



Derby City Wing Riders

GWRRA Chapter A Louisville, Kentucky

April 2010

Kentucky District

Region N



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<http://www.gwrakya.org>

From the Director's Track

Happy spring fellow Derby City Wingers! If you are like us you are watching the weather and asking yourself, "Is it time to ride, yyeettt?"

You may or may not have been out riding lately but the first chance you get, practice. Every spring when I have had long periods of *motorcycle deprivation*, I go to a school parking lot not far from my home on a Saturday or Sunday morning, set out my cones (plastic cups with rocks in the them to hold them down) and practice the maneuvers I did in the ERC class. I continue to do this at periods throughout the year. My other half is riding behind me, helpless, putting her complete trust and confidence in my driving. I take that responsibility seriously. Whether I am riding with our Chapter, surrounded by good friends that are more like family or we are out riding alone surrounded by strangers, I want to know I am driving to the best of my ability and have not fallen into bad and dangerous habits. There are more skilled drivers in the chapter than me but with practice, practice, practice, perhaps one day I can reach their skill level. Until then, I will continue to do all in my power to hone my driving skills as should we all.

the high mileage contest. The prize money will be determined by how many members take part. This year we would like to have a first, second and average winner for the men as well as a first place winner for our lady drivers. The cost to enter is \$5 per bike. If weather does not permit you to ride your bike please bring your starting mileage numbers with you to the meeting. If for some reason you cannot attend the meeting, you can still take part. Just email your mileage and remember to see Bev with your \$5 fee at the next meeting.

Also this month we will be having a Chapter Picnic on April 24th with an alternative date of April 25th if rain. Please use the message board to list what dish you will be bringing. See this month's ride calendar on the Chapter web site: http://www.gwrakya.org/10rides_calendar.html

At the April meeting we will be drawing rides for the months of May and June. If you have not returned your ride forms, please remember to bring them with you this month. As always, if it is nice day and you are going to ride and want company, use the message board to invite others along.

The April 17th meeting brings the beginning of

Don and Renee

Words of Wisdom

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.

From the Educator's Headlights

"Straight Up and Slow"

The sun is shining, it's a beautiful day and you are six counties from home. Suddenly a down pour sneaks up on you from out of nowhere. Do I wait it out? Do I continue on? Did I pack the rain gear? Riding in the rain is something that no class can prepare you for. Experience is the only thing that helps a rider become more proficient in rain riding. I think that all of us get this experience by chance or accident. No rider that I am associated with waits for a good old soaking rain to go out for a ride. We all get our experience when we least expect it. I remember my first ride in the rain like it was yesterday. I was out on my first street bike, a 1982 Honda CM400T. It was about 1:00 in the afternoon, a gorgeous spring day! I had stopped at Taylorsville Lake to take in some of the sights and stretch my legs for a minute or two. Off in the distance I could here thunder rolling. With the sun beating down on me I did not pay much attention to it. Boy-oh-boy, I have changed my ways since those days. About half way home I could feel the temperature of the air blowing over my arms dip about 7 or 8 degrees. My sunglasses started to get little drops of water over my line of vision. My grip got a little tighter, not only on my handle bars, my legs where gripping the bikes gas tank tighter as well. I was just a little tense, so I pulled into a covered gas station while the storm started to blow in. After drinking a soda I realized that the rain was not letting up, I had about fifteen more miles to go and my son had to be picked up from school in about thirty minutes. I have seen people ride in the rain...I guess I can do it!?!?!I thought to myself. A far cry from the ten-foot-tall and bullet proof demeanor that I had just a few miles back. So I saddled up, got pelted in the face by rain and spray off surrounding traffic, soaked from head to toe, stopped about seven or

eight times to wipe of my sunglasses, said about three of four prayers and just like that I had some rain riding experience!

Being prepared is the ONLY thing you can do to make riding in the rain safer. The comfort of being somewhat dry is going to increase your focus. Distractions like a soaking wet shirt clinging to your body will decrease your "edge". So pack some rain suits. Regular glasses, even if they are clear, will get a layer of water on both sides of the lenses. If you do not have a full face helmet buy a pair of glasses with a foam gasket that fits to your face, hence just one side of the glasses will be getting wet. Some Rain-X on the glasses or your full face shield and the windshield of your Wing will increase your vision as well.

We have covered being prepared for rain now lets cover being aware. Rain has changed the way your tires are going to "read" everything they come in contact with. Every maneuver needs to be navigated slower and more straight up keeping your weight directly under you and your Wing.

Painted Lines - These have become very slick, a layer of water is now between your tires and this paint. Straight up and slow!

Surface Textures - Watch out for sealed asphalt and smooth concrete surfaces in parking lots and on driveways. Straight up and slow!

Railroad Tracks - Most railroad tracks are surrounded by rubber. Training has taught you to go over tracks at a ninety degree angle, the rain has made it necessary to go slow, straight up, hit them at a ninety degree angle and now put you in a predicament where you do not want to have to brake. Straight up and slow!

Steel - It is everywhere! Expansion joints on expressway overpasses, man hole covers and grated bridges. Straight up and slow!

Oil - I have saved the most illusive for last. Not only illusive it is inconspicuous, especially

immediately after the rain has started. The rain is washing and lifting the oil off the center part of the road and into the tire tracks. Another place to be especially weary of oils is at traffic signals where vehicles sit running and dripping waiting for the light to change. Straight up and slow!

Remember, be prepared, then when you need to....Be aware! Thanks for reading!

Bill and Linda

April Birthdays



Becky Dineen
Mike McCarthy
Lani Sweatman

April Anniversaries



Rich & Jan Rasey

March Meeting Highlights

Last month Mike Knight of Heritage Honda visited the Chapter and gave us information on the upcoming fund raising event/rally to be held at Heritage Honda over the Memorial Day weekend. He also invited the Chapter to join in on the "Spring Breakout" ride from Heritage in Maysville to Heritage in Richmond and we have added it to April's ride calendar. We sure did enjoy Mike's visit and thank him for making the long ride to visit Chapter A.

Steve and Lani presented the Chapter with a new Kentucky State Parks visit contest. It is \$5 to enter and you can enter at any time. It should prove an interesting and fun contest and gives

everyone a good excuse to explore our beautiful state.

We also discussed the upcoming Mother's Day camping weekend which has become all but a tradition for Chapter A. Russell Springs KOA campground was suggested and decided upon. Mother's Day weekend, pay for one night and received one night free. Tent campsites are just \$17 for the weekend and cabins are \$38. Great prices, a Saturday of great riding and FUN, FUN, FUN! Even if you have not camped before, consider it and make sure to get your reservations in early as the KOAs normally fill up for this *free* night of camping. Russell Springs KOA website: <http://www.koa.com/where/ky/17105/>

Mike Knight at March meeting



*Wishing all a Blessed and Happy
Easter!*

April Rides

April 9th – Dinner ride to Buckhead's Mountain Grill

April 10th – Free BBQ Lunch Ride, Heritage Honda

April 18th – Miniature Golf Challenge
with Chapter S

April 24th – Chapter Picnic with bike games
(Alternate rain day April 25th)

April 29th – Dessert Ride – Bruster's

Developing Motorcycle Skills

Sometimes the most difficult skill to master is *exactly* how that helmet fits on your head.



Kentucky District



The District Traveling Plaque is with Chapter N.
Next meeting is Friday, April 9th
Vanessa's Heavenly Temptations
119-A S. Main St. Dry Ridge, KY 41035
Eat @ 6:30 PM, Meet @ 7:30

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Kentucky District Newsletter
<http://www.gwrraky.com/id5.html>

Region N



Spring Fling – Tennessee District Rally
April 22nd – 24th
Pigeon Forge, TN

Region N Wandering Plaque is with Chapter NC-K2.
Next meeting is Monday April 26th
Hudson Bay Seafood Restaurant
2826 Ramsey St. (Hwy 401) near Vets Hospital
Fayetteville, NC
Rules for capturing Wandering Plaque
<http://www.region-n.org/Region-Plaque.html#RULES>

Region N newsletter:
<http://www.region-n.org/Region-Gazette.html>

National



Wing Ding 32
June 30th – July 3rd
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines, IA

Registration link:
<http://www.wing-ding.org/>

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