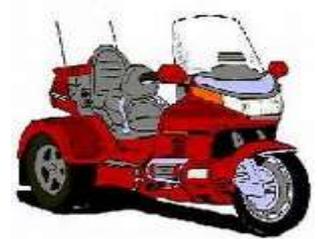


# CHAPTER K NEWSLETTER



**MAY 2016**



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## **CD CORNER**

Here we are again with another month behind us. We started with a dinner ride to Skippers Seafood, up in Darien, GA. We had 10 attendees and as usual we had a great time of fellowship and the food was awesome. We had some onlookers admiring our bikes and of course we get to share with them of our experiences and motorist awareness.

Our next journey was the trip to Dalton, GA for the GA Wing Fling. The Tutens, Brenda and myself left on Thursday afternoon and camped at Ocmulgee State Park in McRae, GA, that night. We are part of the Grand Tour of Georgia (GTGA) ride and were able to visit 2 destinations the next day. All together there are 20 destinations to visit. The next night we camped out at Jellystone RV Resort near Franklin, GA. The sites we were in had a steep uphill climb and getting our bikes in and out of the trailer took some work. The Brendas had to assist us getting them in and locked down.

The following day we headed for Chattanooga, TN to the Holiday Travel RV Resort for the week. We took in several rides and were able to get 2 more GTGA sites. Boogie Beasley joined us on Monday staying in a cabin at the campground with us. We visited Lookout Mountain the next day. We did a lot of mountain riding and let me tell you, Jesse and Boogie are taking these hills and curves just gliding through the turns on two wheels and I am in the back on a trike, pushing and pulling to get around those curves. At the end of the week, I felt like Popeye with these bulging forearms. I even drank a smoothie that had spinach in it and I hate spinach. Ron and Coral arrived on Wednesday, but stayed in a motel close to the rally. We were 25 miles away.

The next day was the beginning of Wing Fling and we took in the activities. We visited the vendors where the men checked out items for the bikes and the ladies took in the rest. My Brenda bought Tupperware on a 3 day plan. She bought what we could hold on the trike on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. They even gave her a free gift on Saturday. Then we hit the game room and took home a load of prizes. We attended closing ceremonies on Saturday and Brenda Tuten won one the Sunset River Cruises. Coral won a purse and Ron also won a purse. Coral kept the one with all the glitter on it. Once the closing ceremonies were over Ron and Coral took us for a dinner ride, and the food was great, but I can't remember the name.

I believe we all had a good time during the week and the facilities at the Wing Fling were very nice. Wing Fling for 2017 will be there again on June 22-24. Maybe more will be able to join us next year.

## Experience Level

How much riding experience do you have? Be realistic, and assess your experience level. Beginner or novice? Experienced or an expert? What if you're riding with others? It's wise to take your experience level, and that of others, into account before heading out on a group ride. A novice rider should be careful of the situations that might arise when traveling a group of experienced riders. An expert, mixed in with a group of novices, should consider the needs and capabilities of the other riders when selecting destination, pace and following distance.

## Knowledge Level

*How much do you really know about motorcycle riding?*

Ask yourself a few questions to assess knowledge level.

- Do you have a **riding strategy**? Do you use an active system to scan the roadway, identify hazards (and potential hazards) and manage your speed and position?
- Do you understand visual directional control? How skilled are you at using head and eyes to guide your motorcycle -- rather than your hands and feet?
- Do you know how to achieve maximum braking? If you avoid using your front brake, whether in routine or emergency situations, you are missing out on a very important technique for safe stopping.

- Do you understand countersteering? If you believe you steer the bike by leaning your body, and not by precise "opposite" inputs into the handgrips, you need instruction and practice in this lifesaving technique.
- Do you have a plan for every corner? Cornering smoothly is more than just point-and-shoot, steering and throttle. Cornering can be broken down into smaller skill components to increase safety and proficiency.
- Do you know how to swerve quickly? And do you understand the concept of traction management -- the relationship between throttle, steering and braking inputs that limit options in an emergency?
- Do you understand counterweighting? If low-speed or tight turns such as U-turns give you trouble, using this technique helps with balance and control in tricky situations.

## Comfort Level

Comfort level plays a role in your ability to handle various riding situations. When you are comfortable with your mental and physical skills, you are able to react correctly and with precision to any hazard you encounter.

If you are not confident using the expressway at 65 mph, choose a route that uses smaller roads instead. If you are not comfortable riding in a large group, avoid organized

rides and travel alone or with trusted friends. If you are forced into a riding situation that makes you uncomfortable, adjust your speed, position and following distance to give yourself more time and space to react to surprises.

## Skill Level

How good are your physical riding skills? Have you ever taken a training course to improve your riding? Consider all the skills you need to ride safely -- are any of them giving you trouble?

- Steering quickly
- Slowing or stopping quickly
- Cornering lines and body position
- Lane position and smooth cornering
- Throttle control and speed management
- Coordination of clutch and throttle
- Shifting smoothly

If you doubt your ability in any of these areas, the solution is to set aside time to practice and improve. A training course is the best way to do it, but you can also practice riding techniques on your own. Spend an hour or two, at least once a month, on an empty parking lot working on your low-speed turns and braking skills.

You can also work on your skills while riding. There is an old saying among police motor officers: "Train at 100 percent, ride at 80 percent." Your skill level should always be greater than your comfort level. Training will help you get there



MAY  
3<sup>RD</sup> STEVE CROWELL  
28<sup>TH</sup> DANNY HICKEY



MAY  
NONE

UPCOMING EVENTS

7 May – Dinner Ride  
12 May – Monthly Meeting  
24 May - TIRE KICKER

CLASSIFIEDS

2 airbag jackets, a Veskimo water cooled vest, & several other nice items. If you'd like a list of what I have, email me back & I'll send it to you.

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