules, the time may be moved back to 1 PM. Check the website to confirm the time.)

THURS. Sept. 16—Dessert Run—Taylorsville Dairy Queen—Meet at 7 PM

SAT. Sept. 18—CHAPTER MEETING AT PICNIC—CHECK WEBSITE TO CONFIRM TIME AND LOCATION

SUN. Sept. 19—Huber's Orchard and Winery—Meet 1 PM

SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25—Wings Over the Smokies—No ride scheduled, but if those who are not attending Wings Over the Smokies want to Ride, post a notice on the message board of the chapter website to coordinate.

THURS. Sept. 30—Dessert Run—Ice Cream Willie's—Meet 7 PM



Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge.

Come Ride With Us!

**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR
CHAPTER A WEBSITE:
WWW.GWRRAKYA.ORG**

**To keep up with National Events log on to the
Gold Wing Road Riders Association website:
WWW.GWRRRA.ORG**

**And for Regional GWRRA information, please visit the
Region N website:
WWW.REGION-N.ORG**

YOU MIGHT BE A MOTORCYCLE RIDER IF:

- **Your bike is kept in the garage while your car is parked outside**
- **If seeing something leaking out of your motorcycle causes you more anguish than seeing your own blood**
- **If you find yourself leaning into turns when driving your car**
- **If you paid more for your bike than you did for your wife's engagement ring.**

**(By Fred Rau, Senior Editor of Motorcycle Consumer News—
borrowed because they are so funny and so true.)**