



GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION Hart City Wings Communicator



INDIANA CHAPTER O2



ELKHART, IN.

October 2011

Edition Two Hundred Thirty Two

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SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

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PHONE TREE

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RONALD McDONALD RIDE

Jim & Carol McPhail

CHAPTER POET

Deb Whetstone

FROM YOUR CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Wolfgang & Connie Gless



Hello to All;

The color in the trees is changing and the leaves are falling, the air is crisper and some days right down cold, it is October and 2011 has less than 3 months left. The year has gone by so fast and the riding season is all but over, ride when you can and enjoy each day.

The Ronald McDonald House Ride held on September 10th went by without any rain; although the skies were threatening most of the day. This year we presented the House a check for \$2000.00, half from the chapter and the other half from NIPSCO. We also took down pantry items and of course the infamous Pop Tabs. Along with our chapter (O2) there were the following Indiana chapters, T2, B2, G2, L2, Z, H, N, and E. All members of O2 would like to thank the other participating chapters for their continued support of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, see you next year. The same weekend of the RMH, on Sunday, Indianapolis held there Ride for Kids to support the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's efforts to find a cure. Most of the chapter O2 members that went on the RMH ride attended the Ride for Kids. The ride was held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and all riders were able to take a lap on the Speedway. Although the crowd was small due to other charity rides the same day, a little over \$23,000.00 was raised.

Rod & Judy arranged another beautiful day for the chapters St. Joseph Riverboat ride. The weather was cool and a little overcast but the rain held off until close to the end of the day. After the boat ride we all went over to the Clark's for a Hotdog and carry in dinner, great job guys.

On September 26th a Ride and Bon-Fire was planned by Denny & Brenda Heckaman. Although the ride did not occur due to the weather forecast we did have the Bon-Fire. Hotdogs, Sausage's and a carry in meal were had by all and until the rain did finally start we sat around the fire and enjoyed each other's company, great night Denny & Brenda. If you haven't ever ridden your Bike through the Smokey Mountains you have missed some great riding. Five chapter members, (Jim & Deb, Wolf & Connie and Vern) went down the first week of October and enjoyed some fantastic riding and near perfect weather, not a drop of rain all week. The air was a little cool each morning but warmed up nicely. Gas prices were better than home (we paid as little as \$2.99 per gallon), that was in Greenville, SC. We rode Deal's Gap and many other curvy mountain roads. We also saw a herd of Elk near Cherokee. A great time was had by all.

Note; Our 2 years as your Directors are coming to an end, Jim & Deb are about to take over and they need all to help in running and maintaining the chapter. Ask them what you can do to help; I know they would appreciate you asking. Until next month, ride safe and dry.

Wolfgang & Connie
CD

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the 1st Thursday of each month at the Elk's Lodge on Bristol St. just west of Cassopolis St. Dinner @ 6:30, meeting @ 7:15 PM

DINNER RIDES are every Thursday night May-Sept. (except meeting night). Meet in the parking lot BEHIND Discovery Middle School on Ash Road. Leaving promptly at 6:30 PM

FROM YOUR ASST. CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Jim & Deb Whetstone



Greetings Fellow Chapter
02 Members,

Well what do you think of this fall? Isn't it great! The colors are beautiful!!! The temperatures are great, warm during the days and cool in the mornings and evenings. I guess we had better take advantage of it because it won't last forever and you know what is just around the corner... Well it looks like the corner has turned, much cooler-rainy-wind, yuk! Where is that nice warm weather we were having?

We arrived home safe and sound logging around 2,000 miles from our trip to Tennessee with 10 days of absolutely perfect dry riding weather conditions! Try that in Indiana!

We were up early a couple of days riding as the sun was coming up, what a wonderful time riding on the Blue Ridge Parkway, sometimes we were not able to see very well because of the sun but the vistas were gorgeous- we even found some new curves that needed to be tamed.

Now for our upcoming events:

Oct 22nd. Card Party & Chili Cook off at Gabbard's 5PM

October 27 . . Jojo's Pizza 6:30pm

Nov 12th. Our 20th Chapter Birthday Party (Miller's)
Editor's Note: This is the same place as last year.

Nov 12th District Meeting in Anderson IN. October 27.

Nov 19th. Maple City Wings presents their 1ST. Western Haystack Dinner from 3:00 to 6:30pm Location: Blessin Haus, 58915 SR 15 Goshen, IN. Dinner, desert, & beverage all for only a donation! All donations go to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Let's start getting excited about Winter Rendezvous; it will be here before you know it. (02-17,18,19-2012 @ Wyndham West Indianapolis)

That's about it for now!

**Happy trails to you until we meet again,
Your ACD's Jim & Deb**

FROM YOUR CHAPTER EDUCATORS

Bob & Sue Chute

RIDING DRAG IS ANYTHING BUT

By: James R. Davis



While a tour group is highly dependent upon the skills and judgment of the lead bike's rider, in many ways they are more dependent on the drag bike for successfully arriving at their destination.

Let's first discuss the drag bike's obvious role during group lane changing maneuvers. Almost always, a lane change is initiated by the lead bike, but there are times when the drag bike should do so. For example, if the group is traveling on a freeway and the drag bike observes that an 18-wheeler is harassing the group (tailgating or honking its horn), the proper response of the drag bike is to increase the distance between himself and the next bike in front of him and to radio ahead to the lead bike recommending an immediate lane change to the right, and why.

If the lead bike requests a lane change, the drag bike must first determine that it is safe to do so. If it is not, he must tell the lead why he is unwilling or cannot do so at this time. That is, the drag bike determines if and when a lane change that is requested by the lead bike is to happen. (Note that if the group moves into a slower moving lane from front to back, much like a normal car passing maneuver, the lead bike does not request a lane change at all - he announces it - and the drag bike's responsibility is to announce when the maneuver is completed.)

[Important! The proper response from the drag bike to a request to obtain a new lane for the group should ALWAYS be: "Stand By". To say something like "OK" can be confused by some to mean the lane has been obtained and it is time to move over. It is NOT safe to change lanes until the drag bike subsequently says "The lane has been secured - following the red car", or something to that effect. If the drag bike denies the request for a lane change he has already told the lead bike (and all listeners) to 'stand by' and so merely then updates that advisory with why the request is denied.]

Assuming it is safe to change lanes, the drag bike moves into the requested lane and signals the lead bike that it has been obtained. He must also advise as to the traffic situation as it relates to the lane change.

Next month we will continue discussing the DRAG bike's responsibilities.



Meeting Notes: By Vern Daly



Wolfie opened up the meeting to around 16 chapter members. No guests were in attendance this month.

First order of business was a discussion of past chapter events. Included were the Celebration of Glenn's Life Picnic, the Ronald McDonald House Ride, the Indy Ride For Kids, the River Queen boat ride and dinner at Clark's and the Bon Fire at Heckamans. All of these events were well attended by chapter members and enjoyed by all.

Jim talked about upcoming chapter events, of which there were only two. The Card Party and Chili Cookoff will be held at Gabbard's on October 22nd at 5PM. A signup sheet was passed around for this event. If you were not at the meeting and are planning on attending, contact JoAnn as soon as possible and let her know your intentions. Gabbards will supply the fixins for the chili, but request that participants bring a dish to pass.

Also discussed was the Chapter Birthday Party coming up on November 12th at Millers at 6:30PM. The cost for this year's event is \$15 payable to Judy Clark. Judy passed around a signup sheet for this at the meeting, but, again, due to the low attendance at the meeting, it is suggested that you contact her to get your name on the list. Payment won't be required until the November meeting, but she'd like to have a count before that. So please give her a call if you want to attend.

Wolfie talked about various neighboring chapter and district events. Maple City Wings will be sponsoring a fund raiser "Western Haystack Dinner" on November 19th at Blessin Haus on SR15 in Goshen from 3:00 to 6:30. There will be food, games and prizes, all for a donation to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Wolfie also read a piece prepared by Bob Chute about being prepared for the ride. This not only includes making sure your bike is ready mechanically but also making sure YOU are prepared and not distracted. It also mentioned some of the various skills that you should make sure you're "prepared" on. These include various emergency skills, scanning for hazards, and making yourself as visible as possible.

On November 13th there will be a planning meeting at Whetstone's at 2PM. Deb handed out a questionnaire at the meeting concerning the future of the chapter. She requests that you bring that paper, filled out, to the meeting. We have some important issues involving the future of the chapter which need to be addressed, and soon. Everyone is invited to attend this special meeting on the 13th. We need everyone's input on these issues.

Bob Chute, current holder of Dumbo was not in attendance at the meeting. Consequently, Dumbo will stay with him for another month.

Wolfgang gave Udderly Fantastic to Judy Clark for setting up the River Queen ride and the following dinner at their house. Thanks Judy, it was a fun day.

Keep saving those crushed cans for the chapter. Jim McPhail or Frank Case will take these.

Thursday Dinners

Be at the restaurant at 6:30

We will probably be doing the dinners every other Thursday.

October 27 . . Jojo's Pizza

November 17 . . Olive Garden (Elkhart)

December 15 . . Red Lobster (Elkhart)

What's Coming Up

Oct 22 . . Card Party & Chili Cookoff, Gabbard's 5PM

Contact JoAnn Gabbard

Nov 12 . . Chapter Birthday Party (Miller's)

Contact Judy Clark

Dec 10 . . Carry in Dinner and Lights in Michigan City
At Whalens

Jan 07 . . Holiday Party at Dal Mar

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

Nov 07 . . Al & Cindy Beachy

Nov 20 . . Mark & Carol Skinner

Birthdays:

Nov 05 . . Jim McPhail

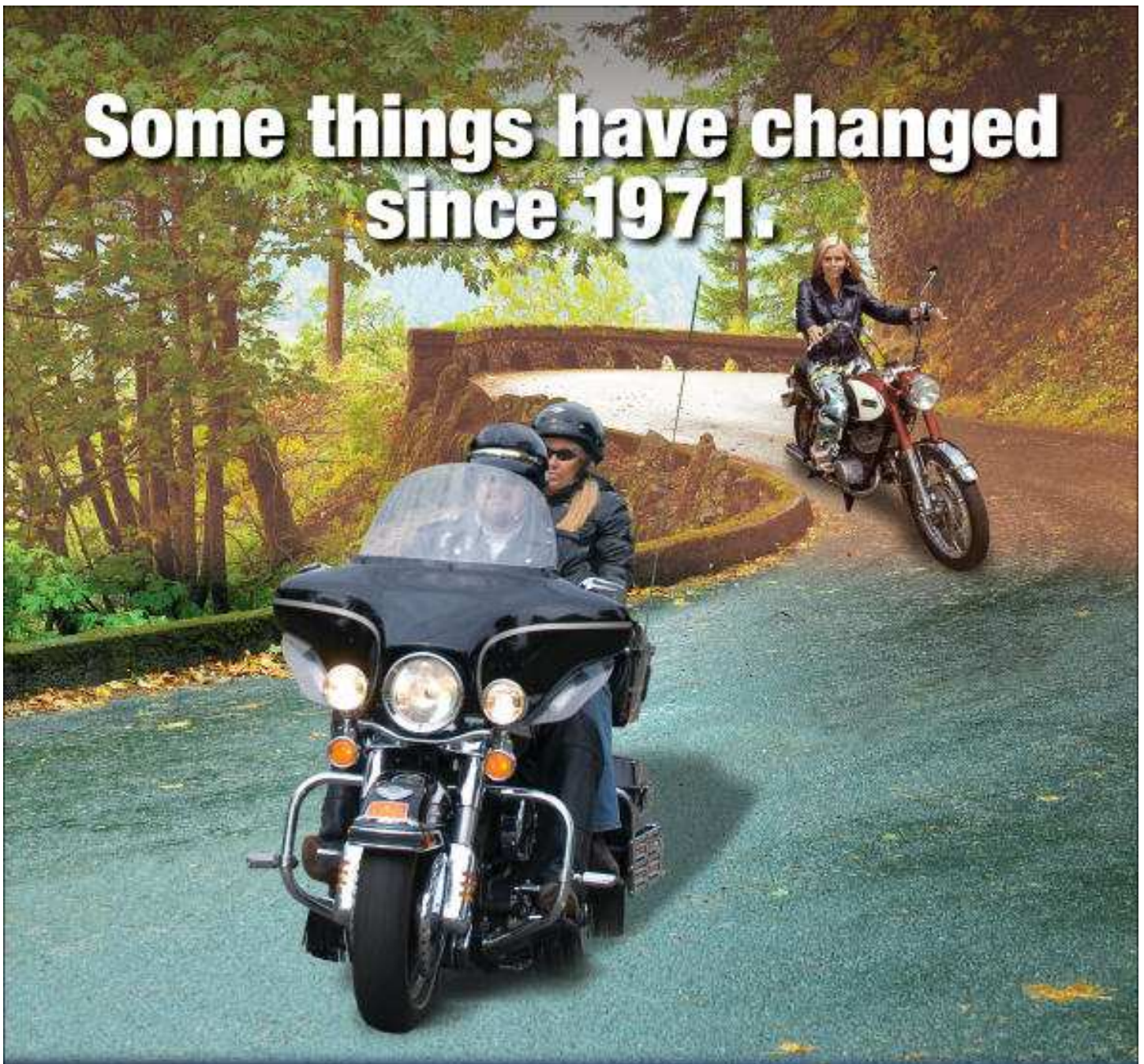
Nov 22 . . Larry Johnson



Save those pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald Ride In 2012

Next year's ride will be scheduled soon and the date will be posted here.

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