



GWRRA CHAPTER "WA-N" SPOKANE
 Washington District, Big Sky Region I
 December 2007



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| | | |
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*** Our web page is...***

www.gwr-ra-wan.org

CHAPTER WA-N
GATHERING

Saturday, December 15th

Christmas at Golden Corral
4:00 to 5:30

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

December 8th
Festival of Lights
Montesano

December 15th
Chapter Christmas Social
Golden Corral

December 25th
Merry Christmas

CHAPTER DIRECTOR:

Happy Holidays,

As the end of the riding season closes in, I can only thank all of our friends in GWRRA and WA-N and ID-H for all your participation in this years riding. It's always great to have so many people enjoy the rides we've been doing and the fun and entertainment that we've seen. Being on a bike and enjoying the day with some of your best friends is always so much fun. I'm reminded of the times that I used to just ride alone and then when we joined GWRRA and found others with similar interest. Well, I guess you might say we found a new family. When you participate with our group, you'll be welcomed with open arms, and yes, we do a lot of hugging and smiling. If you like the fact that you have people of all walks of life riding with you with a common interest, then you've found the right group. We love the wind in our faces, the sun shining, the smell of cedar, the majestic views, and of course, the great food places that we find. And least we forget, the ice cream that we seem to all enjoy.

We have people in our chapter that like to ride at different paces and we welcome you to join us as we all arrive at the same location sooner or later. Our chapter has great Road Captains that work to ensure the group's safety at all times. If you're new to riding with a group and concerned about just what is needed, we'll work with you to make sure that you feel comfortable and improve your riding skills.

As a certified trainer for rider safety, and in conjunction with other trainers, we'll host several training seminars this coming year. Our chapter will continue looking for a new Chapter Educator, so if you'd like to help others in the chapter and would consider this prized position, please contact me.

As many of you know, I recently got married to Darla on November 18th. We want to thank all those who were able to attend this blessed event. It was hectic and fun and I personally have found the person that I want to ride with forever. Darla is a breath of fresh air and I hope that you will all have the opportunity to meet her and get a good hug too. We enjoyed the evening at the Davenport Hotel in our own suite. We were both exhausted, and when we arrived home we had our roofers ready to put on our new roof. So much for a relaxing couple of days. Pound, Pound and scraping noises did make the week rather long.

Tom and Darla McCollim
 Chapter Directors

ASSISTANT CHAPTER DIRECTORS:

Hello, happy Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas. I know I'm a little early for the Christmas toast but it's so close. The Christmas party is December 15th, at 4pm at the Golden Corral. I realize that this conflicts with another club's party, but all you have to do is choose one and go.

I'd like to thank those that went to the memorial service of our good friend and member, Don Fox. I would also like to thank Hank Smith, Assistant District Director, for attending on behalf of Mike Hudnell and the members of Washington District. Opal and Don's family really appreciated our presence.

We're going to hold a planning meeting in January, so think of things you would like for our chapter to do and bring your ideas along. Speaking of January, we've heard that a First Aid/CPR class is about to start in Tri-cities area. When we have more information we'll get it out to you.

Some things are worth repeating: A GWRRA chapter is made up of volunteers who participate, and those people who've stepped up to be facilitators (CD/ACD) are volunteers also. These officers are the individuals who have accepted the responsibility for operating the chapter. BUT... a chapter does not have success because of them, rather it's because of you, the members, that a chapter succeeds or fails. We're looking forward to a good, safe, and successful 2008.

Dale and Shirley Dufner
Assistant Chapter Directors

DON FOX: Nov. 15, 1935 to Nov. 13, 2007

Last Tuesday we attended the Memorial for one of our long time members, Don "Foxy" Fox. Don was a member of GWRRA since 1998 (and I believe, before that). Don rode with us for many years and always had some great stories to tell. He and Opal were always a welcome addition to our rides and socials, and both always brought the warmth and smiles with them. Don will be greatly missed, and the service was attended by Dennis and Linda Howey, Dale and Shirley Dufner, Tom and Darla McCollim and Hank Smith (Assistant District Director). Don was an avid ham radio operator, worked many years for the railroad, was a war veteran and avid Karaoke participant, and he loved his Opal and our motorcycle group. Thanks Don and Opal for making our lives so much more.

Tom McCollim

DINING OUT IN JANUARY

Dennis will make reservations at the HuHot Mongolian BBQ for Tuesday, January 8th at 6:30 PM. Tuesday is seafood night! Their phone number is 891-8711 and the address is 11703 E Sprague Avenue. The restaurant is located in the Valley, west of Pines Road. Hope to see you there.

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATIONS

Please check the expiration date for your GWRRA membership. And please let me or Duane know when you renew or if your phone or email changes. Because of security concerns, GWRRA no longer distributes monthly members' updates. So when your membership expires, we'll be asking if you've renewed and still want to receive this newsletter. I don't want to drop anyone from my mailing list in error, but I also don't want to send spam.

Shirley Dufner

"Life is 10% what you make it,
And 90% how you take it."

PLANNING MEETING AND MEMBER' SURVEY

We've scheduled a Planning Meeting at the Dufner's house on January 20th after our Breakfast Gathering. We'll review our costs for operating and education, to determine how much is available for other things, and then we'll plan our activities and our ride and event schedule for the coming year. At our November breakfast, we had a brief discussion about Chapter finances. For the past three years, we have been very frugal, while fund-raising has been very successful. We now have more than we need for operations and to reimburse members' education costs, so we can start funding other activities. We had several suggestions about what these activities could be, such as: provide food for the Chapter Picnic Ride or cater a picnic/party; pay member registration and camping fees at District Rally; donate to the food bank or another charity; pay campground fees for a chapter campout; purchase door prizes to raffle at gatherings. But to make effective plans, we need more input from all the Chapter participants. With that in mind, the last page of this newsletter is a survey, with instructions at the bottom. There's also a "fill in" version available on our website: www.gwr-ra-wan.org. Here's your chance to tell us where to go... please be gentle.

Your Chapter Staff

REMINDERS and OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Christmas Dinner

Put us on your calendar for Saturday, December 15th. Don Sundahl has made our reservations at the Golden Corral, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.

Vests

If you're looking for a new vest, Chapter ID-H has some available in just your size - S to XXXL. The sale of these high-quality, custom-made vests will help support their chapter. If interested, please contact Sharon at (208) 773-1924.

"WINGNUTS" EVENT SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

- 8 WA-D Festival of Lights - Montesano
- 9 ID-H Christmas Party
- 15 **WA-N Christmas Dinner at Golden Corral - 4PM**
- 20 ID-H Dinner at Fort Ground Grill, CdA - 6PM

JANUARY

- 8 **WA-N Dinner at HuHot 6:30**
- 19 ID-H Breakfast at IHOP CdA - 8AM
- 20 **WA-N Breakfast at Golden Corral - 8:30AM**
Followed by Planning Meeting at Dufner's
- 26 WA-I Casino Night - Camp Murray
- TBA ID-H First Aid and CPR Class
- TBA WA-L First Aid and CPR Class

FEBRUARY

- 2 District Rider Ed Workshop (Buckley)
- 2 District Staff Meeting (Buckley)
- 9 WA-L Bowling Challenge
- 16 ID-H Breakfast at IHOP CdA - 8AM
- 17 **WA-N Breakfast at Golden Corral - 8:30AM**

MARCH

- 7-9 WA-D Mall Show
- 15 District Rider Ed Workshop (Pasco)
- 15 ID-H Breakfast at IHOP CdA - 8AM
- 15-16 WA-E Surf Watch
- 16 **WA-N Breakfast at Golden Corral - 8:30AM**
- 22 WA-Z Oldies Dance
- 28-30 District Horizons Class (Fife/Tacoma)

APRIL

- 4 WA-Q Auction
- 5 WA-M&R Joint Breakfast
- 11-13 WA-Q Elma Rest Area
- 12 WA-C Spring Fever Run
- 19 ID-H Breakfast
- 20 **WA-N Brown Bag Auction**

MAY

- 10 WA-F Crazy Ride
- 17 ID-H Breakfast
- 18 **WA-N Breakfast**
- 23-26 WA-L Desert Spring Fling
- 31 **WA-N&Y 59er Diner Lunch**

NOTE: These dates are subject to change. Check this list or the website calendar for updates.

JUNE

- 6-8 WA-R Blue Mountain Rendezvous
- 7 WA-D Duck Hunt
- 12-14 Oregon District Rally - Prineville
- 13-15 WA-Q Elma Rest Area
- 15 **WA-N Father's Day Ride**
- 19-21 Wyoming District Rally - Newcastle
- 20 ID-H Breakfast
- 20-22 WA-X Disabled Veterans Campout

JULY

- 3-6 Wing Ding - Greenville, SC
- 17-20 Washington District Rally - Lynden
- 19 ID-H Breakfast
- 20 **WA-N Breakfast**
- 24-27 Montana District Rally - Hebgen Lake

AUGUST

- 1-3 ID-H River Float Campout
- 2 WA-F&G Mountain Run
- 14-16 Region I Rally - Powell, WY
- 16 ID-H Breakfast
- 16 WA-O Picnic in the Park
- 17 **WA-N Breakfast**
- 29-31 WA-B B at the Ocean
- 29-31 Idaho District Rally - Kellogg

SEPTEMBER

- 6 WA-G Chili Cook-off
- 13 WA-X Fund Raiser
- 14 WA-Z Chicken Run
- 19-21 WA-P Oyster Feed
- 20 ID-H Breakfast
- 21 **WA-N Breakfast**

OCTOBER

- TBA District Leadership Training
- 18 ID-H Breakfast
- 19 **WA-N Brown Bag Auction**
- 24-26 WA-F All Motorcycle Mall Show
- 25 WA-Q Halloween Dance

NOVEMBER

- 1 **WA-N Chili Feed**
- 15 ID-H Breakfast
- 16 **WA-N Breakfast**

DECEMBER

- 13 WA-D Festival of Lights
- TBA ID-H Christmas Party
- TBA **WA-N Christmas Party**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Peters announced a broad new effort to reduce motorcycle fatalities

November 5, 2007

Washington, DC - To combat the alarming trend of rising motorcycle injuries and fatalities, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters recently announced a comprehensive new federal initiative to improve motorcycle safety with more rider education and training, tougher standards for helmet certification labeling, law enforcement training, and road designs that consider motorcycle dynamics.

Secretary Peters – an avid motorcyclist – also released a television public service announcement where she credits her riding gear for saving her life during a 2005 motorcycle crash.

“Take it from a motorcycle enthusiast who also happens to be the U.S. Secretary of Transportation,” Secretary Peters says in the PSA. “Check your bike before each ride, wear all your safety equipment and ride with others so you’re more visible. If I hadn’t taken those safety precautions, I wouldn’t be standing here today.”

Peters said the motorcycle safety initiative will create new national safety and training standards for novice riders, curb counterfeit helmet labeling so that consumers can be certain they are buying DOT-certified helmets, place new focus on motorcycle-specific road improvements, and provide training to law enforcement officers on how to spot unsafe motorcyclists. In addition, Peters said, the plan includes a broad public awareness campaign – including the PSA - on safe riding techniques.

Secretary Peters said she is one of the many “baby-boomers” who have recently returned to riding after years of shelving their bikes in lieu of family and careers. In August 2005, she suffered a broken collar bone after a crash on a two-lane highway just north of Tucson, Arizona.

(Provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.)

Jim and Pam Swart
District Educators

(From the December Washington District newsletter)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to...Washington Chapters WA-A, WA-R and WA-Z!!

LOOKING FOR BOWLERS

During the November gathering we talked about the GWRRA Bowling Challenge to be held in Pasco on February 9th. Dennis Howey, Richard Hentz, and Dale and Shirley Dufner showed an interest. We're looking for others to join us. We'll travel down to Pasco on the 9th and join them for their gathering breakfast and then go bowling. Cost is \$12.00 per bowler, plus shoes if needed. We'll return home

that night. I know that's a long day, but anyone not choosing to go that early can come done for the bowling that starts at 1PM. This is not a WIBC or ABC sanctioned event; its just fun. Call Dale or Shirley at 509-924-3698 if you're interested.

Dale Dufner

Never be afraid to slow down.

A FEW EDITORIAL COMMENTS

I'm pleased to announce that our Chapter's new First Lady, Darla McCollim, has agreed to take on the task of being our Newsletter Editor after the first of the year. The February issue will be her maiden voyage. This has been my "baby" since Dennis Howey turned the reins over to me three years ago, and I know that Darla will adopt it (and adapt it) with all the loving care that I did. Please give her your support and encouragement.

Now I'm invoking my editor's privilege by including an editorial this month... on three separate subjects:

~ First, my apologies for giving you some bad information in the November newsletter. You can't send Christmas cards to "A Recovering American Soldier". According to www.snopes.com/politics/christmas/soldiercards.asp, it's because of security concerns. The moral of this is: 1) not all good ideas work out well, and 2) verify what you read before you pass it on to others.

~ The accountant in me appreciates our careful approach to spending, but I agree that we can now afford to be less conservative. And I like the idea of collecting input from all interested members, including those who can't regularly participate in Chapter activities. Please consider this your personal invitation to help us make a good plan for the coming year, for all our members. And the planning meeting is open to all members, so please try to fit that into your schedule.

~ Dale and I travel to many GWRRA events because we enjoy it... we enjoy the travel (preferably on the bike, with friends), we enjoy the company of the friends and Goldwing enthusiasts we meet at the functions, and we enjoy supporting an organization that embraces values that are important to us - safety, friends, fun, education. In a volunteer organization, it's important to support and encourage the activities that make it prosper, by participating in them. Many of you attended Victoria Days rally in Ephrata, the Rider Ed Workshops in Tri-cities, and Wing Ding in Billings. That's great, but in general, our Chapter's participation in other GWRRA functions has been very low. So... I ask that you consider choosing at least one GWRRA event that you've not attended in the past and go - provide a bit of encouragement and support. Consider it expanding your horizons or consider it payback, but please consider it.

Shirley Dufner
Newsletter Editor

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 25 | 26 | 27 USPS Deadline for APO/FPO Parcels | 28 Independence Day (Panama) | 29 ID-H Dinner Black Angus, SV | 30 St. Andrew's Day | DECEMBER 1 World AIDS Day |
| 2 There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works. | 3 | 4 First Day of Chanukah | 5 International Volunteers Day | 6 St. Nicholas' Day | 7 Pearl Harbor Day | 8 ID-H Christmas Party WA-D Festival of Lights |
| 9 | 10 Nobel Prize Day | 11 | 12 Poinsettia Day Last day of Chanukah | 13 | 14 | 15 WA-N Christmas Dinner - 4PM Golden Corral |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 ID-H Dinner Fort Ground Grill 705 W River, CdA | 21 Winter Solstice (shortest day of the year) | 22 |
| 23 Feast of the Radishes (Mexico) | 24 Full Moon | 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS | 26 Boxing Day St. Stephen's Day | 27 | 28 First Day of Kwanzaa | 29 |
| 30 | 31 Last day of Kwanzaa | JANUARY 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR | 2 | 3 Bank Holiday (UK) | 4 Trivia Day | 5 Twelfth Night |
| 6 | 7 | 8 WA-N Dinner at Hu Hot | 9 Balloon Ascension Day | 10 | 11 International Thank-You Day | 12 Stephen Foster Memorial Day |
| 13 | 14 Ratification Day | 15 MLK's Birthday | 16 Prohibition Remembrance Day | 17 | 18 National Maintenance Day | 19 ID-H Breakfast IHOP, CdA |
| 20 WA-N Breakfast Golden Corral Planning Meeting At Dufners Inauguration Day | 21 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY | 22 Full Moon | 23 | 24 | 25 Burns Night (Scotland) | 26 WA-I Casino Night Australia Day |
| 27 National Activity Professionals Day | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | FEBRUARY 1 | 2 Westside Rider Ed Workshop/ District Staff Mtg Groundhog Day |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Mardi Gras | 6 Ash Wednesday | 7 Chinese New Year | 8 Boy Scout Day | 9 WA-L Bowling Challenge |

CHAPTER WA-N CALENDAR for DECEMBER 2007 and JANUARY 2008

Chapter WA-N Member Survey

We've scheduled a Chapter Planning Meeting, and this survey will help us be effective. It's your opportunity to help determine the type of activities and rides that Chapter N will plan and fund in the coming year. Please answer the questions and if you wish, make additional comments to help explain your answers. The more information that you provide, the better, since this will allow the Chapter Staff to schedule activities and safe rides that would be enjoyable to you.

1. What type of activities would you like to participate in? _____

2. Beyond operations and education, do you have any suggestions for how the Chapter should spend its funds?

3. Would you be willing to participate in fund-raising projects for a charity? _____
4. Would you prefer a scenic ride, an interesting activity, somewhere to eat, or a combination? _____
5. How many miles do you consider a long ride? _____ A short ride? _____
6. Would you like long or short rides after Chapter Gatherings? _____
7. Would you like to go for a ride after work during the summer months? _____
8. Would you like to go on weekend rides? _____
9. Do you like to camp? _____
10. Do you prefer fair weather rides or are you willing to ride in all types of weather? _____
11. What types of things do you like to do or see when you go riding? _____
12. Do you like to ride twisty roads that are technically challenging? _____
13. Do you have any suggestion for rides? _____

14. Do you enjoy riding with a group? _____
15. Have you taken a group riding class? _____ When? _____
16. Do you consider yourself an experienced rider? _____
17. Would you participate in a "Parking Lot Practice"? _____ A local Advanced Rider Class (ARC)? _____
18. Comments/suggestions? _____

Note: You can use Adobe Reader's print function to print page 6 of the newsletter, to answer the survey manually. Or you can download a "fill in" copy from our website (www.gwrri-wan.org), to complete and attach to an email to shirl2000@comast.net. If you print it, please send it to: Dale Dufner, 13002 E Blosssey, Spokane, WA 99216.