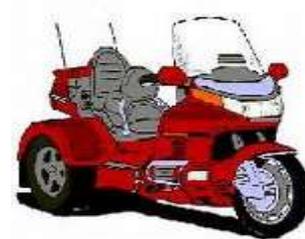


CHAPTER K NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2016



HAPPY SAINT PATRICKS DAY



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CD CORNER

Well another month has come and gone and the weather was pretty fickle, but it didn't deter us from doing some riding. We had our monthly Saturday Dinner ride to Otter Creek in Patterson, GA. The weather was cold with a possibility of rain so we had 4 couples in cars and Kenny Jones and Kenny Jr. on their motorcycle. I set the GPS for the quickest route and as usual I'm going a different route than everyone else, but I caught up later and we arrived together. We ordered our meals and you know I am going to order shrimp. I found out that Kenny Jr. can eat a mess of shrimp too. When we left the rain was coming down and didn't make for a good ride, but Kenny & Kenny Jr. put on their rain suits and off we went. Everyone arrived home safely.

We held our Chapter Meeting at Denny's with 20 attending. That is a good turnout for our neck of the woods. We discussed the necessary preparations for the upcoming Coffee Break for Bike Week on March 5th, and discussed the preparations for Wing Fling.

When you get up in age you have a tendency to forget things, so I decided that when we do something as a chapter I would write it down on a pad and now I can't remember where I put the pad. There are 3 things you lose as we age: 1 is your memory and I can't remember the other two. THAT'S ALL FOLKS

ARE YOU READY FOR RIDING SEASON?

Winter is finally gone, so let the riding season begin! Maybe you have recently taken a CPR/First Aid class or a seminar or two during this past off-season. This means you are better prepared to help in case one of your riding buddies has an accident or a health issue, or you are prepared to be a better co-rider. Now you are available to spend more time riding now that the season is here. Hopefully you have also taken time to make sure your motorcycle is ready to go, too. You may have done a T-CLOCS, or changed the oil, replaced worn tires, kept your battery charged, or discovered that you needed a new one and replaced it.

There are other things that you can do to be at your best out on the road, too. Many of us will be out on the road before MSF or GWRRA Rider Courses are offered. So what else can you do to get in the right frame of mind and tune up your skills right away? There are a few things you can do as an individual or in a group (such as with your fellow chapter members) to be prepared to ride safely and with skill before the season is even two weeks old.

First, you can practice your skills in an empty, quiet parking lot with smooth pavement that is free of loose gravel or sand. Find an empty church or a school parking lot, or some unused out-of-the-way space at a shopping center safely away from moving vehicles. Choose a time when it is unlikely to be busy, (e.g., a school lot on Sunday) as your safety is of the utmost importance. Work on braking, turning, curves, stopping while in a curve (remember to straighten the handlebars *before* braking!), and turning when pulling away from a stop. When you practice alone, always remain vigilant to vehicles encroaching on your space.

Second, how about participating in a Parking Lot Practice? Also referred to as a PLP, this is an activity that many Chapters hold at the chapter level. The exercises in a PLP are all spelled out in the Cornering Practice Guide along with tips to execute the skills correctly. Talk to your Chapter Educator about holding a Parking Lot Practice for your chapter, or if there is a Facilitated Parking Lot Practice scheduled near you.

Third, you can attend a Team Riding Seminar. This Rider Ed seminar is available for presentation at your chapter, and may be available at some District rallies. This seminar is particularly good to hold at your chapter because the folks who are normally part of your riding team can all hear the same Team Riding tips. Why would you sit through a Team Riding Seminar? One reason is because most of us ride to various places around the state with our riding friends. And if you know what to expect from the others in your group – your *team* – you will be more likely to trust them. You will trust them because you'll know they are all going to ride safely and predictably in a staggered formation. That is what the Team Riding Seminar provides you.

Getting back to the bike for a minute, if you have new tires on your bike for the new season, know that the tire manufacturers recommend that you take it easy on those tires for the first 50 – 100 miles. That means go easy in the curves and easy on acceleration to prevent slide-outs. The reason is because the surface of the tire will be slickest (slippery) when new. There are a couple of common explanations why, but the result is the same – reduced traction. The rubber will get scuffed and roughed up enough over that distance during normal riding and the tire's grip will improve. Be particularly careful with new tires on painted stripes and metal plates, and all surfaces that are slick even when your tires aren't.

Remember that practice in a parking lot, by yourself or with others, is good for all of us after the long off-season. It is even more beneficial and important if you recently bought a new or used motorcycle. Get to know that new-to-you bike and how it handles in a safe environment. After brushing up your skills, you'll be ready to go out and enjoy a safe riding season!



MARCH

13th – Dennis McCullough

26th – Barry Moody

26 – Ron Lefebvre



MARCH

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 Mar – Coffee Break/Dinner Ride

10 Mar – Chapter Meeting

22 Mar – Tire Kicker

21 April – [WING FLING](#), Dalton GA

CLASSIFIEDS